

THE VOICE

O f T h e E n l i s t e d

welcome
2020

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Editorial Office

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

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CD Rice, Jr., directorrice@trea.org

Parliamentarian

Charles White, parliamentarian@trea.org

TREA Senior Citizens League

Rick Delaney, Chairman – tsclchair@trea.org

TREA STAFF & SUPPORT

National Executive Staff

Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations - dosborne@trea.org

12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250, Centennial, CO 80112

Phone: 800-338-9337, 303-752-0660; Fax: 303-752-0835

www.trea.org; treaHQ@trea.org

Washington Executive Staff

Ken Greenberg, Director of Veterans and Military Policy – kgreenberg@trea.org

1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22314

Physical Office: 1765 Duke Street, Suite 106, Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-684-1981, 800-554-8732; Fax: 703-548-4876, 866-548-4876

legislativeinfo@trea.org

The Senior Citizens League

Shannon Benton, TSCL Executive Director

1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 800-333-8725, 703-548-5568; Fax: 703-740-4017

www.seniorsleague.org; comments@seniorsleague.org

TREA Auxiliary

Auxiliary President, Pat Winds - auxpresident@trea.org

www.trea.org; treaHQ@trea.org

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FROM THE EDITOR

By Kim DeCoste

Dear TREA Members:

Happy New Year and Welcome to a new decade! We are optimistic that 2020 will bring clarity and exciting new opportunities for TREA and for each of you members, and our editorial team sincerely wishes you a very happy New Year!

We are honored to begin a 4th year of working on The VOICE. Changes are forever occurring, it seems to help your wonderful organization sustain itself and grow. We remain impressed by the ded-

ication of your home office staff and your Board of Directors for their dedication to TREA and its objectives. These folks who have already served the country as you all have, remain in service roles because they truly care about you all and your interests. They are working for you and they work very hard.

As in the “real world” this election year, there will be much discussion of changing and growing. We would like to encourage you to please consider becoming more involved with TREA. Those who already give a great deal of time and energy truly do need and want your help and ideas.

Please let us know if you have any challenges with The VOICE as we also learn and grow and adapt. This magazine is for you. It is our pleasure to serve you all. God bless you and God bless America!

Kim & Gabriela



An eagle appears on the hour as a service branch-appropriate melody plays

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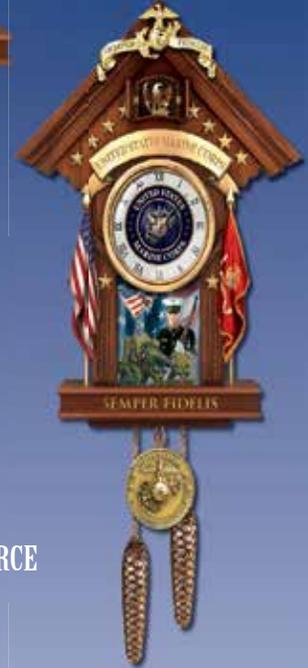
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ARMY



USMC



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Philip Hilinski, TREA National President

Hello fellow members,

I am going to start by talking about our organization, especially how we work together. One of the main topics is Teamwork, but what does that mean to you? Could it be working toward a common goal, people we can count on to support each other, share responsibilities to accomplish tasks or make yourself willing to jump in when asked? Well it is all these principals. Being successful at one of these teamwork principals is a good accomplishment, but what if we are successful at all 4 of these principals; that would be amazing and, yes, probably asking a lot. Even so, that is what I want everyone to think about. Think about what you are good at or your talents and be ready to volunteer them. Are you ready to volunteer and provide feedback when asked on a variety of subjects? Would you submit ideas that may be different but should at least be looked at? Help TREA identify and manage priorities we can focus on; looking at things that distract us from our focus. Pitching in when you are asked or offer to help. We need to replace criticism with constructive ideas – this may be difficult or unpopular, but it is needed. I'm sure we can all recall a time when you tried to share an idea, a thought, a suggestion and nobody would listen – well, WE are listening. TREA is full of talent, experience and knowledge, we need to share our strengths to ensure TREA's future.

With this in mind, I am starting a new initiative in 2020 called: TREA Steering Committee. This committee will provide strategic direction. The TREA Steering Committees will replace some of the future sub-committees that I was planning. The components will be to:

- Provide a direction
- Offer alternatives
- Identify risks.

There will be a section in The Voice, eVoice, TREA Website and our Information Line where you can provide us with the talents, knowledge and areas of expertise that you would be willing to share. The workload would be light; we are asking for ideas, opinions and feedback. The National Board will take it from there. This is not the time to be timid, we need your participation.

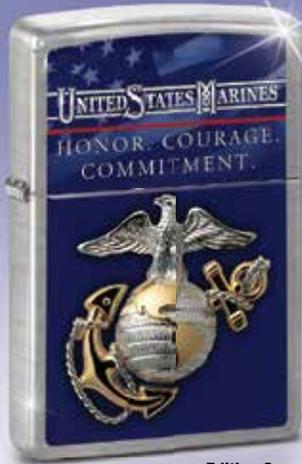
Won't you join me in moving TREA forward? Use the space in this issue of The VOICE to send in your information (TREA Volunteer Information – 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, #250 – Centennial, CO 80112) or send it via email to treaHQ@trea.org. I promise that we will contact you.

Now onto some important TREA updates. We had our second Chapter Presidents/MAL Reps Meeting in November with enthusiastic support. The main topic was gaining access to military installations. I have minutes from the meeting for those who could not attend, so if you are a Chapter President or MAL please contact Headquarters and ask for the Chap Pres/MAL Nov Meeting information. We hope to have our next meeting early February, 2020. Don't forget to keep checking the TREA Information Line at 1-888-389-4211 for the latest TREA updates. The eVoice is going strong so make sure you send us your updated email if it has changed. The Memorial Day Contest is a TREA Membership perk that will be happening soon, more details in this issue. Look at the You Tube button at the top of the TREA Website for a video of TREA 2019 Veterans Day participation (video timer is 30:44). Thanks again to 2VP Justin Jump and Technical Sergeant Eric A. Alvarez for TREA Flag Honors at the

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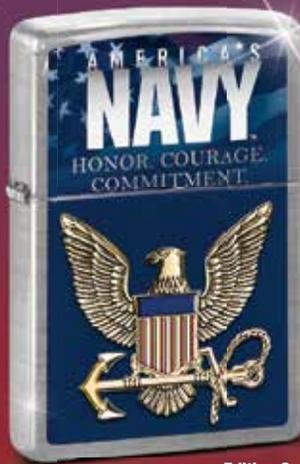


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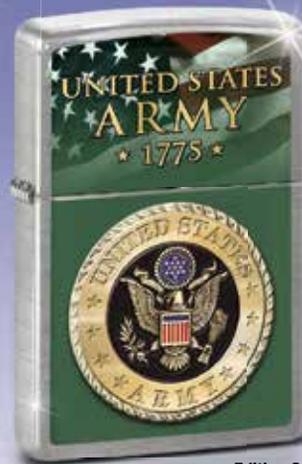


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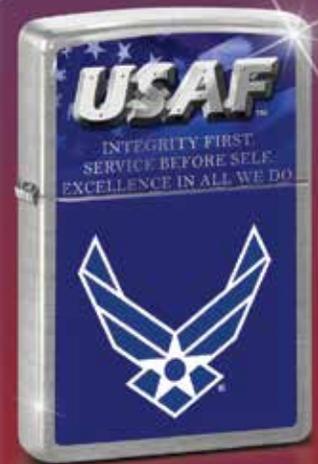


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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Philip Hilinski, TREA National President

Washington D.C. Event. Plans are firming up for the Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA so make sure you check the TREA Website and Info Line for updates. Don't forget to plan for the TREA Appreciation Day on Feb 12, 2020; send in pictures from Chapters, MALs and Auxiliary. Finally, the new voting system will be happening soon so have your resumes and BL/SR changes ready. There is more information on that further on in this issue.

Check out the information on the TREA Holiday Program at TREA HQ; I hope to see this effort increase each year. Another HQ issue is that if you have any changes on your contact information call TREA HQ and provide that information. The Washington Office is moving along on several fronts, check out or sign up for the information put out in The Washington Update. Send a welcome to our new Washington Office member Bill McCabe. Several of you have already contacted Director Ken Greenberg with questions or comments and I encourage more of you to do the same. Our TREA Facebook page has greatly increased, so read the articles and meetings posted in near real time.

I hope everyone had a great time during the holiday season. Contact me with your thoughts or if you just want to talk.

United We Stand

COUNT ME IN!

I want to help TREA grow and be successful.

I am offering to assist by providing the following:

- My time - (examples are: making phone calls, sending e-mails, gathering data)
- My knowledge/expertise - (examples are: offering suggestions and ideas, providing resources)

My area(s) of expertise is/are: _____

Mail to: TREA 'Count Me In' - 12200 E. Briarwood Avenue, #250 - Centennial, CO 80112
You can also e-mail the same information to: TREAHQ@TREA.ORG

Leading Ingredient For Acid Reflux Bouts Linked To Anti-Aging Phenomenon

Scientific studies show breakthrough acid reflux treatment also helps maintain vital health and helps protect users from the serious conditions that accompany aging such as fatigue and poor cardiovascular health



by David Waxman
Seattle Washington:

A published study on a leading acid reflux ingredient shows that its key ingredient improves digestive health while maintaining health levels of inflammation that contributes to premature aging in men and women.

And, if consumer sales are any indication of a product's effectiveness, this 'acid reflux pill turned anti-aging phenomenon' is nothing short of a miracle.

Sold under the brand name AloeCure®, its ingredient was already backed by research showing its ability to neutralize acid levels and hold them down for long lasting day and night relief from bouts of heartburn and, acid reflux, gas, bloating, and more.

But soon doctors started reporting some incredible results...

"With AloeCure, my patients started reporting, better sleep, more energy, stronger immune systems... even less stress and better skin, hair, and nails" explains Dr. Liza Leal; a leading integrative health specialist and company spokesperson.

AloeCure contains an active ingredient that helps improve digestion by acting as a natural acid-buffer that improves the pH balance of your stomach.

Scientists now believe that this acid imbalance could be a major contributing factor to painful inflammation throughout the rest of the body.

The daily allowance of AloeCure has shown to calm this inflammation through immune system adjustments which is why AloeCure is so effective.

Relieving other stressful symptoms related to GI health like pain, bloating, fatigue, cramping, acid overproduction, and nausea.

Now, backed with new scientific studies, AloeCure is being doctor recommended to help improve digestion, and even reduce the appearance of wrinkles – helping patients look and feel decades younger.

FIX YOUR GUT & FIGHT INFLAMMATION

Since hitting the market, sales for AloeCure have taken off and there are some very good reasons why.

To start, the clinical studies have been impressive. Virtually all participants taking it reported stunning improvement in digestive symptoms including bouts of heartburn.

Users can also experience higher energy levels and endurance, relief from chronic discomfort and better sleep, healthier looking skin, hair, and nails.

A healthy gut is the key to a reducing swelling

and inflammation that can wreak havoc on the human body. Doctors say this is why AloeCure works on so many aspects of your health.

AloeCure's active ingredient is made from the famous healing compound found in Aloe Vera. It is both safe and healthy. There are also no known side effects.

Scientists believe that it helps improve digestive by acting as a natural acid-buffer that improves the pH balance of your stomach and helps the immune system maintain healthy functions.

Research has shown that this acid imbalance contributes to painful inflammation throughout your entire body and is why AloeCure seems to be so effective.

EXCITING RESULTS FROM PATIENTS

To date millions of bottles of AloeCure have been sold, and the community seeking non-pharma therapy for their GI health continues to grow.

According to Dr. Leal, her patients are absolutely thrilled with their results and are often shocked by how fast it works.

"For the first time in years, they are free from concerns about their digestion and almost every other aspect of their health," says Dr. Leal, "and I recommend it to everyone who wants to improve GI health before considering drugs, surgery, or OTC medications."

"All the problems with my stomach are gone. Completely gone. I can say AloeCure is a miracle. It's a miracle." Another user turned spokesperson said, "I started to notice a difference because I was sleeping through the night and that was great. AloeCure does work for me. It's made a huge difference."

With so much positive feedback, it's easy to see why the community of believers is growing and sales for the new pill are soaring.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND ALOECURE

AloeCure is a pill that's taken just once daily. The pill is small. Easy to swallow. There are no harmful side effects and it does not require a prescription.

The active ingredient is a rare Aloe Vera component known as acemannan.

Millions spent in developing a proprietary process for extracting acemannan resulted in the highest quality, most bio-available levels of acemannan known to exist, and it's made from organic aloe.

According to Dr. Leal and leading experts, improving the pH balance of your stomach and restoring gut health is the key to revitalizing your entire body.

When your digestive system isn't healthy, it

causes unwanted stress on your immune system, which results in inflammation in the rest of the body.

The recommended daily allowance of acemannan in AloeCure has been proven to support digestive health and manage painful inflammation through immune system adjustments without side effects or drugs.

This would explain why so many users are experiencing impressive results so quickly.

REVITALIZE YOUR ENTIRE BODY

With daily use, AloeCure helps users look and feel decades younger and defend against some of the painful inflammation that accompanies aging and can make life hard.

By buffering stomach acid and restoring gut health, AloeCure's ingredient maintains healthy immune system function to combat painful inflammation...reduce the appearance of wrinkles and help strengthen hair and nails ... maintains healthy cholesterol and oxidative stress... improves sleep and energy.... and supports brain function by way of gut biome... without side effects or expense.

Readers can now reclaim their energy, vitality, and youth regardless of age.

AloeCure Taken Daily

- Helps End Digestion Nightmares
- Reduces appearance of Wrinkles and Increases Elasticity
- Supports Healthy Immune System

HOW TO GET ALOECURE

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

This special give-away is only available for a limited time. All you have to do is call TOLL-FREE 1-800-747-9334 and provide the operator with the Free Bottle Approval Code: AC100. The company will do the rest.

Important: Due to AloeCure's recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back. Those who miss the 48-hour deadline may lose out on this free bottle offer.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

IPNP John I. Adams, Committee Chair



The following are the awards that were presented at the convention in Denver on September 19th.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



Chapter 1

(l-r) Bernice Barrett, Chuck Zeitvogel, Roger DeLosh, Wally Jones, Hank Reisig, (NP Phil Hilinski), Lonny Barrett, Greg Bell & Ed Cates - not pictured are Ron Bitten, Roger Ehrke, Bob Kwiatowski, Mike McNeill, Christopher Roberts, John Wall & Mell Yell

Chapter 80 Larry Foster
(not pictured) James Scott

Roosevelt Hale
Edward Valverde

Stanley Meyer
Gabriel Vasquez

Harold Moreland

Chapter 111: Erin Trowbridge (photo below, left)



The following awards were presented for Chapter President of the Year for 2018:

Large Chapter President: Lonny Barrett, Chapter 1 – Colorado Springs, CO (photo above, right)

Medium Chapter President: Walter “Don” Higginbotham, Chapter 80 – San Antonio, TX

The Large Chapter Award was Chapter 1 - Colorado Springs, CO
The Medium Chapter Award was Chapter 80 - San Antonio, TX.
The Small Chapter Award was Chapter 111 - Ravenna, OH.



The Founders Award for Distinguished Service for 2018 was Ed Cates of Chapter 1 - Colorado Springs, CO. (photo, left), The Member of the Year Award was given to Daisy Brown of Chapter 9 - Baltimore, MD. (photo, right)

There were not many awards submitted this year. Any member, other than chapter awards, may submit awards for individuals (not yourself) if they meet the criteria in TREA Standing Rule 8. This form is located on the TREA website under Resources -> Forms & Documents PDF or Resources -> Forms & Documents Word. If you use Word, before sending it to Headquarters, convert it to PDF.

The committee will only review complete award nominations that are on the above mentioned form. Any incomplete form(s) or any other submittals not on this form will not be considered. It is not the responsibility of the headquarters' staff to inform people that the submittals are incomplete. If an encrypted submittal is received, it will not be considered. Headquarter staff will acknowledge every submission for verification and tracking.

Remember the awards are due to headquarters on or before 31 March. Make sure you follow the instructions and requirements for each award in Standing Rule 8.



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Greg Barnett, 1st Vice

The TREA Scholarship is posted on the TREA website (www.trea.org). If you are planning on submitting an application for the 2020/2021 academic year, please read through the entire packet and make sure that you submit all the required information.

The essay topic for this year is: "What does attending college mean to me".

If you have any questions about the scholarship packet or application, please reach out to TREA Headquarters at 303-752-0660.

MY SPECIAL TREA EXPERIENCE – ATTENDING THE VETERAN DAY CEREMONY

Hello my fellow TREA friends and family, my name is Andrea Garcia. As the very first winner of the Veterans Day Contest, I had the pleasure of attending the Veterans Day National Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. It was a surprise to know that I was selected to represent National TREA and my local TREA Chapter 20 in Pueblo, Colorado.

As the days came closer to the event, my nerves were getting more intense due to representing veterans in my home town but also around the world. I have always wanted to visit Washington DC to see the many sites and especially the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I have seen many pictures and movies with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and was so impressed and saddened. Impressed that many of our military gave up so much to give us our freedom and protect our lands. Saddened to know that there were many more then what I saw, and that over the many hills at Arlington were so many more men and women that laid in the hollow grounds.

When the day finally came, I was nervous to know that I would be sitting amongst hundreds of veterans to see the ceremony, show their patriotism and to show the respect to the veterans present and say, “Thank you”.

The ceremony started with The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own”. The Presidential Wreath Ceremony was on the other side of the amphitheater with Vice President Pence presenting the wreath to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. While we sat quietly on the other side of the amphitheater during the presidential wreath laying, I felt that the many men and women buried at Arlington were having their own ceremony and standing for the men and women that have served and are serving today giving their thanks and salutes. It was moving and you can interpret in your own way, but my feelings went deeper never forget why I was there. The cannons went off and taps played, the men and women in the background, over the many hills laid back down and continued to rest.



Frances Garcia, Andrea (Michelle) Garcia, Barb Coley (Auxiliary Vice President) and Doug Osborne (MAL) sitting in the TREA box seats waiting for Vice President Pence.

Vice President Pence came in front of the audience to show his presence and gave his Veterans Day speech. There were no political sides, no hatred and no chants. Music played, flags flew, and veterans’ present and non-military men, women and children were ready to show their gratitude. I was so moved, the amphitheater was crowded and no room to move. It was a beautiful ceremony. The main ceremony ended and it was time to do our part.



(l-r) National President - Phil Hilinski, Chapter 20 Member – Andrea Garcia, the VFW Representative, Auxiliary Vice President – Barb Coley and MAL - Doug Osborne prepare to present TREA's wreath.

Walking to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was emotional knowing it was time to find my place and take part of history (my history). I was nervous that I would trip or fall, - I was taken to see how it was done before it was my turn. It seemed easy but in my mind, I knew many people were going to watch and make comments of how I did. It was time to walk that mile (what it felt like) down the long trail. In formation with National TREA President Hilinski, myself, the VFW escort, Auxiliary Vice President and Chaplin Barbara Coley and MAL Doug Osborne, I walked straight, proud and confident to the soldier that would take the wreath to the Tomb. When we did Present arms, I was thanking all veterans around the world and the hundreds of thousands watching me from all around. That was the most moving experience I have had in my life. After presenting the wreath, the salute and walking back to where we started seemed like it took hours when it was only 10-15 minutes and it was over. The eyes were off of me and the next group was already walking to the Tomb.

I want to thank everyone that was involved including National TREA, National Auxiliary, DFO Deborah Osborne for showing me that it was ok to be myself and Doug Osborne for telling me "It's going to be fine". Thank you to all the organizations

that showed everyone the pride that we have for all our veterans and America. Two special people I would like to thank is my mother, Frances M. Garcia (TREA Auxiliary Chapter 20 Secretary) for attending the ceremony with me and for being my best friend. Love you mom. And my dad (the late Chief Petty Officer Retired Ambrose M. Garcia and one of the founders of TREA Chapter 20) watching me from the heavens. Love you lots, daddy.

This will be the most memorable moment in my life that had the most meaning for me being a veteran of the United States Navy and the American people that support me and the millions of veterans around the world.

God Bless America
United We Stand

THE MISSION OF TREA:

Our Mission is to enhance the quality of life of uniformed services enlisted personnel, their families, and survivors - including veterans, active components, reserve components, and all retirees; to stop the erosion of earned benefits through our legislative efforts; to maintain our esprit de corps, dedications and patriotism; and to continue our devotion and allegiance to God and Country.

UPDATE FROM OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE

Ken Greenberg, Director of Veteran & Military Policy



Greetings TREVA Members, Family and Friends:

The first session of the 116th Congress came to a close on December 20, 2019. Much took place in the final days and most importantly, the Government is fully funded for FY 2020, the NDAA is signed into law, VA began issuing decisions on Navy Blue Water claims and the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee has a new Chairman. These items are highlighted in this issue of the VOICE.

In addition, the Washington Office welcomes Bill McCabe as its new Deputy Director of Veterans and Military Policy. The Washington Office wants to hear from you. We value your feedback and comments. If you have questions or comments, please email legislativeinfo@treva.org. Happy New Year!

JERRY MORAN (KS) NAMED NEW SVAC CHAIRMAN

Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas became the new Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in January 2020. The panel oversees the programs and services of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Moran succeeds Sen. Johnny Isakson, of Georgia, who retired December 31, 2019, after serving four years as the Committee Chairman.



Moran is and continues to be a supporter of veterans and active duty service members.

Moran served on the Committee since he joined the Senate in 2011. Moran indicated he'll take a similar approach as Isakson and look to veterans nationally to help set the committee's agenda.

Moran said the top issues on his list are suicide prevention and ensuring that veterans suffering from cancer and other illnesses due to toxic exposure get the care they deserve.

In addition, to VA oversight, Moran will be leading the Committee when VA launches a new \$10 billion electronic health records system designed by Cerner, the Kansas City-based health care information company with offices in both Kansas and Missouri. Moran has pledged to make sure that VA and Cerner and the Department of Defense do their jobs well. Electronic health and medical records will be crucial.

TREVA has already reached out to SVAC officials to maintain a strong working relationship with Committee leadership and staff. Welcome Mr. Chairman! TREVA stands ready to work with you on protecting and improving veterans' benefits and services.

UPDATE FROM OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE

Ken Greenberg, Director of Veteran & Military Policy

Dr. Phil Roe (TN) to Retire from Congress

TREA has worked with former HVAC Chairman and current Ranking Member Phil Roe (TN-1) for many years on important issues like the MISSION Act and Forever GI Bill. After more than a decade in Congress, Roe announced that he will not seek reelection in November 2020.

TREA thanks Roe for his leadership and dedication to improving benefits and services for veterans and active duty service members.



For additional information, follow the link below:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/03/us/politics/philroe-retirement-congress.html>

Government Funded for FY 2020

On Friday, December 20, 2019, President Trump signed two major spending bills to fund the government for FY 2020 to September 30, 2020. This avoided the need for another Continuing Resolution as well as a government shutdown. Most important to TREA and its members was the funding for the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Enactment provides both DOD and VA flexibility to fund programs and services for active duty service members, veterans, retirees as well as Guard and Reserve Components.

President Signs FY2020 Milcon/VA Appropriations

Congress included the Military Construction and Department of Veterans Affairs (Milcon/VA) FY20 spending bill in the domestic and international minibus. TREA is pleased to provide this summary of funding for highlighted items in FY 2020.

The law provides \$103.5 billion in discretionary funding. This breaks down to \$11.3 billion for milcon projects and \$91.9 billion in discretionary funding for VA. An additional \$645 million in milcon is provided for milcon through overseas contingency operations (OCO) accounts, and \$6.2 billion for natural disaster relief.

Military construction

The base budget covers 150 projects around the world.

There is \$266 million dedicated to building and altering military medical facility, and \$1.4 billion for military family housing. That includes an additional \$140,800,000, in bill section 131, to increase oversight and management of contractors in the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI), in response to this year's scandal.

By Service, the milcon funds are appropriated as follows:

- Army: \$1,178,499,000 base funding
- Navy and Marine Corps: \$2,449,632,000 base funding
- Air Force: \$1,687,230,000 base funding
- Defense-wide: \$2,362,529,000 base funding

Specific natural disaster recovery funding is intended to repair the damage resulting from hurricanes in Florida and North Carolina, flooding in Nebraska, tornadoes in Louisiana, and earthquakes in California.



UPDATE FROM OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE

Ken Greenberg, Director of Veteran & Military Policy

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

VA funding is \$5.4 billion above the FY19 level.

Congress emphasized the specialized and high quality care provided to veterans in VA medical facilities, and the generally positive patient satisfaction reports. The level recognizes the importance of the facilities to be fully funded, staffed, and appropriately maintained, even while the MISSION Act is implemented to address care provided in the community.

The funding includes \$81 billion for VA medical care, covering:

- \$9.4 billion for mental health;
- \$1.1 billion for telehealth services, including \$30 million to increase capacity in rural and highly rural areas;
- \$710 million for expanding the caregivers support program, and a stern warning that these funds are not to be used elsewhere;
- \$402 million for opioid misuse prevention and treatment;
- \$800 million for medical and prosthetic research;
- \$585 million for women veterans' gender specific care (and reporting requirements on this topic, within 90 days of enactment, as well as a provision requiring that sufficient amounts be available for prosthetics designed especially for women);
- There is also \$10 million within medical facilities to increase the number of beds available for overnight mental health treatment for women veterans and other maintenance projects
- \$300 million for rural health initiatives;
- \$9,432,833,000 for mental health and suicide prevention;
- \$5 million for the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence; and
- \$9,781,721,000 for long-term care.

The legislation provides \$8.9 billion in FY20 and \$11.3 billion in FY21 advance funding to implement the MISSION Act community care program. The VA is required to report monthly to Congress on how many veterans are receiving care through the program, at what cost, and at what level of timeliness. TREA strongly supports VA to properly and efficiently implement MISSION Act.

There is \$153.6 million for VA to implement the expansion of care and benefits provided to Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans, beginning on January 1. This includes \$125 million above the budget request to hire additional claims and appellate staff for the new claims.

VA is encouraged to partner with community networks and nonprofit programs that provide wraparound employment and counseling services to veterans and their families to ease the transition into civilian life. The Department should work with the Department of Labor.

VA has 120 days after enactment of this legislation to inform Congress on how they will discontinue the use of Social Security numbers to identify individuals within VA information systems.

The law calls the ongoing high rates of denial of Gulf War veterans' claims for undiagnosed illnesses and chronic multi-symptom illnesses "concerning." VA is directed to improve the grant rate and to do a better job of addressing the needs of these veterans.

UPDATE FROM OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE

Ken Greenberg, Director of Veteran & Military Policy

Internet access should be expanded in all medical facilities. Guests should be able to use Wi-Fi in all spaces including inpatient treatment rooms and waiting areas.

VA is to review rejected or denied emergency care claims that pre-date the court decision that the Department is responsible for paying for that care. The Department is also to find ways to mitigate the financial damage done to those veterans who had emergency care claims sent to a collection agency and now have damaged credit histories.

Mental Health specifics include:

- \$221,765,000 for suicide prevention outreach, with improvements to the Veterans Crisis Line
- Expansion of the Coaching Into Care program
- New program to train law enforcement on dealing with veterans during a mental health crisis
- Requirements that every VA medical center have at least one suicide prevention coordinator
- \$3 million for the VA's activities in support for the government-wide PREVENTS Initiative to combat suicide, especially among veterans
- \$40 million for the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, including \$10 million to coordinate the VA National PTSD Brain Bank

The law also includes a **long list of actions for VHA to recruit and retain clinical and support staff**. The VHA will have 90 days in which to report to Congress on what is being done to recruit in rural areas.

The appropriators praised **VHA's efforts to use genomic science to provide targeted treatment to veterans with cancer** and suggested that skin cancer be added to the list of cancers for the program. Other areas of cancer research include:

- Whether there is a connection between certain illnesses and the potential exposure of individuals to radiation at Enewetak Atoll between January 1, 1977, and December 31, 1980; and
- The incidence of **rare cancers in individuals who served in Iraq and Afghanistan**; this should include tracking the health status of these service members over a long period of time.
- Every medical facility should have **someone whose full-time job is to manage beneficiary travel**, in order to speed up reimbursement for their costs;
- Feasibility study required on establishing a War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC), focused on gender-based differences in the development, diagnosis, and treatment of exposure-related diseases;

As VA implements the MISSION Act, Congress is concerned that the VHA has the appropriate infrastructure in place. VA is to report on the biggest impediments to executing construction and leasing projects. The report should include an update on the market assessment being conducted, as well.



UPDATE FROM OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE

Ken Greenberg, Director of Veteran & Military Policy

Electronic health records (EHR)

The law contains \$1,500,000,000 for the development and rollout of the new EHR Modernization (EHRM) initiative. The appropriators expressed ongoing support for the project, but also a lot of concern. Thus, **Congress continues to want quarterly reports on the deployment schedule.** GAO is also to continue to conduct quarterly reviews. (Similar oversight provisions are in the Defense spending bill concerning DOD's MHS GENESIS project.)

President Signs FY 2020 NDAA

TREVA worked hard on many provisions in the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Bill and is pleased to provide a summary highlighting eight important provisions. They are:

1) 3-year phased in elimination of widow's tax;

For decades, military families have tried to change a policy that has kept about 65,000 surviving military spouses nationwide from receiving their full survivor benefits. The proposal would eliminate, over the course of three years, a system by which survivor compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs is deducted from annuities provided by the Defense Department-funded Survivor Benefit Plan. Under the phased elimination, the first change would occur in 2021, when SBP recipients would begin receiving one-third of the offset amount. The following year, the amount would be raised to two-thirds; and in 2023, survivors would receive their full SBP monthly payments in addition to DIC. [ADD PDF Link](#)

2) 3.1 % pay raise for troops;

This is the largest basic pay increase in a decade.

3) Parental leave for federal workers;

Federal employees would be eligible for 12 weeks of paid leave following the birth or an adoption of a child.

4) New policies for DOD to prevent sexual assault; DOD to develop a comprehensive policy to improve the prevention of sexual assault involving service members. It would include training, promoting recognition of behaviors that often lead to sexual assault—such as sexist jokes, hazing, and sexual harassment—and addressing alcohol abuse and binge drinking. Each military department would have to implement programs based on the DOD policy.

5) Burn pits and toxic exposure;

DOD to ensure members of the armed forces stationed at a location where an open burn pit was used, or exposed to toxic airborne chemicals or contaminants, receive appropriate physical examinations. DOD directed to track service members' exposure to occupational and environmental health risks during deployment. A separate provision requires inclusion of blast exposure in service members' records. DOD to test for potential exposure to PFAS for all DOD firefighters during their annual physicals.

6) GI Bill benefits transfer;

DOD is prohibited from limiting eligibility to transfer unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to family members based on a maximum number of years of service.

7) Reimbursement of licensing fees for spouses;

Doubles, to \$1,000, the reimbursement amount for professional relicensing costs of spouses of service members who have been reassigned. The reimbursement authority would be extended for two years, through 2024.

THE SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE – DID YOU KNOW?

Richard Delaney, Chairman

Did you know that if you have income of \$25,000 (single filers) or \$32,000 (joint filers) you are considered to have “substantial income” and that for Social Security purposes you are being taxed as a ‘high-income recipient’?

Roughly one - half of all retiree households report that a portion of their Social Security benefits are subject to taxation, according to recent survey results from The Senior Citizens League (TSLC). This is a tax that was estimated to affect just 10 percent of Social Security beneficiaries when it was first enacted in 1983.

At the time of enactment, The Congressional Quarterly referred to this revenue change as ‘taxing the benefits of high-income recipients’ citing the publication’s summaries of major Social Security changes from 1983-1984. The Social Security Administration’s archives state that “Congress intended that the taxation of benefits should not affect ‘lower income’ individuals.” The revenues from the tax on Social Security benefits are credited to the Social Security and Medicare trust funds and provide a growing share of the programs’ financing.

But, unlike other parts of the tax code which are adjusted for inflation, such as income brackets, the income thresholds that subject a portion of Social Security benefits to taxation have never been adjusted. Today, the Social Security benefits of even modest-income retirees — those who have modified gross incomes of more than \$25,000 (single filers) or \$32,000 (joint filers) — are affected by the tax. Had the income thresholds been adjusted for inflation the \$25,000 threshold would be about \$63,137 today and the \$32,000 would be about \$80,815, using the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ inflation calculator.

New retirees can be caught off guard by the tax, and the Social Security Administration’s information about it can be easily misunderstood. Information about the tax on the Social Security Administration’s website says that the tax affects retirees with “substantial income.” It states: “Some of you have to pay federal income taxes on your Social Security benefits. This usually happens only if you have other substantial income in addition to your benefits (such as wages, self-employment, interest, dividends and other taxable income that must be reported on your tax return). This, of course, includes military retiree pay.

To determine if a portion of the taxpayer’s Social Security benefits are taxable, half of Social Security benefits are added to the adjusted gross income, plus any tax - exempt interest, and certain other tax - exempt income. Few people today think of an adjusted gross income of as little as \$25,000 - \$32,000 as ‘substantial’ income. To calculate the taxable portion of benefits, taxpayers can find a worksheet in IRS publication 915.

Legislation is currently under consideration in the House, The Social Security 2100 Act (H.R. 860), that would adjust the income thresholds that subject Social Security benefits to taxation, from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for single filers and from \$32,000 to \$100,000 for joint filers. According to a survey by The Senior Citizens League, 55 percent of survey participants support lifting the threshold for taxation of Social Security benefits to those levels, and only 12 percent oppose. The bill would pay for this as well as providing a boost in Social Security benefits and a more generous cost-of-living adjustment, by increasing the amount of wages subject to payroll taxes and by very gradually increasing the tax rate that workers and employers pay.

To learn more, visit www.SeniorsLeague.org.

UPDATE FROM OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE

Ken Greenberg, Director of Veteran & Military Policy - (Cont.)

8) Medical malpractice;

Authorize claims by service members or their representatives in cases of injury or death caused by medical malpractice of a Defense Department health care provider and create an administrative process to adjudicate them. Claims would have to be presented within two years. The provision would take effect in 2020.

Navy Blue Water Veterans Decisions to begin January 1, 2020

TREA members -- are you a Navy Blue Water Veteran? TREA is providing a detailed factsheet and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) to keep you informed as VA implements P.L. 116-23, beginning January 1, 2020. These links provide information on conditions related to herbicide exposure, how to file a claim and what information should be included in the claim.

Fact Sheet - https://d3dkdvqff0zqx.cloudfront.net/groups/trea/blue_water_navy_factsheet.pdf

FAQ's - https://d3dkdvqff0zqx.cloudfront.net/groups/trea/blue_water_navy_faqs.pdf

Remember: You may be eligible for benefits under the new law if you previously had a claim denied or if you are a surviving spouse or child of a veteran who has died before their claim was decided. <https://youtu.be/KHAhmdXjMPs>

TREA is collecting names of claimants and working with VA to prioritize BWN claims. Please let TREA know if you want assistance with your claim. TREA wants to hear your comments and feedback. Please email legislativeinfo@trea.org with your questions.

TREA supports Women's Veterans Health Care -- H.R.3224 – Deborah Sampson Act

The number of women veterans enrolling in VA health care is increasing, placing new demands on VA's health care system. To address the growing number of women Veterans who are eligible for health care, H.R. 3224, the Deborah Sampson Act, passed the House on November 13, by a 399-11 vote. The bill is pending action by the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee for consideration.

The legislation has strong bi-partisan support, and when enacted, would provide additional funding for the following:

- Primary care and emergency care clinicians in VA's Women Veterans Health Care residency programs;
- Requirement for gender-specific services at every VA medical facility;
- Mandate for a new policy to end harassment and sexual assault at all VA locations;
- New assessment on the availability of prosthetics specifically for women veterans;
- Establishment of a new Office of Women's Health;
- Extended coverage of healthcare for newborn children of veterans from 7 to 14 days; and
- Oversight of women's health care within the Department of Veterans Affairs. (cont.)



Director Ken Greenberg (left center) alongside U.S. Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member, Senator Jon Tester (center) and other members of the VSO community to #EndTheWait for Blue Water Navy Veterans.

UPDATE FROM OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE

Ken Greenberg, Director of Veteran & Military Policy - Cont.

Today, women veterans have earned and are entitled to full healthcare services, including care for gender-specific illnesses, injuries, and diseases as a result of their military service. TREA fully supports H.R. 3224, the Deborah Sampson Act.

Contact your Senators NOW and urge them to request Senator Jerry Moran, the soon to be Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, to pass H.R. 3224, The Deborah Sampson Act, out of committee and to the Senate floor for final passage.

TREA continues to work hard to support Concurrent Receipt

As Co-Chair of The Military Coalition's Retired Affairs Committee, Director Ken Greenberg continues to push concurrent receipt in H.R. 303 and H.R. 333 as a TREA legislative priority. The bills specifically seek the enactment of legislation that authorizes comprehensive expansion of concurrent receipt of uniformed services retired pay and VA disability compensation. They expand Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) to beneficiaries with 20 or more years of service with less than 50 percent disability rating and all those medically retired with less 20 years of service (Chapter 61) who are not eligible for concurrent receipt.

Contact your Congressman and Senators NOW and urge them to cosponsor these legislative proposals.

TREA and Toxic Exposures in American Military (TEAM) Developing Legislation

The Toxic Exposures in the American Military Coalition (TEAM) continues to develop proposed legislation intended to help military veterans made ill by exposure to toxicants during their military service. The TEAM Coalition consists of 20 military and veterans service organizations meeting to share information, gather data, promote research, and discuss legislative and policy recommendations.

The continued development of comprehensive legislation to expand healthcare access to those affected by a variety of toxicants and open and assist current and future veterans affected by yet unknown chemicals. Environmental and chemical hazard exposures have carried real and potential future health risks for many service members and veterans suffering from uncommon illnesses or the early onset of more familiar diseases like cancer. TREA Director, Ken Greenberg states "Comprehensive legislation is imperative for Congress to include as many conditions as possible that veterans may have been exposed to. The TEAM Coalition brings together the experience and expertise of multiple organizations to fully address the toxic exposure issue."



WELCOME TO BILL MCCABE, TREA'S NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Mr. McCabe has joined TREA as the new Deputy Director of Veterans and Military Policy in the Washington D.C. Office. Bill brings over six years of Federal, State & Local Government experience to TREA, in addition to ten plus years of political campaign experiences.

UPDATE FROM OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE

Ken Greenberg, Director of Veteran & Military Policy

Bill has previously served in numerous roles for elected officials, most recently serving as Legislative and Communications Director for a member of the Fairfax County, Virginia Board of Supervisors. Prior to his appointment with the Fairfax County Government, Bill served as a staff member and Legislative Fellow in several offices in the U.S. House of Representatives, demonstrating his deep knowledge of the legislative process, strategic communications, and the intersection of public and private constituencies. Bill has also held positions with several fortune 500 companies and law firms, and currently also holds the position of Director of Government Relations at Capitol Integration.

In addition to his public and private sector experiences, Bill has been a staunch advocate for Veteran Service Organizations throughout his career. In 2013, Bill lost a close friend to PTSD after his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. Since then, he has made it his mission to help Veterans who are struggling with suicidal thoughts, whether it's been lobbying on Capitol Hill for the PAWS Act or volunteering with local Veteran Service Organizations.

Bill also comes from a long line of military service members in his family. He is currently serving in the U.S. Army National Guard and attends Drill with the 116th Infantry Division in Leesburg, Virginia. He is a graduate of George Mason University, where he majored in Public Policy and minored in Public Relations.

Since his onboarding with TREVA, Bill has immediately been immersed in weekly meetings with VA, DoD, and Members of Congress in order to better understand the key issues affecting our military service members, veterans, and their families. This involves direct feedback from top level officials while simultaneously partnering with other Veteran Service and Military Service Organizations to protect and enhance the promised benefits you have earned.

Bill considers Veterans Affairs his passion in life and looks forward to representing TREVA and working with Congress, VA, DoD, other Federal agencies, and Military and Veterans Service Organizations in the new year. He can be reached by email at legislativeinfo@trea.org or by phone at 703-684-1981.

H.R. 4305 – PAWS ACT

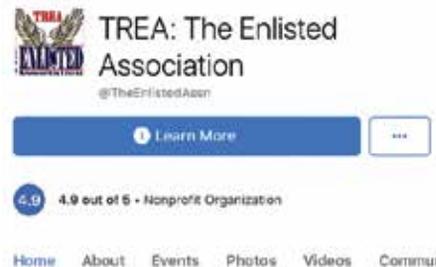
Most recently, Bill has begun working with the office of Congressman Steve Stivers (OH-15) to garner further support for H.R. 4305, the “Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act.” The PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act would authorize a pilot program in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs will partner with non-profit organizations who specialize in working with veterans and service dogs. These organizations will train veterans in the art and science of dog training, with preference given to organizations that employ veterans to encourage veteran-to-veteran engagement. This type of mission-based work therapy is widely recognized as beneficial for veterans suffering with these invisible disabilities, such as PTSD.



SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

In addition to keeping his finger on the pulse of the legislative process, Bill has taken it upon himself to advance TREA's social media strategy. In the past 3 months, Bill has posted over 100 times on TREA's Facebook page, driving positive engagement up over 1,200% while organically increasing user following of the page. Posts vary from meetings Bill and Ken attend, articles on key issues via Washington Updates, or specific announcements and events related to TREA.

Please don't forget to "like" and "follow" TREA's official Facebook page to get real time updates by searching "TREA: The Enlisted Association" on Facebook or by its official designator "@TheEnlistedAssn"



TREA APPRECIATION DAY

Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations

February 12th is a special day for TREA members. It's the day that our Founders, George and Dean met and created TREA (of course it was called REA at the time).

57 years later we are here to pay homage to their efforts and to thank them for their forethought and to give recognition to all those who so faithfully served the TREA organization throughout the years.

An organization like TREA takes a lot of energy, a lot of commitment and a lot of support. We have been extremely blessed to have had some amazing people step up to help us get to where we are today. From National Board Members, to Chapter Board Members, from staff to volunteers, to the National and Chapter Auxiliary – everyone has worked together to make TREA the great organization that it is today.

It is with that in mind that President Hilinski has officially (as far as TREA goes) declared February 12th as 'TREA APPRECIATION DAY'!

This is a day to be thankful and grateful for TREA, the organization and to remember with respect and honor those who worked so effortlessly to bring us forward. It is also a time to acknowledge each and every TREA member – who without their service and personal sacrifice, TREA would not exist.

We are asking every Chapter, every MAL, every member to show your support and appreciation for TREA. For the friends it brought your way, for the memories you still cherish and for the accomplishments that TREA has made through the years. There is no doubt that TREA has been a huge part of protecting veteran's benefits in Washington, but TREA is more than that. TREA is people – TREA is you and that deserves to be celebrated.

What do we do? We celebrate! How? - that is what we want you to show us!

Chapters and MALS alike - have a picnic, share a pizza with another TREA member, give a toast – and most of all - post it on the TREA Facebook page.

Let's see how many posts we can get. Wouldn't it be great to see Facebook light up with TREA posts! To keep it in true TREA fashion – there will be a small prize for the Chapter or MAL who posts the most activity (photos or messages) on February 12th.

This is a celebration of YOU, the TREA member – let's see what you got.



Greetings to All!

Another year has passed us by already as we have begun to move into the year 2020. Where has the time gone? So much has come upon us in such a short time and before we know it, we will be off to San Diego, California to celebrate our Annual Membership Meeting (convention). The convention will no longer be addressed as "Convention" it will be known as the "Annual Membership Meeting". However, before we head off, there are multiple concerns and discussions that need to be presented to our auxiliary members.

Most of you are probably aware of the changes that have been put in place by National TREA. One major change that I want to bring to your attention is the new voting system. As referenced in the Fall issue of "VOICE", pg. 29, the new voting system was voted on and has been implemented in the Bylaws and Standing Rules for TREA as in Article X, Section 3 -5 / Membership Sessions. This change gives all TREA members the ability to vote in person, by mail or by an internet-based voting system, which eliminates the need for Chapter delegates and proxies. *The impact of this change gives all TREA members the ability to vote whether they can attend the Annual Membership Meeting (previously known as the 'Convention') or not and whether chosen as a chapter delegate or proxy.* It also allows MAL's and all other members to have a vote and a say in the election and other voting matters.

At the present time, the Auxiliary has not adopted this procedure. However, there are conversations being held as to what action plan the Auxiliary should set in place regarding online voting. We have the option of voting at the Annual Membership Meeting (Convention) as done in the past with delegates and proxies. This method will limit the voting arena to only those in attendance. If online voting was used as an option, it will give more of our members the opportunity to cast their votes. I have been told by TREA's President that if necessary we could do a trial run of the procedures and then present the voting changes to the members. I will keep you informed of our action plan for the new voting procedures. Please become familiar with the other changes that were voted into place by TREA and the Auxiliary. All information is located online at TREA.org. For additional TREA changes refer to the fall "VOICE" issue. We want to hear from you with your ideas and input. Please contact me or any board members with your recommendations, feedback and other input that you feel will support our decision on the direction we should pursue.

2020 will be an election year for all board positions. As Auxiliary members, there is a need for you to show your support to help maintain, grow and keep our organization vibrant. We need you to give a good deep heartwarming thought to the needs of the Auxiliary. There are so many of you out there with strong leadership skills. We need strong leaders that can help keep the Auxiliary alive. The jobs aren't easy; however, they are very rewarding as we look at the care and support we give to serve



each other and our communities, especially with the scholarships and the WEF/Benevolent programs. I will simply say we need you, please consider taking a position on the board by making a two-year commitment for a board position. Resumes will be accepted for all board positions. More information will follow from our Nominating Chairperson Director Annette Harris at ejannie@aol.com or contact her for more information.

What else is going on with the Auxiliary?

Vice President Barbara Coley represented the Auxiliary at the National Veteran's Day Ceremony, held at Arlington National Cemetery for the wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Auxiliary was invited to attend this prestigious ceremony by TREA's National President Phil Hilinski. I was blessed to attend the ceremony last year and asked VP Barbara Coley to attend to have the honor of being a part of the ceremony.

The Bylaws and Standing Rules committee has mailed information to chapter presidents and PNP's, regarding bylaw and standing rules amendments. We are asking for any changes to be submitted to Chairperson Betty Love at Bkenlove@msn.com, no later than March 20, 2020. The guidelines stated in our Standing Rules are that changes must be submitted 45 days prior to Mid-term meetings.

The Scholarship Chairperson, Audrey McCray, has submitted this year's scholarship application to be posted on the TREA website (www.trea.org). It is currently on the Homepage, but can also be found under About, then National Auxiliary – near the bottom of the page. Please be mindful of the timeline for submission and requirements for eligibility. Please note that applications are accepted for dependents, children, and grandchildren of current members of the Auxiliary who are in good standing. The Auxiliary member must have been a member for 1 (one) year prior to submission of application. This year's essay topic question is: "Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?" The committee is looking forward to receiving applications from graduating high school students, currently enrolled in college or vocational school students. For additional information please contact the Scholarship Chairperson at mccray@aol.com.

The WEF/Benevolent program is still seeking those in need. Funds are available to support widows/widowers of deceased service members. Please remember that we provide support for dental, vision, hearing and other medical or benevolent needs. Applications are available and the process is held in confidence and dignity. Please contact APNP Irmgard Cates at Irmy@comcast.net, for additional information and eligibility.

Sherry Eller is working hard as Treasurer and is very diligent with her skills. I would like to express our love and blessings to Sherry and as an acknowledgment of the loss of her dear husband, Lanny. Thank you, Sherry, for being you.



Director Sheldria (Dee) Wallace has been making contact with MAL's as our MAL Liaison and Membership. Her goal is to connect MAL's with chapters within the community. If you have any questions, please contact Dee at deebillupswallace@gmail.com.

We've been keeping our Secretary Ruby Smoots-Harris very busy. However, if you have any questions or concerns please contact Ruby at ruby.smoots@comcast.net.

Once again, my thanks to each of you for your support and for taking the time to read this article. I certainly have enjoyed getting feedback and hearing from you. Pmitch2121@gmail.com

UNITED WE STAND

Sincerely,
Pat Winds



Hello members, I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. And most of all, I hope you are excited and looking forward to a new year (2020). There is one word that has stuck in my mind for the start of this new year and that word my friends is blessings.

In case you didn't know, there are many blessings all around you. As you wake up each day, just look all around you and you see the world is full of beauty. Choosing to embrace your blessings allows you to witness all the good that you have around you. Life can be hard. But, being thankful for the blessings in your life will fill your heart with peace, joy, and hope. Most importantly, you should be thankful every single day of this new year, so you can remain energized to press on in your daily journey and remind you that there are so many special moments to celebrate.

Whether it's your family, your job, retirement, or that hot cup of coffee in the morning, there are so many things to be grateful for. Even during the storms of life, you should make a decision to focus on God's goodness. When some things go wrong, take a moment to be thankful for the many things that are going right. Remember to focus on your strengths, not your weaknesses. Focus on your character, not your reputation. Focus on your blessings, not your misfortunes. God wants to help and see you through, "With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26. It is possible to have strong faith in tough times. So, let your impossible meet God and watch what He will do in response. Remember, He is on your side. Just let Him in your heart and you'll be glad you did.

TREA National Auxiliary Chaplain
Barbara Coley

MEMORIAL DAY CONTEST

The Veteran's Day Contest was such a great success that National President Hilinski has decided to include Memorial Day as well. (Make sure that you read about the Veterans Day Event in a separate article in this issue of The VOICE).

Although different in nature than Veteran's Day, the Memorial Day Ceremony at Arlington still offers a TREA members (and guest) the opportunity to sit in the TREA Box at the Amphitheatre and participate in the solemn wreath laying ceremony.

This is an honor that is not bestowed upon the general public and we are pleased to be able to pass on the opportunity to be involved in such a special and humbling event to all TREA members. It is a TREA membership perk that is not replicated in any other membership organization. A TREA first! All you have to do is let us know that you want to be entered. It is a simple process – send an email to VeteransDayContest@trea.org with the following information:

Your Name (first and last)

Your Chapter number, or if a Member-at-Large (MAL), state 'MAL'

Your phone number

Your email address

If you do not have access to a computer, you can still be entered into the contest by calling TREA Headquarters and providing the information above. The HQ Staff will in turn submit an entry on your behalf.

The winning member will be randomly selected by President Hilinski on April 30th, 2020.

The winner will receive for themselves and a guest:

Travel to/from home (as stated in the TREA Membership Database) and Alexandria, VA

2 nights lodging in an Alexandria, VA hotel (selected by TREA HQ) – double occupancy

1 Dinner

1 Lunch

All travel to/from the hotel and the Memorial Day events at Arlington National Cemetery.

A TREA staff or board member to accompany and assist you. This contest is free! There is no cost to enter.

It is open to all TREA Members (unfortunately, Auxiliary members are not eligible at this time)

Rules and Details:

1. The chosen winner must sign a PR release allowing TREA to use their name(s) and any photos taken at the event for the TREA website, VOICE Magazine, TREA Facebook and any other TREA Social Media platform.
2. This contest and the subsequent prize has no cash value. The prize is the opportunity to participate in the coveted Memorial Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. There are no substitutions.
3. The selected winner (and guest) will affirm their ability to safely travel via plane (if necessary) and vehicle and will provide TREA HQ with any known limitations or restrictions.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ONLINE SCAMS

Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations

With the advancements in technology comes advanced risks of getting scammed.

Scammers have gotten very intuitive and are using modern technology to scam unsuspecting individuals out of thousands of dollars. They do this not by asking for money, but by asking for you to purchase gift cards. The most popular request right now is for Amazon gift cards. Once you purchase these cards, they either ask you to send them the cards – or, they ask you for the numbers off the back, (they then report the card as lost and get a replacement card).

TREA is not immune to this risk. In fact, our desire and willingness to help others makes us the perfect target.

The best way for you to protect yourself from being a victim is to ensure the validity of the request.

I don't want to say that TREA will never ask you for a donation, we do. We have many great programs, all created to assist veterans and their families and we do rely on your continued financial support to fund these important programs and operations, so we do not want to discourage you from sending in donations. We do want to establish a level of confidence with you where you can be assured that our request is legit. To do this, we have put some safeguards in place.

1. TREA will never ask you to purchase gift cards to send to us. If you receive an email asking you to do this, DO NOT RESPOND.
2. Any official e-mail communications from a TREA staff member or TREA board member will come from the official TREA.ORG email. If the sending email is not TREA.ORG, it is not legit and should be ignored and reported to Headquarters.
3. If in doubt, please call TREA Headquarters before you make any purchase requested through an e-mail.

HAVE YOU MOVED? ARE YOU PLANNING ON MOVING SOON? HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

TREA has been working hard in Washington and we want to make sure that you don't miss any of our important updates and information.

**Please take a minute to contact
TREA Headquarters (treaheadquarters@trea.org, 303-752-0660)
to let them know of any changes to your membership information.**



ANOTHER TREA SUCCESS!

Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations

We did it again!

TREA members, volunteers and staff came together again teaming up with Soldiers Angels to provide holiday packages for families across the country. These families that TREA provided packages for had either deployed or wounded veterans.

It was a flurry at the Headquarters office as packages were put together to send out. There was clothing (lots of winter coats and jackets), toys, computer games, food, gift cards and candy.

Every family was contacted personally to find out where they do their grocery shopping and a \$100 gift card was provided for each family to help them with their Christmas Dinner.



(photo left): Volunteers (l-r) Linda O'Brien, Patsy LaSalle, Sylvia Martin, Misty Siggins (TREA employee) and Sherri Anderson put in over 11 hours to help us wrap hundreds of gifts. (Not pictured was Debbie Osborne (TREA DFO) and Doug Osborne (MAL)). We had a veteran, a veteran mother, a veteran spouse, a veteran child and a veteran mother-in-law – all come together for the common good of veteran families in need.

The Holiday Program is just one of the ways that TREA assists fellow veterans and their families. We accomplish programs like this by using funds collected for our Benevolent Program. You can help. TREA needs you to help provide the funds that are used in programs like this one – and others, like providing food assistance and rental assistance to veterans and their families in need.

Take a moment to read the thank you notes from this year's families. If this doesn't convince you that TREA is doing good things for veterans and their families, then nothing will!

(photo right) - We received our package today and the boys are super excited. We want to thank you so much for this great thing you guys do. It has put a big smile on my kids face during this Christmas without daddy. I appreciate it so much. May God bless all of you!!!

The Feliciano Family



ANOTHER TREA SUCCESS!

Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations



*Thank you so much! We had some very happy children!
Toothman Family*



*(photo left)
It is so wonderful to hear from you. We have been on pins and needles wondering if our family would get adopted this year. I want to say thank you so much for you and your organizations generosity, it really means more than you know.*

The Wolgast Family



*A big thank you from the Gonzalez family!!
Merry Christmas!!*

YOU can help keep this program, and others going by sending in your tax-deductible donation to 'TREA GIVES' (mail to: 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, #250 – Centennial, CO 80112) or call TREA Headquarters at 303-752-0660/ 800-338-9337 to make a donation by credit card.

Want to make a difference all year long?

Consider becoming a monthly credit card donor.

Call TREA Headquarters today!

CHAPTER 16 – SALINA, KANSAS



Photo above, left - October Membership Meeting - Guest Speaker (standing right), Amanda Otto - CEO of Big Brothers and Big Sisters (BBBS) in Saline County. Amanda spoke on the BBBS mission and it's needs in serving youth in Saline County for 50 years. They monitor and maintain meaningful relationships between adult volunteers (bigs) and children, ages five through eighteen, throughout Saline County. The majority of the funding for BBBS comes from donations and grants. President Richard Trow (standing left) thanks Amanda for being the speaker and awards her with a Chapter Certificate of Appreciation.

Photo above, right - Guest Speaker Glenn Knak (red shirt). Mr. Knak is a master woodcarver who began his talent in 1979. He displayed eight sculpters that covered all branches of the military services that pertained to World Wars I and II. He explained the motivation for creating each of the sculpters; one was that his father served in the military in WWII, which was a significant factor in his carving scenes of soldiers. In the photo above, chapter member Ronald Sondegard (blue shirt), also a woodcarver, presented G. Knak with a Chapter Certificate of Appreciation. The members in attendance were amazed by Mr. Knak's wood precision skills; his presentation was appreciated and well-received by all.

CHAPTER 74 – TACOMA, WASHINGTON



(l-r): 1st VP Chuck Marshall and President Clyde 'CC' Cameron are at the staging area getting ready to take part in the 54th Annual Auburn, WA Veterans Day Parade. This parade is one of the largest parades, west of the Mississippi River. There were 196 entries and TREA Chapter 74 was entry #81. Photo credit: Chaplain Jan Marshall

CHAPTER 76, WISCONSIN



CHAPTER 76 OFFICER AND BOARD 2020



CHAPTER 76 ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING



CHAP 76 PEARL HARBOR DAY PROGRAM



CHAP 76 PRESIDENT MIKE LIEBELT
PEARL HARBOR DAY ANNOUNCER

CHAPTER 80 – SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



Chapter 80 responds to the San Antonio Food Bank after shortages. Believe it or not, the San Antonio Food Bank went on televised media to announce a severe shortage of food to dispense for those who needed Thanksgiving dinner. Due to the many floods, fires and other acts of nature in the Texas area, the San Antonio Food Bank lacked the usual amount of food for Thanksgiving. Although the Chapter had already made its annual donation earlier this year, as soon as this was announced, Chapter 80 vice president and auxiliary president (the Morelands), visited the Food Bank with a donation of \$250 which will buy 1,750 meals.

Statistics show that the food bank purchasing agents can purchase more with dollars than a private individual, not associated with the Food Bank, can purchase through ordinary methods; ie, at a regular super market.

Pictured above are Chapter 80 Vice President, Harold Moreland and Auxiliary Vice President, Elaine Moreland along with San Antonio Food Bank Representative.



CHAPTER 114 – GEORGIA



Chapter 114 members, Eric Nettles, Curtis Wright, Joe Pritchard and Charles Smith represent TREA Chapter 114 in the Veterans Day Parade.

CHAPTER 119 - WISCONSIN



Chapter 119 has been busy since September. While the Annual Convention was going on, the Chapter held the 2019 RAD which had close to 200 people attend. The photo (left) shows Terry Maki on the left with Gerry Stark sitting at the table. Other members helping are not shown in the picture.

On October 11th, the Chapter held a Fundraiser, along with the Elk's 403 Lodge to help the American Legion Post in Iron River, WI raise funds for the "Across the Pond Veterans Memorial Park" in Iron River. The photo (right) shows Ray Kangas, center, member of the American Legion Post and Chairman of the Across the Pond Committee is receiving a check for \$450.00. Left of Ray is Troy Magnuson, Chapter 119 member and Chairman of the Elks Veterans Committee and Butch Liebaert, right, president of Chapter 119.

On November 8th, President Liebaert set the MIA/POW Table as Cosmo Rich Jr. read for the ceremony at the Elks Veterans Dinner. The chapter also helped set up the area for the Dinner and clean up after the meal which was free for all Veterans and significant ones. There were close to 200 in attendance.

The Chapter volunteered at the Bentleyville Christmas Tour of Lights on December 10th in Duluth, MN. This is America's largest Free walk-through lighting display and was featured on this year's 'The Great Christmas Light Fight' on ABC. There were a total of 15 chapter members & family who showed up to volunteer. They worked in the Cookie/Coffee –Cocoa House, Popcorn House, Marshmallow House and attended to the six Fire Pits. This is an annual event for the chapter.

The Chapter volunteered at the Bentleyville Christmas Tour of Lights on December 10th in Duluth, MN. This is America's largest Free walk-through lighting display and was featured on this year's 'The Great Christmas Light Fight' on ABC. There were a total of 15 chapter members & family who showed up to volunteer. They worked in the Cookie/Coffee –Cocoa House, Popcorn House, Marshmallow House and attended to the six Fire Pits. This is an annual event for the chapter.

On December 12th, the Chapter provided an Honor Guard for a concert at the University of Wisconsin, Superior. The concert's theme was Space: The Final Frontier performed by a Symphonic Band.





CHAPTER LIST IN NUMBER ORDER

Chapter 1 (Colorado)

Lonny Barrett
3035B S Academy Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80916
719-596-0927
treach1@msn.com

Chapter 3 (Colorado)

Glenn Blassingame
1599 Dayton St
Aurora, CO 80012
303-343-1921
chapter3rt@aol.com

Chapter 9 (Maryland)

John Whelchel
PO Box 41318
Baltimore, MD 21203
410-419-7655
johnwhelchel44@gmail.com

Chapter 16 (Kansas)

Fred Fanning
709 Banner Circle
Salina, KS 67401
785-577-3442
fredfanning@gmail.com
www.midwaychapter16.org

Chapter 20 (Colorado)

Dave McConnell
PO Box 2190
Pueblo, CO 81005
719-565-0949
trea20@live.com

Chapter 24 (Maryland)

Grant Goods
PO Box 121
Fort George G Meade, MD
20755 410-672-5186
treach24@gmail.com

Chapter 29 (S. Dakota)

Chet Westman
1981 East Centre Street
Rapid City, SD 57703
Treachapter29@yahoo.com

Chapter 34 (Arizona)

Walter Coley, Jr.
PO Box 1313
Glendale, AZ 85311
402-598-7095
treaz34@gmail.com

Chapter 37 (Oklahoma)

Gerald Pope
PO Box 126
Covington, OK 73730
580-402-2377
Iride4thebrand@pldi.net

Chapter 38 (South Carolina)

George Geriner, Jr.
623 Plantation Pointe Dr Elgin,
SC 29045
803-419-7739
consouth54@gmail.com

Chapter 39 (Colorado)

Sam Lovell
14552 E. 13th Avenue
Aurora, CO 80011
303-587-3244
Slovell598@aol.com

Chapter 55 (California)

Jack Stewart
PO Box 52
Marina, CA 93933
831-601-3263
jdsjack2@aol.com

Chapter 64 (Puerto Rico)

Benjamin Reyes Martinez
PO Box 8714
Bayamon, PR 00960
787-315-1872

Chapter 70 (Pennsylvania)

Larry Cohen
202 Stevens Ave
Sinking Springs, PA 19608
610-678-5812
trea70@hotmail.com

Chapter 72 (Pennsylvania)

Harry Blackwell
10163 Old Perry Hwy
Wexford, PA 15090
412-417-8251
bigharryphotos@yahoo.com

Chapter 74 (Washington)

CC Cameron
PO Box 4204
Tacoma, WA 98438
253-535-5882
ccamofkc@q.com

Chapter 76 (Wisconsin)

Mike Liebelt
123 Concord Drive
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
920-467-0630
trea76@excel.net

Chapter 80 (Texas)

Don Higginbotham
8039 Swindow Circle
Converse, TX 78109
210-658-2344
redleg.csm@hotmail.com

Chapter 88 (Texas)

Guadalupe Lopez
4610 Dartmouth Dr
Killeen, TX 76542
254-702-0465
glopez2jr@twc.com

Chapter 90 (Illinois)

Robert Kerschke
415 S Ann St Marengo, IL
60152
815-568-1137
beaver451@charter.net

Chapter 94 (Georgia)

Rick Delaney
PO Box 8582
Warner Robins, GA 31095
treachapter94@gmail.com

CHAPTER LIST IN NUMBER ORDER

Chapter 98 (Pennsylvania)

Frank Cross
704 George St
Scottsdale, PA 15683
724-887-0505
president@trea98.org

Chapter 102 (West Virginia)

Michael Stanley
421 Myers Ave
Beckley, WV 25801
304-256-0215
Csm.stanley@suddenlink.net

Chapter 109 (Ohio)

Greg Bock
1203 Mahoning Ave
Warren, OH 44483
330-716-0476
gbock76@yahoo.com

Chapter 111 (Ohio)

Andrew Franko
PO Box 782
Ravenna, OH 77266
330-206-4169
andy.franko@sbcglobal.net

Chapter 112 (Ohio)

Jerry Johnson
PO Box 4282
Warren, OH 44482
330-392-5861

Chapter 113 (Colorado)

Jerry Bryant
PO Box 5044
Colorado Springs, CO
80931
719-391-9879
jerrybryant@yahoo.com

Chapter 114 (Georgia)

Joe Pritchard
2208 Windmark Court
Phenix City, AL 36869
706-223-4905
noble124@yahoo.com

Chapter 119 (Wisconsin)

Butch Liebaert
4221 E 2nd St
Superior, WI 54880
715-398-3152
liebs3@charter.net

Chapter 120 (New York)

Robert Harris
PO Box 4525
Schenectady, NY 12304
518-428-3422
treachapter120@gmail.com

Chapter 124 (Ohio)

Thomas Kennedy
2799 Fisher Road
Columbus, OH 43204
614-276-6287
Thomasbkennedy@live.com

Chapter 125 (Oklahoma)

Dave Griffith
10828 Quail Circle
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
405-751-3177
dgriffith5@sbcglobal.net

Chapter 126 (New York)

Gerald Kaczmarczyk
52 Banko Dr
Depew, NY 14043
716-685-4768
gkaczref@roadrunner.com

TREA STORE

We have some really nice shirts on special from now until April 1st.

Men's Polo Shirts & Women's long & short sleeved button up Tee's.

Order today and receive \$5.00 off each one!

Go to our website (www.trea.org) for a full listing of colors and sizes.





WHAT IS A VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER AND WHY DOES TREA NEED THEM?

A Veteran Service Officer is someone who counsels, advises and assists military service veterans, veterans' survivors and their dependents in obtaining benefits provided for them by federal, state, county and local laws.

A VSO can assist eligible persons in filling out the necessary paperwork to file a claim with the VA and are able to represent individuals in presenting claims during VA hearings. An accredited VSO will always have the best interest of the veteran in mind and exists to help them get the benefits that they deserve. An accredited VSO is an asset to both the veterans and to the organization that they represent.

Last year TREA was able to provide VSO support and assistance to over 30 veterans. Some of these requests were simply answering questions, others required in depth research by TREA staff in order to provide the specific information requested by the veteran. TREA has worked well with county Veteran Service Officers in the past and they have provided the much needed knowledge and experience that has allowed for TREA to be successful in our VSO endeavors.

We are currently working on enhancing our current VSO program so that we are able to provide more assistance to those who need it. It is our future goal to have a TREA VSO representative in every state across the country. Is this a realistic goal? Maybe not, but it's one worth shooting for.

To start that effort, we are reaching out to our membership and asking you to reach out to your circle of family, friends and acquaintances in hopes of finding accredited VSO's who would be interested in volunteering their time and services to help TREA expand our current VSO reach. If you are a VSO, or if you know of one who might be interested, please reach out to the National Headquarters office (303-752-0660) to provide us with contact information.

This a project that will take some time to come to fruition, but it starts today.

UPCOMING NATIONAL BOARD POSITIONS AND THE NEW VOTING PROCESS

We are excited to announce the new voting process for TREA National.

The following Bylaw changes were approved by the attending members at the 2019 Convention.

1. ARTICLE V, Section 1 – NATIONAL OFFICERS

The members present voted to remove 2 Directors from the National Board of Directors.

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

2. ARTICLE IX, Section 1 – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

This change requires that all individuals seeking a position on the National Board submit their written resume to TREA HQ in time to be published in the Summer issue of The VOICE magazine (the deadline being June 15th). There will be no nominations from the floor at the Annual Membership Meeting.

3. ARTICLE X, Section 3 – 5 – MEMBERSHIP SESSIONS

This change makes it so that each and every TREA member has the opportunity to vote, in person at the Annual Membership Meeting, by mail-in ballot or via internet based voting system. You no longer have to attend the Annual Membership Meeting to cast a vote for National Board positions or Bylaws and Standing Rule changes. This approved change eliminates the Chapter Delegate system and since every member

is allowed to vote, there is no longer a need for proxy votes, therefore, they have been eliminated as well. (Standing Rules 2, 5 and 12 were amended to fall in line with the approved changes stated above.)

The biggest thing to keep in mind is that the deadline for resumes is June 15th. This means that all resumes must be received at the National Headquarters no later than June 15th. All Bylaw and Standing Rule changes must be received at TREA National Headquarters by March 30th in order to be reviewed by the Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee. In order to maintain the proper information sharing protocol and ensure that all TREA members have the opportunity to read, review and vote on these submissions, these are definitive deadlines. Late submissions cannot be accepted and extensions cannot be granted.

If you need additional information or need to clarify anything, please contact a Headquarters staff member at 303-752-0660

NOMINATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL BOARD POSITIONS - 2020

All seats on the TREA National Board are up for election at this years' Annual Membership Meeting.

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

If you are interesting in running for a position, please refer to TREA Bylaws, Article V - IX (pages 6 – 14) and Standing Rule 2 for information on the structure and description of the board and for details on the duties and responsibilities of each position.

If you are qualified for a position, and would like to submit a resume, please fill out TREA Form #100-3 (this form can be found on the TREA website - www.trea.org – under Resources - Forms & Documents, or by calling the office at 303-752-0660). This completed form must be received at TREA Headquarters by 5PM on June 15th, 2020. Any resume received incomplete or after the deadline will not be accepted. There can be no exceptions to this.

All resumes for all positions will be published in the August 2020 VOICE magazine. Voting will take place by mail-in ballot, on-line voting or in person at the convention (during registration).

The May issue of The VOICE magazine will have detailed information on the new voting process.

If you have any questions, you can reach out to any Headquarters staff member or contact the Credentials & Nominating Committee Chair, CD Rice at directorrice@trea.org.

HELP US BUILD OUR MEMBERSHIP

Anyone who brings in 5 (or more) new members in 2020 will receive this really great cell phone battery charger as our 'THANK YOU'.

(Information received from the actual membership application will be used to determine recruiting information).



TREA'S WASHINGTON OFFICE IN ACTION

Ken and Bill continue to be TREA's presence before Congress, VA and DOD. They are working hard to improve and protect the benefits of veterans, retirees and active duty members. By participating in meetings with high level officials, they are assuring TREA's voice continues to be heard.



Photo left: Deputy Director Bill McCabe (right) with U.S. Army Staff Sgt. David Bellavia (left), the first living Iraq War Veteran to be awarded the Medal of Honor. Bellavia shared his incredible story at a Washington Post Live Event hosted by SVAC Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Tester.

Photo below - Director Ken Greenberg (left) next to the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie (Right) during a planning meeting for Veterans Day 2019. TREA is an original member of the National Committee and plays an active role in the event.





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- **Regular Membership:** Any honorably discharged enlisted person – retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserve, or the spouse of an honorably discharged enlisted person - retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserve shall be eligible for regular membership. Regular membership entitles the member to all privileges of membership including attending membership 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: _____ Member Number _____

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

I am : Retired Veteran Active Duty Spouse of a veteran

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, your signature acknowledges the veteran status of your veteran spouse)

(Applicant, please sign here)

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

One Year - \$30

Two Years - \$55

Three Years - \$75

Life Membership (under 70) - \$400

Life Membership (over 70) - \$350

paid in 10, \$42 quarterly payments: \$420 total

paid in 10, \$37 quarterly payments: \$370 total

Payment:

Visa

Master Card

Discover

American Express

Check (Make checks payable to: TREA)

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Please return your completed application to:

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

303-752-0660 800-338-9337

www.trea.org



WE EARNED OUR STRIPES

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