



THE SENTRY

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- Photo by Spc. Phillip McTaggart, U.S. Army

Advocates Push for Space on National Mall to Honor Global War on Terror Troops

-Written by Leo Shane III, [MilitaryTimes.com](https://www.militarytimes.com)

The U.S. military's involvement in Afghanistan is now over, but advocates are working to make sure those deployments — and the fights still going on now — are never forgotten. Veterans' groups and lawmakers are pushing for Congress to approve a new Global War on Terror memorial on the National Mall as a permanent reminder of the last 20 years of conflict overseas, including Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations.

In mid-September, the effort took a significant step forward with inclusion of language in the House draft of the annual defense authorization act, a massive military budget policy measure that has passed out of Congress annually for six decades. Senate lawmakers also made a bid to approve the National Mall location in that chamber but were blocked in efforts to fast-track the legislation. Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa and herself a veteran of the Iraq War, said the move is needed to remind Americans of the sacrifices made by hundreds of thousands of troops in recent years.

"I've heard from many Gold Star families who were distraught and disappointed about how things ended [in Afghanistan], and I want them to know that America is grateful, extremely grateful, for their service," she said at a Capitol Hill rally Tuesday for the effort. "This is common sense, it doesn't cost a dime of taxpayer money, and it will honor our heroes of the Global War on Terror for years to come."

Congress approved plans for a Global War on Terror Memorial in 2017, well before plans for a military exit from Afghanistan were underway. At the time, organizers argued that waiting until the end of the Global War on Terror before building the memorial was impractical, because of the open-ended nature of the conflict. There are still U.S. troops deployed around the world in this effort, including 2,500 troops in Iraq and 900 in Syria.

Since then, an independent foundation has worked on planning and fundraising for the project, with a goal of breaking ground on the project in the next few years, allowing veterans who fought overseas in the conflict to see the memorial in their lifetimes.

But the location of the memorial is still undecided. Supporters have long pushed for a spot on the National Mall, arguing that the significance of the site accurately reflects the importance of troops' service in the recent wars.

However, in 2003 — just a few years after the war in Afghanistan began — Congress approved the Commemorative Works Act, which prohibited construction on the site. Lawmakers have made several exceptions to the rule since then but need new legislation to do so.

On Tuesday, when Ernst tried to move that proposal, it was blocked by Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee (which oversees issues surrounding construction on the National Mall.) "I want the memorial to be built as quickly as possible," he said. "In fact, I think it should be the National Park Service's highest priority for approving new memorials. But it should be built following the same process that applies to all other memorials and commemorative works. "I believe this precedent would reopen the fight to locate

other memorials on the National Mall and create more controversy that will ultimately delay the construction of this memorial, which is much needed."

Advocates disagree with Manchin's stance. "Now more than ever, the military community needs a place to gather to reflect, to heal, and to honor the significant contributions that this generation of warfighters and their families have made on behalf of Americans," said Marina Jackman, president of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation. "We're asking that this memorial be given the same consideration that the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial and Korean War Memorial have been given ... More than 7,000 service men and women have given their lives in these wars. Their children deserve to come to the National Mall to see where their mom's or dad's sacrifice is honored."

The inclusion of the location language in the authorization bill may provide a legislative path around Manchin's objection, but the proposal will still have to survive negotiations with Senate defense lawmakers in coming months before it is finalized. Ernst and Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H., said they plan on pushing for a quicker standalone measure in the days to come.

Advocates say they'll continue their public campaign as well. "We as the Gold Star family community will accept no less than the National Mall to honor our heroes and honor those who have fought," said Jane Horton, whose husband, Spc. Chris Horton, killed in Afghanistan in September 2011.

"There is no better place ... This is where we will teach about their stories and the hearts of American service members who served during our nation's longest war."

Annual Membership Renewal Season

- Post 416 Adjutant, Bill Granger

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
 DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

As of publication time for the 18 Legionnaires who renew their membership yearly and have yet to do so, now is the time for Post 416's annual membership drive. Dues are only \$30, making renewal more affordable than ever! You can renew via three different and convenient methods:

- Pay in person at the monthly membership meeting,
- Mail a check to the post's post office box address, or
- Renew online at [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org)

Our remaining membership renewal goals for this year are: (1) 90% post renewal by Jan 1, 2022, and (2) 103% membership by March 1, 2022. Help us achieve our goals by completing your membership renewal today: be a part of the legacy – share the vision at Post 416!



Tuesday, October 12th - Monthly Activities (no dinner, flag retirement at 6pm, business meeting at 7pm)
 Tuesday, October 26th - Spring BBQ Chicken Dinner Planning Meeting (7pm). All tickets due in.
 Saturday, November 6th - Fall BBQ Chicken Dinner. Carryout only, pickup dinners between noon-2pm.
 Tuesday, November 9th - Monthly Activities (no dinner, business meeting at 7pm)

Something For You To Think About

- Written by Dept of North Carolina Commander, Jim Quinlan

There are 21 million veterans in the United States. Of the 21 million, 1.7 million belong to The American Legion, which means 12% of today's veterans care about this country. 12% care about kids and veterans and our democratic form of government. 12% are willing to vote and advocate for veterans benefits that 100% enjoy. This 12% has had an enormous impact on America and veterans' benefits.

I want to thank our members for being part of the 12% who cared enough to do something for the country's good. Here is an example of what the 12% did. The "Forever GI Bill" is a great example. Which has helped educate thousands of veterans, which in turn allowed them to have a better life. If the veterans who enlisted after 9/11 did not use this benefit, they could transfer that benefit to a son, daughter, or spouse to use the benefit. Other qualifications need to be adhered to, and for those our Department Service Officer can answer. The point I want to make is that Legionnaires lobbied for the benefit. And it was the older Legionnaires who did not benefit from the "Forever GI Bill" march on DC, who wrote letters and sent emails

to Congress to get this legislation adopted. Again, it was the 12% the created a benefit for the 100%.

In North Carolina, there are approximately 738,000 veterans, and nearly 40,000 members of The American Legion. Our percentage in North Carolina exceeds 18%, so North Carolina is better than the US average. Rarely does a Post have 50% of its members attend a meeting. Typically, is 10 to 20% who attend, but those 80% that don't attend are important and need to be appreciated.

My father was one of those members who paid his dues for 50 years. He believed in the programs of The American

Legion. He believed in the mission of helping those veterans in need and want. He did not attend meetings. Life, his job, and 13 kids kept him too busy to participate in the meetings. He supported the Legion's chill supper or steak fries. He donated to the Legion's swimming pool project because it would help the community. He believed in The American Legion and its mission.

Not all members can be active. Not all members can attend the conferences or conventions, but they are to be commended for being part of the 12% in the USA or 18% in North Carolina that care about this country, that care about educating our youth, and caring about our veterans and our troops on active duty. Those



members are a great asset because they keep us motivated to do more. By paying their dues, they are giving us a vote of confidence in our mission each year.

Fall BBQ Chicken Dinner Fast Approaching

The fall barbecue chicken dinner will be held on Saturday, November 6th in honor of Veterans Day. Dinners will be served on a takeout basis only and can be picked up between noon and 2pm. Tickets will be available at the October membership meeting for distribution and for \$10/meal. The meal will include all the usuals, such as slaw, potato salad, roll, and the best doggone barbeque chicken this side of heaven. All members are encouraged to sell advance tickets. If you would like to obtain tickets and cannot attend an in-person meeting, please email AL416NC@gmail.com or contact Finance Officer Jim Snyder directly to work out alternate arrangements.



Members of the Inaugural Post 416 American Legion Baseball Team

Front row (Left to Right): Carson Hickey, Bode Hickey, Carson Cole, Caden Watson, Leo Gartner, Ben Jones, Mikee Masinick
 Second Row (Left to Right): Head Coach Bob Cole, Jack Brodeur, Craig McDowell, Ryan Neill, Ian Bailey, Nick Reed, Skyler Peterkin, Matt Hughes

Calendar Reminders

- October 7:** Start of Operation Enduring Freedom (2001)
- October 11:** Columbus Day
- October 13:** U.S. Navy birthday
- October 21:** Beirut bombing (1983)
- October 25:** Grenada invasion (1983)
- October 31:** Halloween

The Sentry is a free, monthly newsletter of the American Legion Post 416, Lowe's Grove NC.

Commander, James Lowe
 Adjutant/Communication Cmte Chair/The Sentry Editor, Bill Granger

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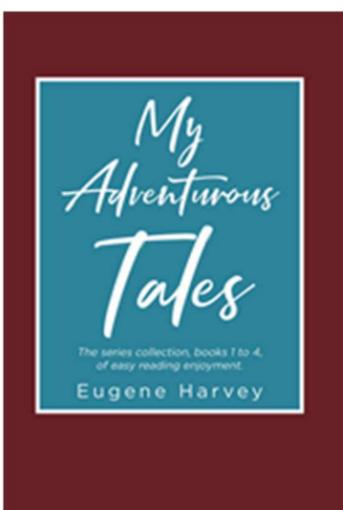


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Eugene Harvey – Post Member and Author

- Written by PRWeb.com

Eugene Harvey, a onetime dairy farmer and married great-grandfather who served for two years in the military before embarking on a career in education, during which he served as a teacher, high school principal, and assistant superintendent, has completed his new book "My Adventurous Tales": a collection of timeless stories celebrating the simple joys of maturing young adults.



The author shares, "During my career in education, I taught English, English grammar, poetry, British literature, and, of course, spelling. After retirement, and when visiting grandchildren, I was challenged to put my English skills into practice, verbally.

They would ask me to tell tales for their entertainment, which I did; but to make them special, I would limit the storytelling to Saturday evenings only. They looked forward to the stories and kept track of the time to remind me of the day. To make it more authentic, and so they didn't think I was just making up tales, I would take any book from the bookshelf and riffle through the pages as I told adventurous stories that pleased and entertained them and the stories became more adult-like as the grandchildren grew. A bonus was added as one of the books had a story within a story.

The characters' names stemmed from my patriotism. During my military service, I was quite proud of the red, white, and blue. Hence the

- continued on page 3 (Eugene Harvey)

Autographed Baseball Presented to Post 416

Ryan Kelly (on left) presented a signed baseball from the members of the 2021 Post 416 American Legion baseball team to the post as a thank you for the inaugural season. Larry Strickland (on right), 1st Vice Commander accepted at the September membership meeting.



(- continued, Eugene Harvey)

characters were named Redford (Red), Wyatt (white), and Ballou (blue). And there are other references to these three colors throughout the books.

The four books presented here are a portion of the tales I related to them and put them on paper. Therefore, there are more books yet to be written.

If you enjoy fun, adventure, learning, and mystery, there will be more books forthcoming. That gives you, the reader, something for which to watch.”

Published by Page Publishing, Eugene Harvey’s engrossing book is an entertaining choice for readers of all ages. Readers who wish to experience this engaging work can purchase “My Adventurous Tales” at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes Store, Amazon, Google Play, or Barnes and Noble.

Post 416 Wins Azalea Award!

- Written by WRAL-TV.com

Each year WRAL-TV 5, MIX 101.5 WRAL-FM and NC Beautiful sponsor the WRAL Azalea Celebration. Through this program, WRAL-TV gives away over 5,000 azaleas to more than 100 non-profits from all over the state of North Carolina each fall. Post 416 was given 50 free azaleas this year as part of the program.

CBC President and CEO Jim Goodman started the annual event in 1985 with the goal of beautifying the community and introducing new and unusual varieties of azaleas. WRAL-TV, MIX 101.5 and NC Beautiful sponsor the event in order to promote the enhancement of community appearance. The giveaway strives to “establish a continuous, well-maintained project for their community to enjoy and emulate.”

Three years after being awarded azaleas in the WRAL Azalea Celebration, each non-profit is eligible for the A.J. Fletcher Award. Named for the founder of Capitol Broadcasting Company and creator of the WRAL Gardens, the A.J. Fletcher Awards honor organizations who have best maintained their landscaping projects created with their WRAL azaleas.

A big round of thanks goes to Johnny Clinton, 2nd Vice Commander, who spearheaded the project and secured the free plants. We should start seeing a lot of changes at the post as the box hedges are removed and new azaleas planted!

Veterans Benefit Center Set for North Carolina



For the fourth time in six years, American Legion Post 67 in Cary, N.C., is providing an opportunity for veterans to get answers – and sometimes resolutions – regarding their benefits and healthcare. On March 17-19, 2022, Post 67 is conducting another Veterans Experience Action Center (VEAC), teaming up with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Wake County (N.C.) Veterans’ Services and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The center will take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. March 17, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. March 18 and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. March 19 at the Herbert Young Community Center, 101 Wilkinson Ave., Cary.

In 2016, 2017 and 2019, Post 67 put on a similar event, assisting more than 1,600 veterans in the process while awarding more than \$1 million in benefits. A VEAC was scheduled for September 2018 but was cancelled because of Hurricane Florence. The VEAC for 2020-21 was cancelled because of COVID concerns.

The VEACs make available to veterans various local, state and federal agencies to assist with veterans’ benefits and healthcare questions. Veterans will have the opportunity to meet face to face with those workers, rather than dealing with them over the phone or online. Veterans from as far away as Arizona have attended the events, where they can check on the status of pending VA claims and file new ones on the spot. Some receive VA disability ratings while at the center.

At the VEAC, workers will assist with face-to-face explanation and assistance facilitating and expediting existing claims and appeals, filling new claims, and accepting all claims-related evidence for processing and providing information regarding benefit-related VA programs.

Those seeking help at the VEAC are asked to bring proper documentation about their case: DD 214, all medical records about any military and civilian disability, and dependency documents if new or not already provided to the VA.

Post 67 Service Officer Richard Spyrison said he expects 1,800 veterans and family members to attend this year’s VEAC; wait times could be long, so those using the VEAC are asked to be patients. Coffee, water and snacks will be provided free of charge.

Veterans can receive Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster

-Written by VA.gov

Some Veterans, spouses and caregivers can receive a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster shot from the VA. In line with recommendations from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC), only people who have already received a full series of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at least six months ago have been authorized to receive a Pfizer booster shot.

The FDA and the CDC continue to review data to determine whether and when it might be recommended for recipients of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine(s). VA will plan to offer boosters of these vaccines if authorized and recommended.

Who is eligible for a booster shot?

Here are the Veterans, spouses and caregivers who have been authorized to receive the Pfizer booster:

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- People aged 50–64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- People aged 18–49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits, and;
- People aged 18–64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits.

The Pfizer booster is not being offered at all VA medical centers. Please [contact your local VA facility](#) to find the nearest location where you can receive the booster.

In the meantime, you can get your booster shot at no cost to you outside of VA. You can locate a vaccine site at <https://www.vaccines.gov/search/>. Make sure to take your CDC COVID-19 vaccination record card when you go!

“With the authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech booster for eligible individuals, VA can provide Veterans an opportunity to maximize their protection, continuing our work to keep people safe and save lives during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough.

Veterans who receive care in VA and are due for booster shots will be contacted and advised of the recommended shots, which may be offered by appointment or on a walk-in basis.

You can get both the COVID-19 vaccine and your annual flu vaccine at the same time. Veterans receiving care at VA who wish to get a booster shot can get both shots together during the same visit. Veterans who would like additional information can visit the [VA COVID-19 vaccines](#) webpage, visit their [local facility’s website](#) or contact their care team. If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the [VA COVID-19 questions web page](#).

