



# THE WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

## Newsletter - Oktober 2022



"UN Peace Messenger"  
Since 1987

Hope for Peace Monument, Yarze, Lebanon

*« None can speak more eloquently for peace than those who have fought in War »*  
Ralph Bunche, Nobel Peace Prize, 1950

# Editorial

Dear all,

In this post-pandemic period, we are well underway with planning for further activities in the WVF. In a few days there will be an Executive Board (EB) meeting where much of our activities will be decided for the coming months. Also, activities and events in the federation since the last EB meeting will be reported and handled. The World Veterans Congress, including the 60th WVF General Assembly (GA), is in the planning stage and invitations and a separate newsletter will be published shortly and sent out to our members. After the move of our HQ to Switzerland, a legal process has been started with regard to both the closure in France and the establishment in Switzerland. Many details must be put in place and some of these must be approved in the upcoming GA.

Our accountant and auditor have worked intensively to have everything ready for the upcoming GA where the accounts for 2018-2022 will be presented for approval as stated in Article 17, point 2.

The membership fees for 2023 have been sent out in accordance with the WVF rules and we ask that the dues be paid as quickly as possible, no later than 01.01.2023, so we can serve you into the future.

At the same time, during my mandate, I have worked to find candidates for the election process at the upcoming GA and I believe that we have got good candidates to take WVF forward, even in turbulent times. These will be presented in accordance with the applicable Constitution.

I wish you peaceful days and we will inform you of the progress as soon as possible.



Acting Secretary General,  
Anders Ramnerup

World Veteran Federation is a proud supporter of Global NGO Executive Committee and United Nations Department of Global Communications Civil Society Unit.



# Who are we?

The World Veterans Federation (WVF) is an international non-profit, non-governmental humanitarian organization. Established in Paris, France in 1950 by founding members from 8 countries, namely: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Turkey, USA and Yugoslavia, the WVF is now a Federation of 172 veteran organizations from 121 countries representing some 60 million veterans worldwide.

The WVF maintains its consultative status with the United Nations since 1951 and was conferred the title: "UN Peace Messenger" in 1987. The WVF has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 8 times.

**Our Vision** is to be at the forefront of promoting and defending international peace and security and to be proactive in ensuring the health and wellbeing of all veterans and victims of war worldwide.

**Our Mission** is to guide and advise our Member Associations so that they can take the lead in supporting initiatives that foster peace and security and to campaign for health and welfare initiatives that will enhance the wellbeing and independence of their members.

**Our Motto** is to encourage Member Associations to forcefully strive for international peace and security and to influence and promote a veteran's health and welfare culture in their communities.

**Our Core Values** are to guide and inspire our members to be impartial, responsive, committed, accountable, collaborative, resourceful and act with respect, dignity, compassion and integrity.



# Veterans Affairs Council (VAC), member of the WVF from Taiwan (ROC).

VAC deputy chief Lee Wen-chung has called on the United States to maintain its ongoing support for Taiwan amid rising cross-Taiwan Strait tensions.

Addressing the American Legion's 103rd National Convention held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Tuesday, Lee said tensions between Taiwan and China have recently hit their highest level in decades.

Lee attended the annual event held under his official title of vice minister of the VAC of the Republic of China, the official name of Taiwan.

The American Legion, one of the biggest veteran associations in America, was chartered by Congress in 1919, and its membership is now nearly 2 million in more than 13,000 departments worldwide.

Taiwan sends VAC officials to the yearly convention, and President Tsai Ing-wen made a pre-recorded address at its convention.

The WVF support our members in ROC in the democratic process for freedom.



VAC deputy chief Lee Wen-chung visit to The American Legion.



VAC deputy chief Lee Wen-chung together with the President of the WVF.

# Irish United Nations Veterans Association

On Friday 7/08/2022 after 61 years, the 1st Infantry Group, Congo were recognised with the presentation of unit color by the Irish United Nations Veteran Association.

A number of surviving members of the 1 inch group organized by Muiris de Barra listened to an oration by IUNVA followed by a speech by Christy Fleming, who joined them all at Post 1 Arbour Hill to receive their long-awaited unit color.

The ceremony was marked with the blessing of the flags and pennants by Fr Damien and the Piping of the National Anthem by Anthony Byrne followed by a symbolic march by the 1 Inch Group members.

Once again, the Irish United Nations Veterans Association have come to the fore in facilitating the purchase of these very important emblems of service initiated by former National Chairman Jim Casey and followed through to today's ceremony by present National Chairman Derek Judge.

Ceremony, refreshments and transport was organised by the members of Post 1 and Post 11 Curragh Drivers Ronnie Daly Post 1 Chairman Tony Reilly Post 11 from locations Hueston Station and Curragh under the direction of Post 1 Chairman John Egan. John was Ceremonial Officer on the day.

It has always been said that the Congo Veterans were the pathfinders of UN service, paving the way for all the missions to follow.

We do not forget those who have passed away and thank them for their service to World Peace.

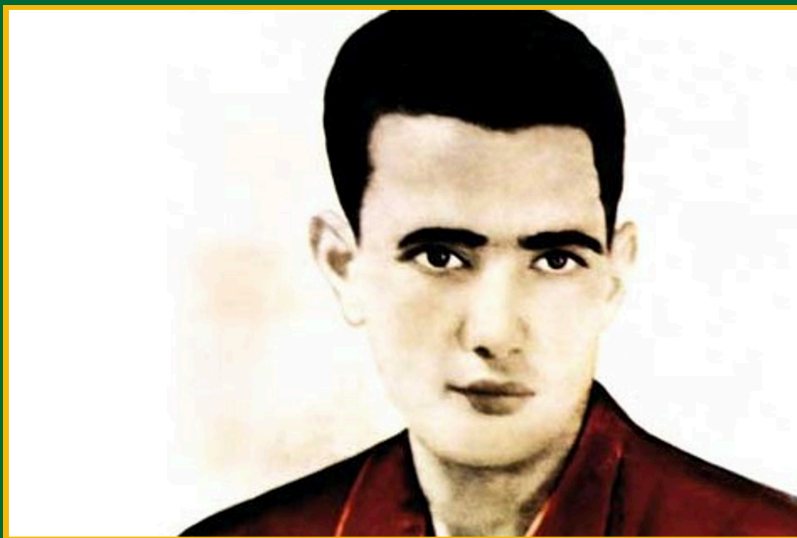


## The Deputy President of the WVF, celebrated the 68th Anniversary of the National Day of the Resistance in Morocco.

Dr. El Mostafa EL KTIRI, Deputy President of the WVF, High Commissioner for the Former Members of the Resistance Movement and the Liberation Army, evokes the heroic roles of the Resistance Movement in the city of Casablanca in Morocco.

The Moroccan people, alongside the National Movement, and the Family of the Resistance and the Liberation Army of the Kingdom of Morocco, have celebrated the 68th Anniversary of the National Day of the Resistance. This event was combined with the Anniversary of the National Hero and Martyr Muhammad Az-Zarqtuni. It also marked the 66th Anniversary of the Historical position of the Liberation and Independence Hero, His Majesty the late Mohammed V, at the grave of the martyr.

The Hero, Muhammad Az-Zarqtuni, is considered a symbol of the Moroccan Resistance



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During the ceremony, the DP stressed that we should all continue to protect the sacred territorial integrity. Also to consolidate the national achievements, as well as the support of the society, related to southern regions, should be returned to national sovereignty.

**We are pleased to note that the UN General Assembly has moved forward regarding compensations for Peacekeepers who lost their lives and those who struggle with PTSD resolution 76/275..**

The General Assembly in its resolution 72/285 has also set a single standard rate of compensation for a death claim at \$77,000. The compensation amount for disability is a percentage of the \$77,000 based on the degree of permanent loss of function.

Let's hope and stress that the UN administration will follow up after a long period of delay to set his standard.

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3979978?ln=en>

United Nations  
**General Assembly**  
Dir.: General  
7 July 2022

Seventy-sixth session  
Agenda item 156  
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing  
of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on  
29 June 2022**

[For the report of the Fifth Committee (47/6374, para. 27)]

**76/275. Post-traumatic stress disorder framework**

The General Assembly,  
Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on a post-traumatic stress disorder framework for uniformed personnel<sup>1</sup> and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>2</sup>

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
3. Pays tribute to all United Nations peacekeepers who have developed post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of enduring hardship and danger in the course of peace;
4. Expresses its appreciation to all United Nations personnel performing functions related to peacekeeping, in particular those serving in hardship duty stations under some of the most difficult conditions;
5. Recognizes the increasing number of outstanding post-traumatic stress disorder claims, stresses the urgent need to address the situation, and requests the Secretary-General to take concrete measures to expedite the settlement of all death and disability claims, including post-traumatic stress disorder claims;
6. Decides to adopt a pay-as-you-go approach to compensation for outstanding and future death and disability claims, including post-traumatic stress disorder claims, that have been adjudicated as eligible for compensation as well as death and other disability claims related to closed peacekeeping missions and closed non-peacekeeping missions in the context of the budgets of the support account for

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Please recycle

A/RES/76/275  
Post-traumatic stress disorder framework  
peacekeeping missions and the regular budget, respectively, and authorizes the Secretary-General to settle the claims as soon as they are adjudicated.  
80th plenary meeting  
29 June 2022



# Veterans Aid

In its 90th year of continuous operation a relatively small London-based veterans charity is attracting worldwide attention. In an interview with its CEO, Dr Hugh Milroy, we find out why.

The UK charity Veterans Aid (VA) was established in 1932, in the aftermath of the First World War, when poverty and unemployment were rife and destitute veterans sleeping on the streets of London were a common sight. Its remit was to provide immediate practical help to servicemen in crisis, with a focus on preventing and addressing homelessness.

Today, while still a relatively small organisation, Veterans Aid is a frontline charity with an operating model that has attracted international interest. Its unique Welfare to Wellbeing© pathway, introduced by CEO Dr Hugh Milroy in 2009, has drawn visitors from Japan, Australia, the USA, Taiwan, Israel, Canada, Belgium and many other nations to VA's modest London HQ/ Operations Centre. They include students, journalists, politicians, diplomats, academics and representatives of national veterans' affairs organisations.

Ministers and MPs from the UK's own Parliament also seek out the VA perspective on veterans' wellbeing and the Ambassador of Britain's former adversary, Argentina, is one of the charity's most recent admirers.

"People often ask me why we are so sought after," says Dr Milroy, a former Royal Air Force officer and veteran of the first Gulf War. "We have a relatively low public profile, but we have a success rate in terms of turning lives around of more than 90%. What's more we can demonstrate it."



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=er6ulkgzP2M>

In 2014 The Centre For Social Justice commended VA's Welfare to Wellbeing model as one so effective that it should be adopted by other charities. Five years later VA's work was independently evaluated by Pro Bono Economics. The resulting report validated its success rate and concluded that its interventions to tackle homelessness generated significant benefits – both to beneficiaries of support and to wider society. In 2019, Tramecia Garner, from Swords to Plowshares, a homeless veterans charity in San Francisco, wrote after a study visit, "Welfare to Wellbeing is clearly an effective model – it would be immoral to continue with business as usual when a new approach could deliver an end to veteran homelessness."

But how does 'Welfare to Wellbeing' fit in – and what is it all about? Hugh Milroy explains.

"It's about looking at what individuals need rather than what is easily available, because although all our clients are veterans, they are also human beings with a diverse range of strengths and weaknesses. From the moment a veteran contacts us, s/he is 'in the system' with access to specialist staff who carefully unpack, assess and prioritise their problems. We rarely need to signpost callers to third parties.

"In the UK just one day's service qualifies an individual as a veteran and VA is available to help any former serviceman or women in distress – regardless of age, rank or length of service. We don't judge and we don't distinguish between the deserving and those whose misfortunes are of their own making."

VA is configured to handle crises so, unsurprisingly, the needs of its clients are often extreme; they are frequently homeless, or about to become homeless; suffering from addictions and/or mental health problems; newly released from prison, socially isolated, unemployed and despairing.

In many cases VA's first intervention is the purchase of hot food and new clothing followed by reassurance that the veteran will not be spending a night – or another night – on the streets.

"Our primary goal is always prevention," says Dr Milroy, "but most veterans who contact us have entrenched and complex problems that need a significant investment of time and money. The word 'success' is only used after a client has completed his/her personal 'Welfare to Wellbeing©' journey to sustainable independence.



# SAF Veterans League's 32nd Anniversary

The Singapore Armed Forces Veterans' League (SAFVL) was established on 4 Aug 1990 to forge links between active service personnel and ex-regulars of the SAF, and to foster camaraderie among ex-service personnel. It is a membership organisation that represents ex-regular personnel in Singapore and abroad veterans.

A key objective of SAFVL is to strengthen support for national defence by actively engaging the broader community on National Education and Total Defence.

This is done through the SAFVL's participation in various commemorative events that remember tragic periods of Singapore's past such as the Japanese Occupation in the 1940s, and the loss of lives at the bombing of MacDonald House in March 1965 during konfrontasi.

The lessons from such dark periods of our history are told by specially appointed veterans as Commitment to Defence Ambassadors (C2DAs) who share their personal stories and life experiences with various target audiences including servicemen and students.

## MEMBERSHIP

All ex-regulars in the SAF who are 40 years of age and above and have served in MINDEF or the SAF for at least six continuous years, are eligible for SAFVL membership.

SAFVL is a branch of SAFRA and all SAFVL members are also Associate Members of SAFRA. Membership is voluntary and all applications are subject to approval by the SAFVL and SAFRA management committees.



# ONACAM Cameroon

The National Office of Veterans, Former Military and War Victims of Cameroon (ONACAM, Vice President of the WVF, joined the international community on June 23, 2022 to celebrate the 12th edition of the International Widows Day (IDW).

As in previous years, ONACAM got involved in this celebration, in order to offer the widows of soldiers in Cameroon a platform for exchange, expression and development; which aimed to inform, instruct and improve their knowledge in their permanent quest for empowerment and respect for their rights, which are very often flouted by third parties.

On this occasion, open days were organized on June 28 and 29, 2022 at the Maison du Combattant in Yaoundé. During this mini exhibition-sale fair, the widows and orphans of soldiers opened up to the public of Yaoundé, the capital city and its surroundings, to show their creative genius as well as their know-how by presenting their artisanal creations and food products from their farms. Through this activity, they showed their firm desire to invest more in the empowerment process in place at ONACAM.



The Chair SCAA together with the WVF Deputy President.

# AMVETS, American Veterans

AMVETS, which is also known as American Veterans, is the most inclusive Congressionally-chartered veterans service organization open to representing the interests of 20 million veterans and their families. We are veterans serving veterans since 1944.

Founded in 1944 and chartered by an act of Congress, the AMVETS organization has more than 250,000 members nationwide. AMVETS exists to enhance the quality of life for all veterans, their families and survivors. Membership in AMVETS is open to anyone who honorably served or is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves.

AMVETS has made a long-term economic impact by providing assistance, jobs, and services to veterans and their communities for more than 70 years.

We are also known for our annual Silver Helmet Awards to “recognize excellence and achievement in Americanism, defense, rehabilitation, congressional service and other fields. Sometimes called the “Veterans Oscar,” the award is shaped like a silver WWII helmet. Many famous Americans have been recipients of the award through the years.



# The WVF Membership scale of 2023



## Honorary Lifetime Member of the WVF.

Ordinary and Affiliate Members of the WVF can become an Honorary Lifetime Member and member of the Board of the Honorary Members Club of the WVF for a total fee of 50 000,- Euro.



## Honorary Member of the WVF:

Ordinary and Affiliate Members of the WVF can become an Honorary member and member of the Honorary Members Club for a 5 000 Euro yearly fee.



## Ordinary member (every member organization):

They should be paying a yearly fee of Euro 1 800. If they fail to pay after due they will be reduced to Associate Member.



## Associate Member (nonpaying members):

This category is open to new applicants who are not able to contribute financially to the Federation. Other members who have outstanding membership dues for the years (2018-2023) will also see their status reduced to Associate Member, with membership rights revoked, until their outstanding dues for the membership dues are up to date.



## Companion

International Organizations, companies and private persons who support or sponsor the WVF will have companion agreements, the terms of which will be drawn up on a case by case basis.

# WVF Peace and Security Summit

*"Veterans have experienced the horrors of war and have to live with the consequences for the rest of their lives. They deserve help, support and recognition from their society. On the basis of this understanding, the Peace and Security Summit in Stockholm opened a new dimension in the discussion of veteran affairs. Veterans can give a lot to their societies having served under severe circumstances worldwide and demonstrated skills that can be of benefit to all parts of their societies. The Summit demands that the countries represented within the WVF and the international community exploit and make best use of these experiences and capabilities, which should come to bear to prevent the use of force, during conflict and thereafter. Veterans should also be involved to prevent ethnic crises and in support of integration processes within their societies. The message of the veterans, voiced individually, through their organisations or the WVF should be listened to in all crisis situations."*



*Stockholm, 2013*

# Message from the president

As a humanitarian organisation, we are disappointed with what is happening with more than 30 wars taking place in the world today. Especially in one of these, namely the conflict in Eastern Europe, where we see a large number of veterans and, not least, victims of war are developing.

We have condemned all acts of war and terrorism that could and should be resolved on a diplomatic and political level. Conflicts will often contribute to disagreements in the veteran community and our members are often forced to take sides for one side or the other. Even some of our members have put pressure on the WVF to take sides in certain conflicts. We want to make it clear that we are a humanitarian organization that cannot and will not take any kind of side in the existing conflicts. On the other hand, we can, with reasoning, encourage finding solutions and having opinions to avoid escalation of conflicts. We shall continue with that. On the cover of this newsletter, we have added a picture of the Peace Monument in Yarze, Lebanon, where tanks are built into a peace monument. It was made to celebrate the end of the Lebanese Civil War in 1990. This should remind us all that we, as human beings in 2022, should find other solutions than bullets and gunpowder to resolve conflicts.

We are now looking forward to the World Veterans Congress, which is being planned in the first quarter of 2023, where a separate section will also consist of contributions from our Peace and Security Division.

Finally, I wish you all a future time where peace should be in focus. After all, we should keep in mind our credo by Ralph Bunche who says; "None can speak more eloquently for peace than those who have fought in war."

President,  
Dan Viggo Bergtun





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