



# The United Veterans Committee of Colorado

PO Box 440889 / Aurora, CO

<http://www.unitedveteranscommittee.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/UnitedVeteransCommitteeofColorado>

## Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2017

VOL. 1 NO. 9

From the President  
James Craig

Treasurer/Banquet Chair  
Bernie Rogoff

State Legislative Committee  
Dick Young, Chair

### Officers

*President*

James Craig 720-737-3686

*1st Vice President*

Dennis Orr 303-870-7953

*2nd Vice President*

Leanne Wheeler

303-995-8010

*Recording Secretary*

Lori Derby 303-347-1876

*Treasurer*

Bernie Rogoff 303-909-6369

### Committee Chairs

*State Legislative*

Dick Young 303-388-6965

*State Legislative Liaison*

*Federal Legislative*

Steve Rylant 970-669-1832

*Membership*

Gary Force 303-818-0200

*Annual Banquet*

Bernie Rogoff 303-909-6369

*Banquet Director*

Karen Hone 303-332-3007

*UVC Refocus Group*

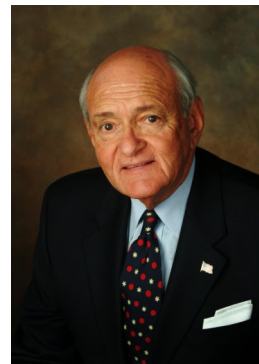
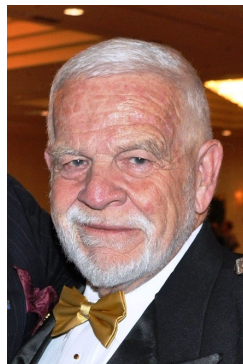
Bill Hanna

*UVC Newsletter*

Steve Bender

719-310-9930

[UVCnewsletter@aol.com](mailto:UVCnewsletter@aol.com)



Meet our Executive  
Legislative Assistant

Sophia Laster



Over the past many months, an Ad Hoc committee on reforming the Bylaws of the UVC has been working to draft a set of recommendations for changes to the Bylaws that will make our organization more effective and meet the needs of changing demographics in the membership. The intent is to remove any perceived impediment to a closer working relationship with our vitally important legacy VSOs while embracing the contributions of new, active, and emerging VSOs.

*President >> 2*

USAF 1949-1956

### **Cash Donation Received**

Frank Whiteman, who was president of NAUS, National Association of Uniformed Services, and who is a long time member of the UVC, advised me that NAUS had "closed their doors" and will no longer function in the work they performed. He said that their Board of Directors had voted to donate the remaining money in their treasury, \$630.13, to UVC. The UVC received a check for this amount which was

*Treasurer >>2*

Sophia is proud to be the part-time Executive Legislative Assistant of the UVC. While with the organization, her role will be to serve the Legislative Chair and the Legislative Liaison by assisting with policy research, member outreach, and internal organization. Ms. Laster first got involved with the UVC during the 2017 legislative session, when she served as the legislative aide to Representative Dafna Michaelson Jenet. While working on what would become

*Laster >>4*

In this Issue

P1 President	P1 Treasurer	P1 State Legislative	P2 UVC Membership
P3 Volunteers of America	P4 VJ Day	P4 Rep Perlmutter	P4 Bernie Rogoff
P5 UCSS	P6 Vietnam 50th	P6 VA CHOICE	

*President << 1*

Among the possible changes is a new name for the UVC. The working group feels strongly that the initials UVC remain the same as that is how we are branded and known to the legislature, the VA, state veterans programs, and other non-governmental veteran focused agencies. Nevertheless it has been expressed that the term "committee" seems to offer redundancy when we have committees of a committee.

Therefore one proposal is that we change the official name to "United Veterans Council of Colorado". That still retains UVC as the working name. There are numerous proposals for numerous other changes to membership categories, voting categories, and conflict of interest language. None of these changes can take place until the new language has been accepted by the Executive Committee as a recommendation to the body of the UVC as a whole. I encourage each of you to be alert for the proposed Bylaw changes when they are published to the website. You will have a minimum of 30 days to review the proposed changes. Please review wisely and come to the next general membership meeting following the publication prepared to question, suggest, and when asked, to vote for or against the change.

It is your organization and as your President I need for you to take part in this process that will move out UVC forward for the following years.

\* \* \*

*Treasurer << 1*

deposited into our general account for unrestricted use.

2018 UVC Annual Banquet Date Set: As Banquet Chairman, together with Karen Hone, we have run the last three Banquets. The last two having turned out to be mightily successful, both from the profit standpoint, this is our major source of revenue for the UVC, and also from the positive image and impact we have established in the veteran affairs community.

We have contracted for our next Banquet that will be held on April 8, 2018 at the Renaissance Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street, Denver.

Lori Derby, UVC Recording Secretary will again run the silent auction. The silent auction, our first, was successful raising over \$2,000. UVC members are encouraged to begin seeking donations for 2018 at this time. Some ideas for donations include restaurants, recreation sites, lodging, and auto washing/detailing. Using your imagination, I'm confident you can come up with many more.

\* \* \*

**UVC Membership Committee  
Gary Force, Chairman**

As the United Veterans Committee is about to restart the general membership meetings for the fall, it is time to update our database with any membership changes. I will have update forms available at the September meeting for those in attendance. Or you can email your organization's current representative and alternate information to me at: [lgforce@prodigy.net](mailto:lgforce@prodigy.net).

Information should include: organization name, representative's name, title, phone number, address, email address and whether they are the representative or alternate. Include any changes to the organization's phone number and email address.

As a reminder for our general membership, according to the UVC bylaws a member organization that does not send representation for three consecutive general membership meetings will be put into the inactive status. I try to email notify those members with a reminder but sometimes the email address of record is no longer valid. If you intend to miss a meeting, please send me an email notification at the above email address so I can mark your organization as excused.

See you on September 12<sup>th</sup>

\* \* \*

**\* \* \* Save the Date \* \* \***

**Annual Awards Banquet** Sunday, April 8, 2018 Renaissance Hotel 3801 Quebec Street, Denver

For information:

on Sponsorships contact Banquet Director Karen Hone

303-332-3007

on Silent Auction items contact Lori Derby

303-347-1876

on both sponsorships/silent auction contact Bernie Rogoff

303-909-6369





**Volunteers of America®**  
**COLORADO BRANCH**

Brenton Hutson, Division Director – Veteran Services

1247 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, CO 80223 ~ Cell: 303-548-2550

NEXT UVC General  
 Membership Meeting  
 September 12, 2017  
 Verle Huffman VFW  
 Post 9644  
 2680 W. Hampden Avenue  
 Englewood, CO 80110

**VOA Program Targets Support to Veterans’ Families**

*The Veteran Services Division of Volunteers of America Colorado is focused on the implementation of sustainable crisis and emergency interventions for Veteran families resulting in long-term self-sufficiency. The continuum of programming developed in order to make this vision a reality includes:*

The Bill Daniels Veteran Services Center (VSC) – The Veteran services field enjoys an abundance of resources, but suffers from a systemic lack of coordination and collaboration. Volunteers of America has developed a one-stop, co-located shared space where respected Veteran service providers come together at one location to collaborate and coordinate their services.

The Back Home Support Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program – A rapid rehousing and homeless prevention case management intervention program.

The SSVF program operates four offices out of Denver, Fort Collins, Grand Junction, and Durango - serving all surrounding counties as well.

The Women Veterans Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program – Provides transitional housing, case management, and supportive services to approximately 45 households annually. Family savings are developed for each participating household in order to support the family’s eventual move into long-term, stable and permanent housing. Our Grant and Per Diem programs operate out of Denver and Durango.

AmeriCorps VISTA – Volunteers support Volunteers of America’s efforts to identify, coordinate, and connect Veteran Service Providers around the state. VISTA members are tasked with organizational outreach, conducting service and need gap analyses, and developing systems to ensure the sustainability of the Veteran Service Division’s operations.

The Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF) – An unrestricted fund designed to meet the needs of Veterans that traditional funding sources will not allow. Examples may include plane tickets to receive emergency healthcare, home repairs, school supplies, and more.

\* \* \*



Bernie Rogoff, Veterans Advocate on the PACT Steering Committee of the Denver VA Hospital reported that the new Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center is now over 95% complete and a target date for opening the new facility is estimated to be around March 1, 2018.

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**VJ DAY**

**Date When Celebrated**

August 14th - Japan surrenders.

August 15th - Surrender announced to the world.

September 2 - Ceremony and formal signing of surrender.

*VJ Day* marks the end of WWII, and the cessation of fighting against Japan. It is called "Victory In Japan Day" or "Victory Over Japan Day".

**The confusion over three dates:**

There is some confusion over what date is V-J Day. You can consider any (or all) of three dates as V-J Day. President Harry S. Truman caused some of this confusion.....

On August 14, 1945, the Japanese government cabled to the U.S. their surrender. This is the date of most modern observances.

On August 15, 1945, news of the surrender was announced to the world. This sparked spontaneous celebrations over the final ending of World War II.

On September 2, 1945, a formal surrender ceremony was held in Tokyo Bay aboard the USS Missouri. At the time, President Truman declared September 2 to be VJ Day.

Regardless of which day you view as VJ Day, World War II was finally over.

Source: <http://www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/September/vjday.htm>

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**From: U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO-07)** Legislative Committee << 1

As your representative, one of my greatest responsibilities is to ensure our nation's veterans and active duty personnel receive the benefits they earned. I recently cosponsored and voted for H.R. 3218, the *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017*, to ensure the brave women and men who serve our country receive the benefits they deserve.

H.R. 3218 is the largest update to the G.I. Bill in the last ten years. This bill incorporates improvements proposed by veteran and military service organizations for years. This includes eliminating the 15-year expiration of benefits ensuring access to 36 months of G.I. Bill benefits for life. It restores and protects veteran benefits if a school closes in the middle of a semester and it will help pay for accelerated learning programs, such as coding and IT boot camps. Additionally, H.R. 3218 makes several improvements to provide parity for members of the Reserves to ensure they receive benefits they have earned.

I'm pleased this bill passed Congress with bipartisan support and became law on August 16, 2017. We must continue to make improvements to our laws to thank veterans and service men and women for their courage and devotion to our country.

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House Bill 17-1004, Ms. Laster met Bill Hanna and David Ortiz, who both inspired her with their commitment to pursuing justice for Colorado's student veterans.

Ms. Laster grew up in Kansas City, Kansas and graduated from Tufts University in 2014. Since then, she has worked mostly in the service industry and as a volunteer and employee for various non-profits. Last year, she realized her passion for state politics when she knocked on roughly four thousand doors to get out the vote for candidates for local office. When she isn't working, Ms. Laster enjoys reading, cooking, and hiking in the mountains.

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**National POW/MIA Recognition Day 2017**

Friday, September 15, 2017

\*\*\* Save the Date \*\*\*

**Annual Awards Banquet** Sunday, April 8, 2018

Renaissance Hotel 3801 Quebec Street, Denver (Stapleton)

*For information :*

*on Sponsorships contact Banquet Director Karen Hone 303-332-3007*

*on Silent Auction items contact Lori Derby 303-347-1876*

*on both sponsorships/silent auction contact Bernie Rogoff 303-909-6369*



Chancellor Supports Student Veterans

Dear Campus Community:

I write this morning in response to a flyer posted yesterday on the UCCS campus by a non-UCCS group. The flyer references veterans studying at institutions of higher education. UCCS does not endorse and vigorously rejects the offensive viewpoints expressed in the flyer. This flyer stands at the intersection of two core values for UCCS and higher education.



On the one hand, we recognize the right of people to express their viewpoints, even when those viewpoints are offensive to many in our community. The University of Colorado system adheres to the freedoms embodied in the United States Constitution, which include the freedom of speech contained in the First Amendment.

On the other hand, respect for the right of someone to speak should never be taken as endorsing the viewpoints that someone has expressed. The viewpoints that the authors express are against the law. UCCS does not discriminate against veterans.

Beyond the fact that the authors' position is illegal, it is also wrong. We ascribe to The Board of Regents' Guiding Principle that the

University of Colorado shall always strive to "provide an outstanding, respectful, and responsive living, learning, teaching, and working environment.

Veterans are positive and valued members of our academic and campus community. They bring experience and viewpoints that enrich our discussions.

Just as I disagree with anyone who says that we should refuse a UCCS education to someone who ascribes to a religious faith, I disagree with anyone who says that we should refuse veterans a UCCS education.

We know our student veterans to be high achieving individuals with diverse viewpoints and values, and all of us are enriched by and fortunate to have the military community represented in our classrooms and campus spaces.

Respectfully,

Venkat Reddy (handwritten signature)

Venkat Reddy, Chancellor

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September Military Observances

September 2

V-J Day Victory over Japan WWII

September 11

Patriot Day Officially 'National Day of Service and Remembrance. Recognition of lost lives in terrorist attacks on 9/11/01

September 18

USAF Birthday The USAF was officially founded on September 18th, 1947

3rd Friday in September

(9/15/17) National POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 28

Gold Star Mother's Day

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Happy Birthday Air Force



1947 - 2017



Vietnam War  
 50th Commemorative Gift  
 Colorado Edition

*This article was edited from an original Executive Summary due to space limitations. For Funding & Distribution information see contacts listed at end of article.*

The Commemorative Gift is a 175-page hardbound book, feature documentary and interactive eBook that is meant for all Colorado Vietnam -generation Veterans to receive as a gift during the peak 50th Commemorative years of 2017-2018 in recognition of their service, duty and sacrifice.

This gift is a strategic communications platform to express gratitude and respect to Vietnam Veterans in a format they can easily share with children and grandchildren, and display in their homes.

This unprecedented gift includes:

- A hardbound, 175-page book "A Time to Honor: Stories of Service, Duty and Sacrifice "
- A 60-minute feature documentary "The Journey Home" including interviews of Vietnam Veterans from all over the country
- An eBook with no sharing restrictions, and an online repository with print function for all Colorado-specific stories.

The book honors the service, duty and sacrifice of Vietnam Veterans with minimal attention to the divisive historical policies of war.

**For more information, please contact**

Dick Hogue at 303-979-8609 or [richlyn2@msn.com](mailto:richlyn2@msn.com)

Sharlene Hawkes at 801-860-6820 or

[shawkes@remembermyservice.com](mailto:shawkes@remembermyservice.com)

\* \* \*

VA CHOICE

Bernie Rogoff, Commander of the Jewish War Veterans, Captain Ellis David Greene Post #344, offered an invitation to attend a presentation on the VA CHOICE program. He explained that the Jewish War Veterans – USA will be hosting Dr. Larry Melia, Director of CHOICE for the Veterans Administration at their regular meeting on Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> at Temple Sinai, 3509 S Glencoe St, Denver, CO 80237 at 9:00am. A breakfast buffet is available and is complimentary for guests.



CHOICE is the VA program that assures all veterans the medical care they require. If a Veteran cannot get an appointment to see a physician at the VA within 30 days, or lives more than 40 miles from a VA facility, the veteran is entitled to a voucher from CHOICE enabling him/her to seek care from any medical facility or physician of choice outside the VA system.

\* \* \*

NEXT UVC General  
 Membership Meeting

September 12, 2017

Verle Huffman VFW

Post 9644

2680 W. Hampden Avenue

Englewood, CO 80110