

2017 Pennsylvania Encampment/Convention

Donations Wanted

The Local Host Committee of the 2017 Pennsylvania Department Encampment is seeking your assistance. In the tradition of the Grand Army of the Republic, the committee is seeking donations of items to be presented on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department Encampment to the Veterans at the Butler County Area VA Hospital. These donations are not to be confused with the annual charitable donations presented by the Allied Orders at the Campfire.

Today's Veterans Health Administration (VHA) originated during the Civil War as the first federal hospitals ever established for the nation's volunteer forces. On March 3, 1865, a month before the Civil War ended, President Abraham Lincoln authorized the first-ever national soldiers' and sailors' asylum to provide medical and convalescent care for discharged members of the Union Army and Navy volunteer forces. The national homes were often called "soldiers' homes" or "military homes." Initially only soldiers and sailors who served with the Union forces — including U.S. Colored Troops — were eligible for admittance. VA Butler Healthcare is located in the heart of Butler County and convenient to community support services for Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio-area Veterans. They have been attending to Veterans' total care since 1947 and are the health care choice for over 18,000 Veterans.



Just as American citizens have for centuries supported our sick, wounded veterans; the Pennsylvania Department of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic is once again taking the lead in organizing a grass roots effort among our membership to help our nation's heroes. All Camps, Auxiliaries, Tents, Circles and Corps are encouraged to ask their members to participate by collecting the donations from their area. It is our hope that the items can then be transported to the Department Encampment by an attendee. This would be a wonderful opportunity for those not able to attend the encampment, to participate in the event. We wish to convey that these are to be individual donations and not made by the

Camps, Auxiliaries, Tents, Circles and Corps themselves. The Camps, Auxiliaries, Tents, Circles and Corps may coordinate the donations offered by their members.

The local host committee of the 2017 Pennsylvania Department Encampment asks each Brother and Sister of the Allied Orders to assist in this project. Let's make the Pennsylvania Department proud by making this Veteran Project a rousing success. Join us in thanking our Nation's sick and wounded Veterans by our deeds and not just our words. The American people responded with assistance when our ancestors were sick or wounded, now it's our turn to help our nation's defenders.

To better meet the needs of these Veterans, below is a list of approved items that may be donated. Only those items noted below and/or items approved by the VA will be accepted.

COMFORT ITEMS: body wash, chap-stick, lotion, body spray, deodorant, denture adhesive/paste and cleaner, shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash (alcohol free), shaving cream/gel, double edge razors or high quality razors, nail files, nail clippers, blankets, laundry detergent (regular and hypoallergenic), fabric softener (liquid and dryer sheets), nail polish and nail polish remover, cotton balls and q-tips, aftershave (alcohol free), nail sticks, feminine hygiene products.

STATIONARY: notepads, notecards (blank), notebooks, envelopes, pens, pencils, postage stamps, calendars, day-minders, portfolios, assorted note cards (i.e.: sympathy, birthday, anniversary, holidays, etc.), monthly planners / organizers 2017 / 2018.

NEW CLOTHING / SHOE ITEMS (NOTE: unless otherwise specified, preferred clothing sizes are M, L, XL, XXL): white V-neck undershirts, diabetic socks, T-shirts, sweat pants, zippered sweatshirts, jeans, jackets / coats, hats (not ball caps), scarves, gloves, sweat suits, women's bras, shorts, short sleeve shirts, slippers / sandals, robes, pajamas.

RECREATIONAL NEEDS: phone cards, fishing gear (poles, bait, tackle, hooks, line, split shots etc.), golf gear (drivers, pitching wedges, balls, 3 ½ " tees, golf bags), gardening supplies (plants, fertilizer, sprinklers), billiard sticks and chalk, charcoal for cookouts.

MISCELLANEOUS: canteen books, handkerchiefs, individually wrapped bags of candy, individual bags of chips, DVDs, bathroom scales, bath and dish towels, GPS units for DAV vans, music CDs, coloring books and crayons, clothes hangers, alarm clocks, radios, eyeglass cases, umbrellas.

HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM: small flashlights, plastic cooking / eating utensils, Purell hand sanitizer (alcohol free), plastic rain ponchos, flushable wipes, gift cards, bath tissue, hand /feet warmer packets, power / granola bars, sewing kits, tea bags, first aid kits, instant coffee packets, hand towels and wash cloths, sports water bottles with lids, back packs, insulated coffee mugs with lids, hot chocolate, creamer and sugar packets, manual can openers, bar soap, and gift cards to local retail stores.

ITEMS WE CANNOT ACCEPT: books, used clothing, medical equipment and supplies, magazines older than 6 months from the current date, Reader Digest or National Geographic magazines, lap robes, furniture, and household items (i.e. dinnerware, comforters, sheets, home decorations, etc.)

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Monetary gifts: Checks or Money Orders are to be made payable to: VA Butler Healthcare and a note / letter should be included with the donation.

