

# THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted



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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](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 March 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](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 THE PRESIDENT

Justin Jump, National President



## WELCOME TO 2022!

As a country and a people, we have seen the lingering effects of COVID drawn out for way too long. I truly hope that this does not persist, regardless, we will adapt. We may not know all that this New Year will bring, but one thing that we know for certain is that change is constant and inevitable.

Society has changed to particularly when it concerns military and veteran service organizations.

*"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."  
John F. Kennedy*

Recent decades of how these organizations accomplished business has been regulated to the history books and is currently outdated. We must not be surprised by this change, because veterans and societal gifting that once was all aspects of our operation budgeting and survival, is no more. Instead, the culture of military giving has shifted focus to providing much needed support for one's own community directly, and not through the standard membership organizational structure. This dynamic change has forced many organizations to shift in their operational focus to stay relevant. TREA: The Enlisted Association is not alone – we walk this road in the company of those organizations like ours, The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Veterans, and many similar veteran membership organizations.

TREA National, under my direction, is enacting change that is moving our association in a direction to ensure our relevance in supporting our comrades of all previous and current years of service. We have created a 501(c)(3) entity, TREA GIVES, that serves as our benevolence arm. I am encouraging all TREA members to look at this as a positive opportunity to embrace the possibilities that lie ahead and to be confident in what has been built over the near six decades in business; to be excited and optimistic about the changes that we are facing. This is an exhilarating time to lead the fight and focus on our mission of leading the fight to enhance the quality of life for all enlisted personnel of the uniformed services, veterans, their families, and survivors, regardless of when or where they served. To stop the erosion of earned benefits through our legislative efforts. Also, to maintain our esprit de corps, dedication, and patriotism and in so devotion and allegiance to God and Country.

We are a trusted organization, well built on a solid foundation of amazing people and leaders who have come before us. There is no doubt, that TREA, like all others, will have to shift with the times and adjust, but in the end, we will continue to stand tall and strong as The VOICE for all enlisted members of the Armed Forces, carrying on with providing for and supporting our fellow servicemembers – past, present, and future.

The Board and I are ready to tackle the approaching dynamic culture change with zest. This will allow current and future TREA members to home in on their benevolent and philanthropic ideologies as part of an organization whose focus continues to be providing needed services and support to those who have worn the enlisted uniform.

Your faith and trust in National's decisions and actions will make this New Year's and future years successful for our enlisted associations. Also, consistency in and by National Board engagements and staff are essential to the survivability of TREA. The key to this successful movement is in understanding not just the decisions and actions being taken by this board, but the data and details behind those decisions and actions. This is critical to the full understanding of our necessary shift forward.

Membership will always be a part of TREA, which will not change, but our reach must go past our membership alone. TREA must branch out and touch the lives of all enlisted servicemembers – those who served before us, with us and those well after us.

This is our way forward and our future as a non-profit. I implore all of you to become an active and integral part of the momentous journey.

UNITED WE STAND!

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

Justin G. Jump

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Garry Turks, National Director & Chaplain

Proverbs 11:25 – “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

As we begin our journey into and through 2022, let us do so with an open and generous heart. Let us all have a desire and a willingness to help others and to give freely to those less fortunate.

Being generous does not always mean that you have to pull out your checkbook. Don't underestimate the value of your time. Giving of your time is a valuable gift. Time is the one thing that you cannot get back, therefore it is the most precious thing that you can offer to someone.

Let's all make the decision this year to give more freely of not only our resources, but also of our time. The time that it takes to listen to someone may make all the difference in the world to that person and in doing so, you made a difference. You gave what was needed.

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Giving promotes social connections. Studies show that giving to others, will in turn continue down the line to some-

one else, or possibly be returned to you. This strengthens our social ties with each other and promotes a united community.

Help yourself and others by donating to TREA GIVES - ([click here to donate](#))

# ★ REMEMBER ★ PEARL HARBOR



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PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

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## A COLD-CAST BRONZE TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN HEROES

December 7th, 1941, is, as President Roosevelt said, "a date which will live in infamy." The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by invading Japanese warplanes. The battleships in the port, including USS *Arizona*, were sunk, planes at the base were destroyed, and 2,403 Americans perished. But our heroic service members fought back against the attack. Now, on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, you can honor American bravery with a bold new commemorative.

Key moments of the attack on Pearl Harbor are vividly portrayed within the eagle's mighty wings. This fascinating sculpture is hand-crafted with intricate details, hand-painted, and finished in cold-cast bronze.

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## TREA GIVES ENDS THE YEAR ON A HIGH NOTE

Deb Oelschig, National 1st Vice & Benevolence Committee Chair

Although 2021 was filled with more down than ups, thanks to COVID variants Delta & Omicron – our TREA GIVES program showed no signs of slowing down. We were on top of our game providing services and support to veterans and their families.

The TREA GIVES Program provided over \$35K in direct financial support to veterans and their families across the country. We provided assistance with rent, food, utilities, clothing, prescriptions, emergency travel and even provided the funds needed for a homeless veteran to get into HUD housing. Wait – that’s not all – we also provided over \$15K in clothing, food, and gifts to wounded or deployed service members and their families through our Holiday Program. Not done yet - we have pledged our support to collaborate with a service dog organization to sponsor a veteran/dog team every year. This past year we partnered with Semper K9 and provided the funds necessary to cover the training costs for the dog & veteran team. Read more about this and ‘Wiley’ on page 13-14.

None of this would have been possible if it were not for the caring generosity of supporters like you. We are truly blessed to have received hundreds of donation to this amazing program.

While this is a wonderful start, we need more. There is no end to the support and services we can provide – we just need one thing – for you to share the news of our program and our efforts with others. The more people who know about our program, the more veterans and family members we can help, and of course, the more people who support our efforts by donating to the program just means that we will be able to provide more services and support to those who need it.

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 service member, 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.

### WITH SPECIAL THANKS

We have had some very special donors this past year. Each and every one is special, but we do have some donors that deserve special recognition. These special donations were received after the last issue where other special donors were recognized.

Mary Hatfield from Texas has pledged the funds needed to support our next veteran/dog team as well as contributing a substantial amount to the general benevolent program, becoming another honored Flagship Donor.

TREA chapters 72 and 11 both became Sentinel donors, as well as TREA member Lawrence Jacklin.



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# TREA NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Call for Candidate Resumes

Butch Liebaert, National Director & Nominations & Credential Committee Chair

Now is the time to start thinking of how you can help move TREA forward. All 7 positions on the National Board are up for election. The positions are: President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, 3rd Vice, Treasurer and two Directors. All positions are for a 2-year term.

If you are interested in running for a position on the National Board, please review Article IX of the National Bylaws for eligibility requirements. All resumes must be submitted on TREA Form 100-3 and must be signed and dated. All forms must be received at TREA Headquarters by noon on June 15th. All resumes received will be followed up by Headquarter staff with a 'confirmation of receipt'. Due to printing deadlines, there cannot be any exceptions to this deadline.

All voting will be conducted electronically or by mail-in ballot. Details will be provided in the Spring and Summer issues of The VOICE Magazine.

If you have any questions, please contact the Nominations Committee Chairman, Mr. Butch Liebaert at [directorliebaert@trea.org](mailto:directorliebaert@trea.org). [Click here for TREA Form 100-3](#)

## SECURING LOCAL REPRESENTATION

As 2021 winded down, our efforts did not. TREA was still hard at work making contacts and promoting our mission and our programs. On Monday, December 21, 2021, National 1st Vice Deb Oelschig, along with Headquarter staff, Executive Director Debbie Osborne and Executive Assistant Misty Siggins met with City of Aurora, Colorado Mayor, Mike Coffman to discuss the needs of local military and veterans. Aurora is home to almost 2,500 TREA members and two active TREA chapters (3 & 39). The meeting was very successful with Mayor Coffman agreeing to endorse TREA, its efforts and its mission to support veterans, retirees and active duty service members. (Photo right, taken by Mayor Coffman – L-R: Executive Assistant Misty Siggins, Executive Director Debbie Osborne, 1st Vice President Deborah Oelschig.)



## C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

We are proud to announce that our own Director of Legislative Affairs, Mr. Bill McCabe has been selected as one of the country's top lobbyists for 2021. This honor and recognition is not given lightly. It was earned through Mr. McCabe's hard work and tenacity in fighting for TREA and for all enlisted veterans and military members. Mr. McCabe was selected as a top 100 finalist out of the 14,000 other registered lobbyists in the Washington, DC Metro area to receive this special recognition. Mr. McCabe was the only VSO lobbyist selected for this honor – this means that Mr. McCabe and TREA are getting heard, listened to and recognized.

*Top 2021 Lobbyist*

"Simply put, I love my job. Having the opportunity to advocate for service members, veterans, and their families who have selflessly served our country is truly an honor -- one that I'm grateful for everyday"

**BILL MCCABE**

Director of Legislative Affairs  
The Enlisted Association

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LOBBYING & ETHICS



## WASHINGTON UPDATE

Bill McCabe, Director of Legislative Affairs & Communications

We are proud to report that over the last several months, TREA has been involved in many wonderful legislative and ceremonial efforts in Washington, D.C. With the new year upon us, we are also beginning to launch several new legislative and regulatory priorities in order to better serve service members, veterans, caregivers, and their families.

### Legislative Updates

In 2021, TREA has worked hand in hand with offices on Capitol Hill and offered our formal endorsement for several pieces of important legislation, most notably including:

**S. 3016 - The Military FATIGUES Act:** In October, U.S. Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Joni Ernst (R-IA) introduced bipartisan legislation to help address inequity in the military. The bipartisan legislation would reduce out-of-pocket costs for military uniforms for all service members and would help address the cost disparity for women service members, who often pay more for uniform items. TREA's President, Justin Jump, was quoted in Senator Hassan's Press Release below:

"The report from the Government Accountability Office clearly identifies the inequities and out-of-pocket costs our members encounter when simply trying to adhere to uniform standards," said Justin Jump, National President at TREA: The Enlisted Association. "Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for uniformed services enlisted personnel, which is exactly what this bill helps achieve. We thank Senator Hassan and Senator Ernst for introducing this commonsense legislation and urge Congress to pass it without delay."

**H.R. 2196 - The Justice for Servicemembers Act:** This bill will empower service members and their families against the adverse practice of forced arbitration, a much too common dispute process that strips our service members of their afforded rights under the Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Forced arbitration is a one-sided, non-transparent process in which service members have very little chance at achieving a favorable outcome when their rights and protections set forth under these federal laws are violated.

**H.R. 3866 - The Hear Our Heroes:** This bill will provide crucial health benefits for veterans that were injured during their service for our country. Specifically, the legislation would help veterans suffering from tinnitus or hearing loss obtain medical care through the VA by providing a presumption of service-connection in certain veterans for purposes of wartime disability compensation. Currently, hearing loss and tinnitus are the fastest growing post-war disabilities among veterans, with over 3 million receiving benefits from VA.

**H.R. 3321 - The Credit for Caring Act:** This bill would create a new, non-refundable federal tax credit of up to \$5,000 that would help eligible working veterans, military, and other caregivers address the financial challenges of caregiving. This credit would provide critical financial relief to a broad population of hidden heroes that may or may not qualify for support from VA or the DOD but nevertheless incur personal expenses to provide care and support to those who depend on them.

**H.R. 5255 - The Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act:** Recently, TREA was mentioned as a proud supporter by U.S. Representatives Mike Levin (D-CA) and Don Young (R-AK) when they introduced H.R. 5255 to fully fund the federal Impact Aid program, which supports K-12 public schools on federal land. The bipartisan bill creates a five-year plan to fund Impact Aid with \$1.1 billion.

## WASHINGTON UPDATE (CONT.)

Bill McCabe, Director of Legislative Affairs & Communications

**S. 2720 - Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act:** U.S. Senators Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced legislation to expand treatment and research of prostate cancer to help diagnose and treat veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). TREA joined members of The Toxic Exposures in the American Military Coalition by writing a letter of support to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.



### Member Spotlight

TREA is proud to recognize U.S. Senator Thom Tillis for his consistent dedication to servicemembers, veterans, and their families. Over the past 2 years, our close partnership has led to the passage of H.R. 1448, The Puppies Assisting Wounded Service members for Veterans Therapy Act, as well as the successful re-introduction of S. 927, The Toxic Exposures in the American Military Act.

Senator Tillis has remained a staunch advocate for both TREA backed efforts and his staff continues to work hand in hand with our team to advance critical legislative efforts in the Senate. We thank Senator Tillis and his staff for their continued partnership and look forward to our efforts in the New Year.

Members are encouraged to check the TREA Facebook account at @TheEnlistedAssn and Twitter account at @TREA\_DC for the most updated information. The TREA Home Page and Legislative tab also provides valuable content on TREA's efforts to keep veterans and active-duty members and families informed. If you are not receiving TREA updates, please provide an email address to [legislativeinfo@trea.org](mailto:legislativeinfo@trea.org) or call HQ and provide an email by phone. We want to hear your views and comments on issues that are important to you.

### Veterans Day 2021

On November 11th, TREA National President Justin Jump represented TREA at the White House as President Joe Biden and members of his cabinet welcomed Veteran Service Organizations from across the country to celebrate Veterans Day, 2021. (cover photo). Immediately preceding the event, President Jump was joined by 1st Vice Oelschig and special guests: Neffra Edwards, CMSgt, Ret. ANGUS, Faith Federspiel, CMSgt, NGB/SG ANGUS, Tamika Woodard, SSgt, DCANG on orders NGB/A1PO ANGUS; along with TREA staff representatives: Executive Director Osborne and Director of Legislative Affairs & Communications McCabe at Arlington National Cemetery for the National Veterans Day Ceremony.



TREA President Jump with special guests: (L) Faith Federspiel, CMSgt, (center) Tamika Woodard, SSgt, (R) Neffra Edwards, CMSgt



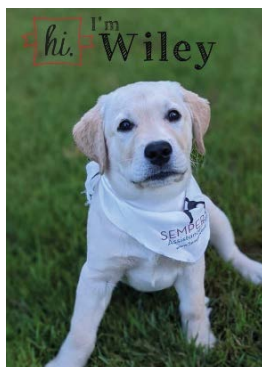
Photo Above Middle: President Jump and 1st Vice Oelschig sit proud in TREA's box at the Arlington Amphitheatre and above right: Honorably presenting the TREA wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



TREA, alongside other members of the VSO community, heard heart-felt speeches from President Joe Biden and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dennis McDonough before having the honor to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

## MEET WILEY

TREA GIVES' newest partner in the fight against PTSD



Wiley, a yellow lab, named after Tuskegee Airman, COL James T. Wiley and donated by Graystone Retrievers is sponsored by TREA's TREA GIVES program.

It has been medically and scientifically proven that service dogs provide benefits to their human counterpart, equal to, or in some cases, in excess of those provided by commonplace medical intervention.

Statistics show that there are approximately 500,000 service dogs 'on duty' across the United States today. Out of those, 95,000 are specifically trained to help their owner with the symptoms of PTSD.

There is often confusion between the services provided by a service dog and the services provided by an emotional support, therapy or companion dog.

Service Dogs are covered by the Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA) and are afforded the right to enter public establishments. They are allowed to reside with their owner regardless of any standing pet policy under the Fair Housing Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. They are also allowed to accompany their owner/handler in the cabin of all airlines – as part of the federal Air Carrier Access Act. A true Service Dog should be thought of the same as any other medical equipment needed by the veteran. Common types of Service Dogs are: Guide dogs for the blind, Hearing dogs for the deaf or hearing impaired, Mobility assistance for those in wheelchair or with mobility limitations, Seizure response dogs, Diabetes assistance dogs to detect blood sugar highs and lows, Mental health service dogs who are task trained to assist those with PTSD/panic disorders/anxiety disorders/depression/autism etc.

Therapy Dogs provide emotional support and comfort in various settings, the most common being visiting hospital and rehab patients, but they are also used to provide comfort to witnesses testifying in court, and to provide support to trauma survivors.

Emotional Support Dogs, while not protected under the ADA, provide emotional support to their owner/handler through companionship and are also allowed to live with their owner regardless of existing pet policies and may fly with their disabled owner provided adequate documentation from a licensed health care professional and sufficient notice is provided.

PTSD dogs for veterans are specifically trained to help their handler/owner perform tasks that they cannot otherwise perform on their own.

The average service dog is trained to perform anywhere from 3 to 12 tasks. Some of the most common skills/abilities of a PTSD trained service dog are: Placing body weight on the veterans to promote a sense of calm during panic attacks, Recognizing and interrupting harmful behaviors, Waking the veteran from upsetting dreams & night terrors, Creating a protective 'buffer' to acclimate veterans to crowds and combat hypervigilance, Retrieving medicine and/or reminding the veteran to take his/her medications, Patrolling the perimeter of a room for trigger and threats ahead of the veteran, Turning lights on and off, Creating an excuse to leave during tense and uncomfortable social situations, Reteaching emotions such as love and affection.

It takes an average of 1.5 – 2 years to fully train a service dog, with an average cost of \$20,000 - \$35,000 to train and place them with their veteran/owner/handler. While the cost may seem high, the benefits of PTSD service dogs for the veteran are extraordinary and include:

Greater self-sufficiency

Decreased reliance on prescription drugs  
 Confidence to return to work/school  
 Reduced anxiety and stress  
 Reduced hypervigilance  
 Improved sleep

Increased confidence to be in public  
 Restored sense of daily purpose  
 Strengthened family relationships  
 The ability to recognize and better cope with symptoms

While the benefits are definitely worth the investment, less than 1% of individuals in need of a service dog are actually able to receive one in any given year. The reasons include: the time and cost of training the dog and owner, awareness of the benefits of a service dog for the veteran, the negative stigma that is associated with mental health issues and the cost to care for the service dog once received.

In some cases, VA benefits will cover service dogs. Veterans need to meet with their health care provider to discuss their physical or mental health limitations to determine if a service dog will be an appropriate treatment approach. If it is determined that a service dog is ideal, the application will be submitted on behalf of the veteran. Each case is individually reviewed by a clinician to assess the goals to be accomplished by use of a service dog and the ability and means of the veteran and/or caregiver to care for the dog.

Working service dogs prescribed by the Department of Veterans Affairs are provided veterinary care and equipment through the VA Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service. However, the VA does not pay for the dog or for boarding, grooming, food or other routine expenses. Read more about the VA's veterinary health benefits at <http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/ServiceAndGuideDogs.asp>.

**TREA is proud to be a part of this important and much needed service for our veterans and look forward to sharing our many success stories with you.**



*Wiley in training:*

*Top Left & Bottom Left: Participating at the American's in War-time Museum's annual Tank Farm event. Top Middle: just being a dog. Top Right: assisting the Semper K9 Team at the annual Wreaths Across America event at Quantico National Cemetery. Bottom Right: posing in front of the Washington Monument.*

## TREA GIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO SENATOR JON TESTER

On January 5, 2022, President Jump and Director of Legislative Affairs & Communications McCabe met with the Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Senator Jon Tester, to present him with TREA's Legislator of the Year Award. Each year, TREA presents this award to the strongest advocate for service members, veterans, and their families. Throughout 2021, Senator Tester continually displayed his leadership, compassion, and genuine interest in defending the benefits our veterans have earned, as well as fighting for life saving healthcare reforms. Most notably, TREA worked with Senator Tester's office to successfully introduce the Cost of War Act to address toxic exposures in the American Military, as well as the successful passage of the PAWS Act to address mental health and suicide. TREA is grateful for our continue relationship with Senator Tester and his staff and look forward to working together in the new year.



## 2022/2023 TREA SCHOLARSHIPS

Butch Liebaert, National Director & Scholarship Committee Chair



The new scholarship application package is available on our website – [www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org). [Click Here For Scholarship Application](#)

We have made a big change to this year's process - the deadline has been moved up to March 31, 2022. In doing this, we will be able to review the applications and select the winners before the end of the academic school year. This is important to all applicants as they make plans for the upcoming school year, but it is especially important to high school graduates who may want their scholarship award noted or presented during graduation ceremonies.

Children and grandchildren of TREA members in good standing, or those of a deceased TREA member, who was an active member at the time of passing, are eligible to apply.

The scholarship committee plans to award \$20,000 for the 2022/2023 academic years.

Please read the application instructions completely and make sure that you send in all required documents. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Call the TREA National Headquarter Office at 303-752-0660 if you have any questions.

The topic for this year's essay is "What is my opinion of the 1st Amendment of the United States of America?"

Good Luck to all applicants.



## AUXILIARY

### A MESSAGE FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Barbara Coley



Hello members. Blessings to you, as we embrace a new year, 2022! I pray to find you and your family are all doing well. I would like to say that our TREA National Auxiliary Board of Directors (BOD) accomplished much this past year. One accomplishment was that TREA National President, Justin Jump and I signed a new revised Affiliation Organization Agreement. This will be renewable every 5 years, additionally was the signing of Amendment No. 01 to Affiliation Organization Agreement for Legislative Lobbying efforts. The biggest highlight was holding our Annual Membership Meeting at The TREA Enlisted Association facility, at Chapter 1 in Colorado Springs, CO, in-person and via zoom teleconferencing. It had been 2 years since we met in-person, and I must say, it was a successful meeting! And I am glad the opportunity was available. I would like to say that I am thankful to have served as your TREA National Auxiliary President for the past year and would like to thank each one of my BOD ladies for their support. I have 7 months left to serve in this position as TREA National Auxiliary President.

One of the things that was discussed at our Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) that was tabled, was the proposed 2022 budget. Our Board met on November 18, 2021, and unanimously voted and approved a revised 2022 budget. Another subject that was addressed at the meeting was Mail-in-voting. Mail-in-voting will be utilized for the 2022 election of officers and for the submission of any proposed Bylaws and Standing Rules changes. I did address to the members recommendations to make Mail-in-voting a permanent process. This would do away with Chapter Delegates, Proxies and will allows MAL's members to have a vote. Members expressed to me and the BOD that this change will simplify the voting process, and ensure 1 member = 1 vote. We received great feedback and interest with making this change

I need to pass along the update that TREA National will not be going to San Antonio, TX this year. They plan on holding the annual as a virtual meeting instead. The National Auxiliary will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. Our BOD is in the planning stages on how we will recognize this milestone event as we meet this year and consider whether virtual or in-person. You all will be provided additional information at a later date.

This year's Scholarship application for 2022 is now posted on the TREA website ([click here](#)), Vice-President Audrey McCray is the Chairperson. It will be posted online and available until June 1, 2022. You can contact her via email at [mccraya@aol.com](mailto:mccraya@aol.com). At the Annual Membership meeting, some of the local chapters made donations to the Scholarship Program. If you were unable to attend this meeting and would like to donate, you can mail your donations to our Treasurer, Betty Love at 828 Hannibal Drive, Aurora, CO 80011.

As a reminder, I am encouraging chapters to continue with recruiting members. Please reach out to members of your military community who might be eligible to join the Auxiliary. We want to keep all ten remaining chapters alive. Also, 2022 will be an election year for all board positions. They are President, Vice-Pres-





ident, Treasurer, and 3 Directors. As Auxiliary members, this is a great opportunity for you to show your support to maintain, grow, and keep our wonderful organization alive and vibrant. We need your thoughts and ideas for the needs of our Auxiliary BOD. The jobs are not easy, you will find them rewarding to say the least. The support we give to serve each other and our communities, include our Scholarships, the WEF/ Benevolent programs and general social volunteer events. We truly need you, please consider taking on a position on the Board and making a two-year commitment to the Auxiliary. Resumes will be accepted for all positions, for more information contact our Nominating Director/Chairperson, Nancy MacBride at [N.macbride@att.net](mailto:N.macbride@att.net) and Director/Co-Chairperson, Annette Harris at [ejannie12@gmail.com](mailto:ejannie12@gmail.com).

Any proposed amendments or additional recommendations to the existing subjects need to be submitted to the TREA National Auxiliary Bylaws/Standing Rules Committee for review. Submit your suggestions on the TREA Auxiliary Form 100-6A, which can be found on our website at [clicking here](#). Deadline for submissions, according to TREA National Auxiliary Standing Rule 8, item 3, is 45 days prior to Midterm Meeting. This needs to be done by mail or email no later than March 15, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Parliamentarian/Chairperson, Irmgard Cates at 6161 Del Paz Drive, Colorado Springs, CO, 80918 or by email: [irmy@comcast.net](mailto:irmy@comcast.net).

With great sadness, I would also like to acknowledge the passing of Past National President (PNP) Marie Peterson. On behalf of our TREA National Auxiliary, we extend our sincere prayers to her family.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read this article. You can always reach out to me at [barbcoley@cox.net](mailto:barbcoley@cox.net) with any questions that you may have.

Barbara Coley, TREA Auxiliary National President  
UNITED WE STAND



## AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Annette Harris

Is prayer an integral part of your daily life, or is it a hit-and-miss occasional activity? Do you "pray without ceasing," or is your prayer life an afterthought? As you consider the role prayer currently plays in your life---and the role you think it is inevitably related to the quality of your prayer life.

Prayer changes things, and it changes you. So today, instead of turning things over in your mind, turn them over to God in prayer. Instead of worrying about your next decision, pray about it. Don't limit your prayers to meals or to bedtime. Pray often about things great and small. God is listening, and He wants to hear from you. Now.



# THE SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE

## Special Stimulus for Social Security Recipients

By Chairman Rick Delaney



TREA Senior Citizens League has an online petition and is lobbying Congress for a special stimulus of \$1,400.00 for Social Security recipients only. It's been in the news from the New York Times to military.com!

Across the country, household budgets of seniors and disabled Social Security recipients have taken a hammering by skyrocketing costs. The League has received thousands of emails from our supporters that tell us examples about their soaring costs. We've heard from people who have exhausted their retirement savings, who have started eating just one meal a day, cutting their pills in half, and many more examples of the toll inflation has taken on them this year.

One sign of how high inflation has gotten is the the 2022 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 5.9%, the highest COLAs since 1983. Gasoline is up almost 50% from the summer of 2020. And, new or used cars/trucks if you can find one, is up over 40%. And, the COLA is for 2022, it's going to be eaten up by Medicare Part B premium increase.

Fastest Growing Costs of Older Americans July 2020 – July 2021			
Item	Cost in July 2020 Average cost \$ or numeric data	Cost in July 2021 Average cost \$ or numeric data	Percent increase since July 2020
1. Gasoline (all grades, per gal.)	\$2.24	\$3.33	48.3%
2. Used cars and trucks	141.493	200.425	41.7%
3. Home heating oil (per gal.)	\$2.13	\$2.98	39.0%
4. Natural gas	166.536	198.207	19.0%
4. Airline fares	204.785	243.613	19.0%
5. Bacon (per lb.)	\$5.78	\$6.86	18.7%
6. Eggs (per dz.)	\$1.40	\$1.64	17.2%
7. Beef (per lb.)	\$5.67	\$6.37	12.3%
8. Whole milk (per gal.)	\$3.26	\$3.63	11.4%
9. Care of invalids and elderly at home	127.651	139.893	9.6%
10. Fresh seafood (per lb.)	\$7.69	\$8.40	8.5%

On the surface, a high COLA seems like great news. But a big COLA makes low-income seniors nervous because they face adjustments to their Medicare costs, food benefits, rental subsidies, and other income-based resources.

New stimulus checks could be a way to get extra non-taxable income to them. The hope is that a special stimulus for Social Security recipients could help defray the higher costs some would face if next year's COLA bumps them into a higher tax bracket, prompting higher levies on their income and surcharges to their Medicare Part B premiums.

Source U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, data through July 2021. Where no average prices are available, numeric data are used.

During the pandemic, student loans were deferred until January 2022. Families with children received child tax credits. Many businesses received payroll protection grants. The unemployed received a whopping 300.00 extra dollars A WEEK in their unemployment checks. What extra help have just senior citizens gotten before, during or after the pandemic? Not much! The buck didn't stop with seniors. It never made it that far!

Please visit our website at [www.SeniorsLeague.org](http://www.SeniorsLeague.org), Take Action, and sign our Petition to Congress for a \$1,400.00 Stimulus Check for Social Security Recipients.

## DOES TREA MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Debbie Osborne, Executive Director

### Absolutely, we do!

Just ask the thousands of retirees, active duty service members, veterans and their family members who have been positively affected by our efforts and actions. Let me take a minute to share a few with you now –

**At the National Level** – Through our direct lobbying efforts led by our Director of Legislative Affairs & Communications, Bill McCabe, TREA has been able to tout several legislative wins. These successes will have a direct positive impact on thousands of service members, retirees and veterans. Please read the Washington Update article on page ... to learn more about our active legislative efforts. You will not be disappointed.

Our actions and efforts do not stop with our lobbying/legislative efforts, your TREA National Board and staff members are constantly looking for ways to be engaged with and be supportive of the veteran and military community. From providing pizza to a local veteran home (photo right), to handing out food cards, socks, scarves and hats at the local VA hospital (photo left), to providing financial assistance to those in need to wrapping up the year with our amazing Holiday Program – we are here to help and support those who served. Our direct actions and efforts have touched the lives of hundreds if not thousands of retirees/veterans & active duty. TREA's National team is dedicated to our mission to 'enhance the quality of life for uniformed services enlisted personnel, their families and survivors' – past, present and future.



At the local chapter level – Our chapters are also fully engaged and working hard in the community to ensure that their local veteran population knows that they are valued, respected and thanked for their service.

**Chapter 1** in Colorado Springs holds an annual veteran oriented Halloween Trunk-or-Treat, where this year 350-400 locals gathered to honor and support the military community and the Young Marine Corps Troops. The chapter maintains a food pantry and offers Free Grocery Days throughout the year, providing food and groceries to 32 veteran, active duty and first responders and their families. Chapter members also collect and disperse emergency care packages for service members and dependents and hold monthly member appreciation breakfasts. The chapter also hosts a 'Business Boutique' where professional business attire is provided to service members and their dependents to help them prepare for employment opportunities. A Service Member & Veteran Appreciation Coffee is held to show appreciation and support to the men and women who have served and are serving. 300 people attended the Father's Day Car show and Chili Cook-off. More than 300 stuffed animals were donated to a local hospital for child victims of assault & abuse. Over 40 veterans and family members participated in the Military Arts Connection for



Enrichment classes offered at the chapter. The chapter's annual picnic was free for all chapter members and more than 100 attended. (Photo previous page, bottom)

**Chapter 3** members in Aurora Colorado provided back-to-school backpacks to local children.

**Chapter 20** in Pueblo, Colorado maintains a very special plot of land in the local cemetery where TREA Chapter 20 members can be laid to rest, and is currently the final resting place for many TREA Chapter 20 members.

**Chapter 39** in Aurora, Colorado, collected and delivered hundreds of toys to Children's Hospital in Denver. Chapter members also participated in the annual Wreaths Across America program ensuring that servicemembers of the past are not forgotten but continue to be respected and honored. They also contribute to various community organizations such as: DAV, a local Crisis Center, Honor Bell, Veterans Community Living Center, Wreaths Across America and of course TREA's own Holiday Program. (Photo right)



**Chapter 72** members in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, are always looking for ways to involve the community and recently joined forces with Twilight Wishes to grant simple wishes to veterans and other residence of a local Nursing home. (Photo, bottom right). This chapter also became a Sentinel Level donor to our TREA GIVES program.

**Chapter 74** in Tacoma, Washington, participated in the Annual Holidays Santa's Castle preparation for lower ranking personnel throughout the region to receive holiday gifts.



Members of **Chapter 119** in Superior, Wisconsin



placed more than 6,500 flags on the graves of veterans at a local veteran cemetery to honor Memorial Day. (Photo left)

As you can see, TREA is actively involved in many programs, activities and functions where military retirees, active duty, veterans and their families are front and center.

If you find any of our activities of interest, please reach out to us [here](#) and let us know how we can connect you to the right chapter, program or event. We encourage, value and appreciate all the support and participation that we can get. The more of us, means more for them.

Not to sound like a broken record, but there is always the need for financial support. If this is something that you are interested in, please reach out to us at 303-752-0660, or [click here for email](#).

# 2021 HOLIDAY PROGRAM, STEP-BY-STEP

Debbie Osborne, Executive Director

Another great year for our Holiday Program and in spite of COVID to boot. This program is in its sixth year and every year it gets better and better. It's a wonderful program – let me walk you through it –

**Step 1** – We receive the names of families from military bases throughout the country as well as through Soldier's Angels. The lists contain information like how many family members, their ages, their likes, needs and wants and of course their sizes. From there, the work begins. We make contact with every family personally to let them know that we are going to be taking care of them for the holidays. We ask them where they shop for food because we provide them with a food card, specific to where they typically shop. Once the data has been confirmed and contact has been made,

**Step 2** – We shop. And we shop. And we shop some more. Countless trips with a multitude of people and over 17 shopping carts filled with gifts, toys, clothes, candy, jackets and bedding.



**Step 3** – Wrapping! Who doesn't love to wrap presents? Certainly not us. Armed with friends from the community (Parker Senior Center members: Sherri Anderson, Kathleen Ekins, Patsy DeLaSalle, Ginny Smith and Peggy Johnson.) and TREA BOD member, Director & Chaplain Turks, and his wife Naomi, we set to task. We wrapped for days - what fun we had!



**Step 4** – Preparing for shipping. OK, this is not the most fun part, but it's absolutely necessary. We package the wrapped gifts, candy and a personalized letter for each family into boxes and haul them to the post office. They know us from previous years and while I can't say that they are excited to see us take up their entire lobby, they are friendly and always provide us with excellent service. We shipped to all corners of the United States, from Maine to California.



*Merry Christmas to you! Just wanted to send a thank you email for adopting my family this year. We appreciate everything that was gifted to us.*

*Every little bit helps, especially the gift cards for food. We can't thank you enough!!*

*Vanstry Family*

**Step 5** – Deliver local gifts to families and/or base facilities, and relish in the joy and happiness that this brings.

**Step 6** – Finally done! Sit back, take a deep breathe and look back at the magnitude of the project and feel AMAZING that we got it all done.

**Step 7** – Enjoy reading the thank you notes from the families and realize that we, that TREA, truly made a difference to these families.

**Step 8** - Feel pride and joy at the wonderful things that this organization does for enlisted retirees, veterans and active duty service members and realize how truly blessed I am to be a part of it. Already looking forward to the 2022 Holiday Program – want to join us – give us a shout at 303-752-0660.

Dear TREA,

*Our family received your generous gift card for Christmas. We are so very grateful for this unexpected gift, which helped us to be able to have a wonderful Christmas and yummy Christmas dinner. As a military family for the past 17 1/2 yrs we have always appreciated the kindness and support from those around us, wherever we are. We hope your holidays were filled with joy and happiness as well.*

*Thank you for your support and kindness,  
The Hawkins Family*

## BYLAWS & STANDING RULE COMMITTEE

Walt Coley, National 2nd Vice, and BLSR Committee Chair

Your Bylaws and Standing Rules committee will be very busy this year. We will evaluate changes which streamline our processes, enhance our continuity, and allow us to operate at the speed of today's world. If you have any proposals for changes to our rules, please get them to us by March 31 for full evaluation and board approval. You can send in proposals after that, but there is a higher bar for final approval – see Article 14 of our bylaws for timeliness. [\(Click here to see TREA's Bylaws\)](#)

With the changes we made to our national rules this year, it's a great time for chapters to update their Bylaws and Standing Rules on file at headquarters. There have been a lot of changes in the past 3 years, please take this opportunity to improve your own rules. Your national committee will work with your chapter committee on any questions.

Anyone interested in being a part of this committee, click [HERE](#) to email me.



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Walt Coley, National 2nd Vice, and Membership Committee Chair

As your new Membership Chair, I have been looking at every aspect of how we have operated in the past and trying to understand why TREA membership is decreasing and traditional approaches – even with new twists – do not seem to work. I'm looking for solutions which are non-traditional – (outside the box), so far there's been nothing we can do without an investment we don't have. In analysis, most of what I am seeing is a national trend among veteran's organizations and membership organizations in general; people are not joining. The membership committee is presenting great place for comment about TREA's future structure and operations. If you would like to be a part of this conversation, please join me by participating on the TREA membership committee. Click [HERE](#) to email me.



## 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

[Click here to e-mail form](#)

303-752-0660 800-338-9337

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

Please fill out the form and send to: [treaHQ@trea.org](mailto:treaHQ@trea.org)



# **WE EARNED OUR STRIPES**

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