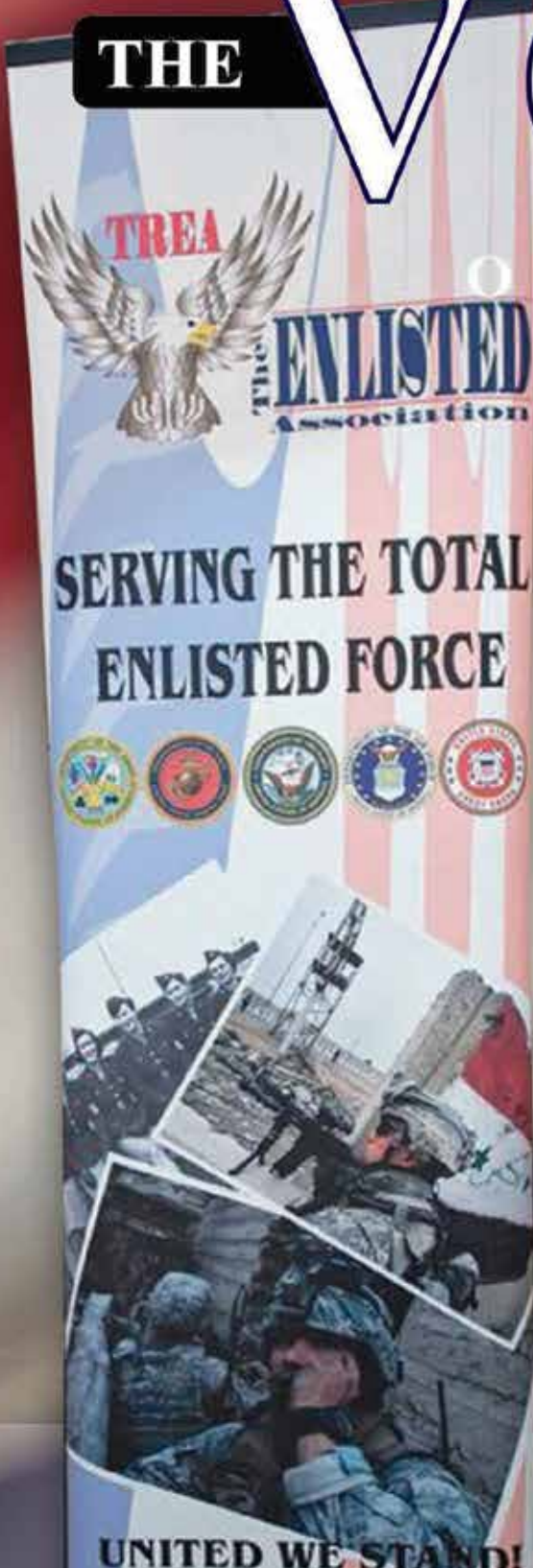


THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted

A short run through
the 2017 Convention
pg. 16-22



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

TREA Membership Perks
pg. 48-49

2017 - Convention Recap
pg. 16-22



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FROM THE EDITOR

By Kim DeCoste



From my desk to you...

Welcome to the final issue of The VOICE for 2017. We hope you find this issue, as well as the others this year to be informative and enjoyable. We are happy to report in this issue on the success of the Convention in Pittsburgh and all its outcomes, as well as to update you on the state of things here at TREA as we wrap up the year. We have heard from some of you about various suggestions with formatting and design of the magazine and we will continue to improve to ensure it is readable for all. As always, we welcome your feedback. Best wishes from the editorial team (which continues to grow) for a Happy Thanksgiving and for a safe and joyful holiday season!

The Editorial Team



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Letter from the President

By John I. Adams, TREAs National President



I want to devote this column to a very serious issue facing veterans but before I do, I want to talk briefly about our national convention that was held in September.

The convention was a milestone for me as it marked the end of my first year as TREAs National President and the beginning of my final year in that position. It was a good convention and we accomplished the business that was necessary as we laid plans for next year and beyond.

I want to thank the folks in Pittsburgh for their hospitality, with a special thanks to Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto, who came and welcomed us to his city. I also want to thank Dr. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., who was a featured speaker, and former NAUS President MajGen Thomas Wilkerson

USMC (Ret.), our special guest speaker at our closing banquet for the installation of our officers.

I want to thank USAA for sponsoring the President's Dinner and the Entertainment. In addition, I thank them for providing a breakfast for the delegates where they presented what they offer.

My thanks to TSCL, The Memorial Foundation and the National Auxiliary for their support to this year's convention.

One of the items that was decided was to begin having our convention in Denver every other year. Because our national headquarters is in suburban Denver, having our convention there will save a great deal of money. Next year our convention will be in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, and the year after that we will be in Denver and then be there every other year after that.

Another consideration regarding our convention is an offer we've received from the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) to co-locate our convention with them. Our conventions would be separate but by co-locating we could keep our expenses down.

The offer was made before we decided on every other year in Denver, so it is not clear if and how that would impact things. It will be discussed and decided upon at our convention next year.

However, as necessary as they may be to conducting our business, having conventions wasn't why TREAs was founded. It was founded because of the fact that our elected officials have short memories and military retirees and veterans become an easy target when it comes to cutting budgets and trying to save money.

As we move forward, we have to deal with the reality that is being faced by every veterans' organization, and that is the reluctance of younger military personnel and veterans to join a veterans group. Even new ones that have formed since the beginning of the wars and Iraq and Afghanistan are facing the same issue. This creates financial concerns, and also concerns about how Congress treats veterans.

As you know, every time you turn around a member of Congress will tell you how great our veterans are and how much he or she supports veterans. But words are cheap.

Unfortunately, we have entered an era where Congress has begun to play veterans off against each other. In the past year, Congress has agreed to pass new legislation to help certain veterans, but only if other veterans programs already in existence are reduced so they can use the money saved to pay for the new program. It has happened at least twice so far, and we expect that it will continue.

Although we have some good friends in Congress, other members who are veterans --and even military retirees --have been working to cut certain promised and earned military benefits so they can spend more on military equipment.

Frankly, this is outrageous and TREA intends to do all we can to fight to stop it.

The facts that members of Congress spend an inordinate amount of time raising money for their campaigns rather than legislating, whether they like doing it or not. And military contractors contribute millions of dollars to congressional campaigns every year. They are the ones we end up competing with when it comes to money in the defense budget each year. And the Veterans budget competes with all the other budgets for the dollars that other big corporations and even other countries, spend millions of dollars lobbying to win.

That's what we're up against and that's why your membership in TREA is so important.

We can win the fights for your benefits. We have in the past, and we will in the future. But we need you to stay with us and join us in this fight.

You should be receiving this issue around Veterans Day, when I will be in Washington to represent TREA at the Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. I will also be meeting with members of Congress to let them know how concerned we are about the way military retirees and veterans are being treated. I will report on that in the next issue.

United We Stand,
John Adams

TREA National President

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





WHO ARE WE?

Ed Cates, National 1st Vice



For 50 plus years we have been known as The Retired Enlisted Association but in an effort to re-brand our product, we changed our registration with the Colorado Secretary of State to reflect a new Doing Business As (DBA) company named the Enlisted Association in 2013. After an enthusiastic start up period we seem to have lost sight of that vision and don't appear to be making much headway evolving into the vision of our motto "Voice of The Enlisted". I will attempt to clear up some of the confusion by letting you know what a "DBA" name actually does and how it affects our status as a congressionally Chartered VSO.

DBAs are created every day by companies that wish to change their Incorporation original name. Most of the time the change is market drive, that is, the corporation is trying to change its image to reflect an image they believe will attract the type of customer they think will buy their product. A DBA change does not change the original incorporation registration; it merely changes the original name of the business to something new to fit the current market conditions or for whatever reason management believes is in the best interest of the company. In TREAs case, the steadily decreasing size of the military along with the change to an all-volunteer military force made the original name The Retired Enlisted Association too restrictive to recruit effectively. Having the word "Retired" in our name was off-putting to many of our potential members, especially after we had changed our membership eligibility to allow any person who served honorably to become a member. With the emphasis on the name THE ENLISTED ASSOCIATION we now can truly live up to our motto "VOICE OF THE ENLISTED". Using our DBA name DOES NOT threaten our Congressional Charter, we are still legally known as TREA. It does not affect our current contracts or other business agreements. I believe that going forward under the banner of TREA: The Enlisted Association we will attract more veterans and active duty members, especially as we market directly to them and their needs. With the number of current military members and veteran's steady declining, especially as a percentage of the total population of the U.S., it is imperative for our survival as an organization to appeal to the greatest number of potential members we can. United We Stand means we stand for the rights, privileges and benefits earned by service to our nation by enlisted members of the Armed Forces. As always, I invite your feedback on this article, please email me at 1stvice@trea.org with your comments.

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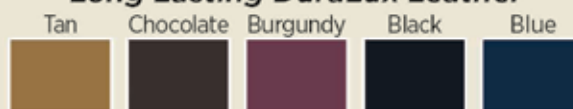
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5 YEAR COMMITTEE CHAIR

Greg Barnett, National Director and
5 Year Plan Chair

This year's convention was inspiring from our Opening Ceremony Guest Speaker Dr. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. to our Guest Speaker MajGen Thomas Wilkerson, USMC (Ret.) at the Installation Banquet. I, for one, was very moved from Dr. Slaughters' remembrance of "hollow words" such as "thank you for your service" how those words which are spoken today has a lot less meaning as they once did. The words "UNITED WE STAND" are beginning to have the same meaning; we need to remain UNITED as an organization as we go into the future as we need the help of our chapters and our members to help us achieve the goals that we must obtain to continue to prosper as an organization. We must make a stand together as "ONE."

Our Guest Speaker MajGen Thomas Wilkerson, USMC (Ret.) at the Installation Banquet spoke about remembering "who we are and where we came from and what we do." What makes us the organization that we are today; we are a gathering of military veterans who are accomplished leaders and motivators, we set goals and achieve them and we lead from the front. We are the ones that shake things up and make things happen, however we need your help, from each and every one of you as we try to implement the ideas which were discussed at the convention and any future ideas. We need you to become involved in your local communities, helping your local veterans with medical, education, employment and Veterans Services issues and let the country know who TREA: The Enlisted Association is and what we do for our enlisted active duty, retirees and honorable discharged veterans and their families.

Our continued efforts will be membership, public relation and marketing with a steady implementation of social media outlets, and Legislative Agenda issues and to help with membership and giving our veterans a source of information and an avenue to help them with their concerns. As the Committee Chair of the 5 Year Plan, I encourage you to share your ideas of where you would like to see us head in the future, I would like to know what members may possess expertise in recruiting, advertisement and social media and what ideas you may have to help us with attaining our goals and objectives, and I would love to see your renew commitment to TREA: The Enlisted Association and our goals and plans for the future. "United We Stand"

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IT Committee

Philip Hilinski, Director



I wish to thank the members at the 2017 Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. for participating in our process. I appreciate that I have been given another opportunity to serve as a 2-Year Director again. I will be continuing my term as the IT Chairperson again with some new ideas. The TREA IT Committee activities will include: asking members of chapters that folded to contact me concerning a new way to keep on working with TREA by participation online, exploring new technological advances on cell phones, internet radio as well as supporting our existing social media projects. If you need to contact me, please email at directorhilinski@trea.org.

Phil

INDEX OF PROPOSED BYLAW & STANDING RULE CHANGES



✦ BYLAWS:

Article II, Title: Object - **APPROVED**

Allows for the word 'retired' to be taken out as TREA is no longer an organization that allows only retired into its ranks.

Article III, Section 1 – 'Membership' - **DISAPPROVED**

Allows for spouses, widows/widowers, ancestors or lineal descendants to become TREA members
This directly follows the IRS regulation on 501(c)(19)'s

Article 111, Section 1 & 2 – 'Membership' - **DISAPPROVED**

Allows for non-retired veterans to be eligible for regular membership in TREA

Article 111, Section 3 – 'Associate' – **WITHDRAWN BY ORIGINATOR**

Allows for officers, business owners and supporters of the military to become TREA members

Article IV, Section 3 – 'Dues Remittance' – **APPROVED** (with note to add the word 'membership' after Chapter).

Requires that TREA National dues be submitted directly to HQ – avoiding the confusion of chapter versus National dues

Article IV, Section 4 – 'Chapter Rebates' - **APPROVED** (with note to change 'paragraph' to 'sentence').

Separates the correlation between Chapter Rebates and Chapter reports. This change does NOT take Away Chapter Rebates, it simply takes away the connection of chapter rebates to the requirement of Chapter Reports.

Article V, Section 4 – 'Terms of Office' - **APPROVED** -

Makes the change that was voted in at the 2016 convention retroactive to provide for aligned terms of office and follows the intent of the originator

Article IX, Section 1 – 'Nominee Candidates' - **DISAPPROVED**

Would require proof of military service for all BOD

Article IX, Section 2 0 – 'Candidate Eligibility' - **APPROVED**

Ensure that the membership of BOD members will not expire during their term in office

Article IX, Section 5 – 'Tellers' - **DISAPPROVED**

Allows for voting documentation to be kept for one year in the case of a Board vacancy

Article X, Section 3 – 'Delegates' - **APPROVED**

Removed the word 'regular' and simply states 'TREA member', taking away the difference between regular and Honorably Discharged Veterans.

Article X, Section 3a & b – 'Delegates' - **APPROVED**

This combines subparagraphs into the original paragraph, avoiding confusion and contradiction.

Article X, Section 7 – 'Convention Site' - **APPROVED**

Required that the Annual convention be held in the location of TREA HQ every other year for the purpose of cost savings.

STANDING RULES:



SR 1, Paragraph 10 – ‘Conduct at Convention’ - **APPROVED**

Provides the requirement that BOD and staff attend all pre-planned and TREA paid events.

SR 8, Paragraph 2 (pages 8-11) – **DISAPPROVED**

‘Chapter President of the year Award’

Chapter President of the year will receive all convention expenses paid for by TREA, not just the registration fee as the Standing Rule currently reads.

SR 8, Paragraph 9 – ‘The Roll Call’ - **APPROVED**

Eliminates the need to spend funds on updating the plaques at the TREA Headquarters.

SR 8, Apx-2 – ‘Recommendations for TREA National Awards’ - **APPROVED**

Puts the Chapter Website award under the recommendation of the IT committer versus the Membership Committee and makes it one single, not broken down by chapter size.

SR 18, Paragraph 4d - **APPROVED**

Allows for the optional embroidery of the Chapter/MAL, city and state on the TREA caps. The wording currently makes it mandatory.

NEWLY SUBMITTED – require a 9/10 vote to pass:

Article IV, Section 1 – Dues, Rebates & Finances - **DISAPPROVED**

Creates a new membership structure, adding a five year, removing the two year and life membership (all current memberships will be grandfathered).

Article XII, Section 2 – Special Committees - **APPROVED**

This change would delete the Athletic Committee from the responsibilities of the Nominating Committee

SR 5, Paragraph 4a – Athletic Committee - **APPROVED**

This proposal would delete the Athletic Committee. This committee has not been in use since 2009.

SR 8, App 1 – TREA Awards Program - **DISAPPROVED**

This change would delete the individual names of the special awards, not the awards themselves.

To detailed information and to read the actual proposed change, go to our website (www.trea.org), there is a link on the homepage.

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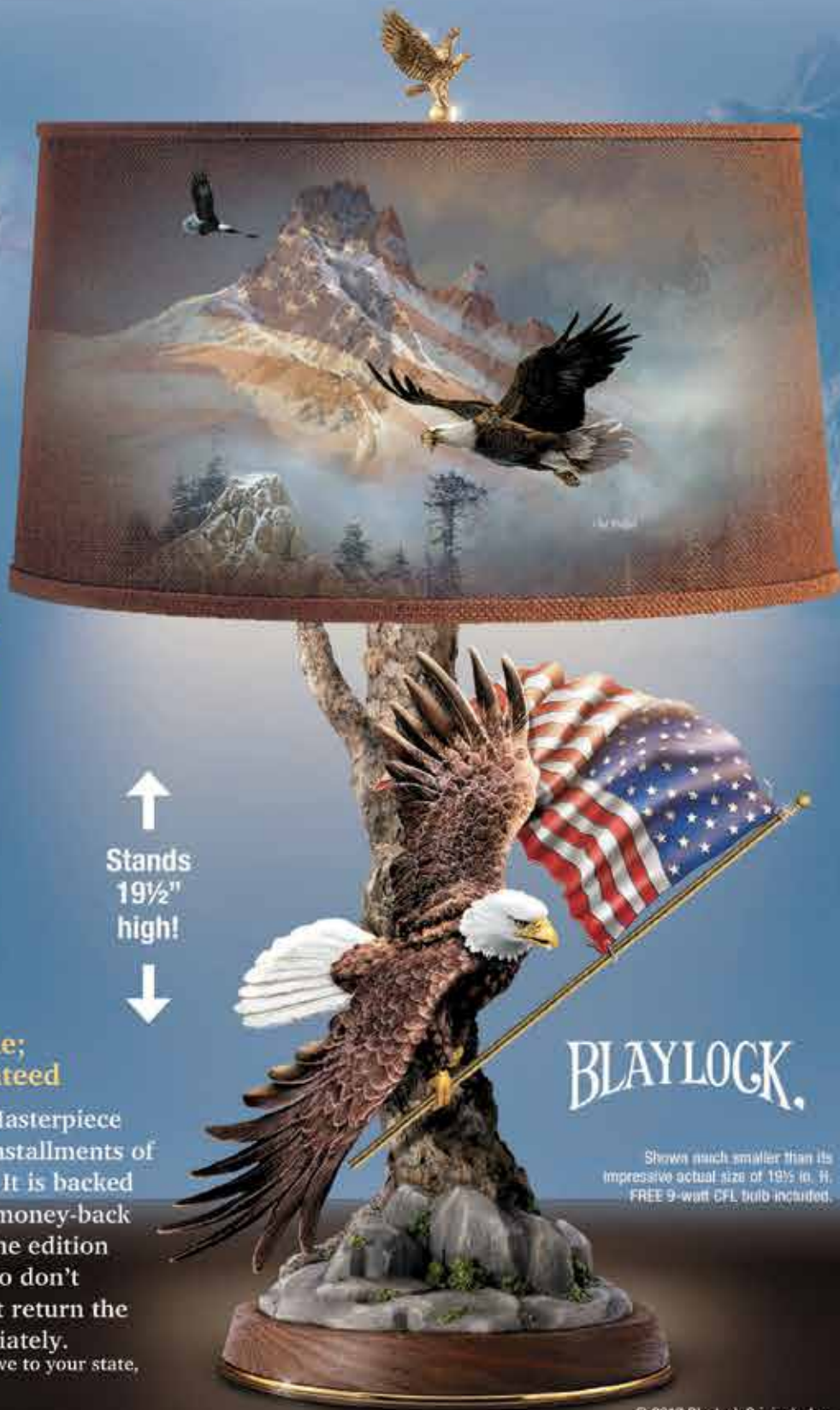
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CONVENTION RECAP

A short run through the 2017 Convention

Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations



TREA members from all over the country, as far away as Puerto Rico came together to visit, support and reminisce with each other and to make important business decisions for the future of TREA at the 54th TREA convention held in Pittsburgh, PA the week of September 4th. Several pre-convention meetings were held earlier in the week. The Senior Citizens League approved a new trustee. Mr. Tom O'Connell was approved by the TREA Board to be the new TSCL trustee.

The Memorial Foundation has three new trustees. The TREA Board approved Doug Kasel, Bill Neurauter and Marie Smith to complete the 7 member board.

The TREA Convention started with the Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday evening. The colors were presented by a local high school - Pine Richland High. (photo to the right). We thank them for supporting our convention and our mission. The membership was welcomed to the great city of Pittsburg by none other than Pittsburgh's own Mayor, William Peduto.



(photo to the left). He spoke about Pittsburgh, where it was then and where it is now. He spoke about the programs that his city offers to veterans. He thanked TREA for choosing his city for this special event.

After Mayor Peduto spoke, Dr. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., CEO of the Greater Pittsburgh Habitat for Humanity provided the membership with a talk from the heart. (photo to the right). A veteran himself, Dr. Slaughter spoke of the 10 top attributes of a good leader. He spoke with passion, without excuse and he gave everyone in the room that night something to think about. It was an honor to have both Pittsburgh Mayor Peduto and Dr. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. as our guests and as our speakers.



After the Opening Ceremonies, everyone was invited up to the balcony and riverfront view banquet room for drinks, snacks and socialization. It was wonderful to see old friends reconnect and new friends being made. The start of a great event, thanks to TSCL for sponsoring this always well received event.



Thursday morning started bright and early with a breakfast sponsored by USAA. While everyone enjoyed hot coffee and a delicious breakfast, USAA representatives discussed the hard, but very real topic of estate planning.

The business meeting followed the USAA breakfast. There were a lot of proposed by-law & standing rule changes to be presented. This took up the rest of the morning. (A complete list of the changes and how they fared are in a separate area in this issue of the VOICE).



Everyone participated in a working lunch where a presentation of the new website and database was offered. For those who have not been following, TREA now has an interactive website, where, you the member can make changes to your own membership information. We are making big steps to grow in our technology and provide more interactive services to our members. After lunch and after the last of the proposed by-law and standing rules were complete, the remaining reports were presented, questions were answered and business was conducted on behalf of the organization. The day wrapped up quite smoothly.

In the evening, everyone enjoyed the President's Dinner aboard the Gateway Clipper's Empress Riverboat for a cruise up the rivers. This special event was sponsored by USAA. The bar, a very popular spot, was sponsored by The Senior Citizens League. The night started with a slight rainy drizzle that turned into a major downpour – but, the timing was perfect. The rain took place while everyone was inside eating dinner. Like on cue, the rain stopped as dessert was being served and the skies cleared in time for members to take in the beautiful sites of the city from the open air deck of the boat. The rest of the evening was spent either admiring the views and the clean, fresh, just-rained-on air or back inside working off the calories from the dinner and dessert, dancing away to the great sounds of the DJ. Many compliments were received on the evening. Some even said it was the best President's Dinner ever!



CONVENTION RECAP (CONT.)

A short run through the 2017 Convention

Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations



The fun had to end sometime – so now back to the 2nd business meeting. Friday morning was the time to fill the two open director positions. Candidates gave their speeches and their seconding speeches were delivered.

Everyone took a break from the reports to attend the Joint Awards Luncheon. There is a lot of time and effort put forth by a lot of people to ensure that TREA: The Enlisted Association continues to thrive. The awards luncheon, sponsored by the National Auxiliary was the time and place to do just that. A full list of the award winners is included in a separate part of this issue of the VOICE for you to review. I hope you take the time to look through it, there are so many people that deserve to be recognized for all



their hard work, hopefully we didn't miss anyone. As with so many things, 'the best laid plans' don't always play out the way you expect or want them to. Unfortunately a box of awards that was shipped from HQ's did not make it to the hotel. These things happen, and there is nothing that you can do about it. You move on and do the best that you can. We still called up and acknowledged all the winners and assured them that their awards would be re-made and shipped directly to them. We wish it could have been done differently, but all things considered, it worked out OK. After all, it's not the physical award that matters; it's the acknowledgment of the effort that counts – right?



Now that everyone was full and tired – time to get back to the work at hand. Time to vote! After much deliberation and counting and re-counting of the votes, the results were in. Director Reed and Director Hilinski will stay on the TREA National Board for two more years. Congratulations to both of them. San Diego was chosen as the location for the 2020 convention. One of the proposed changes, that directly impacts the convention, was voted in – and that change states that every other year, the convention will be held in the location of TREA Headquarters. That is why San Diego will be in 2020 and not in 2019, as the Denver area will host the 2019 convention.

CONVENTION RECAP (CONT)

A short run through the 2017 Convention

Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations

During the break that was used to count the votes, the ‘good-of-the-order’ was presented. Members spoke their minds about issues that were important to them. Convention, the VOICE magazine, membership, fundraising, contracts – nothing was off-limits. This time was useful in allowing our members to have their voices heard. There were good points made, there were not-so-good points made, there were kudos and criticisms, but everything was from the heart and had meaning behind it. Not everyone wants to hear things that may not be in line with their own thought process – but all discussion is good, especially if it is for the betterment of the organization. The one thing that everyone did agree on is that TREA: The Enlisted Association is the hope and support for the enlisted people who have served and are still serving our country. We owe it to them to be better, to do better and to be here for when they need us.

Friday night was a free night for most of the attendees. Members had many options to choose from. Many of them attended a special BBQ dinner, courtesy of local TREA Chapter 72 and Chapter President Charles White. Some chose to try their luck at the Three Rivers Casino and take advantage of the special TREA coupon for the all-you-can-eat buffet and the \$10 in free slot plays. Some just took it easy and hung back with old friends. No matter where people went or what they did, it always amazes me how they all come back together. Let me take a minute to explain. I am a watcher. I watch what people do, many times that is more important than what they say. So, on this evening, I watched. I watched as members, old members and new members, members from all over the country who earlier in the evening went their own ways, I watched as they all came back together. They filled the hotel bar and they flowed out into the lobby. It may not have lasted long – that didn’t matter. What matters is that everyone did come back together – to share a drink, a handshake, a laugh. If nothing else is taken from this time in Pittsburgh it should be that no matter the discussion, the circumstance or the flow of the business day, coming together to support, encourage and lift each other up is what we do. That cannot be forgotten or overlooked --- it is so powerful!

Moving on to Saturday. After the long night before, the ability to sleep in or enjoy a leisurely breakfast was enjoyed by many – but not by all. Some, like the new Memorial Foundation Board was hard at work staking claim to committees and making good on their commitment to help veterans and active duty soldiers and their families who are in need. A lot of discussion was had regarding the recent hurricane that had just hit Texas. Keep in mind that Irma and Maria were just forming and hadn’t made landfall yet. Some great ideas were brought to the table and every trustee was given a take away assignment that they had to present at a follow up telecon. The Foundation is firmly committed to providing assistance – a commitment that is not taken lightly. More great things from the Memorial Foundation will be coming – so make sure that you check out our website (www.trea.org) to stay informed. You will be proud to call yourself a TREA member – I promise!

Almost done --- with the business behind us, now was the time for a little pomp and circumstance. TREA is steeped in tradition and nothing is more traditional than the annual Installation Banquet. TREA members donned their best and came with heads held high in respect and honor to celebrate another successful TREA convention and to witness the swearing in of new board members. In this instance, the TREA National Board remained the same, but the boards of the National Auxiliary, The Senior Citizens League and the Memorial Foundation all had new members to swear in. The night progressed first with sponsored bar by TSCL and delicious hors d’oeuvres. After that, everyone entered the grand ballroom for the beginning of the last event of the 2017 convention. The room was lightly lit with overhead chandeliers and every table was draped with black and gold. On top was a lit lantern – symbolizing that every member is the ‘light’ that TREA needs to carry us into the future. It was a very visually pleasing scene.

After some opening remarks from TREA National President John Adams and Auxiliary National President Irmgard Cates, the colors were presented and members were treated to a special performance from one of their own. TREA Headquarter staff member, Candace Robinson graced us all with a beautifully done rendition of the National Anthem. It's amazing how much power and emotion that song stirs up when sung in person. I think that this needs to be the standard going forward.



The POW/MIA ceremony followed. A revered and somber reminder that not everyone who served makes it home. Despite all of our differences, we are the lucky ones, we have been blessed with the ability to come together, voice our concerns and differences and walk out as friends. Some truly did pay the ultimate sacrifice – we will not forget. As is the TREA tradition, we all joined hands and sang along with the Lee Greenwood song, “God Bless the USA”. The emotion in the room was magical and it was real and it meant something – at that moment, nothing else mattered. Pride was everywhere.

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–DAVID L., 68, SEATTLE

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CONVENTION RECAP (CONT)

A short run through the 2017 Convention

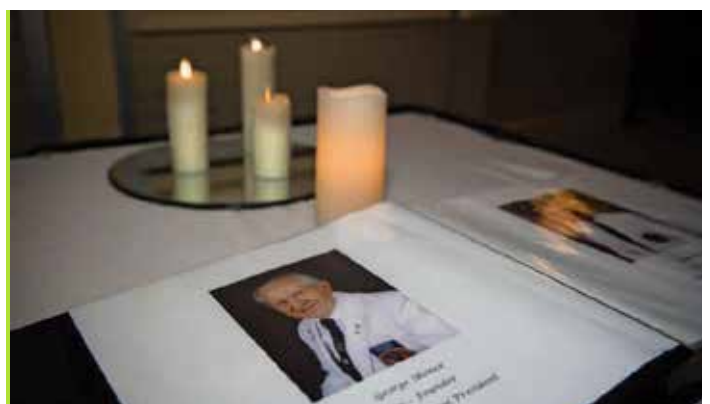
Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations

Following that very special moment, the keynote speaker for the evening was introduced. MajGen Thomas Wilkerson. MajGen Wilkerson, a retired Marine has the heart of a lion with the humility of a lamb – a true gentleman and someone who I can honestly say that I had the true pleasure of personally meeting. He spoke eloquently and passionately about his childhood, his parents and his brother and how he came to be the much decorated veteran that he is today – without self-touting. He spoke about the ability of everyone,



no matter the military history of the family to be a proud supporter and advocate for the military and for those who have served. He walked out into the crowd and made everyone a part of his story. It was a wonderful experience.

The evening ended with a few words from President Adams with well wishes to all members for safe travels back home and for the hopes of seeing everyone in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida for the 2018 convention. The lanterns that decorated the room and tables were given away as mementos of the evening.



In my opinion, the 2017 Convention was a success, but we can all agree there is still much work that needs to be done to insure the successful future of TREA: The Enlisted Association. But the passion and desire and the unyielding dedication to the mission and the cause is still very real and strong – and with that, all things are possible.

UNITED WE STAND.

AND THE WINNERS ARE

A lot of people work hard every day to ensure that TREA is successful in fulfilling our mission. We have boards, committees, affiliates, staff members, volunteers, sponsors and supporters – they all deserve to be recognized for their belief in TREA: The Enlisted Association.

TREA presents awards based on the work accomplished in the preceding year. These awards, unless otherwise noted, are for actions and accomplishments that transpired in 2016.

Certificates of Appreciation:

Steven Subichin, Chapter 111 in Ohio
 Roosevelt Hale, Chapter 80 in Texas
 Harold Moreland, Chapter 80 in Texas
 Hilton Ferguson, Chapter 80 in Texas
 Paxton Higginbotham, Chapter 80 in Texas
 Edward Valverde, Chapter 80 in Texas
 Juan Silva, Chapter 80 in Texas
 James Scott, Chapter 80 in Texas
 Raul Juarez, Chapter 80 in Texas
 Oscar Pais, Chapter 80 in Texas
 Phil Lucero, Chapter 80 in Texas
 Larry Foster, Chapter 80 in Texas
 Stanley Meyer, Chapter 80 in Texas

Certificates of Commendation:

Michael Holzhauser, Chapter 29 in South Dakota

Chapter President of the Year:

Small – Michael Gales, Chapter 9, Baltimore, MD
 Medium – Walter ‘Don’ Higginbotham, Chapter 80, San Antonio, TX
 Large – Rey Garate, Chapter 1, Colorado Springs, CO

Chapters of the Year:

Small Chapter – Chapter 111 in Ohio
 Medium Chapter – Chapter 80 in Texas
 Large Chapter – Chapter 29 in South Dakota

Chapter President of the Year:

Small – Michael Gales, Chapter 9, Baltimore, MD
 Medium – Walter ‘Don’ Higginbotham, Chapter 80, San Antonio, TX
 Large – Rey Garate, Chapter 1, Colorado Springs, CO

Chapters of the Year:

Small Chapter – Chapter 111 in Ohio
 Medium Chapter – Chapter 80 in Texas
 Large Chapter – Chapter 29 in South Dakota

Recruiter of the Year:

Don Higginbotham, with 19 new
 Rey Garate, with 12 new members

Community Service Award:

Gerald Broussard, Chapter 3 in Aurora, CO

Newsletter Awards:

Small Chapter – Chapter 111 in Ohio
 Medium Chapter – Chapter 80 in San Antonio, TX
 Large Chapter – TIE
 Chapter 1 in Colorado Springs, CO &
 Chapter 39 in Aurora, CO

Website Awards:

Small Chapter – Chapter 111 in Ohio
 Medium Chapter – Chapter 80, San Antonio, TX
 Large Chapter – Chapter 1, Colorado Springs, CO

Spirit Award:

John May



*Lonny Barrett,
 Chapter 1, Colorado
 Springs accepting the
 Large Chapter Pres-
 ident of the award
 on behalf of Rey
 Garate.*



Michael Gales, Chapter 9, Baltimore receiving his award for Small Chapter President of the Year.



Paul Ott accepts the award for the 2016 large Chapter for Chapter 29 in South Dakota

Lonny Barret from Chapter 1 in Colorado Springs and CJ Johnson from Chapter 39 in Aurora both change to 'received the award for large chapter newsletter-

Stanley Meyers, from Chapter 80 in San Antonio accepts his Certificate of Appreciation



TREA President Adams acknowledges the 45 years of support and dedication from the National Auxiliary



TREA Headquarter staff receive recognition for their work and dedication. L-R: President Adams, Hazel Simeon, - Membership Coordinator, Misty Siggins - Admin Assistant, Candace Robinson - Admin Assistant, Debbie Osborne - Director for Operations



President Adams presents the TREA National Board members with a token of his appreciation for their support and dedication. pictured L-R - 1st Vice Ed Cates, 2nd Vice



Garry Turks, 3rd Vice Michael Davis, Treasurer Deborah Oelschig, Director Justin Jump, Director Aaron Reed, Director Philip Hilinski, Director Greg Barnett, Parliamentarian Charlie Flowers, VSO Michael Holzhauser, PNP Rick Delaney, TSCL Chair Arthur Cooper, Memorial Chair Butch Liebaert



President Adams presents Walter Higginbotham, from Chapter 80 in San Antonio, TX with the Medium Chapter of the Year Award.

Foundation for their 27 years of support of TREA and to veterans and their families in times of need L-R: President Adams, Memorial Chairman Butch Liebaert, Trustee Marie Smith, Treasurer Deb Oelschig, Trustee Willie Clark, Trustee Paul Ott and Trustee Lanny Eller



President Adams acknowledges the Memorial Foundation for their 27 years of support of TREA and to veterans and their families in times of need

L-R: President Adams, Memorial Chairman Butch Liebaert, Trustee Marie Smith, Treasurer Deb Oelschig, Trustee Willie Clark, Trustee Paul Ott and Trustee Lanny Eller

Any Franko, President of Chapter 111 in Ohio received his award for Chapter of the year from President Adams



Michael Holzhauser, from Chapter 29 in South Dakota, accepts his Award of Commendation.

Barry Rosow accepts the newsletter Award for Small Chapter for Chapter 111 in Ohio. President Adams presents John May with the Spirit Award



(Photo on right) President Adams present the LAO (Legislative Affairs Office) with a token of his appreciation L-R: President Adams, Deirdre Holliman – Executive Director of Legislative Affairs, Michael Saunders – Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, not pictured: Larry Madison – Director of Legislative Affairs

(Photo above middle) President Adams presents John May the TREA Spirit Award for his support and effort in helping TREA secure the NAUS en-listed members .



L-R: President Adams, TSCL Chairman Art Cooper, Vice Chair Rick Delaney, Trustee Michael Gales, Trustee Joe Kluck, Treasurer Deborah Oelschig, Past Chair Ed Cates



Walter Higginbotham received his award for Chapter President of the Year, Medium Chapter



AUXILIARY AWARD:

Auxiliary President Irmgard Cates and PNP Smith present Pauline Watkins with the Auxiliary Spirit Award

TSCL is recognized for their work and support of TREA and all seniors. Chairman Art Cooper, Vice Chair Rick Delaney, Trustee Michael Gales, Trustee Joe Kluck, Treasurer Deborah Oelschig, Oelschig and past chair Ed Cates

DALE BRISTOL - USAA

Dale Bristol, Chapter 39 was the recipient of the 2016 TREA Member of the Year award. In addition to being recognized at the 2017 Convention in Pittsburgh, Dale was treated to a very special award. USAA surprised Dale with two tickets to the Bronco's vs Cowboys football game in Denver.

Dale and a guest attending and had a great time – in spite of the weather delay.

If you ask Dale if it pays to be a volunteer – I bet he would say 'yes'.

A very special thank you to USAA for providing these tickets and for being such a great sponsor of TREA: The Enlisted Association.



SPECIAL AWARDS

The Marjorie Holt Award is a special award that is presented for distinguished government service and personal dedication to America's veterans, retirees of the US Armed Forces and to TREA: The Enlisted Association. Mr. Harold "MC" Moreland from Chapter 80 was the recipient of this award.

The Benjamin Pearson Award is presented to an outstanding member of TREA who has shown exemplary service to others. The winner of the 2016 Benjamin Pearson Award is Edward Valverde from Chapter 80.

The Founders Award for Distinguished Service is presented for distinguished service and extraordinary achievement as a TREA volunteer over a sustained period of time. It is an honor to present the 2016 recipient of this award to John Martinez from chapter 29

Member of the Year Award. This award is presented to a TREA member who has provided exceptionally meritorious service or achievement on behalf of TREA. The winner for 2016 is Dale Bristol from Chapter 39 in Aurora Colorado.

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– Janet F.

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If you were a Prince, how would you leave your mark on the world? If you are the son of one of the most philanthropic Princesses ever known, is it even harder to find your calling? Great Britain's Prince Harry found his calling and is using his platform to engage and inspire some of the greatest heroes in the world.

Prince Harry is the fifth in line and the youngest son of Prince Charles of Wales, and the late Diana, Princess of Wales. He is also a 10-year veteran of the British Army, having conducted two tours of duty to Afghanistan. He ended his operational duties in 2015, and remains committed to honoring the men and women who have served their countries.

As he was ending his time in the military, Prince Harry wondered specifically about those wounded as a result of their service and how we could honor them and not just give them sympathy. He found the answer when he attended the 2013 Warrior Games in the United States, where he saw the power of sport to unite, inspire, and motivate

INVICTUS' by William Ernest Henley

**Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.
In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.
Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.
It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll.
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.**

veterans. It was then and there that he resolved to kick off a global sporting event for veterans who are wounded or sick as a result of military duty and to help endow an organization that would support these activities into the future. This is how the Invictus Games Foundation was born.

The organization's leadership is made up of an impressive mix of individuals from mixed military, business, philanthropic, and sporting backgrounds and has proven its skill by successfully now having held 3 Invictus events in the past several years in premier cities around the world. Like the Paralympics, the sports are modified, but unlike those events, all participants are former service members from all around the world.

The first games were held in London in September of 2014. Opening ceremonies with over 5,000 people in attendance kicked off four days of competition for nine sports in five venues.

There were over 400 competitors from over 13 countries. Complete with military flyovers and displays of all kinds, these once unknown wounded heroes received accolades and attention not only for their service and sacrifice, but also for their athletic accomplishments off of the battlefields.

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Building on that success, the games moved to Orlando in 2016, to host more than 500 athletes this time from 14 countries and adding a diving challenge to the 10-sport schedule. Jaguar Land Rover was a presenting sponsor and once again thousands of friends, family, and fans gathered to cheer on these incredible heroes.

The games continued to grow as they were held in Toronto this past September. Now 8 days of competition, there were 550 competitors from 17 nations, adding Ukraine and Romania to the list. There are now 12 adaptive sports including: archery, athletics, indoor rowing, power lifting, road cycling, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair tennis and wheelchair rugby. And, new to the games this year, golf was added.

The Prince was pleased to announce that the 2018 Invictus Games will take place in Sydney in October of

that year, and they plan to continue to grow the competition in terms of participants and sports. The Foundation is working hard to ensure the continued success of the events and is confident now that they have built something with a lasting and meaningful legacy.

Prince Harry, in speaking about the games said, “These games have shone a spotlight on the ‘unconquerable’ character of service men and women and their families and their ‘Invictus’ spirit. These games have been about seeing guys sprinting to the finish line and then turning round to clap the last man in. They have been about teammates choosing to cross the line together, not wanting to come in second, but not wanting the other guys to either. These games have shown the very best of the human spirit.”

For more information, you can visit www.Invictus-GamesFoundation.org



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IN HARVEY'S AFTERMATH, EXCHANGE SERVES TROOPS HELPING WITH RELIEF EFFORTS



Supporting the military in emergencies like Hurricane Harvey is critical to the Exchange's relevancy. Above, a mobile field exchanges (MFE) serves 2,000 Texas National Guard members at Camp Swift in Bastrop, Texas, while another MFE is being prepared to deploy to Hempstead, Texas, for recovery and relief efforts

Since Harvey made landfall, the Exchange has been helping in many ways:



CAMP MABRY - Ten pallets of bottled water were delivered to Austin's Camp Mabry Exchange to support 1,700 evacuees from Houston. The Exchange adjusted Sunday store hours for evacuees.



WACO DC - The Exchange's Distribution Center in Waco, Texas, stocked up on water to prepare for relief efforts



LACKLAND AFB - Lackland AFB's Exchange, food court and theater in San Antonio opened during the height of Hurricane Harvey for the newest Air Force graduates who were restricted to base due to the storm.



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ACTIVE DUTY, MILITARY RETIREES, VETERANS, MILITARY SPOUSES AND FAMILIES – TREA FIGHTS FOR ALL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

By Larry Madison, TREA National Legislative Director

In the last few weeks TREA was contacted by staff members from Senator John Tester's office. Tester is the Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

We were asked for TREA's support for legislation Tester introduced that would give currently serving personnel the full pay raise authorized by law.

The President proposed a 2.1 percent pay raise for active duty service members. That was also the amount that was in the Senate Armed Services Committee's version of the fy2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for service members. But it was 0.3 percentage points below the Employment Cost Index (ECI) for private sector wages, which is the formula for military pay increases that, according to law, is supposed to be used in determining the amount of the pay raise.

Tester's legislation was an amendment to the fy18 NDAA that would require a pay increase equal to, or greater than, than the ECI. We, of course, said we support the legislation.

In addition, the Senator's staff member asked if we would help them get support from other military and veterans' associations that are members of The Military Coalition (TMC), of which TREA is one of the leading members. We said, "absolutely."

Unfortunately, Senator Tester's amendment was not accepted by the full Senate so the NDAA passed by the Senate sticks with the 2.1% pay raise while the House NDAA contains a 2.3% raise. As this is written, TREA is lobbying for the full 2.3% raise.

Senator Tester has also contacted us about supporting new legislation he is introducing to increase and extend the dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving dependents of deceased military members and veterans in order to make it fairer. TREA supports the senator's bill and that legislation is still pending in the Senate.

Another issue we are working on is to protect the rights of Active Duty personnel and members of the Guard and Reserve.

There is a law known as SCRA – Service members' Civil Relief Act. This law provides certain protections from civil actions against service members who are called to Active Duty. It restricts or limits actions against these personnel in the areas of financial management, such as rental agreements, security deposits, evictions, installment contracts, credit card interest rates, mortgages, civil judicial proceedings, income tax payments, and more.

However, more and more, forced arbitration clauses are buried in the fine print of nonnegotiable financial agreements utilized by most major banks; they are not utilized by community banks or credit unions. These clauses apply to everything from credit cards and checking accounts to prepaid cards and payday loans, effecting tens of millions of consumers. With the use of forced arbitration, banks block lawsuits, including all class actions, from proceeding in court. Because forced arbitration is private, there is no public record, no meaningful appellate process, and no requirement that arbitrators enforce state and federal laws.

Forced arbitration is routinely used by major banks and in effect, it strips servicemembers of their rights under federal law, actively circumventing protections enacted to ensure servicemembers financial well-being while on active duty. This issue was first recognized by the Department of Defense in 2006, which concluded that *"Service members should maintain full legal recourse against unscrupulous lenders. Loan contracts to Service members should not include mandatory arbitration clauses*

or onerous notice provisions, and should not require the Service member to waive his or her right of recourse, such as the right to participate in a plaintiff class. Waiver isn't a matter of 'choice' in take-it-or-leave-it contracts of adhesion."

This situation has come before the federal Consumer Financial Protection Board (CFPB) and the board ruled in favor of DoD's 2006 recommendations for servicemembers and the need to ensure their ability to enforce their rights under federal law.

THE FINAL RULE DOES TWO SIMPLE THINGS:

- 1.** Restores targeted, private enforcement power to Americans against law-breaking banks, eliminating the need for industry-wide government regulations and burdensome compliance costs.
 - 2.** Maintains the right of banks to force individuals into arbitration, but for the first time imposes new transparency requirements on arbitrations to better inform the banking public.
- The final rule will codify Senator Lindsey Graham's Servicemember Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Rights Protection Act.

However, there is a bill in Congress to overturn the CFPB's ruling. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives passed the bill. The action now turns to the Senate where we are making every effort to convince senators to uphold the CFPB ruling.

TREA has been helping to coordinate efforts within The Military Coalition to rally the opposition of over 30 military and veterans associations to oppose the legislation.

You should also know that everyone in the nation is covered by these forced arbitration clauses in the same way that servicemembers are when they enter into many, if not most, financial arrangements. However, there is no law that is supposed to exempt them from the terms of forced arbitration.

By the time you read this we will know how the vote went in the Senate.

TREA WORKS ON TAX ISSUES FOR VETERANS, GUARD AND RESERVE, MILITARY FAMILIES

Michael Saunders, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs

TREA: The Enlisted Association has been working on expanding and making permanent the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to help unemployed veterans, military spouses and members of the Guard and Reserve be more competitive in the labor market.

Deputy Legislative Director Mike Saunders has spearheaded this effort in an attempt to make the WOTC permanent. Currently, the WOTC sunsets after a few years. It is currently expected to expire in 2021. It is important to make the tax credits permanent so that employers can make long-term plans around hiring veterans. Predictability is crucial when it comes to making long-term business plans. TREA has joined

with a group called the WOTC Coalition, a group of corporations that wish to make sure the employment-related tax credit programs continue into the future and aren't subject to future budget showdowns.

TREA also wants to amend the law so that military spouses, who often suffer from chronic under-employment compared to their education levels (due to constant changes of duty station) and members of the Guard and Reserve (who have unemployment rates that are multiples of their civilian counterparts). Strengthening military families and the Operational Reserve force are two long-standing goals of TREA, as well as The Military Coalition (TMC). Mr. Saunders is the co-chair of TMC's Tax and Social Security Committee.

TREA WORKS ON TAX ISSUES FOR VETERANS, GUARD AND RESERVE, MILITARY FAMILIES (CONT)

In addition to the WOTC, TREA is pushing HR 1317 and S 492. These identical bills, sponsored by Congressman Sam Johnson (R-TX) in the House and Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) in the Senate would lift the cap on TSP contributions for members of the Guard and Reserve. Under current law, if a Guardsman or Reservist maxes out their employer-provided TSP plan, they would not be able to contribute to their military retirement. This would blunt the intent of the new blended retirement system and the service-member would be harmed in the long run.

While it is true that mainly cyber-security professionals, doctors, lawyers and pilots would be able to benefit from this change, if we don't get it through Congress this year it could negatively affect retention in these critical skill occupations and make the Guard & Reserve less effective organizations.

More work remains: if you want to help, please call your congressional representatives (especially in the Senate, as we only have two cosponsors on that side) and let them know that HR 1317 in the House and S 492 in the Senate need to be passed this year.

HERE'S WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THE "FOREV- ER" GI BILL

Submitted by the Legislative Affairs Committee, Director Reed



1. There is no longer an expiration date. Previously, veterans had to use their Post-9/11 GI Bill within 15 years of their last 90-day period of active-duty service. That requirement is going away.

This portion of the law will apply to anyone who left the military after January 1, 2013. It will also apply to spouses who are receiving education benefits through the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship for family members of service members who were killed in the line of duty since Sept. 10, 2001.

2. Purple Heart recipients will be eligible for 100 percent of the Post 9/11 GI Bill regardless of how much time they spent in a combat zone on or after Sept. 11. This includes coverage of tuition costs at a public school's in-state rate for 36 months and stipends for textbooks and housing.

Previously, Purple Heart recipients were beholden to the same time-in-service qualifications for the GI Bill as other service members. This meant that Purple Heart recipients without a service-connected disability who did not reach 36 months of service were only eligible for a percentage of the benefits and not the full amount.

An estimated 660 Purple Heart recipients each year over the next 10 years will be able to take advantage of the increased benefits. This provision will go into effect in August 2018.

3. More people are eligible for Yellow Ribbon, a voluntary agreement between schools and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to split school costs not covered by the GI Bill, reducing or eliminating the amount students must pay themselves.

The Forever GI Bill will expand eligibility for this program to surviving spouses or children of service members in August 2018 and active-duty service members in August 2022. Previously, only veterans eligible for GI Bill benefits at the 100 percent level or their dependents using transferred benefits were eligible for Yellow Ribbon.

4. Veterans going to school for STEM degrees (college degrees in science, technology, engineering and math fields) are now authorized an additional school year of GI Bill funds on a first-come, first-serve basis. Scholarships of up to \$30,000 will be available for eligible GI Bill users starting in August 2018. Only veterans or surviving family members of deceased service members are eligible for this scholarship — not dependents using transferred benefits.

5. Vets hurt by school shutdowns will get benefits back; a provision in the new GI Bill will restore benefits to victims of school closures. This applies to GI Bill users whose schools have abruptly closed since January

2015, for credits earned at the shuttered institutions that did not transfer to new schools. This will include the thousands of veteran students who were attending the national for-profit chains Corinthian Colleges and ITT Technical Institute when they closed in 2015 and 2016, respectively. It would also provide a semester's worth of reimbursement for GI Bill users affected by future school closures, as well as up to four months of a housing stipend so veterans don't end up homeless if their school suddenly shuts down and they lost their GI Bill housing allowance.

6. Starting August 2020, this bill changes the way the VA uses time in service to calculate eligibility. Previously, service members with at least 90 days but less than six months of active-duty service would be eligible for up to 40 percent of the full GI Bill benefits. Under new regulations, the same 90-days-to-six-month window is equal to 50 percent of benefits. Service members with at least six months and less than 18 months of service will be eligible for 60 percent of benefits. This change will tend to benefit reservists more due to the nature of their service.

7. Starting in August of 2018, members of the National Guard and Reserve will be able to count time spent receiving medical care or recovering from injuries received while on active duty toward their GI Bill eligibility. This will apply to all who have been activated since 9/11.

The Forever GI Bill also allows individuals who lost their Reserve Educational Assistance Program when the program ended in 2015 to credit their previous service toward their eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

8. This is how it is all being paid for: TREA: The Enlisted Association is very, very wary of allowing Congress to think that we will support cutting veterans' benefits to fund new veterans' benefits. However, this cut makes the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit equal to what the active duty is currently receiving, so it was very hard to argue against.

The "Forever" GI Bill is paid for by a 1 percent decrease in housing stipends over the next five years. This will bring veterans' housing stipends on par with what active-duty service members receive at the E-5 with dependents rate. (Veterans on the GI Bill currently receive

a slightly higher housing allowance rate than active-duty E-5s with dependents.) This change will take effect on Jan. 1, 2018 and will only apply to service members who enroll in GI Bill benefits after that date. No one currently receiving a housing stipend from the VA will see a reduction in benefits.

Starting in August 2018, housing stipends previously calculated based on the ZIP code of a student's school will be based on where a student takes the most classes. Also beginning in August 2018, reservists will continue to receive their monthly housing allowance under the GI Bill on a prorated rate for any month during which they are activated, preventing them from losing a whole month's worth of funds.

9. The new GI Bill offers more flexibility with the transfer and distribution of benefits in case of death. If a dependent who received transferred benefits dies before using all of the benefits, this provision gives the service member or veteran the ability to transfer remaining benefits to another dependent. This will go into effect August 2018 and apply to all deaths since 2009.

This provision also gives dependents of deceased service members the ability to make changes to their deceased loved one's transferred benefits. Currently, only a service member has the authority to make changes to the benefits they would like to transfer. If a service member dies after transferring 35 months of benefits to one child and one month of benefits to another, for example, currently the family would not be able to make future changes to the GI Bill's distribution among that service member's dependents. This new legislation changes that.

10. Surviving spouses and children of service members who are receiving benefits through the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program will see their monthly education stipend increase by \$200. However, the same program previously provided 45 months of education benefits - that will decrease to 36 months in August 2018 to bring it in line with the provisions of the GI Bill.

11. Finally, individuals who certify veteran student enrollment at schools with more than 20 veteran students will be required to undergo training. Previously, training was not mandatory.

VA APPEALS MODERNIZATION

*Submitted by Legislative Affairs
Committee, Director Reed*



Last month President Trump signed into law the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 to

fix the clogged process for deciding appeals of veterans' disability claims.

It creates a new "three-lane" option for appealing claims which should make for a faster appeal decision process. The entire point of the legislation is to cut into a rising backlog of appeals, which is nearing 500,000 and takes an average of three years; some veterans currently have to wait six years. One veteran was in the news for having to wait a decade for a decision on appeal.

Some critics argue that the legislation weakens the "duty-to-assist" obligations of the VA too much during the appeals process. Veteran Service Organizations allowed that to happen so that the "effective date" of a claim would be preserved if the veteran introduced new evidence to a claim at any point during the appeals process.

Before this new law passed, the Department of Veterans' Affairs had a "duty to assist" the veteran in compiling that new evidence, whether it was seeking files from other government agencies (usually the Department of Defense), private doctors or hospitals.

Now the effective date of the claim is preserved, as long as something is submitted within the one year following the initial claims decision point.

Here are the "three lanes" created by the new law:

Lane one is Local Higher-Level of Review - Veterans can request that a more experienced claims adjudicator review the same evidence considered by the original claims processor. The idea is to ensure that it was properly decided.

Lane two is the New Evidence lane: allows a veteran who has new evidence to support the claim to ask the Veterans Benefits Administration to reconsider the merits of the original claim based on that new information.

Lane Three is a formal appeal: where jurisdiction for review transfers to the Board of Veterans Appeals. The veteran at this stage also can seek a hearing before a judge to review the case and that could include new evidence.

The new law limits the times that you can submit additional evidence, but it doesn't cut it out, while protecting the effective date of the claim if it's granted.

The duty-to-assist obligation on VA won't apply during initial lanes of appeal but will be there when a veteran can file an appeal within a year based on new evidence, and also during the formal appeal lane if a hearing before a judge is requested rather than a Board of Appeals review.

An important provision of the new law mandates that VA improve original claim decision notices so they more clearly inform veterans of the reasoning behind VA decisions. This should help veterans determine whether to file an appeal and the best lane for them. It also should reduce unnecessary appeals.

There are more details to come on exactly when veterans who currently have claims pending can switch over to the new system. Stay tuned.

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NOTE FROM THE MEMORIAL CHAIR

By Butch Liebaert, Memorial Foundation Chair

The 2017 National Convention is now behind us and the Memorial Foundation is excited to announce its' new Board of Trustees.

- Financial/benevolent assistance
- Food Cards and Personal Need Cards
(two different programs, chaired by the same committee)
- Scholarship
- Disaster Relief
- William B and Alice M DeBoer Betterment Program

Lanny Eller, Paul Ott and Marie Smith are returning trustees while Doug Kasel and Bill Neurauter are new to the board.

The Trustees are in place and ready to get busy with their respective committees, what they are missing is YOU!

They need you to volunteer to be on a committee. There are several committees to choose from:

There is a lot of good work being done by the Foundation and the committees, but they can't do it alone. Each committee needs volunteers.

If you are interested in helping out on one of these committees, send an e-mail to memorialhq@memfdn.org. We are looking forward to another great year of supporting and helping veterans in need.

LETTER FROM THE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

As you all know, we have been hit with several natural disasters over the last couple of weeks. The Foundation wants to let you know that we are here to help any Veteran in need. We are sending out emails to all TREA members, etc. that may need help. If you know of anyone who needs the Foundations' help, have them contact us at TREA Headquarters.

The new Memorial Board has already voted to donate \$50,000 to Team Rubicon to provide rebuilding assistance to those affected by the storms. We are dedicated to providing the much needed assistance to Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

The Foundation is actively looking into ways that we can help the children of those veterans/active duty soldiers by providing school supplies (backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils) and also to provide funding for libraries to rebuild after the floods.

We want to reiterate that we are here to help, sometimes, it takes time to get things going, but we want every veteran and active duty soldier out there to know that they can come to us for help.

I know the timing may be off, but in addition to providing financial assistance to the victims of these disasters, the Foundation is gearing up for the 2nd annual Holiday Program. Last year the Foundation adopted 133 families across the country, providing food cards and gifts. We let them know with handwritten cards that they are not alone – that we are here and that we care. This year, due to the disasters, there will no doubt be more families that will be looking for help to provide for their families. If you are interested in being a part of this program, please contact TREA Headquarters at 800-338-9337 or e-mail; memorialhq@memfdn.org. You can help us help others.



LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

By Irmgard Cates, National Auxiliary President



First of all, I trust that everyone had a safe trip home from Pittsburg. My heart goes out to the members who were hit by the Hurricanes and I hope no one was hurt or had too much property damage.

I am happy to report that we finally got the standing rule passed so we are in line with TREA National in regards to our terms of office and election cycles. This means that the President and the Vice President will have 2 year terms, so we will have an election every two years instead of every year. This way the TREA President and the Auxiliary President can start out together.

Thank you all for trusting me with another year of President. I would like to welcome Josephine McAfee as a 1 year Director to the BOD. I want to thank Betty Love for her service on the BOD for the past three years.

TREA voted that the convention will be every other year in Denver. This action will help reduce the costs of convention overhead. In 2018 we are going to Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, then in 2019 we will be in the Denver area, and in 2020 the convention will be in San Diego, CA.

Despite the high costs associated with the San Diego, members voted for San Diego. Definitely recommend starting to save for that Convention. San Diego is a great Convention town with lots to see and do so start planning and saving now. One request, please think about running for a position on the BOD. We really need you!

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)

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We all need to have an attitude of gratitude. Sharing what we have with others will not only make you feel good, but will help someone too. When you give, be as generous as possible. What you give will be returned many fold.

*(Author Unknown) --
 National Auxiliary Chaplain Alice De Boer*

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Do you remember that 10 cents a month, now 50 cents a month that was deducted from your paycheck for something called the Old Soldiers Home? You were helping to provide them a place to live where, depending on their age, a place to live the remainder of their life in comfort. You were also helping to maintain the Trust Fund that served them and now the present residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

You know what that deduction is for, but do you know who is eligible to enter the Armed Forces Retirement Home? To live and enjoy life to the fullest, for as long as possible?

Did you serve in Enlisted, Warrant Officers or Limited Duty Officers status with honorable service? Was half or less or your service in active commissioned service status? Are you or did you:

- Retired over 60 with 20 or more years of active service?
- Serve in a war declared by Congress or were eligible for hostile fire pay and discharged or released under honorable service?
- A person the Chief Operating Officer determines incapable of earning a living because of service-connected injury incurred in the line of duty?
- Serve in a women's component of the Armed Forces before June 12, 1948 and determined by the Chief Operating Officer to be eligible for admission because of compelling personal circumstances?

Are you in good physical and mental health and able to live independently? Care for your personal needs, eat your meals in a dining facility and keep all of your medical appointments? The fee for independent living is 40% of your total income and capped at \$1,429/month as of 2017.

Then you are eligible to live in the Armed Forces Retirement Home either in Washington, D.C. or in Gulfport, Mississippi. Applications are being accepted for both locations. There are openings in Washington and a waiting list for Gulfport – but you can apply for both, then live in Washington until there is an opening in Gulfport. For further information or to request an application, visit: <https://www.afrh.gov/apply> or contact the Office of Public Affairs at: admissions@afrah.gov 1-800-422-9988.

AVOID THESE 4 RETIREMENT PLANNING SLIP-UPS

by *CraigZabojnikUSAA*

Content provided courtesy of USAA.

Headline-grabbing reports can make even the most financially secure nervous.

As markets rise and fall faster than a scream-inducing roller coaster, you may be tempted to make major changes to your 401(k), IRA or other retirement accounts.

But USAA professionals say you shouldn't let fear drive you to make these four common mistakes:

Obsessing about your portfolio. "Sure, it's OK to stay informed about the market and your holdings, but remember, each new headline doesn't warrant a portfolio adjustment," says JJ Montanaro, a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional with USAA. Once a year, maybe on your birthday, review your investment portfolio. Tune out the noise and focus on long-term results.

- **Playing it too safe.** Dumping stocks and placing all your retirement savings into more conservative investments is tempting, especially as retirement approaches. But over the long haul, stocks have been an effective hedge against inflation, says Robert Steen, director of retirement and complex financial planning advice for USAA. "To reap rewards, you have to take some risks. Right now, interest rates are so low, money isn't working for you if it's in a savings account or CD." If you find keeping track of your portfolio too stressful, look into target-date retirement funds. These spread your money across stocks, bonds and other investments based on how long you have until retirement. The mix becomes more conservative as that date approaches.

- **Stopping 401(k) contributions.** If your employer matches any part of your contribution, put in at least enough to get the maximum match. Otherwise, you're turning down free money. So, if you've been allocating 15% of your salary but your employer only matches 6%, perhaps downshift to the lower amount and put the extra funds into an emergency fund.

- **Pulling money out of your retirement funds.** Even if you find yourself in a financial crisis, this is not the time for a knee-jerk reaction. Tapping into your 401(k) or IRA should be your last resort. That kind of withdrawal could come with an immediate tax hit or a stiff financial penalty. "Don't use your retirement fund as a piggy bank," Steen says. "Look at other alternatives first. If your retirement account is your only alternative, consider taking a loan from it, but pay it back ASAP."

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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**

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CRUISES ONLY SAVINGS

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



CROSS COUNTRY HOME WARRANTY TOTALPROTECT ENHANCED HOME WARRANTY AND SERVICE PLAN

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



TRANSAMERICA ACCIDENTAL DEATH PROGRAM

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



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



A year to date (July 2016 to 2017), Chapter 16 has utilized the Salina Senior Center Board Room for the monthly membership meetings, Leslie Eikleberry (right) Executive Director Commission on Aging, Salina Senior Center receives the following items from Chapter President Richard Trow

(left): Special Plaque, USA and Kansas flags, Certificate of Appreciation and a monetary donation. The gifts were given for the excellent service provided by the Senior Center employees to Chapter 16.

JULY 14TH CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Great Speaker Lane Mangle Detective for the Salina Police Department talks about telephone, Internet scams and ATM machine insecurities.



President Richard Trow presents to Detective L. Mangels a Chapter Certificate of Appreciation.

CHAPTER 72 Pittsburgh, PA

Chapter 72 loaded 8 pallets of hygiene kits, blankets, clothing and baby products for shipment to victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas. All the items were donated by Operation Troop Appreciation which is a troop and veteran support organization in Pittsburgh.

Operation Troop Appreciation is a 100% volunteer organization whose mission is to build and sustain the morale and well-being of the military community, past and present. They focus on the individuals who have put their lives on the line to answer our country's call of duty. Last year, they helped more than 150,000 deployed troops and veterans in need.

Former President Mike Allen of Chapter 72 in Pittsburgh participating in an outing of hospitalized veterans from the VA hospitals & Nursing facility. This daylong event included a picnic and fishing at a local park for veterans from the Southwestern Veterans Nursing Facility and VA Hospital.

The outing gives hospitalized veterans the opportunity to enjoy the fresh air and talk to other veterans about their military experiences.

Pride Runs Deep



CHAPTER 74 TACOMA, WA

In the month of May 2017 - Memorial Day 29 May, the chapter took part in the Annual Pierce County Veterans Advisory Council and Mountain View Memorial Park Official 2017 Joint Services Memorial Day Ceremony. (Pictured, l-r, are the Flag Bearers: President CC Cameron and 2 Yr Director Jessie Trotter).

Also in the month of May, President Cameron, 2nd VP Susie Coulter and Sgt-at-Arms Bob Finch presented TREA's JROTC Award of Merit to Cadets at three (3) different High Schools in the Tacoma, WA.. (no pics)

In the month of June 2017, from noon 24 June to noon 28 June, the chapter had a Fund Raiser at the SEATAC Rest Area on Interstate-5 in Federal Way, WA (just north of the Pierce County Line). Members



handed out coffee, tea, water and other refreshments to help the traveling public and working truckers stay alert behind the wheel.

(Pictured, l-r, is Alice "Grandma" Richard who is the widow of the late Bob Richard who was a long time member of the chapter and Secretary Debby Ramirez)

On 19 August 2017 Chapter 74 celebrated its 24th Anniversary by having a Cookout/BBQ at Joint Base Lewis-Mc-

Chord, on McChord Field. Some longtime members always find a way to hang on to the last minute and there was no exception this year. The long-time members know how to chit-chat and find a doggie bag or two to take something for the road.

One long-time member (Marlin White standing 3rd from left in back) had not attended a meeting or Cookout/BBQ in double digits years. Marlin set his own record. The chapter is always proud of each and everyone who takes part in the activities.

Emmy Trotter (Willie's spouse) took the photo.



CHAPTER 76 HAS BEEN BUSY

Chapter 76 held their annual Family dinner meeting on Saturday 09-23-17. It was enjoyed by all.



Members worked hard at the Annual Scholarship Fundraiser. Scholarship winners attended as guest.



TREA 110

Pictured is new TREA Chapter 110 after changing their building sign; the club itself is still known as The Western Reserve Chapter. The member on the right is Tarry Tackett, club manager sporting his Ohio proud hat; pictured on the left is TREA-111 Member Marvin Barner from The Buckeye Chapter. Chapter-110 usually holds its Chapter Meetings at the beginning of the month. TREA-110 is hoping to send 2 members to this year's TREA Convention in Pittsburgh.



CHAPTER 80

The third quarter has come to an end. It was a busy one for Chapter 80 and its Auxiliary. The Chapter participated and presented a wreath at the Patriot's Day ceremony at the San Antonio National Cemetery. In between the ceremony and the National convention we had guest speakers at the monthly meetings. Two days before departing for Pittsburgh, Hurricane Harvey hit the Rockport, Texas area causing massive damage to almost everything in its path from there to the Louisiana border. San Antonio was spared and became a refugee city for several thousand. The Chapter and Auxiliary immediately donated 400 dollars to the San Antonio Food Bank to assist in providing meals for refugees. On a positive note while driving through Oklahoma City on the way back

from Pittsburgh Chapter President Walter (Don) Higginbotham and Juanita stopped and met an Oklahoma National Guard member who after being informed about TREA joined. Upon her return to her unit, she convinced two of her fellow guardsmen to join. That made the final 400 miles of the return to San Antonio very pleasant.



Two new recruits!

On the way home from the 2017 National Convention, Chapter 80 President, Walter Higginbotham met Oklahoma National Guard member Jamie M. Bacon (far right in photo). He signed her up and then she in turn recruited Shalawnda G. Wickable (far left in photo) & Sheryl D. Truelove (middle)



*San Antonio National Cemetery – July 4th, 2017
Don Higginbotham & Raul Juarez*



*Raul Juarez, Juanita Higginbotham w/
Patriot Day actors*



*San Antonio National Cemetery
Don Higginbotham, Larry Foster, Juanita, Annette, Jacob
& Luke Richardson with Patriotic Day Guest Speaker,
San Antonio Postmaster General, Robert Carr.*

CHAPTER 80 (CONT.)



Larry Foster present the Guest speaker for June a coin set



July 26, 2017 - Chapter 80 donated more than \$400 of personal care items to the Haven for Hope Homeless Shelter. (l-R) Don & Juanita Higginbotham, Staff Member 'DJ' Jackson, Elaine & HC Moreland



July Guest Speaker Don Higginbotham presented Marie C. Senter a Certificate of Appreciation. Marie talked about her experience while a career nurse in the VA hospital system.

26 AUGUST 2017 “COFFEE WITH A COP”

(LOCAL TREA PRESIDENT WITH MEMBERS OF THE
CLARKSVILLE, TN, POLICE DEPARTMENT)
(I.E., THE PEOPLE IDENTIFIED ARE POSITIONED FROM
THE LEFT SIDE TO THE RIGHT SIDE IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS)

On 26 August 2017, TREA Chapter 101 (Screaming Eagles) President, Russell Cain, participated at the Clarksville, TN, Police Department’s “Coffee with a Cop” event. The “Coffee with a Cop” activities promote a better understanding between citizens and police through education. It also gives local citizens the opportunity not only to learn about the Police Department functions, but also gives participants a chance to learn about specific subjects such as local and Tennessee Traffic Laws, 911 calls, the local police Explorer Program, the Clarksville Citizen Police Academy Alumni (Clarksville CPAA), and more.



Sergeant Eric Ewing, Sergeant Fontella Jones, Sergeant Natalie Hall, the Sergeant with his hand on Russell Cain’s shoulder is Sergeant Dave Bramel, wearing a white TREA shirt and blue jeans is Russell Cain (Chapter 101 President), and the Patrolman is Jay Skidmore.



The only standing Patrolman is Jay Skidmore. Seated at the table: Sergeant Ben Blackmon, unidentified female, wearing a white TREA shirt is Russell Cain (Chapter 101 President), and the Patrolman is Jack Hemmingsen. The bearded individual that is standing and wearing a blue shirt and blue jeans is Mr. Lee Monhollen.



The standing Patrolmen are Jack Hemmingsen, Jay Skidmore, and Coz Minetos. Seated at the table: Wearing a white TREA shirt is Russell Cain (Chapter 101 President), Mrs. Lori Mason, and Mr. Lee Monhollen. The female police Sergeant that is showed seated alone at a table is Sergeant Natalie Hall. The bearded individual that is standing and wearing a cap and a red shirt is David Pallon.

Note: All of the above mentioned photographs were provided by Jim Knoll, the Clarksville’s Police Department’s Public Information Officer.

TREA 109



Pictured is the official TREA Charter Presentation to new TREA Chapter 109 at their club on May 20th, 2017 in Warren, Ohio. The Chapter is known as the Warren G Harding Chapter after the 29th President. Pictured is TREA BOD Member Phil Hilinski (light blue shirt in middle) making the presentation to Club Manager Herb Lawson (R of Phil). Also assisting with the presentation is TREA-111 Chapter Member Marvin Barner (R of Herb). The 4 members to the left are Chapter Board of Directors.

TREA 111

Chapter 111 increased its fundraisers/recruiting participation at 2 events last June, another 2 events for July and a weeklong county fair coming up in August for a total of 5. It was great to have more than enough volunteers at several of these events. Thanks to Andy Franko (not pictured), John Cochran, Ron Barrett and Bob Valentine for their coordination efforts. In addition, TREA 111 uses all of its fundraisers as recruiting opportunities.



CHAPTER 119

The Wall that heals came to Superior, WI from Thursday, July 20th to Sunday, July 23rd. Chapter 119 members volunteered to help out at the wall by helping family, friends, etc. find names on the wall. Pictured at the wall after working are left to right, Larry Lockett, Jim Potthier, Jim Korkolo, Chuck Tenlen, Terry Maki, Karl Moe, Cody Liberty (Butch's grandson) Gerry Stark, Butch Liberty and Gary Foix.



On Saturday, August 5th, Chapter 119 volunteered for a fundraiser at Oliver, WI for the "Douglas County Veteran's Office Soldiers and Sailors Relief Fund" which help Veterans in needing help in Douglas County. Members who helped that day are: Chuck Tenlen, Karl Moe, Gary Foix, Larry Lockett, Jim Korkolo, Terry Maki and Jim Potthier. Proceeds went to the Douglas County Veterans Service Office.

Chapter 119 held its Annual Picnic on Sunday, August 6th. Pictured are some of the members having lunch. Smoked Polish, Hamburgers, Potato Salad, etc were on the menu for the day. It was a beautiful day just to relax and enjoy each other's company.

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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

CONVENTION COMMITTEE UPDATE BY PRESIDENT JOHN I. ADAMS



With the Pittsburgh, PA Convention over, where there was a lot of work accomplished we are on track planning for Ft. Walton Beach FL. on to Fort Walton Beach, FL.

The Convention Committee will be travelling to Fort Walton Beach at the end of January to make the final preparations. This includes coordinating the various times for our events, rooms, IT support, meals, etc.

We will be contacting the Convention and Business Bureau to get additional information on things around the area. We will see about transportation for members to see other things in the area. They might be able to provide transportation from the hotel to the airport on the day when most of the delegates are leaving

The two hotels that the DfO and I visited, in June, do not have shuttle service.

The dates again are 18 – 21 September 2018.

The Opening Ceremony will be on Tuesday Night, September 18th, the business meetings will be the 19th and the 20th. The Installation Banquet will be Friday night, September 21st.

One event being planned for the people who are staying after the 21st is a deep-sea fishing trip on the 21st with a fresh fish cookout at the hotel that night.

The room rates at the Ramada Beach Plaza are:

- Parking Lot: \$109.00++ a night
- Garden View: \$119.00++ a night
- Pool Side: \$129.00++ a night
- Gulf View: \$159.00++ a night

A few additional things. One, the parking is free. Second, the hotel has a quiet time from 2200 to 0800. There are people leaving early, but the pools are not used during that that time and the music at the beach bar stops at 2200.

Here are some of the things the committee does when they plan the convention. We not only have a discussion with the selected hotel staff, but we look at the various meetings rooms, the different guest rooms, the grounds, and other things that the delegates may want to see and/or do.

I mentioned in a previous article what is accomplished when the President and the DfO go on the initial pre-hotel selection trip June. We visit and talk to the staff of the hotel(s) that can meet our needs, we negotiate the lowest cost, while providing the necessary amenities. We also check out other options, such as convention centers. We also meet with the Convention and Visitor Bureau staff to request their support for our event. They are a great resource for assisting us in the local activities that can be offered to our members, usually at a discount.

In both meetings there is a lot of walking and riding.

We will have additional updates in the Winter Edition.

John I. Adams

TREA National President

2018 - FT. WALTON BEACH, FL!



**IT'S NEVER
TOO EARLY TO
GET EXCITED!!**



**Check our website (www.trea.org)
for up to date information on this
upcoming convention**



Cecil Abbott, USAF
Member at Large
Illinois

Carmel Atencio, USMC
Chapter 20
Colorado

Herbert Barefoot, USAF
Member at Large
Tennessee

Charles Blain, USAF
Member at Large
Louisiana

Joseph Bodek, USAF
Member at Large
Florida

Leonard Bohlke, USAF
Member at Large
California

Frederick Borath, US Army
Member at Large
New York

George Botelho, USAF
Member at Large
Massachusetts

Clifford Bowlin
Chapter 1
Colorado

James Bradford, US Army
Chapter 1
Colorado

Wilbur Bready
Chapter 58
Florida

Gary Brower, USAF
Chapter 1
Colorado

Claude Brown, USAF
Member at Large
Colorado

Truman Brown, USAF
Member at Large
Idaho

Theodore Bullard, US Army
Chapter 1
Colorado

Charles Buhrmaster, US Navy
Member at Large
Nevada

Herman Church, USAF
Member at Large
Virginia

Edward Craven, US Navy
Member at Large
Connecticut

Francis Daniel
Member at Large
Tennessee

Barton Darling Jr, USAF
Member at Large
Colorado

Robert Deal, USAF
Member at Large
Washington

Dwight Deboer, USAF
Member at Large
Florida

Raphael Donoghue, USAF
Member at Large
California

Loxie Dowdy, USAF
Chapter 39
Colorado

John Dowling, USAR
Member at Large
Pennsylvania

Leo Drabek, USAF
Member at Large
Michigan

Leon Dugue, USAF
Member at Large
California

George Dunlop, USAF
Member at Large
Nebraska

Joseph Eberle, USAF
Member at Large
Illinois

Davis Eaddy, US Navy
Member at Large
South Carolina

Robert Elkins
Member at Large
Florida

Laurent Emond, USAF
Member at Large
Florida

Omer Entel, USAF
Member at Large
Washington

Jesse Faustino, US Navy
Member at Large
California

Daniel Flynn, USMC
Chapter 90
Illinois

Philip France, USAF
Member at Large
Texas

John Gafford, USAF
Chapter 101
Tennessee

John Gagin, USAF
Member at Large
South Carolina

Francis Garren, US Army
Member at Large
California

Jimmie M Gathagan, USAF
Chapter 58
Florida

James Geary, US Army
Member at Large
Kansas

Anthony Genardo, USNG
Member at Large
New York

Winston Germann
Member at Large
Arkansas

John Gretka
Member at Large
Michigan

Donald Hodrige, US Army
Chapter 1
Colorado

Robert Irwin, USAF
Member at Large
Massachusetts

Darrell Godfrey, US Army
Member at Large
Oklahoma

Forrest Haney, USAF
Member at Large
Texas

Roy B Hays, USAF
Member at Large
Illinois

Arthur Johnson, US Navy
Member at Large
Missouri



Theodore Johnson, USNG National
Chapter 119
Minnesota

Thomas Johnson, US AR
Member at Large
Kentucky

Harold Kardell, USAF
Member at Large
Oregon

Donald Larson, USAF
Member at Large
North Carolina

Keith Lemley, USAF
Member at Large
Louisiana

Carl Liberty, USAF
Member at Large
Texas

Marvin Manley, USAF
Member at Large
Arizona

James Maultsby, USAF
Chapter 3
Colorado

James May, USAF
Member at Large
Missouri

Roger Metras, US Army
Member at Large
Indiana

Edward Miazga, USAF
Chapter 1
Colorado

Rudolph Miles, USAF
Chapter 3
Colorado

James Nebgen, US Navy
Member at Large
Missouri

Lucius Owsley, US Army
Member at Large
Texas

George Payton, US Army
Chapter 1
Colorado

Calvin Plumley
Member at Large
Maryland

Emory Renfroe, USAF
Member at Large
Georgia

Gene Roose, USAF
Member at Large
Arizona

Fred Sabellico, US Army
Member At Large
Arizona

Guadalupe Saucedo Jr
Member at Large
California

Henry Shepski, USAF
Member at Large
Pennsylvania

Robert Simpson, USAF
Member at Large
Missouri

George Smith, US Army
Member at Large
Kansas

James Smith, US Army
Member at Large
California

Edward Spille, US Navy
Member at Large
Florida

Gene Swanson, USAF
Member at Large
California

Roland Tremblay
Member at Large
Massachusetts

David Turner, USAF
Member at Large
Florida

James Wachter, USAF
Member at Large
Maine

Robert Winebrenner, USAF
Member at Large
Colorado

Charles Willie, USAF
Member at Large
Virginia

Donald Young, USAF
Member at Large
Missouri

**HOME OF THE FREE,
BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE.**



EASY WINE GUY HERE!

Last year I did an article about wine and the holidays. This year I searched for some drink recipes that would be fun. These only require 2 items which makes stocking the bar easier.

If you are serving turkey or other fowl, Rieslings and Pinot Noir will go well with your main course and the trimmings. Things tend to get pretty rich on the table, so you need wines that are sturdy to stand up to yams or cranberries, yet not over-powering to the main course flavors. Gewürztraminer and Pinot Gris (Pinot Grigio) are also good choices. If you are serving most fish dishes, the same rules apply. Don't over-power the main course (no Cabernet!). Just remember the golden rule, wine should complement the meal not over power it.

Between roasting a turkey, mashing potatoes, making gravy, and generally turning your home kitchen into an industrial-grade feast-making factory, bartending is probably the last thing on your mind. But the guests and, more importantly you, will need drinks. The last thing you want to do is spend extra time mixing up complicated drinks with all the pressure of cooking and smiling.

Most of these recipes came from one of my favorite mixologists, James Oliver Cury. I have made them myself and stand by them. (It's a tough job but someone has to do it.)

1. Beer and Absinthe

Look for a beer that has hoppy, piney notes (like many IPAs) and a light, herbal absinthe (consider Vieux Carré Absinthe Supérieure). Combine one-part absinthe with two parts beer. This also works with root beer, thanks to the licorice flavors that it shares with absinthe. Best on ice.

2. Red Wine and Cola

Known as the Kalimotxo, this Spanish cocktail was probably first invented to mask bad wine. Mix the ingredients at 50/50 ratio. Feel free to experiment with different reds, and use the cheapest bottle of wine you actually like. Make it over ice in a tumbler and no one will be the wiser.

3. Sparkling Wine and St-Germain

Sweetly floral St-Germain elderflower liqueur elevates this drink above other sparkler-based combos. Mix one part St-Germain with four parts sparkling wine. But first, brush up on your elderflower trivia in case anyone asks what you're drinking. One of my favorites, try with a Prosecco, delicious!

4. Bourbon and Iced Tea

This is best with sweetened tea. Add one-part bourbon to two parts iced tea. A lemon garnish would add a nice zap of fresh citrus and make it look fancier.

5. Vodka and Kahlúa (or any coffee liqueur)

You may know this as a Black Russian (no cream) or a White Russian (with cream), but for the record, neither is actually from Russia. In all cases, mix two parts vodka with one-part coffee liqueur.

6. Dark Rum and Ginger Beer

These two components are all you need for a Dark 'n' Stormy. Cocktail nerds argue about whether you must use Gosling's Black Seal Rum (one-part rum to two parts ginger beer) to properly make this drink. Regardless, the cocktail is always served on ice. Some folks add lime juice, but it's not mandatory. Any dark rum will do.

7. Irish Whiskey and Coffee

This counts as two ingredients if we assume you take your coffee with sugar and cream. One-part whiskey to two parts coffee is a good ratio.

8. Campari and Orange Juice

If screwdrivers seem too pedestrian, or you want something that feels like an aperitif, just swap the vodka with bitter Campari. Suddenly, the drink has European flair. Use a little more juice than Campari and pour over ice.

9. Mezcal and Apple Juice

The smoky flavor of any mezcal will balance the sweet and tart notes in apple juice—and it's likely to please the Scotch drinkers in the house, as well. Mix in equal proportions, one to one.

10. Cinnamon Schnapps and Vanilla Vodka

OK, this is cheating a little because the vodka has vanilla in it. Combine in a glass with one-part schnapps to two parts vodka. Don't forget the candy cane stirrer.

11. Guinness and Vanilla Ice Cream for dessert, try this delightful stout milkshake. Add both ingredients to a blender with ice and play with consistency by adjusting the amount of ice cream.

I hope these make your holidays merrier and easier! Happy holidays from the easy wine guy!

A WEEK IN WASHINGTON

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Executive Director TRE A Washington Office

At our Convention I was asked what I did in any given week. So after returning from Pittsburgh this was what the week looked like. On Monday I tried (and failed) to catch up with everything that happened during the prior week. Then on Tuesday I participated in the Military Health Systems VSO/MSO Executive Advisory Council. This is chaired by VADM Raquel Bono, the director of the still new Defense Health Agency (DHA). VADM Bono has created these confidential meetings to discuss plans and ideas for implementing the new TRICARE laws and directives. This is very helpful since we can all avoid possible problems and mistakes before they ever go into effect. With both the new TRICARE purchased contract with 2 instead of 3 regions and the Congressionally mandated changes in the TRICARE program itself starting next year, there has been a great deal to talk about and warn them about. Soon you will be receiving a barrage of information about TRICARE. Be sure you read them- there is lots of news- it won't be duplicates or junk mail. And if you have questions be sure to call our DC office.



Senator Amy Klobuchar

The next day I was on the Hill. I was invited by the Senate Democratic Steering Committee to attend their Rural Summit. This is a terrific invitation first, many of TRE A's members live in rural areas of the country and it is important that we know what is being planned, especially concerning the VA. Additionally, this "marquee event" was attended by 14 Democratic Senators including Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and AOL Co-Founder Steve Case. I

listened to their plans on healthcare and broadband etc. (Senator Minority Leader Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said in his keynote address: "The same thing that Roosevelt did for electricity ; we'll do for broadband.")



Senator Franken

But the really great thing about such an event is that you get there early and speak to many Senators about TRE A's concerns and issues directly rather than only through their staffs. I was able to talk to Senators Klobuchar, (D-MT), Franken (D-MN), Schumer (D-NY), Stabenow (D-MI) and Kaine (D-VA). Then later in the afternoon I went to a Conference at George Washington University on "Beyond Compliance and Ethics in Lobbying." This is something that all of us need to keep up with.

The next day at the crack of dawn I ran to Union Station to take a train with representatives of 6 other VSO/MSOs to go to Philadelphia to see one of the regional offices of International SOS. This is the contractor that handles TRICARE for beneficiaries outside the continental United States. It was a very impressive operation especially when we went because they handle Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and South America just after Irma had hit. Not only do they pay for TRICARE medical care in 90 countries but when necessary they arrange for that care if TRICARE recipients need

help in getting help. And they surely did then; and even more after we left and Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico. It was an impressive operation and was good to get contacts if we ever needed it.

Finally, on Friday there was a Military Coalition Personnel Committee meeting to try to guess what we needed

to prepare to fight for after the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is passed by the Senate and then the House and Senate goes into conference. (More on that later.) Of course around these meetings I was back in the office working on the Update and coordinating with Larry Madison and Mike Saunders to cover Congress now that they are back in town.



Senator Kaine



Senator Stabenow

WORKING ON FY2018 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA)

By Deirdre Parke Holleman TREAs Washington Executive Director

When Congress returned to Washington after the August recess the Senate quickly passed its version of the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2018. The House of Representatives passed their version months earlier. While I am writing this article we are waiting for conferees to be appointed to hammer out a final version of the bill. We don't know whether this will be done quickly or will take months. There are several differences between the 2 versions that we feel strongly are better in one version instead of the other. We are lobbying to try to get the better provision included. Of course, we could always use your help. It is always effective for members of Congress to hear from their constituents.

As previously said we don't who the conferees are yet but if your House Representative or one of your Senators are on the Armed Forces Committees it is likely that they will be a conferee. Don't know if they are on the committees. You can just go to www.Congress.gov and check.

Consider urging them to accept the House's 2.4% military pay raise based on the Employment Cost Index (ECI) rather than the Senate's 2.1% proposal based on the President's number.

Please strongly oppose the Senate's attempt to impose large TRICARE fees on TRICARE beneficiaries who are currently serving or are retired members who were explicitly grandfathered against such increases last year. Urge them to accept the House version that keeps its word and trust.

Call and oppose the Senate's increase in TRICARE pharmacy co-pays and their attempt to eliminate the present COLA based increases.

While we are grateful that both chambers realize that the present stopgap Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) should not expire it should lead to an end of the SBP/DIC dollar for dollar offset.

These are just a few of the provisions we are working now on the Hill. They could be very important to you and/or someone you know. Let's work together.

MAJOR CUTS AHEAD FOR THREE IMPORTANT PROGRAMS BY JESSIE GIBBONS, SENIOR POLICY ANALYST



Earlier this year, lawmakers on the House Budget Committee approved a resolution that would balance the budget and cut federal spending by \$5.4 trillion over the next ten years. Over a ten-year period, nearly \$500 billion of those cuts would come from Medicare, and programs like Social Security

and Medicaid would see major changes as well if the blueprint were adopted on the House floor.

It's unlikely that the budget blueprint, or a similar one, will be adopted in its entirety by both the House and the Senate this year. But the resolution approved by the House Budget Committee in July does signify that leaders in Washington are ready to take tough positions on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid reform. Here's how the budget proposal would impact the three programs if adopted...

- **Medicare:** The budget blueprint lays out a plan that would gradually increase the Medicare eligibility age from sixty-five to sixty-seven. It would also transform it into a "premium support" program, where beneficiaries would be given vouchers from the federal government to purchase private health insurance. TSCL strongly opposes these proposals since estimates from the Congressional Budget Office show they would result in higher out-of-pocket costs for most older Americans.

- **Medicaid:** Around 20 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are also enrolled in Medicaid and Medicaid pays for approximately 60 percent of all long-term nursing home stays. The proposal adopted by the House Bud-

get Committee includes more than \$800 billion in cuts to the program. Cuts of that size would result in decreased access to nursing home care for older Americans who cannot afford to pay out-of-pocket for extended stays in costly nursing facilities.

- **Social Security:** The budget would create a new "trigger" which would fast-track Social Security reform legislation based on recommendations submitted by the President to Congress. It would require leaders to produce a plan that would achieve a positive 75-year actuarial balance. According to the Social Security Trustees, the program is currently expected to become insolvent in 2034, so the "trigger" would be pulled immediately if lawmakers were to adopt the budget resolution. Past reform plans proposed by leaders in the majority party have included cuts to cost-of-living adjustments, an increased eligibility age, and a new means test that would ultimately transform Social Security into a welfare program for low-income older Americans, while cutting the earned benefits of everyone else.

The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) opposes the changes to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid that were included in the Budget Committee's blueprint since they would jeopardize the health and financial security of older Americans. In the months ahead, our legislative team will continue to advocate for policies that would reform the programs responsibly, without harsh benefit cuts for current or future retirees.

For progress updates or to read about the reform plans TSCL has endorsed in the 115th Congress, visit our website at www.SeniorsLeague.org or follow TSCL on Facebook and Twitter.





WE EARNED OUR STRIPES

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