



131st BW RAO Newsletter

January - March 2017, 1st Quarter Issue



The O’Fallon Veterans/131BW Retirees Activities Office (RAO) would like to wish all Veterans, Retirees and families a safe, healthy and Happy New Year. Our staff of former members of the 131st and tenant units, Air Force, Army , Navy and Marines have put in over 1835 hours for the past year and have serviced over 356 inquires either by phone, email or personal visits to our Office. This last year we lost one of our volunteer’s Lt. Col. Buckley, Jr. The RAO has an on-going need for volunteers to assist and inform the retiree community. If you are a retired military member or spouse from any military branch, and you are available 4 hours for 1 day a week from either 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or noon to 4 p.m., contact the office to volunteer. Additional volunteers are needed substituting for staff needing to miss a day for other needs. Our phone number is 636-379-5577, or, email us at veteransaffairs@ofallon.mo.us Our office is open from 9 AM to 4 PM Monday thru Friday.

2016 CHRISTMAS AIR GUARD/REUNION GATHERING

Thanks to everyone for another successful Christmas Party Reunion. We had 138 folks who enjoyed lunch & an additional group that just came to socialize. All-in-all, we had about 150. It appeared fun was had by all. Congratulations to Rich Maynard who won the 50/50 drawing of \$263.50. However, in the spirit of Christmas and kindness, Rich donated his winnings to go toward the total gift. Thanks you, Rich, for your generosity. With the donations and 50/50 we have a total of \$700.00 to donate to the H.E.R.O.E.S. Care for the young Guard family in need. We broke even for as what we had coming in and expenses for food etc. Thanks to Joe Davenport and Bob Orr for taking care of the 50/50, Vic Muschler, Jim Wonsewitz, Carol Walsh, & Becky Bozarth for collecting lunch money, and Larry Kelly & Jim David for help in getting the emails out when the email lists were lost. Kudos to all who helped, it was greatly appreciated. We don’t have email addresses or phone numbers for everyone, if you know someone that isn’t receiving an invitation that might be interested in coming, please ensure we get their contact information. Preferred method of contact is email & Facebook when we send out announcements; however, we know not all have the internet or computers. So, again, if you know of anyone not being notified have them/you shoot us an email to: 131christmas@gmail.com Also, please keep us updated on your contact information. If anyone has any recommendations for next year, please let us know. Additionally, if you would be interested in helping, let us know.

Morris Swofford/Scooter swoff757.scooter@charter.net 636-294-6084, Cell: 573-552-7986

Lisa Muschler lisa.muschler@yahoo.com 636-297-4870 or 636-357-5384

Any Christmas Party emails: 131christmas@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR NEXT YEAR – WED, 13 DEC 17,
ELKS LODGE O'FALLON MO

Thank you, again, to all who came out to the party.

AIR GUARD/RESERVE POINTS TRACKING PROBLEMS

Due to a recent programming error in Points Credit Accounting System (PCARS), the system used to capture Guard/Reserve points, the Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC) has temporarily discontinued the issuance of Twenty-Year Letters. Members can still apply for retirement without having received the Twenty-Year Letter. The ARPC hopes to resume the Twenty-Year Letter process in February, 2017. This error will cause a delay in the opportunity to make election concerning Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP). This error will not affect the 90-day timeline to make election. Once the letter process is restored, members will maintain the opportunity and the 90-day timeline to make election. [Source: Military.com, 19 Dec. 2019]

VA GRANTS FULL PRACTICE AUTHORITY TO ADVANCE PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that it is amending provider regulations to permit full practice authority to three roles of VA advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and certification, regardless of State restrictions that limit such full practice authority, except for applicable State restrictions on the authority to prescribe and administer controlled substances, when such APRNs are acting within the scope of their VA employment.

“Advanced practice registered nurses are valuable members of VA’s health care system,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David J. Shulkin. “Amending this regulation increases our capacity to provide timely, efficient, effective and safe primary care, aids VA in making the most efficient use of APRN staff capabilities, and provides a degree of much needed experience to alleviate the current access challenges that are affecting VA.”

APRNs are clinicians with advanced degrees and training who provide primary, acute and specialty health care services; they complete masters, post-masters or doctoral

degrees. There are four APRN roles: Certified Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, and Certified Nurse Midwife.

“CRNAs provide an invaluable service to our Veterans,” Under Secretary for Health Shulkin continued. “Though CRNAs will not be included in VA’s full practice authority under this final rule, we are requesting comments on whether there are access issues or other unconsidered circumstances that might warrant their inclusion in a future rulemaking. In the meantime, we owe it to Veterans to increase access to care in areas where we know we have immediate and broad access challenges.”

All VA APRNs are required to obtain and maintain current national certification. The final rulemaking establishes professional qualifications an individual must possess to be appointed as an APRN within VA, establishes the criteria under which VA may grant full practice authority to an APRN and defines the scope of full practice authority for each of the three roles of APRN. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists will **not** be included in VA’s full practice authority under this final rule. [Source: DFAS]

TRICARE & OHI - OHI DISCLOSURE MANDATORY

TRICARE beneficiaries with other health insurance (OHI) must disclose their OHI coverage information. It’s important to make sure your OHI is reflected accurately in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). For all beneficiaries other than active duty service members, TRICARE is the last payer to all health care benefits and insurance plans, except for Medicaid, TRICARE supplements, the Indian Health Service and other programs and plans as identified by the Defense Health Agency. Overseas, OHI includes traveler’s insurance, study abroad insurance for students and overseas national health insurance programs. OHI applies to health care services received from civilian providers and at military hospitals and clinics. You can report your OHI through the following:

- Online: Fill out the overseas TRICARE Other Health Insurance Questionnaire at www.tricare.mil/forms .
- By phone: Call your TRICARE Overseas Program Regional Call Center.
- In person: Visit your military hospital or clinic or TRICARE Service Center.

Follow your OHI’s rules for filing claims and file your claims with your OHI first. If there is an amount your OHI doesn’t cover, you or your provider can file the claim with TRICARE to get money back. It’s important to meet your OHI’s requirements. If your OHI denies a claim for failure to follow its rules, such as getting care without prior authorization, TRICARE may also deny your claim. Visit www.tricare.mil/ohi for more information about using your TRICARE benefit when you have OHI. [Source: TRICARE Health Matters | Issue 2 | November 2016 ++]

TRICARE PUBLICATIONS GET REDESIGN, NEW LOOK

TRICARE offers a wide range of informational materials to help people understand their coverage and make important health care and financial decisions for themselves and their families. Today, TRICARE unveiled the suite-wide redesign of its benefit publications, bringing a new look and a fresh approach to the materials that explain TRICARE coverage.

The revamped suite includes a brand-new *TRICARE Stateside Guide* – a one-stop resource for all stateside coverage information. The guide is an interactive, searchable, web-based publication that puts all the benefit information you need at your fingertips. Features include:

- A breakdown of TRICARE’s program options
- Details relevant to active duty service members, National Guard and Reserve members, retirees, family members and survivors
- Explanations of how coverage is impacted by changing sponsor status and life events
- Details on dental options and the pharmacy benefit
- Easy-to-read tables that highlight contacts, covered services, and more

The time to learn about your health care coverage is before you need it. Check out TRICARE’s educational materials and get the information you, your family, or your patients need to make health care decisions. Find the newly designed materials, including the *TRICARE Stateside Guide*, at www.tricare.mil/publications.

VA CEMETERIES, PRE-NEED DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced 8 DEC it now provides eligibility determinations for interment in a VA national cemetery prior to the time of need. Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a VA national cemetery. “MyVA is about looking at VA from the Veterans’ perspective, and then doing everything we can to make the Veteran Experience effective and seamless. 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, *Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a 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.PreNeed@va.gov ; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151. Form 40-10007 can be completed on line and downloaded at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf>. 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.

Eligible individuals are entitled to burial in any open VA national 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 <http://www.cem.va.gov>, or by calling VA regional offices 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. [Source: VA News Release | December 8, 2016 ++]

UNIFORM DISPOSAL, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH OLD UNIFORMS

You might cherish your old military uniforms given all the memories they hold. Or maybe you or your spouse is tired of them taking up space in the closet. When the time comes to unclutter, what should you do with those uniforms?

Dispose

The easiest way to get rid of any uniforms is to dispose of them, and there are a handful of ways to do this. The first is to simply throw them in the trash. It is cautioned that if you decide to trash the uniforms, you should remove any insignia and names on them. Some individuals even go as far as cutting or ripping the uniforms to avoid any reuse. Others have found it best to burn their old uniforms to avoid any possible stolen valor. Another

option is to check with a local base, as some military installations have shredding process for old uniforms.

Donate

If you aren't comfortable with trashing a uniform, consider donating it. As with disposal, you should remove any insignia and names when donating. One of the more convenient places to donate uniforms is at a thrift store. Though thousands of uniforms end up in thrift stores every year, it might be best to donate them to a military thrift store or one close to a base. If you're looking for your donation to go a little further, you can give your uniforms to organizations that help veterans, such as [Bands4Courage](#) or your local Airman's Attic. Other options include school drama departments, local museums, VFW or American Legion posts.

Repurpose

Maybe you'll want to put the old uniforms to use. Some individuals prefer to keep their uniforms intact and put them on display in a shadow box along with their awards. Others repurpose their uniforms to craft a wide array of projects, including turning the uniforms into bags, aprons, and even wreaths for the holidays. But others choose to get an active use out of them. You can wear them when doing household work such as working on the car or cleaning out the attic or when going paintballing, mudding, or hunting. Be aware some services have stringent restrictions on when you should and should not wear a uniform, so even if your service is in your past, it might be best to consider those rules. [Source: MOAA News Exchange | Joseph Eisenmann | November 23, 2016 ++]

TAPS FOR 131ST MOANG PERSONNEL AND SPOUSES WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2016

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|---|-------------|
| BENHARDT, Jr., Gustav William | 5 Sep 2016 |
| BEARD, Lavera "Doody", wife of Leroy Beard | July 2016 |
| BLATTER, Father Joseph | 16 Apr 2016 |
| BOULCH, Jr. Clifford Paul | 30 May 2016 |
| BUCKLEY, Jr., Lt. Col Harold E. Pilot Commander of 110 th Squadron. | 24 Nov 2016 |
| CROW, Walter (Doc) | 4 May 2016 |
| EBERT, Lt. Col. John A. | 26 Aug 2016 |
| EVANS, Michael F | 19 Mar 2016 |
| ERVIN, James (Archie) | 23 Nov 2016 |
| FERNANDEZ, Dennis A. | |
| FISCHER, Harold Joseph. | 24 Apr 2016 |
| HELMS, Sr., Dennis Wayne | 30 Mar 2016 |
| HOFFMAN, John Edwin CMSGT | 30 Sep 2016 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-------------|
| JORDAN, Col. Frank | | 30 Jan 2016 |
| KELLY, John Thomas | | 23 Jul 2016 |
| KRAMME, John | | |
| MERZ, Col. Jean J | | 13 Aug 2016 |
| MORI, Julius H. | | 20 Aug 2016 |
| OTTO, Marley R. | | 5 Jun 2016 |
| PERRY, John Thomas | | 23 Jul 2016 |
| SEYFARTH, William | | 30 Dec 2016 |
| SCHAPER, Barbara Jo, wife of Henry G. Schaper Jr. | | 21 Jul 2016 |
| SCHEIBAL, Col. Carl George | | 12 Mar 2016 |
| SHILITO, Lt. Col., James | | 31 Dec 2016 |
| SORTER, Darrell Eugene | SMSGT | 27 Dec 2016 |
| WEST, Anthony Brent (Tony) | SMSGT | 19 Feb 2016 |
| ZIMMER, Earl L. | | 30 Dec 2016 |

Note: These are the only people that we know passed away. If you have any knowledge of others, contact Larry Kelley with the information at lk001@mail.win.org.

LINK TO RETIREE PUBLICATIONS

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Army Echoes</i> | http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement |
| <i>Navy Shift Colors:</i> | www.shiftcolors.navy.mil |
| <i>Air Force Afterburner:</i> | www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner |
| <i>Marine Corps Semper Fidelis:</i> | www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME MM/H_SR |
| <i>Coast Guard Evening Colors:</i> | http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/psc/ras |

INPUT: If you have any suggestions for any type of additional articles you may like to have included in the future newsletters please email us. We look forward for more input from you and other agencies.

We will publish this newsletter four times a year if the supply of information is available.

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