

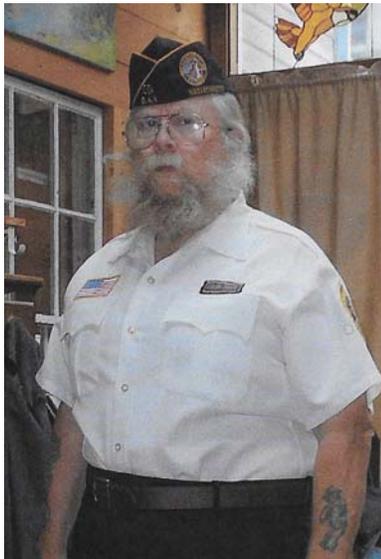


**BAGLEY-FAY AMERICAN LEGION POST 161  
CHOATE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 3276**



**POST DISPATCH      SEPTEMBER 2016**

**John Leeds (1946-2016)**  
*“Fair Winds and Following Seas”*



John H. Leeds, Jr., 70, of Southborough, died on Sunday, August 28, 2016 at his home.

He was the husband of Suzanne (Perry) Leeds for the past 47 years.

Born in Winchester, he was the son of the late Barbara (Bulwinkle) and John H. Leeds, Sr.

John was a Navy veteran, serving in the Vietnam War. He worked as an electrical engineer for the former Digital Equipment, Compaq and Hewlett Packard. John served

on the Southborough Conservation Committee for 22 years.

He was a member of the American Legion, DAV 114, and Ashland VFW, where he enjoyed the Sunday meat shoots with his friends. John had many interests, gardening, farming, bee keeping, carpentry, and his Model A.

In addition to his wife, he leaves his children, Tara Varney Leeds; John H. Leeds, III and his wife Wannida; 2 grandchildren, John H. Leeds, IV; Samantha S. Varney; a great-granddaughter, Aaliyah Keith; and a brother, Curt D. Leeds.

He is predeceased by a son Richard W. Leeds and a sister, Jacqueline E. Leeds.

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**Happy Birthday Air Force!**

**September 18, 1947**

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**Future Issues**

- Member Profiles
- Veteran’s Information
- Post Events

**TO:** Southborough Veterans  
**FROM:** Veterans' Services Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Veterans' Benefits Information

Starting now, September 2016, the Veterans' Services Office will submit a description of Veterans Administration and Massachusetts Office of Veterans' affairs benefits to the monthly newsletter. For the month of September, an overview of the Veterans' Administration health care system is described and a summary of VA burial benefits is outlined.

**Veterans Administration Nationwide Health Care System:** Over the past few years the VA health care system has come under a series of attacks and criticisms for lack of performance. Some of these criticisms are deserved, others are not deserved and some are due to lack of knowledge of veterans concerning access. The purpose of the monthly memos in the newsletter is to dispel rumors and ensure that Southborough have the appropriate information and know where to seek help. The following broad overview is a starting point for Southborough veterans to understand the basics of the system. In future editions, I will describe, in detail, various benefits. The first point that needs to be made is that, for Massachusetts veterans, every city and town employs a veterans' services officer. Here in Southborough that officer is John Wilson, located at the administrative office at the cemetery. Phone number is 508-229-2172. Office hours are Tuesday from 3 PM to 5:30 PM.

Currently the VA operates over 1,400 treatment sites nationwide. Here in Massachusetts the principal sites are the VA hospitals in West Roxbury, Northampton, Brockton, Jamaica Plain and Bedford. Additionally, there are over a dozen clinics throughout the state. Southborough's nearest clinics are in Framingham and Worcester. The VA administers the program through the patient enrollment program. Access to the program is accomplished via filing a 10-10 EZ form with the VA. You can retrieve a 10-10 EZ on line at VAforms.com or come to the office at cemetery. The veterans' services officer will assist in completing the form and submitting it. And, filing for a review if necessary. All veterans are urged to file for eligibility. There will be more in future editions concerning specific benefits.

**VA Burial Benefits:** All veterans (and everyone else) should discuss their end-of-life wishes with their next of kin or other dependents. The VA has extensive benefits for veterans. First, most funeral homes will assist the families of veterans in accessing VA benefits and information. Your local veterans' service office is also qualified to assist you. Here in Massachusetts there is national cemetery in Bourne and state cemeteries in Agawam and Winchendon. There is no fee for burial in a state cemetery. Information can be obtained at [WWW.mass.gov/veterans](http://WWW.mass.gov/veterans). Similarly, there is no fee for a gravesite, perpetual care, grave opening or closing, headstone/marker or flag at the national cemeteries. Some veterans are eligible for burial in Arlington National Cemetery. Please contact your veteran's agent for information concerning Arlington. All veterans are also entitled to military honors which include folding the flag, taps and presentation of the flag to the designated next of kin. Also, if you have a family member or friend who is a veteran and does not have a grave marker, contact veterans' services.

More to come in future editions.

## Veterans Agent on the move

As of Wednesday, June 22, 2016 the Office of the Veterans' Agent relocated from the Senior Center to the Cemetery Administration Building at 11 Cordaville Road. This is the building in the rear of the Southborough Rural Cemetery.

**Our Veterans' Agent, John Wilson, is available every Tuesday from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

**Phone: 508-229-2172**

**[jwilson@southboroughma.com](mailto:jwilson@southboroughma.com)**

## What would you like to read?

This newsletter is by veterans for veterans.

What else would you like to have us include?

Would you be willing to be profiled in a future issue?

Ideas for post events?

Please send your ideas to  
Mark Fallon  
[mmf@berkshire-company.com](mailto:mmf@berkshire-company.com)

Thanks!

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