

NORTHEAST GEORGIA VETERANS COALITION MEETING MAY6, 2015

EMAIL	LNAME	FNAME	POSITION, CURRENT OR FORMER	PHONE
Richwatts86@gmail.com	Watts	Richard	Senior Vice Commander, VFW Post 8452	7706541157
sailorskchief@aol.com	Browne	Dave	President, VVA 772	7709001286
chastainrl@gmail.com	Chastain	Ray	Vice President, GMCMOAA	7705322239
dtdellinger@charter.net	Dellinger	David	Commander, AL Post 7	7707187676
Dgod72@aol.com	Godfrey	David	Commandant, MCL Det 665	7705192995
Stephen.mcgruder@gdol.ga.gov	McGruder	Stephen	Commander, AL Post 328	3022416228
hlnash@charter.net	Nash	Harold	Chairman, GSVTCTF	7709676582
lallemani@hallcounty.org	Allemani	Nikki	Coordinator, HCSVC	7707185143
pgodfrey@charter.net	Godfrey	Paul	Coordinator, NEGVOG	7709670165

Meeting began OA 1900 hrs

RECURRING ISSUES

1. The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) status
2. Veteran Jobs.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Post 328 van to DAV for local transport. Due to the current condition of the van, the DAV (CLOSED) .
2. 2015 GA Legislature bill asks all military retired pay to be tax exempt. The bill was not passed. (CLOSED)
3. The need for PSTD informational/recognition training. The Statewide Veterans Treatment Court Taskforce is exploring possibilities.(OPEN)
4. Formalizing the coalition as the Northeast Georgia Veteran Organizations Coalition. (OPEN)
  - a. A revised draft articles of incorporation passed out for additional review and comments (Attached).
  - b. Due to the acronym NGVOC being coopted by a recently formed organization, the name has been changed to the Northeast Georgia Veterans Coalition
5. What should we do about popup/bogus organizations claiming to support vets in our area (Popup/Bogus Organizations) (OPEN).
  - a. We discussed actions by individuals, single veteran organizations, and the coalition .
  - b. We identified the primary problem being the failure of news media to investigate the background and legitimacy of these new pop-up organizations.
  - c. The refusal of the local Gainesville Times to attend any meetings by member organizations or the coalition when invited by the Coalition Coordinator was noted.
  - d. The group discussed the failure of the editor of the Times to respond to the Coalition Coordinator about the concerns about their reporting. (Attached)
  - e. The coalition decided to prepare a petition to the Gainesville Times, signed by each member organization, was in order. Mr. Nash volunteered to prepare the petition.

NEW BUSINESS

The meeting adjourned OA 2115 hrs.

ATTACHMENT 1 – FINAL ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

**OF**

**THE NORTHEAST GEORGIA VETERANS COALITION**

The name of the corporation is the Northeast Georgia Veterans Coalition

The corporation is organized pursuant to the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code.

The street address and county of the initial registered office and the name of initial registered agent at that office are Dr. Paul W. Godfrey, 5888 Meadowfield Trace, Flowery Branch, Hall County, Georgia.

The name and address of the incorporator is Dr. Paul W. Godfrey, 5888 Meadowfield Trace, Flowery Branch, Hall County, Georgia.

The mailing address of the corporation's initial principal office is 5888 Meadowfield Trace, Flowery Branch, Hall County, Georgia.

The corporation will have members. The organizational members of the Corporation shall consist of local chapters, posts, detachments, etc., of statewide or nationally chartered veteran's organizations or organizations that support veterans and collections of these organizations. Persons on the Board of Director are individual members during their tenure. Other individuals and organizations may become members on recommendation by a director on the Board of Directors and a three-fourths (3/4) vote of those directors present at a regular meeting.

The number and functions of Directors shall be fixed by the Bylaws, but be not less than two (2) nor more than thirty-five (35). The initial Directors are listed below. The head (Commander, Commandant, President, Chairperson, Chief, etc.) of the participating organizations, or the person they designate in their stead, shall become a Board member during her or his tenure upon acceptance of his or her organization as a member. Directors shall serve until their replacement in their organizational leadership role by their organization or until removed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board.

The name of the corporation's initial registered agent is Paul W. Godfrey who is a resident of Georgia.

The corporation's initial registered office address which is the business address of the initial registered agent is: 5888 Meadowfield Trace, Flowery Branch, Hall County, Georgia 30542.

The initial directors are:

Mr. David L. Dellinger, 2374 Sportsman Club Rd, Gainesville, GA 30501

Mr. Emilio (Cookie) Salinas, 6479 Chestnut Hill Road, Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Dr. Paul W. Godfrey, 5888 Meadowfield Trace, Flowery Branch, GA 30542

The organization and role of the individuals who are to serve as directors are listed below. They shall become members of the board of directors only upon vote of their organization to become organizational members of the coalition. They shall serve until their successors are appointed/elected by their organization.

Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8452  
Commander, American Legion Post 7  
Commander, American Legion Post 328  
Commander, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17  
Commandant, Marine Corps League Detachment 665  
President, Military Officer Association of America Georgia Mountain Chapter 18  
President, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 772  
Director, Korean War Veterans of Georgia  
Chairman, Georgia Statewide Veteran Treatment Court Task Force  
State Court Judge, Hall County Veteran Treatment Court  
Veterans Representative, Georgia Department of Labor, Gainesville Career Center  
The head of such other organizations as shall be recommended by the Board of Directors.

This corporation is organized, and shall be operated and administered, as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization qualifying under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, as now in effect or as may hereafter be amended.

The purposes for which the corporation is formed are: to promote the common interests and goals of the veteran organizations that are members of the corporation; to advocate policies in Georgia that will advance the well-being and opportunities of veterans of the uniformed services of the United States of America; to enhance public awareness of the benefits, contributions, accomplishments, and needs of the veterans. The corporation shall create as prescribed in its Bylaws such working groups and/or task forces and objectives as it deems necessary to help meet these purposes. The constitution, bylaws, rules, regulations and procedures of member organizations shall take precedence over any proposed or established by Coalition.

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, any member, director or officer of the corporation, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the corporation and to make payments and distributions in the furtherance of the corporation's purposes.

In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation, all of the remaining assets and property of the corporation shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities and obligations of the corporation and for necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to one or more organizations, as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under § 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, and whose purpose is to assist United States uniformed-service members, as the Board of Directors shall determine. In no event shall any of such assets or property be distributed to any individual member, director, officer, or any private individual.

To the fullest extent permitted by the State of Georgia, as now in effect or as may hereafter be amended, no officer or director of the corporation shall be personally liable for damages in any proceeding brought by or in the right of the corporation, or in connection with any claim, action, suit or proceeding to which he or she may be or is made a party by reason of being or having been an officer or director of the corporation.

The name and address of the Incorporator is Paul W. Godfrey, 5888 Meadowfield Trace, Flowery Branch, Georgia 30542.



**ATTACHMENT 3 CAQLENDAR OF EVENTS**

**March 2015 Calendar**

~ March 2015 ~						
◀ February						April ▶
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 1100hrs Canton, GA., Vietnam Veterans Event  1800 hrs Lakewood Baptist Church, Gospel Music event, DAV
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 1000 hrs Veteran Jobs Event. Department of Labor Bldg, Atlanta Highway, Ganesville	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <a href="#">Vietnam Veterans March on the Capitol</a>	<b>31</b>	Notes:			

# April 2015 Calendar

~ April 2015 ~						
◀ March						May ▶
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Golden Corral's Camp Corral Event. Supports Veteran's Children. No Uniforms.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	Notes:	

## **ATTACHMENT 2 – Invitation to Gainesville Times**

From: Dr. Paul Godfrey <pgodfrey@charter.net>

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 2:38 PM

To: 'jgill@gainesvilletimes.com'

Subject: Invitation to Attend the Marine Corps League Det#665 Meeting and the Northeast Georgia Veteran Organization Coalition Meeting

Jeff,

Glad we could chat on the phone. First, the invites.

You are invited to attend the Marine Corps League Detachment 665 monthly meeting this Saturday at 9:30 am. The meeting is held in the VFW Building at 1955 Delta Drive in Gainesville. Briefly, the Marine Corps League seeks and supports Marines and Navy Corpsmen that need aid and assistance be it financial, moral support, or help in penetrating the bureaucracy.

You are also invited to attend the Northeast Georgia Veteran Organization Coalition which meets bi-monthly. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2015. The member organizations, and a principal attendee, include American Legion Gainesville Post 7 (Dave Dellinger) and Flowery Branch Post 328 (Stephen McGruder), Marine Corps League Detachment 665 (David Godfrey), Disabled American Veterans Georgia Chapter 17 (Sam Smith), Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter 8452 (Charlie Brown), Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 772 (Dave Browne), Military Officers Association of America-Georgia Mountain Chapter 18 (Ray Chastain), Korean War Veterans of Georgia (Paul Scroggs), Forty and Eight Voiture 1317 (Tom Reesman), Georgia Statewide Veterans Treatment Court Taskforce (Harold Nash), and Hall County Veteran Treatment Court (Judge Gene Roberts, Nikki Allemani)

Know that, whether or not you wish to write a story you are welcome.

One of the primary missions of each of our organizations is to help veterans in need. We all follow the watch words of veterans' helping veterans. In fact, several years ago a few members of several of our organizations saw the desirability of informally getting together to share information about efforts and activities of their organizations in this effort. They felt that this might help their individual organizations to better achieve their common and unique primary missions. In fact, the coalition we have today grew from those efforts.

Our efforts include helping veterans with both physical and psychological difficulties and even those involved with the criminal justice system. The suicide issue is not unknown to us and some members of our organizations have been working in an attempt to actually address the issue. Getting veterans to be part of one or more of our organizations is one such effort. I cite the work of the Marine Corps League Detachment 665 as an example. The Veteran Treatment Courts set up in our area last year are already paying dividends and I believe provide a stellar model for courts throughout our state that are struggling with that issue. We even have members of our coalition working to help these statewide courts in that struggle.

Together the eleven veteran organizations of the coalition represent a membership well over a thousand veterans. In addition, we have two non-veteran organizations that have met with us and worked with us to address veteran support issues. Each of our organizations has one or more service officer who work(s) with veterans both in and out of our organization to get them the services they need. They primary work with the VA to ensure the physical or mental care these veterans have earned through their service is made available to them. However, they also work through with veterans in seeking what they earned from the military services, including upgrades of their discharges. Because they are part of statewide and nationwide organization, the service officers can tap resources and expertise needed to be successful in this endeavor.

The veteran organizations in our area also help veterans in need with direct and indirect financial aid. Last year thousands of dollars were raised and spent in direct support of these veterans - the homeless to the heatless, the dislocated to the desperate. We also raise and expend funds to provide enriching experiences to the



wounded warriors among us such as the annual Warriors Golf event the MOAA works to put together. More funds were raised and spent on community projects such as Boys State, Children and Youth Expos, and Toys for Tots, all of which help not only veterans but the community. We do this completely as volunteers with less than a few percent of the money raised being spent in overhead, and that is almost all spent on paying sales taxes (e.g., taxes and fees on the gas bill paid for a veteran temporarily on hard times who couldn't pay a heating bill in the winter). What we hope we have earned is not only a good reputation among veterans in the community but also a very good reputation and high esteem within the community. The community turnout at the Memorial Day parade, run by coalition member organizations, stands testimony to that. In addition, the contributions of all our members to their communities serve to enhance that reputation.

I know we are all pleased when someone takes it upon themselves to help veterans in need. But, I also know that several of us are concerned about the use of veteran assistance moniker to raise money that doesn't seem to go to helping veterans. Some are also concerned about those supposedly doing good deeds in support of these veterans when the "good deeds" only seem to be done for the camera. Recently, even some nationally publicized veterans groups like the Wounded Warriors raise questions in some minds about the very high percentage of funds collected that go to overhead and not the veteran. Yes, I know they have arguments as to why that expense is necessary. But anytime motives or circumstances can be questioned, they will be and they will tarnish our hard won reputation.

Paul

Dr. Paul W. Godfrey, Lt. Colonel, USAF (ret)  
Georgia Mountain Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
Personal Affairs Officer  
Membership Chair