

## **“When Johnny Comes Marching Home...and Gets Arrested”**

In Our Name, Restoring Justice in America, a Soldier’s Heart, together with Saratoga WarHorse, Prison Action Network and the Artist All-Faith Center & Life Craft Foundation Inc., present; “When Johnny Comes Marching Home...and Gets Arrested – From Honor to Dishonor and Back Again.”

Our August 2012 conference concentrated on needed reforms of the American criminal justice system. This year’s event will focus primarily on the plight of the United States Armed Forces Members whose arrest and imprisonment were the result of combat related post-traumatic stress disorder.

Post-traumatic stress disorder related prosecutions of American veterans of war and military service have increased dramatically from the Vietnam War era, where the diagnosis and conditions first became significant, to the post 9-11 Iraq and Afghanistan wars. For decades, Veterans’ conduct in post-war civilian life often times has resulted in violence, drug addiction, alcohol abuse, suicide and crime because of undiagnosed or untreated stress disorders. Veterans are left to fend for themselves in dealing with the immense physical and psychological damage inflicted upon them during their time of service. Vietnam veterans returned home by the thousands and were, for the most part, shunned and rejected by an American public torn by the war. More recently, a study by the Veterans Administration revealed that nearly 30% of its patients who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have PTSD due to the combat intensity of multiple deployments.

The presence of veterans in city and county jails and state prisons became widespread in the 1970s and 80s. Returning veterans, often homeless, infirm and disconnected received no special consideration for their years of military service as they were processed in the criminal justice and penal systems nor were they provided with lawyers who could adequately defend them with defenses based upon their combat related stress condition. Often, our indigent veterans were pressed into plea bargains by inexperienced court appointed attorneys, vindictive prosecutors, and indifferent judges, and were made to serve long sentences in state prisons where, once again, they received no programming, treatment or care for their service related disorder.

In the early 1980s New York State Governor Mario Cuomo authorized funding for a pilot program for the “Veterans Residential Therapeutic Program”, where incarcerated veterans, assigned to a common living area, could create and administer their own educational and therapeutic treatment classes. This became a healing place for veterans and enlisted men whose lives and service resulted in the PTSD condition and encounters with the State criminal justice system.

These grave issues are among the topics that will be addressed and explained by the In Our Name/Soldier’s Heart Memorial Day 2013 conference.

## **FRIDAY, MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>**

4PM

**Check-in and Registration**  
*Welcome Center*

6PM-7PM

**Dinner**  
*Main Dining Room*

7PM-9PM

**Welcome**  
Dr. Edward Tick, Soldier’s Heart, Troy, NY  
*“Honor that never fades”*  
**Program Moderator- Gabriel Sayegh**  
Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY  
*Main Dining Room*  
**Opening Ceremony**  
Dr. Edward Tick, Kate Dahlstedt, Jeffrey Deskovic,  
Judge Thomas Keefe, Andrew Zarro, Exec. Director at  
the Criminal Justice Policy Coalition  
Presentation and Panel Discussion  
*Main Dining Room*

## **SATURDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>**

8AM-9AM

**Breakfast**  
*Main Dining Room*

9:15AM-10:15AM

**Restoring the Errant Veteran**  
Susan M. Verbeke, Guidance Specialist for Veterans  
Program, NYS DOCCS, Albany, NY  
Presentation and Discussion  
*Great Hall*

10:15AM-11:15AM

**Restoring the Errant Woman Veteran**  
Amy Larman, Program Director, Women Veterans  
Program, Samaritan Village, Ellenville, NY  
Presentation and Discussion  
*Great Hall*

11:15AM-12:45PM

**Teaching Peace**  
John Amidon, Veterans for Peace  
Presentation and Discussion  
*Great Hall*

1PM-2PM

**Lunch**  
*Main Dining Room*

2PM-3:30PM

**Gentle Strength—Healing the Wounded Warrior**  
Bob Nevins, Saratoga WarHorse  
Demonstration and Discussion  
*Horse Barn*

3:30PM-4PM

**Break**  
**Healing a Broken System: Veterans Battling  
Addiction and Incarceration**  
Gabriel Sayegh, Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY  
Presentation and Discussion  
*Great Hall*

4PM-5:30PM

6PM-7PM

**Dinner**  
*Main Dining Room*

7PM-9:30PM

**Play, Memorial Day**  
Brian Delate, Writer/Director and Vietnam Veteran  
Presentation and Discussion  
*Main Dining Room*

**SUNDAY, MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

- 7AM-8AM **Interfaith healing service**  
Rev. Nigel Mumford, Welcome Home Initiative  
Dr. Edward Tick, Soldier's Heart  
Rev. Joseph Caron, Ret. Chaplain Mt. McGregor CF  
*Christ the King Chapel*
- 8AM-9AM **Breakfast**  
*Main Dining Room*
- 9AM-10AM **Defending the Accused Veteran**  
Jonathan E. Gradess, Executive Director of New York  
State Defenders Association  
Presentation and Discussion  
*Great Hall*
- 10AM-11AM **From Honor to Dishonor and Back**  
Paul Henderson, Esq.  
Presentation and Discussion  
*Great Hall*
- 11AM-12:30PM **Keynote Speaker-An Alternative to Jail for Veterans**  
Hon. Robert T. Russell, Jr., Buffalo Veterans Treatment  
Court, Buffalo, NY  
Presentation and Discussion  
*Great Hall*
- 12:30PM-1PM **Presentation of the Colors**  
Gurtler Brothers VFW Post 420, Saratoga Springs, NY  
*Outside Great Hall*
- 1PM **Memorial Day BBQ, Poetry Readings and Music**  
Lem Genovese, Yankee Medic Records  
Paul Henderson, Musician  
Derrick Anderson, Poet  
Kate Dahlstedt, Poet  
Dr. Edward Tick, Poet  
Cara Bensen, Poet & Teacher  
*Saint Patrick's Pavilion*



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From Honor to Dishonor and Back**

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*A gathering of concerned professionals, advocates and  
members of the academic and general community, to  
discuss the state of Veterans in our criminal justice system;  
and a call to action for reform.*

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**Friday May 24 - Sunday May 26, 2013**

*To be held at*

Christ the King Spiritual Life Center  
575 Burton Road  
Greenwich, New York 12834

*with*

**Soldier's Heart,  
Prison Action Network,  
Artist All-Faith Center & Life Craft Foundation Inc.,  
Saratoga WarHorse,  
*and*  
In Our Name**

Please attend our conference, visit our website, [www.inourname.org](http://www.inourname.org) and  
participate in the "In Our Name" blog.



**Dr. Edward Tick, Kate Dahlstedt, Judith Brink, Rev. Joyce Hartwell,  
David Pierce, Laura Manning, Rev. Joseph Caron,  
Bob Nevins & Francis A. Zarro, Jr.  
Conference Co-Coordinators  
Gordon Boyd, Finance Coordinator  
*Produced by Good for Great, LLC*  
Andrew J. Zarro, President**