

THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted

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IS FOR VETERAN

When we're thanked for our service
we reflect on how we served.

The way we had to break in boots.
The times we gathered up our nerve.

The nicknames that made us laugh.
The smell of chili mac MREs.

The pride we felt with that first oath.
The friendships that came to be.

So, at the game, when we're asked to stand,
it's not applause that's in my sight.

I'm looking around for you, my friend,
to see who's on my left and right.



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Dean Sorell, 1921 – 2004

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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

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The magazine staff can be reached by email at editor@trea.org. Editor-in-Chief, Debbie Osborne
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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 December 20th, 2022.

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.





~ CONGRATULATIONS ~

NEW TREA'S NATIONAL BOARD 2022 - 2024

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[1st Vice - Walt Coley](#)

[2nd Vice - Justin Jump](#)

[3rd Vice - Garry Turks](#)

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A SALUTE TO TRADITION AND PRIDE

Great pride and attention to detail went into the intricately embroidered artwork on this khaki twill, front-zip jacket. On the front of this bomber-inspired jacket is the branch name in block letters along with the official branch emblem. Surrounding the large official emblem on the back is the branch motto and branch name. Made of 100% cotton twill, this exclusive jacket only gets better with wear and features many additional details including two front flap pockets with hidden slip pockets behind each one, two front zippered chest pockets, inside slip pocket, snap cuffs, knit hem,

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

[Deb Oelschig, National President](#)



I am truly honored to have been voted into the position of TREA National President by one of the largest voter turnouts in TREA history. This truly made an impact to me as a Navy Veteran and as a Life TREA Member. It tells me that our membership is paying attention and that they want positive change.

I have given this message a lot of thought – I want you to know why I sought office. I think it's important so that you can see my vision for TREA's future.

I originally joined TREA in 2005 and was very active in a local chapter. I joined chapter committees, then the chapter board, then the National Board. I always knew that the local chapters were active and that we did a lot of things – fun things.

It wasn't until I got on the National Board that I realized what a truly amazing organization TREA was and all of the efforts and actions that were put forth, all to protect and help those who served and who are currently serving. We do things that most members probably are not aware of – I know that I wasn't. That is one thing that I want to make sure of – that our members are aware of what we do. It's a lot, and it is important that you know that we are working hard to ensure that you and your promised benefits remain secure and intact.

As I spent time on the National Board, in the position of Treasurer, I learned the depths of our operations; from interactions with members to the partnerships with other VSO's, enabling us to make the biggest impact on the veteran community, to our own robust legislative efforts. I have to say that I am impressed with all that TREA has accomplished and the legislative successes that we have been able to achieve. I hope that you take the time to learn about all that TREA has done in its 60 years. I know that you will be impressed as well.

As we move forward, as an organization, we need to keep the mission of TREA in the forefront. It's what we were made for, it's supposed to be what we do. The first part of that statement is to protect the earned benefits of those who served, we accomplish this through our legislative efforts and actions. The next part of the mission statement is to encourage and provide esprit de corps. This is done in part through our 28 chapters throughout the country, but is assisted by our annual membership meetings, which all members are encourage to attend. And, lastly, we are called to assist military members and veterans, and their families in need. This is done through our newly created 501(C)(3); [TREA GIVES](#).

TREA is well rounded and through the past 60 years has been very successful in fulfilling our mission statement. It is my goal, as President, to lead the new board, and TREA into the next 60 years of continued service to and for those who wear or have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces, and their families.

We are all aware of the long lasting economic effects of COVID. As a membership and donation driven organization, we have been hit especially hard. Like so many other VSO's and non-profits, the challenge is real. But we are all enlisted, we don't hide from adversity – we stand up tall against it, we work harder, fight stronger and come out victorious. That is exactly what we are going to do. We are here, strong and defiant in our will to ensure the future success of TREA.

We are here for all who served: past, present & future.

[Deborah Oelschig](#)
National President

UNITED WE STAND



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

[Garry Turks, 3rd Vice & Chaplain](#)



As we approach the holidays and the end of 2022, let us do so with a loving heart and with true humility for our brothers and sisters.

All things come from God. We are blessed by his hand and it is his directive to us that we share our blessings with those around us. Give freely and without expectation of return. Do good because it is the right thing to do, not because you want recognition or thanks. Try this and see what a difference this makes in YOUR life.

Luke 6:38 – Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion – packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing – will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.

'TREA GIVES' MAKES A BIG IMPACT

Our Benevolent Program, [TREA GIVES](#), continues to do great things. In addition to our service dog, 'Wiley' that is mentioned later in this issue, we recently partnered with USAA on their Recycled Rides program. A national program that provides certified, refurbished vehicles to veterans in need of reliable, safe transportation. TREA endorsed three applications and were honored when one of our endorsed applicants was selected to receive a 'new' vehicle. Members of the board, along with Headquarters staff attended the ceremony and gifting of the keys in Colorado Springs. Our applicant, USSF, Airman 1st Class Jacquez Veal was presented a 2020 Ford Ranger XL, provided by CARSTAR. 9 other vehicles were presented that day – all to worthy veterans who bravely served, or in the case of our applicant, currently serving. There is one more ceremony planned and it will be in Florida. TREA has endorsed two more applicants for that go round -- maybe we can get lucky twice! In the end, it's all about providing for and giving back to those who served or are serving our country.

TREA was truly honored to be a part of this wonderful program.



Airman 1st Class Jacquez Veal receiving the 'key' to his new vehicle from USAA reps (far left), Airman 1st Class Veal had his own personal cheering squad in that of: (l-r) Executive Assistant Misty Siggins, Airman Veal, National President Deb Oelschig, Executive Director Debbie Osborne, National 3rd Vice Garry Turks and kneeling is Membership Coordinator Melissa White



TREA'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

[President Oelschig](#)

As we close out the final year of the 117th Congress, we wanted to share with you some of our recent legislative accomplishments on behalf of all enlisted service members, veterans, caregivers, and their families. In order to achieve these results, TREA has maintained strong relationships at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense, The White House, and on Capitol Hill to ensure your voices are heard.

On August 10, 2022 TREA's, then 1st Vice President Deb Oelschig joined President Joe Biden, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Dennis McDonough, and other key stakeholders for the signing of the [SFC Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act](#). This historic moment was an honor and a privilege for TREA, as our organization has been a leading advocate on Toxic Exposures related legislation since 2019. (photo below).

We are grateful for the leadership in both the House and Senate to get these bills passed, especially that of Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Senator Jon Tester, Ranking Member Senator Jerry Moran, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano, and Ranking Member Mike Bost for their continued support.

If you were exposed to toxic substances during your military service, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is now accepting claims for all presumptive conditions, including claims that were slated for processing in 2026, with payouts beginning as early as 2023. To learn more, visit our website.



COLA Adjustment

TREA is proud to announce that on Monday, October 11, 2022, President Joe Biden signed into law [H.R. 7846, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022](#). TREA was a proud supporter of this legislation, which provides for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for veterans' disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation beneficiaries equal to the Social Security COLA.

This bill also requires the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase the amounts payable for wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. Specifically, the VA must increase the amounts by the same percentage as the cost-of-living increase in benefits for Social Security recipients that is effective on December 1, 2022.

Concurrent Receipt

TREA has been hard at work securing cosponsors for [H.R. 1282 and S. 344, known as "The Major Richard Star Act."](#) Currently, we've helped secure 66 cosponsors in the Senate, and over 319 cosponsors in the House. We need your help to get this important legislation across the finish line, so please contact your Representatives and urge them to sign onto the bill as soon as possible.

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

TREA continues to advocate for alternative therapies in addition to conventional methods of treatment for servicemembers and veterans who experience the invisible wounds of war, including post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and military sexual trauma. Specifically, since the passage of the TREA backed [PAWS For Veterans Therapy Act](#) which was signed into law in 2021, our team has been tracking the implementation efforts that are currently underway at the Veterans Health Administration. We are proud to report that VA has announced 5 locations nationwide for the pilot program, which include Anchorage, Alaska, San Antonio, Texas, West Palm, Florida, Asheville, North Carolina, and Palo Alto, California. (Read more about how TREA's service dog, Wiley on page 16).

TREA has also applied to receive funds from The "[Staff Sergeant Parker Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program](#)" which has approximately \$51,750,000 available for suicide prevention grants to be funded. The maximum allowable grant amount is \$750,000 per year per eligible entity. The grant program was created pursuant to Section 201 of the TREA backed legislation called the [Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019](#). The program is a three-year community-based grant program that would provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide or coordinate providing suicide prevention services to eligible Veterans and their families.

Social Media

TREA has several social media platforms we use in order to keep in touch with our members and highlight our legislative and programmatic efforts. If you are on Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter, make sure you are following along.

As always, please contact President Oelschig at president@tre.org with any questions or concerns!

AUXILIARY



A MESSAGE FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Greetings in the magnanimous name of our Lord and Savior. I would like to introduce myself to you as the 26th National Auxiliary President, "Audrey H. McCray." The honor and pleasure to serve in this prestigious position keeps me humble as the National Auxiliary President. I profusely thank the members for allowing your faith and trust in me as I step forward into this auspicious position. The following is a bit of information about my Bio Sketch; Born in Selma, Alabama to esteemed parents James and Susie Hayes. Educated through Biloxi Public School system as well as earned a degree in Accounting from the University of Maryland. Married to the late James H. McCray (Retired Army) and birthed two children Klisha and Tarro who are the apple of our eyes. Worked aimlessly with the Treasury System for the Department of Interior and over 30 plus years for H & R Block as a Senior Tax Analyst.

As the past Auxiliary President of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) Chapter #3 I have worked for 15 plus years, and on the National Board of Directors for many years. Being a member of the local Chapter # 3 located in Aurora, Colorado has given me a knowledge base to bring enhancement and constructive criticism as the newest National Auxiliary President. Working with veterans will surely bring the best out of me. I am extremely excited with our new leadership team and would like to introduce our amazing leaders; President Audrey H. McCray(A03), Vice-President Nancy MacBride(A39), Treasurer Peggy Carlson(A39), Director Rose Milon(A03), Director/Appointed Parliamentarian Reta Ward (A03), Director Sheldria (Dee) Wallace(A34), Chaplain APNP Barbara Coley (MAL), Secretary Laura Blake (A03).

Bylaws and Standing Rules that have passed during the September business meeting; There were 2 proposed Amendments to TREA National Standing Rules that were submitted.

- Standing Rule 5 - Standing and Special Committees, Section 2, Functions of Standing Committees, Subparagraph c, and Finance Committee
- Standing Rule 7- Annual Membership Meeting and Special Sessions

As a pillar of the community I will serve as the National Auxiliary President to the best of my ability. Please reach out at any time for assistance, resources, or just a mere sit down for a cup of Starbucks. God has said, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the father through him." Colossians 3:17

[Audrey H. McCray](#)

National Auxiliary President

ENCOURAGING EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY
UNITED WE STAND



AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN

Hello everyone! God's blessings to you.

I would like to reintroduce myself to you. I now hold the positions of Auxiliary Past National President and Chaplain. I was appointed as Chaplain by our newly elected TREA National Auxiliary President, Audrey McCray. Please reach out to me of any illnesses, bereavement, or any other related needs from your local Chapters or from Members at Large (MAL's). Please let me know with their names and addresses and I will reach out to make a call or send a card. A card can really cheer up that person and let them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

You can send that information to: TREA National Auxiliary Chaplain, P.O. Box 5852, Goodyear, AZ, 85338. I look forward to hearing from you.

Barbara Coley, Auxiliary Past National President and Chaplain

SPECIAL TRAVEL DISCOUNTS FOR TREA MEMBERS

Whether it's a scenic drive to see the changing colors, or a trip to see the family for the holidays, TREA's new program can save you money, while giving something back to the organization. From this one site, members can now book all their travel and enjoy discounts at over 900,000 lodging destinations worldwide and at rates up to 77% off retail. In addition, TREA members can save up to 40% on rental cars. Members can also receive unmatched rates on group lodging for events, family reunions, weddings, and more.

The travel center delivers members the industry's best rates as it sources rates from dozens of distinct supply channels to bring you the best proprietary member rates around the world. So, if you are looking for a 4-star hotel in London, a beach-front resort in Florida, or just a comfortable place to stay along the way, you can now save big at the TREA Travel Center. You can book travel via your laptop, tablet, or mobile device, or call and still enjoy the same great user experience. So, pick your favorite destination, your favorite brand, and your best traveling companion and book your next trip with us.



<https://trea.hotelpartner.com/>



THE LAST TIME INFLATION WAS THIS HIGH, SOCIAL SECURITY WAS IN CRISIS DID YOU KNOW?

By: Edward Cates, Chairman



Did you know higher consumer prices for just about everything continue to work through the pipeline and are reaching levels that haven't been seen since 1981? As of consumer price data through August, the COLA for 2023 could be about 8.7% making it the highest since 1981. While COLAs are intended to preserve the buying power of benefits, an increase of that size, right after the 5.9% increase this year is likely to raise the question of what happened to Social Security the last time inflation was this high two years in a row?

In 1981, the Social Security COLA was a formidable 11.2% following an astonishing 14.3% COLA just the year before — and Social Security was in financial crisis. Its finances were deteriorating and, only four-years earlier in 1977, Congress had passed legislation that deeply cut Social Security benefits, by changing the Social Security benefit formula. Two years later in 1983, as Social Security was just weeks away from being unable able to pay full benefits, Congress passed major Social Security reform legislation raising payroll taxes and making even more benefit cuts.

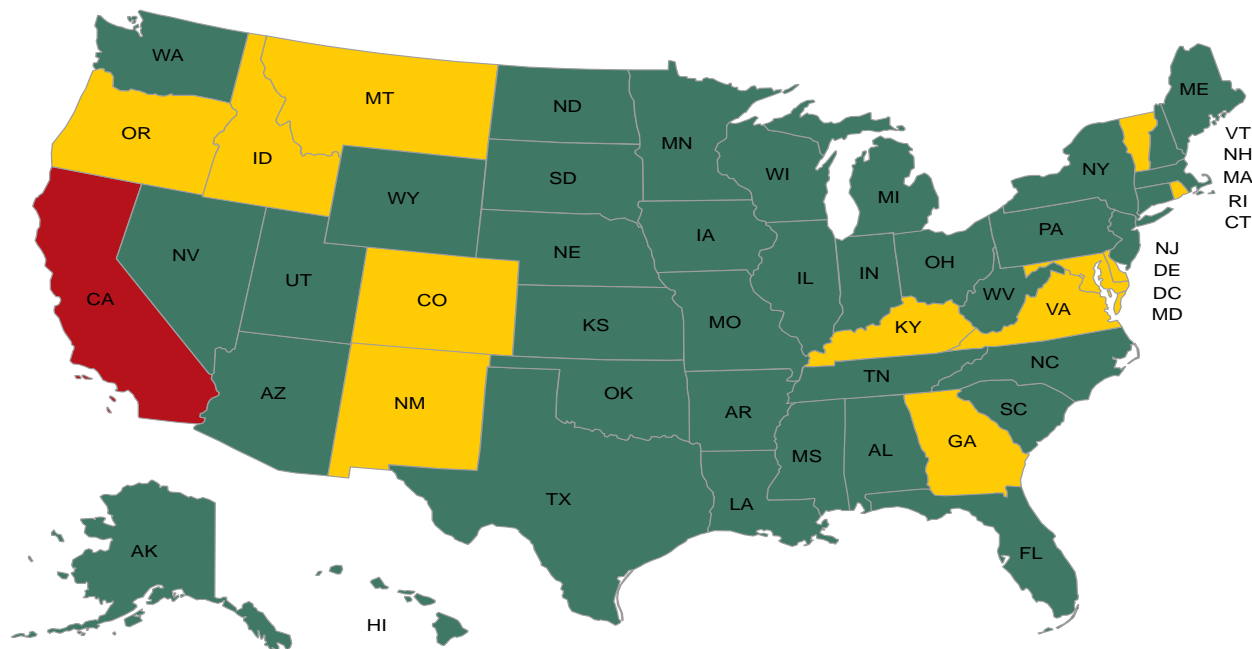
The situation faced by lawmakers in Congress during that period is somewhat different from the one facing Congress today. At the start of 1983, the Social Security Trust Fund was just weeks from insolvency. At the start of 2022, the Social Security Trust Fund is about 11 years from its expected date of exhaustion. But some factors are still similar, such as the imbalance in the number of people receiving benefits to the number of people currently working and paying into the system. Social Security is a pay-as-you-go system. Taxes for today's workers are used to pay the benefits of current beneficiaries. What makes the challenge so much bigger today is the magnitude of the system's funding shortfall today, which is much greater than that of the period leading up to the 1983 amendments.

There's also a difference in payroll taxes. The really big difference today is that wages are rising, and higher wages mean more payroll taxes for Social Security. In 1983, high inflation occurred while at the same time wages were lower than expected. Lower wages meant less payroll taxes flowing into the system. Even today, payroll taxes account for about 90% of the funding for benefits. In addition to higher wages, other factors continue to drive up prices, such as:

- Shortages caused by supply chain disruptions and shipping backlogs.
- Rising housing costs. Mortgage rates are climbing due to higher interest rates, and rents are higher after the expiration of rent increase moratoriums enacted in 2020 COVID relief legislation.
- Higher energy prices. Gasoline prices that were already high were made even worse by the war in the Ukraine, which is also expected to affect the price of wheat and corn products.

While we have a little more time than Congress did in 1983, Congress can avoid deep benefit cuts and steep tax increases when it enacts small changes phased in over the longest possible time. But eleven years is not that much time for people close to retirement to adapt.

STATE TAX COMPARISON MAP FOR MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY & SBP



Legend:

- Green: Both military retired pay (MRP) and Survivor Benefit Plan Payments (SBP) are fully exempt from state taxation
- Yellow: MRP and/or SBP receive partial exemption from state taxation
- Red: Neither MRP nor SBP is exempt from state taxation

DID YOU KNOW?

That the U.S. military has nearly 30 million acres around the world, spanning 45 countries and 8 U.S. territories.



COMMITTEES ARE LOOKING FOR YOU

As we begin a new year, with a new board, we are looking for members to volunteer to be on committees. All committees have openings. If you would like to be on a committee, please reach out to National Headquarters (303-752-0660, treaHQ@trea.org) and let us know what committee you are interested in. We will make sure that your information gets passed along to the appropriate committee chair.

Awards

Bylaws & Standing Rules

IT

Finance

Membership

PR & Marketing

Scholarship

Remember – TREA is YOUR organization and it needs YOU to help keep it moving forward.

MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT

Our nation's combat disabled veterans are being denied full access to their hard-earned benefits. Over 50,000 medically retired veterans—many of whom are Purple Heart recipients—are forbidden from receiving their full retirement pay and disability compensation. TREA firmly believes that Department of Defense retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disability compensation are fundamentally different benefits, earned for different reasons, yet Congress has failed to acknowledge and act on this long-standing injustice.

TREA is working hard to ensure that Congress includes the Major Richard Star Act as an amendment in the [National Defense Authorization Act of 2023](#)

FLAGSHIP DONORS

Special thanks to those who generously supported the [TREA GIVES](#) program with their 'Flagship' Donation. (donations of \$1,500 or more). These donations enable us to provide emergency financial assistance to veterans, active duty & their families in need, as well as providing much needed recognition and appreciation to those who have given so much in the line of duty.

Pedro & Emma Sabido

Doug & Debbie Osborne

Rick & Pat Delaney

CJ & Christine Johnson

Mary Hatfield

Donald Strazer

**Make your tax-deductible donation today at www.trea.org
YOUR DONATION DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)





WHAT DO WE DO?

[Debbie Osborne, Executive Director](#)

We actually get asked this a lot, and my standard response is – ‘How much time do you have?’ In all seriousness, TREA is very active both locally and nationally fighting for you and your family. We are well grounded in the veteran/military/VSO community and as such, we are active participants in many meetings, forums and discussion groups. All of this is done to ensure TREA’s presence, legislatively, within the community and of course, nationally. To give you a basic idea, the following are monthly meetings that we regularly attend:

- The Military Coalition (TMC) – we are a voting member
- The VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, VSO Communicators Group
- The White House Community Briefing for Veterans and Military Families
- The United Veterans Coalition of Colorado, both the general membership meeting and the Executive Committee meetings – TREA is a Primary, voting member
- The Veterans Benefits Administration’s Veterans Service Organization and Advocate Meetings

We also attend various meetings on a quarterly or ‘as scheduled basis’:

- Veterans & VSO Virtual Conversation with Senator Hickenlooper
- White House Community Briefing for Veterans and Military Families
- Major Richard Starr Working Group
- Veterans Day National Committee – TREA is a voting member
- Exchange Retired Advisory Council (ERAC)

In addition to the above, TREA has:

- Participated in a group discussion on Military and Veterans concerns with Senator Hickenlooper
- Attended the White House Breakfast and Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, including, laying the TREA wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.
- Witnessed the Presidential signing of the PACT Act at the White House. (photo right)
- Met with the leadership team of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington to learn more about their program(s) and to offer an opportunity to establish a mutually beneficial sharing process.
- Hosted an ice cream social for the residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home to thank them for their service and to promote our organization and our services. (see photos below)
- Spoke at the Semper K9 service dog graduation where TREA’s service dog, ‘Wiley’ graduated and was matched with his new veteran family. (see photo below)
- Recognized and thanked the women who served and are serving in the US Armed Forces at the Women in Military Service for America’s 25th Anniversary event in Washington
- Represented TREA at the United Veterans Coalition Inaugural Gala.
- Secured a permanent bench at the Marine Corps Memorial in Boulder, Colorado.
- Manned a TREA table at the Salute to Veterans event in Aurora, Colorado. This event allowed us to interact and promote TREA to the community and to other veteran organizations.



We are scheduled to:

- Honor the heroes who died in the Vietnam War by participating in the public recital of all 58,000 names throughout the week of November 6th. This is a first for TREA, and we hope that it becomes a regular event. A small token to show our respect and appreciation to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.
- Meet with President Biden at a special White House event to honor Veterans Day 2022.
- Participate in the National Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, including laying the TREA wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown.

That’s not all – TREA is regularly asked by Members of Congress and their staff to support legislation at the Federal level. This is not taken lightly. When TREA signs on to support a piece of legislation, we do so with the understanding

and confidence that it provides some support, assistance or benefit to you, our members and to the general military/veteran population and their families. This includes doing research and understanding the full scope of what is being presented. The bills that TREA has signed on to support this year are:

- [Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022](#) – USCG. This Legislation ensures that the Coast Guard moved forward with funding for its operational priorities, as well as taking care of its families.
- [H.R. 7846, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022](#). This legislation which was signed into law on October 11, 2022 will provide an 8.7% COLA increase for eligible Veterans' and retirees' Social Security benefits. TREA was a proud supporter of this legislation, which provides for a COLA for veterans' disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation beneficiaries equal to the Social Security COLA.
- [Love Lives on Act of 2022](#) – TAPS. This Act will ensure surviving military spouses retain eligibility for survivor benefits from the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), if they remarry before age 55. It also removed two pieces of archaic and punitive language regarding (2) same sex surviving spouses and (2) holding oneself out to be married.
- Waiver of PAYGO for the [Major Richard Star Act \(S.344/H.R.1282\)](#) and ensure it is included in [NDAA 2023](#).
- [Justice for Servicemembers Act \(H.R.2196\)](#), provisions 5205 and 5891-5893 of H.R. 799. Empowers servicemembers and their families against the adverse practice of forced arbitration and strips our servicemembers of their afforded rights under the [Servicemembers Civil Relief Act \(SCRA\)](#) and the [Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act *USERRA](#).
- [Gold Star Families Day Act](#). Proposed legislation that would create a federal holiday as a national day of remembrance for all those who have lost a loved one to military service regardless of the manner, place or time of death. Different from Memorial Day, which honors all those who have served and died in defense of our freedom, this Act would honor their families' tremendous sacrifice for our nation.
- [Honoring our PACT Act \(H.R. 3967\)](#). Provides for those who have laid their lives on the line for all Americans over the last two decades with the health care and benefits they need and deserve.
- [Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act of 2021 \(S.2172\)](#). This bill would improve grants, payments and technical assistance provided by the VA to serve homeless veterans.
- [Comforting Our Military Families through On-base or Remote Treatment \(COMFORT\) Act \(H.R. 5758/S. 3021\)](#) – TMC. Addresses the shortage of available behavioral health professionals by building on the precedents for license portability authority focused on military requirements and would provide parity for MFLC counselors to ensure timely access to mental health care for servicemembers and their families. Helping servicemembers and their families cope with the stressors related to their military service.
- [Veterans Protection from Fraud Act](#) – Rep Burchett. This bill will combat telemarketing and email marketing fraud targeting veterans.

Of course not all of the legislative efforts that we support end up as law, but the work and effort must be put in to each and every one. It's a long bureaucratic process, but it's worth it in the end when a bill we support makes it to the President's desk for signature. We win, you win – all veterans and military members win.

You can see that we are quite busy making sure that TREA is seen and heard. Every meeting and every event provides us the opportunity to tell someone who we are and what we do for those who served. It's a never ending process.

This, is just a small recap of 'What We Do'.



Above: TREA service dog 'Wiley' and his new veteran family at the Semper K9 service dog graduation



left.: Former TREA National 1st Vice, now National President Oelschig with Executive Director Osborne met with the leadership of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (CEO Mr. Stephen Rippe, Major General (Ret). (not shown in photo), Administrator Ms. Susan Bryhan & Strategic Analyst, Travis Smith. Center and left: We ended the day hosting an ice cream social for the residents.



NEW BYLAWS & STANDING RULES

[Walt Coley, National 1st Vice](#) & Bylaws & Standing Rule Committee Chair

With special thanks to the more than 550 TREA members who voted this past election, the results of the proposed Bylaws & Standing Rules are as follows:

Bylaw III, Section 3 - Chapter courtesy members can receive the VOICE magazine electronically.

Passed with 509 approved and 39 disapproved – Saves Money

Bylaw V, Section 4 - The National President may run for, and be elected for a second 2-year term.

Passed with 501 approved and 47 disapproved – Provides continuity for board and TREA.

Bylaw IX, Section 2 - Anyone running for the position of National President must be a current member on the National Board. This is for continuity, consistency, experience, and knowledge.

Passed with 482 approved and 68 disapproved – Provides Continuity for TREA direction

Bylaw IX, Section 2f - New. Adds the statement that anyone running for a National position has not been convicted of a felony within the past 2 years.

Passed with 509 approved and 34 disapproved – Promotes high standards for the Board of Directors.

Bylaw XVII, Section 4 - Aligns the chapter bylaws with those of National to present a unified picture of the organization.

Passed with 505 approved and 42 disapproved – Aligning National and Chapters: United We Stand!

Standing Rule 7, Paragraph 11 - Any member who allows their membership to lapse for 60 days or more will have to join as a new member, and be given a new membership number. Takes out the option of paying back membership dues.

Passed with 465 approved and 79 disapproved – Clears up confusion.

Standing Rule 8, Appendix 1 & 2 - Awards are based on overall chapter performance, not the size of the chapter.

Passed with 517 approved and 28 disapproved – Chapters size doesn't determine effectiveness

Standing Rule 9, Paragraph 9 - New. Adds the requirement of submitted confirmation of IRS 990 filing (for chapters required to file a IRS form 990).

Passed with 507 approved and 33 disapproved – Local non-profit activities must file 990's

The Bylaws & Standing Rules have been updated on the website. Go to www.trea.org to get the latest copy.

Thank you all for your votes and for approving what we've been trying to do: To allow the organizational directives to manage the organization without ambiguity or confusion from top to bottom; from National to Chapter. We are closer than we were a few years ago, but we still have work to do to help us succeed in the future. My direction from President Jump was to "make TREA run like a business." With these approved changes, we are there! Now we must move to embrace the future. How do we do that? We make sure our Bylaws and Standing Rules support TREA moving faster, at the speed of other 501 (c) 19 non-profits. We must move ahead with [TREA GIVES](#), and other 501(c) 3 opportunities as possible, while maintaining our primary focus on the Enlisted force of the United States of America and their families. No matter what, we must remain United in our calling and purpose. For in our times, distractions will limit our effectiveness. But, if United We Stand; and maintain our focus and direction we will succeed, survive, and thrive!



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 _____

Recruiter Information: Name: _____ Membership Number: _____

Chapter Affiliation: I wish to be assigned to Chapter # _____, I wish to be a Member-at Large (MAL)

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

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CCV: _____

Make checks payable to: TREA)

Please return your completed application to:

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

E-mail: treaHQ@trea.org

303-752-0660 800-338-9337

www.trea.org



WE EARNED OUR STRIPES

**TREA CELEBRATES ALL OF THE BRAVE MEN & WOMEN
WHO SERVED THE UNITED STATES**