

7 September 2018

From: Bill Short, '73

To: All '73er Hands

Subject: Task Force 73 Agent Orange and Veterans Health Care Crises Update

Classmates, Teammates, Shipmates, and Brothers,

*The purpose of this letter is provide you with an update on our Task Force. But first, a **question**: How much is even one 73er's or US Military Veteran's life worth?*

Background. *As a result of our Team's initiatives, many 73ers: have been helped; are being helped; and shall be helped with their VA health care claims. If you are not familiar with our Class' Agent Orange issue, go to our Class website at www.1973.usnaclassess.net and read the Agent Orange related gouge. Then, ask any of our Classmates who are familiar with this critical issue, for their gouge. All 73ers should be aware and proactively involved.*

While working to help resolve our 73er Agent Orange exposure and VA health care system claims challenges, too many of us have described the process as "nightmarish." Our Team has broken the code. We have: (1) achieved a 100% success rate in helping our Classmates who have asked for help; (2) identified critical weaknesses with the VA health care system; (3) identified critical weaknesses within the VA health care claims process; (4) identified possible solutions to the VA health care system challenges; and (5) identified a solution to the Veteran suicide epidemic. Until recently, 22 American Veterans were taking their own lives every day in our USA. Today, it's 20 Veterans per day. Why?

Solutions.

We decided to formalize our Task Force as a non-profit corporation. Its formal title is “Task Force 73 Agent Orange and Veteran Health Care Crises, Inc.” ALL 73ers can play a role on our Team.

Opportunities include but are not limited to:

- *Volunteer for our Advisory Board. Advisory Board members will proactively offer advice, promote the cause, and recruit support but are non-voting members of the organization. Their time continues to be their own. Any and all 73ers are eligible for this Board.*
- *Volunteer for our Board of Directors. Positions are limited to 15 as of this date.*
- *Volunteer to be an Officer on the Board of Directors. Positions include, but not limited to: President; Vice President(s); Secretary; Treasurer; and Executive Director.*
- *Donate to our startup. Our immediate goal: (1) \$25K. Our Army-Navy Game Day goal is \$73K. Upon successful achievement of 501C3 status (expected for 2018), donations will be tax deductible.*

Five years ago, I pledged my time, effort and resources to create what became our “Task Force 73 Agent Orange.” I had observed far too many of our Classmates, Teammates, Shipmates and Brothers, acquiring one or more of the Agent Orange presumed illnesses. Many passionate and typically outstanding Classmates immediately joined me and have selflessly provided time and effort to help all who have requested it. NOW is the time to take our Team to the next level. We can help not only 73ers but also: the VA; many other Veterans; help save as many American Veteran lives as possible.

How much is even one US Military Veteran's life worth?

"Time, tide and formation wait for no man."

Our Task Force Teammates as of this date:

- *Bob Adams, MD*
- *Wes Bergazzi*
- *Dave Caccamo*
- *Ade Dillon, MD*
- *John Edvardsen*
- *Dennis Gillespie*
- *Steve Harkins*
- *John Russell, MD*
- *Bob Shary*
- *Harry Siegel, PhD*
- *Tom Simmonds*
- *Pablo Stewart, MD/PSY*
- *Bill Short*

Best/ Bill/ Non Sibi.

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