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Veterans-For-Change

*Veterans-For-Change is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation
Tax ID #27-3820181*

If Veteran's don't help Veteran's, who will?

We appreciate all donations to continue to provide information and services to Veterans and their families.

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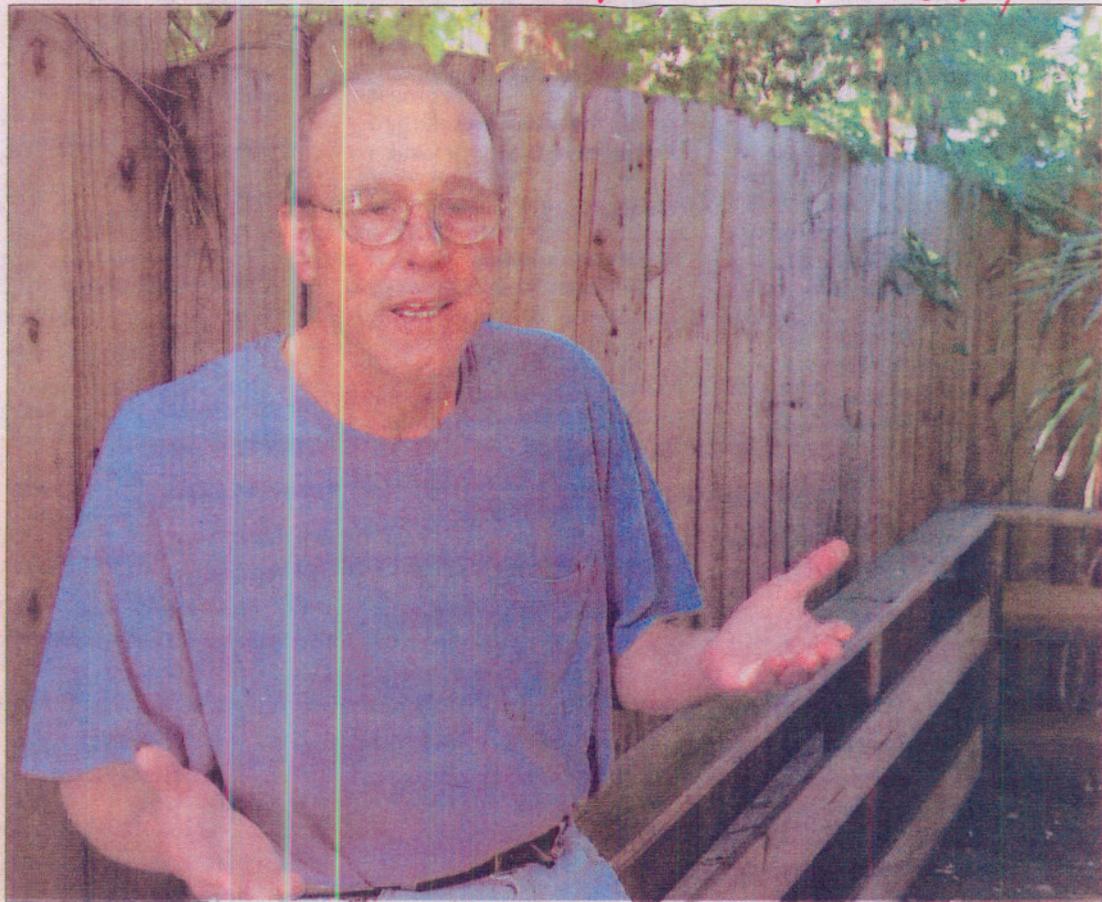
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CHARITY OVERSIGHT

Continued From Page 1



Tribune photo by MARK GUSS

"I've pretty much just about given up in trying to get something done about these charities," says Terry Richards, who tried to get officials to investigate organizations that claim to help veterans.

TO READ IN FULL GO TO STORY # 149@;
MANAGING MONEY WWW.VFVS.COM/VETERANSCORNER.HTML ~~AND OTHER CASES~~

A Tribune analysis of the 7,974 Florida-based charities registered with the state found thousands that use a high percentage of donations to help the needy. However, some do not. The analysis, using data received from the state in August, focused on those with yearly revenue of at least \$200,000.

The first list includes those that spend at least 75 percent of revenue on fundraising and administration. The second list is a sampling of those that limit fundraising and administration costs to less than 35 percent of revenue.

LESS MONEY TO THE CAUSE

↑ USE CAPITAL "V" ON VETERANS ↑
 AND CAPITAL "C" ON CORNER

	Administration/ Fundraising Spending
International Law Enforcement Games	Jacksonville 94%
Oracene Williams Learning Foundation	Jupiter 92%
American Association Of State Troopers Scholarship Foundation	Tallahassee 91%
Florida Highway Patrol Command Officers Association	Tallahassee 90%
Pinellas County Council Of Firefighters	Largo 90%
Florida Association Of Professional EMTs and Paramedics	Coral Springs 89%
Firefighters Assistance Fund	Punta Gorda 89%
Fraternal Order Of Police, Florida State Lodge District Four	Palm Springs 89%
Disabled Police Officers Counseling Center	Niceville 88%
Fraternal Order Of Police, Lodge #37 J.W. Dunn	Melbourne 88%

Easy Target

Florida, with its large senior citizen population, presents an attractive target.

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So-called veterans charity gives away only 8 percent of donations

an ABC Action News report 11/11/04

OLDSMAR - On Veterans Day in a time of war, the sacrifices of a few are on the minds of many. Such sentiment for the troops could fill the coffers of charities like the Veterans Assistance Association, which actually concerns at least one veterans rights advocate.

"Right now, with the war being on, potential donors are going to be much more generous," observed Terry Richards.

The Veterans Assistance Association gave over \$12,000 to the cause last year, which sounds noble until you examine the figures a little closer: last year, the charity took in \$167,517.

"Only 7.3 percent goes there. That kind of really upset me, and that's when I started writing people," Richards continued.

After hearing from Richards, Call for Action reporter Jackie Callaway went to the Veterans Assistance Association to find out why less than 8 percent of their proceeds actually goes to veterans.

Charity president Joel Markman blamed expenses.

"It's easy to be outraged, just looking at figures. But if you see the good we do for the community, it's a whole different story," he said.

To prove his point, Markman showed off dozens of letters the charity had received from veterans and their families, thanking the association for its generosity.

But that's still not good enough for some, like Murle Stubbins. He considers short-changing veterans a crime.

"The veterans deserve better. I'm not saying that because I am one," said Stubbins, who gave 46 years of his life to the Army, "but I know a lot of veterans who gave more than just time."

A month ago, Pinellas County consumer protection officials requested information from the Veterans Assistance Association, but the charity did not provide it. Now, their license has been suspended in Pinellas County, but they remain eligible to operate in Hillsborough County.

So-called veterans charity gives away only 8 percent of donations



ST. PETE BEACH TODAY

"PROUD OF OUR PAST ... DEDICATED TO THE FUTURE"

Volume II, Number 7

A Tampa Bay Newspapers Publication

Nov. 6 - 12, 1997

Nov. 6 - 12, 1997 Today Publications

Guest Column

TERRY RICHARDS

Words of gratitude touch veterans

As Veterans Day approaches this Nov. 11, I hope that people everywhere in America will pay tribute to our nation's veterans, both living and dead.

There are approximately 26-million men and women veterans still alive in America. Only one out of every five men in America is a veteran. That's 20 percent ... yet, in men's homeless shelters nationwide, one out of three, or 33 percent, is a veteran. Of the estimated 750,000 homeless Americans, 250,000 are veterans.

From time to time I hear derogatory remarks from non-veterans about our nation's homeless veterans, Vietnam veterans or just veterans in general. Fortunately, the majority of Americans don't think this way.

When one enters the various VA hospitals and outpatient clinics nationwide, he will see tributes on the billboards, such as, "The price of freedom is visible here," or, "If you love your freedom, thank a veteran." However, none touches me as much as the tribute I found on the window at the agent cashier's office at the VA outpatient clinic in Columbus, Ohio. I would now like to share that trib-

ute with all of you and hope that it touches you in the same way ...

"The veteran is the most important person in the hospital.

The veteran is not dependent upon us - we are dependent upon him.

The veteran is not an interruption in our work - he is the purpose of it.

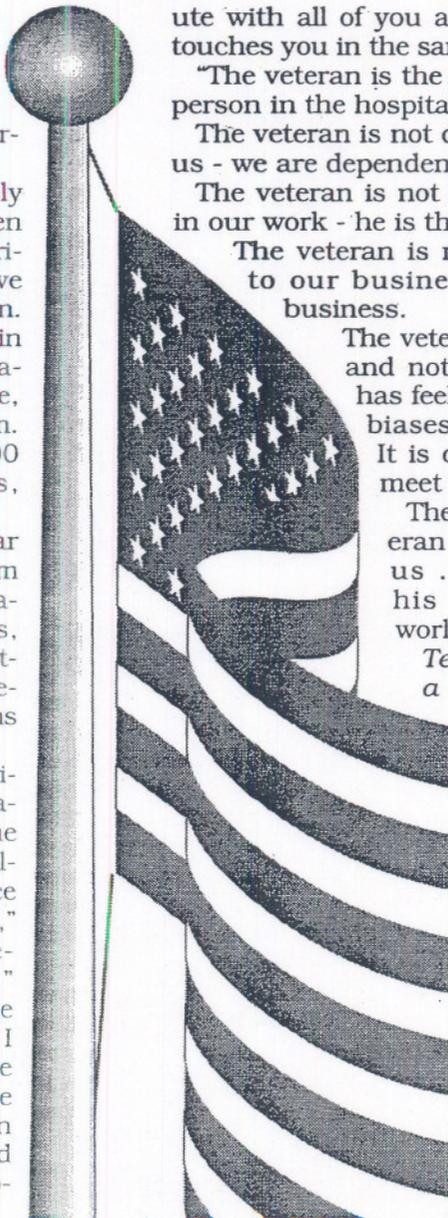
The veteran is not an outsider to our business - he is our business.

The veteran is a person and not a statistic. He has feelings, emotions, biases and wants ...

It is our business to meet these needs.

The American veteran is God's gift to us ... Freedom is his gift to the world."

Terry Richards is a Vietnam War veteran who works toward the benefit of veterans. We thank him and all the other veterans for our freedom and remember the sacrifices of veterans everywhere on Nov. 11, Veterans Day.



LIVE FROM BEXLEY, OHIO IT'S "SATURDAY NIGHT"

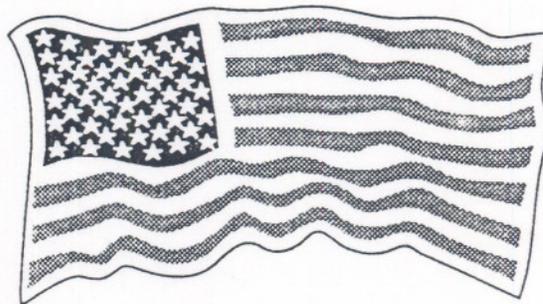
THERE'S A PARTY & YOU'RE INVITED
SATURDAY, MAY 14th (RAIN OR SHINE)

TO HELP
"HOMELESS VETERANS"
OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

6:00 P.M. - MIDNIGHT
AT TERRY RICHARDS'
700-E SHERIDAN AVE. BEXLEY, OHIO 43209
(614) 236-0554 (DIRECTIONS ATTACHED)
R.S.V.P. BY MAY 7th 1994

BRING A GUEST OR COME SOLO

• FREE FOOD • MUSIC • DANCING • FUN •



* MINIMUM "DONATION" REQUESTED: \$5.00 IN FOOD/GIFT CERTIFICATES FROM
McDONALDS, WENDY'S, BURGER KING OR WHITE CASTLE.

* DRESS IS VERY CASUAL. PLEASE BRING A BLANKET OR LOUNGE CHAIR TO SIT OUTSIDE,
AND YOUR OWN "BOOZE" IF YOU DRINK. THERE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 100 GUESTS SO
SEE ATTACHED FOR PARKING INSTRUCTIONS.



FRANKLIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

DIRECTOR
DAVID M. BRADLEY

June 14, 1994

Mr. Terry Richards
700-E Sheridan Ave.
Bexley, OH 43209

Dear Mr. Richards:

The Veterans Service Commission would like to Thank You for the Donation and food certificates from Wendy's, McDonalds, White Castle and RAX.

The Donations helped our homeless veterans immensely.

Again, Thank You.

Sincerely,


DAVID M. BRADLEY
Director

DMB/amh

\\letters\\richards.thy



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Medical Center
Bay Pines FL 33744

In Reply Refer To:

December 10, 2004

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Mr. Terry Richards, a retired-disabled veteran who served honorably for our country in the U.S. Armed Services (1968-1970). I have known Terry for the past two years. I believe that I know him quite well. He is a regular attendee in a weekly support group that I run for veterans.

Terry is an independent Veteran's Advocate. He has considerable experience and expertise working largely in a volunteer capacity addressing issues affecting veterans. He has worked as a freelance journalist in media dealing with veterans issues. Terry possesses an encyclopedic fund of knowledge regarding access to health care and compensation issues affecting veterans. He has helped not only other members of our support group, but literally any veteran referred to him for help, without seeking any monetary compensation for his efforts. When faced with the daunting task of interacting with and navigating in search of services within a complex bureaucratic organization, such as the Veterans Affairs Health Care system, or the Social Security disability system, many veterans find themselves feeling helpless, intimidated, frustrated or demoralized. Through his expertise, patience, and personal commitment to helping veterans in need, Terry helps to demystify the process, and offers sound guidance which helps to restore a sense of hope, dignity, direction, and personal empowerment to the less fortunate.

Terry is applying for part-time employment with your agency. It is a rare find to encounter an individual with such an impressive knowledge of veterans' issues, and such a strong personal commitment to helping the less fortunate, as Terry. Terry is a highly skilled freelance journalist who has written scores of articles dealing with veterans' rights, services available to veterans, and benefits and compensation issues. He can play an instrumental role in assisting needy veterans by providing them with much-needed information about services available to veterans and the service delivery system. I have found that many veterans are greatly in need of accurate and timely information, and hands-on assistance in accessing community and governmental services, in acquiring a rudimentary understanding of how service delivery systems operate, and concrete information about how to complete and file applications and appeals for VA and Social Security disability benefits.

Terry is a multi-talented, honest, dedicated, conscientious and hard-working individual, with assertive communication skills, who can become an important asset to your organization and the veterans served by your organization.

I am writing to support his application to your program for part time employment.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John T. Hummer, Ph.D.

John T. Hummer, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist
c/o Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Service
V.A. Medical Center
P.O. Box 5005
Bay Pines, Florida 33744
(727) 398-6661 ext. 5870

C.W. BILL YOUNG
10TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

2407 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0910

DISTRICT OFFICES:
SUITE 627
144 FIRST AVENUE, SOUTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701

SUITE 606
801 WEST BAY DRIVE
LARGO, FL 34640

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0910
June 9, 1998

MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND EDUCATION

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE

Mr. Terry Richards
Managing Editor
Veteran's Free Press
1135 South Pasadena Avenue
Suite 225
St. Petersburg, Florida 33707

Dear Mr. Richards:

Because of our strong mutual concern about efforts to use funding for veterans disability payments to offset transportation spending, I wanted to let you know of my recent efforts in this regard.

As you may know, on May 20th, the House, with my strong support, unanimously approved a motion to instruct the House and Senate conferees on H.R. 2400, the Transportation Reauthorization Bill, not to raid VA funds to offset spending for transportation projects. Despite passage of the motion, the conferees included a provision to eliminate compensation benefits for service-connected smoking-related illnesses.

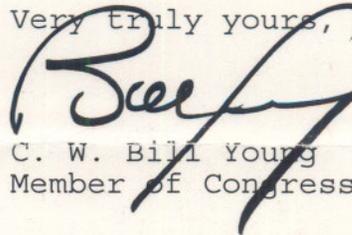
In an effort to protect these benefits, two days later I supported a motion to recommit the bill to committee with binding instructions that funding for these benefits be restored and not be used to offset highway spending. Unfortunately, this motion failed by only 5 votes. In a final statement of disapproval, I voted against the final passage of H.R. 2400, which was approved despite my efforts.

As you may know, my steadfast commitment to our nation's veterans is unwavering and I have made it a top priority to devote my time and attention to providing additional resources for veterans benefits and medical care programs. If our nation rescinds its promises and ignores its obligation to those who have fought to preserve freedom throughout the world, we compromise the right to ask our men and women to serve and defend our national principles.

Mr. Terry Richards
June 9, 1998
Page 2

Please know that I will continue to keep you apprised of any new developments in this regard. With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Young", written in a cursive style.

C. W. Bill Young
Member of Congress

CWY:mb