

or physically altered in an effort to hide how many people died waiting for treatment at a Phoenix VA hospital, CNN reported. Investigators issued a scathing report that outlined 24 recommendations for change, including a firm determination of how soon a veteran should be treated and a total overhaul of the VA's appointment system.

As individuals, write to your members of Congress to make sure addressing the VA's problems remains a priority.



**Donate** - Yes, there are many ways to thank a veteran for his or her service. However, **helping the people who help them** readjust to civilian life, deal with battlefield trauma and treat their wounds can have a positive impact on the veteran's life. If you're giving to veterans charities that aren't giving the overwhelming majority of their funds to veterans or their families, you aren't helping. So ... how can donors know who's making the most out of their money? **CharityWatch** notes that there are more than 40,000 nonprofit organizations dedicated to serving the military and veterans and an estimated 400,000 service organizations that in some way touch veterans or service members.

**Research/Be Informed** ... please visit [www.CharityNavigator.org](http://www.CharityNavigator.org) for a list of highly recommended organizations that support Veterans and Active Duty Servicemembers. **ggd** ☺



**HA HA HA** **Six guys are playing poker** when Smith loses \$500 on a single hand, clutches his chest and falls over dead. **"Who's going to tell his wife"**, they all wonder. They draw straws and Anderson picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet and break it to her gently. **"No problem,"** Anderson says. So he drives over to the Smith house and knocks on the door. The wife answers. **"Your husband just lost \$500 playing cards,"** he tells her. She screams and says, **"Tell him to drop dead!"** Anderson replies, **"Okay, I'll tell him."** ☺

**Three guys are fishing on a lake** when an angel appears in the boat with them. The first guy gets over his shock and humbly says to the angel. **"I've suffered from back pain for years. Is it too much to ask that you help me?"** The angel touches the man's back and he feels instant relief! The second guy points to his Coke bottle glasses and asks if the angel could cure his poor eyesight. The angel tosses the man's glasses into the lake. When they hit the water, the man's vision clears, and he can see everything distinctly! The angel now turns to the third guy who throws up his hands in fear. **"Don't touch me!"** he cries, **"I'm on disability!"**

Thanks Miss Ivie! **ggd** ☺

**\*\*\* Officers/Board Of Directors Meeting @ 9:15 a.m. \*\*\***  
\* Everyone - Please Bring This Newsletter With You To Our Meeting \*

# Choice

The Newsletter Of AARP Chapter 1952  
(Houston County, Georgia)  
— Established November 7, 1974 —  
[www.AARPChapter1952.org](http://www.AARPChapter1952.org)

November 2017  
Volume 21 - 10  
Monthly



Meeting Dates/Time: **Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>** (10:00 a.m.) and **Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** (10:00 a.m.)  
Location: Wellston Center - 155 Maple Street | Warner Robins, GA 31093

Officers	Names	Telephone	Board Of Directors	Telephone
President	<b>Greg Davis</b>	<b>318-0471</b>	<b>Susan Sanders</b> <sup>(Chairperson)</sup>	283-1887
Vice President	Frank Gadbois	953-7788	Sue Braun	302-5095
Secretary	James Erdmanczyk	217-1778	Catherine Butler	(803) 614-9620
Treasurer	Benedicta Edge	333-2310		
"Choice" Editor	Greg Davis	318-0471		



### Birthdays For November

James Erdmanczyk 2<sup>nd</sup> Tommy Stalnaker 4<sup>th</sup> David Morton 18<sup>th</sup> Hildred Chesley 25<sup>th</sup>

### Birthdays For December

Betty Lou Lovain 10<sup>th</sup> Cecelia Thompson 11<sup>th</sup> Alisha Singh 12<sup>th</sup> John Micek 26<sup>th</sup>

### WE CARE

For each new morning with its light, For rest and shelter of the night, For health and food, For love and friends, For everything Thy goodness sends. **Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)**. **"Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted."** **Matthew 5:4 NKJV**

**Sick/Shut-Ins:** Sue Braun, Suzanne Burgess, Ruth Davis, Jeanine Frey and Mary Lappano. We wish health/wellness to all past/current members, family members and friends. **ggd** ☺

**Highlights From The October 2017 Meeting:** **Debbie Stephens/Executive Director** and **Kandice Crowder/Office Manager** - collectively of **Cherished Children Education Centers** (Warner Robins, GA) shared history and family/community programs. More than just child care, **Cherished Children** actively involves the whole family providing continuing education in such areas as nutrition, parenting skills, finding employment and other needs to foster excellence and success for the entire family. **Barbara West/Teacher** and a few precious children also gave a special "educational" presentation! **Cherished Children** "... where every child is cherished!" To learn more please visit [www.WRCherishedChildren.com](http://www.WRCherishedChildren.com) or call 478/923-1339. **ggd** ☺



Activities (November 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> - 2017) included reading to our "Adopted School" - **C.B. Watson Primary School!** Thank You (Volunteer) Readers: **James Erdmunczyk, Nancy Hardin and Greg Davis!**

Next reading opportunity: **Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please contact me to add **your name** as a volunteer reader! **ggd** ☺

**Business Meeting | Members Only**  
Monday - November 20, 2017 | 10:00 a.m. - Noon

**MEMBERS ONLY**  
10:00 a.m. - Noon

P.O. Box 7481  
Warner Robins, GA 31095  
www.AARPChapter1952.org  
Tel: 478/318-0471

**AARP** Real Possibilities  
Chapter 1952 (Houston County, Georgia)

**\*\*\* Business Meeting \*\*\***  
**Next Monday | 11/20/2017 | 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

# "Relevance!"



## AARP Chapter 1952 ... We ARE "Forever Young!"

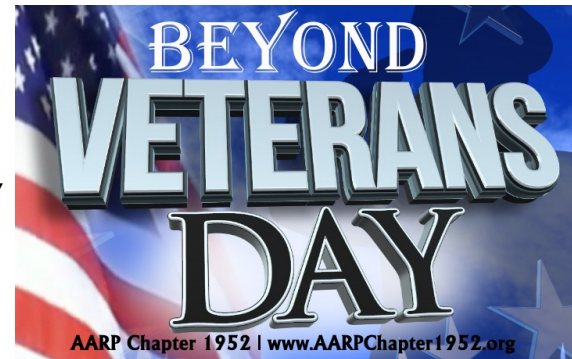
Greg Davis ggd ☺ Tel: 478/318-0471 | E-Mail: gdavismail@gmail.com!

**NOTE:** With the exception of **November**, **December** and "**special events**," our (monthly) meetings are held on the **fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Wednesday**. As such, the newsletter is (usually) printed/mailed the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Tuesday or Wednesday. We're **ALWAYS** "early" for the following month's special days/celebrations and SOMETIMES we're "early" for the current month's special days/celebrations as well. **2017 Meetings/Events:**

- 1/25/17 - Rebuilding Together Warner Robins ... [CHECK]
- 2/22/17 - The Otis Redding Foundation ... [CHECK]
- 3/22/17 - Wesleyan College/Confucius Institute ... [CHECK]
- 4/26/17 - SPRING-O-O-O At Antebellum Grove [CHECK]
- 5/24/17 - Ortho Georgia (Change) ... [CHECK]
- 6/28/17 - Summer Picnic/Membership Drive | Easter Seals of Middle Georgia [CHECK]
- 7/26/17 - Habitat For Humanity (Houston County) [CHECK]
- 8/23/17 - BBB Central Georgia [CHECK]
- 9/20/17 (Third Wednesday) | Walgreens [CHECK]
- 10/25/17 - Cherished Children (Warner Robins) [CHECK]
- 11/20/17 (Third Monday) | Business Meeting**
- 12/18/17 (Third Monday) | Christmas Lunch

## Ways To Honor Veterans Beyond Veterans Day

**November 11, 2017** - Veterans Day - I attended the **Houston County Habitat For Humanity's "Inaugural Veterans Day Gala"** and had the privilege/honor of "**escorting**" (our very own) **Miss Ivis Bedrick (96)**! Miss Ivis is a **World War II Veteran** having served in the **United States Coast Guard**, trained as an Administrative Assistant/Recorder ... mastering shorthand which she still uses today!



Attendees at our AARP Chapter 1952 "**sponsored table**" included **Miss Maryellen Thompson** (Miss Ivis' driver and widow of **MSgt Tommie Thompson | United States Air Force/Vietnam Veteran**), **Mr. Charles Bell, Jr.** and **Mrs. Zylpha Pryor-Bell** (son and daughter-in-law of **Mr. Charles Bell, Sr** - recently deceased **8/30/17 | United States Army/World War II Veteran**) and (chapter member) **Mrs. Nancy Hardin**! I truly enjoyed the evening's events ... purpose, meal, entertainment, awards/special recognitions, etc. I'm especially proud that our chapter members - **Miss Ivis Bedrick**, **\*\* Mr. Charles Bell, Sr**, **\*\* Mr. Ernie Braun** (deceased **11/19/15** - World War II Veteran) and I were "**recognized**" among the many veterans!



☺ ggd and enjoy the newsletters in full COLOR! - www.AARPChapter1952.org - and enjoy the newsletters in full COLOR! ggd ☺

**\*\* Note:** **Mr. Charles Bell, Sr's** recent passing (**8/30/17**) and **Mr. Ernie Braun's** upcoming anniversary of his passing (**11/19/15**) would **normally** be remembered/celebrated on **Memorial Day** (honoring veterans now deceased who were killed in the line of duty and those who have since passed away - observed on the last Monday in May). Their "**recognition**" at the event was truly special. Thank you!

The phrase "**Thank you for your service**" has come to define how America expresses gratitude for its men and women in uniform. However, what does a holiday -- Veterans Day/a single day -- really mean to the 19.6 million veterans it's meant to honor? Recently, **CNN** asked a few veterans and (the majority of) their answers were to "**Go beyond the holiday!**"

They encouraged a **constant, creative and sensitive focus on veterans' needs, like improving access to jobs and health care, particularly at Veterans' Affairs facilities**. In fact, just recently the **Department of Veterans Affairs'** new secretary announced massive restructuring at the scandal-plagued agency.

Productive things anyone outside the military can do are actually very simple and easy. **Strike up a conversation with a veteran.**

Get to know one of them in a meaningful way. There is a wide cultural gap between Americans who have no relationship with the Armed Forces and those who've served their country. Closing that gap is as necessary as it is long overdue. Additionally:

**Check your assumptions** - "**Veterans are very often stereotyped into two stock characters: the crying wounded or the guy who jumps the White House fence to get to the President**," said Paul Rieckhoff, the executive director of the **Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America**, a national nonprofit with more than 200,000 members. "**Don't treat us like victims**," said Rieckhoff, an Amherst College graduate and former Wall Street investment analyst who led an Army platoon in Iraq in 2003 and 2004. "**We're not broken. We've been through a lot, but we're rising out of it.**" It's critical for everyone to remember that having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (**PTSD**) doesn't mean a person will be violent, and not every veteran has PTSD.

Each veteran has a unique story. Their military service has probably shaped them in profound ways, but they are not the sum total of that time. Take the time get to know one of them. They have a lot of lessons to share.

**Invest in veterans** -- it's good business. One of the biggest hurdles service members face after leaving the military is finding a job. About 77% of veterans have struggled through unemployment and more than a quarter have searched for more than a year for a job, according to **Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America**. Many corporations have launched new hiring initiatives for veterans. Want to hire a veteran? The **Returning Heroes Tax Credit** should provide a financial incentive. For veterans who need jobs, the veterans job bank and resources on the VA website might help.

**Help veterans' families, too** - While it's well known that 22 veterans a day kill themselves, a **CNN** investigation revealed that many military family members also have attempted or contemplated suicide. "**The Uncounted**" examined how war's trauma can wrack entire families. Family members have endured unprecedented multiple deployments during two wars, in Afghanistan and Iraq, lasting more than a decade. That means financial and emotional stress for relatives. If a family member returns from war, it's often the relatives who must care for them. Every family member interviewed for "**The Uncounted**" expressed the same need to be understood by those whose lives had nothing to do with the military. They didn't want to be thought of as "**the other**." "**Don't be afraid to approach us. Don't push military family members away because you're afraid you'll say the wrong thing. Just asking us means you care, and that means everything.**"

**Volunteer with veterans' programs** - Whether it's a simple conversation with a veteran or their family member or volunteering, get involved. Figure out what you do best and offer that skill. If you're a mental health professional, donate your services to Give an Hour, which connects counselors to service members, veterans and their families. Reach out to **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)**, which connects family members who have lost service members and veterans in similar ways. For instance, if someone's brother died of an **Improvised Explosive Device (IED)** attack in Iraq, TAPS links that person with a peer who has lost a sibling in Iraq. The National Military Family Association and Blue Star Families also connects military families with leaders in the civilian community. "**The Uncounted**" highlighted an innovative New York clinic that broke from the traditional approach by linking the VA and a private hospital system so both could operate in a single shared office space. Patients, including one Iraq veteran and his wife, credit the clinic for saving their marriage.

**Pressure the Department of Veterans Affairs** - The VA is the second largest agency in the U.S. government, rivaled in size only by the Department of Defense. Since **November 2013**, **CNN** has been investigating and reporting about the department's failures to adequately treat veterans. Records of dead veterans were changed

"Think joining AARP makes you old? **Get over it!**"



AARP National + AARP Chapter 1952