



Lebanon, Pennsylvania

# Veterans' Advisory Council Newsletter

Issue 3

FEBRUARY 2012

## Member Organizations

- American Legion, Post #158
- Catholic War Veterans, Post 1193
- Daughters of the American Revolution, Lebanon Chapter
- Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 81
- Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Marine Corps League, Post 525
- Military Order of the Cooties, Pup Tent 39
- Navy Club, Ship 91
- Project Welcome Home
- Society of the 213th CAA
- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Seven Shays Camp
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #23
- VFW Post #23 Honor Guard
- VFW Post #23 Ladies Auxiliary
- Voiture 55-40 et 8

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## Mark Your Calendar

- May 19th - Armed Forces Day
- May 19th - Taps 150 Anniversary: 11:00 Echo Taps sounded at Indiantown Gap Nat'l Cemetery
- May 26th - Post flags on county cemeteries
- May 28th - Memorial Day 9:00 Lebanon Parade 10:30 Monument Park Program 11:30 Soldiers' Block Program

## A History of Fisher Veterans Park

By Chris Keiser

If not for the large M-60 military tank situated at its southern tip, this park would go unnoticed to a traveler, and perhaps to even a local passer-by. Sadly, many residents know it only as "the park with the tank", yet this tiny piece of land represents a huge part of Lebanon County history. Over the years it's become a place of remembrance, and a place to honor the 460 men from Lebanon County, Pennsylvania who gave their lives in times of war in the twentieth century. It is a place to remember and honor veterans everywhere, from all times and wars.

Commonly known as "Fisher Park", this small park, measuring slightly less than an acre, is

owned and maintained by the City of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Listed as "Soldier's Memorial Park", and also referred to as "City Memorial Park", it was purchased by the City of Lebanon on Apr. 10, 1923 from partners Greiner and Knowlen.

All the Memorials are adorned at various times throughout the year with flowers, wreaths and other honorariums. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 23, under the auspices of the Veterans' Advisory Council, raises flags along the park's East and West walkways.

The acquisition history of the park dates back to, but is not limited to the mid 1800's. The lot, then



Fisher Memorial Park

commonly called the "Raybuck Lot", owned by Dr. John Gloninger and his wife Catherine, was transferred on Mar. 6, 1854 to the North Lebanon Railroad. The Cornwall Railroad then acquired title to the property when they absorbed the North Lebanon Railroad in the latter 1800's. The Greiner and

(continued on page 2)

## Buy a Brick Campaign

By Chris D. Keiser

Project Welcome Home (PWH), curator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Fisher Veterans Park, continues its Buy-A-Brick Campaign. No deadline is set so there is plenty of time to reserve your brick. Proceeds ben-

efit Memorial upkeep and maintenance, and fund other PWH projects and events.

Each brick is priced at \$50, payable to PWH. Inscription is limited to two lines with a maximum of fifteen character spaces per line. For more details

or to order your brick contact Chris Keiser at 717-272-6307 or online at: [chriskaiser@yahoo.com](mailto:chriskaiser@yahoo.com).



Vietnam Veterans Memorial

## Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America

By C.J. Snavely

The Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America (KPVA) is an organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life of paralyzed veterans by:

- Encouraging and supporting spinal cord injury and disease research
- Improving access to health care and other veterans' benefits
- Assisting in the expansion of opportunities in the wheelchair sports and recreation
- Advocating for rights of disabled people, including the reduction and elimination of barriers to accessibility and mobility

KPVA is a member chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), which is chartered by the Congress of the United States. KPVA works hard in the areas of advocacy, legislative affairs, and research pertaining to SCI/D issues. The Sports & Recreation Program is outstanding in the variety and economic opportunities provided to members enhance health, fitness, and quality of life. Several examples are: trap shooting, fishing, bowling, SCUBA diving, quad rugby, and hunting. Membership includes KPVA's magazine *The Parascope* and PVA's *PN* magazine. KPVA currently is represented in seven VA hospitals and



one state veterans home.

Military veterans who have a spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D), and who were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, are entitled to join the PVA free of charge. The local chapter of KPVA meets on the second Saturday every other month at the Lebanon VA Hospital for a lunchtime teleconference with other PA chapters. For more information visit the website at: [www.kpva.org](http://www.kpva.org) or email: [keystonepva@comcast.net](mailto:keystonepva@comcast.net).

## A History of Fisher Veterans Park (Continued)

Knowlen partners purchased the lot from the Cornwall Railroad on Jan. 22, 1920.

The title "Fisher Park" seems to have originated from a City Councilman, James E. Fisher, who arranged the acquisition of the property in 1923. Mr. Fisher was the first Superintendent of Parks and Public Properties.

In March, 2007 the "Project Welcome Home" Committee presented a proposal to the Lebanon Veterans Advi-

sory Council, Mayor Robert Anspach, and Lebanon City Council to have the name of Fisher Park changed to Fisher Memorial Park. The committee gathered more than 600 signatures from Lebanon County residents in support of the proposal. In October, 2008 a resolution was passed by Lebanon City Council to change the name of Fisher Park to "Fisher Veterans Park" and was officially announced at the 2008 Veterans Day Ceremony

at the park.



"The Hiker" dedicated to soldiers who fought in the Spanish-American War

## National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

By H. Rebekah Waddell

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded in 1890. It is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to [promoting patriotism](#), [preserving American history](#), and securing America's future through [better education for children](#).

DAR members volunteer more than 250,000 hours annually to veteran patients, award thousands of dollars

in scholarships and financial aid each year to students, and support schools for underserved.

As one of the most inclusive genealogical societies in the country, DAR boasts 170,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and internationally. Any woman 18 years or older-regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background-who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible

for membership.

The [DAR National Headquarters](#) (Washington, DC)

houses one of the nation's premier genealogical libraries, one of the foremost collections of pre-industrial American decorative arts, Washington's largest concert hall, and an extensive collection of early American manuscripts and imprints. The [Lebanon Chapter](#) was founded in 1896.



## Military Factoid: Rifle Volley & Military Funeral Customs

By C.J. Snavelly

The military is steeped in a long history of customs and courtesies. Many people erroneously believe that the Rifle Volley fired during a military funeral is a 21 Gun Salute or a Cannon Salute. In military vernacular, a gun is a large caliber weapon such as a howitzer. A 21 Gun Salute is this nation's highest protocol gun salute which is rendered to the Nation, Presidents, former Presidents, heads of state to name but a few. The number of guns used is based on protocol rank and will always be an odd number.

The following is an excerpt from **Army Field Manual 3-21.5 Drill and Ceremonies**: *Several military traditions employed today have been*

*brought forward from the past... Today's customary three volleys fired over a grave probably originated as far back as the Roman Empire. The Roman funeral rites of casting dirt three times on the coffin constituted the "burial." It was customary among the Romans to call the dead three times by name, which ended the funeral ceremony, after which the friends and relatives of the deceased pronounced the word "vale" (farewell) three times as they departed from the tomb. In more recent history, three musket volleys were fired*



Photo by Charlotte Stoudt VFW #23 Honor Guard Veterans Day 2011

*to announce that the burying of the dead was completed and the burial party was ready for battle again.*

Proper courtesy dictates that when in uniform, the service member faces the casket/remains and execute a hand salute at the following times: at any time the casket is being moved; during the firing of volleys; and while "Taps" is being played.

Some Honor Guards will place three shell-casings into the folded flag before presenting the flag to the family. Each casing representing one volley for Duty, Honor, and Country. However, this is incorrect as it violates US Code Title 4 governing the US Flag as it is disrespectful for the flag to be "used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything."

## VA Widow(er) Emergency Assistance

By Robert Kale

This benefit is available to the widow/er of an honorable discharged war-time era veteran who was a legal resident in the State of Pennsylvania at the time of death. This program is designed to help the applicant with immediate short-term financial assistance. This benefit is for \$205 per month for three months. Applicants have six months from date of death to apply.

### Documents required filing claims:

**Marriage License**  
**Death Certificate**  
**Military Discharge**  
**Funeral Bill**  
**Proof of income**  
**Photo I.D.**

Contact information:

Robert A. Kale  
Lebanon County Veterans Affairs

400 S. Eighth St.,  
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## Keystone PVA Awards VA Doctor's Commitment

By Chris Fidler

The Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America recently awarded the "Frank Steck SCI Coordinator Award" to Dr. Julie Fieschko, at a ceremony in the offices of Lebanon VA Director Robert Callahan. The award is given by Keystone PVA annually "to a Department of Veterans Affairs employee in appreciation of their compassionate care and life

*enhancing rehabilitation given to veterans with spinal cord injuries or disease".*

Dr. Fieschko spends a great deal of time with each and every veteran, going out of her way to make sure that their special needs are addressed. She exemplifies what the slogan "Veterans First" really means.

In attendance at the awards presen-

tation were - **Julie Fieschko, M.D.** (left), **Bruce Shaffer, Ken Walters**, Site Leader **Chris Fidler**, and **John Fisher** (all seated) and VAMC Director, **Robert Callahan** (standing in back).



Dr. Julie Fieschko received award for her dedication to veterans.

**CONTACT THE VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL  
CARE OF:**

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**FIND US ON FACEBOOK  
LEBANON VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**WEBPAGE: [LEBANONVAC.ORG](http://LEBANONVAC.ORG)**

Comments or suggestions on the contents of the newsletter should be directed to CW4 Constance Snavelly, (USA Retired) at [cjsnavelly@verizon.net](mailto:cjsnavelly@verizon.net).

**CURRENT OFFICERS**

President	Chris D. Keiser, Project Welcome Home
1st Vice President	CW4 Constance Snavelly, (USA Retired) VFW # 23 Honor Guard
2nd Vice President	Chris Fidler, Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America
Secretary	Kathryn Schools, VFW Ladies Auxiliary
Treasurer	MSgt John Gingrich, (USAF Retired), Marine Corps League
Chaplain	Joseph Everly, Catholic War Veterans

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