

THE VOICE

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

Washington Update

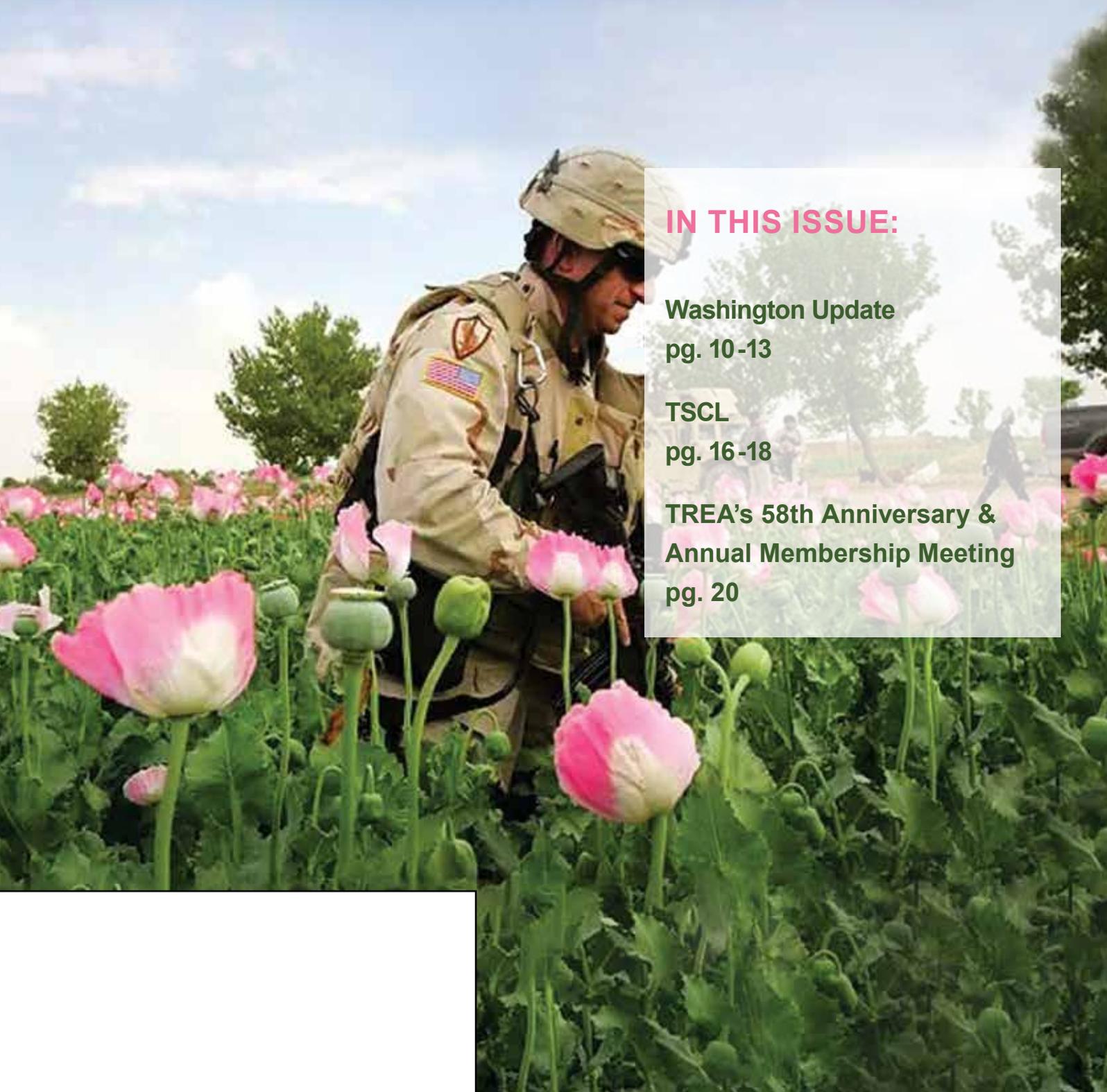
pg. 10-13

TSCl

pg. 16-18

TREA's 58th Anniversary &
Annual Membership Meeting

pg. 20



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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.



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The magazine staff can be reached by email at editor@trea.org. Editor-in-Chief, Debbie Osborne
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Submissions

The VOICE accepts articles and photographs on a continual basis, but does not pay for submissions. Please send all articles and photos via email to editor@trea.org or by mail to 12200 E. Briarwood Ave., Ste 250, Centennial, CO 80112. There is no guarantee that any submission will be published. Photos must be high quality in order to be printed in the magazine. Low quality photos will not be printed.

Deadlines

For copy and photos (with captions, please) the deadline is the 15th day, two months prior to magazine release.
Next deadline is June 15th, 2021.

Advertising

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

Postmaster (address change)

Please send address changes to The VOICE, 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250 Centennial, CO 80112 or by email to treaHQ@trea.org. Periodicals postage paid at Englewood, CO and other mailing offices.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Justin Jump, National President



GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well during recovery as our State and Nation rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccinations are becoming more available and in turn Americans are returning to a sense of normalcy. Your executive board members understand how difficult recovering from a natural disaster is and we are making great strides to ensure TREA assistance is available for those veterans, servicemembers and their families for years to come. As National President I am thrilled and ecstatic in discussing some of our greatest achievements over the past few months.

First, TREA GIVES, our newly established benevolent program has officially kicked off and is accepting applications from those who may require aid. This program is established and managed by TREA's Benevolent Committee to aid fellow veterans, servicemembers and their families. 1st Vice Oelschig, Committee Chair and I are quite proud of such efforts being made and are looking forward to further aiding our fellow comrades. If you are interested in helping advance this cause through a donation, please contact National Headquarters for further details.

TREA has been hard at work ensuring our earned benefits and services are protected at the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, on Capitol Hill, and at the White House. It is our privilege to be advocates in Washington D.C. on your behalf delivering on legislative and regulatory wins for service members, veterans, and their families in the 116th Congress. To learn more about our legislative accomplishments and priorities in the 117th Congress, make sure to read the Washington Report on pages 10 and 11.

Every veteran service organization has been impacted by last year's COVID pandemic. There is no exception when it concerns TREA and our operations. The ability to gather for the 2020 Annual Membership Business Meeting and further socializing events was gravely impacted and were provided by multi-media conference. Nonetheless, we have hopes that normal programming will be on track as we plan for the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting in San Diego for this September. I am personally encouraging our members to join the Board of Directors during this time. This will be a great opportunity to shed the feeling of cabin fever, gather and celebrate one another's military service and the future success of TREA.

In a special note, we are continually looking for willing and able volunteers to participate in many of our various committees. Contact Headquarters staff so they may match you with a committee that couples skills and abilities with the appropriate committee.

TREA: The Enlisted Association has a strong, loud, and vibrant legislative foundation and we continue to use this aspect to grow every year. We may shift in response to the ever-changing political climates, but one thing remains true. TREA's dedication is paramount in taking care of the Enlisted Corps of the Armed Forces, past, present, and future.

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Justin G Jump
National President

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TABLE POF CONTENTS

Letter from the President	pg. 4
Chaplain's Corner	pg. 6
Washington Update	pg. 10-13
Auxiliary	pg. 14
TSCL	pg. 16-18
425 Days	pg. 19
TREA's 58th Anniversary & Annual Membership Meeting	pg. 20
Why Join TREA	pg. 22

TREA National Director & Chaplain, Garry Turks



Anyone who has ever read the Bible, in whole or in part, knows that there are hundreds of references to helping others, doing good and providing for those who cannot provide for themselves. In fact, the word 'giving' or 'possessions' is mentioned 2,172 times in the King James version. This is God's request of us, but it is also (It is our expectation of each other As brothers and sisters in arms, it is ingrained in us to take care

of each other. The motto of 'leave no man behind" extends beyond the physicality of the battlefield. It is easily migrated into everyday living and it means more than the physical act of leaving a body on the battlefield. It means making sure that we take care of each other.

As the country and the world begin their recovery from the pandemic, it falls on those who can to help those who cannot. There are thousands of enlisted families who were impacted by COVID. Some lost family members, many lost jobs and their income, most lost hope. This is where TREA can help. Our new benevolent program, 'TREA GIVES' was created to provide assistance for food, housing, medical, and other emergency needs. This is a great program designed to help our own enlisted brothers and sisters. We know that not everyone is able to give, but for those who can, please consider donating to this program.

If you are in need, please reach out to us. Taking our direction from the Bible, (Hebrews 13:16 "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."), and doing what is right, we are here to help.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION / ELECTRONIC VOICE – UPDATE –

In the last issue of The VOICE, we told you that we were going to start an electronic distribution of the magazine and asked that if you wanted to keep receiving the printed and mailed copy to contact Headquarters. Many of you did and we thank you for that. As the board discussed this more, they decided to let you, the membership decide on the future distribution of the magazine. So, with that said, and as you can see, we continued with the print and mail distribution of the magazine – for now.

In the August issue, you will see that this issue is brought up as a proposed Standing Rule Change. It will be voted on by the entire membership. There will still be the option to keep receiving the printed copy – all you have to do is contact Headquarters and let us know, so this change simply allows us to distribute The VOICE magazine to anyone who does not ask for the printed copy. The electronic will have live links and be interactive and you will receive it up to 3 weeks earlier than the printed copy. It's all about choices --- now our members will have both.

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Auditory injuries such as tinnitus and hearing loss are the fastest post war disabilities veterans seek care for at VA. For some, current devices such as hearing aids do not provide adequate assistance over the phone. Veterans who seek alternative solutions to conventional methods may wish to consider learning more about the value Captioned Telephone Services (CTS) can provide.

Veterans with hearing loss have a right to communicate using the telephone—as guaranteed under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Clear2Connect Coalition works with the disability and veteran communities to preserve the quality of and access to captioned telephone service.

To learn more, please visit clear2connect.org

CLEAR  CONNECT |   

TREA GIVES, HELPING ENLISTED MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

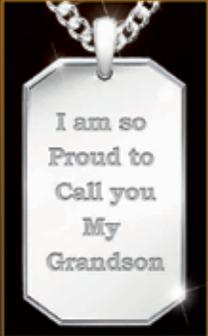
1st Vice Deborah Oelschig, Benevolent Chair



We are so thankful for the generous support of our new benevolent program, TREA GIVES. Donations are coming in and we could not be happier. All donations and sponsorships come with the knowledge that you will make a great difference in the lives of enlisted military and their families. Please contact TREA Headquarters or go to our website (www.trea.org) for more information on this great program, to get an application or to make a donation. TREA is working hard to take care of those who served; past, present and future. Donations are 100 % tax deductible.

A special heartfelt thank you to the members of Chapter 80 in San Antonio for their generous donation of \$1,000. Even as these members made the hard decision to close their local chapter, they wanted to show their continued support for TREA and this program. We thank them – and we thank you for considering this program.

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WASHINGTON UPDATE

Bill McCabe, Director of Legislative Affairs and Communications



TREA Members,

I want to introduce myself as my role has recently changed. My name is Bill McCabe, and I currently serve as TREA's Director of Legislative Affairs and Communications here in Washington, D.C. Previously, I had served as your Deputy Director. In addition to working as your advocate, I also serve as an enlisted soldier in the U.S. Army National Guard. My appointment as your chief advocate in Washington is truly an honor, and I look forward to getting to know each of you as we enter the 117th Congress.

Now that we have been briefly acquainted, it's time to show you what I have been doing on your behalf on Capitol Hill, at the White House, VA, and DoD. As you can imagine, Washington has been in what we call a "wash cycle" since the inauguration on January 20th. Members of Congress and their staff have turned over at a relatively high rate, official appointments in the new Administration have started to trickle in, and legislative priorities have begun to manifest. As the dust begins to settle entering the 117th Congress, I wanted to provide you with an overview of some of the legislative and regulatory accomplishments that TREA has been involved in. Below you will find five major priorities that TREA Members have strongly supported, both in written email and over the phone, along with a brief rundown of what we have already accomplished in the first three months of 2021.

Service Member and Veteran Caregivers

Through our work with Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) and Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY), TREA successfully secured the introduction of H.R.110 - Care for the Veteran Caregiver Act, which requires VA to extend stipend payments and CHAMPVA eligibility for caregivers, eliminates unnecessary and redundant re-evaluation requirements, and standardizes the initial and annual eligibility evaluation process.

Concurrent Receipt

(Fixing VA Disability Pay + DOD Retirement Pay Offset)

TREA was successful in securing the introduction of the Major Richard Star Act, where I was able to get TREA quoted in every press release as leading advocate on the issue. The bipartisan legislation would finally provide combat-injured veterans that were forced to medically retire with less than 20 years of military service their full benefits, meaning they would receive both their earned DoD Retirement Pay, and their earned VA Disability Pay, with no offset.

Toxic Exposures, Burn Pits, and Agent Orange

As you know, health care eligibility and service-connected claims for those exposed to toxic chemicals and Agent

Orange during their military service are critical and time sensitive. As such, TREA continues to be a leading advocate on Toxic Exposures and was at the forefront during the re-introduction of the TEAM Act (S. 927) on March 23rd where TREA was invited to speak at Senator Tillis and Senator Hassan's press conference and quoted in every major press release. In addition, TREA will maintain efforts to have VA and DOD be more proactive in addressing these issues once and for all, especially as future conflicts arise.



TREA's Bill McCabe (right) with Maj. Richard Star (right center), Tonya Star (left center), and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (left)

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TRICARE Benefits

Recent legislation aimed to reform the Military Health System has unintentionally eroded the value of pharmacy benefits and poses a threat to Military Treatment Facilities, access to pharmacies, and zero copay prescription medications. As such, I have begun working with the Defense Health Agency to protect pharmacy benefits, access to Military Treatment Facilities, and to achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays for TREA Members.

Suicide Prevention

During my role as Deputy Director, I ensured TREA was recognized for our work on passing two major bills to reduce veteran suicide, most notably S. 785, the Commander John Scott Hannon Act. This year, I will continue TREA's advocacy for suicide and mental health initiatives and remain as an Ambassador to the PREVENTS Task Force, a bipartisan interagency effort established by the White House in conjunction with VA to raise awareness and change the stigma surrounding the national tragedy of suicide. In addition, with my consistent push, TREA is now a leading advocate on HR 1022 and HR 1448, The PAWS Act, which is legislation aimed at pairing service dogs with veterans suffering from physical and mental wounds of war, such as PTSD.

Call to Action Emails

First, I want to thank you all for your willingness to participate in our Call-to-Action requests. These efforts are critically important to ensure Congress feels the pressure and hears directly from you. When you see these alerts in your inbox, please consider following the prompts to write to your representatives in support of the highlighted legislative effort. The platform called "VoterVoice" will automatically send it to your respective Senators and Congressman based on the zip code you provide when filling out your contact information. I also include a sample message that you may edit accordingly based on your personal opinions and experience with the issues. We all need to participate in the process – our numbers truly count!



TREA's Bill McCabe (left) with former VP Mike Pence (center), and Second Lady/PREVENTS Ambassador Karen Pence (right)

Communications and Social Media

A lot of time and effort has been put into ensuring that TREA stays in the National spotlight. This is accomplished through our Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn accounts. In addition, periodic press releases are sent to the White House, Members of Congress, VA and DoD officials, and our VSO/MSO partners to showcase TREA's legislative accomplishments and efforts in Washington. This includes regular emails to you, as Members, to keep you up to speed.

Thank you all for your support of our efforts in Washington, whether it has been written or over the phone. We rely on YOUR voice in Washington and look forward to working with you in the 117th Congress!

Follow TREA on Social Media!

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TREA RAISES AWARENESS ON HEARING LOSS

Connecting Veterans with Free Telephone Captioning Services

Bill McCabe, Director of Legislative Affairs & Communications

As a proud member of the Clear2Connect Coalition, TREA has been raising awareness and educating lawmakers about the critical importance of quality, accurate Captioned Telephone Services (CTS). Veterans and others with hearing loss can receive free assistive technology for captioned telephone service from participating providers of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on their home phones, mobile phones and other communication apps. Real-time transcriptions of communication are a vital service for those who rely on their phones to stay connected with family and friends, and to communicate with health care professionals and emergency responders.

Veterans of all ages can benefit from captioned telephone service, as they are disproportionately affected by hearing loss. Hearing loss is not just due to degeneration from aging; **Veterans are 30% more likely than non-Veterans to have a hearing impairment, which is the fastest growing post war disability.** Currently, nearly 3 million veterans with hearing loss and tinnitus receive benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, with over 600,000 veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars alone returning home with permanent hearing loss.

What is Captioned Telephone Service?

Captioned telephone service enables people with hearing loss to speak during a phone call and then read the other person's response in real time as transcriptions appear directly on their telephone or an app. This service is known as Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS), and it uses a combination of automatic speech recognition (ASR) technology and skilled transcribers, or ASR technology.



Who is Eligible for Captioned Telephone Service and What does it Cost?

This technology service is free to service members and Veterans, including their loved ones and anyone with hearing loss. Vietnam Veteran and captioned telephone user Ronald Drach says this service is "invaluable" and "life-changing." Vietnam Veteran Robert Richardson agrees, saying, "This technology, above all others, has had a major impact on my quality of life. I'd say it's a lifesaver. I use it to communicate with my children, and I use it to communicate with my friends and my doctors and other healthcare providers. I use it to stay engaged in my community. I may be retired from work, but not from life."

How to Get Free Captioned Telephone Service

Several providers offer captioned telephone service. When registering for this service with providers, the FCC requires individuals to self-certify that they have hearing loss necessitating telephone captioning. Some providers may require professional certification from a physician, audiologist or other hearing-health professional.

As a proud member of The Clear2Connect Coalition which is comprised of Disability and Veterans Service Organizations, TREA advocates on behalf of the deaf and hard of hearing communities to have access to quality, accurate communication technology.

For more information on how to access free captioned telephone service, to learn about Clear2Connect Coalition and TREA's advocacy efforts, and to sign up for their updates, visit the Clear2Connect Coalition website at www.clear2connect.org or email them at: info@clear2connect.org.

AUXILIARY



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Barbara Coley

Hello members, and welcome! Springtime has finally sprung. I sure do know that it is happening here in Arizona where I live. Hoping to find our members across the country are safe and sound. Before I get on with the business at hand, I would like first to introduce our newest board member, Director, Nancy MacBride, Chairman, Membership/Liaison. She is a member of Local Chapter 39.

Now on with business. We have a new revised Affiliation Agreement with TREA National. It was voted and approved by our Auxiliary Board of Directors (BOD) during our March meeting. The original agreement was signed back in 2008. Things have changed over the years and it needed to be updated. This agreement is renewable every five years instead of year-to-year. Looking forward to both sides working together for the good of the organization.

Our Mid-Term Meeting will be held on May 3 & 4, 2021 via Zoom Teleconference. This year's TREA Annual Business Meeting is being held in San Diego, CA, on September 15, 16, 2021. The Auxiliary will not be attending due to budget constraints. Instead, the Auxiliary BOD will hold our Annual Business Meeting on September 23 & 24, 2021, in-person in Colorado Springs, CO. Chapter 1 will host, and it will also be virtual, via Zoom Teleconference. The reason this area was chosen was because this is where TREA started and every odd year we strive to return to Colorado. More information will be forthcoming.

A reminder that the Scholarship Application is up and running on the TREA website. Students, please apply as soon as possible!! We need your applications for consideration! Applications close on June 1, 2021.

A reminder that the WEF/Benevolent Program Assistance Fund is available to our widow/widowers. Direct your questions to Chairman, Pat Winds, at pmitch2121@gmail.com.

Our membership numbers continue to go down, only 10 Chapters remain at this moment. Our local chapters really support our National Auxiliary with their donations. I know that things have been so extremely hard because of the Covid 19 pandemic. I am excited that some of the Chapters are coming together again and meeting via zoom while some are meeting in person. Please members, reach out and tell everyone what TREA is about. We need new members. I am planning to get us onto the Facebook App soon.

You can also reach out to me with any questions that you may have to my email at barbcoley@cox.net. That is all for now and my sincere thanks for taking the time to read this article and your continued support of our TREA Auxiliary!!

Be Blessed, Barbara Coley

UNITED WE STAND

AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN

Annette Harris

We live in a world that often breeds anxiety and fear. When we come face to face with tough times, we may fall prey to discouragement, doubt, or depression. Our Father in heaven has better plans for us. God has promised that we can lead lives of abundance, not anxiety. We can depend on that promise.

As you face the challenges of daily living, do not find yourself becoming anxious, troubled, discouraged, or fearful? If so, turn every one of your concerns over to your heavenly Father. The same God who created the universe will comfort you if you ask Him. So ask Him--and trust Him. Then watch in amazement as your anxieties melt into the warmth of His loving embrace.



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Maximum 18 characters including spaces.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (optional) _____

922814-E27961

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THE SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE – DID YOU KNOW?

From: Richard Delaney, Chairman

Did you know The Senior Citizens League scrutinizes specific senior related cost increases each year? An eye - popping new list compiled by The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) indicates that by late 2020, price increases for many of the expenditures of older Americans far outstripped the modest 1.3 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) boost that Social Security recipients started receiving this year. This list is a snapshot of how COVID-19 affected prices of certain items by the end of November 2020. There are surprising price aberrations that we haven't seen before. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought that toilet paper and disinfecting wipes could wind up on our annual list of fastest growing retiree costs.

The far greater worry, however, is a sharp increase in almost every source of quality protein — including meat, poultry, and even canned tuna. With many meat price increases in the double digits, we are highly concerned that older households may not be getting adequate supplies of protein in their diets. This was a nationwide problem prior to the pandemic, and the problem has been exacerbated by shortages and disruptions during the pandemic.

Dirty Dozen Fastest Growing Retiree Costs of 2020

Expenditure	% Increase	Times Higher Than 1.3% COLA
Major appliances	17.2%	13.2
Beef roasts	11.3%	8.7
Used cars and trucks	10.9%	8.4
Pork chops	9.9%	7.6
Household paper products	7.7%	5.9
Health insurance	7.5%	5.8
Care of elderly at home	7.3%	5.6
Poultry	7%	5.4
Tomatoes	6.5%	5.0
Canned tuna	6%	4.6
Milk	5.5%	4.2
Household cleaning products	5.2%	4.0

Source: CPI-U data November 2019 through November 2020

Natural Pill Shocker Beats Out Other Powerful Joint Treatments

2021's first major breakthrough is a new pill that uses the science behind an immune modulating botanical that "drastically reduces joint discomfort".

Richard Watson
Health News Today

From comfort...to mobility...the relief users report continues to amaze the millions who seek non-pharma therapies for joint health.

The pill, sold as VeraFlex®, contains a concentrated dose of a patented natural flavonoid called UP446. Scientific studies show it functions as a powerful immune modulator, which supports healthy inflammation response, a key function to prevent further joint deterioration, and significant decrease in discomfort.

"Our customers say the first thing they notice is within days of using there's less stiffness, soreness and discomfort around joints. But, they also notice some surprising improvements often associated with premature aging. They say they feel less bloated, are regular, and experience far less digestive discomfort", explains Dr. Liza Leal, a board-certified pain-management specialist and spokesperson for VeraFlex.

"It's why they love the product. While most pharmacy products can destroy your digestive system, VeraFlex promotes absorption of nutrients and supports a healthy immune system. It also relieves excess discomfort from your entire body, especially around stiff and degrading joints. It's remarkable."

An Amazing Breakthrough

Until now, many doctors have overlooked the idea of combining ingredients from different health categories, specifically linking joint health to gut health.

But researchers at the University of Rochester Medical Center provided the first evidence that bacteria in your gut could be the key driving force behind joint discomfort.

And VeraFlex is proving it may be the only way going forward.

"Most of today's top treatments are financially out of reach. That's why millions of adults are still in excruciating discomfort most days or willing to accept potentially devastating side effects," explains Dr. Leal.

"VeraFlex is a cost-effective way for virtually anyone looking to improve joint health. Since the most commonly reported symptoms - stiffness, soreness, and limited range of motion - are caused by certain enzymes, we've designed the formula to help inhibit those enzymes and support healthy inflammation response, a key to supporting healthy immune function.

However, since most drug store products are designed to suppress both good and bad inflammation, and with excessive use, they

often tear the stomach lining and can affect the immune system. We've introduced a way for the pill to optimize the stomach acid and enhance the absorption of VeraFlex's clinical ingredients. This makes it safe and effective for daily use.

Support Immune Health and Fight Joint Discomfort

Sufferers across the country are eager to get their hands on the new pill and according to the research, they should be.

Because the other patented ingredient in VeraFlex is called Maxcell®, a bioenhancer made from a blend of aloe vera (acid buffer), jujube (immune support), black pepper (helps absorption), and licorice root (support digestive health).

Studies have found that this special blend has the remarkable ability to protect the active ingredient through the digestive system and simultaneously support healthy immune function! It ensures the ingredients are not destroyed by your stomach acid.

The Science Behind VeraFlex

Research shows that the joint stiffness, soreness and even the discomfort are likely caused by certain enzymes released by the body's immune system.

The active ingredient in VeraFlex greatly inhibits the product of these enzymes resulting in a potentially dramatic decreasing in swelling and discomfort.

This enzyme-inhibiting characteristic is what researchers call immune modulation and is why people experience relief so quickly.

VeraFlex users can generally expect to start to see more flexibility in just a few days...and with continued use, a tremendous improvement to overall joint function that may help them move more like they did years prior" explains Dr. Leal. "I recommend this product because it works."

Rapid Results & Lasting Comfort

The secret behind VeraFlex is its active ingredient UP446 which is protected by 8 patents and is backed by over \$2 Million in safety studies. It's also undergone two double blind placebo controlled clinical trials, with 8 different research publications confirming the incredible results.

In the first, 60 participants were randomly placed into four groups.

The data collected by researchers was



A New Discovery is Quietly Helping Users Maintain Vital Joint Health

stunning.

The groups taking the VeraFlex ingredient reported staggering improvements over a 30-, 60-, and 90-day period including flexibility, improved comfort, and joint mobility.

A second study was conducted to ensure the data was accurate. But this time, the study was done to see how quickly it worked and again the results participants experienced while taking the VeraFlex compound blew away researchers.

Shockingly, both men and women experienced an improvement in flexibility in as little as 3 days, beating even powerful traditional treatments.

The ingredients create a triple play for supporting joint health. First is accelerated action that's clinically shown to improve comfort and mobility...second is lasting comfort... and third is long term safety without known side effects.

This would explain why so many users are experiencing impressive results so quickly. Because each dose of VeraFlex delivers the same amount of UP446 as the clinical studies, readers can now experience the same affordable comfort with daily use.

"The science and clinical studies are remarkable," explains Dr. Leal. "This product starts working incredibly fast. Users should expect to be highly satisfied with the results."

How to Claim Three Free Months of VeraFlex

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

This special give-away is available for only a limited time so don't wait. All you have to do is call toll free **1-800-583-5670** and provide the operator with the Approval Code: VF2021. The company will do the rest.

The company is so confident it will work that each order is backed by our 100% satisfaction guarantee, if you don't love the results, we'll refund the purchase price, no questions asked.

With such an incredible offer this is expected to sell out. Don't wait to call, US operators are standing by.

While appliances and used vehicles are generally only purchased occasionally, 2020 was not a good time to be shopping for a new washer or used car. Appliances increased by an astonishing 17.2 percent and used vehicles rose by 10.9 percent. A little over a year ago, the price increases of used vehicle prices were negative, at minus 12 percent. Manufacturers of appliances, as well as new cars and trucks, shut down production lines at the start of the pandemic. While plants have slowly re-opened supply chain disruptions and social distancing requirements have slowed production recovery. That's led to long waiting lists for appliances, and the demand for used vehicles shot up.

Even more surprising is what isn't showing up on the list — medical costs. The cost of medical care services still increased 2.5 times faster than the COLA rising by 3.2 percent. But that's nothing new, for many years those costs have increased more rapidly than in 2020. Emergency coronavirus legislation last spring restricted what providers could charge for many COVID-19 related services, and large numbers of patients and their doctors postponed non-urgent care.

When food and other important costs rise faster than the Social Security COLA, that means that retirees aren't able to purchase as much with their benefits. This can lead to older consumers going without essentials. Research by The Senior Citizens League has found that Social Security benefits have lost 30% of buying power since 2000. Mercifully, this list of prices will change in time, especially as we get COVID-19 under control and people return to work.

In the mean time you can be sure The Senior Citizens League will continue to lobby your federal legislators for better cost-of-living adjustments to your Social Security and prevent cuts to your earned-benefits.

Please visit www.SeniorsLeague.org for more information.

OUR MISSION

***The mission of TREA:** The Enlisted Association is to enhance the quality of life for uniformed services enlisted personnel, their families and survivors - including veterans, active component, reserve components, and all retirees; to stop the erosion of earned benefits through our legislative efforts; to maintain our esprit de corps, dedication and patriotism; and to continue our devotion and allegiance to God and country.*

WE EARNED OUR STRIPES



425 DAYS –

Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations



425 days, this is how long the United States has been dealing with the COVID pandemic.

Since the Worldwide Health Organization (WHO) officially declared COVID a pandemic on March 11, 2020, to today (using May 10th as the benchmark), we have seen drastic changes to our lifestyle. From staying home, isolated away from family and friends, to wearing masks, and standing in lines waiting to get into the grocery stores.

We have made these changes and in many times, sacrifices, because it was the right thing to do to help the country get over and recover from this health crisis.

It looks like we might be headed in the right direction. The masks, the social distancing and the vaccines are doing the trick. The Biden administration is hopeful for a 'close to normal' July 4th. Won't that be wonderful?

As we all wait – and hope, for this pandemic to be lifted, now is the perfect time to start thinking about and planning things to do once it is. One of them could be attending the TREA Annual Membership Meeting in San Diego. What a better way to end 425 days of solitude and despair than to spend it with longtime friends in beautiful, sunny San Diego. The sun, the ocean breezes, the gorgeous sunsets, the friendship and camaraderie – it's the perfect environment to meet, re-connect and learn about the new programs that TREA is working on – all geared at supporting and taking care of our fellow enlisted service men and women; past, present and future.

The TREA National Board and staff will be onsite at the Bahia Resort, Mission Bay, San Diego September 15th & 16th to hold its annual membership meeting. All TREA members are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is TREA's 58th Anniversary – that is something that is worthy of recognition. 58 years of service to the enlisted members of the Armed Forces - every TREA member should be proud of this accomplishment. Come join us for a toast on the beach to TREA, its' service, its' commitment and its' dedication to the enlisted members of the Armed Forces; past, present and future.

There is no fee to attend the membership meeting, but you must be a member in good standing. Pre-registration is requested as it will help us be more efficient on site and you will spend less time signing in. There will be plenty of Q & A time and breakout sessions are being planned to address specific topics, such as: The new Benevolent Program (TREA GIVES), TREA's Scholarship Program & TREA's Legislative Program.

We have some big changes to our Bylaws & Standing Rules that have been proposed. These changes are to update TREA's processes and make us more streamlined and efficient. All of these proposed changes are meant to make us better and allow us to be more fluid in an ever changing, fast-paced world. Attendance at the meeting is not required in order for you to vote. All voting will be accomplished through online and mail in ballots. All the details and ballots will be provided in the August issue of The VOCE magazine and all TREA members are encouraged to participate in the vote.

The Bahia Resort has collaborated with TREA to provide a reduced room rate of \$169 (including the daily resort fee) plus taxes, of course. There will be a planned dinner on the beach on Thursday, September 16th and tickets will be available for purchase. There is more information about the hotel on the following pages of this magazine as well as a registration form. Don't forget to check out our website (www.trea.org) - all of the information will be posted there as well.

2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TREA's 58th Anniversary & Annual Membership Meeting

**The Bahia Resort, Mission Bay -
San Diego, CA
September 15th & 16th, 2021
All TREA members are welcome.**



Relax and enjoy the laid-back atmosphere of the Bahia Resort. Read a book from a beachside cabana chair-bed, watch the boats come and go from the bay or get adventurous and take a paddleboat out on the water, rent a bike and cruise the boardwalk or sit in the Olympic size pool and cool off.

The last issue of The VOICE magazine contained a survey where we asked TREA members what they wanted out of the membership meeting. The responses, while small in number provided some important feedback. Due to the responses we received, we are going to hold a special dinner on the beach for Thursday, September 16th. The cost will be \$85 per person. While this beach dinner will provide a wonderful social gathering opportunity, the focus of the 2 days is the membership meeting. This is the time for the board and members to come together and collaborate on the future trajectory of the organization. It is where new bylaws and standing rules will be adopted, where concerns and questions are addressed and where the members will hear firsthand the efforts and actions that the National Board has worked to put into place. The common goal is the future success of TREA. We encourage all TREA members to attend, in person, or virtually to let your opinions, ideas and suggestions be heard. All the important information on the virtual aspect of the meeting will be provided and explained in the August issue of The VOICE.

If you are planning on attending, please fill out the form on the next page (registration).

Once Headquarters receives it, we will send you a small packet filled with fun and exciting things to do while in San Diego.

We look forward to seeing everyone in September.





2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 15th & 16th, 2021

BAHIA RESORT

998 West Mission Bay Drive - San Diego, CA 92109

Rooms: Standard - \$159/night plus tax and \$10.00 resort fee

<https://www.bahiahotel.com/groupcode?=TREA2021>

To book by phone, call: 858-488-0551 - use code 'TREA2021'

Registering for: IN PERSON VIRTUAL/ZOOM

Member #: _____ Name (First, Last): _____

Name as it should appear on name badge/meeting ID: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Tel #: _____ E-Mail: _____

If you registered to attend virtually, an e-mail will be sent to you that includes the log-in information for the meeting.

An active e-mail is required

An electronic version of the meeting binder will be available free of charge to all registered attendees.

There is a \$15.00 fee for a printed binder. Please note payment below.

There is no cost to attend the Membership Meeting, however, you must be a TREA member in good standing

If you are attending in person, a special dinner on the beach is planned for Thursday night.

The cost will be \$85/per person. Please note below how many tickets you would like

I would like ___ tickets to the Beach Dinner. (\$85) I would like a printed meeting binder for \$15.00

I am paying by check credit card

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Print name as it appears on the credit card: _____

Send completed form and payment to:

TREA: Membership Meeting - 12200 E Briarwood Ave., #250 - Centennial, CO 80112

A MOMENT TO REMEMBER

As Memorial Day approaches, it is important to take a step back, away from the cookouts, the gatherings, the festivities and take a moment to recognize, acknowledge and remember those who died in the line of duty. Over 1.1 million U.S. service members have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms that we enjoy today.

This country and every American citizen owes these great men and women a great debt – a debt that can never be repaid. A debt that everyone who ever donned the uniform of the U.S. military was at one time, willing to pay. It is by the grace of God that so many are still here today to honor and show respect to those that are not. Let us all try to live each day in understanding and appreciation of the sacrifice that was made and is still being made by so many of our men and women of the United States military.

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them.” - John F. Kennedy

WHY JOIN TREA?

Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations



The answers are simple –

1. You get to make a difference. Many who have served say that one thing they enjoyed was being part of something greater than themselves. Becoming a TREA member offers just that – being a part of something greater. Something that has a positive impact on many. TREA is active and engaged, not only in local communities, but on a larger, national level. With a robust legislative agenda, TREA is leading the way to ensure that the men and women who fought for this great country are taken care of. TREA has been quoted in multiple press releases this year alone and is the leading advocate on upcoming legislation.

Membership in TREA provides us with the ability to continue our fight and you can rest easy knowing that we are doing the legwork to ensure that all enlisted who served are being treated fairly and that their earned benefits are being protected.

2. You get to learn and grow. TREA offers members many opportunities for leadership positions. Our National Board, as well as our multiple committees work together to provide insight and education on the process of running a large veteran advocacy and support organization. A few of the issues that TREA, with the backing of our members has supported are: troop pay raises, correcting benefit discrepancies for Guard and Reserve mobilizations, declassification of toxic exposure-related documents, Department of Veterans Affairs accountability, SBP-DIC Offset and Agent Orange, Burn Pits & Toxic Exposure claims. By joining with TREA, and supporting our advocacy program, YOU can make a difference.

3. We were created by others like you, for you. Whether you choose to frequent a local chapter, or provide remote support from home, TREA was created to honor, serve, and support you and all those who fought before you, are fighting with you now and those who will continue the fight after you.

4. We share information. We have an active Legislative Outreach that provides TREA members with important legislative information. Our quarterly magazine, The VOICE, (a perk of membership) outlines our legislative actions and provides important congressional updates to our members.

5. We make a difference. TREA has a dedicated philanthropy belief and has created a strong benevolent program that provides financial assistance to past and current enlisted veterans and their families in need. We also have a large-scale scholarship program that awards over \$17K each year to the children and grandchildren of members.

Did you know that the spouses of veterans are eligible for full regular membership in TREA? This change was incorporated two years ago to ensure that TREA supports and advocates for the full veteran family.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a TREA member, please use the application on the last page of this magazine.

We look forward to supporting you and your military service based needs.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

New Member Renewal Membership Number: _____

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Spouse: _____ Your Grade/Rank: _____ Years Served: from _____ to _____

Recruiter Information: Name: _____ Membership Number: _____

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

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

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

Proof of eligibility falls on the applicant and not TREA

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

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

Payment:

Visa
Master Card
Discover
American Express

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CCV: _____

Make checks payable to: TREA)

Please return your completed application to:

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

E-mail: treahq@trea.org

303-752-0660 800-338-9337

www.trea.org



Need a helping hand?

Our 'TREA GIVES' program can help. This new program is set up to help enlisted retirees/veterans/active duty and their families in times of need by providing:

Benevolent funds

- Financial assistance during death in family
- Help with mortgage/rent/food/utilities and other necessary bills

Disaster relief

- Home loss/destruction from natural disaster
- Housing aid while home is repaired

Emergency aid for families

- Medical Care
- Travel Assistance

Scholarships

- \$2,000, \$1,500 and \$1,000 awards
- For children and grandchildren of TREA members

Fillable applications are available on our website (www.trea.org), or by calling TREA headquarters at 303-752-0660 / 800-338-9337.

If you are able to help us help a fellow servicemember (past or present), please send your tax-deductible donation to: 'TREA GIVES', 12200 E. Briarwood Ave #250, Centennial, CO 80112, or call to use your credit card.

No amount is too small.