

Veterans Honor Sister

S. Kateri Maureen Koverman was honored with the Gold Medal of Merit award and citation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States March 6 in Washington, D.C. The award is presented to individuals in recognition of exceptional service rendered to their country, community and humankind on a national or international level. S. Kateri Maureen was recognized for her commitment to the psychological and emotional care of military personnel and veterans battling post traumatic stress disorder and for the establishment of Them Bones Veteran Community, Cincinnati.

S. Kateri has been an individual and group psychotherapist with combat veterans for 13 years. She was a consultant with refugees and persons traumatized by war/conflict for periods ranging from six weeks to a year in Sierra Leone, Thailand, Zambia and Armenia. During times of war she worked in El Salvador, Ethiopia and Vietnam, where she assisted in the coordination of the orphan airlift for Catholic Relief Services before the fall of Saigon in April 1975.

S. Kateri accompanied veterans on return trips to Vietnam in 1992 and 2001.



S. Kateri Maureen Koverman

In 2001 S. Kateri established Them Bones Veteran Community in Norwood, Cincinnati. The name comes from the Bible Old Testament book of the prophet Ezekiel 37:1-14. God asked the prophet to go out to a field full of dry bones. God asked, "Son of man, can these bones come to life?" As the story proceeds we read, "I will put spirit in you that you may come to life ... From the four winds, come, O spirit, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life ... I heard a noise; it was a rattling as the bones came together, bone joining bone ... the spirit came into them; they came alive and stood upright, a vast new army."

Programs and services include individual and couple psychotherapy sessions, 12-Steps for War Trauma Group Recovery, support groups for spouses of veterans, three-week Psycho-Educational Group on Panic Attacks, Psycho-Educational Trauma Groups for veterans within local jails, and outreach educational sessions for civic groups who want to understand the immediate and long-term effects of post-traumatic stress on veterans, their family and their community.