

THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted

**TREA's 55th
Anniversary &
National Convention
pg. 12-15**

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**Memorial Day
through history pg. 10**

**Financial Information
pg. 36**

**Chapter News
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Views expressed in the magazine, and the appearance of advertisement, 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 VOICE is produced by DeCoste & Associates, LLC, a woman-owned small business located in Centennial, Colorado at 8200 Quebec St. #A3-219, Centennial, CO 80112.

The magazine staff can be reached by email at editor@trea.org. Editor-in-Chief, Kim DeCoste.
Creative Director/Graphic Designer, Gabriela Schechter.

Editorial Office

Please send all written communication to TREA Headquarters at 1111 S. Abilene Ct., Aurora, CO 80012.

Submissions

The VOICE accepts articles and photographs on a continual basis, but does not pay for submissions. Please send all articles and photos via email to editor@trea.org or by mail to 1111 S. Abilene Ct., Aurora, CO 80012. There is no guarantee that all submissions will be published. Photos must be high quality in order to be printed in the magazine. Low quality photos will not be printed. One dollar of member's annual TREA membership dues pays for an annual subscription.

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By their appearance, ads must not imply or infer any kind of TREA representation, warranty, or endorsement. For ad rates and a media kit, please email us at editor@trea.org or call 303-752-0660.

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FROM THE EDITOR

By Kim DeCoste



Happy summer to all TREA members and to your families. We hope you are surviving the usual challenges of heat, wildfires, tornados and flooding around the country and finding ways to enjoy time with friends and family. This issue of The VOICE is the first for our new editorial year and you will see changes. We continue to work to find a balance in what is printed here from a content standpoint and how it looks. We know how important this magazine is for you all to stay connected and informed and we seek to offer

as much information as we can gather and produce. Thank you to all of the leadership who contribute their time with reports to help members understand what work is being done on their behalf. In this issue you will find a lot of legislative updates and related work from Washington D.C. Operations as well as several important annual reports. The cover story is about Women in Combat and the challenges faced by the women as well as by the military, as they both work on integration. We hope you find the magazine to be interesting and we always welcome feedback by email or by mail to Headquarters. We hope many of you will be able to go to the Annual Conference in Florida in September and look forward to sharing about it in the next issue of The VOICE. God bless you all and God bless America!

~The Editorial Team

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A NOTE FROM TREA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

By John I. Adams



It hardly seems possible that my two-year term of office as TREA's National President is coming to an end. As a result, this will be my last President's column in *The VOICE*.

In the last few months I have twice had the opportunity to represent you and all TREA members at official functions in our nation's capital. In March, I testified before the House- Senate Joint Veterans Committee hearing. In my testimony I set forth both our priorities and our concerns regarding veterans' issues.

On Memorial Day I once again represented you at the ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, where we laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns after the President spoke at the annual event.

These are opportunities every TREA President has during his or her term of office and it has always been a thrill and an honor to represent you when I've attended them.

These last two years have also been eventful in other important ways.

Most significantly we were privileged to welcome the enlisted members of the former National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) after their leadership voted to disband the organization. We continue to be grateful for those members and we are striving to faithfully represent each of you as your voice in Washington during this critical time when our nation is still involved in the longest war in our history and men and women continue to be sent in harm's way.

As enlisted leaders, we were responsible for the welfare of our troops when we served in uniform, and even though most of us are now retired from active service, we continue our commitment to watch out for those now serving, as well as those who have faithfully served and have earned the benefits promised to them in return for that service.

Although politicians still continue to voice their support for veterans and for our troops whenever they get a chance, much of that ends up being mere lip service. That is not to say that no members of Congress support us. Many in both parties do, including Senator Tester, who we interview in this issue. But there are strong voices now in Washington who want to "privatize" many government functions, including much of the Department of Veterans Affairs. We strongly support using the private sector for veterans' health care when VA facilities are simply not available, but we oppose using that as an excuse to privatize a health care system that is exclusively for veterans and is designed to meet the very specific needs of veterans.

And while improvements to VA health care clearly still need to be made, it is one of the finest health care systems in the world. The problems have mostly been associated with getting into the VA system, but once veterans get in they receive world-class health care.

In addition to the issue of privatization, it is very distressing to know that there are influential politicians in Congress who have made it clear that the only way they will fund any new veterans' programs is to cut already existing veterans' programs to pay for them. That's outrageous.

One example of that is the Blue Water Navy legislation which was passed by the House Veterans Affairs Committee in May. The legislation addresses the issue of exposure to Agent Orange by Navy personnel. As you probably know, Agent Orange was a herbicide used during the Vietnam War and has been known to be associated with certain health issues in people who have been exposed to the chemical. According to The Agent Orange Act of 1991, if a veteran served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 and has a disease that has been associated with exposure to Agent Orange, they are automatically presumed to have been exposed to it and therefore qualify for disability compensation. According to VA's interpretation of this law, only veterans that have set foot on the land mass of Vietnam or served in Vietnam's inland waterways, known as "Brown Water" veterans, qualify for the presumption of exposure to Agent Orange. This does not include "Blue Water Navy" veterans who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam. The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017 would extend the presumption of exposure to Agent Orange to veterans who served in the Blue Water Navy,

A NOTE FROM TREA NATIONAL PRESIDENT (cont.)

We support giving Blue Water Navy veterans this presumption and we support this legislation, but it puts us in a position that we should not have to face. Funding for this legislation will come from raising the funding fee on initial-use VA-backed home loans. The VA estimates the increase will average \$2.94 monthly for homeowners with zero-down-payment loans, \$2.82 monthly for five percent down loans and \$2.14 per month for 10 percent.

Although this is only a minor increase in the fees veterans will have to pay, the principle is very troubling. Congress has started down the road of cutting current veterans benefits in order to pay for new veteran benefits. So much for all those flowery words from some elected officials about taking care of veterans. Another issue I am very concerned about is the commissary benefit. It is under attack by those who also want to privatize commissaries. Our legislative team is deeply involved in preserving the benefit and I know they will be in the thick of the fight as we move forward.

Finally, I want to thank all of those who have helped me during the past two years. This includes our entire Board of Directors and our staff in both our headquarters office and in Washington. This is not a one-man job and keeping our commitment to you, our members, requires communication with one another and close team work. I know that will continue with whomever our next President will be.

United We Stand



NOMINATING/CREDENTIALS REPORT (UPDATE)

C.D. Rice Jr., Director

TREA Director and Nominating & Credential Committee Chairman

As of the time of this writing, only the following resumes have been received for the named elected positions:

President	Ed Cates & Phil Hilinski
1st Vice President	Greg Barnett & Michael Davis
2nd Vice President	Aaron Reed & Justin Jump
3rd Vice President	Clarence Johnson
Treasurer	Deborah Oelschig
Two (2yr) Directors	C D Rice & Hazel Simeon

Should a member want to be considered for an appointee position, as either the Parliamentarian or the Veterans Service Officer, please submit a TREA bio or resume to the National President.

Please read page 8, of the SPRING 2018 issue of the The VOICE for details on eligibility and form used in the process. Briefly, TREA is urging all Members-at-large (MALs) to attend the convention and run for office on the Board. Over 93% of the total TREA

membership is made up from MALs. Each MAL may carry one proxy vote. You must be a member of TREA: The Enlisted Association and meet the eligibility requirements, as outlined in Bylaw Article IX, Section 2, and have the time to give to TREA to help it to grow.

If you run for office, especially as a new member, plan to attend the Pre-Convention Board Meeting as a guest. It could be a real learning experience. Also, please bring a Navy blazer/suit coat, black necktie, and gray slacks or skirt (female), as official photos are taken after the election.

PS: If ever you have thought in the PAST, in the Present, or toward the FUTURE, you've been, are being, or will be kicked in the rear, then SMILE!! Because, this simply means YOU ARE OUT FRONT and being known for something that you are doing for the betterment of TREA!!! Therefore, please consider running for a position on TREA's Board of Directors. We really need you!!!!!!!

Cheers!!!!



IT Committee updates

Philip Hilinski, National Director & IT Committee Chair

The committee is putting the finishing touches on our projects. The biggest one is on the TREA Website and the 'Chapters' Tab. We are looking for anything interesting your chapter is doing, so let us know. Hey, MALs, you are not left out, under the 'Chapters' Tab there is a MAL Section. We would LOVE to hear about what our MALs think, what is going on in your area and anything else you would like to add—reach out. Make sure you check out TREA Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn; share these sites with as many friends as possible. Don't forget to update your email for TREA HQ, we want to connect more with you. The "Call to Serve" internet radio program has wrapped up for the season. We will return this September; go to www.blogtalkradio.com/gumbo for the soul and scroll down to Daisy Brown and Phil Hilinski. See you in Florida at the Convention.

MEMORIAL DAY WASHINGTON DC 2018

Memorial Day 2018 in Washington DC the weather was beautiful and the tone was somber. At Arlington National Cemetery the Amphitheater was full with the general public and families from TAPS in the red tee shirts, and representatives from VSOs. They were there to honor all those who fought and died in military service to keep America free and safe.



Throughout the ceremony the United States Navy Band and the Sea Chanters in their dress whites sang. Then, First Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph F Dunford, Jr. spoke. Then Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis introduced President Trump who gave the main address. In the audience was TREA National President John Adams and his wife Nenita, along with TREA Director for Operations Debbie Osborne and Washington Executive Director of Legislative Affairs Deirdre Parke Holleman.

In the Parade of Colors TREA 3rd Vice President Justin Jump and SSgt Noel Magcalas carried the flags for TREA. Finally after the main observance TREA's President John Adams and TREA's 3rd Vice President Justin Jump presented our wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The day was awe inspiring.



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MEMORIAL DAY THROUGH THE HISTORY

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Washington Executive Director

The creation of some American National holidays is easy to find - the 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day. Others are much murkier. Memorial Day is one of those. It is generally thought of as originally a Civil War remembrance and first called Decoration Day. But before the Civil War numerous cemeteries throughout the country held a decoration day on a Sunday in the late spring when families traveled to maintain and decorate their family graves and then hold an early type of family reunion.

During the Civil War numerous localities in both the North and the South held ceremonies honoring and decorating soldiers' graves. Almost all of them claim to be the originator of Decoration/Memorial Day.

Initially most of these observances were in the South. So in 1868, General John A. Logan, the commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued the order; "Let, us, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of the springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon the Nation's gratitude..." So Decoration Day was founded by The Grand Army of the Republic which was an early version of our VSOs - made up of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Eventually, the date was set as May 30th It is believed this date was chosen because it was not the anniversary of any particular battle and flowers would be in full bloom.

As time passed, the day became less about the Civil War and more about patriotism and sacrifice for the Nation. Still later it became to be seen as the beginning of summer. This offended the Grand Army of the Republic and in 1911, it tried to stop the running of the Indianapolis 500 on May 30th. But the American Legion, a younger VSO, was in favor of the race and won the day (Since 1974 the race is run the Sunday before Memorial Day.) The holiday's name slowly changed from Decoration Day to Memorial Day which was favored after World War II.

In 1968, Congress passed the "Uniform Monday Holiday Act" which changed the dates of several holidays to create 3 day weekends. Memorial Day was placed on the last Monday of May. (The other holidays that were moved were Washington's Birthday, Columbus Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day, which was moved back to November 11th in 1978.)

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations

The name itself garners respect and gratitude. Located in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C., this site, once the home of legendary Confederate Army commander Robert E. Lee, is now the burial ground for more than 400,000 active duty service members, veterans and family members. It is home to many memorials, the most well-known being the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a monument



dedicated to U.S. service members whose remains were never identified. This monument is dedicated to unidentified U.S. service members who died in the line of duty. It is considered the most hallowed grave at Arlington National Cemetery. It is also known to many as the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The sarcophagus was originally placed over the grave of the Unknown Soldier of World War I, perhaps in the belief at the time that WWI was ‘the war to end all wars.

West of the World War I Unknown are the crypts of unknowns from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Those three graves are marked with white marble slabs flush

with the plaza. To read more on the Unknown Soldiers, visit: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier>. The ornate marble sarcophagus, completed in 1932, reads, “Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known But to God.”

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and in any weather by Tomb Guard Sentinels. Sentinels, all volunteers, are considered to be the best of the elite 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), headquartered at Fort Myer, Virginia.



The sentinels rotate walks every hour in the winter and at night, and every half-hour in the day during the summer. To read more, visit: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Changing-of-the-Guard> Currently, as many as 30 U.S. service members or relatives are buried at Arlington each day. The cemetery, which has gone through several expansions through the years, now spans 624 acres, the equivalent of one square mile.

The Millennium Expansion Project, started in 2014, added 27 acres and roughly 30,000 additional burial plots to the cemetery. Even with the expansion, Arlington National Cemetery is expected to reach capacity by the 2040s.

SOURCES History of Arlington National Cemetery. Arlington National Cemetery. & How Arlington National Cemetery Came to Be. Smithsonian Magazine.



TREA'S 55TH ANNIVERSARY & NATIONAL CONVENTION

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If you have not already made your reservations/registration for convention – there is still time.

Call TREA Headquarters to register and come be a part of the change that is going to take TREA into the future.

TREA NEEDS YOU – AND YOU NEED TREA!

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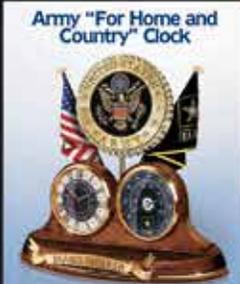
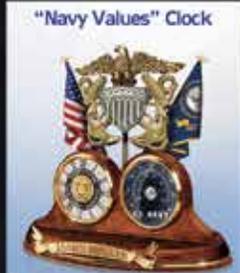
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*Registration will be open on Tuesday from 7am – 5pm

TREA Store will be open on Tuesday from 7am – 5pm and at various times until the close of the convention. The store will have some great discounted items – make sure that you stop by to see what's new!

Tuesday, September 18th –

- 9am – 4pm - TREA Pre-Con meeting, EMPIRE Room, Auxiliary pre-con meeting FORUM room
- 6pm – Opening Ceremony, EMPIRE room
- 6:45/7:00 – Welcome Reception, FORUM room – 2 hours of Beer & Wine (cash cocktails) & snacks

Wednesday, September 19th –

- 8:00am – Presentation by The Exchange – EMPIRE room – ALL CONVENTION ATTENDEES
- 8:30am – TREA 1st Business Meeting in the EMPIRE room
Auxiliary 1st Business Meeting in FORUM room
- Noon - Information Luncheon featuring TSCL & TREA's Legislative Office in the AMBASSADOR room. See the registration form for meal choices
- 2pm – Business meetings resume
- 5pm – Business meetings end for the day
- 6pm – President's Dinner on the beach-front patio – Seafood Beach Boil (Florida onions, Smoked Pork Sausage, Potatoes, sweet corn, garlic, Florida Pink Shrimp, Blue Crab, Cedar Key Clams, seasonings & spices) – YUM! (If you are allergic to shellfish, we have arranged for a limited number of kitchen prepared chicken plates, please make note of this on the registration form). These are available by pre-order ONLY and are limited in quantity.
This event will also feature free wine & beer (special thank you to TSCL), cocktails will be available for cash.
Of course we will have a DJ for music and dancing and lots of fun give-aways!
You won't want to miss this fun event. – PROMISE!

Thursday, September 20th –

- 7:30am Breakfast for ALL ATTENDEES – USAA presentation in the AMBASSADOR room
- 8:45am TREA 2nd Business Meeting in the EMPIRE room
Auxiliary 2nd Business Meeting in the FORUM room
- Noon - Joint Award Luncheon in the AMBASSADOR room
See the meal choices on the registration form
- 2pm Business Meetings Resume
- 4pm Business Meetings end
Post Con Meetings begin –
- 5pm Board Photos
The rest of the evening is free for all attendees.
We have arranged for free transportation to and from Destin's Harbor Walk for the evening. This a great way to experience the local area, not just its food and drink, but also its culture. There is more about the Harbor Walk in a different article in this issue of The VOICE.

Friday, September 21st –

The day is free for attendees – we have organized a historic tour of the island, to include the Armorment – if this is something that you might be interested in, make sure that you read about it at the end of this article. There will be an additional fee for this and it is not a part of the registration fee.

CONVENTION AGENDA (SUBJECT TO FINE TUNING)

*Registration will be open on Tuesday from 7am – 5pm

- 5pm – Installation Reception in the FORUM room. Again we can thank TSCL for sponsoring the beer and wine for this social event.
- 6pm – Installation Banquet in the EMPIRE room. Cash bar will be available for the evening. Meal choices are: Stuffed Grouper (broiled Grouper with Crabmeat Stuffing, topped with Bear-Sauce, Roasted Red Potatoes & Green Beans) OR Roasted Pork Tenderloin (topped with Jamaican Relish served with Roasted Red Potatoes and Green Beans) Chocolate Lava Cake will be served for dessert. Make sure to note your meal choice on the registration form.
- 10pm – Official end to the 2018 National Convention

Saturday, September 22nd –

For those attendees choosing to leave this morning, the Chamber has arranged for FREE airport shuttle from the hotel to the airport. This service will be by sign-up sheet at registration.

For those choosing to stay the extra time to enjoy and explore the beautiful area, don't forget the special events that we have arranged for:

- Chartered fishing trip scheduled for Saturday morning.
 - Top-notch golfing at Eglin AFB
 - Saturday night fish BBQ – featuring the fresh catch from the morning's expedition.
- (If you are a non-fish person, no worries – other items will be available. A small fee will be charged to cover food and supplies. The fee will be dependant on the number of people attending)

More information will be posted on the website. Pre-registration and pre-payment will be required. These events are not part of the convention.

Aside from these two events, we have arranged for discounted tickets for the dolphin tours, the pirate boat tour as well as other area attractions and restaurants. A complete list of discounts and specials is available on the website.



CONVENTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

President John I. Adams

As you received this issue of the VOICE, the registration for this year's convention in Fort Walton Beach, FL is closed. The cutoff date was to ensure proper hotel accommodations and meal planning; however, if you would like to attend the convention, we can still make it happen – please call the TREA Headquarters at 800.338.9337 and they will help you out.

Don't forget the Chartered Fishing Trip planned for Saturday, September 22nd. It will be a great day on the water with friends and fun followed by a delicious cookout featuring the 'catch of the day'. Please be sure to reserve your spot on the boat by calling the TREA Headquarters.

For those of you who are coming to the convention – 'Thank You'. TREA counts on you, the members to guide us through changes, both good and bad, all for the betterment of the organization. We can't do it without you.

Next year's convention is in its preliminary stage but the location has been secured as Colorado, more specifically, the Denver/surrounding area. There is much to do and see and the new Convention Committee will be meeting at the end of January or beginning of February to start putting things together. Stay tuned – there is more to come.

Since my term as your President is up at this convention, I want to thank you, the members, for taking the time to voice your opinions and ideas at the business meetings and other events.

TREA IS PROUD TO PRESENT THESE GUEST SPEAKERS FOR OUR 2018 CONVENTION -



SERGEANT MAJOR RONALD L. GREEN

Sergeant Major Green assumed his current post as the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps on February 20, 2015. A native of Jackson, Miss, he attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in November 1983.

He has been meritoriously promoted to the ranks of private first class, lance corporal, corporal, sergeant and staff sergeant.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Major Green has been assigned numerous duties to include: field artillery cannoneer; field artillery nuclear projectileman; tower operator; drill instructor, senior drill instructor and drill master; battery section chief and battery gunnery sergeant, Assistant Marine Officer Instructor at Southern University and A&M College; first sergeant of Inspector-Instructor Staff, B Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment; and sergeant major of Headquarters Marine Corps Henderson Hall, Marine Corps Forces Europe/Marine Corps Forces Africa, and 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

He has deployed to Somalia with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) during Operation Restore Hope in 1993; to South America in support of Operation United Americas (UNITAS) in 2002; and with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006.

Sergeant Major Green holds a B.S. in Cybersecurity and a M.S. in Cybersecurity Policy from the University of Maryland University College.



CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JAMIE M. AUGÉR

Chief Master Sergeant Jamie M. Augér is Command Chief Master Sergeant, 96th Test Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. In this capacity, he serves as principal advisor to the wing commander and senior staff on matters of military readiness, morale, quality of life, professional development and effective utilization of personnel affecting an organization of more than 19,000 military, civilian, and contractor personnel.

The 96th Test Wing provides developmental testing and evaluation of conventional munitions, command and control systems, and aircraft avionics and guidance systems. Additionally, the wing provides all base operating support, infrastructure, and services support for the Air Force's largest installation (724 square miles) comprised of eight tenant wing or wing-equivalent units, to include the 33rd Fighter Wing (F-35 Lightning II Integrated Training Center), the Army's 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal, and 37 other associate units including the Army's 6th Ranger Training Battalion and the Air Force's 20th Space Control Squadron.

Chief Augér entered the Air Force in January 1995. Throughout his career, he has filled numerous roles to include a special duty tour as Professional Military Instructor at the Airey NCOA Academy, and leadership positions at flight, squadron, group and wing levels. His assignments include bases in Massachusetts, Ohio, Florida, Korea, Illinois, California, Japan and Nevada.



MAYOR DICK RYNEARSON (FORT WALTON BEACH MAYOR)

Dick Rynearson has lived in Fort Walton Beach since 1981. A native of Ohio, he graduated from Kent State University in 1967 with a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Technology.

Dick served 11 years in the United States Air Force as a pilot and missile test engineer. He served a tour in Vietnam as a C-7A aircraft commander/instructor pilot, and two tours on Guam as a B-52G aircraft commander flying missions over Southeast Asia. His combat service resulted in being awarded the Air Medal with seven oakleaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Silver Star.

In 1978 Dick joined Hughes Aircraft Company/Raytheon as a missile systems test engineer. He also worked in new business development before being promoted to site manager of the company's Eglin AFB based air-to-air missile test team.

Dick earned a Master's Degree in Business from Troy University in 1995. He retired from Raytheon in 2005.

Dick's wife, Janey, is the owner of PS Gifts in Fort Walton Beach.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

CROSS PENDANT

A Proud Tribute
to Your Faith
and Country

Hand-crafted and Lavishly
Plated in Sterling Silver

Custom Bail Hand-Set with Genuine
Diamond at Center of 3 Etched Stars

Patriotic Design with Hand-enameled
Flag Wrapped Around Arms of Cross



God Bless America

Finely Etched On Back

Let Faith and Freedom Shine

The cross is a powerful symbol of strength, reminding us of God's presence in our lives. The U.S. flag is a strong source of American identity and national pride. Now, these symbols come together in a new jewelry creation that pays tribute to the two things every American patriot holds dear—faith and country. Introducing the "God Bless America" Cross Pendant, only from The Bradford Exchange.

A Meaningful Message of Faith and Patriotism

Hand-crafted and lavishly plated in sterling silver, the cross-shaped pendant features a patriotic design which showcases an exceptionally detailed hand-enameled flag wrapped around the arms of the cross. The custom bail is hand-set with a genuine

diamond at the center of 3 boldly etched stars. The reverse side of the cross pendant is finely etched with the sentiment, "God Bless America." A coordinating 24" chain completes the look.

An Incredible Value...

Available for a Limited Time

A unique way to show your faith and pride, the cross arrives in a custom presentation case and gift box with a Certificate of Authenticity. Available at just \$79*, you can pay for it in 4 easy installments of \$19.75. To reserve yours, backed by our 120-day guarantee, just mail the Priority Reservation. Order today!

*For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to bradfordexchange.com/use-tax.

www.bradfordexchange.com/25500

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YES. Please reserve the "God Bless America" Cross Pendant for me as described in this announcement.

*Plus a total of \$9.98 for shipping and service (see bradfordexchange.com). Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of your jewelry item after we receive your initial deposit. All sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

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Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____

Name (Please Print Clearly)

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City _____

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Zip _____

Email (optional) _____

01-25500-001-E27961



AUXILIARY

Greetings Auxiliary Members.



I write this article with both sadness and a certain amount of relief as this will be my last as your President. This column will be a little longer than normal, as I would like to review the gains we have made over the last three years. Of course, nothing would have been accomplished without the support, advice and knowledge of you, the members of The Retired Enlisted Association Auxiliary. You supported me by electing and encouraging my Board of Directors to work together to get things done. I love you all and look forward to seeing you soon to thank as many of you as I can personally and physically.

So, what do I think we accomplished? I think moving closer to and being involved as the Auxiliary Representative helped our relationship with TREA National. Lines of communications opened up and we were actually made part of significant events such as presenting the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day. I want to thank then President Larry Hyland for being open to the idea and making it happen. National President John Adams cemented the tradition by having me in his party for his two years. When I was helping make the presentation I felt the eyes of every Auxiliary Member were on me and I did my best to represent you with poise and dignity. After doing it for three years, I believe it has become a custom that I hope will continue for as long as our organization exists. Another example of working with our National Organization was adopting the same term periods for elected officers and aligning the election times to coincide. That took a lot of work and I was honored to be elected for an additional term to properly align the elections. In what I hope will be an ongoing event, I had lunch with representatives of four Veteran Service Organization Auxiliaries. This was the first event of its kind and our purpose was to get to know each other and see what might be done by expanding the group to include all known VSO Auxiliaries. Just think of the attention we could get if all the Auxiliaries spoke with one voice on issues that affect us as spouses.

I thanked the membership for electing a BOD to assist me, but I cannot end this article without recognizing and thanking the BODs that have done so much for me and you. Every one of them worked toward the greater good of our Auxiliary. We did not always agree, but usually it was merely a misunderstanding and in the end we all came together on making our decisions. I want all members to know the hard work of the BOD is the reason we are in good condition as an organization and with just a little more push we will be even better.

So dear friends, thank you for allowing me to serve as your president and trusting me for a one-time, extra term. I will have fond memories of you all and wish all of you the happiest of lives. UNITED WE STAND



AUXILIARY

CHAPTER 80 AUXILIARY MAKES ANNUAL DONATION TO THREADS OF LOVE

In March, Chapter 80 made its annual visit and donations to the Thread of Love; an organization that manufactures and distributes admission baskets to premature babies in hospitals throughout the United States. The Auxiliary delivered several caps, booties, and journals. (Member Anne Meyer made several of the booties). Due to the various restrictions from the organization required by hospitals, etc., the Auxiliary must make the "Journals" with precise procedures. These journals provide an opportunity for mothers to record everything that happens from birth forward.



Chapter 80 members make the presentation of caps, booties & journals



New member, Geraldine Davis looks around during the tour

During this visit, two new members, Geraldine Davis and Dr. Phyllis Burgess, were entertained with a complete tour of the facility. They were impressed by the talent of the volunteer workers there.



New members Geraldine Davis & Dr. Phyllis Burgess join the Auxiliary for lunch

After the donations, tour and visits, the chapter members had lunch at a famous restaurant in the City's LaCantera Mall while getting to know the newest members.

**NEED a Helping Hand?
TREA is here for you?**

The Widows Emergency and Benevolent Fund of TREA National Auxiliary assists members who are experiencing financial difficulty in getting their basic and health related needs met.

*Vision Care *Dental Care *Hearing Aids
*Medical Supplies/Equipment *Hardship

To apply for assistance, please call 1-800-808-4517 Ext. 1010. Leave your name and number and a program representative will call you back.

You are part of our TREA family and we want to help.

*Must be a member in good standing. One-time basis only. Some restrictions apply





AUXILIARY



AUXILIARY MEMBERS: ARE YOU A LEADER?

Alice De Boer, National Auxiliary Chair, Nominating Committee

Are you a leader? Did you ever dream about being elected President of the United States, a US Senator or Mayor? It's not just our government that needs leaders and shakers. All organizations rely on people with great ideas and true leadership. That's why our TREA National Auxiliary Board of Directors (BOD) needs your help. The Auxiliary needs a few good leaders. We need new and innovative ideas and energy to lead our Auxiliary in a positive direction and to greater success. As a leader, your commitment and influence will determine the future success or failure of our Auxiliary.

Please consider running for an office at the September 2018 TREA National Convention. What qualifications do you need? You need to be an Auxiliary member for one year, in good standing with paid up dues, and be willing to devote your time and talents to the Auxiliary. All offices are up for grabs including President, Vice President, three 2-Year Director positions and Treasurer. If you did not submit your resume by the previous deadline of June 30, but want to run for an elected office, you can submit TREA Auxiliary Form 1003A, Resume for Candidate for Elected Office now by e-mail to alice.deboer@centurylink.net. You can also be nominated from the Convention floor and remember you don't have to be at the Convention to be nominated. Don't hesitate or be afraid to put your talents and time on the line for the good of the Auxiliary. We encourage each member to consider being a member of the National Auxiliary BOD. Serving on the National Auxiliary Board is a very rewarding and challenging experience. Auxiliary members, please put your name on the dotted line and step up and be willing to serve. Remember: Send your resume now by e-mail or if you prefer to be nominated from the Convention floor, bring your completed TREA Auxiliary Form 1003A for distribution to the Convention delegation. Remember, leadership is critical to the continuing success of our National Auxiliary.

NOTE: Please see attachments: (1) "Official Notice – Call for Resumes" and TREA Auxiliary Form 100-3, Resume for Candidate for Elective Office.

ON EAGLE WINGS

When threatening clouds hover,
Do not fold up your wings
And run for cover,
Like the Eagles,

Spread your wings
And soar above life's troubles.
For the Eagle knows,
The higher he flies
The brighter the skies become.

There is nothing to life the Creator ever asks us to bear that we cannot soar above on wings of prayers.

(Author Unknown)

TREA National Auxiliary Chaplain Alice De Boer

Leading Acid Reflux Pill Becomes an Anti-Aging Phenomenon

Clinical 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 clinical study on a leading acid reflux pill shows that its key ingredient relieves digestive symptoms while suppressing the 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, it was already backed by clinical data documenting its ability to provide all day and night relief from heartburn, acid reflux, constipation, irritable bowel, gas, bloating, and more.

But soon doctors started reporting some incredible results...

"With AloeCure, my patients started reporting less joint pain, more energy, better sleep, 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 is what contributes to painful inflammation throughout the rest of the body.

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

Relieving other stressful symptoms related to GI health like pain, bloating, fatigue, cramping, constipation, diarrhea, heartburn, and nausea.

Now, backed with new clinical studies, AloeCure is being recommended by doctors everywhere to help improve digestion, calm painful inflammation, soothe joint pain, and even reduce the appearance of wrinkles – helping patients to 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. Participants taking the active ingredient in AloeCure saw a stunning 100% improvement in digestive symptoms, which includes fast and lasting relief from reflux.

Users also experienced higher energy levels and endurance, relief from chronic discomfort and better sleep. Some even reported 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 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 and immune health by acting as a natural acid-buffer that improves the pH balance of your stomach.

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 over 5 million 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 without resorting to drugs, surgery, or OTC medications."

"I was always in 'indigestion hell.' Doctors put me on all sorts of antacid remedies. Nothing worked. Dr. Leal recommended I try AloeCure. And something remarkable happened... Not only were all the issues I had with my stomach gone - completely gone - but I felt less joint pain and I was able to actually sleep through the night."

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.

Made from 100% organic Aloe Vera, AloeCure uses a proprietary process that results in the highest quality, most bio-available levels of acemannan known to exist.

According to Dr. Leal and several of her colleagues, 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 calm painful inflammation 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 calms painful inflammation and will help improve digestion... soothe aching joints... reduce the appearance of wrinkles and help restore hair and nails ... manage cholesterol and oxidative stress... and improve sleep and brain function... without side effects or expense.

Readers can now reclaim their energy, vitality, and youth regardless of age or current level of health.

One AloeCure Capsule Daily

- Helps End Digestion Nightmares
- Helps Calm Painful Inflammation
- Soothes Stiff & Aching Joints
- Reduces appearance of Wrinkles & Increases Elasticity
- Manages Cholesterol & Oxidative Stress
- Supports Healthy Immune System
- Improves Sleep & Brain Function

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 available for the next 48-hours only. All you have to do is call TOLL-FREE 1-800-809-0023 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.

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE, OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. ALL DOCTORS MENTIONED ARE REMUNERATED FOR THEIR SERVICES. ALL CLINICAL STUDIES ON ALOECURE'S ACTIVE INGREDIENT WERE INDEPENDENTLY CONDUCTED AND WERE NOT SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN GLOBAL HEALTH GROUP.



AUXILIARY

OFFICIAL NOTICE - Call for Résumés Election of TREA National Auxiliary Officers – 2018-2019

The following offices will be filled by election at the
Year 2018 National Convention in Ft Walton Beach, Florida
September 18-21, 2018

National Auxiliary President
National Auxiliary Vice President
National Auxiliary Treasurer National
Auxiliary Director – Three (3)

Note: All positions are two year terms as approved at the 2017 National Convention.

Anyone wishing to run for office should complete TREA Auxiliary Form 100-3,
Résumé for Candidate for Elective Office, and **mail no later than June 30, 2018 to:**

Alice DeBoer, Nominating Committee Chairman
2070 Crystal River Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80915
Home Phone 719-570-9557 Home E-mail alice.deboer@centurylink.net

Notice: Nominees need not be present to be elected; however anyone submitting a résumé and not attending the Convention should send same to the address shown above by the deadline date. If submitting a résumé but not attending the Convention, a recent photograph can be included.

The Committee would like to have more than one candidate for each office, if possible. It is strongly recommended that **all** résumés be received on time so they can be included in the Convention packet. The delegation will then have a better chance to **read** and **understand** the qualifications of all of the nominees.

Names of nominees will be published in a future issue of *The VOICE*. Auxiliary Chapters will also be notified by mail if time allows.

If anyone misses the deadline for submitting a résumé, and anticipates accepting a Nomination from the floor at the **first business meeting on September 19, 2018**, a completed Form 100-3A must be turned in to the National Secretary at the time of acceptance. Sufficient copies (approx 35-40) should be made available for distribution to the voting members of the delegation.

Reminder: Anyone running for office should bring a white blouse, black slacks and black shoes (for picture taking) and be available for the **Post Convention BOD Meeting normally scheduled for Friday.**

Widest distribution of this information is requested.

TREA Auxiliary Form 100-3A, Resume of Candidate for Elective Office - Local reproduction of form is authorized. Résumé form is available on the TREA Website at <http://trea.org> (Click on 'About', click on 'National Auxiliary', scroll all the way down to 'Publication & Forms', 6th form from the top).
References concerning submittal of Résumés - Bylaws, ARTICLES V, VI, VII; and Standing Rules #2 and #7.
National Auxiliary Bylaws and Standing Rules are also available on the TREA Website.



BILLS WE ARE SUPPORTING ON THE HILL

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Washington Executive Director

Below is a partial list of legislation that we are supporting in Congress this year that has been carried over from last year. Again, additional bills will be added. Often we are successful legislatively by folding the substance of a stand-alone bill into an omnibus bill like the NDAA or a large veterans bill.

You can keep track of these (or any other bills you are interested in) by going to www.Congress.gov. You can also call us at your Washington Office at 1-800-554-8732 to get more information, or tell us of your concerns, suggestions etc. Also you may want to talk about writing a resolution for TREA to cover additional matters and they can be presented for a membership vote at TREA's National Convention in September. Please feel free to call us, we would love to speak to you about these matters.

RETIREE ISSUES

H.R. 303 - The Retired Pay Restoration Act –original sponsor Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) now with 92 co- sponsors. This is the Republican House bill that will end military retired pay and veterans disability pay offsets for all remaining longevity retirees (10%-40%). This signifies over 25 years for father and son Bilirakis sponsoring legislation to end this offset.

H.R. 333 - The Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act- original sponsor Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA) with 46 co-sponsors This is the Democratic version and includes Chapter 61 medical retirees along with 10%-40% longevity retirees. It has not moved and still has 37 co-sponsors

S. 66 - The Retired Pay Restoration Act original sponsor Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) still with 12 co-sponsors This is the new Senate version (now Republican) but still from Nevada since Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid who regularly sponsored this bill retired last year.

VETERANS ISSUES

H.R. 299- A bill that would cover Vietnam War Blue Water Navy Veterans with the same presumption of causation of illness due to exposure to Agent Orange. Original sponsor Rep. David G. Valadao (R- CA) with 330 co-sponsors- This is a bill that we should be able to get passed before the end of the year. This could be forced onto the House floor for a vote with a Discharge petition but it is unlikely.

S422- companion bill to above, original sponsor Senator Kristin Gillibrand (D-NY) with 50 co-sponsors!

S. 1389 – A bill to allow the CFPB to provide greater protection to service members Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) with 16 co-sponsors. Increase consumer protections for service members covered by the SCRA

S. 1325 – Better Workforce for Veterans Act of 2017 Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) with 6 co-sponsors Improving hiring at the VA

S. 1279 –Veterans Health Administration Reform Act of 2017 sponsor Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) Improve civilian healthcare provided through the VA.

S. 1277 – Veterans Employment through Technology Education Course Act of 2017 original sponsor Sen John Boozman (R-AR) and 5 co-sponsors. This bill would require the VA to create a 5-year pilot program that provides “high technology programs of education, which are programs that are offered by entities other than institutions of higher learning, do not lead to a degree, and provide instruction in computer programming, computer software, media application, data processing, or information sciences.”

S. 1261 - Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) Veterans Emergency Room Relief Act original Sponsor Bill that would allow the VA to pay for civilian Urgent Care

S. 1218 – Empowering Federal Employment for Disabled Veterans Act original sponsor Sen. Heidi Heitcamp (D-ND) 6 co-sponsors

S. 1209 - A bill to increase the amount of special pension for Medal of Honor recipients original sponsor Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) 3 co-sponsors

S. 1192 - Veterans to Enhance Studies through Accessibility Act of 2017 original sponsor Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD) 1 co-sponsor



BILLS WE ARE SUPPORTING ON THE HILL (CONT.)

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Washington Executive Director

S. 1161 – Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness original sponsor Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) with 7 co-sponsors

S. 1024 – Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 original sponsor Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA) with 31 co-sponsors voted out of Committee.

S. 946 – Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2017 original sponsor Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) with 17 co-sponsors has passed the Senate and has been sent to the House of Representatives

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to hire at least 50 Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists, place each one at an eligible VA medical center, and ensure that each one serves as part of a justice team in a veterans treatment court or other veteran-focused court.

An eligible VA medical center is one that:

- complies with all VA guidelines and regulations for placement of a specialist;
- works with a veteran with active, ongoing, or recent contact with some component of a local criminal justice system;
- maintains an affiliation with one or more veterans treatment courts or other veteran-focused courts; and
- either routinely provides specialists, or establishes a VA-approved plan to provide specialists, to serve as part of a justice team in such a court.

The VA shall prioritize the placement of specialists at eligible VA medical centers that have an affiliation with such a court that: (1) was established after the date of this bill's enactment, or (2) was established before such date and is not fully staffed with specialists.

S. 925 - VETS Act of 2017 original sponsor Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) with 12 co-sponsors

S. 804 Women Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2017 original Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) with 4 co-sponsors

S. 784 – Johnny Isakson (R-GA) Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017 15 co-sponsors applying yearly COLA to VA payments

S. 726 – Jerry Moran (R-KS) Gary Deloney and John Olsen Toxic Exposure Declassification Act 1 co-sponsor directs DoD to declassify all documents to any exposure to at least 100 people where at least 1 fell in

S. 681 –Deborah Sampson Act original sponsor Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) with 26 co-sponsors This is the big military sexual trauma healthcare bill pending in Congress that we support. However, it also includes a proposed change in the VA's motto that TREA has not taken a position on.

“This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to carry out a three-year pilot program to assess the feasibility of peer-to-peer assistance for women veterans (including those who are separating or newly separated from the Armed Forces), with emphasis placed on women who suffered service-related sexual trauma or who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Additionally, the VA shall:

- expand the women veterans call center to include a text messaging capability;
- establish a partnership with at least one nongovernmental organization to provide legal services to women veterans based upon their 10 highest unmet needs;
- retrofit VA medical facilities with fixtures, materials, and other outfitting measures to support the care of women veterans;
- ensure that each VA medical facility has at least one full-time or part-time women's health primary care provider;
- expand to 14 days VA post-delivery care services for women veterans who are receiving maternity care in a VA or VA-contracted facility;
- ensure that the women veteran manager program is supported at each VA medical center with a program manager and an ombudsman;

GREATEST AIRCRAFT OF WORLD WAR II

Zippo® Lighter Collection



Display actual size is 10 3/4" H x 6 3/4" W; sculptural B-17 wingspan is 12 1/2" W. Display made in China. Lighters ship unfilled; lighter fluid not included.

A STRIKING TRIBUTE TO HISTORY AND VICTORY

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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BILLS WE ARE SUPPORTING ON THE HILL (CONT.)

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Washington Executive Director

- collect, analyze, and publish data on each VA service or benefit program and disaggregate such data by sex and minority status; and
- publish an Internet website that serves as a centralized information source for women veterans' benefits and services.”

S. 609 - Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act of 2017 This bill directs that all VA medical centers will provide chiropractic care by December 31st 2020

S. 591 – Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017 original sponsor Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and 33 co-sponsors This bill would enlarge the present Caretakers program coverage to cover those caring for those who were severely injured during service prior to 9/11.

H.R. 1063 - Veteran Prescription Continuity Act This bill amends the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish an individual who is transitioning from Department of Defense (DOD)- to VA-furnished medical treatment any pharmaceutical agent not included in the joint uniform formulary if a DOD health care provider determines that the pharmaceutical agent is critical for the transition.

The VA shall furnish an individual with such pharmaceutical agent: (1) beginning when the individual enrolls in the VA health care system, and (2) ending when a DOD health care provider determines that the individual does not require the pharmaceutical agent.

GUARD AND RESERVE ISSUES

H.R.1049 — Department of Defense Emergency Response Capabilities Database Enhancement Act of 2017 Sponsor: Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]

H.R.3218 — Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 Sponsor: Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1] 121 co-sponsors This has become law. It also included full education benefits for all Purple Heart recipients; Purple Heart and Fry Scholarship recipients were made qualified for Yellow Ribbon program etc

H.R.1216 ---- Protecting Veterans From School Closures Act of 2017 Sponsor: Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN- 6] 13 co-sponsors

H.R.1379 — To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the entitlement to educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs for members of the Armed Forces awarded the Purple Heart. Sponsor: Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52] 19 co-sponsors folded into HR3218

H.R.1384 — Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act Sponsor: Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4] 72 co-sponsors

S.667 — Reserve Component Benefits Parity Act Sponsor: Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN] 10 co-sponsors This has not moved since Sen. Franken resigned from the Senate.

H.R.2103 — Julian Woods Yellow Ribbon Program Expansion Act Sponsor: Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-4] combined with HR3218

S.1086— A bill to amend TITLE10, United States Code, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code. Sponsor: Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT] 13 co-sponsors

S.143 — Military Spouse Job Continuity Act of 2017 Sponsor: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] 8 co-sponsors

S.697 — Tax Relief for Guard and Reserve Training Act Sponsor: Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT] 6 co-sponsors

S.1316 — A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a one-year extension of the suicide prevention and resilience program for the National Guard and Reserves. Sponsor: Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA] 1 co-sponsors

S.969 — Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Act Sponsor: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN] 5 co-sponsors

H.R.4589 — Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Act Sponsor: Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46] 12 co-sponsors



BILLS WE ARE SUPPORTING ON THE HILL (CONT.)

By Deirdre Parke Holleman, Washington Executive Director

H.R.1726 — Coast Guard Improvement and Reform Act of 2017 Sponsor: Rep. Hunter, Duncan D. [R- CA-50] 1 co-sponsors passed the House sent to the Senate

H.R.3558 — Improve Access to Care for Our Female Veterans Act Sponsor: Rep. Brooks, Susan W. [R- IN-5] 9 co-sponsors

SURVIVOR ISSUES

H.R.846 — Military Surviving Equity Act- original sponsor Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) with 266 co-sponsors This bill would completely end the SBP/DIC offset. It has 207 co-sponsors but Congress again and again lets it die in Committee

S. 339 — Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act of 2017 original sponsor Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) with 46 co-sponsors. This is the Senate version of HR846. It would completely end the SBP/DIC offset for widows/widowers. It is also allowed to die in Committee.

H.R. 3011 — Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) Military Survivor Comfort Ac Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) with 6 co-sponsors This bill would require the United States to forgive any military retired or retiree pay overpayment for the time between the death of the retiree and the end of the month he or she died in if the payment is electronically deposited in a joint account. It was the last project that our good friend Gunney Mac McKinney was working on before he died.

S.1990 — Dependency Indemnification Compensation Improvement Act original Sponsor Senator Jon Tester (D-MN) with 5 co-sponsors to make DIC 55% of 100% disable VA Service Connected Compensation monthly payment

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

New Vision and Dental Plans Coming Soon to Military Families and Retirees

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), in partnership with the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and the Department of Defense (DoD), has announced that the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) will end on Dec. 31, 2018.

In its place, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) will be offered for the first time to TRICARE eligible retirees and their families during the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season. Active duty family members will be eligible to enroll in FEDVIP vision insurance.

Those enrolled in TRDP must choose a dental plan through FEDVIP to have coverage in 2019. Enrollment is not automatic. This affects 1.63 million beneficiaries enrolled in TRDP and offers a choice to an additional 1.3 million eligible retired beneficiaries not currently enrolled in TRDP.

Most beneficiaries in a TRICARE health plan may enroll in a FEDVIP vision plan. This comprehensive vision coverage, including eyeglasses or contacts, is in addition to the routine eye examination benefit that many beneficiaries have under TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select.

The Federal Benefits Open Season enrollment period, Nov. 12, 2018 through Dec. 10, 2018, runs concurrently with the TRICARE Open Season. Coverage will be effective Jan. 1, 2019.

For more information, you can go online to TRICAREbenefeds.com to sign up to receive messages, updates, and reminders on the FEDVIP throughout the rest of this year.

You don't need to take action yet. However, **if you would like dental and/or vision coverage next year, effective January 1, 2019, you must select and enroll in a FEDVIP plan during the next Federal Benefits Open Season.** Open season is your annual opportunity to sign up for FEDVIP, and this year it runs from November 12 through December 10, 2018. If you're currently enrolled in a TRDP plan, you will not be automatically enrolled in a FEDVIP plan for 2019. You must enroll during open season.

For those who do not use a computer on a regular basis, there will be a call in registration option. We will post more information on our website (www.trea.org) as it becomes available.

The Defense Health Agency has told us that there will be at least one letter announcing this change to all military retirees currently enrolled in the TRDP, with instructions on when and how to enroll in the new program when the time comes.

TAPS – TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS

Deirdre Parke Holleman, Washington Executive Director



Every Memorial Day Observation at Arlington National there is a larger and larger sea of men, women and children in matching red tee shirts. They are members of TAPS- the TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM for SURVIVORS. They are made up of “the Loved Ones of Those Who Served and Died.”

The program was started and is still headed by Bonnie Carroll. In 1992 Ms. Carroll’s husband Brig. General Tom C. Carroll, then commander of Alaska’s National Guard, died in an Army C-12 plane crash in Alaska. His father had also died in a plane crash leaving 4 teenage boys for his wife to raise alone. So even before her own loss she had the history of her mother-in-law.

Ms. Carroll was also in the National Guard as well working for state prosecutors’ offices so she knew of programs to help the emotional needs of survivors in military units and victims of crimes. But when she looked for help in dealing with her grief she found little help. So she started TAPS to fill that need. And it has now grown to serving over 60,000 people. It has filled such an important need and done so with grace and love that Bonnie received the Presidential Medal of Freedom- the highest civilian award given in the United States.

TAPS provides help in 4 crucial areas: 1) Peer Based Emotional Support 2) Case work assistance 3) a 24hr/7- day live help line and 4) connections to local grief support.

But according to Bonnie even more than that it has created a broad reaching society of people who share 1 crucial truth:” they have loved someone who has died but also lived a life of selfless service to our nation.”

So TAPS helps widows and widowers, children, parents, siblings all family members who are suffering, fiancées, boyfriends, girlfriends, even close friends. Because of the large number of people who are participating and volunteering with TAPS the peer support can be amazingly precise. They can find a sibling who lost a sibling from a shipboard accident in their state. So that person really is a peer and really knows what the other is going through.

They will also help regardless of how the service member died. Since the beginning of TAPS they have helped the loved ones of service members of those who died in combat, in accidents, due to illness, suicide, drunk driving. It does not matter. They help people who loved and lost someone who served our country.

Bonnie explained that the bereaved of service members “are a TRIBE. And that is what they need, time with one another. Time with their tribe.”

Every year on Memorial Day weekend TAPS holds a National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp. (This year was their 24th annual event.) They also hold wellness weekends and camps throughout the country, sporting events and trips.

If you need help yourself or want to help, Bonnie urges you to call 800-959-TAPS (8277), and if you would like a subscription to a free magazine they would be delighted to send you one.





Following the death of her husband, Brigadier General Tom Carroll, in an Army C-12 plane crash in 1992, Bonnie Carroll founded the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) to provide peer-based emotional support, grief and trauma resources and information, casualty casework assistance and crisis intervention for all those affected by the death of a loved one serving in, or in support of, the armed forces. Carroll currently serves on the Defense Health Board and the Military Spouse Employment Partnership, and has served on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation, the Board of Directors of the Association of Death Education and Counseling, the Department of Defense (DOD) Military Family Readiness Council and, recently, she co-chaired the DOD Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide

in the Armed Forces. She retired as a Major in the Air Force Reserve where she has served as Chief, Casualty Operations, HQ USAF. Prior to joining the USAFR, Major Carroll served 16 years in the Air National Guard as a Transportation Officer, Logistics Officer and Executive Officer. She is a trained Critical Incident Stress Debriefing member and member of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies and the American Association for Death Education and Counseling. Carroll is the leading voice on issues impacting families of the fallen. TAPS has been one of IAVA's closest allies and the two organizations have partnered on programs and efforts over the past decade that have already impacted countless lives.



We are no longer able to print the full listing of TAPS. We still want to acknowledge all TREA members who have passed. Please visit our website, where the full list will be always be available. There will be a link on the HOMEPAGE.

THE MISSION ACT IS SIGNED

Deirdre Parke Holleman, Washington Executive Director

On June 6th 2018 President Donald Trump signed the VA Mission Act before members of Congress and VSO representatives (including TREA) who worked for the last 3 years to create a program that would assure American veterans medical care in the private sector when needed. It was a bipartisan and bicameral push that passed the House 347-70 and the Senate 92-5.

The current six Community programs (including the CHOICE Act) will now be combined into hopefully one smooth and efficient program.

The Mission Act also improves the VA's ability to quickly hire medical professionals, improve their "capital infrastructure," and expand the new CAREGIVERS program to pre-9/11 veterans.



The signing ceremony was held in the beautiful White House Rose Garden. NEXT is the hard work of getting the right regulations adopted.



AND NOW COMES VETERANS DAY

Deirdre Parke Holleman, Washington Executive Director

In 1968, the U.S. government briefly celebrated Veterans Day on the closest Monday to November 11th so that there would be a 3-day weekend. But that change did not stand and in 1975, President Gerald Ford returned Veterans Day to November 11. The significance of that date being the end of World War I, the War to End All Wars.

“On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th Month the guns were still.”

November 11th 2018 will be the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. This will not be your average Veterans Day. And maybe you should start making plans today.

Of course all the normal ceremonies and commemorations will occur throughout the city but there will be more.

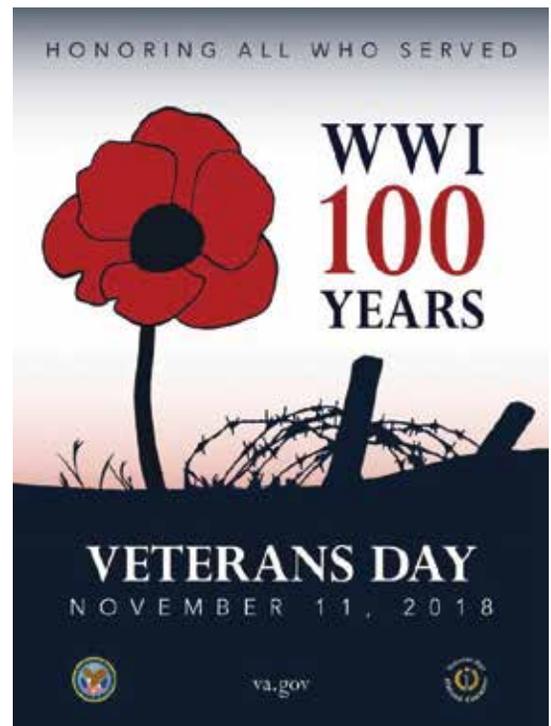
It is expected that there will be a large military parade in Washington DC on that day. After attending the Bastille Day Parade in Paris President Trump ordered the Pentagon to plan a military parade for DC. Secretary of Defense Mathis' office has not released many details yet but we do know:

- Military Units from all branches will march.
- There will be a large flyover at the end of the parade with both modern and historic planes
- There will only be wheeled vehicles (no tanks to minimize road damage)
- There will be at least 4 themes including the contributions of veterans throughout our history, the price of freedom, the evolution of women in the services, and a focus on Medal of Honor recipients.

This will be the first military parade in DC since the end of the First Gulf War. To the right is the new Veterans Day poster. You can download high resolution copies of it at: <https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>

It is hoped that the World War I Memorial will be finished and ready for dedication by Veterans Day. I attended the groundbreaking on November 9th 2017. Hopefully it will be dedicated on November 11th; but there may be a delay.

And we are sure that other events will continue to be added. So please read our Update or call our Washington office for more information.



TREA MEETS WITH ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME LEADERSHIP

Michael Saunders, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs

Recently TREA met with Major General (Ret.) Stephen Rippe and his leadership team at the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) in Washington, DC. TREA was represented by Deputy Legislative Director Mike Saunders.

It was announced in early April that income-based fees would be raised on residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Homes, both in Washington, DC and in Gulfport, Mississippi. Naturally, this caused an uproar among the residents. Some of the fee increases will be up to 60 percent.

The fee increases were brought on by two things: years of financial mismanagement which led to the appointment of MG Rippe to replace the old leadership team at the end of last year, and an unwillingness to raise the .50 cent fee that is levied from every enlisted servicemember's paycheck. The second problem was recently fixed by the Senior Enlisted leaders of the five armed services. They had resisted authorizing the fee hike, which Congress had lifted to \$1 back in 2010, until the financial practices at AFRH were improved.

MG Rippe has done, in TREA's opinion, an outstanding job of closing the \$22 million budget deficit at AFRH that he inherited. That being said, if the .50 cent paycheck levy had been indexed to inflation, which was authorized back in 1976, then the dramatic fee hikes that have sparked so much media attention would never have been needed.

With development plans in place to recapitalize the diminished AFRH trust fund, TREA is confident in the future of the AFRH. Therefore, we call on Congress to work with AFRH leadership to ease the monetary burden on residents by appropriating enough money to cover the budget shortfall this year. We will be writing letters to the appropriate committees of Congress to that end.

TREA TALKS WITH SENATOR JON TESTER, (D-MONTANA)



TREA's Legislative Director Larry Madison recently arranged for an interview with Senator Jon Tester (D-Montana). The interview follows the brief biography of Senator Tester below.

Senator Jon Tester is third-generation Montana farmer, a proud grandfather and a former school teacher who is relentlessly defending his state and holding government accountable.

He and his wife Sharla farm the same land near the town of Big Sandy, Mont. that was homesteaded by his grandparents in 1912.

In the Senate, Senator Tester serves as the Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and as a member of the Commerce, Indian Affairs, Banking, and Appropriations Committees.

Senator Tester is widely known as one of the Senate's most effective advocates for veterans. As a leader of the Veterans Affairs Committee, he is committed to working with both Republican and Democrats to hold the VA accountable, pass meaningful reforms, and make sure our country fulfills its promise to the men and women who have served.

Senator Tester knows we must work to improve access to health care, benefits, jobs, education, transportation, and housing for veterans. And he believes that members of Congress must take their marching orders from veterans--not the other way around. That's why he routinely holds public veterans listening sessions and town halls in Montana to hear from veterans face-to-face.

Tester worked across the aisle to craft and pass the VA MISSION Act and the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act. In a political climate when not much is getting done in Washington, he successfully worked with Republicans and Democrats to get more than a dozen bills signed into law by President Trump.

TREA: Montana is “Big Sky Country,” but it also has a lot of space on the ground. What is the best way to balance the need for VA health care for veterans in rural areas and yet not move toward privatization of the VA?

* **SENATOR TESTER:** The best defense against efforts to privatize away VA health care is to make sure the VA is living up to our promise to veterans. A perfect example of this is my recently passed VA MISSION Act which strengthens the VA and improves the process through which the private sector fills in the gaps of care. That is particularly important in rural places like Montana. This bill strikes an important balance and puts the veteran at the center of their health care, which is why 38 veteran and military organizations support it.

TREA: Traditionally, the Veterans committees in both the House and the Senate have been among the most bi-partisan in Congress. With the growing polarization in Congress, has the Senate VA committee been able to maintain that collegiality?

* **SENATOR TESTER:** There are a lot of issues that divide folks these days – but serving our veterans is and always has been a bipartisan effort. I work closely with Chairman Johnny Isakson and the other Republican members of the committee because our veterans always come before politics.

TREA: There is a big discrepancy between VA hospitals. Some are great examples of the way health care should be provided while others continue to have serious problems in delivering the kind of health care that veterans need and deserve. How do we ensure that “best practices” are shared amongst VA hospitals while less efficient or effective practices are phased out?

* **SENATOR TESTER:** Congress’ job is to give the VA the tools and resources it needs, and it’s the VA’s job to put them to use. That’s why we need a qualified Secretary to properly implement the reforms we have passed this Congress and to ensure those policies are appropriately and consistently communicated down to the local level to ensure every VA hospital is the very best.

TREA: Although Congress has increased the appropriation for the VA, there is an attitude on the part of some members of Congress not to fund any new programs for veterans, but rather if new programs are enacted, funding them by cutting from existing veterans programs. How do you feel about that?

* **SENATOR TESTER:** Serving our veterans is a cost of war. Our nation made a promise to our veterans when they enlisted, and Congress must uphold its end of the bargain. I am deeply concerned about our nation’s growing debt, and that’s why I support amending the U.S. Constitution to require balancing the federal budget. But I will never let this country pull the rug out from under America’s veterans.

TREA: As the cost of healthcare in the private sector rises, do you think Congress will continue to be willing to foot an ever-increasing bill for veterans receiving private healthcare in the coming years?

* **SENATOR TESTER:** We need to be efficient with every taxpayer dollar, that’s why I am holding the VA accountable to ensure its not wasting one penny. Our veterans deserve the very best care and benefits, and I am encouraged that there is bipartisan support for delivering for our veterans.

TREA: There are proposals to do away with the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program - do you think that could have an impact on the VA’s ability to attract skilled employees, especially doctors?

* **SENATOR TESTER:** The PSLF initiative is a valuable resource to get highly qualified men and women into public service, including the VA. Efforts to eliminate recruitment programs that bring doctors and nurses to care for veterans at the VA is a big step in the wrong direction. I’ve introduced several bills to give the VA the tools to recruit and retain more medical professionals to work at the VA, and am proud that the recently-passed MISSION Act increases loan repayment amounts for VA medical professionals, and contains numerous other provisions to ensure VA can better recruit and retain talented doctors and nurses.

TREA: Thank you, Senator Tester.



AAFES

Army and Air Force Exchange Service

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is helping military families go to back to school while sticking to a budget by extending its layaway program to include computers and tablets needed to succeed in the classroom.

From July 1 to Aug. 31, just in time for back-to-school season, Soldiers, Airmen and other military shoppers can use layaway at their local Exchange to hold computers, notebooks, tablets and iPads—items that are not typically eligible for the layaway program. “Using up-to-date technology is vital to succeeding in the classroom,” said Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Luis Reyes,



Exchange senior enlisted advisor. “The extended layaway program helps parents and students manage their budget for back-to-school expenses.”

A \$3 service fee and a deposit of 15 percent are required to hold items on layaway. Items must be picked up by Aug. 31. Shoppers can visit customer service at their local Exchange for complete details.

50,000 Veterans and Military Spouses by 2020

The Exchange is reaffirming its commitment to hiring 50,000 Veterans and military spouses by 2020.

The Exchange was recently named a 2018 Top 10 Military Friendly Employer® and Military Spouse Friendly Employer® by Victory Media. Since 2010, the Exchange has hired more than 1,100 Wounded Warriors. The announcement comes as the Exchange began serving honorably discharged Veterans through a lifelong online military exchange shopping benefit. All who served honorably receive military-exclusive pricing and tax-free shopping at ShopMyExchange.com. Eligibility to shop can be verified at ShopMyExchange.com/Veterans or VetVerify.org.



Veterans, military spouses and others seeking employment with the Exchange can visit ApplyMyExchange.com to view job opportunities worldwide.



TREA'S FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Deb Oelschig, Treasurer

Membership Numbers TREA, like all other VSOs, continues to experience a drop in membership. Our membership is currently at 28,752, a decrease in 4,648 members since the same time last year. Out of the 28,752 members that we currently have, 16,354 are lifetime members and the remaining 12,398 are term members. Declining membership continues to be our biggest challenge and has one of the greatest impacts on our revenue. We have 7,130 members whose membership with us will expire within the next 12 months. Some of these losses are not within our control. Unfortunately, we lost 500 members due to

their passing, but the other 4,148 chose not to renew their membership with us. While it is important to reach out and bring in new members, it is just as important to keep our current members. This is something that we, as an organization are going to focus on and hopefully reverse the current downward trend.

Acquisition Program The Acquisition Program went into effect in 2016 to recruit new and old members. Through today, we have received \$71,307 in new membership and we have spent \$131,691, for a net loss of \$60,384. We did bring in 1105 new and lapsed members. The cost to bring in these members equates to \$119.18 **PER MEMBER**.

USAA USAA provided TREA with a new contract, which of course, meant new terms. These terms are based on membership numbers which resulted in a decrease of their sponsorship by \$150,000 per year.

TSCL Royalty Revenue: The royalty that TREA receives from TSCL for the first Quarter of 2018 was \$15,348 – this is a \$47,155 decrease from the 2017 1st Quarter trademark fee.

Convention *As a non profit organization, are we utilizing our finances properly by continuing to host an annual convention?* We have business to conduct and that can and will continue to be accomplished, but continuing to hold social events and activities at a cost that TREA cannot afford is not the proper way to run an organization. Convention continues to create a deficit that we cannot continue to cover.

We are an organization that has the mission of helping veterans and their families. TREA funds should be spent to support that purpose. We simply cannot afford to go forward with an annual convention. Perhaps we can consider having a reunion or a convention every other year.

Facts for you to consider - :

Over the past three years, TREA has lost \$80K on conventions. This is due to decline in attendance and sponsorship as well as the rising cost of travel and accommodations. This needs a hard look by everyone. For the 2017 convention, there were less than 12 members who paid their entire way to convention (travel, registration & lodging). The TREA Board, The Memorial Foundation Trustees, the TSCL Trustees and the National Auxiliary Board members were paid by their respective entities. Some chapters pay registration fees for their delegates, some offset travel costs. We should all be asking ourselves – if we had to pay for our own expenses, all of them - would we continue to have conventions? This year in an effort to save money and provide some much needed 'buy-in', the TREA National board voted to pay their own registration fee to the 2018 convention. This is a \$2,700 savings to the organization. This is a small step, but it is a step in the right direction. We need to not stop here – we need to do more.

The entire TREA entity has worked hard to cut cost and scale back on spending without impacting our mission and our promise to those veterans whom we serve, but it's not enough. The decrease in expenses cannot combat the larger decrease in income that we are now experiencing. TREA depends on the income sources stated earlier. Without them, we are crippled in our efforts to operate the organization to the fullest. The old adage of 'you need money to make money' still stands true and certainly applies to TREA. Without a constant and reliable revenue source, we are faced with the reality that we cannot continue to operate at our current rate. We stand the very real threat of not being able to meet our mission of advocating and supporting our fellow veterans.

The proposed 2019 budget follows this report. Unfortunately we were unable to present a zero balanced budget. A lot of work and effort was put forth but the bottom line of expenses being more than income just won out. The TREA Board of Directors voted to use funds from the investment account to cover any shortfalls.

This coming year needs to bring significant change to TREA. Together, we as an organization can make that change happen.



As a TREA member, I urge you to contact me, your chapter president, the TREA National President or any member of the BOD with your suggestions and recommendations to help TREA rediscover ourselves in these challenging times.

Many are simply skeptical that real change can occur. There is so much fear, so many questions and so much to do that it can seem overwhelming. But, if we choose to be bound by the past, we will never move forward.

PROPOSED 2019 BUDGET

Revenue Budget Worksheet	
	Proposed 2019
Voice Advertising	-
TREA Accessories (includes JROTC)	15,000
Shipping Rcvd from customers for orders	3,500
Royalties From USAA	70,000
Royalties Misc	7,000
Fundraising	193,000
Interest/Gain on Investments	15,000
Indiv Donations (midterm/convention)	500
Convention - Registration	3,000
Convention -sponsors/ads/etc.	5,000
Investments	30,000
TSCL Trademark	75,000
Membership (includes Renewals)	267,786
Acquisition	-
Life Claims from NEBCO	85,000
Capital Gains/Unrealized	
Misc Revenue -	
Total Revenue	769,786
(A projected decrease of 295K from 2018)	

Total Expenses	944,686
Total Expenses - Alt. 1	893,186

NET Budget Surplus/(Deficit)	(174,900)
NET Budget Surplus/(Deficit) - Alt. 1	(123,400)

- #1 - decreased due to making the magazine a newsletter
- #2 - based on 1st QTR 2018 figures
- #3 - Based on 1st QTR 2018 figures
- #4 - no figures yet -- under RFP
- #5 - 2 Day business Meeting VS full blown 'Convention'
- #6 - decreased by proposing a newsletter format
- #7 - In RFP stages

Expense Summary Worksheet	
	Proposed 2019
Five Year Plan	50
Ad Hoc Committee	1,500
Bylaws & Standing Rules	500
Convention	13,860
Pre-Convention Committee	1,531
Finance Committee	135
Information Technology	25
Legislative Affairs Committee	1,200
Membership Committee	6,500
Parliamentarian	205
Past National President/Awards	2,675
President	9,775
Public Relations	3,600
VOICE	49,350
VSO	400
Washington Legislative Office	276,076
Company Expenses	93,200
Death Certificate Request	7,550
Membership Database	15,000
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	483,132
Headquarters	312,854
Board of Directors	8,200
NEBCO (Life Insurance)	12,500
Renewals - AMS	21,000
Fundraising	107,000
Acquisition	
TOTAL PROGRAMS	461,554
TOTAL EXPENSE	944,686
(A projected decrease of 307K from 2018)	
** IF TREA sells the current HQ and buys/rents a smaller facility - this will be the new expenses - replaces Headquarter Expenses line item (312,854)	261,354
TOTAL EXPENSES (with selling current HQ and purchasing a smaller facility)	893,186
(A projected decrease of 359K from 2018)	



THE RETIRED ENLISTED ASSOCIATION, INC.

Supplemental Consolidating Schedule of Activities
for the Year Ended, December 31, 2017

	TREA	TACL & PAC	Foundation	Eliminations	Consolidated
	Total	Total	Total		Total
REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT					
Contributions	177,093	7,459,716	1,273,407	(48,201)	8,862,015
Investment income	216,852	128,335	26,970		372,157
Mailing List Income		119,479	204,302		323,781
Membership Dues	250,375				250,375
Royalty Income	166,654				166,654
Convention	64,578				64,578
Life Insurance Settlements	63,953				63,953
Store Sales	19,387				19,387
Expense Reimbursements	18,211				18,211
Advertising Revenue	12,491				12,491
Trademark	212,508				212,508
Rental Income		26,939		(212,508)	(185,569)
Management fee income	46,350			(26,939)	19,411
Other	5,576		3,007	(46,350)	(37,767)
TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT	1,254,028	7,734,469	1,507,686	(333,998)	10,162,185

EXPENSES

Public Education	80,778	3,666,927		(75,306)	3,672,399
Government Affairs	222,924	2,093,655		(66,918)	2,249,661
Outreach & Education			410,371		410,371
Scholarships & Grants			284,467	(51,920)	232,547
Mbrshp Svcs & Reten.	269,340				269,340
VOICE Magazine	165,637				165,637
Mbrsh Educ & Trng	70,226				70,226
Veteran Services		4,090			4,090
Political Action Committee		73			73
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	808,905	5,764,745	694,838	(194,144)	7,074,344

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Managemnt & General	296,278	357,843	160,851	(130,246)	684,726
Membership Recruitment	50,498				50,498
Fundraising	129,128	1,953,444	337,548	(9,608)	2,410,512
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	475,904	2,311,287	498,399	(139,854)	3,145,736
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,284,809	8,076,032	1,193,237	(333,998)	10,220,080
Change in net assets before other item	(30,781)	(341,563)	314,449	-	(57,895)

OTHER ITEM

Loss on sale of fixed assets		(83,976)			(83,976)
Change in net assets	(30,781)	(425,539)	314,449		(141,871)
Net Assets, beginning of year	2,277,488	744,830	537,073		3,559,391
Net Assets, end of year	2,246,707	319,291	851,522		3,417,520

THE STATUS OF WOMEN AS WARRIORS

By Kim DeCoste

In 2015, three women successfully completed Army Ranger School at Ft. Benning. Phase one of the training is tough and it took several tries, but they managed to get through all phases and graduate. This “test run” prompted then-United States Secretary of Defense, Ashton Carter to open all combat positions to females. Shortly thereafter, and predictably, the notion of Selective Service came before the United States Senate who voted overwhelmingly (85-13) to require women to register. However, the U.S. House of Representatives did not include that in the legislation they put in place that summer, so the issue was “set aside” for the time being.

Since that time, the military and its leadership have been working to determine the correct manner in which to integrate females more completely and correctly while ensuring standards, fair and safe practices, and the viability and success of the whole group. It is a delicate balance but one which must be undertaken to ensure the number of people needed are available to serve into the future.

Each branch faces its own challenges which are unique due to a mix of factors.

Here is a brief history of integration:

- April 2015 – 19 women enter U.S. Army Ranger School; by June, three remain.
- August 2015 – Captains Kristen Griest and Shaye Haver become the first women to graduate from Ranger School.
- October 2015 – Major Lisa Jaster becomes the third woman to graduate from Ranger School
- December 2015 – Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announces that all military occupations will open to women, following the completion of assessments by the military services.
- April 2016 – Captain Griest becomes the first female Army infantry officer.
- September 2016 – The first female soldier to participate in the Army’s Special Forces selection and assessment fails to complete the course.
- January 2017 – A female Army officer successfully completes the selection process to join the 75th Ranger Regiment.
- August 2017 – The first woman to attempt Navy SEAL training drops out.
- September 2017 – A female Marine officer completes the Infantry Officer Course for the first time.
- January 2018 – The Army announces that it will add three more posts for women serving in combat arms roles (Fort Campbell, Fort Carson, Fort Bliss).
- March 2018 – The first wave of female Marines arrives at the Camp Pendleton Marine Combat Training course for integrated training – and graduates in early April.

The females who are serving are making progress, but they face challenges as they work to achieve success while ensuring no special treatment or considerations are given. For those who are combat-motivated, the branch in which they serve plays a role in what they choose to do. In the meantime, several branches are addressing their particular concerns to more completely integrate females.

ARMY

The Army has been surprised by the fact that more than 600 women have been recruited for or transferred to combat operations with twelve female Ranger School graduates so far. The approach they adopted is called a “leaders first” approach. On the heels of the success of the first few female officers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs), the policy seeks to fill higher-ranking positions first and then add female junior enlisted so that there is an atmosphere of “mentorship and female role models.”

There are currently four integrated infantry companies at Ft. Bragg. In Captain Kristen Griest’s company, there is now another Ranger-qualified infantry officer who is a woman serving as a platoon leader, along with eight female enlisted soldiers.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN AS WARRIORS

By Kim DeCoste

Three additional posts have been opened to women in infantry occupational specialties including at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky; Ft. Carson, Colorado, and Ft. Bliss, Texas. The expansion reflects the strategic decision to “align infrastructure” as Army data shows “entry-level female recruits are more often choosing infantry, while female officers are more often choosing armor units”, according to a recent article by Andrew Swick and Emma Moore on the CNAS website.

The Army calls its long-term integration plan Soldier 2020 and includes a move to adapt testing and training. They launched a gender-neutral Occupational Physical Assessment Test (OPAT) in 2017.

MARINE CORPS

The Marine Corps has exhibited more resistance to having women in combat positions and specifically requested a waiver from the DoD. The Corps commissioned a study in 2015, in which they analyzed combat readiness in the following manner by: speed and tempo, lethality, unit and individual readiness, survivability, and cohesion. The study revealed that in 93 of 134 tasks tested, all-male groups performed better than gender-integrated groups and it further found women carried an increased risk of serious injury with stress fractures due to heavy load-bearing exercise.

Made of 8 percent women, the corps currently is trying to increase that number to 10 percent. The numbers currently show 92 women serve in the Marines in combat arms billets but only 11 are in infantry roles. They are also struggling to implement the “leaders first” approach of the Army because women are not making it through the Marine Infantry Officer Course (IOC) at Quantico. Many feel that the first exercise (Combat Endurance Test or CET) on the course is more of an “initiation rite” instead of a “time test with low attrition for men” because it is a pass/fail event. In response, in March 2018, the Marine Corp re-designated it as “an unscored exercise rather than a pass/fail”.

There is a legal complaint pending that was filed by the ACLU because the Corp is the only branch of the service that still has basic training still divided by gender. They see this as a violation of the DoD policy. In response, they are trying to put forward a “Marines United” initiative and subsequently, the first wave of female Marines arrived at Camp Pendleton and the first gender integrated class graduated in April of this year.

NAVY AND AIR FORCE

Women have achieved more parity in the Navy and Air Force largely because they are more removed from infantry and direct combat and have been more “flexible regarding the assignment of women”. They also have had historically fewer combat and infantry positions. The testing standards for entry were deemed appropriate for men and women and the Air Force has allowed women to serve in nearly all roles (except for special operations).

For the Navy, a 1993 Congressional ruling removed a law precluding women from serving in any combat unit or occupational specialty, so they have had a good track record of placing women on combat ships. Then, DoD established the Direct Combat and Assignment Rule “which limited women from being assigned to units below brigade level where the mission was to engage in direct ground combat.” This allows females

THE STATUS OF WOMEN AS WARRIORS (CONT.)

By Kim DeCoste

in the Navy more latitude to serve in a variety of roles and following career paths qualifying them for senior billets, potentially commanding carriers at some point in the future.

One challenge for the Navy remains accommodations for junior enlisted women on ships. They have begun assigning women to units in pairs so they then leave in pairs as well which “creates assignment and stability constraints for the units”. And, of course, submarines are even more constrained with fewer options for space, privacy, and prolonged rotations at sea. One-fifth of submarine crews are now integrated since this began in 2010 and the retention rate is similar to that of male officers.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

For many of the reasons listed above, women still struggle get into the Special Operations Forces (SOF) and mostly because of the exceedingly high standards of entry. Women have supported special operations units on the battlefield but they have not yet been able achieve combat roles. The Navy recruited two women for SEAL training in 2017, but they were not able to get through to selection; the norm is that 73-75 percent do not make the cut. The path to Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) specialist in the Air Force has five female officers still in training. These are the people who offer coordinated air support for special operations.

Similarly, many women have tried to become Green Berets but none have passed the Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS) to date. On a positive note, one female officer passed the 75th Ranger Regiment’s selection and is the first woman to join a special operations unit.

CONCLUSIONS

While progress is steadily being made, it is known that bias and misperception still block the path of succession for many women. There is certainly still the spirit of support for women but standards must be maintained, so leaders are trying to strike the right balance. There was a congressional report which said, “strong unit cohesion is more likely when physical and performance standards are applied equally to men and women”. Evidence even from recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq shows that when men and women serve together, barriers fall as a result of male colleagues seeing first-hand their peers’ dedication.

As women continue to push the develop in their performance in combat units, it is clear that there are many things that can help integration and recruitment of women. Career development, mentorship, and guidance will help the military increase the number of women through the aforementioned “leaders first” policy. As the military sees more women in leadership, they, in turn, must “pull up” other women with them. The benefits are mutual for all service personnel as well as for the strength and robust growth of strong U.S. national security policy.

Adapted and sourced from:

<https://www.cnas.org/publications/reports/an-update-on-the-status-of-women-in-combat>

https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dwp/dwp_reports.jsp

<https://blogs.lcms.org/2018/ctcr-releases-report-on-women-and-the-military>

SOUTHERN COLORADO TREA CHAPTERS 1, CHAPTER 20 AND CHAPTER 113

Attend Pikes Peak Veterans Cemetery Dedication Ceremony in Colorado Springs.

by Lonny L. J. Barrett, Chapter 1

On the 25th of May, Memorial Day Weekend, the long-awaited Southern Colorado Veterans Cemetery was officially dedicated. After many years of lobbying and hard work put in by many TREA Members have finally come to fruition. The project was spearheaded over 20 years ago by Chapter 1's own Past President Ralph McCutchen alongside representatives of other Local Veteran Service Organizations. Sadly, Ralph did not live to see his incredible dream become reality, but his widow, Chapter 1 Auxiliary Member Lily, and other family members were present to celebrate his long hard-fought passion to achieve what will be the final resting place of over 100,000 Southern Colorado Veterans, in his memory.



Although many Veteran Service Organizations, local, state and federal politicians, as well as other Veterans and family members were present for this dedication, TREA Chapters 1, 20 & 113 vastly outnumbered every other VSO present at this dedication. This is clearly a testament to how dedicated our Organization is in being involved in the task of improving Veterans Benefits. UNITED WE STAND!

More information about the Pikes Peak Veterans Cemetery can be found here: <http://www.trea1.org/el-paso-county-cemetery-updates/>

CHAPTER 16

June 8th, 2018 – Membership Meeting, Saline Senior Center Board Room –

Being that the 2018 elections (Primary and General) are months away; it was appropriate for the chapter to have as its Guest Speaker Jamie R Allen (left), Saline County Clerk/Election Officer. The Election Officer talked about 2018 election dates and hours, advance ballots by mail, poll locations, voter ID law, gubernatorial primary election, and the deadline to change party affiliation. Her presentation was well received. Associate member Rachel Fikes (right) presents a chapter Certificate of Appreciation to Jamie Allen.



Jamie Allen (standing) talks about the County Clerk Election Office and upcoming elections. Left to right, Nelson Newell, Wardene Stewart, Ella Gier, and Shirley Wagner review.



Fort Riley Appr ciation Day 2018 Support: Each year, Chapter 16 supports the annual Fort Riley Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) event.

Pictured left to right Treasurer Shirley Wagner, Chaplain Moses and Wardene Stewart, President Richard Trow, received a Certificate of Appreciations from Secretary William Vinyard who is a member of the Fort Riley Retiree Council for their donations to the 2017 RAD.

CHAPTER 29, SOUTH DAKOTA

Chapter 29 member Dennis Feller presents the following TREA JROTC awards at Douglas High School's 47th Annual Awards Ceremony on May 10th.

- 1st-year – Cadet Makenzie Stine
- 2nd-year – Cadet Faron M. Penwell (not visible in picture)
- 3rd-year – Cadet Kaylee L. Sharpe
- 4th-year – Cadet Stuart A. Stilwell



CHAPTER 55 PRESENTS 4 JROTC AWARDS



Cadet Merlin Bunten from Seaside High School, CA. TREA member Gene Street presenting



Cadet Franklin Bonilla from Edward Alvarez High School, Salinas, CA. TREA member Jack Stewart presenting.



Figure 1 Cadet Alisha Sumper from Monterey High School, Monterey, CO. TREA member Sid Williams presenting

Not pictured: Cadet Jerid Juarez from Soledad High School, Soledad, CA. TREA member James Bogan presenting

CHAPTER 72, PITTSBURGH



Chapter 72 presented 8 TREA JROTC Awards to deserving cadets. Above left: Albert Gallatin High School, (l-r) Charles White, Cadet Travis Reckener, Harry Blackwell Above center: Cathedral Prep High School, (l-r) Charles White, Cadet Stephen Campbell, Harry Blackwell Above right: North Allegheny High School, (l-r) Harry Blackwell, Cadet Syndey Niklaus, Charles White Below left: Norwin High School, (l-r) Harry Blackwell, Cadet Ava Fergelee, Charles White, John Durbiano Below center: Perry High School, (l-r) Harry Blackwell, Cadet Andrew Eberz, John Durbiano Below right: Pine Richland High School, (l-r) Harry Blackwell, Cadet Caroline Sipper, John Durbiano No photo: Valley High School, Harry Blackwell & John Durbiano present Cadet Nicholas Banko the TREA JROTC award No photo: West Mifflin High School, Charles White & John Durbiano present Cadet Paul Leny Jonassaint the TREA award

CHAPTER 72, PITTSBURGH (CONT.)



Ground Breaking for four new homes in Homewood of Pittsburgh, PA. (l-r): Rocky Bleier – former Steeler, Rev Dykes – Pastor of New Life Church, Ebo – Community Leader, Ed Gainey – State Representative, Ricky Burgess – City Councilman, William Peduto – Mayor, Dr. Howard B. Slaughter – President for Habitat for Humanity and TREA Chapter 72 member, Dan Merry – Pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church, Maggy Hardy Mageeko – Owner & President of 84 Lumber, Jerome Jackson – Executive Director of Operations Better Block, Tjada McKenna – COO for Habitat for Humanity International



CHAPTER 74

2018 is the 25th Anniversary for the chapter. At April's meeting, the members posed for a group photo. Pictured (l-r) are front row: Secretary Debby Ramirez, President CC Cameron and back row: Director Jessie Trotter, 2nd VP Susan Coulter, Treasurer Paul Chamberlain, 1st VP Charles Marshall, Director Bruce Beardsley, member Dwight Booth and not seen is Chaplain Jan Marshall who took the photo. The chapter will celebrate in August 2018 at the Annual Cookout/Picnic.



Left photo: On 12 May 2018, President CC Cameron presents TREA's Award of Merit to JROTC Cadet Sierra Brewster of Bethel High School in Spanaway, WA.

Right photo: On 22 May 2018, President CC Cameron presents TREA's Award of Merit to JROTC Cadet Kaylie Nakaya as the Junior AFJROTC Instructor MSgt, Willie Smith of Federal Way High School, WA who is also a member of TREA: The Enlisted Association joins in.



CHAPTER 76 GETS BUSY



CHAPTER 76 2018 FUNDRAISER MEMBERS



BRITTNEY LAPALME GRETA MITTELSTAEDT
CHAPTER 76 SHEBOYGAN WI 2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



CHAPTER 76 SETTING UP FOR FRY



CHAPTER 76 2018 BAKERY SALES LADIES



CHAPTER 76 SHEBOYGAN WI 2018 FAMILY PICNIC CHOW LINE



CHAPTER 76 SHEBOYGAN WI 2018 VETERAN



CHAPTER 76 PRESIDENT MIKE LIEBELT GETTING THE FRYERS READY

CHAPTER 80, TEXAS

Each year chapter 80 donates between 20 -25 electric fans to a fire department in the San Antonio metropolitan area. This year, the fans were donated to the Kirby, Texas Fire Department. Prior to his death, the fans were donated by Ike Clinton and his wife Marty. Marty can no longer do the task and the chapter has decided to continue with this worthwhile task.



Photo left: Chapter President Don Higginbotham & Auxiliary President Elaine Moreland and the vice presidents, Juanita Higginbotham and Harold Moreland, respectively. Members of the Kirby Fire Department are shown on opposite sides.

Submitted by Marie Smith, Chapter 80 PR Rep

CHAPTER 80

Participated at the 50th Anniversary of the Commemoration of the Vietnam War



Photo Left: Chapter 80 members Richard Wood, Roosevelt Hale, Rudy Johnson, Teodora Llanas & Chapter President Don Higginbotham pose with keynote speaker Rudy Johnson (Center)



Photo above: Vietnam War Veterans gather at the Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery

CHAPTER 94 – GEORGIA



Houston County High School, TREA Award of Merit presentation



(L-R) PNP Rick Delaney & Cadet Zakell Hardy



(L-R) PNP Rick Delaney, Past Chapter 94 President James Harking & Cadet Joe DiSari



Photo above: TREA Chapter 94 member Ed Armijo (L) and Chapter President/TREA PNP Rick Delany (R) lay a wreath at the Warner Robins Memorial Day Ceremony

(L-R) PNP Rick Delaney, Cadet Lynzey Faulkner

CHAPTER 119 – WISCONSIN



#1 - Cheryl Liebaert, Butch Liebaert, Jim Potthier and WI State Senator Janet Bewley

Chapter 119 was busy during April and May. On April 24th, the chapter participated in the Annual University of Wisconsin (Superior) vets Expo. On May 24th, the Chapter placed flags at four of the seven cemeteries in Superior for Memorial Day. Students from Superior Middle School assisted.

On May 28th, Butch & Cheryl Liebaert performed the POW/MIA Ceremony at the Wisconsin State Veteran's Cemetery at Spooner, WI. (photo #1). Chapter Vice President Jim Potthier posted the Chapter flag during the ceremony. On Memorial Day, the Chapter was involved in ceremonies at Greenwood Cemetery in Superior, WI (Photo #2-5)



#2 - Chuck Tenlen, Jim potthier and Terry Maki wait to take individual to the Veteran's Circle for the Program – May 29th, Wisconsin State Veteran's Cemetery, Spooner, WI



#3 Gary Foix and Cosmo Rich, Jr. with the Chapter wreath before the program



#4 – Gary Foix & Cosmo Rich, Jr raise the flag at the end of the ceremony



#5 – Gary Foix & Cosmo Rich, Jr raise the flag at the end of the ceremony

TSCL

Social Security benefits have lost 34 percent of buying power since 2000, according to the 2018 Social Security Loss of Buying Power Study recently released by The Senior Citizens League (TSCL). “This is the biggest loss of buying power recorded since 2012, and that was the biggest loss that The Senior Citizens League’s study has recorded to date,” says study author Mary Johnson, a Social Security policy analyst for the League.



The findings represent a significant one-year loss of 4 percent in buying power, with the loss growing from 30% to 34% from January 2017 to January 2018. The loss occurred even though beneficiaries received a 2 percent annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2018,” says Johnson. Housing and medical costs — particularly home heating expenses and Medigap premiums — were among the most rapidly-rising costs over the past year. The study examines the growth since 2000 in price of goods and services that are typical for retired and disabled households, and compares that to the growth in Social Security benefits due to annual COLAs.

Based on Consumer Price index (CPI) data through May of this year, Johnson estimates that the COLA for 2019 will be about 3.3 percent, the highest since 2012. That number could change since there are still four months of data to be collected before the Social Security Administration announces the COLA.

More than 1,057 respondents participated in The Senior Citizens League’s annual senior survey, which was conducted from January through March of this year. Participants confirmed that monthly household expenses made steep increases over the past year, far in excess of the dollar amount that their COLAs increased benefits. More than half, 56 percent, indicated their monthly expenses went up by more than \$79. Yet 50 percent of survey respondents said that their COLA increased benefits less than \$5 per month, after the increased Part B premium for 2018 was deducted from their Social Security benefits.

Social Security beneficiaries receive a small automatic increase in their Social Security checks most years, intended to help their benefits keep up with rising costs. But since 2000, COLAs increased benefits a total of just 46 percent, while typical senior expenses have jumped 96.3 percent. “When costs climb more rapidly than benefits, retirees must spend down retirement savings more quickly than expected, and those without savings or other retirement income are either going into debt, or going without,” Johnson says.

The survey found that a person receiving the national average Social Security benefit in 2000 — \$816 per month — would have \$1,193.10 per month by 2018. However, because retiree costs are rising at a substantially faster pace than the COLA, that individual would require a Social Security benefit of \$410.30 more per month, or \$1,603.40 in 2018, just to maintain his or her 2000 level of buying power.

The study examined the increase in costs of 39 key items between 2000 and January 2018. The items were chosen because they are typical of the costs of most Social Security recipients, and include expenditures like Medicare Part B premium, that are not measured by the index currently used to calculate the COLA. Of the 39 items analyzed, 26 exceeded the percentage of increase in the COLA over the same period.

“This study illustrates why Congress should enact legislation to provide a more fair and adequate COLA,” Johnson says. “To put it in perspective, for every \$100 worth of groceries a retiree household could afford in 2000, they can only buy \$66 worth today,” Johnson adds.

A majority of the 59 million senior and disabled Americans who receive Social Security depend on it for at least 50 percent of their total income, and one-third of all beneficiaries rely on it for 90 percent or more of their income. To help protect the buying power of benefits, TSCL supports legislation that would base COLAs on the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E).

Top Ten Fastest Growing Senior Costs Since 2000

Item	Cost in 2000 Average cost \$ or numeric data	Cost in 2018 Average cost \$ or numeric data*	Percent Increase
1. Medicare Part B monthly premium	\$45.50	\$134.00	195%
2. Prescription drugs Annual average out-of-pocket	\$1,102.00	\$3,172.72	188%
3. Home heating oil (gal.)	\$1.15	\$3.22	181%
4. Homeowner’s insurance (annual)	\$508.00	\$1,342.05	164%
5. Medigap	\$119.00	\$306.64	158%
6. Propane gas (gal.)	\$1.01	\$2.60	157%
7. Real estate taxes	\$690.00	\$1,579.06	129%
8. Total medical out-of-pocket expenses national average people age 65 and up	\$6,140.00	\$13,304.00	117%
9. Oranges (lb.)	\$0.61	\$1.33	117%
10. Pet services and vets (annual)	109.300*	233.317*	114%

* Where no average prices are available, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI-U numeric data are used.

ITT AND CORINTHIAN VETERANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GI BILL RESTORATION

Michael Saunders, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs

Student veterans that attended the now-closed ITT Tech and Corinthian schools are failing to apply for restoration of their GI Bill benefits.

In the Forever GI Bill Congress restored GI Bill benefits to veterans attending ITT Tech and Corinthian colleges, which suddenly went bankrupt, leaving vets stranded. VA has been trying to alert ITT Tech and Corinthian students about their rights, but the vast majority of veterans aren't even opening the e-mails from VA, and very few are applying.

PLEASE, IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED, LET THEM KNOW THAT:

Veterans whose school closed: did your degree program close while you were attending school on the GI Bill? If so, you may qualify to have your GI Bill benefits restored! Congress passed a law to help veterans who were at schools like ITT Tech and Corinthian when they suddenly closed. There are some rules, such as that you didn't finish your degree or transfer the credits to a new school, but there is help for you figure out if you're eligible. Learn more here:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/fgib/restoration.asp>

Free help figuring out if you are eligible and filling out the form is available by e-mailing Help@VeteransEducationSuccess.Org.

VA's Education Call Center is available at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. CST)

PLEASE GET THE WORD OUT!

PNP COOPER, 'COOP'

At a recent press conference held in Maryland's Capitol building, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan asked if TREA PNP Arthur Cooper and a group of Maryland Veterans would accompany him as he signed a bill that would greatly help military retirees. PNP Cooper is Co-Chair of a group of military retirees referred to as "The Maryland Retired Veterans Task Force." The group has work tirelessly representing all retirees in the state of Maryland and fighting for the removal of state taxes on military retirement income. The Governor wrote the original bill sixteen years ago when he was in the state assembly and the bill was repeatedly snubbed. As Governor he was able to get the bill passed into law.



Now that the bill is law, military retirees will pay less in taxes on their military retiree income. In the Governor's introduction of PNP Cooper, he mentioned that PNP Cooper is the Chairman of TREA Senior Citizens League (TSCL), highlighting the affiliation "Coop" has with TREA through its affiliates.

INDEX OF PROPOSED BYLAWS & STANDING RULE CHANGES

NUMBER / TITLE

Article III, Section I – Regular

This opens up TREA membership for spouses of alive or deceased eligible veterans, making them regular members and eliminating the category of Associate member. It also allows for the re-numbering of the remaining paragraphs.

Article III, Section 1 & 2 – Membership

This change combines the two categories of membership into one allowing all members the option of becoming a life member. Currently only retired members can become life members.

Article III, Section 11 – Reinstatement

This change allows for members being re-instated to not be considered a ‘new’ member, they are simply being reinstated. This will allow us to provide better analytics by knowing who is actually a ‘new’ member and who is a previous member, just repaying their dues. It has no real impact on the member – it’s an internal bookkeeping process.

Article IV, Section 1 – Dues

We currently allow 60 days past the membership expiration date; this change brings that to 10 days past the expiration date. All expiring members receive at least two notices prior to the expiration date. We were in essence giving a 14 month membership for the price of 12 month membership. In time, this adds up.

Article IV, Section 1 – Dues

This change opens Life Membership up to all TREA members as long as they meet the criteria for TREA membership.

Article IV, Section 3 – Dues Remittance

This change makes it mandatory for chapters who submit National Dues to Headquarters on behalf of their members, to send one check per member. When members are lumped together into one payment – the entire group gets put on hold if there is an issue with one of the member – the check cannot be processed and all members need to wait for the issue to be resolved.

Article V, Section 1 – Elected Officers

This change would eliminate 3 positions from the Board of Directors – the 3rd Vice President and 2 Director positions (one each year as to maintain consistency). The reason is that the membership has dropped by 2/3 and the need for 9 Board positions is no longer warranted.

Article V, Section 4d – Terms of Office

This follows the proposed change stated above. Only one director will be voted in at each election.

Article IX, Section 3 – Nominations & Elections

This change would allow for mail in and electronic voting. This would make it possible for those who cannot travel to conventions the ability to vote for important issues and for Board positions.

Article IX, Section 6 – Installation

This change takes out the mandatory requirement for an Installation Banquet, allowing for an appropriate ceremony that may be a reception, or a lunch. This is a cost saving proposal.

INDEX OF PROPOSED BYLAWS & STANDING RULE CHANGES (CONT.)

NUMBER / TITLE

Article XII – Standing Committees

This change adds the Scholarship Committee back under TREA. It used to be under TREA, and with the influx of funds from the life insurance program, it needs to come back under TREA.

SR 1, Paragraph 11 (new)

This adds a non-attribution policy to the Standing Rules. This is basically a ‘don’t shoot the messenger’ policy. This protects those who provide factual information from the fear of being retaliated against.

ST 5, Paragraph 3 – Standing and Special Committees

This follows suit from the above proposed change to the Bylaw and brings the Scholarship Committee back under TREA.

SR 7, Paragraph 11 – Removal for Non-Payment of Dues

Following suit from the proposed change to the Bylaws – members who are ‘rejoining’ after expiration will not be considered ‘new’ members. They will keep their original membership number and are just reinstated.

SR 9.2, Paragraph 10 – Chapter Reporting Requirements

This decreases the need for two of the currently mandatory chapter reports. Chapter reporting is a requirement according to the bylaws. By requiring only the forms needed to maintain proper information, we hope that this will help chapters be more responsive in their submission. Non submission of chapter reports may result in a chapter charter being revoked.

SR 13, Paragraph 4 – Prepaid Phone Cards

Proposal to delete this paragraph as TREA no longer uses pre-paid phone cards.

SR 18, Paragraph 2e – TREA Clothing & Accessories

The current wording is too specific. TREA no longer carries many of the required wearable items. This change allows members to wear apparel that bears the TREA emblem without telling them which ones.

NEWLY SUBMITTED –

Will be presented at the convention and will require a 9/10 vote to pass:

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

This change makes it a requirement to note in the minutes how each member of the Board voted.

SR 18, Paragraph 2.a.Table – Color Recognition Code

This change eliminates the requirement before the rings for Members of the Board, Chapter Officers and TREA Members. Only the PNP ring will stay and before the new PNP is allowed to pick his/her stone color this also eliminates the Gold Blazer for Chapter Officers and members.

For detailed information and to read the actual proposed changes, go to our website (www.trea.org) and click on the link on the homepage.



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TREA

The ENLISTED
Association

WE EARNED OUR STRIPES

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