

THE VOICE

Of The Enlisted

**Election Perspective:
History and the Future**
pg • 35

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

**A Little Goes a Long Way-
This Year's Soldiers Angels Program**
pg. 6

TREA Membership Perks
pg. 28

**Let Us Remember and Honor Our
World War II Missing**
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*The mission of TREA:
The Enlisted Association
is to enhance the quality
of life of uniformed
services enlisted personnel,
their families, and
survivors - including
honorably discharged
veterans and all retirees;
to stop the erosion of
earned benefits through
our legislative efforts;
to maintain our esprit
de corps, dedications
and patriotism; and to
continue our devotion
and allegiance to God
and country.*



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George Skonce, 1915 – 2000

Dean Sorell, 1921 – 2004



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A Letter from the President

By John I. Adams, TREA National President

I want to begin by correcting a mistake I made in my column in the last issue of The Voice. I was discussing the election of our new Board of Directors (BoD) at our convention last September and I mentioned that for the first time we had a Member-At-Large elected to the Board. However, I have since found out that I was wrong. Immediate Past National President Larry Hyland was a MAL when he served on the Board as 3rd Vice President from 2002-2003 and again as the National President. My apologies to Larry.

It is my great pleasure to give you some exciting news that is rare in the history of military and veterans associations. Many of you may be familiar with another military/veteran association, the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS). The board of directors of NAUS made a decision late last fall to cease operations as of the end of 2016. When I went to Washington, D.C., for the annual Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery a meeting was arranged for me to talk with the president of NAUS. Our discussions involved the possible transfer of the enlisted members of NAUS to membership in TREA when NAUS closed its doors.

I am pleased to report that our negotiations were successful and as of January 1, more than 10,000 former members of NAUS have now become TREA members. A letter from me to those members has been sent welcoming them to TREA, explaining the terms of the transfer of membership, as well as the opportunities they have to participate in TREA activities.

Although it is unfortunate to lose an ally in our fight to protect our promised and earned benefits like NAUS, we nonetheless are very pleased to welcome the NAUS members to TREA and we look forward to continuing to serve them and fight on their behalf just as NAUS did.

Although the transfer of NAUS members to TREA would have been worth a trip in itself, my main purpose in going to Washington was to participate in the Veterans Day Ceremonies. This was my first opportunity to represent TREA at these events and it was a very gratifying and humbling experience. There was a breakfast at the White House with representatives of the various military and veteran groups participating in the ceremonies, the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Senior Enlisted Advisors, and other guests. After breakfast, we had one-on-one pictures taken with President Obama. Then the group went to the amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery and watched as the President placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

After that the other representatives of the military and veterans' groups and I sat on the stage of the amphitheater with the President as he delivered his final Veterans Day speech. As is customary, after the President's speech all of the participating military and veterans' groups presented wreaths on behalf of their respective organizations at the Tomb of the Unknowns. TREA was represented by the Auxiliary National President Irmgard Cates, Michael Gales of TREA Chapter 9, Mr. Paul Chester of TREA Chapter 1, and myself.

I want to give special thanks to the TREA members of Chapter 9 in Baltimore, and TREA Chapter 24 in Ft. Meade, Maryland. Every Memorial Day and Veterans Day these folks faithfully represent TREA at Arlington, carrying the American and TREA flags in the opening and closing ceremonies in the Amphitheater as well as presenting the TREA wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. They are very much appreciated and we are very thankful for their willingness to do this.

I also want to thank the members of TREA's staff in Colorado and our Washington, D.C., office who were instrumental in the negotiations with NAUS and in making sure our participation in all of the events on Veterans Day went so well.

As we begin a new year with a new president we are all waiting to see what may happen. As this is written, no announcement has been made about who will be nominated to be the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Some of the names that have been mentioned are very troublesome and if nominated, we may have our hands full fighting to save many of the veterans benefits we now have through the VA. At this point I remain optimistic that the worst case won't happen but we shall see. At any rate, all of the talk about cut-backs and reduced spending will continue and we expect to have our hands full fighting to keep things like our Tricare health care and commissary benefits in the coming months and even years.

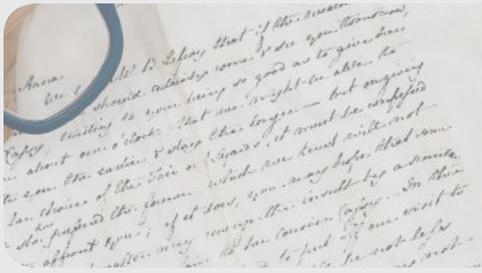
I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends and I wish you the very best in this new year. You can be assured that TREA is standing guard for you in Washington.

United We Stand

John I. Adams

President,

TREA: The Enlisted Association



Note from the Editor

By Kim DeCoste, Editor of The VOICE Magazine

magazines to you quarterly, but now it will be in the second month of each quarter. In this issue, for example, that change has allowed us to include more holiday photos that show the good work you all are doing in your communities and for fellow Veterans. Please keep that news coming and the photos as well. We love sharing those. You should all be proud of the work you do.

The members of TREA are a devoted bunch of people who reflect what is best in our country. It is a diverse group in many ways and yet, when you were all together in Las Vegas, you were united as one. You all served in the military and you continue to lead and serve in the work you do through TREA and through your other many activities in your own communities. We want to continue to highlight that great work and to tell stories that have meaning for you all. Please feel free to reach out to us at editor@trea.org if you have story ideas or requests.

We want to focus on what unites us and not what divides us. We want to focus on what is positive and good and remove the

negativity from our perspective. We want to highlight strength and goodness and stop the drumbeat of fear and despair. In the end, our country is made up of citizens who will determine who we are collectively. There are far more good, honest, patriotic, kind people in our country than is often portrayed. We know this. Now we have to show it and we have to continue to model it for each other, for our children and their children, and for the whole world to see. The eyes of the world are on us. They always are. Regardless of who is in the White House and whether you are happy with the choice, we are called upon to be the best people we can be. America is a nation built on strength and it must remain strong through the everyday deeds of everyday people. The smallest good deeds that often go unnoticed create a culture of generosity, peace and understanding. That is what we are about and that is what we must continue to demonstrate.

So, here's to 2017 and all the good we can do together! God bless you all and God bless America!

Happy New Year and welcome 2017! Now that we have turned another calendar page, it is time for us to look ahead. Over the holidays and in preparation for this issue, we paid a lot of extra attention to the news media. What were they focused on? Not a lot of good, it seemed. Yes, it was a rough election year and some people are still upset, but what an incredible blessing we have in this country that we have this fantastic democracy. We lost a lot of talented artists and actors, but the fact we had them has enriched our culture and continues to do so as we allow freedom of thought and art and as a result see talent blooming in every corner from technology and business to art and music. We have great creative energy and the freedom to nurture it as a country. We face tough challenges around the world, but know that as a nation, we will always stand strongest when we stand together. That is what we would like to focus on this new year.

You may recall that we changed the publication schedule last year so that we could better incorporate major holiday coverage in each print issue. We will be sending

A Little Goes A Long Way

By Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations

Have you ever had a small thought that turned into a big plan that grew into a huge program?

While attending a business seminar, I got involved in a conversation with Jennifer Cernoch, the Vice President of Operations for Soldiers' Angels - a nonprofit, resource organization that links soldiers & veterans up with organizations across the country. It was the end of October, so of course our conversation easily found its way to the holidays and to Christmas. She told me about one service member who was struggling to provide a decent Christmas for his family back home while he was deployed in Africa. My heart overtook my mouth and I heard myself saying out loud 'I'll take them' - without even asking what the program was or how it worked. Honestly, it didn't matter, I was going to help this family out no matter what. That is when the little shine of a nightlight came on - I told myself that 'I work for an organization that does this - how can I get TREA and The Memorial Foundation involved?' After much more discussions with Ms. Cernoch, I told her that we were going to help. By now, that little nightlight is a bright beacon, trying it's best to blind me! I asked her what it would take for us to adopt a family in every state across the country. Her eyes lit up and she didn't answer right away - I think she thought

that I was joking. I was not.

Well the seminar continued over the next two days and we really didn't discuss it much more. It wasn't until I got back to the office that the work really began. I reached back out to Ms. Cernoch and again, reiterated my desire - for TREA and The Memorial Foundation to adopt 50 families across the country. Aside from the genuine desire to help these families, it would be such a good opportunity for people across the country to know that we are here to help and that we do great things for our military members and veterans.

I immediately contacted all the powers-that-be to try to convince that that this is something that we needed to do. It wasn't hard. Everyone rallied around the idea and approval was given to adopt and support 50 families across the country. - Game On!

Continued >

We received the information from Soldiers' Angels – a very comprehensive list – down to the last detail of the gifts that they wanted and the size of clothing that was needed. Unfortunately, (or fortunately, depending on how you look at it), not every state had an eligible family so we were not able to provide assistance in all 50 states. What we were able to do was adopt and support 50 families from Florida to Maine and DC to Oregon and many in between.

Personal phone calls were made to every family, asking where they shopped for food. Specific gift cards were bought for their store of choice, including Commissary gift cards. It was a very heart lifting day in the office as we read the letters of these families. One in particular was one young boy – probably around 12 or 13 who was asking for a black tie to wear in his school's band concerts and an electric toothbrush. I don't know why that one hit me the way that it did, but I will always remember that. A lot of the families asked for clothes – I don't know about you, but I always give my boys underwear, socks and a new toothbrush for Christmas and they hate it! They would trade those for a toy, game or money without thought and here is young boy who was actually asking for it. Certainly changed my perspective that day.

Armed with 50 shopping lists, I bribed my family to help me shop. And shop we did. Over the course of the next five days, we shopped for 72 hours (cumulative), filled 27 shopping carts, stood in lines for 8 hours and spent \$15,000.00. Back home, another 6 hours was spent separating, organizing and labeling over 2000 items. At the TREA Headquarters, gifts were piled high against every wall, bags of toys and clothes blocked every walkway. It was wonderful!! Staff and volunteers came in to wrap - for three days! We are almost finished --- or were we?

In a status report to the Memorial Board of Trustees, I was ranting and raving about how wonderful the program was, and about these families and how much we were helping and that is when it happened --- they voted to take on another 50 families. Now, I'm looking at the calendar, it's December 14th – wondering how in the world we could possibly shop, wrap and ship another 50 gifts while still doing our regular full time jobs. Granted, we never said 'no', we just said 'how'. It was agreed that the second group of families would receive \$250 in gift cards. This would make it possible for all the families to receive their package before Christmas. – Whew, almost done --- nope, not yet.

When the call was placed to Soldier's Angels to announce that TREA and the Foundation were adopting another 50 families, they made the mistake of saying 'that is so great, now we only have 38 more families to find adopters for' – you know what happened next. Yep, the Trustees voted to take on those extra 38 families! 'We can't adopt 100 families and leave the last 38.' Trustee Roger Tackitt said. The vote was unanimous. Back to store to get more gift cards.



A small portion of the many toys and gifts sitting in my living room awaiting wrapping and shipping.

In the push of the last few days, other organizations and individuals came forwards and adopted some of those last 38 families, leaving only 3 for us to adopt. I am thrilled to announce that every family that was on the Soldiers' Angels list was adopted – over 1100 of them!

It's still not over ---- it keeps getting better. TREA Chapter 39, from Aurora Colorado was on board with this program from the beginning. They adopted 5 families from the program. They chose local families and personally delivered gift/meal baskets to each one.

In another part of this magazine, you will read about a middle school who held a special Veterans' Recognition night of which TREA was a guest. Mesa Middle School in Castle Rock, Colorado used the funds that were raised that night to adopt a family from TREA in support of this program.

Last but certainly not least, The Foundation provided \$350.00 gift cards to 5 families of the ESGR.

After a total of 76 hours of shopping, 27 shopping carts, 10 rolls of wrapping paper, 14 hours of wrapping, 6 boxes of cards, 10 bags of candy, 14 hours standing in line (between the stores and the Post Office) and spending \$30,650 – the last box was shipped out.

A lot of work, a ton of effort and it was worth every bit to accomplish such a wonderful, giving show of support for our veterans and military members.

This was just the beginning – because of this, the Foundation has added the new 'Holiday Assistance' Program to their list of programs and services. If we can help, then we should – and we will.

I am proud and honored to have been a part of this program – these veterans and soldiers, and their families have fought for and are continuing to fight for us. It is our duty and our responsibility to support them and offer assistance when and where we can.

Since this will be an ongoing program, I will be reaching out for volunteers next year – please keep this in mind. A little help goes a long way.

A special thank you to everyone who helped in this monumental task: The TREA HQ staff (Hazel Simeon, Tanya Austin & Susan Dunn), the Members of the Foundation (Chairman Mark Tabacheck, Trustee Roger Tackitt, Trustee Mel Yell, Vice Chairman Butch Liebaert & Parliamentarian Bob Corson), my family (Sherri Anderson, Doug, Michael & Christopher Osborne) and to my mom's friend Sylvia Martin for spending the day wrapping with us. We couldn't have done this without all of your help!



L-R: Director for Operations-Debbie Osborne, Treasurer-Deb Oelschig, HQ Admin-Susan Dunn, Member Services-Hazel Simeon, Foundation Vice Chair-Butch Liebaert, Foundation Trustee-Mel Yell, hiding in the back is TREA President-John Adams, Memorial Parliamentarian-Bob Corson, Memorial Trustee Roger Tackitt, Memorial Chairman-Mark Tabacheck & HQ Receptionist-Tanya Austin stand in front of some of the boxes to be shipped. A total of 103 packages were shipped.

Holiday Thank You's

The following pages are dedicated to all the 'THANK YOU'S' we received from the Holiday Assistance Program. We hope you take the time to read through these to truly appreciate the impact that we have made on these families this year.

Dear Soldiers' Angels Adopt-A-Family Sponsors:

Thank You for Your Support! Through your help and generosity, we were able to serve 1,056 deployed service members, wounded heroes, veterans and their families this holiday season. You helped put smiles on the faces of 2,894 children this year. We truly appreciate your kindness and are grateful to each of you for giving your time, money, and hearts to the men and women who are and have fought so gallantly for our freedom. Here are some 'thank you' messages that we have received from families.

"Thank you so much. We did get one today. I am so blessed that we got it. My family has struggled and this was truly a blessing. I'm not sure how you all do it but you did it. You all should know that you guys really are amazing. Being away from my family and being the only one working wondering how Christmas will happen is so much stress but every time God makes it happen and Guess what you guys are part of his Grace and Mercy. I'm sorry to ramble but God is Good!!!! You guys have a wonderful New Year and Merry Christmas!!!! Thank You and Our Family is truly Humbled and grateful!!"

"I got the packages today, I broke down and cried. You don't know what you have done for my family. I did not know what I was going to do for my kids until this arrived. When I seen the gift card I broke down and could not stop crying. Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts you have made it perfect for my kids this year. Merry Christmas. Thank you once again."

We cannot do the work that we do at Soldiers' Angels without the support and generosity of wonderful people like you! You are truly Angels to us! May the New Year bring joy, peace, and happiness to all of you! We look forward to working with you in 2017!

Soldiers' Angels Adopt-A-Family Team

Hello and Merry Christmas!

Today, 24 December, we received your box not knowing what to expect! I can honestly say when I opened it I got a little teary eyed! This is my husband's first deployment and the first time he has ever been away from our 3 children Joseph (9), Jordyn (6), and Alizabeth (3) for longer than two weeks!

We were unsure of what to expect, I had to quit my job and stay home with our youngest until another job came along that would be willing to work with our deployment schedule. I am happy to say I have found a job and will start January 5th! Your kindness is just what we needed to put a smile on our children's faces! They were so happy to see the presents and are (not so) patiently waiting for the morning to tear into them!

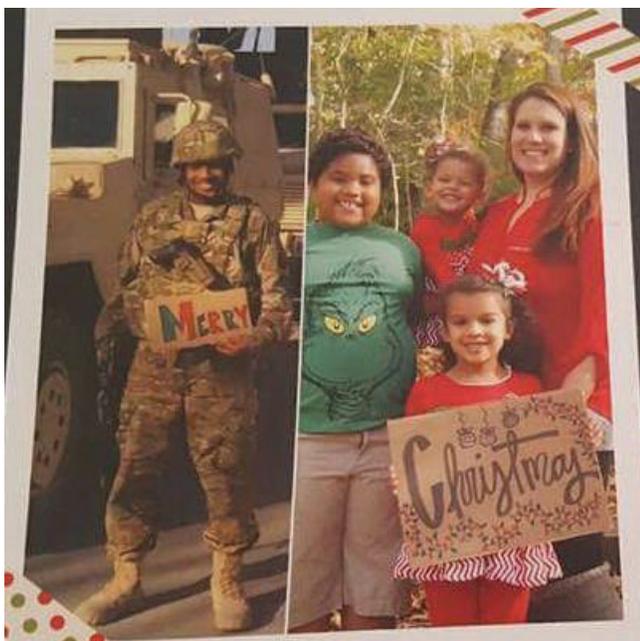
We will forever be grateful to everyone who has helped us through this deployment and hope to one day pay it forward! Being a military family is already hard, add in the long deployments, and all immediate family about 10 hours away and things are a little bit harder!

I wish we could thank you in person! Please pass along this letter and our pictures to everyone involved and know that your kindness this Christmas season truly made a difference for one family!

With lots of love,

The Coleman family

Ssgt. Aaron Coleman (currently in Afghanistan), Mary Coleman, Joseph, Jordyn, and Alizabeth



Dear Ma'am or Sir,
I was one of the very fortunate families to be able to receive help from you for Christmas. I feel a little weird writing this because i don't know exactly who I am writing to other than an Organization so please forgive me. I am a veteran , I've had the pleasure of going to Iraq and Afghanistan with my soldiers but was injured and had to leave the military. I recently have had to take my 3 little grandbabies. Long story short. Without you, I honestly wouldn't have been able to give them a Christmas. I am so grateful to you, your Organization, staff. I was able to buy 4 presents for each grandbaby and my daughter. They were so happy . I hope one yr i am able too do what you have done. Your truly a blessing. You made me cry so hard out of happiness. It is crazy all of the cruel people in the world that affect us daily, but you came and made me realize something different. Thank you again. I will never forget what you have done. I hope you had a wonderful holiday. Be Blessed.
- Tina

To Whom It May Concern,
My name is Velma Taliaferro, I am the wife of Edward Taliaferro Jr. We received a gift card from your organization that made our holiday a blessed one. We truly appreciate your support. Thank God for the work you do for those who have served their country. We are in the process of moving to a better housing situation thanks to HUDVASH. We need bedroom dressers for ourselves, two teenage daughters and grandson. Also, a couch, dining table and chairs. Edward and I thank you in advance for your help in this matter. Be blessed and have a wonderful holiday and happy new year!
Sincerely,
Velma

My Family is the Ford family. We received a 250 gift card over the holidays. The joy and the tears and laughs couldn't compare to the gratitude we have for organizations like you. We entrusted in others that failed us or just couldn't help. But you guys simply made our Christmas!!!! We are humbled and truly, truly thankful for everything. Please accept this email as a token of our appreciation and gratitude.
Forever in your debt,
The Ford Family

I'm writing to say Thank You so much for the gift card. It came right on time during these tough times. I have two daughters that stay with me (15 and 14) who was willing to wait until January to receive gifts because they understood that daddy just didn't have enough to give all his children (13 in all) gifts for Christmas. But when the gift card arrived, we was able to buy a Christmas meal and some personal needs and even some little earrings for them. So Thank You so much once again for making Christmas possible for this Combat Veteran's Family.
Shawn Hill

Sorry, this thank you finds you at the end of the year, but I couldn't let the year end with out expressing my gratitude for the consideration your organization extended to my family as well as the forty-nine (49) other families. It was a great surprise to receive the care package that you had designed for my family, and every gift was greatly appreciated. If my thank you letter is the last one you receive please believe it is and was truly a blessing. God Bless your organization, for bestowing this Holiday Blessing for every family that was a recipient of the gift basket this year and I pray you will be able to pass the blessings on to fifty or more other deserving families next year. Your organization will always hold a special place in my heart, for helping make this Christmas a long overdue happy occasion.

Thank you again,
Elliott Williams

Hello my name is Randall Giggs Jr and I wanted to reach out to you on behalf of me and my family by saying thank you so much for the gift card. It was such a blessing and we can't thank you enough for what you gave our family for the holidays!
Thank you & happy holidays
The Griggs Family



Thank you so much for the gift card & gifts! We loved them very much! It made Christmas even more special! The kids really enjoyed their gifts!
Thank you so much again!



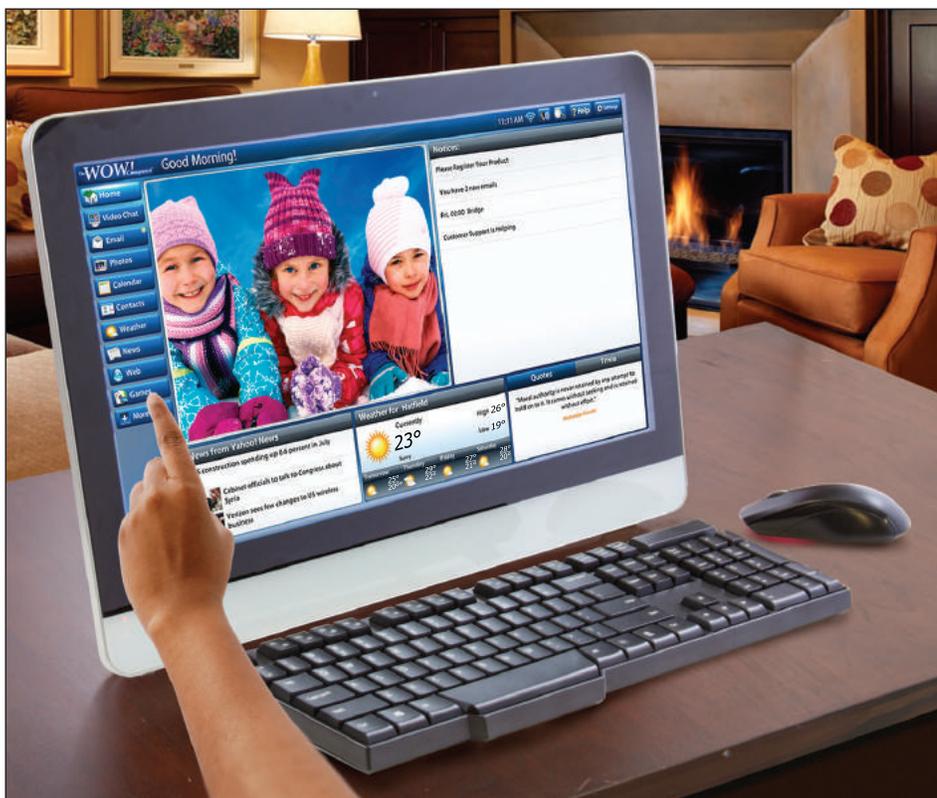
Hello,
I received your letter and gift card this week (didn't check my mailbox last week). It was a fantastic surprise! We really appreciate this wonderful gift and sentiment for the Christmas Holiday. It means a lot to my family that there are people who care enough to help people going through difficult times. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!! Hope you had a wonderful Christmas as well. Sincerely,
LaTasha Ross and family

I would like to thank your Organization for making our Christmas Holiday bright! It was such a surprise and a blessing! I can never express my gratitude! I attached pictures of the wonderful gifts I was able to place under our tree. As part of giving back, the kids served Holiday meal at the agency, Veterans Empowerment Organization where I am employed. It had been a long road to recovery from homelessness. I am proud to inspire other Veterans along the way.

Hi, My name is Jason Hylton, I am a disabled Army Vet!! My family and I received your generous gift of \$250 to Walmart to help with holiday shopping and a meal for Christmas. My wife and I want to give out our deepest gratitude to your organization for adopting our family. When I received this gift in the mail, my heart became so full!! This year has been exceptionally hard for our family. My wife has been going to college full time to become a Dental Assistant, after losing her job of 6 years she decided she needed a change, and has been enrolled full time for almost 2 years, and I stay at home with our two girls Kayley 11 years old and Mackenzie 2 years old while my wife is attending college! Our car broke down over the summer, with an expensive tow bill back to Va, luckily my wife's mom let her use her car to drive to and from college. We finally got a car in late October. It sometimes is hard living on just my income, but we try to manage the best we can, some months are harder than others, we sometimes struggle, our power has had late notices, we've had to ask family members to help get diapers for our little one, or groceries here and there, but in the end, we have each other, and that's the most important thing to me is my family. Because of your organization, my kids had an amazing Christmas! I want to tell you how much this truly means to us, enclosed I have put a picture of my family; myself-Jason, my wife-Lindsay, daughter Kayley, and daughter Mackenzie next to my mother-in-laws tree! Thank you so much, you will never know how this small gesture became so BIG! From our family to yours, we hope you had a great christmas and that you have a HAPPY NEW YEARS!!!
SENDING THANKS AND OUR LOVE,
THE HYLTON'S - JASON, LINDSAY, KAYLEY, AND MACKENZIE

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“I love this computer! It is easy to read and to use! I get photo updates from my children and grandchildren all the time.”

– Janet F.

Have you ever said to yourself “I’d love to get a computer, if only I could figure out how to use it.” Well, you’re not alone. Computers were supposed to make our lives simpler, but they’ve gotten so complicated that they are not worth the trouble. With all of the “pointing and clicking” and “dragging and dropping” you’re lucky if you can figure out where you are. Plus, you are constantly worrying about viruses and freeze-ups. If this sounds familiar, we have great news for you. There is finally a computer that’s designed for simplicity and ease of use. It’s the WOW Computer, and it was designed with you in mind. This computer is easy-to-use, worry-free and literally puts the world at

your fingertips. From the moment you open the box, you’ll realize how different the WOW Computer is. The components are all connected; all you do is plug it into an outlet and your high-speed Internet connection. Then you’ll see the screen – it’s now 22 inches. This is a completely new touch screen system, without the cluttered look of the normal computer screen. The “buttons” on the screen are easy to see and easy to understand. All you do is touch one of them, from the Web, Email, Calendar to Games– you name it... and a new screen opens up. It’s so easy to use you won’t have to ask your children or grandchildren for help. Until now, the very people who could benefit most from E-mail and the Internet are the ones that have had the hardest time accessing it. Now, thanks to the WOW Computer, countless older Americans are discovering the wonderful world of the Internet every day. Isn’t it time

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A Note from the Treasurer

By Deb Oelschig, TREA National Treasurer

A new year is here! It is a time to make resolutions, visualize goals, and continue to move forward toward success, growth, and change.

We are pleased to report that TREA will end FY16 with a positive. We will have final Profit and Loss numbers when the official audit has been completed. The Finance Committee looks forward to working with the Headquarters staff and TREA Board of Directors in this New Year. We will continue to work with a positive and focused outlook to ensure TREA's future as an organization is solid and that we can be here to support its mission for many years to come.

I am very excited about the changes that are coming our way and would like to welcome all of our new members coming from the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS). We share a common goal, to represent all veterans and their families. There is strength in numbers and with 10366 new TREA members we will continue to be the "Voice of the Enlisted".

I wish the very best to all of you and your families in this coming year. May God Bless you in every way.



Awards Committee

By Larry Hyland, Immediate Past National President



First – Happy New Year to everyone! Time sure does fly – it seems as if it was only yesterday and we were celebrating our convention in Las Vegas and now we are already into the New Year. Even though it is a new year (2017), the awards that you will be submitting recommendations for - are for 2016. Please keep that in mind when you are writing all the accolades for the awards, we know, you will be submitting.

I would be remiss if I did not take the time to remind everyone of the cutoff date of March 31, 2017 for submissions and the utilization of TREA Form 100-43 for those submissions. Detailed information is contained within TREA Standing Rule #8. This is the last time you will see this in print before the deadline – so maybe you might want to, right now, mark the date on your calendar or rip this page out and put it on your refrigerator. Whatever works for you, but we should take the time to acknowledge those within our diversified ranks that go above and beyond in inspiring others to get involved or continue involvement for that is how we make our presence known and send signals for others to join.

As I stated in the last issue of the "Voice" TREA has a good story to tell and the value enlisted veterans bring to their respective communities needs to be told. As well, the involvement of chapters, their web presence, and their newsletters also requires acknowledgement - for the services they provide not only to the local TREA community, but also to the greater veteran community at large. So sharpen the pencils, start up the computer or whatever method you utilize, but do not delay – time is shorter than you think.

I would also like to acknowledge the TREA members who have taken time out of other activities and pursuits to be on this committee. They are: Roger DeLosh – Chapter 1, Michael Gales – Chapter 9, Paul Ott – Chapter 29, Leonard Black – Chapter 58, Tom O'Connell – Chapter 79, Butch Liebaert – Chapter 119, TREA National President – John Adams AND TREA HQ Staff Member - Ms. Susan Dunn.



Greetings Members - A Message from the Legislative Affairs Committee

By Aaron Reed, National Legislative Director

2016 was a big year for TREA with a successful National Convention in Las Vegas, newly elected President John Adams, preceding Past President Larry Hyland and a new direction for the United States with the election of President Donald Trump. As you know I have taken a new position as the Legislative Director. In doing my homework, researching legislative changes where access or change to benefits directly impact veterans and their families, I have found many new and improved options, but this is an ongoing process and we must stay watchful. To support one another we must communicate with each other as we journey throughout the New Year. I will keep you posted but I also need you to keep me updated with proposed changes in your area. Listed below are a few of the new benefits that I'm excited about and you should be aware of. I very much look forward to 2017 working for the membership.



Legislative Committee 2017 Updates

Medication Copayment Changes in 2017

DAV is pleased that there will be a reduction in copayments for many service-connected veterans in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 135.

VA issued final regulations set to take effect February 27, 2017, changing VA's current copayments structure for each 30-day or less supply of medication and how future year copayment amounts and annual caps are calculated.

Veterans who are currently exempt from medication copayments remain exempt, including but not limited to, a veteran with a service-connected disability rated 50 percent or more, medication for a service-connected disability, and a former prisoner of war.

Currently, Priority Group (PG) 2-6 veterans must pay \$8 for each 30-day or less supply of medication and PG 7-8 veterans must pay \$9. Under the new rule, VA will essentially assign three categories for medication and associated copayments:

Tier 1: preferred generics - \$5 copayment for 30-day supply; Tier 2: non-preferred generics - \$8 copayments for 30-day supply; and Tier 3: brand name drugs - \$11 for 30-day supply.

In addition, current copayment costs for veterans in PG 2-6 is limited to a \$960 annual copayment cap and PG 7-8 veterans have no protections afforded by a cap. Under the new rule, VA will reduce the annual copayment cap to \$700 for all veterans, including PG 7-8 veterans, who are required to pay medication copayments.

It is estimated that a large majority of veterans will encounter no cost increase, or will realize savings, while a small percentage of veterans-veterans who only fill Tier 3 medications-may experience a small increase in medication copayments. Based on a comparison of the current and proposed copayment amounts, VA anticipates that most veterans would realize between a 10 and 50 percent reduction in their annual pharmacy copayment costs. VA also estimates, 94 percent of copayment eligible veterans will experience no cost increase, and 80 percent will realize a savings of between \$1 and \$4 per 30-day supply of medications.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.votervoicenet.com/iframes/DAV/Campaigns/48903/Respond>.

VA National Cemeteries Now Offering Pre-Need Eligibility Determinations

Washington --- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced it now provides eligibility determinations for interment in a VA national cemetery prior to the time of need. Through the Pre-Need Determination of El-

igibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a VA national cemetery.

"My VA is about looking at VA from a Veterans' perspective, and then doing everything we can to make the Veteran Experience effective and seamless", said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. "This new program reaffirms our commitment to providing a lifetime of benefits and services for Veterans and their families."

Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40-10007 (<http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf>), Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in the VA National Cemetery, and supporting documentation, such as a DD Form 214, if readily available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; email to Eligibility. Pre-Need@va.gov (mailto:Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov); or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

VA will review applications and provide written notice of its determination of eligibility. VA will save determinations and supporting documentation in an electronic information system to expedite burial arrangements at the time of need. Because laws and personal circumstances change, upon receipt of a burial request, VA will validate all pre-need determinations in accordance with the laws in effect at that time.

VA operates 135 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots in 40 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's national cemeteries. VA also provides funding to establish, expand and maintain 105 Veterans cemeteries in 47 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam and Japan. For Veterans buried in private or other cemeteries VA provides headstones, markers or medallion to commemorate their service. In 2016, VA honored more than 345,000 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private cemeteries.

Eligible individuals are entitled to burial in any open VA cemetery, opening/closing of the grave, a grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, and a government-furnished headstone or marker or niche cover, all at no cost to the family. Veterans are also eligible for a burial flag and may be eligible for a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, from the Internet at www.cem.va.gov (<http://cem.va.gov/>), or by calling VA regional office toll-free at 800-827-1000. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.

Continued on next page >

Thanks to BetterWOMAN, I'm winning the battle for Bladder Control.



Frequent nighttime trips to the bathroom, embarrassing leaks and the inconvenience of constantly searching for rest rooms in public – for years, I struggled with bladder control problems. After trying expensive medications with horrible side effects, ineffective exercises and uncomfortable liners and pads, I was ready to resign myself to a life of bladder leaks, isolation and depression. But then I tried **BetterWOMAN**.

When I first saw the ad for BetterWOMAN, I was skeptical. So many products claim they can set you free from leaks, frequency and worry, only to deliver disappointment. When I finally tried BetterWOMAN, I found that it actually works! It changed my life. Even my friends have noticed that I'm a new person. And because it's all natural, I can enjoy the results without the worry of dangerous side effects. Thanks to BetterWOMAN, I finally fought bladder control problems and I won!



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You don't have to let bladder control problems control you. Call now!



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Press Release - November 29, 2016 Rep. Stewart's Veterans Tricare Choice Act Passes the House

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Chris Stewart's (R-Utah) Veterans TRICARE Choice Act, unanimously passed the House today, giving Veterans more healthcare options.

This bill, H.R. 5458, is a bipartisan, common sense piece of legislation that allows veterans to temporarily pause their TRICARE benefits to participate in an employers Health Savings Account (HSA) program if they so choose.

Health Savings Accounts have proven to be an effective way to pay for medical costs and proactively save for future medical expenses. They have become increasingly popular healthcare plans in the private sector, but under current federal law, it is illegal for a TRICARE-eligible veteran to participate in an HSA program.

The Veterans TRICARE Choice Act simply gives veterans the choice to voluntarily pause their TRICARE benefits in order to participate in an HSA program.

"Our veterans deserve our most profound gratitude," Stewart said. "Nothing about their military service should prevent them from accessing the same benefits as their non-veteran co-workers. The very least we can do is ensure they receive the benefits we've promised them, and that the process goes as smoothly as possible. We still have a lot of work to do on that front, but the passage of this bill is a great step in the right direction."

Following the bill's passage, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), the original Democrat co-sponsor of the bill said, "As a soldier and a veteran, I have seen firsthand the tremendous sacrifice our veterans and their families make in service to our country. That service should never limit their access to quality healthcare, and the ability to make decisions about their own health. The Veterans TRICARE Choice Act gives our veterans the ability to choose the best healthcare options for themselves and their families."

The Veterans Tricare Choice Act has the support of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN) and the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS).

<https://stewart.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-stewart-s-veterans-tricare-choice-act-passes-the-house> Campaigns/48903/Respond.

Critical Vote on Veterans Legislation Needed in the Senate

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee has approved and reported a nearly 400-page omnibus measure now pending a vote by the full Senate. This bill, S. 2921, the Veterans First Act, contains numerous DAV legislative priorities that would expand and improve benefits and services for injured and ill veterans, including DAV members and their families.

This legislation would extend comprehensive caregiver support to veterans of all eras; increase veterans' options for long-term care through medical foster homes; enhance VA's efforts to recruit and retain the best and brightest medical professionals; reform claims and appeals processing by creating a fully developed appeals pilot program; and, make dozens of other positive changes to improve the lives of those who served.

With the House having already passed nearly two dozen measures to strengthen veterans programs, we look forward to working together with leaders in both chambers of Congress, the VA and other key stakeholders to enact comprehensive legislation to help keep the promise to America's veterans, particularly those who were injured or made ill from their service.

Please use the prepared message to write your Senators today to ask them to work for a final vote on S. 2921, the Veterans First Act, which will improve the lives of millions of America's veterans, as well as their families and survivors.

As always, thank you for your support of DAV's legislative efforts. Your participation in DAV can make DAV a more effective advocate to protect and enhance the interests of veterans who have sacrificed in military service to America.

<https://www.dav.org/can/>



Happy New Year TREA Auxiliary Members!

By Irmgard Cates, TREA Auxiliary President

I trust everyone had a blessed and Merry Christmas. Time is just flying by. February is already here and by the time you read this, the convention committee will have just gotten back from the pre-convention visit to Pittsburgh. Our hotel is just outside of downtown Pittsburgh, right across the river. It is a short walk to downtown, but no worries – there is also a free shuttle to/from the hotel that will take you within a 3 mile radius. I would urge you to check out the attractions in and near Pittsburg and if you see something or know of an attraction that would appeal to most of our members, let me know so I can check it out. I will give a full report in the next newsletter.

Quite a few things transpired since our last convention. I am sure that President Adams will have all the information in his news article. Suffice for me to say that National is absorbing approximately 10,000 new members from another VSO and I expect there will be new member spouses who will be interested in our Auxiliary. I look forward to welcoming these new members and believe they will bring new ideas and energy into our group. It is not too early to be thinking of elections, I would encourage you to consider running for the national Board of Directors, and be ready to submit your candidate form in June. If you are considering changing our Bylaws and Standing Rules, don't forget to submit the change to our Parliamentarian, Elaine Warner-Savage, before the mid-term meeting.

I will leave you now, but with a reminder to be careful as winter is here for many of us and with it comes increased chances to fall or have an accident because of snow and ice, don't be a victim. I look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh!



Chapter 1 Auxiliary BOD for 2017:

Pres. Kitty Jones, 1st V. Pres. Veronica Veitvogel, Treas. Audrey Guy, Recording Sec. Rebecca Kluck, 2 Yr. Director Olga Layne Hill, 1 Yr. Director Pat Weaver, Sgt-at-Arms Oznur Quinones, Chap. Alice DeBoer, Parliamentarian Irmgard Cates, (absent, 2nd V. Pres. Kris Floyd).

The BOD was installed by APNP Kay Claman. If further information is needed, you may contact me: Pauline Watkins, Publicity Chair, (719)591-8452.



Auxiliary Prayer

By Alice DeBoer, National Auxiliary Chaplain

“Some day, everything will make perfect sense. So for now, laugh at the confusion, smile through the tears, and keep reminding yourself that everything happens for a reason.” (Author Unknown)



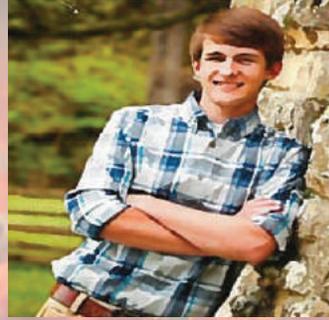
TREA National Auxiliary 2016-2017 Scholarships

CORRECTION: Winners pictured below are additions to the list of Auxiliary Scholarships printed in the November 2016 Issue of *The Voice* on page 15.



Maurice Winston Murphy
Enterprise, AL

Enterprise State Community College
Sponsor: Donna Murphy, Auxiliary
Member



Andrew Chase Hampton
Columbia, TN

Middle Tennessee State University
Sponsor: Helen Ramirez, Auxiliary
Member

Auxiliary 2017-2018 Scholarships NOW OPEN!

For those wishing to apply for a scholarship through the TREA Auxiliary, the application is now available on our website (www.trea.org) – Click on “about Us”, then click on “National Auxiliary”. The essay question this year is: “What do you think of the National Anthem Protests?” You will have to write a 250 (minimum) word essay on this subject and submit it with the completed application.

Need Help? We're here to help!

The Widows Emergency And Benevolent Fund (WEF) of TREA National Auxiliary

Assists members who are
experiencing financial
difficulty in getting health care and related
needs met.

Eyeglasses/Dental Care
Medical Supplies/Hearing Aids
Financial Hardship.

If you are a member in good
standing and want to apply for assistance,
Please **Call 1-800-808-4517, ext. 1010.**

Leave your name and number
and a program representative
will call you back.



WINTER 2017: CHAPTER NEWS

2nd Vice & Chaplain Turks with TREA Headquarter staff member, Tanya Austin spent Thanksgiving feeding the homeless out of Zion Baptist Church, Denver, CO.



Chapter 3

The ladies of Chapter 3 Auxiliary served over 400 Thanksgiving meals. Way to go ladies! TREA is proud of you!

Chapter 9

Getting ready to serve 40 baskets for Thanksgiving with F. Dixon, C. Lance, Mike Gales -Pres., T. Russum, T. Holman.



Chapter 72

Former President Mike Allen in Pittsburgh participating in the annual Stand Down Pittsburgh event. It is a day-long services fair for local Veterans who are homeless or needy. Each year, Stand Down provides access to breakfast, lunch, 60+ health & community service providers, entertainment, barbers, clothing, and essential needed supplies. This year we helped over 750 homeless & needy veterans.

Chapter 16 - Being Honored at AME Church



Chapter 16 Member Secretary William Vinyard answers questions from the congregation.



Allen Chapel Church: two cadets from St John's Military School Honor Guard rolling up the USA flag.



Members (L-R): Pres. Richard Trow, Pastor Kerry Broadus, Chaplain Moses Steward, Sec. William Vinyard



Chapter 29

Auxiliary making ten Thanksgiving baskets for the Rapid City, S.D. Vets Center. (L-R): Betty Seibert, Ruth Fogle, Ernie Summarell, Judy Smith, Pat Larkins and Elaine Warner- Savage.



Auxiliary decorating for Christmas. (L-R): Elaine Warner-Savage, Shirley Martinez, Pat Larkins, Ruth Fogle and Betty Seibert.



Chapter 111

Chapter 111 was well represented at Wright Patterson AFB RAD in Dayton, Ohio on October 28, 2016. Manning the information table is Chapter VP Philip Hilinski greeting visitors who stopped by. Note the laptop with the new Power Pont presentation running the "What is TREA" CD developed by PNP Rick Delaney, to catch the eye of those moving by the table. Special thanks to the other members not pictured but were assisting: Chap Pres Andy Franko, Mike Jackson, Barry Rossow and Aux Member Norma Rossow.



Chapter 74

During the chapter's potluck meeting on 19 Dec 16, President CC Cameron presented to Ms. Shaylean Babauta an appreciation plaque. The chapter holds its meetings at the Brookdale Allenmore Senior Living facilities in Tacoma, WA without charge. Shaylean is the dining facilities Supervisor and every third Monday our meeting place is always ready. One of Chapter 74's members (Bruce Beardsley) is a resident at that location.

Chapter 98



Auxiliary attend Scottsdale, PA Memorial Dedication Ceremony. (L-R): Sue Dye, Pat Kibler, Shirley Shallenberger, Gwen Klepsky, Inge Hall, Barb Kovacs, Geraldine Stape



Member Jack Dugger displays the TREA Chapter 98 colors at the dedication ceremony



TREA 98 and Auxiliary held their annual Christmas Party.



Shirley Shallenberger, Gwen Klepsky, Barb Kovacs, Sue Dye and Pat Kibler, Auxiliary officers.



(CORRECTION): Members chat with Shutsy Reynolds about her experience as an WASP B-25 pilot during WW2. She is a true local hero and we enjoyed every minute with her. L-R: Gwen Klepsky, Shutsy Reynolds, Barb & Carl Kovacs.

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Chapter 119

Chapter 119 RAD was held on September 30, 2016 at Black Bear Casino. (L-R): Troy Magnuson, Gerry Stark, Dave Carlson, Butch Liebaert, and Jim Potthier. Missing Terry Maki, Wayne Phelps, and Cheryl Liebaert.

Chapter 76



Members (L-R): Arne Weinfurter, Lester Bischoff, Tom Pollock, Roger Gering, and Burton Hughes.



President Mike Liebelt reads the names of Wisconsin Service Members who died at Pearl Harbor.



Chapter 76 Members Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony 2016 playing of the National Anthem.



Chapter 76 Annual Membership Meeting



Back (R-L): Art Wagner, Dir.; Burt Hughes, Dir.; Tom Pollock, Vice Pres.; Rodney Schultz, Treas.; Mike Liebelt, Pres. Front (R-L): James Sundee, Sec.; Beverly Leonhard, Dir.



Chapter 76 Annual Membership Meeting

Chapter 92

TREA Chapter 92 in Cherry Point/Havelock, North Carolina proudly took its place in the Morehead City, NC Veterans Day Parade on November 5th.



A Member and A Chaplain of Value

Truer words were never spoken, than when someone said “Live your life to contribute,” as was executed by Chapter 80’s Chaplain, Isaiah “Ike” Clinton. For 22 years, member Clinton was a member first, due to his dedication to the mission of TREA. He participated in all Retirement Appreciation Days (RAD) at all five bases in San Antonio: Ft Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), Brooks Army City Base, Randolph AFB and KellyAFB. After two Base Realignments and Closures, he continued in all membership drives at the remaining AFBs in San Antonio. We lost this great Chaplain in late 2015.

What a great chaplain. Chapter chaplains are angels for chapter presidents when allowed. President Walter “Don” Higginbotham, Chapter president, knew that Ike - as he was called - was the precursor for all Chapter 80 events, and would “set the stage.” First of all he was a Christian, which he portrayed in character and his delivery of prayers. He began and ended every meeting and event with an iconic; “ In the Name of Your Darling Son Jesus.” He prayed for the Chapter, the world and the discord herein. Above all ... he prayed for our organization, TREA, at every event where he had participation.

Ike and his spouse, 2015 Spirit Award Recipient Martha Clinton, attended every convention. They missed only two during the 22 years belonging to TREA. He was also an active Chaplain participant for the Auxiliary in its programs. He promoted procuring guest speakers who presented information for the Auxiliary; for example, what to do when a spouse expires. He attended Auxiliary events with the Auxiliary.

Chaplain Ike served with many Chapter 80 presidents and performed at all award ceremonies with the presidents under which he served as Chaplain. He and his wife participated in all RADs where appropriate, sitting behind their booths sporting the TREA Chapter 80 banner, while handing out information to the public about the benefits of our joining the TREA mission. These events served tremendously as publicity for both the chapter and our parent organization.

Isaiah Clinton, aka Ike, will be remembered and missed for his many contributions to Chapter 80 as a sincere Chaplain and a dedicated member of TREA; one who was willing to advance the organization through prayer and through participation ... as in Working Toward Our Mission.



Chapter 80



Chapter Vice President H.C. Moreland and Members Burgess and Chandler prepare food for disabled veterans at Audi Murphy Hospital.



Member Sarah Hicks assists a patient at the Audi Murphy Hospital play bingo.



Chapter 80 President Don Higginbotham stands with members Gaddy and Vance. Both joined TREA at the Ft. Sam.



Carol, Eloise and Marie prepare for more than 700 children and their family members at the Blue Santa Event.



Blue Santa Event in San Antonio, TX. Chapter 80 provided cookies and punch to the children and their families.



Members of the San Antonio Police Department with TREA Members at the Blue Santa Event.



President Don Higginbotham, Member Scott and Vice President H.C. Moreland sign-up a new member at the RAD held at Ft Sam.



Don Higginbotham with the Christmas Luncheon Hero of Today, Marine Corporal Cesar E. Holguin. He was awarded a 1 year TREA membership.



Marty Martinez, Elijah King and Don Higginbotham with Chapter 88 President Guadalupe Lopez Jr.



President Don Higgenbotham presents Auxiliary President Elaine Moreland with flowers to thank her for her support in 2016 during the Christmas Luncheon.



Chapter Secretary Roosevelt "Rosey" and Mrs Hale (pictured right) enjoy the festivities, where he received an award for Service to the Chapter for his contributions during 2016. Mrs. Roberta Hale is a new member to Auxiliary 80.



Member Stanley Meyer proudly displays a \$100 donation he received at a Chapter Fundraiser.



Chapter 80 Does It Again

These premature baby caps, booties and blankets, made by auxiliary members President Elaine Moreland and member Anne Meyer, and journals, made by the auxiliary, will be placed in admission baskets to go to hospitals throughout the United States for premature births.

Pictured here is Spirit Award winner Martha Clinton, Past National President Marie Smith, Donna Hardy, Vice President Juanita Higginbotham and Auxiliary President Elaine Moreland.



Chapter 80 Makes Christmas Donation To Haven For Hope

It was like Christmas when Chapter 80 made its annual donation of over 5000 items to Texas' Haven For Hope. If you remember last year Past President Renee Keener visited the San Antonio Chapter, as they made the same donation to a place where true hope aspires. The organization, tops in San Antonio, has classes and hope for job training and job finding for the homeless.

Pictured are Ms Jaclyn Lawson, Chapter 80 Auxiliary President Elaine Moreland, Chapter 80 Vice President Harold Moreland, Auxiliary Vice President Juanita Higginbotham and Ms Yvonne Martinez, Development Support Coordinator. Look at the many items delivered on that day!



Chapter 80 Fourth Quarter

Chapter 80 closed out 2016 busy as usual. The Chapter and Auxiliary conducted a fundraiser off a military reservation for the first time, not knowing how we would be received. The civilian population was very receptive to us making the fundraiser a success. The highlight of the event was a lady presenting Stanley Meyer with a \$100 dollar bill.

The Chapter also participated in the Annual RAD, held at Ft. Sam Houston. While there, we recruited 3 new members. The months of October and November were very productive from a recruitment standpoint, as we added 13 new members, bringing our total for the year to 25.

Chapter members also participated with the DAV Chapter and provided a picnic type meal for veterans that live at the Audi Murphy Veteran's Hospital. After the meal, we played Bingo with them, ensuring that everyone was a winner.

In December, the Chapter participated in a community Blue Santa event for families that need assistance at Christmas. The Chapter served more than 2000 cookies and provided punch to more than 700 children and family members. Members also assembled 23 bicycles for the Elf Louise program that distributes them to children throughout San Antonio.

We closed out the year with our Annual Christmas Luncheon held at the Fr. Sam Houston Golf Club. As is our custom, we honored a young service member, referring to them as Today's Heroes. This year it was the Marines turn. Corporal Cesar Holguin received a one-year membership to TREA in addition to being able to listen to veterans from the past tell him war stories. (No one asked them if they were true.) The luncheon's invited guests were Chapter 88 President Guadalupe Lopez and his wife, Virginia. Also, TREA members Marry Martinez and Elijah King presented Certificates of Honor to all Vietnam Era Veterans in attendance. It was very moving and hard to realize how long it has been since the Vietnam War ended. The year 2016 had now come to an end and Chapter 80 and its Auxiliary are looking forward to an exciting 2017!

Chapter 101

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. During the TREA Chapter 101st (Screaming Eagles) 20 October 2016 General Membership Meeting, Quilts of Valor were presented to members and two special guests. The awardees were John Wilson, Walter McCombie, Keith Hazelwood, Joe Velasquez, Eugene Nussbaum (i.e., presented to his daughter Margaret Hazelwood), Herman Wright, Gerry Cain (guest), and Russell Cain. A formal presentation to Gene Frost also occurred.



Quilts of Valor Presenters



Presentation to John Wilson



Presentation to Keith Hazelwood



Presentation to Walter McComb



Presentation to Joe Velasquez



Presentation for Eugene Nussbaum presented to his daughter Margaret Hazelwood



Presentation to Russell Cain



Presentation to Gerry Cain



Presentation to Herman Wright



Quilts of Valor Presenters with Jon Helegrud



Russell & Gerry Cain displaying their quilts and award certificates

Veteran's Day Ceremony at Arlington



(L-R): Mike Gales (Baltimore Chapter), President John Adams, Auxiliary President Irmgard Cates, Paul Chester (Chapter 1). Waiting to be called for the wreath presentation at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



(R-L): Paul Chester, Auxiliary President Irm Cates, President Adams, Mike Gales and the Escort Officer marching to the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington.



Presentation Party being met by the Old Sentry Guard: Arlington. Rep, Chapter 9 President Michael Gales, TREA National President John Adams, National Auxiliary President Irmgard Cates, TREA Member Paul Chester

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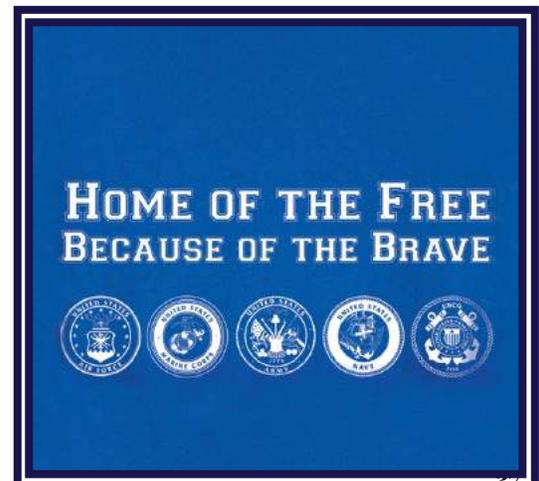
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TREA Membership Perks



20% Wyndham Hotels Discount

TREA Members save up to 20% on Wyndham Hotels stays, including: Days Inn, Ramada, Super 8 and many more! Call 877-670-7088 and use Corporate Code: 1000007487 for your 20% Savings or to book online, [CLICK HERE!](#)



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Office Depot Savings Program

TREA has partnered with Office Depot/OfficeMax® to bring you a FREE national discount program. Save up to 80% off preferred products! Shop online or in stores! FREE next day delivery on orders over \$50 (excludes furniture orders)! To shop online or print off your savings card, [Click here!](#)



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CruisesOnly is proud to offer the lowest prices in the industry to TREA Members and backed by the only 110% Best Price Guarantee. Shop and compare thousands of cruises from 18 of the world's top fleets departing from 22 U.S. ports. Browse the latest in new promotions and last-minute offers or shop by category – weekend cruises, family cruises, honeymoon cruises, and more. Check out customer reviews and travel tips. Plus, trained cruise consultants are ready to answer your questions, help you choose the right cruise for your needs and even help arrange land excursions. [CLICK HERE](#) to planning your cruise now!



TotalProtect Enhanced – Home Warranty and Service Plan

The TotalProtect® Enhanced Home Warranty helps protect TREA Members from the high costs associated with home repair and replacement of their major appliances and key internal mechanical systems. It has been designed to increase homeowner peace of mind while significantly decreasing expenses when things go wrong with their systems and appliances. TotalProtect® Enhanced covers many items that other home warranty companies don't even think of covering. From unknown pre-existing conditions, rust and corrosion to plumbing stoppages, water heater sediment build-up and more. Members will have a true peace of mind, one-stop shopping, and expert service from a network of over 40,000 pre-screened service professionals, all while receiving TREA Member exclusive discounts. Now that's what Complete Coverage is all about! Call 800-474-4047 or visit <https://deals.totalprotect.com/trea> to learn more!



TransAmerica Accidental Death Program

TREA strongly urges all Members to consider adding Accident benefits. With cash benefits up to \$100,000.00 available, this protection can be an important "just in case" financial cushion for your loved ones. If you suddenly fell victim to a deadly accident, your family might very well need an even bigger financial cushion to make ends meet. That's why you're guaranteed eligibility to add \$25,000.00 ... \$50,000.00 ... or up to \$100,000.00 in accident benefits. Help protect your family from the financial impact of covered accidents in your car. At home. On the job. On vacation. When you're hunting or target shooting. Anywhere you might be. Your TREA accident benefits give you a world-wide, 24-hour safety net against the financial impact of a variety of accidents. Pays REGARDLESS OF Any Other Insurance. Your TREA cash benefits are also paid REGARDLESS of any other coverage you might have through work or that you may have set up on your own. That means you can rest assured your loved ones will collect the full amount of TREA cash benefits they're entitled to. It's an easy way to help make sure your family could get a fresh start — instead of worrying how they'd pay the bills — if a covered accident takes your life. For more information, please call toll free 1-855-744-9657. And, keep your eye out for limited time offers in the mail!



LifeLock Services

Your identity makes you unique. LifeLock, an industry-leader in identity theft protection, uses the patented LifeLock Identity Alert system† to help ensure you remain the only you. As a TREA member, you're entitled to a special offer and 10% off. That's just \$8.99 a month or \$98.90 annually for LifeLock Standard™ service. Call 1-800-LIFELOCK (1-800-543-3562) and mention promo code TREA or visit online by [CLICKING HERE](#).



PetFirst Pet Insurance

PetFirst Pet Insurance brings you the best policies on the market to offer a pet insurance plan for every family. Securing a pet insurance policy for your pet is fast and easy with PetFirst. Plans are available for dogs and cats of all ages and breeds, with no veterinary exam required. Get reimbursed up to 90% on veterinary expenses. PetFirst is proud to offer a 10% discount on all pet insurance plans to TREA members. More than one pet? PetFirst is the only pet insurance company that allows up to three pets to share coverage under one plan – saving you around 30% on premium costs. Visit here or call 1-844-229-2061 and mention TREA to learn more and enroll today!



TREA Prescription Discount Card

TREA members can receive a FREE card to start saving up to 55% on prescription drugs today! This card has no fees and it will never expire. One card covers entire household, including pets. Accepted at 9/10 pharmacies. For more information call toll free: 1-888-436-3700 or visit here!



Emergency Assistance Plus

Accidents and medical emergencies happen when you least expect. Protect you and your family with the TREA Emergency Assistance Plus Program for just pennies a day. You'll get medical assistance that's invaluable: Emergency Medical Evacuation, Transportation Home, Travel Assistance, Personal Security Services and many other benefits! Best of all, as a TREA Member, you are GUARENTEED low group rates and cannot be turned down. For more information visit us on the web or call toll-free and one of our friendly Customer Service Representatives will assist you.



Preventative Health Screenings

Life Line Screening's services are designed for early detection of potential health problems leading to stroke, aortic aneurysms, arterial disease and osteoporosis. TREA Members have the opportunity to detect life-threatening conditions, at an affordable cost of only \$135. To find a screening location convenient to you, call 844.591.7175 or [CLICK HERE!](#)



American Hearing Benefits

American Hearing Benefits is a convenient hearing benefits program which provides access to free hearing consultations and significant discounts on hearing aids through our nationwide network of hearing professionals. As a member of TREA, you and your family are entitled to the following hearing savings through American Hearing Benefits: Free annual hearing consultations for you and your family, Free one year supply of batteries, One year of free office visits, Free Deluxe Warranty Plan, including loss and damage, 60-day trial period and Financing plans available. To learn more call 888-872-1304 or visit <http://americanhearingbenefits.com/partners/enlisted>



TREA Cancer Care Program

If you find yourself battling cancer, you'll want extra help to cover the cost of treatment. We understand that. With the TREA Endorsed Cancer Care Insurance Plan, you won't have to worry about pinching pennies or reaching into your retirement fund to pay for cancer treatment or recovery. The worst thing you can do is assume that you'll have enough health insurance to cover these costs.

That's why we offer cash benefits – up to a lifetime maximum of \$300,000 – to TREA members who have been diagnosed with cancer. We send these benefits directly to you – not to doctors, hospitals or anyone else – to help with many aspects of your treatment such as: Hospital bills, Chemotherapy, Operations, Doctor visits, Nursing care, Prescription drugs, And more...

We understand that the best way to beat cancer is to catch it early which is why we'll provide you benefits even if you don't have cancer. That's right! You can collect money when you need to take a test to detect cancer. We've worked hard to make sure that you cannot be turned down for coverage – as long as you have not been diagnosed with cancer in the last 10 years. Even if cancer runs in your family or if you suffer from other medical problems – you are guaranteed acceptance into this plan. Avoid the risk of financial hardship or even bankruptcy due to gaps in insurance coverage and get the money you need to fight cancer. Sign up for the TREA Endorsed Cancer Care Insurance Plan today. For more information, please call toll free 1-855-297-2219.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- **Regular Membership:** Any enlisted person – retired, active duty, National Guard or Reserves – shall be eligible for regular membership. Any active duty enlisted person shall enjoy the privileges of regular membership including attending conventions, making motions and holding office.
- **Veteran Membership:** Any honorably discharged person (as noted on a DD214 or NGB-22) may apply for membership. They may attend conventions, vote and make motions. They must be a member in good standing for three years to be eligible to run for National office. The term “regular member” encompasses both charter and life members of TREA.
- **Associate Membership:** Widows/Widowers of members and non-members, who were eligible for membership at the time of their death, are eligible to join TREA: The Enlisted Association as associate members. Associate members shall enjoy the privileges of regular membership, except the right to make motions, vote or hold office. Associate members are not eligible for life memberships.

New Member Renewal Membership Number: # _____

Recruiter: _____ Recruiter Number: _____ Chapter Number: _____

Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

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

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

Membership Type applying for: Regular Veteran Associate

If disabled, what is your rating: _____

I acknowledge that I am a U.S. Armed Forces Veteran and as such qualify to be a member of TREA: The Enlisted Association

(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 paid in 10, \$42 quarterly payments: \$420 total
 Life Membership (over 70) - \$350 paid in 10, \$37 quarterly payments: \$370 total

Payment:

Visa Master Credit Card Number: _____
Card
Discover Expiration Date: _____
Check (Make checks payable to: TREA)

Please return your completed application to:

TREA: The Enlisted Association 1111 S. Abilene Court Aurora, CO 80012
303-752-0660 800-338-9337
www.trea.org



2017-2018 Memorial Scholarship

By Butch Liebaert, Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair

I'm writing about the Memorial Foundation's Scholarship. This year the application must be returned by April 30, 2107. Applications received after that postmark date will not be considered.

To qualify for a Scholarship Award, you must be a child, grandchild or great grandchild of a member in good standing (deceased or otherwise) of TREA. Adults or emancipated children are not eligible. If an applicant is notified of an award of another TREA scholarship grant from other TREA entities, ie. The National Auxiliary or a chapter, the Memorial Scholarship will be null and void. It is not fair for one applicant to receive more than one grant from TREA which in essence excludes other qualified applicants.

Each applicant will be required to write a 300 (minimum) word essay on the following topic: "Term Limit of office for National House of Representatives and Senators." The president of the United States has a term limit of two terms for a total of eight years in Office. Do you think that there should be a term limit for our National House of Representatives and Senator's? Please give your opinion on why you think there should be a term limit (Number or years) or no term limits.

You may have noticed the 13 pictures of recipients who received a scholarship for the 2016/2017 school year. We actually gave out 25 awards totaling \$28,000.00 dollars, but several recipients did not submit their photos for publication. This year, it is a requirement to submit a picture and a signed PR Release form. The Foundation does so many wonderful things, that we only think it is fair to spread the word and let everyone know everything that we do. The more people who know about our good deeds, the more veterans (and their families) can benefit from our services.

Since this program was started, we have given approximately 650 Scholarships worth over \$530,750.00. We are proud to have been able to award these scholarships and will continue to do so as long as we are able. Your support will help this wonderful program.

Memorial Scholarship for 2017-2018 is now open!

You can find the application on our website (www.trea.org), under "About Us," then "Memorial Foundation".

The Topic for this Year's Essay will be "Term Limit of Office for National House of Representatives and Senators".

The President of the United States has a term limit of two terms or eight years in Office. Do you think that there should be a term limit for our National House of Representatives and Senators? Please give your opinion on why you think there should be a term limit (Number or years) or no term limit.

There have been a few changes to the application/approval process, please follow the instructions carefully, and submit all the required forms. Incomplete applications will not be forwarded.



The TREA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION is looking for a few good individuals to become Foundation Trustees

By Mark Tabacheck, Memorial Foundation Chair



In 2017, there will be three trustee positions on the TREA Memorial Foundation that will need to be filled. The current trustees are permitted to submit their resumes and they will face the same scrutiny as any other individual applying for the position of trustee. They could be elected to the open positions as well as any new applicant. These current trustees are not permitted to cast any ballots in the coming selection of the three trustees.

To apply for the position of Memorial Foundation Trustee, a TREA Form 100-3MT must be submitted. The Foundation Bylaws have been changed and the result is that the Trustees selected to go forward will be discussed a few weeks before the TREA BOT Midterm meetings are held. The individuals who are selected will go forward for possible election by the TREA BOT during the May 2017 time frame. They would be elected, but not actually installed until the TREA National Convention in September (at the Installation Banquet).

To ensure that all individuals who wish to be considered will have their resume evaluated, the completed TREA Form 100-3MT must be submitted to the TREA National Headquarters or the TREA Memorial Foundation Chairman before March 1, 2016. Send completed Form 100-3MT to: treaHQ@trea.org or memorialchair@trea.org.



From the Nominating & Credential Committee

By 3rd Vice Michael Davis, Nominating & Credential Chair



A new year brings the opportunity for change. With that, is the announcement that the TREA Membership will be looking to elect 6 new Board Members at this year's convention in Pittsburgh. Available positions will be: 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, 3rd Vice, Treasurer and two – 2 year Directors. All positions will be for a 2-year term. We are looking for dedicated members who believe in our mission statement to help us continue to grow and prosper.

A Note from the IT Committee

By Phil Hilinski, IT Chair & Director



The IT Committee is pleased to announce that a TREA LinkedIn site will be operational by late January. Remember to update your e-mails with TREA HQ – this will ensure that you continue to receive the weekly updates from our Washington office as well as the weekly newsletter. The IT Committee will start evaluating TREA Websites for 2017, and we will look into having a special award for Chapter Social Media sites.



ERAC – what is that?

By Larry Hyland, Immediate Past President

As not knowing, I also asked that as well when I first heard that phrase. With all the military and other involvement over the years, I thought I had heard all the various acronyms out there, but for sure, I did not. ERAC is short for the Exchange Retiree Advisory Council. This is an Army Airforce Exchange Service (AAFES) Council and we, TREA, have a seat on that council which I presently occupy. Via the different media TREA has for disseminating information we requested input on the Army Airforce Exchange Service from you, our members, back in mid-December and within the first 48 hours, we were receiving input and comments regarding your experiences both in brick and mortar stores and on the web. I applaud you for the unbiased comments, plaudits, and in some cases, issues that you believed could have been more efficiently resolved that you brought forward. Time did not allow me the opportunity to respond to each email that was forwarded to me, but rest assured they were read and notes were taken. Neither an individual nor corporation can improve or be aware of shortfalls unless feedback is provided, received, and acted upon. We will do this again from time to time and even if nothing is out there from us requesting information from you, please know that you can always provide it directly to me at ipnp@trea.org or to TREA headquarters and it will get to AAFES staff. I would only ask that, if possible, to contact the local AAFES manager and let him or her know about those who have provided you with exceptional service or an issue that you believe needs to be resolved.

UNITED WE STAND



Excerpts from the AAFES CEO/Directors newsletter:

Online improvements brighten holiday shopping MILITARY STAR card offers industry-leading value

The Exchange is improving its website, shopmyexchange.com, to better serve Soldiers, Airmen and their families worldwide.

The site offers improved presentation of merchandise, including current availability of sizes and colors, buyer guides, links to videos and reviews. Also new is a subscription service for repeat ordering of paper towels, diapers and more. Overall sales through the site are up 17 percent this year.

The merchandise assortment on the site is continually increasing, with more than 100,000 additional stock items available now than at the start of the year. Exchange efforts are also underway to decrease delivery time through the Ship from Store initiative. This program allows online orders to ship from a nearby participating store to the customer's home.

Find out more at shopmyexchange.com.

MILITARY STAR card offers industry-leading value

In 2015, MILITARY STAR® use returned \$182 million in earnings to Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and their families through either Quality-of-Life programs or reinvestment into

local Exchange facilities. Focus groups conducted by a third party show military shoppers desire a single credit product that can be used across installations, including commissaries, Installation Management Command and Air Force Services facilities. Expanded MILITARY STAR acceptance is being tested at Fort Hood, Texas. Working in partnership with the post's IMCOM, Soldiers and their families now can use the MILITARY STAR card at the post bowling alley.

Exchange plans include expanding the payment option to other facilities to test functionally and customer interest. Use at additional facilities will generate greater savings for military members and families, the facilities and the military community. A recent industry expert report from CreditCards.com cited the MILITARY STAR's annual percentage rate as being the lowest flat rate among cards offered by America's top 100 retailers. In fact, half of retail branded cards carry an APR of at least 25 percent, with some reaching as high as 30. The MILITARY STAR card's flat rate is nearly a third of the highest interest credit card evaluated by the report. Officials say almost all service members who apply for a MILITARY STAR card are approved, automatically qualifying them for the current 10.74 APR.

More information about MILITARY STAR is available online at myecp.com.

Congratulations Mr. Cooper on Your Appreciation Award!



Mr. Mike Immler, the Deputy Director for the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (Exchange), flew from his office in Dallas, Texas on October 25, 2016 to present PNP Arthur Cooper an Appreciation Award for the work Mr. Cooper did for AAFES on their Exchange Retiree Advisory Council (ERAC). When President of TREA, Mr. Cooper was the official representative for TREA on the ERAC. The council is made up of members from organizations that represent the full spectrum of military retirees and their families. They advise the Director/CEO on issues of interest to the retiree community and help to communicate the value of the exchange benefit. After a delightful dinner and a steady flow of accolades, Mr. Immler presented Mr. Cooper a shadow box adorned with Down Range POGs. POGs are paper coin “gift certificates” used in place of nickels, dimes and quarters in Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities downrange (Iraq and Afghanistan). They are used because transporting metal coins into war zones is too costly and cumbersome. The shadowbox was further decorated with an embedded plaque engraved with Mr. Coopers name, words of appreciation and recognition for a job well done.

Election Perspective: History and the Future

By Kim DeCoste, Editor of The Voice Magazine

With a New Year now well underway and the holidays behind us, the country goes back to the business of being itself. We have to look ahead and see what we are going to do as citizens and watch our leaders as they grab the reigns of power and move forward. It has been a rough journey for many. There were a lot of surprises and a lot of surprised “experts” who got the outcome wrong. We know now what our leadership will look like and we have heard their message. The question is, have they heard ours? What can we do?

The promise of a chance to change our President every four years and to hold elections for all of our key leaders is the centerpiece of our democracy. It is at the very heart of our principles. The Founding Fathers envisioned the process carefully in the way they constructed the balance of power, and in the subsequent establishment of the electoral college to ensure that we the people would retain the ability to make peaceful changes when we need to. Later limits to terms, guarantees us that we will have a chance to make change at least every four years. This “bloodless revolution” is also what motivates many to serve, as TREA members well know, and what inspires other countries around the world to try to emulate what we have here. It is special.

In this past election, the results yielded new Republican leadership. The overall outcomes were strongly in their favor. Donald Trump won the electoral college with 306 votes to Hillary Clinton’s 232, so although he did not win the popular vote – by over 2 million votes – he becomes the 45th President of the United States. Republicans also hold the Senate with 52 vs. 48 for the Democrats and the House of Representatives with 241 vs. 194 for the Democrats. (218 are needed for control there.) In gubernatorial races, we have 6 Republican Governors and 6 Democrats assuming office.

We are not a perfect nation. Some argue now that we are a divided nation. Others say this was the most contentious election in history, but a little digging reveals there are many historians who feel we have had far more heated races going back in our history.

The one most often cited first is the election of 1800 between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. The country was young and the rules were quite different. The hit musical “Hamilton” deals with the saga, the mudslinging was epic and emotions ran high. “Jefferson’s side started by calling Adams a “hideous hermaphroditical character, which has neither the force and firmness of a

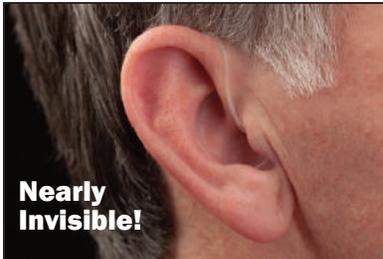
How a Chicago Doctor Shook Up the Hearing Aid Industry with his Newest Invention

New nearly invisible digital hearing aid breaks price barrier in affordability - **90% LESS**

Reported by J. Page

Chicago: Board-certified physician Dr. S. Cherukuri has done it once again with his newest invention of a medical-grade, **ALL-DIGITAL, affordable hearing aid.**

This new digital hearing aid is packed with all the features of \$3,500 competitors at a mere fraction of the cost. Now, most people with hearing loss are able to enjoy crystal clear, natural sound—in a crowd, on the phone, in the wind—without suffering through “whistling” and annoying background noise.



Nearly Invisible!

SAME FEATURES AS EXPENSIVE HEARING AID COMPETITORS

- ✓ Mini Behind-the-Ear hearing aid with thin tubing for a nearly invisible profile
- ✓ Advanced Noise Reduction to make speech clearer
- ✓ Feedback Cancellation eliminates whistling
- ✓ Wide Dynamic Range Compression makes soft sounds audible and loud sounds comfortable
- ✓ Telecoil setting for use with compatible phones, and looped environments like churches
- ✓ 3 Programs and Volume Dial accommodate most common types of hearing loss even in challenging listening environments

down to their base components, and then created his own affordable version - called the **MDHearingAid AIR®** for its virtually invisible, lightweight appearance.

Affordable Digital Technology

Using advanced digital technology, the **MDHearingAid AIR®** automatically adjusts to your listening environment — prioritizing speech and de-emphasizing background noise. Experience all of the sounds you’ve been missing at a price you can afford. This doctor designed and approved hearing aid comes with a full year’s supply of long-life batteries. It delivers crisp, clear sound all day long and the soft flexible ear domes are so comfortable you won’t realize you’re wearing them.

Try it Yourself at Home With Our 45-Day RISK-FREE Trial

Of course, hearing is believing and we invite you to try it for yourself with our **RISK-FREE 45-DAY HOME TRIAL**. If you are not completely satisfied, simply return it within that time period for a full refund of your purchase price.



Digital Hearing Aid Outperforms Expensive Competitors

This sleek, fully programmed, light-weight, hearing aid is the outgrowth of the digital revolution that is changing our world. While demand for “all things digital” caused most prices to plunge (consider DVD players and computers, which originally sold for thousands of dollars and today can be purchased for less), the cost of a digital medical-grade hearing aid remains out of reach. Dr. Cherukuri knew that many of his patients would benefit but couldn’t afford the expense of these new digital hearing aids. Generally they are not covered by Medicare and most private health insurance plans.

The doctor evaluated the high priced digital hearing aids on the market, broke them

Can a hearing aid delay or prevent dementia?

A study by Johns Hopkins and the National Institute on Aging suggests older individuals with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop dementia over time than those who retain their hearing. They suggest that an intervention—such as a hearing aid—could delay or prevent dementia by improving hearing!

“Satisfied Buyers Agree AIR is the Best Digital Value!”

“I am hearing things I didn’t know I was missing. Really amazing. I’m wearing them all the time.” —Larry I., Indiana

“Almost work too well. I am a teacher and hearing much better now.” —Lillian B., California

“I have used many expensive hearing aids, some over \$5,000. The AIRs have greatly improved my enjoyment of life.”

—Sam Y., Michigan

“I would definitely recommend them to my patients with hearing loss.” —Amy S., Audiologist, Indiana



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man, nor the gentleness and sensibility of a woman.” Adams supporters responded by labeling Jefferson “a mean-spirited, low-lived fellow, the son of a half-breed Indian squaw, sired by a Virginia mulatto father.”²¹ Pretty strong language then or now. In the end the decision ended up being made by the House of Representatives. The 12th Amendment also was added to clear up the election process further and to ensure “electors vote separately for the two highest offices.”²²

In 1824, it was John Quincy Adams vs. Andrew Jackson. Jackson, “Old Hickory”, as he was called, was a war hero from the War of 1812. He did win the popular vote but neither man carried the majority in the electoral college that was required. Once again, the House of Representatives decided on the Presidency. The third party candidate finally dropped out after months of behind the scenes discussion and was eventually named Secretary of State. Andrew Jackson was so upset, he quit the senate and went on head the new Democrat Party and come back in 1828 to win the Presidency.

In 1860 it was Stephen Douglas vs. Abraham Lincoln. The country was on the brink of war and as Lincoln stood at the helm of the new young Republican Party, he was not even on the ballot in most of the southern states. Lincoln went on to win just 40% of the popular vote in the northern states and the votes were split as were the parties. A few short weeks after Lincoln took office, South Carolina seceded and six other southern states soon followed. The bloodshed and division of the country was the worst in our history.

1876 is one that flies under the radar for many, but it was brutal and the consequences were far-reaching. The Democrat Governor of New York, Samuel Tilden, did win 250,000 more ballots than his rival, Rutherford B. Hayes, but he was still one electoral vote short of the win. Three states remained too close to call and an elector out west (Oregon) was replaced suddenly. The country was still raw from the civil war and the threat of more war loomed, so Congress intervened, establishing a panel of 15 members (senators, congressmen, and Supreme Court justices) with 7 on each side and one independent and they decided the election! Democrats accepted Hayes’s victory but only on the condition that federal troops were removed from the south. This ended Reconstruction and reversed “the gains that African-Americans had made in the post-Civil War era.”²³

In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt thought he had it all figured out. He had named a successor, William Howard Taft, but then became upset as Taft drifted too far to the conservative side. When Roosevelt lost a challenge in the primary, he created his own party (The Progressive Party) and ran anyway. Effectively, they split the vote and Woodrow Wilson won the White House even though he had less than 50% of the vote in most states. Famously in this race Roosevelt was shot delivering a speech and continued to its conclusion anyway!

Most remember the image from the 1948 race between Dewey and Truman. Truman was believed to be on the way out. His support of civil rights cost him the conservative southern Democrats who would later come to be known as “Dixiecrats”. He went to bed thinking he had lost only to find out in the morning he had not. His whistle stop tours of the country making a case that a Republican would undo much of the New Deal, helped many to believe that is what ended the Depression and brought him to victory.

And then finally, on most lists, is the 2000 election between George H. Bush and Al Gore. In this case, it took the Supreme Court ruling - 5 weeks after the election - to stop the vote recount that had been going

on in Florida, giving Bush a 5-point majority in the electoral college though he had not won the popular vote.

So, we see that despite the rough language and ugly nature of this last election, it has not been “the worst we have ever had”. We tend to romanticize history a bit and forget that we have a long tradition of tough campaigns which are soon forgotten when the leadership is finally established. Though it may not feel like a perfect process, historian and professor Thomas Schwartz of U.S. Foreign Relations and the presidency at Vanderbilt University may have said it best.

“We’ve had bitter elections, but the process itself has been established as absolutely fundamental. And I think that is, in part, because the great national tragedy of American history is the Civil War and the almost 750,000 people killed in that conflict. We’ve come to terms with it because it ended slavery, but it still was a disaster for the country, and it’s not something anyone wants to see repeated.”²⁴

...Something we never want to see repeated. We are “one nation indivisible” and we have to work hard to remain as such. Now is not the time for bitterness and division, it is time for us to engage, to be aware, to keep our politicians in check and accountable, and to work together to ensure that our communities are strong and undivided as well. It is of course true that the President and Congress hold great power, but when you think about your day-to-day life, isn’t the greater impact felt at the local level?

That is one thing that makes TREA members great - participation at the grass roots. You just need to flip through this magazine and past issues to see all of the wonderful work - time and energy - being spent to improve the lives of those around us. That is what will make a difference and that is what really makes America great. Arguably, that is what will continue to do so. People helping people. People being kind. People being the best reflection of leadership and generosity that that they can be. That is us. That is America.



1 - <http://www.history.com/news/history-lists/7-most-contentious-u-s-presidential-elections>, 2 & 3 - *ibid*, 4 - <http://www.npr.org/2016/10/22/498987455/bitter-and-contested-elections-in-americas-history>



**2017 TREA NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PITTSBURGH
SEPTEMBER 6th – SEPTEMBER 9th**



We will be staying at the Sheraton Station Square – on the river with a magnificent view of downtown Pittsburgh. Room rates are \$139.99 a night (plus tax). Reservations open April 1st.

The Presidents' Dinner (Thursday, September 7th) will be aboard 'The Queen' Riverboat for a 3 hour river cruise along the Monongahela, Allegheny & Ohio rivers. The 'theme' for this fun evening is 'Your favorite Team' – wear the colors of your favorite team!



We are proud to announce the MajGen Thomas Wilkerson will be the keynote speaker at the 2017 Installation Banquet. MajGen Tom Wilkerson's military career spanned 31 years from graduation with the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1967 to service as a Marine Corps Fighter/Attack Aviator, and finally to senior leadership as a Major General of Marines. Along the way he was a U. S. Naval Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun) graduate; exchange pilot with the Royal Air Force; commanding officer of Marine Corps Fighter Attack Squadron 251; and combat veteran of Operation Desert Storm. In his last active duty assignment – as Commander, Marine Forces Reserve – Wilkerson led the largest command in the Marine Corps, with more than 100,000 Marines at 200 sites around the United States.

WHAT A FUN & BEAUTIFUL WAY TO EXPERIENCE PITTSBURGH!
Check our website, www.trea.org, for more information on convention.

Let Us Remember and Honor Our World War II Missing

By Hazel Simeon, Member-at-Large

Unless we lived in the era of World War II we may not know the following facts about World War II. Most of us probably had family members who served during that time but they have more than likely left us as the years have passed by. I think it is important to remember our history, not only for knowledge but to honor those who fought and those who died, and those who served as support personnel both at home and abroad. There were many .

World War II took place during 1939-1945 and, according to the website Answers.com, of the 16,596,639 servicemen who fought for the US in World War II, 416,837 lost their lives: 318,274 from the Army and Air Force, 62,614 from the Navy, 24,511 from the Marine Corps, 1,917 from the Coast Guard and 9,521 from the Merchant Marines. There were 643,846 wounded and also 1,700 civilian deaths.

World War II is considered the largest and deadliest war in history. Military battles were fought in Europe, in the Mediterranean, in the Soviet Union, in Africa, in the Pacific and many other places that we never hear about. It was truly global in scope and, although it is nearly 80 years in our past I feel we need to reflect on what it took to stand firm, no matter the cost, to ensure that when one nation invades another as Germany invaded Poland, much of the rest of the world took a stand against an oppressor whose desire was to change the world into the image that would not be one where all men were created equal, but where genocide was an acceptable practice.

Possibly 62 million people lost their lives during this war including 12 million lives lost in the Holocaust. Approximately 80 percent were on the Allied side and 20 percent were on the Axis side. The Soviet Union suffered the largest death toll with approximately 23 million dead.

We have all heard and we all know that the price of freedom is not free. The staggering cost in lives during these 6 years, not counting the monetary costs to bring the Axis aggression to a halt shows us this as a reality that cannot be denied.

We have all heard and we all know that the price of freedom is not free.

So many of those who fought were never found and never brought home to be honored for their service and their sacrifice. The remainder of this article addresses those who are still missing. The information came from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. The missing are being found and the most recent names are listed at the end of the story.

World War II Accounting

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died during the war. At the end of the war, there were approximately 79,000 Americans unaccounted for. This number included those buried with honor as unknowns, officially buried at sea, lost at sea, and missing in action.

Today, more than 73,000 Americans remain unaccounted for from WWII.

At the war's end, American casualties remained unaccounted for around the globe, some where they had fallen, some in the depths of the oceans, and many in temporary cemeteries scattered throughout the world where battles occurred.

Following the war, the United States (U.S.) Government launched a global initiative called, "The Return of the World War II Dead Program," to locate aircraft crash sites, comb former battlefields for isolated graves, and disinter temporary military cemeteries around the globe. The U.S. Army created the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) to perform this task. Once remains had been recovered, they were transported to Central Identification Laboratories (CIL), where technicians confirmed or established identifications of more than 280,000 individuals. The identified service members were then buried according

to the wishes of their next of kin. The program operated from 1945 to 1951, working until all known leads were exhausted. The Army program was a worldwide endeavor employing approximately 13,000 personnel, and costing \$163.8 million in wartime dollars.

After the end of the official program for returning the dead of WWII, the U.S. Army Mortuary system continued to recover and identify smaller numbers of WWII service members. These identifications stemmed largely from reports of remains discovered by the citizens of the countries where the casualties occurred. Upon receipt of such a report, a mortuary team would investigate, recover, and identify the remains. As a result, more than 200 additional service men were identified between 1951 and 1976.



After 1976, the task of recovering and identifying the remains of WWII service members fell largely to the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii (CILHI). From 1976 to 2003, that organization sent recovery teams into the field using anthropologists and ordontologists to identify an additional 346 individuals. In 2003, CILHI merged with Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTF-FA) to form the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Accounting Command (JPAC). JPAC accounted for an additional 300 individuals.

In 2003, historians at the Defense Prisoner of War Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) began to develop a comprehensive database of WWII service members whose remains were not recovered or identified after the war. This database was a significant step in creating a comprehensive plan to research WWII missing personnel.

Historians from DPMO were primarily responsible for answering questions from family members about missing service members from World War II until January 2010 and the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2010. Responding to this law, the Department of Defense expanded World War II accounting efforts to more proactive case development. Historians and analysts at DPMO collaborated with JPAC in researching, investigating, and nominating for recovery the cases of U.S. casualties still missing from WWII.

In 2014, the Secretary of Defense directed that DPMO and JPAC, along with the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL), be merged to form the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and reach full operational capability in January 2016.

* All Information for this article was taken from Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Website: <http://www.dpaa.mil/>

The following names are of those who have recently been found and are no longer classified as Missing in Action:

MEMBER RANK	NAME	SERVICE	UNIT	LOST	LOCATION	FOUND
Fireman 3rd Class	John H. Lindsley	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	3/25/2016
Chief Storekeeper	Herbert J. Hoard	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/4/2016
Ensign	Joseph P. Hittorff	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/6/2016
Fire Controlman 1st Class	Paul A. Nash	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/5/2016
Machinist's Mate 1st Class	Alfred F. Wells	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/7/2016
Ensign	Lewis B. Pride	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	11/4/2015
Seaman 2nd Class	Lewis L. Wagoner	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	2/18/2016
Seaman 2nd Class	James N. Phipps	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	3/21/2016
Seaman 1st Class	William E. Welch	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/1/2016
Fireman 3rd Class	Kenneth L. Jayne	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/14/2016
Seaman 2nd Class	Rudolph V. Piskuran	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/20/2016
Lt.	Julian B. Jordan	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/27/2016
Fireman 3rd Class	Edwin C. Hopkins	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	5/4/2016
Fireman 2nd Class	James B. Boring	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	5/5/2016
Ensign	John C. England	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	5/6/2016
Ensign	William M. Finnegan	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	5/9/2016
Machinist's Mate 1st Class	Harold F. Carney	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/21/2016
Seaman 2nd Class	Challis R. James	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	5/20/2016
Fireman 1st Class	Frank E. Nicoles	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	5/20/2016
Lt. j.g.	Aloysius H. Schmitt	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	5/18/2016
Warrant Officer	Daryl H. Goggin	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	5/25/2016
Seaman 2nd Class	Vernon N. Grow	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	6/2/2016
ENS	Verdi Sederstrom	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	7/21/2016
Machinist's Mate 1st Class	Earl Melton	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	7/21/2016
Seaman 1st Class	Murry R. Cargile	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	8/12/2016
Fireman 1st Class	Jim H. Johnston	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	8/12/2016
WT1c	Walter Sollie	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	8/18/2016
Capt.	Elwood J. Euart	U.S. Army	Headquarters, 103 Field, Artillery Battalion, 43rd Infantry Division	10/26/1942	Vanuatu	5/11/2016
Cpl.	George G. Simmons	U.S. Army	Battery H, 60th Coast Artillery Regiment	11/19/1942	Philippines	4/14/2016
Pvt.	Evans E. Overbey	U.S. Army Air Forces	93rd Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group	11/19/1942	Philippines	6/1/2016
Cpl.	Frederick G. Collins, Jr.	U.S. Army	263rd Quartermaster Company, Quartermaster Corps.	11/19/1942	Philippines	6/7/2016
Sgt.	John C. Holladay	U.S. Marine Corps	Company B, 1st Mar. Raider Battalion, 1st Mar. Raider Regiment	7/20/1943	Soloman Islands	2/24/2016
Flight Officer	Dewey L. Gossett	U.S. Army Air Forces	527th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, 12th Air Force	9/27/1943	Italy	2/25/2016
Pfc.	John F. Prince	U.S. Marine Corps	Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Mar. Regiment, 2nd Mar. Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	4/2/2016
Pfc.	Anthony Borzyna	U.S. Marine Corps	Company G, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	4/6/2016
Pfc.	John Saini	U.S. Marine Corps	Company H, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	4/23/2016
Pfc.	James B. Johnson	U.S. Marine Corps	Company K, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	4/18/2016
Pfc.	Elmer L. Mathies	U.S. Marine Corps	Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Mar., 2nd Mar.Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	1/29/2016
Pfc.	Chareles E. Oetjen	U.S. Marine Corps	Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	1/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	5/6/2016
Pfc.	James F. Mansfield	U.S. Marine Corps	Company K, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	5/6/2016
Pvt.	Harry K. Tye	U.S. Marine Corps	Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	5/6/2016
Pfc.	Roland E. Schaede	U.S. Marine Corps	Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	5/6/2016
Pvt.	Dale R. Geddes	U.S. Marine Corps	Company H, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	4/13/2016
Pfc.	George H. Traver	U.S. Marine Corps	Company K, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	5/24/2016
Pvt.	Frank F. Penna	U.S. Marine Corps	Company K, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	6/19/2016
Pvt.	Ronald W. Vosmer	U.S. Marine Corps	Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	4/12/2016
Pvt.	Emmett L. Kines	U.S. Marine Corps	Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	5/8/2016

MEMBER RANK	NAME	SERVICE	UNIT	LOST	LOCATION	FOUND
Sgt.	Fae V. Moore	U.S. Marine Corps	Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	8/9/2016
Pfc.	John W. MacDonald	U.S. Marine Corps	Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	9/1/2016
Pfc.	James S. Smith	U.S. Marine Corps	Company C, 2nd Amphibious Tractor Battalion, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	9/6/2016
Pfc.	Nicholas J. Cancilla	U.S. Marine Corps Reserve	Company B, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	9/6/2016
FM1c	Warren G. Nelson	U.S. Marine Corps	Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa Atoll	10/5/2016
Pfc.	Wilbur C. Mattern	U.S. Marine Corps	Company M, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/21/1943	Tarawa Atoll	8/9/2016
Sgt.	James J. Hubert	U.S. Marine Corps	Company H, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/21/1943	Tarawa Atoll	8/9/2016
Pvt.	Palmer S. Haraldson	U.S. Marine Corps	Company C, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division	11/22/1943	Tarawa Atoll	4/25/2016
Pfc.	Ben H. Gore	U.S. Marine Corps	Special Warefare Group	11/25/1943	Tarawa Atoll	9/1/2016
2nd Lt.	Marvin B. Rothman	U.S. Army Air Forces	311th Fighter Squadron, 58th Fighter Group	4/11/1944	New Guinea	7/15/2016
1st Lt.	Robert E. Moessner	U.S. Army Air Forces	373rd Bomb Squadron, 308th Bomb Group	4/18/1944	China	11/17/2016
1st Lt.	Robert L. McIntosh	U.S. Army Air Forces	27th Figher Squadron, 1st Fighter Group	5/12/1944	Italy	2/17/2014
Motor Machinist's Mate 1st Class	John E. Anderson	U.S. Navy	Landing Craft Tank (LCT) Mark 5, Hul #30	6/6/1944	Omaha Beach, France	3/10/2016
Pvt.	John P. Sersha	U.S. Army	Company F, 325th Glider Infantry Regiment	9/27/1944	Netherlands	4/13/2016
1st Lt.	Ben B. Barnes	U.S. Army Air Forces	361st. Fighter Squadron, 356th Fighter Group	12/5/1944	Germany	9/17/2016
1st Lt.	Donald L. Beals	U.S. Army Air Forces	494th Fighter Squadron, 46th Fighter Group, 9th Air Force	4/17/1945	Germany	5/10/2016
1st Lt.	Frederick W. Langhorst	U.S. Army Air Forces	1330 Army Air Force Base Unit, Air Transport Command	7/17/1945	India	3/17/2016
Flight Officer	Judson B. Baskett	U.S. Army Air Forces	1305th Army Air Force Base Unit	11/27/1945	Malaysia	6/15/2016

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All You Have To Do Is Ask

By Debbie Osborne, Director for Operations



This was proven when Mesa Middle School from Castle Rock, Colorado reached out to the TREA Headquarters hoping that we could assist them in putting together a ‘Salute to Veterans’ night at their school. Now I have to be completely honest, this wasn’t a shot in the dark request – my son Michael is the Campus Security Specialist at the school so they knew from the beginning that the assistance they requested would be provided. It was a very ‘last minute request’ and things were thrown together in a hurry. TREA Life Member Doug Osborne coordinated with American Legion Post #1864 to present the flags, the Brass Band from the Air Force Academy performed while the Mesa Middle band & choir sang the National anthem and other patriotic songs.

TREA Member Services, Hazel Simeon was on hand to answer questions, provide information and to share what TREA does with the students, staff and families. She gave a short presentation to all attendees, handed out door prizes and created customized dog tags (a big hit with the kids!). Many TREA brochures were handed out.

A donation to support/adopt a family for Christmas through the TREA program was held and over \$200 was raised.



A fishing rod, a baby doll, lots of clothes, some family fun games, a grocery card, and a dinner night out was provided to the local family of a wounded veteran. They came to the TREA Headquarters to pick up their gifts – it was a true honor and pleasure to personally meet and support this young family.

While this was a spur of the moment, quick put together, it inspired the staff. Teacher and coordinator, Crystal Sebastian Johnson is excited for next year and Principal Tony Jakowski hopes that it will be bigger and better.

It’s not hard to support those who have fought and sacrificed so much. All you have to do is ask.

The Easy Wine Guy on Another Favorite: Bourbon

By Paul DeCoste

The Easy Wine Guy is branching out this time to acknowledge the trends in the beverage industry, and because I happen to love bourbon, too. The biggest craze in spirits today is bourbon - single barrel bourbon, bourbon aged at sea and many others. The price can range from \$15 to \$200+ a bottle. What is the big deal? To a bourbon drinker, there are lots of nuances. Bourbon taste varies from producer to producer, so part of the fun is finding “your brand”. (This means tasting lots of different kinds of bourbons.) Expensive bourbons should be enjoyed neat or with an ice cube. A mixed drink like a classic Manhattan or an Old Fashioned can be made with well-known brands like Maker’s Mark or Bullitt. I’m not endorsing any brand in particular. I like many. You should find your favorite. I’ve added some fun facts and a few recipes to guide you along, and as the Easy Wine Guy always says...”Drink what you like-- not what is hyped!”

Fact 1: Just ‘cause it’s whiskey doesn’t mean it’s bourbon.

Bourbon is kind of like whiskey’s “sweet spot.” Because corn is a sweet grain, the more corn, the sweeter the whiskey—and bourbon needs to be at least 51% corn. Tennessee whiskey? Not bourbon. Canadian whisky? Nope. Scotch? Definitely not bourbon... you get the idea.

Fact 2: Bourbon is All-American.

In 1964, under President Lyndon B. Johnson’s administration, Congress declared bourbon “America’s native spirit”. Today bourbon is recognized around the world as America’s native spirit.

Fact 3: From barrel to bottle.

The only thing that can be added to bourbon is water (and only to bring it down to proof). Other whiskey makers can add colors (often caramel) and flavors to their products. But then, they can’t call their whiskey bourbon.

Fact 4: Bourbon must be aged in new barrels.

By law, bourbon must be aged in NEW charred oak barrels. Scotch whisky often recycles barrels first used for bourbon. Perhaps they’re hoping to steal some of the bourbon’s deep flavor and complex character.

Fact 5: The name is everything.

It can’t say “bourbon” on the label if it’s not distilled and aged in the United States. It can’t be “Kentucky Straight Bourbon” unless it’s distilled and aged in Kentucky for at least 2 years.

In case you need a couple of starter recipes, here are the classics:

Manhattan Cocktail recipe:

- 3/4 oz sweet vermouth
- 2 1/2 oz rye bourbon whiskey
- 1 dash Angostura® bitters
- 1 maraschino cherry
- 1 twist orange peel



Combine the vermouth, bourbon whiskey, and bitters with 2 - 3 ice cubes in a mixing glass. Stir gently, don’t bruise the spirits and cloud the drink. Place the cherry in a chilled cocktail glass and strain the whiskey mixture over the cherry. Rub the cut edge of the orange peel over the rim of the glass and twist it over the drink to release the oils but don’t drop it in.

Old Fashioned recipe:

- 2 oz bourbon whiskey
- 2 dashes Angostura® bitters
- 1 splash water
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 maraschino cherry
- 1 orange wedge



Mix sugar, water and angostura bitters in an old-fashioned glass. Drop in a cherry and an orange wedge. Muddle into a paste using a muddler or the back end of a spoon. Pour in bourbon, fill with ice cubes, and stir.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments: paul@easywineguy.com
Cheers to a new year and to TREA!



The Washington Report

By Dierdre Park Holleman, Washington Executive Director

It is time to say good-bye to the 114th session of Congress It is time to say hello to a new Administration and to the 115th session Congress. And to our many new TREA members- Welcome Aboard.

Well it could have been a great deal worse. HAPPY 2017 NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL. At the very end of the 114th session of Congress after months and months of extremely few bills becoming laws both the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (H.R.4909) (NDAA) and an omnibus veterans package combining parts of numerous House and Senate veterans bills were passed by Congress and signed by the President. The NDAA is over 3700 pages long and while the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2016 (H.R.6416) is a mere 57 pages it is so full of provisions that the Library of Congress is still trying to write a summary of the bill. Some of the important provisions are:

- Streamlining portions of the application process for veterans, their families and their survivors to obtain disability compensation and benefits at the VA;
 - Expanding the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims from seven to nine judges to help address the large backlog of veterans' appeals and speed up final adjudication of appeals;
 - Extended the legal definition of "veteran" to Guard and Reserve members who served at least 20 years but have not been called up for more than 179 consecutive days of federal active duty.
 - Provides an extension of time for surviving spouses who lost their husband or wife on September 11th 2001 or in the early years of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to use the Gunnery Sergeant Fry Scholarship
 - Make changes to the VA's burial benefits and interment policies, including expanding eligibility for presidential memorial certificates to certain individuals who served in reserve units of the Armed Forces, among others;
 - Made improvements to how the VA administers and approves education benefits for veterans and will allow mobilized reservists to keep their GI Bill eligibility when a deployment interrupts their schooling;
- "Make improvements to the VA's health care services and benefits to include:
- Ensuring preventative health services for veterans include access to adult immunizations for veterans who wish to receive them;
 - Prioritizing access to care for medal of honor recipients;
 - Ensuring veterans who served in classified missions can access mental health care without disclosing classified information;
 - Requiring the VA to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the provision of hospital care, medical services and nursing home care by the Veterans Health Administration;
 - Expanding the qualification criteria to make it easier to hire qualified mental health care professionals;
 - Enhancing research on the potential health effects from toxic exposures to veterans and their descendants."
 - Increase access to benefits for homeless veterans.

Continued on next page >

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is a behemoth that directs all the Department of Defense's spending. This year's defense budget is \$611.2 billion in discretionary funding which breaks down to:

- \$523.7 billion for the Department of Defense (DOD) "base budget" which funds routine activities not associated with ongoing deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq;
- \$67.8 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) which funds operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and certain other DOD activities; and
- \$19.7 billion for national security programs of the Department of Energy and other defense-related activities.

Of course this is for the full fiscal year (October 1st 2016-September 30th 2017) At this time the federal government is running under a Continuing Resolution (CR) that expires on April 28th 2017- unless another one is passed.

Some of the approved provisions will create changes for all of America's military family. That includes active duty and their families; members of the Guard and Reserve and their families; retirees, survivors and veterans. Last year Congress focused on retirement and compensation. This year they focused on TRICARE. Congress promised that none of the changes would affect anyone who is already retired or presently serving and that is what they did- at least technically. If you are a TRICARE for Life beneficiary you will see no changes. They have also not focused on TRICARE Prime which is essentially a military HMO.

It abolishes TRICARE Standard, TRICARE Extra, and the other TRICARE Programs and creates a new TRICARE Select which is like a PPO. It creates an open enrollment period and increases enrollment fees, deductibles, catastrophic caps, and copayments for beneficiaries in the retired category and active duty family members who join the military on or after January 1, 2018. It also puts military treatment facilities (MTFs) under the new Defense Health Agency. These are all big changes and we don't know how they will change the whole military health care system. But is one of our most important jobs in Washington to keep a sharp eye on what is happening and how it will affect you.

And when we think of you there is another huge change this year. We are welcoming almost 10,000 new members from NAUS. Of course we know many of you very well. TREA and NAUS worked together for many years. To improve and protect your benefits. To keep you informed. To urge Congress, federal agencies and departments of changes that you desired. To make sure your voice is heard throughout Washington and much more. But surely there are projects and concerns and proposals that you have supported that we do not know about. And we want to know about them. So please call or e-mail us and tell your new people in Washington what your thoughts are. (That is also a request to our longtime members) It is a brand new year. A brand new President and Executive Branch and a new Congress. This is going to be a wildly interesting time. It will be an honor to work with all of you to protect and improve the earned benefits of all those who have kept us free and safe for over 200 years.



THE LAWLESS SIDE OF WAR MAKING MILLIONS IN THE VIETNAM BLACK-MARKET

BY TERRELL REAGAN

Over 30,000 books have been published on the Vietnam War but this is the only book written about the black-market, how it worked, and the author's involvement.

Available on Amazon Books, Kindle, Barnes and Noble, and Apple.





TSCL Prepared for Busy Year Ahead

By Jessie Gibbons, Senior Policy Analyst

After November's highly anticipated election and an active "lame duck" session on Capitol Hill, the 115th Congress has officially begun and The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) is gearing up for another busy year. Several leading lawmakers in the majority party are vowing to seriously consider Social Security and Medicare reforms, and TSCL is working diligently to prevent harmful cuts to your benefits. In addition, with prescription drug costs soaring higher than ever before, TSCL is advocating for common-sense legislation that would improve access to affordable, life-saving medicines for older Americans.

As with the start of any new Congress, TSCL is encouraging Senators and Representatives to reintroduce key legislation, like the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act, the Prescription Drug Affordability Act, the Social Security Expansion Act, and the Notch Fairness Act. In addition, our legislative team is working hard to build support on Capitol Hill for comprehensive reform packages that would strengthen and modernize the Social Security and Medicare programs responsibly.

TSCL's legislative agenda for the 115th Congress includes the following issues, among many others:

Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment – Ensuring a fair and accurate COLA that reflects the inflation older Americans actually experience.

Social Security Reform – Strengthening the financing of the program responsibly, without harsh benefit cuts for current or future enrollees.

Medicare Reform – Promoting high-quality medical care and protecting beneficiaries from changes that would increase out-of-pocket spending.

Prescription Drug Affordability – Reducing the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs through comprehensive Medicare Part D reforms.

Social Security Notch Reform – Working towards benefit equality for victims of the Social Security Notch.

Immigration Reform – Preventing a drain on the Social Security Trust Fund by closing a loophole that pays Social Security benefits based on illegal work.

Affordable Care Act – Monitoring the law's repeal and advocating for policies that would reduce negative impacts on Medicare beneficiaries.

Prevention of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse – Ensuring that scarce Medicare and Social Security dollars are spent properly.

Social Security Disability Insurance Reform – Proposing fair and innovative solutions that would improve the financing of the program and prevent a looming benefit cut for enrollees.

TSCL's staff and all-volunteer Board of Trustees – including Legislative Liaison Michael Gales, looks forward to working with both new and veteran lawmakers this year on the issues that matter the most to our members and supporters. Throughout the 115th Congress, we will work tirelessly to ensure that Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries receive the retirement security they have earned and deserve.

For more information about TSCL's legislative agenda for the 115th Congress, visit our website at www.SeniorsLeague.org. There you can also sign a petition to your Members of Congress, view bills that have been recently introduced in the House and Senate, and stay updated with the latest news on Capitol Hill.

WE EARNED OUR STRIPES

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

