

THE VOICE

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the 2017 Chapter News
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TREA Membership Perks
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TREA's Memorial Foundation
Does It Again
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FROM THE EDITOR

By Kim DeCoste



Happy New Year to all TREA members and welcome to 2018! This winter issue has wonderful accounts of the good work members are doing all around the country. We are always so happy to see the photos and hear the stories, especially around the holidays, when TREA members are reaching out in their own communities and having impact helping others. We have our eyes set on the pending Olympic and Paralympic Games coming soon and in this issue we have recounted interviews with several athletes discussing their connection to the military and to Veterans. We also have a feature story about a non-profit called The Remount Foundation that is helping Veterans. We hope that 2018 will be a happy, healthy, and productive year for everyone connected to TREA!

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Letter from the President

By John I. Adams, TREA National President



Although it was a few months ago, I want to briefly report on my activities on Veterans' Day last year. There are two times a year when our nation specifically honors veterans: Memorial Day for those who gave their last full measure of devotion; and Veterans' Day for all who have served.

Every year TREA participates in those two events and once again I had the honor of being part of the official delegation of Veteran Service Organizations that participated in the ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery.

Joining me on the trip and representing TREA's National Auxiliary was National Auxiliary President Irmgard Cates. We had the opportunity to meet Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin at one of the events prior to the ceremonies at Arlington.

After the official ceremonies in the amphitheater in Arlington, which included a keynote speech by Vice President Pence, we joined other Veterans groups in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Besides Auxiliary President Cates and myself, TREA 1st Vice President Ed Cates and TREA member Doug Osborne participated in laying the TREA wreath and I want to thank them for assisting us with that.

Other TREA members attending and assisting in the occasion were TREA 3rd Vice President Justin Jump, TREA Past National President and current Chairman of TREA's affiliate group The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) Art Cooper, TSCL Executive Director Shannon Benton, and TREA's Washington Office staff members Deirdre Parke Holleman, Larry Madison and Mike Saunders. I thank all of them for their help and support.

Obviously, it is wonderful that our nation sets aside special days to honor veterans. And we constantly hear from elected officials how great our veterans are and that we must take care of our veterans and provide them with the things they need and were promised. But I fear that for many of our political leaders, those are just cheap words that they refuse to back up with the funding to pay for the programs that are needed.

I say that because it appears that those in charge in Washington have decided that veterans need to start paying more for other veterans instead of making taxpayers pay for them. I'll give you just two examples.

Perhaps you saw in early December that VA Secretary Shulkin had decided to end a program for homeless veterans --one of two major VA homelessness projects-- and instead funnel the money to local VA hospitals that could decide how to use it.

After a major outcry from veterans groups like TREA, Shulkin changed his mind and said the program would continue.

The second incident happened last fall involving Vietnam-era blue water Navy veterans. Blue water Navy Veterans are those who served on ships offshore in Vietnam but did not set foot on Vietnamese soil.

For those who don't know the story, over 3 million U.S. military personnel were sent to Southeast Asia to fight in the Vietnam War. Since the end of the Vietnam War, veterans have reported numerous health effects. Herbicides used in Vietnam, in particular Agent Orange, have been associated with a variety of cancers and other long term health problems, from Parkinson's disease and type 2 diabetes to heart disease. Prior to 1997 laws safeguarded all service men and women deployed to Vietnam including members of the Blue Navy. Since then, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) has established that Vietnam veterans are automatically eligible for disability benefits should they develop any disease associated with Agent Orange exposure. However, veterans who served on deep sea vessels in Vietnam are not included. These

Letter from the President (cont.)

“Blue Water Navy” veterans must prove they were exposed to Agent Orange before they can claim benefits and as time has passed, being able to prove exposure has become extremely difficult for most of them.

There was a push last fall to pass a bill in the House of Representatives that would have directed the VA to give the presumption of Agent Orange exposure to Blue Water Navy Veterans. However, that would have cost the VA more money and the House Veterans Affairs Committee could not come up with a way to pay for the cost. In fact, the leadership in the House informed VSO's that the only way new benefits would be provided to veterans would be if veterans who are currently receiving benefits would be willing to give up some of those benefits so that money could be used for the new program.

To me, those two incidents outweigh all of the flowery words used by some politicians to praise veterans. It's called “lip service” and it's outrageous.

TREA has been, and will continue to fight to protect those benefits you have earned and that you depend on, and we'll keep fighting for those veterans who urgently need care from the VA they should already have been receiving.

That's why your continued support for our efforts is so critical. We depend on you so we can keep fighting for you.

United We Stand

John Adams President

CHANGE IN THE TREA NATIONAL BOARD:

The following Executive Board positions have new people in the position of 2nd VP, 3rd VP, and 1-Year Director. Michael Davis is now the 2nd VP.

Justin Jump is now the 3VP.

CD. Rice, Jr. is fulfilling the 1-Year Director position that 3rd VP Jump held.

All three of these positions will be open for election at the 2018 convention in Ft. Walton Beach, FL.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

C.D. Rice Jr., Director



– First, I want you to know that I am back in the fold as Director, and I will spare no effort to justify this position.

Second, you need to know that The Voice distribution dates have change and, thus, the Nom-

inating Committee must change the stated times for notification of dates for soliciting/publicizing resumes. Hence, be advised that the Committee will solicit resumes for candidates for election to the National Board of Directors in May of 2018. The names of office seekers whose resumes are received before the Committee's deadline of

June 15th will be published in the August 2018 VOICE.

Third, and finally - please keep in mind that the most valuable resource TREA has is each other. By working as a TEAM (not as an I) WE CAN and We Will make certain our mission statement remains in balance. So consider vying for a Board position in September 2018. The positions that are open are:

President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, 3rd Vice, Treasurer and 2 Director Positions.

All positions will run for two years.

Cheers!!!!!! C D Rice, Jr.



IT Committee

Philip Hilinski, Director



Well our IT Committee is starting up again with a lot to do. One of our projects is well on its way providing a new outreach for TREA using internet radio. With committee member Daisy Brown who produces and is the main host along with me, we are doing a salute to veterans titled 'Called to Serve' on the 4th Sunday of each month starting back up in January 2018. The time is 8PM EST and the phone number to call is 347-539-5285 to discuss current veteran's issues or speak with our monthly guest. The website for more information is located at: <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/gumboforthesoul> or you can search Facebook with 'gumbo for the soul.' For previous shows on the internet, please contact me.

If you need to contact me for any other issues, please email at directorhilinski@trea.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS!

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN! TIME TO FILL OUT APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.

There are two scholarships for you to choose from:

The TREA Memorial Foundation Scholarship and the National Auxiliary Scholarship.

The Memorial Foundation Scholarship is open to children and grandchildren of current TREA members in good standing. The deadline is April 30th, 2018.

The National Auxiliary Scholarship is open to children and grandchildren of current Auxiliary members. The deadline is June 1st, 2018.

Applications for both scholarships can be found on the TREA website (www.trea.org) under the PROGRAMS tab.



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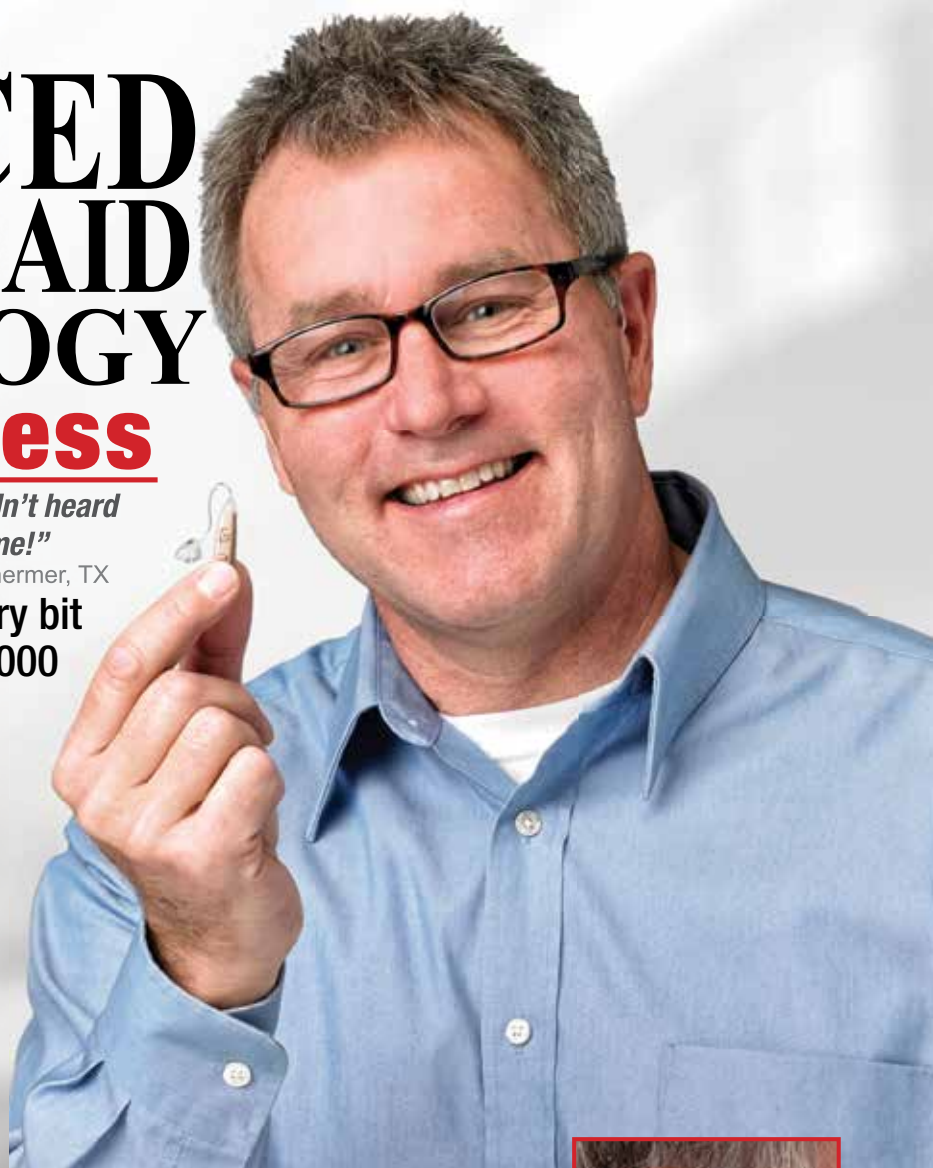
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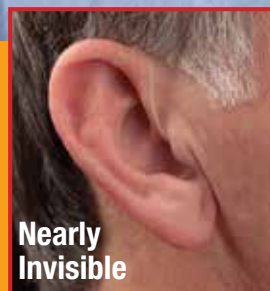
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TREA'S MEMORIAL FOUNDATION DOES IT AGAIN!

The Memorial Foundation sponsored over 223 families this Christmas Season. A hundred and fifty were received through the Soldiers' Angels program – many being deployed or wounded and another 72 families were referred from Guard and Reserve units across the country.

There was a lot of shopping – over 17 shopping carts full! A lot of wrapping, a lot of personalizing stockings, bags and bags of Christmas candy and of course a lot of shipping (over 6 hours total spent in line at the Post Office!). We had families from Maine to Washington, from Alaska to Hawaii and even one from Puerto Rico.



The TREA Headquarter's staff worked many long days to ensure that all packages were mailed out in time to be received by Christmas and then kept their fingers crossed that the USPS would deliver as promised. There were dolls, and games,



Legos – lots of Legos and board games Play-Doh and Nerf guns. Of course there were requests for clothing – lots of that – hats and scarves, gloves and boots. We made sure that every family not only had gifts (or gift cards to purchase gifts), but that every family had a gift card that they could use to help purchase food for Christmas dinner. Every package was sent with Christmas candy and a handwritten note wishing them a Blessed and Merry Christmas and letting them know

that the Foundation is here for them – not only at Christmas, but all year long.

In this hectic time of year, when most of us are concentrating on what we need to buy, what we need to do and where we need to be – it is truly humbling to put our own personal needs and wants aside to help a veteran, a soldier, a family who has reached out for help. As you all know – that is not easy. Veterans and soldiers, in general are very proud and private. They serve their country with pride and honor and most do not ask for anything in return. Being able to provide a small, yet so significant thing to them carries such a powerful gift – for us. We shouldn't lose sight of that.

Mesa Middle School in Castle Rock, Colorado certainly took the opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of a Colorado Springs family. The family of a wounded soldier was the recipient of the school's tribute to Veterans. Together with TREA, Mesa Middle held a special evening to honor veterans and collect funds to support the Gunsenhouser Family. Three years ago, Joseph Gunsenhouser was critically wounded in an IED attack while serving his country overseas. He was lucky to have survived (others in his unit were not so lucky), but he was left with severe injuries, including a Traumatic Brain Injury. He and his wife and two young sons are thankful for what they have but admit that things are tough. In her letter to Soldiers' Angels, Mrs. Gunsenhouser begged for a Christmas Angel. Mesa Middle and TREA became their Christmas Angels. The Gunsenhouser family was given a beautiful Christmas basket with a Christmas ham and a gift card for groceries, the boys each got their Christmas wish of a bike, complete with helmets, gloves, locks and water bottles and a little extra to spend on something fun. It's easy to see the physical injuries on the soldier but so many of us forget that the families, especially the children are also affected. It was our goal to make sure that two boys had a great Christmas and were able to just be kids – if only for a little while. Students at Mesa Middle School, along with Drama coach Andy Jaramillo were excited and honored to present Mrs. Gunsenhouser with these gifts in a brief but heartfelt presentation on December 11th. The bikes were carefully placed in the car for the trip back to the Springs and would be kept a secret until Christmas day. Mrs. Gunsenhouser was overjoyed with the gifts for her family – not only the physical gifts, but for the gift of compassion and caring and for being reminded that her husband and his sacrifice and those of the rest of the family have not been forgotten. Knowing that people care can be the biggest and most important gift of all. Hugs were given many times over and everyone felt the spirit of Christmas and the true honor of being able to help a veteran family in need.

TREA'S MEMORIAL FOUNDATION DOES IT AGAIN!



Photo: Students from Mesa Middle School along with TREA Director Debbie Osborne (back 2nd from right) presented Mrs. Gunsenbouser (second row, middle) with bikes for her two children and a Christmas Gift Basket. This was part of the TREA Memorial Foundation Holiday Program.

TO OUR NEW FRIENDS:

What a welcome surprise this amazing box was to receive! This box was not just full of gifts for our children... It was full of hope. As a newly "retired" Veteran family, it is too easy to feel as if we are somehow overlooked in society. Chloe, our 9-year-old, recently said, "Parts of Daddy look like he is hurt from war, and others do not. I heard someone say that daddy doesn't look disabled... I wanted to scream at them!"

The sad fact is, they get it, too. What hurts as parents, is they should never feel as if they are forgotten.

THIS is what this box reminded us. People and organizations like this remind us why we love America. It reminds me - as a Wounded Veteran Caregiver - that I can go on, that I am important too.

I can never fully express the awesomeness of what came in that box. I can never thank you enough.

Truly... This was an answered prayer.

Our family has felt the blessings from TREA's service and all the wonderful people who gave their time and effort to bring Christmas in our home. We feel so fortunate to have been one of the 200 families that was chosen. Nothing can warm our hearts more than to see our children happy, and that is exactly what you all have done.



Thank you so much for helping us with Christmas for our daughter Brooklyn she absolutely loved everything! It made us smile to see her open it all and forget about the other issues going on with us right now. I know you did mention in the letter that you helped with other issues as well how would we go about possibly getting help from you guys? Thank you all again for everything



Thank you so much for blessing our family for Christmas. Without you we would have had nothing.

Thank you it mean the world.

Sevelt and Tyanne Kelly

My Family and I would again like to thank you guys for helping with the holidays, may God Bless

-the Gillie Family

My kids and myself are very grateful to your organization for making our Christmas brighter.

Thank you sincerely for being a blessing to us -

-the Gordon Family

For that, we couldn't be more grateful for each and EVERY one of you! Thank you so much for Christmas this year!!!!

- The Feavaai family

CONVENTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

By President John I. Adams

The convention committee will be meeting together in Ft. Walton Beach, FL the first week of February. Their goal for this meeting is to work together to provide you – our members, with a well-planned convention.

The 2018 convention is planned for September 18th – 21st, 2018 in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. The Ramada Beach Plaza will be our host for this event. It is a beautiful beach-front hotel with many amenities including a gorgeous walk out beach with bar services, a swim up, waterfall ‘Grotto’ pool, upgraded rooms, many with magnificent gulf views and quiet, relaxing pathways that allow you to roam the well-kept gardens on the property.

It’s not too early to start planning for this event. Mark your calendars now. Room rates are: \$109. ++ a night for no view (parking lot), \$119 ++ a night for garden view, \$129 ++ a night for pool view and \$150 ++ a night for gulf view.

The convention will start on Tuesday night (9/18), with the Opening Ceremony. The convention will conclude on Friday night (9/21) with the Installation Banquet. This was done with the purpose of giving our members the opportunity to use Saturday (on their own) as a vacation or tourist day – hopefully being able to enjoy the area and all that Ft. Walton and Destin Beach has to offer. A deep-sea fishing expedition is being planned for those who wish to have a little fun on Saturday. This expedition is not part of the TREA convention and will be self-paid. More information on that will be published in the next issue of the VOICE. Now that we have gotten all of the necessary things out of the way – let’s move onto some important issues pertaining to convention.

What is a convention? If you ask 10 different people, you would walk away with 10 different answers. To some,



a convention is a social gathering; others would say that is a business event. Wikipedia describes a convention as “A convention, in the sense of a meeting, is a gathering of individuals who meet at an arranged place and time in order to discuss or engage in some common interest” simple yet so complicated. What does a convention have to offer? Breakout sessions? Learning opportunities? Social events? Open, public forums? There has been a lot of discussion lately about how TREA can continue with conventions, as they currently are. The honest answer is – we can’t.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE UPDATE (CONT.)

By President John I. Adams



There has to be a change to future conventions – the question, or concern is – what changes can or should be made?

This is where you, our members need to become engaged. We are asking for and to be blunt – expect your feedback. Keep in mind that we are asking for suggestions and solutions – this is not an open invitation for negativity – that doesn't get us anywhere.

Keep in mind that according to the current TREA bylaws, the membership votes on the locations of all future con-

ventions. At the most recent convention held in Pittsburgh, PA, it was overwhelmingly obvious that cost was a major factor in planning future conventions. The attendees heard over and over again that conventions were getting too expensive, that the hotels and travel was too high - yet when it came time to vote on future conventions sites, you, the membership voted to hold a future convention in San Diego. A confusing decision for sure – especially when finances are considered.

What is the answer? We don't know. That is why we are putting this out there – for us to come together as a group – united in our cause and if continuing with conventions is something that TREA as an organization wants to do, then we, as an organization needs to figure out how to accomplish this while remaining true to our fiduciary responsibility to the organization as a whole.

Food for thought --- this last convention was attended by less than 1/10th of a percent of the total TREA membership. Begging us to ask the question --- does TREA, the organization as a whole really want a convention?

Now this is not all doom and gloom – there are ideas and suggestions floating around out there --- such as going to an every other year convention or holding an annual open business meeting to possibly hosting a reunion (purely social) to shortening the length of the current planned conventions. All of these are feasible suggestions. In order for the convention committee to move forward properly and with the true interest of the membership as the focus, we need to hear from you.

Inside this issue is a postcard asking for your feedback and suggestions. Please take a minute to fill it out and send it back to us. We do value your opinion and are asking for your assistance. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.



John I. Adams
TREA National President

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As written in the Army & Air Force Exchange Service Director/CEO Newsletter

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- **Near-real-time inventory updates so customers know when their item is in stock and ready to ship.**



Further online improvements are planned for 2018 as we continue to lean forward to provide quality merchandise and exceptional customer service to those who serve, now and for generations to come.



The Enlisted Association Store

This quarter we are featuring our new denim shirts for men and women.
Go to www.trea.org or call 1-800-338-9337 to order!



Women's Short Sleeve Denim Shirt Sizes L-3XL

Price: \$30.00

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Price: \$28.00

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- Long sleeves with front pocket
- Buttons all the way down
- Colorful embroidered TREA logo above pocket



Go to www.trea.org and click on Store for all merchandise/sale items.
Not all sizes/colors available. Please call TREA Headquarters
at 1-800-338-9337 for availability.

IT'S TIME TO BE RECOGNIZED

Good deeds and good actions rarely go un-noticed, so why is it that the TREA Memorial Foundation is such a secret? With all the good that the Foundation does – it amazes me that nobody has heard of us. We need to change that.

For those of you not familiar with the Foundation, here is a little information.

The TREA Memorial Foundation was organized in 1990 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; active duty, honorably discharged 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. Recently, the Foundation added a food card program, a Holiday Program and an educational betterment program to its list of programs.

Now that you know what the Foundation was created to do – let's talk about what they actually do.



In 2017 alone, the Foundation awarded a very impressive \$227,800

- 42 food cards in the amount of \$10,500
- 33 financial assistance grants, totaling \$59,335.08
- 5 Disaster grants totaling \$68,000 (this includes a \$50,000 donation to Team Rubicon to help fund their rebuilding efforts in the areas hit by this year's storms.
- 25 Scholarships totaling \$28,000
- 238 Families adopted through the Holiday Program, totaling \$62,000



Pictured above (left photo): Foundation Chairman, Butch Liebaert holds a symbolic check to Team Rubicon. (right photo): Foundation Trustees present the actual \$50,000 check to Team Rubicon representatives at TREA National Headquarters in December (L-R): Trustee Doug Kasel, Team Rubicon Representative Jonas Reynolds, Foundation Trustee & Treasurer Deb Oelschig, Team Rubicon Representative Skip Guarini, TREA National President John Adams and Foundation Parliamentarian Charlie Flowers)

As you can see, the Memorial Foundation truly does do good things. We have assisted more than 340 families/individuals this year alone – and that doesn't count the numerous people who will benefit from the \$50,000 Disaster Relief donation that the Foundation made to Team Rubicon to help them rebuild the areas affected by the hurricanes – that number is beyond measure.

In today's world where things have become about "what's in it for me", I have the answer for you – PRIDE - you can be proud of the work that the Foundation is doing in the name of TREA and all those who have and are still serving this great country. That's not a bad take away and a great reason to be a TREA member!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A message from National Auxiliary President, Irmgard Cates



I hope that everyone had a blessed Christmas and those of you who traveled had a safe journey.

I had the honor again to lay the wreath in Arlington at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with President Adams on Veterans Day; it is hard to explain the feeling you experience in this situation.

I received an invitation for a luncheon from the National Auxiliary Leaders Luncheon which was held at The Army and Navy Club in DC. I felt honored to attend. The American Legion Auxiliary hosted the event and I hope we can make this a more encompassing event that all VSO Auxiliaries attend and exchange ideas.

We have a vacancy on the Board of Directors; Josephine McAfee submitted her resignation due to illness. I want to thank Josephine for her work on the BOD and ask all of you to keep her in your thoughts with the hope her health improves. If anyone has an interest in serving Josephine's remaining term which would run through 2019, please contact me.

Good news from John Mays office; we gained 741 new members in our Auxiliary this year! One of those new members whom I will call Linda wrote me a very nice letter in which she outlined the delays and outright refusal of various agencies to pay her the benefits most widows receive when their retired military spouses pass. Because Linda was a career Civil Service member she has her Social Security, Survivor Benefit Plan and VA benefits reduced significantly due to an offset provision as part of her Civil Service retirement. I must add that the tone of Linda's letter was not bitter, she merely related the struggle and disappointment some of you may experienced due to your service as Federal employees. Her letter summed up what the Auxiliary should be and I can assure Linda and all of our other members that her situation will be noted when President Adams appears before Congressional Committees. If there are others of you who have been through this experience, please let me know. Thank you Linda for sharing your story!

Please everyone think about taking a position on the BOD in 2018. We need you!

United We Stand
Irmgard



NATIONAL AUXILIARY LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

National Auxiliary Nominating Committee: Members: Just a reminder to start thinking now about running for a National Auxiliary Board of Directors (BOD) position. We need you in 2018. Most offices will be open and we want you to consider running for office now. All you have to do is send in your resume or have someone nominate you from the floor at our September 2018 TREA National Convention. Remember you don't have to be present at the National Convention to be nominated. Please consider running for an office on the National BOD – we need you! (Nominating Committee Chairperson/1 Year Director Alice De Boer)

‘Let this coming year be better than all the others.

*Vow to do some of the things you’ve always
wanted to do but couldn’t find the time.*

Call up a forgotten friend.

Drop an old grudge, and replace it with some pleasant memories.

Vow not to make a promise you don’t think you can keep.

Walk tall, and smile more. You’ll look ten years younger.

Don’t be afraid to say, ‘I love you’. Say it again.

They are the sweetest words in the world.

Ann Landers”

Submitted by - National Auxiliary Chaplain Alice De Boer

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.



AMERICAN OLYMPIANS AND THEIR MILITARY CONNECTIONS

-Kim DeCoste

As we prepare for the XXIII Winter Olympics to begin in February in PyeongChang, South Korea, and the Paralympics in March, we think it is always nice to know a little bit more about the American athletes. As of the writing of this article not all of the teams have been finalized, but we did find an interesting interview NBC Sports did with athletes who have a military connection. Here are their reflections on how they have been influenced in their own Olympic and Paralympic endeavors. Following is some of what they shared about their own military connections.

Ashley Wagner, Figure Skating: I am an Army brat. I moved nine times in 10 years and it made me incredibly adaptable. I was always the new kid, and because of that, it helped me create a very unique relationship with skating. I never was familiar with my surroundings and the rink was the one place that really felt like home to me because it always gave me this sense of comfort and familiarity.

Elana Meyers Taylor, Bobsled: My father graduated from the Naval Academy and then served as a Captain in the Marine Corps in Kuwait in the Gulf War. My father's military background impacted my journey in several ways. The first is how life changed when he was gone during the war. During that time, I truly saw how strong my mother was and I gained a new respect for her--and that was early in my life, when I was 6 years old--and saw how strong women truly can be. My father's military experience made him a hard disciplinarian who valued hard work and self-discipline.

Emily Sweeney, Luge: I am a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athletes Program (WCAP). I joined the New York National Guard in 2011, and have been a member of the active program on and off since then. I joined so that I could continue pursuing



AMERICAN OLYMPIANS AND THEIR MILITARY CONNECTIONS (CONT.)

-Kim DeCoste

my dreams of becoming an Olympic medalist but prepare myself for something after my life in sports. I wanted to continue being an athlete but wanted to grow in other areas of my life and prepare for something after luge. As a soldier of the WCAP I am required to stay up to date with all of my annual qualifications and help with the recruiting and retention programs of the military when needed. The program does a great job of allowing me to train, but I also have learned how to balance and prioritize more of my schedule. We are soldiers first, but I have my goals within my sport and I am unwilling to compromise my work ethic of training towards them. Sometimes I need to get creative so that I can get everything in! I was the first person in my family to join the military since my grandfathers, who were both in the Navy. I have been a member on and off since 2012.

Michael Schultz, Para-snowboarding: I have a strong connection with our veterans. 50% of our prosthetic business is from Veterans Affairs hospitals around the country and world. It is very rewarding for us to help get our veterans the equipment they need to get out and live a more active healthy lifestyle. I like road trips; I am not a fan of flying. My most memorable trip was with the American 300 Warrior tours in 2011. We visited several military bases in the Middle East to do some motivational stuff for the troops. This trip gave me even more respect and admiration for our Armed Forces and the personnel that serve our country.

Justin Olsen, Bobsled: I am an Army Sergeant with the World Class Athlete Program; our unit is comprised of soldier/athletes and traditional soldiers. Our focus is to be soldiers first while pursuing our Olympic disciplines. I would say the hardest part of balancing my Army career and being the best athlete I can be, is sometimes where to place emphasis. I want to test myself within the Army and be the best soldier I can for the United States, but sometimes I am unable to attend some career courses due to my athletic scheduling. I am very grateful for the opportunity to wear both uniforms and represent my country.

Julia Marino, Snowboarding: My grandfather fought in WWII and was shot and wounded at age 19. His bravery and courage inspires me and helps me put things in perspective.

Luis Moreira, Bobsled: I completed six years of active duty from 2006 to 2012, with 27 months of combat in Afghanistan. I was a bronze star recipient for my leadership accomplishments during my last 12-month combat tour. I served in the 82nd Airborne Infantry Division. My father served in the Portuguese Army as a paratrooper. Growing up as a kid I always loved hearing my dad's Army stories of jumping out of planes. Although I had my heart set on running track after high school, I always dreamt of following his footsteps in becoming a paratrooper.

Amy Purdy, Para-snowboarding: My dad is a Vietnam veteran. He was in the Marines and fought for the 9th Marines, where many didn't survive. He is one of my heroes and now through my organization, Adaptive Action Sports, we work with many young military veterans. It feels good to give the opportunity to those who have fought so much for our freedom.

Nicole Roundy, Para-snowboarding: My boyfriend and partner, Rt. Sgt. Matthew Melancon, was injured in Iraq in 2011. As a result of his injuries, he became a bilateral below-knee amputee two years later and eventually moved back to Utah to pursue snowboarding. I've never considered myself his caregiver, but I'll admit his loss was greater than mine. Being a civilian amputee, it's something I lost so young. I didn't get to grow up with two legs or choose a path in life, so the magnitude of my loss was limited. But Matt, I think he will always struggle with losing the Army because his "brothers" were his family. As a soldier, he had a purpose, a place. I can show him life as an amputee, I can show him how to live again and how to move on, but I can't give him back the Army. I will never truly understand that type of loss and what it does to a man. We see what we want to see, but the day to day, that's something different altogether.

Jacqueline Wiles, Alpine skiing: My grandparents on my dad's side were both active duty during World War Two. My grandfather on my mother's side served in the Navy during the Korean War. My father, David Wiles, served 6 years' active duty and 28 years in the Oregon National Guard. He retired as a Colonel, Judge Advocate General in the U.S. Army. This has had a great impact on my life. I am extremely proud of the service my family has given to this country. It makes me very proud to be an American representing my country.

David Wise, Freestyle skiing: My sister is a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, a pilot, and an amputee. My sister is one of the most influential people in my life and when she joined the service it took my respect for the Armed Forces to the next level. I truly believe that if I weren't an athlete, I would be glad to give a few years of my life to the service of our country the way that my sister has.

Annie O'Shea, Skeleton: My youngest sister Erin is in the Coast Guard. Right now she is stationed in Mobile, Alabama and we just hope that she forever stays safe.

Aaron Pike, Para-cross country, and Para-biathlon: Park Rapids, Minnesota was where I was born, but I grew up in the military and moved every three years and graduated high school in Germany. My dad was in the Air Force, so I grew up in a military family.

Spirit of Freedom DECANTER SET



BLAYLOCK



5-piece set gleams with
12K gold trim

10 oz. glasses



Decanter is 9 inches tall;
glasses are 3½ inches tall



RAISE A GLASS TO ALL THAT YOU VALUE

If respect for our country inspires your heart... If the majesty of eagles stirs your soul... If noble traits are your inspiration... Then make a toast in celebration of all you value! Each of the four 10 oz. crystal glasses in this heirloom quality decanter set features thrilling artwork from acclaimed artist Ted Blaylock. Every portrait is complemented by an inspiring word—Honor, Strength, Courage, Freedom—and gleams with a 12K gold rim. The matching crystal decanter is embellished with a proud sentiment, 12K gold trim, and a metal top featuring a bas-relief eagle.

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*For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to bradfordexchange.com/use-tax



The entire 5-piece set arrives in a rich blue, custom box cushioned and lined with satin—perfect for attractive storage or gift-giving!

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AMERICAN OLYMPIANS AND THEIR MILITARY CONNECTIONS (CONT.)

-Kim DeCoste

My dad didn't retire until after I went to college. So, I am an Air Force brat. I think that when you grow up in the military you become very versatile and learn to be open to making new friends and starting new chapters in your life. It also exposes you to a lot of people and new places. I would never have imagined I would graduate from high school in Germany. I think that I was able to see much more of the world at a young age than most kids.

Aaron Blunck, Freestyle skiing: My grandpa on my dad's side was a doctor for the Army. I never got to meet my grandpa but I think he had a lot of cool stories that I would have loved to hear.

J.R. Celski, Short track: My father was a Major in the Army and my brother is currently a Captain in the Army. The military has had a huge impact on my family. My parents moved around to several places in their lifetimes because of it. My father was stationed in Kansas when they had Chris, Germany when they had David, and California when they had me. When I was born, it was at the tail end of my dad's career in the Army, so I didn't get to experience moving around a ton.

Steve Cash, Sled hockey: My uncle and my brother both served in the military. Knowing the sacrifice that it takes to serve your country, I am tremendously proud to say I have family members that served as Marines. When I put on the USA sweater, I make sure to think about the men and women of the armed forces that have made and continue to make the ultimate sacrifice, including my brother Donny and uncle Tim. Without people like them, I wouldn't have the road of freedom paved for me and the least I can do to pay them back is by representing my country to the best of my abilities.

Monique Lamoureux-Morando, Hockey: My brother, Jacques, is currently in the Air Force. He came back from a deployment in Dec. of 2013. He returned right before the 2014 Olympics. If anything, his service always gives me perspective on life and makes me appreciate the things I am able to do, and it means that much more to me to represent my country.

Aileen Geving, Curling: My husband is an Iraq War vet. I am proud of him and what he has done; we understand each other a bit better because we both have full-time jobs and something on the side (me curling and he, the military). He works for BNSF Railway full time. We get that the training is for a good cause and are used to one of us being gone each weekend for what we call our "second jobs." We have both traveled the world for these second jobs and really appreciate life and being American because of these experiences. We have really learned that the small nuances and minor things a lot of people complain about are not worth the time for us to get bothered by; there is so much bigger out there.

Gus Kenworthy, Freestyle skiing: My oldest brother, Hugh, was a Marine for five years directly after high school and he served as a Sergeant. After the military, he moved back to Colorado and went to college at the University of Colorado at Boulder where he graduated on Dean's List. He now lives in Denver with his longtime girlfriend, Michelle St. Onge (a midwife) and he works as a personal trainer and at a restaurant.

Matt Mortensen, Luge: My brother and I are both soldiers in the National Guard. We are a part of the 1156 Engineer Company based out of Kingston, NY. This unit just returned from a nine-month long deployment in September. I was not on the deployment personally, as I am a part of the Army World Class Athlete Program which is based out of Fort Carson, Colorado. Joining the military has been one of the best choices of my life. Without the support of both the World Class Athlete Program and my National Guard Unit, I would not have been able to continue as an athlete after the 2010 Games.

Andrew Haraghey, Para-Alpine skier: My mother was in Air National Guard before I was born, and both my grandfathers served in Korea. My grandfather on my dad's side also served in Vietnam in the Army, while my other grandfather was in the Marines. This was all before I was born so it just instilled a sense of respect for what they had done to protect and work for this country.

Madison Chock, Figure skating: My dad served in the Navy. With his background in the Navy, this helped instill a determination and strong work ethic in me.

Erin Bartlett, Speed skating: My fiancé is in the Army. When he joined, it pushed me to be a better athlete and the best version of myself. It has 100% made me a better speed skater looking up to him.

Clearly these 23 athletes have been influenced by their own personal or their family members' service to the country in the military. It seems the common theme is a devotion to sport and dedication to hard work are the primary impacts. Also, they share a strengthened respect for the freedoms we all enjoy as a result. We are looking forward to an exciting Olympiad and will be cheering and waving our flags for these fine athletes. Go Team USA!

Interviews adapted from: <http://www.nbcolympics.com/news/team-usa-their-military-heroes>



HOW THE TAX CUT AND JOBS ACT AFFECTS AMERICA'S SENIORS

By: Art "Coop" Cooper
Chairman of The Senior Citizens League (TSCl)
A Proud Affiliate of TREA: The Enlisted Association

If, by the time you read this, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has passed into law, The Senior Citizens League wants you to know how it will affect America's retirees.

- 1) It Repeals the Affordable Care Act's Individual Mandate: The Senate version of the tax bill would repeal the individual mandate, which experts estimate will result in the loss of health insurance for 4 million and an increase in premiums by 10%. Many people affected by this provision will be older Americans who do not yet qualify for Medicare.
- 2) Elimination of the Medical Expense Deduction: The House version of the bill repeals the medical expense tax deduction, which currently allows taxpayers to deduct medical expenses that equal 10% or more of their annual income. The elimination of this deduction would be catastrophic for 5 million Americans over the age of 65 who currently rely on it to lower their taxable income.
- 3) Adoption of the Chained CPI: Both the House and Senate tax bills index the individual tax brackets and the standard deduction to the slowly-growing "chained" Consumer Price Index (CPI). This change will result in tax increases over time because people will reach higher tax brackets more quickly than under current law. We're also concerned that lawmakers could take this opportunity to apply the chained CPI to other inflation-indexed benefits, such as the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

Additionally, the League remains extremely concerned about the growing threat of budget cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. Since the tax reform bill, in its current state, will add an estimated \$1.5 trillion to the federal deficit, a 2010 law mandates that automatic cuts be made to offset this increase in the federal debt. Medicare could see \$25 billion in cuts next year, and programs like Meals on Wheels could see their budgets slashed due to automatic cuts.

TSCl Lobbyists and Board Members routinely meet with Members of Congress or their staff to solicit support on bills that, if passed into law, would afford America's seniors improved quality of life.

STAYING IN THE LOOP

*Want to stay in touch with your local political officials?
Want to be informed? Want to make your voice heard?*

Sign up for a direct link to your local political representatives – it's easy! Go to the TREA website (www.trea.org) On the top tab bar near the top, click on **RESOURCES**, (it's almost directly under the YouTube symbol) then click on 'Contact your local Officials', click on the VoterVoice link that appears - it really is that simple.

It will take you only a few minutes and you will never be out of the loop again.



BIG CHANGES THIS YEAR FOR ALL TRICARE PROGRAMS EXCEPT TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL)

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Executive Director of TREA's Washington Office

It is a new year and there are more changes for most TRICARE programs. This is a sentence that I can correctly write almost every year. It seems

something that you can always count on. This year the changes are bigger and more numerous than usual. But before I start outlining them please notice one important fact: **there are no changes to the TRICARE for Life (TFL) program. None.**

But if you are active duty, active duty family members, National Guard and Reserve, Retirees under the age of 65 or not in TFL, retiree family members or survivors at least some of these changes will affect you.

Changing from a Fiscal year to a calendar year

Consolidating present 3 U.S. TRICARE regions to 2 regions

Taking present TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra plans and consolidating and changing them into 2 healthcare plans

Requiring yearly enrollment for all the effected TRICARE programs

“Cost Changes” (really increases) in members’ co-pays, enrollment fees, and cost shares.

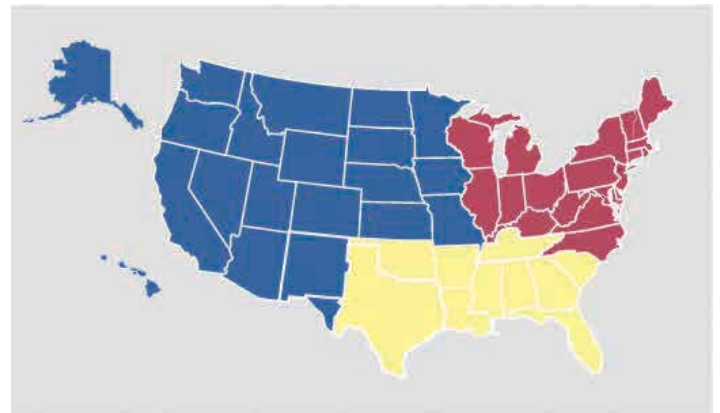
Some of these changes are easy to understand, some hard and some near to impossible but here goes.

Changing from a Fiscal year to a calendar year- This one is easy. Starting in 2018 all TRICARE programs will run on a calendar year rather than a fiscal year. So from January 1st to December 31st rather than from

October 1st through September 30th. This makes sense and will make life easier. It will match and thus easily coordinate with all American civilian healthcare plans. And let’s face it we have not seen an on-time October 1st federal budget in a long time.

Consolidating present 3 U.S. TRICARE regions to 2 regions- When civilian TRICARE regions were created about 20 years ago there were 18 regions and they have been consolidating again and again. For the last 5 years we have had 3 regions and contracts (North, South and West); starting in 2018 there will be only 2 regions East and West.

Below are the maps from DoD showing how the regions are changing. Here are the present 3 regions.



Health Net has the contract for the North Region. United Healthcare has the contract for the West Region and Humana Military has the contract for the South Region.

On January 1st 2018 the North and the South regions will combine to make the East Region and the West region will remain the same.

Humana Military will have the East Region and Health Net will have the West Region.

Drug Companies Fear Release of the New AloeCure

Big Pharma stands to lose billions as doctors' recommend drug-free "health cocktail" that adjusts and corrects your body's health conditions.

by David Waxman
Seattle Washington:

Drug company execs are nervous. That's because the greatest health advance in decades has hit the streets. And analysts expect it to put a huge crimp in "Big Pharma" profits.

So what's all the fuss about? It's about a new ingredient that's changing the lives of people who use it. Some call it "the greatest discovery since penicillin"!

The name of the product is the AloeCure. It's not a drug. It's something completely different. And the product is available to anyone who wants it, at a reasonable price. But demands may force future prices to rise.

TOP DOC WARNS: DIGESTION DRUGS CAN CRIPPLE YOU!

Company spokesperson, Dr. Liza Leal; a leading integrative health specialist recommends AloeCure before she decides to prescribe any digestion drug. Especially after the FDA's stern warning about long-term use of drugs classified as proton pump inhibitors like **Prilosec®**, **Nexium®**, and **Prevacid®**. In a nutshell, the FDA statement warned people should avoid taking these digestion drugs for longer than three 14-day treatment periods because there is an increased risk of bone fractures. Many people take them daily and for decades.

Dr. Leal should know. Many patients come to her with bone and joint complaints and she does everything she can to help them. One way for digestion sufferers to help avoid possible risk of tragic joint and bone problems caused by overuse of digestion drugs is to take the AloeCure.

Analysts expect the AloeCure to put a huge crimp in "Big Pharma" profits.

The secret to AloeCure's "health adjusting" formula is scientifically tested **Acemannan**, a polysaccharide extracted from Aloe Vera. But not the same aloe vera that mom used to apply to your cuts, scrapes and burns. This is a perfect strain of aloe that is organically grown under very strict conditions. AloeCure is so powerful it begins to benefit your health the instant you take it. It soothes intestinal discomfort and you can avoid the possibility of bone and health damage caused by overuse of digestion drugs. We all know how well aloe works externally on cuts, scrapes and burns. But did you know **Acemannan** has many of other health benefits?...

HELPS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM TO CALM INFLAMMATION

According to a leading aloe research, when correctly processed for digesting, the Aloe plant has a powerful component for regulating your immune system called **Acemannan**. So whether it's damage that is physical, bacterial, chemical or autoimmune; the natural plant helps the body stay healthy.

RAPID ACID AND HEARTBURN NEUTRALIZER

Aloe has proved to have an astonishing effect on users who suffer with digestion problems like bouts of acid reflux, heartburn, cramping, gas and constipation because it acts as a natural acid buffer and soothes the digestive system. But new studies prove it does a whole lot more.

SIDE-STEP HEART CONCERNS

So you've been taking proton pump inhibitors (PPI's) for years and you feel just fine. In June of 2015 a major study shows that chronic PPI use increases the risk of heart attack in general population.

UNLEASH YOUR MEMORY

Studies show that your brain needs the healthy bacteria from your gut in order to function at its best. Both low and high dosages of digestion drugs are proven to destroy that healthy bacteria and get in the way of brain function. So you're left with a sluggish, slow-to-react brain without a lot of room to store information. The **Acemannan** used in AloeCure actually makes your gut healthier, so healthy bacteria flows freely to your brain so you think better, faster and with a larger capacity for memory.

Doctors call it "The greatest health discovery in decades!"

SLEEP LIKE A BABY

A night without sleep really damages **your body**. And continued lost sleep can lead to all sorts of health problems. But what you may not realize is the reason why you're not sleeping. Some call it "Ghost Reflux". A low-intensity form of acid reflux discomfort that quietly keeps you awake in the background. AloeCure helps digestion so you may find yourself sleeping through the night.

CELEBRITY HAIR, SKIN & NAILS

Certain antacids may greatly reduce your body's ability to break down and absorb



calcium. Aloe delivers calcium as it aids in balancing your stomach acidity. The result? Thicker, healthier looking hair...more youthful looking skin... And nails so strong they may never break again.

SAVE YOUR KIDNEY

National and local news outlets are reporting Kidney Failure linked to PPI's. Your Kidney extracts waste from blood, balance body fluids, form urine, and aid in other important functions of the body. Without it your body would be overrun by deadly toxins. Aloe helps your kidney function properly. Studies suggest, if you started taking aloe today; you'd see a big difference in the way you feel.

GUARANTEED RESULTS OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK

Due to the incredible results people are reporting, AloeCure is being sold with an equally incredible guarantee.

"We can only offer this incredible guarantee because we are 100% certain this product will work for those who use it," Says Dr. Leal.

Here's how it works: Take the pill exactly as directed. You must see and feel remarkable improvements in your digestive health, your mental health, in your physical appearance, the amount inflammation you have throughout your body - even in your ability to fall asleep at night!

Otherwise, simply return the empty bottles with a short note about how you took the pills and followed the simple instructions and the company will send you...Double your money back!

HOW TO GET ALOECURE

This is the official nationwide release of the new AloeCure pill in the United States. And so, the company is offering our readers up to 3 FREE bottles with their order.

This special give-away is available for readers of this publication only. All you have to do is call TOLL-FREE 1-800-809-0023 and provide the operator with the Free Bottle Approval Code: JC025. The company will do the rest.

Important: Due to AloeCure's recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.

BIG CHANGES THIS YEAR FOR ALL TRICARE PROGRAMS EXCEPT TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL) (CONT.)

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Executive Director of TREA's Washington Office



Unless you were in the South region you will have a new contractor. They should have contacted you already. If you are in TRICARE Prime most of you will have a new provider network.

The new 2018 TRICARE Network Provider Directories are available now on computer:

<https://www.humanamilitary.com/provider-locator>

<https://tricare-west.com/content/hnfs/home/tw/bene/provider-directory.html>

If you are having trouble or don't have a computer for this or other programs please call me, Deirdre Parke Holleman at 1-800- 554-8732 and I will do the best I can to help.

Taking Present TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra plans and consolidating and changing them into 2 healthcare plans – Those were the easy changes now come the more complicated ones. TRICARE Prime's (basically a military HMO) structure is staying the same. Enrollees will get their medical care through either the MTFs and direct health care system or through the 2 new civilian healthcare contractors (Humana Military and, HealthNet see above.) The change is that TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra are being abolished and folded into a new TRICARE Select program which is intended to work like a PPO. If you are enrolled in TRICARE Select you will not be required to have a primary care manager. You will be able to go to any TRICARE authorized provider.

This is an insurance program that you will need in the future to enroll in during a yearly enrollment period and change after a "qualifying life changing event" (examples: marriage, divorces, birth of, child etc.) After such an event there will be a 90 day period for you to enroll or change the coverage you have for the rest of the year. However, you will not need to enroll for 2018 coverage. DHA will roll you into the equivalent program you are in now (Prime is

still Prime and those in either Standard and Extra will be placed into Select.) in January. You can change if you want. Then in the fall of 2018 you will need to enroll during the Open Season into either Prime or Select.

Requiring yearly enrollment for all the effected TRICARE programs- As noted above from the fall of 2018 you must enroll yearly into the Prime and Select programs. You will not be able to decide to use Select at different times of the year without enrollment as you were able to do with TRICARE Standard. If beneficiaries are not enrolled in a TRICARE plan only the first "episode" of care in the civilian healthcare network will be covered by TRICARE. You must then enroll in either TRICARE Prime or Select. If you do not enroll after your first "episode of care" you will only be able to receive care and prescriptions at an MTF for the rest of the year. Please read below to make sure that your method of payment is correct. 2018 will be a grace period for both enrollment and changing the type of coverage.

"Cost Changes" (really increases) in members' copays, enrollment fees, and cost shares. Late in 2017 DoD published its "interim final rule" which included the shift from cost shares (in Standard and Extra) to a copayment structure with higher cost shares for retirees under the age of 65. If this goes into effect (we have been on the Hill all of December objecting to this.) it will make last year's NDAA's grandfathering of those who retired before January 1st 2018 totally useless. If this would harm you, please continue to contact your Congressional representatives and urge them to stop this bait and switch. You can see DoD's out of pocket costs by going to www.tricare.mil/changes.

Again, this does not affect those of you who are in TRICARE for Life (TFL). These changes affect Active Duty Family Members, Retirees under the age of 65, survivors and those who are in TRICARE premium based programs (examples TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Young Adult.) But such mass change will affect all of military healthcare. We will need to be vigilant about how this is effecting care on the ground and what new proposed legislation we will need to deal with. 2018 is going to be a very important year in military healthcare.



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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY'S DISABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM

By Jessie Gibbons, TSCL's Senior Policy Analyst

For the past several years, Social Security's Disability Insurance (DI) program has been facing financing challenges. In the fall of 2015, lawmakers took action to prevent a 19% benefit cut for the program's 10 million enrollees and to extend the program's solvency past 2018. However, more work remains before the program can be considered financially stable. Last fall, lawmakers on the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee took the first steps toward improving the program's solvency when they held a hearing to discuss its future.

Following the hearing, The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) submitted a proposal for strengthening and improving the DI program. We recommended the following seven policy changes based on the results of several surveys of TSCL's supporters...

1. Increasing the frequency of Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs). Additional funding for CDRs, which are conducted periodically to determine if enrollees still qualify for DI benefits, would return significant savings to the program according to recent projections.
2. Reducing wait times. Inadequate funding and a growing hearing backlog have resulted in many DI applicants waiting longer than 600 days to be approved for the program. That's longer than some of them will live. All applicants deserve decisions on their benefit eligibility in a timely manner, and wait times of two years are simply unacceptable.
3. Tightening eligibility requirements. Currently, DI applicants must have worked 5 of the past 10 years to be eligible for benefits. Increasing this requirement to 6 of the past 10 years would reduce the number of eligible beneficiaries only slightly and would save up to \$8 billion.
4. Prohibiting DI and Unemployment Insurance (UI) "double-dipping." No laws currently exist to prevent individuals from receiving both DI and UI benefits at the same time, even though eligibility rules for the two programs are mutually exclusive. Prohibiting "double-dipping" is a sensible step forward that would save nearly \$6 billion over 10 years.
5. Increasing the payroll tax cap. Currently, the tax cap sits at \$128,400, and the Social Security payroll tax is not applied to annual income over that amount. In a recent survey of TSCL's members, 73% said they would like to see the 6.2 percent payroll tax applied to all earnings in order to increase the solvency of the program.
6. Increasing the payroll tax rate. Survey results have also shown strong support for a gradual increase in the payroll tax rate from 6.2% to 7.4%. An increase of that size would amount to an extra 50 cents per week for the average worker – an amount that most feel is fair and practical.
7. Preventing benefit cuts. Older Americans understand the compounding effect that even the smallest benefit cut can have over the course of several years. DI beneficiaries living on fixed incomes simply cannot afford a reduction in benefits.

The policy recommendations listed above have been backed by TSCL's members and supporters through various surveys and polls. Together, they represent a balanced and responsible path forward for the DI program. To read the full set of policy recommendations submitted by TSCL to the Social Security Subcommittee, visit our website at www.SeniorsLeague.org. To stay updated on efforts to strengthen and reform the Social Security program, follow TSCL on Facebook or Twitter.

HORSES HELPING HEROES

-Kim DeCoste

As treatment for Veterans continues to evolve, one exciting area of development has been hippotherapy. The American Hippotherapy Association defines hippotherapy as “occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language pathology professionals using evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning in the purposeful manipulation of equine movement to engage sensory, neuromotor, and cognitive systems to achieve functional outcomes.” It is also often referred to as equine therapy. As Winston Churchill once commented, “there is nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse.”

Jeanne Springer and Billy Jack Barrett have worked with horses for most of their lives. Together, they have built an organization that is helping thousands of veterans who are struggling with injuries following their service. When they began, they were working at the Air Force Academy at the riding stables and they noticed that the horses were having a positive impact on many of the cadets and others. Word got around and the program has now spread to all branches of the service. The calming bond between the veterans and the horses is helping people and, in fact, it is saving lives.

“It is difficult for anyone to keep walls up around horses,” Jeanne is quoted as saying. “In fact, on the physiological level, the large electromagnetic field around their hearts causes our heart rates to slow down in sync with theirs.” Time and time again, they see the remarkable change in the attitude and demeanor of troubled veterans and family members when they get to experience equine therapy. More than 4,500 warriors and their families have come to The Remount Foundation and found healing and health through interaction with the horses.

The Foundation works in conjunction with the Temple Grandin Equine Center (TGEC) at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. TGEC is a research facility that tracks the healing impacts of horses and they prioritize serving veterans. They are tracking several equine programs and documenting the extensive physical, social, and spiritual benefits of their program. The human-equine connection is remarkable and now well-regarded as a powerful tool for those who are suffering trauma.

The Remount Foundation has many ways in which it pairs warriors and their families with horses for healing purposes. They conduct trail rides, lessons, summer horse camp mentorship programs, and more. Each program is specifically designed with the needs of warriors and their family members to help in the healing and strengthening they need.

Specifically, in cases of PTSD, incredible and touching first-hand accounts of the benefits of working with the animals has been documented time and time again. The stories of the benefits of the program are heart-warming, as men and women who have suffered trauma in service learn, however slowly, that asking for help is not a sign of weakness and that there are resources available to them to help them on the path back to healing and to leading a more normal life.

Another outstanding organization is located in Elizabeth, Colorado and was founded by Marine Veteran, Matt Littrell, and his wife, Kristen. The Littrells founded Valhalla Ranch after they completed a coast to coast horseback ride called The Long Trail Home, which was conducted to raise awareness about 22 Veterans we lose every day to suicide. Less structured than some “white coat” programs, the Littrells founded Valhalla Ranch to offer a serene, welcoming environment for Veterans with Veterans as a place to recharge and relax. They, too, recognized the powerful healing connection between people and horses and wanted to give Veterans a place they could go.

Valhalla Ranch operates on a case by case basis and is open to any veteran. They offer open space, horses on which to roam, and a welcoming camp fire. Matt and Kristen want to “give Veterans a place to just be” and their ranch is an ideal setting for Veterans to be with people who understand what they have been through and to feel better.

In doing research for this story we found dozens of places like Valhalla Ranch that offer equine therapy for Veterans. On the website called OperationWeAreHere.com there is a list of resources for Veterans that includes a list of ranches and camps all over the country that have similar services. Clearly the work that these organizations do is having an impact.

If you are interested in finding out more, the TREA Foundation may be able to help connect you to one of these types of places where you can get information directly. Most importantly, as we do think about the terribly high suicide rate among veterans, it is important to know that there are people out there who care and who can help.

www.MKHorsemanship.com

www.remountfoundation.org ©2017 Remount Foundation

www.operationwearehere.com

NEW ANALYSIS FROM THE SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE SHOWS NO GROWTH IN NET BENEFITS BELOW \$1,264

Despite receiving the largest Social Security cost of living adjustment (COLA) in five years, the majority of retired and disabled beneficiaries will not see any increase in their net Social Security benefits in January, warns The Senior Citizens League. A big jump in Medicare Part B premiums is to blame. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently announced that the Medicare Part B premium will be \$134 for next year. That's the same amount that the Part B premium is today, but tens of millions of Medicare beneficiaries are paying less than that this year. Millions of beneficiaries pay roughly \$26 less — and their annual COLA may not be enough to cover the difference.

“For this group of Medicare beneficiaries, this will also be the largest Medicare Part B increase in five years after premiums remained relatively flat since 2013,” says Mary Johnson, a Social Security and Medicare Policy Analyst for The Senior Citizens League. The jump in premiums is due to a special provision of law known as “hold harmless,” which protected millions of Social Security recipients from reductions to their Social Security benefits in 2016 and 2017, when then the annual - cost - of - living adjustments (COLAs) were zero and just 0.3 percent, respectively.

The hold harmless provision kicks in when the dollar amount of an individual's Medicare Part B premium rises more than the dollar amount of an individual's COLA adjustment to prevent a reduction in Social Security benefits. The provision applies to individuals with incomes below \$85,000, and whose Medicare Part B premium is automatically deducted from their Social Security benefits. Johnson estimates that about 35.5 million Social Security recipients were held harmless in 2016 and 2017. “People who have been held harmless in both those years are paying premiums that are roughly \$108 per month in 2017 on average, a difference of about \$26 from the current \$134 premium. However, for many of those people, especially those with below - average Social Security benefits, the 2018 COLA won't be high enough to cover the full \$134 Part B premium.

According to Johnson's calculations, the Social Security beneficiaries who are most likely will not to see an increase in their net monthly check are those with benefits below \$1,264 per month. These individuals will once again be subject to hold harmless in 2018. Their COLA will be completely offset by the Part B premiums, but their Social Security benefits will not be reduced. “The net result will be no growth in the benefit for the third year in a row,” Johnson says. “And that leaves nothing to meet other rising costs, such as Medigap premiums, Part D premiums, out-of-pocket costs, or anything else,” Johnson notes.

“While hold harmless is very valuable protection, the lack of an adequate COLA to begin with, and rapidly growing Part B costs, will keep millions of beneficiaries stuck in a no-growth rut in 2018,” Johnson says. The Senior Citizens League is advocating legislation that would provide a more fair and adequate COLA, by tying the annual adjustment to the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E). Projections for The Senior Citizens League show that by using the CPI-E, Social Security benefits would be about 9 percent higher over 25 years. A benefit of \$1,300 in 2017 would be about \$112 per month more using the CPI-E at the end of the 25 year period instead of the current method. To learn more, visit www.SeniorsLeague.org.

With 1.2 million supporters, The Senior Citizens League is one of the nation's largest nonpartisan seniors groups. Its mission is to promote and assist members and supporters, to educate and alert senior citizens about their rights and freedoms as U.S. Citizens, and to protect and defend the benefits senior citizens have earned and paid for. The Senior Citizens League is a proud affiliate of TREA: The Retired Enlisted Association. Visit www.SeniorsLeague.org for more information.

SURVEY BY THE SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE SHOWS THAT CUTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID NOT SUPPORTED BY OLDER VOTERS

A survey of older voters indicates that Congressional plans to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid in order to shrink the deficit would be politically explosive in an election year, warns The Senior Citizens League. “Tax reform legislation would swell the deficit dramatically, making it more difficult to fund essential Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits,” says Mary Johnson, Social Security and Medicare policy analyst for The Senior Citizens League. “This in turn makes those programs targets for cuts,” says Johnson.

“Members of Congress who advocate mandatory spending cuts are out of touch with what their constituents want — the very people they are supposed to be representing,” says Johnson. A recent national survey by The Senior Citizens League found that support for making changes that cut Social Security and Medicare benefits is extremely low among older voters. For example, only 25 percent of those surveyed support increasing the eligibility age for full benefits from 67, to 69. On the other hand, 73 percent of survey participants support increasing the revenues going into Social Security by applying the 12.4 percent payroll tax to all earnings. Currently the most highly - paid workers, those earning more than \$127,200 — pay no Social Security taxes on earnings over that amount. “This includes every Member of Congress and our President,” Johnson notes.

The tax legislation currently being negotiated by the House and Senate would increase the federal deficit by \$1.5 trillion or more. “That takes revenue out of the system that the federal government has ‘borrowed’ from the Social Security trust fund — money that is needed to pay the benefits of current retirees. It would also take general revenues from Medicare that is used to pay doctors and outpatient services for Medicare Part B benefits, and money from Medicaid which pays for about two-thirds of all nursing home stays for those with low incomes,” Johnson says. A large deficit would also trigger an estimated \$25 billion in automatic Medicare cuts due to a federal budget law that was passed in 2010 to prevent drastic increases in the deficit.

One proposal that deficit negotiators may try to put forward would be to reduce the growth of Social Security cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), by tying the annual inflation index to a more slowly - growing Chained Consumer Price Index. According to projections that Johnson prepared for The Senior Citizens League, such a change would reduce total benefits paid by roughly 7 percent over a 30 - year retirement period. average Social Security benefit of \$1,300 would be reduced by about \$174 per month if the Chained CPI is used, with a loss of more than \$25,365 in income over the same 30 year period .

The Chained CPI would also lead to bigger tax bills over time. The Senate version of the tax law that is currently being negotiated would use the Chained Consumer Price Index to index tax brackets and the standard deduction in the federal tax code. Taxpayers would tend to pay more over time as the standard deduction grows more slowly.

Changes that would make older Americans pay more for their Medicare would shrink retiree budgets as well. According The Senior Citizens League’s survey, 56 percent of respondents said they already spend from 11 to 33 percent of their Social Security benefits on healthcare. An additional 30 percent said they spend more than one third of their Social Security on healthcare.

“Tax reform that results in higher taxes in just a few years, and swells the deficit is no win for older Americans,” says Johnson. The Senior Citizen League strongly opposes cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. “We strongly urge the public to contact your Members of Congress and let lawmakers know how you feel about cuts to your benefits. “Cutting Social Security and healthcare benefits is not a fix for the problems facing our aging society,” Johnson states.

With 1.2 million supporters, The Senior Citizens League is one of the nation’s largest nonpartisan seniors groups. Its mission is to promote and assist members and supporters, to educate and alert senior citizens about their rights and freedoms as U.S. Citizens, and to protect and defend the benefits senior citizens have earned and paid for. The Senior Citizens League is a proud affiliate of TREA: The Enlisted Association. Visit www.SeniorsLeague.org for more information.



BILLS WE ARE SUPPORTING ON THE HILL

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Executive Director of the Washington Office

Below is a partial list of legislation that we are supporting in Congress this year that has been carried over from last year. Of course additional bills will be added. And often we are successful legislatively by folding the substance of a stand-alone bill into an omnibus bill like the NDAA or a large veterans bill.

You can keep track of these (or any other bills you are interested in by going to www.Congress.gov You can also call us at your Washington Office at 1-800-554-8732 to get more information, or tell us of your concerns, suggestions etc. Also you may want to talk about writing a resolution for TREA to cover additional matters. Please feel free to call us we would love to speak to you about these matters.

RETIREE ISSUES

H.R. 303- The Retired Pay Restoration Act—original sponsor Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) with 77 co-sponsors This is the Republican House bill that will end military retired pay and veterans disability pay offsets for all remaining longevity retirees (10%-40%). This signifies over 25 years for father and son Bilirakis sponsoring legislation to end this offset.

H.R.333 - The Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act - original sponsor Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA) with 37 co-sponsors This is the Democratic version and includes Chapter 61 medical retirees along with 10%-40% longevity retirees

S. 66 - The Retired Pay Restoration Act original sponsor Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) with 11 co-sponsors This is the new Senate version (now Republican) but still from Nevada since Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid who regularly sponsored this bill retired last year.

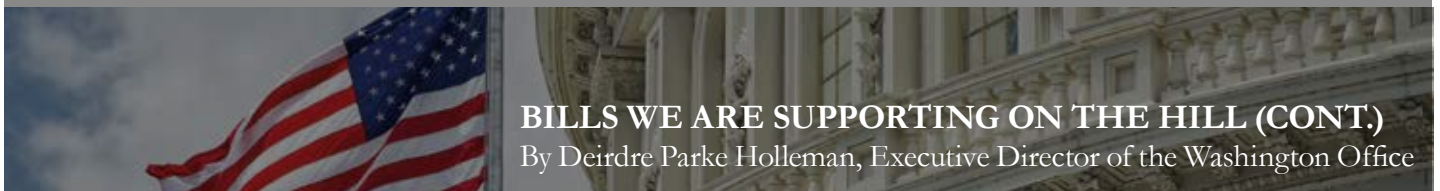
VETERANS ISSUES

S. 1389 – A bill to allow the CFPB to provide greater protection to service members Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) with 16 co-sponsors. Increase consumer protections for service members covered by the SCRA

S. 1325 – Better Workforce for Veterans Act of 2017 Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) with 6 co-sponsors Improving hiring at the VA

S. 1279 –Veterans Health Administration Reform Act of 2017 sponsor Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) Improve civilian healthcare provided through the VA

S. 1277 – Veterans Employment through Technology Education Course Act of 2017 original sponsor Sen John Boozman (R-AR) and 5 co-sponsors. This bill would require the VA to create a 5-year pilot program that provides “high technology programs of education, which are programs that are offered by entities other than institutions of higher learning, do not lead to a degree, and provide instruction in computer programming, computer software, media application, data processing, or information sciences.”.



- S. 1261 - Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) Veterans Emergency Room Relief Act original Sponsor Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)** Bill that would allow the VA to pay for civilian Urgent Care
- S. 1218 – Empowering Federal Employment for Disabled Veterans Act original sponsor Sen. Heidi Heitcamp (D-ND)**
- S. 1209 - A bill to increase the amount of special pension for Medal of Honor recipients original sponsor Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**
- S. 1192 - Veterans to Enhance Studies through Accessibility Act of 2017**
- S. 1161 – Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness original sponsor Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) with 5 co-sponsors**
- S. 1024 – Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 original sponsor Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA) with 31 co-sponsors**
- S. 946 – Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2017 original sponsor Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) with 15 co-sponsors**
- S. 925 - VETS Act of 2017 original sponsor Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) with 12 co-sponsors**
- S. 804 Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2017 original Sen. Dean Heller R-NV (with) 3 co-sponsors**
- S. 784 – Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017 15 Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA) co-sponsors** applying yearly COLA to VA payments
- S. 726 – Toxic Exposure Declassification Act Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) Gary Deloney and John Olsen** directs DoD to declassify all documents to any exposure to at least 100 people where at least 1 fell in.
- S. 681 –Deborah Sampson Act original sponsor Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) with 21 co-sponsors** This is the big military sexual trauma healthcare bill pending in Congress that we support. However, it also includes a proposed change in the VA’s motto that TREA has not taken a position on.

“This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to carry out a three-year pilot program to assess the feasibility of peer-to-peer assistance for women veterans (including those who are separating or newly separated from the Armed Forces), with emphasis placed on women who suffered service-related sexual trauma or who are at risk of becoming homeless.

ADDITIONALLY, THE VA SHALL:

- expand the women veterans call center to include a text messaging capability;
- establish a partnership with at least one nongovernmental organization to provide legal services to women veterans based upon their 10 highest unmet needs;
- retrofit VA medical facilities with fixtures, materials, and other outfitting measures to support the care of women veterans;
- ensure that each VA medical facility has at least one full-time or part-time women’s health primary care provider;
- expand to 14 days VA post-delivery care services for women veterans who are receiving maternity care in a VA or VA-contracted facility;
- ensure that the women veteran manager program is supported at each VA medical center with a program manager and an ombudsman;
- collect, analyze, and publish data on each VA service or benefit program and disaggregate such data by sex and minority status; and publish an Internet website that serves as a centralized information source for women veterans’ benefits and services.”

S. 609 - Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act of 2017 Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) This bill directs that all VA medical centers will provide chiropractic care by December 31st 2020

S. 591 – Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017 original sponsor Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and 33 co-sponsors This bill would enlarge the present Caretakers program coverage to cover those caring for those who were severely injured during service prior to 9/11.



H.R. 1063 - Veteran Prescription Continuity Act- This bill amends the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish an individual who is transitioning from Department of Defense (DOD)- to VA-furnished medical treatment any pharmaceutical agent not included in the joint uniform formulary if a DOD health care provider determines that the pharmaceutical agent is critical for the transition.

The VA shall furnish an individual with such pharmaceutical agent: (1) beginning when the individual enrolls in the VA health care system, and (2) ending when a DOD health care provider determines that the individual does not require the pharmaceutical agent.

GUARD AND RESERVE ISSUES

H.R.1049 — Department of Defense Emergency Response Capabilities Database Enhancement Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]

H.R.3218 — Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017

Sponsor: Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]

H.R.1216 ---- Protecting Veterans From School Closures Act of 2017 Sponsor: Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN-6]

H.R.1379 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the entitlement to educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs for members of the Armed Forces awarded the Purple Heart. Sponsor: Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]

Bills We Are Supporting (continued) -

H.R.1384 — Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act Sponsor: Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]

S.667 — Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act Sponsor: Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]

H.R.2103 — Julian Woods Yellow Ribbon Program Expansion Act Sponsor: Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-4]

S.1086 — A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code. Sponsor: Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]

S.143 — Military Spouse Job Continuity Act of 2017 Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]

S.697 — Tax Relief for Guard and Reserve Training Act Sponsor: Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]

S.1316 — A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a one-year extension of the suicide prevention and resilience program for the National Guard and Reserves. Sponsor: Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]

S.969 — Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Act Sponsor: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]

H.R.4589 — Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Act Sponsor: Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]

H.R.1726 — Coast Guard Improvement and Reform Act of 2017 Sponsor: Rep. Hunter, Duncan D. [R-CA-50]

H.R.3558 — Improve Access to Care for Our Female Veterans Act Sponsor: Rep. Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5]

SURVIVOR ISSUES

H.R.846 - Military Surviving Equity Act- original sponsor Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) with 207 co-sponsors This bill would completely end the SBP/DIC offset. It has 207 co-sponsors but Congress again and again lets it die in Committee

S. 339 - Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act of 2017 original sponsor Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) with 36 co-sponsors. This is the Senate version of HR846. It would completely end the SBP/DIC offset for widows/widowers. It is also allowed to die in Committee.

H.R. 3011 - Military Survivor Comfort Act Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) with 4 co-sponsors This bill would require the United States to forgive any military retired or retiree pay overpayment for the time between the death of the retiree and the end of the month he or she died in if the payment is electronically deposited in a joint account. It was the last project that our good friend Gunney Mac McKinney was working on before he died.

S.1411 Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) 0 co-sponsors- This bill would have created a 5-year extension of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance for those widows/widowers who were being injured by the SBP/DIC offset. We have gotten a permanent extension of the SSIA payment in the 2017 NDAA but will be working to increase the Allowance which is approximately 1/4 of the average cost of the offset to the widow.



HOW TO LOBBY CONGRESS: A SENIOR ACTIVIST'S SURVIVAL GUIDE

By: Jessie Gibbons, TSCL Legislative Director

Do you ever wonder how YOU can influence the decisions made by your elected officials in Washington? Wonder no longer! Here is your guide to successfully lobby your Members of Congress!

YOUR voice matters. Here's why:

- Members of Congress know that older Americans are informed citizens and reliable voters. When seniors speak up, lawmakers listen. That means YOU can make a difference when you advocate for or against legislation you feel strongly about.
- Every Member of Congress must balance the needs of the country against the needs of their constituents. However, it is their constituents who elect them and it is their constituents who they are ultimately accountable to. Always remember that YOU voted your representatives into office and YOU can vote them out.

Step One: Identify your elected officials and their key staff members.

- Visit the "Contact Congress" section of TSCL's or TREA's website to locate the contact information for your Representative and Senators in Congress.
- Congressional staff members are often referred to as "the fourth branch of government." To best communicate with your elected officials, identify the appropriate staff member. Call your representative's office and simply ask, "Could I please have the contact information for the staff member who covers Social Security issues?" By directing your request to the correct staff member, you can be sure that your message will reach the ears of your elected official.

Step Two: Choose a method of communication.

- You can contact your elected officials and their staff members in several different ways. Write a letter, make a phone call, send an email, request a face-to-face meeting, use social media platforms like Facebook or Twitter, sign a petition, attend a town hall meeting, or write a letter to the editor of your local paper. Find the method of communication that's right for you.

Step Three: Don't let your request go ignored by following these six rules...

1. Always include your name and address so the office knows you are a constituent.
2. Focus on one key bill or issue, and keep your message short, polite, and to the point.
3. Include bill numbers for legislation of interest. House bills begin with H.R. (example: H.R. 1251) and Senate bills begin with S. (example: S. 427).
4. Be clear about the position you are taking since you are in effect "casting your vote" on the issue. Use facts about the bill and brief personal stories to explain your stance.
5. Demonstrate that you have done your homework. Mention your support or opposition to the elected official's voting record on related bills in the past.
6. Follow up on your request if you receive a "canned" response or no response at all. Ask direct questions, like "Will you vote for or against this bill?"



Step Four: Contact your Members of Congress! Use the samples below as your guide.

Sample Letter or E-Mail to Congress on the Social Security COLA:

Your Name and Address
Today's Date
The Honorable John/Jane Doe
Office Address
Washington, D.C. 20510/5

Dear Senator/Congress(wo)man Doe,

As a resident of your state/district, I am writing to request your support for the CPI-E Act (H.R. 1251). If signed into law, the bill would base Social Security cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) on the consumer price index for the elderly, which would more accurately measure the inflation seniors experience.

As a retiree, my Social Security benefits make up a majority of my income and I believe the adoption of H.R. 1251 would allow me to better keep up with rising costs. My daily living expenses – especially my prescription drugs and housing costs – are growing much faster than my Social Security benefits. In 2015, when the Social Security Administration announced the 0% COLA, I was shocked. I could not afford the co-pays on my prescriptions and my physical therapy appointments, so I scaled down my therapy to only once a month. I was counting on a Social Security increase to help me keep up with my health costs.

I thank you for your time and your support for past legislation that would strengthen benefits for seniors. Based on your voting record in Congress, it is clear to me that you care deeply about the health and financial security of older Americans. I hope you will become a cosponsor of H.R. 1251 and vote “yes” when it is time to vote on its passage.

Sincerely, Your Name

Sample Phone Call to Congress on the Social Security COLA:

Hello, I am a constituent of Senator/Congress(wo)man Doe's, and I am calling today to urge him/her to cosponsor H.R. 1251, which would make the Social Security COLA more fair and adequate for senior citizens. As a senior myself, I worry about how I will afford my prescription drugs and buy groceries each week. My household expenses have grown by \$70 per month this year, but I'm only receiving \$3 more in benefits. H.R. 1251 would allow me to better keep up with rising costs, and I hope you will encourage your boss to become an official cosponsor. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sample Social Media Post on the Social Security COLA:

@Congress(wo)man Doe, my household expenses are up \$70/month this year, but my Social Security benefit grew by just \$3. It's time for you to support a #FairCOLA!

Did you know that Social Security benefits have lost 30% of their purchasing power since 2000, @Congress(wo)man Doe? Please cosponsor H.R. 1251 to make the COLA more adequate!

MARYLAND GOVERNOR AND TSCL CHAIRMAN ARTHUR COOPER



TSCL Chairman Arthur 'Coop' Cooper stands with Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and Secretary of Maryland V.A. George Owings during the announcement of the Governor's intent to remove taxes in military retired pay.



Maryland Governor Larry Hogan joined by Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary George W. Owings III; members of the Maryland Veterans Commission, including Chairman Fred Shinbur; Commander Betty Brown of Disabled American Veterans; Maryland Military Officers Association of America President Harvey Kaplan; and Art Cooper, chair of the Senior Citizens League of the Retired Enlisted Association. Proposes Legislation to Eliminate State Taxes on All Retirement Income for Military Veterans.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

TREA Headquarter staff was honored to be visited by Reuben "Ben" Mestas, Director, Colorado Veteran Affairs. Mr. Mestas stopped by to say hello and to thank TREA for all the work that we do on behalf of all veterans.



L-R: Debbie Osborne - Director for Operations, Hazel Simeon - Membership Coordinator, Reuben "Ben" Mestas - Director Colorado Veteran Affairs, Misty Siggins - Administrative Assistance, Candace Robinson - Administrative Assistant/Receptionist



2018 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT SIGNED INTO LAW

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Executive Director of TREAs Washington Office

On December 12th President Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal 2018. As you all know this bill covers everything the Department of Defense does for the coming year. It authorizes more than \$700 billion in spending (\$634 billion for the base budget and about \$66 billion for the war costs.) Of course there still needs to be an appropriations bill by the end of the year (or yet another Continuing Resolution (CR)) to permit the spending of the authorized \$700 billion figure.

At the bill's signing President Trump said: "Today, with the signing of this defense bill, we accelerate the process of fully restoring America's military might. This legislation will enhance our readiness and modernize our forces and help provide our service members with the tools they need to fight and win."

While we were pleased that the troops will get a 2.4% pay raise (the largest since 2010) the Act had many disappointing provisions. Co-pays for the TRICARE pharmacy program will increase yet again for most beneficiaries. (The increases will not be applied to disabled retirees and their dependents along with the dependents of those who died on active duty.) The bill makes "permanent" the present \$310 monthly Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) for widows or widowers who suffer from the SBP/DIC offset. While we are glad that the Allowance will not end in May as it was previously set to do, we are working to completely end this totally unfair offset and will continue to try to make additional strides. The bill also authorized a total of 20,000 more troops next year (Army 7,500; Navy 4,000; Marines 1,000; Air Force 4,100 and 3,400 more Reservists.)

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.



CRUISES ONLY

AMERICA'S LARGEST CRUISE AGENCY

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 SERVICES

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!



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://americanhearingbenefits.com/partners/enlisted>.





CHAPTER 16 - 2017 The Fort Riley Retiree Council

RETIREEES CELEBRATED AT FORT RILEY EVENT

By Kalene Lozick, 1st Infantry Division Post (Oct 26, 2017)



The Fort Riley Retiree Council hosted Retiree Appreciation Day at Riley's Conference Center October 20 to honor all who have served in the military. "The retiree appreciation day is held

every year in October," said retired Col C. Kay Hutchinson, spokesman and chairman of the Fort Riley Retiree Council. Hutchinson, a Fort Riley retiree, said the event is to invite retirees back to Fort Riley. The event included various speakers and presentations given by Glen Suetter, a healthcare and TRICARE expert; COL John Melton, commander of the Irwin Army Community Hospital; Robert Smith, director of Fort Riley Museum Division, and Pam Maxwell, who spoke about long-term care and others.

"Representatives from the Commissary and Post Exchange attended and there was entertaining and informative presentations about the 1st Infantry Division's 100th Anniversary, put on by Dr. Robert Smith," said COL John D. Lawrence, garrison commander. The Military Officers Association of America representative, Paul Frost, provided a federal legislative update, and the U.S. Army's recruiting for the future was presented by the commander of the local recruiting company.

The day was to honor the men and women who retired from the military. In his words, Lawrence extended thanks to not only those who served, but also the families who supported their Soldier. "Fort Riley's annual retiree appreciation day is an exceptional event for all of us on post," Lawrence said. "We truly value what you and your families have done, and continue to do, for our community. No doubt about it, you all are the pillars on which today's military is built. The work you have done during your many years of service lays the foundation for the work being done here today. You are a great example for our Soldiers, and who they should aspire to be like, and for that we thank you."

After opening remarks, Lawrence introduced the "Big Red One's" newest leader. BG Stephen G. Smith, deputy commanding general for support, who spoke on behalf of MG

Joseph M. Martin, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division. As applause began, Smith stood and took his place at the podium for his remarks to the room of military retirees, members of the Fort Riley Military Council and their families.

"We definitely walk on the shoulder of giants as active-duty military and we strive every day to live up to the standards you (military retirees) all set, both as officers and non-commissioned officers," Smith Said. "So thank you for what you've done for our country and thank you for what you've done for those of us in uniform. I'm talking both the retirees, themselves and also to your families and your spouses that are here. So thank you very much."

He asked the retirees and family members where they traveled from to attend the event. Most were from Kansas while a few traveled to Fort Riley from surrounding states like Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Missouri. He asked what wars the Soldiers served in. After every raised hand, there was a roar of applause. Overall, Smith focused his remarks on a joint force perspective.



"What I am doing here is to tell you where we are as the Army and as a joint force, kind of what we are facing, so there's no surprise to you," Smith said. "But I want to do that by telling you how important you still are to the active duty force, so that is my intent by covering this up front."

"Georgia Rucker, retirement services officer for the Fort Riley Retiree Council, said by regulation all installations must have a Retiree Appreciation Day. "It's our way to give back to our retirees and keep the connection going between the active duty community and the retired community," she said.

Suetter had information that pertained to the retirees about the TRICARE and healthcare connection. He provided information of the various changes that will take effect Jan. 1, 2018. Following Suetter was Melton who discussed what resources the IACH offers to retirees. With this demographic, there are things we can probably do better and make it more convenient for (the retirees)," Melton said.



LTC Buzz Bruzina, CSM Dick Young, MSGT Larry Perea (front row 3rd left to right TREA Chapter 16 Member), BG Dayle Williamson, CSM Jim Mitchell, BG Phil Mattox, Ms. Mary Sue Moore, LTC Stan Sutton, SSG Mashyn Prosper-Mayberry, CSM Terry Young, MAJ Michelle Sweeney, CW3 Roy Fowler, COL C. Kay Hutchinson, MSGT William Vinyard (back row 6th left to right TREA Chapter 16 Member), LTC Wayne Converse, 1SG Michael Gilmartin, CSM Walter Bembry III, SFC Shed Mayberry III, LTC Raymond Rhodd, Ms. Georgia Rucker, ESO (Not pictured: CW4 Robert Boyd, LCDR Vernon Hay, COL Marion Manion, SGM Fred Buckley, MSG Patrick Thein.

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY IN PICTURES



Retirees took home door prizes valued at over \$3,000 and 120 US flags, gifts from the Retiree Council and the RAD 2017 sponsors. One-hundred-one retirees and spouses received their Flu shots given by the Irwin Army Community Hospital health team and learned about future health needs from Irwin staffers at the Health Fair information booths; taking away valued information regarding veterans' organizations, recreational possibilities and other info from the area's chambers of commerce and other organizations at the County Fair. (Source Fort Riley Retiree Council Newsletter December 2017)

CHAPTER 16, SALINA KS, OCTOBER 7TH, SALINE COUNTY VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY PARADE.



Pictured left to right are: honorary member Fredrick Ramirez, Vice President William Whitman, Chaplain Moses Stewart and wife Wardene Stewart, and Shirley Wagner waiting to take part in the Saline Country third Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Parade.



In the parking lot of Masonic Temple Center Chapter 16 members pictured above observes a sword from a member of Caledonia Masonic Temple Lodge 459.



CHAPTER 24, PARTICIPATED AT THE RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY HELD AT FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND

In the photos are Sgt-at-Arms Levi Royster (Black and grey hoodie) and John Bulkhalter (white TREA jacket) talking to prospective members

CHAPTER 80 DONATES TO CHURCH WHERE SHOOTINGS OCCURRED

On November 18th Chapter 80, San Antonio, visited the Church in Sutherland, Texas where the shootings occurred to donate toward the reconstruction of the Church. The shootings killed 27 people and destroyed portions of the church.

Pictured here are Roosevelt Hale, Juanita Higginbotham, Auxiliary President Elaine Moreland, Member of the church receiving check from Chapter President Don Higginbotham, Past President Oscar Pais and Vice President Harold Moreland.



TREA CHAPTER 20, PUEBLO COLORADO CONTINUES TO BE INVOLVED WITH THEIR COMMUNITY:

On Saturday, October 7th, several TREA Chapter 20 members proudly marched in the annual Avondale, Colorado Veteran's Day Parade. (photo right)

Chapter 20 also hosted the Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention which was held here in Pueblo from September 11th through 16th. The convention hosted 42 Medal of Honor Recipients and their guests. Several TREA Chapter 20 members took part in working the event – members were part of the Security & Safety Team, the Recipient Hosts Team, and the Pueblo Ritual Team. Many TREA Chapter 20 Members attended the autograph session and were able to meet the recipients and have their





pictures taken with them. Those Chapter members who worked the event thought that working the event was a heartfelt, humbling experience and was definitely an honor to be picked to assist in this year's annual convention.

TREA Chapter 20 assisted with Pueblo's 19th annual Homeless Vets Stand-Down on September 29th. This event which is hosted by the Pueblo County Homeless Veterans Coalition served fifty-seven homeless vets this year. Homeless Veterans received new sleeping bags, back-packs, cold-weather gear, underwear, boots, tennis shoes and toiletries. The homeless veterans were able to make medical appointments, receive flu shots, get haircuts and were served lunch. Twenty-two of TREA's Chapter 20 members, auxiliary members and friends took part in the planning, set-up and distribution of new clothing.

Then on Veteran's Day, many of the Chapter members marched in the Pueblo Veteran's Day parade. (photo left). TREA Chapter 20 is always represented at both of these annual parades.

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS TREA CHAPTER 39 MAKES AN IMPACT



In 2014, Stephen Douglas suffered from depression. What mattered most was to ensure children enjoyed the holidays. Unfortunately, Stephen became another suicide statistic. Every year, in memory of his brother, Chris Alexander and his wife Diandra Chang, use this family tragedy to inspire joy and happiness to sick children, who spend the holidays in the hospital. They now participate in an annual toy drive that provides toys to children who are admitted to Children's Hospital.



This inspired members from TREA Chapter 39. With 3 weeks before Christmas, TREA Chapter 39 member, John Green reached out to American Legion Post 1976, who were in the middle of their 'Toy for Tots' program and asked if they could help out TREA Chapter 39's toy drive for this program. The American Legion Post 1976 quickly answered that they would be happy to help.

With special thanks to Toys for Tots, The American Legion & SAL Post 1976 and TREA 39 members: Deborah Oelschig, John Green, Donetta, Johnny D., Shelly Hegge, Rosie Connell, and all the volunteers who came together, we were able to bring holiday cheer to the children spending Christmas in Children's Hospital this holiday season.

Stephen and Chris, together with The American Legion - Post 1976 and TREA 39 have committed to continue the legacy of Stephen Douglas. A worthwhile legacy indeed.

As joint community collaborations between The American Legion - Post 1976, District 6 and TREA 39 are continuing - stronger relationships are built by understanding how to better help each other.

When you are in the military it does not matter what branch of service you are in, you automatically know the veteran next to you has your 6. As civilians, we sometimes forget that it does not matter what Veteran organization we belong too, we still have each other's 6, fighting for the same cause: Family.

We can make a larger difference through collaborations with other organizations. When living your passion, the answer comes without forethought, title or position. It comes from the heart.

TREA CHAPTER 98

MEMBERS ENJOY THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BANQUET



CHAPTER 114

*Chapter 114 - Michael Burkes
Charles Smith Curtis Wright Warren
Brown Eric Nettles Joe Prichard Vet-
erans Day Parade Phenix City Al to
Columbus GA*



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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

WHAT IS THAT AWARD?

TREA: The Enlisted Association has a long history posted on the TREA Website. In keeping with our historical research, we are bringing you information on 3 of our National Awards by one of the presenters and IT Chairperson Philip Hilinski from an interview with PNP George Smith. PNP Smith knew all 3 individuals and shared his personal information on each one, so we thank him for his contribution. If there are any corrections or additional information, please contact Phil Hilinski at directorhilinski@trea.org so we can keep this information as a permanent record.

First is the Marjorie S. Holt Award for Distinguished Service and Personal Dedication to TREA.

Maryland Congresswoman Marjorie Holt was instrumental in helping with the early setup of an LAO in Washington, D.C. and continued to work with them throughout the years. More importantly, she helped TREA get its Congressional Charter by introducing a Bill with fellow Senator Strom Thurmond. She became an Honorary Member of TREA Chapter 24 and was extremely helpful in both TREA National and the Chapter 24's legislative issues. For her work promoting TREA's agenda, an award was formed by the National Membership in the early 1990s. Her bio is listed below.



Marjorie Sewell Holt (born September 17, 1920), was a U.S. Congresswoman who represented Maryland's 4th congressional district from January 3, 1973 to January 3, 1987. She was the first Republican woman elected to Congress from Maryland. She was not a candidate for reelection in 1986, and resumed the practice of law in Baltimore. She was nominated by President Ronald Reagan as a member of the General Advisory Committee on Arms Control and Disarmament. She is a resident of Severna Park, Maryland.

Second is the Benjamin S. Pearson Award for Humanitarianism.

Mr. Benjamin Pearson was the first TREA VSO for National. He was personally responsible for putting together information from State VSOs through each VSO Coordinator. TREA Chapters soon connected with their State VSOs under his direction and the system worked very well. He also set up written procedures working with contractors for VSO support. His greatest accomplishment was to assist those calling in to TREA and either helping them right away or directing them to their state support rep; he was instrumental in assisting women vets and spouses (or widows) committed to 100% customer service. He was a retired Vet, a member of TREA Chapter 3 and dedicated to TREA.

Third is Alvino R. Gutierrez Americanism/Patriotism Award for TREA Members and non-members.

Mr. Alvino Gutierrez was a long time TREA National Parliamentarian. He knew how to handle difficult parliamentary procedures while working well with the National Presidents. He was a member of TREA Chapter 20 in Colorado who spearheaded a project for completion of a local Veteran Cemetery. His most notable accomplishment was leading the membership at a National Convention to pay off the current TREA H.Q. building loan with a major donation eagerly followed by those in attendance along with others until the \$220,000 was eventually paid. George Smith remembered him as somewhat controversial, but would unhesitantly back the National President.



Submitted by: Philip Hilinski, Director

Information Contributed by: George Smith, NP in 1989, PNP to present

LOCKKEEPER'S HOME IS REPAIRED AND MOVED ON DC'S NATIONAL MALL

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Executive Director of TREA's Washington Office

When driving up Constitution Avenue toward the Capitol with TREA visitors we would pass a small falling apart stone structure on the corner of 17th Street NW near the Washington Monument. They would ask me what it was and what was happening to it. And finally I now have an answer. It is the Lockkeeper's House and happily it is being repaired.

It is hard to believe but in the early 1800s what is now Constitution Avenue was a commercial canal with barges going up and down. The House is the only surviving part of both the Washington City and C & O Canals where the Lockkeeper lived with his wife and unbelievably 13 children. From there he raised and lowered the lock, collected tolls and kept records. The canal was proposed by L'Enfant and opened in 1815. It was an important commercial thoroughfare until railroads started to take over. The city finally filled in the canal in 1872 but this little house remained and was neglected.

The 184-year-old building is being restored and being made a part of a visitors center with food, facilities, an outdoor plaza and interior digital displays.

By Jonathunder - Own work, GFDL 1.2, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=20414818>

THE GROUND IS BROKEN IN DC FOR NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Executive Director of TREA's Washington Office

This year, 2018, is the hundredth anniversary of the end of World War I. "The war to end all wars." On the 11th month, the 11th day of the 11th hour the guns were still."

Europe has been commemorating the war since 2014 but since the United States only entered the war in 1917 (or because we don't remember those that we swore never to forget) the public memorials here only started in 2017. There are weekly podcasts about the history of World War I and the effects it still has on our country today. There is a program to have 100 Memorials around the country by November 11th 2018. And there is the push to create a National World War I Memorial in Washington DC.

The groundbreaking for the Memorial was held on November 9th 2017. I had the honor of representing TREA at the event. The memorial will be located in Pershing Park on Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House. (The park is already named for General of the Armies Black Jack Pershing who was the Commander of the American Expeditionary Force on the Western Front World War I 1917-1918) Everyone promises that it will be completed by November 11th 2018.



Above: General Pershing's movingly modest headstone at Arlington National Cemetery. (Following photo taken by flicker user dbking - flicker; CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1649571>)

The United States World War One Memorial Commission was created by act of Congress in 2013 and is in charge of all the previously mentioned projects and many more. If you are interested in working on a project or donating money or simply reading about what is planned, please go to their site: <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/honor/national-wwi-memorial.html>

WORLD WAR I COMMEMORATION – THE FINAL YEAR

by Larry Madison, TREA Legislative Director

Since 2014 The United States and many of the nations of Europe have been commemorating the 100 year anniversary of World War I.

2018 will mark the end of that commemoration as it was in 1918 that the armistice between the Allied Powers and the Axis Powers was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month – the day we now commemorate as Veterans Day each year. Below is a very brief summary of some significant facts about World War I from Wikipedia and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

World War I (WWI or WW1), also known as the First World War, the Great War, or the War to End All Wars, was a global war originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilized in one of the largest wars in history.

Over nine million combatants and seven million civilians died as a result of the war (including the victims of a number of genocides), a casualty rate exacerbated by the belligerents' technological and industrial sophistication, and the tactical stalemate caused by grueling trench warfare. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history, and paved the way for major political changes, including revolutions in many of the nations involved. Unresolved rivalries still existing at the end of the conflict contributed to the start of the Second World War only twenty-one years later.

U.S. Involvement in the war came after the sinking of seven U.S. merchant ships by submarines and the publication of the Zimmermann telegram. President Woodrow Wilson called for war on Germany, which the U.S. Congress declared on 6 April 1917.

The United States as late as 1917 maintained only a small army, and smaller than thirteen of the nations and empires already active in the war. After the passage of the Selective Service Act in 1917, it drafted 4 million men into military service. By the summer of 1918, about 2 million US soldiers had arrived in France, about half of whom eventually saw front-line service; by the Armistice of November 11 approximately 10,000 fresh soldiers were arriving in France daily. In 1917, Congress gave US citizenship to Puerto Ricans when they were drafted to participate in World War I, as part of the Jones Act.

On 11 November, at 5:00 am, an armistice with Germany was signed in a railroad carriage at Compiègne, France. At 11 am on 11 November 1918—"the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month"—a ceasefire came into effect. During the six hours between the signing of the armistice and its taking effect, opposing armies on the Western Front began to withdraw from their positions, but fighting continued along many areas of the front, as commanders wanted to capture territory before the war ended.

A formal state of war between the two sides persisted for another seven months, until the signing of the Treaty of Versailles with Germany on 28 June 1919. The United States Senate did not ratify the treaty despite public support for it, and did not formally end its involvement in the war until the Knox–Porter Resolution was signed on 2 July 1921 by President Warren G. Harding.

The war had profound consequences on the health of soldiers. Of the 60 million European military personnel who were mobilized from 1914 to 1918, 8 million were killed, 7 million were permanently disabled, and 15 million were seriously injured. Germany lost 15.1% of its active male population, Austria-Hungary lost 17.1%, and France lost 10.5%. In Germany, civilian deaths were 474,000 higher than in peacetime, due in large part to food shortages and malnutrition that weakened resistance to disease.

By the end of the war, starvation caused by famine had killed approximately 100,000 people in Lebanon. Between 5 and 10 million people died in the Russian famine of 1921. By 1922, there were between 4.5 million and 7 million homeless children in Russia as a result of nearly a decade of devastation from World War I, the Russian Civil War, and the subsequent famine of 1920–1922. Numerous anti-Soviet Russians fled the country after the Revolution; by the 1930s, the northern Chinese city of Harbin had 100,000 Russians. Thousands more emigrated to France, England, and the United States.

For the two years that the United States was a participant in World War I (1917-1918), there were a total of 4,734,991 U.S. Service members worldwide. Battle Deaths were 53,402, and other deaths in service (Non-Theater) totaled 63,114. There were non-mortal woundings of 204,002.



Francis Archey, USAF
Chapter 3
Colorado

James Cooksey, USAF
Member at Large
Florida

Ervin Graber
Chapter 34
Arizona

James Hardin, USAF
Member at Large
New Jersey

Thomas Allen, USAF
Member at Large
North Carolina

Ted Daywalt, USA
Member at Large
Georgia

Harry Graham
Member at Large
Arkansas

Joe Harmon, USAF
Member at Large
Missouri

Gregory Avila, USAF
Member at Large
Florida

James Eades, USAF
Member at Large
Georgia

Robert Green, USAF
Member at Large
Hawaii

Clyde Harrison, USAF
Member at Large
South Carolina

James Baker
Member at Large
Nevada

Alfred Elder, USA
Member at Large
New Mexico

Robert Greene, USA
Member at Large
California

Marion Harvey, USA
Member at Large
Pennsylvania

Thomas Barker, USA
Member at Large
Washington

Richard Elliott, USA
Member at Large
New Hampshire

Hugh Gregory, USAF
Member at Large
Indiana

John Henkens, USAF
Member at Large
Utah

Ronald Benware, USAF
Member at Large
Arizona

Jolyon Frost, USA
Member at Large
Idaho

Vincent Grueter, USA
Member at Large
Florida

Dick Hickam, USAF
Member at Large
Florida

Ruben Blackmon, USA
Chapter 1
Colorado

Charlie Gifford, USAF
Member at Large
Florida

Delmar Gumm, USAF
Member at Large
Illinois

John Hickman, USA
Member at Large
Arizona

Ronald Bourque, USAF
Member at Large
Georgia

John Glacken, USAF
Member at Large
Oklahoma

James Hackley, USA
Member at Large
Nebraska

George Hicks, USA
Member at Large
North Carolina

Dolyn Brown, USAF
Member at Large
Nebraska

Robert Gooch, USNGR
Member at Large
Maryland

William Hahs, USA
Member at Large
Missouri

Burroughs Hill, USAF
Member at Large
South Carolina

Willie Cantrell, USAF
Member at Large
South Carolina

Robert Goodale, USAF
Chapter 38
South Carolina

Howard Hall, USAF
Chapter 94
Georgia

David Hoffman, USN
Member at Large
Indiana

Joseph Chavez, USA
Member at Large
Washington

William Gore, USAF
Member at Large
Maryland

Nelson Hall, USN
Member at Large
Tennessee

Paul Hoglen, USAF
Member at Large
Arizona

Harry Cook, USAF
Member at Large
Arizona

Stanley Gosc, USN
Member at Large
Florida

Keith Harber, USN
Chapter 39
Colorado

Otha Holt, USAF
Member at Large
Alabama

**Earl Hook, USAF**

Member at Large
North Carolina

Teodorico Manue, USA

Member at Large
California

Ovid Pinckert, USAF

Member at Large
New Mexico

James Trachta, USAF

Chapter 1
Colorado

Gene Hopkins, USN

Member at Large
Georgia

John Martin, USN

Member at Large
South Carolina

E Stuart Quarngesser

Member at Large
Maryland

Fred Turner, USA

Chapter 3
Colorado

Earnest Hotchkiss, USA

Member at Large
Wisconsin

Alvin Mazonna, USA

Member at Large
Alaska

Paul Ranard, USAF

Member at Large
California

Louis Vukich, USAF

Member at Large
Missouri

Ernest Hourigan, USAF

Member at Large
Connecticut

Mike Medina, USA

Member at Large
Louisiana

Arley Robbins, USAF

Member at Large
Indiana

Harry Walsh, USA

Member at Large
Kentucky

Henry Houston Jr, USAF

Member at Large
Maryland

John Megyesi, USA

Member at Large
Alaska

Joseph Rodgers,

Member at Large
Washington

Earl Wetzsteon, USN

Member at Large
Kansas

Donovan Humphries, USAF

Member at Large
Virginia

Douglas Mitchell, USN

Member at Large
Montana

Joe Sandifer, USA

Member at Large
Arkansas

George Wiemers, USAF

Member at Large
Kansas

John Ide, USAF

Member at Large
Wisconsin

Charles Moat, USN

Member at Large
Florida

Thomas Sekely, USAF

Member at Large
Arkansas

Jene Williams, USAF

Member at Large
Florida

Bobby Jessy

Member at Large
Georgia

Earl Neal, USAF

Member at Large
California

Michael Sites, US Navy

Chapter 10
California

Albert Woodford, USAF

Member at Large
Illinois

Thomas Johnston, USAF

Member at Large
Georgia

Thomas Norwood, USAF

Member at Large
Texas

Wayne Spigler, USAF

Member at Large
Pennsylvania

Hugh Wurmle, USN

Member at Large
Iowa

Paul Kent, USAF

Member at Large
Texas

William Ouimette, USAF

Member at Large
Florida

William Stengel, USAF

Member at Large
Colorado

Eugene Land, USAF

Member at Large
Arizona

David Pedigo, USAF

Member at Large
Arizona

Earl Swadlo

Member at Large
Pennsylvania

Ronald Luci

Chapter 98
Pennsylvania

Roy Peltier, USAF

Member at Large
Alabama

Theodore Taper, USN

Member at Large
Massachusetts



EASY WINE GUY HERE!

In this issue I'm going to talk about one of the hottest categories in the adult spirits industry, single malt scotch! Geographically, the world of single malts is divided into five regions. These regions are protected in UK law, to ensure that a Scotch that's labeled with a certain region is actually made in that region.

SPEYSIDE: Speyside single malts are single malt Scotch whiskies, distilled in Strathspey, the area around the River Spey in Moray and Badenoch and Strathspey, in northeastern Scotland. Speyside whiskies can generally be classified as light and grassy, or rich and sweet.

LOWLANDS: Lowland Scotches make excellent aperitifs; they have a dry finish and tend not to use unpeated malt which lends to a certain sweet fruitiness to their flavor and mouthfeel.

CAMPLETOWN: Known for their salty tang in their finish, they are full bodied and full flavored. Springbank is the "most" famous and can be aged to great advantage becoming rainy and rich.

ISLAY (Eye-La): Islay whisky is Scotch whisky made on Islay one of the southernmost of the Inner Hebridean Islands located off the west coast of Scotland. The 8 distilleries are on the coast and are battered by salt winds. They are the strongest flavored of all malt whiskies, you either love them or hate them.

HIGHLANDS: Highland single malts are single malt Scotch whiskies produced in the Highland region of Scotland. This categorization includes the whiskies produced on the islands around the perimeter of Scotland. Scotland's largest whisky region boasts a dizzying array of styles, from rich and textured to fragrantly floral, as befits an ever-changing landscape of coastline, moor and mountain.

As you can see as with most adult spirits, one size doesn't fit all. I always advise my clients to talk with their local shop owner (who hopefully knows his stock) about all the brands and their individual styles.

The Easy Wine Guy



UPDATING YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Did you know that you can update your mailing address on the TREA Website?

Did you know that you can update your phone number and email address also?

Lots of updates to the website have been done recently and we invite you to check them out!

HERE IS HOW YOU DO IT:

STEP 1: Look for "Attention Members!" Then "Click Here" Put in email address and if it is found click on "This is Me"

If your email address is not found please contact us at 303-752-0660 or 800-338-9337 or go to the "Contact US" link on the home page and send us an email with all of your information and we will add your email address to our database within 48 business hours.

STEP 2: If and when your email is in the database then you will click on "Forgot User Name". Your user name is always your email address.

A box will appear called "Retrieve User Name". Put in your email address.

A message will be sent to that email address (BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR JUNK FOLDER IF IT DOES NOT APPEAR IN YOUR INBOX). There will be a link that you will have to click on (or copy and paste into the URL search field), this link is only active for a limited time so check right away. When you have activated the link it will automatically redirect you back to the log in on the TREA website. Continue logging in by going to the top right corner where it says "Sign In" and you will see your membership page with your personal information. You, as a TREA member, will be able to update your address, phone #, email address, add a photo, etc. Only you have access to this page once your personal account is created. Any updates to address, phone, email will take 48 hours to be updated.

2018 CONVENTION



FT. WALTON BEACH, FL., SEPTEMBER 18TH – 21ST



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO GET EXCITED!!



THE ENLISTED
Association

WE EARNED OUR STRIPES

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