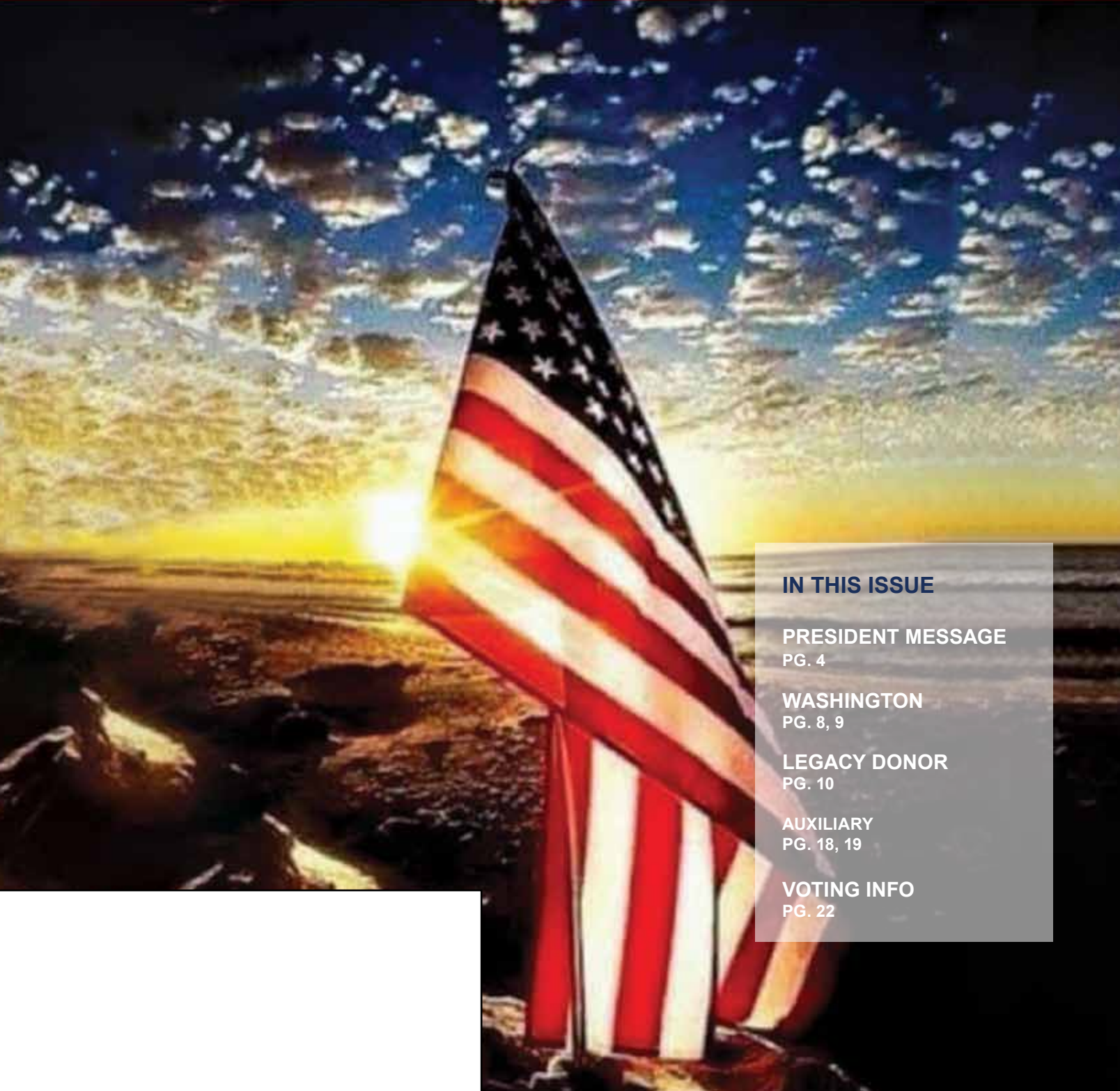


# THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted



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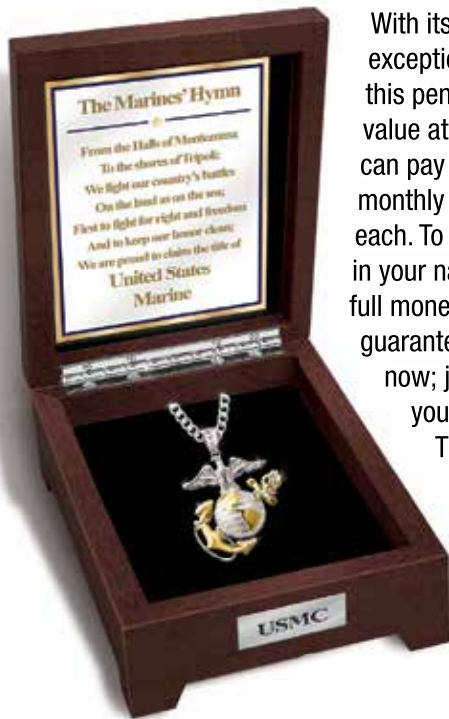
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# FORGED FROM SOLID STAINLESS STEEL

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DELUXE WOODEN  
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Dean Sorell, 1921 – 2004

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[1stvice@trea.org](mailto:1stvice@trea.org)

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[tsclchair@trea.org](mailto:tsclchair@trea.org)

## TREA STAFF & SUPPORT

### National Executive Staff

Debbie Osborne, Executive Director -  
[dosborne@trea.org](mailto:dosborne@trea.org) - 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250,  
Centennial, CO 80112 - Phone: 303-752-0660;  
Fax: 303-752-0835 - [www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org); [treaHQ@trea.org](mailto:treaHQ@trea.org)

Washington Executive Staff  
Phone: 703-684-1981  
Fax: 703-548-4876, 866-548-4876  
[legislativeinfo@trea.org](mailto:legislativeinfo@trea.org)

The Senior Citizens League  
Shannon Benton, TSCL Executive Director  
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22314 Phone:  
800-333-8725, 703-548-5568; Fax: 703-740-4017  
[www.seniorsleague.org](http://www.seniorsleague.org); [comments@seniorsleague.org](mailto:comments@seniorsleague.org)

**TREA National Auxiliary**  
Audrey McCray  
[mccray@aol.com](mailto:mccray@aol.com)

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**THE VOICE is the flagship publication of TREA: The Enlisted Association, located at 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250 Centennial, CO 80112**

*Views expressed in the magazine, and the appearance of advertisements, do not necessarily reflect the opinions of TREA or its Board of Directors, and do not imply endorsement. The magazine (ISSN 1527-0467) is published quarterly by TREA, a nonprofit organization.*

#### Magazine Staff

The magazine staff can be reached by email at [editor@trea.org](mailto:editor@trea.org). Editor-in-Chief, Debbie Osborne  
Creative Director/Graphic Designer, Gabriela Schechter.

#### Editorial Office

Please send all written communication to TREA Headquarters at 12200 E Briarwood Ave, Suite 250  
Centennial, CO 80112

#### Submissions

The VOICE accepts articles and photographs on a continual basis, but does not pay for submissions. Please send all articles and photos via email to [editor@trea.org](mailto:editor@trea.org) or by mail to 12200 E. Briarwood Ave., Ste 250, Centennial, CO 80112. There is no guarantee that any submission will be published. Photos must be high quality in order to be printed in the magazine. Low quality photos will not be printed.

#### Deadlines

For copy and photos (with captions, please) the deadline is the 15th day, two months prior to magazine release. Next deadline is September 15th, 2023.

#### Advertising

By their appearance, ads must not imply or infer any kind of TREA representation, warranty, or endorsement. For ad rates and a media kit, please email us at [editor@trea.org](mailto:editor@trea.org) or call 303-752-0660. Postmaster (address change) Please send address changes to The VOICE, 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250 Centennial, CO 80112 or by email to [treaHQ@trea.org](mailto:treaHQ@trea.org). Periodicals postage paid at Englewood, CO and other mailing offices.

# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Deb Oelschig, National President



As TREA's National President, I have the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life, from all areas of the country, from all backgrounds, upbringings and across educational divides and I recognize and take note of their commitment to honor and support those who have served and are currently serving. I stand in the midst of great people and I am truly humbled by the opportunity and the experience.

During my recent experience at the Memorial Day White House Breakfast, I was engaged in a conversation with the leader of another Veterans Service Organization (VSO) about how and why we, meaning other VSOs, should join forces and work together to better support and assist our service members and veterans. This conversation had no agenda other than 'we can do more'. There was no 'I' in the conversation, there was no 'me' – it was about 'them', those who served, are currently serving and those who will serve in the future.

Working together makes us stronger and more effective. This is something that I have believed in for quite some time. In recent years, TREA has partnered with various other VSOs to help us accomplish our mission and good things have happened. Our hugely successful Holiday Program is done, in part, through a partnership with Soldiers Angels. Our first service Dog was done through collaboration with Semper K9, our second is being planned with K9s for Warriors. We partnered with The American Legion to lay wreaths at the Colorado Freedom Memorial. We have spoken at local meeting of the Vietnam Veterans of America – telling them about TREA, our mission and our successes. Partnering with other organizations does not take away from who we are and all that we have accomplished – just the opposite. It allows us to do more, to reach more veterans, to be more successful.

As we move forward, committed in our mission of protecting the earned benefits of those who served, and supporting them and their families, I ask that we all understand and appreciate that there are many other individuals and organizations that believe in the same mission and are just as committed as we are. It's this power and this drive that we need to hone in on – not turn away from. There is power in numbers and that opens the door for great successes.

TREA's identity is solid. We have 60 years behind our actions and the plan is for another 60. Partnering and collaborating with other organizations does not diminish who we are or what we have done. What it does do, is gives us more visibility, more reach and more positive action.

I am asking all of our members to embrace others who have the same mission as TREA and work together, not against them. A lot of our members belong to multiple VSOs and instead of choosing one to focus your attention and support on, make the decision to share it. So much more can be accomplished by working together, not against each other.

If you know of another organization that is doing good things for military and veterans, please share that with us – maybe we can get involved too.

**UNITED WE STAND – TOGETHER WE SUCCEED!**

Deborah Oelschig  
National President



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Garry Turks, National 3rd Vice & Chaplain

As we prepare for our Annual Membership Meeting and celebration of our glorious 60 years of support and advocacy on behalf of enlisted military members and their families, let us be thankful for the amazing opportunity to be able to meet in person. It is a blessing to be able to stand face to face with our comrades in arms and the many friends that we have made from the TREA membership over the years. We know that Matthew 18:20 tells us that 'for where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am among them.'

We know you will be with us as we travel and meet in the efforts to fulfill TREA's mission of protecting, supporting and assisting not only TREA members, but all enlisted who so proudly wore the uniform of the United States Armed Forces.

We are truly blessed and pray that our efforts are successful in blessing others.

# COINS ON A HEADSTONE

## Did you know?



A penny: You stopped by and paid your respects

A nickel: You attended bootcamp together



A dime: You served together

A quarter: You were there when they were killed





# 'HALT THE HUNGER'

## TREA GIVES NEW PROGRAM

### Attacking Food Insecurity for our Veterans and Active Duty

Our new Benevolent Program; TREA GIVES, is off to a strong start. Our mission is to serve those who served (or are currently serving) and we do that by providing financial assistance and support. Our focus for the remainder of 2023 is to ensure that all veterans, or active duty members (and their family members) do not go hungry.

It's a sad state of affairs when those serving and fighting for our freedom are worried about not being able to put food on the table. According to the US Department of Defense, it was reported that within the last 2 years, almost a quarter – 24% of active-duty service members experienced food insecurity. Junior enlisted service members were at the highest risk. In addition, the USDA Economic Research Service reported that 11.1% of veterans between the ages of 18 to 64 lived in households reporting food insecurity. This is 7.4% higher among veterans than non veterans of the same age.

“Persistent food insecurity among the military and veteran communities threatens U.S. national security.” General Mark Milley told the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee on May 3, 2022. “No soldier, sailor, airman, marine should struggle to feed their families . . . If they're going to put their life on the line for this country, we owe it to them to make sure they're being taken care of.”

TREA GIVES agrees with this 100% and we are dedicated to the effort of doing all that we can to assist any veteran/military member who is experiencing food insecurity.

Our new program, Halt the Hunger, was created specifically to provide funds for healthy food for veterans/active service members and their families.

It does not matter what branch of service you served in, or are serving in. It does not matter what wars or conflicts you served during, or where you were or are stationed. If you were an enlisted member of the United States military, honorably discharged, or currently serving – we are here for you.

If you agree that no one who served, or is serving our country should go hungry and you want to support this program, please go to our website ([www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)) and make a tax-deductible donation today. If you are experiencing a hard time providing food for your family or worried that you will run out of food - or know of an enlisted veteran or service member who would benefit from this program, please reach out and let us know (303-752-0660 or [treaHQ@trea.org](mailto:treaHQ@trea.org)).

We are very proud of this new program and know that it will make a positive impact on veterans and active duty enlisted members throughout the country. Help us share the word!



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## B-17 FLYING FORTRESS LEVITATING SCULPTURE

**Iconic Aircraft  
FLIES IN MID-AIR  
above the base!**



Innovative technology and hidden electro magnets suspend the aircraft above the base

Fully dimensional plane is intricately crafted and individually hand-painted for authentic details

Shown larger than actual size:  
Plane is about 7" W;  
Base is about 6½" diam

Levitation technology in this product has been licensed from Levitation Arts Inc. under U.S. and international patents. See [www.levitationarts.com/patent-notice](http://www.levitationarts.com/patent-notice)

### The B-17 Aircraft Flies Before Your Eyes!

The historical B-17 Flying Fortress was an important symbol of America's strength and resilience. Now this trailblazing aircraft inspires a uniquely levitating collectible that conveys its power in flight! The sculpture is authentically crafted and features innovative technology with hidden electro magnets, so the airplane levitates above the base. *The aircraft literally flies in mid-air!* It's hand-painted and features a wood-finished base with a silvery title plaque and trim.

### Strictly Limited. Order Today!

Strong demand is expected for this impressive levitating plane inspired by the B-17, and it is released in a strictly limited edition. You can order yours now at the excellent price of \$149.99\*, payable in four convenient installments of just \$37.49, the first due before shipment. Your purchase is fully backed by our unconditional, 365-day money-back guarantee. So don't miss out! You need send no money now. Simply complete and return the Reservation Application today.

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**01-36927-001-E27961**

## WASHINGTON UPDATE

Deb Oelschig, TREA National President

TREA has continued to advocate on behalf of all enlisted service members, veterans, and their families in Washington, DC. Our work with the White House and U.S. Congress has already manifested several key victories this year, protecting the hard earned benefits our community rightfully deserves. As we continue our efforts in 2023, our number one priority is to ensure your voices are heard.



### Memorial Day National Ceremony

On May 29, 2023, I had the privilege of joining President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, and members of the presidential cabinet at the White House ahead of the Memorial Day National Ceremony. Directly preceding the event, I joined Executive Director Debbie Osborne at Arlington National Cemetery



where we laid TREA's wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We were honored to pay tribute to the men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country and

thank the hard working staff and volunteers who made the events possible.

### Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Act

After months of advocacy, we are proud to report that President Joe Biden signed into law the TREA backed Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation will increase compensation benefits for veterans with service-connected disabilities and military survivors under the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs. The COLA Act will increase certain VA benefits including disability compensation, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children to reflect increases in the cost of living.

The rates will be determined by the annual COLA adjustment to social security benefits, as determined by the Social Security Administration, and will go into effect December 1, 2023. The Social Security Administration bases their annual COLA adjustment on the Consumer Price Index, as determined each December by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.



## FY24 National Defense Authorization Act

TREA has been fighting to secure a 5.2% pay raise for servicemembers in the FY24 NDAA, which would be the biggest raise in 22 years. If passed, the change would go into effect January, 2024. The historic boost would provide more than \$1,500 annually for most junior enlisted troops and thousands more for higher ranks. Combined with the 2023 pay raise that went into effect five months ago, troops could see a nearly 10% increase in basic pay over a two-year span, and even more financial gains after re-enlistment bonuses and housing stipend increases are factored in. TREA will continue to fight for this historic increase to ensure our servicemen and women are financially stable while in service to our country.

## Concurrent Receipt

We are proud to report that H.R. 1282 / S. 344, “The Major Richard Star Act” has been added to the House Consensus calendar for the second straight year after breaking the 290 threshold of cosponsors! Currently, the bill has 66 cosponsors in the Senate, and 321 cosponsors in the House.

This bipartisan legislation would finally provide combat-injured veterans that were forced to medically retire with less than 20 years of military service their full benefits, meaning they would receive both their earned DoD Retirement Pay, and their earned VA Disability Pay, with no offset. This legislation is a very positive step in correcting the larger concurrent receipt issue.

Despite securing cosponsors at a record pace in the 118th Congress, we still need your help to get this important legislation across the finish line. Please contact your Representatives and urge them to cosponsor the Major Richard Star Act as soon as possible.

## Social Media

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

## TREA SHOWS SUPPORT

TREA has signed 72 Letters of Support, in partnership with, and as a member of The Military Coalition (TMC) since 2019.

Every one of these letters shows our commitment to and support of veterans and service members across the country, across branches and across dates and location of service.

The full list and descriptions of each letter/communications is available on our homepage - ([www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org))



## BECOME A LEGACY DONOR

Our Legacy Donor Program enables you to leave a legacy for future military generations with planned charitable gifts through your will and estate planning. When you leave a bequest to TREA or TREA GIVES in your estate plan, your generosity secures the continued support to enlisted veterans and military members, and their families for years to come.

This is probably not something that you have thought about, but it is a wonderful, safe and easy way to ensure that TREA can continue to legislatively advocate for, fight for and provide assistance to enlisted military members who served with you, before you and after you.

There are many options available: 'In Memory Of', 'In Honor Of', 'In Appreciation Of' and anything else that you can think of.

Through our Legacy Donor Program, you will be able to pass on the pride and honor from your military service and your respect for those who also served, and their families who support them.

The military has always been a family and this is a great way to take care of your brother-in-arms. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

Donations to both TREA, and TREA GIVES are 100% tax-deductible.

The following link has been created to make this process quick and easy.

<http://voice.trea.org/pdfFiles/Legacy-Donor-web-page.pdf>

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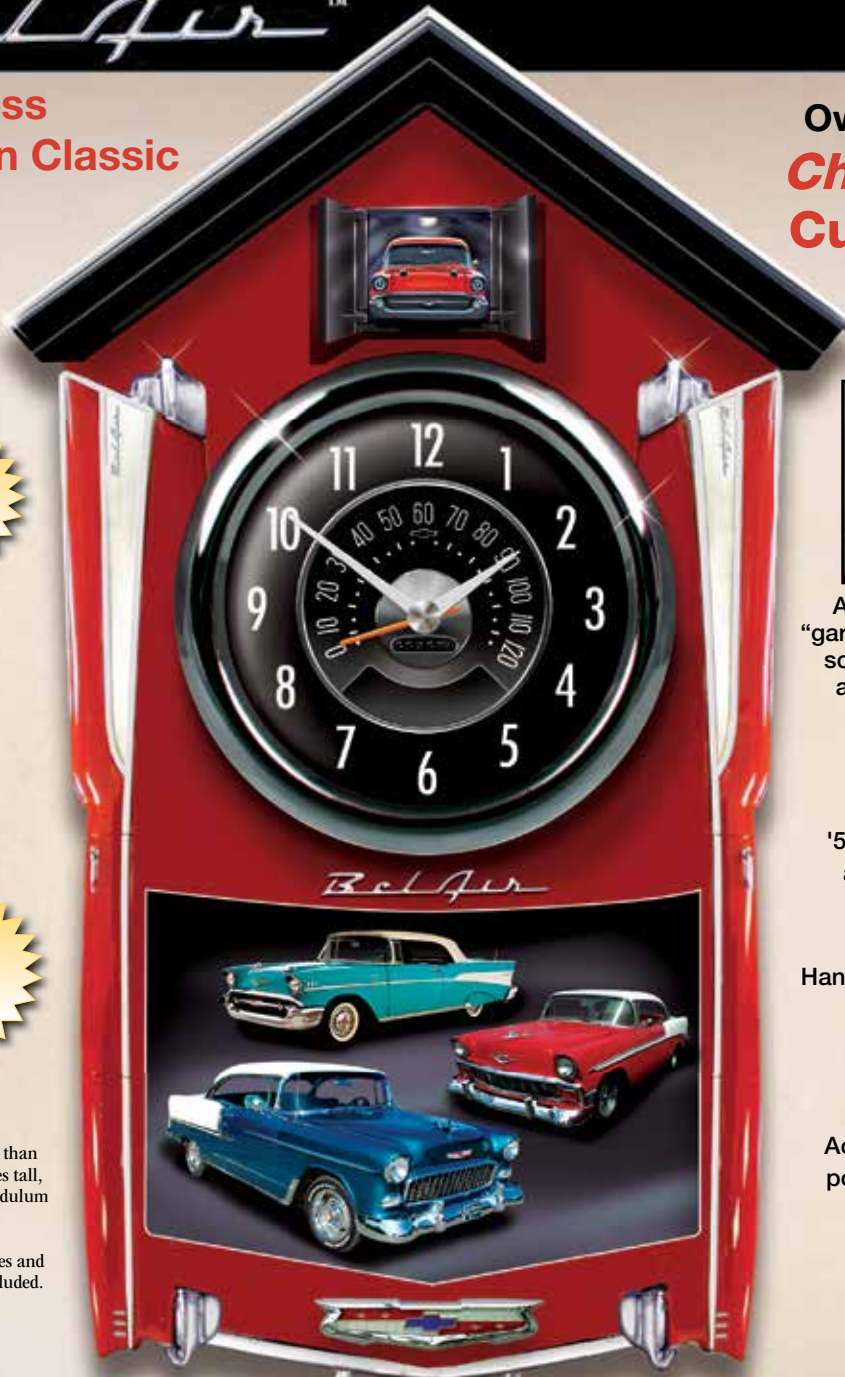
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## HOMELESS VETERANS & THE VA

In 2022, the VA set a goal to permanently house 38,000 homeless Veterans.

VA exceeded that goal, by 6%, housing 40,401 Veterans.

Unfortunately, out of those 40,401 Veterans housed in 2022, 2,443 returned to homelessness at some point during 2022. Thankfully, 86% of those Veterans were rehoused or on a path to rehousing by the end of the year.

### For 2023, the VA has set three major goals:

#### Goal #1: Consistency in Permanent Housing

To house at least 38,000 or more Veterans.

#### Goal #2: Prevention of Returns to Homelessness

Ensuring that at least 95% of the Veterans housed will stay housed and ensuring that at least 90% of those who returned to homelessness are rehoused or on a path to rehousing.

#### Goal #3: Engagement of Unsheltered Veterans

Engage with at least 28,000 unsheltered Veterans – this is an increase of 10% over CY 2022

### Progress – as of March 2023:

**Goal #1: 10,885 Veterans being permanently housed. This is 28.6% of the goal. VA is on track to meet this goal by the end of the year.**

**Goal #2: So far, 98.5% of the Veterans housed have remained in housing, although 166 Veterans have returned to homelessness. Out of the 166 Veterans who returned to homelessness, only 138 have been rehoused, representing only 83.1%. The VA is not on track for meeting this goal by year end.**

**Goal #3: 10,393 unsheltered Veterans have been engaged, representing 37.1% of the goal. VA is on track to meet and exceed this goal by the end of the year.**

Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness – and their family members, friends and supports – can make the call to chat Online with the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans. Trained counselors are ready to talk confidentially, 24 hours a day – 7 days a week.



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[va.gov/homeless](https://va.gov/homeless)

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A well-known expert has offered what might just be the best explanation for the '57 Chevy with, "people just liked them." But there's probably a little more to it. 1957 was the very height of American auto design. The longer, lower cars featured extensive styling, bold colors, and powerful engines. And...perhaps the most striking design element, those gorgeous fins.

General Motors brought the top-of-the-line Cadillac style to the bottom-of-the-line Chevrolet, including a grille treatment featuring Dagmars or bullet-like extensions, eyebrows over the headlamps, slab sides and chrome spear trim. Add a wrap-around windshield, a graceful hardtop roofline and get a modern car that really turned heads.

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*Turns heads with a glossy showroom finish, chrome trim, and those iconic Bel Air "fins"!*



*Highly detailed interior featuring a "chrome" and red dashboard and eye-catching red-on-black color scheme!*

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- **Gleaming finished chrome trim and iconic "fins"**
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Allow 6 to 8 weeks after initial payment for shipment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print clearly.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Optional (for product & shipping confirmation).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**09-09563-001-E27961**



The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) is an affiliate of TREA: The Enlisted Association (TREA), governed by TREA members and consists of hundreds of thousands of active senior citizens concerned about the protection of their Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Ed Cates,  
TSCL Chairman

## **Some Social Security Beneficiaries Need an Extra \$6,200 in 2023 to Maintain Buying Power**

The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) latest study on Social Security Buying Power found that the average person who retired before 2000 (those age 85 and older) would need an extra \$516.70 more per month (\$6,200 in 2023) than they currently get just to maintain the same level of buying power as in 2000.

In our latest research conducted in 2022, we analyzed the purchasing power of Social Security benefits and its correlation with the rising costs typically faced by seniors. The study revealed a significant decline, with Social Security benefits experiencing a 40% loss in buying power since 2000. This marked the most substantial decrease in purchasing power observed since the initiation of our research in 2010.

Our most recent analysis found that the erosion of buying power has somewhat moderated to 36%. Although this represents a slight improvement compared to the previous year, it still stands as one of the most substantial losses in purchasing power documented by our study, second only to the figures recorded in 2022.

Our study compares the growth in the COLA since 2000 with increases in the price of 38 goods and services typically used by retirees over the same period. This year buying power was most impacted by the sharp rise in food items, electricity, rental housing, repair, maintenance of vehicles, and a stunning 16% increase in the cost of dental care. Topping our list of fastest-growing items? EGGS!

According to our findings, the study revealed that Social Security benefits have experienced a cumulative increase of 78% due to Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) since 2000. However, typical senior expenses until February 2023 have grown at a higher rate of 41.4%.

To provide some context, the average monthly Social Security benefit in 2000 amounted to \$816. Over the years, with the implementation of COLA increases, this benefit grew to \$1,453.20 by 2023. Nonetheless, due to the considerably faster rise in retiree costs compared to the rate of COLA adjustments, our study discovered that a monthly Social Security benefit of \$1,969.80 would be necessary to maintain the same purchasing power as in 2000. This amounts to an additional \$516.70 per month compared to the current benefit amount.

Social Security benefits buy less today than in 2000. For every \$100 of goods or services that retirees bought in 2000, they could only buy \$66 worth today.

The table, on the next page, illustrates the top ten fastest-growing costs for older consumers from March 2022 to February 2023.



## WHAT ARE THE FASTEST GROWING COSTS OVER THE PAST YEAR?

Item	Cost in Mar. 2022 Average cost \$ or numeric data*	Cost in Feb. 2023 Average cost \$ or numeric data*	Percent increase since Mar. 2022
1. Eggs, Grade A, large (doz.)	\$2.01	\$4.21	110%
2. Apples, all varieties (lb.)	\$1.68	\$2.09	24%
3. Bread, white (loaf)	\$1.61	\$1.90	18%
4. Coffee (lb.)	\$5.41	\$6.35	17%
5. Dental visits, out of pocket, over 65	\$1,029.55	\$1,073.82	16%
6. Electricity (kilowatt hr.)	\$.15	\$.17	13.3%
7. Motor vehicle maintenance and repair	329.992	372.572	13%
9. Chicken (lb.)	\$1.72	\$1.89	10%
10. Rental housing	361.083	391.141	8%

\*Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, data through March 2022. Where no average prices are available, numeric data are used.

TSCL supports four reforms to protect buying power of Social Security benefits:

- Provide a modest boost to the benefits of all retirees to better protect them from falling into poverty and to strengthen retirement income.
- Tie the annual COLA to a seniors' consumer price index such as the Consumer Price Index for Elderly (CPI -E). This index tends to show inflation growing at a modestly faster rate than the CPI-W in many years
- Guarantee a minimum COLA of no less than 3%. The guarantee is fundamental in years when inflation goes negative, and no COLA is payable at all.
- Adjust the income thresholds that subject Social Security benefits to taxation for inflation to allow beneficiaries to keep more of their benefits.

## TEAM TSCL NEEDS CANDIDATES FOR ITS 2023-2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Requirements:** Candidates must have been a member of TREA for at least three years and be at least 18 years of age. No elected member of TREA or TREA National Auxiliary Boards of Directors may serve concurrently as a Trustee (except the National President and the Treasurer, who shall be exempt from all other qualifications).

Interested TREA Members should submit resumes on [TREA Form 100-3](#), located on TREA's website. Resumes will be accepted until the day prior to TSCL's Annual Membership Meeting in September. Term Length: 3 yrs.

Questions? Please contact Shannon Benton – [sbenton@tsclhq.org](mailto:sbenton@tsclhq.org), 703-548-5568, or, Ed Cates, Chairman – [ectrea@comcast.net](mailto:ectrea@comcast.net)

# TREASURER’S NOTE

Kyle Carpenter, Treasurer



As I present the FY2022 audit (see next page), I want to point out something that I think is worth mentioning.

Total expenses for 2022 were \$89,132 lower than 2021. This shows how engaged the TREA National Board and Staff is in reducing costs.

The National Board Members have gone above and beyond in realizing the financial stress that the current economy has placed on TREA. Donations are down, membership renewals are down and it’s almost impossible to entice new members to join. Not to sound like a broken record, but it’s important to say – all membership and donation organizations are facing the same struggle. Not sure if this makes the situation better or not, but it’s a fact that should be understood.

If it was something that TREA was doing that we could change, we would. This is a result of many things: inflation, the lingering effects from COVID and those who lost jobs as a result of it, the stock market lows and food and gas costs rising. TREA is doing everything that we can to be proactive in our action and act financially responsible.

We know that our mission is clear – to protect the earned benefits of those who served and to enhance and make better the lives of those who served and that of their family members. Our desire to be successful in fulfilling this mission is strong – we will do what we need to do to make sure that we do not fail those who we have promised to take care of.

There is no denying that it takes money to run a successful business. It is not as simple as not spending, but rather ensuring that all spending is done so wisely and in a smart, calculated and beneficial manner. That is what we are doing, and I think we are being successful in our efforts.

Thank you for your support – we could not do this without you.

## Affiliation with The Senior Citizen’s League (TSCL) -

TREA is no longer doing a consolidated audit with TSCL, but since we have a financial control affiliation with them, we want to provide their basic financial standings to our membership. TSCL Financial Standing for FY 2022:

2022 Revenue	\$3,352,044
2022 Expenses	\$3,443,003
2022 Investment Loss	(\$ 344,610)
2022 Net Profit/(Loss)	(\$ 435,569)
2022 Assets at beginning of year	\$ 520,216
2022 Assets at end of year	\$ 84,647

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” –Winston Churchill



**THE RETIRED ENLISTED ASSOCIATION**  
D/B/A - THE ENLISTED ASSOCIATION



**Statement of Activities**

January 1 , 2022 - December 31, 2022

	without donor restrictions	with donor restrictions	Total
<b>Revenue &amp; Other Support</b>			
Contributions (Fundraising)	82,953	34,313	117,266
Trademark (TSCL)	113,750		113,750
Membership Dues	78,183		78,183
Royalty Income	70,714		70,714
Life Insurance receipts	54,917		54,917
Store Sales	10,370		10,370
Advertising Income	1,700		1,700
Other	109		109
Assets released from donor restrictions	144,057	(144,057)	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>556,753</b>	<b>(109,744)</b>	<b>447,009</b>
Investment Loss	(502,939)		(502,939)
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>53,814</b>		<b>(55,930)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Program Services:</b>			
Membership Services & Retention	184,396		184,396
Government Affairs	128,259		128,259
VOICE Magazine	53,936		53,936
Public Education	41,198		41,198
Membership Education & Training	34,790		34,790
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>442,579</b>		<b>442,579</b>
<b>Supporting Services:</b>			
Management & General	147,214		147,214
Membership Recruitment	15,360		15,360
Fundraising	88,786		88,786
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>251,360</b>		<b>251,360</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>693,939</b>		<b>693,939</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>(640,125)</b>	<b>(109,744)</b>	<b>(749,869)</b>
Net Assets, beginning of year	3,470,277	281,279	3,751,556
Net Assets, end of year	2,830,152	171,535	3,001,687





## **GREETINGS MEMBERS IN THE MAGNANIMOUS NAME OF HIS LORD AND SAVIOR, WHERE HAS THE YEAR GONE?**

The TREA National Auxiliary Board of Directors (BOD) Midterm meeting was held on May 3rd, 2023, at Chapter #3, Aurora, CO, and the meeting was phenomenally successful due to the membership participation. The following individuals were guests during the meeting, Mr. John May, AMS Management Services, TREA National President, Deborah Oelschig, and TREA National Executive Director, Deborah Osborne. Special thanks to President, Deborah Oelschig and Executive Director, Deborah Osborne for attending our Midterm meeting. Your presence was truly welcome, and we appreciate the time that both of you spent with us.

President Oelschig discussed the letter that the Auxiliary sent to TREA National on March 28th, 2023, referring to the information about the Affiliate Agreement, which pertains to the Legislative Support Fee. Our Auxiliary BOD asked for a reduction of the amount that our Auxiliary is currently paying. President Oelschig stated that a change in the Legislative Support Fee could not be approved at this time, but that the issue can be re-examined in 6 months. Our purse strings must be tightened, and we are trying to keep things going. The plan for TREA National Auxiliary is to go into the neighborhood and try to recruit new members.

- Scholarship applications were due June 1, 2023, there were nine applications received and all funds will be distributed no later than August 31, 2023.
- Hoping to see everyone at the upcoming Annual Business Meeting on September 11, 2023, at The Golden Nugget in Las Vegas, NV. For the Annual Business Meeting to be successful here are some crucial factors to remember.
- Each Auxiliary member, including Member-at-large (MALs) will have the opportunity to vote by mail on the proposed Bylaws and Standing Rules. The vote by mail was approved last year. You should receive a ballot by mail around the end of July or the beginning of August.
- Chapter Presidents please turn your Chapter Reports to [mccraya@aol.com](mailto:mccraya@aol.com) or mail to 3346 S. Kalispell St. 80013 no later than August 10th, 2023.

Remember the theme this year is “Encouraging Excellence Throughout the Community.” That is all for now, thanks for your continued support of TREA National Auxiliary. and I am looking forward to seeing you in Las Vegas.

Respectfully,  
Audrey McCray



## AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN



Greetings TREA members, I hope all is well. The Lord has put in my heart the word, prayer. I believe that the world would be a much better place if we took prayer more seriously and took the time to pray. Prayer is not just a spiritual practice; it is how God changes our lives and changes the world. Prayer is not just helpful; it is so important.

Prayer is a responsibility that each of us must bring more of Heaven into this often-broken world. As a Chaplain, I believe God does not just hear our prayers, but that He answers them too. God is not just aware of us, but He is deeply concerned for us. He intervenes in miraculous ways more often than we think, and that coincidence is often God's way of remaining anonymous. God is not only real and alive, but He is also at work in our lives, He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother, He is an ever-present help in our time of need and with Him, all things are possible. I genuinely believe He can heal diseases and save you from the brink of death, for He is there in the moment of crisis in times of what is facing our world.

I have never been more convinced of God's power than when He answers prayers. I think of prayer in one of two ways, as a steering wheel that guides our life or as a spare tire that we go running to when we need it. God is willing to be our spare tire. He will never leave us or forsake us, and even if we only come knocking when we need something, we find His hands open and full of love and grace. Thankfully for me, I just go ahead and give God the steering wheel.

I begin each day by thanking God for life, and I end my day by doing the same. I also pray in between for the busyness of life always threatens to crowd out God. It has taught me that the voice of the Lord will always be there if we just take the time to listen. We are available for everything else in our lives. We will not miss a meeting or a meal, we schedule time for the gym and coffee with friends, we are committed to what is most important to us. I am wondering if we can make more time to pray.

None of us know what our lives might have been had we prayed more. I give God the glory for having people that prayed and stood in the gap for me. The truth is that God's waiting to answer a prayer-or two- for you too. Again, I say If He has done it for me, He will certainly do it for you. Blessings out there to everyone. God loves you and so do I.

TREA National Auxiliary Past National President & Chaplain

Barbara Coley

# TREA NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Butch Liebaert, National Director & Scholarship Committee Chair

*Congratulations to the following for being awarded a 2023-2024 TREA National Scholarship.*



Haven Lysell-Steward  
\$2,000 Dean Sorell Award  
Oklahoma Baptist University  
Sponsor: Moses Steward, KS



Kaylee Sonntag  
\$2,000 George Skonce Award  
Southern University  
Sponsor: Mark Sonntag, FL



Ania Calbough  
\$1,500 Dottie Holmes Award  
Univ. of Central Florida  
Sponsor: James Calbough, FL



Alice Pickett  
\$1,000  
Purdue University  
Sponsor: Jeffrey "Craig" Pickett



Samantha Price  
\$1,000  
Univ. of North Dakota  
Sponsor: Lanny Eller, CO



Jordan Knight  
\$1,000  
Brophy College Preparatory  
Sponsor: George W. McAfee, AZ



Matthew Wong  
\$1,000  
Univ. of Texas at Tyler  
Sponsor: Richard Watley, AL



Meadow Mikrut  
\$1,000  
Grand Canyon University  
Sponsor: Michael Mikrut, AZ





Abigail McCracken  
\$1,000  
University of Mississippi  
Sponsor: Richard Watley, AL



Madison Blankenship  
\$1,000  
Fairmont State University.  
Sponsor: Gary Blankenship, WV



Kaitlyn Greene  
\$1,000  
Black Hills State University  
Sponsor: James F. Greene, ID



Isabella Ternes  
\$1,000  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Sponsor: Ronald Lampert, ND



Sadie Aline Cloud  
\$1,000  
High Point University  
Sponsor: Erik M. Olson, MD



Arden McCoy  
\$1,000  
Misericordia University  
Sponsor: Robert Suggs, CO



Mychaela Harris  
\$1,000  
North Carolina A&T  
Sponsor: Valerie Parker, VA



Brady Burton  
\$1,000  
Lee University  
Sponsor: George Burton, NC



Bailey Witte  
\$500  
Winona State University  
Sponsor: George R. Murray, FL

## OUR CHAPTERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

TREA Chapters are located throughout the United States, from California to New York and Washington to Texas. Chapters support their local veteran community and provide esprit de corps. We may not have as many chapters as we used to, but what we lack in quantity, we make up for in quality. Here is just a few things that our chapters have done so far in 2023

Chapter 3 (Colorado) – Provided \$2,000 in academic scholarships and participated in the Memorial Day Parade.

Chapter 52 (Texas) – sponsored 50 JROTC awards to local cadets.

Chapter 39 (Colorado) - Participated in the community Memorial Day Parade, hosted a ‘Quilts of Valor’ presentation, and manned a table at a local car show to fundraise and support local veterans

Chapter 72 (Pittsburgh) – Sponsored multiple JROTC awards for local community cadets, participated in the Easter Seals ‘Walk with Me’ event and participated in Pittsburgh’s annual Youth fishing day.

Chapter 119 (Wisconsin) – Donated \$2,000 to the Honor Flight, placed flags at several cemeteries for Memorial Day, participated in the July 4th parade.



### WE ARE PROUD

Chapter 119 President, Butch Liebaert was honored with the ‘Key to the City’ and recognized as ‘Citizen of the Year’ for his actions that benefited the community of Superior, WI. Way to go Butch!

## NATIONAL BYLAWS & STANDING RULES

### Proposed Changes – for your review and vote

The following page is the official mail-in ballot for voting on the proposed changes to the National Bylaws & Standing Rules. It is important that every TREA member has the ability to have a say in the direction that the organization is taking and the rules that guide that journey.

We respectfully ask that EVERY TREA member take a moment to review the proposed changes and submit their desired vote. (Sorry, Auxiliary members are NOT eligible to participate in this voting process).

We have made the process as simple and time friendly as possible. You can vote one of two ways:

- Tear out the paper ballot, fill in your unique voting ID (UVID) and answer the 10 questions. See the note below to locate your own UVID.  
When done, mail the ballot to: TREA BLSR VOTING - PO Box 1837 – Mineola, NY 11504
- Vote online at <https://vote.yeselections.com/TREA>

Important voting information:

- You must be a TREA member in good standing to submit a ballot.
- Every ballot must contain a unique voting code (UVID). All UVIDs will be verified with the current TREA membership list. Invalid or unreadable UVIDs will not be recorded.
- Only one ballot per UVID will be accepted.
- All ballots must be received by Elections America by Friday, September 8, 2023.  
Late entries will not be accepted.

### Where to find your UVID?

Look at the mailing label on the cover of this magazine – the first group of letters/number is your UVID. It will begin with the letter ‘T’, followed by a 7 letter/digit combo.

If you cannot find your UVID, please call the National Office (303-752-0660) and a staff member will assist you.



# BALLOT FOR VOTING

## 2023 Bylaws & Standing Rule Changes

See the previous page for directions. Detailed information on each proposed change is available at [www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)

**Unique Voting ID (UVID)#:** \_\_\_\_\_ (required). Only one vote per UVID will be accepted. Ballots without a valid UVID will not be recorded. Auxiliary members are not eligible to vote.

**Article III, Section 1 – Membership, Regular**  Approve  Disapprove

This change prevents spouse members from running for National Board positions.

**Article IV, Section 5 – Audit**  Approve  Disapprove

This change allows for a financial review from a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in years where a net loss of \$100K+ is realized. A full audit, by a CPA is required at least every 3 years.

**Article VII, Section 3 – Meetings of the National Board of Directors**  Approve  Disapprove

This change allows the sitting president to create the meeting schedule, provided at least 4 meetings are held in a calendar year.

**Article IX, Section 2 – Candidate Eligibility**  Approve  Disapprove

This change supports Article III, Section 1 – National Board members must be prior military; spouse members are not eligible to run for National Board positions.

**Article IX, Section 5 – Tellers**  Approve  Disapprove

This change updates the Bylaws to reflect the change from delegate voting and teller participation to that of online and mail in voting.

**Article X, Section 7 – Annual Membership Meeting Site**  Approve  Disapprove

This change allows for the current finances of the organization, and the membership participation level to be factors in the consideration of whether to plan an in-person meeting.

**Standing Rule 5, Paragraph 3k – Benevolent Committee**  Approve  Disapprove

This change removes the Benevolent Committee from a standing TREA (C)(19) committee. It has been moved over to the TREA GIVES (C)(3) program.

**Standing Rule 8, Appendix 1, Paragraph #1 – TREA Awards**  Approve  Disapprove

This change allows for the financial position of the organization to be taken into consideration when purchasing awards. Certificates will be substituted in years where funds are not available to purchase special awards.

**Standing Rule 9, Paragraph #2 – Tax Exempt Status**  Approve  Disapprove

This addition ensures that no chapter creates a 501(C)(3) entity that would be in direct competition with the National TREA GIVES program.

**Standing Rule 9, Paragraph #5– Financial Conflict (new)**  Approve  Disapprove

This change adds the requirement for chapters to obtain a nonprofit Employer Identification Number (EIN) versus that of a for profit.



## VA – UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Did you know that VA insurance offers an Unclaimed Funds Online Search Tool?

This tool can be used by anyone to include former policyholders, beneficiaries and next of kin. It can identify funds owed to individual that VA has been unable to locate and issue payment. Individuals will need to provide proof of identity and entitlement to claim any funds.

### What is Proof of Identity?

You must submit a copy of your Driver's License or other United States Government-issued ID.

Examples: Social Security Card, Social Security Statement, Passport, Medicare Card

What is Proof of Entitlement?

Entitlement to funds may be established through any of the following types of documentation, depending on the situation, such as:

Marriage Certificate, Death Certificate, Personal Records, Copy of Insurance Policy, Cemetery Records

[www.insurance.va.gov/UnclaimedFunds/Search](http://www.insurance.va.gov/UnclaimedFunds/Search)



TREA Members can save big on hotels and travel – worldwide!

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

## EXECUTIVE ORDER ON ADVANCING ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN SPOUSES, MILITARY CAREGIVERS, AND SURVIVORS

On June 9, 2023, President Biden announced a comprehensive set of executive actions to increase the economic security of military and veteran spouses, caregiver, and survivors.

Details can be read at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/06/09/executive-order-on-advancing-economic-security-for-military-and-veteran-spouses-military-caregivers-and-survivors/>

## DIABETES? TRICARE COVERS THAT

If you have diabetes, you know managing it well is vital to you staying healthy from head to toe. And from medical appointments to glucose monitoring and more, **TRICARE** can help you live your healthiest life with diabetes. Here's a look at some of the benefits available to you.

### Diabetes Drugs, Supplies, and Equipment

**TRICARE** covers prescription drugs and related supplies and equipment to help you manage your diabetes. Depending on your needs, diabetes supplies and equipment may fall under your pharmacy benefit, your medical benefit, or both.

Supplies covered by the TRICARE Pharmacy Program include:

- Insulin products
- Blood glucose strips
- Blood and urine ketone/acetone test strips
- Diabetic syringes, needles, and lancets
- Continuous glucose monitoring systems (CGMs)

As of Feb. 15, **TRICARE** covers the Omnipod 5 insulin delivery device under your pharmacy benefit. You must have pre-authorization from your doctor. Right now, you can only get the device at a retail pharmacy. To find the cost, coverage rules, and availability of this device and other products and brands, check the **TRICARE** Formulary Search Tool. You may find some products available at military pharmacies, through home delivery, or at **TRICARE** retail network pharmacies. Remember, if you use the US Family Health Plan (USFHP), you must use a USFHP pharmacy provider. When you have USFHP, you can't use the **TRICARE** Pharmacy Program.

For some products covered by your pharmacy benefit, your doctor may need to request pre-authorization from Express Scripts. This includes getting a CGM from your pharmacy, even if you've received approval for one under your medical benefit.

Depending on how your prescription is written, a CGM may be covered as durable medical equipment (DME) by your medical benefit. Home glucose monitors and insulin infusion pumps may also be covered as DME under certain conditions.

### PACT ACT – Status Update

Since the PACT Act was signed into law on August 10, 2022, more than 360,000 Veterans and survivors have applied for their earned benefits, with 255,041 claims being approved, resulting in a 79.3% approval rate. More than 3 and a half million Veterans have been screened for toxic exposures, and more than 318,000 Veterans have newly enrolled in VA health care. There is currently an average wait of 154.5 days for claim completion. 26.8% of all claims are submitted electronically with the remaining 73.2% being submitted by mail.



MAY  
2023

# TRICARE Pharmacy Insider



Since 2003, Express Scripts has worked to build a better pharmacy experience for 9.6M TRICARE beneficiaries. Our dedicated pharmacists and industry experts are always working to bring TRICARE beneficiaries more personalized support and programs. Every day we're working to further improve the beneficiary experience by listening to feedback and designing a pharmacy benefit around TRICARE beneficiaries.



## Did You Know?

**Beneficiaries can manage their pharmacy benefit with the Express Scripts® Pharmacy app.**

The Express Scripts® Pharmacy app is built for busy lives. TRICARE beneficiaries can easily manage their benefit through the Express Scripts® Pharmacy app. The app makes it easy to manage prescriptions anytime, anywhere. With the app, beneficiaries can:

- Order home delivery prescriptions
- Track order status
- Schedule refills
- Pause, cancel or review prescriptions
- Set up dose reminders
- View claims history or pay a bill
- Download digital benefit ID card

The free Express Scripts® Pharmacy app is available for download on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store today.

## May Fast Facts

### Glimpse into the TRICARE pharmacy benefit

TRICARE covers prescriptions at three points of service: military pharmacies, retail network pharmacies, home delivery. Beneficiaries can also fill their prescriptions at a non-network retail pharmacy, but will have to pay the full price for their medication. Beneficiaries can use the [Formulary Search Tool \(FST\)](#) to understand TRICARE formulary coverage details and where they can fill their prescriptions.

- **Military Pharmacies.** Beneficiaries can receive up to a 90-day supply of their medications for free at military pharmacies.
- **Home delivery.** Express Scripts® Pharmacy will ship eligible prescriptions to any address in the U.S. or U.S. territories, including APO/FPO addresses.
- **Retail Network Pharmacies.** 98% of beneficiaries are within a 15 minute drive of a retail pharmacy in their communities.
- **Non-network Retail Pharmacies.** Beneficiaries will have to pay full price for their medication and file a claim for reimbursement. Reimbursements are subject to applicable deductible and cost shares.

**UPCOMING!** Express Scripts will provide a FST demonstration at TMC Healthcare Committee meeting on May 25, 2023.

Contact us if you have questions about the TRICARE pharmacy benefit.

## Market Watch

- The Defense Health Agency [reaffirmed the award](#) of the TRICARE West region managed care support contract to TriWest Health Alliance.
- Federal Register [notice](#) posted for TRICARE Plan Program Changes, including changes to TRICARE pharmacy copayments, starting January 1, 2024.
- Due to ongoing high demand for certain diabetes medications, drug shortages exists for [Trulicity](#) and [Ozempic](#). Manufacturers expect supply health by mid-summer. Express Scripts will notify impacted beneficiaries when a drug is back in stock. We are continuously monitoring and working with the National Prime Vendor to ensure stock is available at home delivery.

For more information, visit [www.militaryrx.express-scripts.com](http://www.militaryrx.express-scripts.com)





# Connect With VA Care Through VA Health Chat



## Receive care from VA without stepping foot into a clinic or hospital.

The VA Health Chat app provides easy, online access to chat with VA staff when you need to refill a prescription and more. Only patients receiving care at select locations are eligible to use VA Health Chat.

VA team members are available to chat Monday through Friday from **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** local time, excluding federal holidays.



## Use VA Health Chat for immediate answers when:



You need to **schedule** a VA appointment



You need to **refill** a VA prescription



You have **questions** about your prescriptions



You need **medical advice** for a minor injury or illness



You need **directions** to your closest VA facility



Learn more about VA Health Chat  
View the list of participating locations at  
[mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-chat](https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-chat).



## SAND POUNDERS

### Horses, Hounds & Heroes - Keeping our Coast Lines Safe

Debbie Osborne, Executive Director

During a recent local history seminar in my town, I heard this phrase and its reference to a military entity created to patrol the U.S. coastlines, using horses and dogs. Of course I was intrigued. I set in to do some major research. This is what I found out and I think it is definitely worth sharing. I am curious – how many of you knew this?



In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, the security of our coastline became a major concern. The East Coast feared infiltration from Europe, the West Coast worried about Japan. On February 23, 1942, a Japanese submarine bombarded Ellwood near Santa Barbara, causing minor onshore damage. The attack was followed on June 21 by the bombardment of Battery Russell at Fort Stevens by a Japanese submarine commanded by Meiji Tagami. While the shots caused only slight damage, the incident stirred fear and concern.

On the night of June 12, 1942, after warning about enemy landings, issued by the FBI, were ignored, a German U-Boat commanded by Lieutenant Commander Lindner surfaced off Amagansett, Long Island, and four men in German Navy uniforms went ashore to begin Operation Pastorius. A plan to disable American industrial and transportation sectors. They were discovered by John C. Cullen, seaman second class of the Amagansett Coast Guard Stations. Cullen, after refusing a \$260 bribe from the group of German agents, raced to report the incident to the duty officer at the Coast Guard station, Boatswain's Mate Carl R. Jenette, who sent a unit to investigate. They discovered ample funds of American currency, explosives and incendiary devices in the Germans' row boat but the Germans were nowhere around. The FBI got involved and tracked down the Germans about two weeks later. They were arrested and charged with planning an attack on U.S. soil. Cullen was presented with the Legion of Merit and the Beach Patrol was finally given the credit it deserved.

Days later, on June 17, 1942, four more German agents put ashore from a U-Boat on Ponte Vedra Beach, fifteen miles southeast of Jacksonville, Florida. These men were reported by local fishermen, who found hidden boxes that contained bombs and incendiary devices. These German saboteurs, too, were later seized by FBI officials. Of the eight German agents, six were executed, one was given life imprisonment and the other was sentenced to thirty years.

These incidents made it clear that America's 12,400 miles of coastline were susceptible to attack and infiltration.

Within a month of the sabotage efforts, the Coast Guard began organizing the Beach Patrol (aka: The Sand Pounders) in collaboration with the FBI, the US Army and local police. It was set up that the Army handled land defense, the Navy would take care of offshore patrols and the Coast Guard would handle the coast/beach patrol. There were three major functions:

1. To detect and observe enemy vessels operation in coastal waters and to transmit information on these crafts to the appropriate Navy and Army commands.
2. To report attempts of landings by the enemy and to assist in preventing landings
3. Prevent communications between persons on shore and the enemy at sea

The Beach Patrol created an integrated communication system requiring thousands of miles of land-lines and submarine cables.

At around this same time, but before the new organization was an actuality, information became known the Germans had acquired property at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and that German submarines had been observed hovering in the vicinity. Immediate concern was expressed as to the adequacy of the existing patrols, and their extension was requested.



On July 30, 1942, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations informed commanders of the Sea Frontiers that the beaches and inlets of the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific Coast would be patrolled by the Coast Guard whenever and wherever possible. Plans and organization progressed. All patrol activities were integrated with the work of the FBI, the Army, and various local services such as state and local police. Coordination for complete coastal defense was the keystone of the organization. The ultimate success of the Beach Patrol was due as much to the sustained cooperation of the several agencies involved as it was to the constant vigilance of the individual patrols. Canines were added to beach patrols.

Their keen sense of smell and ability to guard made them valuable additions. The dogs were fitted with canvas boots to protect their paws from sea coral and seashells and were trained at Elkins Park Training Station in Pennsylvania and Hilton Head, South Carolina.

When the dogs came into use, the two man teams were replaced with canine patrols. The length of their patrol was about a mile. The dogs saved their handlers lives on numerous occasions. One guardsman almost walked off a cliff, another, Guardsmen Evans E. Mitchell fell unconscious on a remote section of beach at Oregon inlet. His dog ran for help and saved him from dying of hypothermia. The dog, known as Nora, was awarded the bronze John P. Haines medal from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York City.

On September 16, 1942, the Secretary of the Navy authorized horse-mounted patrols. The equine patrols got under way in November, 1942, on the East and Gulf Coasts. Horses were the natural choice as they enabled their riders to carry more equipment than non-mounted patrolmen could carry and could access more variable terrain than a footed patrolman.

By boat, jeep, truck, on foot, and on horseback, Coast Guardsmen tirelessly patrolled the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific Coasts. Most areas were under constant surveillance by the close of 1943. Night patrols operated from a continuous chain of stations extending from Maine to Florida, from Key West to Corpus Christi, and from Southern California to Puget Sound. Concentrated coverage was given the more vulnerable coastal sections. In many regions, where danger of invasion or sabotage activity was greatest, a full 24-hour beach coverage was undertaken.

One example will illustrate the high degree of efficiency attained by patrols. In April, 1943, a small Navy boat with 10 or 12 armed personnel tried to make an unidentified landing on the eastern side of the Cape Cod Canal. The beach patrol intervened and successfully prevented the landing. The incident doubtless came as a surprise to both parties, but it was conclusive proof that the Coast Guard was on the alert.

The Beach Patrols, both mounted and foot, materially strengthened the rescue work of the Coast Guard. One of the outstanding achievements in the Fifth District was the reporting of the disaster of the Greek steamer Louise, which broke up just offshore near the Little Kinakeet Coast Guard Station. The mounted patrol discovered the first of the 11 bodies washed ashore. This report made it possible for two lives to be saved.

By June 30, 1943, about 2,990 horses were on active duty, virtually all of them furnished by the Army, without expense to the Coast Guard except for maintenance. At the peak, in September 1943, the number of horses in Coast Guard service reached 3,222. The Army Remount Service provided all riding gear but the Coast Guard had to equip its riders. It was necessary to enlist horse-personnel, and this progressed rapidly in 1943. Stabling arrangements were made for quartering horses in suitable localities, and Army Remount Officers, acting in an advisory capacity, were assigned to each of the eight Districts in which horses were used. The horses were trained at Elkins Park and Hilton Head, as were most of the dogs.



From 1942 to 1944, 42,000 men, almost 3,000 horses & hundreds of dogs kept vigil over 3,700 miles of coastline.

The mission ended on February 18, 1944. Most of the former Sand Pounders were reassigned overseas to prepare for the Invasion of Normandy. The horses were sold at public auction and most of the dogs were retrained as sentry dogs for the Coast Guard.

Was the Sand Pounders Program a success? That depends on your definition of success. Although they never saw combat or stopped an invasion, the United States citizens residing on the coastlines, were comforted by their presence.

Some people believe that Sand Pounders had won their fight before they even suited up. Stating that the incident cited in the article about the Nazi saboteurs on Long Island, their capture and convictions must have sent a loud message back to the Germans that the American home front was not going to be an easy target.”

There are many articles on the Internet about the Sand Pounders. I am only able to share a small portion of their actions and history. I hope you are interested enough to learn more.

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