

VOLUME 36 | NUMBER 2 | SPRING 2017

# THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted

**Moving Forward: The  
Power of Positivity  
Shining a Light on  
TREA's Successes**

***PLUS:***

**TREA Is Growing -  
New Chapters Join the Ranks!  
&  
A Time and Place to Honor -  
The 2017 Medal of Honor Ball**





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

**Submissions**

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*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 and all retirees;  
to stop the erosion of  
earned benefits through  
our legislative efforts;  
to maintain our esprit  
de corps, dedications  
and patriotism; and to  
continue our devotion  
and allegiance to God  
and country.*



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**Dean Sorell, 1921 – 2004**



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## President's Letter

By John I. Adams



It was my great honor to represent you and every TREA member at a hearing of the Joint House-Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on March 22nd in Washington, D.C. As TREA's National President I was able to present to them our many concerns regarding Veterans legislation that is needed this year. You can read about those matters elsewhere in this issue. The written testimony is on our page.

Accompanying me was the National Legislative Committee Chairman and National Director Aaron Reed, from our Washington Office we had the Executive Director of Legislative Affairs Deirdre Parke Holleman, Director of Legislative Affairs Larry Madison and Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs Michael Saunders. Representing us from TSCL, we had TREA Past National President and current TSCL (The Senior Citizens League) Chairman Art Cooper, TREA Chapter 9 President and TSCL Legislative liaison Michael Gales, TSCL Executive Director Shannon Benton and the TSCL Legislative Analyst Jessie Gibbons. (For the new members to TREA, TSCL is a TREA-affiliated senior citizens group, [www.tscl.org](http://www.tscl.org).)

TREA was formed specifically to stop the erosion of earned military benefits, and by making our concerns known at that hearing, as well as through the work of our Washington Office day in and day out, TREA is keeping faith with all of our members who are counting on us to do just what we have said we would do since the very beginning.

When giving the testimony, I referred to us as "The Retired Enlisted Association." However, as most of you know we have been operating as "TREA: The Enlisted Association" for several years. Since I have been getting questions about when The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) changed its name I think this is an appropriate place to clarify that.

TREA has never changed its legal name. This organization is still officially, "The Retired Enlisted Association, Incorporated," but we are doing business as "TREA: The Enlisted Association." We changed our operating name to recognize the fact that we are open to all enlisted military members – veterans, retirees, and those currently serving in uniform.

If we change our incorporated name we would lose our Congressional Charter, which is something we want to be careful not to do. The charter is extremely valuable because, among other things, Congress has stopped awarding them.

Our charter means TREA is an officially recognized Veterans Service Organization and as such, we are able to participate in certain functions operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs that non-chartered organizations cannot. In other words, it gives us a seat at the table that non-chartered organizations don't have.

In addition, I have been told that there are some state legislatures that will not talk to a veteran organization if that organization does not have a national Congressional Charter.

On January 10th, I was invited by Mr. C. D. Rice to speak about TREA at the Colorado United Veterans Council (UVC). I informed the council the history of the TREA and what our mission is.

TREA's Board of Directors and staff members are always working hard to provide you, our members with quality service, a loud, strong voice in Washington and accessible information. With that, I want to let our membership know that we are working on a new, updated, interactive website and database that will give you access to your membership information, and allow for immediate communication with our staff. We will keep you informed as this new service progresses.

Finally, it's not too early to remind you of our convention in Pittsburgh this coming September. If you've never attended our convention before we hope you will give it serious consideration this year. Each TREA chapter is allocated a certain number of delegates to the convention, while any Member-At-Large can attend as a voting delegate.

Your input is welcomed and very valuable to us and we'd love to have you join us in Pittsburgh.



*Pictured, L-R: Reuben Mestas – Director of the Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs, Frank McCurdy – President of the United Veterans Committee of Colorado, John Adams – TREA National President, Debbie Osborne – TREA's Director for Operation*



*From the Editor:*

*Welcome to another issue of The VOICE. Hopefully as the weather turns warmer and we are able to get out and about more easily, you all are enjoying good health and happiness. The end of winter seems to bring with it a renewed sense of optimism and positivity each year.*

*The editorial team continues to be grateful for the chance to serve you all as we put this issue together. We welcome, again, many new members who have come to TREA this year as a result of the merger last December with NAUS. We will talk more about this in the cover story on page 38. Please know that we welcome and appreciate submissions and ideas. We cannot guarantee every submission will be printed, but if you have ideas, please reach out and let us know.*

*With the sense of renewed optimism, and with so many new members to TREA, we wanted to focus as much as*

*possible in this issue on the power of positivity. That is the idea that when we highlight and honor the things that are good, we empower ourselves to do more of those things. TREA is a solid organization with a long history of generosity, kindness, and community engagement. We are proud to celebrate your efforts throughout the magazine.*

*For those who are new to TREA, we invite you to become involved, get engaged, and be inspired by fellow members who are doing good work in communities across the country. To our volunteer leadership on the Board of Directors who spend their time in service of TREA, we offer thanks. Our gratitude also goes out to the small but devoted staff at TREA Headquarters. This really is a remarkable organization and we are positive that it will continue to be so through the good work and honest effort of all everyone involved!*

## **The Enlistment Oath**

Article by Hazel Simeon, MAL

***“I, (state name of enlistee), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.”***

If you were an enlisted person in the military you took this oath. You were probably in your late teens or early 20's and it may not have had the depth of meaning to you then as it does now. When I took it at 18, I just wanted to leave the farm in Minnesota and the military was my way out, now though, this oath that I took is more important to me today than ever.

As I read it now in preparation for writing this article I realize that the words have been a very real part of my character development. I am who I am in large part because of my time in the military and because of my continuing relationship with veterans who have served our country with honor and dedication. As I ponder on this oath, I think about what the words mean to me. For example, the words support and defend mean that even at my age I would be willing to give my life in service of my country, defending it from all enemies, foreign and domestic. The phrase “true faith and allegiance to the same” means that I will stay firm in my belief that no matter what is going on around me, the politics, the corruption in government, the lust for power some have, I will remain strong in my commitment to my country. This oath says “I will obey the orders of the President of the United States...not an optional thing, even at my age and no longer being in the military. He is still my Commander in Chief and will be until I take my last breath and go onto glory. I have lived in many places in this world, both in other countries and in the United States. I think we all shake our heads and think, after watching the news, “What is happening to our country?”. In all my experience and travels I can firmly and without a shadow of a doubt, say “We are the greatest nation on earth bar none!” But we each must continue to do our part to ensure that our country stays strong by our attitudes and the words we speak. Let us all continue to live out our oath of enlistment each day for our nation and its people.





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## TREA President Testifies Before Joint Hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee

On March 22nd of this year, John I. Adams, our President testified in front of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. President Adams spoke in front of a packed audience on matters important to those TREA promised to serve and protect. Some of those issues were:



- Veteran Affairs (VA) and Community Healthcare
- VA Oversight and
- “Bad Paper”
- Veteran Education
- Benefit Claim Backlog
- Appeals Backlog
- Female
- Survivors Financial
- Survivors Education Benefits
- Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Act (USERRA)
- CHAMPVA until the Age of 26

*To read the full transcript, go to the TREA website ([www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)) and click on the ‘President Testifies’ link.*



## Legislative Committee Report

By Director Reed



On March 23rd, 2017, I had the opportunity to witness TREA President John I. Adams as he addressed the Joint Hearing of the House and Senate’s Committees on Veterans Affairs in Washington D.C.. President Adams along with other veteran agencies and organizations presented veterans issues and concerns that still need to be resolved.

As the Legislative Committee Chairman, it is my goal to keep you, the membership, updated and informed about what is happening. We must be vocal, vigilant and stand strong. I would like to encourage all chapters and MAL’s to voice their issues and concerns to me at [directorreed@trea.org](mailto:directorreed@trea.org) or 720-298-3406. ★

### Here are the 2017 Legislative Goals:

1. Improving earned benefits and protecting existing benefits.
2. Working to abolish the remaining Department of Defense retirement pay and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs disability compensation offset (allowing concurrent receipt of both).
3. Working to end the Department of Defense’s Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs’ Department Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset for military survivors.
4. Protecting Commissary and Exchange benefits from privatization and dilution.
5. Assuring that VA’s Choice program is improved and replaced by a better, more reliable, consolidated and permanent program.
6. Shortening the Department of Veterans’ Affairs disability compensation appeals case backlog.
7. Improving the quality of all VA healthcare, including more healthcare specialist (especially those in mental health fields).
8. Improving the service that the VA provides to female veterans.
9. Address the needs of Homeless Veterans.





## Nominating & Credential Report

By 3rd Vice President, Michael M. Davis

We, the Nominating & Credentials committee hope that our TREA families are doing well after weathering this past winter. We want you to know that we are moving forward into the spring months and we are wishing each of you an enjoyable spring in the outdoors with family and friends. To our TREA family and supporters - we thank you for taking the time out to read this publication of the VOICE and for staying devoted to veteran issues and having the allegiance yet to God and Country!

There will be two Director positions up for election at the 2017 convention. Both of these positions are for a two year term. In order for you to participate in this election as a delegate you must registered for the convention with the HQ's office in Aurora, CO. There will be more information coming soon, so make sure that you read the August issue of the VOICE to get the most current information regarding the convention.

If you are interested in one of these positions, now is the time to start getting your information together. Resumes are due into the TREA HQ's office by the cutoff of 1 June 2017. Each resume must be on a TREA Form 100-3 and this form is available on the web site at <http://trea.org> or by contacting TREA HQ at 1-800-338-9337 and a staff member will assist in securing this form. All resumes turned in before the deadline will ensure its placement into the August 2017 edition of the VOICE.

All Chapters will be notified by the HQ's staff of the number of authorized delegates and proxies. Each Member-at-Large (MAL) in attendance at convention will be allowed to vote on all agenda items presented on each business day. If you want to be represented as a MAL, make sure that you are officially noted as a MAL with Headquarters – if you want to check, please e-mail [hsimeon@trea.org](mailto:hsimeon@trea.org) to verify. It's an easy change if you need to make it). Each MAL is authorized to carry one proxy. Please note that every proxy must be verified and confirmed prior to voting by TREA HQ. Please note that all TREA members regardless of MAL or Chapter member are welcome and encouraged to attend TREA's 2017 Convention in Pittsburg, PA. Moreover, according to the existing Bylaws and Standing Rules our members may submit a resume for any open position to be considered for the 2017-2019 BODs. Any member present at convention can be nominated from the floor; but, it will be your responsibility to provide each delegate at convention a copy of your resume prior to the election. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 1-800-338-9337.

Thanks again for being an active member of a Veterans Service Organization that take the issues of the enlisted personnel, their families and survivors – including the active components, reserve and guard components, and all retirees to the Nation's Capital. 🇺🇸



## TREA Is Growing - New Chapters Join the Ranks!

We are excited to announce that TREA has grown by four new chapters! Chapter #109, Chapter #110 and Chapter #112, all in Warren Ohio, Chapter #114 in Columbus, Georgia and Chapter #118 in Knoxville, Tennessee are the newest TREA Chapters. Several of these chapters were former NAUS Chapters and have transferred over to TREA.

A big thank you goes out to everyone involved in helping to make this happen: Membership Committee Chairman – Justin Jump, Director Hilinski, Membership Services Coordinator – Hazel Simeon and President John Adams.

There are more Chapters in the process, we look forward to their final applications. If you are currently a NAUS Chapter and want to transfer over to a TREA Chapter, please reach out to us, the process is quick & simple and we will help you every step of the way.



### ***Welcome TREA Chapter 110!***

*R-L: Philip Hilinski, Terry Tackett and several members in the background*

TREA-111 hosts the first new chapter in Ohio and TREA: The Enlisted Association in several years. Shown here is TREA Chapter 111 Member/TREA BOD Director Philip Hilinski presenting their Chapter Charter to Western Reserve TREA Chapter-110 Treasurer Terry Tackett at their location in NE Ohio. Mr. Tackett was instrumental in coordinating their startup effort with TREA National and TREA-111. With their new charter, the chapter plans on operating their club under the TREA banner as well as coordinating efforts with their host chapter.

### ***Welcome TREA Chapter 112!***

*R-L: Philip Hilinski, Chapter President Jerry Johnson, Club Manager Janice Parkinson and the Chapter's Recording Secretary Rich Gill*

Representing TREA: The Enlisted Association, Director Philip Hilinski, after the swearing in of the new TREA-112 Chapter Board of Directors during the installation ceremony, presented the Chapter Charter to TREA-112, The Steel Valley Chapter. President Jerry Johnson thanked Director Hilinski for his efforts in obtaining a chapter charter. Club Manager Janice Parkinson would like to thank TREA HQ and National President John Adams for their expedient work in this endeavor. TREA Chapter-112 is ready to work with the TREA organization.





Did You Know . . .

# From Cars to TVs, DoD Policy Regulates What We Can Sell

In January, the DoD's Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness concurred in a policy change that allows the Exchange to extend online shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans, starting this Veterans Day. But did you know that the DoD also regulates what products and services we can sell?



**October 1960** – The Exchange begins the New Car Sales Program in Europe after winning approval to sell U.S. automobiles overseas to American troops. The first cars sold were from the American Motor Corp. (AMC), like the Rambler, pictured above.



**1985** – The Exchange wins approval to sell computers and word processors in 130 "computer shops" worldwide. The first word processor sold at the Exchange was the Amstrad PCW 8256, pictured above, for \$530. The Exchange sold \$1.9 million of them in 1986-87.



**Jan. 1, 1989** – All CONUS Exchanges begin selling TVs, but DoD limited them to table-tops no larger than 26" and made or assembled in the U.S. Prior to that, only CONUS Exchanges far from towns or cities and those overseas could sell TVs.

**Curious about Exchange history?**

**Contact Steve Smith, [smithstev@aafes.com](mailto:smithstev@aafes.com).**





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dgriffith5@sbcglobal.net

## Chapter 126 (New York)

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gkaczref@roadrunner.com

## Chapter 127 (Wisconsin)

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902 Hollister Ave  
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parkinsonfamily@centurytel.net

## Chapter 128 (California)

Normand Croteau  
15614 Hawley Ct  
El Cajon, CA 92021  
619-561-0867  
nihil@pacbell.net

**Home of the Free,  
Because of the Brave.**







## MEMBERSHIP PERKS



### 20% Off Wyndham Hotels

TREA Members save up to 20% Wyndham Hotels stays including Days Inn, Ramada, Super 8 and many more! Call 877-670-7088 and **use Corporate Code: 1000007487**



### 15% Off Red Roof Inn Stays

Red Roof Inn has over 350 hotels across 41 states in the U.S. Take advantage of accommodations like free Wi-Fi and free pet stays! Make reservations by calling 1-800-RED-ROOF (800-733-7663) and **use promo code: 616252**



### 20% Avis Rental Car Discount

With 4,800 locations in over 140 countries, there's always an Avis nearby to help you. To rent a car, visit Avis or call toll free at 1-800-331-1212. Remember to **use your TREA Number: B291085** to enjoy these special savings.



### Budget Car Rental Discount

Make your budget go further by getting a great deal on a great car. As a TREA member, you can get up to 25% percent off Budget's great rates. To book your car, visit or call toll free 1-800-527-0700 and **mention the TREA BCD number: R198185**.



### Office Depot Savings Program

TREA has partnered with Office Depot/OfficeMax® to bring you a FREE national discount program. Save up to 80% off preferred products! Shop online or in stores! FREE next day delivery on orders over \$50 (excludes furniture orders)!



### Cruises Only Savings

CruisesOnly is proud to offer the lowest prices in the industry to TREA Members. Shop and compare thousands of cruises from the world's top fleets. Plus, trained consultants are ready to answer your questions, help you choose the right cruise and arrange land excursions.



### Cross Country Home Warranty TotalProtect Enhanced Home Warranty and Service Plan

The TotalProtect® Enhanced Home Warranty helps protect TREA Members from the high costs associated with home repair and replacement of their major appliances and key internal mechanical systems. TotalProtect® Enhanced covers many items that other home warranty companies don't even think of covering. From unknown pre-existing conditions, rust and corrosion to plumbing stoppages, water heater sediment build-up and more. Members will have a true peace of mind, one-stop shopping, and expert service from a network of over 40,000 pre-screened service professionals. **Call 800-474-4047 or visit <https://deals.totalprotect.com/trea>.**



### TransAmerica Accidental Death Program

Even with all the safety equipment in our vehicles, highway deaths still occur. In fact, the 2016 edition of the National Safety Council's Injury Facts reports that car crashes are a leading cause of death for all ages. That's why TREA strongly urges all Members to consider adding Accident benefits. With cash benefits up to \$100,000.00 available, this protection can be an important "just in case" financial cushion for your loved ones. Your TREA accident benefits give you a world-wide, 24-hour safety net against the financial impact of a variety of accidents. **For more information, please call toll free 1-855-744-9657.** And, keep your eye out for limited time offers in the mail!



## MEMBERSHIP PERKS



### 10% LifeLock Discount

LifeLock, a leader in identity theft protection, uses the patented LifeLock Identity Alert system† to help you remain safe. As a TREA member, you're entitled to a discount. Call 1-800-543-3562 and mention promo code TREA.



### TREA Prescription Discount

TREA members can receive a FREE card to start saving up to 55% on prescription drugs! One card covers entire household, including pets. Accepted at 9/10 pharmacies. For more information call toll free: 1-888-436-3700!



### Emergency Assistance Plus

Protect you and your family with the TREA Emergency Assistance Plus Program. As a TREA Member, you are guaranteed low group rates and cannot be turned down. For more information visit us on the web or call toll-free.



### Pet First Pet Insurance

PetFirst brings you the best policies to offer a pet insurance plan for every family. Securing a policy for your pet is fast and easy. PetFirst is proud to offer a 10% discount on all pet insurance plans to TREA members. Call 1-844-229-2061 and mention TREA!



### Preventive Health Screening

Life Line Screening services are designed for early detection of potential health problems. TREA Members have the opportunity to detect life-threatening conditions, at an affordable cost. To find a screening location convenient to you, call 1-844-591-7175!



### American Hearing Benefits

American Hearing is a convenient benefits program which provides access to free hearing consultations and discounts on hearing aids through our nationwide network. To learn more call 888-872-1304 or visit <http://americanhearing-benefits.com/partners/enlisted>.



### TREA CancerCare Program

If you find yourself battling cancer, you'll want extra help to cover the cost of treatment. We understand that. With the TREA Endorsed Cancer Care Insurance Plan, you won't have to worry about pinching pennies or reaching into your retirement fund to pay for cancer treatment or recovery. That's why we offer cash benefits – up to a lifetime maximum of \$300,000 – to TREA members who have been diagnosed with cancer. We send these benefits directly to you to help with many aspects of your treatment.

We understand that the best way to beat cancer is to catch it early which is why we'll provide you benefits even if you don't have cancer. That's right! You can collect money when you need to take a test to detect cancer. We've worked hard to make sure that you cannot be turned down for coverage – as long as you have not been diagnosed with cancer in the last 10 years. Avoid the risk of financial hardship or even bankruptcy due to gaps in insurance coverage and get the money you need to fight cancer. Sign up for the TREA Endorsed Cancer Care Insurance Plan today. **For more information, please call toll free 1-855-297-2219.**





## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- **Regular Membership:** Any enlisted person – retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserves – shall be eligible for regular membership. Any active duty enlisted person shall enjoy the privileges of regular membership including attending conventions, making motions and holding office.
- **Veteran Membership:** Any honorably discharged person (as noted on a DD214 or NGB-22) may apply for membership. They may attend conventions, vote and make motions. They must be a member in good standing for three years to be eligible to run for National office. The term “regular member” encompasses both charter and life members of TREA.
- **Associate Membership:** Widows/Widowers of members and non-members, who were eligible for membership at the time of their death, are eligible to join TREA: The Enlisted Association as associate members. Associate members shall enjoy the privileges of regular membership, except the right to make motions, vote or hold office. Associate members are not eligible for life memberships.

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Membership Number: # \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter: \_\_\_\_\_ Recruiter Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Grade/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Service: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership Type applying for: ☐ Regular ☐ Veteran ☐ Associate

If disabled, what is your rating: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that I am a U.S. Armed Forces Veteran and as such qualify to be a member of TREA: The Enlisted Association

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant, please sign here)

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

☐ One Year - \$30

☐ Two Years - \$55

☐ Three Years - \$75

☐ Life Membership (under 70) - \$400

☐ Life Membership (over 70) - \$350

☐ paid in 10, \$42 quarterly payments: \$420 total

☐ paid in 10, \$37 quarterly payments: \$370 total

Payment:

Visa Master  
Card

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

Discover

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

Check (Make checks payable to: TREA)

**Please return your completed application to:**

TREA: The Enlisted Association 1111 S. Abilene Court Aurora, CO 80012

303-752-0660 800-338-9337

[www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)



# TREA Co-Sponsors Congressional Breakfast

By Larry Madison, Legislative Director, TREA

A few weeks ago TREA's Legislative Director, Larry Madison, headed up a Congressional breakfast meeting between members of the National Guard-Reserve Components Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Chiefs of the seven Reserve Components.

The meeting was hosted by Rep. Steve Palazzo (R-Miss.) and Rep. Tim Walz (D-Minn.), co-chairs of the House Guard-Reserve Caucus. The purpose was to bring together members of the House of Representatives who have a special interest in the Guard and Reserve with the leaders of the Guard and Reserve components to discuss what legislation is needed by the seven components so they will be able to accomplish the missions that are assigned to them.

This has become more important than ever because of the change in the Guard and Reserve from a standby (strategic) force to an operational force that has members who today are performing many of the same missions as their active duty counterparts all over the world.

Representatives Palazzo and Walz are both enlisted men, with Palazzo currently serving in the Mississippi National Guard and Walz having retired from the Minnesota National Guard as a Sergeant Major and now serving as the highest ranking enlisted man ever to be in Congress. Walz is a TREA Life Member. The meeting was also used as a kick-off event for the

Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act of 2017, legislation that Palazzo and Walz are co-sponsoring that would give equal benefits to Reserve Component members who are mobilized to perform the same duties as their active duty counterparts.

Currently, Reserve Component personnel activated under a certain mobilization authority do not receive pre- and post-mobilization TRICARE, Post-911 GI Bill benefits, credit for time spent deployed, or a reduction in the age they would be able to retire, even though they do the same job as active duty personnel.

TREA was a co-sponsor of the event, along with 16 of our sister organizations. ★



L-R: Jack DuTeil, US Army Warrant Officers Assoc.; Larry Madison, TREA; Rep. Steve Palazzo; LtGen Rex C. McMillian, Commander, Marine Corps Forces Reserve

## TREA MAL's - Stand Up & Be Heard!

***Did you know that 84% of TREA members are Members at Large? This means that only 16% of our total membership are members of a local chapter. Did you know that only about 5% of the TREA members who attended last years' convention in Las Vegas were Members at Large?***

This means that your voice as a Member at Large is not being heard in a balanced way at the TREA Annual Convention. Our convention is not party time (although we have a good time), it is a time where we make the decisions about changes to the TREA Bylaws and Standing Rules. This is a time where the leaders of our organization are elected. This is the time where the future direction for our organization is chosen. TREA is an entity that looks out for your interests on Capitol Hill and it is up to the membership to help the TREA Board of Directors decide on issues and things that need to be addressed before Congress. We would like you, as TREA Members at Large, to join us in Pittsburgh, PA in September to help us do all of this by being in attendance and voting on the important issues that will help direct TREA in the way that you, as a Member at Large, would like to see it go. Send in your convention registration now and we will see you in September!





## Auxiliary Update

By Irmgard Cates, TREA Auxiliary President

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

Spring is here and Easter has come and gone. I hope everyone enjoyed their Easter celebration with your new Easter outfit. Spring brings us a sense of renewal with flowers blooming and Robins singing. I hope that each of you will take this time of renewal to think of how we can make our Auxiliary better with the goal of growth in our Membership. Just as new lives must adapt to its ever changing environment; so must the Auxiliary change in our evolving circumstances. We cannot continue to conduct business as usual. TREA is changing and your Auxiliary must adjust to new realities.

Talking about renewal, have you renewed your membership? Hope you have not spent your tax return and saved it for our upcoming convention in Pittsburgh. One thing I did not mention in my last article; there is a very nice casino within a few blocks of the hotel and the hotel provides shuttle service to it. The casino is also near the famous Three Rivers Stadium, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Mid-term will be the 18th and 19th of May, so if you have any suggestions or changes for the By-Laws or Standing-Rules please submit them to our Parliamentarian Elaine Warner Savage as soon as possible. One can easily access the TREA web site, go to TREA.org and look for National Auxiliary under the heading "About Us." I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Pittsburgh.

### United We Stand

## Auxiliary 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. All Members at Large (MAL) are also eligible to run for positions on the National Board of Directors.

To run for a National Auxiliary office, complete TREA Auxiliary Form 100-3 A, Resume of Candidate for Elective Office. This form can be found on our website at: <http://www.trea.org/Org/AuxiliaryForms.html>

**DEADLINE is July 17, 2017**

*Mail or email to: Barbara Coley, 2-Yr Director, Nominating Committee Chairman  
17880 West Badger Way Goodyear, AZ 85338  
Email: [barbcoley@cox.net](mailto:barbcoley@cox.net)*



***“No matter what happens, or how bad it seems today,  
life does go on, and it will get better.”  
- Maya Angelou***

By Alice DeBoer, National Auxiliary Chaplain

**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.

Eyeglasses/Dental Care  
Medical Supplies/Hearing Aids  
Financial Hardship.

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.







## A Time and Place to Honor

By Debbie Osborne, TREA Director for Operations

PHOTO CREDIT: Jason Dixon Photography

*There is a time and place for everything, wouldn't you agree? But is there ever not a time to acknowledge and honor those who proved on the battlefield to be the noblest of Americans? Those who chose to make the ultimate sacrifice so that others might live in freedom? I am talking about the Medal of Honor recipients.*

By definition alone, The Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest and most prestigious personal military decoration that may be awarded to recognize U.S. military service members who distinguished themselves by acts of valor.

While there to show respect and honor to these courageous and deserving individuals, I found myself being the one honored – honored to be in their presence and humbled to be able to stand face to face with these extraordinary men and trying with everything that I had to let them know how deeply their sacrifice and patriotism meant to me. Needless to say, I fell short in being able to accomplish that goal as I do not believe that mere words and a single handshake could adequately capture the overwhelming feeling of pride and respect that I had for these men, and for what they stood for.

Contrary to what many people thought, the Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball was not about the election, this was an event for us to take time out of our daily routine where we are so entrenched in 'us' that we can't see past our own responsibilities and our own wants and desires and for one brief night – stare into the very real face of those who willingly threw ev-

ery selfish dream, every personal want and desire away for the sake of his fellow man – and for their country.

There are only 76 living Medal of Honor recipients, 27 of them were there that night to offer hope and to show that patriotism is indeed alive in well in our beloved country.

We should take a much needed lesson from these brave and honored men and follow in their footsteps. We must become the heroes of tomorrow – not on the battlefield, but in our own communities, in our families and in our workplace. It is up to us to shape and mold the future generations.



*Medal of Honor Recipients at the White House*





*Let us thank each and every one of  
these Living Medal of Honor Recipients*

**WWII**

Charles Coolidge  
Francis S. Currey  
Arthur Jackson  
Robert Maxwell  
Wilburn Ross  
Hershel W. Williams

**Korean War**

Duane Dewey  
Thomas J. Hunder, Jr.  
Hiroshi H. Miyamura  
Ronald E. Rosser  
Robert E. Simanek  
Ernest West

**Vietnam War**

Gary B. Beikirch  
Patrick H. Brady  
Paul W. Bucha  
Bruce P. Crandall  
Sammy L. Davis  
Drew D. Dix  
Roger H.C. Donlon  
Frederic Ferguson  
Michael J. Fitzmaurice  
James P. Fleming

Robert F. Foley  
Wesley J. Fox  
Harold A. Fritz  
Charles C. Hagemeister  
Frank Herda  
Robert R. Ingram  
Joe M. Jackson  
Jock H. Jacobs  
Don J. Jenkins  
Thomas G. Kelley  
Allan J. Kellogg, Jr.  
Joseph Kerrey  
Charles S. Kettles  
Thomas Kinsman  
Howard Lee  
Peter Lemon  
Charles Liteky  
Gary L. Littrell  
James E. Livingston  
Allen J. Lynch  
Walter J. Marm, Jr.  
Robert J. Modrzejewski  
Melvin Morris  
Thomas R. Norris  
Robert O'Malley  
Robert M. Patterson  
Alfred V. Rascon

Ronald Ray  
Gordon R. Roberts  
Jose Rodela  
Clarence Sasser  
James Sprayberry  
Ken E. Stumpf  
James A. Taylor  
Brian M. Thacker  
Michael E. Thornton  
Leo K. Thorsness  
Jay R. Vargas  
Gary G. Wetzel

**Afghanistan**

Edward C. Byers, Jr.  
William Carpenter  
Ty M. Carter  
Salvatore A. Giunta  
Florent A. Groberg  
Dakota Meyer  
Leroy Petry  
Ryan M. Pitts  
Clinton L. Romesha  
William S. Swenson  
Kyle J. White



A top-down view of several Bombas socks and their retail boxes scattered on a wooden surface. The socks are in various colors including blue, orange, and grey. The boxes are white with the Bombas logo and a graphic of a sock.

## Bombas: A Company Doing Well, Doing Good

By Kim DeCoste

Every once in a while a company or an idea catches your eye and for some reason it sticks with you. Such was the case for one company that was featured on ABC's TV show *The Shark Tank* in the fall of 2014. Founders David Heath and Randy Goldberg were on the show pitching the idea of their new company, Bombas, which set out not only to offer a good product – high end athletic socks – but also to do some good in the world by giving socks away to the needy.

It sounds simple and maybe even silly, but when Heath and Goldberg discovered that socks are the #1 most requested item in homeless shelters, they wondered what they could do about it. Modeling their idea after other philanthropic but successful consumer products companies like Tom's Shoes, they set out to make a great sock and then figure out a way to give great socks away.

Fast forward a couple of years and they have enjoyed tremendous success. Originally they had a goal to give away one million pairs of socks and they thought it would take ten years. Thanks to the design and model, the socks have sold way past expectations. Using the seed money they got on *The Shark Tank* and with the help of celebrity Shark and fashion industry icon, Daymond John, they met that goal in about two and a half years. Now they partner with over 300 organizations around the country to distribute the socks.

Bombas created a special sock for those in need. Features such as darker colors, moisture-wicking materials, blister protection, and reinforced seams

help ensure that those who need socks so desperately, have something that is durable and better than what is on the common market. Why did this story catch our eye?

In May of 2016, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ran a story that was picked up by the national news. Bombas was at it again; this time giving away 700 pairs of socks to New York area veterans in need. The James J. Peters VAMC and the New York Harbor Health System agreed to work with Bombas to get those socks in the hands of Veterans. Those 700 pairs of socks represented all of the homeless Veterans known to the Department in New York City and New York Harbor. They were sent to shelters, medical centers, and outpatient clinics and went straight into the hands of people in need. The recipients were thrilled with their new socks and the company continues to fulfill its mission. It just goes to show that it is possible to do well and to do good!



*Veterans receiving socks from Bombas in NYC*

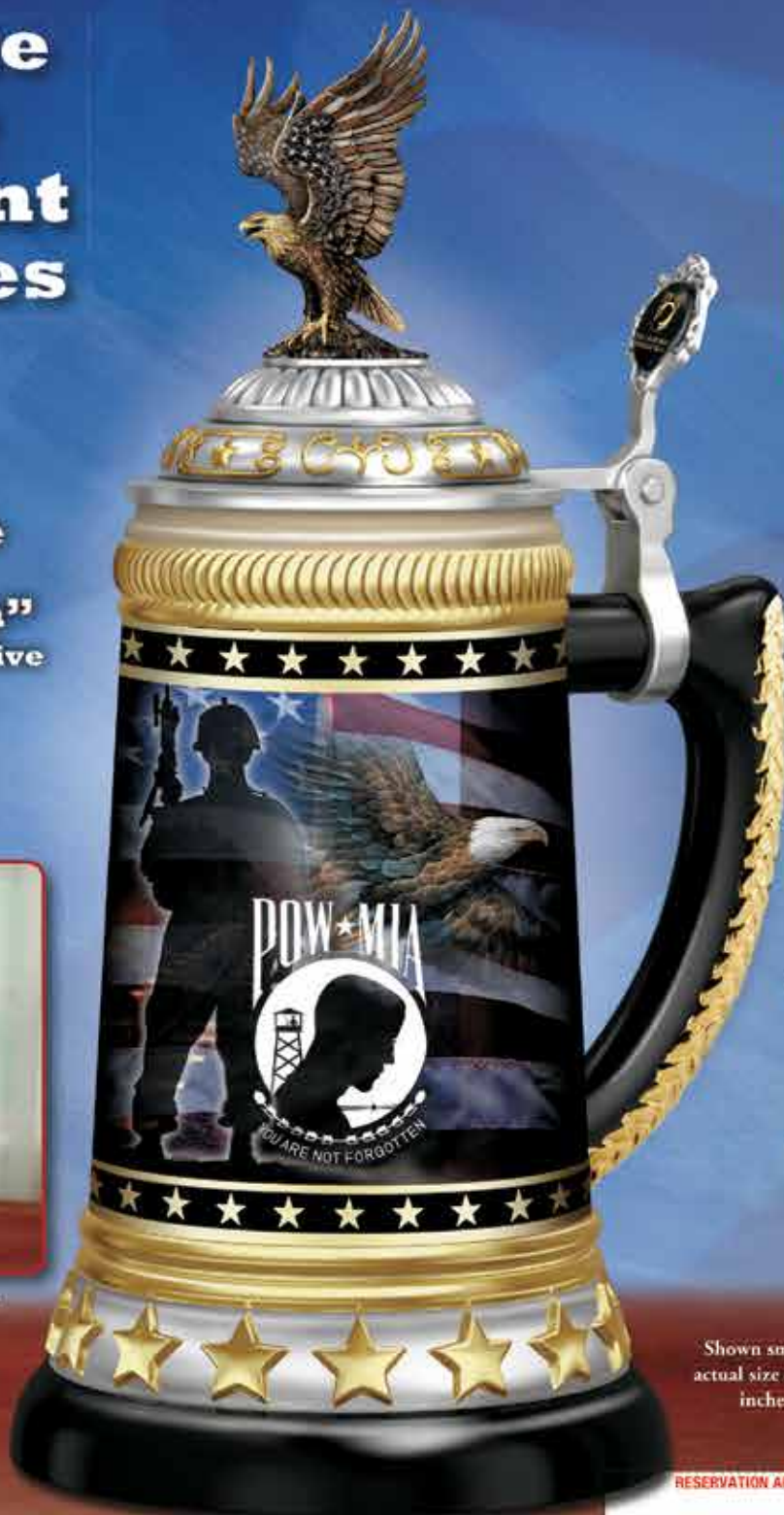


# Salute Our Valiant Heroes

**"You Are  
Not  
Forgotten"  
Commemorative  
Stein**



**Reverse features  
the message  
Our Freedom,  
Their Sacrifice**



☆☆☆  
A portion of the  
proceeds from each  
sale will be donated  
to help the families  
of POWs and those  
missing in action

**The POW ★ MIA  
logo appears  
front and center**

★  
**Gold  
embellishments  
frame the stein  
in honor**

★  
**The topper is a  
sculpted bald  
eagle bearing a  
stars and stripes  
design**

★  
**The thumb rest  
bears the official  
POW ★ MIA logo**

Shown smaller than  
actual size of about 11  
inches high

## A tribute to courage.

Few have ever bravely given so much to their country as those who have been made prisoners of war or have disappeared in action. As their families faithfully await their return, a grateful nation also remembers. Now the "You Are Not Forgotten" Commemorative Stein brings a handsome tribute to our heroes listed as POW or MIA. With its full-color, wraparound art, this hand-crafted porcelain stein makes a statement of unswerving patriotism and belief in the men and women who serve our nation. The heartfelt message, "Our Freedom, Their Sacrifice" appears on the back. This 32 oz. durable porcelain stein is entirely drink safe.

Act now to order this powerful tribute in four installments of only \$24.99 each, for a total of \$99.95\*. Our 365-Day Guarantee assures your complete satisfaction. To order, send no money now. Just complete and mail the Reservation Application to reserve your *You Are Not Forgotten* Commemorative Stein today!

[www.bradfordexchange.com/sacrifice](http://www.bradfordexchange.com/sacrifice)

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RESERVATION APPLICATION

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BRADFORD EXCHANGE  
—HOME DECOR—

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**YES.** Please reserve the You Are Not Forgotten Commemorative Stein for me as described in this announcement.  
Limit: one per order. **Please Respond Promptly**

Mrs. Mr. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

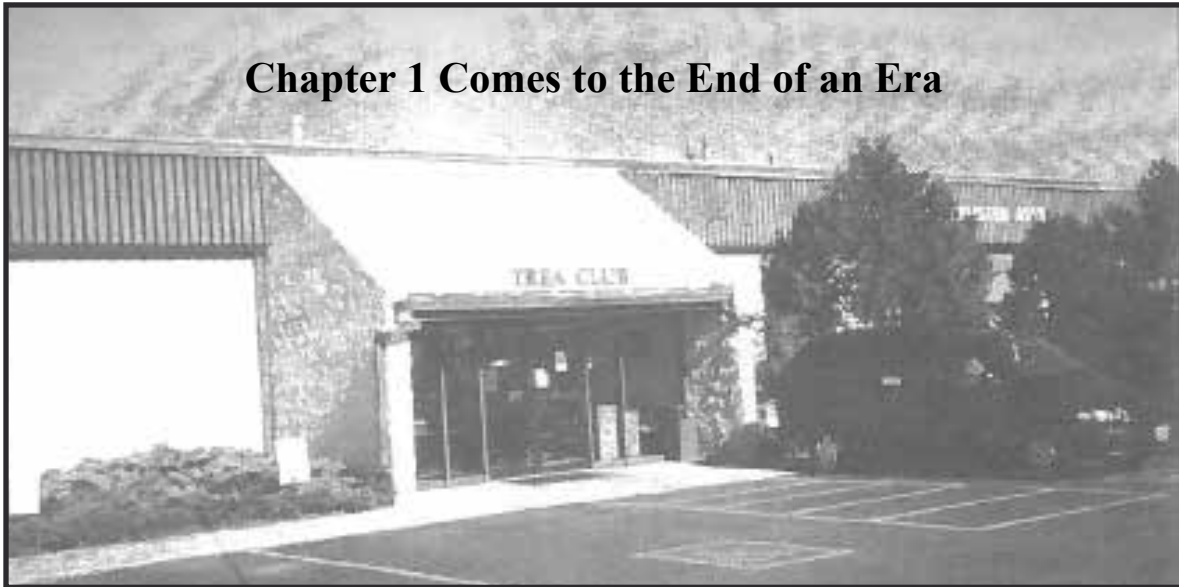
E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**01-22138-001-E27961**

\*Plus \$14.99 shipping and service. Unpaid-advice presentation restricted to 30 filing days. Please allow 4-6 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Base subject to product availability and order acceptance.



## Chapter 1 Comes to the End of an Era



The new clubhouse at 834 Emory Circle had its Grand Opening on November 7, 1981. This 9,000+ square foot facility included a lounge, fully-equipped kitchen, dining room, ballroom, meeting room, and offices, all on 2 ½ acres. The membership at that time exceeded 750 and was increasing rapidly. Its founders, George Skonce and Dean Sorell, along with many faithful members, saw the need for additional space. In June, 1982, an expansion was started. Chapter president at that time, L.C. Repschlaeger, was the contractor and oversaw the construction. The new 12,800 square foot expansion was completed in January of 1983, and became the bingo hall, snack bar, Auxiliary room, and several storage rooms. The building was dedicated to the co-founders on August 8, 1998.

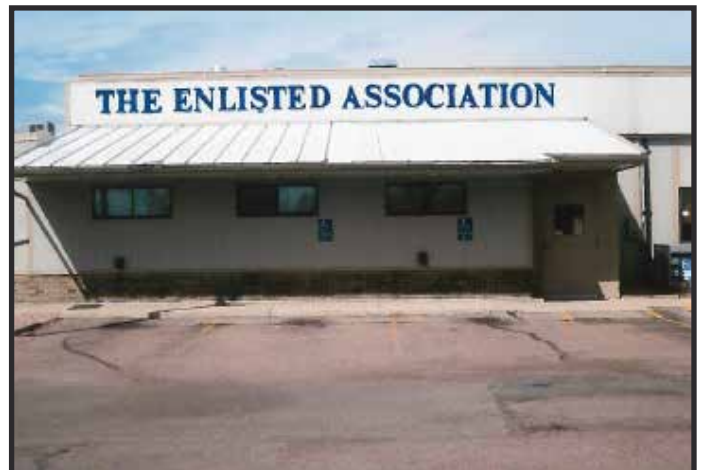


*Flossie Sorell (Dean) and Louise Skonce (George) cut anniversary cake in the new facility*



*Chap. 1 Pres., Ray Garate and Auxiliary Pres., Kitty Jones cut the cake at our Veteran's Day Ball in 2016*

Due to our many aging and deceased members, it has become obvious that we can no longer maintain this 22,177 square foot building, so the members voted to close its doors. On December 30, 2016, the doors were closed to the public, and on March 4, 2017, it was officially closed to members. It is hard to believe that after over 35 years in this facility, it now belongs to someone else. While we no longer have the building, the memories there will last forever. Although TREA/TEA Chapter 1 are currently in transition, in time, we hope to come back stronger than ever, just in a smaller building.





## TREA Honors Vietnam Veterans

TREA, The Enlisted Association, Chapter 1, has been busy recognizing local Vietnam Era Veterans. A project that started in March of 2015 came to fruition in August of 2016 when the Chapter's VNWAR Commemoration Committee honored the first group of 26 veterans, all members of Chapter 1. While not a monumental task, it did take a lot of time and effort to coordinate with the Vietnam War Commemoration Organization Headquarters in Washington D.C. for Chapter 1 to become an "Authorized Partnership Organization," receive the required lapel pins, stickers, placards, handouts, and the official 6' x 4' Commemoration flag visible in the accompanying photos. An After Action report is also required to be submitted after each ceremony.

The Chapter 1 Committee members are Chairman: Gregory Bell, and members Joe Kluck, Roger DeLosh, and myself, Hank Reisig. We have had wonderful participation from Chapter administration; secretaries, Jae, volunteer secretary Bernice, and Dana, office manager Howard Suarez, and our acting club

manager Joe Kluck and President, Rey Garate. Often, these members as well as others, dug deep into their own pockets to make this program the success it has become. We are indebted to them.

There were five recognition ceremonies held in August, September, October and two in November. The first ceremony recognized veterans from Chapter 1, and the rest were veterans who served in all different types of units and services. Only one ceremony, held on 12 November, recognized veterans from a specific unit; The First Cavalry Division Association of the Rocky Mountain Chapter.

Our most recent "Recognition Pinning Ceremony" was held on 29 March, 2017 and recognized veterans from many different areas. Media coverage from KRDO TV, Channel 13, and The Gazette Newspaper, was promised for the event, but did not occur. There were approximately 90 veterans and 43 family members in attendance. We are proud to be able to have an opportunity to honor our Vietnam Era War Veterans.



*The ceremony was held on 29 March at 4 pm at the DAV Post 26 on the NW corner of Peterson Rd and Palmer Park Blvd. We presented a certificate along with the pin to each attendee. We called the veteran forward using their rank (what they exited the service with) and their branch of service. Then we pinned them and present the certificate and took a picture. After all the veterans were pinned, we did a group photo that we sent forward with an After Action Report to the VNW Commemoration Hq.*



*A note from Judy Cruz:*

*Yesterday, 29 March 2017, I had the privilege of participating at the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War with the presentation of a Lapel Pin and Certificate honoring Vietnam Veterans recognizing their service, valor, and sacrifice.*

*As you both know, I've never been a fan of being recognized for anything that I do, yet the ceremony that I attended was exactly what I've always expressed was not in my wheel house. However, for some reason I gravitated to this ceremony because I felt organizations took the time to put this together and get it approved; the least I could do was to participate, and if nothing else, acknowledge the hard work that the Commemorative Partner Program worked hard to put together.*

*When I arrived at the DAV Post 26 I was overcome with two different sets of emotion... First, looking around the room at those in attendance, I started asking myself if I was deserving of this recognition. After all, the closest I participated with any activity associated with Vietnam was Operation New Life in which our unit was the first to receive citizens of Vietnam who were evacuated via both Air and Sea. A significant memory edged in my mind of the strength displayed particularly by the elder women, carrying their worldly possessions in a black bag flung over their shoulders. Second, after calming down a bit, the overwhelming feeling of belonging, being part of a family, a brotherhood if you will became very evident.*

*Please do your part, if you haven't already done so, and participate in the process. Feel free to forward this information to anyone you know who is a Vietnam Era Vet so that they too may participate. Don't just forward to people you know here in Colorado Springs; forward it to those you know out of state so that they, too, may participate. I promise it will be a rewarding experience.*

*Below is the message I received from Henry Reisig with the plans for yesterday's ceremony. His email address is also included so that you may contact him should you have any additional questions and/or to add your name to the list for the next ceremony. He will also need your information as he has expressed below. He mentioned yesterday that he has done a few of these presentations and that he plans another ceremony sometime between June to August timeframe.*

My name is Henry Reisig and I am involved with a Department of Defense (DOD) initiative to honor Vietnam ERA Veterans. In 2012, the DOD authorized a Lapel Pin to be presented to veterans who had served in the military between November 1955 and May 1975, as a means of thanking them for their service to their country. It is not a requirement for the veteran to have been actually in the Vietnam arena. If you know of anyone who qualifies for this, please have them get in touch with me as there is a ceremony planned for 29 March to honor them, and present them with their pin. Family members are welcome. My email address is [henryreisig@hotmail.com](mailto:henryreisig@hotmail.com). Thank you for helping me get the word out. Our veterans deserve our support.



## Chapter 1

This is a group of veterans who meet at a restaurant on Wednesdays just to swap stories about their military histories. All different types of units and all services are represented.



Group photo from Sept 28, 2016.



Group photo from Oct 25th, 2016. A group of veterans from varied organizations and some Chapter 1 members.



Group photo from the Nov 15th, 2016.

## Chapter 9

Wednesday, February 22nd, the Budget & Taxation Committee hearing on SB0321. TSCL Chairman & PNP Art Cooper, standing with the group of officers and wives after our testimony.



## Chapter 16

Chapter 16 met on February 10th in the Salinas, KS Senior Center Board Room. They spoke about the history of Bethany Home, Long-Term Care, Assisted Living, Independent Living, and the availability of different types of living facilities. Furthermore, handed out informational material and offered the chapter members a tour of Bethany's facilities. One of the chapter members, Taft Yates Senior lives at Bethany Home.



R-L: Guest Speaker - Jennifer Cantrell, Marketing Director, Andrea Johnson, HR Director. Seated are Dorothy Armster, Millie Moye, and Duane Snyder.



L-R: Members Abe Holzmeister, Rachel Fikes, Wardene Stewart, Ella Geir, Shirley Wagner, Keith Price, and Jennifer Cantrell, Andrea Johnson, Bethany Home.



President Richard Trow (center) presents Certificate of Appreciation to Guest Speakers Andrea Johnson (left) and Jennifer Cantrell (right) of Bethany Home, Lindsborg, KS.



## Chapter 29

Members of Chapter #29 and A29 Auxiliary attending the “Salute to Hospitalized Veterans” service And “The Four Chaplains Remembrance”, honoring the four heroic World War II Chaplains who sacrificed their lives when the U.S. Dorchester was sunk off Greenland on February 2, 1943.



L-R: Fred Milliken-Chapter President , Elaine (Warner) Savage-Auxiliary President, Pat Larkins -Auxiliary Member, Ernie Summarell-Past Auxiliary President, Jim Savage-Chapter Member, and “JAKE” the Service Dog.



Presentation of Colors for the “Special Olympics Black Hills Area Basketball Tournament” held on February 17, 2017. Members (L-R) Ralph Hadley, Paul Ott, John Martinez, and Chet Westman.



## Chapter 39

On March 17th TREA 39, Aurora, Colorado celebrated the regular St. Patrick’s Day Festivities. TREA 39 honored two of our World War II Veterans, Robert “Bobby” Newell (HSARET) and Margaret “Peggy” Mastrandrea (W.A.V.E.S. USN). We presented each of our veterans with a quilt made especially for them. Liz Davis and Chaplain John Green of Chapter 39 shared a short bio about each of our honorees. The significance of the Quilts of Valor is to cover service members and veterans, touched by war, with comfort and healing.

The entire audience rose to their feet as a recording of past WWII veteran Kate Smith sang God Bless America. Entertainment by Bryce & Cindy followed the ceremony.



## Chapter 34

### *TREA Chapter 34 Auxiliary Visits U. S. VET - PHOENIX*

Recently, TREA held a Meet and Greet Visit at the U. S. VET in Phoenix, AZ. Please visit [www.usvetsinc.org](http://www.usvetsinc.org). One main purpose for the visit was “getting to know you” as part of Chapter 34 Auxiliary community outreach program. The auxiliary wanted to explore ways to possibly assist our veterans. Several veterans requests were presented and concerns were discussed. Currently, TREA is researching and investigating how to give these veterans a hand up.



To express great appreciation and to say “Thank You” to the many veterans who served our country and the 170 veterans who were in attendance, individual packaged snacks were donated from a few auxiliary members and were made available to the veterans. The visit resulted in a wonderful fellowship of sharing and hope. Also, in attendance were several TREA members and the caring staff of U. S. VET - PHOENIX. And their mission is the successful transition of military veterans and their families through the provision of housing, counseling, career development and comprehensive support. Additionally, veterans who are graduates of the Veterans in Progress Program (VIP) and formerly homeless veterans are provided affordable housing units. TREA Chapter 34 Auxiliary has joined in with local organizations to help struggling homeless veterans get back on their feet.



### *TREA Chapter 34 Auxiliary Gives Homeless Veterans a Hand Up*

TREA Chapter 34 Auxiliary members met at the AZ State Fair-ground on February 8th to support the Annual Maricopa Stand-Down. The auxiliary members gave a significant monetary donation to the Homeless Women Veterans Section. The donation was used to purchase new clothes, under wear and hygiene items to help these women.

During this 2-day event, sources reported 1,949 veterans were served. And 214 women signed up as veterans. One women veteran with twins gave a personal testimony. The veteran commented last March they were living in her car and she shared inspiring statements on how the StandDown changed her life. This is an example of how such event give veterans a fresh start in life. The Arizona StandDown is the state's, singular outreach event for homeless veterans and is held in several counties each year. It relies upon contributions from the public. The goal of the Arizona StandDown Alliance is to raise awareness of the issue of homelessness among veterans. TREA Chapter 34 Auxiliary supports several military community outreach programs.

## Chapter 76

Pictures from the Annual Membership and Sweetheart Dinner on February 12th, 2017.







## Chapter 72

(Update from the February Issue) - Santa Claus from the South Pole and his volunteers handing out blankets to VETERANS hospital Pittsburgh to the disabled vets ARP, St. Barnasbas Allegheny, VETERANS of South Western PA and TREA.

Photo: (front row) Edith White - Vice President, Harry L. Blackwell - President, Charles White & (back row) Amos Larson, Elliott Shorter, Lewis Hilliard, Richard Payne, Gerald Boykin, Darrell Beard and Ernest Rivers.

## Chapter 80



Chapter 80 2nd Vice President Stanley Meyer presents February Guest Speaker, Lizette Davis, a Certificate of Appreciation. Ms. Davis talked about preventing falls.



Chapter 80 President Don Higginbotham presents Keith O. Biddlecom, a Certificate of Appreciation for being the March Guest Speaker. The Biddlecom talked about the upcoming changes to the commissary system.



Chapter Member Joe Guerra, Jr. passes out personal care items to veteran's going through a rehabilitation program at a VA site.



Larry Foster presents Guest Speaker, Keith O. Biddlecom, with a birth year coin set.



### *Chapter 80 Visits the Storks Nest*

The San Antonio Chapter 80 Auxiliary made its annual donation to the Storks Nest, a program operated by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, partnered with the March of Dimes. The purpose of the program is to educate pregnant women about the prevention of premature births and birth deformities through health awareness.



Chapter 80 Auxiliary is in its 8th year of support to this organization with baby items and monetary donations. Pictured from right to left are: Ginger Pope, Director of the Storks Nest, Chapter Presidents, Elaine Moreland and Don Higginbotham, Vice President Juanita Higginbotham, volunteers and Zeta Phi Beta Members, Jean Lawrence and Kel Harper, students of the program, and Vice President Harold Moreland.

### *Chapter 80's Annual Auxiliary Donation*

President Elaine Moreland, chapter president Don Higginbotham, Vice President Harold Moreland and Vice President Juanita Higginbotham once again visited Threads of Love, flowering the organization with gifts of premie baby clothing; blankets, journals, booties, caps and laundry baggies for the company's admission kits to hospitals throughout the United States.

Threads of Love (TOL), a non-profit organization makes clothing and other items to place in admission baskets for premature births. As a great part of the "Admin Kit", chapter 80 has volunteered to make the journals of which specific instructions are provided. Each year president Moreland has a working lunch in her home where the journals are made. These very beautiful note cards allow the mother to document every action of the baby until she goes home. Plus, they are fun to make. The auxiliary becomes very creative in designing them. Other blankets and booties are made by auxiliary members Anne Meyer, Guadalupe Scott and President Moreland. TOL is a 501(C)(3) entity.





## Chapter 98

Troops from the 110th Infantry unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard which has served in Iraq and Afghanistan, now serving in Jordan react to receiving care packages from TREA Chapter 98 and TREA 98 Auxiliary.



## Chapter 119



In December, Chapter 119 held a fundraiser and donated the proceed to the Honor Flight for Veterans to Washington D.C, scheduled for April 2017. Pictured is President Butch Liebaert giving a check for \$500 to Karen Swor, a member of the Honor Flight Committee to help pay the cost for a Veteran. The actual cost is \$600, and all the individuals who go along to help the Veterans also pay their own way.



Here we see the Officers of Chapter 119 after taking the oath. Picture in the front row, (L-R): Board Members, Terry Maki and Karl Moe, Sergeant-at-Arms, Gerald Stark, Secretary Larry Lockett. In the back row, (L-R): 1st Vice President, Troy Magnuson, Treasurer Cosmo Rich Jr., Board Member Jim Potthier, and Chaplain Chuck Tenlen. Absent from the photo was President Butch Liebaert.

## Chapter 120

*To Robert Harris:*

*We would like to thank Mary and all Chapter 120 members. The help and information they gave our grand daughter, Bryanna Mozzella, enabled her to complete the application and essay for a college scholarship.*

*Bryanna was notified this week that she is awarded a \$7,000 scholarship that applied to here tuition at Utica College, which will start in September.*

*Thank you,  
Jane and Ed Thomas*







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## **TREA Memorial Foundation - Food Card Applications**

By Roger Tackitt, Food Card Committee Chairman

The TREA Memorial Foundation was established as a charitable tax exempt organization in 1990. The Foundation is a Code Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS. The Foundation was organized to provide charitable and educational assistance to its members and to receive and disburse donations received through its Direct Mail Program (Armed Forces Aid Campaign [AFAC]), wills and personal contributions. The mission of the Foundation is to support fellow veterans both active duty and retired, their families, military widows/widowers, and children as necessary to provide assistance during their time of need. The programs of the Foundation include educational scholarships for the children and grandchildren of TREA members, benevolent assistance to active duty personnel, veterans and their families who are faced with adversity, and disaster relief for veterans and their families who are victims of natural disasters.

In early 2015, as a result of reviewing the benevolent assistance applications, the Food Card Program was started. This new program was created to assist active duty members or veterans or their family when just a little amount of money would relieve a big problem. This is done by providing Food Cards to active duty members, veterans, widows and widowers and

their families needing assistance in providing the food needed for sustenance. In the past six months we have given out more than \$15,000 to help those in need. You may be eligible for our assistance. You can go to our web site ([www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)) under about us, then under The Memorial Foundation to find a copy of the Food Card application. Please follow the instructions on the application; print out the application, fill it out completely and email, fax or mail it back. The biggest reason our applications are disapproved is because the applicant did not read and follow the instructions. Thanking you for your service. The Memorial Foundation, Serving the Families of those in Need from 1990 to Today, through Tomorrow.





# The “Forgotten War”

By Hazel Simeon, MAL

The Korean War: Let us remember and honor the sacrifice of our military who served in that short but bloody war.

The Korean War, also known as “The Forgotten War” was fought from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. It began when North Korea invaded South Korea, supported by China and the Soviet Union. On that day the United Nations Security Council adopted S/RES/83: Complaint of aggression upon the Republic of Korea and decided the formation and dispatch of the UN Forces in Korea. Twenty-one countries of the United Nations eventually contributed to the UN force, with the United States providing 88% of the UN’s military personnel.



According to the data from the U.S. Department of Defense, the United States suffered 33,686 battle deaths, along with 2,830 non-battle deaths, during the Korean War. U.S. battle deaths were 8,516 up to their first engagement with the Chinese on 1 November 1950. South Korea reported some 373,599 civilian and 137,899 military deaths. Western sources estimate the PVA ((Chinese) People’s Volunteer Army ) suffered about 400,000 killed and 486,000 wounded, while the KPA (Korean People’s Army)

suffered 215,000 killed and 303,000 wounded. Recent scholarship has put the full battle death toll on all sides at just over 1.2 million.

The first major U.S. strategic bombing campaign against North Korea, begun in late July 1950. On 12 August 1950, the U.S. Air Force dropped 625 tons of bombs on North Korea; two weeks later, the daily tonnage increased to some 800 tons. Overall, the U.S. dropped 635,000 tons of bombs—including 32,557 tons of napalm—on Korea, more than they did during the whole Pacific campaign of World War II.

The Korean War was the first war in which jet aircraft played the central role in air combat. This was also the first time that helicopters played a significant role in combat. Because neither Korea had a significant navy, the Korean War featured few naval battles. The Korean War saw limited use of the tank and featured no large-scale tank battles. The mountainous, forested terrain, especially in the Eastern Central Zone, was poor tank country, limiting their mobility. The Korean War was mainly a war fought by ground forces with air support.



The United States Army deployed eight divisions to Korea--the 1st Cavalry Division; the 2d, 3d, 7th, 24th, 25th, 40th and 45th Infantry Divisions; and the 5th, 29th and 187th RCTs. U.S. Army personnel received 78 of the 131 Medals of Honor awarded to military members who served in Korea. More than 265,000 Navy personnel served in Korea



during the war. Throughout the Korean War, U.S. Navy submarines and aircraft patrolled between the Soviet Union and the combat theater, not only to warn of surprise attacks, but to discourage such attacks.

The USAF units flew 720,980 sorties and delivered 476,000 tons of ordnance. For these numbers FEAF (Far East Air Forces) estimated it had killed nearly 150,000 North Korean and Chinese troops and claimed the destruction of more than 975 aircraft, 800 bridges, 1,100 tanks, 800 locomotives, 9,000 railroad cars, 70,000 motor vehicles, and 80,000 buildings. This damage was inflicted at the cost of 1,841 men killed, wounded and missing, and 750 aircraft destroyed by the enemy. Have they all come home? No

#### POW/MIA's in Korea

- There were 7,245 American POW's. Of these 4,418 were returned to the U.S. 2,847 died while POW's.
- There were 8,177 Americans classified as missing-in-action (MIA). The United States in Feb-

ruary 1954 declared them presumed dead.

- As of June 2016 there are still more than 7,800 American soldiers still unaccounted for from the Korean War.

Through the efforts of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency the remains of 50 MIA's have been identified in the years of 2016 & 2017. Most of these missing have been recovered through Joint Field Activities in North Korea. The US has conducted 33 JFA's in North Korea from 1996 through 2005. For a complete listing of names of those POW's who have been identified please access their web-site. <http://www.dpaa.mil/Resources/Fact-Sheets/Article-View/Article/569610/progress-on-korean-war-personnel-accounting/>

#### Other Contributing Articles:

- [https://www.nps.gov/and/learn/historyculture/pow\\_synopsis.htm](https://www.nps.gov/and/learn/historyculture/pow_synopsis.htm)
- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_War)
- <http://www.dpaa.mil/Resources/Fact-Sheets/Article-View/Article/569610/progress-on-korean-war-personnel-accounting/>
- <http://www.nj.gov/military/korea/factsheets/army.html>
- <http://www.nj.gov/military/korea/factsheets/navy.html>
- [http://www.nj.gov/military/korea/factsheets/air\\_fs.html](http://www.nj.gov/military/korea/factsheets/air_fs.html)



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— Melvin, a Veteran free of hep C



# TAPS

Donald Abbinanti, Army Chapter 90, Illinois	Robert Carew, USAF Member at Large, Texas	Sidney Eccles, Army Member at Large, Pennsylvania	Samuel Hilderbrand, Navy Member at Large, Illinois
Maurice Abels, Army Member at Large, Ohio	John Carter, USMC Member at Large, Florida	Ronald Ewick, USAF Member at Large, Washington	Joseph Hine, USAF Member at Large, Texas
Edward Adamski, Army Member at Large, Iowa	Michael Charest, USAF Member at Large, New Hampshire	Karl Fairchild, USAF Member at Large, Florida	Richard Holstein, USAF Member at Large, New Mexico
Arthur Aerhart, USAF Chapter 1, Alabama	Andrew Chando, Navy Chapter 70, Virginia	David Filut, USAF Member at Large, Arizona	George Holtzinger, Army Member at Large, Oregon
Louis Alberti Jr., Army Member at Large, Maryland	Robert Chase, Navy Member at Large, Washington	Forest Foley, USAF Member at Large, Colorado	William Howard, Army Chapter 51, New Jersey
William Ambler, USAF Chapter 93, Louisiana	Robert Ciak, USAF Member at Large, Connecticut	Mary Forbes, USAF Member at Large, Oklahoma	James Hulsey, USAF Member at Large, Missouri
Philip Baker, USF Chapter 94, Georgia	William Church, USAF Chapter 7, Oregon	William Fussner, Army Member at Large, Nevada	Norman Jacoby, Navy Member at Large, Maryland
Alden Birkelo, USAF Member at Large, Colorado	William Cochenour, USAF Member at Large, Florida	Gilbert Garcia, Army Chapter 20, Colorado	Jerauld Jacquart, USAF Chapter 39, Colorado
James Black, USAF Member at Large, Arizona	George Cochran, Navy Member at Large, Florida	Ray Gipson, USAF Chapter 1, Nevada	Lenwood Johnson, Chapter 3, Colorado
James Boltz, Army Member at Large, California	Robert Cole, USAF Member at Large, Oklahoma	Earl Goff, USAF Member at Large, South Carolina	Fredrick Joseph, National Guard Member at Large, Alaska
Harold Boothe, Army Member at Large, Ohio	Ardangia Coleman, Army Chapter 74, Washington	James Graytok, USAF Member at Large, Arizona	Harold Kahlert, Army Member at Large, Wisconsin
Victor Bou Member at Large, Florida	Harold Coleman, Army Member at Large, Arkansas	Junior Grimm, Navy Member at Large, Iowa	Thomas Kelly, USAF Member at Large, Florida
Charles Brenneke, USAF Chapter 127, Wisconsin	Jerold Cook, USAF Member at Large, Washington	Leland G Hagen, USAF Member at Large, Texas	Donald Kelsen, Army Chapter 39, Colorado
Bernard Brown, Army Member at Large, Maryland	Floyd Cormier, Army Member at Large, Massachusetts	Verne Hager, Navy Member at Large, California	Loren Kinney, Army Member at Large, Tennessee
John Brownell, Navy Member at Large, Florida	Thomas Darby Sr., Army Chapter 70, New Jersey	Charles Harens, USAF Member at Large, Minnesota	David Kitner, USAF Member at Large, Arizona
Richard Bruening, USAF Chapter 39, Colorado	Joseph Demoran, USMC Chapter 1, Colorado	Edward Hawkins, USAF Member at Large, Arizona	Andrew Kluttz, USAF Member at Large, Florida
John Brzozowski, Navy Member at Large, Florida	Charles Downes Member at Large, California	Dan Hayes, USAF Member at Large, Ohio	Anthony Kopaczewski, Navy Member at Large, Massachusetts
Larry Campbell, USAF Chapter 29, Tennessee	Thomas Duncan Jr, Army Reserve Chapter 98, Pennsylvania	James Hays, USAF Chapter 58, Florida	Samuel Korb, USAF Member at Large, North Carolina
George Cannon, Army Member at Large, Washington	Robert Duquette, USAF Member at Large, Georgia	Charles Hickey, Army Member at Large, Massachusetts	Frank Kovacich, USAF Member at Large, New Mexico



Bernard Kraus, Navy Chapter 29, South Dakota	James Mullins, USMC Chapter 92, North Carolina	Leo Schreiner, Navy Member at Large, North Dakota	Harold Stevens, Army Member at Large, Minnesota
Donald Kruger, USAF Member at Large, Iowa	Vern Nerad Member at Large, Iowa	Fredrick W Schroeder, Army Chapter 1, Colorado	Bobby Steffens, Army Member at Large, Washington
David R Kuhl, USAF Member at Large, Florida	Jerry Newlon, USAF Member at Large, North Carolina	Thomas L Schuh, USAF Member at Large, Alaska	Floyd G. Strausser Member at Large, Georgia
Harry Lafriniere, Army Member at Large, Montana	Joseph M Niezgoda, USAF Chapter 81, Mississippi	Edward Schultingkemper, USAF Member at Large, Nebraska	John Strike Sr., USAF Chapter 69, Wisconsin
Regis C Laird, USAF Member at Large, Arizona	Gay Noon, USAF Member at Large, Washington	Raymond Seemon, Coast Guard Member at Large, Minnesota	Morris Tabor, Army Chapter 16, Missouri
Francis Landry, USAF Chapter 1, Colorado	Larry Omo, USAF Member at Large, Washington	Robert Shanahan, Army Member at Large, California	Haroll Taylor, USAF Member at Large, North Carolina
Richard Lange, USAF Member at Large, Texas	Pablo Ortiz, Army Member at Large, Idaho	Charles Sheets, USAF Member at Large, Michigan	Bob L Thomas, USAF Member at Large, Arizona
John Lee, USAF Member at Large, Mississippi	Edward Palaschak, USAF Member at Large, California	Bobby Shinn, USAF Member at Large, Texas	Joseph Valdez, USAF Member at Large, Illinois
Dennis Lepard, Navy Reserve Chapter 126, New York	Dwayne Peters, Army Chapter 1, Colorado	Jacob Shirey, USAF Member at Large, Arizona	Earl Vegoren, Army Member at Large, Alaska
Warren Lingafelter, Navy Member at Large, Kansas	John Renfroe, USAF Member at Large, Texas	William Showalter, USAF Member at Large, Virginia	Frank Velie, Army Chapter 1, Colorado
Huston Macy, USAF Member at Large, Indiana	Don Roberts, USAF Member at Large, Arizona	John F Siglowski, Army Member at Large, Colorado	Bernard J Weber, USAF Member At Large, Arizona
Lucas Mays, Army Chapter 74, Washington	Floyd Robinso, US Navy Member at Large, Virginia	Billy Smith, USAF Member at Large, Oklahoma	Curtis West, USAF Member at Large, Georgia
Clive McBain Sr, Navy Chapter 127, Wisconsin	Lucio Ruiz Jr., USAF Member at Large, Virginia	James Snyder, National Guard Chapter 127, Wisconsin	William West, USAF Member at Large, Georgia
Denzil McKinney, USAF Member at Large, Washington	Richard E Sandberg, USAF Chapter 7, Oregon	Clinten Spaulding, USAF Member at Large, Texas	Albert Wetmore, USAF Chapter 1, Colorado
Kenneth McNeely, USAF Member at Large, Ohio	Herman Scheibelhut, USAF Member at Large, Pennsylvania	Charles St. Andrews, Army Member at Large, New York	Harry Williamson, Army Member at Large, California
Stephen McVicker, USMC Chapter 92, North Carolina	Donald Schell, Army Member at Large, Arizona	Gunther Stegmeier, Army Member at Large, Georgia	Woodrow Wilson, Army Chapter 1, Colorado

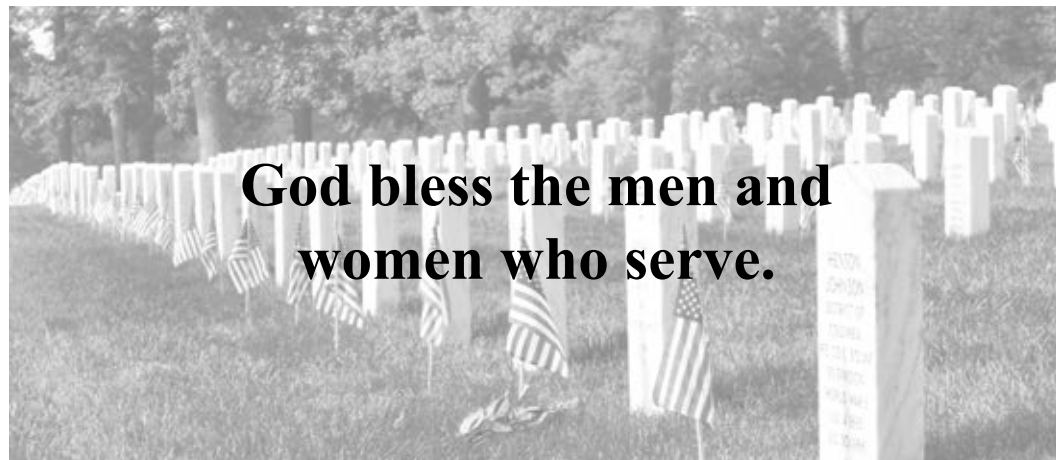
James Merrlees, USAF  
Member at Large, California

Thomas A Miller, Navy  
Member at Large, Florida

William Miller  
Member at Large, Florida

Edwin Mills, USMC  
Member at Large, Florida

Eugene Moore, USAF  
Member at Large, South Carolina







## Moving Forward: The Power of Positivity & Shining a Light on TREA's Successes

By Kim DeCoste

***“Change is the parent of progress.” - Steve Maraboli***

One of the things that has worried some at TREA is how we will continue to grow and stay strong in an era of change, when it seems fewer people engage in membership organizations. We need to find ways to socialize all of the good work that TREA does for its members and for the communities in which they live. It was a topic at conference, and is a perennial area of discussion among TREA's leadership. We are always looking for ways to expand and we remain positive that the right opportunities will present themselves if we focus on doing the best we can and pursuing ideas that come our way with a positive attitude.

That positivity has paid off. In December of last year, TREA announced that it would be taking on the new members of the National Association of Uniformed Services (NAUS), folding their enlisted members into TREA effective December 31, 2016. NAUS Officers were folded into MOAA. The biggest difference between the two groups is that TREA is for enlisted veterans and NAUS is open to all. Otherwise the two organizations have common interests and orientations. What is exciting about this new union? Well, the diversity of military experience will certainly enrich the whole organization.

With that comes new perspectives and ideas. It is an infusion of voices to our organization that will, we hope, help TREA grow and become stronger.

We will continue to work hard at the leadership level to find the way to successfully merge the legislative endeavors between the groups and keep the sense of camaraderie alive and well. TREA has a strong sense of fellowship and we welcome our new members with open arms and enthusiasm. There are now over 7,000 new members in TREA thanks to the new union and we need to work to find ways to engage them all in a meaningful and productive way.

New chapters are in progress or newly formed in Alaska, Tennessee, three in Ohio, and one in Georgia! That new influx will help us help one another and continue to contribute to our communities and the projects we support. We also need to make sure that the news of what those new chapters (and all of our other chapters) are doing does make it back to The VOICE so we can share it out to all.

TREA is one of the best-kept secrets in the country, and we all need to work to get the word out. We should not be a secret! We continue to find ways to improve and we continue to work hard to help each



other and people in our communities all around the country. We need to share our message and we need our members to be as engaged as possible to help us aggregate all of the good work that is being done.



One big step in the right direction is the new implementation of a database for members. That may not sound too exciting, but it will allow each of you to access your membership information via the website online and manage it as needed. Help us, please, to make sure we have all the correct information about you and your membership so that we can stay in touch and make sure we are keeping the communication loop open and strong. We will continue to expand how we communicate in print and using social media as well, so keeping your information current and correct helps us make sure we can share with you all that we are doing on your behalf.

Also noteworthy, there will be six open positions on the Board of Directors this year. That is really worth thinking about if you are interested in getting involved in a leadership capacity to help us continue to pick and follow the correct course of action for the benefit of the members. We hope to see you all and many of our new members at the convention in Pittsburgh this year as well. That is one of the best times for us all to be able to get together, get to know one another, and figure out what we want to prioritize for the good of the organization.

Have we mentioned how much good the organization is doing? We need to shine a light on the successes we are having and emphasize the impact TREA is making. In recent months, we have given out \$28,000 in scholarships to worthy students all around the country. Those students will be able to pursue their education and their dreams thanks to the work TREA is doing. The impact of that money is going to resonate in their lives and their futures indefinitely.

The Memorial Foundation has also been extremely active. There are several new programs they have launched recently to help meet the needs of members. They now offer grants for service dogs for people in need of that kind of assistance. They have also launched a new fuel card program as well as a personal needs card if members need help acquiring personal items. These simple but necessary programs, among others, are intended to help members when they are having difficult times and to strengthen the bond between members and the organization. TREA is here to help.

Recently, TREA has begun working with the Veterans Service Office (VSO) to help them update forms and procedures for the benefit of all veterans. This type of work helps to inform their process with the voice of Veterans so that the programs are more effective and procedures to access the programs more efficient.

So, you see, TREA is much more than just a membership organization. It is a legislative action group, a fraternal organization, and a community leadership organization that touches lives all over the country not only of veterans, but also others, through its generosity. TREA remains engaged and meaningful, though, only through the good work and energy of its people. So we must continue to stay devoted to the causes we serve.

As we welcome the new members who come to us via NAUS, we encourage everyone to take on the power of positivity and get involved. We will continue to shine a light on all of the good that you are doing and we will continue to keep TREA strong for future generations!



*TREA Members saluting at Convention in 2016.*



## What has the TREA Memorial Foundation done lately?

By Mark Tabachek, Memorial Chairman



Since the convention in Las Vegas, the Foundation, following the guidelines as expressed in their credo “Serving the Families of Those in Need” has helped veterans and their families in many areas.

In December, the Foundation approved a new program called the “Holiday Assistance Program”. This program enabled the Foundation to adopt one hundred and thirty three (133) deployed, wounded or members in need and their families during the Christmas season. This includes five (5) National Guard Families.

The second new program started January 1, 2017, is called The William B. De Boer Sr. Betterment Program. This program is designed to help active duty members, veterans and their families improve their educational position by providing grants to pay for additional training. This could be used to obtain new certifications, to increase household income, or to pay for recertification for spouses required as military members move from state to state. This program could also provide funds to pay for college courses leading to college degrees or even advanced degrees. This program does NOT replace the current TREA Memorial Foundation Scholarship program.

The already established Foundation programs have provided assistance in several areas to active duty members, veterans and their families. This assistance has been in the form of Disaster Assistance. A veteran’s home was severely damaged in a fire and the Foundation provide him a disaster grant of more than five thousand dollars to help him restore his family’s home.

Another member received a Benevolent grant of over two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) to keep him

from being evicted from his home. Another military veteran received a grant of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) to help him pay his utility bills, to prevent their being cut off, and various medical bills.

The Foundation has sent food cards totaling over fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) to homeless veterans and others military members and their families who need just a little assistance to help them in their time of need.

Since October 2016, the Foundation has provided over twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000.00) in assistance to those in need. The Foundation has also provided twenty-eight thousand (\$28,000.00) in scholarships to TREA members’ children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Under the Foundation’s Aid To Troops, funds have been provided to local military organizations assisting them in providing Holiday meals to homeless veterans and/or having Holiday parties for military members, and their families, after returning to the United States from deployment overseas. The regular TREA member or TREA Chapter can “adopt” a local military organization and set up some type of recognition for them. It could be a holiday party or maybe a picnic.

The TREA Memorial Foundation is always looking for ways to assist our military, active duty, veterans and their families. Your ideas could help us provide needed assistance. Please submit your ideas to The TREA Memorial Foundation at the TREA National Headquarters. ★





## Pittsburgh Here We Come!

*We will be heading to Pittsburgh, PA. for our 54th Anniversary & National Convention. Join us September 6th through 9th, 2017 at the Sheraton Station Square – the ONLY riverfront hotel in the city.*

The Sheraton offers quality accommodations, a restaurant, full service bar, a Café featuring Starbucks coffee, a lap sized indoor pool, indoor whirlpool and a fitness center. The hotel offers free shuttle service anywhere within a 3-mile radius of the hotel. Station Square offers gorgeous views of downtown as well as shopping, dining and nightlife.

**Some fun and entertaining attractions in Pittsburgh are:** The Andy Warhol Museum, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. Phipps is known for its varied plant collections, which include tropical and hardy bonsai, desert plants such as cacti and aloe, a range of ferns, various fruit and spice plants, orchids and palms. The Andy Warhol Museum houses the world's largest collection of Warhol art pieces. Among the works at the museum are 900 paintings, around 100 sculptures, 1,000 unique prints, 4,000 photographs and 2,000 works on paper. The collection chronicles the development of the artist, showing the transitions between student work in the 1940s, commercial illustration in the 1950s, the iconic pop art of the 1960s, abstracts in the 1970s and collaborations in the 1980s. The Andy Warhol Museum is one of four Carnegie Museums in Pittsburgh, the others being the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Carnegie Science Center and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. At the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, visitors can enjoy a range of permanent exhibitions: Dinosaurs in Their Time, featuring fossil specimens; Hillman Hall of Minerals and Gems, displaying precious stones and jewelry; and Population Impact, which explores the influence of humans on the Earth.

**Weather:** You can enjoy all four seasons in Pittsburgh. If you like to ski and sled-ride, come in January and February. If your interests lean toward budding flowers and walks along the river, spring is the time for you. Love watersports and outdoor attractions? Then visit in the summer. Festivals, crisp air and football greet you in the fall and the holiday season in Pittsburgh is unmatched. For our visit to Pittsburgh, you can expect a moderate daytime temperature of 74 with a cooling off in the evening to 54 degrees. Bring a sweater or a jacket for those nice evening walks along the river.

**Taste of Pittsburgh:** Pittsburghers celebrate their ethnic diversity and enjoy a “work hard-play hard” love of good food and drink rooted in that history. Cooking and sharing food with family and friends is a time-honored Pittsburgh tradition. From its early days, Pittsburgh has been a melting pot of ethnic diversity as immigrants came to the area in pursuit of their American dream. Early immigrants from England, Germany, Scotland, Ireland and Wales were soon followed by Italian, Polish, eastern European, African, Swedish, Spanish, Russian and Greek im-





migrants. More recent immigrants from the Middle East, Ethiopia, Asia, Vietnam, India and Pakistan have also arrived.

Whether you are visiting, new in town or a lifetime resident, you can enjoy the unique taste of our town in Pittsburgh area restaurants, wineries, microbreweries, coffee shops and bakeries as well as at one of the many Pittsburgh food festivals.

If you can't decide what to eat or where to go, 'Burgh Bits and Bites' offers food tours to help you move beyond the downtown area into the local neighborhoods in search of fabulous foods. And, don't forget while you're here to try two of the many iconic Pittsburgh foods...Heinz Ketchup and the Primanti Brothers sandwich, an entire meal of meat, cheese, coleslaw and french-fries stacked between two thick slices of fresh Italian bread, was created to feed hungry truck drivers while their trucks were unloaded in the Strip District.



**Bars & Nightlife:** When the sun goes down in Pittsburgh, the city transforms into a sparkling metropolis and a whole new world awaits! Here are some suggestions if you're looking for adventure after dark: Rivers Casino located within three miles of the hotel, is open 24 hours a day and offers many entertainment options beyond its 3,000 slot machines and 86 table games. Happy hour, live entertainment, dancing and dining can be enjoyed as well as entertainment at the 1,000-seat riverside amphitheater. On the free shuttle route!)

Meadows Racetrack & Casino boasts over 3,500 slot machines, 68 table games, free parking, a state-of-the-art entertainment lounge, year-round harness racing, bowling center and much more! The Meadows is located just off I-79, 20 minutes south of

Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh area has a wet and wild "drinking history." In 1794, western Pennsylvania farmers rebelled against a whiskey excise tax and caused a bit of a stir called the Whiskey Rebellion. Later, Pittsburgh became the home of the "shot and a beer", a.k.a. the Boilermaker, a potent mix of beer and whiskey that was often the drink of choice in mill town taverns at quitting time.

Today, Western Pennsylvania wineries work hard to produce a delightful array of fine wines to enjoy before, during or after your meal. Many Pittsburgh area restaurants and taverns feature these local wines.

**Shopping:** Calling all shopaholics! There's so much shopping in Pittsburgh, you almost won't know where to start. Stay Downtown where it's compact and walkable and get your shop on. Venture into Pittsburgh's unique neighborhoods for an eclectic mix sure to satisfy your shopping fix. High-end fashion can always be found at Ross Park Mall with over 150 retailers including Nordstrom, Macy's, Burberry and more.

For the women --- Don't forget, no sales tax on clothing, shoes or necessities means big savings!

**Downtown Walking Tour:** The Downtown tour winds through four neighborhoods, focusing on remarkable artwork by nationally and internationally recognized artists. Since many of these artists were inspired by the Pittsburgh region when they created their pieces, the tour is also a great way to learn about Pittsburgh's place in history. Downtown tour: 60-90 minutes. If you are interested in the Downtown Walking tour, please let us know at: [treahq@treas.org](mailto:treahq@treas.org).











## Convention Committee Report

By John I. Adams, TREA President

The Convention Committee met at the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square where our 54th Convention will be at. The dates are 6 through 9 September. We discussed the agenda. We visited with the hotel staff; reviewed the meeting, the hospitality, lunch/dinner, and guest rooms. We visited the river cruise company (President's River Cruise Dinner). In addition, we visited the casino, where they are going to give a coupon that you can buy one buffet and get one free for the 8th.

The committee will be meeting with the hotel to make sure everything is ready on 4 September. The Senior Citizen League (TSCL) and TREA Memorial Foundation (TMF) will be holding their meeting on the 5th. Times are TBD.

On the 6th, a breakfast for the both boards, PNPs, PNAPs and their significant others will be at 0730. The board meetings will start at 0900. The opening ceremony will be on the 6th at 1800 with a welcoming reception afterwards. The guest speaker is Dr. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh.

On the 7th, the following are schedule: 0700 - 0830 USAA is hosting a breakfast; 0900 is the start of the first business day; 1200 - 1300 is a working lunch, there will be a demonstration of the new membership database; 1300 to 1600 first business day continues. 1700 is a reception prior to walking to the river cruise dock (the dock is about 100 yards from the doors of the hotel - a very easy walk, but assistance will be provided for those who need it); 1800 is boarding time for the President's Dinner Cruise. During the cruise, there will be a presentation about the hotel at Fort Walton Beach, and proposed sites for the next convention(s). There will be a DJ to provide music.

On the 8th, the second business day will start at 0900; the awards luncheon from 1200 to 1400; from 1400 to 1600 continuation of the business if need.

The Installation Banquet is on the 9th at 1800. A reception for the delegates and guests is at 1700. At 1600, the President will have a small reception (invitation only) with the guest speaker, MajGen Tom Wilkerson USMC (Ret.) and former NAUS President. Like last year, the President's Reception Party will join the delegates at 1700.

Chapter 72 is planning to host a BBQ on Friday Night and a tour to the Flight 93 Memorial on Saturday morning. More information will follow, so check the VOICE, web, social media, etc. ★



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## Attending the Convention in Pittsburgh?

*Charles White, President of Chapter 72, in Pittsburgh, PA., along with all the Chapter 72 members, invites all convention attendees to two special events!*



### **Friday Night, September 8th - Chapter 72 is hosting a Bar-B-Que:**

A bus will pick you up in front of the hotel at 1700 and return you back to the hotel at 2100. The cost is \$10.00 per person.

### **Saturday, September 9th - Chapter 72 Providing transportation to Flight 93 Memorial:**

A bus will pick you up in front of the hotel at 0800 and return you back to the hotel at 1500. Light refreshments will be served on the bus, and the bus will stop at a local restaurant for lunch (at your own expense.) The cost is \$10.00 per person.



### ***RSVP's are required by August 15th, 2017***

Please respond to Charles White at 412-559-0532 or [whitecm101@aol.com](mailto:whitecm101@aol.com) for information or to make reservations. Send payments to: TREA Chapter 72 / Convention Tours, PO Box 5151, Pittsburgh PA, 15206 (please indicate which event you want to attend – you can do both!)

## **Easy Wine Guy Explores Vodka**

By Paul DeCoste

Easy Wine Guy here again. As you could tell from the last issue, I cover not only wine but spirits too. This edition's subject we will once again be about spirits, in this case, vodka. We will go through a brief history of the origins and growth of vodka. I will also correct some of the myths you might have. As always, history is great to read about but experiencing the actual subject material is even better. I'll pass on buyer information that will save you money the next time you purchase vodka, as well as a traditional cocktail recipe.

We know that vodka was invented by the Russians to-

ward the end of the 9th century. Poland has claimed to have done it roughly a 100 years earlier, but they actually used a wine base. Although vodka can be made from almost anything, to be a vodka it has to be fermented first from the source (grains, potatoes, etc.) therefore, what Poles actually came up with was a brandy.

Before we get to the history of vodka let's see what it is. Vodka is made from fermented mash (any raw carbohydrates: rye, corn, wheat, or produce such as beets, sugar beets or potatoes), add water (the purer the better) and ethyl alcohol. Once all these ingredients are distilled



together they go through filter purification through charcoal, the more times through, the smoother the vodka. Flavor components can then be added.

Back to our history lesson. By 1716, only the nobility in Russia could own distilleries. Very little was exported outside of Russia because of the cost and limited production. A huge breakthrough occurred in the 18th century by a professor in St. Petersburg who discovered a purifying process using charcoal filtration. This made for a cleaner (and safer) product and it also made it smoother and easier to drink.

The Napoleonic Wars helped spread vodka through Europe. By 1894, Russia made a vodka a state monopoly both for fiscal reasons and to control their epidemic of public drunkenness due to cheap, mass produced, and home-produced vodka. Soon after a standard production technique and guarantee of quality was adopted, vodka was officially recognized.

With the conclusion of the Russian revolution, the Bolsheviks coinvestigated the private distilleries in Moscow. Many of the Russian vodka makers emigrated with their recipes and skills to other countries. One such immigrant came to the Paris and used the French version of his family name -- Smirnoff. By 1934, he would set up the first vodka distillery in the United States with another Russian émigré which was sold to an American Beverage company called Hublein (who distributed other spirits and wines as well). Thus began vodka's march to elite status in the early 1940's.

In 2005, in New York City, a blind tasting was held to determine the "best" vodka. Once again Smirnoff surprised everyone by finishing number one! In 2016, Vodka was the number one selling spirit in the world, and Smirnoff is still the top-selling vodka in the world.

The next question we need to explore is, "How much should I pay and is it worth it?" That depends on how you like our vodka. Neat, over ice, in a martini, straight out of the freezer or do you mix it?

No matter what anyone thinks, if you use a mix such as orange juice or cranberry juice, save your money. Super premium vodkas are a waste of your money in that case. The great thing about vodka is that it mixes with almost everything and takes on the flavor of the mixer, even tonic will alter the flavor. If you must mix your Grey Goose, try club soda. It will be refreshing but

still enable you to taste the premium vodka you've paid for. Most vodkas that run \$12-\$20 for a 1.75 liter will be great for mixing. If you like martinis, take a step up to Stoli, Grey Goose or Absolut. Vodkas do have flavors so you'll have to experiment to find a brand you enjoy. The same applies if you like your vodka neat. Speaking of neat, invest in ice balls, a plastic container that you fill with water and freeze into a ball. This will chill your vodka down nicely and it will not melt as fast as a normal cube, keeping your neat vodka from being diluted.

To wrap up, no article on vodka is complete without the story of the Bloody Mary, the most famous Vodka drink in the world. Depending who you want to believe here are a few versions of the origin of the Bloody Mary:

Fernand Petiot claims to have invented it in 1921, at the New York Bar in Paris. Others claim it was invented by Hemingway Barat at the Ritz Paris. The 21 Club in New York has 2 claims, one from bartender Henry Zbkiewicz, and another to George Jessel, a comedian who frequented the bar. Petiot staked his claim based on his refinement to Jessel's "Bloody Mary" which was just vodka and tomato juice. He added salt and pepper, cayenne pepper, lemon juice and a layer of Worcestershire sauce. I cannot attest to the accuracy of the Bloody Mary as a hangover cure but because of that "perceived attribute" it has made the Bloody Mary a staple for any brunch!

Here is a good recipe to start with, you can add your own items as you wish, make it spicy or not. Half the fun is coming up with your own recipe to share with friends: Mix Vodka, tomato juice, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, Tabasco, salt, pepper, celery salt and horseradish (if using) and pour in glass. Garnish with lemon or lime wedge, celery stalk, green onion or pickled green bean. I personally love to add bacon to mine! Cheers!







## TREA Washington Update

By Deirdre Parke Holleman

Both the 115th session of Congress and the Trump Administration have started to seriously work on their legislative goals for this year, and it is getting very busy. In March, TREA President John Adams, along with a panel of Military Coalition members testified at the Joint House & Senate VA Committee hearings regarding current veteran issues.

We are waiting to see a real budget, a proposed increase in the debt ceiling, and a possible CR (Continuing Resolution) to know how things are going to be paid for. In this edition of *The Voice*, I am going to give you a breakdown of interesting bills pending before Congress that relate to Veterans' issues.

### **COLA**

In the end of March Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), the Chairman of the Senate's VA Committee introduced this year's veterans COLA bill, S.784. It is considered a lock; it immediately had 14 co-sponsors.

### ***Concurrent Receipt (Military Retired Pay and Service Connected Disability Pay)***

For decades we have been working, step by step, to abolish the dollar for dollar military retired pay/VA service connected disability pay. We have stopped the offset for all longevity retirees with VA disabilities over 50%. There has also been the creation of a program: Combat Related Special Compensation

that stops the offset from 10%-100% disability for both medically retired (with less than 20 years) and longevity retirees with less than 50% disability if the disability was caused by combat or an instrument of war. But that means there are 2 large groups of retirees who have not been helped. Longevity retirees who have non-combat disabilities of less than 50% and Medical retirees (Chapter 61s) with less than 20 years for non-combat disabilities. And we have not forgotten about them. There are presently 3 bills pending to correct this improper treatment.

***H.R. 303 the Retired Pay Restoration Act.*** It has been introduced by Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), the son of Michael Bilirakis the House member that worked for over 20 years to start to und this offset. It has 59 co-sponsors and would allow: "This bill: (1) allows the receipt of both military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation with respect to any service-connected disability (currently, only for a disability rated at 50% or more), and (2) repeals provisions phasing in the full concurrent receipt of such pay through December 31, 2013.

Individuals who were retired or separated from military service due to a service-connected disability shall be eligible for the full concurrent receipt of both veterans' disability compensation and either military retired pay or combat-related special pay."

***H.R. 333 Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act.***



This is the Democrat bill sponsored by Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA.). It would end all the remaining offsets. It presently has 33 co-sponsors. and S. 66 sponsored by Senator Dean Heller (R-NV). The Senate bill presently has 6 co-sponsors. Senator Heller has picked up the cause from Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV)

### **Ending the SBP/DIC Offset**

This is another extremely unfair dollar for dollar offset that we have been working to end for years. (with much less success than the military retired pay/VA disability offset.) A longevity or medical military retiree can pay for his or her spouse to have a survivor benefit. But if he or she then dies of a service connected disability (or dies on active duty) the survivor suffers a dollar for dollar offset. (He or she keeps the VA's DIC since it is tax-free.) While the DIC offset is approx. \$1200 a month all we have been able to chip away is a \$310 SSIA (a special survivors' allowance) that is scheduled to end in May of 2018. There are 2 bills to end this unfair offset.

**H.R. 846**, Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act has been introduced again by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC). It presently has 53 co-sponsors. While in the Senate there is:

**S.339**, Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act of 2017. It again was introduced by a long time sponsor Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL). It has 15 co-sponsors.

We hope the number of co-sponsors is incorrect. At the end of March I and several other supporters took several SBP/DIC widows to storm the Hill and try to convince the members of Congress that this offset should finally end.

### **Blue Water Vietnam Veterans**

There is again a serious push to once and for all have veterans who served on Navy ships off Vietnam and have diseases linked to Agent Orange qualify for service connected disabilities.

In the Senate **S. 422, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017** sponsored by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) already has 40 co-sponsors.

While in the House: **H.R. 299 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017** sponsored by Rep.

David Valadao (R-CA) already has a remarkable 252 co-sponsors. These are remarkable numbers of co-sponsors in less than 100 days. If this is important to you call your House member and Senators today and push this over the finish line.

### **Enlarging Caretakers Program**

Presently there is a first class family caretakers program that helps veterans caretakers who were disabled after 9/11/01. There has been a push to expand this very effective program to caretakers of those who were injured or became ill on active duty prior to 9/11.

**H.R.1472** was introduced by Rep. James Langevin (D-RI) it has 34 co-sponsors and would:

“ Services to caregivers of veterans under such program are expanded to include child care services, financial planning services, and legal services.

The bill terminates the support program for caregivers of covered veterans on October 1, 2022, except that any caregiver activities carried out on September 30, 2022, shall be continued on and after October 1, 2022.

The bill authorizes the transfer of entitlement to post 9/11 education assistance to family members by veterans who are retired for a physical disability or who are seriously injured veterans in need of family caregiver services, without regard to length-of-service requirements.

The VA is authorized to pay monthly special compensation to seriously injured or ill veterans in need of personal care services and to their caregivers. Flexible work schedules or telework are authorized for federal employees who are caregivers of veterans.

**The Public Health Service Act** is amended to designate a veteran participating in the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers as an adult with a special need for purposes of the lifespan respite care program.

An interagency working group is established in the executive branch to review and report on policies relating to the caregivers of veterans and members of



the Armed Forces.

The VA shall provide for studies on members of the Armed Forces who commenced service after September 11, 2001, and veterans who have incurred a serious injury or illness, including a mental health injury, and their caregivers.

The Senate's companion bill, S. 591 sponsored by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) has 19 co-sponsors.

### **The Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act**

H.R. sponsored by Rep. David Roe (R-TN), the Chairman of the House VA Committee would change the law to prohibit barring a veteran from owning a firearm based simply by his or her receiving mental health care from the VA but would instead: would “ (Sec. 2) This bill prohibits, in any case arising out of the administration of laws and benefits by the

Department of Veterans Affairs, any person who is mentally incapacitated, deemed mentally incompetent, or experiencing an extended loss of consciousness from being considered adjudicated as a mental defective for purposes of the right to receive or transport firearms without the order or finding of a judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others.” The bill has already been passed by the House of Representatives and sent on to the Senate for their consideration.

There are many more interesting bills that we are following and supporting pending before Congress right now. We will continue to write about them separately and add them to this list. To keep up with them please sign up for TREA's Washington Office's Weekly electronic Update. In it we can keep you right up to date. ★

### **TSCL Call for Candidates**

***September 2017 - There will be one vacancy on TREA Senior Citizens League's Board of Trustees. Term Length: 3 Years***

Requirements: Must have been a member of TREA for at least three years and be at least 18 years of age. No elected member of TREA or TREA National Auxiliary Boards of Director may serve concurrently as a Trustee except TREA's Treasurer, who shall be exempt from all other qualifications.

Interested TREA members must submit resumes on TREA Form 100-3MT. Resumes will be accepted until the day prior to TSCL's 1st business meeting at TREAs National Convention, September 5, 2016.

For questions, call or email -

***Executive Director***  
***Shannon Benton***  
***703-548-5568***  
***sbenton@tsclhq.org***

***Current Chairman***  
***Arthur Cooper***  
***443-336-1230***  
***arctrea24@live.com***







## Congress Eyes Major Social Security Changes

By Jessie Gibbons, Senior Policy Analyst, TSCL

Late last year, just hours before the 114th Congress came to a close, Congressman Sam Johnson (TX-3) – Chairman of the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee – introduced the Social Security Reform Act of 2016, legislation that would make sweeping changes to the program. His plan consists of fifteen provisions that would dramatically alter the program. And while it is not likely to be signed into law in full, it is expected to lay the groundwork for Republican leaders as they negotiate Social Security reform plans in the months ahead.

Chairman Johnson's Social Security Reform Act of 2016 would make the following major changes to the program, among many others:

1. Means-test benefits so that higher income beneficiaries receive reduced monthly benefits. This change would ultimately transform Social Security from an insurance program into a welfare program for older Americans and leave middle-income seniors living close to the poverty level.
2. Adopt the "chained" COLA for low to middle income retirees and eliminate the COLA for beneficiaries with incomes over \$85,000 per year. Modifying the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment would have an immediate negative impact on current retirees by reducing annual benefit increases. In addition, eliminating COLAs altogether for a particular segment of the population – something Congress has never done before – would significantly erode the purchasing power of benefits for middle-income seniors.
3. Gradually increase the eligibility age from 67 to 69, and from 70 to 72. According to experts, increasing the age of eligibility by one year results in an across-the-board cut in benefits of 7%. Chairman Johnson's plan would equate to a 14% benefit cut when fully phased in.
4. Provide a new minimum benefit for low-wage earners who worked long careers. Those with low career earnings but long career histories would see benefit increases of around 10% to 20%, which would help offset some benefit cuts, but would not likely be enough to keep most low-income seniors out of poverty in retirement.
5. Supplement Social Security benefits for the oldest seniors. Providing a benefit boost for the oldest seniors – those who have been eligible for benefits for at least twenty years – would provide much-needed financial support to those who are often most in need.
6. Replace the formula that arbitrarily reduces or eliminates benefits for public employees. Many individuals employed by state or local governments are subject to the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset. Replacing these provisions with a new formula could provide public servants with the Social Security benefits they have earned.

While TSCL is pleased that Chairman Johnson's proposal includes modest benefit increases for the oldest and lowest-income seniors, we are concerned that the majority of the provisions would result in significant cuts for both current and future beneficiaries. In addition, we are disappointed that the comprehensive plan does not include any revenue increases, like an increase in the payroll tax cap that allows millionaires and billionaires to contribute less to the program. Increasing the cap has significant support from older Americans, including 79% of TSCL's members.

In the months ahead, TSCL will monitor negotiations to reform Social Security closely, and we will advocate for solutions that would strengthen and modernize the program responsibly, without cutting benefits for current or future retirees. For progress updates, visit the Legislative News section of our website, or follow TSCL on Twitter. ★



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# WE EARNED OUR STRIPES

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

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