



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho Newsletter

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Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154 Mission Statement

The American Legion Post 154 is a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness to support Veterans and the Community at large. We are committed to mentoring and sponsorship of youth programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members, veterans, and their families in our communities. Our success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. This organization belongs to the people it serves and the community in which it thrives.

Commander:

Good day to our Legion Family! I want to send out a big THANK YOU to the Picnic committee. They did a great job! Also, if you didn't make it to our meeting on August 25th you missed a great turnout and super yummy taco food. We do potlucks before our general membership meeting. They are a lot of fun and taste wonderful!

We are planning our Veterans Recognition Event. Please plan on attending. It will be on November 5th. We will be honoring all Veterans this year.

I am currently on my way to Milwaukee for our American Legion National Convention. I will update everyone at our September meeting. Until then, take care of each other.

For God and Country. Dee Sasse, Commander

Fact Sheet on the PACT Act:

FACT SHEET: PACT Act Delivers on Promises to America's Veterans

Today, Congress answered our call to strengthen health care and benefits for America's veterans and their survivors by passing the bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. The PACT Act is the most significant expansion of benefits and services for toxic exposed veterans in more than 30 years.

In his first State of the Union address, President Biden called on Congress to send a bill to his desk that would comprehensively address toxic exposures that have impacted veterans, as well as their families and caregivers, and provide them with the health care and benefits they have earned and deserve. Thanks to the bipartisan leaders of the House and Senate Veterans Committees, the PACT Act does just that.

Our nation has a sacred obligation to properly prepare and equip the troops we send into harm's way – and to care for them and their families when they return home. Military service can often result in increased health risks for our veterans, and some injuries and illnesses like asthma, cancer, and others can take years to manifest. These realities can make it difficult for veterans to establish a direct connection between their service and disabilities resulting from military environmental exposures such as burn pits – a necessary step to ensure they receive the health care they earned.

The PACT Act: Delivering Critical Health Care and Other Benefits for Veterans

The PACT Act will:

To ensure veterans can receive high-quality health care screenings and services related to potential toxic exposures, the PACT Act expands access to VA health care services for veterans exposed during their military service. For post-9/11 combat veterans, the bill extends the period of time they have to enroll in VA health care from five to ten years post-discharge. For those combat veterans who do not fall within that window, the bill also creates a one-year open enrollment period. These expansions mean that more veterans can enroll in VA health care without having to demonstrate a service connected disability.

The PACT Act codifies VA's new process for evaluating and determining presumption of exposure and service connection for various chronic conditions when the evidence of a military environmental exposure and the associated health risks are strong in the aggregate but hard to prove on an individual basis. PACT requires VA to seek independent evaluation of this process as well as external input on the conditions it will review using this framework. The new process is evidence-based, transparent, and allows VA to make faster policy decisions on crucial exposure issues. This new process has already fundamentally changed how VA makes decisions on environmental exposures and ensures more veterans have access to the care they need. (cont. below)

The legislation removes the need for certain veterans and their survivors to prove service connection if they are diagnosed with one of 23 specific conditions. This greatly reduces the amount of paperwork and need for exams that veterans diagnosed with one of these conditions must complete before being granted access to health care and disability compensation, thereby speeding up their receipt of the benefits they have earned. This list includes 11 respiratory related conditions, along with several forms of cancer, including reproductive cancers, melanoma, pancreatic cancer, kidney cancer, and brain cancers such as glioblastoma. Survivors of veterans who died due to one of these conditions may now also be eligible for benefits.

To better understand the impact of toxic exposures, the PACT Act requires VA to conduct new studies of veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War and analyses of post-9/11 veterans' health trends. The new law also directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convene a new interagency working group to develop a five-year strategic plan on toxic exposure research.

Ensuring veterans get the care they need includes ensuring that they are screened for toxic exposure and that VA personnel have the appropriate education and training. The PACT Act requires that veterans enrolled in VA health care be screened regularly for toxic exposure related concerns. This new law also requires VA to establish an outreach program for veterans regarding toxic exposure related benefits and supports, and to require additional toxic exposure related education and training for VA personnel.

This bill also delivers critical resources to VA to ensure it can deliver timely access to services and benefits for all veterans eligible – including those already enrolled. The PACT Act provides VA with mechanisms to enhance claims processing and to increase the workforce. The bill also invests in VA health care facilities by authorizing 31 major medical health clinics and research facilities in 19 states.

Other recent legislation that will make it easier for Veterans to get the care that they need:

Established Presumption for Rare Respiratory Cancers: In April 2022, VA defined presumptive service connection for several rare respiratory cancers for certain veterans. Since this change, VA has been able to complete more claims for veterans and survivors involving a possible presumption of rare respiratory cancer. With VA taking steps to raise awareness of these benefits, we expect the number of claims to rise in the months ahead.

Processing Claims for New Presumptive Respiratory Conditions: In August 2021, VA began processing disability claims for asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis based on presumed exposure to particulate matter. Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other areas and who developed these conditions within ten years of military service are now eligible to apply for disability benefits and access to VA health care. Since August, VA has completed 33,276 claims, granting over 25,000 veterans and their survivors benefits for one or more conditions, leading to over \$93 million in retroactive benefit payments.

Raising Awareness of VA Benefits Related to Military Exposures: Many veterans remain unaware of their eligibility for benefits and services related to potential military exposures. Beginning in November 2021, VA launched a proactive campaign to inform and encourage veterans to file claims related to military environmental exposures.

Requiring Training for VA and Non-VA Providers: Health care providers and compensation and pension examiners sometimes do not have the training to understand or treat veterans' exposure concerns. To address this challenge, VA directed compensation and pension providers and Veterans Health Administration clinicians to complete a training module on assessing deployment related to environmental exposures. VA is also encouraging all providers who care for veterans outside of VA through the Community Care Network contract to complete training on the [TRAIN Learning Network](#), VA's publicly available training site. Furthermore, VA employees and community care providers have been directed to utilize the Exposure Ed App to help providers provide information to veterans on health effects associated with certain exposures during military service. (cont. below)

Implementing a Network of Specialized Providers and Call Center: Veterans with concerns about the health outcomes of military exposures experience inconsistent care to address these specific issues, especially outside of VA. Earlier this year, VA launched VET-HOME, The Veterans Exposure Team-Health Outcomes of Military Exposures. VA plans to hire health professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who will specialize in conducting patient assessments regarding the health effects of military exposures. By January 2023, VA expects to have a fully operational call center and network of experts to help veterans concerned about environmental exposure and provide consultative services to veterans in primary care clinics. – Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman

Finance Officer:

August Financial Report: During the month of July, Post 154 received income of \$2,717.94 and had expenses of \$1,226.78. Income was from donations to our Honor Guard (\$1,475) – indicating how many Veteran funerals they provided military honors for earlier this summer, Membership (\$1,035) representing our membership Committee’s (Bill and Helen Kinder) efforts to get renewals completed early; Donations from Rathdrum Days Booth (\$182) and a hat sale (\$25). Expenses were for membership renewals (\$960); the newly established Welcome committee materials (\$147.79 – bringing that Committee’s expenses to \$547.86), and Honor Guard expenses (\$118.99) for uniform items.

At 7/31/22 the Post has assets, including equipment and inventory, of \$85,357.83 and liabilities of \$12,360.64. As of the close of the month, our Post had a net worth of \$72,997.19.

HONOR A VETERAN AND HELP THE NEW NORTH IDAHO VETERANS HOME: The North Idaho Veterans Home is currently under construction on a 7.5 acre site in Post Falls. The Home will be available for occupancy in November of this year. At the entrance of the Home we are creating a “Walk of Honor and Appreciation”. You can honor a Veteran (living or passed) or a person currently serving in our Armed Forces, by purchasing a Brick in that walk for \$200. The Brick will be inscribed with the Veteran’s name, Branch of Service and Dates served or other messages. There are three lines on the Brick, and each line has spaces for only 16 characters. Businesses can purchase a Brick with the Business Name and a message of support for our Veterans. We have a limited number of bricks available. **If you want to order one or several bricks, please go to the IVAL website (www.idahoveteransleague.com) and go to the “Donation” page. You will see a space to print out the brick order form under the tab “Walk of Honor and Appreciation”. Send the completed form and your check to North Idaho Veterans Assistance League, Inc. Post Office Box 187, Post Falls, ID 83877.** If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Len Crosby, Treasurer, Idaho Veterans Assistance League at 208-651-0697 or crosbylenmary@frontier.com. THANK YOU! – Len Crosby, Finance Officer



Legislative Report:

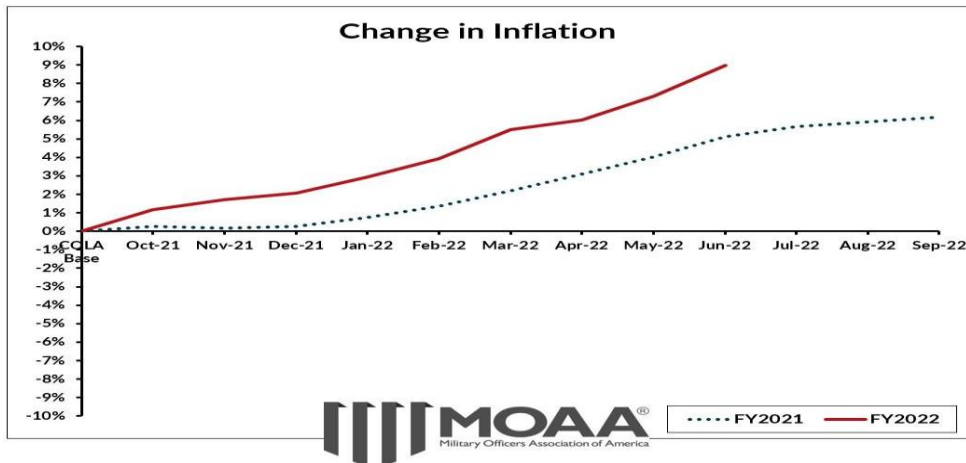
2023 Cost of Living Adjustments for Social Security and pay for military retirees and disabled Veterans could be higher: News reports describing ongoing inflation rarely provide more than a percentage or two to coincide with stock images of gas stations. For military retirees, disabled veterans, Social Security recipients, and others whose future buying power depends on a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), this issue requires a deeper dig.

The key figure for COLA-trackers is the Consumer Price Index Wages (CPI-W), a version of the Consumer Price Index designed to reflect costs faced by wage earners and clerical workers. That figure reached 288.022 in the May Department of Labor update, released June 10. This represents a projected 9.3% year-over-year increase in costs, but more important for military retirees and others, it's 7.3% above the FY 2022 COLA baseline.

The baseline is set by averaging the final three monthly CPI-W figures of the previous fiscal year (July-September). The year-over-year rise in that three-month average results in the annual COLA adjustment. While the May figures don't directly affect that calculation, they can indicate where the adjustment could be heading. The 7.3% rise from the baseline is the fourth-largest jump for the CPI-related index since 1974 and the largest since a 7.63% increase in 1980.

If the CPI-W continues to increase at the same month-over-month rate it did from April to May, military retirees and disabled Veterans could see a double-digit COLA increase in 2023, edging past 10%. **But predicting future price hikes and future COLA increases can be complicated.**

Need proof? A Social Security Administration (SSA) annual report released on June 2 of this year put the mid-level COLA estimate for FY 2022 at 3.8%, a figure far below recent increases. That estimate came from data available in mid-February. The new number projected by the Social Security actuaries, is reported to be around 8%, still well below the actual living costs over the period of April – June. Also, Congress could impact the COLA adjustment for both Social Security and Military retirement and Veterans payments based on budget constraints. **Stay Tuned!!**



Congress can save Billions of Dollars in Defense spending simply by doing its job: The 2023 fiscal year arrives in less than 80 days(9/30/22), and - barring a sudden course correction in the halls of Congress, it will AGAIN come without a fully funded government.

The American Legion and other advocacy groups have outlined the many problems caused by the regular use of continuing resolutions to keep the government's doors open as budget talks consistently drag well past the Oct. 1 deadline – not just in recent months, but frequently, as this problem repeats itself and member of Congress play political football with OUR DEFENSE BUDGET. Estimates vary, but they aren't cheap; the Government Accounting Office put the cost of a potential yearlong FY 2022 continuing resolution at \$76 billion before the eventual full-year funding finally got passed... about halfway through the fiscal year. (cont. Below)

Why does a delay do so much damage?

- **Old numbers.** The continuing resolution locks funding in at the previous year's level.
- **Old priorities.** The resolution generally prevents DoD from starting any new initiatives AND discontinuing old ones that have been proven to be overly expensive or unworkable effectively sidelining innovation and continuing funds for outdated programs.
- **Old threats.** As resolutions expire and new deadlines approach, worries of a government shutdown create even more complex problems – more layers of planning for such funding lapses lead to further waste, and while DoD-related pay usually remains steady during a shutdown, those serving in the Coast Guard and in the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA can face threatened or actual salary disruptions.
- **New prices.** The resolution doesn't account for our Country's ongoing inflation, stretching DoD accounts even further.

One might think the high cost of failing to meet the budget deadline (\$76 Billion!!) would motivate lawmakers to push authorization bills through both chambers, especially in a midterm election year, however, history suggests otherwise. And ongoing budget talks in Congress suggest history is on course to repeat itself.

What can YOU do? Send Idaho's two Senators and two Congressmen telling them that we are tired of this cycle of waste.

Senate confirms the VA Undersecretary for Health – finally filling an important post that has been vacant for almost six years: On Thursday, the Senate confirmed Shereef M. Elnahal to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by a 66-23 vote. The vote was put on the calendar Wednesday just hours after Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) chair Sen. Tester (D-MT) publicly called on his colleagues to stop blocking the vote. In a hearing on the VA's electronic health record modernization (EHRM) project, Tester expressed frustration the vote had been blocked by someone not even on the SVAC, **which had reported out the nomination unanimously.**

At the end of May, Sen. Scott (R-FL) blocked Tester's effort to confirm Elnahal by unanimous consent, saying he does not trust any of President Biden's choices, which led to an angry exchange on the floor between the two men. VA Secretary McDonough told reporters on Wednesday that he frequently tells Senators how badly the Department needs to fill that position. **This will be the first time in five-and-a-half years the Senate has confirmed someone to run the nation's largest integrated health care system.**

Senate questions VA on the failed Cerner electronic health records ("EHR") Project: VA officials faced skeptical Senators on July 20 at a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on the Cerner EHR project. A new independent estimate by the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) indicates this will **cost \$50.8 billion over 28 years**, well above the VA's previous estimates. The IDA estimate does include things the VA has never included, such as expected **loss of productivity** among health care providers following the new system's implementation and **preparing infrastructure to accept the new system.**

Senators made clear their outrage at revelations from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) that two VA employees lied to Congress and provided inaccurate information. It is unclear whether the people involved were actually VA employees or consultants, as VA officials are reluctant to speak about personnel issues in public (*Editor's Note: What horse pucky!*).

During the hearing, EHR Program Executive Director Dr. Terry Adirim said those people have been identified and held accountable. Apparently, they gave the OIG outdated and inaccurate data on testing among providers being trained on the new EHR system. The data showed passage rates of over 80%; in reality, **passage was less than 44%, and data about failures was simply eliminated.** Senators are also displeased that the VA has not implemented all of the OIG's recommendations concerning the EHR project over the past two years. Adirim told the committee that some of the recommendations take longer to implement, and others relate to past events. Senator John Tester (Montana) closed the hearing with a warning to the VA that all OIG recommendations are to be implemented, for the EHR and everything else. He promised a "come to Jesus meeting" if that does not happen. (cont. below)

In recent months, Cerner, which initially contracted with the VA and DoD, has been purchased by tech giant Oracle. A senior representative from Oracle at the hearing promised that he will be at all future hearings on the topic. He told the committee that the problems identified so far, such as the unknown queue and pharmacy ordering issues, can be readily fixed. The unknown queue issue has already been addressed, he said, and a pharmacy solution will be available to the VA for testing next month.

New 988 Veterans Crisis Hotline: VA announced veterans now have the option to **Dial 988 then Press 1** to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. "During a crisis, every second counts," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care." While [Dial 988 then Press 1](#) is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](#) or by texting 838255.

Need a wheelchair ramp, hospital bed, or other medical equipment? Veterans enrolled in the VA Healthcare system can secure these and many other medical devices and equipment through the VA Occupational Health Office. You will need a referral from your primary VA healthcare provider, but the equipment and devices are free.

New Retiree and Military Family ID Cards: Retirees and military family members who have identification cards with no expiration date can choose to upgrade to the new Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, cards whenever it's convenient -- as long as it's done within the next four years, according to the Defense Department.

There is no looming deadline for use of those old non-active duty cards without expiration dates, but the department expects to completely phase out and replace them with the next-generation IDs, which are more durable and have enhanced security features, by 2026. In the meantime, cards with expiration dates are required to be replaced within 90 days of elapsing. The Defense Department began the effort to update all those IDs to the new format in July 2020, but the changeover hit delays caused by the pandemic.

DoD plans to phase out and cancel the existing card forms in 2026 when all existing cards with an actual expiration date will have expired. After then, only the USID card will be accepted for installation and benefits access. The USID format for military retirees and dependents represents the first change to those identification cards in nearly 30 years; the last update was in 1993. The new design closely resembles the Common Access Card, or CAC, format issued to active-duty troops and department civilians.

But there was uncertainty among those with cards that list the expiration as indefinite. The IDs are needed to access military facilities and to confirm eligibility for various military benefits, so missing a deadline or losing the identification could disrupt cardholders' lives. Expired cards can be confiscated at base gates.

Those with cards with no expiration dates may have the card replaced at their convenience. The department recommends they go to the ID Card Office Online and use the office locator to find a site that issues the new cards and book an appointment. Retirees and their dependents, dependents of active-duty troops and reserve members are among those who will receive the USID cards.

The total cost of the new VA electronic medical records system could be more than triple its current \$16 Billion estimate!! A report by the Institute for Defense Analysis delivered to Congress on July 18 has found that the Oracle Cerner Millennium electronic health records system, originally estimated to cost \$10 billion and later revised to \$16.1 billion, could run \$39 billion or more if the rollout takes three years longer than anticipated, and may require another \$17 billion to sustain it over its lifetime. Total cost could exceed \$56 Billion.

During a hearing July 20 on the troubled program, members of Congress called the potential cost outrageous given that the system has been introduced at just five VA medical centers and their affiliated clinics and all have experienced problems with the software. "VA already considers the system unsafe to roll out at large complex medical centers, and the path to make it safe is unknown," said Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran, the ranking Republican on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, during the hearing. (cont. below)

According to the report, the VA's \$16.1 billion estimate does not include associated costs such as long-term maintenance, increased staffing, and funding for expanded community care while VA medical center staff learns the new system. "For nearly two years, VA's medical center staff have done all they can to provide health care to veterans in the middle of a pandemic, and with an electronic health record system that is not delivering," Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., said during the hearing.

The VA Inspector General released the results of two investigations into the health records system, finding that a portion of its design led to the effective disappearance of 11,000 medical orders or referrals, resulting in 149 cases of patient harm including one life threatening incident. **The IG also found that two VA training leaders at the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Washington, where the system premiered, provided incomplete or inaccurate information to the Office of Inspector General, hampering ongoing work by the office.**

Recent troubles at Mann-Grandstaff -- as well as outages and slowdowns across the system, including nearly 50 computer crashes or disruptions -- have resulted in implementation delays. Just before the hearing, VA Secretary Denis McDonough confirmed that a launch planned for Boise, Idaho, on Saturday had been placed on hold.

VA Caregiver Program to expand in October to Veterans of all eras: With about two months left until [a congressional deadline](#), [Veterans Affairs officials](#) said plans to expand the caregiver support program to veterans of all eras remain on schedule, even if fixes to other aspects of the program are still in limbo. Currently, the [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#) — which provides a monthly stipend to qualified full-time caregivers of seriously ill or injured veterans — is open only to veterans who served before 1975 or after 2001. But per a mandate from Congress, the program must be opened to all families by Oct. 1 of this year.

In comments to reporters, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said department leaders are on track to do that.

"We're going to expand in October," he said. "We're committed to that. It should have already been done by now, but we'll get it done by October."

About 33,000 families are enrolled in the 11-year-old program. Doubts about VA's ability to expand it have surfaced in recent months amid other caregiver program turmoil.

In 2020, in anticipation of the upcoming expansion, VA officials rewrote eligibility criteria and reviewed about 19,000 legacy participants to see if they still qualified for the benefit. Specific payout totals based on where veterans live, but generally amount to about \$3,000 a month for the full level two stipend and \$1,800 for the partial level one stipend.

Legislative Update: Breaking News: Governor Little has called a Special Session of the Idaho Legislature. The Session will be short, but there are two key issues to be addressed: The first is an income tax rebate and a tax reduction. The proposal is to amend House Bill 29902 previously passed by the Legislature to provide a tax rebate to each individual taxpayer of a minimum of \$300 (\$600 for those filing jointly) or 10% of the State income tax they paid for tax year 2021. This bill has sufficient sponsors in the House and Senate to pass, and since this is an election year for everyone running for a Legislative office, it will certainly pass. The projected cost of this is \$500 Million. Also, starting in tax year 2023, the maximum State tax rate for businesses and individuals will be reduced from 6% to 5.8%. The second issue to be addressed is the allocation of an additional \$330 Million to Schools (K-12) for in Fiscal 2024. This increase in school funding will continue and increase by 3% per year. An additional \$80 Million in funding will be allocated to Workforce Education programs at Idaho's Colleges and Community Colleges (NIC). These additional proposals total \$910 Million, and will be paid out of the State's projected Fiscal Year surplus of more than \$2 Billion. — Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman

Chaplain's Pew

In this month of September, I am believing God for Miracle and breakthrough. We serve a faithful God who gives to all generously and without reproach. Will you come into agreement with me and let us believe God for greater things to come?

Get your hope and expectation up. Hit the ground running. Don't expect anything to be handed to you. Go after what belongs to you! Are you ready to receive everything that God has for you in this month of September?

Let Us Pray. <

Heavenly Father,

Thank You Lord for keeping me through the month of August. Lord I am grateful to see the new month of September.

I declare the month of September as my month of miracle and breakthrough. I receive every blessing tied to September for my life. I declare September as my seasons of joy and celebrations I shall dance with joy and celebrate all of your

PRAY FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER!

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not



proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

- Helen Kinder, Chaplain

#PatriotDay
#NeverForget

Dentist appointment
Mon Birth
Buy Socks

September
11th
NATIONAL DAY
CALENDAR

9.11.01
PATRIOT DAY
WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Patriot Day
www.NationalDayCalendar.com

Service Officer:

The Annual Service Officer Training Conference was held at the Riverside Hotel in Boise on August 3 – 5, 2022. Approximately 80 service officers from around the state attended – certified county and state VSO's, as well as from veteran organizations such as American Legion, VFW, etc.

DAY ONE: Mark Tschapl, the Idaho Department for Veteran Services (IDVS) Chief Administrator opened the conference, bringing everyone up to date with important information. He said the Governor had \$75 million set aside for improvements to the three existing Veterans Homes in Idaho. He talked about the North Idaho Veterans Home which will have its grand opening on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022, and that it is state of the art in its design, giving credit to all who have made this possible. Mark said they have a system now that identifies all veterans in Idaho. Phones were blowing up as he spoke with news that the PACT Act has just been signed by the U. S. Senate.

The Idaho VA is set to hire 700 more employees to help process claims – over 20,000 more employees nation-wide. A VA pilot program is now in effect to screen and fast forward claims.

Other representatives from the Regional Office and Boise Vet Center spoke with updates including: 549,00 claims are currently pending nation-wide; James Earp is leaving the Idaho State Cemetery in Boise and accepting a position with the National Cemetery Administration in Washington D.C.; beware of advertisements re: claims for Camp Lejeune issues; and reminding veterans about the VERA app to help set up appointments.

Bill Heyob, IDVS Bureau Chief, was in charge of our training sessions. Our first day included classes from the VA Office of the Inspector for information on fraud; medical center travel pay training, MyVAHealth Patient Portal coverage, in addition to a class from the Idaho Department of Labor. The day concluded with Bill talking about rating hearing loss claims, and with Candi Anderson, Area Coordinator for the Idaho Department of the Air National Guard talking about Idaho Honor Guard.

DAY TWO: required lots of strong morning coffee as we kicked it hard for several hours with the gals from the Pension Management Center (PMC) in St. Paul, MN. This is where it all happens – and sometimes it takes a long time. Lots of discussion and suggestions. We had a session about VA Veterans Readiness and Employment Programs that help find jobs for disabled veterans. Our afternoon gave me a headache - types of service connection/presumptive conditions – and – combined rating table/special monthly compensation.

Example: 38 CFR 3.383 allows for comp for the combination of SC and NSC disabilities as if both are SC. 3.383 (A)(3) provides for SC for a NSC ear having hearing loss, if the hearing impairment in the SC ear is compensable to degree of 10 percent or more and there is hearing impairment in the NSC ear under 3.385. Can I have a shot of whiskey please? By now, I had much more respect and awe for the certified service officers and all they do. Our day ended with a quick lesson from the Debt Management Center. They plan to resume REFERRALS of debt to Treasury in....? Was set for September 2022, but it is on "pause". Call 1-800-827-0648 or go to www.va.gov/manage-va-debt.

DAY THREE: We were reminded of the new "988 – press 1" Veteran Crisis Line number and got a good session on suicide prevention programs, with a good suggestion to put the 988 number in your phone contacts, as well as 211 for the Idaho Care Line. We got a great class on VA special adaptive housing. Bill brought the morning to a close with ancillary benefits and the appeals modernization act.

As your Post Service Officer, I am proud to have attended the training. This would make it my third/fourth year – it's always great to see familiar and new faces and keep on top of VA changes. Thank you for allowing me this privilege.

The IDVS Quarterly Bulletin (July 2022) is now available so make sure to go online for all the latest.

- Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer

Training Officer:

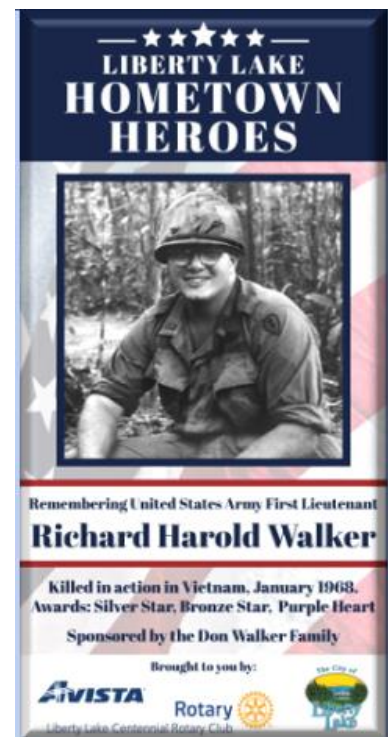
This month we are continuing with part 3 of Basic Training – History. At the August membership meeting I offered the handouts for both parts 1 and 2. The handouts for all the training that’s been given are also available [HERE](#) on our website. The handout for part 3 will be given out at the September meeting.

If you were unable to go to the June meeting and don’t know about the small bites of training I’m presenting, here’s a quick recap: I will provide the entire Basic Training course in small, easy to digest parts. Each complete section will have a short quiz at the end. There is a final test also when you’ve completed all 6 sections. If you keep each month’s segment in a notebook, you’ll have it to refer to for quizzes. When you are ready, follow the link [HERE](#) to complete basic training online and get your certificate. It should be quick and easy as you’ll have all the information and completed quizzes at your fingertips. - Jean Bledsoe, Training Officer

Liberty Lake Hometown Heroes

Our Post 154 member, Don Walker, brought the Military Hometown Heroes Banner program to Liberty Lake. Sponsors are The City of Liberty Lake, The Liberty Lake Centennial Rotary Club, and The Avista Corporation who are honoring local Veterans, past, and present, with banners placed on light standards on Country Vista Road. The first 25 banners will be installed prior to the arrival of “The Moving Vietnam Memorial Wall” to Pavilion Park on September 15, 2022.

“Do you have a Veteran, with Liberty Lake connections, that you would like to honor? Go to LibertyLakeHometownHeroes.com for information and applications. We will be adding 25 more banners to complete the 50 banner plan for Phase 1 of the Liberty Lake hometown Heroes Banner Program. - Bryan Bledsoe



Post 154 Honor Guard:

Our Honor Guard is very active. They march in parades, present the colors at ceremonies, and most importantly, provide a rifle salute to honor Veterans at their funerals. However, more members are always needed to serve in this capacity. If you are interested in participating in this very fulfilling activity, contact Todd Halvorson at keltod11@gmail.com or by phone at 509-953-0885.

This month there were 21 Military Honor ceremonies for 5 Army veterans, 3 Air Force veteran, 10 Navy veterans, 1 Coast Guard veteran and 1 Marine veteran. On Purple Heart Day they participated in ceremonies at St Thomas Catholic Church Cemetery for a new Veterans Monument and flagpole. These ceremonies collectively required 62 volunteers who drove 1280 miles and spent 257 hours to accomplish the missions.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering as an Honor Guard member, please contact Todd Halvorson at keltod11@gmail.com

- Bryan Bledsoe, Honor Guard Member

Did you know...?

The Vietnam Moving Wall is coming to Liberty Lake on September 15 – 19, 2022

The Moving Wall

A Traveling Replica is a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was devised by John Devitt after he attended the 1982 annual commemoration ceremonies celebrated in Washington for Vietnam veterans. He felt that he needed to share his experience with those who did not have the opportunity to go to Washington. Devitt, Norris Shears, Gerry Haver, and other Vietnam veterans volunteered to build the Wall. It went on display for the first time in Tyler, Texas, in October 1984. Two structures of The Moving Wall now travel the United States from April through November, spending 5 or 6 days at each site.



The Moving Wall

This article was written by our member Ruth Aresvik for the Veterans Chronicle this month. She shared it with us.

BRACELETS OF REMEMBRANCE
NATIONAL POW/MIA DAY* September 16, 2022

By Ruth Aresvik
Veterans Help Net Correspondent

I am one in 5 million. No, not the odds for winning the mega million jackpot. Not the odds that I would ever be a Space X passenger aboard the next Starship. I am one of the 5 million who wore a POW MIA bracelet between 1970 and 1976. The nickel-plated bracelets sold for about \$3 and were engraved with the name, rank, and loss date of an American serviceman captured or missing during the Vietnam War. They were first created in May 1970 by a California student group called Voices in Vital America (VIVA) so that American Prisoners of War in Vietnam would not be forgotten. Missing but not forgotten – the numbers are unfortunate and staggering. As of May 2020, The Defense POA/MIA Accounting Agency within the Department of Defense reports these figures:

- 72,598 still considered MIA from World War II
- 7,580 still considered MIA from the Korean War
- 1,587 still considered MIA from the Vietnam War
- 126 still considered MIA from the Cold War
- 6 from conflicts since 1991

In 1979, Congress and President Jimmy Carter signed a proclamation (which has been repeated annually by every United States President) establishing the 3rd Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The first observance of POW/MIA day included a ceremony at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Since then, official ceremonies happen nation-wide.

The Missing Man Table, created by the National League of POW/MIA Families, is a major part of any POW/MIA ceremony. From their website, they explain the meaning of the items on this special table as follows:

The table is round – to show our everlasting concern for our missing men.

The tablecloth is white – symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call of duty.

The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing, and of the loved ones who keep the faith, awaiting answers.

The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing.

A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The glass is inverted – they cannot share a toast.

The chair is empty – they are missing.

My bracelet showed the name of a Navy Lieutenant Commander. I was still on active duty when I learned that “my” MIA officer had returned home – safe and alive. Still, countless service members and their families have suffered – and still suffer – from the residual effects, the fears, the unknown and unanswered.

For information on field operations and recovery actions, go to www.dpaa.mil.

Post 154 will be at Center Target Sports Customer Appreciation Day



Setup for our booth is at 8 am. Doors open at 9 am and the event ends at 2 pm on Saturday September 24th.

Bring food for the Post Falls Food Bank, toys for Toys For Tots and give Blood at the Vitalant busses (there is a severe shortage of blood). Chance to win prizes including a safe, memberships, and so much more!

Sign up to help!

8am – 10 am (help setup)

10am – Noon

Noon – 2 pm (help take down)

Contact Bryan Bledsoe 509-990-6739 or bryandbledsoe@gmail.com

Center Target Sports is located at 3295 E Mullan Ave, Post Falls, ID 83854

BLOOD DONORS URGENTLY NEEDED!

All healthy donors are urged to donate now; if you've had COVID-19 and have been symptom-free for 10 days, you are eligible to donate. Whatever your COVID-19 vaccination status, you are ABSOLUTELY allowed to give blood or platelets.

Patients are facing a Blood Emergency and need our help! Vitalant's blood supply has dropped by nearly 50% since the start of the summer. Hospital demand for blood has been strong, depleting the supply as donations go out faster than they are coming in.

All eligible donors, especially those with type O blood, are needed in the coming days and weeks to ensure patients have the blood they need when they need it. Sign-up now: vitalant.org

Plus, donors previously deferred for vCJD (mad cow) risk may now be eligible under revised FDA guidelines and can help end this blood emergency.





This is also a new column. If you have anything to sell (including crafts), trade or give away, this is the place to be. Maybe you are looking for something. Another reader just might have it for you.

To start the ball rolling...

Bryan & Jean Bledsoe: 509-981-3413

- Doing some landscape renovation and looking for perennial plants and berry bushes for my yard. Anyone thinning out something? Jean

Dee Sasse 208-755-1607 Having a summer sale:

- Log Furniture bedroom set. Bed with rails, dresser and two side tables. \$350.00 (text me for more pics)



- Set of 4 studded snow tires for a Jeep Grand Cherokee with rims, used 2 seasons. \$375.00 OBO



- Wrought Iron Patio set with two other benches, one swings 500.00



- Helen Kinder 208-772-7736. If no answer, please leave a message: Searching for a used or new BBQ cover. Would like to cover the Legion flag burn barrel stored outside at the Lion's Club.

Coffee Table Talk

This is a new column also. Got any fun information to share? A trip you just came back from or a cruise you're about to take? A new grand or great grandchild? Wedding or graduation in the family? New pet? Renovating or remodeling? Anything you would find of interest, others would too. Of course, no secrets unless they are yours, in which case they won't be secrets any longer. And nothing *too* personal please!

Here's an example...

- Auntie Maude just went to Montana to visit her sister Beatrice. She took the Greyhound and stopped for Rocky Mountain oysters along the way. She was having a great time until Beatrice told her what Rocky Mountain oysters were!

Now some real news...

- Sharron McPhail said, growing up with a Swedish Grandma living right next door was the best thing that could have happened to me. Here are some of the things I learned:
 - Gardens were not an option but a necessity – a good harvest meant food for the winter.
 - Rhubarb juice was the best remedy for a cold or flu along with soaking your feet in Epson salts & wearing crocheted slippers to bed to keep your feet warm.
 - The smell of coffee brewing on the stove and fresh baked goodies were better than a "Welcome Mat".
- August was full of visits from kids, grandkids, and great grands for Bryan and Jean Bledsoe.
- Dee Sasse was elected Area A Vice-Commander, which means she covers a much larger area (District 1 & 2) and is no longer District 1 Commander. The Area Vice-Commanders serve under the Department Commander.

Easy Renewal Options

American Legion membership for 2022-2023 is underway, and membership renewal in The American Legion can easily, and safely, be done through your www.mylegion.org or on www.legion.org.

When your membership becomes eligible for renewal, a “Renew Now” button appears at the top right-hand page of your MyLegion.org account.

Click on “Renew Now” and the amount due is displayed in “My Order Balance.”

Select “Pay Now or “Renew Now” to proceed. American Legion members can renew online with a credit card. ***You can save your credit card on file for auto renewal. Credit cards will be charged by the second week of July annually for the Legion’s membership year, which runs July 1-June 30.***

To set up membership auto renewal in your MyLegion account:

1. Click Membership Details under MEMBERSHIP tab on the left-hand page.
2. Click the box “I want to auto renew my membership and authorize that my credit card be charged prior to the start of membership each year” under your current membership status.
3. Enter your credit card information and hit “New Card”
4. Select “Save” to save your future renewal.

To add or edit credit card information click “Manage My Saved Credit Cards”

RENEW ON LEGION.ORG

Members also can go to www.legion.org/renew and click “Renew Now” to safely and conveniently pay their dues. Once a member enters the information requested he or she can set the account for automatic annual renewal, as well as select the option to receive email renewal notices instead of notices through the mail. If the membership is current, he or she may still choose to sign up for automatic annual renewal and/or to receive renewal notices by email only. Automatic renewal can also be set up by calling the toll-free American Legion customer service line at (800) 4333-3318.

MYLEGION ACCOUNT

Don’t have a MyLegion.org account? Sign up now to manage your American Legion membership profile and benefits. To register, visit www.mylegion.org. It is important to know that all MyLegion.org account has on file are registered with the email on your membership record that National headquarters has on file.

2023 MEMBERSHIP CARD

In June 1923, the Americanism Commission called the first National Flag Conference in Washington, D.C., where more than 60 patriotic, fraternal, civic and military organizations gathered to create a standard set of guidelines relating to the flag – the U.S. Flag Code. The 2023 American Legion membership card celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first Flag Code drafted, which Congress adopted in 1942.

- Bill Kinder, 1st Vice-Commander, Membership Chairman



Our renewal drive is moving along at a steady pace! As of August 16th, our paid membership is at 80 of 166 for 2022. Remember membership is everyone's responsibility.

Once again, I highly recommend your use of the On-Line Renewal feature. It's fast and easy. **Go to legion.org, click renewals.** Make sure you have your ID card and credit card available for this transaction. One other thing to remember is **to not click on the Join button**, only the Renew button. Pressing the Join button places you in a Holding Post and not your active Post 154.

Please let me mention once again, when you join The American Legion through our Post the dues are \$45.00 annually. Sometimes National allows a \$25.00 annual membership fee which does not leave anything for our Idaho Department or Post 154. If you do recruit a new member please sign them up though the Post. Normally, when you join through the Post the split is \$18.00 to National, 19.50 to the Department and \$7.50 to Post 154. The \$27.00 to the Department of Idaho and Post 154 stays in Idaho to benefit our local veterans and activities. Please keep this in mind when you renew your annual dues.

New Members W · E · L · C · O · M · E

The information below was included in the August 2021 Newsletter, I thought it appropriate to send it out again.

With the passage of the Legion Act in July 2019, membership has opened for many veterans previously not eligible. The Act basically states that **any veteran that has served at least one day on Federal active duty, since December 7, 1941, is eligible to join The American Legion.** Every Post 154 member should make themselves a part of recruiting new members.

There are awards given by National for your recruiting efforts. The most common is the National Commanders Incentive pin given to those who recruit at least three new members for the 2023 year. Recruits cannot have been a member in 2022. Thank you.

Bill Kinder, 1st Vice Commander

Rathdrum Post 154

208-661-6850 or wakinder74@gmail.com

Bits & Pieces

- Want to win a car? Follow this [LINK](#) for the information and application.
- A free breakfast for veterans is scheduled 8 to 10 a.m. Sept. 17 at Lake City Church, 6000 N. Ramsey Road. The event is sponsored by the Coeur d'Alene Rotary Club. Besides the food, it is billed as a chance to "create new relationships and build new connections with other veterans in the community. Veterans working together can help combat depression and loneliness."
- [VIDEO: How PACT Act affects Post 9/11 Veterans | Afghanistan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan & More](#)
- Who Qualifies for VA Dental? In this episode of theSITREP, learn the nine ways Veterans can qualify for VA's Dental Program. [WATCH](#)
- September 10 Fund raiser for Break the Silence Suicide Walk at Riverstone Park 10 am. To register go [HERE](#).
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is proud to announce that after more than two decades of effort, at least one photo has been found for each of the 58,281 service members whose names are inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. To view and search the Wall of Faces, visit: www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces [Read More...](#)

Here are a few links to solutions for veterans:

- US Government Made Easy For Veterans
<http://www.usa.gov/index.shtml>
- VA Loan Information
http://www.directvaloans.com/VA_Loan_Programs/default.aspx?s=22&gclid=CL2p-J_zrJgCFQITswodoQFvmg
- TriCare
<http://www.tricare.mil/>
<http://www.ssa.gov/>

September is National Disaster Preparedness month. The Post 154 website has good information on what to do to be prepared. Go [HERE](#) to check it out.

The National Safety Council recommends the following general precautions that apply to many disaster situations:

- Make sure at least one family member is current in [first aid and CPR](#)
- [Download the FEMA app](#) for resources, weather alerts and safety tips
- Have a [family communication plan](#) in place; all members of the family should review and practice the plan
- Have all family members' and other important phone numbers written down or memorized. Don't depend on your cell phone for numbers
- Have an [emergency kit in your car](#) and at least [three days of food and water at home](#)
- Be sure to store all important documents – birth certificates, insurance policies, etc. – in a fire-proof safe or safety deposit box
- Know how to shut off utilities

Mark Your Calendar:

September - National Disaster Preparedness Month

September 2nd – V-J Day

September 5th - Labor Day

September 8th - Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting at 6 pm

September 10th - Fund raiser for Break the Silence Suicide Walk at Riverstone Park

September 11th - Patriot Day – 9/11 21st Anniversary – National Responder Day

September 16th - American Legion Day

September 16th - POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 17th - Veterans FREE Breakfast by CDA Rotary Club at Lake City Church 8 am to 10 pm

September 17th - Constitution Week and Citizenship Day

September 18th - 24th - Employ Older Workers Week

September 18th - Air Force Birthday

September 20th – Voter Registration Day

September 22nd - Post 154 Membership Meeting at 6 pm – Potluck 5:30 pm

September 25th - Gold Star Mother's & Family Day

September 26th - Rosh Hashanah

September 27th – National Day of Forgiveness

The Idaho Division of Veterans Services has set the date and time for the opening of the Veterans Home – Veterans Day, Nov. 11 at 2:00 p.m.

They also plan to offer tours of the Home (times to be established as we are closer to November) open to the public during the week of November 7th – November 10th. – Len Crosby, IVAL Board

A Healthier You:

September is National Blood Cancer Awareness Month. Leukemia is one of the better know blood cancers and some forms are on the list of presumptive disease in expanded areas covered in the PACT Act. Here is information about leukemia, what it is and more.

What Is Leukemia?

Cancer happens when cells in the body change. They grow out of control and don't work the way they should. Cancer that starts in blood cells in the bone marrow and spreads to the bloodstream is called leukemia.

Understanding the blood

Blood is made up of cells and fluid. The body is always making new blood cells to keep the blood healthy. New blood cells are made in the bone marrow. This is the spongy, thick liquid that's inside bones. The major types of blood cells are:

- White blood cells help the body fight infections and disease.
- Red blood cells carry oxygen from the lungs to all parts of the body. They also carry carbon dioxide back to the lungs.
- Platelets help form blood clots and stop bleeding.

To read the entire article, go [HERE](#).

Below is a posting of positions which are opening at the new North Idaho Veterans Home in Post Falls. If you know someone well qualifies who might be interested, contact:

Paul J. Spannkebel, Business Support Manager

Work: (208) 780-1322, Cell: (208) 559-7988

paul.spannkebel@veterans.idaho.gov

Administration
Home Administrator
Admission Coordinator
Admin Assistant 2
Information Systems Coordinator
HR Specialist
Fiscal
Financial Specialist
2 Financial Tech
Maintenance
Bldg Fac Foreman
2 Maint Craft Sr
Religious Services
Relig Activ Coord
Housekeeping/Inventory
Storekeeper
Physical Therapy
2 Phys Occup Ther Aide
Activities
Vol / Activ Coord

3 Rec Assistant
Dietary / Food Services
Food Serv Op Mgr
3 Cook, Senior
4 Dietary Aide, Sr
Nursing Care - DNS
Nursing Services Dir
OS1- Screener
2 OS1
Nursing Care - RN
RN Manager
13 RN Senior
RN Senior - Infection Preventionist/Occup Health Nurse
RN Senior - Staff Development Coor
RN Senior - MDS Coordinator
RN Senior - Wound Care
Nursing Care - LPN
3 LPN's
Nursing Care - CNA/Bath Aides
27 CNA's (Certified Nursing Assistants)

On September 18th, the United States Air Force celebrates its birthday.

Here are a few “fun facts” about the elite military branch that goes off into the wild blue yonder....

1. THE AIR FORCE TRACKS SANTA: On December 24, 1955, a newspaper ad told kids that they could call Santa at this given number. The number listed connected to the U. S. Air Defense Command. The colonel on duty ordered his team to give all kids Santa’s “current location.” This tradition now handles calls from over 200 countries.
2. THE AIR FORCE SHARES ITS BIRTHDAY WITH THE CIA: Both were founded on September 18, 1947.
3. IT USED TO BE THE ARMY: On August 1, 1907, the U. S. Army Signal Corps formed the Aeronautical Division, which later evolved into the U. S. Army Air Force. The National Defense Act of 1947 created an independent Air Force.
4. AN AIRMAN BROKE THE SOUND BARRIER: In 1947, then-Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in his Bell X-1 rocket powered aircraft, kicking off a race of pilots who competed to do the next big thing, eventually to outer space and a man on the moon.
5. AIRMEN WELCOME THEIR NEW COMMANDER BY STOMPING ON HIS OR HER ROOF: A “roof stomp” is an Air Force tradition where airmen welcome a new commander or celebrate a special occasion by climbing up on the commander’s roof and making noise while others are banging on the windows and doors. Kind of like an episode of “The Walking Dead” but without the zombies.
6. THEY BUILT A SUPERCOMPUTER OUT OF SONY PLAYSTATIONS: The Air Force Research Lab built a supercomputer called the Condor Cluster to analyze HD satellite imagery. The supercomputer is made up entirely of 1760 Playstation 3’s. It’s the 33rd most-powerful computer in the world.
7. AIRMEN GET HAIRER EVERY SPRING: Every year, Airmen participate in a Mustache March – a tradition where airmen grow mustaches throughout the month of March to honor USAF legend, WWII and Vietnam veteran, and triple ace Brigadier General Robin Olds.
8. AIRMEN RESPECT NORTH DAKOTA: At the height of the Cold War, North Dakota was home to so many USAF nuclear weapons that if it seceded from the Union, it would have been the third largest nuclear power in the world.
9. SOME AIRMEN TOOK THE “LIVE IN FAME” PART OF THE AIR FORCE SONG TO HEART: Johnny Cash, George Carlin, Willie Nelson, Morgan Freeman, Hunter S. Thompson, and Jimmy Stewart are just a few celebrities who were Airmen. Stewart flew missions in WW II and Vietnam and rose to the rank of Brigadier General while still working in Hollywood.
10. THE AIR FORCE HAS AN OFFICIAL BAND: They do more than Souza marches – they drop singles and shoot music videos.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AIR FORCE and thanks to all who served!

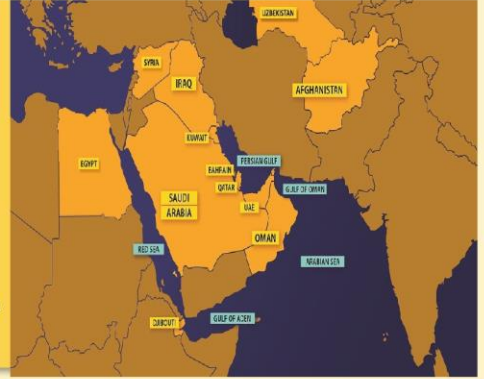
- Ruth Aresvik, Writer Extraordinaire

AIRBORNE HAZARDS

Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures

Did you serve or know someone who served in

- Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, Yemen or the airspace above any of these locations during the Persian Gulf War, from September 19, 2001, to the present, **OR**
- Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, The United Arab Emirates (UAE), or the airspace above any of these locations of operations from August 2, 1990, to the present, were exposed to:



- **Smoke and fumes from open burn pits**
- **Sand, dust, and particulate matter**
- **General air pollution common in certain countries**
- **Fuel, aircraft exhaust, and other mechanical fumes**
- **Smoke from oil well fires**

Diagnosed with one or more of these conditions

- Asthma (*that was diagnosed after service*)
- Brain Cancer
- Chronic Bronchitis
- Chronic Rhinitis
- Chronic Sinusitis
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Constrictive Bronchiolitis or Obliterative Bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Gastrointestinal Cancer
- Glioblastoma
- Granulomatous Disease
- Head Cancer of any type
- Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD)
- Kidney Cancer
- Lymphatic cancer of any type
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Neck Cancer
- Pancreatic Cancer
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Reproductive Cancer of any type
- Sarcoidosis
- Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the larynx
- Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the trachea
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type

If you are a veteran with an honorable discharge and served during the time mentioned above, and you are diagnosed with one of these conditions, you may be entitled to service-connected disability benefits from the VA.



Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures

Surviving Spouse of a Veteran?

Or

**Know a Surviving Spouse of a Veteran
Who Passed Away from One of the Conditions Above?**
(or one of the above conditions was listed as contributing
factor in the Veteran's death on the death certificate)

If you are the surviving spouse of a qualifying Veteran who passed away due to one of the conditions listed above, or due to complications from those primary conditions, you may be entitled to
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits based on the Veteran's death.

Please Call Us Today to See if You May Qualify!

Idaho Division of Veterans Services

Office of Veterans Advocacy

120 Railroad Ave.

Post Falls, ID 83854

(208) 446-1096

www.veterans.idaho.gov



Vietnam Veteran?

Or

Know a Vietnam Veteran

with One or More of the following Conditions?

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ AL Amyloidosis | ✓ Multiple Myeloma |
| ✓ Bladder Cancer | ✓ Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma |
| ✓ Chronic B Cell Leukemias | ✓ Parkinsonism or Parkinson-Like Symptoms |
| ✓ Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia | ✓ Parkinson's Disease |
| ✓ Chloracne (<i>must occur within one year of exposure</i>) | ✓ Peripheral Neuropathy, early onset |
| ✓ Diabetes ,Type II (adult -onset) | ✓ Porphyria Cutanea Tarda |
| ✓ High Blood Pressure /Hypertension | ✓ Prostate Cancer |
| ✓ Hodgkin's Disease | ✓ Respiratory Cancers (cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea) |
| ✓ Hypothyroidism | ✓ Soft Tissue Sarcomas (<i>other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma</i>) |
| ✓ Ischemic Heart Disease | |
| ✓ Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undermined Significance (MGUS) | |

If you are a veteran with an honorable discharge who served between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975 and served for any length of time in at least one of these locations you may be entitled to service connected benefits:

- In the **Republic of Vietnam**, or
- Aboard a U.S. military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam, or
- On a vessel operating not more than **12 nautical miles** seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of **Vietnam** and **Cambodia**, or
- On regular perimeter duty on the fenced-in perimeters of the U.S. Army installation in **Thailand** or **Royal Thai Air Force base**. These bases include **U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, or Don Muang**.
- **Laos** from December 1, 1965-September 30, 1969
- **Guam** or **American Samoa** from January 9, 1962-July 30, 1980
- **Cambodia** at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969-April 30, 1969
- **Johnston Atoll** or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972-September 30, 1977

Or at least one of these must be true:

- You served in or near the **Korean DMZ** for any length of time between September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971, or
- You served on active duty in a regular Air Force unit location where a **C-123 aircraft** with traces of Agent Orange was assigned, and had repeated contact with this aircraft due to your flight, ground, or medical duties, or
- You were involved in transporting, testing, storing, or other uses of Agent Orange during your military service, or
- You were assigned as a Reservist to certain flight, ground, or medical crew duties at one of the below locations: Eligible Reserve locations, time periods, and units include:

- **Lockbourne/Rickenbacker Air Force Base** in Ohio, 1969 to 1986 (906th and 907th Tactical Air Groups or 355th and 356th Tactical Airlift Squadrons)
- **Westover Air Force Base** in Massachusetts, 1972 to 1982 (731st Tactical Air Squadron and 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, or 901st Organizational Maintenance Squadron)
- **Pittsburgh International Airport** in Pennsylvania, 1972 to 1982 (758th Airlift Squadron)

AGENT ORANGE

Surviving Spouse of a Vietnam Veteran?

Or

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GET READY – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BARDENAY FUNDRAISER FOR THE MCL AUXILIARY

PAPPY BOYINGTON UNIT

SEPTEMBER 19TH, 5pm TO 9pm

Dine in or takeout orders will count toward our fundraiser during the hours we are there. We will receive 20% of the sales of food and drink between the hours of 5-9pm.

The restaurant is at 1710 W Riverstone Drive, Coeur d'Alene.

Bardenay will post our event on their Facebook page one week before our night as well as on their drink menu for September.

Wear something that represents our Marine Corps connection if you like – not required

SEE YOU THERE – BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!

The last page of this newsletter will be devoted to space for free ads for Post 154 member/business owners. If you fall into this category, contact Jean (newsletter editor) at rathdrum154@gmail.com to get your ad placed here.

We will soon have a fee structure for non-members to advertise here as well.