

THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted



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George Skonce, 1915 – 2000

Dean Sorell, 1921 – 2004

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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

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Deadlines

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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 Send address changes to VOICE Magazine – 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 170 – Centennial, CO 80112. I will look through the options for the back page, but if you have something in mind – let me know.

The TREA Successes is "What has TREA done for me".

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Justin G. Jump, TREA National President



As I write this message, I'm deeply humbled by the privilege of serving as your President. Leading an organization that has stood strong for more than six decades—championing the rights and welfare of our enlisted service members, retirees, veterans, and their families—is both an honor and a responsibility I take to heart.

When I stepped forward to run for this office, it was because I believed in TREA: in our history, our mission, and our potential to do even more. My goal for this final year of my presidential term is simple but powerful—to turn that belief into bold, measurable action that strengthens TREA's future and delivers real results for our members.

But I can't do it alone. I need your help.

Too many service members and veterans still don't know who we are or what we've accomplished. After nearly 63 years of advocacy, TREA should be a household name within the enlisted community—but we've remained one of the best-kept secrets in the veterans' world. It's time to change that.

From securing **TRICARE** for Life to fighting for **fair cost-of-living and pay adjustments**, TREA has consistently delivered meaningful victories that improve the lives of those who served. You can read more about these achievements on page 18.

Now, it's time for each of us to share that story.

I'm asking every TREA member to take action—today. Talk about TREA with your friends, your colleagues, and your communities. Post about us. Mention us at your next unit gathering or veterans' event. Bring one new member to the table. Tell them what TREA has done—and what we're doing right now.

Through **TREA GIVES**, we're providing service dogs, financial relief, food, clothing, and critical support to enlisted service members, retirees, veterans, and their families. We are expanding our legislative presence and amplifying our voice where it matters most—on Capitol Hill. Every person who knows our story strengthens our ability to serve, advocate, and win.

Your voice is our force multiplier.

The more people who hear about TREA, the stronger we become. The stronger we become, the greater our victories—for all who have served.

I believe in TREA—its proud past, its powerful present, and its limitless future. Now, I'm asking you to believe in it too. Let's stand together, speak boldly, and make sure no one who served ever asks again, "What is TREA?"

Together, we'll make sure they know.



UNITED WE STAND
Justin G.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Garry Turks, National 1st Vice & Chaplain



I struggled with finding the right prayer, the right bible passage, the right thing to say that would be appropriate for what we, as a nation and as a people, are experiencing today. It is tough – for everyone. We are all facing very real struggles – financial, racial, political, sexual, spiritual. Once my heart settled in on ‘compassion’ the doors were flung open with the right words to share -

Ephesians 4:32, ‘Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.’ And in 1 Peter 3:8, “Be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.’ For our members who do not follow biblical teachings, something from the Dalai Lama - “If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to happy, practice compassion.” “Only the development of compassion and understanding for others can bring us the tranquility and happiness we all seek.” Compassion was also taught by Buddha in that “compassion is essential for all aspects of life, from personal happiness to spiritual enlightenment.” “In separateness lies the world’s greatest misery; In compassion lies the world’s true strength.”

The world certainly needs us all to come together in strength and unity right now – don’t you agree?

Being compassionate does not mean pretending that one’s flaws/differences do not exist, it simply means that you do not engage in, or perpetuate hate, anger, or angst towards them. You do not have to accept or believe in something that someone else says or does, to be compassionate, but you do actively navigate away from negative energy, feelings, or actions against them for it.

As Nelson Mandela one said, “Our human compassion binds us the one to the other – not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.” Say that again – aloud – ‘Hope for the future.’ It starts with compassion from each one of us. Not necessarily with the goal of changing anyone or anything, but with the intent to stop the hate and the division that comes from our differences.

Compassion – simply seeing the suffering of others and wanting it to stop.

Today, I pray for all of us to embrace compassion and its desire to end the unnecessary suffering, in whatever form it exists to those experiencing it. And for our countys’ leaders to be guided by wisdom, humility and compassion in their decisions, and actions, to seek unification and not division. To pursue diplomatic solutions over conflict. To set aside selfish ambition and work together towards lasting peace.

As your National Chaplain, I am here for you – to provide comfort and support, encouragement, and counseling. I am here to share in your good times and to help bear the weight in your difficult times. If you are in need of Chaplain services, please reach out to me at: chaplain@trea.org, or TREA Headquarters (treahq@trea.org).



OUR HOLIDAY MESSAGE TO YOU

As we enter the Holiday Season, we want to take a moment to share a to yo message of hope, unity, care and support. As long as we have Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Guard and Reservists still out there fighting our fight, TREA will be the light and hope for them. We will continue to fight those who have targeted the military and veteran budgets for reduction. We will continue to fight for the benefits that you have earned and for some, are still earning through your service to our country. We honor that service and that of your family members who serve/served with you.

As the holiday season quickly approaches, TREA hopes that you enjoy the holidays in peace with family and friends and that you take a moment to remember those who are not able to do so.

TREA wishes you happiness and joy as we bring 2025 to an end and hope and encouragement as we welcome in 2026.

~ Congratulations ~

2025/26 TREA Scholarship Winners

Tyler Holforthy, Co-Founder George & Louise Skonce Scholarship

William Green, Co-Founder Dean & Flossie Sorell Scholarship

Nick Marigo, Dottie Holmes Scholarship

Alice Pickett

Mathew Wong

Abigail McCracken

Zekiah Strickland

Rachel Carter

Ania Calbough

Isabella Forbes

Zachary Lamont

Cooper Solis



Planning a trip for the holidays?

TREA members can save up to 60% on hotels and travel - worldwide!

<https://trea/hotelplanner.com/>





WASHINGTON UPDATE

The VOICE

TREA National President, Justin Jump

Executive Summary

TREA entered the final quarter of 2025 with strong momentum on our top legislative priority, the Major Richard Star Act, and heightened oversight of significant changes at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Our strategy for the remainder of the year centers on advancing the Star Act toward inclusion in a moving legislative vehicle, supporting bipartisan quality-of-life packages for enlisted servicemembers and families, and ensuring VA workforce reductions do not degrade veterans' access to care or benefits.

119th Congress

Since Congress returned from August recess, lawmakers have reintroduced and advanced multiple bills central to enlisted servicemembers, veterans, and their families. As the new year approaches, TREA continues coordinated engagement with the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, the Armed Services Committees, and coalition partners, including The Military Coalition, to move key measures before year's end.

Top Priority: The Major Richard Star Act (S. 1032 / H.R. 2102)

The Star Act would authorize concurrent receipt of DoD retired pay and VA disability compensation for combat-injured retirees medically retired prior to 20 years of service ending the statutory offset that penalizes thousands of combat-wounded veterans.

On October 8, 2025, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal initiated a "hotline" which asked for unanimous passage of the Star Act in the Senate. Unfortunately, the measure failed and was blocked by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Roger Wicker, and, at present time, will not be considered for a full vote by the end of the calendar year.

As of now, the House version enjoys 301 cosponsors, and the Senate version enjoys 76 cosponsors. Pathways to passage for this landmark legislation currently include pursuing inclusion in the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a VA legislative vehicle, or alternatively an omnibus package in 2026.

TREA and our partners will continue to apply coordinated coalition pressure this fall, focusing particularly on key members of the appropriations committees and House and Senate leadership. At the same time, attention must remain on addressing pay-go and cut-go offset concerns raised by fiscally minded members of Congress, with a strong emphasis on the principle of equity for combat-wounded retirees.



WASHINGTON UPDATE - CONT.

The Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025 (H.R. 740 / S. 275)

The TREA backed Veterans' ACCESS Act remains pending before Congress and represents a major bipartisan effort to strengthen veterans' access to care. The bill would codify VA's community care access standards, ensuring that wait times or other administrative barriers cannot be used to deny or delay needed care. It would also mandate new transparency requirements, obligating VA to notify veterans of their eligibility, explain any denials, and clearly outline available options for receiving care either within VA facilities or through community providers.

Critically, the legislation would establish standards for timely access to mental health and substance use treatment, reinforcing that "community care is VA care" and safeguarding access for veterans in crisis. The measure enjoys strong VSO support and bipartisan backing in Congress, with 51 co-sponsors in the House and 10 in the Senate, along with broad recognition that it would strengthen the original intent of the MISSION Act by expanding veterans' ability to receive quality, timely care.

FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

Congress is actively advancing the FY 2026 NDAA, which authorizes defense policy and funding. In early July, the Senate Armed Services Committee passed the NDAA on a 26–1 vote, moving it to the floor with strong bipartisan support. The Senate version authorizes approximately \$925 billion in total national defense funding, including \$878.7 billion for the Department of Defense and \$35.2 billion for the Department of Energy, with an additional \$6 billion in transfer authority reserved for emergent needs.

The House version, which passed the full House on July 18, 2025, also includes a 3.8% pay increase for servicemembers, a 60% increase in the family separation allowance, and excludes the basic allowance for housing from income calculations. TREA will continue to monitor the progress of this critical legislation as both chambers continue to reconcile the bill in the coming weeks.

Additional Legislation

Quality of Life & Family Support:

- Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement Act (comprehensive package: housing, pay tables, food security, healthcare access)
- Military Childcare Expansion Act (funding and flexibility to expand on-base childcare)
- Military Family Nutrition Access Act (improves access to nutrition assistance for low-income military families)
- Military Spouse Hiring Act (expands Work Opportunity Tax Credit to incentivize hiring)



WASHINGTON UPDATE - CONT.

Veterans' Benefits & Protections:

- GUARD VA Benefits Act (protects veterans from predatory claims practices by unaccredited actors)
- Veterans Housing Stability Act (prevents homelessness; expands affordable housing access)
- TRICARE Reserve Parity Act (restores TRICARE eligibility for Guard/Reserve on pre-planned missions)

Healthcare, Access & Modernization:

- Providing Veterans Essential Medications Act
- Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act (SAVES)
- Veterans National Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act
- Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act
- Standardizing Treatment and Referral Times Act
- No Wrong Door for Veterans Act
- Veterans Supporting Prosthetics Opportunities and Recreational Therapy Act
- CHIP IN for Veterans Act
- Copay Fairness for Veterans Act
- Saving Our Veterans Lives Act
- Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act

All listed measures are introduced and pending action; several enjoy broad, bipartisan support. TREA is coordinating with coalition partners to prioritize vehicles and sequencing for floor or package movement later this year, 2025, or early 2026.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Since taking office in early February, VA Secretary Doug Collins has launched a broad effort to improve delivery of care, benefits, and services, prioritizing streamlined processes, better appointment scheduling, IT modernization, and direct engagement with veterans and VSOs.

At the same time, VA enacted sweeping personnel and structural changes: after 2,400 layoffs in February (largely non-bargaining unit probationary employees), VA proposed an additional reduction of approximately 83,000 positions, returning staffing to pre-2019 levels. These moves raised concerns among VSOs including TREA, along with and Congressional oversight leaders about potential impacts on access to care, claims processing, and PACT Act execution. As a result, VA ended up only cutting its workforce by nearly 30,000 employees through natural attrition, retirements, and deferred resignations. As the fiscal year comes to an end, TREA will continue to monitor staffing levels



to ensure VA is properly equipped to serve our veterans.

In March, VA also announced a Veteran Experience Modernization Task Force to reduce administrative barriers and improve consistency across facilities. Efforts include expanding VA Contact Centers, enhancing VBA–VHA system interoperability, and piloting digital tools to improve claims and appeals visibility.

Remainder of 2025

Through the new year, TREA will focus on committee markups and potential NDAA or VA package discussions, maintaining coordination with coalition partners throughout this period.

This month (November), attention will shift to Veterans Day, 2025 at Arlington National Cemetery, along with lame-duck planning with committee staff to identify must-pass vehicles and potential amendment opportunities. By the end of December, the priority will be year-end package positioning, with rapid-response, grassroots engagement as legislative vehicles consolidate.

Communications

TREA continues to expand outreach using the VOICE, Facebook, LinkedIn, and X/Twitter to mobilize members, amplify legislative campaigns, and share timely updates on VA developments and congressional action. Members are encouraged to subscribe and engage to maximize our impact!



**When helping others, you need to
remember that the reward is not found in
the repayment from those you help -**

**The reward is found in the gratitude of your own
situation to be fortunate enough to be in the
position to help another.**

AUXILIARY



FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Audrey McCray

Our TREA Auxiliary National Business Meeting was held on September 17th, through September 18th, 2025, for the purpose of addressing Auxiliary business matters. The business at hand was reviewing scholarship activity, and discussing proposed bylaw and standing rule changes.

Due to no eligible or willing candidates being nominated or stepping forward there was not election held during this meeting. As a result, all current officers will remain in their respective positions until the next election cycle.

A total of eight (8) scholarships were awarded to deserving students this year. The Scholarship Committee continues to uphold its mission of providing financial assistance to students connected to TREA members.

Bylaws/Standing Rules

A. Proposed Amendment to Standing Rule Number 16 – Paragraph 5a

Current Rule Reads: 5. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES: The Committee shall administer and be responsible for all aspects of the Scholarship Program as follows: a. Each year, one \$3,000.00 scholarship grant will be awarded in honor of the Auxiliary Past National Presidents.

Proposed Amendment: 5. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES: The Committee shall administer and be responsible for all aspects of the Scholarship Program as follows:

a. Each year, one scholarship grant will be awarded in honor of the Auxiliary Past National Presidents. All funds awarded to recipients shall be determined by the Scholarship Committee based on available funds.

Rationale for the Amendment: Due to fluctuations in funding and limited resources available from the previous fiscal year, the fixed award amount of \$3,000 is no longer sustainable. The proposed change allows the Scholarship Committee the flexibility to award amounts based on current available funds, ensuring the continuation of the program without financial overextension.

B. Discussion: Officer Eligibility and Conflict of Interest in Scholarship Applications

Issue Discussed: Clarification was requested regarding the eligibility of children or grandchildren of TREA Auxiliary officers to apply for scholarships.

Discussion Summary: It was agreed that:

- Holding an office within the TREA Auxiliary should not disqualify a member's child or grandchild from applying for a scholarship.
- However, to maintain fairness and avoid any conflict of interest, any officer who has a relative applying must recuse themselves from all involvement with the Scholarship Committee or any part of the review and selection process.



Rationale: If this exclusion were enforced, it could result in the loss of valuable leadership, as members with eligible family members might choose not to serve in office. This change is intended to preserve fairness, transparency, and encourage active participation in leadership without penalizing students.

FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS – VETERANS DAY MAILER

All members received the Veterans Day donation mailer, which serves as both a fundraising tool and a tribute to our veterans. Members are encouraged to:

- Send in their Veterans Day donations to support the ongoing work of the TREA Auxiliary.
- Let's continue to honor our veterans not just with our words but with action. Your support ensures the TREA Auxiliary can continue fighting for the rights, benefits, and recognition our military community deserves.

IN CLOSING: Despite challenges, the Auxiliary remains strong and committed to its mission. Discussions during this meeting reflect our collective dedication to maintaining a fair, transparent, and impactful organization. Continued engagement and support from all members are essential as we move forward and stay focus on our mission.

TREA Auxiliary members, let's not forget to send a special Veterans Day gift to support the TREA Auxiliary as they continue to fight for military families and survivors on Capitol Hill.

UNITED WE STAND

Audrey H. McCray
Auxiliary President

LOOKING FOR YOUR TREA MEMBERSHIP CARD?

You can access your membership card anytime through your member account in our database. No more worrying about carrying it with you – it's available to you any time.

If you have already activated your membership account, all you have to do is sign in: go to www.trea.org, and click on MEMBERSHIP in the top ribbon, next to HOME. Click on the JOIN/ SIGN IN button at the bottom of the page. This will take you to the log in page for your membership account. Enter the email that you joined under and your password. Now you will be able to access all your membership data, including your membership card. To view your membership card - hover your mouse over 'My Profile' on the left panel, click on 'Member Card'. A single line will pop up with a small gray gear icon off to the right. Click the down arrow next to the gear icon then click on 'View Card'. Your TREA Membership card will appear. You can download it, take a photo of it on your phone, or print it.

If you have not activated your online membership account, go to: <https://www.trea.org/v2app/#/site/login> and follow the prompts, or call 303-752-0660 to speak to one of the Headquarter staff members who can help you.



DEB OELSCHIG, CHAIR

In case you do not know - TREA GIVES is TREA's 'Foundation' – its benevolent arm – the side of TREA that physically makes a difference in the lives of those who served (or are currently serving) and their families.

TREA GIVES runs many internal campaigns & programs, such as:

- **Halt the Hunger** - A food program that focuses on addressing food insecurity that is being experienced by many of our young service members and their families, as well as our veteran and retired population.
- **Warmth 4 Warriors** – a program that provides warm clothing (hats, gloves, neck warmers) to our veterans who are experiencing financial or homelessness issues.
- **Service Dog Sponsorship** – TREA GIVES partners with a national Veteran based service dog organization and sponsors a veteran/dog team. We are getting ready to sponsor our fourth dog!
- **Holiday Program** – TREA GIVES provides -
 - o Thanksgiving food baskets (or food cards) to enlisted service members, retirees, veterans, Guard & Reserve, and their families.
 - o Christmas packages for the families of wounded or deployed service members.
- **Emergency Financial Assistance** – this program has the ability to provide emergency funds to help with eviction, utility shutoff, medical travel, and other emergencies.
- **Financial counseling** – sometimes someone just needs a little help getting things organized – and we find them a financial counselor in their area and provide the services, at no cost to them.
- **Suicide Prevention Resources** – The staff and Board members of TREA GIVES are in constant training to be a solid resource for national suicide prevention.

We are very proud of our programs and the services that they provide, but we are always looking to grow and expand our ability to help more veterans. We recently attended a VA sponsored Standdown in Colorado Springs where we had originally planned on using our 'Halt the Hunger' program and handing out packages of non-perishable food items (tuna fish, peanut butter, granola bars, Slim Jims, fruit cups). Unfortunately, the facility would not allow food products to be brought in, so we had to pivot at the last minute and we ended up showcasing our 'Warmth 4 Warriors' program. We handed out almost two hundred pairs of gloves, hats, neck warmers, and emergency blankets (which were a big hit!).



TREA GIVES Executive Director - Deb Osborne with TREA Member Jerry Bryant at the VA Standdown



*TREA GIVES Chair - Deb Oelschig (L)
and Executive Director Deb Osborne (R)
hand out hats, gloves and neck warmers*

More than 100 homeless veterans were taken care of on this day. They were fed, offered haircuts & shaves, given boots, backpacks, clothing, hats, gloves & scarves and provided with resources that addressed their own unique situation. There was true humanity from all those there to serve and heartfelt gratitude from the veterans. It was truly humbling to witness, firsthand, the impact that this event had on so many and it provided us with the motivation to do more, provide more, help more. It is now our goal to attend 6 – 8 VA sponsored Standdowns, across the country and expand our offerings to include: sleeping bags, tents (in limited situations), and warm coats.

Our motto is ‘Serving Those who Served’ - and we mean it!

You can help us make a real difference!

To donate by check – send to: TREA GIVES - 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, #170 - Centennial, CO 80112.
If you want to donate by credit card, please call Headquarters at 303-752-0660 or visit our website:
treagives.org

All donations are 100% tax-deductible.



Become a Legacy Donor

Our Legacy Donor Program enables you to leave a legacy for future military generations with planned charitable gifts through your will and estate planning. When you leave a bequest to TREA or TREA GIVES in your estate plan, your generosity secures the continued support to enlisted veterans and military members, and their families for years to come.

The military has always been a family, and this is a great way to take care of your brothers/sisters-in-arms. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

Donations to both TREA, and TREA GIVES are 100% tax-deductible. The following link has been created to make this process quick and easy.

<http://voice.trea.org/pdfFiles/Legacy-Donor-web-page.pdf>



**John I. Adams,
TSCL Chairman**

The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) is an affiliate of TREA: The Enlisted Association (TREA), governed by TREA members and consists of hundreds of thousands of active senior citizens concerned about the protection of their Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Social Security Is Running Out of Time — And So Are Lawmakers

If you've been keeping up with Social Security news, you've probably heard this before: the system is running out of money. Every year, Social Security pays out more in benefits than it collects in taxes — and now, a new report shows that the clock is ticking even faster than we thought.

According to the Social Security Administration's (SSA) 2025 Trustees Report, the main trust fund that pays retirement benefits will run dry in 2033 — and not at the end of the year, as previously expected. It's now projected to be depleted three calendar quarters earlier. Translation: we've got even less time to fix this.

Unless Congress intervenes, Social Security benefits will be slashed by 23% when the depletion date is reached. That's a massive cut for millions of retirees who depend on those monthly checks.

Why the Faster Decline?

The SSA says three major trends are accelerating the program's financial trouble:

- The Social Security Fairness Act — While aimed at correcting long-standing issues for public servants like teachers and firefighters, this law has added pressure to the system's finances.
- Declining fertility rates — Fewer babies today mean fewer workers tomorrow paying into Social Security. Other countries have tried to reverse this trend, with little long-term success.
- Shrinking wages as a share of the economy — Workers are getting a smaller slice of the U.S. GDP pie. In 2004, wages made up 61.7% of GDP; by 2020, that had dropped to 60.4%, according to the International Labour Organization.

In short, there are big, structural challenges that the SSA can't solve on its own. That leaves one solution: Congress must act.

Congress Has Fixed This Before — But Can They Do It Again?

We've been here before. Back in 1983, Social Security was facing a similar crisis. Lawmakers didn't wait until the brink — well, not much past it anyway. A bipartisan deal saved the program by taxing benefits for high earners, raising the retirement age, and shifting cost-of-living adjustments.

It worked. But this time, Americans want Congress to act before we hit crisis mode.



What Reforms Are on the Table?

At The Senior Citizens League (TSCL), we've seen strong support from older Americans for specific reforms, including:

- Closing the payroll tax loophole that allows high earners to stop paying Social Security taxes after a certain income threshold.
- Introducing a capital gains tax on wealthy individuals to help fund Social Security for future generations.
- These ideas aren't radical — they're supported by everyday Americans who want a fair and sustainable system.

What You Can Do

We can't afford to wait until the 11th hour again. With the 2026 midterm elections on the horizon, now is the time to get candidates on the record. Where do they stand on Social Security? What reforms will they support?

Here's how you can help:

- Write to your representatives.
- Ask questions at town halls.
- Support candidates who prioritize Social Security reform.
- Make your voice heard — not later, now.

Social Security doesn't just matter for today's retirees — it matters for tomorrow's retirees too. Let's make sure Congress hears us before it's too late.



TREA GIVES is a part of the King Soopers/City Market community Rewards Program. You can make TREA GIVES your community partner and King Soopers/City Market will send us a quarterly checks based off the total spent from all of our community partners. The best part is - It costs you nothing!

For King Soopers – go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>

For City Market – go to <http://citymarket.com>

Once logged into the website, search for TREA GIVES or enter HU416 (this is our unique code with king Soopers/City Market), then click Enroll. If you are a new user, you will need to create an account which requires some basic information and a valid email address and a loyalty card.



2025 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Debbie Osborne, National Executive Director

The 2025 Annual Membership Meeting was held on September 27, 2025, at TREA Chapter 3 in Aurora, CO.

Approximately twenty-six members attended, in person and virtually.

Even though attendance was minimal, the board shared their commitment to continuing the past 60+ years of dedication, service to and support of enlisted military members and their families. President Jump stated that TREA continues its Legislative efforts and through our involvement in The Military Coalition (TMC), we continue to be seen and heard in DC and maintain our ranking in Washington as a long standing Veterans Service Organization with a successful history of legislative achievements to and for military/veterans/retirees/Guard/Reserve and family members. (For more information on our efforts in DC, read the Legislative Update on pages 6-8).

All board members stressed transparency and honesty in their reports and reiterated their dedication to TREA and its mission. It was not all red wine and roses, as the issue of declining membership and decreased fundraising income was addressed on more than one occasion. Despite the challenges that are in front of us, our belief in what we do and why we do it remains our driving force. We will continue the fight – for YOU – that is our promise. TREA is not going anywhere – we may have to make some changes and adapt to the new social construct, but we are here for the long haul. If you hear differently, I would certainly check your sources. Your fight is our fight – we are in this together – united through your service to this country and to each other.

There were no new board members to vote in and there were no Bylaw/Standing Rule changes to be considered. It was a short, but productive meeting that ended with an open discussion between the board, the staff and attending members. Several members walked away with newfound knowledge about TREA, its programs, actions, and successes. The opportunity to highlight, share and promote TREA's activities and efforts made this Annual Membership Meeting a success.

After the meeting, all in-person attendees were invited to a delicious lunch provided by TREA Chapter 3 Auxiliary.

The board is grateful to TREA Chapter 3 for their donation of the meeting space and to Chapter 3 Auxiliary for their coordination, effort, and wonderful meal.

The 2026 Annual Membership Meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 25 or 26, 2026. Location – TBD. Updates will be published in future issues of The VOICE of the Enlisted magazine and posted on our website (www.trea.org).



WANTED

Candidates for TREA National Board Positions

Garry Turks, National 1st Vice & Nominations & Credentialing Committee Chair

Now is the time to start thinking about how you can support and be a part of TREA's future. We will be holding elections in September of 2026 to elect the new National Board. Every position is up for election/re-election: President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Treasurer, and 2 Directors. All positions are two-year terms.

The National Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction of TREA as a whole and ensures legal and ethical compliance. The National Board provides governance, approves the annual budget and ensures that the organization has sufficient resources to fulfill its mission. The National board is accountable for the overall success and financial health of TREA.

If you are interested in running for a TREA national office, please make sure to familiarize yourself with TREA Bylaws, Article V - National Officers, Article VI – Duties of National Officers, and Article IX – Nominations and Elections. Here are the eligibility requirements from Article 9 section 2 of our Bylaws. (www.trea.org).

To be eligible for election, candidates must be regular TREA members. Spouse members are not eligible to run for National positions. To submit your resume for a Board position by mail or email, use TREA Form 100-3, Resume for Elected Office. This form can be found on our website (www.trea.org) under Membership, then Form and Documents, or you can reach out to TREA Headquarters and request that a form be sent to you. The forms are available in fillable PDF and printable Word formats. The deadline for resumes is June 15, 2026. This is a hard deadline; any resume received after 5 PM on June 15, 2026, will not be accepted.

Additionally, the following criteria must be met for each position:

President - Must be a TREA member in good standing for at least three consecutive years. **Must be a current member of the National Board of Directors.**

Vice Presidents - Must have been a TREA member in good standing for at least two consecutive years.

Treasurer - Shall have accounting knowledge and an understanding of computer concepts, or an associate or higher degree in business or management.

Directors - Must have been a TREA member in good standing for at least one year.

All candidates – Candidates shall ensure their membership status will not expire during the term of office and 30 days for the position they are seeking. If their membership expires during the term of office, they need to renew their membership before submitting their resume. Eligibility requires confirmation that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony within 2 years of the date of application. If previously convicted of a felony, all restitution and/or societal debt has been paid more than 2 years ago. A background check may be performed.

All the details will be posted on the TREA website in January. www.trea.org



WHAT HAS TREA DONE FOR ME?

Debbie Osborne, National Executive Director

We hear this question a lot: “What has TREA done for me lately?” It sounds simple — but the truth is, our job **is the fight**.

Every single day, TREA is in the arena: tracking legislation, analyzing impacts, drafting testimony, meeting with lawmakers, building coalitions, and pushing — sometimes shoving — the federal government to do right by those who served. And yes, that includes the spouses, families, and survivors who stand beside our service members.

We all know that in Washington, not every fight ends with the fireworks show you hoped for. A bill that stalls or a provision that gets trimmed does not mean we weren't there swinging. Often, fights that don't pass right away demand the most effort — and the most persistence.

Remember TRICARE for Life? Eight. Long. Years. If TREA had tapped out after losing once — or twice — or four times... the more than 2.5 million beneficiaries who rely on it today would be left without that essential care. That victory wasn't luck — it was grit.

That same relentless mindset drives us now. Take the **Major Richard Star Act** — a transformative bill impacting 50,000+ combat-injured veterans, not even counting their families. We've fought two demanding years so far, and victory is still on the horizon. But we're not even thinking about stopping. We said we would fight for you — and we meant it.

The Mission Has Evolved — The Fight Has Not

TREA's structure has changed over time. We're no longer just a social club centered on camaraderie and gatherings — though those remain important and valued. The world around us shifted. Fewer people “join” things today. But that evolution sharpened our focus:

Protect earned benefits.

Ensure a grateful nation honors its promises.

Defend the wellbeing of those who defended it.

The Work You Don't Always See

Right now, TREA is actively tracking **hundreds** of bills and policy actions that impact veterans, retirees, and their families. We advocate on every one that matters — even when the headlines don't show the full story.

Want proof? Visit www.trea.org, and see for yourself: the full portfolio of our advocacy, achievements, and ongoing priorities.

Here's the bottom line: You may not always see the fight, but you will definitely feel it if we ever stop.

TREA is here.

TREA is fighting.

And we are fighting **for YOU** — every day, no matter how long it takes.

Because your service earned nothing less.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- **Membership:** Any honorably discharged enlisted person – retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserve, shall be eligible for membership. Spouses/widows/widowers of an honorably discharged enlisted person - retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserve who were married during active duty time are also eligible for membership. Membership entitles the person to all privileges of membership including attending business meetings, making motions and holding office. Spouse members are not eligible to hold National positions.

☐ 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: _____

Chapter Affiliation: I wish to be assigned to Chapter # _____, I wish to be a Member-at Large (MAL.) ☐

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

I am: ☐ Retired ☐ a Veteran ☐ Active Duty ☐ a spouse/widow/widower, married during active duty time

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 and that you were married during active military time). ***Proof of eligibility falls on the applicant and not TREA.***

I agree to abide by the TREA National Bylaws & Standing Rules as written. X _____

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

Make checks payable to: TREA)

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CCV: _____

Please return your completed application to:

TREA: The Enlisted Association - 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 170 - Centennial, CO 80112

E-mail: treaHQ@trea.org

303-752-0660 www.trea.org



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT -

We are in this together – fighting to
protect our earned benefits.

Veterans Protecting Veterans



WWW.TREA.ORG

TREAHQ@TREA.ORG

303-752-0660

100% Tax-Deductible