

Veterans Health & Wellness Forum speakers
Millersville University,
November 13, 2012

Jack McLean is author of “*Loon: A Marine Story*, “ the highly-acclaimed and gripping memoir about Mr. McLean’s life from a civilian—to enlisted Marine at Parris Island—to combat veteran in Vietnam—to the first Vietnam veteran to graduate from Harvard. McLean will discuss the tumultuous political times of the late 1960s and the effect those events had on the average-Marine fighting in Vietnam. He will include personal insights not only for today’s student-veteran, but for veterans and their families across all generations. Click here to see Jack McLean discussing his book on C-SPAN: <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/286875-1>

Dick Hughes has been helping to heal the wounds of Vietnam for more than 40 years beginning with his *Shoeshine Boys Project* (1968–76) in Saigon and Da Nang that provided assistance to some 2,500 homeless Vietnamese street-children by helping them find food and shelter. More recently, Hughes is leading the nonprofit organization *Loose Cannons, Inc.*, a group dedicated to bringing awareness to the health effects of Agent Orange. Hughes will explain ways that people can make a difference in the world, and provide current information about the lingering effects of chemical warfare. Click here to view a brief slide show about Dick Hughes: <http://caplantech.journalism.cuny.edu/2010/12/06/richard-hughes-and-the-shoeshine-boys-of-saigon/>

Keitha R. Beamer is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Addiction Recovery Unit at Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She will discuss ways US military personnel and their families can obtain mental health services and discuss her work in the addiction recovery unit.

John C. Bear, Republican member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, who has represented Lancaster County for the past six years, will give keynote remarks for currently enrolled student-veterans at Millersville University on November 13. Since taking office, Bear has held numerous leadership positions including being named to Governor Tom Corbett’s transition team and the vice president of Pennsylvania’s State Public School Building and Higher Education Facilities Authorities’ board of directors. In 2011, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review named him one of the 10 most capable state lawmakers. A strong proponent of veteran services, Bear has hosted the annual Salute to Veterans weekend at Clipper Magazine Stadium along with local sponsors. His talk to student veterans will include sharing ways his offices can assist veterans in seeking and obtaining services, such as the Post-9/11GI Bill. He will also discuss strategies for graduating college. A lifelong resident of Lancaster County, Bear holds a bachelor’s degree from Temple University and a master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania with additional educational training from Georgetown University and George Mason University. Bear’s presentation is sponsored by the William A. Dinges ’65 Endowed Veterans Scholarship at Millersville University.