Hope everyone enjoyed their 4th of July with the extreme heat. Cooler weather would be nice. The office has been busier this month with forty nine phone calls and nineteen visitors.

Our local volunteer drivers escorted eleven veterans to Roudebush VA hospital in Indianapolis and four veterans to Danville VA hospital. Any veteran who needs a ride to the VA should contact my office at 765-361-4133 preferably a week in advance to be able to get a volunteer to drive. It is best to make your appointments for the morning Monday through Friday.

Update a lift chair was located for the veteran in need last month. Thank you--------.

**I will be out of town the week of July 9-July 12th for training.**

On Saturday July 28th -------- will be hosting a Veterans Picnic from 11am -2pm. The Boy Scouts Color Guard will be kicking off the festivities. Please join us to honor our veterans and raise funds for Honor Flights & Operation Comfort Warriors. Enjoy a delicious lunch for $5 while listening to music featuring the patriotic sounds of “Farmers Daughter” and local favorites Terry Smith’s band, “Like Father, Like Son” & The Tony Page Band.

**The USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor Closed Indefinitely.**

Tourists were allowed to disembark at the memorial after crews completed interim repairs. But the cracks reappeared hours later, indicating a more serious issue. “There is a brow or an edge where the visitor’s ramp meets the memorial, and at that point, there have been some fissures located on the exterior” said Jay Blount, a spokesman for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.” After further investigation on the interior, it was determined that the structure is not supporting the loading ramp the way that we need”. “Engineers are working to figure out possible long-term solutions.” “The amount of time needed to implement the repairs is unknown at this time”. National Park Service will continue to provide information to the public.

**New $55 Billion Bill to Replace Veterans Choice Program**

A week ago the President signed a bill to replace the Veterans Choice Program and expand private health care options amid a fight between the White House and Congress over how to pay for it.  The bill, the VA Mission Act, would also expand caregivers assistance to the families of disabled veterans and order an inventory of the Department of Veterans Affairs” more than 1,100 facilities with a long-term view to trimming excess.   This is just the beginning and nothing has been finalized to date.

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