

VOLUME 40 | NUMBER 4 | FALL 2021

# THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted

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**THE VOICE is the flagship publication of TREA: The Enlisted Association, located at 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250 Centennial, CO 80112**

*Views expressed in the magazine, and the appearance of advertisements, do not necessarily reflect the opinions of TREA or its Board of Directors, and do not imply endorsement. The magazine (ISSN 1527-0467) is published quarterly by TREA, a nonprofit organization.*

### Magazine Staff

The magazine staff can be reached by email at editor@trea.org. Editor-in-Chief, Debbie Osborne  
Creative Director/Graphic Designer, Gabriela Schechter.

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Please send all written communication to TREA Headquarters at 12200 E Briarwood Ave, Suite 250  
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### Submissions

The VOICE accepts articles and photographs on a continual basis, but does not pay for submissions. Please send all articles and photos via email to editor@trea.org or by mail to 12200 E. Briarwood Ave., Ste 250, Centennial, CO 80112. There is no guarantee that any submission will be published. Photos must be high quality in order to be printed in the magazine. Low quality photos will not be printed.

### Deadlines

For copy and photos (with captions, please) the deadline is the 15th day, two months prior to magazine release. Next deadline is Dec 15th, 2021.

### Advertising

By their appearance, ads must not imply or infer any kind of TREA representation, warranty, or endorsement. For ad rates and a media kit, please email us at editor@trea.org or call 303-752-0660. Postmaster (address change) Please send address changes to The VOICE, 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250 Centennial, CO 80112 or by email to treahq@trea.org. Periodicals postage paid at Englewood, CO and other mailing offices.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Justin Jump, National President



It is a moment of great privilege and pleasure that I start this last year in office as your National President by providing a little insight of the many accomplishments that this last year has afforded our association. For instance, our business meeting held in San Diego was one of great success where we had members from across the country in attendance, in person and video conferencing. In addition, I would like to provide insight on what the future holds for The Enlisted Association and being a member of such an outstanding veteran's organization.

First, a renewed focus on legislative efforts and centralized communication to such efforts. TREA has been quoted in at least 28 press releases and by numerous Congressmen and Senators, since January 2021. We have accomplished many feats, being first on the ground for passing of the PAWS ACT and continuing the efforts in Congress with Toxic Exposure Legislation. TREA continues to be front and center on the issue of Military/Veterans Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and PTSD. We continue to remain hard at work securing co-sponsors for Concurrent Receipt (VA Disability /DOD Retirement Pay Offset), and hope to see successful passage of HR 1282, The Major Richard Star Act this year.

Second, the TREA GIVES program and its successful launch with providing support for over 100 veterans/active duty at a value of \$75,000 for the 2021 calendar year. This program directly gives the much needed support within twenty-four hours turn around. Getting relief to where it is needed at a moment's notice. More programs and more ways to help will come in 2022.

Third, I would thank the National Auxiliary President and the Auxiliary Board of Directors for working with TREA to sign a new affiliation agreement that is beneficial to both parties. We look forward to this renewed relationship.

The last item that I want to mention is the Holiday Program, an integral part of the TREA GIVES program. This program is a much needed, and deserved, morale boost for our wounded/deployed service members, as it is a gesture of thanks and gratitude for their own and their family's service and sacrifice. TREA GIVES provides gifts, clothing, and food during the holiday season to 100 military families across the country.

As a national organization, we have accomplished many tasks and established framework for the continued success of The Enlisted Association for the foreseeable future. Please continue to support these efforts.

In ending this message, I want to wish every TREA member and all enlisted servicemembers who served, past and present, a safe, happy and healthy Holiday Season!

UNITED WE STAND

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin G. Jump".

Justin G. Jump  
National President

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Garry Turks, National Director & Chaplain

God's beauty is everywhere – we just have to allow ourselves to see it. We are so busy and lead such rushed and hurried lives that we sometimes fail to see all of God's blessings and beauty that are among us every day. Granted, it is easy to recognize beauty in grandeur things like the mountains, the ocean, and a beautiful sunset – but there is so much more, and we are missing it. The happy sound of laughter, a smile on an old man's face, the innocence of a newborn child, the



hope and dreams of a wedding, the comfort and memories of friends gathering – all of these things are beautiful and a part of God's orchestrated plan to help us travel through the journey of our own lives. Slow down; take a minute to enjoy the moment and to allow yourself to be absorbed in the beauty of everyday – and everyone in it. Do not be in such a rush to get through this journey – enjoy it, be a part of it, contribute greatly to it and when it is over, look back and know that it was good.

“He fills my life with good things.” (Psalms 103:5)

## URGENT MESSAGE: DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

### 2022 Annual Membership Meeting, San Antonio - Update

One of the responsibilities of the National Board is to plan appropriately for the foreseeable future of the TREA Enterprise. This means taking into account its financial standing as well as the financial feasibility of planned membership activities. While no one has a crystal ball nor can we tell with certainty future financials, as President, it would not be ethically responsible not to take precautions to mitigate monetary loss.

Keeping this in mind, our National Board of Directors met to discuss the possible financial obligation of the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for San Antonio. After hours of discussion, and the realization that TREA is standing at an operational net loss, due to low fundraising and membership renewal income, and with the concern over a potential stock market loss, the board voted to hold the 2022 Membership meeting virtually.

TREA's current Bylaws & Standing Rules allow for virtual membership meetings and the result will be a cost savings of over \$10K. We thank you for your continued support in making TREA: The Enlisted Association the paramount organization supporting ALL ENLISTED!!

**UNITED WE STAND**

NP Jump

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## TREA GIVES – OUR NEW BENEVOLENT PROGRAM

Deb Oelschig, National 1st Vice



I am so excited to be the driving force behind this program and the good that it is doing and the plans that we have for the future. It is important that we understand and recognize the societal shift that is moving away from member-based organizations and more towards entities that provide a service or support for others. As veterans, we all understand and respect that we have to take care of each other. From the battlefields of the first war, through the shifts and changes of every branch of the service, down through today – those who served/serve are family; and family take care of each other. Years may have passed and the military may not resemble what it did all those years ago, but there are men and women who bravely served and fought for our country and your freedom and these great ‘soldiers’ should not and cannot be forgotten. For many, the military was a way of life – a lifelong dedication. For some it was a stepping-stone to something else, for some it was the end of life as they knew it. Wounds and scars, both seen and

unseen have wreaked havoc on and changed the course of life for many, many servicemembers and their families. Those that have come through their service time with great stories and memories and the ability to lead a normal, productive life are the lucky ones. Not all are so lucky and that is why we created this program. It was created out of the desire to help our brothers and sisters in arms - without judgement. We served together, now we need to help together.

Now that I have shared a little bit about how and why we started the TREA GIVES program, let me tell you what it does. It is not as simple as it sounds; as this program is multi-faceted in that it provides support for a multitude of needs.

First, we provide financial assistance. This does not mean that we are set up to keep someone in the lap of luxury, what we do is provide funds for those truly experiencing an emergency financial situation. This includes rent, utilities, clothing, food and emergency travel and shelter. Let me tell you about a few veterans (and their families) that we have helped so far under this category. There was a husband/wife family, both veterans. The wife’s sister passed unexpectedly and she was unable to afford the trip back east to attend the funeral. She could not leave her husband, as she was his caregiver. Airfare and hotel for the two of them was not something that was budgeted for. We were able to provide the resources for two airline tickets that enabled them to fly back to the East Coast to be with family and to attend the services for her sister. Another example is a veteran and his wife, who were doing well, and then thanks to COVID, their adult daughter lost her job and overnight she moved in with her two children. These two veterans, who had no need to seek financial assistance previously, were now faced with additional expenses that they could not manage. We were able to pay their rent for two months, allowing them the breathing space that they needed to formulate a plan on how they were going to manage moving forward. The last story that I want to share, was shared in the Summer issue of The VOICE magazine. It was about a young active duty soldier who was PCSing with his family cross-country to his new duty station when his moving van, with all the family belongings was stolen. Can you imagine the emotional stress, not to mention the complete financial devastation, of having to replace everything that you own? We were there immediately with funds to help them rebuild, from the ground up. It was as much as a blessing to us as it was to the soldier and his family.

We have learned through this program that even the best made plans can be thrown off course through no personal fault, and the end results can be devastating. This is never more true than the last two years has shown us with COVID. Enlisted families are more vulnerable as they are usually forced to make ends meet with fewer resources than their civilian counterparts do. This is where we, TREA: The Enlisted Association can really make a difference and give a veteran/family a chance. Please consider donating to this program.



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## WASHINGTON UPDATE

Bill McCabe, Director of Legislative Affairs and Communications

As this is the last issue of The VOICE magazine for this year, I wanted to take the opportunity to review the many interactions with the U.S. Congress, the White House, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Defense Health Agency, and the Veterans Service Organization (VSO) community, where TREA remained out front in our legislative efforts for servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

### CEREMONIAL EVENTS

This year, TREA has been involved in many great legislative and ceremonial efforts in Washington, both virtually and in-person for the first time in over a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Events included the 2021 Memorial Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, where TREA's National President, Justin Jump, was able to represent TREA before President Biden, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, and members of the Veteran and Military Service Organization community. In addition, President Jump was proud to participate in another in-person ceremony commemorating the 73rd Anniversary of the Women's Armed Service Integration Act. He joined President CW5 Phyllis Wilson, OptumServe CEO and 43rd United States Army Surgeon General LTG Patricia Horoho, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Support with the Veterans Health Administration Ms. Deborah Kramer, and Congresswoman Julia Brownley.

### OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

While still in process, Washington has begun to settle in, to include many official appointments in the Biden Administration and new leadership in the U.S. Congress. Most notably, TREA has welcomed and held meetings with Mr. Denis McDonough as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Senators Jon Tester and Jerry Moran as Chairman and Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, and Congressmen Mark Takano and Mike Bost as Chairman and Ranking Members of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. In addition, TREA recently met with the Veterans Health Administration's Acting Undersecretary, Dr. Steven Lieberman.

### U.S. CONGRESS LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In addition to analyzing sensitive issues, providing documentation for decisions and developing position papers on critical issues, TREA successfully secured several legislative and regulatory wins in a short time frame. Through our efforts, TREA has attended numerous virtual House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Armed Services Committee hearings and participated in meetings and phone calls with Committee officials and their staff on issues of importance to veterans, active-duty servicemembers and retirees. We have also identified provisions on Agent Orange in the NDAA and lobbied all 435 members of the U.S. House and all 100 members of the U.S. Senate on issues of importance to TREA. As such, TREA has been able to maintain strong relationships within VA, DoD, as well as both Committees on the Hill and has secured several legislative accomplishments we are proud to report to you.

### Toxic Exposures, Burn Pits, and Agent Orange

TREA continues to be a leading advocate on Toxic Exposures related legislation and was at the forefront during the historic introduction of two consequential healthcare bills in both the House and Senate. In the Senate, The Cost of War Act was introduced, with TREA shown as a lead advocate on the hill by Chairman Jon Tester's office. In addition, TREA has supported the introduction of The PACT Act in the U.S. House, which incorporates similar provisions as its Senate counterpart that TREA has worked on with the Toxic Exposures in the American Military (TEAM) Coalition for nearly two years. More on the bill below.

# COMMEMORATE THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

A portion of the proceeds from each sale will be donated to support families of wounded veterans, POWs, and service members reported missing in action.



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requires 2 "AA" batteries (not included)

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On December 7th, 1941, the U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japanese warplanes. Four battleships sunk and eight were damaged, 188 planes were destroyed, and 2,403 Americans were killed — and almost half of those casualties occurred on the USS *Arizona*, which was hit four times by bombers and sank. The USS *Arizona* Memorial, in Hawaii, was created to remember the historic event, devastating tragedy, and brave U.S. service members. Now a new sculpture commemorates the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pearl Harbor and honors the memorial. The hand-cast, intricately detailed sculpture recalls the original memorial's unique design, illuminates with seven LED lights, and boasts a fabric American flag. The base features a hand-enameled medallion with a raised-relief USS *Arizona* and inspiring words from President Roosevelt. At 15 inches long, this commemorative is stunning.

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## WASHINGTON UPDATE (CONT.)

Bill McCabe, Director of Legislative Affairs and Communications

### **Concurrent Receipt (Fixing VA Disability Pay + DOD Retirement Pay Offset)**

H.R. 1282 / S. 344, The Major Richard Star Act: TREA is proud to report that both H.R. 1282 and S. 344 were successfully re-introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate. Since then, TREA has been hard at work securing cosponsors in both chambers to ensure successful passage this year, with over 50 cosponsors in the Senate, and 110 cosponsors in the House. As you may know, this bipartisan legislation would finally provide combat injured veterans that were forced to medically retire with less than 20 years of military service their full benefits, meaning they would receive both their earned DoD Retirement Pay, and their earned VA Disability Pay, with no offset. This legislation is a very positive step in correcting the larger concurrent receipt issue.

### **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**

H.R. 1448 / S. 613, The PAWS For Veterans Therapy Act: Since the bills were introduced earlier this year, TREA was a leading advocate on successfully passing and signing the PAWS Act into law, which was made official in August. This legislation is a big win for veterans who are suffering from the invisible wounds of war who wish to seek scientifically proven alternatives of treatments, such as for PTSD, at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Here is a quote from TREA that was published in several press releases and media outlets in celebration of the bill: “Now more than ever, veterans suffering from invisible wounds of war need access to trained service dogs which have been scientifically proven to help alleviate symptoms of post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injuries, and military sexual trauma” said Bill McCabe, Director of Legislative Affairs at The Enlisted Association. “We thank President Biden and Members of the House and Senate for recognizing veterans need every possible option when seeking mental health treatments, and look forward to working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement this important program.”

S. 1467, The VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2021 – In order to diversify our efforts, TREA has officially supported research to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a series of clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder. TREA strongly supports alternative treatment options to augment traditional methods, giving veterans every option possible when confronting the debilitating effects of PTSD and injuries from their military service.

### **Military Families**

S. 781, The Elaine M. Checketts Military Families Act: On April 21st, TREA sent an official letter of support and press release endorsement to Chairmen Jack Reed and Adam Smith, and Ranking Members Jim Inhofe and Mike Rogers of the U.S. House and Senate Armed Services Committees requesting that S. 781 be included in the FY22 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Using my connection with their offices, I was able to get TREA's National President Justin Jump quoted in their press release. To read our letter of support and learn more about the bill from our press release, you may view it on our website under the legislative tab, in our e-newsletter, or on our social media platforms.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

TREA now has a very robust and proactive communications system comprised of social media accounts, e-newsletters, press releases, and of course, The VOICE.

## WASHINGTON UPDATE (CONT.)

Bill McCabe, Director of Legislative Affairs and Communications

In order to keep TREA in the spotlight, TREA has successfully secured mentions of our efforts in 29 press releases from 7 different U.S. Senators and 5 U.S. Congressmen in 2021. In addition to conventional methods, TREA's social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn have increased exponentially. Utilizing these platforms, TREA is able to engage Members of Congress, reporters, celebrities, and other veteran and military service organizations in a more modern way, securing direct mentions of our organization and amplifying TREA's legislative efforts in Washington.

Finally, TREA has recently sent out 8 Call to Action requests to our members in effort to augment our legislative efforts in Washington. These efforts are critically important to ensure Congress feels the pressure and hears directly from you, as TREA members. These requests included support for the Major Richard Star Act, the PAWS Act, the Toxic Exposures in the American Military Act, and on behalf of Agent Orange presumptive conditions in the NDAA. When these requests hit your inbox, please consider replying and sending your tailored message to your respective representatives. Your voice matters!

We hope you all find this information helpful and comprehensive as to all the ways that TREA is working for and supporting enlisting service members in Washington. Those who served yesterday, those serving today, and those who will serve tomorrow.

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## TREA GIVES – OUR NEW BENEVOLENT PROGRAM (CONT.)

Deb Oelschig, National 1st Vice

Second, we have now made the promise of partnering with a national, VA approved service dog program to sponsor a veteran/dog team. We will research and select a different program every year and provide the financial support that will cover all the costs of training the dog AND the veteran/military member. This is a \$20K commitment every year and we could certainly use some recurring donations to help us budget for this much needed and very successful partnership.

Last, but absolutely not least is our Holiday Program. This program is not based on financial need. This is a thank you for a veteran/active duty soldier to acknowledge their service and thank them for the sacrifices that they and their families make for us every day. We collaborate with Soldiers Angels (a veteran resource organization) who provide us with the names of wounded or deployed service-members. After making personal contact, we shop, wrap and ship clothing, gifts and other household necessities to the families. We also send grocery cards so that we can ensure that the family will have a nice holiday meal. We are adopting 150 families this year. This is a huge undertaking and we could certainly put your donation to good use.

If any of these programs appeal to you, please reach out to us today with your tax-deductible donation. You can specify which program you want your donation to go to, or you can simply state TREA GIVES, and we will put it to excellent use in one of, or a combination of all the programs. Contact us today – 303-752-0660, or [treaHQ@trea.org](mailto:treaHQ@trea.org)

# AUXILIARY

## A MESSAGE FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Barb Coley



Greetings members, and welcome to another edition of the Voice! Hoping to find our members across the country are indeed safe and sound. I can't believe our TREA National Auxiliary Board of Directors (BOD,) has just completed our first year of my Presidency. Please tell me where has the time gone? Before you know it, we will welcome the year 2022. I would like to say to my BOD welcome back! Our TREA National Auxiliary Annual Membership Meeting was held in-person and via Zoom Teleconferencing, on September 23 & 24, 2021, at The Enlisted Association facility for Chapter 1, Colorado Springs, CO. The reason we chose this area was because this is where TREA first started, and this beautiful State has the most members. Basically, I was trying to get activity going again. A lot of the Local Chapters had not been meeting regularly because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This meeting was a time of taking care of business, renewing our friendships, and hoping to recruit new members. I truly believe this meeting was a success and I received a lot of positive feedback from the members that attended. First, I would like to say thank you Chapter 1's President and team, for hosting our event. And a big thank you to those that took the time out of their schedule to attend.

During our first year, we were faced with a lot of changes and challenges, but considering that, we were able to persevere and move through them. One of the most important things that was accomplished this year was that I and along with TREA National President, Justin Jump, signed a revised Affiliation Agreement. This Affiliation Agreement will be renewed every 5 years and should bring both sides to an amicable agreement.

We had lots of discussions at our meeting this year. One of the things that stood out was the subject of the voting system. As you all are aware of the changes that have been put in place by National TREA. The way their voting was changed was the implementation in the Bylaws and Standing Rules as in Article X, Section 3-5/Membership Sessions. This change gives all TREA members the ability to vote in person, by mail or by an internet voting system which eliminates the need for Chapter Delegates and Proxies. I would like to recommend the Auxiliary discontinue voting with Delegates and Proxies too. I also discussed this with the members present, and they were in favor of doing this. I do know that last year, 2020, and this year 2021, all TREA Local Auxiliary members and MALs voted by mail. Voting members have a vote and say in the election and other voting matters. Our Auxiliary has not adopted this procedure, but they are looking into this and hopefully to get this approved by our BOD to present to our members for a final vote to be put in place starting in 2023.

We received \$2,400.00 in scholarship donations at our meeting from some of the Local Chapter members attending. For the ones that did not attend, and you would like to give a donation, please send your donations to our Treasurer, Betty Love, 828 Hannibal Drive, Aurora, CO, 80011

I am encouraging chapters to continue with recruitment of members. Please reach out to potential members throughout your community that might be eligible to join the Auxiliary. The benefit of joining the Auxiliary is not what they will get out of it, but what they can give to improve the lives of military families. We need their presence. We have many veterans and families in need of various kinds of care and support. We can help others facing difficult times with the help of our WEF/Benevolent Program. The Chairperson is APNP Patricia Winds, and she can be reached at Pmitch2121@gmail.com. I would like to remind you that monetary assistance is available to widows/widowers of military personnel. We help with dental, vision, hearing and some emergency funding. A person must have been a member in good standing in an Auxiliary Chapter for at least one (1) year prior to a request.



As many of you know, we also offer Scholarship Awards. The information will be posted online at [www.TREA.org](http://www.TREA.org), under the National Auxiliary Scholarship Program. This site provides application procedures, the eligibility requirements and the new application will be placed online January 1, 2022. The application will be online until June 1, 2022. Chairperson is Audrey McCray, and she can be reached at [mccraya@aol.com](mailto:mccraya@aol.com).

That is all for right now. You are always welcome to reach out to me with any questions or concerns that you may have. Please email me at [barbcoley@cox.net](mailto:barbcoley@cox.net).  
Until next time,

UNITED WE STAND

Barbara Coley  
TREA National Auxiliary President

## AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER –

Annette S. Harris



Everywhere we turn, or so it seems, the world promises fulfillment, contentment, and happiness. But the contentment the world offers is fleeting and incomplete.

Thankfully, the fulfillment God offers is all-encompassing and everlasting.

Sometimes, amid the inevitable hustle and bustle of daily living, we can lose sight of the real joys of life as we wrestle with the challenges that comfort us. Yet fulfillment is available to people who seek it in proper places and in proper ways.

The thoughts you think, the actions you take, the prayers you pray, and the people you help largely determine your fulfillment.

If you want to find fulfillment, you have to choose happiness on a daily basis... starting now and ending never.

## AUXILIARY 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Chairperson - Vice-President/Scholarship, Audrey McCray

Matthew C. Price	Past National President	\$3,000.00
Lindsey Ward		\$2,700.00
Alecea A. Reggans		\$2,700.00
Paige Leeann Venrick		\$2,700.00
Samantha E. Price		\$2,700.00
Samantha Visciotti		\$2,700.00
Arden McCoy		\$2,700.00



## BYLAWS & STANDING RULES CHANGES

The following proposed changes were reviewed by the Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee, the National Board of Directors and provided to the membership for final vote.

An independent, third-party company (Election America) managed the voting process. Their results, which were reviewed and approved by the Credentials Committee, were presented at the Annual Membership Meeting in San Diego. **ALL PROPOSED CHANGES WERE APPROVED.**

The result of the vote for the Annual Membership Meeting site for 2023 (TREA's 60th Anniversary) was overwhelmingly in favor of Las Vegas over a virtual meeting.

The membership also voting unanimously to approve the FY 2020 Audit as presented.

If you have any questions, or would like more detailed information on any of these changes, please reach out to the Bylaws & Standing Rules Chairman, Walt Coley at: [2ndvice@trea.org](mailto:2ndvice@trea.org).

### WHAT DO THESE CHANGES MEAN TO YOU? IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR THE MAGAZINE

In a nutshell, not much – most of them are internal processes that were just streamlined. The one change that does affect you, as a TREA member is Article XV (Publications). This change will result in approximately \$25K/year in savings by reducing the cost for printing and postage of the VOICE magazine by changing from a printed magazine that was mailed to every member, to an electronic distribution. This does NOT mean that you will not or cannot continue to receive the printed & mailed version. **All you have to do is notify headquarters that you want to continue to receive the printed magazine.** It's that simple.

To make it even easier, we are asking everyone who wishes to continue to receive the printed magazine to send their request to us through [editor@trea.org](mailto:editor@trea.org). This e-mail is marked specifically for the magazine and will ensure that your request does not get lost in the hundreds of operational e-mails that we receive every day. If you have previously sent in a request to stay on the mail list, you DO NOT need to send in another one – we have a complete list of everyone who has communicated with us to continue to receive the printed magazine.

**IMPORTANT – this is your last printed and mailed magazine** (unless you notify us to keep you on the mail list). The next issue, the 2022 Winter issue, scheduled for February will be delivered to the e-mail address that we have on file. It is important that you update this information with us. An electronic version is and will continue to be available on our website.

We are excited about this change and believe that the shift to electronic distribution will provide better service, resources and information to our members. All links will be live and will be easily accessed with the click of the mouse. No more trying (and failing) to type in those LONG web links. A simple click will take you directly to articles, active legislative information, veteran resources, photos and e-mails. It really will make it easier for you to access all the important information that TREA is sharing. We are very active, and successful in our legislative efforts, being quoted in over 29 press releases and legislative articles in this year alone. You will now be able to read all of our successes by clicking on the links provided in the respective articles. No more searching and typing – just a simple click.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME? A LOT, ACTUALLY –

Creating a new program is never easy; especially one that relies on the generosity of others; yet that is exactly what we have done with the TREA GIVES program. We initially asked for 'Founding Friends' to help get us started by contributing \$1,500. We are blessed to have received three of these special donations. The board wanted something more to the name and opted for a change to Flagship Donor, to establish more of a military feel. It fits the program well and we are excited about moving forward with the new name. We have brought in an additional donor, for a total of four. It's not that we are not appreciative of the funds that we have received, but we need so much more. We are slated to give out over \$60K this year alone and we desperately need your support. The Flagship Donor is a lifelong recognition donor who will receive special acknowledgement in every Fall issue of The VOICE magazine, along with a Certificate of Appreciation and a specially created TREA 'Thank You' bag. If being a Flagship Donor is not something you are able to do today, but you still feel compelled to help, we also have the Guardian and the Sentinel donor levels. The Guardian level is for donations of \$1,000 and the Sentinel level is for donations of at least \$500. You can see the four very special Flagship Donors listed on page 17. Please consider adding your name to this very special list. There are so many veterans and servicemembers that need our help, and you will feel good knowing that you made a difference in the lives of one of your own.

To donate online, go to: [www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org) and click on 'Donate to TREA GIVES'

To donate with a check, mail your donation to: TREA GIVES - 12200 E. Briarwood Ave #250 – Centennial, CO 80112

THANK YOU!



## A SIMPLE 'THANK YOU' IS NOT ENOUGH

The following individuals deserve our eternal thanks for their generous donation to the TREA GIVES program. The individuals listed below all earned their place on our special recognition wall. Flagship

Donors (\$1,500+) will be recognized in perpetuity, being listed in every Fall issue of the magazine. Guardian Donors (\$1,000+) and Sentinel Donors (\$500+) will be recognized in the year that they donate. All will receive a special TREA GIVES thank you packet.

These donors are the building blocks of the program. We can't do what we do without them – and saying that, we need more, so please consider becoming a special donor today. Your tax-deductible donation will make a difference.

### **FLAGSHIP DONORS – (donations of \$1,500+)**

Pedro & Emma Sabido  
Rick & Pat Delaney

Doug & Debbie Osborne  
CJ & Christine Johnson

### **GUARDIAN DONOR – (donations of \$1,000+)**

Chapter 80, Texas  
Donald Richardson

Don West

# 2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

San Diego, California  
Let's take a look –  
Denver, Colorado

Debbie Osborne, Executive Director



The smell of the salt ocean air was a constant reminder that the mighty Pacific Ocean was not far away. With the pull of the ocean beckoning them in, the TREA National Board met as a whole to report to the membership the current standing, statistics and direction of TREA: The Retired Enlisted Association (dba: TREA: The Enlisted Association). This meeting was open to all TREA members and attendance was available in person as well as virtually streamed through ZOOM. While COVID certainly played a part in keeping some of our members at home, the enthusiasm and energy from those who attended was contagious and filled the void left by the empty seats of those who could not attend. We were excited to meet 5 first-time attendees who made the trek



*TREA Members (in person and via ZOOM), Board of Directors and Staff meet to review and discuss TREA's plans for the future.*

to beautiful San Diego to attend this event. There was a lot of information shared from committee members, Officers of the Board, National Headquarters and our Washington Legislative liaison. In the effort to engage and invite the members into the process, the Board held an unscripted, off-the-record open session with all attendees – including those who chose to attend virtually. Members were free and open with their questions, comments and suggestions and it was wonderful to have such honest and transparent communications between all. Many notes were taken and the National Board of Directors will be discussing every comment and suggestion that was provided.

The business meeting was thorough yet direct in its presentation of reports, finances and actions. Members were encouraged and given opportunities to ask questions and seek clarification.

One of the best decisions that TREA has made in recent years was opening up the voting process for National Board Members and changes to the Bylaws & Standing Rules to all TREA members in good standing. This provides a more comprehensive and complete democratic process in which all members of TREA can now participate in the future changes and leadership of the organization. It also cuts down on the time needed during the actual business meeting as all voting is accomplished prior to the meeting. Members had the option of voting electronically or by physical mail-in ballots. Both processes were managed, tallied and reported by an independent third-party vendor (Election America). There was no internal access to the voting process, therefore maintaining the highest level of integrity in the results. Since there were no board positions open for this year, the only voting to be done was on the Bylaws & Standing Rules. Please take a moment to review review page 16 for the results of the vote.

The new and efficient way of running the Annual Membership Meeting (AMM), allowed for some free time for the members (and the board and staff) to take in the sights and activities of the beautiful San Diego coast. Many of our members were not able to ignore the pull of the tantalizing cool salty ocean spray and made their way the 3 short blocks to take in the enormity and grandeur of the mighty Pacific Ocean.

Some did the ceremonious ‘foot in the water’ while others staked a place in the sand and enjoyed the warm sun and cool ocean spray. Some members ventured inland to the many offerings of downtown San Diego. The San Diego Zoo was a favorite visiting spot for several members, and Old Town and Little Italy for sure saw their fair share of TREA shirts. The USS Midway was a big draw as was the serene and spectacularly beautiful Rosecrans National Cemetery. I am not sure that any one place was a favorite – all were enjoyed and all were made special by those who visited them - together.

A special President’s Dinner was held on Thursday night in a private ‘secret garden’ alongside the beach. It was, in a simple word, magical. Delicate harp music, shadows from the table lanterns and the sounds of friendships and memories filled the cool night air. A special ‘Memory Table’ honoring the 13 heroes who fell during our exit from Afghanistan provided a profound and somber moment of reflection. For those who have never heard TAPS played from a harp – you truly are missing something special – it was stunning. The night went on to provide the perfect staging for laughter and great conversation.



Entry into the ‘Secret Garden’ for a fabulous President’s Dinner

Friendships were rekindled and strengthened, new ones were planted and a bright future for TREA was seen through the eyes, the hearts, the memories and the vision of everyone who attended this event.

Throughout the two days, I watched and I listened, as I always do – to our leaders, to the members and to the staff and I was once again reminded how blessed TREA really is to have such wonderful, kind, caring people in its midst and how lucky I am to be able to be a part of it all.

### Enjoy the array of candid photos from the event



## Photos from the event (cont.)



**“WE DIDN’T REALIZE WE WERE MAKING MEMORIES, WE JUST THOUGHT WE WERE HAVING FUN.”**

**A.A. MILNE**

## Photos from the event (cont.)



Veterans with hearing loss have a right to communicate using the telephone—as guaranteed under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Clear2Connect Coalition works with the disability and veteran communities to preserve the quality of and access to captioned telephone service.

To learn more, please visit [clear2connect.org](https://clear2connect.org)

CLEAR 2 CONNECT |   

## AND THE WINNERS ARE....

Like everything else these past 18 months, COVID had an effect on our award process, resulting in a very limited number of submissions. Some chapters were forced to temporarily close due to regulatory requirements, making it hard for them to meet the criteria for chapter awards. Members were unable to participate in community events, making it difficult to achieve special recognition status. It is important to note that while this was a difficult year, there were some chapters and some TREA members who shined above the COVID cloud. They rose to the occasion and worked, many times behind the scenes – all for the betterment of TREA as a whole.

**Certificates of Appreciation** are awarded to a person or chapter to show appreciation for their accomplishments at the chapter level. We had nominations from two chapters. From Chapter 1 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, we recognized in person, Ed Cates and Greg Bell. Other Certificate recipients, not present were: Chris Denton, Kelsey Bush, Ray Parnell, Roger DeLosh & Barbara Green. From Chapter 74 in Tacoma, Washington, we are proud to award Paul Chamberlain with a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Chamberlain, who was in attendance via ZOOM was surprised and honored to be recognized.

**Chapter President of the Year Award** is presented to chapter presidents based on the overall accomplishment of their respective chapter for the year. For Large Chapter President, we have Lonny Barrett from Chapter 1 in Colorado Springs. The Small Chapter President of the Year was awarded to Harry Blackwell of Chapter 72 in Pittsburgh, PA. Mr. Blackwell was present via ZOOM and was elated to hear the good news. There was no medium Chapter President of the year submission.

**Chapter of the Year Award** - Chapters are an important part of TREA. We rely on them across the country to help spread the word of the work that we do, the fight that we fight and to help keep our members unified. This award is based on member retention within the chapter, chapter growth, timely submission of TREA reports, chapter newsletters and outstanding accomplishments. There is no doubt that 2020 was a difficult year for many, if not all TREA chapters. We saw several of them close down, and others struggled. But, there was one Chapter that dug deep and came out shining on the other side, this year's Large Chapter of the Year award goes to Chapter 1 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. There were no medium or small Chapter of the Year submissions.

**Chapter Newsletter of the Year award** goes to the chapter who is earnest in their efforts to communicate, engage with and provide information to their chapter members. This information includes chapter events, local happenings and veteran & military resources. The winner of this year's Chapter Newsletter award is, once again, Chapter 1 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The last award presented at our event, was the coveted TREA **Member of the Year** for calendar year 2020. This very special award is for exceptionally meritorious service or achievement on behalf of TREA. This is the first time in TREA history that this award has been presented to a Member-at-Large. This was a huge surprise which resulted in an emotional acceptance by this year's recipient, Mr. Douglas Osborne.

It was an honor and privilege to recognize these exceptional TREA members and chapters for the hard work and effort that they put forth constantly and consistently for the members of TREA, and for TREA as a whole. They deserve our thanks and our gratitude.

## AND THE WINNERS ARE....(CONT.)



*Doug Osborne (MAL) being presented with the TREA Member of the Year Award by President Jump.*



*President Jump recognized Paul Chamberlain (Ch 74) for receiving a Certificate of Appreciation and Harry Blackwell (Ch 72) for his achievement in being selected as Small Chapter President of the Year.*



*Greg Bell (Ch 1) was recognized and presented with a Certificate of Appreciation as well as standing in to accept the Large Chapter of the Year Award and the Chapter Newsletter of the Year Award.*



*IPNP Hilinski recognized Ed Cates (Ch 1) with a Certificate of Appreciation. Presented by President Jump.*

## TREA'S HOLIDAY MESSAGE

As we enter the Holiday Season, it is important that we take a moment to share a message of hope, unity, care and support. As long as we have Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, Marines, Guard and Reservists still out there fighting our fight, TREA will be the light and hope for them. We will continue to fight those who have targeted the military and veteran budgets for reduction. We will continue to fight for the benefits that you have earned and for some, are still earning for your service to our country. We honor that service and that of your family members who serve/served with you.

As the holiday season quickly approaches, TREA hopes that you are able to enjoy the holidays in peace with family and friends but will take a moment to remember those who not able to do so.

Regardless of how you and your family choose to celebrate the holidays, TREA wishes you happiness and joy as we bring 2021 to an end and hope and encouragement as we welcome in 2022.

# CONGRATULATIONS TREA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**SPECIAL AWARD**  
In Memory of TREA  
Co-Founders

Kaylee Sonntag  
Attending:  
Southeastern  
University



**SPECIAL AWARD**  
In Memory of TREA  
Co-Founders

Makani Reyneri  
Attending: Flagler  
College



**SPECIAL AWARD**  
In Memory of all  
TREA & Auxiliary  
Past National  
Presidents

Amanda Holliday  
Attending: Miami  
University



**SPECIAL AWARD**  
In Memory  
of Frank Cusimano  
Isabella Temes  
Attending:  
University of Hawaii



**SPECIAL AWARD**  
In Memory of  
Dorothy 'Dottie'  
Holmes  
Mary Worrill  
Attending: College  
of William & Mary



Zachary Strickland  
Attending:  
Southern  
Arkansas  
University



Paige Selby  
Attending: Texas  
A&M



Kaitlyn Morgan  
Attending: Coastal  
Carolina  
University



Tommis Meyer  
Attending:  
American  
University



Joseph Turbeville  
Attending:  
Clemson  
University



Nathaniel Martens  
Attending:  
University of  
Washington



Hannah Molandes  
Attending:  
NTCC/SFA/  
UTTyler



## CONGRATULATIONS TREA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Joseph  
Robeson, Jr.  
Attending:  
Texas Tech.



Kayla McDonald  
Attending: West  
Virginia  
University



Kaitlyn Greene  
Attending: Black  
Hills State  
University



Duncan Kincaid  
Attending:  
Arizona State



Arden McCoy  
Attending:  
Misericordia  
University



Samantha  
Visciotti  
Attending:  
Louisiana State  
University

We received 48 applications this year, and awarded 18. All applications were reviewed and scored by the Scholarship Committee. The Committee was made up of five TREA members and chaired by Director Liebaert. Applications were scored on the following: Grade Point Averages, Scholastic Achievement/Involvement (Valedictorian, Honor Roll, etc.), School Sponsored Extra-Curricular Activities (debate team, sports, clubs, JROTC, etc.), Non-School Sponsored Extra-Curricular Activities, to include community volunteer activities, (4-H state champion, Boy/Eagle scouts, Girl Scouts, volunteering at a local senior citizen's home, hospital or volunteering at a food bank, etc.), Work Experience and Written Essay. All applicants must be the child or grandchild of a TREA member. The child or grandchild of a TREA member who has passed is still eligible, provided that member was active at the time of his/her passing.

The Scholarship recipients received a total of \$18,500 for the 2021-2022 academic year. The 2022-2023 Scholarship Application will be posted on our website ([www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)) on January 1, 2022.

## The Senior Citizens League – Special Stimulus for Social Security Recipients By Chairman Rick Delaney



TREA Senior Citizens League has an online petition and is lobbying Congress for a **special stimulus of \$1,400.00 for Social Security recipients only**. It's been in the news from [cnbc.com](http://cnbc.com) to [military.com](http://military.com)!

Across the country household budgets of seniors and disabled **Social Security recipients** have taken a hammering by skyrocketing costs. The League has received thousands of emails from our supporters that tell us examples about their soaring costs. We've heard from people who have exhausted their retirement savings, who have started eating just one meal a day, cutting their pills in half, and many more examples of the toll inflation has taken on them this year.

One sign of how high inflation has gotten is the projection for the 2022 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). It's projected to be one of the highest COLAs since 1983. Gasoline is up almost 50% from the summer of 2020. And, new or used cars/trucks, if you can find one, is up over 40%. And, let's face it, no matter what the COLA is for 2022, it's going to be eaten up by Medicare Part B premium increases.

Fastest Growing Costs of Older Americans July 2020 – July 2021			
Item	Cost in July 2020 Average cost \$ or numeric data	Cost in July 2021 Average cost \$ or numeric data	Percent increase since July 2020
1. Gasoline (all grades, per gal.)	\$2.24	\$3.33	48.3%
2. Used cars and trucks	141.493	200.425	41.7%
3. Home heating oil (per gal.)	\$2.13	\$2.98	39.0%
4. Natural gas	166.536	198.207	19.0%
4. Airline fares	204.785	243.613	19.0%
5. Bacon (per lb.)	\$5.78	\$6.86	18.7%
6. Eggs (per dz.)	\$1.40	\$1.64	17.2%
7. Beef (per lb.)	\$5.67	\$6.37	12.3%
8. Whole milk (per gal.)	\$3.26	\$3.63	11.4%
9. Care of invalids and elderly at home	127.651	139.893	9.6%
10. Fresh seafood (per lb.)	\$7.69	\$8.40	8.5%

Source U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, data through July 2021. Where no average prices are available, numeric data are used.

On the surface, a high COLA seems like great news. But a big COLA makes low-income seniors nervous that they are going to be facing adjustments to their Medicare costs, food benefits, rental subsidies, and other income-based resources.



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- **Membership:** Any honorably discharged enlisted person – retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserve, or the spouse/widow/widower of an honorably discharged enlisted person - retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserve shall be eligible for membership. Membership entitles the person to all privileges of membership including attending business meetings, making motions and holding office.

New Member       Renewal      Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Your **Grade/Rank**: \_\_\_\_\_ Years Served: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Which chapter do you wish to be assigned to: \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to remain a Member-at-Large (MAL)

Recruiter Information: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Service:     Air Force     Army     Navy     Marines     Space Force     Coast Guard     Guard/Reserve

I am :     Retired     Veteran     Active Duty     Spouse/widow/widower of a veteran

By submitting payment, I acknowledge that I am an Enlisted U.S. Armed Forces Veteran and as such qualify to be a member of TREA: The Enlisted Association (if joining as a veteran spouse/widow/widower, your payment acknowledges the veteran status of your spouse).

Proof of eligibility falls on the applicant and not TREA

Membership Dues (Does not include Chapter dues, if applicable)

- One Year - \$30
- Two Years - \$55
- Three Years - \$75

Payment:

Visa

Master Card

Discover

American Express

Make checks payable to: TREA

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your completed application to:**

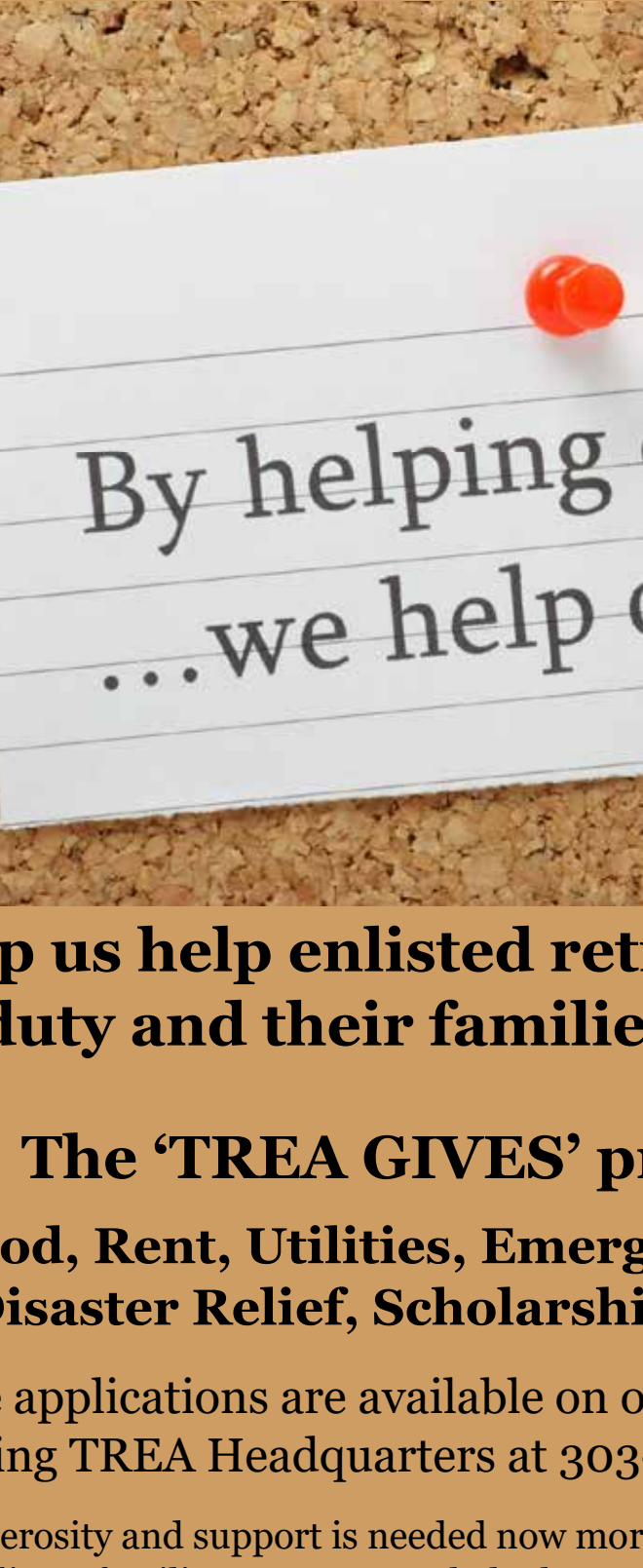
TREA: The Enlisted Association - 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250 - Centennial, CO 80112

E-mail: [treahq@trea.org](mailto:treahq@trea.org)

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