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Thank You for Helping 324 Veterans!

Because of you, 324 Veterans (14 were women), received many services, care and lots of information during the 15th Annual Operation Stand Down Event held at the TN State Guard Facilities, October 12 – 14, 2007.

During these three-days, each veteran had the opportunity to eat and sleep peacefully, get a haircut, go through a legal review and receive medical, dental, podiatry and eye exams and treatment with follow-up appointments at the VA Medical Center as needed. They also got immunization shots, ate throughout the day, watched all sorts of movies, got new clothes, a winter coat and could file a claim for their Veterans Benefits. They also listened to some great music, attended AA or NA 12-step meetings (every meeting was full with almost 100 people attending!), visited with a bunch of good folks who were truly interested in them, were served by caring, supportive Veteran Service Organizations and Volunteers and ate a lot of great home cooked food, including some really great home cooked desserts. They were also able to relax, read books, play games, get new reading glasses, (Did I mention eat a lot of food?), visit with other veterans, gather a lot of good information and get a break from their normal day on the street or working temporary day labor jobs!

All of this was made possible because you cared – you gave and you got involved.

Some interesting statistics and information from this year's Operation Stand Down event:

- 250 + veterans received employment tips, counseling and made appointments to go to either the Operation Stand Down office or a TN Career Center for further employment assistance.
- 11 of the 13 female veterans went on a special shopping spree just for them.
- 191 veterans received a wide range of medical services with follow-up appts at VAMC as needed.
- 150 + veterans received VA Benefits Counseling - 81 new & reopened claims were filed.
- 180 + veterans received legal assistance with various issues including driver's license.
- 200 + veterans received new clothes and a winter coat Sunday morning.
- 324 veterans received new socks, underwear, t-shirts and a carry-on bag with other goodies.
- Everyone had an opportunity to visit 19 social service agencies for information and services.

- 120 + organizations contributed to the services and support for this year's event.
- 687 volunteers served meals, registered veterans, provided security, passed out clothes, provided hair-cuts, provided administrative assistance, legal reviews, medical exams, conducted meetings, played games, helped set up, talked with the veterans (whatever was needed) and cleaned up!

It is truly a wonderful experience and privilege to be part of such a great group of folks. Thank You!

Sincerely,
Bill Burleigh
William J. Burleigh
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army, Retired
Executive Director

“Since 1993, helping the community reestablish ties with its veterans.”