

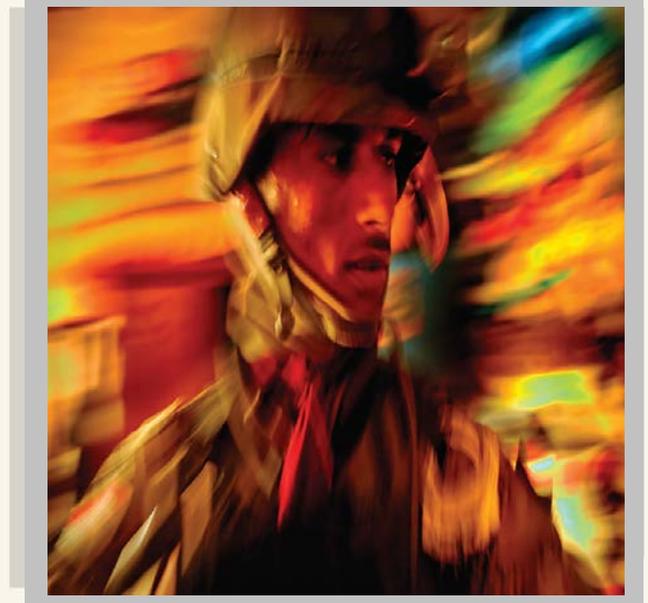
## **HICKORY MUSEUM OF ART TO HOST “COMBAT FROM BEHIND THE CAMERA”**

The Hickory Museum of Art will host the Veterans Portrait Project. The founder and photographer, Stacy Pearsall will be on hand to present her talk “Combat from the Behind the Camera”.

Pearsall’s presentation draws upon the hardships she faced as a woman and a photographer while in combat. She’s documented some of the most dangerous battles of our time, has been wounded in combat and lived to tell her story. She also tells the story of the soldiers she’s documented, as well as her own tale of friendships made and tragically lost.

During three combat tours, she earned the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Force Commendation with Valor for combat actions in Iraq. Though combat-disabled and retired from the military service, she continues to work worldwide as an independent photographer, and is an author, educator, military consultant and public speaker and founder of the Veterans Portrait Project.

The award-winning series Veterans Portrait Project began while Pearsall rehabilitated from combat injuries sustained in Iraq. Spending hours in VA waiting rooms surrounded by Veterans from every generation and branch of service, Pearsall was compelled to honor and



Thank them in the only way she knows how, photography. She’s traveled coast to coast with the VPP and has documented roughly 5000 Veterans in more than 100 engagements.

Between her photography, teaching and speaking engagements, Pearsall completed her first photography book, Shooter: Combat from Behind the Camera, which received world wide praise.

This event will take place on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the SALT Block Auditorium at 243 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE, Hickory. Admission is free and is open to the public. This program is presented by the Catawba Valley Camera Club and the Hickory Museum of Art. You can visit [www.HickoryArt.org](http://www.HickoryArt.org) or call 828-327-8576 for more information.

APRIL 2016

## APPEALS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is an appeal?

- An appeal is a request for the Board of Veteran's Appeals to review a local VA office's decision on your claim.

Why would I appeal?

- You appeal because you are not satisfied with the decision by the local VA office.

What is the Board of Veterans Appeals?

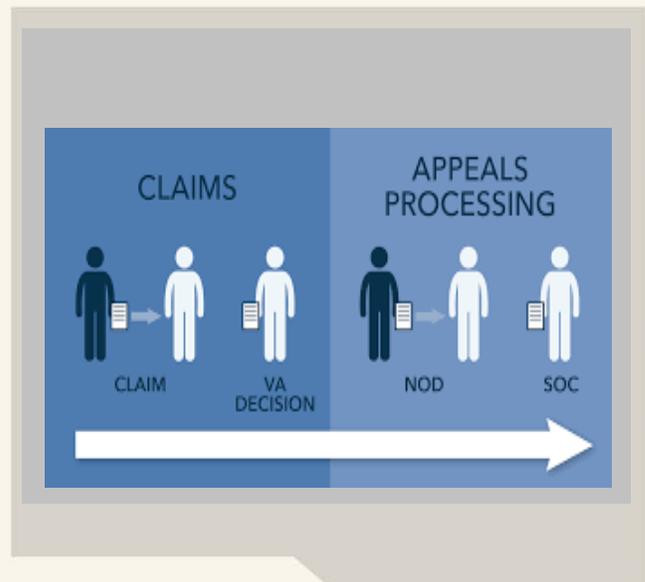
- The Board of Veterans Appeals (also known as the BVA) is a part of the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is located in Washington D.C. Members of the Board review appeals for VA benefits and makes decisions on those appeals.

What is a Notice of Disagreement?

- If you disagree with a rating decision, you can complete a Notice of Disagreement form. This form goes to the local VA Regional office. This is the first step of the appeal process.

What is a Statement of Case?

- The SOC is a detailed explanation of the evidence, laws, and regulations used by the local VA office in deciding your claim.



### Average Days Pending for Appeals in Winston Salem

NODS Pending: 6961  
NODs ADP: 244.5 days

Form 9s Pending: 1250  
Form 9s ADP: 167.4 days

Remand Pending: 988  
Remand ADP: 354.7 days

Overall Appeals Pending: 9199  
Overall Appeals ADP: 245.7 days



## ***Foothills Veterans Stand Down***

The annual Foothills Veterans Stand Down will be held on April 29, 2016 at the American Legion Fairgrounds, at 1127 US Hwy 70 W, Hickory, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Services offered will include medical services, dental care, food, clothing, education, tax assistance, employment counseling, eye care, haircuts, shoes, community resources, outdoor supplies, pastoral counseling and fellowship.

For more information please call Ric Vandett at 828-302-0293 or Larry McMullen at 828-320-2842, or visit [www.foothillsstanddown.com](http://www.foothillsstanddown.com).

### ***Reminder***

- If you have ideas for a topic or something you would like to know more about to put in the newsletter please let me know. Email me at [ctravis@catawbacountyn.c.gov](mailto:ctravis@catawbacountyn.c.gov) or call me 828-465-8255 and I will try and get it in the next newsletter.