



3/28/17

Veterans Cannabis Conference Calls

CONFERENCE CALL AGENDA AND SCHEDULE

- National and Global Veterans Cannabis Topics
 - Scheduled calls are on the last Tuesday of each month at 6pm PST.
 - **First call scheduled for Tuesday, 3/28/17 @ 6pm PST**
- Organizing Additional VCG Posts in CA and Other States
 - Scheduled calls are on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm PST
 - CA is home base for the Veterans Cannabis Group. Our intent is to help organize the veterans in CA and across the nation so that we may all function as one group and work together to accomplish our mutual goals. We, the veteran community, need strong leaders to create additional VCG Posts nationwide and welcome those veterans who are interested.
 - First call scheduled for Tuesday, 4/11/17 @ 6pm PST
- Introduction of the speaking members;
 - Aaron Augustis - Founder of the Veterans Cannabis Group and US Army Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, <http://veteranscannabisgroup.com/#founder>
 - Michael Krawitz - A disabled United States Air Force Veteran, Michael Krawitz served from 1981 to 1986 and was injured in an accident in Guam that was deemed "in the line of duty" although not in any way combat related.

Mr. Krawitz had 13 surgeries to put him back together including some done in the Air Force and some done by the Department of Veterans Affairs. His job title in the Air Force was Electronic Warfare Systems Technician.

In Guam he worked on avionics equipment onboard B-52's. Since his disability - separation he attended college at Virginia Tech and although attaining a 4.0 grade point average in his Junior year of Computer Engineering he had to leave college because of his medical disability.

Since leaving college Mr. Krawitz tried to use his time well as an advocate and in 1997 he was part of a small team of activists that protected Virginia's longstanding medical marijuana law from being repealed. In 1998 he was able to be part of a United Nations drug summit. He gave testimony and presented information inside the UN General Assembly Hall on the basic right to access required medicine. In 1999 Mr. Krawitz presented testimony to the National Academy of Science, Institute of Medicine and his story and that of a patient he advocated for were both chosen as reference patient stories and published in the reports written.

Since 1999 Mr Krawitz has been a leader in this international field of NGO drug policy work and was a key player in the Beyond 2008 UN NGO drug summit and was responsible for submitting the grants and the arrangements for the bulk of the US drug policy reform leadership to attend and participate in the summit which can be viewed on this website:

<http://www.vngoc.org>

Mr Krawitz was responsible for a bill being submitted to Virginia's Legislature in 2009, and another in 2012, reforming Virginia's long standing medical marijuana law.

In 2010 Mr Krawitz's decade long fight inside the VA for adequate access to pain management paid off with his negotiating the first ever, and favorable, medical cannabis policy within the VA.

News about the Policy:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/24/health/policy/24veterans.html?pagewanted=all>

The Policy:

http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=2362

Mr. Krawitz has done many TV, radio and print media interviews in his advocacy work including a spot on NBC network news just after the release of the landmark Institute of Medicine [IOM] medical marijuana report and another on FOX network news just after the the new VA medical cannabis policy directive went into effect.

Mr. Krawitz is on the board of advisers of Patients Out of Time, a leading medical cannabis patient advocacy organization offering continuing medical education credits to medical professionals and has the job of running all aspects of Veterans For Medical Cannabis Access.

Michael Krawitz
Sergeant, disabled-retired USAF
Executive Director VMCA
<http://www.veteransformedicalcannabis.org/>

- Veterans Equal Access Amendment
 - Definition of amendment and the significance of needing it to pass this year. **“Language that would have allowed Veterans Administration doctors to recommend medical marijuana to patients has been stripped from a spending bill.”** <http://www.benefitspro.com/2016/10/04/congress-still-denies-vets-access-to-medical-marij>
 - Action Plan - contact members of the Veterans House Oversight Committee
 - Objective - We want them to co-sponsor the Veterans Equal Access Amendment

- Inform veterans of the VA policy Michael Krawitz help create so veterans using medical cannabis in states with medical marijuana programs cannot lose their VHA benefits and services. (insert link and have on website with audio link from the recorded call)
 - **Michael, can you please explain what exactly this policy does for veterans?**
- Discuss steps veterans should follow on VA treatment and documentation in regards to cannabis if threatened or “punished” by your doctor;
 - Veteran - release of information, get a copy of your medical file
 - Get the doctor to write it out. Demand a written copy of the rules
 - “It is unethical to be threatened to take away your medication”
- Discuss Michael’s trip to the UN and his upcoming trip to CA.
- Questions from the Field:
 - On Tue, Mar 14, 2017 at 2:34 PM, < wrote: Aaron, My brother is a Vietnam Vet, and he now has Parkinson's. Do you know of anyone who has been helped with its symptoms by cannabis?
 - <http://www.parkinson.org/understanding-parkinsons/treatment/complementary-treatment/medical-marijuana-and-parkinsons-disease>
- Conclude with;
 - **420 Games; April 1st, Santa Monica, CA and in San Francisco on August 26th**
 - <https://420gameslosangeles.eventbrite.com?discount=veterans420>
 - **Link above is for free tickets for Veterans for the Santa Monica 420 Games**
 - next meeting date/time and topic - Advocacy Action Steps, Organizing new Posts, networking with your local cannabis businesses and how to create partnerships
 - Bi-monthly meeting for CA veterans
 - Last Thursday of each month is National update from Veterans Cannabis Caucus hosted by the VCG
 - Direct listeners to visit the VCG website and join our contact list
 - Resources:
 - [Americans For Safe Access - State of State Report 2017](#)
 - [California Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation](#)