

# THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted



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For the ones who gave all,  
**WE REMEMBER.**

The poppy is a symbol of remembrance for all who made the ultimate sacrifice in military service to our nation.

On Memorial Day, we join you in honoring each individual this red flower represents.



[usaa.com/memorialday](https://usaa.com/memorialday)



## TREA FOUNDERS

George Skonce, 1915 – 2000  
Dean Sorell, 1921 – 2004

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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. 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 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 June 15th, 2022.

### 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 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. Periodicals postage paid at Englewood, CO and other mailing offices.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Justin G. Jump, National President



We are quickly approaching the midway point of 2022 and I cannot help but look back at the many accomplishments TREA has played a role in. Everything from big legislative wins, to internally restructuring with the establishment of programs to support veterans and their families. Great time and efforts have been made to which all should be proud of our organizations' support of all veterans.

Such efforts were not easy during the past two years of COVID, proving to be extremely difficult to many non-profits and VSO's. Some of whom fell victim to the financial stress caused by decreased donations and waning memberships. I am proud to say that under our current governing board TREA is resilient and grows even stronger despite such odds. In the same right, our Headquarters Staff is dedicated and hardworking, stopping at nothing to ensure that our members receive the highest quality of customer service. They strengthening our core mission of supporting enlisted service members - past, present, and future.

Now that COVID is under control, we are faced with a new threat as a nation and a people with economic turmoil and unprecedented inflation. Everyone is susceptible to the price of oil whether it is paying \$4.00 for a gallon of gas, outrageous cost to place food on one's table as a result, or the cost of prescriptions and medical care. Times like these as we struggle and stress, are when we gather closer as a military organization, to support, encourage and provide for those who, like us, wear or have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. Simply put, we need to take care of one another. Whether it is providing companionship to a lonely soul, the means to put food on a veterans table, or a roof overhead, TREA is here to make a difference.

We have made it known, loud and clear, that we are here to make good on the promise that our Founding Fathers stated almost 60 years ago. To support enlisted service members, veterans, retirees, and Guard & Reserve. TREA has a very solid legislative presence and makes great strides in getting things accomplished in Washington. Our legislative actions are far-reaching and felt throughout the military/veteran community.

Our benevolent program picks up where so many of our brothers and sisters in uniform find themselves, and that is in financial hardship. The goal is to be a solid, well-rounded support organization, protecting and enhancing the lives of all enlisted members who have worn the uniform. This means different things to different people, so as we grow and morph into the organization that is relevant and needed, let us take a hard look inward to what this means on a personal level.

UNITED WE STAND!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin G. Jump".

President  
Justin G. Jump



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Garry Turks, National Director & Chaplain

As summer approaches, and you start working on getting healthy and into shape, make sure to include your spiritual health and wellness.

Taking time to nurture your spiritual needs can lead to reduced stress, less worries and doubts, increased focus and can improve your decision making. Try these simple spiritual fitness exercises to build your spiritual muscle:

**Practice Gratitude.** Every day list at least 5 things that you are grateful for – can be as simple as having adequate food and shelter, to something major and life changing. Just do it.

**Serve Others.** Do something small (or big) for someone else. Give a compliment, write a note to a co-worker or a neighbor, make someone else smile – it's free!

**Let Negativity Go – always!** Forgive others and forgive yourself. You deserve to let it go! Realize your own value – make decisions based upon the value you put on yourself as a person. Keep God in your Heart – Keep Him as your focus and use His guidance and wisdom and your days will be blessed.

## PLANT A SEED OF HOPE – AND COME GROW WITH US

Isn't it amazing how a tiny seed, no bigger than a speck of dust will, grow into the beautiful orchid. Known to have the smallest seed recorded, it grows into a majestic plant that is ranked as the sixth most popular flower in the world. The seed is just the beginning and the size of it is irrelevant – it is the nurturing and the care that goes into the growing that creates the beautiful end result. Much like TREA's new Benevolent Program; **TREA GIVES**, it is not the size of the donation; it's what that donation can do that really makes a difference.

Today is the perfect time to 'plant your seed of hope' by making a donation to our benevolent program: **TREA GIVES**. No amount is too small and we promise to make every donation count. 100% of every dollar donated will go directly to the support and care of a veteran/active duty soldier/retiree in need. All donations are tax-deductible and every donation truly makes a difference.

If you sign up today for monthly credit card donations of \$10 or more, we will send you a special seed packet. We can grow our gardens of hope and help together.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

C/C Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Seed Choice, circle one: flower vegetable herb



## TREA GIVES – OUR BENEVOLENT PROGRAM

Deb Oelschig, National 1st Vice & Benevolence Committee Chair

Creating a benevolent program in the midst of a worldwide pandemic is not an easy thing to do, yet we did it and we were successful. The Benevolent program: **TREA GIVES** paid out \$64,439 in direct support last year, including the Holiday Program. We were able to do this, thanks to you and your generosity. Your belief, along with ours, that it is our responsibility and duty to support, lift up and help those who served in uniform alongside us. That is what this program does. This program is not designed to be a ‘hand-out’, our goal is to help them through the situation that they are in, offer

encouragement and provide guidance to help them look for a way out. Our goal is not to keep any veteran down; we want them to rise above the current situation, acknowledge their worth and make the effort to pull themselves out of a bad situation. Most applications we receive are one-time situations caused by the loss of a job, an illness or an injury, but we do, on occasion, receive an application where it simply is a habit of bad spending. In this case, we offer, and encourage financial counseling through a local counseling service. This service has been very well received and very successful, with the applicant feeling valued and worthy of our time and effort. Anyone can give a dollar – we do more, we bring value back to the person.

Our 501(C)(3) application for this program has been submitted to the IRS, and now we wait, and plan for all the wonderful things that this program can do, including corporate sponsorship.

Sometimes we get asked why there is an application process. The answer is simple; it’s a part of our annual financial audit and a way to ensure that the internal policies and processes are followed. There are steps that need to be followed to ensure that things are being done properly. We are committed to doing this program properly and for the long haul. It is the future of TREA’s legacy, and I am looking forward to carrying this program and TREA into the future.

We understand that not everyone is able to donate. If this is your situation, you can still help us out by telling others about us. You may not be able to contribute at this time, but someone else might be. Getting the word out about this program is half the battle and you can help with that.

If you are an honorably discharged, retired or active duty enlisted servicemember, and are struggling to make ends meet, through no fault of your own, we might be able to help. [Click here](#) to use the fillable financial aid application or call us at 303-752-0660 to be mailed a copy.

Times are tough for many veterans and we want them to know that we are here - please help us help them.

## THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING A HOUSE?

TREA is collaborating with HOME at LAST, to help Veteran and First Responder families find housing, sell their homes, and help other homeowners match with a Veteran or First Responder family to facilitate the sale of their home.



For more information, go to: <https://homeatlast.us/sell-to-a-hero>



## UPCOMING NATIONAL BOARD OPENINGS

Butch Liebaert, National Director & Nominations & Credentials Chair

This is a big year for TREA, and for you, our members. You will be asked to vote on the new National Board.

This is an important task, and not one that should be taken lightly. TREA's future depends on the board that you vote into place, their thoughts, their actions and their direction. No one can deny that there have been big changes over the past several years. You may not agree with all of them, but it is important to understand the results of those changes. In an environment where the country was shut down, jobs were lost, businesses were closed, homes were foreclosed – TREA stayed alive. This was done because of the hard decisions that the current board has made. They do not make these decisions to become popular, (that is almost never the case), they make these decision because they are right ones to make to ensure the future of TREA, and the legacy of all those who came before us.

If you are interested in running for a position on the National Board, please make sure to familiarize yourself with TREA Bylaws, Article V - National Officers, Article VI – Duties of National Officers and Article IX – Nominations and Elections.

All seven positions are open: President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, 3rd Vice, Treasurer, and 2 Directors. All positions are for a two-year term.

To submit your resume for National Office, use TREA Form 100-3, Resume for Elected Office. This form can be found on our website ([www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)) under Membership, then Form and Documents, or you can reach out to TREA Headquarters and request that a form be sent to you. The forms are available in fillable PDF and printable Word formats. The deadline for resumes is June 15 2022. This is a solid deadline; any resume received after 5PM on June 15, 2022 will not be accepted. All resumes will be reviewed and approved by the credentials committee to ensure that eligibility as defined in the above stated TREA National Bylaws is met.

Voting will be done via mail-in and on-line ballots through Elections America, an independent, third party vendor with no internal ties to TREA the organization. This ensures a fair and equal process for all candidates. All voting information and instructions will be printed in the August issue of the VOICE magazine. All TREA members will receive a printed copy of that issue, as a unique member/voting identifier will be printed on each copy. This is one-time use code that is unique to each member. It will ensure a fair election.

We are hoping to have an unprecedented voting turnout, we need to top 400 to do that, but with your participation, this can happen. This is YOUR organization; let YOUR vote lead the way into the future.

## BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES COMMITTEE

Walt Coley, National 2nd Vice and Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee Chair

Your National Bylaws and Standing Rules committee is reviewing Chapter and National rule changes that affect and should concern all one of us. My mandate as chairman of BLSR from your Board of Directors was to refine our rules, so we still met the Founder's Vision for TREA and made the rules business-friendly; this has been done for the national rules. When they come up for review, your chapter rules will be evaluated by the same standard. All regular members, whether chapter members or not, should read and understand our purpose, our rights under the rules, and how we are supposed to work together, at all levels. All other categories should also understand Who We Are, so they know what they are part of. Why? We all have to be consistent in our words, intent, and action at all levels of our organization in what we say and do; So, we walk United We Stand – not just talk it. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at [2ndvice@trea.org](mailto:2ndvice@trea.org). I will personally answer all messages.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Walt Coley, National 2nd Vice and Membership Committee Chairman

You are the membership of TREA: The Enlisted Association. You've served, and serve, your country and have accepted the call to support your past, present, and future brothers and sisters in arms and their families, fighting for their well-being - Together. This is who we are. Someone said to us in a PR and Marketing meeting once that we have to determine who we were and where we were going. If you've been following the changes we've approved over the last 2-3 years, they've been about giving you a voice in our national direction and declaring Who We Are. We are done with that for now – now the hard part.



We all need to be ambassadors for TREA. I know many of you feel you have done enough, I thank you for all that you've done. But now I must ask you to talk to newer retirees or former service members about why TREA is a good thing and worth their time and effort. If you have any questions or comments, contact me through TREA Headquarters or by email at [2ndvice@trea.org](mailto:2ndvice@trea.org). United We Stand.

## SPECIAL TRAVEL DISCOUNTS FOR TREA MEMBERS

TREA is excited to announce the launch of its new TREA Travel Center. From this one site, members can now book all their travel and enjoy discounts at over 900,000 lodging destinations worldwide and at rates up to 77% off retail. In addition, TREA members can save up to 40% on rental cars. Members can also receive unmatched rates on group lodging for events, family reunions, weddings, and more.



The travel center delivers members the industry's best rates as it sources rates from dozens of distinct supply channels to bring you the best proprietary member rates around the world. So, if you are looking for a 4-star hotel in London, a beach-front resort in Florida, or just a comfortable place to stay along the way, you can now save big at the TREA Travel Center. You can book travel via your laptop, tablet, or mobile device, or call and still enjoy the same great user experience. So, pick your favorite destination, your favorite brand, and your best traveling companion and book your next trip with us.



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



# VA



# U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

## **VETERAN RAPID RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VRRAP)**

The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) offers education and training for high-demand jobs to Veterans who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Are you Eligible for this program?**

You must meet ALL the requirements listed below:

- You are at least 22 years old, but not older than 66, and
- You are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- You are not rated as totally disabled because you can't work, and
- You are not enrolled in a federal or state jobs program

Note: You cannot receive VRRAP benefits at the same time that you are receiving unemployment benefits, including CARES Act benefits.

### **What types of education and training programs does VRRAP cover?**

VRRAP covers education and training programs approved under the GI Bill and Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) that lead to high-demand jobs. These include associate degrees, non-college degrees, and certificate programs. The Department of Labor determines what is considered a high-demand job for VRRAP.

### **What benefits can I get through this program?**

If you are eligible for VRRAP, you can get:

- Up to 12 months of tuition and fees, and
- A monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill rates.

For more information and/or to apply, click here (<https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>)



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Deborah Oelschig, National 1st Vice & Legislative Affairs Chair

### A New Year, an Old Congress

As we enter the final year of the 117th Congress, we wanted to share with you some of our legislative updates and accomplishments on behalf of all enlisted servicemembers, veterans, caregivers, and their families. In order to achieve these results, TREA has maintained strong relationships at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense, The White House, and on Capitol Hill to ensure your voices are heard.

### Toxic Exposures

TREA continues to be a leading advocate on Toxic Exposures related legislation, which has been dubbed the “new generation’s Agent Orange.” TREA is proud to report that our advocacy has helped ensure the passage of “The PACT Act” in the U.S. House! “The PACT Act” incorporates similar provisions as its Senate counterpart called “The COST of War Act” that TREA has worked on with the Toxic Exposures in the American Military (TEAM) Coalition for nearly three years.

In addition, TREA is proud to report that the U.S. Senate unanimously passed TREA backed legislation that would provide health care for post-9/11 toxic exposed veterans, “The Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans. We are grateful for the leadership in both the House and Senate to get these bills passed, especially that of Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Senator Jon Tester, Ranking Member Senator Jerry Moran, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano, and Ranking Member Mike Bost for their continued support.



*Photo Credit: U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs*

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Deborah Oelschig, National 1st Vice & Legislative Affairs Chair (cont.)

Finally, TREA is proud to share that the VA has formally announced its intent to begin processing disability benefits claims for veterans suffering from 9 different rare respiratory cancers as a result of Toxic Exposures during their military service! TREA has advocated for policy changes and legislation to address these concerns extensively and is pleased to see that VA has acknowledged their importance in conjunction with Congress.

### **Concurrent Receipt and Retirement Pay**

TREA is proud to report that both H.R. 1282 and S. 344, "The Major Richard Star Act" are making strides in both the U.S. House and Senate. TREA has been hard at work securing cosponsors in both chambers, with now 56 cosponsors (6 new) in the Senate, and over 200 cosponsors in the House (100 new)!

As you may know, 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.

### **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**

TREA continues to advocate for alternative therapies in addition to conventional methods of treatment for servicemembers and veterans who experience the invisible wounds of war, including post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and military sexual trauma. Specifically, since the passage of the TREA backed PAWS For Veterans Therapy Act, our team has been tracking the implementation efforts that are currently underway at the Veterans Health Administration. We are proud to report that VA has announced 5 locations nationwide for the pilot program, which include Anchorage, Alaska, San Antonio, Texas, West Palm, Florida, Asheville, North Carolina, and Palo Alto, California.

### **The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

Several key nominations have been sent to the U.S. Senate for confirmation in the past few weeks, including Shereef Elnahal to be Under Secretary for Health, Rita Landgraf to be Assistant Secretary for Aging, and Roselyn Tso to be Director of the Indian Health Service.

In addition, 8 different nominations were made for individuals to be members of the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission (AIR) at VA. Created by the TREA backed "MISSION Act" of 2018, the AIR Commission is based upon the military's BRAC process. In a nutshell, VA has spent the past few years conducting market assessments on where veterans currently live and trends as to where they might be in the future. VA Secretary McDonough has based his set of recommendations for the AIR Commission upon those assessments. The Department published its criteria for those recommendations in the May 28, 2021, Federal Register, and recommendations were released on Monday, March 14, 2022.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Deborah Oelschig, National 1st Vice & Legislative Affairs Chair (Cont.)

If the President accepts the report, Congress will have one opportunity to vote against the final set of recommendations before they go into effect. Neither the President nor Congress has the option of choosing which part of the final report to accept. More to come on this important topic as it has been announced that several VA Medical Centers are facing closure or re-configuration.

### Social Media

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

Facebook: @TheEnlistedAssn

Twitter: @TREA\_DC

LinkedIn: @TheEnlistedAssociation

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## MEMORIAL DAY – 2022

Deborah Osborne, Executive Director

A day set aside to remember, honor and pay respect to the more than 1,185,590 American troops that have died in battle or from other, non-combat, service-connected causes.

Over the years, Americans have gotten complacent about the reason behind this sacred day, instead they choose to recognize it as the beginning of summer and relish in and celebrate it as a three-day weekend.

This year, I ask that in the midst of your celebration and family enjoyment that you take just 3 minutes out of the 1,440 in the day, to remember and pay a personal homage to those who have paved the way for the freedom that we take for granted today. I personally ask that during this time of reflection and respect that you also remember and hold up the families of these fallen soldiers and that you never forget the ultimate sacrifice that they have made for our freedom as well. There are holes in the hearts of these families that cannot be seen and can never be filled.

“Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.”

– Unknown



# Remember Me

An original song by Bill Rhoads

When your soul cries out in the long night,  
And you doubt what's meant to be;  
And you take other arms to console you,  
Oh, my darling, please remember me.

As the children grow, and thoughts of me,  
Start to fade from memory;  
Speak my name in prayer and in story,  
So they will always remember me.

Remember me, the fallen soldier,  
Who has died for your right to be free;  
And I would die, yet again, for my country,  
All I ask is that you remember me.

When the old men salute parades passing,  
While the children run laughing free;  
Some men will speak of war's glory,  
Oh my friends, then please remember me.

Remember me, the fallen soldier,  
Don't be bound to repeat history;  
Carve my name in stone – bold and lasting,  
So you always will remember me.



## AUXILIARY

### A MESSAGE FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Barbara Coley



Greetings members, and welcome to another edition of the Voice! Springtime has finally arrived. Hoping to find our members across the country safe and sound. It is a beautiful day here in Goodyear, AZ where I reside as of this edition and article publication.

This is a crucial time for us to make a difference in the future of our TREA National Auxiliary. We are looking for a few good “WOMEN” who are willing and able to keep our organization moving forward. Let me also say that MEN can also become members of the Auxiliary and become members of the Board of Directors (BOD) as well as to offer services to a committee.

We have an enormous agenda to accomplish at This Fall’s Annual Membership Meeting, 2022. A major action is the election of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and three Directors. We will also appoint a Secretary and Parliamentarian. This will create a new board, with very valuable new visions, views, and insights. Should you see yourself or another member in good standing as part of this new team? I am asking for you to take a moment and think about how you can make the difference to help further the impact, operation, growth, and development of the Auxiliary. We need to keep the Auxiliary alive to support and help our Retired Military family community.

Those Interested are asked to submit your resume for a position on the Auxiliary Board of Directors to our Nomination Chairperson, Nancy MacBride by completing your resumes and submitting it on “TREA Auxiliary Form 100-3A Resume of Candidate for Elective Office.” This form is located on the TREA.org website under National Auxiliary. Complete and submit your resume to Mrs. Nancy MacBride, Nominating Chairperson at [n.macbride@att.net](mailto:n.macbride@att.net) or mail your package to Nancy MacBride, 473 Nile Street, Aurora, CO, 80010. All resumes must be submitted and received no later than June 30, 2022. Our Official Call for Resumes will also be sent out to the Chapter Presidents and PNP’s. Please be on the lookout for this important information.

THE WEF/Benevolent program is seeking requests for assistance from those in need. Funds are available to support widows/widowers of deceased service members. We remind everyone that we provide support for dental, hearing, vision and other medical or benevolent needs. You may contact Patricia Winds, Chairperson of the WEF/Benevolent Committee at [Pmitch2121@gmail.com](mailto:Pmitch2121@gmail.com).

Additionally, the Auxiliary offers an opportunity for awarding Scholarships. The Scholarship application information has been posted online at TREA.org, with an open period through June 1, 2022. This site provides application procedures, and the student eligibility requirements. Our Chairperson is Audrey McCray, who may be reached at [mccraya@aol.com](mailto:mccraya@aol.com).

Our Mid-Term Meeting is scheduled for Monday May 2, and Tuesday, May 3, 2022, done via Zoom Teleconference. And our TREA National Auxiliary Annual Membership Meeting (previously called TREA National Convention), is scheduled for Wednesday September 7 and Thursday September 8, 2022. This



year's meeting will be hosted by The Enlisted Association, Chapter 3, located at 1599 Dayton St, Aurora, CO, 80010. This year marks the TREA National Auxiliary 50th Anniversary. Our PNP, Pat Winds, and her committee are planning this celebration. It will be an in-person and via Zoom Teleconferencing event. Further details will be forthcoming.

Important actions at this meeting include results of Candidates running for office, any proposed Bylaws or Standing Rules changes and the transfer of officers. Voting for 2022 will be accomplished again by mail-in and electronic voting. Again, these measures are due to Covid 19 epidemic uncertainties that have taken place and yet to be revealed in the future. The board decided to continue implementing this procedure for this election year, as used in 2020. A standing Rule change is being submitted to our Bylaws and Standing Rules Chairperson, Irmgard Cates, along with her committee that will be presented to all of our members for voting. (including our MAL's). This process will ensure one vote for each member. If this process is approved, it will eliminate Delegates and Proxies all together.

I am encouraging chapters to continue with recruiting member to educate, train and get new members involved in the work of the Auxiliary. Please reach out to members of your military community who might be eligible to join the Auxiliary or know individuals who should receive our information. We want to keep all ten remaining chapters alive and build a pool for potential leaders for our Auxiliary's future.

Each of my BOD members have been working hard and I would like to thank each one for their continued support. I close with asking for any suggestions or ideas that would benefit our auxiliary, members, or families to please reach out to me at [barbcoley@cox.net](mailto:barbcoley@cox.net).

UNITED WE STAND

Sincerely,  
Barbara Coley

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## AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Annette Harris



As we think about the nature of our relationship with God, we remember this: we will always have some type of relationship with Him, so it is inevitable that our lives must be lived in relationship to God. The question is not if we will have a relationship with Him; the burning question is whether that relationship will be one that seeks to honor Him.

Have you spent much time lately thinking about your own relationship with God? Or have you been too busy to invest a few moments each day in quiet reflection? When you pause each morning to count your blessings and consult your Creator, you'll find perspective and strength for the day ahead of you.

Thankfully, God is always available, He's always ready to forgive, and He's waiting to hear from you now. The rest, of course, is up to you.

Annette S. Harris  
Chaplain



## THE SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE AND THE UNFAIR 2022 MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM INCREASE

By: Richard "Rick" Delaney, Chairman

The large increase in inflation over the last number of months has all Americans concerned, but especially seniors, most of whom are on fixed incomes. However, not all the increased expenses of seniors have come about because of inflation.

In particular, the major increase in Medicare Part B premiums that took effect at the beginning of this year was not due to inflation, but to a new drug called "Aduhelm," which has been developed as a possible treatment for Alzheimer's disease.

**This is an issue that is important to all seniors who use Medicare Part B, including military retirees who use Tricare for Life.**

Last year, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a new drug called Aduhelm as a treatment of Alzheimer's, but immediately both the approval process and the drug were controversial. Some doctors took issue with the quality of the data on which the FDA's decision was based, and they also criticized how the agency reviewed the drug.

Of the two large studies of Aduhelm submitted to the FDA, one found that the drug was able to delay the loss of memory and thinking, while the other found no clear benefit.

The use of Aduhelm was approved by the FDA despite the fact that 10 of the 11 members of an advisory committee of independent experts the agency convened for guidance voted that there was not enough evidence to justify approval. Subsequently, several members of the advisory committee resigned in protest over what they saw as the agency dismissing its advice.

The FDA further confused matters by initially approving the drug for all Alzheimer's patients, even though it is intended for patients in the early stages of the disease, a population that represents only about a quarter of the six million people in the U.S. with Alzheimer's.

A month after the initial approval, the agency revised the label to specify that the drug has not been studied in people with more advanced disease.

The controversy then grew because Medicare, which insures most people with Alzheimer's, had to decide whether to cover the cost of the drug.

Each year the Medicare Trustees report to the Congress on financial and actuarial status of the Medicare Trust funds. The Trustees projected in August 2021 that the standard Part B premium for 2022 would be \$182.50, which did not account for the costs of Aduhelm.

In November, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) raised the Part B premium to \$179.10, in anticipation of the increased spending from Aduhelm. That increase became effective on January 1 of this year.

The Part B increase to \$170.10 per month is the highest since 2016 and will consume the entire annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) of Social Security recipients with the very lowest benefits, of about \$365 per month.



On January 11, CSM proposed that Medicare would cover Aduhelm conditional on the drug manufacturer collecting more data on effectiveness and safety. It also said Medicare will cover the drug only for beneficiaries enrolled in a clinical trial approved by CMS or supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Prior to that preliminary CMS decision, the manufacturer of the drug lowered the price to \$28,200 per year – before accounting for the costs of determining eligibility, monitoring, treating side effects, and drug administration.

CMS is expected to give a final ruling on the extent of which Medicare will cover Aduhelm on April 11.

The Alzheimer’s Association and other Alzheimer’s advocates support the FDA approval of the drug and say that patients should have the option of deciding whether or not they want to try it. While that option seems reasonable, the problem, still, is the cost of Aduhelm and who will pay for it.

Since the price of Aduhelm has been cut in half, TSCL believes the Part B premium should be lowered to reflect both the lower cost of the drug, as well as the number of patients projected to be covered, especially if that number is lower than the number that was used to determine the current Part B premium increase.

TSCL is pleased that Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra has told Medicare to reexamine its projected premium increase, but we don’t expect any announcement of that front prior to the final decision from CMS regarding the extent of the coverage of Aduhelm by Medicare.

Because the Part B premium increase is now in effect, plus the extra costs the covid pandemic has, in particular, burdened seniors with, TSCL has contacted almost every Member of Congress asking for support of a \$1,400 emergency stimulus for Social Security recipients. A \$1,400 stimulus check would not be counted as taxable income and could help those Social Security recipients better afford their prescription drugs and co-pays and enable them to get medical services such as dental care, not covered by Medicare.

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## TREA SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE (TSCL) - CALL FOR CANDIDATE RESUMES

September 2022 - There will be two vacancies on TREA Senior Citizens League’s Board of Trustees.

Term Length: 3 Years

**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 Board of Directors may serve concurrently as a Trustee except TREA’s Treasurer, who shall be exempt from all other qualifications.

Interested TREA members should submit resumes on **TREA Form 100-3MT**. Resumes will be accepted until the day prior to TSCL’s annual meeting in September.

For questions, call or email -

Executive Director	or	Current Chairman
Shannon Benton		Rick Delaney
703-548-5568		703-548-5568
<a href="mailto:sbenton@tsclhq.org">sbenton@tsclhq.org</a>		<a href="mailto:rjdtrea@gmail.com">rjdtrea@gmail.com</a>



## SPECIAL DAYS FOR MILITARY & VETERANS

### May - National Military Appreciation Month

National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) was designated by Congress as the National Military Appreciation Month in 1999 as a declaration that encourages Americans to observe the month in a symbol of unity. Unlike Memorial Day, which is a special day set aside solely to honor and respect all those who died in service, NMAM honors current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces; including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. NMAM provides the opportunity for the public to show their appreciation for troops, past and present.

The U.S. military is the world's largest employer, with close to 3.5 million personnel employed in one way or another. The Military Appreciation Month honors everyone who has served and reminds us that we owe many of our freedoms to the sacrifices made by military personnel.

Many companies offer special discounts to service members and families during the month of May. Visit this site to see the full list of 2022 offerings. <https://www.military.com/military-appreciation-month/military-appreciation-month-discounts.html>

### June – PTSD Awareness Month



In 2010, the U.S. Senate declared June 27 to be National PTSD Awareness Day. However, in 2014, it designated the whole month of June to be observed as National PTSD Awareness Month. This was a welcome move by many PTSD organizations and support groups as many felt that more awareness campaigns needed to be held for people to seek help when it came to PTSD. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, one of the most active forerunners in the fight against PTSD (<https://www.ptsd.va.gov/>) has published these findings:

About 11- 20% of veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year;

About 12% of the Gulf War veterans have PTSD in any given year; and,

About 30% of Vietnam Veterans have been diagnosed with PTSD during their lifetime.

PTSD is not a newly recognized mental disorder. The disorder dates back to 50 B.C. when it was described in a poem by Hippocrates. He talks about the experiences of a soldier returning home after a battle. PTSD started gaining more attention after the wars between England and France when many people, civilians and soldiers alike, reported experiencing symptoms like anxiety, insomnia, intrusive and disturbing thoughts, and flashbacks. This continued throughout WW1 and WW2, with PTSD being named as 'Shell Shock' and 'Battle Fatigue', respectively. It was during the 1970s' Vietnam War that the mental disorder was renamed PTSD.

As the definitions of PTSD has evolved, so have therapeutic techniques. Today's treatments are full of hope and promise for the 354 million adult war survivors, globally, who currently suffer from PTSD. (European Journal of Psychotraumatology, 2019)

With the validation of an official diagnosis, growing knowledge-base from the mental health community, and increased awareness and compassion from the public, maybe true healing for all generations of people can now begin.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- **Membership:** Any honorably discharged enlisted person – retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserve, or the spouse/widow/widower of an honorably discharged enlisted person - retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserve shall be eligible for membership. Membership entitles the person to all privileges of membership including attending business meetings, making motions and holding office.

New Member       Renewal      Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Grade/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Years Served: from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter Information: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I am :         Retired         Veteran         Active Duty     Spouse/widow/widower of a veteran

By submitting payment, I acknowledge that I am an Enlisted U.S. Armed Forces Veteran and as such qualify to be a member of TREA: The Enlisted Association (if joining as a veteran spouse/widow/widower, your payment acknowledges the veteran status of your spouse).

Proof of eligibility falls on the applicant and not TREA

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

- One Year - \$30
- Two Years - \$55
- Three Years - \$75

Payment:

Visa  
Master Card  
Discover  
American Express

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

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

Make checks payable to: TREA)

**Please return your completed application to:**

TREA: The Enlisted Association - 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250 - Centennial, CO 80112

E-mail: [treaHQ@trea.org](mailto:treaHQ@trea.org)

303-752-0660 800-338-9337

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



**THE RETIRED ENLISTED**  
Association

# **WE EARNED OUR STRIPES**

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