

# Newsletter

## Message the from President

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### Scholarship Donors

1. Family of Donna and Vicki Moritsugu
2. Family of SSgt Craig Ivory
3. Friends of LtCol David Gwinn
4. Family of PFC Roger Cummins
5. Family of CMSgt Kenneth Grogan
6. Society of Air Force PA
7. Society of Army PA
8. Family of Jesse Edwards
9. Family of SSgt Robert Milner
10. Family of SMSgt Nathan Lipscomb Sr
11. Family of Capt. Fred Brace III/Sgt Fred Brace Jr
12. Family of Pvt. Albert Kissel
13. Friends of LT. Ruth Cortes



To All Members of the Veterans Caucus – Wow what a year! Our caucus continues to move forward in our growth. Since the last Newsletter in July we have improved our programs such as the Scholarships and the Topics in the Tropics held every December. This last year was in beautiful Jamaica. But there has been a lot of behind the scenes activity such as improving our website and redeveloping it into a more user-friendly place to go. Another area that has been active is updating our membership information so we can better communicate with our membership. This newsletter is a part of our outreach efforts to our membership and hopefully get to everyone at least through digital media. So please keep an eye on your emails, our website ([www.veteranscaucus.org](http://www.veteranscaucus.org)), Facebook, and through the AAPA website. We want to reach out to all veterans (active duty, retired, or discharge) to provide veteran related information on all platforms we provide. But on the other hand,

we would surely like to see our members more involved in that growth.

Even though there have been some challenging moments this last year, we have jumped into the issues head-first. I would like to thank those board members who have made that possible such as Mike Milner, Pam Lucas, and Dallas Lipscomb. Mike has been busy in contract negotiations, Pam was the day-to-day operations manager for Tropics, and Dallas developed Jamaica T-shirts and brought them to Topics in the Tropics this last year.

Our Memorial Ceremony is still a shining beacon for the AAPA, and I just cannot imagine the national conference without this reminder of our professional roots. TJ Bonjour your President Elect is busy working on this project and the theme will be **“Shoulder to Shoulder”**. We plan on having the reception afterwards with the help from our uniformed services. I look forward to seeing you there!

The CME committee is busy planning the next Topics in the Tropics. We have looked at six different sites with fun in the

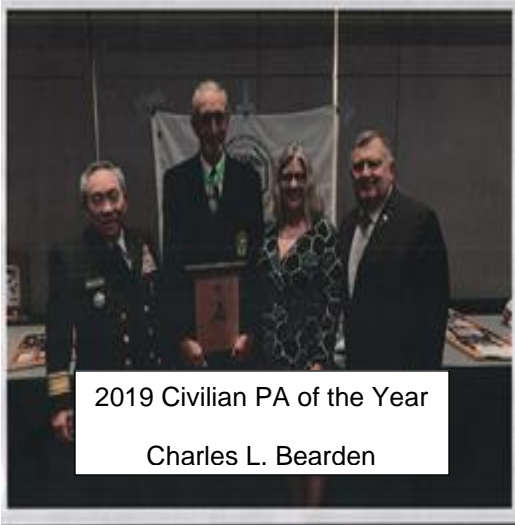
sun and have narrowed the selection to Cancun. Please keep an eye on our website for the final information. This should be finalized in the next 2-3 weeks and hopefully start the registration process. By the way we are looking for speakers. Please contact me at [rgrogan@veteranscaucus.org](mailto:rgrogan@veteranscaucus.org) or again look on our website at [www.veteranscaucus.org](http://www.veteranscaucus.org) if you are interested in giving a lecture. The Veterans Caucus has always tried to reach out to our veteran PA students. This year we have been lucky to have Johnnie Gilpen (now PA-C) step up to the plate and help us in that direction. Thanks!

Lastly but not least, election ballots will be done on the caucus website. Do not forget about the auction during the Memorial Reception. See you in Nashville at the AAPA Conference.

Rodney Grogan, President



## AAPA National Conference



2019 Civilian PA of the Year  
Charles L. Bearden

### AAPA 2020

May 15 – 21  
Nashville, TN

Connect with leading CME, new career opportunities, your PA peers, and more – at AAPA 2020 in Nashville. Because real learning takes place face-to-face. Real relationships thrive on shared experiences. And a real community is built on real connections. Check out AAPA website for more information.

## Memorial Celebration in Nashville

**Monday, May 18, 2020**

**Ceremony: 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. (Seating begins at 4:15 p.m.)**

**Reception and Auction: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

*“Shoulder to Shoulder”*

Veterans Caucus scholarship recipients and annual awards recognized during this event!

We honor veterans and the profession’s military roots with music and military symbolism.

**In Memory: LT. Ruth Cortes PA-C and Noel Franklin Henry PA-C**

### Did you know?

The Board of Directors has approved the option for Lifetime Membership to the Veterans Caucus for a limited period of time for the following categories: Fellow, Affiliate and Associate Members.

Some items on [www.veteranscaucus.org](http://www.veteranscaucus.org)

**Support Veterans Caucus Inc.**

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

CAUCUS LAPEL PIN

Join other members and catch up on current news:

**29<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Topics in the Tropics**  
*Paradisus Cancun*  
*Dec 9-12, 2020*

Mark your calendars today – more information to come soon on  
[www.veteranscaucus.org](http://www.veteranscaucus.org)!



*In Cancun,*

Perfectly situated on a soft white sandy beach, this exclusive beach resort provides the perfect accommodations for a vacation getaway. Experience the stunning beauty that has made Cancun an international resort area.

**Fun in the Sun** by Rock Munsee

If you find yourself approaching the end of the year, and you have money left in your CME account or you just realized you have not recorded enough CME for the year - then rest assured - there is a solution.

Fun in the sun and a little learning too. That is the best way to describe Topics in the Tropics, sponsored by the Veterans Caucus, Inc an affiliate caucus of the AAPA. The 2019 CME conference was held in Jamaica at the Melia Braco. This conference is the main fundraiser for the scholarship program sponsored by the Veterans Caucus. 2019 was a huge success! We had over 110 attendees with a diverse group with physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. We also have a chiropractor that has come the last couple of years. The lecture series was also diverse with topics in endocrinology, surgery, GI, and primary care. We also had up-to-date lectures on lipid treatment, dieting, the use of medical marijuana.

The hotel really rolled out the red carpet. The Melia Braco was smaller and secluded on the northern coast with Jamaican style meals along with the more American food. They provided a wonderful reception the night before the first lecture and made sure to have fresh coffee and pastries every morning.

2020 Tropics will be another great time. We are currently looking for speakers and finalizing the initial administration to move forward to Cancun. Lectures will be scheduled in the morning allowing everyone the opportunity to take a day trip into Cancun or socialize around the pool. The specific information will soon be out on the AAPA Veterans Caucus website. Every year the Veterans Caucus sends out raffle tickets for some lucky person to go to the Tropics on us. **This year we are going to make them available on our website.**

## About our organization...

### BOARD MEMBERS

Rodney Grogan  
President (19-20)

Rock Munsee  
Past President (19-20)

Timothy Bonjour  
President Elect (19-20)

Michael Milner  
Treasurer (16-20)

Mark Buettner  
Secretary (19-23)

John Western  
Director-at-Large (19-21)

James Cannon  
Director-at-Large (19-21)

Pam Lucas  
Director-at-Large (18-20)

Dallas Lipscomb  
Director-at-Large (19-20)

TBD  
Delegate, AAPA HOD

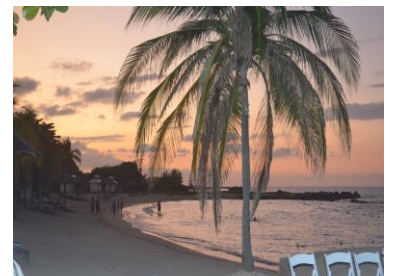
Our mission is to promote the interests and contributions of the veteran through service, education, and fraternity. Our goals are straight forward:

- Provide education and inspiration through its annual Memorial Day Service, concurrent with the American Academy of Physician Assistant Annual Conference
- Provide medical educational opportunities through annual medical education meeting
- Support the educational pursuits of veterans in physician assistant programs through the awarding of scholarships
- Represent veterans' interests through collaborations with other veteran organizations and the uniformed services
- Provide service through philanthropic activities
- Be an advocate for the diverse needs of veterans in regards to health care

If you believe in these goals and have served or are currently serving your country... help us serve you.

**Join us. Join together as  
Lifesavers Then... Caregivers Now**

### Veterans Caucus 2020 and Beyond



**Come join us  
at the BOD meeting  
May 17th**

**Rodney Grogan  
President**