Major Topic Symposia:

- FAITH JOURNEYS of VETERANS & MILITARY PERSONNEL
- PSYCHOLOGICAL,
- SOCIAL &
- SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
Speakers:

- Ron Morton,
  - M.S., Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist
  - Episcopal Priest
  - Veteran
  - Native American
  - Director Recovery and Resiliency BlueCare/TennCare Select
  - NAMI Knoxville, TN
  - NAMI National Board of Directors
Speakers:

- **Cliff McGlotten, LCSW,**
  - MSGT US Army RET
  - Ex Officio NAMI TX Vet Liaison to Veterans Council
  - President NAMI San Antonio, TX;
Speakers:

• PETER BAUER
• LCSW-S, LMFT-S, LCDC, ACSW, BCD
• Department Of Veterans Affairs, TX
• Adjunct Professor, Dept. Social Work, U. of Texas, San Antonio
Moral Injury: The Psychological And Spiritual Injuries that Occur Due To War Ands/Or Violence

Rev. Peter E. Bauer
Cliff McGlotten
Ron Morton
Moral Injury Definition And Statistics

- Moral Injury is any action that a person commits that violates their sense of moral, religious, ethical, understanding of what it means to be human.
- Moral Injury results in an injury to the soul, i.e. a soul wound
Moral Injury Statistics

- Current numbers of Global war On Terrorism (GWOT)
- 2.8 million deployments
- 48 million children effected by deployments of service-member parents
- 22 million veterans
- Data from recent White House Conference with Dr. Jill Biden
- 0.5 percent of the population have served in the military. (Dr. Nancy Sherman VACO presentation Washington, D.C. 04/14/2016)
Moral Injury: History

- Moral Injury goes way back
- Referenced by Bishop Butler London Wells Chapel, 17th Century
- Other references Fifth Century BCE Greece
- Sophocles, Playwright, Philosopher, General
- Ajax, Theatre of war, themes addressed in play
  - psychological anguish
  - holding to account
- Shame (Idea) literally exposure of genitalia “without my fig leaf”
- Need for patient gratitude, General Jim Dubek, Georgetown University says
  - “that officers who are facing redeployments repeatedly face a lot of disillusionment”
- Moral Anguish
Moral Injury Research

• Dr. Nancy Sherman, Professor, Georgetown University Washington, D.C. Author of “After War”, philosopher

• Stoicism-armor that it used by some Veterans and serviced members to handle Moral Injury “that’s just the way it is, some things will never change. “ (Bruce Hornsby )

• Dr. Nancy Sherman suggests that after awhile Stoicism outlives its utility in a combat environment concerning Moral Injury.
Moral Injury Research

• Jonathan Shay MD, Ph.D
• (1997) “Achilles In Vietnam”
• (2005) “ War And The Soul “ Dr. Ed Tick
• (2013) “ Soul Repair: Recovering From Moral injury After War” Dr. Rita Nakashima-Brock and Dr. Gabriella Lettini, Soul Repair Center, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX
Moral Injury Research

- (2014) The Warrior’s Return: Restoring The Soul After War
- Dr. Kent Drescher Ph. D and Presbyterian Minister M. Div, National Center For PTSD Palo Alto, Ca and The Pathways Center, Researcher
- (2013) Dr. William Nash, Combat Stress Program, US Marine Corps; Dr. Brett Litz, VA Outpatient Program Boston, Ma, research study on Moral injury
- Impact Of Killing In War (six session Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention)
- Adaptive Disclosure (eight session Exposure-Based Therapy Intervention)
Moral Injury Research

Psychodynamic Influence
Dr. Robert Stolorow Ph.D
(2007) “Trauma And Human Existence”
“The Others “ and the “ Normals “
“let the Others Be the Others. “
Russell Bryant Carr MD
(2011) “Combat And Human Existence “ article
Psychoanalytic Psychology
International Journal Of Psychoanalytic Self-Psychology
Russell Carr’s stages of treatment for Moral Injury

• 1. Initial Consultation and consent to treatment
• 2. Addressing shame
• 3. Sessions Addressing Phenomenology Of Trauma
• 4. Seek Intersubjective Key With Patient
• 5. Finding a Provisional Relational Home
• 6. Moving On
Moral Injury Stand Alone Phenomena

• Moral Injury can present as a stand-alone phenomena. One can experience a wound to the soul and not experience a mental health disorder.

• However, with combat and/or with other violence phenomena, Moral injury can co-present with Post-Traumatic Disorder, Depression, Anxiety, Bi-Polar Disorder, etc.
Moral Injury Example

• Jeff Hall (18) Combat Engineer, Counter-Insurgency (2005)

• Clean dead bodies out of Iraqi family vehicle, remuneration process to family, amount was only $750. Dollars. The Soldier Hall arranged for the family to get a car at his own expense.

• Four months later the death certificates arrived for the dead civilian Iraqi family members, they were stamped in red ink “Enemy combatants”

• This created Moral Injury for Hall.
Moral Injury Recovery

• Need for self-empathy.
• You cannot be one stop shop intelligence analyst, you can’t exhibit oversized liability. Another way to view this is proportional responsibility (Nash, Litz 2013)
• Example of Soldier who picked up body parts in black garbage bags. Later same young Soldier ended up living at a retirement home for retired Soldiers, developed a sense of aspirational hope being someone who could give assistance to these older female veterans.
Moral Injury Interventions

- Religious worship experiences
- Sacred literature group studies
- Prayer experiences, monastic retreats
- Soldier’s Heart group pilgrimages to Vietnam, Greece, Turkey, visiting battlefields, doing reparative work
- Truth Circle Gatherings i.e. Veterans Heart Georgia, Decatur, Ga
- Religious ritual experiences like walking a Labyrinth Share Program, Shepherd Center Atlanta, Ga Rev. Alan Roof and the Cathedral Of St. Phillip Atlanta, Ga.
- Native American Spirituality