TREA Rolls into Vegas & Commits to Keep Winning:
2016 National Convention Recap

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Welcome to TREA President John I. Adams & The 2016-2017 Board of Directors - pg. 5

2015 TREA National Awards - pg. 10

The Washington Report - pg. 48
Indian River Colony Club

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The VOICE is the flagship publication of TREA: The Enlisted Association, located at 1111 S. Abilene Ct., Aurora, CO 80012.

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 80121. The magazine staff can be reached by email at editor@trea.org. Editor-in-Chief, Kim DeCoste. Creative Director, Stephanie Short.

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. One dollar of member’s annual TREA membership dues pays for an annual subscription.

Deadlines
For copy and photos (with captions, please) the deadline is the 1st day of the month prior to magazine release. For the remainder of 2016 fiscal year, those dates are 10/1/16, 1/1/17, 4/1/17, and 7/1/17. Publication date is the 20th of the month in which magazines are being released.

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

Postmaster (address change)
Please send address changes to The VOICE, 1111 S. Abilene Ct., Aurora, CO 80012, or by email to treaqc@trea.org.

Periodicals postage paid at Aurora, CO, and other mailing offices.

Note from the Editor:

What a pleasure it was to join those of you who attended the Annual Convention in Las Vegas in September. It was an honor and pleasure to meet so many TREA members and to see TREA in action. You are an incredible group and we are so proud, as an editorial team, to have you as our client. This issue is dedicated to convention coverage, to help those who were unable to attend to get a feel for what took place. Most of what happened in Vegas will stay there, but not all!

We also have updated chapter news as well as a few bits of information that did not make it into the July edition. Our apologies for any oversights on that issue, which was the first for our team. We will continue to work to make this magazine as good as it can be, and something you all can rely upon for member information and updates on topics of interest.

We mentioned in July that we are on a new editorial calendar. As a reminder, please note that the mailed issues of The VOICE will continue to be sent quarterly, but now will be sent in the second month of each quarter, to allow for better coverage of major holidays and events. As always, your submissions are welcome. We do ask that you get them to us 30 days prior to the ship date to allow time for our team to compile, edit, and make sure all of the best content makes it into print.

You can reach us at: editor@trea.org with ideas, submissions, and feedback.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to give back to you for your devotion to our country, by allowing me and my team to produce this magazine for you. God Bless America!

-Kim & the Editorial Team

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-Kim & the Editorial Team
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By John I. Adams, TREA President

A Letter from the TREA President

As TREA’s new national President, I want to thank the convention delegates and the TREA members they represented for trusting me to lead this great organization for the next two years. This is the first time the national President will serve a two-year term and I pledge to do all I can to move TREA forward.

I think we also have a great Board of Directors. For the first time ever we have a Member-at-Large (MAL) on our board. He is Gregory Barnett and I am so pleased he has joined us.

Speaking of MALs, we had the largest number of MALs at our convention we’ve ever had. There were 12 and I hope we can increase that number at every convention in the future.

Some of you may not know that we have 15 different committees at the national level that deal with the various aspects of running TREA. Each member of the Board of Directors chairs at least one of those committees. Some chair two of them.

You may notice that most of those committees have new chairs this year. That’s because I believe board members need to have knowledge about most areas of our organization, especially if he/she wants to hold the office of National President one day. I believe this will help them understand TREA much more completely. I had chaired several different committees as a director and the three vice president positions I held.

At the convention in Las Vegas we were able to accomplish a great deal and it seemed everyone enjoyed themselves. My thanks to all who attended and I hope to see more of you at the convention in Pittsburgh next year. This site was selected two years ago and more information will follow next spring.

For your long-range planning purposes the 2018 convention site is Fort Walton Beach, Fla. I want you to know that the Convention Committee will be looking at ways to cut the costs of attending our annual conventions. When we have a plan put together, we will be discussing it with your board of directors. Then, we will inform you what the plan will be.

Our conventions are important because not only do we get to renew old friendships and make new friends, but the important business of TREA is discussed and decided each year. It seems the attempts by so many politicians and bureaucrats in Washington to cut our promised and earned benefits never ends. That is especially true right now with health care, the commissaries, and even the MWR programs all under threat.

The strength of TREA directly affects our ability to fight to protect your earned benefits and that means the board and I have a lot of issues to work on. Some areas include a Marketing Plan, a plan to generate income, and a plan to utilize the 25,000 plus volunteer recruiters to recruit and retain members. We’ll also be looking for ways to generate more income and our Finance Committee will play a major role in this effort.

As this is written we still don’t know what Congress will do with regard to military personnel benefits and we still may not know by the time you read this. Once they start meeting again after the elections they’ll only have a few weeks to try and accomplish what they couldn’t do for a year.

Major legislation remains to be finished, including a bill that would make major changes to the VA, the National Defense Authorization Act – which would overhaul the military health care system, and then funding the entire federal government for the remainder of the 2017 fiscal year. Of course there is also a great deal of other important legislation that is not directly related to military personnel so it remains a mystery as to what they’ll get done.

Each week our Washington Office sends out an update by email so if you are not on that list I urge you to go to our website, www.TREA.org and sign up, or call our national office and ask to be put on the list. That way you’ll have the very latest information.

If there is urgent action about a legislative matter we’ll issue an alert by email and tell you how you can help.

Once again, I am grateful for and honored by the opportunity to lead your board of directors and this great organization. I’m looking forward to the next two years. I have some big shoes to fill – meaning all the past national presidents!

United We Stand: As the VOICE of the Enlisted Since 1963.

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The TREA National Convention has ended and we now enter the 2016-2017 year. With that, we have a newly-appointed chairperson. Our newly-elected President for TREA is John Adams and again he appointed me, Michael Davis, to chair this committee. I will give my all to this assignment and look forward to making TREA members, staff, BODs, and friends proud of the work and challenges as we move forward.

Next, I would be remix if we as a new committee didn’t acknowledge the productiveness, dedication, enthusiasm, and longevity of PNP, Ms. Dottie Holmes. Ms. Dottie Holmes would never approve of us highlighting and SALUTING her in this manner, but it’s merited, so I did it! One of her mottos is “that she could not have done it alone.” Therefore we also SALUTE the past Chairman Mr. CD Rice JR., and Mr. Nash Mines who worked with her and we thank them for being willing to stay on as committee members. Dottie, we all missed hearing your VOICE at this past convention in Las Vegas, “to the rear” during the Credential Verifications of delegates was so absent!

The new committee will have Mr. CD Rice JR., Mr. Nash Mines, and we hope PNP Mr. George Smith will accompany us and together will make TREA proud. Membership turns to sustainability!

Lastly, at our 2016 Las Vegas Convention, the delegates approved the terms of office for Vice Presidents. They shall be elected for two-year terms and may serve no more than one two-year term. This is in line with the President’s term of office and this will give us strength and continuity. Therefore, in April 2017, we will place announcements in The VOICE for the offices of Treasurer and two positions for two-year Directors. We hope that there will be individuals who will submit resumes for these positions and therefore we won’t experience what we did in Las Vegas, positions being filled by acclamation. We are better than that! We need fresh new ideas to help take TREA over into the future decades.

UNITED WE STAND

By Deb Oelschig

A Financial Report

I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as the National Treasurer for a second term. I am honored. I look forward to working with the Headquarters Staff, Board of Directors, and the Finance Committee in this coming year to examine TREA finances and make sure that we are headed in the right direction.

At this year’s convention, the delegation voted to continue annual conventions as well as voting not to open membership to TREA members’ immediate families. Both of these decisions will have a significant impact on our financial future. Conventions will become more expensive for TREA and you, the member. I believe, at a time when our membership is at an all-time low, we cannot continue to afford not to find a way to allow our families to become members. We should reconsider both of these decisions. One alternative to a convention every year would be a reunion.

I am very proud to be a member of TREA and to be in a position to make a difference. We as a Membership need to become united in our efforts to rebuild our numbers. If we could, each of us should commit to recruiting one new member; think of what a difference that would make for our numbers! We can do this by reaching out to all military and their families to let them know what we have to offer. We DO fight in Washington – we fight for veteran healthcare, the commissary, COLA and many, many other issues that affect all veterans. Let your friends and neighbors know about the TREA Memorial Foundation. The Foundation can provide Benevolence, Disaster Relief, and Scholarships. Tell your community about the Senior Citizens League. They are a TREA entity whose mission is to “promote and assist members and supporters, to educate and alert senior citizens about their rights and freedoms as U.S. citizens, and to protect and defend the benefits senior citizens have earned and paid for. TSCL consists of vocally active senior citizens concerned about the protection of their Social Security, Medicare and veteran or military retiree benefits”.

Be the Voice of the Enlisted! Be a part of TREA’s success!

By Larry Hyland, Immediate Past President

TREA Awards

Recommendations for TREA National awards for calendar year 2016 must be submitted to National Headquarters no later than March 31, 2017. TREA Form 100-43 must be completed for all awards, to include justification and citation where required. For more information, see TREA Standing Rule 88.

Okay that concludes the standing requirement and – by the book – notification, but is that it? Of course not – perhaps we need to explore the nature of awards and why some think it is using money that could be better spent elsewhere. Why do we request nominations for awards, go to great lengths to provide those awards, and ensure the award is proper for the action or actions taken? Because awards recognize both volunteer and employee journeys, and the achievements they earn for the association. That leads to the overall betterment of the association, and in the case of volunteers, shows the community through the contributions they have made on behalf of TREA.

Why shouldn’t we celebrate and support those who go above and beyond in their support roles to the association and who collectively and individually inspire others to either start volunteering, continue volunteering or achieve more – whether with TREA or in addition to TREA?

Along with volunteers though, we also need to identify and applaud our staff who, for the most part, do not hear too much during the year in the way of accolades. However, they keep their respective fingers on the pulse of the association, ensuring continuity and corporate knowledge is maintained while staying upbeat and pleasant when dealing with the myriad of inquiries from members, vendors, contractors, board members, etc. Individuals and groups, such as chapters, want to know that their work has made a difference. Probably the most viable and key to providing awards is that individuals like to be recognized –by hearing- the impact their contributions made. So keep that in mind when you submit all those nominations, which I am sure you will.

TREA has a great story to tell. We uphold our mission by working hard every day bringing value to all enlisted veterans and those still in uniform, and also by our show of strength, determination, and good will in local communities via chapter and MAL involvement. When we recognize individuals or groups, it reconfirms the fact that we are doing the right things and continue to be driven by our core values.

Most people want recognition that they believe to be both sincere and authentic. People appreciate a personalized thank you. Whether it is with words highlighting the impact of a volunteer’s or employee’s contribution to the association or a small personalized token or gift – it is the sincerity for which it was written up and conveyed that ultimately makes a difference and why we do what we do!

UNITED WE STAND
I am honored to be chosen to lead the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee in the coming year. As we saw at the convention, changes are sorely needed to move us along and to streamline our operations. To that end I have asked TREA's Director of Operations to review all of the references she must abide and identify those that hinder the business operations of the HQ. I will be formally tasking the LAO Director to the same thing and call on all of the Committee Chairman to have their members review Bylaws and Standing Rules that affect their operations, and submit changes that will allow their Committees to operate smarter. When I look at the sheer volume of guidance we all must abide by I marvel that we can accomplish anything. I am extremely fortunate to have PNP Charlie Flowers, Memorial Foundation Director Tom O'Connell, past BOD member Paul Ott on the Committee and hope to have a MAL join the group soon. I welcome MALs to volunteer for this Committee and bring the perspective of the majority of our membership the input of making the laws that govern us all. I want to remind all members that you need to have draft changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules submitted by March 30 of 2017. We need your input.

Membership Notes
By Justin G. Jump, Membership Committee Chair
2Yr Director

As Las Vegas 2016 is firm in our memories we push forward striving to make TREA the premier veterans organizations for all enlisted service members. It is this reason that I thank-you for electing me to a second term as Director and in supporting my selection to chair the membership committee.

The first task the membership committee will be focusing on is to formulate and strategize a national framework for recruiting and regional retention. We’ll be working closely with TREA HQ, Legislative and Public Affairs along with the Treasurer committees. In the end, we must leverage every aspect of TREA to ensure gains in membership are successful. This means we will be working closely with regional representatives and chapter membership chairs to meet these ends.

Only together will we achieve the gains necessary to revitalize our membership. United We Stand!

TREA IT Committee
By Philip Hilinski, TREA IT Committee

Hello fellow members! Before I start, I would like to thank all members and MALs for your interest and support at the 2016 Convention in Las Vegas; it was very memorable. The TREA IT Committee has a couple new members as well as some familiar faces. Please take some time to check out the TREA Website when the committees are updated. We had many accomplishments last TREA year including helping update the TREA Website, starting TREA Twitter, moving forward, look for new ideas such as TREA LinkedIn, postings to YouTube, and enhanced video/audio techniques, as well as an assessment of TREA D.C. There is a great Power Point presentation on the TREA Website under the IT Committee page about what TREA is all about—check it out for your chapter meeting or membership. Contact me anytime on my new TREA email at directorhilinski@trea.org. United we stand!
Chapter President of the Year

The Chapter President of the Year Award is presented to the chapter president based on the overall accomplishment of their respective chapter for the year. The winners of this award receive a Red Blazer or $100 credit towards TREA products and all their expenses for the Pittsburgh convention are paid. The Chapter President of the Year Award is presented to the chapter president based on the overall accomplishment of their respective chapter for the year.

2015 Large Chapter of the year goes to Chapter 29 in South Dakota.

Certificates of Commendation

This certificate is awarded to show appreciation for accomplishments made throughout the year.

Large Chapter of the Year

Chapters are an important part of TREA. We rely on them across the country to help spread the word of the work that we do. This award is based on member retention within the chapter, chapter growth, timely submission of TREA reports, chapter newsletter and outstanding accomplishments. 2015 Large Chapter of the year goes to Chapter 29 in South Dakota.

Small Chapter of the Year

The winner of the 2015 medium Chapter of the year, goes to Chapter 80 in Texas – Don Higginbotham is President.

Recruiter of the Year

2015 small Chapter of the year goes to Chapter 119 in Wisconsin. Butch Liebaert Received for the Chapter.

Recruiter of the Year: Runner-up

Runner-up, Carlos Lama from Chapter 9, received 15 new members during 2015. He received $75.00 cash.

Special 2015 Award

Submitted by Don Higginbotham from Chapter 80. This award presented posthumously to Isaiah Clinton from Chapter 80 for his unyielding dedication and relentless support of TREA and Chapter 80 for 23 years.

Gutierrez Americanism

The Gutierrez Americanism Award is an award presented for the development and implementation of programs and other initiatives furthering patriotism in the United States. The winner is Loney Barter, Chap. 1.

Benjamin Pearson

Awardeed to Dennis L. Feller from Chapter 29.

The Founders Award

The Founders Award for Distinguished Service is presented for distinguished service and extraordinary achievement as a TREA member over a sustained period of time. I am honored to present the 2015 recipient of this award to Mr. William DeBoer and Mrs. Alice DeBoer. Together they have 38 combined years of service, dedication and support to TREA: The Enlisted Association.

The Marjorie Holt Award

Awarded to Bill DeBoer.

Supporting Awards

TREA Auxiliary has provided 44 years of support and dedication to TREA and the mission statement.

The TREA Memorial Foundation has provided benevolent assistance to TREA members and to veterans overall for 26 years.

The Senior Citizens League – for 22 years of assistance to TREA’s senior members and to seniors overall. Thanks for a job well done!

Recruiter of the Year: Runner-up

Runner-up, Carlos Lama from Chapter 9, received 15 new members during 2015. He received $75.00 cash.

President’s Awards

Presented to each member of the TREA National Board, 1st Vice John Adams, 2nd Vice Gary Yurko, 3rd Vice Michael Davis, Treasurer Deb Oelschig, Director Justin Sharp, Director KD Rice, Director Aaron Rand, Director Phil Hilton, Parliamentarian Ed Oelshiger, VSO Michael Holzhauser, PNP Rick Delaney, TCCL, Chair Ed Cates and Memorial Chair William DeBoer.
Community Service Award

Community Service Award is presented to members and non-members for outstanding service to TREA, its chapters and/or members. The 2015 winner of this award is The Honor/Color Guard from Chapter 29.

National Awards 2015

Newsletter Awards

The winner for Large Chapter Newsletter is Chapter 1, Colorado Springs, CO
The winner for Medium Chapter Newsletter award is Chapter 80, San Antonio, TX
And the winner for Small Chapter, Newsletter award is Chapter 111 in Ohio.

Staff Awards

As you know, TREA is a large organization. Granted, we have been bigger, but nonetheless – we still have over 27,000 members across the country. It takes a great team to be able to organize, respond to, communicate with and care about all of those members. TREA is lucky enough to have that team.

Starting with our Legislative Affairs Office in Alexandria VA:

The ones that keep up in the loop on legislative issues:
Larry Madison – Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs Organizing
Deirdre Parke Holleman – Executive Director of Legislative Affairs (Pictured)

We have three new staff members, having been with TREA for as short as 3 months, they have done an outstanding job as far jumping in and learning “on the job”. (William Britt – Finance Clerk, not pictured below.)

Tanya Austin – Finance Clerk
Susan Dunn – Administrative Assistant
Debbie Osborne – Director for Operations (Pictured right)

I hope you will welcome our new director, Barbara Coley. It is always a pleasure to welcome a new person to the Auxiliary BOD and I am sure she will be an asset to the BOD and the Auxiliary. I want to single out Pat Weaver for stepping up and agreeing to take the job of Secretary. This is a job that is very challenging and time consuming. Pat is a very special person to volunteer for this unsung position.

Going forward, we face many challenges as does TREA, and it has never been more important for both BODs to partner with each other for the greater good of our great organizations. I look forward to finding ways to grow our organizations so we can truly be the “Voice of the Enlisted”.

Thank you everyone on last year’s BOD for doing an excellent job. I can truly say UNITED WE STAND.

TREA National Auxiliary WEF/Benevolent Program was developed to provide assistance to eligible auxiliary members whose spouse are deceased, leaving them without sufficient finances to purchase certain medical services and supplies which empowers them to maintain a respectful quality of life. In addition, WEF may provide for disaster or hardship awards to those members who are victims of floods, tornados, hurricanes, or fires; or to those whose limited income may prevent them from meeting financial obligations which would provide for a basic need.

This year the WEF/Benevolent Program has successfully offered support to four widows of the Auxiliary who requested assistance. The program assisted with dental care services, hearing aids, wheelchair covers, and assistance to a person who suffered a hardship due to the effects of a tornado. Our committee provided a means of comfort by reaching out to these people during a time of need.

Each of the recipients shared their appreciation with letters and cards of gratitude and thanks. One of the widows attended the National Convention this year and gave a verbal heartfelt and tearful thank you for our support.

In addition to the support of our widows, the WEF committee was the proud sponsors of the Joint Awards Luncheon for this year’s convention.

By Irmgard Cates, National Auxiliary President

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

Thank you everyone that joined our 53rd convention in Las Vegas. I hope you had a good time and will tell fellow Auxiliary members that the Convention can be a fun way to have a vacation! Yes, we did work, but we tried to make the meetings as quick as possible so you could enjoy yourselves. Hope you will meet me in Pittsburgh; we are working on that convention now! If you have suggestions or concerns about next year’s convention, please drop me a note or call.

I hope you will welcome our new director, Barbara Coley. It is always a pleasure to welcome a new person to the Auxiliary BOD and I am sure she will be an asset to the BOD and the Auxiliary. I want to single out Pat Weaver for stepping up and agreeing to take the job of Secretary. This is a job that is very challenging and time consuming. Pat is a very special person to volunteer for this unsung position.

Thank you everyone on last year’s BOD for doing an excellent job. I can truly say UNITED WE STAND.
Need Help? We’re here to help!

The Widows Emergency And Benevolent Fund (WEF) of TREA National Auxiliary
Assists members who are experiencing financial difficulty in getting health care and related needs met.
Eyeglasses/Dental Care
Medical Supplies/Hearing Aids
Financial Hardship.
If you are a member in good standing and want 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.

“Gratitude is our most direct line to God and the angels. If we ask the same, no matter how crazy and troubled we feel, we can find something to be thankful for. The more we ask gratitude, the more reason the angels will give us for gratitude and joy to exist in our lives.” ~ Emily Underwood

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2016 – 2017 TREA National Auxiliary Scholarship Winners

Quentin William Johnson
Johns Creek, GA
Berry College
Sponsor: Aux Member, Helene Schoch

Brooke McMormick
Orlando, FL
Florida State University, School of Law
Sponsor: Aux Member, Lisa McCormick

John Wesley James, III
Centennial, CO
Regis University
Sponsor: Aux Member, Gloria James

Danielle Seeger
Shorewood, WI
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Sponsor: Aux Member, Lynda Seeger

Megan Lovato
Pueblo, CO
Colorado State University, Pueblo
Sponsor: Aux Member, Shirley Lovato

Cole Johnson
Johns Creek, GA
Berry College
Sponsor: Aux Member, Helene Schoch

Cody William
Tempe, AZ
Arizona State University
Sponsor: Aux Member, Helen Suggs

Matthew Hampton
Columbia, TN
Trevecca Nazarene University
Sponsor: Aux Member, Helen Ramirez

Eric Saksa
Lucedale, MS
Pearl River Community College
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Sierra Olson
Valdosta, GA
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Sponsor: Aux Member, Shirley Schoch

Joseph Sodano
Minot, SD
North Dakota University
Sponsor: Aux Member, Sandy Ott

David Ethridge
Marietta, GA
Kennesaw State University
Sponsor: Aux Member, Sandy Ott

Sarah Renee Schneider
Colorado Springs, CO
University of Dallas
Sponsor: Aux Member, Renee Keener

Jennah Romansky
Cuyahoga Falls, OH
University of Rochester
Sponsor: Aux Member, Joyce Romansky
A Time of Remembering in Angel Fire, New Mexico

By Hazel Simeon

Just a few miles from Taos, New Mexico is a very special place for Vietnam Veterans to wander and reflect. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire, New Mexico is the first and only state park in the US dedicated exclusively to Vietnam Veterans. As you wander around the grounds you will find a helicopter that served with the 121st AHC, where it was known as the Viking Surprise and was one of the first smoke ships in Vietnam. In 1967 it was damaged so badly during a rescue operation that it had a total of 135 bullet holes in it.

Plan on spending some time there because it is a place to remember and also to talk to others about your memories of the years between November 1, 1955 and April 30, 1975. You may find a brother or sister, a mom or dad who are there to remember that time when their loved one went away to war and they did not know if they would be coming home. You may find someone who served in Vietnam, talk to them and learn from them, and say, “Welcome Home.” Above all never forget that for them have served, sacrificed and been changed by that war so far from home. Let this time in the place called Angel Fire be a time of renewal for you, let it speak to you of honor, of sacrifice, and of the dedication and commitment of those who have given themselves to service of country. That kind of service is to be revered and remembered and never forgotten.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire, New Mexico is the first and only state park in the US dedicated exclusively to Vietnam Veterans. Wandering there is a very special place for Vietnam Veterans to wander and reflect. The Memorial’s “dear Mom and Dad” created by Taos artist Doug Scott. Wander some more and you will see a bronze sculpture of an American infantryman in the field writing home. You may find a brother or sister, a mom or dad who are there to remember that time when their loved one went away to war and they did not know if they would be coming home. You may find someone who served in Vietnam, talk to them and learn from them, and say, “Welcome Home.” Above all never forget that for them have served, sacrificed and been changed by that war so far from home. Let this time in the place called Angel Fire be a time of renewal for you, let it speak to you of honor, of sacrifice, and of the dedication and commitment of those who have given themselves to service of country. That kind of service is to be revered and remembered and never forgotten.

Continue your walk and you will see a bronze sculpture of an American infantryman in the field writing home. Wonder some more and you will see bricks along the walkway that have the names of Veterans and their dates of service. Two stars signify those killed in action, one star signifies that they are still missing. Continue your walk and you will find over 2000 photographs of individuals killed in action during the Vietnam War, a library for research, and books available for loan, photographs and artifacts donated by veterans.

The background and future plans for Angel Fire Vietnam War Memorial can be found at http://www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org/
CHAPTER 29

Employees at First Interstate Bank in Rapid City, SD do fund-raising by paying for the privilege of “Wearing Jeans on Fridays” for work. They then choose several deserving non-profits to whom they award funds too. TREA Chapter 29 Honor Guard was one of the recipients for their selfless dedication to ensuring deceased veterans receive a respectful sendoff.

Pictured left to right are: Ralph Hadley, President; Carrie Martinez, Bank Representative; Chet Westman, Chapter Honor Guard Chairman; and John Martinez, Chapter Treasurer.

Ernie Summarell and Shirley Allen at Western Resources Adult Day Services. We gave a service check and cookies to the group, who is fairly new.

CHAPTER 119

RAD held on September 30, 2016:
Chapter 119 held the annual RAD at the Black Bear Casino on September 30th. Chapter President Butch Liebaert, who has been doing this for 8 years, was in charge of the RAD again, getting speakers, setting up the agenda and acting as MC. Chapter members helped during the RAD along with Cheryl Liebaert at the Registration Table, acting as runners for individual’s questions, and manning the Chapter Table. Pictured left to right are: Troy Magnuson, Gerry Stark, Dave Carlson, Butch Liebaert, and Jim Pothier. Missing when the picture was taken are: Terry Maki, Wayne Phelps, and Cheryl Liebaert, who took the picture.

Chapter 29 members chat with Shutsy Reynolds about her experience as an WASP B-25 pilot during WW2. She is a true local hero and we enjoyed every minute with her. Photo 1-r Gwen Klepsky, Shutsy Reynolds, Barb & Cark Kovacs.

Pictured left to right are Troy Magnuson and Butch Liebaert along with Big Daddy Bear (Bear Chapter 119 sent to be with Company while deployed in Afganistan) on the floor with 950th Combat Engineer Company.

Pictured front in 1st row are Larry Lockett and Butch Liebaert along with Big Daddy Bear (Bear Chapter 119 sent to be with Company while deployed in Afganistan) on the floor with 950th Combat Engineer Company.

Chapter 119 provided the Color Guard for the 2016 Annual University of Superior College Vets Expo. Pictured left to right are Butch Liebaert, Troy Magnuson, Chuck Tenlen, Jim Pothier, Doug Simensen, and Larry Lockett.

Picture of sign at entrance of new Dairyland Outdoor Veterans Retreat being built in Dairyland Wisconsin.

Shown left to right are Wisconsin Secretary of Veterans Affairs John Scoocs, shaking hands with Butch Liebaert after giving him a Vietnam War Veterans Pin.
Chapter 80 President Don Higginbottom with members of Family Endeavors who were guest speakers in June.

May Guest Speaker Anita Critis, Casualty Assistance & Survivor Benefits at Lackland Air Force Base.

Chapter 80 Vice President HC Moreland & Auxiliary President Juanita Higginbotham present a wreath at the San Antonio National Cemetery.

Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship in Roatá, Honduras, 2016.

Chapter 80 Vice President HC Moreland & Auxiliary President Juanita Higginbottom prepare to present a wreath on July 4th at the San Antonio National Cemetery.

Chapter 80 Vice President HC Moreland & Auxiliary President Juanita Higginbotham present a wreath at the San Antonio National Cemetery.

Chapter 80 President Don Higginbotham and Vice President HC Moreland signed up Anthony Burgess as a new member of TREA. The search for new members never ends and is worldwide.

Chapter 80 President Don Higginbotham signed up Theresa Honey as a new member of TREA. Picture from a Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship, August 2016.

Donate your USAA Rewards credit card points to the The ENLISTED Association and help support their mission. Each point donated is transferred to a monetary contribution; every 1,000 rewards points equals $10.

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Chapter 80 Auxiliary Makes Donation to the Storks Nest

The Storks Nest is a 501C3 program for pregnant young women who are first time mothers or any expecting women who desire to have healthy babies and prevent premature births. The program is sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, partnered with the March of Dimes. The students are required to complete all facets of the program, thereby receiving vouchers to purchase items for the baby before birth.

Chapter 80 visited the Stork’s Nest recently bearing gifts for the students and the babies. Chapter President Don Higginbotham and Vice President H.C. Moreland accompanied the auxiliary.

Pictured are Auxiliary President Elaine Moreland and Chapter President Don Higginbotham, as they present gift cards to Stork’s Nest program administrator Ginger Pope (center). Also, the Auxiliary President Moreland and a Stork’s Nest volunteer observes as past national auxiliary president, Marie Smith, and President Higginbotham speak to the students.

RECRUITMENT NEVER STOPS

The Auxiliary President of Chapter 80, Elaine Moreland, never stops recruiting. On one of her many Caribbean cruises, she and Vice President Juanita Higginbotham recruited Mrs. Phyllis Burgess, who joined for three years.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE VOICE OF THE ENLISTED:

Do you have an idea or a story you would like us to consider for The VOICE? Please let us know if you do. Short articles, Veteran-community or Chapter news is all welcome. We will even consider a favorite recipe, how-to tips, travel information and the like. This is your VOICE, please help us make it as good and interesting as possible. Please also feel free to send your suggestions as to how we can improve. We are here for you! Email us: editor@trea.org!

Chapter 80 Auxiliary Makes Annual Donation to San Antonio Fire Dept.

Martha Clinton, Spirit Award winner and Chapter 80 Auxiliary Treasurer, presented the San Antonio Fire Department with 18 fans this year. Usually Martha and her spouse, the late Ike Clinton, Chapter 80 Chaplain, made this donation together. This donation remains a legacy for the two of them, Martha and Ike. The Fire Department delivers the fans to those families and seniors who do not have proper (or any) air conditioning in their homes. This donation is appreciated by the Fire Department and the families in Bexar County, Texas.

CHAPTER 88

On Tuesday, September 6th, Auxiliary donated over 250 composition books to West Ward School.

Pictured (Left to Right): Auxiliary President Carrie Bickham and 1st Vice Marvin Brophy, representing TREA.

Hundreds of residents attended the Killeen Civic and Conference Center to remember the fallen on Memorial Day.

Pictured (Left to Right): Auxiliary President Carrie Bickham, School Counselor Wayne Moore, Auxiliary 1st Vice President Nicole Russell, and School Principal Mareen Adams.
TREA 39 President Chuck Baum, Auxiliary President Barbara Tackitt, and Sargent-at-Arms Lynn Tokach showed the spirit of Memorial Day by leading the chapter in the Annual Commerce City Colorado Memorial Day Parade. They carried the banners of the chapter and of the auxiliary and pulled a float honoring local disabled veterans and their caretakers with a colonial soldier in full dress uniform who presented a 13-star American flag to the crowds lining the parade route. The chapter also had walkers who made the children along the way happy with sweets that were handed out in abundance. Cards with stars from retired American flags attached were presented to any Veteran along the way who could be identified as well, as a tribute for their service.

The TREA name was put forth to the hundreds of observers along the route as an organization that supports our local Veterans and also remembers those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

After the parade march and ride, all participating members retired to the chapter facility for a pot luck bar-b-que meal with the chapter, saying thanks by providing the meat and having members pitch in with the side dishes typical of a Memorial Day picnic. We went the distance once again to prove that UNITED WE STAND and always will stand for all Veterans.

CHAPTER NEWS

CHAPTER 39
Shows Their Support In
The Commerce City Parade

TREA 39 President Chuck Baum, Auxiliary President Barbara Tackitt, and Sargent-at-Arms Lynn Tokach showed the spirit of Memorial Day by leading the chapter in the Annual Commerce City Colorado Memorial Day Parade. They carried the banners of the chapter and of the auxiliary and pulled a float honoring local disabled veterans and their caretakers with a colonial soldier in full dress uniform who presented a 13-star American flag to the crowds lining the parade route. The chapter also had walkers who made the children along the way happy with sweets that were handed out in abundance. Cards with stars from retired American flags attached were presented to any Veteran along the way who could be identified as well, as a tribute for their service.

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Well it’s that time of year, the first big holiday since the 4th of July. The great thing about Thanksgiving (and the 4th) is that both are celebrations that for most people don’t require presents or mandatory church attendance! So, despite the fact that families sometimes collide, these are opportunities for great times and fond memories that will last a lifetime.

Whether you are the host or traveling to friends or relatives, selecting a wine can be a painless task. Remember everyone has an uncle Lewis, “the wine aficionado” who won’t like anything or an uncle Eddie who, Lord knows what he’ll bring, or will drop a couple of ice cubes in the $100 Cabernet you’ve been saving for just this occasion and then guzzle the whole glass. Don’t forget, Aunt Edith who craves a big glass of White Zinfandel over ice or Uncle Archie who just wants a cold beer and thinks wine is stupid and only for snobs. Then there are the grandparents, spouses, friends and neighbors. How do you please them all and keep your sanity?

Let’s start with the premise that wine will make your fantastic meal even better. You don’t have to spend a fortune, you don’t have to try to please everyone, because we know with family that families sometimes collide, these are opportunities for great openings on The Benevolent Assistance, Direct Mail, Disaster response. If you would like to help The TREA Memorial Foundation in ways, if you do not wish to be a Trustee, the Foundation has submitted before December 1st, 2016 to be considered during the Foundation December meeting.

Earlier this year, The TREA Memorial Foundation requested resumes from individuals who would like to serve as Foundation Trustees. A total of seven individuals submitted their resumes. The current Trustees evaluated each of the seven resumes received and placed several resumes in the “fully qualified” category. These resumes were forwarded to the TREA National Board of Directors for the final selection. There were two resumes selected for the position of TREA Memorial Foundation by the Directors.

We would like to thank all the individuals who submitted their resumes for consideration. Every Trustee plays an important part in leading the Foundation and the newer Trustees provide insights that the serving Trustees might not otherwise have.

At the convention in Las Vegas, I announced that there was another opening for a Foundation Trustee. The resumes MUST be submitted before December 1st, 2016 to be considered during the Foundation December meeting.

If you would like to help The TREA Memorial Foundation in other ways, if you do not wish to be a Trustee, the Foundation has various committees that you could volunteer to serve. There are openings on The Benevolent Assistance, Direct Mail, Disaster Assistance, Scholarship, and Vocational Educational Committees.

Again, I would like to thank all those who had submitted their resumes for consideration for the position of TREA Memorial Foundation Trustee.

On another note, The TREA Memorial Foundation provides grants to help families in need, scholarships to children and grandchildren of TREA members, helps disaster-struck families during their times of need, and offers food cards to families who just need a little help.

The Foundation also has an “Aid to Troops” area where the Foundation will provide monetary support to those individuals who are supporting our troops in various ways. This action could be as simple as paying for the postage for a shipment of care packages going to Afghanistan or for the troops in foreign conflict areas. We also help our fighting men and women as they return home from overseas areas by sponsoring Welcome Home dinners or golf tournaments. Last year we helped the Denver CPOA with their VA Homeless Vets Holiday Meal. The paragraph below is from a member of the Denver CPOA.

“Last year you helped us out with some gift certificates (Food Cards) from Target and King Soopers to purchase some food items we used to purchase food to serve homeless Vets at the VA Hospital in Denver. It was simply amazing because there was a tremendous blizzard on the day we served our meal last December (2015) and most of the homeless vets used public transportation, and we served the most ever served (over 450 homeless vets) over the past 11 years we’ve been doing this homeless vet holiday meal.”

The TREA Memorial Foundation thanks the Denver CPOA for their actions in supporting our homeless vets and all our vets. The Foundation is looking forward to continuing our support.

First question, how much will I need? In my family we are probably talking a case or two, but for most people, a half a bottle per adult for dinner is about right. Depending on your crowd, it’s probably good to have a couple of bottles ready before dinner starts. I would recommend a nice Prosecco (La Marca or Lunetta) which is a slightly sweet Italian sparkling wine that everyone should enjoy. You can get one for about $10 that will be fine and will get the party started (make sure you have beer for Archie and a nice bottle of bourbon couldn’t hurt!) Prosecco can also be served with dinner as well.

Starting to smell that Turkey? No time to panic! Thanksgiving wine pairing is very easy. There are lots of different foods, so no one wine will be right. Let’s look at the choices.

Rieslings will go nicely with turkey, Aunt Bessee’s creamed corn, and stuffing. A few I would suggest would be J Lohr, Fetzer, or Chateau St. Michele. They should all should run about $10 as well, maybe less since retailers will have them all on sale! Stay away from Chardonnay; it will probably overwhelm the food. If you want a drier white try a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc such as Oyster Bay or Kim Crawford. Both would be good choices and are available across the country.

For a red, I’d recommend a Pinot Noir (Murphy Goode, Cambria, La Crema) and, yes, even a Merlot could work (Blackstone, CH. St. Michelle, Pepperwood Grove)! You want a lighter red to go with the turkey. Cabernet or Zinfandel will generally be too heavy. By the way, if you’re going to splurge, do it with the Pinot Noir. You can get a delicious Pinot for $15-$20, I would suggest one from Santa Barbara and a nice Merlot for $10.

After dinner you can keep drinking the Rieslings with your pumpkin pie.

So there you go. You can present your guests with 4 or 5 different wines that can be served from start to finish. As a rule of thumb, you’ll get 4 full glasses of wine per 750ml bottle, so plan accordingly depending on the size of your gathering, the size of your glasses, and other beverages you serve. Also remember that with more holidays coming up in the next month, you should not be afraid to buy extra. You’ll likely be using it through the end of the year. All the wines mentioned are available across the country and should run from $10-$20 each.

From the Easy Wine Guy to you, have a happy, safe holiday season! CHEERS and GOD BLESS AMERICA!
CONGRATULATIONS to the 2016 – 2017 TREA National Memorial Scholarship Winners

Alexa Lynn
Vienna, VA
Virginia Tech
Sponsor: George Cunningham

Kiana Drummond
Honaire, GA
University of Florida
Sponsor: Emily Drummond

Andrew Roth
Colorado Springs, CO
University of Northern CO
Sponsor: Leslie Lundin

Michael Jordan Rivera
Springfield, VA
University of Mary Washington
Sponsor: Juan Rivera

Autumn Leigh Dodson
Brandon, MS
Mississippi State University
Sponsor: Randy Dodson

Nicole Grace Bosserman
Mabie, WV
Indiana University of PA
Sponsor: Edward Bosserman

Bryanna Mazzella
Newburgh, NY
Utica College
Sponsor: Edward Thomas

Samantha Anne Coulter
Jersey City, NJ
New York University
Sponsor: Alexander B. Coulter

Christina Elizabeth Visciotti
Kingwood, TX
Baylor University
Sponsor: Ret, MSGT Luigi D Visciotti

Sarah Rachel Tuttle
White, GA
Mercer University
Sponsor: Ron Tuttle

Jacob Hopkins
Kalama, WA
Norwich University
Sponsor: TREA/TREA Auxiliary: Paul Hopkins

Lauren Gambiana
Omaha, NE
University of Nebraska
Sponsor: Steve Gambiana

Justin Blaine Cook
Apex, NC
The Ohio State University
Sponsor: James Cook

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— J. Fitzgerald, VA
A Big Public Relations Greeting

By Reverend Garry Turks, 2nd Vice President, Chaplain & Public Relations Chairman

Thank you to this great membership and all those who are involved in the great and dynamic organization called TREA: The Enlisted Association!

Oh Boy, what a good and fun time we had in Las Vegas in September! I don’t know about you, but my wife and I had a blast. It was a blessing to see old and new faces, to rekindle old friendships, and to welcome new members into the fold. The sights and sounds of Las Vegas are still exciting and fun for all. I say OUTSTANDING to The Enlisted Association staff who worked tirelessly and unselfishly on making this convention unforgettable. Thanks to DFO Debbie Osborne, Hazel Simeon, Tanya Austin, and Susan Dunin, and all of those who worked in the background to help make our convention a success. Again, we say “Thank You!”

We also had a great working session where we took care of a lot of good business for the upcoming year and beyond. Our election process has given us a new Director, Greg Burnett, and a new two-year President, John Adams. Welcome to both of them.

With that being said, we want to say thank you to Past National President, Larry Hyland, for his great leadership, his tenacity, and his dedication to our organization for the last two years serving as our President. I will value our friendship for life.

Our new President brings with him new visions, ideas, and new goals. President Adams has already assigned all Board members to new committees in his vision. All board members know something different and learn all aspects of all committees. This is to assure that our Board Members won’t become complacent or stuck in just one area. President Adams wants us, the board members, to be flexible and knowledgeable in all aspects of this organization.

This brings me to my assignment as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee. I totally accept the challenge, the commitment, the hard work, and the great expectations this membership expects, demands and deserves. This is my mission statement: Motivation, Dedication, Communication and Publication.

This equals great expectations for an Enlisted Association market blitz to get our brand out to everyone who is eligible.

My goals are to increase the marketing and awareness of TREA: The Enlisted Association among Enlisted, Retired, Reserve, and Veterans across all services, to enhance TREA’s image and reputation among the populous through involvement in local communities, local military bases, and all corporations who serve veterans and VA Hospitals. I want to publicize benefits and increase the membership of TREA, and assist TREA Chapters in establishing effective public relations programs. I want to develop procedures for a nationwide promotion of TREA, particularly in areas with large concentrations of military enlisted, retired and all veterans.

This would be a total marketing blitz to all parties interested in supporting our great organization and what we stand for, including TSCIL, The Memorial Foundation, and our Auxiliary.

I have assembled ten of the best marketing and public relations people possible. They are all going to be dedicated, loyal, committed, and faithful to this Public relations campaign. This includes bringing me all of the angles and ways to bring out the brand name of TREA and our purpose.

This faithful committee includes,

- Co-Chair and Contact, contact, Caroline Allen, MAL, CO – directorallen@hotmail.com
- PNP Committee Representative, PNP Garry Hiland, PNP, MS – gtpnp@trea.org
- Committee Member: Sherry Ditto, Chapter 30, OH – sherryditto@hotmail.com
- Committee Member: Steven Daven, Chapter 30, OH – tedv@aol.com
- Committee Member: Mike Reeder, Chapter 30, OH – mike_reeder@trea.org
- Committee Member: Michael W. Stringfellow, Chapter 54, TX – mspa@trea.org
- Committee Member: Greg Barrett MAL, CO – directorbarrett@trea.org
- Committee Member: George W. McIlhine, Chapter 54 AZ – gmcilhine@trea.org
- Staff Advisor: Debbie Osborne, DFO, TREA Headquarters – debbe@trea.org

I can guarantee that each and every advisor and committee member including myself will be working diligently toward bringing ways and means to make this organization prosper again both monetarily and in membership. This will be our commitment to you and our membership.

You as members are the most important part of this public relations campaign. Please continue to be out there on the battlefield getting TREA’s name out. If you see a veteran in your daily and weekly travels, tell them about The Enlisted Association. If you visit any of the VA Hospitals, tell veterans about The Enlisted Association. If you are a Disabled Veteran or Veterans License Plate, take the time to talk to them and tell them about TREA. If you are at a Veterans event, stop to explain to the veterans about TREA and the value of their membership. We as The Enlisted Association need your help in getting out the good work of TREA and all or the great benefits of becoming a member of our beloved organization and everything we stand for.

So, let us all act as one unit in making this marketing effort work for TREA. Fun and exciting things are planned and I want all TREA members to be involved. Caroline Allen has been assigned the Public Relations Convention contact for the Pittsburgh planning team. Please reach out to her for ideas and suggestions for a fantastic 2017 Convention.

Ready, Set, Go. This is the start of something great for TREA. This committee and I will move forward aggressively on implementing this PR Program. This committee is ready and I am definitely ready for a new direction in this public relations department of TREA. So, let’s go to work! And, with God on our side, who can be against us?

Oh What Fun It Is To Drive!

Devoted collectors of the distinctive Chevrolet Bel Air® know it is one of the most beloved cars ever to hit the open road. Past premium vehicle, part show-stopping American classic, this revolutionary car symbolizes a nostalgic era of design innovation. Now, you can add some classic charm to your Christmas with the first-ever Bel Air® Oh What Fun It Is To Drive! Illuminated Tree from The Bradford Exchange. This hand-crafted treasure stands a foot high and offers stunning views from any angle. Five precision sculpted, hand-painted cars celebrate all your favorite and most-collected signature Bel Air® models. Each car boasts chrome-like finishes and silver-tone license plates featuring the model year. Classic logos and emblems, an illuminated star topper, festive ornaments and bows add winning style. 20 LED lights illuminate the tree, accompanied by the revving of a Bel Air® engine.

Listen! As the sound of an engine revs up!

Strictly Limited. Order Immediately!

Strong demand is expected for this premiere Bel Air® collectible, limited to just 120 casting days. Order now at $129.99*, payable in four installments of $32.50, with your first payment due before shipment. Your purchase is backed by the 1-2-3-5-day money-back guarantee. Send no money now. Just complete and mail the Reservation Application today!

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• 20 long-lasting LED lights illuminate for showroom shimmer

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Brisket shown much smaller than actual size of 12” high. Retailers 3/4” of our exclusive 20% discount on this item included. Tree shown much smaller than actual size of 12” high. Requires 3 “AA” batteries (not included).
TREA: The Enlisted Association 2016 National Convention Recap

Thursday, September 15th to Saturday, September 17th
Tuscany Suites & Casino
Las Vegas, NV

TREA HQ Staff: Susan Dunn, Debbie Osborne, Hazel Simeon & Tanya Austin

Chuck Zeitvogel of Chapter 1 celebrating with the “Rat Pack”

“Sammy”
“Dean”

President Larry Hyland
DFO Osborne and “Rat Pack”

TREA Members enjoy posing for pictures with the “Rat Pack” and the Tuscany Suites Showgirls

“Rat Pack” visiting with Brian Collins & Laura Lule from USAA

CMSgt Arcuri - Opening Ceremonies Guest Speaker from Nellis AFB

CMSgt Arcuri - Opening Ceremonies Guest Speaker from Nellis AFB

Opening Ceremonies Guest Speaker CMSgt Arcuri, 2nd Vice Garry Turks, MAL Erin Trowbridge

1st Business Meeting (1-1): Paul Ott, Auxiliary PNP Sandy Ott, Auxiliary PNP Renee Keener, TREA PNP Art ‘Coop’ Cooper, Auxiliary PNP Marie Smith, TREA PNP George Smith

A full room - Delegates pay close attention at the 1st TREA Business Meeting

Emcee - Director Reed
Delegates from Chapter 1, Colorado Springs: Chapter President Ray Garate, Roger DeLosh, Joseph Khack, Lonny Barrett & Melvin Yell

Chapter 1 Delegate Lonny Barrett visits with Memorial Trustee Mel Yell

TREA’s Board of Directors - (front row, l-r): VSO Holzhauser, TSCL Chair Cates Memorial Chair Tabacheck, Director Hilinski, Director Jump, Director Rice, Director Reed, PNP Delaney. (top row, l-r): Treasurer Oelschig, Parliamentarian Flowers, President Hyland, 1st Vice Adams, 2nd Vice Turks, 3rd Vice Davis

TREA’s 1st Business Meeting

Memorial Chair Tabacheck, Director Hilinski, Director Jump & Director Rice

TREA’s Board of Directors

2nd Vice & Chaplain Turks opens the Bible to start the Business Meeting

President Hyland and 2nd Vice & Chaplain Turks take a moment to talk business at the President’s Reception Breakfast

President Hyland discusses issues with Memorial Trustees Lieberart and O’Connell

Salute during the National Anthem to start the 1st Business Meeting

Nellis AFB Color Guard presents the American Flag

Mrs. Paz Hyland, President Hyland and Emcee Director Reed

Edgar Shallenberger enjoying a break with other convention delegates

Book signing with speaker Eric Poole

Auxiliary PNP Marie Smith and the lady behind the President - Mrs. Paz Hyland
Auxiliary President Cates and Auxiliary PNP Keener present Auxiliary member Sherry Eller with an award.

CANDID CONFERENCE SHOTS: A great time was had by all of our delegates! So many shared smiles.

MAL Doug Osborne visits with Chapter 113 Delegate, Lanny Eller.

DFO Osborne receiving an award at the TREA Awards Dinner.

President Larry Hyland celebrating TREA’s accomplishments at this year’s Awards Dinner.

Myriam & Leonard Black with Luz & Louis Arana, Sr. visit before the banquet.

Paul & Sandy Ott with Cheryl & Butch Liebaert enjoying each others’ company before the Installation Banquet.

Rafael & Michelle Cadena attend the Installation Banquet (Michelle is President Hyland’s Daughter).
“My friends all hate their cell phones... I love mine!”
Here’s why.
Say goodbye to everything you hate about cell phones. Say hello to the ALL-NEW Jitterbug Flip.

“Call phones have gotten so small, I can barely dial mine.” Not the new Jitterbug® Flip. It features a larger keypad for easier dialing. It even has a larger display so you can actually see it.

“I had to get my son to program it.” Your Jitterbug® Flip set-up process is simple. We’ll even program it with your favorite numbers.

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“I don’t need stock quotes, Internet sites or games on my phone. I just want to talk with my family and friends.” Life is complicated enough... The Jitterbug® Flip is simple.

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President Hyland presents the book

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The Color Guard from Nellis AFB, presents the colors.
A strong sense of unity and devotion to TREA permeated the Convention in Las Vegas as members and delegates convened for the 53rd convention. Many arrived on Wednesday and kicked off the events with a happy hour before devoting their time and talent to the organization they love and support. As Editor-in-Chief of The Voice, it was my honor and privilege to attend with open eyes and ears.

September 14: The Board of Directors came to the first “social” event a bit later than they expected, as pre-Convention meetings were intense, detailed, and important for the organization. While they were away, attendees heard from TSCL Executive Director, Shannon Benton, and others. Ms. Benton shared information about the work TSCL does not only on behalf of TREA, but also on behalf of all seniors. Their lobbyists work in Washington on topics most pressing for American senior citizens, including cost of living adjustments and the rising and under-noted impact of health care as a portion of income for seniors.

We also heard from the Memorial Foundation representative, Mark Tabacheck, who explained how that organization deploys funds to help those in need. If you are not familiar with the Memorial Foundation, they are actively working for you as members and your legislative interests. Finally, Auxiliary President Irmgard Gades spoke about upcoming plans for the National Auxiliary.

September 15: On Thursday, the convention kicked off in full with Opening Ceremonies that included an Honor Guard presentation from Nellis Air Force Base, followed by speaker, Chief Master Sergeant William J. Arcuri, 99th Mission Support Group Superintendent from Nellis Air Force Base. The Chief opened by reminding attendees that what happens in Vegas does not always stay in Vegas and by telling a few good jokes while sharing information about the work he and his team do to support flight operations in the expansive area for which he is responsible. It includes not only the Air Base complex at Nellis, but also Creech Air Force Base and the entire Nevada Test and Training Range, also known as the “NTTR.” The installation, he asserted, plays “an invaluable role in the continual work to ensure we maintain a tactical advantage in air, space and cyber space.”

After Chief Master Sergeant Arcuri concluded his address to the group, the members of the Auxiliary left to commence their stage in air, space and cyberspace. “It is we and it is team, and together we are what makes this organization.” From that point, delegates dove into the committee reports, and into detailed TREA business, including a vibrant discussion about changing the convention. Some feel TREA should only convene in Denver, as it is central and where headquarters are. This would save significant cost. Some felt TREA should compromise and meet every other year in Denver or Colorado Springs for the same reasons.

The discussion on this question was long and sometimes emotional. Many points of view were heard. One important note is that the members at large (MALs) were a large portion of the attendees this year and many were new. It was further pointed out, that to keep those new members engaged, an annual meeting is needed so that they get a feel for the organization, its leadership, and its history. Several people pointed out, as did first time convention attendee, Walt Coley, Chapter 34, “my sense is that this is a fraternal organization first...you have to decide,” he asserted, “what makes TREA TREA? Two years is a long time for the old guys and a long time to wait to pass on information to newer members. This culture may not survive those two years.”

The next significant discussion was that of adding “Associate membership” for family of deceased TREA members. This also let to discussion and quick research related to the charter and what is acceptable. If TREA were to do this, “Courtesy Members” (or whatever they would be called) could not be more than 25% of total national membership without a change to the existing charter and rules. PNP Delany confirmed this fact during the discussion and the decision at this time was against adding non-military or non-enlisted members at this time.

While all of this was going on, ballots were tallied and election winners were announced. The Directors that were named were Mr. Jump and Mr. Barnett. Then, the vote went on to look at ball- lilies for future conventions. The choices were: Shreveport, LA, Ft. Walton Beach, FL, Ft. Silt, MT, or Dayton, OH. Apparently, the beach was compelling enough to most to get the votes, as it won by a solid margin. With that decided, we moved on to the Awards Luncheon.

We have noted the award winners in a separate part of The Voice for your review. (See page 6.) Suffice it to say, it was a parade of excellence in service, as person after person was acknowledged by President Hyland. At one point, just before the TSCL Awards, we...
the President said, “It is not I. It is not me. It is we and it is team, and together we are what makes this organization grow.”

After lunch, meetings resumed and Mr. Jump kicked us off and delegates discussed dues. Some adjustments due to cost / benefit and it was agreed that there would be a modification of the 3 year dues, as they cost more to administer in paperwork than they yield in benefit for TREA. This passed quickly.

The attendees discussed and declined to change the size of the committee members, as it was decided that now, when growth is needed, cutting back on the number of people doing work on behalf of TREA would be unwise and would shift the burden back to the remaining committee members, making it harder to recruit new leaders. Additional points of business were addressed and the meeting sped along quickly through the final break of the day.

When it resumed, the President made announcements and with a few other comments, we moved to what was one of the most interesting parts for a new observer to TREA conventions. That was the part of the meeting “For the Good of the Order”. Perhaps it was because it was a full day, or perhaps it was the effect of meeting so many incredible people in the days prior, but, as a new observer and - as I try to be your eyes and ears, watching and listening on behalf of those who could not attend - I found the “Good of the Order” to be - in some ways - the heart of all that was said and done at the convention.

During this period from 4:00 until we adjourned 48 minutes later, people approached the microphones and spoke freely. We heard many points of view. We heard many kudos and some critiques. We heard several questions. Some required answers and some were rhetorical. We heard members thanking members, and we heard members expressing their heartfelt love of country, of each other as long-time friends, and of TREA as a beacon of hope for the enlisted people who volunteer to serve our country.

Mostly we heard passion for the cause that TREA represents and ways in which a diverse and devoted membership is approaching its obligation to the organization. New members and MALs expressed their appreciation. Some who did not get elected this time doubled-down on their commitment to future leadership roles if possible.

It was PNP Smith who offered the final comments before Chaplain Turks closed The Bible and read the benediction. His emotional words of thanks were what stuck with many along with the prayer and the devoted sound of the Bible being closed. It was quite a set up for the Installation Banquet that followed.

Finally, a few words about the Installation Banquet. Again, as a first time participant and The VOICE editor, I was warned that it “might be a bit emotional”. I was not at all prepared for the POW/MIA Ceremony and for the overwhelming pride and humility I felt as we held hands and sang Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the USA”. I should have had a box of tissues! The evening was well done by all who worked to plan and it was exciting to see (and now to have gotten to know) the new leadership installed. We had an interesting speaker, Mr. Eric Poole, who talked about his book, and we closed the evening with smiles and many warm embraces.

TREA has a lot to do in the coming years to ensure her vitality and increase the ranks, but if the dedication and devotion evidenced in Las Vegas this year is coupled with determination, real work, and collaboration among members and, perhaps between TREA and others, TREA can and should have a promising future for generations to come.

Thank you to TREA for a wonderful 2016 Convention! Here are a few candid shots from throughout the event. To view the full album, see pages 28-34.

2017 - PITTSBURGH!
It’s never too early to get excited!!

Check our website (www.trea.org) for up-to-date information on this upcoming convention!
Being Mindful of What We Eat During the Holidays
By Kim DeCoste

As we see the leaves on the ground and the retail stores starting to ramp up for the holidays, we are also reminded of one of the best things about the season to come—all of the delicious food and drink that we enjoy during the holidays. Starting with Halloween, for many of us, from the end of October until the ball drops at midnight on New Year’s Eve, we start snacking, baking, cooking, drinking, and stuffing ourselves with a lot of extra calories.

What can we do? It is easy to say “moderation is key,” but really, we need to find some effective tips to help us avoid over-eating and over-snacking. Our team did some research and found the following tips we can all use from The Huffington Post recently:

1. Switch it up:
You often are thinking about the next piece of candy before finishing the one you have. To slow down and enjoy each piece of candy as you are eating it, eat with your non-dominant hand (if you are left handed, eat with your right). This will help prevent you from mindlessly popping candy into your mouth. Research indicates that this simple swap can cut down on how much you eat by approximately 30 percent. — Dr. Susan Albers, author of the National Bestseller, EatQ

2. Halloween “fairy”:
Robin Treasure, the Wellness Strategist states, “In our home (with a 5-year-old) the “candy fairy” appears at night after every holiday, takes all the candy, and leaves coins. The candy gets chucked mercilessly in the trash. (Our team thinks this is pretty “harsh”, but we concede that throwing it all away would work. It does seem like a waste, though!)”

3. Pumpkin seeds:
If you’re super-stressed and anxious you’re going to stress eat! Here is a great Halloween tip to lower your stress and sugar cravings: Enjoy some spicy, roasted pumpkin seeds. They are high in zinc and tryptophan so they’ll raise serotonin, your happy and calming brain chemical. They’re also a great snack to help keep your blood sugar stable and mood even. — Trudy Scott, author of The Antianxiety Food Solution and host of The Anxiety Summit

4. Tahini:
Have tahini or coconut oil with any Halloween candy to cut the sugar shock, but also maintain the fatty richness of the candy. Think of adding tahini as making an instant candy-filled version of Halva and coconut oil as a decadent buffer to your sugar buzz. — Dr. Sam from tenpointwellness.com

5. Go green this Fall:
Beginning with Halloween and all the way through Thanksgiving, decorate with organic pumpkins and squash and then eat the decorations! With bellies full of nutrient-dense foods, everyone is less likely to eat the sweets and junk food snacks! — Elaine De Santos from FamilyForHealth.com

6. Protein:
If candy is still in the house post-Halloween, eat a breakfast of protein, such as eggs or turkey bacon, with healthy fat, such as avocado or almond butter, in order to prevent from being too hungry and wanting to reach for the candy. — Heather Morgan, MS, NLC, Nutrition Coach, Radio Host, Columnist Owner of Morgan Holistic Health, Sonoma CA

7. Avoid emotional eating:
With all that extra sugar around, don’t let stress and overwhelm tip the scales! If you find your hand in the treat bowl or the cookie jar, ask yourself if candy or cookies are what you need or if there is a better fix for what you are really craving. Are you actually hungry, or are you tired, bored, stressed, or looking for a quick pick me up? Make a pact not to use Halloween treats and other junk food to feed your hidden hungers. — Dr. Melissa McCreery, psychologist, emotional eating expert at TooMuchOnHerPlate.com

8. “Eat dessert first”:
To avoid big blood sugar swings that can keep you (and the kids) awake all night on Halloween and after, I recommend eating candy first and then winding down the evening with a high-protein dinner like chili or beef or turkey burgers. Keeping blood sugar more stable will calm cravings for even more sugar, and keep kids (and parents or grandparents) from waking up in the middle of the night with a blood sugar drop. — Jessica Drummond, MPT, CCN The Integrative Pelvic Health Institute

9. Sweeten your palates:
It may sound counterintuitive, but actually having healthier sweet treats keeps me away from candy and holiday baked treats. Our tradition: a bowl of homemade chili topped with avocado to keep blood sugar balanced and cravings at bay + a mug of warm, spiced apple cider. Spiced cider comforts, warms and aids digestion while knocking out sweet cravings. Using the “switch witch” and tossing out the candy doesn’t hurt either! — Jen Wittman of TheHealthyPlate.org.

Being mindful of what we are eating and drinking is more than half of the battle. It is easy to pack in a lot of extra calories without even noticing it while socializing at parties or while sitting on the couch watching your favorite holiday movies. We also recommend (from personal experience) that having candy dishes loaded is not a great idea. Do not forget all the beautiful seasonal fruits and as we remember as it gets dry in the winter months, keep drinking water to feel full and stay hydrated as well. Have a happy, healthy, holiday season!

Adapted from the internet http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-susan-albers/tips-for-a-mindfully-sw_b_6051888.html on October 1, 2016.
In September TREA – the Enlisted Association Washington Office staff got to meet many of you and talk about federal legislation and regulatory changes. We were happy to hear about your desires, worries, and concerns. But many of you we not there so please do not hesitate to call or email us about what you would like to focus on in next year’s new 115th Congress. We also have TREA Board of Director member Aaron Reed as our new Chairman of the Legislative Committee. So it was new and interesting times before we even returned home.

It has been an exciting fall in Washington once we returned. By the time you are reading this article we will probably already have a new President-elect, a new House of Representatives and Senate and a brand new lame duck session of Congress and a Lame duck President. (If you not will still be sitting on pins and needles!) If the Democrats lose the Presidency and/or the Republican lose control of either the House or the Senate or both Houses there will be great storm winds over DC. But what will that last fact mean to the legislative and regulatory issues that TREA members care about? No one really knows.

Along with fighting the proposed co-pay increases we are continuing to age the Congressional Committees to:

- Severely cut the Basic Housing Allowance (BHA) for the Active Duty.
- (The Senate accepted the administration’s proposal to cover only what servicemembers actually pay in rent and also make servicemembers (whether spouses or roommates) living in one residence split the housing allowance.
- Cut back on veterans preference benefits. (Presently veterans hiring preference applies no matter how many federal jobs a veteran may have in his or her life. The Senate again accepted the Pentagon’s idea that a veteran would have preference when he or she is applying for a first federal job. But it would then be abolished when trying to move into different federal jobs. Additionally the present system gives veterans preference if his/her department is subject to a Reduction-in-Force (RIF). The Senate version would abolish that.)

We think we have a good chance of killing all or most of those 2 proposals. Additionally, there is still pending a proposed major overhaul and regulation of the TRICARE healthcare benefit. How much will pass, we really don’t know. We don’t even have much of a guess. But some of the most dramatic proposed changes are:

- Creating Two TRICARE options: TRICARE Select, similar to TRI­ CARE Prime, a managed care option that is centered at Military Treatment Facilities (MTF). And TRICARE Choice, which is somewhat similar to TRICARE Standard, but is really a PPO offering more choice than TRICARE Select but at a higher cost.
- (Fixed Co-pays for the TRICARE Choice option of patients using a pre­ determined network. This will especially apply when patients see a provider out of the network.)

Next year the House of Representatives’ VA Committee will be very dif­ ferent. The present Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL) is retiring and the VA’s Ranking Member Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL) lost a primary bid after being arrested for fraudulently using the money from a schol­ arship. So who will win and lose control of the House the VA will have new Congressional leadership.

Chairman of the House Jeff Miller (R-FL) has been trying for the last five years to improve and strengthen Congress’ ability to oversee the VA. He has introduced several bills to that end. And this is his last chance. HR 280 would authorize the Secretary of the VA to recoup bonuses and awards from VA employees. With only 9 co-sponsors the House passed the bill and amended it and sent it to the Senate for its consideration. (It “Authorizes the Departments of Veterans Affairs to issue an order directing a VA employee to repay the amount, or a portion of the amount, of an award or bonus paid to the employee if (1) the VA determines that such repayment is appropriate, and (2) the employee is afforded notice and an opportunity for a hearing conducted by another federal agency. Makes such repayment decisions final and unreview­ able.”)

Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) has a similar bill. S. 627 now has 15 co-sponsors. It has passed the Committee and reported out to the full Senate. It is still waiting for a vote.

Other bills with the same goals include S.1496 introduced by Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and H.R. 280 the TRICARE Employee Ac­ countability Act introduced by Rep Ryan Costello (R-PA) (HR 70 to 28, the Senate has validated that we need to move carefully and protect the EARNED benefits of our military service mem­ bers and their families. This is a MAJOR success for our Servicemember Coalition. It is still not over yet. There are still those that would destroy this im­ portant benefit. For our Facebook family, we are once again to help us grow the Coalition. Please forward to your family and friends. As threats increase, so must our Coalition to protect.

Stand Alone Legislation and Areas of Concern:

Concurrent Receipt: Representative Sanford Bishop (D-GA) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) have both reintroduced their bills that will allow the remaining longevity military retirees to collect both their retired pay and their VA disability pay. Rep Bishop’s H.R.41-G.H.R.333 has now 81 co-sponsors while Rep Bilirakis’ (R-FL) H.R. 303 has 121 co-sponsors. But nothing has happened and it is extremely likely that we will now need to start again in January at the 115th Har­ ry Reid’s (D- NV) companion bill is H. 27). It now has 25 co-sponsors.

Next year we will need to find a new champion in the Senate since Harry Reid is retiring. If you have any suggestions please contact me at our WVAC Washington Office.

Active Duty: Last year DoD changed the Flat Rate for long term TDYs (defined as over 30 days.) From day 31-90 a service member would receive only 75% of the locality rate. For the time to more than 180 days the flat rate drops to 55% of locality rate. We all knew that the regular locality (yes it goes by geography not city as a misstep. H.R. 1193 introduced by Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA) and Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) would stop this trick and indexing of service members. It now has 35 co-spon­ sors but has not moved out of Committee.

Veterans: The Administration is proposing a VA budget of $182.3 bil­ lion for FY2017. This includes $78.7 billion in discretionary spending and $103.6 billion in mandatory spending (This includes the Continuing Reso­ lution (CR) that provides for the federal government through December 2016 provides a full year appropriation for the Department of Veterans Affairs. That is why getting 5 year funding was so important.

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Senator Jerry Moran’s (R-KS) companion bill S.290 now has grown to 26 co-sponsors. Chairman Miller’s H.R.571 would also increase “…the flat rate for long term TDYs (defined as over 30 days.) From day 31-90 a service member would receive only 75% of the locality rate. For the time to more than 180 days the flat rate drops to 55% of locality rate. We all knew that the regular locality (yes it goes by geography not city as a misstep. H.R. 1193 introduced by Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA) and Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) would stop this trick and indexing of service members. It now has 35 co-spon­ sors but has not moved out of Committee.

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It’s NOT Too Late for an Emergency COLA!
By Jessie Gibbons, Senior Policy Analyst

When this year’s Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was announced over one year ago, TSCL’s members and supporters flooded our office with concerns. Alan of Nevada told us, “No COLA means I will be going to the doctor less, going some nights without food, and I will probably have to let my car go … No COLA is an insult to all of us who depend on Social Security for our income.”

For Social Security beneficiaries like Alan, the passage of an emergency COLA would provide much-needed relief at a time when Social Security benefits are simply not keeping up rising costs. Just weeks remain in the lame duck session of the 114th Congress, but The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) and many others in Washington are not giving up the fight for an emergency COLA.

The inflation index that’s currently used to calculate COLAs isn’t doing the job for retired and disabled Americans since it’s based on the way young, urban workers spend their money. It leaves out others in Washington are not giving up the fight for an emergency COLA. The inflation index that’s currently used to calculate COLAs isn’t doing the job for retired and disabled Americans since it’s based on the way young, urban workers spend their money. It leaves out others in Washington are not giving up the fight for an emergency COLA.

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The POW/MIA Ceremony
By Hazel Simeon

For those of you who attended the 2016 TREA National Convention in Las Vegas in September you will have witnessed a very solemn ceremony by “Butch” Liebaert and narrated by PNP Rick Delaney. You may have witnessed the ceremony at other conventions or other events and, although your soul was touched and you honored the prisoners and the missing you may not have known what the elements of the ceremony are and what they represent, or why we even have such a ceremony. Maybe you had comrades in your unit who were lost and are not yet found, may—be you don’t know if they have ever been found and returned to their families.

I will be writing a column for each issue of the VOICE magazine about the POW/MIA situation and try to update you on current progress or events. For this issue I simply want to look at the Missing Man Table Ceremony because we recently performed one and it touched me deeply.

These are the elements and the meanings of each:

- Table is set for one, is small, symbolizing the frailty of one isolated prisoner. The table is usually set close to, or within sight of, the entrance to the dining room. For large events the Missing Man Table is set for six places: members of the five armed services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard) and a sixth place setting reminiscent of the civilians who died during service alongside the armed forces or missing during armed conflict. Table is round to represent everlasting concern on the part of the survivors for their missing loved ones.
- Tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country’s call to arms.
- Single red rose in the vase, signifies the blood that many have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith, while awaiting their return.
- Yellow ribbon on the vase represents the yellow ribbons worn on the lapels of the thousands who demand with unyielding determination a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us tonight.
- Slice of lemon on the bread plate: represents the bitter fate of the missing.
- Salt sprinkled on the bread plate: symbolic of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait.
- Inverted glass: represents the fact that the missing and fallen cannot partake.
- Lit candle: reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation.
- Empty chair: the missing and fallen aren’t present.
- Lit candle: reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our open arms of a grateful nation.
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May we never forget our missing and fallen comrades and may God bring them home to the arms of their families.
Prepare Now for the Next Opportunity
By TREA President John I. Adams

Now is the time to prepare for our next opportunity. While we are employed, it is tempting to sit back and coast in relation to our professional development. Each day we work, we gain experience, but then, so do those who will compete with us as to future opportunities.

The question we should always have on our mind is, “What is the next best use of our time through which we can learn and grow?” An area to examine are the job descriptions of opportunities for which we have an interest. We should evaluate how our skills and credentials match up. This gap analysis will allow us to set goals which will enable us to become ever more competitive for advancement or for a potential career change.

In this evaluation, we should consider evidence of our education and experience. If we lack an element of experience, we should assess how we might gain such from our current position. We can enhance our experience by volunteering for projects within our current employment or through volunteer projects which might be available through professional associations or in support of non-profits or community service organizations. The contacts we make through such endeavors may also expand our personal network through which we may discover opportunities within the hidden job market.

When we evaluate education credentials, we must remember an additional degree is not always the answer. Sometimes an employer may look more for professional certificates. Certificates provide a means of study and testing which generate a confidence level to a hiring manager that we have a certain knowledge set.

If we are up to date in formal education, we must not consider our learning as done. In such situations, we must develop a self study program from which we will continue to learn, grow and modernize our technical, academic, policy and practical knowledge.

Our gap analysis and goal setting must be periodic and revised as appropriate. Something of which we must be very careful to guard against is procrastination. It is tempting to tell ourselves we can start the program next week, but next week never comes. Instead, we must develop the discipline to carve out time today. If we reserve a portion of our work day for purposes of professional development, even if only 20 minutes a day, our investment will grow and we will advance beyond those who are complacent.
We Earned Our Stripes

TREA Celebrates All of the Brave Men & Women Who Serve the United States