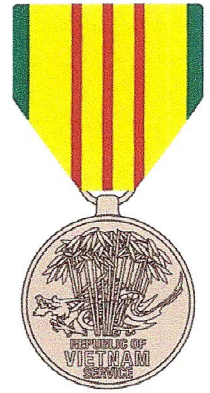


In Service to America

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Thomas P Coughlin Memorial Chapter 72  
Brooklyn, New York**



**Chapter Officers**

**President**

*Daniel Friedman  
Phone: 917-757-7801  
Email: danny.ola@optimum.net*

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

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Joseph Torre Sr.*

**Website**

*www.vvachapter72.com  
Please submit all articles and  
photos for newsletter to:  
gonefishing287@earthlink.net*

June 27, 2018

Joan E. McInerney  
VISN 2 Network Director  
NY/NJ VA Healthcare Network  
130 West Kingsbridge Road, Building 16  
Bronx, NY 10468

Martina A. Parauda  
Director  
NY VA Harbor Healthcare System  
Brooklyn Campus  
800 Poly Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

Dear Ms. McInerney and Ms. Parauda:

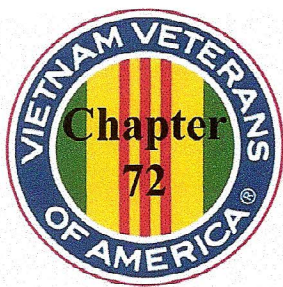
This letter is being sent on behalf of the members of VVA Chapter 72, as well as representatives of several other veterans' organizations and veterans' advocates who are noted in the "Cc" section. Elected officials who have expressed interest in this matter are also copied.

We have been increasingly concerned over a series of actions by Brooklyn VAMC since 2015, leading to diminished services to Brooklyn veterans. There are over 41,000 veterans residing in Brooklyn, many of whom depend on Brooklyn VAMC to meet their medical needs. Any reduction of services in Brooklyn dramatically affects the quality of life for these veterans as well as the many veterans in Staten Island and Queens who also depend on Brooklyn VAMC.

Therefore we are respectfully requesting both of you to schedule and attend a Veterans Town Hall Meeting on the Brooklyn Campus no later than the week of July 9, 2018. We request you be prepared to address the following issues:

**NEW MAILING ADDRESS**  
800 Poly Place Rm 5-223 • Brooklyn, NY 11209-7104  
A non-profit National Veterans Organization





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# Vietnam Veterans of America Thomas P Coughlin Memorial Chapter 72 Brooklyn, New York



- What are the long-range and immediate plans for Brooklyn VAMC?
- What are the current and projected staffing levels for Brooklyn VAMC compared to pre-2015 staffing levels?
- What are the proposed and final budgets for Brooklyn VAMC from 2015 to present?
- Why wasn't the 12 West surgical ward reopened after 15 months as promised by the director?
- Why was a memo sent out in February, 2018, concerning the "transfer of patients with acute surgical conditions in need of Critical Care to the NY campus"?
- Why are ambulances being diverted from Brooklyn campus to NY campus?
- What are the numbers for in-patient surgeries at Brooklyn VAMC for the years 2014, to present?
- Why was the Brooklyn lab staffing and services mostly transferred to NY campus?
- What are the actual events concerning the Brooklyn ENT Clinic?
- How are the needs of veterans, specifically homeless veterans, being met since the closure of the Chapel Street clinic and homeless veterans' clinic?
- What are the plans to replace PTSD staff who have recently left Brooklyn VAMC?
- Will VA commit to complete transparency with us, your primary stakeholders, in all matters concerning budget, staffing, and services to veterans at Brooklyn VAMC?

Your cooperation and attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. We look forward to an amiable resolution of these issues.

Respectfully,

Daniel A. Friedman  
President, VVA Chapter 72

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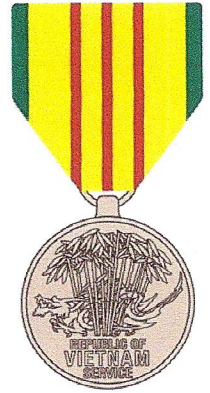
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Cc: John Rowen, VVA National President; Ned Foote, VVA NYS President; Joe Ingino, VVA Southern District Director; Kristen L. Rouse, President, NYC Veterans' Alliance; Lee Covino, USIVO; Herb Morales, Commander, DAV 154; Steve Neftleberg, VFW 107; Richie Chan, DAV 28; Joe Bello, Secretary, NYC Veterans' Advisory Board; Paul Rieckhoff, Executive Director, IAVA; Senator Kristen Gillibrand; Congressman Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.; NYS Senator Martin J. Golden; NYC Council Member Justin Brannan

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