

SONS OF AMVETS



**A GROWING part of the
AMVETS
Family**

This promotional kit was developed in order to give you an overview of the Sons of AMVETS. In it you will find a wealth of information on the Sons of AMVETS and the ways that they can bring a positive influence to your AMVETS Post. The Sons of AMVETS have already made a major impact for the AMVETS Posts who have formed Squadrons. We hope that you will please consider forming a Sons of AMVETS Squadron as a welcome addition to your AMVETS Post Family.

Who are the Sons of AMVETS?

We are a subordinate organization of the AMVETS. We have been a part of the AMVETS Family since the first Squadron was formed at AMVETS Post 22 in Vermilion, OH in 1974.



The Sons of AMVETS at Cedar Falls, IA 49 host their Annual Car show to raise money for their annual programs.

To start a Sons of AMVETS at your Local AMVETS Post please contact:

**Sons of AMVETS
National Headquarters
1395 E Dublin-Granville Rd.
Suite #115
Columbus, OH 43229
Phone: 614-825-4734
Fax: 614-825-4735
Email: natsons@sonsofamvets.org**

Who are our leaders?

At each level, our members elect their officers at their annual meetings every year. These officers include the Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Third Vice Commander, Adjutant, Judge Advocate, Finance Officer and Provost Marshal.



The Sons of AMVETS at Randolph, MA 51 host a cookout at their local Post to help get members in for a fun time. Pictured are Squadron members Mark Serpis and Henry Shilo, Jr.

What do the Sons do?

The Sons of AMVETS sponsor various community service projects. These include Americanism, VAVS, legislative, scholarship, food drives and many other programs. In addition, the Sons support AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary and Junior AMVETS programs as well as other Veterans Service Organizations.



A Sons of AMVETS Honor Guard in Ohio marching in a local parade.

National Scholarship Programs

This program provides educational scholarship grants to help current or future college students with tuition costs. The Sons of AMVETS Scholarship program provides opportunities for advanced education for the members of Sons of AMVETS, their wives, sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters who desire to attend an institution of higher learning. The Sons of AMVETS Scholarship Awards are based upon the applicants scholastic aptitude and demonstration of financial need. To date, we have established four (4) named Scholarships. They are named in loving memory of AMVET Gil Garza of Ohio, Barry Lima of Ohio, Sons PNC Richard Mooney of Pennsylvania and AMVETS PNC Cecil Aultman of Texas. Many State Departments and Squadrons also run their own scholarship programs.



Sons members from Ohio, Massachusetts and Virginia help out with a float at AMVETS Post 2 in Anchorage, Alaska for the Independence Day Parade. This float won the trophy for the Best Float.

The foundation of any organization must be built well and be able to support the building above it. The Squadrons throughout the country have done just that. The Sons do not have boundaries to what they can accomplish with a little effort, and they do not have boarders. They may call individual Squadrons and State Departments home, but when it comes to helping each other and the heroic veterans we serve, state lines do not exist or matter. We are all Sons of AMVETS and part of the AMVETS Family.

Scooter Programs

Several State Departments have adopted ongoing scooter programs. The first Scooter program was adopted in Ohio in 2002. It was adopted nationally by PNC David Helmuth, and when his program expired, several states kept at it to ensure that their veterans in need would not have to go without a way to move around independently.

When do we meet?

At the State and National level, we meet when the AMVETS meet for SEC, NEC and Conventions. At the local level, we meet at least once every other month.



The Sons of AMVETS , Department of Pennsylvania delivering their 12th Scooter to a veteran in need.

TWO TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP TO CHOOSE FROM

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Annual memberships for the Sons of AMVETS are available on the local level at any AMVETS Post that has a Sons of AMVETS Squadron, or by becoming a Member-at-Large (MAL) where no Sons of AMVETS Squadron exists.



The dedication of the Sons of AMVETS PNC Memorial Stone at AMVETS National HQ in Spring 2008. Pictured are Richard Mooney, Robert Grose, David Helmuth, James Burleson, Auxiliary President Heidi Dineen, AMVETS Commander J.P. Brown III, Sons Commander Jay Williams, Larry Combs, Charles Kyser, Rene Valley and Michael Mrzlak.

Where are we?

As of the end of 2010, there are 353 Squadrons in 33 States. We have established State Departments in: Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Why should I join the Sons of AMVETS?

Your membership in the Sons of AMVETS will make you a part of one of the fastest growing Veterans Service Organizations in the United States. Most of all, it will allow you to be a part of the fellowship of the AMVETS Family, and make a difference in your community, state and nation. It gives you the chance to give something back to those who have given us the many freedoms that we enjoy today, the

AMERICAN VETERAN

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The Sons of AMVETS offer the option of Life Membership for our members. By paying a one-time membership fee, a member can be assured of receiving all current and future benefits and communications on the progress of our organization.

Who can join Sons of AMVETS?

Eligibility for the Sons of AMVETS includes the sons, grandsons, adopted sons, stepsons, fathers, grandfathers, husbands and brothers of members of AMVETS and deceased members of AMVETS, or service personnel who died but would have been eligible for membership in AMVETS. Prospective members must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and not eligible for membership in AMVETS. This does not include in-laws of any type.



The Sons of AMVETS in Florida participate in Care Bears, which donates stuffed animals to Law Enforcement Agencies, which they distribute to children who have been traumatized by crime.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Serving Veterans has always been at the heart of what the Sons of AMVETS are all about. Over the course of several years, we have continued to expand our assistance programs towards Veterans who are hospitalized in one of our nation's VA Hospitals or who now live in a State Veterans Home. These men often have fewer resources than those living at home and need our assistance the most.



The officers of the Sons of AMVETS, Department of Ohio present a scooter and trailer to the Georgetown Veterans Home in Ohio. Pictured are Bill Jackson, Jay Williams, Daniel Briggs, Gene Batt, Dale Byrd and Wayne Davis.

Reps & Deps

The Sons of AMVETS have their own fully functioning VAVS Program, with Representatives and Deputies at many VA facilities throughout the country. In this capacity, we serve alongside the AMVET and Auxiliary Representatives in getting hospitalized veterans what they need. Often, we are working with those veterans who are permanently hospitalized and may not have much support from the outside. We currently have 27 Representatives and Deputies working in 18 VA Facilities around the country. These men arrange for Sons programs and donations to each facility, often donating countless hours themselves. While appointed by the State Sons Commander, they do most of their work on the local level.

Our Mission

"...to care for him who shall have borne the battle,
and for his widow and his orphan..."

-Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United
States of America, 2nd Inaugural Address

Good things come in small packages

Many of the smaller Squadrons in the country are routinely in the running for State and National Program Awards due to their smaller membership being particularly active at their Posts!



The Sons of AMVETS from Squadron 98, Holiday, FL presenting a check for funds raised for a homeless veterans shelter.



The Sons of AMVETS at Fountain Hills, AZ Squadron 7 help their Post out with the VA Christmas in July Program.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

How many people do we need?

A Squadron can be formed with as few as eight eligible members. Also, a Department can be formed with as few as three Squadrons.



The Sons of AMVETS in North Carolina presenting a check for funds to a VA Hospital. Funds were donated as part of *Sweats for Vets*.

How much is not enough?

Since its inception, Commander Summerall's Undergarment Program has to date distributed well over \$15,000 to VA Facilities and Veterans Nursing Homes across the country.

Sweats for Vets

The Sons of AMVETS *Sweats for Vets* Program is a National program that provides new sweatshirts and sweatpants to patients in VA Hospitals and State Veterans Homes nationwide. This program was developed by Ben Haynes when he was National Commander in 2008-2009. It is designed to distribute funds through local Squadrons and State Departments to get badly needed sweats to hospitalized Veterans. This program was so impressive and needed, that it became the first Commander's Project to be adopted as a permanent National Program while that Commander was still in office.



The founder of the Sons of AMVETS *Undergarment Program*, Charlie Summerall, takes a break after collecting some underwear.

Undergarment Program

The Sons of AMVETS *Undergarment Program* is a National Sons program that provides brand new undergarments to patients in VA Hospitals and State Veterans Homes nationwide. This program was initiated and developed by PNC Charlie Summerall when he was National Commander in 2002-2003 as his Commander's Project. It is designed to distribute funds through local Squadrons and State Departments to get badly needed undergarments to hospitalized Veterans. It is funded mainly through donations.



Sons of AMVETS members participate during the Christmas Party at the Bay Pines VA in Florida.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

This program was started in the fall of 1998 and has since become one of the most important programs of the Sons of AMVETS. The program provides for many of the Sons of AMVETS to attend scheduled meetings with their members of Congress in Washington D.C. As time passes by and the veteran's participation in our government is reduced, it becomes our responsibility as Sons of AMVETS to constantly remind our government officials that free America would not exist, if it were not for the sacrifices of American Veterans. The main objective of this program is to aid and support the benefit goals and medical needs of America's veterans. Thus far, this program has yielded hundreds of meetings with our Representatives and Senators in the pursuit of assuring that our government keeps its promises to America's veterans. In 2010, the Sons of AMVETS under the guidance and coordination of National Legislative Director PNC Larry Combs met with 125 Congressmen and Senators over 3 days. In addition, we encourage individual States to develop their own Legislative Committee Programs to lobby their State Legislatures.



Rick Murka, Congressman Mike Turner (Ohio 3rd District) and Larry Combs discuss Veterans Affairs during the Sons visit to Capitol Hill.



Mark Serpis, David Spencer, Senator Scott Brown (MA), and Robert Deleskey discussing Veterans benefits.

Legislative Awards

During the course of our many years of lobbying efforts, we have made it a point to reward those Members of Congress who have been particularly supportive of our nations veterans with lifetime memberships in the Sons of AMVETS. Past recipients of this include Walt Jones (R-NC), Chris Smith (R-NJ), Ted Strickland (D-OH), Adam Putnam (R-FL) and Chet Edwards (D-TX).



Where have our leaders come from?

The first Sons National Commander was Roger Damron of Ohio. Since then, we have had 23 National Commanders from 10 States.

The Sons of AMVETS from Indiana descended upon Capitol Hill en masse in 2010 to talk to their Congressional Representatives about keeping the promise to America's Veterans.

AMERICANISM

One of the Sons of AMVETS missions is to bolster in our youth a sense of pride in America and our American way of life. We have several programs for this, sponsoring youth programs and working with the AMVETS on their Americanism program. In addition, we have formed several Honor Guards across the country to march in parades and work other details. We also sponsor youth sports teams, work at functions in our communities and do anything and everything in our power to remind all Americans what a great country we live in, and encourage everyone to join us in making it a better place to live.

Honor Guard

Sons of AMVETS across the country have formed their own Honor Guard units. These units march in parades, post colors and perform similar functions as AMVET Honor Guards. In addition, many AMVET Honor Guards have Sons members to help boost their sizes. In doing so, we boost our own knowledge of Flag Etiquette and make others aware of proper respect for the Flag.



The Sons of AMVETS at Iowa 49 show their Spirit of Americanism by marching with an 18' by 38' American Flag in the Sturgis Fall Parade.



The National Sons of AMVETS respectfully present a wreath at the World War II, Vietnam War and Korean War Memorials every Veterans Day and Spring NEC.

Wreaths Across America

Many Sons of AMVETS participate in *Wreaths Across America*, in which we lay wreaths at the headstones of veterans at Veterans Cemeteries across our great nation

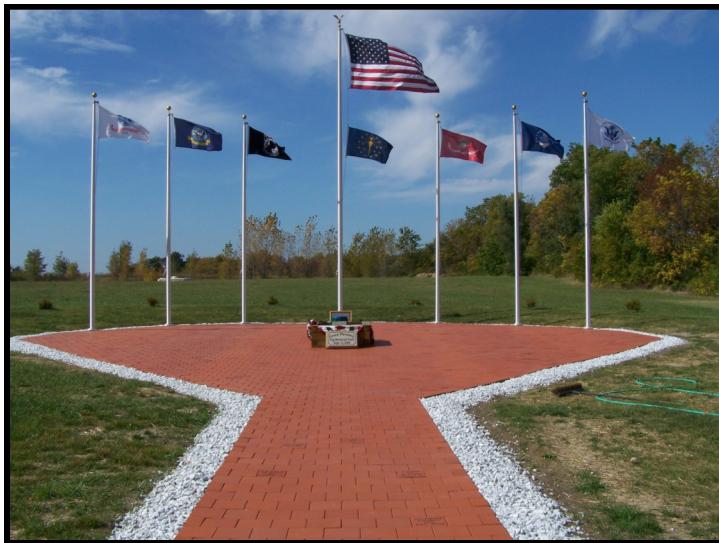


How big can a Squadron be?

The largest Squadron in the country in 2010 was Sandusky, OH with 482 members.

The Sons of AMVETS in Florida and some of Florida's finest during the laying of wreaths for deceased veterans during *Wreaths Across America*.

HONORING OUR VETERANS



Squadrons often spend their funds to upgrade their Posts. Here, the Sons at Squadron 12 built a memorial park at their Post in Muncie, IN. They also host a Flag Retirement Ceremony annually, and recently retired their 10,000th flag.

Who joins the Sons of AMVETS?

Most Sons of AMVETS members joined under their fathers, but that there are several other eligible relations that can join Sons.



Sons of AMVETS Squadrons from across the country have erected memorials in honor of local veterans like the Sons of AMVETS from Squadron 33 in Jay, Maine.

Veterans Day

Every year since 2002, the Sons of AMVETS have had the honor and the privilege of presenting the Nation's Flag and our National Sons of AMVETS Flag at the Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery during the National Veterans Day Observances. State Departments and Local Squadrons are permitted to do this as well.



Joseph Stoprya of Pennsylvania and Richard Thibodeau of Maine presenting the US and National Sons Flags at the Amphitheatre in 2010.

ALWAYS REMEMBER!

The Nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten.

-Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States



The Sons of AMVETS work hard at a local fundraiser at AMVETS Post 89 in Columbus, Ohio.



Application for Membership SONS of AMVETS

Squad No. _____ City _____ State _____ Date of Birth _____
Name _____ Date _____
Street Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Name of AMVET Relative _____ Post _____
Relationship: _____ Father _____ Son _____ Grandson _____ Step-son _____
_____ Adopted Son _____ Husband _____ Brother _____
Signature of Sponsor (Relative): _____

(Approved by Post)

(Signature of Applicant)

Accepted:

RETAIN THIS CARD FOR
SQUADRON RECORD

Squadron 1st Vice Commander

Revised 10/2000

Squad No. _____ City _____ State _____
Received from _____
Address _____
The Sum Of \$ _____ For annual dues
for year _____



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