

THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted

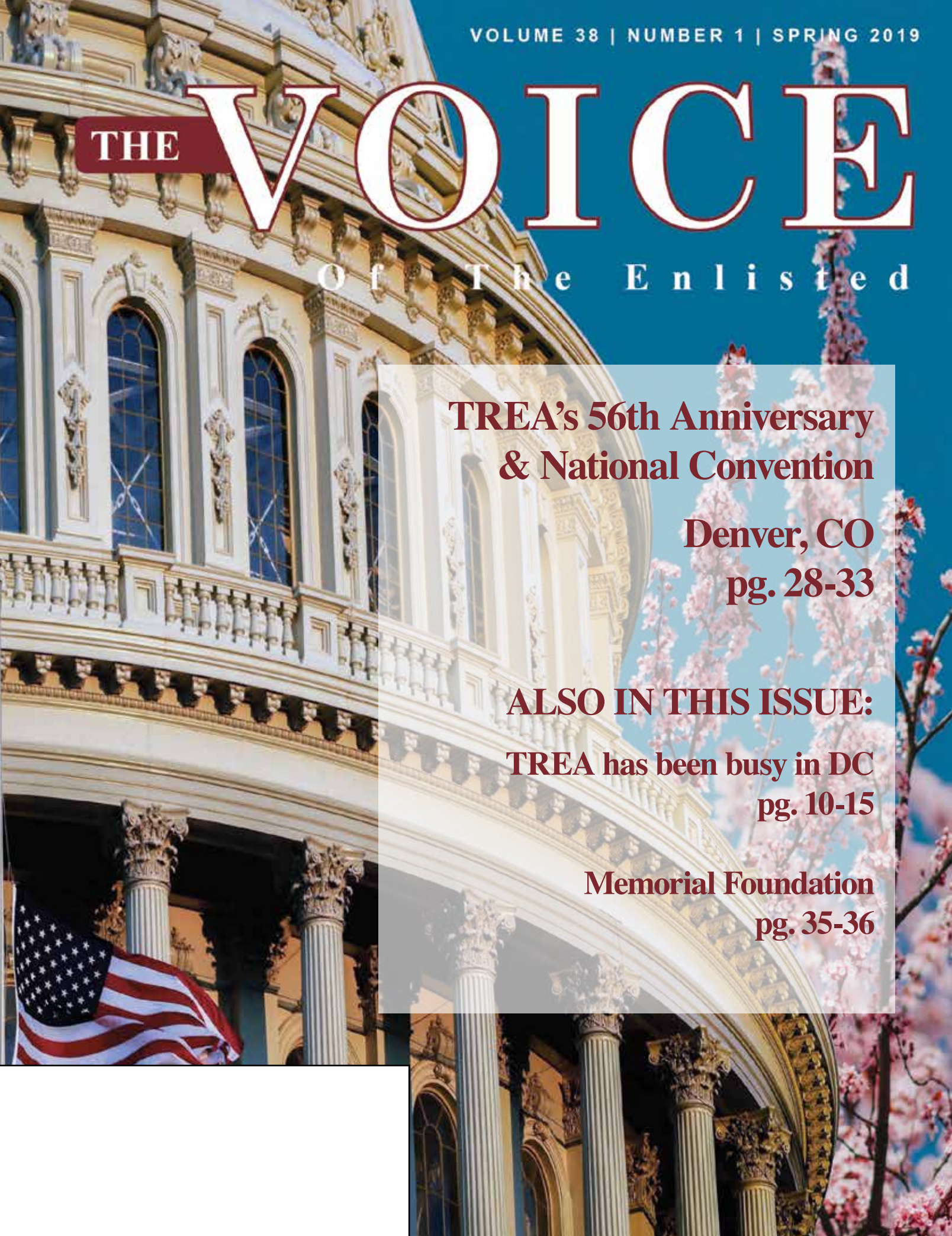
**TREA's 56th Anniversary
& National Convention**

**Denver, CO
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**Memorial Foundation
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Please send all written communication to TREA Headquarters at 12200 E. Briarwood Ave., Suite 250 Centennial, CO 80112

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FROM THE EDITOR

By Kim DeCoste

Happy Spring, TREA members! We hope this edition of The VOICE finds you all doing well and enjoying the warmer months. As I write today here in Colorado where TREA HQ is located, we have sunshine and 75 degrees. Only in Colorado, where the TREA Headquarters is located, can we experience 75 degrees one day and a blizzard warning the next. Soon, though, we will be warming as summer approaches. This issue has great information as always. Note that there are details about the Annual Convention

that will be in Denver this year as well as registration information. We encourage all members to consider joining us this year, especially if you have never been to our Convention. We are still interested in collecting recipes for the cookbook we are producing if you have a favorite to share. There are also several great updates and a robust report from the Legislative Affairs Office that should interest all members. We thank you, as always, for the opportunity to serve you in our work on this issue. God bless you all and God bless America!

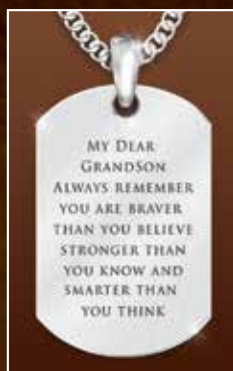
~The Editorial Team

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Finely Etched Meaningful
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Philip Hilinski, TREA National President



Hello Fellow TREA Members -

First, I will address the TREA Memorial Foundation (TMF) issue. Like all of you, I was sad when we made the decision to close down the Foundation, which has done so much over the years. The legal action we faced was basically a decision to take it to court or settle. There were many unknown factors such as putting together a proper defense, ensuring TREA had top legal representation, what will be the total cost, win or lose, the type of judge presiding, and how will this affect TMF and TREA's future.

Each board member from the Foundation made the decision, then TREA had to ratify their difficult decision based on these factors. I personally looked into their online presence and found that all this was negatively impacting the Foundation. The Board Members were thoroughly briefed when they made their decision. Feel free to reach out to them for more information. There is a Memorial Foundation Press Release on the TREA website home page. The next step is discussing how to move forward so TREA can fulfill its Mission Statement.

Through the efforts of Director Simeon, TREA Chapters have been contacted about their reporting requirements. To retain nonprofit status, chapters have to show they have furnished the required paperwork. At the last Convention, we lessened the number of requirements to make it easier on Chapters to comply. If you have not been contacted, call TREA HQ for more information. This is one of my many sub-committees in action. To give you an update, TREA currently has 19 sub-committees working on a variety of subjects; some are new issues like our Marketing company search, and others are old issues like updating the Legislative Affairs job description. The Board will be preparing their initial reports at the Mid-Term.

It was a busy few days on Capitol Hill (March 13 and 14) with several key members of TREA making sure that TREA was seen and heard. First off, due to the magical connections of our new Deputy Director of Veterans and Military Policy, Ken Greenberg we were able to secure a personal meeting with officials from the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. This resulted in a lengthy, one hour one-on-one discussion with both Majority and Minority staff members, where we were able to review and discuss my testimony and TREA's position on several key legislative and policy issues. Senator Jon Tester (MT) was even able to stop by for a personal introduction. We also met with a staff member for Senator Rob Portman and Senator Sherrod Brown from my home state of Ohio, to ensure that both Senators have a better understanding of veterans and military member issues. This gave TREA a solid foundation and foothold with both Senators.

I also attended meetings at the Department of Veterans Affairs with senior level officials in the Office of the Secretary, Veterans Health, Veteran Benefits and National Cemetery Administrations. Since Ken previously worked at VA for many years, it was like a homecoming. These meetings gave TREA the ability to map out strategies for current and future legislative and policy issues with VA leadership.

That's not all, in addition to my personal meetings with key personnel, TREA's VSO, Michael Gales attended a VBA/VSO meeting to meet and network with VBA representatives. Michael was accompanied by Daisy Brown.

The link to the full written testimony is on the TREA website (www.trea.org). Take a moment to read through it and familiarize yourself with TREA's stand on the issues. These are our legislative priorities moving forward. Registration is now open for the 2019 TREA Convention in Denver, CO. We hope to have a great time as well as update you on the many changes that TREA is going through. There will be BL/SR changes to be voted on and two Board positions. The theme for the Convention is 'Wild West' so start putting your western outfits together.

As always, if you need to contact me about any issue, I am willing to talk.

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TREA'S PROMISE AND PURPOSE

By 3rd Vice President, Walt Coley



As I write this, I can't help thinking that 6 months have passed! Many things have happened. CJ Johnson took over the IT committee, and I found out how complicated writing a 5-year plan is. To do it right, it requires you understand what the organization is for, what it says it's going to do, and what are the rules which govern behavior. Being a rookie is sometimes an advantage because I couldn't take anything for granted.

I've reviewed all the history I could find back to the beginning of the organization. If you study it, you find the organization changed from getting recognition and benefits for the enlisted force to maintaining what had been achieved (with few exceptions). This wasn't easy, but it wasn't as difficult as the initial struggles.

Our demographics – who we are – changed from a conscripted force to an all-volunteer one. Because the force is all volunteer, it is smaller and consists of fewer retirees and more separated service people.

Our operating environment changed from one that was union inspired with a national headquarters and chapters (locals) – to one where most of TREA is made of Members at Large (MAL). Fewer people are joining because they are contributing through other organizations, of which where there were only a few, there are now thousands.

Your board of directors, over time, saw some of these things build over the last 20 years. They happened slowly, so although there was an understanding something was changing, there was no mechanism to address it. They planned for the short tactical, 5-year focus; but not the big – strategic – picture. They worked the tactical issues, but not the strategic ones; the issues that brought us focus and held us together – United. We all are experiencing the result.

We were missing a focus on the Promise and the Purpose we had with the founders, and losing those things, we became managers with nothing to Promise and no Purpose. This stops now.

Your board is building on a way forward confirmed by our past: Our Promise – what we will do. Our Purpose is as an organization – What we are for. Our Guiding Principles – what defines what we do and how. This Vision must guide our way forward and the tactical planning and execution. We, as a board, must promote this. You, the membership, can approve this course of action at convention – which is why this convention is so important. We will all play a part in how we move forward, because there must be action and responsibility at all levels of TREA to survive. We will move forward together or fall – it's our choice. Whatever we may have thought, UNITED WE STAND – still has meaning as our primary Purpose; and our Promise.

Good News for Americans, Bad News for Pain Drugs

Millions are expected to benefit from a new technology that could relieve years of severe joint discomfort; reprograms the body to block slow burning inflammation instead of creating it



By Casey Law, Health News Correspondent

NATION- Several of the major drug companies behind popular pain relievers may take a financial hit as manufacturing of a new pill is now complete.

Using a new technology, the pill could be safer and more effective than many store bought brands.

The pill, *VeraFlex*, was developed in May of this year by a private company in Seattle.

Functioning primarily as an immune modulator, the pill targets the body's immune system which can decrease pain in the body.

The Science Behind Relief

Research shows that the joint stiffness, soreness and discomfort associated with arthritis is caused by inflammation which attacks healthy cartilage and protective tissue.

And according to leading medical scientists, this inflammation is caused by two inflammatory enzymes released by the body's immune system.

Remarkably, the active ingredients in *VeraFlex* help to block the production of both these enzymes, resulting in a dramatic decreasing in swelling, inflammation, and discomfort.

Right now, the leading over-the-counter pills are only able to block one of these enzymes!

It's why so many sufferers fail to ever find relief.

Years of Discomfort Relieved in 5 Days

"*VeraFlex* users can generally expect more flexibility in three days...their joint pain alleviated in five days...and in just seven days, a tremendous improvement in overall joint function that may help them move like they did years prior" explains Dr. Liza Leal, developer and spokesperson for *VeraFlex*.

"It's an incredibly powerful little pill. And with the addition of a patented absorption enhancer, it packs an even greater punch. That's why I'm so excited to be the first to share these results. It's giving sufferers their life back."

A Safer, More Effective Avenue to Amazing Relief

Its widely accepted through the medical community that inflammatory enzymes are the primary cause of pain and suffering in millions of Americans. It's why most prescriptions and even nonprescription pills are designed to block them.

However, what most people don't know is that even the most advanced ones can't block both!

And yet, that's exactly what *VeraFlex* is designed to do and why it works so well.

"Top pharma companies have struggled to create a drug that blocks COX and LOX; the medical names for the two inflammatory enzymes in the body. Consider the top seller Celebrex, it only blocks one variation of the COX enzyme" explains Leal.

"And that's because they have focused on using chemicals instead of natural substances like *VeraFlex*."

"Every *VeraFlex* capsule contains an ultra-high dose of a patented plant extract which has been clinically shown to block both enzymes, bringing relief to every joint that hurts!"

"The kind of relief most people have never experienced. I often say two enzymes, twice the relief. People think I'm kidding until they try it."

Piling on the Clinical Research

Remarkably, the key ingredient in *VeraFlex* is protected by 8 patents that spread from the US into Canada. And as would one guess, it's backed by an enormous amount of research, including two patient clinical trials.

In the first, 60 participants with rheumatoid arthritis and/or osteoarthritis were randomly placed into four groups.

Two groups were given the patented ingredient in *VeraFlex*, one was given the drug Celecoxib, and the last group a placebo. The results were monitored at 30, 60, and 90 days.

The data collected by researchers was stunning.

The groups taking the *VeraFlex* ingredient saw staggering improvements in arthritis symptoms such as flexibility, discomfort and function.

And even more astonishing they experienced a dramatic reduction in pain by the 30-day mark that was even better than Celecoxib, a powerful drug!

A second study was conducted to ensure the data was accurate and again the results participants experienced taking the *VeraFlex* compound blew away researchers.

This time it beat out the drug Naproxen. Shockingly, both men and women experienced a reduction in joint stiffness two days faster than when using Naproxen.

"I have to admit I was surprised when I read the initial findings" explains Leal. "But when you look at the science it just makes sense. It's going to change everything."

Faster Delivery, Maximum Absorption

VeraFlex is mainly comprised of two patented ingredients: Univestin, a powerful immune modulator which blocks the enzymes which cause your joints to hurt and BiAloe, an absorption enhancer (accelerator) that ensures maximum potency.

Research shows that severe joint discomfort arises when the immune system goes haywire and releases COX and LOX into your blood stream, two enzymes that causes tremendous swelling and inflammation around cartilage and protective tissue.

Over time, this inflammation overwhelms the joint and it begins to deteriorate resulting in a daily battle with chronic pain.

Unfortunately, modern day pain pills are only able to block only one of these enzymes, resulting in marginal relief and continued suffering.

The Univestin in *VeraFlex* is one of the only known substances which has been proven successful in blocking both enzymes, resulting in phenomenal relief from the worst kinds of discomfort.

The addition of BiAloe, a unique aloe vera extra, maximizes the delivery of the plant based Univestin extract to every joint in the body because it is proven to improve nutrient absorption for maximum results.

Aloe Vera also is proven to support the body's immune system which manages inflammation, further supporting relief.

How to Claim a Free 3-Month Supply Of VeraFlex

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

This special give-away is available for the next 48-hours only. All you have to do is call toll free 1-800-235-5446 and provide the operator with the Free Bottle Approval Code: VF350. The company will do the rest.

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



TREA HAS BEEN BUSY IN DC BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AND MILITARY POLICY, KEN GREENBERG

TREA National President Visits DC; Meets with Congressional and VA Leaders

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) submitted written testimony to the Joint Hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs in March, 2019. The testimony outlines TREA priorities for the 116th Congress. TREA members are encouraged to access the full testimony on the TREA website at www.trea.org.

TREA continues to work hard to improve benefits furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense to support veterans, retirees, and active duty military, including Guard and Reserve components. For example, National President Hilinski, Director for Operations (DFO) Osborne, and Deputy Director of Veterans and Military Policy (DDVMP) Greenberg met with Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) staff for a working group meeting on TREA legislative priorities. Both Majority (Republicans) representing Chairman Isakson (GA) and Minority (Democrats) representing Ranking Member Tester (MT) staff participated in the working group meeting.

The highlight of the meeting was when Ranking Member Jon Tester stopped by to meet with TREA leadership and share his support for TREA's efforts on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

(photo right: TREA President Phil Hilinski, DDVMP Ken Greenberg (sitting), DFO Osborne and Senator Jon Tester)



The working group discussion focused on SVAC and TREA priorities for the 116th Congress. Specific issues were holding VA accountable to meet the requirements of and to implement three major reforms: 1) Community Care Program MISSION Act; 2) Appeals Modernization Act (AMA); and 3) Forever GI Bill. Furthermore, 1) Women Veterans; 2) Navy Blue Water Vietnam Veterans; 3) CHAMPVA until age 26; and 4) Survivor Financial Benefits were also highlighted. Two additional issues were also part of the discussion Suicide Prevention and Electronic Health Records Modernization (EHRM).

Both the Majority and Minority agreed with TREA's position on Navy Blue Water Vietnam Veterans and are monitoring VA's action on the court case as well as working to enact H.R. 299. Both also agreed to closely watch VA's actions regarding services and funding for women veterans. Both staffs were also supportive of VA's AMA efforts.

The Majority noted they are closely watching VA's efforts to implement the Mission Act and that Chairman Isakson is generally supportive of the proposed rule on Mission Act Access Standards. The Majority also noted Suicide Prevention, Forever GI Bill and EHRM were also being closely monitored.

TREA HAS BEEN BUSY IN DC

By Deputy Director of Veterans and Military Policy, Ken Greenberg

The Minority appreciated TREA's concerns on MISSION Act implementation and indicated Senators planned to submit comments on the proposed rule. They also noted that Senator Sherrod Brown would likely sponsor the CHAMPVA until age 26 legislation. The Minority also thanked TREA for its comments on women veterans' issues and recommended TREA review the Deborah Sampson Act proposal. They also encouraged TREA to review and comment on Ranking Member Tester's legislation on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. TREA is currently reviewing the bill and detailed analysis of the legislation.

The working group meeting was a success. It was filled with an exchange of information. All agreed to continue to work together and exchange ideas and information to support veterans' services and benefits.

Senator Rob Portman (OH) and Senator Sherrod Brown (OH) Washington staff has sponsored S. 1034, the CHAMPVA.

President Hilinski, DFO Osborne and DDVMP Greenberg also met with staff from both Ohio Senator's offices to discuss important VA related issues to TREA's members and for the respective staffs to share that information with each Senator. Both Brown and Portman's staff appreciated TREA's views and noted that the information would be useful to assist each Senator in understanding veterans and military issues to Ohio citizens. President Hilinski was also provided a point of contact in the local Ohio office so he could follow up with local officials in Ohio.

Meetings with Senior VA Leadership Officials

President Hilinski and DDVMP Greenberg met with a number of VA leadership officials to discuss TREA priorities for 2019 as outlined in TREA's Joint Hearing Testimony before the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs.

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

President Hilinski and DDVMP Greenberg met with Richard Stone, M.D. VHA Executive in Charge, and several members of his leadership team. Dr. Stone thanked TREA for its support of veterans and encouraged the continued exchange of views and information.

Dr. Stone noted that the \$8.9 billion requested in the FY 2020 budget was sufficient to cover all costs related to MISSION Act Community Care provisions. He was specific that \$5.5 billion was to continue care from Choice and that \$2.9 billion would cover the expected cost of expansion due to the announced new access standards to use private care providers. Urgent care's budget request is \$271 million and \$150 million is requested to expand caregiver provisions to pre 9/11 era veterans.

Dr. Stone confirmed VA would miss the October 1, 2019 deadline to certify the IT system to expand the caregivers program to pre 9/11 era veterans. He noted that the VA must be sure that all caregivers in the existing program are being provided for, before any expansion takes place.

TREA HAS BEEN BUSY IN DC

By Deputy Director of Veterans and Military Policy, Ken Greenberg

He indicated he will only recommend expansion at that time and projected IT certification in the fall 2020 timeframe. For more information, visit <https://www.caregiver.va.gov>.

Regarding women veterans, Dr. Stone noted that more than 500,000 women veterans are currently using VHA services and that the 2020 budget request recognizes that with additional \$42 million above 2019 for a total of \$547 million for gender specific women health care. He stated VHA hopes to have a Designated Women's Health Primary Care Provider at every site where women access VA care. For more information, see <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov>.

Dr. Stone also appreciated TREA's support for S. 1034, the CHAMPVA until age 26 bill and said he would look into the matter. After the meeting TREA provided additional information on the issue to Dr. Stone.

Dr. Stone noted that VHA's EHRM efforts will begin with a test of the CERNER product at three Pacific Northwest VHA sites. The data obtained from that initial test will be used to determine how and when to proceed to the next set of locations. VA must learn from deployment and make sure it is right the first time to avoid any further delays or setbacks. VA continues to consult with DOD to be sure efforts are coordinated. For more information, see, www.ehrm.va.gov.

Regarding suicide prevention and mental health, Dr. Stone indicated the issue is a priority for Secretary Wilkie and VHA and that the budget request of \$9.4 billion for mental health (plus \$426 million above 2019) underscores that fact. Outreach to prevent suicide is supported at \$222 million (plus \$15.6 million above 2019). Dr. Stone recommended contacting VHA's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention National Office. For more information, see www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/strategy.asp

VA/Veterans Service Organization Liaison, Senior Advisor to the Secretary

President Hilinski and DDVMP Greenberg met with Mr. Jason Beardsley and the discussion included TREA's priorities but also focused on how TREA can interact with VA officials. Mr. Beardsley noted that many VSOs often criticize VA instead of looking for common ground and highlighting the good VA does. He asked TREA to look at issues with an open mind and continue to exchange views and information with him. Beardsley also noted that Mr. Greenberg's presence at VSO briefings/meetings and his knowledge of VA on issues is very much appreciated, especially since "he already understandings VA and its challenges."

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

President Hilinski and DDVMP Greenberg met with Mr. David McLenachen, Director Appeals Management Office, and Mr. James Ruhlman, Deputy Director, Program Management, Education Service. Both officials thanked TREA for its support of veterans and encouraged the continued exchange of views and information.

"Michael: Triumphant Warrior"

Masterpiece Bronze Sculpture

Inspired by Renaissance bronze statuary, this fully-sculpted masterpiece depicts the valiant Archangel Michael after his defeat of the mighty dragon in the book of Revelation. His outstretched wings are adorned with the brilliant work of celebrated artist Howard David Johnson depicting the great battle.

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Howard David Johnson's Renaissance-inspired artwork adorns the Archangel's wings

Shown smaller than actual
size of about 10 inches high

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TREA HAS BEEN BUSY IN DC

By Deputy Director of Veterans and Military Policy, Ken Greenberg

Mr. McLenachen discussed the Appeals Modernization Act and agreed that VA's upfront communications with VSOs, veterans and Congress was extremely beneficial and lead to an implementation that was effective on February 19, 2019. He stated that initial review of the data was supporting that the rollout was going well. He noted that VBA will continue to track results, especially regarding the timeframes to meet the 125 days and 365 days to issues decisions based on the different avenues available selected by veterans to appeal decisions. He thanked TREA for its support of AMA and for publicizing the process to its members. For more information visit <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals.asp>

Mr. McLenachen also understood TREA's position on Navy Blue Water Vietnam Veterans and that VA was determining its next action based on the court ruling. Department of Justice (DOJ) has placed a stay on the case, so VA was not able to discuss the issue further, pending the next DOJ steps. McLenachen, also acknowledged, TREA's and Congress' strong support to enact H.R. 299, legislation to provide these benefits to 90,000 Vietnam veterans. He also noted that VA may face providing the benefits either by the court decision or by Congressional action. See important update at end of this section.

Mr. Ruhlman discussed VBA's efforts to address the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) payment issues to veterans, which was more difficult than expected. Hardships were created for almost 200,000 student veterans and the loss of time and money was unacceptable. He confirmed that VBA is on the record to be sure all veterans receive the full payments they are due, and that some have been made whole but not all. Ruhlman noted VBA has learned from this and taken corrective actions. He asked TREA to continue to follow up with him and he will continue to report back on progress or lack thereof. Ruhlman noted that VBA did make payments to veterans for the current semester at the higher rate and that if any veterans were overpaid, VA would take no action to seek reimbursement for the overpayment. For more information, visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/ForeverGIBill.asp>

Ruhlman also noted TREA's concerns on the December 2018, Inspector General (IG) report that VA remains out of compliance with 38 U.S.C. section 3696 and that ineligible colleges are receiving improper payments. Veterans are being deceived and are at financial risk. Ruhlman said he would report back to TREA on VA's response to the IG's findings and VA's actions to comply with section 3696 of 38 U.S.C.

National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

President Hilinski and DDVMP Greenberg met with Under Secretary Memorial Affairs (USMA) Randy Reeves. USMA Reeves thanked TREA for its efforts to inform and provide information to veterans on NCA services and benefits. Reeves noted that he understands the role and value of VSOs as he previously served as the State Director for Mississippi. He encouraged TREA to continue to support veterans and VA and provided TREA with staff contacts for NCA benefits and services. Reeves highlighted 3 NCA priorities:

TREA HAS BEEN BUSY IN DC

By Deputy Director of Veterans and Military Policy, Ken Greenberg

1) Preserving the Legacy -- continue to commemorate and share stories of veterans;
Do any TREA members have stories to share with NCA?

2) Providing access and choosing VA for providing burial and memorial benefits to veterans and their families;

NCA's goal is to provide a burial option within 75 miles of their home to 95 percent of veterans by 2022. Currently, NCA is providing options to 90 percent of veterans within 75 miles of their home.

3) Partnering to serve veterans by finding ways to memorialize veterans.

NCA is doing outreach to communities and organizations to honor veterans. USMA Reeves advised that one way to assist veterans is for TREA to communicate with its members on Pre Need Eligibility for those interested in being interred in a VA National Cemetery.

The form is available at <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf> or can be requested by contacting the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535-1117.

TREA Provides Comments on VA's Proposed Rule: Veterans Community Care Program

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) provided comments on RIN 2900–AQ46 Veterans Community Care Program. The VA MISSION Act expands veterans' access to health care through a new community care network program and increases VA's internal capacity to provide care to veterans. VA's implementation must be clear and reasonable as well as produce results that are achievable. June 6, 2019 is the planned effective date. TREA urges VA to be sure that the launch on that date is seamless. VA must get this right with the initial launch. TREA members can access the full set of comments on the TREA website at www.trea.org.

UPDATE: Navy Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Get Big Win

The Department of Veterans Affairs will not appeal a January court ruling that ordered it to provide health care and disability benefits for approximately 90,000 veterans who served on Navy ships during the Vietnam War. The action likely paves the way for "Blue Water Navy" sailors and Marines to receive Agent Orange-related compensation and VA-paid health care benefits. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie announced to members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on March 26 that he will recommend the Justice Department not fight the decision. Former service members have fought for years to have their diseases recognized as related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange. TREA will continue to monitor actions and provide updates as they occur.



THE MILITARY STAR CARD EARNS MILITARY COMMUNITY \$34.6 MILLION IN 2018

By AAFES Director/CEO Tom Shull

Service members, retirees and family members who shop with their MILITARY STAR® card don't just save money, they earn it—all while supporting the entire military community.

The MILITARY STAR card includes a free loyalty program enrollment. For every \$1 spent with MILITARY STAR at exchanges—including online at ShopMyExchange.com, myNavyExchange.com and ShopCGX.com—commissaries and Armed Forces Recreation Centers, cardholders earn two loyalty points; with every 2,000 points earned, they receive a \$20 rewards card. Those cards, mailed directly to cardholders once earned, can then be redeemed anywhere an Exchange gift card is accepted. Last year, MILITARY STAR cardholders received \$34.6 million in personal dividends through rewards cards.

And it's not just MILITARY STAR cardholders who reap the rewards. Every time the card is used, the Exchange saves money by avoiding costly merchant fees charged by bank-issued credit cards. Since 100 percent of Exchange earnings are re-invested into the community, lower operating costs mean more support for needed installation programs and services like Army Child Development, fitness centers, Air Force Outdoor Recreation and more. These programs are critical to improving Quality of Life support for our Warfighters and their families.

The MILITARY STAR card helps set the Exchange apart from other retailers while offering unique value for cardholders. Originally designed to combat predatory lenders taking advantage of service members, the card gave an alternative credit option with fair and flexible terms to help build credit safely and responsibly. Beyond that, the card offers everyday discounts on food and fuel at Exchange fuel stations and restaurants as well as exclusive savings and offers.

In October 2017, the MILITARY STAR card was further strengthened as commissaries began accepting the card. Being able to use the card at the commissary was one of the top requests we heard from shoppers.

In total, MILITARY STAR generated \$471 million in value in 2018 for the military community. In addition to the rewards cards earned and money saved on merchant fees, other savings include:

- \$315 million from one low APR for all cardholders, regardless of credit score (comparison of 12.49 percent vs. the average store credit card APR of 25.24 percent).
- \$37.9 million due to MILITARY STAR never charging late fees (average credit card late fee is \$35).
- \$22.6 million from MILITARY STAR's 0-percent-interest financing offers and never charging "back interest" after a promotion ends.
- \$8.9 million for new cardholders taking advantage of the card's first-day discount.
- \$8.1 million through MILITARY STAR's interest-free military clothing plan.
- \$4.6 million at Exchange restaurants with the everyday 10 percent food discount.
- \$4.1 million at the pump, where MILITARY STAR users save 5 cents per gallon of gas at Army & Air Force Exchange locations
- \$2.1 million with MILITARY STAR's reduced-interest deployment policy.
- \$1.2 million on shipping on ShopMyExchange.com, where every purchase made with MILITARY STAR receives standard shipping for free.

As part of a continuing effort to offer the best service and support to past, present and future military members and families, work is being done to expand MILITARY STAR acceptance across each military installation.

Leading Acid Reflux Pill Becomes an Anti-Aging Phenomenon

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

by David Waxman
Seattle Washington:

A clinical study on a leading acid reflux pill shows that its key ingredient relieves digestive symptoms while suppressing the inflammation that contributes to premature aging in men and women.

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

Sold under the brand name AloeCure, it was already backed by clinical data documenting its ability to provide all day and night relief from heartburn, acid reflux, constipation, irritable bowel, gas, bloating, and more.

But soon doctors started reporting some incredible results...

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

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

Scientists now believe that this acid imbalance is what contributes to painful inflammation throughout the rest of the body.

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

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

Now, backed with new clinical studies, AloeCure is being recommended by doctors everywhere to help improve digestion, calm painful inflammation, soothe joint pain, and even reduce the appearance of wrinkles – helping patients to look and feel decades younger.

FIX YOUR GUT & FIGHT INFLAMMATION

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

To start, the clinical studies have been impressive. Participants taking the active ingredient in AloeCure saw a stunning 100% improvement in digestive symptoms, which includes fast and lasting relief from reflux.

Users also experienced higher energy levels and endurance, relief from chronic discomfort and better sleep. Some even reported healthier looking skin, hair, and nails.

A healthy gut is the key to a reducing swelling and inflammation that can wreak havoc on the human body. Doctors say this is why AloeCure works on so many aspects of your health.

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

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

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

EXCITING RESULTS FROM PATIENTS

To date over 5 million bottles of AloeCure have been sold, and the community seeking non-pharma therapy for their GI health continues to grow.

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

"For the first time in years, they are free from concerns about their digestion and almost every other aspect of their health," says Dr. Leal, "and I recommend it to everyone who wants to improve GI health without resorting to drugs, surgery, or OTC medications."

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

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

THE SCIENCE BEHIND ALOECURE

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

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

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

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

When your digestive system isn't healthy, it causes unwanted stress on your immune system, which

results in inflammation in the rest of the body.

The recommended daily allowance of acemannan in AloeCure has been proven to support digestive health, and calm painful inflammation without side effects or drugs.

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

REVITALIZE YOUR ENTIRE BODY

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

By buffering stomach acid and restoring gut health, AloeCure calms painful inflammation and will help improve digestion... soothe aching joints... reduce the appearance of wrinkles and help restore hair and nails ... manage cholesterol and oxidative stress... and improve sleep and brain function... without side effects or expense.

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

One AloeCure Capsule Daily

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

HOW TO GET ALOECURE

Due to the enormous interest consumers have shown in AloeCure, the company has decided to extend their nationwide savings event for a little while longer. Here's how it works...

Call the AloeCure number and speak to a live person in the US. Callers will be greeted by a knowledgeable and friendly person approved to offer up to 3 FREE bottles of AloeCure with your order. AloeCure's Toll-Free number is 1-800-746-2896. Only a limited discounted supply of AloeCure is currently available.

Consumers who miss out on the current product inventory will have to wait until more becomes available and that could take weeks. They will also not be guaranteed any additional savings. The company advises not to wait. Call 1-800-746-2896 today.





FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Pat Winds

Greetings to All:

I am delighted to have this opportunity to say hello and wish everyone well. This has been a busy three months I am sure for all of us. As time is moving so rapidly, before we know it we will be gathering for our 56th National Convention, September 18 – 20, 2019. Convention planning is moving forward. We are busy making preparations for you to attend this year's convention in Denver, CO. The convention should be a time for taking care of business, along with time for renewing old friendships and welcoming new members. We are looking forward to greeting you and sharing our lovely city with you.

Chapters 3 and 39 are making plans to host two dinners. Chapter 39 on Tuesday (9/17) and Chapter 3 on Thursday evening (9/19). Both chapters are making sure they have good food and entertainment for all. Please see the convention schedule for details.

The cookbook committee is looking for your recipes to go into the book. Don't forget to submit your favorite recipes. These books will be available at the convention.

Chapter reports, please submit your chapter reports to Secretary Ruby Smooths-Harris at ruby.Smooths@comcast.net by July 1, 2019. Reports are needed and give us communication about news going on in your chapter. Also remember rebates are given to chapters that submit reports within the given timeframe.

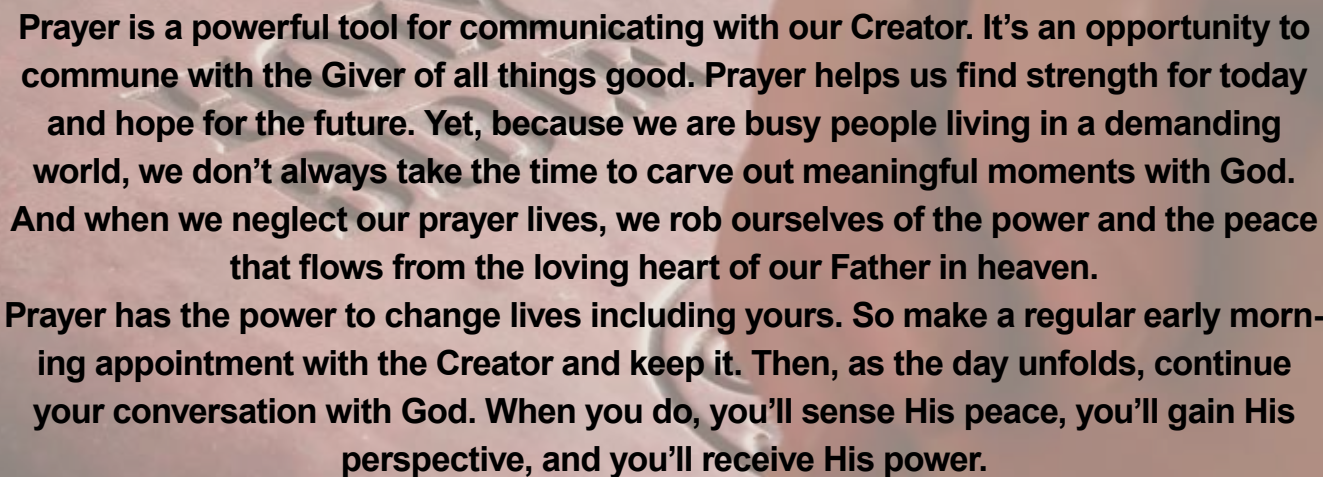
We are still encouraging chapters to continue with recruitment of members. Please reach out to members of your community that might be eligible to join the Auxiliary. I've been asked "What are the benefits of joining the Auxiliary or what am I going to get out of it". When asked what do they get out of joining, remind them that it isn't what they get, but what they can give. There are so many veterans and families in need of various types of care and support. We are a group that is socially and civic-oriented. We can help others facing difficult times, particularly with the help of our WEF/Benevolent Program, chaired by Director Betty Love at Bkenlove@msn.com. Once again, I would like to remind you that monetary assistance is available to widows/widowers of military personnel. We offer assistance with dental, vision, hearing and some emergency funding. In order to receive support, a person must have been a member in good standing in an auxiliary chapter for at least one (1) year prior to a request. We have not received many requests over the past year and we are hoping to spark an interest for those in need. Please don't hesitate to encourage members to apply for assistance if needed. This is one of our major accomplishments that the Auxiliary offers.



We also offer scholarship awards. Information is on line at www.TREA.org, under the National Auxiliary Scholarship Program. This site provides application procedures and eligibility requirements. Application packets' are due by June 1, 2019. Chairperson is Audrey McCray at mccraya@aol.com.

What resources have you put in place for your well-being? As we are reaching and may have already retired, there are some matters that we should address. Such as, preparing ourselves for financial matters that address our future needs. But more importantly is making sure that we have a will in place. Having a will is probably one of the best gifts we can provide to our loved ones. Our goal should be to give peace of mind to all that are concerned. A will lets you decide how your property will be distributed, gives you an opportunity to choose person(s), bank, or trust company to serve as the personal representative of your estate and settle your affairs in order to manage and honor your wishes. For those of us who are military dependents, we have a resource that can help us with our wills that is a free service provided to us through the military legal offices. For more information, you can contact your local base legal office for assistance with your "Will" planning.

In closing, I am saddened to have received notification of the passing of CMSgt Dottie Holmes. She was a Past National President for TREA and served as a dedicated member of Chapter 1, Colorado Springs, Co. We will truly miss her. I hope this information has been helpful. Let us know how can we support your chapter and serve you better. Please contact me at pmitch2121@gmail.com with questions or to provide information that you would like to share. Sincerely Pat Winds

A background image showing a pair of hands clasped together in a prayer position, with fingers pointing upwards. The image is slightly faded and serves as a backdrop for the text.

Prayer is a powerful tool for communicating with our Creator. It's an opportunity to commune with the Giver of all things good. Prayer helps us find strength for today and hope for the future. Yet, because we are busy people living in a demanding world, we don't always take the time to carve out meaningful moments with God. And when we neglect our prayer lives, we rob ourselves of the power and the peace that flows from the loving heart of our Father in heaven.

Prayer has the power to change lives including yours. So make a regular early morning appointment with the Creator and keep it. Then, as the day unfolds, continue your conversation with God. When you do, you'll sense His peace, you'll gain His perspective, and you'll receive His power.



AUXILIARY

CHAPTER 1 AUXILIARY GETS SWORN IN AT THE NEW CHAPTER 1 BUILDING



Ladies Auxiliary being sworn in by PNP Imgard Cates.

CHAPTER 80 – AUXILIARY WINS BIG ON FUNDRAISER

Chapter 80 fared well on its annual fundraiser, a raffle for an afghan. The chapter and auxiliary participate in everything together, which initiates bonding in its causes and organization for events, making them very successful.

The afghan was won by the produce manager of the Ft. Sam Houston Commissary. It was presented to her by Vice President Juanita Higginbotham.

Pictured are Vice President Juanita Higginbotham and winner, Veronica (last name not given) and the beautiful Afghan.



Submitted by PNP Marie Smith,
Auxiliary Public Relations

NEED a Helping Hand? TREA is here for you!



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

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

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

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

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

Nature's Majesty Comes Home in Ted Blaylock's Masterpiece Lamp

Treetop Majesty Table Lamp

Stands
15½" High

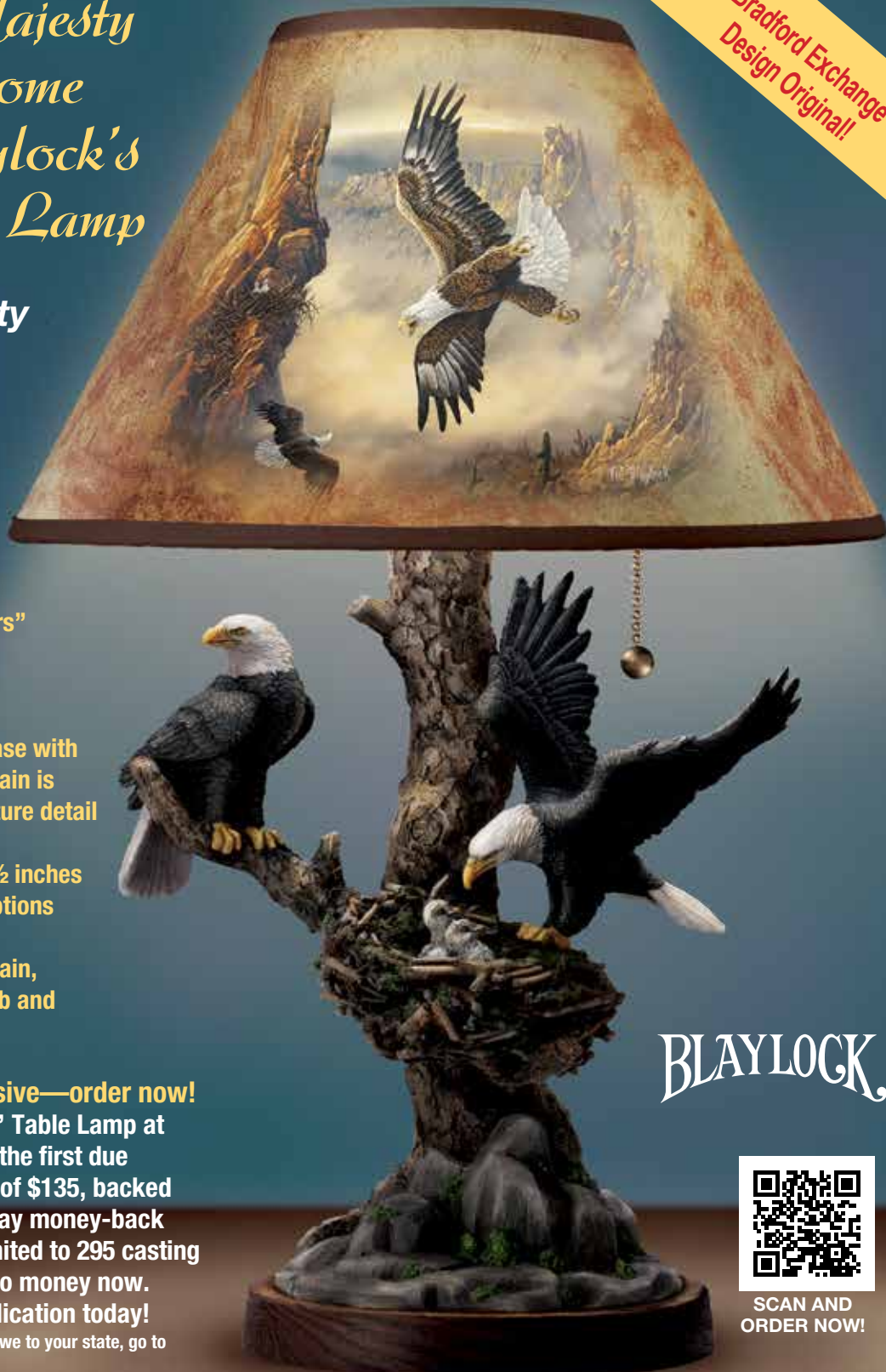
- Showcases Ted Blaylock's powerful "Canyon Protectors" artwork on the 10" wide lamp shade
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- Includes golden ball pull chain, long-lasting 9-watt CFL bulb and Certificate of Authenticity

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Order the "Treetop Majesty" Table Lamp at four installments of \$33.75, the first due before shipment, for a total of \$135, backed by our unconditional, 365-day money-back guarantee. The edition is limited to 295 casting days, so don't wait! Send no money now. Return the Reservation Application today!

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

www.bradfordexchange.com/eaglelamp



BLAYLOCK



SCAN AND
ORDER NOW!

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Shown much smaller than its impressive actual size
of 15½ in. H. FREE 9-watt CFL bulb included.

RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW



9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the *Treetop Majesty Table Lamp* for me as described in this announcement.
Limit: one per customer.

Please Respond Promptly

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

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*Plus a total of \$18.99 shipping and service; see bradfordexchange.com
Limited-edition presentation restricted to 295 casting days. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

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There are two Director positions up for election at this year's convention.

If you are interested in running for one of these two positions,

please fill out TREA Form 100-3 and return it to HQ

(12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 250 – Centennial, CO 80112)

CHAPTER 1 – BACK IN BUSINESS!

By Lonny Barrett, Chapter 1 President

On January 1st, 2017, Chapter 1 closed the business doors of the location we had occupied since the early 1980's. It was a sad day as many of our members commented on all the many happy memories they had there. But the reality was that our declining chapter numbers and participation could no longer sustain the maintenance and upkeep of an aging 20,000sf building. The rebuild process started almost immediately in the phase of planning.

The Board authorized members to form an Ad-Hoc Committee then Chaired by 1st Vice Lonny Barrett, to try and determine what we could do, not only to help the Chapter survive a certain impending doom, but thrive in the future. They immediately began a process of developing a business vision plan that would not only respect and honor the members that built the legacy of TREA Chapter 1 and kept it alive for so many years, but would also develop an appeal to the one thing many Veterans Service Organizations are lacking - newer, younger, members!

They started by doing the most obvious thing, polling younger Veterans and asking them, "What would encourage you to join an organization like ours?" The answers may surprise you. Commonly, it was, "family-friendly events", "To be able to come to a place where people understand me and I won't be judged", and "A place that has resources to guide me through something difficult." There were many more ideas. We then polled our existing members. Coming up with a Business Vision that would blend a mixture of the two was not easy. But after a year of hard work and several revisions, they felt that had a solid foundation upon which to build.

The search for an building commenced! Now headed by John Wall, Chapter 1's Second Vice, he spent and extensive amount of time looking for a facility that would meet our criteria. #1 A place to hold meetings and socialize, #2 a place that had the capability of generating revenue to sustain



our business plan, #3 a place that wouldn't deplete our available funding in renovations. We also wanted to be in an area near a large concentration of Veterans and Active Duty Military. The committee surveyed many buildings all over town, eliminating them one by one. They even briefly considered leasing part of their old facility. But eventually, they settled on a space just over 5000sf right off Academy Blvd that is affordable, and meets the 3 basic needs. That particular hub is also slated to receive a beautification and revitalization grant from the city to bring more business traffic to the area, which in turn, has a potential to increase membership. In August, 2018, President



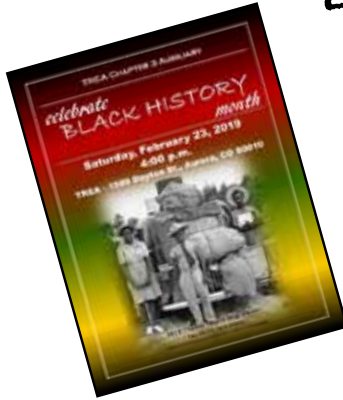
Lonny Barrett, signed a 5 year lease and starting 1 September, the committee got to work! In an effort to be fiscally responsible, much of the labor getting this facility in shape was generously donated by Chapter Members spending weekends and evenings getting a variety of tasks completed in preparation for our Grand Re-Opening.



Chapter 1 has been holding meetings and small social events at their new facility since October 2018. We are eagerly anticipating their Grand Re-Opening Ribbon Cutting event located at 3035B S. Academy Blvd on 4 May, 2019 at 1pm.



celebrate BLACK HISTORY month



The Auxiliary and TREA Chapter 3 held its annual Black History Month Celebration. Featured guests included a panelist of Retired African American Female Colonels who spoke on the topic "Recommended Survival Skills 101".

The Panel included Colonel Lavonna Heath, Lt. Colonel Dianne Fisher, Lt. Colonel Dorothy Wallace, and Lt. Colonel Eliza Porter-Harper. The panel discussion was moderated by Mrs. Constance Williams.



Also shown in the pictures are Charles Smith, author of his book 'The Arctic Jungles of Vietnam', Jo Ann Millsap RDN,MPA author of her book "Simple Soulful Savory Too". Glenn Blassingame, Chapter 3 President is also seated at the head table. The event also featured "The Yeshua Praise Dancers from True Light Baptist Church, Denver, CO, and an all male fashion show.



A delicious soul food dinner was also served.



CHAPTER 72 PITTSBURGH CHRISTMAS PARTY



President Harry Blackwell

Chapter 72 members and guests got together for some Holiday Camaraderie on December 15, 2018 at the annual Christmas Party. The "party package" included live holiday music courtesy of Bill McCoy and Kathy Fill who played the guitar as the group sang several holiday songs. The gift exchange was a lot of fun as Barb Harmon read the Night Before Christmas where the members had to pass their gifts left to right. Mark and Sandy Mayo provided a special holiday cake and to top things off; we had a visit from Santa Claus, President, Harry Blackwell. Everyone who attended had a great time!



Lydia Williamson, Santa, & Barbara Harmon



Live Entertainment! Bill McCoy



Dave & Wilma Williams watching gift openings



Richard Koeppen & Robert Mollohan opening their gifts!



Sandi & Mark Mayo - Can't wait to see what's in their bags!



Darrell & Lorraine Cobbs



Guests - Kathy Fill & Mark Gilmore



Carmelita Williams (front)
Ron Wallace & Aaron Johnson

All photographs courtesy of President Harry Blackwell



Indian River Colony Club

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FLORIDA

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not included.*

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- ♦ Generous Maintenance Package; covering roof, AC, exterior paint, all appliances, much more
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- ♦ Fine Dining
- ♦ Over 40 Groups and Activities
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TREA'S 56TH ANNIVERSARY & NATIONAL CONVENTION DENVER, CO

EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW –

Date: Thursday, September 18th – Friday , September 20th, 2019

Place: DoubleTree, by Hilton - 3203 Quebec Street, Denver CO 80207

Room Rates: \$119 (plus sales tax and room tax)

Reservations: call 303-321-3333 or go to our website, www.trea and click on the 'make hotel reservation' link on the homepage

Deadline for Registration: August 15th, 2019

Closest Airport: Denver International (DEN)

Hotel Shuttle: There is no hotel shuttle to/from the airport. Uber and Lyft will cost you approximately \$27 for a car load (this is very cost effective when sharing the ride with other convention attendees). Super Shuttle is also available for a cost of \$27.00 each way.

Registration Fee: \$175

Includes: Registration Packet

Invitation to the Welcome Reception (light appetizers, cash bar)

Opening Ceremony (Mayor remarks, Guest Speaker)

2 Business Meetings

Award Luncheon (Grilled Chicken, plated lunch)

Presidential Hospitality (light appetizer, 2 drink tickets, cash bar)

President's Dinner (BBQ Buffet, cash bar, Guest Speaker, DJ, dancing and a little extra 'fun' thrown in for good measure)

TREA'S 56TH ANNIVERSARY & NATIONAL CONVENTION DENVER, CO

EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW –



Denver, Colorado – The Mile High City – is where urban sophistication meets outdoor adventure. Denver is an outdoor city known for its world-class cultural attractions, thriving craft breweries, chef-driven dining and red hot music scene, all with the beautiful Rocky Mountains as a backdrop.

Ranked as the #1, Best Place to Live (according to US. News & World Reports, 2016), Denver offers a multitude of opportunities, not just for the outdoor enthusiast, but for everyone.

If enjoying 300 days of sunshine isn't enough for you, there are world-class art museums, eclectic and diverse neighborhoods, the country's largest (per capita) collection of micro-breweries and over 22,000 square miles of open space and parks. Colorado, in general has some of the most varied landscaped in the world and without a doubt, some of the most amazing and awe inspiring sunsets. For history buffs, Colorado is brimming with history straight out of the Old West. Tours of gold mines are available as are rides into the past on a historic railcar.

How to dress when you are here: While you may see snow off in the distance atop the majestic Rocky Mountains, Denver enjoys delightfully warm, sunny days. Denver is known for 300 days of sunshine. This is more sunny days on record than San Diego and Miami Beach. Dressing in layers allows you to adjust to the sometimes rapid temperature changes throughout the day. When the sun sets, it can get cool. You will want to bring a jacket or medium weight coat – you will not want to miss the famous Colorado sunsets.

Make sure that you check the website (www.trea.org) often as updates will be posted often.

THE HOTEL

The DoubleTree Hotel (3203 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80207) is conveniently located off of I-70, a major thoroughfare running east west, allowing visitors easy access to anywhere and everywhere. The hotel is within close proximity to the Denver Zoo and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.



This hotel features 561 rooms, all with flat-screen TV's, complimentary WI-FI, designer toiletries and hair dryers. The hotel has an on-site indoor pool, a spa tub, sauna and a fitness center. A small gift shop/newsstand is located off the newly renovated lobby and a complimentary shuttle service is available to take you to local restaurants, shopping venues and light rail station.

Featured amenities include a business center, express check-out and complimentary newspapers in the lobby. Two full-scale bars are available to help you unwind after a long day and the hotel restaurant proudly serves chef-inspired entrees as well as wood fired pizza. A full sized, Starbucks Coffee shop is on site for those who need their caffeine fix. The on-site parking garage is free for all registered guests.



CONVENTION DAY TRIPS

Saturday, September 21st - While the convention is officially over, the fun doesn't have to end. There is so much to do and to see in the area that we couldn't help ourselves. We made a list of some of the more popular places to go and things to do.

We really do want to hear from you! Let us know what you would like to do or see when you are here and we will do our best to make it happen.

Here is a list of a few places to see and things to do that we thought you might be interested in. We need at least 20 people to sign up for a trip to make it happen, so if you are interested in one (or more), let us know by e-mailing us at treahq@trea.org.

We will take the top 3 and work on making them happen.

1- Blackhawk/Central City Casino Trip - These two old gold mining towns were once known as the "Richest Square Mile on Earth" – obviously referring back to the gold rush days. Now they have come alive again with 24 casinos with over 100,000 slot machines, poker, blackjack, roulette and craps. The surrounding hills are covered with abandoned gold mines, Victorian buildings and Old West history. Even if you are not a gambler, the trip is worth taking. It's a beautiful ride through Roosevelt National Forest and alongside peaceful flowing rivers.



CONVENTION DAY TRIPS (CONT.)

Once in Blackhawk/Central City you will be on your own to try your luck in any casino you wish. Some offer free buffet lunches (if you sign up as a new member), others offer daily give-aways. For the non gamblers in the group, the area is home to many local shoppes and eateries and is truly is a beautiful way to spend a fall day in Colorado. Depending on how many members are interested, we could have two trips, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. It's about a 6 hour trip, an hour traveling time, each way and then 4 hours to play. Cost would be approximately \$25.00 for the round trip bus --- price does not include what you may win (or lose) at the casino ☺

2. Denver Botanical Gardens – a 23-acre oasis in the middle of the city. It has 45 different gardens (some 33,000 plants) , as well as one of the nation's top 10 conservatories. Relax in the Japanese Garden or climb through the Rock Alpine Garden. The Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory is the largest single structure tropical conservatory in the US, including banyan tree roots and cloud forest orchids. A must see for any green thumb, or green thumb wanna-be. Price would be cost of admission (\$9.50) plus transportation. This could range from free to \$20/per person



3. Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum – over 50 iconic aircraft and the most realistic flight simulators in Colorado. Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Musuem has something for everyone. Not only can you walk alongside majestic former warbirds, a ¾ scale X-Wing Starfighter and a homemade helicopter, but you can bring out your inner pilot with their unforgettable Simulator Experiences and immerse yourself in aviation history. The price for

this trip would be admission (\$11.50) plus transportation costs which could range from free to \$20/per person.

4. A little something special for the ladies – afternoon tea at the Brown Palace. Take a trip back in time and continue the legacy of Afternoon Tea in the grandeur of the Atrium, front and center stage of the historical Brown Palace. Not for those counting pennies, but certainly an experience not to be forgotten. Feel like royalty while you enjoy herbal teas, scones and finger sandwiches while surrounded by pure elegance and unchanged history. Devonshire cream shipped directly from England and the soft sounds of a harpist or pianist make this a once in a lifetime experience. Cost would range from \$50 to \$80/per person.



A quick note – even if we are unable to get enough members to make it a bus trip, that does not mean that you cannot make it happen on your own. The hotel has an on-site car rental kiosk, so you can plan what you want for Saturday and make your own special tour of Denver.

CONVENTION AGENDA

This is the basic, get a 'feel for the schedule' agenda. The detailed agenda will be available on the TREA website and will be printed in the August issue of The VOICE.

Tuesday, September 17th –

TSCL precon Meeting (10 -4)
Chapter 39 Dinner and Trivia Entertainment **

Wednesday, September 18th –

TREA and Auxiliary Precon Meetings (9-3)
Welcome Reception (5PM)
Opening Ceremonies (6PM)

Thursday, September 19th –

TREA & Auxiliary Business Meeting (9 – 4)
Joint Award Luncheon (11:30 – 1:00)
Chapter 3 Dinner and Entertainment **

Friday, September 20th –

Chapter & MAL representative Breakfast with President Hilinski (7 – 8:30)
TREA & Auxiliary Business Meetings (9 – 2)
Post Con Meetings & Photos for TREA, Auxiliary and TSCL – in conjunction with (2-3:30)
President's Dinner Hospitality (5pm)
President's Dinner & Entertainment (6pm)
Official end of the 2019 Convention

Saturday, September 21st –

The day is free for attendees – take a look at the previous pages to see all the great places to visit and things to do in Denver!

** These two events require advanced reservations. Make sure that you read all the information about these two events below or you can find all the details by going to the TREA website (www.trea.org) and clicking on the convention link.

CONVENTION 'BEFORE & AFTER HOUR' EVENTS

In addition to the events planned during the official convention (September 18th – 20th, 2019) two local chapters are offering events for all attendees. These events are not part of the convention registration fee and advanced reservations and payments are required.



TRIVIA



On Tuesday, September 17th, Chapter 39 will be offering a dinner of hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken assorted salads & cake. Trivia entertainment will be provided. Social hour will begin at 5 with a cash bar, dinner will be served at 6 and trivia entertainment will take place after dinner. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Chapter 39 is located at 15821 E Centretech Circle in Aurora and is less than 10 miles from the hotel. It will take approximately 25 minutes leaving the hotel at 4:30 pm. Please reach out to Chapter 39 President, Chuck Baum at president@trea39.org or 303-888-9669 for more information or to make reservations.



On Thursday, September 19th, Chapter 3 will be offering Catfish, Brisket, Fruits, Antipasto Salad, Potato Salad, French Fries & Dinner Rolls. The price will be \$20.00 and will include transportation to/from the hotel. Karaoke and DJ with Dancing will follow dinner for a fun and festive evening. Chapter 3 is located at 1599 Dayton Street in Aurora and is about 3 miles from the hotel. It will take you approximately 15 minutes when leaving the hotel at 4:30. Please contact Chapter 3 President, Glenn Blassingame Sr, at 303-902-3078 or Auxiliary President Audrey McCray at 303-921-2548 for more information or to secure your reservation.





2019 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

September 18th - 20th, 2019

DOUBLE TREE, by Hilton Denver

3203 Quebec Street, Denver CO 80207

Rooms: Standard - \$119+ (free on-site parking)

For reservations, call 800-774-1500 and give code 'TRA'

Send completed form and payment to:

TREA: Convention

12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Ste 250

Centennial, CO 80112

Fax: 303-752-0835 or

888-882-0835

Discounted rates are available until August 17th, 2019

Register online at www.TREA.ORG

Registering as: ☐ TREA ☐ AUXILIARY

☐ Chapter # _____ Delegate ☐ MAL Delegate ☐ National Board ☐ Past National President ☐ Guest
(Delegate status will be verified through HQ)

Member #: _____ Name (First, Last) _____

Name as it should appear on Name Badge - including position: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Tel #: _____ E-Mail: _____

In an effort to cut costs and keep the registration fee low, we are encouraging attendees to opt for the PDF or thumb drive format of the convention binder. PDF's will be sent via email no later than 9/15, thumb drives will be handed out at registration. There will only be enough physical binders for those who select it here. There will not be any extras. Thank you for supporting our efforts to be fiscally responsible.

Please circle **ONE** choice

a Physical Binder

a thumb drive (to be used on my
own electronic device)

an electronic PDF
(e-mail required)

REGISTRATION FEE: \$175.00 per person - \$ 175.00

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS Joint Award Luncheon (9/19)
(For guests - and non-registrants) President's Dinner (9/20)

No. _____ \$45.00/each Total: \$ _____

No. _____ \$65.00/each Total: \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

* Please note any dietary restrictions here _____

☐ I am paying by Check # _____

☐ Visa

☐ Master Card

☐ Discover

#: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Print Name as it appears on Card: _____

Refunds subject to a 25% Processing Fee - NO REFUNDS AFTER 8/17/2019

IN MEMORY

Dorothy Wayne Holmes

Reveille – August 1, 1927

Taps – February 17, 2019



Retired Chief Master Sergeant Dorothy Holmes blazed many trails during her three decades in the Air Force.

She was the first African American woman to reach the Air Force's highest enlisted rank. She was the first woman to retire with 30 years of continuous service in the Air Force, and she was the first female Chief Master Sergeant to be assigned to the Air Force Academy.

A friend, retired Army Master Sgt. And fellow TREA member, George Smith, remembers her as a wonderful person who was fun to be around — but one with little patience for nonsense, who could grab people's attention with her commanding voice.

"She would tell it like it is, and whether you would like to hear it or not, she would tell it," Smith. "She had a lot on the ball."

Smith remembered how they would visit 'the Hill' as representatives of TREA and TSCL, urging lawmakers to introduce or support legislation that would benefit veterans and seniors, and if Chief Holmes felt that one of the lawmakers was being dismissive, she would quickly put him in his place. Smith said that "Later, when we'd get back together, we would laugh about it, how it appeared that she was just a little kind lady, but when her time comes to talk, she wouldn't hesitate."

When Holmes retired after almost three years at the academy, former Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm issued an executive order declaring May 31, 1979, as Chief Master Sergeant Dorothy W. Holmes Day.

Chief Holmes served as the first, and to date – the only female National President of The Retired Enlisted Association. She served in that position for 2 terms and remained an active and staunch supporter of the organization. She will forever be remembered as the Nominating & Credential Chair and her famous 'to the rear' statement whenever an issue had to be resolved. That voice and the person behind that voice will forever be missed.

Chief Holmes also served as president of the Women in the Air Force Association for 25 years, according to her obituary. She continued to volunteer at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, not far from the academy, in retirement.

Holmes treasured her time in the Air Force, Smith said, and often looked back fondly on those days. If anybody said anything bad about her beloved service, she'd challenge them immediately, he added.

She received the Legion of Merit for her work at the academy, and her other decorations included the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Holmes passed away on Feb. 17 at the age of 91, and a memorial service was held for her in Colorado Springs, Colorado. TREA was well represented at the service. Over 80 TREA representatives were in attendance; including local TREA and TREA Auxiliary members, Current President Hilinski and several PNP's, current and past TREA Headquarter staff and TSCL all came out to show their final respect.



Information for this article was extracted from the Air force Times, online from March 1

THE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION GOES OUT IN A BIG WAY!

By Butch Liebaert, Chairman



As the Foundation continues the process of closing down operations, the decision was made to go out in a BIG way. One of the biggest and most important issues in the decision to close the Foundation was retaining the ability to control how and where the Foundation funds were spent.

Once that decision was made, the Trustees came together and decided the best ways to distribute the funds in order to make the biggest impact on as many veterans as possible.

The criteria used in deciding what organizations would receive the funds, the trustees were asked to recommend non-profit, veteran organizations that were not exclusionary (meaning that all veterans, of all eras, from all branches without regard to race or gender would be eligible to receive assistance from these organizations) with priority being given to national organizations. That was not as easy as it might seem at first glance. A lot of great organizations were recommended. Then the hard work began, research was done on each recommended organization, charity ratings were compiled, presidents and directors were contacted and outreach was done through several organizations to find out what the most important or most lacking need was for veterans and military members. A lot of thought and soul searching was done before the final list of recipients was compiled. There were no bad recommendations, but a few did stand out above the rest, either through their mission or through their success stories. The final results were:

The Fisher House - \$60,000. Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military & veterans families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital. Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$451 million in out of pocket costs for lodging and transportation. Fisher House Foundation also operates the Hero Miles program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members as well as the Hotels for Heroes program using donated hotel points to allow family members to stay at hotels near medical centers without charge. The Foundation also manages a grant program that supports other military charities and scholarship funds for military children, spouses and children of fallen and disabled veterans. In 2018 more than 32,000 families were served, with 1,100 being served daily. Please visit <https://www.fisherhouse.org/> for more information.

USO - \$60,000. The USO provides programs, entertainment and services at more than 200 USO locations worldwide. In 2017, USO centers were visited more than 7 million times by service members and their families. USO centers provide a warm and comforting place where service members can connect to loved ones via Internet or phone, play a video game, catch a movie, have a snack or just put their feet up and relax. In addition, the USO creates and maintains strong connections between service members and their families, homes and country, no matter where they serve. The USO expresses America's gratitude and commitment to service members and their families through programs focused on connection, strengthening, wellness and resiliency. The USO has several other great programs, to find out more about them, please visit www.uso.org



THE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION GOES OUT IN A BIG WAY!

By Butch Liebaert, Chairman

Project Sanctuary - \$60,000. Project Sanctuary supports military families where they are right NOW. A recognized leader in bringing health and wellness to military families, Project Sanctuary addresses mental health first, and by doing so, they take families from battle ready to family ready. The support of family cannot be overemphasized; it is paramount for the success of military members and veterans and is known to be one of the major contributing factors in the healing process of wounded soldiers. When the family struggles, the soldier/veteran struggles, when the family thrives, the soldier/veteran also thrives. Over 1,200 families have reconnected through this special program since 2007. Through their focus on Therapeutic Recreation, Education and Counseling, this program treats the whole family in order to make the family whole. You can read about their programs at www.projectsanctuary.us

Patriot PAWS - \$30,000. With so many service dog organizations, it was extremely difficult to choose just one – so we didn't. We reviewed many, many organizations and narrowed it down to two, Patriot PAWS being one of them. The mission of Patriot PAWS is to train and provide service dogs of the highest quality at no cost to disabled American veterans and others with mobile disabilities and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in order to help restore their physical and emotional independence. Patriot PAWS intends to build partnerships with local, state and national organizations to help develop and support this goal. You can learn more about them at www.patriotpaws.org.

Paws for Purple Hearts - \$30,000. Paws for purple hearts is the first organization of its kind to offer canine-assisted warrior therapy® (formerly referred to as canine assisted therapeutic intervention). They are dedicated to improving the lives of America's Warriors facing mobility challenges and trauma related conditions such as PTSD and TBI by providing the highest quality service dogs and canine assisted therapeutic programs. Please visit www.pawsforpurplehearts.org for more information on their program.

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (MSHV) - \$60,000. Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans provides housing, supportive services and community outreach to help homeless and at-risk veterans and their families achieve self-sufficiency. Founded in 2007, by Vietnam War veteran Bob Adams and Gulf War veteran Dirk Enger, MSHV operates on a vision of no veteran left behind due to homelessness, joblessness, poverty and/or mental health issues. Take a look at their services by going to www.helpaveteran.org.

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veteran (MACV) - \$60,000. Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been serving veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless across the state of Minnesota for over 25 years. Their mission is to end Veteran Homelessness by providing housing, employment and legal services. They accomplish their mission by providing these services directly and in collaboration with community partners. In 2017, over 5,000 veterans received services from MACV. To find out more, go to www.mac-v.org.

One last time I would like to thank the Foundation's Trustees, Lanny Eller, Bill Neurauter, Marie Smith, Doug Kasel, and Deb Oelschig for their time and effort serving as a Trustee the last two years.

I would also like to thank DFO Osborne and her office staff for their help behind the scenes and the Foundation's Parliamentarian Charlie Flowers for his guidance.



SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM BILL INTRODUCED WITH WIDESPREAD SUPPORT

By Jessie Gibbons, TSCL Legislative Director

New legislation from Congressman John Larson (CT-1) – Chairman of the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee – would boost Social Security benefits, reduce taxes for beneficiaries, and strengthen the financing of the program for generations to come. The Social Security 2100 Act (H.R. 860, S. 269) was introduced on January 30th with the support of more than 200 cosponsors – more than any other Social Security reform bill to date – and The Senior Citizens League believes it has a real chance of advancing through the

House of Representatives by the end of this year.

The Social Security 2100 Act would improve the Social Security program in four key ways if adopted. It would:

- Make the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) more adequate. Under current law, annual COLAs are based on the spending patterns of young, urban workers. This bill would better protect against the inflation beneficiaries experience by basing the COLA on the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPI-E). On average, benefits would be 0.2 percent higher using this measure of inflation, which means your benefits would grow more quickly over time.
- Boost Social Security benefits by around 2 percent. According to our research, Social Security benefits have lost 34 percent of their buying power since 2000 due in large part to inadequate COLAs and rising Medicare premiums. An across-the-board benefit boost of around \$35 per month is a modest change that most beneficiaries believe is fair and necessary.
- Cut taxes for 12 million beneficiaries. This year, around 12 million beneficiaries with incomes of just twice the poverty line paid taxes on their Social Security benefits. This bill would raise the income thresholds for the taxation of benefits – from \$25,000 for individuals or \$32,000 for married couples to \$50,000 for individuals or \$100,000 for married couples – so that those with modest incomes no longer see their benefits taxed each year.
- Reduce senior poverty by creating a new minimum benefit. Beneficiaries who worked long careers of thirty years or more in jobs with very low wages should not be retiring into poverty. The Social Security 2100 Act would ensure that these individuals receive a minimum Social Security benefit set at 125 percent above the poverty line.

The Social Security 2100 Act would more than cover the cost of these four benefit improvements with two changes to the payroll tax. First, it would apply the tax to income over \$400,000 so that the wealthiest workers contribute to the program more fairly. Under current law, income over \$132,900 is not subjected to the payroll tax so millionaires and other high earners stop contributing to the Social Security program after just a few weeks each year. The bill would also gradually increase the payroll tax rate from 6.2 percent to 7.4 percent – an extra fifty cents per week for the average worker according to Congressman Larson. These two changes would ensure that the Social Security program remains solvent through the year 2100 and beyond.

The Senior Citizens League enthusiastically supports the Social Security 2100 Act since it would strengthen benefits while improving the solvency of the trust funds for decades to come. In the months ahead, we look forward to working with Congressman Larson and the bill's cosponsors to build additional support for it. For updates on its progress as it makes its way through Congress, follow The Senior Citizens League on Twitter or visit the Bill Tracking section of our website, which you can find at SeniorsLeague.org.

TEAM TSCL NEEDS CANDIDATES FOR ITS 2019-2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Requirements: Candidates must have been a member of TREA for at least three years and be at least 18 years of age.

No elected member of TREA or TREA National Auxiliary Boards of Directors may serve concurrently as a Trustee (except The Treasurer, who shall be exempt from all other qualifications).

Interested TREA members should submit resumes on TREA Form 100-3MT, located on TREAs website under Resources/Forms & Documents. Resumes will be accepted until the day prior to TSCL's business meeting at TREAs National Convention in September 2019 in Denver, Colorado. Term Length: 3 Years.

ATTENTION TREA MEMBERS

Candidates do not have to present to be considered or selected.

Questions? Contact ...
Shannon Benton
TSCL Executive Director
sbenton@tsclhq.org
800-333-TSCL (8725)

Arthur "Coop" Cooper
TSCL Chairman
arctrea24@live.com
443-336-1230

Since 1993 TSCL has faithfully contributed to, and worked with, TREA to promote TREA's mission alongside its own in the belief that TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

THE ENLISTED ASSOCIATION IS COLLECTING RECIPES FOR OUR COOKBOOK

We have started collecting recipes from our members for a cookbook and The Enlisted Association plans on beginning sales of these cookbooks at our National Convention in September of 2019.

The beautiful spiral bound cookbook will feature recipes from chapters, MAL's, and TREA Auxiliary members, in 7 different full-color sections. The book will contain many pages of helpful cooking hints and several pages of TREA information. Each recipe will feature the donors' names, so everyone can easily locate the favorite recipes of other members.

The books will be sold by members of the organization at our National Convention and in the TREA Store or through your local Chapters after the convention.

If you have a recipe that you want to submit, please do so by June 15th to recipes@trea.org or send them to TREA Recipes – 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Ste 250 – Centennial, CO 80112.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Membership Number: # _____

Recruiter: _____ Recruiter Number: _____ Chapter Number: _____

Name: _____ Birthdate: _____

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

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Spouse: _____ Your Grade/Rank: _____ Years in Service: _____

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

I am : ☐ Retired ☐ Veteran ☐ Active Duty ☐ Spouse of a veteran

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

(Applicant, please sign here)

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

☐ One Year - \$30

☐ Two Years - \$55

☐ Three Years - \$75

☐ Life Membership (under 70) - \$400

☐ Life Membership (over 70) - \$350

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

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

Payment:

Visa

Master Card

Discover

American Express

Check (Make checks payable to: TREA)

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Please return your completed application to:

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

303-752-0660 800-338-9337

www.trea.org



WE EARNED OUR STRIPES

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