



## JEFFERSON BARRACKS SATELLITE RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE NEWSWIRE MARCH 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 MARCH**

**12 March 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.

**18 March Thursday** --- Monthly luncheon 1100 Hrs. Penny's 4265 Reavis Barracks (314) 544-1661. Directions: Take I-55 to Reavis Barracks. Go east on Reavis Barracks and cross over Union, the restaurant is located on the left in a small shopping center.

### **MONGRC Retiree Appreciation Day Reminder**

*Source: Jim Dunn, Council Member, Missouri National Guard Retiree Council*

By now I hope everyone has received an invitation to attend the upcoming Retiree Appreciation Day to be held on March 27, 2010. The invitation mailing is based on the records of the Retirement Service Office in Jefferson City. We know there are always some who will not receive this invitation due to an old address or in some cases where the RSO does not have a copy of your "20 year letter". If you have not--or know of someone who has not received the letter, I urge you to contact either the RSO, 1SG Robert Miller at 573-638-9648, Jim Dunn by e-mail [sfcdunn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfcdunn@sbcglobal.net) or telephone home 417-782-2541 cell 417-438-1985 and Bob Cole by email at [2bopajo@cablemo.net](mailto:2bopajo@cablemo.net) or 417-209-9010.

Registration is from 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. on March 27, 2010. The program will start at 10:00 a.m. and is scheduled to conclude at 3:00 p.m. In order to provide you with the latest information concerning your retirement benefits, the Retirement Services Office has invited agencies such as TRICARE (medical and dental), Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration, Defense Finance and Accounting Office, and many more. Our guest speaker will be His Honorable Jay Nixon, Governor, Missouri

You will also be able to update your Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) information and make new ID cards as needed, so please bring supporting documentation with you.

Valet parking will be available for our retirees who need additional assistance.

We will be serving a catered lunch at a cost of \$8.50 per person. The menu will be chicken or beef, salad, vegetables, dessert, and beverages. Please fill out the enclosed RSVP and mail it no later than **10 March 2010**, along with check or money order payment (made out to Argyle Catering) for lunch to: Office of the Adjutant General, ATTN: NGMO-PER-RS (Retiree Appreciation Day), 2302 Militia Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101-1203.

For many of those who have never attended a Retiree Appreciation Day, you are missing out on an enormous amount of information disseminated regarding retiree issues-such as TRICARE, Social Security, VA and DFAS. Also, if you know of anyone who is planning on retiring in the near future be sure to invite them too.

This event has been planned by the Missouri National Guard Retiree Council, MONGRC, which was recently organized. Its purpose is: To provide the Adjutant General an insight and provide solutions into the problems and needs of retirees. To provide an opportunity to analyze decisions, policies and laws which affect retirees and afford a means to actively participate in programs concerned with their well being. To provide an opportunity to exert the influence of the retired community on policies and laws which affect retirees. To establish and maintain a line of communication between the retired community and the Adjutant General. To assist both unit personnel and retirees (upon request), as resource persons, on retirement benefits and provide clarification of the retirement process.

I am fortunate to be a member of the MONGRC. If you know of any issues that needs to be addressed by the Council, please discuss it with me so I can present it to the Council during its meeting.

## **Reporting the Death of a Military Retiree or Annuitant**

Source: Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS)

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has prepared this contact sheet to assist you in reporting the death of a military retiree or annuitant. The information provided is meant to serve as a general guide.

- ◆ **Notify DFAS** at either (800) 269-5170 or (800) 321-1080. Please have the decedent's Social Security Number (SSN) and the date of death when you call. We ask that you send one photocopy of a death certificate which indicates the cause of death. Please send it to:

**For retirees:**  
*Address:* DFAS, U.S. Military Retirement Pay  
P.O. Box 7130  
London, KY 40742-7130.  
*Fax:* (800) 469-6559

**For Annuitants:**  
*Address:* DFAS, U.S. Military Annuitants Pay  
P.O. Box 7131  
London, KY 40742-7131  
*Fax:* (800) 982-8459

We will take steps to close out the pay account to prevent any overpayments. If the decedent was a retired enrolled in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and/or the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), we will take additional steps to initiate pay accounts for eligible survivors.

Designated beneficiaries of retirees should expect a Standard Form 1174 (SF-1174) and, if applicable, SBP/RSFPP-related forms in the mail within seven to ten business days of reporting the death. If you need assistance please call us at either of the numbers listed above.

- ◆ Notify the Social Security Administration (SSA) at (800) 772-1213.
- ◆ Notify the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) at (800) 538-9552.
- ◆ If the member was receiving disability compensation or Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC), notify the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) at (800) 827-1000.
- ◆ If the member was a civil servant or retired civil servant, notify the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) toll-free at (888) 767-6738.

- ♦ If the member enrolled in PVA-sponsored insurance such as National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) or Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), notify them at (800) 669-8477.

If you live near a military installation you may be able to receive help with administrative matters from a Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) or Retired Activities/Affairs Office (RAO). Please note that these services are not available at all military installations. Here are the phone numbers the St. Louis greater area:

Casualty Assistance Office – Bldg.1650 Scott AF Base, IL	(618) 256-6508
Retiree Activities/Affairs Office - Bldg P10 Scott AF Base, IL	(618) 256-5092
Satellite Retiree Activities Office – Bldg.65 Jefferson Barracks ANG, MO	(314) 527-8212

Here are some additional toll-free numbers you may find useful, if applicable:

Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) -----	(800) 776-2322
Army & Air Force Mutual Aid Association (AAFMAA) -----	(800) 522-5221
Burial at Sea -----	(888) 647-6676 (option 4)
Funeral Honors -----	(877) 645-4667
Military Benefit Association (MBA) -----	(800) 336-0100
Navy Mutual Aid Association (NMAA) -----	(800) 628-6011
Officers Benefit Association -----	(800) 736-7311
Uniformed Services Benefit Association -----	(809) 368-7021

## **ID Card Numbers**

*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](http://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.

## **Debt Reduction Commission**

*Source: RAO Bulletin – MOAA Leg Up*

During consideration of H.J. Res. 45, the Senate rejected an amendment by Senators Kent Conrad (D-ND) and Judd Gregg (R-NH) proposing a statutory debt reduction commission. The proposed commission would be tasked to find ways to reduce the national debt by cutting spending on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and other so-called "entitlement" programs (which also might include military/VA/federal civilian benefits) or raising taxes, or a combination of both. The amendment also proposed a "fast-track" legislative process under which Congress would be required to vote quickly on the commission's recommendations, with no option to amend them and limited time for debate. In his state of the Union speech, President Obama (who had expressed support for the Conrad-Gregg amendment) pledged to appoint a similar commission this year by executive order. If he does the American people have to have a voice in the process, and the only way they can exercise that voice is through their legislators. Elected officials must bear ultimate responsibility for their action. Putting in law that legislators must conduct a short-notice, up-or-down vote with no amendments would be abdicating Congress' responsibility and turning it over to a small number of commissioners who aren't accountable to anyone.

Almost certainly, the commission will have to propose some significant benefit cutbacks and tax increases to get the nation's fiscal house back in order. And the American public will have some sober reassessing to do in acknowledging that government revenues and expenditures eventually have to be reconciled - especially because millions of baby boomers are about to become eligible for Medicare and Social Security, and those programs don't have the resources to meet that reality for the longer term. Neither the public nor the Congress can hide from their responsibilities to deal with that situation. We can't just turn it over to 18 appointees and blindly buy whatever solutions they come up with. As we've seen all too often, even panels of extremely smart people can propose some extremely dumb things.

## **Be Cautious About Giving Info to Census Workers**

*Source: Susan Johnson – Better Business Bureau*

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

- ◆ If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- ◆ Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.
- ◆ REMEMBER: No Matter what they ask you really only need to tell them how many people live at your address!

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION. The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Anyone asking for that information is NOT with the Census Bureau.

AND REMEMBER, The Census Bureau has decided not to work with ACORN on gathering this information. No Acorn worker should approach you saying they are with the Census Bureau.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census.

Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)

**PLEASE SHARE THIS INFO WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

## **Disney Salute to the Armed Forces**

Once again the Disney Corporation is honoring the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. From January 3 to September 30, except for some blackout dates, members, both active duty and retired, of the Armed Forces are being offered room rates at up to 40 percent off and the ability to purchase up to 6 four-day park tickets for \$99 each at the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida. The tickets may be upgraded at additional cost for the Park-hopper and water park options. For more specific information, please go to the Disney [Military Offer Website](#) at [Disney Offer](#).

## **Lowe's Military Discount Now Year-round**

Most members of the military community no longer will have to wait for a special holiday discount to buy shovels, paint, and other home improvement needs.

Home improvement retailer Lowe's has expanded its 10 percent military discount to all day, every day, for active-duty, National Guard and reserve, retiree and disabled service members, and their families, company officials announced Wednesday.

Those who want to receive the discount must present a valid military ID card.

All other military veterans will receive the 10 percent discount on the holiday weekends of Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day.

The discount is available on in-stock and special-order purchases of up to \$5,000. It cannot be used on sales at Lowes.com, on previous sales, or on sales of services or gift cards.

"Lowe's was founded on the heels of World War II by veterans Jim Lowe and Carl Buchan and has always been a supporter of the military," said Larry D. Stone, Lowe's president and chief operating officer, in a statement announcing the new policy.

"The year-round discount program is one way we are reaffirming our commitment to the thousands of men and women who are serving throughout the world, as well as their family members at home."

## **MOBILIZED RESERVE**

*Source: DoD News Release No.104-10 dtd 10 Feb 2010*

The Department of Defense announced the current number of reservists on active duty as of 9 FEB 2010. The net collective result is 791 more reservists mobilized than last reported in the for 26 JAN 09 Bulletin. At any given time, services may activate some units and individuals while deactivating others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. The total number currently on active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 111,478; Navy Reserve, 6,978; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 16,846; Marine Corps Reserve, 6,435; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 780. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel who have been activated to 142,517, including both units and individual augmentees. A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel who are currently activated may be found at <http://www.defense.gov/news/d20100209nqr.pdf>.

## **Honor Flight Network**

Honor Flight Network (HFN) recognizes American veterans for their sacrifices and achievements by flying them at no cost to Washington, D.C. to see memorials built in their honor. Many of these veterans have no other way to see "their" memorial and time is of the essence as more than 1,000 World War II veterans die each day.

Veterans are flown on a "first-come, first-served basis. Top priority (for which applications are currently being accepted) is given to World War II and terminally ill veterans from all wars. Second priority is to Korean War veterans and then Vietnam War veterans. In order for HFN to achieve this goal, guardians fly with the veterans on every flight providing assistance and helping veterans have a safe, memorable and rewarding experience. Veterans need only bring money if they plan to buy souvenirs. Guardians do pay a fee depending on transportation costs from their location. A normal ratio is 8 veterans to 3 guardians. The program is equipped to handle veterans in wheelchairs and/or on Oxygen. If you know of someone who is a World War II veteran or a veteran with a terminal illness, fill out an application available at [www.honorflight.org/apply/Veteran-Application-2009-08-20.pdf](http://www.honorflight.org/apply/Veteran-Application-2009-08-20.pdf) and send it in. Guardian and volunteer applications are available at [www.honorflight.org/docs/Guardian%20Application20Aug09.pdf](http://www.honorflight.org/docs/Guardian%20Application20Aug09.pdf) and [www.honorflight.org/docs/VolunteerApplication-11282008.pdf](http://www.honorflight.org/docs/VolunteerApplication-11282008.pdf) . Mail all applications to Honor Flight Inc., 300 East Auburn Ave., Springfield, OH 45505-4703.

The inaugural Honor Flight took place in MAY 05. Six small planes flew out of Springfield, Ohio taking twelve World War II veterans on a visit to the memorial in Washington, DC. In AUG 05, an ever-expanding waiting list of veterans led to their transition to commercial airline carriers with the goal of accommodating as many veterans as possible. Partnering with HonorAir in Hendersonville, North Carolina, the "Honor Flight Network was formed." In May 08, Southwest Airlines stepped up by donating thousands of free tickets, and was named the official commercial carrier of the Honor Flight Network. In 2009 they transported 35,996 veterans. Today, they are working aggressively to expand the programs to cities in all 50 states. For further information, call 937-521-2400, email at [veteran-application@honorflight.org](mailto:veteran-application@honorflight.org); [guardian-application@honorflight.org](mailto:guardian-application@honorflight.org); [volunteer-application@honorflight.org](mailto:volunteer-application@honorflight.org) or go to [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org).

## **Flag and Country**

*Source: National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS)*

"You've probably seen the bumper sticker somewhere along the road. It depicts an American flag, accompanied by the words 'These colors don't run.' I'm always glad to see this because it reminds me of an incident from my confinement in North Vietnam ...

"Then a major in the U.S. Air Force, I had been captured and imprisoned from 1967 to 1973. Our treatment had been frequently brutal. After three years, however, the beatings and torture became less frequent.

"During the last year, we were allowed outside most days for a couple of minutes to bathe. We showered by drawing water from a concrete tank with a homemade bucket.

"One day, as we all stood by the tank, stripped of our clothes; a young naval pilot named Mike Christian found the remnants of a handkerchief in a gutter that ran under the prison wall.

"Mike managed to sneak the grimy rag into our cell and began fashioning it into a flag ... He made red and blue from ground-up roof tiles and tiny amounts of ink and painted the colors onto the cloth with watery rice glue. Using thread from his own blanket and a homemade bamboo needle, he sewed on stars.

"Early in the morning a few days later, when the guards were not alert, he whispered loudly from the back of our cell, 'Hey gang, look here!' He proudly held up this tattered piece of cloth, waving it, as if in a breeze...

"When he raised that smudgy fabric, we automatically stood straight and saluted, our chests puffing out, and more than a few eyes had tears...

"Now, whenever I see the flag, I think of Mike and the morning he first waved that tattered emblem of a nation.

It was then, thousands of miles from home in a lonely prison cell that he showed us what it is to be truly free.”  
—Medal of Honor recipient, Leo K. Thorsness

"To hold America in one's thoughts is like holding a love letter in one's hand -- it has so special a meaning." —  
American Writer, E.B. White

*"In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress."*

**John Adams**

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### STILL SERVING

73, Jerry

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Office hours are 0900 to 1200 hours Tuesday and Thursday.  
On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays the office will be closed at  
1100 Hrs for the staff to attend Scott Retiree Council meeting  
and monthly luncheon.

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