The American Veterans Center’s
15th Annual Conference
October 25-27, 2012 - Washington, DC

Locations of Events:
See schedule for times

“The Wounded Warrior Experience”
& Conference Speaker Sessions
U.S. Navy Memorial
Naval Heritage Center
701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 123
Washington, DC 20004

Army and Navy Club Reception:
Army and Navy Club
901 Seventeenth Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
Note: Coat and tie are required

15th Annual Awards Gala:
Renaissance Washington DC Hotel
Renaissance Ballroom
999 9th St NW
Washington, DC 20001
Note: Black Tie Preferred

Bus transportation will be available from the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel to all off-site events.
The buses will pick up/drop off at the K Street entrance on the side of the hotel lobby.

Schedule of Events:
TIMES & TOPICS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Thursday, October 25
6:45 - “The Wounded Warrior Experience”
Bus transportation from Renaissance available, departing at 6:25 and 6:45 PM
Brought to you by the University of Phoenix & Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation with additional support from Saab
Featuring service members who have been wounded in the line of duty, sharing their inspiring stories of recovery and determination, along with resources available to service members transitioning from the military to the private sector.
Hosted by Jennifer Griffin, National Security Correspondent for the Fox News Channel
Featuring:
SGT Rick Yarosh - U.S. Army cavalry scout, wounded when his Bradley vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in Abu Ghraib region of Iraq.
Sgt Rob Jones - U.S. Marine Corps, lost his legs from an IED blast while serving in Afghanistan, now a paralympian rower.
CMSgt Richard Simonsen - Senior Enlisted Leader for Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, focusing on PTSD/TBI/Suicide Prevention.
Kim Ruocco - Director, Suicide Postvention Program - Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).
SGT Rick Zimmerman - U.S. Army, suffered a traumatic brain injury during service in Iraq, now at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.
SSG Charles Eggleston - U.S. Army, severely wounded an IED while serving in Iraq, going on to become an advocate for wounded warriors. Representing Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation.
LTC James Hilleary - Retired U.S. Army officer, Associate Faculty, University of Phoenix-Northern Virginia Campus

6:45pm – Reception 8:00pm – Discussion

This program will be filmed for broadcast on The Pentagon Channel on and around, Veterans Day 2012
Visit www.woundedwarriorexperience.com for more information and panelist updates. This event is free of charge.
**Friday October 26**

**SPEAKER SESSIONS AT THE U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL – SESSIONS BEGIN AT 8:30AM**

*Bus transportation available to and from hotel throughout the day, on the hour*

_U.S. Navy Memorial*

_Naval Heritage Center*

701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 123

Washington, DC 20004

9:00AM **THE GREATEST GENERATION: THE WAR IN EUROPE**

**George Klein** – 2nd Ranger Battalion - D-Day.

**H. Newcomb “Newc” Eldredge** – Veteran of the 10th Mountain Division in the Italian Campaign, and recipient of two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart for actions during the battle for Mount Belvedere.

**Dorothy Pecora** - Chief Nurse and Liberator, one of the first women to receive the Bronze Star Medal for her experiences in combat, military nursing and the Holocaust.

Moderated by: **Bob Patrick** - Director Veterans History Project, Library of Congress.

10:00 AM **THE DOOLITTLE RAID**

The remaining veterans of Jimmy Doolittle’s legendary attack on Tokyo, April 18, 1942

Featuring:

**Lt. Colonel Richard Cole** – Co-pilot, Plane #1 (Jimmy Doolittle’s co-pilot)

**SSgt. David Thatcher** – Engineer Gunner, Plane #7

**Major Thomas Griffin** – Navigator, Plane #9

**Lt Colonel Edward Joseph Saylor** - Engineer of aircraft #15

Moderated by: **Thomas Casey**, Doolittle Tokyo Raiders

10:45 **THE KOREAN WAR 60th ANNIVERSARY: THE BATTLE OF CHOSIN RESERVOIR**

**Major Chew Een ‘Kurt’ Lee** - The only Chinese-American Marine officer fighting at Chosin. Platoon Commander with B/7. He was featured in a 2010 Smithsonian Channel documentary.

**Col Warren Wiedhahn** - Marine Corps Veteran of Inchon and Chosin Reservoir

**Dr. Stanley Wolf** - Navy surgeon with 7th Marines at Hagaru.

Moderated by: **Maj Guillermo A. Canedo**, USMC

11:45 **LIVE FROM AFGHANISTAN: FROM THE FRONT LINES**

LIVE webcam conversation with troops serving on the Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, in Farah Province Afghanistan

Featuring:

**CDR Louis Martin McCray** - USN - Commander Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah

**Staff Sgt. James Bates** - USA - Squad Leader for Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah’s security force

12:30 **LUNCH**

SCREENING OF **UNCOMMON COURAGE: BREAKOUT AT CHOSIN IN THE U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL THEATER**

1:30 **THE LAST ACE**


2:15 **WHEN THE COLD WAR TURNED HOT: AERIAL RECON DURING THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS**

**Colonel Wayne Whitten** - Ret. Marine, Author of Marine involvement in Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Ken Jack** - Former PH2 VFP-62 and co-author *Blue Moon Over Cuba: Aerial Reconnaissance during the Cuban Missile Crisis.*

**Chris Pocock** - Expert Overhead Recon during Cuban Missile Crisis.

3:00 **U.S. NAVY SEALs AND EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE:**

A rare appearance by active duty members of the Navy’s SEAL, EOD, and Expeditionary Warfare communities share their perspectives on service, sacrifice, and life in their chosen professions.

4:00 **CAPSTONE REMARKS:**

Featuring **General Colin L. Powell**, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State.
SPECIAL EXCLUSIVE EVENING RECEPTION AT THE ARMY-NAVY CLUB
6:30 PM
With special guests, wounded warriors from Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval Hospital
Note: Coat and tie required.
The Army & Navy Club is located at 901 17th St. NW in downtown Washington, DC.
Bus transportation will be available from the Renaissance Hotel at 6:15 PM.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 27
SPEAKER SESSIONS AT THE U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL – SESSIONS BEGIN AT 8:30 AM
The U.S. Navy Memorial is located at:
701 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20004
Buses depart hotel at 8:15 AM - Bus transportation available to and from hotel throughout the day, on the hour

8:30AM – THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES
The first African-Americans to serve in the United States Marine Corps during WWII. Recently honored with the Congressional Gold Medal
Featuring:
LtCol Joseph Carpenter
Gunnery Sergeant Reuben McNair, Sr
Staff Sergeant Eugene Groves
Moderated by: Gunnery Sergeant Everett Wills

9:30 AM - THE TURNING OF THE TIDE: THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY
Featuring:
Sgt. Ed Fox - Machine gunner on Midway with the 6th Defense Battalion, Fleet Marine Force
Captain John Crawford – Served as an ensign aboard the USS Yorktown
RADM Donald Showers (tentative) - One of the Navy’s codebreakers who deciphered the Japanese codes indicating their plans to attack Midway
Maj. Albert Grasselli - Marine Corps veteran & Pearl Harbor survivor, participated in the Battle of Midway Island as one of the first designated aerial navigators in Marine aviation history.
CPO Chief Hank Kudzik - Served aboard the USS Nautilus, a submarine that played a pivotal role in the Battle of Midway.

10:30 AM - THE GREATEST GENERATION: THE PACIFIC
Featuring:
R.V. Burgin – Marine Corps veteran portrayed in HBO’s The Pacific and author of Islands of the Damned.
Roy Matsumoto – Japanese American who went from the internment camps to serve with the famed Merrill’s Marauders behind enemy lines in Burma.

11:25AM KEYNOTE REMARKS
General Richard B. Myers – 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

12:05 LUNCH
SCREENING OF HONOR AND SACRIFICE: NISEI PATRIOTS IN THE MIS IN THE U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL THEATER
1:00 The Korean War 60th Anniversary Discussion -
In the Shadow of the Greatest Generation: American Veterans of the Korean War

David Mills - Army POW - taken captive by the Chinese during the battle of Outpost Harry
Jack Keep - USN, served onboard the USS Gatling (DD 671) - participated in Operation Mainbrace in the North Atlantic.
Major General Frederick “Boots” Blesse - USAF Double Ace pilot from the Korean War
Moderated by: Melinda Pash - Author of In the Shadow of the Greatest Generation: The Americans who fought in the Korean War

1:50 THE MEDAL OF HONOR
Recipients of the U.S. Military’s Highest Award

Featuring
Maj General James E. Livingston – USMC, received Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in 1968 during the Vietnam War, author of Noble Warrior
Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta - United States Army, first living recipient of the Medal of Honor for valor in Afghanistan.

2:40 PM HONORING THE IRAQ WAR GENERATION
Introduction and Remarks by:
Lt. Col. Steve Russell - Author of We Got Him: A Memoir of the Hunt and Capture of Saddam Hussein
Discussion on Operation Iraqi Freedom
Featuring:
Elliott Ackerman - Marine Corps recipient of the Silver Star, Second Battle of Fallujah.
Sergeant Monica Beltran - Virginia National Guard and among the few women recipients of the Bronze Star with Valor.
Sergeant Marco Martinez - Recipient of the Navy Cross for Valor during the battle of Al Tarmiya.
Moderated by Lt. Col. Russell

3:45 The Kissing Sailor
A panel on the new U.S. Naval Institute Press book that through exhaustive research has identified the sailor and nurse in the legendary “VJ Day in Times Square” photo

Featuring:
Authors Larry Verria and George Galdorisi
And
George Mendonsa and Greta Friedman, identified through the authors’ research as the sailor and nurse.

**SIGNATURE EVENT**
The American Veterans Center’s 15th Annual Awards Gala
Honoring American Heroes from The Greatest Generation to the Latest Generation
Registration and Reception: Begins at 6:00 Awards Gala: 7:00
Renaissance Washington DC Hotel
999 9th Street NW, Washington DC 20001

For the first time, the Awards Gala will be filmed for a very special Veterans Day broadcast on The Pentagon Channel. Visit www.americanveteranscenter.org for listings.

Presented by the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commission with support from Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation