



JEFFERSON BARRACKS SATELLITE RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE NEWSWIRE APRIL 2010

The staff of the Jefferson Barracks Satellite Retiree Activities Office publishes the NEWSWIRE. This publication is designed to directly inform all military retirees, spouses, widows, widowers and their families of changes to their benefits, the status of current legislation impacting their retirement, health related information and of activities at Scott AFB and Jefferson Barracks AFS.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR APRIL

8 April Thursday—1300 Hours, Scott RAO monthly council meeting: Located at 215 Heritage Drive, Building P-10, Room A-209. The meeting includes reports from committee chairmen and other directors generally related to Scott AFB activities and services. Updated reports from the Lambert/ St. Louis RAO and the Jefferson Barracks Satellite Retiree Activities Office (JBSRAO) are part of the meeting agenda.

15 April Thursday --- Monthly luncheon 1100 Hrs. **Riverside Café** 7704 Ivory Ave, St Louis MO 314-544-7711. Directions: From I-55 (North) Exit right to Left on Germania to Alabama/Lemay Ferry – turn left to Ivory Ave: From I-55 (South) Exit right on to right on Carondelet to Alabama/Lemay Ferry-Turn left to Ivory Ave. Make sure to go under train trestle. Parking on the street but be sure be a little early parking is at a premium.

From The Editor

The Missouri National Guard retirees were treated to a wonderful Appreciation Day last Saturday. There were six hundred retirees and spouses in attendance. And from all indications they thoroughly enjoyed the day.

After opening ceremonies the Adjutant General BG Stephen L. Danner addressed the retirees graciously thanking them for their service to Missouri and the United States. He also spoke of our National Guard soldiers and airmen currently deployed around the world supporting the war on terror and helping people hard hit by natural disasters.

General Danner said that with all the multiple deployments we have endured we still are over a 100 percent manned which says a whole lot about the dedication and character of soldiers and airman serving today.

There were additional comments made by others before we broke for lunch and it was outstanding. No MREs' here.

Personnel from TRICARE, Medicare, and DFAS conducted seminars in the afternoon.

There were tables set up with all the kinds of hand out materials that you can possible stuff in a bag.

When the seminars were concluded we all assemble back to the Drill Hall for doors prizes, final remarks, Benediction and retiring the Colors.

It surely was a great event that was perfectly plan and executed all the way down to providing shuttle service to and from the far distant parking lots.

The Jefferson Barracks RAO staff would like to give our sincere thanks to General Danner, Headquarters Staff, Missouri National Retiree Council and the various vendors for providing probably the best Retiree Appreciation Day we ever attended.

TRICARE Triumph: Vote Exempts Plan from Reform Bill

If you don't know now, the House of Representatives voted of 403-0 ensured that TRICARE would not be included in the health reform bill that passed the House late Sunday March 21, 2010.

Most everyone agreed that TRICARE would meet the minimal essential coverage described in the health reform bill, but Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., introduced H.R. 4887 Friday to protect the military health plan from unintended consequences.

Prior to the vote on his bill Saturday, Skelton, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, made it clear that the reform bill under consideration would have no adverse impact on TRICARE.

"However, to reassure our military service members and their families and make it perfectly clear that they will not be negatively affected by this legislation, my bill ...explicitly states in law that these health plans meet the minimum requirements for individual health insurance," he said.

The health care reform bill passed the House late Sunday by a vote of 219-212. It was opposed by all 178 Republicans and 34 Democrats, including Skelton. President Obama will sign the bill.

This does not mean that TRICARE for Life will not be affected in the near future. The retirees' health care is tied to Medicare and nobody is sure what will happen to it.

Stay tuned and hold your breath and take a pain pill.

Dispensing with SGLI/VGLI Myths

Has a veteran ever asked you about a rumor that VA's Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) or Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) won't pay if a policyholder dies in a car accident and wasn't wearing your seat belt? Or it won't pay if the covered veteran was in a motorcycle accident and wasn't wearing a helmet? That's all they are, rumors... they are completely false! SGLI and VGLI coverage will pay insurance benefits to a covered veteran's beneficiaries regardless of whether he or she was wearing a seat belt or a helmet. While wearing a seat belt and a helmet are important precautions to prevent serious injuries in car and motorcycle accidents, they will not affect payment of SGLI or VGLI benefits.

Retiree Dental Coverage Available for Purchase

Good oral health is an important part of maintaining overall health and a military retiree's access to dental coverage doesn't end when they hang up their uniform. With the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program, retired service members can purchase affordable dental coverage for themselves and their eligible family members.

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is available around the world to retired service members who receive retirement pay; "gray area" retired National

Guard and Reserve members who are entitled to (but not yet receiving) retirement pay and Medal of Honor recipients. The spouses and children up to 21, or 23 if they are full-time students, of these retirees are also eligible for the retiree dental program.

Participants in this voluntary plan can get dental care from any licensed dentist within the program's designated service area. However, visiting an out-of-network dentist may require participants to pay higher out-of-pocket expenses and file their own claims.

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is a premium-based plan administered by Delta Dental and it has cost shares for certain services after beneficiaries reach their \$50 per-person deductible. Most preventive, diagnostic and emergency dental services are covered or available for cost-sharing immediately after enrollment, but some services including orthodontics, dentures and crowns are available with a cost-share only after 12 months of continuous enrollment.

The monthly premium rates vary based on the retiree's location and the number of people covered by the plan. These premiums are automatically deducted from retirement pay. The rates are available at <http://www.trdp.org> and adjust Oct. 1 for the next year.

ID CARD NUMBERS UPDATE

Source: Afterburner article Feb 2010

Phase Two of the process to remove printed Social Security numbers from retiree identification cards set to begin early this year has been delayed until further notice. When a new plan is made available to the Services, information will be advertised through Air Force retiree news outlets and other public affairs media. There are more than 1,500 ID card centers worldwide. To find the nearest center, refer to the RAPIDS site locator at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home . Officials urge cardholders to call first to ensure duty hours and determine what documents are required. People must present two forms of identification and one must be an unexpired federal- or state-issued photo ID.

VETERAN CEMETERY, MISSOURI

The Missouri Veterans Commission has created a network of Veterans cemeteries so that every Missouri Veteran will have reasonable access to a Veterans cemetery. Interment services are provided to Veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependent children. There is no charge for any of the services provided. These services include opening and closing of the grave, provision of a concrete grave liner, full military honors for the Veteran, and perpetual care. In order to maintain uniformity, upright granite markers are provided by the cemetery. Those who choose cremation have the choice of in-ground burial or placement within a columbarium niche. Interment services are conducted Monday through Friday on hourly intervals. Scheduling is coordinated by the funeral home and Veterans cemetery. If you have specific questions about scheduling procedures, contact the nearest State Veterans Cemetery. Pre-registration for future planning purposes is available for Veterans and their eligible family members. As well as pre-planning for future burial at each of the veteran cemeteries. This can be done by contacting the state veterans' cemetery nearest you or by submission of the pre-certification application available for download at www.mvc.dps.mo.gov/Cemeterys/forms/forms.htm . State Veterans cemetery contact information is:

· Bloomfield: 17357 Stars and Stripes Way, Bloomfield MO 63825 Tel: 573-568-3871/3421F Email: Ken.Swearengin@mvc.dps.mo.gov.

· Fort Leonard Wood (Temporary Office): 194 Eastlawn Avenue, Suite A, P.O. Box 960, St. Robert, MO 65584 Tel: 573-336-4291/4403F Email: Leah.Piland@mvc.dps.mo.gov.

- Higginsville: 20109 Business Hwy. 13, Higginsville MO 64037 Tel: 660-584-5252/955F Email: Jess.Rasmussen@mvc.dps.mo.gov.
- Jacksonville: 1479 County Road 1 675, Jacksonville MO 65260 Tel: 660-295-4237/4259F Email: Gerry.Hodge@mvc.dps.mo.gov.
- Springfield: 5201 South Southwood, Springfield MO 65804 Tel: 417-823-3944/0252F Email: Steve.Maples@mvc.dps.mo.gov.

Guidelines for burial in a state veteran's cemetery are:

- Death occurred while on active duty.
- Veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Veterans must have served 24 consecutive months on active duty or the full period for which called to active duty for service after 7 SEP 80 for enlisted and after 16 OCT 81 for officers.
- Reservists or members of the National Guard who are eligible for retired pay as a result of 20 years creditable service are entitled to interment in a Missouri State Veterans Cemetery. Reservists and members of the National Guard who are called to active duty by Presidential Executive Order and who satisfactorily complete the period for which they are called to duty are eligible.
- Citizens who served in the armed forces of a government allied with the United States during wartime may be eligible.
- Any Veteran convicted of a federal or state capital crime is barred from burial in a Missouri State Veterans Cemetery. This prohibition also includes those Veterans who commit capital crimes but avoid conviction due to death or flight.
- Former spouses whose marriage to an eligible Veteran was terminated by divorce are not eligible for burial in a Missouri Veterans cemetery.
- There is no residency requirement for interment in a Missouri Veterans Cemetery.
- If unsure of your eligibility status, contact the nearest cemetery director above.

Missouri has four National cemeteries which are maintained by the Veterans Administration. For information on burial in a National cemetery refer to www.cem.va.gov or call the numbers provided below:

- Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery: 2900 Sheridan Road, St. Louis, MO 63125 Tel: (314) 845-8320/8355F. This cemetery has space available to accommodate casketed and cremated remains.
- Jefferson City National Cemetery, 1024 East McCarty Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101 Tel: (314) 845-8320/8355F. This cemetery is closed to new interments.
- Springfield National Cemetery, 1702 East Seminole Street, Springfield, MO 65804 Tel: (417) 881-9499/7862F. This cemetery has space available for cremated remains and may be able to accommodate casketed remains in the same gravesite of previously interred family members.
- Union Confederate Monument Site, Union Cemetery, 227 E. 28th Street Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64108. There are no interments at the monument site

TAPS

Source: Military.com article 23 Feb 2010

It's a song burned into the American consciousness, a tune that wafts over both sleep and death. And it's a piece that some believe hasn't been given the recognition it deserves. What has come to be known as 'Taps' -- 24 notes that floated from a Civil War encampment at nightfall to become the tune that sends to their final rests fallen troops, policemen and firefighters, departed veterans and even presidents of the United States --- may soon be given a more official place in the roster of national melodies. "My idea is to have [Taps] recognized as our National Song of Remembrance," said Jari Villanueva, a retired trumpet and bugle player for the U.S. Air Force Band who may very well be the country's leading authority on Taps. A veteran of more than 5,000 ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, Villanueva was an adviser on bugle calls for the movie 'Gods and Generals.' He has researched Taps, written about it, debunked myths about it (it was not found by a Union officer on the body of his son, a Confederate soldier) and offers what is probably the best history yet of the tune on a West Point Web site.

Now, along with fellow bugler Les Hampton, a Navy vet, Villanueva is working with a New York lawmaker to get Congress to officially recognize "Taps" as a song of remembrance. They hope to have this done in time for the 150th anniversary of "Taps" in 2012. As far as who would be officially eligible to have Taps played at their funeral if it does become the National Song of Remembrance, Villanueva takes a broad view. Besides troops and veterans, he said police officers, firefighters, first responders, and public health service workers --- even the Boy Scouts. "My feeling is if you rate a flag on your coffin you rate Taps." According to Villanueva, the music of Taps had its origins in "Extinguish Lights," an end-of-day bugle call adapted from a French tune. But in 1862, while encamped at Harrison's Landing, Va., Union Army Gen. Daniel Butterfield revised the tune - holding certain notes longer, etc. Taps was quickly picked up by other buglers in other units, and after the Civil War and became an official Army bugle call. Villanueva and Hampton met several years ago through playing memorial services and began thinking of ways to bring attention to the need for Taps players. The rising numbers of World War II and Korea vets passing away, as well as troop losses in Iraq and Afghanistan, has resulted in greater demand for buglers.

Several years ago the military began making a bugle insert that played Taps available to veterans groups. The discrete device plays the notes while the "bugler" --- standing away from the grave site --- holds the instrument to his lips and pretends to play. "It's something that's used a lot now. It is disappointing, but sometimes no one bothers to look for a live bugler. It's a matter of convenience." Villanueva said. While brainstorming the fake bugler problem they hit on the idea of elevating Taps to an official national song. Hampton said Rep. John Hall (D-NY), has been working with them to frame legislation. According to Villanueva, the earliest official reference to Taps for a military funeral is found in Army regulations from 1891. But he says it was doubtlessly used unofficially long before then, though still called 'Extinguish Lights'. Later still officials from other countries came up with their own versions of Taps, some sounding very much like the Army's. A French general wrote 'Aux Morts' ('To the Dead') --- after hearing Taps, Villanueva said; it sounds much like Taps and has the same number of notes. The Germans came up with a solo trumpet call later, as did the Italians. The British wrote and adopted "The Last Post"; after "Taps" became known, and that song is now played by all Commonwealth countries for its fallen troops and veterans, Villanueva said. As part of their efforts to raise awareness of "Taps," the two have set up an online petition and hope to get as many names in support as possible. They're also producing a CD that will include 'Extinguish Lights,' Taps, and other tunes that were inspired by Taps.

To Serve

Source: Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley. Remarks at the U.S. Air Force Academy's National Character and Leadership Symposium at the Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., Feb. 19, 2010.

Thank you for that kind introduction. It is a real pleasure and honor to attend this symposium amongst a very distinguished group of speakers from a wide range of disciplines. To the organizers of the National Character & Leadership Symposium, the Center for Character Development, and the United States Air Force Academy, and all of the experts, academics, and institutions that supported this effort, thank you. This is a superb opportunity to discuss character and leadership, perhaps the most vital traits and skills we seek to impart and embed within our officer and NCO corps.

True character often becomes apparent in the face of adversity. Just like the generations before us, our nation faces adversity in a number of forms as we meet here today. Most pressing, our armed forces are challenged by two ongoing wars in a dangerous region against determined adversaries. And we do so in a time when our country has been facing its most significant economic crisis since the Great Depression. Indeed, this is a time for leadership, and this is a time for character. These traits are vital to public service, and especially to military service.

Today I would like to discuss the concept of service, which might be defined as "dedication and sacrifice by a few, to preserve a way of life for many." Why do we do this? What are we serving? For whom are we doing this? Does it matter how we serve? How long must we do this?

And as we explore these issues we should be forewarned. As Benjamin Franklin once quipped: "The first mistake in public business is the going into it." Public service is not easy. It is continually buffeted not only by political winds, but by real internal tensions within our Constitution. Democracy, as Franklin noted, is "an invitation to struggle."

Why Do We Serve?

So, why do we serve? Well, we cannot really understand WHY we serve without examining in more detail, WHAT we serve. As Socrates figured out a long time ago, "we must value most, not living, but living well." Americans may understand this more than most. This country was formed by peoples in search of a way of life worth living; one best characterized by the words liberty and freedom. Jefferson's formulation of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" has long served as a touchstone for these enduring principles and ideals. It has been refined along the way, from our Bill of Rights to Franklin Roosevelt's 1941 summary of the "Four Freedoms": freedom of speech and expression; freedom of every person to worship in his own way; freedom from want; and freedom from fear. Rights and freedoms recognized not just within the United States but recognized by many as universal and timeless; but yet in some places as still too revolutionary.

What Do We Serve?

What is it that we serve? We serve these principles and ideals as enshrined in our Constitution. The ultimate purpose or end of our service is captured in our Oath of Office. We solemnly swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, because we find defending the Constitution more important than defending America itself, for America would not exist in our true nature without it.

Why do we serve? We serve because we have something very special to defend, something supremely worthy of our service; not just in defense of American lives, but an American way of life, a life worth living.

Who Do We Serve?

Another way to measure the value of service is by the scope of its impact, by examining who we serve. There may be no higher calling than defending the U.S. Constitution, and the American people. Abraham Lincoln called the U.S. Constitution, "the bond of service," making him a servant of the people, and therefore responsible to them. Over 300 million Americans enjoy life under the guarantee of liberty provided by this document. Military service is an essential element of national security and national security is a public good that equally benefits all Americans.

Beginning in 1996, the Air Force began collecting data at Basic Military Training to determine why recruits enlist. Given 17 reasons from which to choose, recruits consistently select "to serve my country" amongst their top three reasons to enlist. And, whether it is the top, second or third-ranked reason appears to depend on the needs of the nation at the time. It was the number one reason for several years following 9-11. Less empirical, but certainly as convincing, are my visits to combat zones. I did so earlier this month, and was, as always, impressed by the spirit of our Airmen, young and old. Their clarity of purpose and ethic of service could not be more evident.

And it is not just who they serve that makes it so valuable to us, it is how they serve us.

How We Serve

When Franklin mused about public service, he neglected to mention that Military service is even more difficult. It involves personal and family hardships, deep commitment to mission and risk to life and limb. Particularly in battle, it is imperative that we can, without any doubt; count on the man or woman in the back seat, maintaining equipment on the flightline, flying communications satellites, arming weapons and performing countless other vital tasks, to serve reliably and consistently, with true discipline in their work. How we serve matters, for our teammates, for our joint and coalition partners, and for the ultimate success of our assigned missions. To paraphrase Lord Nelson: America expects that every Airman will do his or her duty.

America's military, and especially our Air Force has a rich tradition of upholding the highest standards of service. We must uphold them. Our men and women are trusted with weapons of unfathomable destructive power. And in this business of national security, at every level, the cost of even small errors may be the loss of life.

These standards are captured in our Core Values: Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do. These enduring values serve as our anchor and their adoption by one and all binds us together. Our Core Values define the character of our Air Force just as freedom defines America. The character of our service, regardless of why or what we serve is diminished if these core values are compromised.

These are values by which to live a life, and perhaps there is no more important time to live by them than now, when our nation, and the world, calls on us to serve.

When Do We Serve?

Military service is different from other forms of public service. We serve 24-hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year, year upon year. Standards are high and in our commitment to service and to our chain of command, we often deny ourselves the freedom to 'opt out' or take a pass, the freedom to say "No, thank you." In times of peace, we work hard and serve as a strong deterrent to conflict and put our skills to work in humanitarian operations. And, when deterrence fails, we are asked to difficult things: to overcome fear and danger, to serve in locations and on timelines about which we have little say. Such is service in the military.

And, for how long must we do this? In less than 100 days, some of you will be commissioned as second lieutenants and will step into history, taking your place as links in an unbroken chain of service, among generation after generation of Americans since the founding of this republic and the birth of powered flight, who have stepped forward to wear the nation's cloth. Others will come after you and more still, as long as necessary, as the founder's put it, "to preserve the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity."

Conclusion

I believe that we serve because our service has a noble purpose: the preservation of our Constitution and an American way of life. We serve because the nation, our American ideals and the people we serve are worth all the dedication and sacrifice required for their defense, worth everything we have as individuals to give even life itself. We serve because we know that, in the grand sweep of history, the American experiment is unfinished and its long term success in a dynamic global environment cannot be taken for granted.

How we serve does matter. The strength of commitment to our core values and to the highest standards set us apart; our scrupulous devotion to developing leaders of character and integrity; and the depth of your personal dedication and sacrifice, especially over the past ten years, has made the military among the Nation's most highly respected institutions.

We serve because it's our responsibility to pass safely along to the next generation the heritage and the opportunities, and yes even the military capabilities, that were passed from the previous generation to us; and because, in the world we live in, no one will do this for us. These things, perhaps, help define the meaning of

service. They explain, perhaps, how we were named "the armed services".

Development of character and leadership are indeed important preparation for public service in general. They are vital preparation for service in the military. This symposium is invaluable to that end, as is the Air Force Academy's Center for Character and Leadership Development, and the Academy itself. They have brought together expertise from multiple disciplines, many 'American heroes' from all walks of life, to discuss subjects and personal experiences that are more than worthy of our reflection.

My personal thanks, along with those of our chief of staff, Gen. Norton Schwartz, to the guest speakers for supporting this event, for helping to educate and nurture our cadets and for all that you contribute to America's Air Force, our sister services, all our military and their families. We deeply appreciate your support; and as you can see from the quality of our cadets, this investment in America's future is well worth all our time.

Thank you, General Gould, for inviting me to be a part of this event. It is indeed an honor for me to serve, yes, to serve, with you in the world's finest Air Force.

" A government big enough to give you everything you want is strong enough to take everything you have."

Thomas Jefferson

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STILL SERVING

73, Jerry

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