

VIRGINIA WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) continues to support veterans and members of the Virginia National Guard and Reserves not on active duty who are suffering from combat-related head injuries and stress disorders through coalitions of five regional Community Service Boards.

The Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University and VWWP received a **grant to ease the return of war veterans to their homes and communities** in Virginia. The Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund awarded \$398,700 to fund the project *Common Ground: Linking Wounded Warriors and Community Support Providers*. This collaborative project will provide **training and resources to help community support providers** throughout Virginia – including volunteers, brain injury service providers, clinicians and peers – work with veterans with traumatic brain injuries and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and their families.

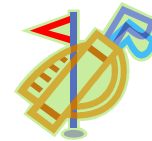
“Training our service providers to understand the military context and culture in which combat stress and traumatic brain injuries occur is essential,” said Cathy Wilson, Executive Director of VWWP. “We are establishing a new services system based in communities throughout the Commonwealth. Education is key to understanding and supporting our military service members and families as they transition to civilian life.”

The MOAA Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC), which supported the establishment of VWWP and associated fundraising, **encourages 100% chapter participation in the fundraising endeavor**. Nine of the 16 Virginia chapters have made contributions during FY08 and FY09 totaling \$9,760. Chapters receive credit when individual chapter members make contributions, as long as the MOAA chapter is identified. VCOC is looking for continued support from those chapters that have stood up to the plate. Those chapters who have not contributed, please get on board and **help our brethren**.

GEORGE C. MARSHALL CHAPTER LEADS THE CHARGE.

They kicked off this Fiscal Year with a \$2,600 contribution from their Clay Target Shoot (pictured on page 15) and held a Wounded Warriors Golf Tournament August 10. MOAA was among 40 sponsors. Over \$8,000 was raised.

Seated at lunch is the golf tournament organizer, Gordy Calkins, Col, USMC, Ret, who is also the chapter's VCOC Rep. Standing behind him are chapter president, Bob Hopkins, LTC, USAF, Ret, and Jack Hilgers, Col, USMC, Ret. *Photo courtesy of GCMC PAO Ross Schmoll, Col, USAF, Ret*



Information and a contribution form are available on the VCOC website (in the “Virginia Projects” section). You will also find useful documents there such as flyers, an article on Traumatic Brain Injury and a summary page about VWWP, as well as a link to the Department of Veteran Services (DVS). Contact the VWWP Foundation via Jack Hilgers, Col, USMC, Ret, at Virginia DVS (804) 382-3715 or (757) 481-4164.

<http://virginiamoaa.com/virginiaprojects/virginiawoundedwarrior.html>

/ Jack Hilgers, Col, USMC, Ret, is VCOC contact on VWWP & Legislative Rep for Hampton Roads Chapter

NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY for Wounded Service Members

<http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov> is an online resource for wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans, their families and those who support them. The directory provides info on, and access to, medical and non-medical services and resources across the country. Topics include benefits and compensation; education, training and employment; family and caregiver support; health; housing and transportation; and services and resources. The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program is listed as a Virginia resource.

/ Gary Metzinger, COL, USAF, Ret, Southside Virginia Chapter Legislative Rep