

MILITARY RETIREE LUNCHEON NOTES – DECEMBER 2020

SICK CALL: Bill & Carol Barnes, Sarah Baucom, Tom & Jane Benedict, Art Cohen, Richard Griswold, Donna Herman, Robert Hubbard, Erskine Lattimore, Anthony Leslie, Taras Myhowych, Gene Porter, James Shaw and Sheldon Staves are currently on our sick call list. Please keep each of them in your prayers. Please notify Tim Streb at timstreb1@gmail.com to **add** or **remove** someone from the sick call list (individuals must agree to be listed).

FINAL SALUTE: (PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FOR THE FAMILIES OF OUR DECEASED COMRADES)

- **COL RONALD T. BLAZEJEWSKI**, U.S. Army (Retired), Caledonia, NY passed away on December 10, 2020 at the age of 77. Please go to <https://alhartfuneralhome.com/.../Blazejewski.../index.php> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **MSG ROGER G. MOREY**, U.S. Army (Retired), Avon, NY passed away on December 15, 2020 at the age of 78. Please go to <https://stephenson-doughertyfuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/4460139/Morey-Roger/index.php?fbclid=IwAR2Y-KSD2RUJHHzvHhB6F6piUfaqKBOQAT4-a7HzsRmGWi3-vvKo0MZZY1II> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence
- **SFC JERRY H. FAULKNER**, Friendship, NY passed away on December 8, 2020 at the age of 88. He was the father of SGM (Retired) Jocene Faulkner Henderson. Please go to <http://www.rinkerfuneralhome.com/jerryhfaulkner.html> to read his obituary and leave a message of condolence.
- **CDR THOMAS PATRICK MALONEY**, U.S. Navy (Retired), Rochester, NY passed away on December 8, 2020 at the age of 90. Please go to <https://obits.democratandchronicle.com/obituaries/democratandchronicle/obituary.aspx?n=thomas-patrick-maloney&pid=197260476> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **ERNEST MILLER, SR.**, U.S. Navy (Retired), Rochester, NY passed away on December 18, 2020 at the age of 95. Please Go to <https://millerfuneralandcremationservices.com/obituaries/earnest-miller-sr/169/> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **LTC JOSEPH C. BALLISTER**, U.S. Air Force (Retired), Henrietta, NY passed away on December 18, 2020 at the age of 84. Please Go to <https://millerfuneralandcremationservices.com/obituaries/joseph-c-ballister/168/> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **RICHARD A. RIGHTMYER**, U.S. Navy (Retired), Greece, NY passed away on December 19, 2020 at the age of 86. Please Go to <https://meesonfamily.com/obits/richard-rightmyer/> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **MARK WOMACK**, East Ridge, TN passed away on December 25, 2020 at the age of 96. He was the father of Chaplain (COL, Retired) J. Paul Womack. Please Go to <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/east-ridge-tn/mark-womack-9965761> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.

TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A MILITARY RETIREE: Call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080, or use the form at <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/ticketInput.action?subCategoryID=18004>

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS: Any eligible veteran may receive Military Funeral Honors at the time of burial at any cemetery, free of charge. **Your funeral director is responsible for making the necessary arrangements.** Go to https://iris.custhelp.va.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/183/-/how-do-i-arrange-for-military-funeral-honors%3F for details. Funeral planners or family members of eligible deceased veterans may request Military Funeral Honors by contacting the Military Funeral Honors coordinator listed in the Military Funeral Honors Directory. The directory can be found on line at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service-providers/casualty-assistance/military-funeral-honors/> A complete list of resources for funeral directors and planners is at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service-providers/casualty-assistance/funeral-directory-and-planner-resources/>

VA BURIALS & MEMORIALS PAGE: VA burial benefits can help service members, military retirees, veterans, and their family members plan and pay for a burial or memorial service, whether in a local cemetery or in a VA national cemetery. Family members can also order memorial items to honor the service of a Veteran. The VA Burial and Memorial Products Quick Start Guide (QSG) provides clear and concise information on VA burial benefits for Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors; read the guide at <https://www.va.gov/burials-and-memorials-guide.pdf> Go to <https://www.va.gov/burials-and-memorials/#get> to find out how to apply for burial benefits and how to plan for a burial in advance or at time of need.

THE SURVIVORS OUTREACH SERVICES OFFICE (SOS): The SOS office is at Fort Dix, NJ. The SOS Support Coordinator is Susie Carter at 301-677-1221 or Susie.d.carter.civ@mail.mil Rose Mitchell can also assist at 910-598-4143 or rose.e.mitchell2.civ@mail.mil. All Rochester-area survivors should contact the Fort Dix office for assistance.

IMPORTANT CHECKLIST FOR YOUR SURVIVORS: Help your loved ones during one of the most difficult times of life by printing and filling out the 2-page checklist, and make sure they know where to find the completed checklist: <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/sites/default/files/content/docs/static/Post/CasualtyAssistanceChecklist.pdf>

NEXT MILITARY RETIREE LUNCHEON

A decision on when and where to resume the luncheons will be made at a later date. We miss each other, but we will meet again as soon as we can do it safely.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IMPORTANT – CHECK THE WEBSITE OR CHECK WITH THE POINT OF CONTACT TO SEE IF THE EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED.

VIRTUAL – U.S. ARMY FIELD BAND, SOLDIER CHORUS & JAZZ AMBASSADORES ARE ON LINE: The band is performing daily on-line concerts in place of its scheduled performances. Go to <https://www.armyfieldband.com/schedule/concert-tours> for details on how to watch them live or archived.

JAN – MAR (VARIOUS) – SUNDAY BREAKFASTS, TUESDAY DRIVE-THRU DINNERS, AND FRIDAY FISH FRY: Enjoy them at Eli-Fagan Post 1151. Go to <http://www.alpost1151.org> to find dates, times and menus.

JAN 1st – NEW YEARS DAY: A federal holiday.

JAN 7th – ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS: An Orthodox Christian holiday.

JAN 9th – SEP 18th – RESERVE & NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENT SEMINARS: **Reserve Seminars:** Virtual and in-person seminars are tentatively scheduled throughout FY 2021. These seminars are designed to ensure Retired Soldiers, current Soldiers, and their families receive information and referrals on benefits and **entitlements**, including those from Department of Veterans Affairs, TRICARE medical/dental, Social Security/Medicare, survivor benefits, retired pay, and other sources as applicable. Soldiers who have already been transferred to the retired reserve and "gray area" Retired Soldiers awaiting retirement at age 60 are encouraged to attend. Seminars are scheduled throughout the U.S., its territories, and in Asia. Go to <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/Events> for information and a complete list of seminars. Go to <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/rso?maps=nationalguard> for information on the **National Guard** Retirement Services Office.

JAN 18th – MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY: A federal holiday honoring the birth, life, and dream of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

JAN 19th – NOV 10th – JOB HIRING FAIRS: *Hiring Our Heroes Employment Workshops and Job Fairs*, including spousal fairs and net-working functions, around the country, overseas, and virtually (on-line). Go to <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/events/hiringfairs> to find an on-line activity, or for a location near you for an in-person event.

FEB 14th – VALENTINE'S DAY: Don't forget that someone special in your life.

FEB 15th – PRESIDENTS' DAY: A federal holiday. Don't forget to fly your flag.

FEB 17th – ASH WEDNESDAY: First day of Lent for Christians

MAR 14th – DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS: Clocks spring forward one hour.

MAR 17th – ST. PATRICK'S DAY: Please celebrate responsibly – Don't drink and drive.

MAR 27th – APR 4th – PASSOVER: An 8-day Jewish festival.

MAR 28th – PALM SUNDAY: A Christian Holy Day

MAR 29th – NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY: An official national observance to honor U.S. military members who served during the Vietnam War (1955-1975).

TBA – SIGNAL SOLDIER GET-TOGETHER: Former members of any signal unit are welcome and encouraged to attend these informal dinners where you can meet old friends and make new friends. Contact Kent Schneider at 585-704-1562, or email him at k131schneider@gmail.com for more information.

TBA – MILITARY RETIREE ACTIVITIES DAYS (RAD): **Retirees from all branches of service** can receive benefits information, renew ID cards, get medical checkups, and much more. Some RADs include dinners and/or golf tournaments. The dates and locations of future events have not yet been announced due to COVID-19; they will be announced on the website <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/Events>. This site includes RADs throughout the U.S. and at worldwide installations.

DATES TBA – YOUR FUNCTION: Have your military/veteran-related function listed here. Send complete information to timstreb1@gmail.com at least 10 days prior to the next luncheon for insertion in that month's notes.

VA COMMEMORATES ADDITION OF WESTERN NEW YORK NATIONAL CEMETERY

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) dedicated a new 269-acre national cemetery in Corfu, New York on November 30, 2020. The new cemetery is 20 miles east of Buffalo, and for the first time there is now a nearby VA burial option for an estimated 77,100 Veterans and their eligible family members. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5576>

WATCH OUT FOR COVID-19 VACCINE SCAMS!

As the country began to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, there's no doubt scammers are already scheming.

Here's what to know:

You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.

You can't pay to get early access to a vaccine.

Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee. Medicare covers the COVID-19 vaccine, so there will be no cost to anyone covered by Medicare. If anyone asks you to pay for access to the vaccine, or asks you to share your Medicare Number, you can bet it's a scam.

If you come across a COVID-19 vaccine scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/> or call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4273). Go to the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/> for more information on the COVID-19 vaccine.

IRS AND SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

Phone scammers continue to work hard to steal your identity and your money. In addition to fraud associated with COVID-19 and veterans' benefits, the most active have been related to social security and the IRS, including stimulus payments and changes to tax returns. Neither the IRS nor the Social Security Administration will threaten you with jail or legal action; tell you that your social security number has been suspended; tell you that you need to pay them via debit cards, gift cards, Bitcoin, cash, etc. Do not get into a conversation with anyone in an unsolicited call claiming to come from the government. Do not provide personally identifiable information over the phone. If you receive a suspicious call, (1) Do not engage them in conversation; (2) Hang Up; (3) Report Social Security scams at www.oig.ssa.gov and (4) Report other imposter scams at www.ftc.gov/complaint Recommend you read the complete story at <https://oig.ssa.gov/scam> to learn about gift card scams, government imposter scams and identity theft.

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

The Veterans Benefits Administration offers a wide-variety of benefits and services to Veterans. Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active military service means full-time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Administration or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor, the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Go to <https://www.va.gov/opa/persona/index.asp> to learn more about benefits such as: compensation and pension; education and training; home loans; insurance; burial and memorial services; and more.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY NOW OPEN

The new museum officially opened its doors to visitors on November 11, 2020, celebrating over 245 years of Army history and honors our nation's soldiers—past, present and future—the Regular Army, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. Admission is FREE, but tickets are required to ensure the most enjoyable visitor experience. Go to <https://www.thenmusa.org/> to learn more about the museum and how to obtain free tickets.

Are You a Veteran in Crisis or Concerned About One?

Did you know that VA offers same day services in Primary Care and Mental Health at 172 VA Medical Centers across the country? [Make the Connection Resource Locator](#)

Contact the [Veterans Crisis Line \(1-800-273-8255 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255.\)](#)

UP-TO-DATE NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS INFO: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

MILITARY ID CARD/DEERS OFFICES OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Note: Currently anyone entering a U.S. military facility is required to wear a face mask.

Rochester: The ID card office is located at the Rochester Reserve Center, 49 Jetview Drive, Rochester, NY 14624. Call Vera Mae Rudd-Young at **910-598-7773** to schedule an appointment for a new ID card or to update DEERS. Retirees and dependents can also make an appointment to obtain ID cards at the Navy Reserve Support Center (NRSC), 439 Paul Road, Rochester, NY through the Rapids Site Locator at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi (reservations at the NRSC cannot be made by phone).

Buffalo & Niagara Falls: You can obtain ID cards at the Connecticut Street Armory in Buffalo, NY by calling 716-888-5764, 5759 or 5787 for an appointment. At Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station call the 914th Air Refueling Wing, at (716) 236-2197; or the 107th Attack Wing, NY Air National Guard, at (716) 236-2435. Go to <http://www.niagara.afrc.af.mil/Portals/142/Documents/ID%20CARDS%20AND%20DEERS%20IMPORTANT%20INFORMATION%20w%20schedule.pdf> for schedule and additional information.

Around the World: Find the nearest ID card office on the Rapids Site Locator at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi

DOD RESPONSE TO COVID-19 - DOD ID CARDS AND BENEFITS

Complete information is available at <https://www.cac.mil/Coronavirus/>

The following guidance is in effect through June 30, 2021 for Uniformed Services ID (USID) Cards ONLY:

- If a cardholder's affiliation is unchanged, USID cards which expired on or after January 1, 2020, are authorized for continued benefit use through June 30, 2021.
- Termination of cardholder affiliation with the DoD or termination of benefit eligibility shall be verified electronically prior to confiscating an expired USID card with an expiration date on or after January 1, 2020.
- Remote USID card renewals and reissuance shall be expanded.
- Remote family member enrollment/eligibility updates are authorized.
- Remote USID card initial issuance for first-time issuance or replacement of lost/stolen ID card is authorized.
- All remotely-issued USID cards shall be issued with an expiration date not to exceed one year from the date of issuance.
- The minimum age for initial USID card issuance is increased from 10 to 14 years.
- Continued use of the Reserve USID card to obtain active duty benefits is authorized for mobilized Reservists and their eligible dependents.

NEW ID CARDS FOR RETIREEES AND DEPENDENTS

DoD is continuing to transition to a new, more secure, ID card that incorporates an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud, and are printed on plastic cardstock. Issuance of the new ID cards is being phased in. All DoD ID card facilities projected to be able to issue the new cards by the end of December 2020, but the new cards are not yet available in Rochester. New cards will not be issued solely for the purpose of obtaining the new cards. Individuals with an indefinite (INDEF) expiration date on their current ID card should wait until summer 2021 to have their new card issued. Go to <https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/> details and samples.

NOTIFY DFAS ABOUT LIFE-CHANGING EVENTS

One major reason a retiree needs to check and update his/her retired pay account is because the Survivor Benefit Plan has a number of important one-year deadlines. If a retiree gets married, loses a spouse, or has a child, and DFAS isn't notified within the one-year deadline, then a retiree may be barred from covering his/her loved one. When notifying DFAS, be sure to include supporting documents, such as birth or marriage certificates. Keeping your account up-to-date includes making sure your mailing address, email address, banking information, and your beneficiaries are current.

Updating Your SBP Beneficiary Designations: Events like divorce or remarriage change the beneficiary status of your account. If you have not notified DFAS of changes like this, you may have an invalid beneficiary designation. In the event of your death, DFAS would be required to spend time identifying and locating your rightful beneficiary, making it difficult, if not impossible, to process the benefit claim quickly, and it may create a financial hardship for your loved ones. Find out more at <http://go.usa.gov/xftby>

Failing to Update Your SBP Beneficiary Could Have Financial Consequences: If you do not inform DFAS of a divorce, you could forfeit a refund of overpaid premiums.

GET ANSWERS TO TRICARE CORONAVIRUS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

<https://www.tricare.mil/HealthWellness/HealthyLiving/Coronavirus/Coronavirus-FAQs>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CARE GIVERS

Do you provide care for a veteran? Many family members, including spouses and children, provide care for veterans. Call the **VA Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274** to learn more about the support that is available. The call and the services are free. Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed social workers who answer the support line can provide you with information about assistance available from the VA; help you access services; connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you; or just listen, if that's what you need right now. Learn more at <https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/#support-and-services-for-caregivers-of-veterans>. Go to <https://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/files/2019/08/Caregiver-Directory-2019-Edition.pdf> to access the current **Caregiver Support Directory** with thoroughly vetted resources, organizations, agencies, and programs for Veterans and Caregivers regarding childcare, education and training, healthcare needs, legal assistance, rest and relaxation, peer support, mentoring, and much more. You can also order a hard copy of the directory by sending an email to OSD.Caregiver@mail.mil

WITH TRICARE, HELP FROM A NURSE IS JUST A CALL AWAY

With the impact that COVID-19 and social distancing is having on everyday life, you may be unsure how to get the care you need for any medical concern. With TRICARE and the Military Health System Nurse Advice Line, you can. Go to https://tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/04_21_2020_-_With_TRICARE_Help_From_a_Nurse_is_Just_a_Call_Away to read the article.

ONLINE HEALTH LIBRARY AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS

Veterans have access to a 24/7 on-line health library that provides information and education about treatments and conditions offered by VA. The Veterans Health Library (VHL) has over 1,500 health sheets and 150 videos in both English and Spanish. It gives Veterans access to health information to help them make informed decisions on their care. Go to <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/68702/online-health-library-available-veterans/> for more information.

2021 MEDICARE HANDBOOK

The **2021 Medicare & You eHandbook** is now available at <https://www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/medicare-you-handbook/download-medicare-you-in-different-formats> in PDF, large print PDF, eBook, and Audio. It is also available in braille, as well as a paper copy, by calling 1-800-633-4227.

TRICARE HEALTH MATTERS NEWSLETTER - 2020 ISSUE 4 IS NOW AVAILABLE

Learn more about how to get health care, telehealth appointments, and prescriptions during COVID-19. Some of the articles you can read in the latest issue of the TRICARE Health Matters Newsletter:

- TRICARE Responds to the COVID-19 Crisis
- Pharmacy Options: Filling Prescriptions When Social Distancing
- Getting Care During COVID-19
- Staying Mentally Fit at Home

Download the latest TRICARE newsletter at www.tricare.mil/publications (Note: The November 2020 luncheon notes announced the availability of issue 3).

FIND HEALTH CARE SERVICES NEAR YOU

You can now review and compare health care services all in one place. *Care Compare* will give you personalized results about doctors, hospitals, and other health care services in your area. Use it on your computer, tablet or smartphone. With *Care Compare*, you can get contact information, directions, and compare quality and/or star ratings for:

Doctors & other providers – Hospitals - Local nursing homes - Hospice & home health agencies - Dialysis facilities - Inpatient rehabilitation centers - & long-term care hospitals

Check out *Care Compare* at https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/?utm_campaign=20200909_emd_cc_gal&utm_content=english&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery Watch a short video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hs72jFEOalk#utm_campaign=20200909_emd_cc_gal&utm_content=english&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery to learn more.

FIND VA LOCATIONS NEAR YOU

You can search for your nearest VA medical center as well as other health facilities, benefit offices, cemeteries, community care providers and Vet Centers with the facility locator tool. You can also filter your results by service type to find locations that offer the specific service you're looking for, including links to VA approved Urgent Care facilities and pharmacies at https://www.va.gov/find-locations?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VAntage??

WHAT IS TRICARE FOR LIFE? A LOT OF QUESTIONS – A LOT OF ANSWERS

You can learn a lot from just a short document by reading the *Questions and Answers Addendum from August 20 Webinar: "What is TRICARE For Life?"* at file:///C:/Users/timo/Downloads/TRICARE_Webinar_August_20_What_is_TRICARE_For_Life_Questions_and_Answers_Addendum.pdf

WHAT YOUR LOVED ONES SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU DIE

Help your loved ones be prepared for when you die. Talking to your family about this topic beforehand is a way to show that you care, and it will help to ease the burdens they may face. You need to know what to discuss, so go to <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter/benfyshknow.html> for more information.

ACCESS TO IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Request your military service records (including DD 214). Submit a military records request to get your DD 214 or other military service records through the milConnect website. Go to <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/> for complete information and instructions.

Military Medical Records: Veterans and next-of-kin may request clinical and medical treatment records on line via the National Archives at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

Military forms and publications: Go to <https://www.marines.mil/News/Publications> to access military forms

Veterans Benefits: Go to <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage> to learn about VA benefits, including disability compensation, health care, education benefits, pension benefits, employment benefits, and vocational rehabilitation. The ***Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents & Survivors Handbook*** can be found at https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

UNIFORMED SERVICES RETIREE RESOURCES

Military retirees can find valuable service-specific resources at the following websites:

Army - <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/>

Army (Retirement Planning Guide) -

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/2020%20US%20Army%20Retirement%20Planning%20Guide.pdf>

Air Force - <https://www.retirees.af.mil/>

Navy - https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/retired_activities/Pages/default.aspx

Marine Corps - <https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/hrom/Benefits/Retirement-Benefits/>

Coast Guard - <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Pay-and-Personnel-Center-PPC/>

VETERANS MEMORIAL COUNCIL OF ROCHESTER AND MONROE COUNTY

The Council is seeking donations to have a Solar Panel Lighted Flag Pole with a base and two plaques constructed at *Rapids/Congress Avenue Cemetery* in Rochester, NY. Veterans are buried here from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, and Spanish American War. The cemetery was overgrown and in sad disrepair when volunteers, including veterans, students, Boy Scouts and others came to the rescue. Please contact Al Smith at 585-544-2839 or AlfredESmith@MAC.com to make a donation or for more information.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Korean War Veterans Chapter 58, the Korean Community of Greater Monroe County, and the Air Force Association Chapter 308 are conducting a joint fundraiser to construct a memorial at the Rochester Community War Memorial in Rochester, NY to recognize those who died and suffered in the Korean War. Please contact Roger Hill at 585-594-1221, or Al Smith at 585-544-2839 or AlfredESmith@MAC.com to make a donation or for more information.

RETIREE AND ANNUITANT PAY DATES

The following is the DFAS schedule of retiree and annuitant pay dates for the remainder of 2020, and for 2021. This schedule shows the dates when you should expect to see the payment deposited into your account. For more information, go to <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/manage/payschedule.html>

*VA education, compensation, pension, and survivor's benefits are paid on the same dates as retiree payment dates below.

Entitlement Month	*Retiree Payment Dates	Annuitant Payment Dates
November 2020	December 1, 2020	December 1, 2020
December 2020	December 31, 2020	January 4, 2021
January 2021	February 1, 2021	February 1, 2021
February 2021	March 1, 2021	March 1, 2021
March 2021	April 1, 2021	April 1, 2021
April 2021	April 30, 2021	May 3, 2021
May 2021	June 1, 2021	June 1, 2021
June 2021	July 1, 2021	July 1, 2021
July 2021	July 30, 2021	August 2, 2021
August 2021	September 1, 2021	September 1, 2021
September 2021	October 1, 2021	October 1, 2021
October 2021	November 1, 2021	November 1, 2021
November 2021	December 1, 2021	December 1, 2021
December 2021	December 30, 2021	January 3, 2022

TAX STATEMENTS FOR 2020: IRS Forms 1099 for Tax Year 2020 for Military Retirees and Annuitants are now available on *myPay*. IRS Forms 1095 for military retirees will be available Jan 31, 2020 on *myPay*.

2021 COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA): Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index, there was a 1.3 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for most **retired military pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities** effective Dec. 1, 2020. Retirees will see the change in their Dec. 31, 2020 payment and annuitants in their Jan. 4, 2021 payment. The increase also applies to VA Disability Pay, Social Security, and Federal Civil Service Retirees. Go to <https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/> to see the new VA disability compensation rate tables.

YOUR MYPAY ACCOUNT: Your life will be much easier if you have a *myPay* account. If you have never created a *myPay* account, or if you have problems remembering your account login ID or password, customer service is available Mon-Fri, 8 am to 5 pm ET. Call 1-800-321-1800, Option 1. Go to <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html> for 24-hour service.

DFAS RETIREE NEWSLETTER: **The December 2020 Newsletter is now available.** The newsletter contains important information for all Military Retirees, Annuitants and Former Spouses, including: federal income tax changes; reporting the death of a retiree; obtaining missing records and awards; and more. Go to the DFAS web site at <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter.html> for the link to review **the December 2020 DFAS Retiree Newsletter**, plus earlier editions going back to March 2020.

ARMY ECHOES

Army Echoes is the official newsletter for Retired Soldiers, Surviving Spouses, and their families. **The new Oct 2020 – Jan 2021 issue is now available** at <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/echoes/latest.pdf>

IF YOU KNOW A VETERAN IN CRISIS, contact the **Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255 and press 1, or Text 838255.)**

USEFUL INTERNET LINKS

198th Army Band Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/198thArmyBand/?fref=ts>
198th Army Band Website <https://www.bands.army.mil/organizations/pages/default.asp?unit=198AB&p=history>
391st Regimental Officers Association: <https://www.facebook.com/391st-Regimental-Officer-Association-501827566885313>
98th Division Alumni Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/98th-Division-Alumni-924978704255065>
98th Division World War II Website: <http://www.98div.com/index.html>
AAFES Homepage: <https://www.shopmyexchange.com>
Access to Members of Congress: <https://www.congress.gov/members>
Air Force Retiree Newsletter *The Afterburner*: <https://www.retirees.af.mil>
Airman, Official Magazine of the U.S. Air Force: <http://airman.dodlive.mil>
All Hands, the official magazine of the U.S. Navy - http://www.navy.mil/ah_online
Armed Forces Vacation Club: <http://www.afvclub.com>
Army Bands: <http://www.music.army.mil/organizations>
Army G1: <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retirees.asp>
Army Reserve Family Programs: <http://www.arfp.org/skins/ARFP/home.aspx?mode=user>
Army Retirement Services: <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/home>
Cell Phones for Soldiers: <http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com>
Commissary Locator: http://www.commissaries.com/store_locator.cfm
Compeer Corps – Veterans Helping Veterans: <https://www.compeerrochester.org/compeercorps>
Dogs on Deployment: <http://dogsondeployment.org>
DFAS: <http://www.dfas.mil>
Exchange (PX) Homepage: <https://www.shopmyexchange.com>
Express Scripts (Drug Prescriptions): <https://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/index.shtml>
Federal Benefits for Vets, Dependents and Survivors: https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp
Federal Job Search: <http://www.fedjobs.com/index.html?id=68kVqxhF>
Fort Drum Home Page: <http://www.drum.army.mil/Pages/index.aspx>
Fort Drum Retirement Services: <https://home.army.mil/drum/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-human-resources/MPD/retirement-services-office-rso>
Fort Drum Telephone Directory: <http://www.drum.army.mil/Lists/Phone%20Numbers/PhoneDirectory.aspx>
Genesee Valley Chapter, Military Officers Association of America: <http://gvcmoaa.org>
Help Base Greater Rochester: <https://www.facebook.com/Hbrochester>
Honor Flight Rochester: <http://honorflightrochester.org>
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs: <http://veterans.house.gov/about>
Identity Theft (Federal Trade Commission): <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft>
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America: <http://www.IAVA.Org>
Job Fairs: <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/events/hiringfairs>
Military Forms and Publications: <http://www.marines.mil/News/Publications>
Military History Society of Rochester Museum: <https://www.rochestermilitary.com>
Military Lodging: <http://www.dodlodging.net>
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA): <http://www.moaa.org>
Military Retiree Appreciation Days (RAD): <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>
myPay: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>
National Museum of the United States Army: <https://www.thenmusa.org>
National Parks & Federal Recreation Lands Passes: <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html>
National Resource Directory: <https://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov>
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>
New York State Real Property Tax Exemptions: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/exemption/index.htm>
Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station: <https://www.niagara.afrc.af.mil>
Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station Retiree Office: <https://www.niagara.afrc.af.mil/Units/Retirees.aspx>
Pets for Vets: <https://www.petsforvets.com>
Project New Hope: <http://projectnewhope.net>
Red Cross (Rochester, NY): <http://www.redcross.org/ny/rochester>
Reserve Officers Association: <http://www.roa.org/site/PageServer>
Rochester NY Veterans: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1426709074303176>
Scam Detector: <http://scam-detector.com>
Social Security Administration: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>
Soldiers, the official magazine of the U.S. Army - <http://soldiers.dodlive.mil>
TRICARE: <http://www.tricare.mil>
U.S. Militaria Forum: <http://www.usmilitariaforum.com>
Valor Radio: <http://www.valor-radio.com> and <https://www.facebook.com/ValorRadio>
VA Benefits: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>
VA Vet Centers: <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov>
Veterans Administration (VA): <http://www.va.gov>
Veterans Crisis Line: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/hotline>
Veterans Outreach Center: <https://veteransoutreachcenter.org>
Veterans Ticket Foundation: <http://www.vettix.org/events.php>
Veteran's Service Records (DD214/SF180): <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>
Virtual Wall Vietnam Veterans Memorial: <http://www.virtualwall.org/index.html>
WNYHeroes: <https://www.wnyheroes.org>
DO YOU HAVE A USEFUL INTERNET LINK TO ADD? Please send useful links, as well as issues encountered with any of these links, to timstreb1@gmail.com