

VOLUME 35 | NUMBER 5 | JULY 2016

THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted

Celebrating Women Veterans

Features in this Issue:



**"Farewell to President
Hyland: A Glimpse
Into His Life" pg. 36**

**Details for the
2016 Convention
in Las Vegas!**

&

**Memorial Day
PLUS: New Columns
and Featured Articles**

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Magazine Staff

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The magazine staff can be reached by email at editor@trea.org. Editor-in-Chief, Kim DeCoste. Creative Director, Stephanie Short.

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Please send all written communication to TREA Headquarters at 1111 S. Abilene Ct., Aurora, CO 80012.

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 1111 S. Abilene Ct., Aurora, CO 80012. There is no guarantee that all submissions will be published. One dollar of member's annual TREA membership dues pays for an annual subscription.

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Advertising

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TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Celebrating Women Veterans

Legacy of Leadership:
The Dotte Holmes Story pg. 26

World War II Star Spangled
Love Story pg. 60



Featured Stories

Farewell to President Hyland: Larry Hyland
& The Road He's Traveled pg. 36

Convention 2016 Update pg. 40

Celebrating Memorial Day pg. 46

The Ireland Trail pg. 62



Also In The Issue

Letter from the President pg. 4

Auxiliary Update pg. 12

Chapter News pg. 16

Money Matters pg. 29

Active Chapters pg. 50

Legislative Update pg. 51

TAPS pg. 64

Letter from the President

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY LARRY HYLAND, TREA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Benjamin Franklin is credited with saying, “In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”

Unfortunately, I think Mr. Franklin forgot one other thing that is certain: change. The world doesn’t stand still, and neither do we. Things are constantly changing, sometimes for the better and sometimes for worse. Change can make us uncomfortable in part, I think, because we aren’t sure where change will take us or if we’ll like it.

I begin with this because for the last several months we have gone through a great deal of change at TREA and change will continue as evaluation of current programs and the needs of current and future TREA members are examined. Refinements, enhancements and program evaluations will continue as we position TREA to stay viable and in the forefront as the premier enlisted service organization it was created as, and still is. It is, I believe, for the better and I apologize if anyone is uncomfortable with the changes that have taken place.

When I became TREA National President it became obvious to me that the dynamic had certainly changed many times since I became a member at the age of 41 in 1991, and certain changes had to occur if we were to move forward smartly. Several of the changes were beyond our control: mainly the technological leaps and bounds that trans-

formed the entire communication landscape; and the embracing of those technologies by the younger generations we are attempting to communicate to and wish to have on board. We all know that email has quickly all but replaced regular mail, cell phones replaced the rigidity of a “land line” and then we quantum leapt from there to the ever-evolving smart phones of today. Then there are the various social media including things like Facebook, Twitter, messaging apps, etc., and the list is still growing as evidenced by the phrase everyone has heard – “there’s an ‘app’ for that!” The reality is that generations we wish to recruit from have grown up with this technology and the changes that have come with it, and it has been a constant part of their lives – if not ours. It is the way younger people, including veterans, now communicate with one another and how they relate to organizations like TREA.

When TREA began the idea was to create an organization that would be around for generations to fight for and to protect the promised and earned benefits of enlisted military personnel. The assumption was that those benefits would always, in one way or another, be under assault from politicians and bureaucrats who knew the cost of everything and the value of nothing. TREA’s founders have proven to be, of course, exactly right.

As part of the changes we’ve made,

we’ve revised both the appearance and content of our flagship publication, The Voice. You have probably already noticed some changes in this issue from those of the past and there will be more tweaks and adjustments as we move forward.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide you with the information you need so that you can make informed decisions. To balance the change in The Voice, a weekly newsletter in cooperation with one of our TEAM partners has been established. There is also a change underway to revamp our web presence and make it more interactive and appealing. In addition, the combined efforts of the headquarters staff and the TREA Information Technology Committee will take us to into other social media venues to further expand the TREA name and the brand.

There has also been some internal change to the TREA TEAM, so you may see some new faces in our organization. This is all part of the effort to make sure TREA stays viable and relevant to you for years to come.

One thing has not changed, and that is our commitment to you and to fighting to protect your earned military benefits. That struggle continues and you can be sure we are in the middle of that fight and we will remain so.

As this is my last column as TREA

National President, I want to thank everyone for their support over the past two years. It has been both a challenge and an opportunity to help an organization that I believe in so strongly prepare to move into the future. For my family and me, as in the greater TREA FAMILY there have also been several changes these past two years.

The dangers we face as enlisted people will not go away and they are on more compass points now than they were in the past. The dangers have not gone away since TREA was first founded and, in fact, on some points are more robust and complex.

In spite of the “pro-military” sentiment in the public and among politicians, we see only too clearly that the sentiment does involve a great deal of lip-service and little else. Even as some politicians in Washington claim that the benefits of military personnel must be cut because they are just too expensive, the U.S. continues to have troops deployed in 180 of the 196 countries in the world. Our military budget is more than the military budgets of the next seven nations in the world combined and we probably shoulder more responsibility than the next seven nations. And we are beginning to trickle troops back into the war in Iraq that was supposed to have ended a number of years ago.

I’m not arguing whether this is

right or wrong. That’s for others to decide. But I am saying that this sort of thing is not new. It has happened over and over again throughout our history. Ask the troops to do more -- but cut their benefits.

That’s why TREA was founded and it’s why we must continue to be on guard for the men and women who are currently standing, and will be standing on our nation’s frontline. As this goes to press I will be attending my grandson’s (Pvt. Gabriel Hyland) start of his Army military career as he graduates from Military Police training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO., on June 2nd.

I leave you with two requests and one small comment.

Request number one: become involved whether locally or at the national level. New ideas, new thoughts and even disagreement help forge growth. There is an untapped wealth of talent in the TREA FAMILY and we would appreciate your participation and help in spreading the word and in becoming involved.

Request number two: provide us feedback – GOOD or BAD. We are not all knowing -- we are human, and we make mistakes.

Stand tall and be vocal in your community. Veterans make up a small percentage of our society’s population, but we bring a lot to the table and only want a fair shake. Greas-

ing that big bureaucratic wheel starts locally and goes forward from there.

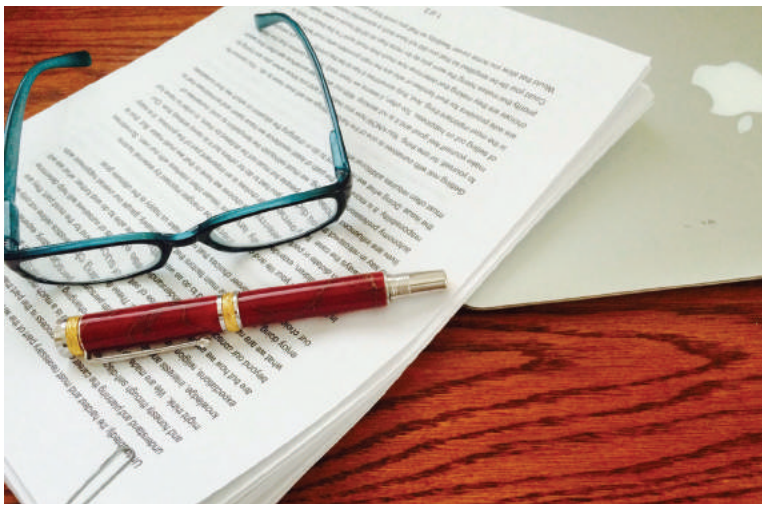
Thank you, again, for the opportunity to serve you through TREA. I couldn’t have done this without the tremendous support I’ve received from my wife, Paz, and I want to thank her for all she has done.

I will continue to be involved as TREA’s Immediate Past National President and I will do everything in my power to help our new president continue to make TREA even bigger and better so that we can continue to serve those who have served, are serving, and will serve this great nation.

I will see you in September at the convention. A lot of changes were made at the convention last year and we are planning to eclipse those this year. So mark your calendars and save the date. ★



UNITED WE STAND
Larry Hyland



Letter from Editor

BY KIM DECOSTE

From my desk to you...

The opportunity to serve TREA as your Editor is an enormous honor. I remain so proud to now call you all my “new clients”. Though I did not serve in the military myself, my family and I are devoted to love of country and respect for all who serve. My husband, Paul, especially comes from a veteran family. Both of his parents served in World War II, and his brother served during Korea. In my family, we had one grandfather who was in the Army and my stepfather, a newly-minted US Citizen (on Flag Day of this year), served in Ft. Ord as a young German Green Card holder. We all believe this is the greatest country in the world and remains such, due in large part to the gracious service of you all, the members and leaders of TREA, and the others in the military now and in the past.

We will be working hard as an editorial team with the staff and leadership of TREA to bring you an interesting and engaging magazine that not only highlights all of the work you are doing, but also which brings you stories of interest from around the country and around the world.

We will also be working to help expand TREA's reach and membership through the magazine and through new technology and social media that might appeal more to younger veterans who would benefit by being members, and who have so much to offer. We see this magazine, truly, as your VOICE and will work to do all we can to make it loud and strong.

As we implement changes, we welcome your constructive feedback. You may email TREAHQ@trea.org with your ideas. We would like to make the magazine appealing to all who might come across it with not only the best news and stories about TREA, but also with fresh, interesting content to help you all enjoy life and all it has to offer.

This issue is devoted to the women who have served in the military and is highlighted by the story of Ms. Dorothy “Dottie” Holmes. We will begin working on the convention issue next, and we will bring you one more print issue before the end of the year as well. In 2017, we expect to have lots of new things in place and we sincerely hope you like what we are doing. Let us know. We are here for you. We are here to serve.

- Kim DeCoste

The Mission of TREA: The Enlisted Association is to enhance the quality of life of uniformed services enlisted personnel, their families, and survivors – including honorably discharged veterans, active components, reserve components, and all retirees; to stop the erosion of earned benefits through our legislative efforts; to maintain our esprit de corps, dedication and patriotism; and to continue our devotion and allegiance to God and country.

TREA Founders

George Skonce, 1915-2000

Dean Sorell, 1921-2004

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Now Hear This Regarding the Nominating Committee & Credential Committee

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY CD RICE, JR., DIRECTOR AND
NOMINATIONS & CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

I am sure many of you relatively new TREA members are, as I was in 1980, curious to know the process by which TREA members elect the Board members. If you will lend me your attention for about 10 minutes, I will try to explain with the use of TREA Bylaw 1X, XI, Standing Rule 5b and 12 4, a-c, and Procedure Guide 18 according to the following steps below. But first let me share with you the purpose of the Committee: To encourage qualified TREA members to become candidates for TREA National Board. Step,

1, to be a member consisting of 1) a Chairperson elected by the TREA Board of Directors (BOD) at the Post Convention Board Meeting, 2) a Vice-Chair appointed by the Chair, 3) a Member appointed by the Chairperson, and 4) a TREA National Staff Member appointed by the Director for Operation (DFO).

2, meet at the call of the Chairperson but MUST meet prior to the first business meeting at each National Convention;

3, on or about February 15, prepare an article for publication in the (May and June issues), specifying the positions to be filled and encouraging qualifying TREA members to send resumes on TREA Form 100-3 to arrive at National Headquarters no later than July 1st.

Of course, any potential candidate may be nominated from the floor, but s/he must have sufficient copies of the resumes for each delegate by the end of the day nominated.

4, April 1, inform the chapter presidents or all TREA members of the different vacancies available on the BOD (Art 1X, 2),

5, June 1st, for the August Voice, publish the names of the individuals seeking office. Resumes received after June 1st will be published in whatever media format is being used at the time (e-mag / newsletter etc.)

6, July 15, the Committee will review all resumes for candidates' eligibility. Resumes received after June 1st will be returned regardless date of receipt. The submitter, if eligible, will be advised in accordance with step 3 above,

7, the DFO will ensure that all resumes for selected candidates will be included in the convention packets

8, at the First Business Meeting the chairperson will give the Nominating Committee Report, after which nominations will be accepted from the floor. Nominations are set and closed for each position after this process

9. Second business Meeting the

President will set the tellers and call on candidate for speeches and seconding speeches

10. Ballots are distributed and votes are cast

11. Once all voting is completed, ballots are collected, taken out of sight, counted and prepared for reporting

12. Head Teller will address the chair, present the President with an election report and read the Head Teller's Report, followed by the announcement of the election results by the President

13. Ballots are secured and once there is no call for recount, destroyed.

Now please let me call your attention to page 9 herein for additional information. ★



CHEERS!

CD

Nominations 2017 BOD

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY CD RICE, JR., DIRECTOR AND
NOMINATIONS & CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

As of June 1, 2016, the number of resumes received for seven elected positions, is as follows:

National President—
John Adams

National 1st Vice President –
Ed Cates

National 2nd Vice President –
Gary Turks

National 3rd Vice President –
Michael Davis

National Treasurer—
Deb Oelschig

National 2-Year Director –
Justin Jump, Gregory Barnett,
Willie Clark

Additionally, there are two appointed positions--Parliamentarian and Veterans Service Officer. If anyone is interested in either one of these positions, S/he needs to submit a resume. You must, however, be a member of The Enlisted Association and meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in Bylaw Article IX, Section 2, and have time to give to The Enlisted Association to help it grow. At least 90 percent or more of TREA membership qualifies for the first six positions. See the April Voice, page 5 for additional details.

I have attended every TREA convention since 1985 and, thus far, it

seems that 2016 will be by far the worse one regarding the number of candidates who are NOW interested in serving on the Board of Directors. Let's not allow the few who have submitted a resume to win by acclamation. Therefore I beg you to be a part of something bigger---donate your time and your wisdom to a great organization!

This appeal is made not only because I am the Nomination and Credentials Chairman but also because of a promise I made to the late Co-Founder George Skonce in December 1999 one month before he passed. That promise was to do or say whatever I could for the betterment of TREA. I hope you will do the same.

I have heard that what makes or breaks an organization are the people. Same old song, just a different verse, things aren't getting better they seem to be getting worse. Why? Because most of the TREA members are MALs and we have not encouraged or supported them to step up to the plate to vie for elected positions on the Board of Directors.

So TREA is DESPERATELY calling on its Members At-Large (MAL) to attend the upcoming Convention in Las Vegas, NV, as a delegate, and to run for office and vote on issues presented. In order to be a delegate at the convention one must

complete a Registration Form and attach the Registration Fee. One must also submit a MAL Accreditation (Form 100-1M). Both of these forms must be sent to TREA HQ. They are available on our website @ <http://www.trea.org/forms/forms.html>.

A registered MAL Delegate attending the convention may also carry one proxy vote for another regular MAL who has given his/her proxy voting authorization by completing (Form 100-2 M). Anyone who is running for office for the first time should plan to attend the Pre-Convention Board Meeting as a guest. It could be a real learning experience. Also, official photos are taken after the elections. So please bring a Navy blazer/suit coat and gray slacks for the photo.

Now be a positive one and make TREA rather than a passive one and break TREA!!!!!! ☆



SEE YOU IN VEGAS!

CD

OPPORTUNITY IS NOWHERE

We do a lot – but this we can't do without you

TREA is full of dedicated, hard-working, knowledgeable and caring men and women and TREA needs you to step up and take a position on one of the Boards. The Board of Directors and Board of Trustees (Memorial & TSCL) are the fiduciaries who steer the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as making sure the nonprofit has adequate resources to advance its mission.

Our Board members provide foresight, oversight, and insight: think of them as up in the crow's nest scanning the horizon for signs of storms or rainbows to explore, perhaps with a pot of gold at the end! Let's work together and find that pot of gold!

TREA Board of Directors – 7 Open Positions (President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, 3rd Vice, Treasurer, 2 year Directors). Apply by submitting form 100-3 (which can be found on our website (www.trea.org) under 'members' then 'forms') to TREA Headquarters, either electronically or by mailing it to: 1111 S. Abilene Court, Aurora, CO 80012. At this point, you will be running from the floor,

so be prepared to supply everyone in attendance a copy of your application and resume. Call HQ for more information (1-800-338-9337) or email Debbie Osborne at: dosborne@trea.org.

Memorial Board of Trustee – Three Open Positions (all Trustees, specific positions are voted on internally). Apply by submitting form 100-3MT (which can be found on our website (www.trea.org) under 'members' then 'forms') to TREA Headquarters, either electronically or by mailing it to: 1111 S. Abilene Court, Aurora, CO 80012. Please call William Deboer for more information (719-570-9557).

TSCL Board of Trustees – Two Open Positions.). Apply by submitting form 100-3MT (which can be found on our website (www.trea.org) under 'members' then 'forms') to TREA Headquarters, either electronically or by mailing it to: 1111 S. Abilene Court, Aurora, CO 80012. For more information on applying for a TSCL Trustee position, please contact Shannon Benton at 1-800-333-8725 / sbenton@tsclhq.org, or Ed Cates at 719-332-5726 / ectrea@comcast.net. ★

It's time to reach out to the younger generation of enlisted veterans

TREA: The Enlisted Association is now 53 years of age and yet our membership average age is much older. We must aggressively seek those on active duty, Reserves, and National Guard personnel for membership with our TREA family. Even though in the last quarter we saw our membership grow, we still have our work cut out for us. We have less than 500 active duty members. Currently by age we have approximately 2,500 under the age of 65. "It's time to reach out to the younger generation of enlisted veterans". The harvest for recruitment is ours for the asking.

The Membership Committee is calling on input from our Headquarter staffs both in Aurora, Colorado and Washington DC, along with the BODs, PNPs, and each member for best ways to have a National Membership Drive. Please provide the responses to this central email address: moneydav@q.com by 31 Jul 2016. We working together can make this ideal work. God bless TREA and God bless the United States of America. ★

UNITED WE STAND

Ask the Easy Wine Guy

BY PAUL DECOSTE

Are more expensive wines better than less expensive ones? The short answer is, no, not necessarily. Here is my take on this question: There is a cost to produce a bottle of wine that a winery has to charge, plus the profit they add to that cost. (These factors are a subject for another day.) So, keep in mind, if a wine costs \$50 to produce and to generate a profit for the winery, those are fixed costs that really do not reflect the quality of the wine. Scarcities, consistency of quality, and reputation are all among the factors that can elevate the price of a wine, whether it is worth it or not is a matter of your own perception and expectations.

That doesn't mean it can't, however, and that is one of the fun aspects of buying wine -- looking for that hidden gem that over-performs makes it like a treasure hunt! What's important is how satisfied you are with your purchase. I have tasted wines with scores of 90 points or better (out of 100) that I didn't enjoy or thought were overpriced, but that was my perception, and my expectations are different than yours. I have tasted many wines under \$10 that are well made, delicious, and very satisfying. Likewise, I have had some very expensive wines that didn't deliver what they should for the higher price. Your ex-

pectations should rise with the price of the bottle.

Bottom line...if I have one message for consumers, trust your own taste. Try as many different wines at prices that you are comfortable with as you can (even if not all at once!) If you do decide to "splurge", talk to your local merchant and see what they recommend and why. If you don't have your own favorite "wine guy", find a store that has one. Most people who work with wine really love what they do and taste lots of different wines. You do not have to be sommelier to have expertise. You have to drink wine. Make sure they know what your expectations are and what you are looking for (wine with a particular dish, or for an occasion, etc.). Reviews are a good start, but we all have different tastes, and just because one "expert" says its great doesn't mean you will agree!

Wine is about good times with friends and making a great meal better; you don't have to over complicate it!

"PROST!" "Salut!" "Cheers!" If you have questions or ideas for future articles please feel free to email me at Paul@easywine-guy.com, I will try my best to set down my glass and answer your questions in a timely manner.

We Have a New Publications Schedule

In efforts to capture more pertinent information from our members and Board of Directors, we have moved the VOICE publication and mailing schedule out a bit.

We are still going to be quarterly, but instead of mailing out on the first month of the quarter, we will be mailing the VOICE out during the second month of the quarter (February, May, August & November). We strongly believe that this small change will allow us the ability to take advantage of all the wonderful events and functions in which our chapters, members, and Board participate. The deadlines are listed below and need to be adhered to. We have a new editor, and we are very excited about the changes that will be happening to your magazine. We value and welcome your feedback (good and bad) – so for this issue and all upcoming issues, please take a moment to send your thoughts to dosborne@trea.org.

Deadlines for the VOICE:

The November issue will be mailed the first week of November and has an article and picture deadline of October 1st. This change will allow us to write amazing articles about the convention. Make sure that you send in your pictures – we love candid shots of our members!

The February issue will be mailed the first week of February and has a deadline of January 1st. We realize that a lot of our chapters, MALs and Board members participate in a lot of holiday events. With the old deadline of December 15th, we were not able to capture those events. With this new deadline, we hope to take advantage of all the wonderful things our members do. It's still up to you to get your stories, articles, and pictures in to us– now you don't have an excuse!

The May issue will be mailed the first week of May and has a deadline of April 1st. In the past we have not been able to feature the testimony that the TREA National President participates in in Washington, DC. Now we hope to be able to present more information to our members, information that we believe is important to all of us as veterans and veteran supporters.

The August issue will be mailed out the first week of August and has a deadline of July 6th. The reason for the extra few days is to allow for members to send in their July 4th stories, articles and pictures. We count on you to help tell the country what TREA does for it's members and veterans! ★



Auxiliary Update

BY IRMGARD CATES
NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT



Hello Auxiliary Members.

I had the honor of attending the National Mid-term on 17 and 18 May followed by the Auxiliary Mid-Term on the 19th and 20th of May. President Hyland worked the national BOD hard and we did not finish until after 6:00 pm both days. A lot of decisions will have to be made at the convention in September. The Auxiliary worked hard as well for two days. There are many proposed standing rule and bylaw changes that will be presented at the Convention. Chapter Presidents please be on the alert, the packets with the proposed changes will be in your mail soon.

The convention committee did not make any arrangements for tours in Las Vegas; we thought you would rather choose your own entertainment. The convention days and evenings will be full of scheduled activities. There will be activities that you are not used to attending, so be sure to read your convention booklet and schedule carefully to see what is happening at your convention.

As part of the reorganization of the HQ staff, a new publisher has been selected to publish The Voice. A survey of members showed you don't want the EMag so it will no longer be published. The Voice will be published 4 times a year and this issue is the first for our new publisher. Please provide Constructive criticism to HQ on what you like and don't like along with suggestions of articles or information you would like to see in The Voice. The HQ staff is operating with half the people they had last year, so please be patient and help them as they try to provide the services you need.

To close, I look forward to seeing you all again at this year's convention. It will be exciting, busy and will determine the path of the Auxiliary and TREA for the foreseeable future so please let your delegates know what you think the future of the Auxiliary should be. ★

UNITED WE STAND!

Need Help? We're here to help!

**The Widows Emergency
And Benevolent Fund (WEF) of
TREA National Auxiliary**

Assists members who are
experiencing financial
difficulty in getting health care and related
needs met.



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If you are a member in good
standing and want to apply for assistance,
Please **Call 1-800-808-4517, ext. 1010.**

Leave your name and number
and a program representative
will call you back.

Auxillary Prayer

**SUBMITTED BY ALICE DEBOER
NATIONAL AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN**

“Remember that you will never find an accurate measurement for your life’s potential when you live with the fear of limitations. Instead, have faith in what God can do in your life for His capabilities are immeasurable.”

From the book, “The Immeasurable Spirit, written by Latoya Lucas, retired from the U.S. Army due to combat wounds suffered as a result of her service in Iraq.



Quilt Auction

This quilt is being raffled off by the TREA Auxiliary to fund the scholarship program. It is a 4x7 and is hand quilted.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Tickets can be bought by contacting the TREA Headquarters at 1-800-338-9337 or on our website using the 'donate' button.



Auxillary Nominations

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



The year is simply flying and it is time to start thinking about which National Auxiliary Board position you would like to run for. The Nominating Committee is asking every Chapter President to encourage your chapter members to run for a position on the National Board of Directors.

Positions that are available are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and (2) 2-Year Directors.

To run for a National Auxiliary Office, complete TREA Auxiliary Form 100-3A, *Resume of Candidate for Elective Office*. This form can be found on our website at: www.TREA.org ★

DEADLINE is July 24, 2016

Mail or email to: Patricia Weaver, 1-Yr Director, Nominating Committee Chairman
7711 Valley Quail Pt
Colorado Springs, CO 80922
Email: laypatkst@q.com

OFFICIAL NOTICE - Call for Resumes Election of TREA National Auxiliary Officers - Year 2016

The following offices will be filled by election at the
Year 2016 National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada
September 15-17, 2016

National Auxiliary President
National Auxiliary Vice President
National Auxiliary Treasurer
National Auxiliary Director - 2-Year Term - Two (2)

Anyone wishing to run for office should complete TREA Auxiliary Form 100-3A, *Resume of Candidate for Elective Office*, and **mail no later than July 24, 2016 to:**

Pat Weaver, Nominating Committee Chairman
7711 Valley Quail Pt, Colorado Springs, CO 80922
Home Phone: 719-638-4763 E-mail: ladypatkst@q.com

Notice: Nominees need not be present to be elected; however anyone submitting a resume and not attending the convention should send same to the address shown above by the deadline date. If submitting a resume but not attending the Convention, a recent photograph can be included.

The Committee would like to have more than one candidate for each office, if possible. It is strongly recommended that **all** resumes be received on time so they can be included in the Convention packet. The delegation will then have a better chance to read and understand the qualifications of all of the nominees.

Names of nominees will not be in a future issue of *The VOICE* due to the new publishing schedule. Auxiliary Chapters will be notified by mail.

If anyone misses the deadline for submitting a resume, and anticipates accepting a Nomination from the floor at the **first business meeting on September 15, 2016**, a completed Form 100-3A must be turned in to the National Secretary at the time of acceptance. Sufficient copies (approx 50) should be made available for distribution to the voting members of the delegation.

Reminder: Anyone running for office should bring a white blouse (for picture taking) and be available for the **Post Convention BOD Meeting scheduled for Friday.**

Widest distribution of this information is requested.

TREA Auxiliary Form 100-3A, *Resume of Candidate for Elective Office* - Local reproduction of form is authorized. Resume form is available on the TREA Website at <http://trea.org>, or computer-generated form can be created and used.

References concerning submittal of Resumes - Bylaws, ARTICLES V, VI, VII; and Standing Rules #2 and #7. **National Auxiliary Bylaws and Standing Rules are also available on the TREA Website.**



CHAPTER 1

27 February 2016, Chapter 1 held their 53rd Anniversary Ball. We dedicated the event to Past President Dan Watkins, who passed away the week prior after a long battle with Cancer. Our guests of Honor were Ms. Dottie Holmes, and Mr. Alfred Mosley, two of our long standing members. We were honored to have National President Larry Hyland and his wife in attendance as well as Auxiliary National President Erm Cates. Several National and Auxiliary Board Members also attended as well as representatives from Chapters 3, 39 and 113. We thank you all for making this event a huge success and special thanks goes out to our Entertainment Committee for going out of their way to plan this very special event.



CHAPTER 3

Chapter 3, Attending and presenting an award at the Chapter 1 Anniversary Dinner - Chuck Baum, Chapter 1 President, Barb Tackitt



CHAPTER 29

ROTC Awards were presented on May 12th to Cadets in Rapid City.

CHAPTER 72

Picture #1: North Allegheny Senior High School
L-R (back row): Chapter 72 Vice President Harry Blackwell, CSM Tim Conley, Chapter member Gerald Bokins
L-R (front row): Auxiliary Georgia Levendos, Chapter 72 President Charles White Cadet Megan Cadet Megan Mannion, Nicholas Swenson, Lt. Col. Sandala



Picture #2: L-R: Chapter 72 vice President Harry Blackwell, Cadet Jared L. Slack



Not pictured, but awarded: Cadet 1SGT Aaron Smith from Greenville County High School and Cadet SSG McDetto from Ellis Brunswick County High School. President Charles White made the presentations.

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CHAPTER 72

Charles White (center), of Penn Hills, dumps papers with the help of Gerald Boykin of Point Breeze (left) into a bin headed to the giant mobile shredder on Monday, April 25, 2016, while volunteering for Shred Fest 2016 at the Ross Township Borough Building.

Both are from The Retired Enlisted Association or TREA, a group donating its time to help the AARP with the shredding of old documents, credit card applications and unneeded medical bills for seniors. The Pittsburgh Shred Fest 2016 also was covered in advance by KDKA Radio and Television, which helped build the crowd of more than 400 cars attending the event.



CHAPTER 80



Judson High School:
Chapter 80 Vice President HC
Moreland presents Cadet Jose
Gonzales with the Order of
Merit Award

East Central High School:
Order of Merit Award presented
to Cadet Joseph Miller
by Vice President HC Moreland



Chapter 80 Member James Scott
presents the Order of Merit Award
to Cadet Alexandria Vitz

Chapter 80: Storks Nest

The month of February was very busy for Chapter 80 and auxiliary. This time to the Storks Nest, sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, partnered with the March of Dimes. Ginger Pope, a sorority member, serves as both Executive Director for the sorority and Program Administrator for the March of Dimes. The mission of the program is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature births unhealthy birth weight, and infant mortality; carried out through research, community service, education and advocacy to save the lives of babies. Each mother-to-be who attends all classes and makes all physician appointments receive vouchers of which may be exchanged for infant supplies in the Storks Nest.....a store provided at the training site, stocked with clothing and a myriad of baby supplies that the mother will need for her healthy child when born. Chapter 80 Auxiliary contributes supplies to help make the Storks Nest more valuable for the students by providing knitted baby clothing and gift cards. Last year Director Pope reported 84 healthy graduations, meaning healthy births without any health threats described in the mission statement.



Chapter 80's Auxiliary Contributions Much Appreciated

Chapter and Auxiliary 80 in San Antonio, Texas continues to spread its works for The Enlisted Association throughout the city. This is the third year for contributing over 200 items to the Threads of Love, an organization that creates and manufactures items for admission baskets to babies in incubators; premature babies. The baskets are delivered to hospitals throughout the United States.

President Elaine Moreland introduced the auxiliary to Threads of Love in 2013. She and the auxiliary create the Journals according to instructions from the organization, but the cover designs are strictly from imaginative minds of the auxiliary. To add substance to the contributions, members Guadelupe Scott, Anne Myers and Auxiliary President Elaine Moreland knitted and crocheted caps, booties, blankets, pillowcases and laundry bags, respectively; as seen in the pictures. This was the third of such contributions.

Mrs. Liz Page, owner of the 501 (C) (3) company, and her workers were speechless to the amount of work that the auxiliary had undertaken to make such a contribution. The company now intends to make Z-Flo pads and satchel-pouches for the babies. Z-Flo wraps, are elongated sleeves filled with a gel to encircle the child while lying down. When the child kicks the gelled sleeve, it will strengthen the legs. Also, the arms will stay near the baby so the arm muscles will grow in the right direction. The pouches are for the mothers to carry the baby in front of her while working or doing other chores. President Elaine Moreland has already received the patterns for assisting with the pouches.

The Auxiliary now prepares for its other programs for the year: The Storks Nest, Haven for Hope and the Blue Santa Toys for Tots.

SUBMITTED BY MARIE SMITH, PR



Cadet Griffin
with Rick Delany



Cadet Winderborne
with Rick Delany and
Chapter 94 Vice
President, James
Harkins



Cadet Harrison
with Rick Delany



Cadet Wallace
with Rick Delany

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you see an error or omission in Chapter News or our Memorial Day Feature sections, please contact the Editor at editor@trea.org. We will include corrections in the next issue. Thank you!

Passing the Legacy to the Next Generation

STAFF REPORT

TREA National President Larry Hyland had the privilege of presenting his own grandson with the President's Coin and an application to membership for TREA on June 2, 2016, at Ft. Leonard Wood in Missouri. President Hyland and his wife "were proud to see PVT. Gabriel (Gabe) Hyland and 150+ others from three platoons making up 'Company D, WAR DAWGS', 795 Military Police Battalion on the completion of 19 weeks of intense and demanding training in modern day ARMY basic warfighting and military police skills and tactics.

"It was a very heart warming experience not only see the change in my grandson, both physically and in bearing, but watching he and the 150+ others both understand and embrace the commitment to their country and their Army and show the warrior ethos of those before them – it makes one proud that there are still many who step up to the plate – in all the Armed Services," said President Hyland. Pvt. Hyland will be off from there, after a short leave to Ft. Bliss Texas, his proud grandfather shared.

President Hyland noted in his communication to us, "There are also two photos of SPC Truong who was the Distinguished Graduate and who hails from New York – for me being a New Yorker - you are never a former or X-New Yorker - it was a pleasure presenting her with both

a TREA National Presidents Coin and a membership also. Keep in mind, quite possibly, one of her relatives was one of the many Vietnamese we air evacuated from South Vietnam in 1975. After that ceremony, we went to the other side of the continent to present to my grandson."

President and Mrs. Hyland were happy to note that they "would personally pick up the cost of both of those memberships, once they arrive at their next permanent assignment and have their mailing address established." TREA is proud to welcome the younger Hyland into our ranks as well as SPC Truong. As we continue to note, the future of TREA is in our new young members. We all can help spread the word and invite more to follow suit. ★



TECHNOLOGY SIMPLIFIED – BIGGER AND BETTER

Wow! A Simple to Use Computer Designed Especially for Seniors!

Easy to read. Easy to see. Easy to use. Just plug it in!



"I love this computer! It is easy to read and to use! I get photo updates from my children and grandchildren all the time."

— Janet F.

Have you ever said to yourself "I'd love to get a computer, if only I could figure out how to use it." Well, you're not alone. Computers were supposed to make our lives simpler, but they've gotten so complicated that they are not worth the trouble. With all of the "pointing and clicking" and "dragging and dropping" you're lucky if you can figure out where you are. Plus, you are constantly worrying about viruses and freeze-ups. If this sounds familiar, we have great news for you. There is finally a computer that's designed for simplicity and ease of use. It's the WOW Computer, and it was designed with you in mind. This computer is easy-to-use, worry-free and literally puts the world at

your fingertips. From the moment you open the box, you'll realize how different the WOW Computer is. The components are all connected; all you do is plug it into an outlet and your high-speed Internet connection. Then you'll see the screen – it's now 22 inches. This is a completely new touch screen system, without the cluttered look of the normal computer screen. The "buttons" on the screen are easy to see and easy to understand. All you do is touch one of them, from the Web, Email, Calendar to Games— you name it... and a new screen opens up. It's so easy to use you won't have to ask your children or grandchildren for help. Until now, the very people who could benefit most from E-mail and the Internet are the ones that have had the hardest time accessing it. Now, thanks to the WOW Computer, countless older Americans are discovering the wonderful world of the Internet every day. Isn't it time

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Clair Rambo - May He Rest in Peace

CHAPTER 74, TACOMA, WA

Clair Rambo, the first president of Chapter 74 passed away on 31 January 2016. He and his lovely wife Marilyn were married for 65 years. Rambo and Marilyn went door-to-door recruiting members to start the chapter.

In March of 1993, the first TREA: The Enlisted Association Chapter (74) in the state of Washington was co-founded by the late Clair Rambo. Rambo and the other officers were installed on 20 August 1993, by the Late National President Albert (Al) Yabanez.

Three other chapters (Spokane, Wenatchee and Puyallup) in the state of Washington came on

board over time. However, within three to four years, Rambo encouraged the members to work together and help one another, creating a unified voice in the state of Washington. Although Rambo did belong to other membership organizations, he moved them down on his priority list over time, choosing to put most of his energy into work on behalf of our membership at TREA because he believed so strongly in the work that TREA was doing. We are grateful for all he did for us and for the country. Clair Rambo will be heartily missed. May he rest in peace.



Photo 1, (L-R); 20 August 1993 the newly installed Chapter 74 President Clair Rambo and the National President Al Yabanez are ready to cut the installation cake.



Photo 2, (L-R); Seated at the 1999 TREA National Convention held in Tacoma, WA are Chief Delegate CC Cameron, Delegate Jessie Trotter and Alternate Chief Delegate Clair Rambo. Rambo attended several National Conventions and also served on National committees.



What is ESGR?

BY JOHN I. ADAMS
NATIONAL 1ST VP

ESGR stands for the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve. It is a Department of Defense (DoD) program. It was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component (RC) Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

Earlier this year, I asked Chapter 1's President, Rey Garate, if the ESGR Colorado State Chair, Mark Lilevjen, could speak at one of our general membership meetings to inform the chapter members about the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

I first heard about ESGR through the Pikes Peak MOAA/TREA Job Networking Breakfast Group that is held at TREA Chapter 1.

Besides a small paid staff at the Pentagon, ESGR has a support network of more than 4,500 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI (Commonwealth

of the Northern Mariana Islands), Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

ESGR serves all Seven Reserve Components: Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve (see below for their specific symbol).

The volunteers are from small business and industry, government, education and prior military service. They bring a vast wealth of experience to assist in serving employers, service members and their families. Together with Headquarters ESGR staff and a small cadre of support staff for each State Committee, volunteers work to promote and enhance employer support for military service in the Guard and Reserve

They develop and promote supportive work environments for the service members in the RC through outreach, recognition, and educational opportunities. In addition, they increase the awareness of ap-

plicable laws and mediate employer conflicts between the Service Members and their employers.

There is a lot of additional information about them, so please go to their web site (<http://www.esgr.mil>) to read further.

Besides what I mentioned and what is on their web site, ESGR is a major sponsor of the Military Veterans Employment Expo (MVEE) which is a three day event with the last day being a job fair. This year, at the Colorado Springs MVEE, TREA was offered a table at no cost. Chapters 1 and 113 represented TREA. This is the first year that TREA was offered a table, which I believe came about due to my working with Mark Lilevjen to establish a Strategic Alliance between ESGR and TREA. We both believe this will be a win-win situation for both entities. It would give ESGR another source for volunteers and TREA another source for new members. I hope I have additional information about the alliance at the convention Vegas. ★

Did You Know? I bet you didn't!

BY DEBBIE OSBORNE, TREA DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS
WITH INPUT FROM SHANNON BENTON, TSCL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How much do you know about TREA and its affiliates? Of course we lobby in DC – that is very important, but we do more . . . so much more.

Through our affiliates, TREA Memorial Foundation and TREA Senior Citizens League (TSCL), we have helped thousands of veterans and senior citizens over the years.

Take a minute to read a little bit about these great programs – and learn something that I bet you didn't know!

TREA Memorial Foundation was founded on May 14, 1990 to support fellow veterans, both active duty and retired, their families, military widows and their children by providing assistance during their time of need. The Memorial Foundation, in conjunction with the Armed Forces Aid Campaign (AFAC) has awarded more than \$2.638 million dollars to veterans and their families through one of their programs: benevolent assistance, scholarship or disaster relief. During Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, TREA Memorial Foundation oversaw the distribution of more than \$90,000 to TREA members who were affected by the disastrous storm. More recently, TREA Memorial Foundation made it possible for

the families of 8 wounded soldiers to be reunited for the holidays through the Luke's Wings program. A program that flies family members to the bedside of their wounded soldiers. I bet you a dollar that you didn't know that!

TREA's Memorial Foundation is there to help in times of need and sorrow.

For more information on the Memorial Foundation visit www.trea.org.

TREA Senior Citizens League (TSCL) consists of active senior citizens concerned about the protection of their Social Security, Medicare, and veteran or military retiree benefits. TSCL was first established in 1992 as a special project of TREA: The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA). In September 1994, TSCL was incorporated in Colorado as an independent citizens' action and education non-profit organization.

TSCL has met with hundreds of Member of Congress lobbying on issues ranging from a more fair and accurate Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to preventing Fraud, Waste and Abuse of Medicare benefits. One of the organization's most significant

accomplishments has been calling attention to, and preventing acceptance of, a Social Security Totalization Agreement between the United States and Mexico.

TSCL does so much more than just lobby! The organization is very proud of its public education program. TSCL routinely provides speakers to give presentations throughout the country on Social Security benefits. Additionally, its flagship publication is sent to over 150,000 people 8 times a year and is 100% public education. TSCL is consistently quoted in national publications, such as; The Washington Post, USA Today and The Wall Street Journal. TSCL representatives have appeared live on MSNBC's Powers Lunch, CNN Lou Dobbs, and Fox News and other television news programs.

For more information on The Senior Citizens League visit www.SeniorsLeague.org. ☼



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simple. We'll even program it with your
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**"I tried my sister's cell phone...
I couldn't hear it."** The Jitterbug Flip
is designed with a powerful speaker and
is hearing aid compatible. Plus, there's an
adjustable volume control.

**"I don't need stock quotes, Internet sites or
games on my phone. I just want to talk with
my family and friends."** Life is complicated
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"What if I don't remember a number?"
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hours a day and will even greet you by name
when you call.

**"My cell phone company wants to lock me in
a two-year contract!"** Not with the Jitterbug Flip.
There are no contracts to sign and no penalty if you
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Legacy of Leadership: The Dottie Holmes Story

BY KIM DECOSTE

Meeting Dorothy “Dottie” Holmes felt like discovering a treasure. A national treasure whose legacy must be preserved. Ms. Holmes is striking in her own way. She does not look her age. Her white hair was neatly coiffed and she looked comfortable with the authority time has given her as she came into the TREA Post 1 offices to meet me. She is comfortable here; it is clear, as she says hello to the staff and volunteers who all greet her with an enthusiastic, “Hello, Ms. Dottie!” She checks her mailbox in the main office and looks around. I was eager to get started and headed toward her to offer an introduction.

I realized as I was driving to meet her, that I had not done my usual research. Eager to get the interview done and short on time for the first deadline, I scheduled the meeting the week before and then got lost in my schedule. As I walked with Ms. Dottie to the room where we would speak, I suddenly felt a tinge of nerves. We sat down and she pulled herself up in the chair, squared her shoulders erectly, crossed her hands on the table and looked me directly in the eye, saying, “What would you like to talk about?” I laughed as I gathered my notebook and said, “Well, we are here to talk about you, Ma’am.” Tilting her head down for a second, she looked back at me and said, “I don’t like to just talk about myself. You had better ask me some questions. That should help.”

And so it began. For a little over an hour, she shared the story of her simple, and yet, fascinating journey from the time she was a young, fair skinned black woman strolling down the street in Philadelphia, to the point at which we found ourselves. We could have spoken much longer, but we covered a lot in that relatively short time.

It was 1949 when she took that walk. She was 21 years old. Raised by her widowed father who had remarried and a stepmother, as the youngest in her family of five children, Dottie had always had a certain sense of adventure and obligation. She was not afraid to try new things and she had, and still has, an honest work ethic, that informed her perspective. She did not re-

member exactly what drew her to the poster in the window, but she did recall a WAC was in the office that day, who told her she could join the military.

She chose the Air Force
“because I had never been to San Antonio.” The Army base was not “far enough away.” It was the adventure she was after.

Not knowing which branch she really preferred, she said she chose the Air Force “because I had never been to San Antonio”. The Army base was not “far enough away”. It was the adventure she was after. The WAC corporal told her that she had to take a test which would determine which branch of the service she was eligible to join. Lucky for her, she did well enough to pursue her idea of joining the Air Force, and within a short amount of time, she was “all signed up and ready to go.”

She remembered that her father “was not too keen on the idea” when he heard her decision, but he did not try to dissuade her. She went to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio to begin the journey. Lackland was segregated then, by the way. She went through training and before she knew it, she was assigned to her first post. The Korean War was underway and it is her belief that “they needed everyone they could get” to serve abroad. She was assigned a base in Japan and off she went.

She talked about her time in Japan, and then later in Germany at Ramstein Air Force Base as a great adventure. I asked her what stood out in her memory about that time. She said, “Well, I remember that we were an oddity in both places.” I was not sure if she meant because she was a woman, an American woman, or a black American woman in the 1950s serving in places that had likely not seen many of any of those types of people. World War II was still fresh in the minds of all three countries and I am sure there was much be-

hind the scenes that she no longer dwells upon. Her memories seem matter-of-fact and not as nuanced, perhaps, as I might make them out to be.

I asked her what Germany seemed like to her and how it felt to live there, so soon after the Great War. (I have lived there myself and expected certain answers.) Dottie thought about it for a second and said, "We were briefed about what was expected of us. We believed that they had been through enough, and we were there to get along." That's really all she had to say about it. I guess that is enough, taken at its heart.

Ms. Dottie answers questions thoughtfully -- aware, it seems, that her story is part of the legacy of a shared history which I want to capture and keep true to her word. Back to the word "oddity", I want to ask about whether being black was the big distinction, but even today, as a white civilian woman, I do not feel comfortable asking a race-related question. I am sure I could have, but I did not. She seemed most focused on the issue of her gender. She referred to herself with the jocular term, "a skirt" several times.

Ms. Dottie never married. She did USO Tours, so one would assume the decision to remain single was not for lack of opportunity, but rather 100% by choice. She was careful to discuss this with me, as she could see the ring on my finger. She said, "Don't take this wrong, please, but I always kind of felt like I could get married when there was nothing else to do." She continued

saying, "From my perspective, if I got married, then everything became about supporting someone else. Maybe supporting children. Following him around. I did not really want to follow anyone. But that's just me." Finally she added with a laugh, "At some point, you then realize you are set in your own ways and probably nobody would want me anyway!" I cannot believe that is the case, but that is her feeling.

It seems she did well from the point of enlisting as she continued on her journey. I asked her how she man-

aged to build such a career over the subsequent 30 years. She smiled and said she took it "one station at a time". From Japan and Germany's double duty abroad, she was moved into personnel where she remained. Eventually life brought her to Colorado Springs where she was asked to work with the first classes of female cadets at the Air Force Academy. She continued to rise in rank and enjoyed success in each role she held, which she attributes largely to good and fair leadership. She also said, "God bless those who were defensive of me. I could not have done it alone."

She took it "one station at a time." From Japan and Germany's double duty abroad, she was moved into personnel where she remained.



I asked her if I could ask a personal question, along those lines. “Yes,” she said. So, I inquired as to whether she had experienced any particular challenges as a woman in the military. So often we hear stories that make my mind leap to discrimination and misconduct. “No, not really,” she offered after a pause. “Nothing is perfect and we all have our stories, I guess, but no, I was blessed to work for very good men. I did my job. They did not have to worry about me. I met deadlines and goals that were set and I worked hard.” She believed she had to “be sharp” and every single time she got a new opportunity, she said, “oh, you have to work hard for that start.”

“I wanted to do my men proud. I did not want them to suffer because they had to report to that skirt.”

What motivated her, I asked. “I wanted to do my men proud. I did not want them to suffer or be teased because they had to report to ‘that skirt’. It was not their fault they were assigned to me and I did my best by every one of them.” Once, she remembered, someone did tease one of “her men” while she was in the room. The cadet took offense on her behalf and rose from his seat to meet the taunt, defending her and asking the other man firmly “what do you want to make of it?” She remembered the story with a sparkle in her eye and a fond smile.

Dottie Holmes continued in the

Air Force, as I mentioned, for thirty years. Thirty years and a week to be precise. In 1979, she retired. She simply said there was no more for her to do. It was time. Her father was still alive to see her retire. She left at the rank of E9. When asked about her leadership style she said, “I did not want them to fear me. I wanted them to understand that we all had hard jobs to do. My stripes would speak for themselves.”

Our conversation meandered further. As I digested that it is now 2016, and she retired in 1979, I asked her what she has been “up to” these past 37 years. She still is active in the Air Force Community. She still helps with incoming personnel as a volunteer. She works in the legal office “witnessing wills mostly these days” adding, “there is quite a demand for that.” Knowing that her father and siblings have since passed on, she mentioned some nieces and nephews, but I could not help but wonder if she ever felt lonely.

To that question she replied, “Well, I figure if I am feeling lonely that means I am just sitting around, being too lazy to have something to do. So I get up and do something.” She attends church now and again, but it is not a big focus for her at this time. She said she really prefers to spend her time at TREA Post 1. I asked her why, and she said, “because this is for those who enlisted. There are plenty of things for the officers and the others, but not enough for the enlisted men and women who have served. I am partial to this cause.”

We talked about the current political situation. She looked at me

cautiously when I asked what she thinks of our Presidential prospects. She laughed a bit. For the sake of the privacy of her choice, I will not share whom she thinks she will support. But she did say, “you hope they are running for the right reasons, don’t you?” Continuing, “Whoever wins will be my President.” She is optimistic, in general, that we will have a woman President soon. She was “glad” to see Obama in the White House. She added, in speaking about Presidential leadership and leadership in general, “You are only as good as the people around you.”

As our hour was coming to a close, I asked a few of my favorite questions. “What is your favorite place you have ever been?” Not surprisingly, she said, “All of them.” Did she have any personal motto or parting words? “I would do it all again,” was her comment. Finally, any advice to offer those who are following behind her, the younger leaders both in the military and just young people in general? “Well,” she said, “I just feel this way, I did my thing during my time. Now it’s up to you to do your thing.”

With that, I felt the baton had been passed. We agreed to follow up. Ms. Dottie cringed at the idea of her photo being on the cover of the magazine, but gave us permission to use this story as the cover story for the Women’s Veteran issue. As I said in the beginning, meeting Ms. Dottie felt like discovering a national treasure. With gratitude, we thank Ms. Dottie for her service and all of the women who have so proudly served in our military. She is an inspiration to all of us! ★



Money Matters!

TREASURER'S REPORT BY NATIONAL TREASURER, DEB OELSCHIG

The primary focus for the finance committee throughout FY15 was to do a complete and thorough review of TREA finances and make recommendations to improve our programs. With the support of the TREA Director for Operations, Ms. Osborne and her staff, we worked to do what will be best to secure TREA's future.

A detailed review of the fiscal finances and budgets for FY14 through FY16 were preformed. As a result, the budget for FY16 was scaled back and is geared toward actual spending.

TREA hired a new auditing firm this year, Taylor, Roth & Company. This firm works only with non-profits, it is their specialty and their area of expertise. The auditor spent many days at TREA Headquarters, reviewing practices and procedures, verifying transactions and testing data. Many long nights were spent tracing checks and membership applications to satisfy the testing requirements. It was very thorough and it was very good for TREA. The auditor made suggestions and offered professional opinions. One of those suggestions was in the way that TREA was accounting for dues from membership. In the past, TREA would defer the amount by the stated time frame (i.e.: a 1 year membership would be broken down into 12 installments, with 1/12th realized every month, a 3 year would

be broken into 36 installments and realized over 36 months, etc.). This created a 'deferred revenue' account. Typically deferred revenue is used when an expense is expected in the future that is directly related to the income source. Since we do not currently have specific expenses that we need to save up for, it was highly recommended that we do away with the deferred revenue process, and start realizing the funds as they are received.

TREA started FY15 with net assets of \$1,666,016 (after auditors adjustments, balancing back to the banks/financial institutions). Add in the revenue of \$1,248,281, subtract the expenses of \$1,291,591 and you arrive at the ending net assets amount of \$1,622,706. Subtract the beginning net assets from the ending net assets and arrive at the net loss of \$43,310 for Fiscal Year 2015.

Now for those of you who read the Treasurer's report in the April issue, you will remember that we reported a net profit for FY15 of \$171,041 – adjustments that were made through the auditing process, brought our net profit to an actual net loss of \$43,310.00. The major adjustment being -\$203,804.04 to reflect the change in deferred revenue from previous years. Other adjustments amounted to -\$7,754.56.

If you take these adjustments, and subtract the total from the previ-

ously reported net profit, you come up with -\$ 40,517.60. Making a minor adjustment of -\$ 2,792.40 which was a posting omission, you come up with the -\$ 43,310.00 as noted by the audit report as the net loss for FY15. (a detailed report showing individual adjustments is available by calling the TREA Headquarters at 1-800-338-9337)

Now that we have explained the past, let's move onto the future. Here are some of the financial changes that were made to FY16:

- Just making note again to the change in deferred revenue – we will not be deferring membership dues going forward. The adjustments were incorporated into the FY15 audit.
- TREA made notable changes to the handling of staff expenses, from tightening the 401K program to the hiring of part-time employees. These changes have and will continue to result in a significant cost savings for the organization.
- TREA Board of Director's voted to discontinue the monthly e-magazine. As a result, TREA will realize a cost savings of \$40K.
- A new Editor has been contracted to provide 4 quarterly publications for print. Aside and completely separate from removing the e-magazine from the contract, TREA will

realize an additional \$13k in savings with this new contractor.

- The TREA Headquarter Building has been put up for sale. With a proper, aggressive and timely marketing campaign, there is the potential for TREA to realize a \$2.5 million profit.

- In January 2016, TREA began a New Member Recruitment Direct Mail Program with AMS Management Services Corporation. The goal of the acquisition program is to develop new member recruitment direct mail packages that would generate

large numbers of respondents who would become active dues-paying members and accomplish this at a reasonable cost to TREA. Results from the last mailing are:

1 year new members - 250

2 year new members - 15

3 year new members - 216

QPL was 15

Life was 14

A review of the Memorial Foundation and the distribution of funds were completed by the Finance Committee and the Chair of the Memorial Foundation, Mr. William DeBoer. As a result of the review,

we have ensured that the Foundation will continue to grow and support all of our veterans. The mission of the Memorial Foundation is to “assist wounded soldiers and their families”. The Foundation has provided over \$2.638 million in Scholarships, Disaster Relief, and Benevolence assistance to military veterans and their families since it’s origination in 1992. We would like to thank Mr. DeBoer and Alice DeBoer for putting their Hearts and Souls into one of the best programs that TREA has to offer! ★

Below is the Audited Schedule of Activities for FY15, as presented by Taylor, Roth & Company, PLLC – Certified Public Accountants. This is a simplified showing of financial activity for FY15. A more detailed, in-depth version is available by calling TREA Headquarters.

Fundraising	-	\$ 260,569
Member Dues	-	\$ 308,295
Royalties	-	\$ 164,890
Convention	-	\$ 60,270
Misc Reimb.	-	\$ 57,469
Advertising	-	\$ 48,027
Life Ins. Settlement	-	\$ 38,211
Store Sales	-	\$ 11,426
Trademark fee	-	\$ 270,128
Management fee (TREF)-	\$	44,100
Investment	-	\$ (25,075)
Other	-	\$ 5,895
In-Kind	-	\$ 4,076

TOTAL REVENUE - \$ 1,248,281

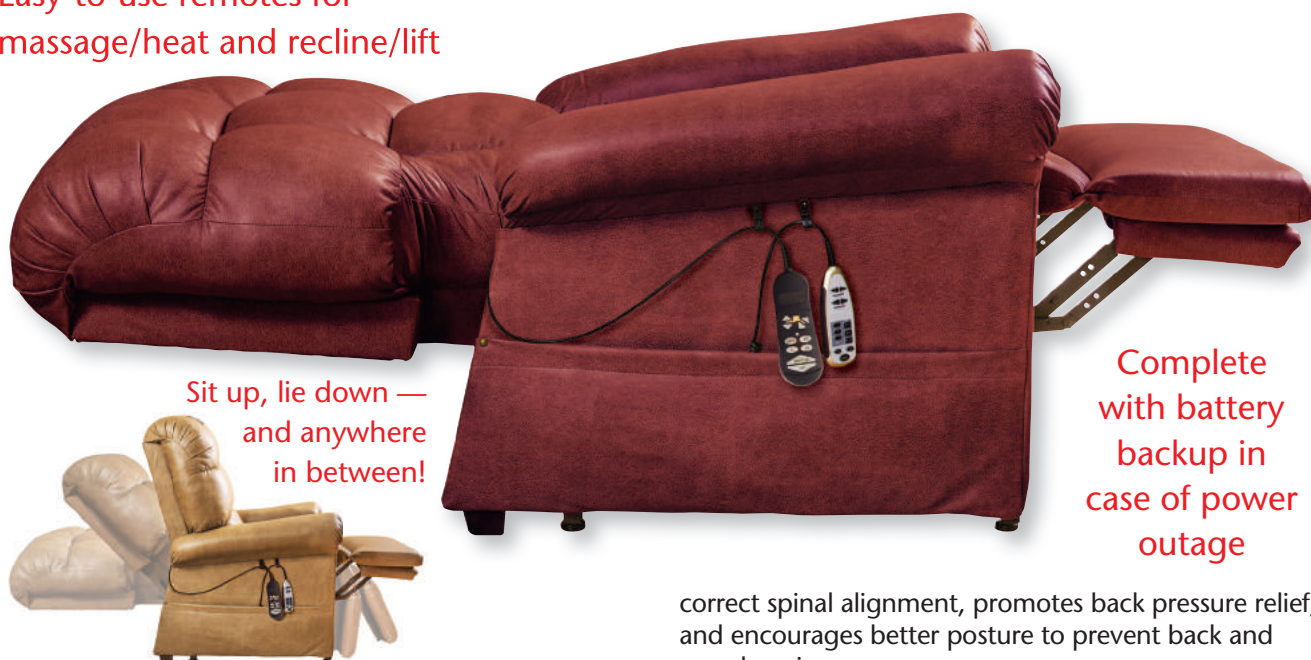
Staff Expenses	-	\$ 469,968
Membership	-	\$ 144,752
Convention/Midterm-	\$	133,727
Fundraising	-	\$ 155,412
Rent/utilities	-	\$ 96,137
Operations	-	\$ 109,406
The VOICE	-	\$ 106,256
Store Expenses	-	\$ 10,502
Life Ins. Expenses	-	\$ 8,973
Bad debt	-	\$ 9,238
Bank Fees	-	\$ 9,857
Registration fees	-	\$ 10,819
Depreciation	-	\$ 26,544

TOTAL EXPENSES- \$1,291,591

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— J. Fitzgerald, VA

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massage/heat and recline/lift



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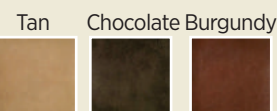
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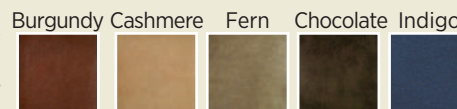


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Missing from Vets

BY ROBERT L. HOLLIS, PH. D.

Despite the fact that we have been going to war prior to the Revolutionary War, there is little to nothing in the mental health literature about reintegrating the veteran into the family structure and into civilian life.

I am; therefore, going to advance some modalities that may be beneficial in helping veterans to cope with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD or any other affliction that they may be suffering.

With the refining and perfecting of military gear and equipment, these changes impact the way our wars are fought. We, thus, must change the way we approach caring for our warriors. I use the word warriors because most recently, within the past 14 years with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan our volunteer army and the magnitude and extent of the wars require our warriors to serve multiple tours of duty. Frequently, this requires fighting in different war zones with different demographics, topography, sophistication and primitive methods of fighting. Guerilla warfare is more prevalent in less developed countries and the weaponry can be primitive and there is often more direct contact with our enemies. The use of women and children as decoys or human weapons on suicide missions is new to the war game where with bombs strapped on their bodies, these innocent looking people can mix and mingle undetected until their suicide mission evolves.

From warriors riding in on horseback to the use of humvies there is a different approach to fighting. Wars have gone high tech just as society has become more technologically advanced.

Whereas in the past, couriers were used to convey messages to the front, today a simple phone call can direct the path that a warrior should follow.

Just as there is a drastic change in the way we fight wars, we as mental health providers must change our way of dealing with the more complicated experiences that our warriors face.

Because of land mines, guided missiles and anti-aircraft capabilities, today's wars leave more warriors maimed and disfigured.

What do we offer them when they return home and what is missing? That is going to be the concentration of this paper.

Reintegration Into The Family

We spend months in boot camps training and preparing our warriors to go off to war to kill so they can survive. We do absolutely nothing to prepare them to come back home; and, we have little to nothing to offer them when they come back home. Most flounder. They have changed and so have their families. The children have grown and often are no longer the cuddly little tykes that they left. Some have reached

their teen years and present the problems of the typical teen. Their wives have gotten more independent, not by choice, but by necessity. They come home to a different wife than the one they left. If they have lost limbs and are on artificial limbs, they as less physically attractive and a wife has to adjust to them removing artificial limbs before they go to bed. The sight of an artificial limb standing in the corner can be repulsive. It takes a strong woman to adjust to one who is no longer a whole man or conversely, a strong man to adjust to one who is no longer a whole woman. If the spouse is a nurse or in the medical field, the adjustment is a little easier because this is something they see every day. The majority are not nurses and lack the empathy of someone who's trained to deal with adverse circumstances.

The same is true of our female warriors who when they left home were soft and sexy, now she has hardened some, has lost some of her feminine curves due to extreme exercise of hiking and building muscles carrying heavy armor. Her once flowing locks are gone and running his hands through this short bob cut is not as exciting as it was before. Physically and mentally, the warriors, male and female have changed and so have the families they left behind.

What do we do to help these "new" families adjust to their respective changes?

This is what we should do. First, as it becomes obvious that a vet is coming home, a social worker, a psychologist or a psychiatrist should be assigned to counseling and preparation of the family for the changed husband/father/mother/ son/daughter who is coming home. There should be group sessions and individual sessions so the fears and anxieties can be revealed and coping skills can be introduced. Perhaps before and after photos can be presented to the families so the initial shock of seeing a paraplegic or disfigured vet can be minimized. Can you imagine the polite but artificial response given to the vet where the family is trying to pretend that they don't notice that parts are missing? It takes time to accept extreme bodily changes, weight gain, weight loss, receding hair lines, beards, mustaches, etc. some vets have returned home with scar tissue over their heads and faces because of burns suffered. This can be repulsive to look at if a person is not prepared to see this drastic change. The voice is the same but the words seem to come from a stranger. In bed when one turns over and there are missing parts, that can not only seem strange; but, it can be an intimacy turn off. At least if you are prepared to express your feelings in a group setting before the vet comes home, one gets to vent and acknowledge one's trepidations.

Simultaneously while the family back home is being prepared, the vet also must be given counseling to have him to open up and express his concerns and apprehensions about how he will be received and welcomed as one who has lost body

parts. This kind of transitional preparation should be given to all vets whether there are physical disabilities or not. There are also the mental and emotional issues to adjust to.

The children of veterans deserve special consideration also. Dad may not be able to toss the football or shoot hoops and the mom may not be able to bake cookies or pull up a zipper on a daughter's prom dress or wedding gown. Children should be lead to understand that though the parent may have physical limitations, the love for them is there, just as strong as ever.

Wars are costly in many ways. We spend trillions on weaponry and equipment as an investment in a victory; therefore, we must spend trillions by way of thanking our veterans for their service. We need legislators who are willing to pay for the price of democracy and freedom. Appropriate allocations of funds for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the humans must be considered equally vital as the money spent on the weapons of war. Unless we are willing to truly thank our veterans for their service, we should not go to war.

The next most important step is to have a job for which the vet is qualified, ready and waiting upon return when the vet is able to go to work. Vets are not homeless because of desire; they are homeless because they are neglected, can't adjust to home life, have no worthy employment to occupy their time, and often are facing or have already been foreclosed on. This is not right. This is not fair.

Most of all we show a lack of appreciation for the value of this human's life and service.

Affordable housing should be made available with reduced rents or mortgages in order that a vet can lay his/her head down and feel secure about where they will be the next night. Veterans should be given a choice as to whether they want small veterans' compounds where they can interact with and share their stories of war with those who understand because they've been through the same or similar experiences. Some would flourish in this kind of environment; others would not, so the choice should be afforded them.

Training and educational opportunities must be provided for those wishing to further their education or train for a different occupation. In order words, just as with children, we must teach the whole child, with our veterans, we must reach the whole man/woman to help him/her fulfill their needs and even their wants.

This preliminary paper offers some practical suggestions for the complete integration of our warriors to make the transition from warriors to civilians.

Dr. Hollis, TREA Member, will be a presenter at our upcoming 2016 Annual Convention in Las Vegas, September 15th to 17th. He will be available to meet personally with members to discuss issues and concerns. ★

Education Credential & Experience

BY DOUG BONEBRAKE

Through our resume and interview performance, we want to demonstrate to a potential hiring manager that we have knowledge and the capability to successfully apply it to deliver quality performance. We must expect the hiring manager to look at the combination of our education, credentials, and achievements as evidence of the level and quality of the skills we possess.

Experience is a demonstration of that which we are made. Experience molds our ability to accomplish. Achievements demonstrate the value, quality, and outcome of our actions and decisions. Our years of experience and the magnitude of our achievements reveal our commitment, dedication, and performance capabilities. The issue with relying upon experience alone, though, is that it may limit our understanding of available options from which to deliver quality and efficient solutions in a competitive and ever-changing market.

We can point to a number of successful entrepreneurs who do not possess education credentials, but we must be realistic, the higher the ladder we expect to climb, it becomes increasingly difficult to do so without some evidence of our learning. Experience is valuable, but in a competitive job market, we can expect education credentials to become a discriminator. Education credentials may also help us to

demonstrate a knowledge base in areas we have yet to receive opportunities through which to gain applied experience.

Our objective is to be competitive on both the education and experience fronts. We must manage both such that we may differentiate ourselves from the pack. While we are employed is the best time to work both elements of our personal development plan as both education and experience require time and simply cannot be developed overnight.

As we look to new horizons, we can use education to develop our knowledge base while we look for opportunities to add to our experience and achievements. As we gain experience, we want to augment our knowledge base with education from which we may optimize our performance and present a depth of capability through which we may convince a hiring manager that we can deliver the value and performance they need.

As we manage our career, we want to seek a balance between education and experience such that we can use one to enhance the other. We must remember the cliché, “there is no substitute for experience,” but we must also consider the synergy we can achieve by applying both education and experience. ★

Attention All TREA Members:

We have now initiated the new TREA Digital Newsletter to members with emails. If you did not receive this informative correspondence, then please contact TREA national at the HQ phone number with your email--especially if it has changed. Since this is the first issue, it may go to your spam folder; please click ‘Never Block Sender’ (or whatever your non-blocking message reads)so you can receive

this newsletter. It not only has great information for vets and their families, but TREA can now give you fast updates as to what is going on. Feel free to pass it along to others you think might benefit; it could also be a great recruiting tool.

Thanks,
IT COMMITTEE

TREA Memorial Foundation

BY MARK TABACHECK

The mission of the TREA Memorial Foundation is to support fellow veterans both active duty and retired, military widows/widowers, and children as necessary to provide assistance during their time of need.

Scholarships: Free money for several TREA member's children and grandchildren college expenses.

The TREA Memorial Foundation Scholarship applications were made available to TREA member's children and grandchildren applicants in January 2016. The scholarships will be awarded to the winners based upon the student's achievements while in high school or college. The scoring of each individual application will be made according to their Grade Point Average (GPA), their scholastic awards, their extra-curricular activities (both in and out of school), their work experience, their essay, and finally their financial need. The essay this year uses Emma Lazarus' poem found on the Statue of Liberty as the subject.

TREA Memorial Foundation Chairman Bill De Boer has appointed Foundation Trustee Roger Tackitt as 2016 Scholarship Committee Chairman. Mr. Tackitt has in turn selected several members at large



(members of the committee do NOT have to be Trustees to serve on the committee) to be on the Committee with him to evaluate the 80 scholarship applications.

If you would like to volunteer to serve on the scholarship committee, you may submit a Form 100-3MT for Memorial Foundation Trustee. On the first line available (top right) enter the words Scholarship Committee. Submit the resume with a postmark dated no later than February 1st of the year to be considered. There may be a total of five members at large (may be trustees) selected to serve on the committee by the current year's scholarship committee chairman.

The Memorial Foundation also provides benevolent assistance to active duty service members, veterans (retired and honorably separated), and their families.

To be eligible to apply for financial assistance from the Foundation (in any form), the veteran needs to have the "Character of Service" box of the DD-214 form filled in with "Honorable". The active duty time served must be a minimum of 180 days of consecutive active duty, not for training. The Memorial Foundation pays only for essential items; it does not pay for loans or credit cards. The Foundation may pay to prevent foreclosure of a home. The Foundation may provide assistance in the form of Benevolent grants, food cards, or disaster assistance. Applications for all forms of financial assistance may be found on the www.TREA.org website or they can be obtained from the National Headquarters Office. ★





Larry Hyland & The Road He's Traveled

BY KIM DECOSTE

Outgoing TREA President Larry Hyland is well-known at TREA for his leadership and dedication to the causes for which TREA advocates. Hyland has had a distinguished Air Force career, as has his beloved wife and partner, Paz, and their credentials are documented as are their resumes. Many members know the details of their Air Force careers. But not many know the story of the life he has led and the life they built together along the way.

Larry did not have an easy start. Born at home in Long Island, New York, he was one of three children. His brother passed away some time ago and his sister is still in the Bronx, but his parents both died when the Hyland kids were young. Larry lost his dad at 12 and his mom by the age of 14. As was often the case then, he moved in with a family member who happened to be a New York Gold Shield Detective and then eventually ended up back with an Aunt and Uncle in Long Island, along with their son and his cousin, Jerry, who is like a brother to him.

Larry recalls he was “a skinny little runt” and a decent student with a good work ethic. He had credits enough for a high school diploma and the New York State Regents diploma in June/July of 1968. He had taken a job at a local market, the Waldbaum’s

store near his house. The manager was a retired Army E7, and Larry recalls that the man was nice to him, encouraging him to go to the Associate’s program Waldbaum’s offered and try to get himself into the ranks of management.

The draft was coming, however, and he did not think that was the right thing to do. He knew he was “too scrawny” for the Navy and Marines and that the Army would draft him, so he decided to enlist in the Air Force. The Tech Sergeant said he would put him on a delayed enlistment if he was able to get a guardian to countersign, and then he could enter in September, so that is what he did. His Aunt and Uncle were not too thrilled, but agreed, and then Jerry joined him about a week later in a different branch of service, the Navy.

For Jerry, it was not a great experience at all, and he got out as fast as he could, but Larry ended up staying. When they offered him a tax-free bonus of \$2,000, that seemed like an awful lot of money, so he re-enlisted. And so, once he got past the eight year mark, he decided he would stay and make a career out of it. Twenty years later he retired, missing chief, he later found out, by about two and a half points.

Continued on page 38

VETERANS PRIDE AND BROTHERHOOD

MEN'S HOODIE



Front



Back

Comfortable
cotton blend in
black with soft
fleece lining

Contrasting
grey thermal
lining in
hood

Striking design
features proud
patriotic and veteran
memorial art

Wear a Bold, Patriotic Design

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During that time, he served as a crew chief mostly in the Philippines, Taiwan, and the United States. He went back and forth between them over the years between 1971-1975. Paz is from the Philippines, but they met while on active duty at Ellsworth AFB in South Dakota she was in the 44th Missile Wing and Larry was in the 28th Bomb Wing. When we spoke to Larry for this article, we brushed through this time pretty quickly, keeping the discussion at a high level. We'll come back to his comments about Vietnam later.

After 20 years of active duty for Larry and 14 for Paz, Larry and his wife were tired of that life and decided it was time for a change. Larry "put out feelers" and made a few attempts to get hired on at Boeing in Seattle, but that never quite came together. There were layoffs happening in the west, so they adjusted their sights and soon landed in a small company in Waco, Texas. They had a Navy contract for P-3s an Air Force contract for VC-137's and were looking to get an Air Force Contract with the tankers (KC-135's and KC-10). Thus, they were looking for people with Strategic Air Command Experience. Larry's background fit the bill. They were looking for someone with experience as a bomber branch chief, which is something Larry had done both in Guam and in South Dakota, plus he had background with reconnaissance aircraft.

Less than three months into that job, however, Larry was let go, as the tanker contract did not materi-

"We had no idea exactly what that was, we made like Clampetts and headed east."

alize. So they headed off to Austin where Paz, his wife, had a sister. She got a job working for the state and he took a position on base in a recreation center. Paz joined the Air Force Reserves and got picked up for a position at Duke Field (919th Special Operations Wing of the USAF), and though "we had no idea exactly what that was," Larry laughed, "we made like the Clampetts and headed east." They were empty nesters by that time with one daughter in Florida and one in California, so they were free to move around without constraint. The funny thing was, when they got to Florida, even though they had been married for several years, they got housing in separate barracks. He was with the men and she was with the women! They laughed at the rendezvous points about it all and continued working happily until they were finally able to buy a home of their own and settle down.

Paz and Larry have a great marriage built on mutual respect, love, and trust. They have always supported each other. During the next several years, they transitioned from he being in a civil service job and going back to school while she was the main bread winner, to pursuing a dream of opening their own business.

After much deliberation about opening a business, they finally decided to give it a go and opened a small hobby and gift store off of Highway 10. It started as a booth in a flea market and grew. Eventually they had customers from around the country who would call Larry for special items. He did not worry about advertising, but rather relied on word of mouth. It must have

worked, as he had people calling from all around the region. He partnered with a local community college and grew his business and his reputation through "good, honest, hard work" and he and Paz were happy.

The next chapter in their story came around 2000, when Paz put in for a civil service job. One day, while Larry was on the phone with a customer, she came in and put a Post-it note in front of him. It said, "We may be going to Germany!" It was the end of June and if she were going to do it, she had to report to Ramstein in September. It was a position as the Base Records Manager. After some discussion, they decided they had seen the Pacific with help from the government through their service, and this was a way to see Europe, so off she went. Larry wrapped things up state side and joined her some months later.

They lived in Germany for five years and enjoyed it very much, but knew they needed to come home eventually. The transition proved to be a bit challenging when they applied to come home, but eventually they figured it out. Paz retired an E7 and finally got a position that would work for them as a priority placement at the Pentagon. Larry took a position in Air Force Operations under Maj. General "Hoot" Gibson, and they finished out their careers there.

They were able to find their way back to Florida and that is where they are now. For Larry, it was time to pursue his own interests, going back to his childhood. His brother had had a 1953 Studebaker and Jerry's brother had a 1950 Oldsmobile, the kind with the big moon hubcaps. He had

always enjoyed “tearing into” everything from lawn mowers, to bikes, to cars to planes. His first “muscle car” was a 1972 AMX which he had and sold in the Philippines, but he had always wanted a Corvette.

One day, he followed an ad down to Virginia (back when they lived in Fredericksburg) and found a white 1996 Corvette, which he bought. But what he really wanted was a C3, the Sting Ray. He found one in southern Florida and fell in love with it. For awhile they had two Corvettes, a white one with a red interior and a red one with a white interior. He did get rid of one, but he retained the other.

He and Paz enjoy time now with their Corvette clubs. Larry says, “It is not about money. It is about passion for the vehicles.” They enjoy friends, family, travel, and time together now, doing the things they love with the people they love.

As we wrapped up the interview, I said, “it seems like you had a long and distinguished career in the military, Larry, which has given you a good life.” He replied, “Yes, except for the time in Vietnam.” It is my experience that people who served there often do not want to talk too much about those days, so I had

“When I was there, there was literally, like, one copy of Stars & Stripes for every ten people. We wondered if anyone was making progress. For every gain, it seemed like there was so much given up. So much lost.”

not tried to dig in, but I asked him if there were anything he wanted to add.

Larry paused and I could hear him gathering his breath. He said, “When I was there, there was literally, like, one copy of Stars & Stripes for every ten people. We did not know what was going on or how the coverage was being portrayed. We wondered if anyone was making progress. For every gain, it seemed there was so much given up. So much lost. What we saw was the planes getting blown up and the men coming back killed in action.” He paused and struggled a bit to finish. “We did not see combat the same way as some did, but it sure as hell did get to us when an aircraft came back emptier than when it left or full of the bodies of men killed in action. It was hard to watch. You would lose count after awhile. It would make you wonder why they were doing what they were doing. But you kept at it because that was your job.”

That experience informed his life. He said later, when talking about his hobby store and working with

interns, “I don’t care if it is volunteer or paid, when you have a job, you just get it done.” Larry also worked for a time in Nebraska as a volunteer fire fighter. The camaraderie and tight knit feel of the group was familiar and comfortable, though the work was hard. He often wondered why he did it. It was, he said, to the credit of the military, that he continued, realizing that “the world does not revolve around me” and “if I could help, I should help. Even if it was hard. And it was hard.”

It is this perspective that has carried Larry in life. “Don’t ever give up,” he said. “They way I look at it, people want to get all mushy, for example, over the deaths of my parents when I was young. But I learned early in life and was often reminded, there is more to life than what happens in one little house and on one little block.” This matter-of-fact humility is characteristic of Larry Hyland and everything that he stands for in life. His story is one of quiet inspiration and that of a life well-lived that is an example to so many! Thank you, Larry & Paz, for your dedication. God bless you both. ★



So Much to DO and SEE

BY DEBBIE OSBORNE, TREA DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

Everyone knows that you can gamble in Vegas – but there is so much more to do. Here are just a few things that might interest you, if gambling isn't your thing:



Excalibur Hotel & Casino – again, don't let the name 'casino' fool you – the Tournament of Kings, which is Las Vegas; ultimate dinner and show experience is something not to be missed! Adapted from the tale of King Arthur, this live-action production takes place in a 900-seat theatre-in-the-round arena and immerses the audience in a tale of valor and treachery. Valiant knights ride mighty steeds and prove their chivalry amongst special effects and pyrotechnics. While knights fight, guests feast on a hearty three-course meal using the original utensil --- their hands! Tournament of Kings is an epic portrayal of centuries past, and it's all in the name of honor, country, and of course – food!

Fremont Street Experience – is a pedestrian mall and attraction in Downtown Las Vegas. The central attraction is a barrel vault canopy, 90 feet high at the peak and four blocks in length with over 4 million LED's. While Vegas is known for never turning the outside casino lights off, each show begins by turning off the lights on all of the buildings, including the casinos under the canopy. Stay tuned here --- we have some exciting information to bring to you!

Silverton Casino – I know it says casino, but it is also home to a huge Bass Pro Shop that houses both salt and fresh water tanks. Underwater 'mermaid' shows are held throughout the day. Twin Creeks Steakhouse is known to regulars as a "great" steakhouse.

Hoover Dam – Named one of the Top 10 Construction Achievements of the 20th Century, Hoover Dam contin-

ues to draw crowds 80 years after its creation. Attracting more than a million visitors a year, Hoover Dam is located in Black Canyon, just minutes outside of Las Vegas. A National Historic Landmark, Hoover Dam is the highest concrete dam in the Western Hemisphere, standing at more than 725 feet above the Colorado River. With 17 generators producing 4 billion kilowatts of electricity a year, it also is one of the country's largest hydroelectric power facilities. Operation and maintenance of the facility are solely supported by revenue from power sales. Completed in October 2010, the Mike O' Callaghan -- Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge offers spectacular views that were once only available by helicopter. For those who never fully appreciated the dam, it's hard not to become a fan after this. Visitors have access to drive to this bridge and see the dam from a high vantage point. Located about 1,500 feet south of the Hoover Dam, the walkway on the bridge is approximately 900 feet above the Colorado River. The view from the dam also offers a breathtaking look at Lake Mead, the country's largest man-made reservoir. Although water levels have been low recently, Lake Mead can store up to 9.2 trillion gallons of water, equal to two years of the river's annual flow. It also has become a popular recreation area, sought out by more than 9 million visitors each year.

****TREA has scheduled a bus trip and tour of the Hoover Dam on Saturday, September 17th. The bus will depart the Tuscany Suites & Casino at 9AM and return to the hotel at 1PM. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Reservations can be made by contacting TREA Headquarters at 1-800-338-9337 or by mailing your request to TREA Headquarters, Hoover Dam Tour, 1111 S. Abilene Court, Aurora, CO 80012. You will need to pay the \$15.00 in order to secure your reservations. Payment can be made by check, cash or credit card.**

Special thanks to PNP Rick Delaney, a previous resident of Las Vegas, for this great information. ★

WE EARNED OUR STRIPES

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



Las Vegas isn't just about the gambling and the free drinks; it's also about food – glorious food... more specifically, the buffets.

We're not talking soggy corn on the cob and lifeless hunks of mystery meat swimming in gooeey brown gravy type buffets – Vegas has some of the best buffet spreads in the country. Each one boasting an array of foods that will take you on a culinary tour around the world. You can indulge in everything from fresh sliced Kobe beef, sushi and duck braised with Riesling, to American staples like pizza, bar-b-que ribs and of course burgers. The only 'gamble' here is whether to go back for a third trip!

Here is a small list of some of the best known buffets on the Strip - Enjoy!

The Buffet at the Bellagio – One of the most luxurious and popular hotels on the Strip also has one of the best buffets around, particularly when it rolls out its gourmet menu on Friday and Saturday nights (that's perfect, because Friday night is open!) Buffalo, duck, quail and other exotic meats are commonplace on this buffet. Seafood that is second to none, including lime-soaked ceviche, mussels and sometimes even shark. The crab legs here are by far the best on the Strip, and be sure to load up on the mozzarella balls, fresh baked bread and pesto mashed potatoes. I won't even mention the dessert bar! I would if we could – but I don't have that much time or paper!

Le Village Buffet at the Paris – What sets this buffet apart from all the others on the Strip is the enchanting ambiance, unique spin on food and legendary brunch (No plans for Saturday – here you go!) Enter the buffet through a small French village, complete with cobblestone walkways, old-fashioned lamp posts, and faux homes and store fronts – all set under a ceiling painted to resemble a beautiful blue Parisian sky.

As you would expect, a French flair is the norm at this buffet – structured after the five regions of France, you will be enticed to try: kabobs stacked high with seafood and sausages, melted cheeses paired with potatoes, meats and vegetables. Make sure that you ask the Chef to cook you up a fresh fruit-filled crepe, or select from prepared duck, chicken and apple sausage, quiche, cheeses, vegetables, soups and traditional crusty French Bread. For dessert, we can't decide which is better, the bananas foster, crème Brule or flan—guess you will have to try them all and let me know.

Carnival World Buffet at the Rio Las Vegas – If you are looking for the BIGGEST possible selection of

food, this is it! A true smorgasbord! This buffet caters more towards the families and those that enjoy the traditional Americanized food, like mac and cheese, hamburgers, hot dogs, Bar-b-que sandwiches and make-your-own milkshakes. While traditional, feel-good American is always on the menu, a dim sum station, Vietnamese noodle bar and Thai & Chinese specialties are a hit as well. A Brazilian churrasceria where meat and vegetables are grilled up right in front of you is a must. Over 70 varieties of pies, pastries, cakes, cookies and gelato await you at the end of this food journey.

The Buffet at Wynn Las Vegas – A little hike to get there, but well worth the trip – building up an appetite on the way up and working off those calories on the way back --- the perfect scenario, I'd say. Elegant and grand describe this buffet. A true rival of the Bellagio's buffet without the Bellagio price. Towering flower sculptures under a glass ceiling add to the feeling of regality. This buffet features food from all over the world, but it also has 16 live stations where chefs cook up made-to-order dishes. Highlights of this buffet include Indian curries, Kobe beef meatballs, mushroom ravioli and an assortment of smoked fish. It also has one of the better vegetable offerings of most Vegas buffets.

Buffet and the Monte Carlo Resort & Casino – Hands down the best buffet for breakfast. The vanilla French Toast will bring you back every time! Crepes, corned beef hash, made -to-order omelets --- oh my – I'm drooling now! Before you head out to the airport on Sunday morning, make this your last Vegas stop --- the Sunday Champagne brunch is one of the best values on the Strip. Better buffets can be found on the Strip, but this one is perhaps the best in terms of value – and who isn't looking for that these days? 🍷

**ARTICLE BY DEBBIE OSBORNE,
TREA DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS**

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Engraved on the back are the poignant words, "Freedom has always been worth fighting for," along with an etched American flag and a silhouette of 3 soldiers. A unique bail with stars and stripes and a 24" chain complete this striking tribute. Plus, The Bradford Exchange is proud to announce that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of each pendant will be donated to help the families of POWs and those missing in action.

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Member #: _____ ☐ Not attending as a delegate - Chapter No: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

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REGISTRATION FEE: \$219 (\$235 after 8/1/16) - (\$250 at convention) ATTENDEE #1: \$ _____
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Attendee #1

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PRINT

Hoover Dam

BY DIRECTOR REED

Standing as the tallest structure of its kind in the world, the Hoover Dam is a must visit on any trip to Las Vegas. We have coordinated a trip to the Hoover Dam on Saturday, September 17th 2016. The bus will pick up at the Tuscany Suites & Casino in Las Vegas at 9AM and will return to the hotel at 1PM. The cost for the bus trip is \$15.00 per person and includes a 30-45 minute tour of the dam. If you are interested, please contact Director Reed at 720-298-3406. Space is very limited!!

We are pleased to announce that we are in partnership with Channel 8, Las Vegas to tell TREA's story. During the convention, we will have public announcements aired to inform people of our history. Stay tuned as they will be made available to the membership.



The PR Committee will continue to create awareness in Las Vegas, getting our message out to those in the area. We hope to partner with the public radio station and other news outlets to get the word out about what we stand for, our mission and the upcoming convention.

CHAPTER 9

Michael Gales, President of Chapter 9 in Baltimore drove over 600 miles (roundtrip) to pay his respects and honor those who proudly served before him. In a small cemetery at the Cole's Creek Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, VA, Michael saluted his fellow comrades in arms. "Everyone forgets the little cemeteries" – "It was the right thing to do". TREA is so proud to have you as one of our own Michael!



CHAPTER 29

Women of the Auxiliary at a Memorial Day event honoring Veterans.

(Left to Right): Shirley Martinez, Betty Seibert, Ernie Summarell, Elaine Warner Savage, Aleta Scott, and Mary Fuelling

CHAPTER 74

The Coast Guard service flag being raised by cadets caught our eye. The motto on the Coast Guard flag "Semper Paratus" which means "Always prepared" says it all. Chapter 74 has a Coast Guard veteran as a member. He is Jeathro Cameron of Louisiana.



CHAPTER 76



Members of TREA Chapter 76 gathered to place flags on veteran's graves for Memorial Day. They were aided by local high school students (front row).



Debbie Rice and her daughter, Nora, help TREA Chapter 76 member Jim Reinl place Flags on Veteran's graves

Chapter 76 from Sheboygan, WI, hosts their annual Brat Fry to raise money for their Scholarship Program.





TREA Director Justin Jump (far left) at the Memorial Day parade in Washington DC meets Joe Mantegna who plays David Rossi on *Criminal Minds* (2005) and Gary Sinise who plays Jack Garrett on *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders* (2016). Man of you may know Gary Sinise as Lt Dan from *Forest Gump* – he is a HUGE military and veteran supporter.



Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force marching in National Memorial Day Parade downtown DC. TREA's own, Justin Jump, Director is seen first row, second from right.



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DC Update: The Voice, July 2016

BY DIERDRE PARK HOLLEMAN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

It has been a tense few months in Congress since the House and Senate started working on the National Defense Authorization and Appropriation Acts. And no one is relaxing now. Both the House and the Senate have passed versions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 before the 4th of July. That is certainly an unusual course of events. (The House is usually about this time but the Senate is usually months and months later.) Many of the proposals and ideas coming out of the House and Senate and most definitely from the Pentagon have been brutal. Some of the worse have been stopped (example yearly enrollment fees for TRICARE for Life TFL; a start to privatizing the Commissaries) have been stopped.

Nor did the Administration get their proposal to change the brand new retirement system (before it is even put into effect) starting to deposit matching funds in a service member's Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)

account after 5 years instead of the law's 3 years. And Congress would not go along with the idea of making the 12 year continuation pay DoD's option to give or not to give. So we have had some real successes so far.

But there are still several very bad provisions in either the House or Senate versions of the NDAA.

The Senate version severely cuts the Basic Housing Allowance (BHA) by only covering what servicemembers actually pay in rent and also make servicemembers (whether spouses or roommates) living in one residence split the housing allowance.

The House did not propose a change in the allowance.

The Senate's version dramatically cuts back on veterans' preference benefits. The present veterans preference would remain for a veteran when he or she is applying for a first federal job. But it would then

be abolished when trying to move into different federal jobs. The present system also gives the veteran an advantage if his/her department is subject to a Reduction-in-Force (RIF). The Senate provision would abolish that. The House of Representative's version of the NDAA did not touch veterans' preference and we are working to support their version.

Unlike the House the Senate accepted most of the Pentagon's dreadful proposals to change TRICARE for active duty family members and pre-TFL retirees including:

- Creating Two TRICARE options: TRICARE Select, similar to TRICARE Prime, a managed care option that is centered at Military Treatment Facilities (MTF). And TRICARE Choice, which is somewhat similar to TRICARE Standard, but is really a PPO offering more choice than TRICARE Select but at



a higher cost.

- Retirees and their family members would have an open enrollment period and an annual “participation” fee for both TRICARE Select and TRICARE Choice. Those who do not enroll would forfeit coverage for the plan year. Copays will depend on beneficiary category (excluding active duty) and care venue. There would be no copays in MTFs.

- There would be fixed copays for the TRICARE Choice option if patients use a provider in the network. Higher cost-shares will apply when patients see a provider out of the network.

- Active Duty Family Members (ADFM) will have a no cost share option regardless of duty location.

- They will increase the catastrophic caps for active duty families and retirees and their families and retiree participation fees would not count towards the cap.

- Prescription drug copays would also increase; however, there would still be no cost for prescriptions filled at a MTF or for generic drugs through the mail order program.

Year after year there is a target on the Commissary benefit. The SASC version of the NDAA included a move towards privatization and 5 test sites along with variable pricing and a home brand; everything with a push to stop all funding of the commissary benefit. Fortunately, the full Senate accepted an amendment introduced by Senators Inhofe and Mikulski (D-MD) to stop the privatization moves until, at

least, the report Congress ordered DOD to provide in last year’s NDAA be submitted.

Now there should be long and contentious conference negotiations behind closed doors. With both bills being approximately 1600 pages and covering numerous important areas of public policy and personnel issues it is extremely unlikely that it come to the floor before the end of the August break. So this is the time to contact your House member and Senators and urge them to protect those who protect our nation.

Stand Alone Legislation and Areas of Concern

Most of you have surely noticed that bills are often passed by folding them into larger pieces of legislation. That is why the NDAA is so important and why it is so important who sponsors a bill. It is a bill that will be completed; will eventually be passed and will eventually be signed. But it is not the only one. We fully expect to see an Omnibus Veterans bill; and other large bills that will include DoD concerns so we cannot stop pushing the bills we feel most passionate about.

Concurrent Receipt

Representatives Sanford Bishop (D-GA) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) have both reintroduced their bills that would allow the remaining longevity military retirees to collect both their retired pay and their VA disability pay. Rep Bishop’s (D-GA) H.R.333 now has 78 co-sponsors while Rep. Bilirakis’ (R-FL) H.R. 303 still has 114 co-sponsors. We are trying to push for a hearing in this matter to try to get new fire under this issue. But with the budget and politics the way

it is now it is unlikely that we will make progress this year. On the other hand if we don’t continue to push and push hard there is no chance. So we will continue. Also please remember that H.R. 333 meets another of our long time goals by ending the offset for Chapter 61 Medical Retirees.

Senator Harry Reid’s (D-NV) companion bill is S. 271. It now has 24 co-sponsors. Senator Reid introduced 4 different amendments to the NDAA to try and move some portion of Concurrent receipt forward but they all failed.

We will continue to work on this vital issue during this election year. But it does not look good. We certainly will not get everyone who has been left out covered this year. So please remember, we will need to start thinking about a new Senate sponsor since Senator Reid is planning to retire at the end of this session of Congress. If you have any suggestions please contact me at our Washington office.

Active Duty

Last year DoD changed the Flat Rate for long term TDYs (defined as over 30 days.) From day 31-180 a service member will receive only 75% of the locality rate. If the time is more than 180 days the flat rate drops to 55% of locality rate. We all know that the regular locality rates are far from generous and this is miserly. H.R. 1193 introduced by Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA) and Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) would stop this nickel and diming of service members. It now has 35 co-sponsors but has not moved out of Committee.

Veterans

The Administration is proposing a VA budget of \$182.3 billion for FY2017. This includes \$78.7 billion in discretionary spending and is an increase of \$3.6 billion from last year. For the past several years the Congressional VA Committees have been long time bi-partisan supporters of budget increases for the VA. However this may now be changing. With the disastrous hospital construction overruns and wait list, relocation and employees scandals there may be push back this year.

After hearing the Administration's request Chairman of the HVAC Jeff Miller (R-FL) said: "Over the past year, VA has repeatedly failed to keep its financial house in order. In Denver, a botched construction project is more than \$1 billion over budget. The department has routinely wasted millions on lavish art projects, exorbitant relocation benefits and bonuses for failing employees. And last July, VA threatened to shut down hospitals within weeks due to an unforeseen budget shortfall, forcing Congress to give the department access to an additional \$3 billion. In classic VA fashion, not a single employee has been held accountable for these monumental failures. I will fight to ensure VA has the resources it needs, but given the complete lack of accountability for the department's string of past financial failures, this budget request will receive every bit of the scrutiny it is due. It's the very least we can do for American taxpayers and veterans."

The HVAC Ranking Member Rep. Corinne Brown (D-FL) introduced H.R. 218. It would allow young adults to remain in their parent's CHAMPVA plan until they reach 26. It still has only 4 co-sponsors which is a real disappointment. These "young adults" are presently the only YAs who cannot be put on their parent's plan. The only. The problem seems to be that the VA has no system whatsoever to collect a premium from the beneficiaries so the bill does not call for a premium. (It would be way more expensive to set up the system than they would get from the payments.) However DoD Young Adults are paying a whopping premium. Next year it will have monthly premiums

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of \$306 for TYA Prime and \$228 for TYA Standard. (This is a sharp increase from the rates this year of \$208 for Prime and \$181 a month for Standard.) DoD Survivor Members are saying that their children should also not need to pay a premium. However, the law requires that the premium must be paid. So no one is satisfied and this bill will not move..

Chairman of the HVAC Jeff Miller (R-FL) has been trying for the last few years to improve and strengthen Congress' ability to oversee the VA. He has introduced several bills to see that happens. H.R. 280 would authorize the Secretary of the VA to recoup bonuses and awards from VA employees. With only 9 co-sponsors the House passed the bill as amended and sent it to the Senate for its consideration. It "Authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to issue an order directing a VA employee to repay the amount, or a portion of the amount, of an award or bonus paid to the employee if: (1) the VA determines that such repayment is appropriate, and (2) the employee is afforded notice and an opportunity for a hearing conducted by another federal agency. Makes such repayment decisions final and unreviewable. Makes this Act applicable to awards or bonuses paid before, on, or after the date of this Act's enactment."

Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) has a similar bill. S. 627 now has 15 co-sponsors. It has passed the Committee and reported out to the full Senate. It is still waiting for a vote.

Other bills with the same goals include S.1496 introduced by Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and H.R. 1038

the Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act introduced by Rep Ryan Costello (R-PA)

Chairman Miller (R-FL) has also introduced H.R.473 "Increasing the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability to Veterans Act of 2015" which would grant the Secretary of the VA to lower certain SES's retirement annuities, accept complaints and limit the VA SES employees performance ratings to:" no more than: (1) 10% of such employees may receive the outstanding level of performance, and (2) 20% of such employees may receive the exceeds-fully-successful level of performance. It now has 7 co-sponsors. While it was passed by the VA Committee it is still wasting away in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Senator Jerry Moran's (R-KS) companion bill S.290 now has grown to 4 co-sponsors. And it has been favorably reported out of Committee. Then there is a bill sponsored by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) S.1856. It, too, would make it easier to suspend and/or remove VA employees but with more procedural protections for the employees. It has 26 co-sponsors.

There will be additional focus on these problems since the VA have once again demoted two senior executives who'd been found manipulating the hiring system for their own financial gain. They had been demoted last year but the demotions were rescinded because the VA had failed to provide to the executives' lawyers all the evidence the VA has against the 2 women during legal discovery. So the case has start-

ed over and the VA attorneys have decided that they cannot recoup hundreds of thousands of dollars in relocation bonuses. This has justifiably infuriated both Republican and Democratic members of the House and Senate VA Committees and the VA can expect additional trouble on these issues.

Chairman Miller's H.R.571 would support and strengthen "whistleblowers" in the VA. It has 14 co-sponsors.

Ranking member Corrine Brown has also introduced H.R. 216 "Improves the Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Plan." While it only had 4 co-sponsors they included HVAC Chairman Miller (R-FL) and Democratic House leader Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and it too passed the House quickly and sent on to the Senate. Again this shows how important it is to try and get your bill introduced by a member serving on the relevant Committee of jurisdiction.

Since there is so little good news I am repeating one bit of it. Here again is some very good news. Senator Moran's (R-KS) S. 207 is the "Veterans Access to Community Care Act of 2015" was folded into another bill and passed by both the House and Senate as the "Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015. The VA is now working on regulations to implement the bill which includes covering all veterans enrolled in the VA's healthcare system, removing the 60 day limit on an episode of care, "modifying the wait-time and 40 mile distance eligibility criteria among other matters.

S.901 the “Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015” also introduced by Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) would require the VA to create a “national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure.” This has been a long time goal of our friends at the Vietnam Veterans of America. There has been a real push for this bill. (and a real push back) It has now grown to 40 co-sponsors. It has already had its hearing. Its companion bill in the House is H.R. 1769. It was introduced by Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI) the Chairman of the HVAC’s Health Subcommittee and has grown again and now has 179 co-sponsors and has been passed by his Subcommittee. There seems to be a great deal of wind at the back of this bill.

S.398 “Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act of 2015” also introduced by Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) The bill would enlarge chiropractic care in the VA by requiring the VA provide “chiropractic care and services to veterans through Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and clinics to be carried out at: (1) no fewer than 75 medical centers by December 31, 2016, and (2) all medical centers by December 31, 2018.” It still has 13 bi-partisan co-sponsors. While its companion bill, H.R. 1170, now has 24 co-sponsors. It was introduced by Rep. Alan Grayson (D-FL)

H.R. 2067 the “Cold War Service Medal of 2015” has been introduced by Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) and has 23 cosponsors. Rep. Israel has introduced similar bills in previous Con-

gresses. If this is important to you please contact me with your story. We are working to get a companion bill introduced in the Senate.

Survivors

Representative Joe Wilson’s (R-SC) bill to end the SBP/DIC offset, H.R. 1594, now has 202 co-sponsors. Senator Bill Nelson’s (D-FL) companion bill, S.979, now has 29 bi-partisan co-sponsors. This is a cause that I have been working on for over a decade. We successfully got rid of the SBP/ Social Security “Offset” but then this worthy cause has ground to a halt. We did get a partial success with the SSIA program but now we need to lengthen that program (it ends in 2017 if we do nothing) get the rest of the payment and make it permanent. On December 9th of last year the House Armed Services Committee Personnel Subcommittee held a hearing on this issue. The problem however is always the same. The increase in funding would have to be from mandatory DoD funding rather than discretionary funding. This means that Congress needs to find dollar for dollar cuts in another defense program. And of course that is very very hard. On the other hand it is clear that there is an enormous amount of money sloshing around the Department of Defense and it is about time that DoD or Congress find this small amount to help these long suffering widows and widowers.

The House’s version of the NDAA extended the SSIA program 1 year! The Senate’s version made the program permanent but froze the amount to only \$310 forever! Both provisions are totally insufficient.

Representative Alan Grayson (D-FL) has just submitted a bill, H.R. 4519, that would expend SSIA for 5 more years while increasing the payout. When nothing was happening on this issue Rep. Grayson tried to end the offset completely for 1 year by barring the use of any money to implement the offset in the National Defense Appropriations Act. The rules committee bounced it but we were grateful for his hard work on this.

We have been storming the Hill on this matter during the summer and hope we will get some action after the bills are finished behind closed doors.

H.R. 2531 is a bill that Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) first introduced in the 113th session of Congress. It would extend the time that widows/ widowers recently made entitle to education benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship. It has 25 co-sponsors. It was included in the Veterans Omnibus bill, as we had hoped. And then the Omnibus bill itself died; and everyone is trying to start again.

H.R.2539 introduced by Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy III (D-MA) would set the monthly DIC rate 55% of the payment grated to a veteran who has been found to be 100% service connected disabled. This would put the DIC widow/widower in a similar position of the spouse of a civilian federal employee who dies while working. It has 12 co-sponsors. This is a push that will surely go into next year (or very likely much longer.) ★

Military Parents Can Now Properly Plan for a Child with a Disability

Prior to 2014, military members and retirees who were parents of a child with a disability were unable to properly plan for their child's future because federal law did not permit them to direct their survivor benefit to a certain specific type of a trust called a special needs trust (sometimes referred to as a supplemental needs trust) upon the retiree's death. As this option was not available, the parent would have two choices, neither of which were good for the disabled child. They could choose to not have the benefit paid, thereby disregarding the child completely, hoping others would care for the child, or else have the survivor benefit paid outright to the child thereby often causing the child with a disability to be ineligible for much needed public benefits. On December 19, 2014, President Obama signed the Disabled Military Child Protection Act and on December 31, 2015, the United States Department of Defense issued guidance to implement this law so that now a military parent may provide that a survivor benefit can be paid to a special needs trust for that child's benefit.

Many individuals with disabilities are eligible for what are referred to as "means tested or needs based" programs which limit the amount of monthly income and resources they are allowed to keep. It is always important to recognize the differences between "entitlement" programs such as Social Security and its various programs and Medicare which are not dependent on the financial needs of a person but are programs to which a person is entitled because contributions have been made over a period of time and the means tested or needs based programs such as Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") and traditional Medicaid and Medicaid

waiver programs which are dependent upon one's financial condition. Prior to the change in the law, oftentimes the receipt of the survivor benefit would cause those individuals on such programs to lose these important benefits, either partially or completely, but now there is a solution.

The Disabled Military Child Protection Act now permits military parents an election to have the survivor benefit for a disabled child assigned to a special needs trust. While there are some limitations as to the manner in which these trust funds can be used and distributed, the effect of such an assignment is that the individual with a disability can have an enhanced quality of life because the trust can be used to purchase goods and services that will benefit these individuals and at the same time they can remain eligible for public benefits which are essential for their continued well-being.

The law requires that in order to qualify, the trust must be established under certain provisions of existing federal law that govern what are referred to as first party self-settled or pooled supplemental needs trusts which are trusts that are administered by charitable organizations. The self settled first party trust will need to be properly drafted and contain provisions that require a payback at the time the trust is terminated (usually upon the death of the individual with a disability) to the Medicaid program for benefits paid out to the disabled individual during his or her lifetime. The pooled trust is a simpler option as it does not require a trust to be prepared as there is a master trust into which participants are able to join and the remainder upon termination can be retained by the charitable orga-

nization to further its mission and to benefit other disabled individuals.

For more information parents should contact an experienced attorney in the area of special needs planning or if interested in the pooled trust option they can contact the author at 1.877.766.5331 or by email at Robert.mascali@centers-mail.com.

Robert Mascali is a senior counsel at the Center for Special Needs Trust Administration, Inc. which is a national nonprofit organization that administers supplemental needs trusts. Mr. Mascali is based in Albany, New York and is responsible for the New York and New England markets for The Center.

Mr. Mascali is a member of the New York State Bar Association and its Elder Law and Special Needs and the Trusts and Estates sections. He serves on the Executive Committee and is Co-Vice Chair of the Special Needs Planning and the Legislation Committees of the Elder Law and Special Needs Section. He is also a member of Massachusetts NAELA and is President of the New York Chapter of NAELA

Mr. Mascali will also be speaking at the Convention in Las Vegas on Thursday, September 15, 2016.

"Adapted from an article by the author as previously published in the AMRA News on June 1, 2016" ★

TSCL's Senior Political Analysis: 10 Questions for Your Next Town Hall

BY JESSIE GIBBONS
SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

Lawmakers in the House and Senate will soon adjourn for a month-long recess, and with the November elections looming, many of them will be holding town hall meetings in their home states and districts. The Senior Citizens League encourages older Americans to attend these events, since they present excellent opportunities for constituents to make their voices heard and to learn about the candidates. To best be prepared, jot down a few questions that you would like to ask your elected officials. Below are ten examples – feel free to take them with you and share them with others at your next town hall meeting.

1. During last fall's debt limit debate, Members of Congress passed legislation containing two un-debated provisions that made major changes to Social Security benefit claiming strategies. Do you believe entitlement cuts are necessary in exchange for your vote to lift the debt limit in the future?

2. This year, Social Security beneficiaries received no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) despite a national survey indicating a majority reported higher costs. Do you support legislation that would give beneficiaries an emergency COLA before the end of this year?

3. This year, more than 50 percent of Social Security beneficiaries paid taxes on their benefits, even though many of them only made twice the federal poverty level in income. Do you believe this is fair, and if not, what should be done about it?

4. Most Americans contribute 6.2 percent of every paycheck to Social Security, but due to the tax cap, people earning more than \$118,500 pay nothing over that amount. Do you support increasing or eliminating the taxable maximum wage limit to make the program more solvent?

5. Nearly 1.5 million teachers and other public servants see their earned Social Security benefits reduced by as much as 40 percent each year due to the Windfall Elimination Provision. What do you feel should be done about this?

6. Two years ago, President Obama bypassed Congress to halt the deportations of nearly 5 million unauthorized immigrants. Do you believe President Obama overstepped his constitutional limits when he announced his immigration orders?

7. Under current law, noncitizens who gain temporary work authorization can qualify for long-term Social Security benefits based on work that was done prior to gaining authorization, using invalid Social Security numbers. If elected, would you support legislation to modify this policy?

8. The federal government negotiates prescription drug prices for Medicaid and for veterans, but it is not allowed to negotiate lower prices for Medicare beneficiaries. Do you support the current policy that could be causing higher drug prices for older Americans?

9. Last year, prescription drug prices grew by 12% nation-wide. A rate that high hasn't occurred since 2001. What do you believe should be done to manage the growing cost increases of prescription drugs?

10. Experts estimate that fraud, waste, and abuse within Medicare costs more than \$60 billion each year. What efforts do you support to ramp up prevention?

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The Senior Citizens League

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For questions, call or email -

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Executive Director	Current Chairman
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sbenton@tsclhq.org	

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1. Do you think the Convention is too long? Too short? Just right?
2. Would you like us to add an extra day for sightseeing/excursion/tours?
YES_____ NO_____
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3. What do you think about holding our Convention over Labor Day weekend*?
YES____NO_____

*This could be a cost savings for you as most hotels charge less for conventions held over this weekend.

A World War II Star Spangled Family Love Story

BY KIM DECOSTE

Mary Claire Graf was born in Buffalo, New York in 1921. Her father was a newspaper man. Her mother helped at the press. Her older sister, Melba, was her closest friend growing up and she had an ordinary start and – arguably – a perfectly fine “ordinary” upbringing. I met her when her son introduced me to her back in 1995 or so. She was beautiful, classy, edgy, smart, funny and somewhat sarcastic. She laughed freely and loved life. At that time she was still enjoying line dancing, gambling with her second husband, John, and traveling. We had our first meeting when her son was graduating from Law School in Monterrey. I remember touring the club house at Pebble Beach with her and thinking she was so ... cool. I was around 25. Fast forward to 1999, and she and her son were dancing at my wedding. I married him and thus, she became my mother-in-law. She preferred to be called “Duffy”, so that is how I knew her. Quirky as ever, she was unconventional and energetic and she adored her family.

I knew my husband’s father, Stephen H. DeCoste, had passed away some years before of cancer. I was sorry not to have ever met him. One always wonders, “Would he have liked me?” I don’t know. I can only imagine. I know he would have loved his grandson – our son, Stephen, now named after him.

But, I am getting ahead of myself and of the story. Back to Mary Claire, or Duffy. She and I mostly got along well over the years. She was widowed again in 2002, and remained unmarried for the rest

of her life. She was very fond of my husband, however, and while she was able, she was a frequent visitor. When we had our son, she came to stay for awhile to help. The reason she had to leave, actually, was the downturn in her husband’s health at the time. But she was a wonderful mother in law and grandmother and she was my friend.

When Duffy visited, usually for 10-14 days at a time, we would sit and sip wine and watch movies and talk in the evenings. My husband used to travel quite a bit, so I was always glad to have her company. I have always loved history and especially family history, so this is how I got to know her story – their story. It was a little bit at a time over chardonnay and over the years that I pieced it together. Duffy passed away last August, shortly before our son’s 13th birthday. She was 93. I wrote her obituary, but nobody has ever written the story down of how she and Steve DeCoste came together.

Mary Claire entered kindergarten when her older sister did. She did not know why they sent her when she was only four, but she speculated that it was probably just easier since her parents worked at the paper. She remembered the nuns and the rules and the time in school but not in any great detail or with any sense of joy. It was just her childhood and it was simple.

The story gets interesting in around 1943. Melba got married. Just like that, Duffy said, Melba landed quite a catch, too. She married The Produce Man. The Produce Man.

Now, I remember her saying it like that as if to emphasize what a great thing this was, but I immediately detected that this was a key point. After her sister married, on a lark, she decided to go with a friend and join the Navy! It seems so outrageous to me that she would do that. “Why,” I asked, “Why on earth did you go during Wartime and join the Navy?!” She just looked at me and said, “Because everyone was so excited about Melba’s marriage. I did not want marrying a produce man to be the highlight of my whole life. There was too much I wanted to do. I did not know what exactly, just that I wanted more and my prospects were limited. The Navy? Well, it sounded fun and I passed the test!” And so, off she went, a freshly minted WAVE to teach naval aviation at Pensacola.

That is where she met Steve. Stephen H. DeCoste was a man of small build. He was a student of hers. He was a pilot. (I always kind of picture an old time Tom Cruise from Top Gun.) Steve was the “life of the party” and he was always, always having fun. He loved people. He loved the Navy. He loved flying and eventually he fell in love with the slender blonde girl from Buffalo.



Getting married before deployment to the Pacific Theater was not going to be easy, but that is what they decided to do. He was out west at Twentynine Palms, then a marine base from which the pilots would prepare for deployment. She took leave and caught a train to California. As it turned out, she officially went AWOL for a few days. We still have the “wanted dead or alive” document on the wall at home. She was disappointed when her mother finally caught up with her to find out that the US Government only thought she was worth \$25 in either condition! She was sure she was worth more! Whatever the case, she had not planned to abandon post, she just got delayed. They married at a tiny little church on base. He shipped off to the Pacific and she returned to Pensacola – and a month of lock down.

We have a lot of great memorabilia from Steve’s time in the Navy that we need to explore further, but what we do know or recall from stories is that he flew an SB2C Dauntless Helldiver as the pilot over the Pacific. He got three commendations for valor and indicated once to his son that he had shot down one “Zero” with the help of a fighter escort. We are not sure if it true that he missed one landing on a carrier, but that was a family joke, since his wife had taught him navigation. Whatever the case, he served well and so many men of his time and generation, returned home after the war ended to go onto a career in sales.

Duffy returned to Brooklyn and stayed with his parents after her service ended and waited for Steve’s return. They began their family with eldest daughter, Michele, middle

son, Stephen H. “Skipper” DeCoste, and, surprisingly for all, nine years later, with youngest son, Paul. Steve was a charismatic and handsome man who enjoyed life. He was a fisherman. (We have a fly rod that Ted Williams signed to him when they were in flight school together!) He was a family man. He worked hard all of his life and did not speak often of the war. He had a knack for all things electrical and over time, he designed a receptacle for docking large cargo ships for which he was granted a patent that can still be found in his name.

The DeCostes lived the American dream of their era. They lived all around the east coast from Chatham, NJ to Syracuse, NY. The spent time in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. All three of the children attended the University of Maryland. Michele became an ER doctor. Skip enlisted in Korea, much to his father’s chagrin, but returned safely to a career in the arts in California. Sadly, his life was cut short at the hands of a drunk driver. Paul graduated from Maryland and followed his brother’s inclination (and a girl) and moved to California. He also went on to law school and settled, ultimately, into the career he enjoys now in the wine industry.

When it was time to retire, Steve and Duffy went to Daytona and built a life full of golf, friends and adventure. Steve died of throat cancer in 1987. Duffy was at his side the whole time – until she literally took a break to get some fresh air out by the pool and he slipped away. She later laughed telling me that story with a nostalgic look in her eyes, that it “was just like him to die when I stepped out of the room.”



Duffy remained in Daytona as long as she was able and ultimately moved to Ohio to be near her daughter. She outlived three pensions and two husbands and she mostly laughed all the way to the end. She was survived by two children, three grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Just last weekend, while visiting family, someone brought Uncle Steve and “Aunt Mary” up in conversation. She was especially intriguing to many in the family, not only because of her time in service, but also as she was strong and vocal and she and Steve both had significant personalities. The memory one of her nieces shared was of a conversation among the women in the family about love and marriage. Her recollection was that all the women were “gushing” about love and romance and Duffy, at a point, just stood up and said, “Yes, yes, love is important. Of course it is. But so is respect, and sometimes marriage is about more than romance. It’s about finding a partner who, if nothing else, is good stock!” Maybe then, that had been the answer to my question about why she joined the Navy. Maybe, once The Produce Man was taken, she needed to broaden her horizons? I guess we’ll never really know. But, in her own way she proved that to be true, building a marriage with love that created a family legacy we can appreciate. ★

The Ireland Trail

Retrace the Footsteps of the GIs in Northern Ireland with the GI Trail and Commemorate D Day with the GI Jive Festival

“It was here in Northern Ireland that the American Army first began to concentrate for our share in the attack upon the citadel of continental Europe. From here started the long, hard march to Allied Victory. Without Northern Ireland I do not see how the American forces could have concentrated to begin the invasion of Europe.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Northern Ireland has just launched an exciting new project called the GI Trail, which aims to retrace the footsteps of the American GIs who were based in Northern Ireland during the Second World War. This trail is also complimented by the annual GI Jive Festival in Kilkeel, County Down, making Northern Ireland the perfect place to visit for veterans and those with links to this part of the world.

In the 1940s war came to Northern Ireland with the friendly invasion of US troops who were sent to the country in preparation for the Allied invasion of Europe. The rugged, green countryside soon rang to the sounds of American accents and the rumble of Second World War aircraft. The GI Trail aims to expose this fascinating era by mapping out the sites at which the American GIs were located, telling the stories of the men who once called Northern Ireland their home for a short time and exploring the unique legacy they left behind.

The GI Trail has been split into three stages, mapping out the sites with American links in all six counties. The first stage is now complete and is called The Patton Trail, exploring the counties of Down and Armagh. The Hartle Trail will cover Antrim and Derry and the final instalment, The Eisenhower Trail will cover the counties of Fermanagh and Tyrone. These two trails are both in progress with Hartle due for completion in September 2016, and Eisenhower in January 2017. The Patton Trail has gained much support and funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and local council authorities, and was officially launched by the US Consul General to Belfast, Mr Daniel J Lawton at the end of May.

These exciting trails are self guided, however there are many experts based locally in each area of the province

who are available for guided tours for coach trips and groups. The printed trails work in tandem with the interactive website which is all Google Map based allowing users to navigate around the countryside easily – www.gitrailni.com

If you are lucky enough to be in Northern Ireland during the month of July you must make sure you visit the small seaside town of Kilkeel in the foothills of the Mountains of Mourne, County Down for their annual GI Jive Festival. This US themed festival started in 2014 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day and has been growing ever since. At the end of July the small town comes alive to the sights and sounds of the 1940s. This festival's main sponsor is American giant B/E Aerospace, a world leader in interior cabin products, fastener distribution, and logistical services for commercial, business & military jets.

In 2015, GI Jive was proud to host World War Two veteran Bob Kemp (now living in Florida) who was visiting Northern Ireland at the time. Bob married a Belfast girl whom he met while stationed in Northern Ireland and makes the annual trip 'home' every summer to visit his family who still live there. Bob was delighted to meet another fellow veteran at the event, Belfast man Teddy Dixon who served with the US Rainbow Division during the war. Both men had a great afternoon in Kilkeel, soaking up the festival atmosphere and reminiscing about their time in Northern Ireland. So if you are in Northern Ireland/ Ireland on the 30th July 2016, come along and be our guest of honour for the day!



© GI Trail Northern Ireland



GI Jive 2016

On Saturday 30th July 2016, Kilkeel will be all swinging and all jiving so do not miss out on this thrilling event at which you can witness historical re-enactments, watch a fly past by a local flying club, walk around an authentic recreation of an American WWII camp and view their vehicles, tanks and weapons. Learn how to jive to authentic swing music and immerse yourself in 1940s glamour with vintage fashion shows and best dressed competitions ; so make sure you dress to impress!

GI Jive is teaming up with Tourism NI's Year of Food and Drink 2016 programme to showcase the amazing food and drink Northern Ireland has to offer. Kilkeel is famous for its fresh seafood and GI Jive will be hosting a seafood pavilion housing numerous stalls cooking and selling delicious seafood, ranging from locally caught prawns and scallops to haddock and monkfish. If you are a novice to seafood you can learn how to prepare and cook it at one of the many live cookery demonstrations carried out by our celebrity chefs. If seafood is not your thing there will be many other delicious offerings to get your taste buds tingling, such as our artisan food marquees which will be stocking locally sourced produce from jams and chutneys, to tasty street food and homemade ice-cream and chocolate accompanied by local drinks providers who brew beer at the foot of the Mourne Mountains.

Northern Ireland has much to offer travelling vets and their families in 2016 so make sure to keep this beautiful country in mind when booking your vacation! We would also love to hear from any vets families who had family members stationed in Northern Ireland during the run up to D Day, so please get in touch through our websites, we would love to hear from you! For more information on the GI Trail and GI Jive please see below. ★

GI Trail

Website: www.gitrailni.com

Email: gitrail.ni@gmail.com

GI Jive Festival

Website: www.gijivefestival.com

Email: info@gijivefestival.com

Phone: 028 417 62525

If you are interested in booking a trip to Northern Ireland, these links below might be useful:

Tourism NI

www.tourismni.com

Discover Northern Ireland

www.discovernorthernireland.com

Discover NI Accommodation Provider

<https://www.discovernorthernireland.com/accomfinder/>

Rafael Aguirre Member at Large California	Gary Clark, US Navy Member at Large Pennsylvania	Harold Frazier, US Army Chapter 72 Pennsylvania	Kendall Hughes, USAF Member at Large New Hampshire
Loren Anding Member at Large Nebraska	Richard Clark, USAF Member at Large APO AE	Max L French, USAF Member at Large Oklahoma	James Hulshof, USAF Member at Large California
Charles Andrews, USAF Member at Large Florida	Ralph Clukey, USAF Member at Large Florida	Frederick Fukunaga, US Army Member at Large Hawaii	Stanley A Humphrey, USAF Member at Large Virginia
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Miller Barnes, USAF Member at Large South Carolina	Gary Corbin, USAF Member at Large Texas	Ronald Gall, USAF Member at Large New Mexico	Billie Jackson, US Army Member at Large Colorado
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Herbert Bing, USAF Member at Large Florida	Norman Dionne, USAF Member at Large South Carolina	Jimmie Gibson, USAF Member at Large Texas	Gail Johnson, USAF Member at Large North Carolina
Dennis Bloomquist, USNG Member at Large Minnesota	Andrew J Dobek, USAF Member at Large New Mexico	Dennis Gifford, USAF Chapter 29 South Dakota	Marion Johnson, US Army Chapter 101 Tennessee
Robert Bray, USAF Member at Large Ohio	Lee Douglas, US Army Member at Large Michigan	William R Guest, USAF Chapter 3 Colorado	Edward Jones, USAF Member at Large Texas
Donald Brittingham, USAF Member at Large Virginia	William Durfee, US Navy Member at Large California	Everett Hamre, USAF Member at Large Wisconsin	William Kastner, USAF Member at Large Missouri
Marcia Brown-Ashby, US Army Member at Large Texas	Carl Ericksen, US Army Chapter 39 Colorado	Harry Harris Member at Large California	George Kilian, USAF Member at Large Florida
Jerome Brownstein Member at Large New Jersey	Jeremiah Evans, US Navy Member at Large California	Robert Harris, US Army Member at Large Virginia	Glenn Kinney, USAF Member at Large Colorado
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Sidney Camp Member at Large Arkansas	Louis Foreback, USAF Chapter 105 Pennsylvania	Kenneth Himes, US Army Chapter 55 California	Elmer Lester, US Navy Member at Large North Carolina
John Carney, US Army Member at Large Missouri	Frank Fowler, USAF Member at Large Florida	Alfred Hise, USAF Member at Large Mississippi	William Lopez Chapter 20 Colorado
James E Carroll, US Army Member at Large Georgia	Richard Fraser, USAF Chapter 29 South Dakota	Cecil Hooper Chapter 74 Washington	Herbert Lowe, USAF Member at Large Georgia

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Chapter 39
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Wayne Werthman, US Army
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William West, USAF
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Douglas Williams, US Army
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Join us September 15th – 17th at the Tuscany Suites & Casino in Las Vegas as we celebrate 53 wonderful years of TREA. Reminisce with old friends, meet and make new ones, and share your memories of this great organization we all love.

Registration opens Wednesday, September 14th at noon. Business meetings and BOD voting will be held on Thursday and Friday. Recognitions and awards will take place during the Awards Luncheon and a fun and exciting President's Dinner will be the event to remember.

A tour of the Hoover Dam, with transportation, has been coordinated for you for Saturday morning. (Please contact TREA Headquarters to make reservations or for more information. Payment is required to secure your seat).

Take the rest of the day to enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes of Las Vegas. Saturday evening, we return to the honor and respect of the Installation banquet. Don't miss out on this wonderful event – it promises to not disappoint.

RSVP by sending in your reservation form (page 44 in this magazine), with payment to TREA Headquarters, 1111 S Abilene Court, Aurora, CO 80012.

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