

MILITARY RETIREE LUNCHEON NOTES – MAY 2021

SICK CALL: Tom & Jane Benedict, Doug Brown, Art Cohen, David Conboy, Vicky Cook, Richard Griswold, Donna Herman, Robert Hubbard, Anthony Leslie, Bernice Rappl, 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)

- **JOAN A. DAMICK**, wife of Colonel Peter Damick (U.S. Army, Ret.), Webster, NY passed away on January 30, 2021 at the age of 86. Please go to <https://willardhscott.com/tribute/details/4191/Joan-Damick/obituary.html#tribute-start> to read her obituary and leave a message of condolence.
- **CW4 PATRICK A. PATTERSON**, U.S. Army (Retired), Niagara Falls, NY passed away on April 26, 2021 at the age of 64. Please go to <https://www.lanefuneralhome.com/obituary/patrick-patterson> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **MARIE D. CAMPBELL**, wife of the late Colonel Bruce B. Campbell (U.S. Army, Ret.), Penfield, NY passed away on April 27, 2021 at the age of 96. Please go to <https://www.anthonychapels.com/obituaries/Marie-D-Campbell?obld=20942939#/obituaryInfo> to read her obituary and leave a message of condolence for the family.
- **COL ANTHONY J. LAFORNARA, JR.**, U.S. Army (Retired), Kenmore, NY passed away on May 6, 2021 at the age of 79. Please go to <https://www.amigone.com/obituaries/Anthony-J-Laforanara-Jr?obld=21038619#/obituaryInfo> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **LTC ARTHUR M. VAN TYNE**, U.S. Air Force (Retired), Wellsville, NY passed away on May 10, 2021 at the age of 95. Please go to <https://embser.blogspot.com> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **CW4 CHARLES H. "CHARLIE" PRICE, JR.**, U.S. Army (Retired), Henrietta, NY passed away on May 16, 2021 at the age of 98. Please go to <https://melatimerfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/700/Captain-Charles-Price-Jr/obituary.html#content-start> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **SSGT GERALD C. SIMMONS**, U.S. Air Force (Retired), Rochester, NY passed away on May 19, 2021 at the age of 77. Please go to <https://millerfuneralandcremationservices.com/obituaries/?id=380> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **MSG JOSEPH L. MEADE, SR.**, U.S. Army (Retired), Belmont, NY passed away on May 22, 2021 at the age of 58. Please go to <https://embser.blogspot.com> 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: The National Defense Act of 2000 ([Public Law 106-65](#)) authorizes Military Funeral Honors to Active Duty Soldiers, Retirees and Veterans. Under the law, at a family's request, every eligible veteran will receive military funeral honors, to include the presence of a military funeral honors detail, which will oversee folding and presenting the U.S. flag and playing "Taps". **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. 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/>

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.

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-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.

NEXT MILITARY RETIREE LUNCHEON – SAVE THE DATE !!!

READY – SET – GO! The current plan is to re-start our military retiree luncheons on Thursday, **August 19, 2021** at the Diplomat Event Center, 1956 Lyell Ave., Rochester, NY 14606. Current restrictions are not conducive to proper planning, but anticipated changes should make it possible to properly plan for all to attend in August. We will use the months of June and July to ensure we have the necessary volunteers, determine the cost, prepare the paperwork, identify special requirements (if any), and determine attendees. Please keep the date open, and please be prepared to answer as to whether or not you plan to attend as we will need to get an accurate headcount. Thank you for your cooperation. Details will be announced as soon as possible. **We look forward to seeing everyone again on August 19th.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

JUN 1st – DEC 21st – 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 or an in-person event.

JUN 6th – CHICKEN BARBECUE: The Monroe-Powers Chapter 15 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will have a Chicken BBQ fundraiser at the **Eli-Fagan-Stevens-Connor Post 1151**, 260 Middle Road, Henrietta, NY 14467 on Sunday, June 6th from 1 pm until gone. For a \$10 donation you will receive ½ BBQ chicken, baked beans and macaroni salad. This will be a drive through meal, but there will be picnic tables & canopies set up if you would like to park and eat.

JUN 11th - 14th – VOC FLAG DAY CAMPAIGN: Volunteers and donors are needed for this annual Veterans Outreach Center campaign. See article on page 3 for information on how to participate and/or volunteer.

JUN 12th – SEP 18th – RESERVE & NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENT SEMINARS: **Reserve Seminars:** Virtual and in-person seminars are scheduled throughout 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 an up-to-date list of seminars. Go to <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/retiree-appreciation> for information on the **National Guard**.

JUN 14th – HAPPY 246TH BIRTHDAY TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY

JUN 19th – MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR COL (Ret.) RON BLAZEJEWSKI: See article on page 3.

JUN 20th – FATHER'S DAY

JUN 22nd – ESH OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT: Caledonia Country Club, 303 Park Place, Caledonia, NY 14423. Registration at noon. All proceeds go to support the Veterans in the Pembroke and Spencerport Eagle Star Homes and for future projects for housing Veterans. Go to <https://eaglestarhousing.com/golf-tournament/> for complete details and registration form.

JUN 26th – GOLF TOURNAMENT: The Ferris Goodridge American Legion Post 330 Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Timber Ridge Golf Club, 7061 West Ridge Rd., Brockport, NY 14420. Tee Time 1 p.m., Shotgun Start. Only \$70 per person, includes golf, beer, lunch, and steak dinner. You can sign up at the club at 691 Trimmer Rd., Spencerport, NY 14559, or call 585-352-6691 to reserve a spot.

JUL 4th – INDEPENDENCE DAY: DON'T FORGET TO FLY YOUR FLAG

AUG 19th – MILITARY RETIREE LUNCHEON: See details on page 1.

AUG 21st – TECHNOLOGY RAFFLE: 3 pm, Eli-Fagan-Stevens-Connor American Legion Post 1151, 260 Middle Road, Henrietta, NY 14467. Tickets are only \$10 and are available at the post bar and from members of the post. See details on page 3.

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. There are no RADs currently scheduled. The website <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/Events> will include RADs throughout the U.S. and at worldwide installations once they are scheduled.

DATES TBA – YOUR FUNCTION: Have your military/veteran-related function listed here. Send complete information to timstreb1@gmail.com no later than the 20th of the month for insertion in the notes.

ARMY ECHOES

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR COLONEL RON BLAZEJEWSKI

There will be a short memorial service for Colonel Ronald "Blaze" Blazejewski on June 19, 2021 at the First Presbyterian Church, 3080 West Main St., Caledonia, NY at 1 p.m. The service will be followed by a luncheon at the Caledonia Country Club, 303 Park Place, Caledonia, NY 14423. Save the date! More details will be provided on the 98th Division Alumni Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/98th-Division-Alumni-924978704255065>

TECHNOLOGY RAFFLE - 3 P.M., AUGUST 21, 2021

Eli-Fagan-Stevens-Connor Post 1151, 260 Middle Road, Henrietta, NY 14467

Drawings will be conducted in the Post Hall and will be live-streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost1151> Ticket holders wishing to attend may do so, but any COVID restrictions in effect at that time will be enforced. Tickets are only \$10.00 and will be eligible to win any, some, or all of the 20 prizes listed below. Winners will receive the actual "prize"; there will be no gift cards or substitutions. Winners will be notified immediately as they are identified and arrangements made to claim their prize. All prizes must be claimed by September 26th. Tickets are available now at the post bar and from post members, and will be available until 3 pm on August 21st.

PRIZES: 1. Apple iPad Air, 32GB WiFi only; 2. Carson Night Vision Monocular; 3. Fire HD 10 Tablet, 10.1", 32GB; 4. Arlo Pro 3 Wire Free Camera Kit; 5. Dell Latitude E6430 14" Laptop; 6. HP 22" AIO R3 Touch Desktop PC; 7. Ring Video Doorbell 3; 8. HP OfficeJet Pro 8025 AIO Printer; 9. Samsung Galaxy Tab A7 10.4"; 10. Epson WF2850 AIO Printer; 11. Acer Aspire 3 Laptop 17.3"; 12. Acer Chromebook Convertible 11.6"; 13. Bose Sport Earbuds, Wireless; 14. GoPro Hero7 Action Camera; 15. Google Nest Smart Speaker; 16. HP 11.6" Chromebook; 17. Samsung Chromebook 11.6"; 18. Doss Soundbox Wireless Speakers; 19. Microsoft Surface Go2 10.5" Touch; and 20. Samsung 40" Smart LED TV

VOC FLAG DAY CAMPAIGN - JUNE 11th - 14th

The Rochester, New York **Veterans Outreach Center** is asking for your help this season as it looks ahead to Flag Day. The center is asking for volunteers to help with its Flag Day Campaign. to distribute American flags and help raise funds for veterans in need. This year's campaign runs from June 11-14, and the VOC will have Flag Day locations at a number of sites around the Rochester area. Go to <https://veteransoutreachcenter.org/flag-day-2021> for more information on how to participate or volunteer.

MILITARY ID CARD/DEERS OFFICES OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

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 schedules and additional information.

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

UPDATE ON ID CARDS FOR RETIREEES AND DEPENDENTS

ID cards that expired on or after January 1, 2020, are authorized for use through June 30, 2021. However, retirees and dependents with expired ID cards are encouraged to make an appointment for a new ID card as soon as possible to avoid the anticipated rush in June and beyond. The new, more secure, ID card incorporates an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud, and are printed on plastic cardstock. They are now available in most ID card issuing offices, including in Rochester, NY. 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 later this summer to have their new card issued. Go to <https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/> details and samples. Complete information on the DOD response to COVID-19 is available at <https://www.cac.mil/Coronavirus/>

DAV OFFICE HOURS IN HENRIETTA, NY

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) claims office located at the Rush-Henrietta American Legion, 260 Middle Road in Henrietta, NY is manned on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 4 pm. To schedule an appointment or if you have questions, call George Sander, DSO, 585-362-1991 or Shannon Sander, DSO, 585-752-2765. Go to <https://www.dav.org/veterans> to see what DAV can do, and to find a location near you.

TRICARE HEALTH MATTERS NEWSLETTER - 2021 ISSUE 1 IS NOW AVAILABLE

Learn more about how to get health care, telehealth appointments, and prescriptions during COVID-19. Both East and West editions of the latest TRICARE newsletter are available at www.tricare.mil/publications (Previous editions are also available on this website)

VA AND MEDICARE COVER THE COVID-19 VACCINE AT NO COST TO YOU

You pay nothing for the COVID-19 vaccine. You won't pay a deductible or co-payment, and your provider can't charge you an administration fee to give you the shot. If you are not covered by Medicare, the **VA is now providing COVID-19 vaccinations to all Veterans, their spouses and caregivers** under the provisions of Public Law 117-4 (SAVE LIVES Act). Go to <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5649> to see how the VA is implementing this new law.

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. 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=hs72jFE0alk#utm_campaign=20200909_emd_cc_gal&utm_content=english&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery to learn more.

FIND VA LOCATIONS NEAR YOU

Search for your nearest VA medical center and other health facilities, benefit offices, cemeteries, community care providers and Vet Centers with the facility locator tool. You can filter your results by service type to find locations that offer specific services, 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??

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.

HOW TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE

How do I prepare before starting my application? Click here to find out if you are eligible for VA health care benefits: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/> and then gather the documents that you'll need to fill out an *Application for Health Benefits* (VA Form 10-10EZ)

What documents and information do I need to apply?

- DD Form 214 (or other separation documents)
- Your most recent tax return
- Social Security numbers for yourself and your qualified dependents
- Account numbers for any current health insurance you already have (like Medicare, private insurance, or insurance from your employer)

How do I apply? You can apply online right now at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/>

COMPEER ROCHESTER AND OASIS ADAPTIVE SPORTS HAVE MERGED

Merger offers costs savings and expansion of services for veterans

On February 15, 2021, *Compeer Rochester* announced its merger with the Honeoye, NY-based *OASIS Adaptive Sports, Inc.* This merger will allow CompeerCORPS to expand services in the region by including outdoor adventures for veterans with disabilities. All services are free of cost to qualified veterans.

CompeerCORPS is the Veteran-run arm of Compeer connecting Veterans of all branches and service eras in group activities, recreation, and transportation services. **OASIS (Outdoor Adventures for Sacrifice in Service) Adaptive Sports, Inc.**, is a non-profit organization offering instruction, equipment, and support to disabled military veterans in a variety of sports activities. Established in 2009, its mission is to provide disabled veterans the instruction, equipment, and support to participate in outdoor recreational experiences, and thereby to help them regain their physical and mental health and aid their transition back into the mainstream of life. Go to <https://www.compeerrochester.org/compeercorps> and <https://www.compeerrochester.org/oasis> for complete information.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY RETIREEES & VETERANS

Military retirees and veterans are eligible to receive legal assistance where and when it is available. Types of assistance available varies by location, and may be limited due to COVID-19.

Legal Clinics in VA Facilities: <https://www.va.gov/ogc/docs/LegalServices.pdf>

Legal Assistance at Military Installations: Most military installations have legal assistance attorneys who are available for consultation and assistance on personal legal problems of a civil nature. This assistance is available to Retired Soldiers and their eligible family members. Assistance is not given in connection to business pursuits. To find the closest legal assistance office, use Resource Locator on **MyArmyBenefits** or visit <https://legalassistance.law.af.mil/>

Legal Help from Non-Military Sources: <https://www.statesidelegal.org/stateside-map>

SURVIVORS AND BURIAL BENEFITS KIT

Help Your Loved Ones to be Prepared

The VA offers a *Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit* to assist Veterans and their families with pre-need planning. The kit includes a guide through possible end-of-life and survivors' benefits eligibility and makes it easy to keep your personal information all in one place for you and your loved ones. The Kit gives a description of each burial benefit, instructions on how to apply, and where to go to get assistance.

The Planning Your Legacy: VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit covers:

- Pre-need eligibility for National Cemetery burial or memorialization
- Memorial or burial flags
- Government headstones or markers
- Medallions
- Presidential Memorial Certificates (PMC)
- Burial benefits and burial automatic payments
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Dependents Educational Assistance Program (DEA)
- Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship
- Survivor's pension
- Special monthly pension benefits
- The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMP-VA)
- Home loan guaranty
- Veterans Month of Death benefits
- VA life insurance

Other features include tips on how to fill out applications with examples of completed forms. These tips and examples give applicants a better understanding of how to properly fill out applications.

The VA encourages Veterans and service members to discuss their military service with their dependents, as well as planning their legacy. Families and survivors should know where to locate service medical records, discharge documents, VA disability ratings, and other information. These details will be beneficial to survivors as they prepare to apply for VA benefits. Families and survivors should keep this kit in storage so that it will be available when needed. Download the kit at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/VASurvivorsKit.pdf>

VETERANS BENEFIT ADMINISTRATION (VBA)

The VBA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs responsible for administering the department's programs that provide financial and other forms of assistance to veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Major benefits include Veterans' compensation, Veterans' pension, survivors' benefits, rehabilitation and employment assistance, education assistance, home loan guaranties, and life insurance coverage. The agency's website is <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits>

RETIRED SOLDIER HANDBOOK – NEW 2021 ISSUE

This handbook has 14 chapters containing 65 pages of information and references that are important for all U.S. Army military retirees. **Please note that much of the information in this handbook pertains to retirees of all branches of the U.S. Military.** Go to <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/SBP/2021%20US%20Army%20Retired%20Soldier%20Handbook.pdf> to see what is in the handbook and to download it for future reference.

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

MILITARY 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/>

THE NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER RE-OPENING

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NPRC had been closed and only completing emergency requests. On March 8, 2021, the NPRC began a phased expansion of its on-site workforce. While increasing its on-site staffing, it is servicing requests associated with medical treatments, burials, and homeless veterans seeking admittance to a homeless shelter. Please refrain from submitting non-emergency requests such as replacement medals, administrative corrections, or records research until it returns to pre-COVID staffing levels. More information can be found at <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center>

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.

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? Find the nearest VA resource through the [Make the Connection Resource Locator](https://www.maketheconnection.net/resources) at <https://www.maketheconnection.net/resources> -or- contact the Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255.)

RETIREE AND ANNUITANT PAY DATES

The following is the DFAS schedule of retiree and annuitant pay dates for the remainder of 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 |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |

MYPAY TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION IS NOW MANDATORY

myPay's Two-Factor Authentication became mandatory for all myPay accounts on April 27, 2021. When accessing your account on or after that date you are required to select your preferred method (mobile phone or email) to receive a random one-time PIN when using your Logon ID and password. More information on myPay's Two-Factor Authentication is available at <https://www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo/2FA/>

TAX STATEMENTS FOR 2020: IRS Forms 1099 and 1095 for Tax Year 2020 for Military Retirees and Annuitants are available on myPay. REMINDER – The IRS extended the due date for filing Tax Year 2020 income tax returns - **the new deadline for filing was May 17, 2021.**

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 March 2021 Newsletter is now available. The newsletter contains important information for all Military Retirees, Annuitants and Former Spouses. Go to the DFAS web site at <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/newsletter.html> for the link to review the March 2021 DFAS Retiree Newsletter, plus earlier editions going back to March 2020.

RETIREMENT & ANNUITANT PAY: Everything you need to know about retirement pay and annuitant (survivors’) pay can be found at <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/>

NOTIFY DFAS ABOUT LIFE-CHANGING EVENTS

Retirees need to check and update their retired pay account as appropriate. 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. Keeping your account up-to-date includes making sure your mailing address, email address, banking information, and your beneficiaries are current. **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. 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, failure to have an updated account could create a financial hardship for your loved ones. Find out more at <http://go.usa.gov/xftby>

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>
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>
DRAGONMAN Museum: <https://dragonmans.com/museum-videos>
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://gvcmooa.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