



SUFFOLK COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION

PTS COMMITTEE

TO: Suffolk County American Legion
From: Rev. Frederick H. Miller, Ph.D.
Date: February 2, 2018
Subject: PTSD Committee Report

Our program helping Veterans with Moral Injury has setup meetings in Messiah Lutheran Church, 465 Pond Path East Setauket on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm and in Harbor church, 25-6 Frome Rd. Center Moriches on the second Thursday at 7pm each month. We are still looking for more churches to help us with meeting, particularly the Roman Catholic Church. I have not yet been in contact with the Bishop but will do so in the very near future. On January 23 I presented our program to the Southeastern Brookhaven Republican Party.

We have the Military Outreach USA, CRU Military Resources Group, the Military Chaplains Association that are not only interested in our program but willing to help us anyway that they can. I also met the Operation-Initiative Foundation who are presenting a Holistic Workshop for Veterans with PTSD at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 717 Route 25A, Rocky Point, NY on April 14th from 10am to 3pm, and they are adding us to the workshop to present the Moral Injury problem of our Military and Veterans.

After reading the American Legion, Department of New York on funding the Research and Recognition Project I have the following comments. My major concern is that while the method may be quite successful it is not really reaching 96%. My main concern is that this procedure can be very dangerous for those suffering from Moral Injury. It can increase their shame and guilt and if that is not handled suicides will increase. We need to tell the state and researchers about that danger. Most of the Veterans committing suicide are suffering from Moral Injury according to recent reports.

The Liver fluke *Clonorchis sinensis* that has infected many of our Vietnam Veterans is caused by the GI eating raw or poorly cooked fish. Most of those cases originated with the local villagers making friends with the GI and giving them rice balls and fish heads to eat. They prepared the food over a small outside fire so the fish were not properly cooked. The fish came from the local streams around the village. Those streams were also used as a bathroom for the villagers, where those infected were infecting the streams. Thus we need to ask our Veterans if they were given the rice and fish heads by the natives. Many may not remember this until we ask.

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