

VOLUME 45 | NUMBER 1 | WINTER 2026

THE

VOICE

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TREA FOUNDERS

George Skonce, 1915 – 2000
Dean Sorell, 1921 – 2004

2024-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Justin Jump
President.jump@trea.org
Legislative Affairs Committee

1st Vice President - Garry Turks
1stvice.turks@trea.org
Nominating & Credentialing Committee

2nd Vice President - Doug Osborne
2ndvice.osborne@trea.org
Information Technology Committee
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Treasurer - Kyle Carpenter
treasurer@trea.org
Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee
Finance Committee

Director - Ron Buatte
Director.buatte@trea.org
Membership Committee

Director Langston Elliot
Director.elliott@trea.org
TBD

Immediate Past President (IPNP) - Deborah Oelschig
IPNP.oelschig@trea.org
Public Relations Committee

Parliamentarian - Charlie Flowers
charflow@comcast.net

Recording Secretary - Debbie Osborne
dosborne@trea.org

TREA STAFF & SUPPORT

National Executive Staff
Debbie Osborne, Executive Director -
dosborne@trea.org - 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 170,
Centennial, CO 80112 - Phone: 303-752-0660
Fax: 303-752-0835 - www.trea.org; treaHQ@trea.org

Washington Executive Staff
Phone: 703-684-1981
Fax: 703-548-4876, 866-548-4876
legislativeinfo@trea.org

The Senior Citizens League
Shannon Benton, TSCL Executive Director
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 800-333-8725, 703-548-5568
www.seniorsleague.org; comments@seniorsleague.org

TREA National Auxiliary
Audrey McCray
mccraya@aol.com

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THE VOICE is the flagship publication of TREA: The Enlisted Association, located at 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, Suite 170 Centennial, CO 80112

Views expressed in the magazine, and the appearance of advertisements, do not necessarily reflect the opinions of TREA or its Board of Directors, and do not imply endorsement. The magazine (ISSN 1527-0467) is published quarterly by TREA, a nonprofit organization.

Magazine Staff

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

Editorial Office

Please send all written communication to TREA Headquarters at 12200 E Briarwood Ave, Suite 170 Centennial, CO 80112

Submissions

The VOICE accepts articles and photographs on a continual basis, but does not pay for submissions. Please send all articles and photos via email to editor@trea.org or by mail to 12200 E. Briarwood Ave., Ste 170, Centennial, CO 80112. There is no guarantee that any submission will be published. Photos must be high quality in order to be printed in the magazine. Low quality photos will not be printed.

Deadlines

For copy and photos (with captions, please) the deadline is the 15th day, two months prior to magazine release. Next deadline is March 15th, 2026.

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 we welcome the new year, we do so with a deep sense of gratitude, resolve, and optimism. Gratitude for the service and sacrifice that bind us together as veterans and as a community. Resolve to continue advocating for those who have worn the uniform and their families. And optimism – grounded and determined – that this year can bring meaningful, positive legislative progress for the military and veteran community.

TREA was founded on a simple but powerful belief; that those who serve our nation deserve strong support not only during their service, but long after the uniform is folded away. That belief remains our guiding principle as we enter this new year.

While challenges persist – ranging from access to quality healthcare and mental health services to fair benefits, transition support, and survivor protection – we also see real opportunities ahead – like the Major Richard Star Act. We have real hope that this bill will see positive results this year. This is an issue that we have supported and fought for since it was first introduced in the 118th Congress in 2023. The start of a new year often brings new leadership opportunities, renewed attention on unresolved issues, and a chance to build partisan momentum. We intend to be fully engaged in that process. Our hope is not rooted in rhetoric, but in action, informed advocacy, constructive dialogue, and persistent representation of your voices before lawmakers at every level. In the year ahead, we will continue to advocate for practical, results-driven legislation that strengthens benefits, improves access to care, supports military families, and ensures accountability within the systems meant to serve our community. We will continue to work collaboratively with partners, lawmakers, and fellow organization, always keeping our mission – and our members – at the center of our efforts.

Positive legislative action does not happen by chance. It happens because we show up, stay engaged and speak deliberately and clearly about the needs of service members, veterans, and their families. It happens because our members remain informed, involved, and united in purpose. It happens because of your support.

To you, I offer my sincerest thanks. Your support, engagement and trust make our work possible. Whether you participate by staying informed, reaching out to elected officials, volunteering your time either at the local or National level, or simply sharing our mission with others – you are part of this effort. Your voice strengthens our collective impact.

Together we can help shape a legislative landscape that honors service with action, not just words. I look forward to the work ahead and to the progress we can achieve – together.

Justin G. Jump
TREA National President
UNITED WE STAND



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Garry Turks, National 1st Vice & Chaplain



In the military, we learn early that no one serves alone. Whether in times of challenge or moments of success, we rely on one another for strength, encouragement, and support. That sense of togetherness does not end when our service does — it remains essential in our families, our communities, and our shared mission as veterans. God designed us to walk alongside one another, reminding us that unity is not just helpful, but necessary.

Scripture speaks clearly to this truth: **“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”** (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV). Encouragement is more than kind words—it is showing up, listening, and standing shoulder to shoulder when the load feels heavy. Togetherness allows us to reflect God’s love through compassion, patience, and mutual care.

As we move forward together, let us be intentional in reaching out—to check on a fellow veteran, to support a struggling family, or simply to remind one another that no one is forgotten. In unity, we find strength. In togetherness, we find hope. And through faith, we are reminded that we are never truly alone.

As your National Chaplain, I am here for you – to provide comfort and support, encouragement, and counseling. I am here to share 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).



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 YEAR IN REVIEW

Washington, D.C.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, TREA's policy and legislative efforts on Capitol Hill enjoyed strong, bipartisan support, leading to several key wins we've proudly celebrated with our members, along with heightened oversight of significant changes at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense. While 2025 brought meaningful change, our commitment to our members, the military, and Veteran communities remains steadfast as the second legislative session begins in 2026.

MEMORIAL DAY AND VETERANS DAY, 2025

On May 26 and November 11, 2025, TREA leadership was honored to join the President, Vice President, Members of the Cabinet, and our Veteran Service Organization (VSO) partners at Arlington National Cemetery to honor our fallen servicemembers and Veterans. Immediately following the ceremonies, TREA had the privilege to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on behalf of enlisted servicemembers, Veterans, retirees, and their families.

2025 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

TREA is proud to announce our annual, bipartisan awardees in 2025: Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Congressman Mike Bost (R-IL). Both Members have consistently supported legislation that enhances the quality of life for enlisted personnel and their families, aligning with TREA's mission to protect and improve the welfare of uniformed services enlisted personnel. Join us in thanking Senator Bennet and Congressman Bost for their hard-fought efforts in 2025! Arrangements are being made to present both Senator Michael Bennett and Congressman Mike Bost with a special TREA plaque.

119TH CONGRESS

As the first session of the 119th Congress comes to a close, we are proud to report several key TREA-backed legislative wins which we've passed and signed into law by the President in 2025, including:
S. 2392 – The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act: Which increased, effective as of December 1, 2025, the rates of compensation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled Veterans.

S. 1071 - The Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA): Which authorized \$901B in appropriations for FY26 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1815 – The VA Home Loan Program Reform Act: Which amended title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions in the case of a default on a home loan guaranteed by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 201 – The ACES Act: Which will provide a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and morality of cancer among individuals who served as active-duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

H.R. 695 – The Medal of Honor Act: Which amended title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes.



WASHINGTON UPDATE - CONT.

2026 PRIORITIES AND PENDING LEGISLATION

S. 1032 / H.R. 2102 - The Major Richard Star Act: Which 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, is still pending legislative action. TREA and our partners will continue to apply coordinated coalition pressure in 2026, focusing particularly on key members of the appropriations committees and House and Senate leadership to get this consequential piece of legislation passed without delay.

H.R. 740 / S. 275 - The Veterans' ACCESS Act: Which 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. The measure enjoys strong support from TREA, our VSO partners, and bipartisan Members in Congress as we encourage immediate passage in 2026.

Additional Priorities

- **The Service member Quality of Life Improvement Act:** Comprehensive package: housing, pay tables, food security, healthcare access.
- **The Military Family Nutrition Access Act:** Improves access to nutrition assistance for low-income military families.
- **The Military Spouse Hiring Act:** Expands Work Opportunity Tax Credit to incentive hiring for military spouses.
- **The GUARD VA Benefits Act:** Protects veterans from predatory claims practices by unaccredited actors.
- **The Veterans Housing Stability Act:** Prevents homelessness and would expand affordable housing access.
- **TRICARE Reserve Parity Act:** Restores TRICARE eligibility for Guard/Reserve on pre-planned missions.
- **The Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act:** Creates a VA grant program to expand access to Service Dogs.
- **The Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act:** Preserves cross-state telehealth access to ensure timely care, especially for rural and underserved veterans.
- **The Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act:** Strengthens care coordination and continuity for women veterans undergoing cancer treatment.



WASHINGTON UPDATE - CONT.

All listed measures are still pending action. Several enjoy broad, bipartisan support. TREA is coordinating with coalition partners to prioritize vehicles and sequencing for floor or package movement beginning in early 2026.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the new year begins, 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 mid-term elections in November. As always, 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!



EXCHANGE

IN 2026, IT MATTERS WHERE YOU SHOP

By Tom Shull, AAFES Service's Director/CEO

Nearly one-third of Americans plan to make saving money part of their 2026 resolutions. With the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, Soldiers, Airmen and Guardians rely on their hard-earned benefit to stretch their budgets further.

Soldiers, Airmen and Guardians can find America's best brands tax-free with military-exclusive pricing across all categories, including Apple, Samsung, Bose, Old Navy, Carter's, Clinique and Estee Lauder.

ShopMyExchange.com offers an expanded assortment with more than 5 million items, including outdoor gear and apparel from Bass Pro Shop and major appliances from The Home Depot.

Honorably discharged Veterans are eligible to shop online, while service-connected disabled Veterans can shop in-store at the Exchange.

For 130 years, the Exchange has delivered holistic support to the military community through department and convenience stores, restaurants, mall operations, ecommerce, credit card services, overseas support and more.

100% of earnings support the Exchange's unique role in strengthening military communities worldwide, generating support for Quality-of-Life programs. In the last 10 years, the Exchange has provided \$15 billion in Quality-of-Life support for our Nation's military community.

It matters where you shop. Every time you use your benefit, you are making life better for all who serve and have served. Wishing you all the best in 2026. Veteran for Life!



'SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED'

Deb Oelschig, Chair

In case you did 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 -
 - Thanksgiving food baskets (or food cards) to enlisted service members, retirees, veterans, Guard & Reserve, and their families.
 - 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. If you know a veteran or military member in need, please share TREA GIVES with them. If you are blessed and fortunate enough to help others, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to TREA GIVES today. Your money goes directly to help a veteran/veteran family in need.



We make a real difference– you can too!

To donate by check – send to:

TREA GIVES - 12200 E. Briarwood Ave, #170 - Centennial, CO 80112.

To use a credit card, please call Headquarters at 303-752-0660 or visit our website: treagives.org

Messages from real families that were a part of our Holiday Program this past year -

Hello,
We'd like to thank you for the gift card that you provided us for our Christmas meal. We had a wonderful meal would like to thank you for everything that you did to make this possible.

My son Ahmet would love to thank you for the pants, long sleeve shirt, and the headphones. The clothes fit him perfectly and they're the exact type of clothing he loves.

And the headphones are gonna be perfect for his computer set up.

My son Austin would love to thank you for the gift card and will be using it to buy himself some much-needed clothing.

I appreciate the neck wrap that you gave me for Christmas and it will come to great use during the wintertime and the summertime here in New York.

We appreciate everything you've done for us and you made my family feel special this Christmas. They had a great Christmas this year and it was made all possible by you all.
Thank you for everything you've done
The 'I' Family

Dear Trea Gives Team,
I wanted to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for the incredible kindness you showed our family this Christmas.

Your generosity in sending Christmas gifts for our daughters truly meant more than words can adequately express. With my husband deployed and unable to be home for the holidays, your thoughtfulness helped bring joy, excitement, and comfort to our girls during a season that can otherwise feel heavy.

Seeing their smiles and excitement on Christmas morning was a gift to me as well, and it's something I will forever be thankful for.

What you do makes a real and lasting difference for families like ours. Your support reminded us that we are not alone, and that there are people and organizations who genuinely care about the well-being of military families. Please know that your kindness reached far beyond the gifts themselves — it brought light, warmth, and hope into our home.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all that you do and for making this Christmas a little brighter for our family.

With sincere appreciation,
The 'Z' Family

My family and I want to thank you and your wonderful organization for the Christmas blessing that we have just received.

We are so thankful and grateful to be blessed by people like you. May God bless you all and may you all have a blessed and happy Christmas.

The 'F' family

AUXILIARY

FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Audrey McCray



Happy New Year! As President of the National Auxiliary, I want to personally thank each of you for your tireless efforts and faithful service to our veterans and our community. Your dedication does not go unnoticed and is deeply appreciated.

I am pleased to share the following important updates and opportunities for our members:

Scholarship Applications: The TREA Scholarship application is now available online at TREA.org. Applications will be accepted through June 1, 2026. For any questions regarding the application process, please contact Audrey McCray at 303-921-2548 or mccraya@aol.com.

Chapter Election Information: If you have conducted an election, please submit your election results to Membership Director Rose Milon:

Mail: 1211 S. Quebec Way #13-301, Denver, CO 80231
Email: Rose.Milon@aol.com
Phone: 720-448-1675

Midterm Meeting: The Midterm Meeting will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, May 13–14, 2026, at TREA Chapter #3, 1599 Dayton - Aurora, CO 80010.

Proposed Amendments & Recommendations: All proposed amendments or additional recommendations to existing subjects must be submitted to the TREA National Auxiliary Bylaws/Standing Rules Committee for review. Submissions should use TREA Auxiliary Form 100-6A, available on the TREA website.

- **Deadline:** Submissions must be emailed no later than March 29th, 2026 in accordance with National Auxiliary Standing Rule 8, Item #3.

- For questions, contact Director Ruby Smoots-Harris, Bylaws/Standing Rules Chairperson, at ruby.smoots@comcast.net

WEF/Benevolent Program: The WEF/Benevolent Program continues to provide assistance to widows and widowers of deceased service members. Support is available for dental, hearing, vision, medical, and other benevolent needs. Requests for assistance may be submitted to APNP Renee Kenner, Chairperson of the WEF/Benevolent Committee, at renee1635@gmail.com

We encourage all members to take advantage of these opportunities and remain actively involved in our auxiliary programs. Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting our veterans and their families.

Audrey H. McCray
National Auxiliary President
UNITED WE STAND



BYLAWS & STANDING RULES – Why they matter-

Rules exist to protect the mission, the membership, and the integrity of our organization. They provide structure, ensure fairness, and create consistency from one leadership team to the next. Clear Bylaws and Standing Rules help prevent misunderstandings, support accountability, and allow us to focus on what matters most – serving our veterans and honoring our shared commitment.

Just as times evolve, so must our governing documents. Annual review and updating of these rules help ensure they reflect current realities, modern practices, and the need of today's membership – so our organization does not become outdated, but remains relevant, effective, and prepared for the future. It is not about changing who we are, but about ensuring we continue to operate effectively, transparently, and in the best interest of all members.

You, our members, can make these changes and adjustments. The rules are yours – you vote on them, you approve or disapprove them and you put them into action.

If you feel like a current Bylaw or Standing rule needs to be updated, edited, or otherwise changed, the process is simple. Submit TREA FORM #100-16 no later than March 31, 2026. This form, along with our current Bylaws & Standing Rules can be found on the homepage of our website (www.trea.org).

Submissions will be reviewed by both the Bylaw & Standing Rules Committee, and the National Board. Submissions will then be presented to the general membership for final vote. All submissions, unless withdrawn by the originator, will be presented to the membership – even those not recommended by the committee or board.

The Summer (August) VOICE magazine will have all the information needed to vote on all submitted Bylaw & Standing Rules changes, as well as all board positions. To ensure complete fairness and integrity, the voting process will be administered, managed, and reported by an independent, third-party organization that specializes in organizational voting. You will have the option to vote electronically or by mail, using the ballot that will be printed in the magazine. This special voting issue of The VOICE of the Enlisted magazine will be printed and mailed to every TREA member whose membership is active on September 15th, 2026.

The Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee is always looking for new members. This is a great opportunity for you to get involved and help shape the future of TREA. Please reach out to TREA Headquarters 303-752-0660, or email: Treahq@trea.org if you would like to volunteer to be on this important committee. All meetings are virtual



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 fill 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. (There is a link on our homepage - www.trea.org, or you can reach out to TREA Headquarters and request that a form be sent to you. 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.



DID YOU KNOW –

Some fun facts about veterans

- There are approximately 16.2 – 19 million military veterans in the U.S. This sounds like a lot, but it is actually about 6% of the adult population of the United States.
- 80% of those who have served, have spent some time overseas.
- 30% of vets have disabilities as a result of their service.
- More than 48,000 veterans are homeless, or at risk of being homeless.
- 83% are male / 17% are female
- 58% are married.
- As of 2023, nearly half (49%) of all veterans were 65 or older.
- 26 of the 44 U.S. Presidents are/were veterans.
- California boasts the highest veteran population, followed by Texas and Florida.
- As of 2022, only about 167,000 of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II were still alive.
- The largest veteran population is those who served during the Vietnam era. Out of the roughly 2.7 million who served in Vietnam, approximately 850,000 are still alive (31.4%). Approximately 5.4 – 7 million veterans who served during the entire conflict era are estimated to still be living.
- According to Army.mil, over 500 Vietnam veterans die every day. Sources: IAVA, The George W. Bush Institute, Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families, VA, DAV, US Department of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics, USA Today.



TREA Members can save big on hotels and travel – worldwide!

<https://treahotelplanner.com/>



**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.

2026 Social Security & Medicare Updates for Seniors

By John I. Adams, Chairman, TSCL

At The Senior Citizens League (TSCL), we take our public education mission to keep seniors informed seriously—because these updates matter. Social Security, Medicare, and taxes are all changing this year, and seniors could see real impacts on their monthly income and expenses. Don't get caught off guard—here's what you need to know now!

Social Security Benefits Increase

Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

Good news: Social Security benefits are rising 2.8% starting January 1, 2026—meaning someone receiving \$2,000 per month will see about \$56 extra each month.

Bad news: While the increase is automatic, rising costs, especially the Medicare Part B premium, may offset much of this boost.

Medicare Costs Continue to Rise

Part B Monthly Premium: \$206.50

The standard Medicare Part B premium will increase from \$185 in 2025 to \$206.50 in 2026, a jump of nearly 12%. This higher premium will take effect in January and may offset part of the COLA increase for many retirees.

New Tax Relief for Some Seniors

A new federal law provides an extra \$6,000 tax deduction on top of the standard deduction for eligible seniors.

Who benefits most:

- Single filers earning under \$75,000
- Joint filers earning under \$150,000

The deduction phases out at higher income levels and does not apply to seniors who do not owe federal taxes on Social Security. The deduction can be claimed starting in 2026 and is scheduled to expire after 2028 unless renewed.

Bottom Line

While Social Security checks are increasing modestly, rising Medicare costs remain a challenge. Lower drug prices and targeted tax relief may help offset some of the impact—but careful budgeting remains essential.



LEADERS WANTED FOR TSCL BOARD!



Two Trustee Vacancies Effective September 2026

Requirements:

- **Must be TREA members & at least 18 years old.**
(No elected TREA or TREA Auxiliary Officer except Treasurer)

Selected candidates will be appointed by TREA's National Board of Directors

3 Year Term

Submit TREA Form 100-3 Resume

Apply by Deadline: Day Before TSCL's annual meeting in September

Send Resumes to:

- **Shannon Benton, Executive Director**
sbenton@seniorsleague.org

Call: 800-333-8725

- **John Adams, Chairman**

Can't find a resume? Contact Shannon!

Call: 800-333-8725

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



~ COMING SOON ~

TREA'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Scheduled for September 2026

Remember the days of TREA camaraderie—gathering with special friends, sharing life, celebrating the good, and consoling one another through the bad. Times long past, when TREA members truly celebrated each other. Laughing, reminiscing, enjoying that special time together — time that comes far too infrequently and is incredibly valuable.

We would like to do that again.

TREA is many things to many people, but one thing no one can deny is that we are an organization of people — of members. Many of you have been part of TREA for 30, 40, even 50 years. As time passes, so too does the opportunity for connection and reconnection.

We all know that recent years have not been conducive to in-person events. The cost, the logistics, the travel, the time — we can make a million excuses why we should not try to do this. But let's agree on one big reason why we should: because we are brothers and sisters in arms. Our connection spans time and distance, and we matter to one another.

Our plan is to hold our Annual Membership Meeting in person, with the goal of renewing the connection TREA members have always shared. Yes, there will be a business meeting — there must be, to remain in compliance with our Bylaws — but there will also be ample opportunity for social interaction: catching up, sharing memories, and hopefully making new ones.

We can do all the legwork — the planning and the organizing — but the most important part is something only you can do: attend. Without you, it's just another board meeting. Important and necessary, yes — but not the same as a much-needed gathering of TREA members enjoying long-standing friendships.

To move forward, we need to hear from you. Each of you. Go to our homepage (www.trea.org). There is a link to a short, survey about the feasibility of this event. Your feedback will help us decide whether this can become a reality.

This could be a wonderful and special opportunity — one we may not have the chance to do again. It really would be nice to see you all again!



LOTS TO BE PROUD ABOUT TREA Chapters make a difference

In addition to our robust legislative in Washington, TREA is proud of the work our local chapters do to support and enhance the lives of our members and those in their military & veteran community.

From laying wreaths at local VA cemeteries, to hosting community cookouts, and cancer fundraisers, the members of our local chapters work hard to make a difference every day.

To help celebrate Christmas, TREA members from **Chapter 72 in Pittsburgh, PA** assisted a local charity (Operation Santa Claus South Pole Retirees), in giving out long-sleeved Armed Forces 250 Years celebratory t-shirts and a pair of sweatpants to approximately 200 veteran residents at the South Western Veterans Center in Pittsburgh, PA.

Photo right: Chapter 72 members (l-r): Edward Stotts, Aida Santana & Olin McIntoch. (photo taken by Eric Blair, Chapter 72 member).



Members of TREA Chapter 20 in Pueblo, CO showed up in force to represent their community for the local Veterans Parade – (photos below).





TREA GIVES

Taking Care of You Computer/Online Security

Cyber threats don't just target governments and corporations — they increasingly affect individuals, families, and nonprofits, including veteran households and organizations. Phishing emails, account takeovers, and financial fraud are now common and successful. Not because of advanced hacking, but because basic security gaps go unnoticed.

To address this, BANDDIT (Baseline Analytics Network Defense & Digital Intrusion Team), in partnership with TREA GIVES, is exploring a pilot initiative offering one-hour remote baseline cybersecurity assessments for enlisted veterans and service members.

WHAT IS A BASELINE SECURITY ASSESSMENT?

These one-hour, remote sessions are practical, non-technical, and member-friendly. Each assessment focuses on identifying common digital risks and improving everyday security habits, including:

- Email and account security risks
- Password and authentication practices
- Device and home-network hygiene
- Fraud and phishing awareness
- Clear, actionable steps to reduce exposure

The goal is awareness and prevention, not sales or technical overwhelm.

WHY START HERE - Most cybersecurity failures occur at the baseline level. A short, focused assessment can help individuals and organizations understand where they may be vulnerable — and what small changes can meaningfully reduce risk. INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING? Enlisted veterans and service members who would like to participate in this one-hour remote baseline security assessment are encouraged to contact TREA GIVES, attreagives@trea.org. This is a special offer and at no cost to enlisted veterans and service members.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM FACILITATOR - Brian Anderson is a cybersecurity professional with decades of experience in information security, network engineering, and digital risk assessment. He previously served as a federally appointed Department of Homeland Security Information Systems Security Officer (ISSO) and as a senior network engineer and certified IT instructor, training both civilian and government personnel. Brian holds multiple industry certifications, including CISSP, Cisco, Juniper, and enterprisesecurity credentials, and focuses on practical, prevention-oriented cybersecurity education.

ABOUT BANDDIT - BANDDIT is an IT and cybersecurity initiative focused on baseline digital risk reduction, education, and secure technology practices in support of nonprofit and community organizations.



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



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WHO SERVED**

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