New Year’s Greetings from Dan and Todd

Welcome to our first quarterly Veterans Breakfast Club newsletter! It is part of our New Year’s resolution to keep you informed of our events and activities.

We also think this newsletter is a great way to reach those who haven’t yet attended one of our events.

If you haven’t heard of us, the Veterans Breakfast Club is a non-profit founded by Dan Cavanaugh and Todd De-Pastino to gather veterans together to share stories and memories. There are no membership dues or requirements. You don’t even have to be a veteran to attend our events. You just have to love the stories our veterans and spouses tell. It’s the storytelling that connects us all.

Dan began the breakfasts in 2008 after serving as a bus captain on the World War II Memorial Bus Trips to Washington, D.C. Todd, a professor of history and author of a biography of WWII cartoonist Bill Mauldin, started helping out a few months later. They’ve been working together ever since.

Our monthly breakfasts have been featured in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, the Almanac, and Caregivers Magazine. If you haven’t attended one of our events, please give us a try.

And if you have any questions or want more information, please call us at our NEW phone number: 412-623-9029. Dan or Todd will call you back.
2010 Veterans Breakfast Club Schedule
All breakfasts begin at 8:30am • full breakfast $10 • coffee & danish $6
coffee and friendship $1• just to attend is free!
Please RSVP at 412-623-9029

South Hills
Crowne Plaza Hotel, 164 Fort Couch Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241
Tuesday, February 9    Tuesday, June 8    Tuesday, October 12
Tuesday, March 16    Tuesday, July 13    Tuesday November 9
Tuesday, April 13    Tuesday, August 10    Tuesday, December 14
Tuesday, May 11    Tuesday, September 14

North Hills
The Chadwick, One Wexford Square, 10545 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090
Wednesday, March 3    Wednesday, June 2    Wednesday, October 6
Wednesday, April 7    Wednesday, July 7    Wednesday, November 3
Wednesday, May 5    Wednesday, September 1    Wednesday, December 8

Monroeville
Comfort Inn Conference Center, 699 Rodi Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15235
Friday, February 26    Friday, May 28    Friday, September 24
Friday, March 26    Friday, June 25    Friday, October 22
Friday, April 23    Friday, August 27    Friday, December 3

Bus Trips
May 18-19 (overnight): Washington, D.C. & Quantico, VA
(U.S. Navy Museum & U.S. Marines Museum plus other sites)
June 29 (day trip): Carlisle, PA
(U.S. Army Heritage Center & Education Center)
September 28 (day trip): Dayton, OH
(U.S. Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson)
New Prices & the Veterans Breakfast Fund

We negotiate with our event venues (hotels and restaurants) to get the cheapest breakfast prices possible. Our venues have recently informed us that they will have to raise their prices slightly in 2010. We’re sorry for the price increase, but rest assured that we don’t make money off of these events. We host the breakfasts because we love your stories and friendship.

Our Veterans Breakfast Fund will pay in part or full for any veteran or spouse who would like to attend but can’t afford the breakfast. You can let us know ahead of time that you’d like to take advantage of our Fund or just mention it at the door. Your breakfast will be paid for discreetly.

Please know that everyone is welcome at our table. Pay what you can, and we’ll pick up the rest.

RSVP Policy

Our venues have also informed us that they need to know in advance how many people will be attending our breakfasts. Almost 150 people showed up at our last breakfast in the South Hills, but some didn’t RSVP ahead of time, and the hotel nearly ran out of food.

PLEASE CALL OUR RESERVATION LINE (412-623-9029) AT LEAST FOUR DAYS AHEAD OF THE BREAKFAST TO LET US KNOW YOU’RE COMING.

If you forget to RSVP four days ahead of time, please call as soon as you can so we can make sure there’s enough food.

You are always welcome at our table!

A Note of Thanks

We’d like to say thanks to all those who generously donated their time and money to our cause last year, including those of you who pitched in an extra dollar or two at each breakfast. We owe a special thank you to the following for their support:

Gail Brenkus, Country Meadows
Chris Crompton
Jim and Ruth Gabelhart
Bob and Louise Hilinski
John F. Slater Funeral Home
Dave Pudup
Robert Sherry
St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Brentwood
Al Zimmerman
Dick and Mary Zorn

Your support is much appreciated!

V.B.C. in the News

For those who missed it, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ran a great story about our December 15 South Hills breakfast. The article begins:

Three days after taking part in the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944, 82nd Airborne paratrooper Norman Waldman was captured.

But his guards at the prison camp in Dresden, Germany, were older soldiers driven more by patriotism to their country than hate.

“They were more than 70 years of age. They weren’t able to go to the front, so they were more compassionate,” Mr. Waldman said at the Christmas Memories Breakfast for veterans held last week at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Pittsburgh South in Bethel Park.

Mr. Waldman, 85, of Mt. Lebanon, recounted how on that Christmas Eve 65 years ago, he and other prisoners... (continued at http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09358/1023227-55.stm).
Storytelling connects us all.