

MILITARY RETIREE LUNCHEON NOTES – OCTOBER 2021

SICK CALL: Milton Banks, Tom & Jane Benedict, Doug Brown, Art Cohen, David Conboy, Steven David, Richard Griswold, Donna Herman, Edward Kazdan, Anthony Leslie, Stacy Lundy, Rodney Pierson, Bernice & Norbert Rappl, Michael & Josie Rhodes, Vera Mae Rudd-Young, James Shaw, Sheldon Staves and Chaplain Walter Steenson 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)

- **CPT RICHARD J. KIEVIT**, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), Pittsford, NY passed away on August 28, 2021 at the age of 91. Go to <https://www.newcomerrochester.com/Obituary/203404/Richard-Kievit/Rochester-NY> to read his obituary and leave a message of condolence.
- **SFC PATRICK J. O'MARA**, U.S. Army (Retired), Gates, NY/Kissimmee, FL passed away on September 26, 2021 at the age of 81. Please go to <https://www.diponziofh.com/memorials/patrick-omara/4743551/index.php> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **COL WALTER GRZYMKOWSKI**, U.S. Army (Retired), Greenacres, FL passed away on September 28, 2021 at the age of 92. Please go to <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/obituaries/rdc163757> to read his obituary.
- **CW3 DAN JAMES GALLAHER**, U.S. Army (Retired), Aberdeen, NC passed away on October 3, 2021 at the age of 71. Please go to <https://www.bolesfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Dan-James-Gallaher?obId=22586654#/celebrationWall> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **LTC JOSEPH V. CARR**, U.S. Army (Retired), Churchville, NY passed away on October 4, 2021 at the age of 84. Please go to <https://walkerbrothersfh.com/tribute/details/13413/Joseph-Carr-Jr/obituary.html#tribute-start> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **MRS. TERRY L. FREEMAN**, wife of COL Michael Freeman (U.S. Army, Retired), Batavia, NY/Oak Ridge TN passed away on October 5, 2021 at the age of 58. Please go to <https://www.mcandrewfuneralhomes.net/obituary/terry-freeman> to read her obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **MRS. LOIS LOUISE BANKS**, wife of SFC Milton Banks (U.S. Army, Retired), Rochester, NY passed away on October 5, 2021 at the age of 89. Please go to <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/22648648/lois-louise-banks/wall> to leave a message of condolence.
- **NIKETAS J. HALDOUPIS**, U.S. Army (Retired), Webster, NY passed away on October 8, 2021 at the age of 89. Please go to <https://willardhscott.com/tribute/details/4266/Niketas-Haldoupis/obituary.html#tribute-start> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.
- **GENERAL RAYMOND T. ODIERNO**, U.S. Army (Retired), Pinehurst, NC passed away on October 8, 2021 at the age of 67. Please go to <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/legacy/obituary.aspx?n=raymond-t-odierno&pid=200363372> to leave a message of condolence and for a link to his obituary.
- **TAHJ BABB**, son of SSG Kimon Babb, Rochester, NY passed away on October 10, 2021 at the age of age 22. An obituary was not available at the time of this writing.
- **GENERAL COLIN POWELL**, U.S. Army (Retired), McLean, VA passed away on October 18, 2021 at the age of 84. An obituary was not available at the time of this writing.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES FOR MILITARY RETIREEES' FAMILIES AND SURVIVORS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 5

NEXT MILITARY RETIREE LUNCHEON – REGISTER NOW !!!

The next military retiree luncheon will be held on Thursday, **November 18, 2021** at the Diplomat Event Center, 1956 Lyell Ave., Rochester, NY 14606. We need an accurate headcount, so please tell us via email to timstreb1@gmail.com whether or not you will attend. Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing everyone again. Registration begins at 11:10 a.m.; program begins at noon. **NOTE: These luncheons are for all men and women who have retired from any branch and component of the United States Armed Forces** (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Space Corps - Active, Guard, and Reserve).

UPCOMING EVENTS

HONOR FLIGHT ROCHESTER – ALL 2021 FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

OCT 22nd – DEC 11th – MILITARY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS (RAD): Retirees from all branches of service can receive benefits information, renew ID cards, get medical checkups, and much more. The website <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/Events> will include RADs throughout the U.S. and at worldwide installations once they are scheduled.

OCT 23rd – HONOR FLIGHT FUNDRAISER: 7 p.m., Barnard Exempts, 360 Maiden Lane, Rochester (Greece), NY 14616. See article on page 3 for details.

OCT 23, 2021 – SEP 17, 2022 – 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/ArmyReserve>. Information on the National Guard can be found at <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/NationalGuard>

OCT 28th – 391ST REGIMENT OCTOBERFEST: See page 3 for details.

OCT 31st – HALLOWEEN: Watch out for those trick-or-treaters.

NOV 2nd – ELECTION DAY: Don't forget to vote.

NOV 5th – STARS & STRIPES CELEBRATION: See article on page 3 for details.

NOV 6th – USMC FORMAL BIRTHDAY BALL: See article on page 3 for details.

NOV 7th – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS: Don't forget to move those clocks back one hour.

NOV 10th – HAPPY 246TH BIRTHDAY TO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

NOV 10th – USMC BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST: See article on page 3 for details.

NOV 10th – SIGNAL CORPS INFORMAL DINNER: Location to be announced. An informal gathering of Soldiers previously assigned to Signal units in Western and Central New York. Contact Kent Schneider at kentschneider131@gmail.com or 585-704-1562.

NOV 11th – VETERANS DAY: A national holiday. Don't forget to fly the Stars & Stripes

NOV 11th – A STARS & STRIPES CELEBRATION: See page 3 for details.

NOV 11th – BELLS OF PEACE: Bells of Peace is a U.S. national bell tolling remembrance that was created in collaboration with the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (SHGTUS) to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the World War I Armistice, November 11, 2018. Learn more at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USWWICC/bulletins/2f36c3c>

NOV 17th – HAPPY 246th BIRTHDAY TO THE U.S. ARMY AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY AND FIELD ARTILLERY: The Army made clear in 1969 that "for the purposes of lineage and history, Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery shall both be considered a continuation of Artillery" which was founded on Nov. 17, 1775 by the Continental Congress.

NOV 18th – MILITARY RETIREE LUNCHEON: See bottom of page 1 for details.

NOV 25th – THANKSGIVING DAY: A national holiday.

NOV 28th THRU DEC 6th – HANUKKAH: A Jewish holiday.

DEC 1st – LIGHTS OF HONOR: Blue Star Mothers annual celebration.

DEC 7th – PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY: Details in November luncheon notes.

DEC 12th – HAPPY 245TH BIRTHDAY TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY ARMOR BRANCH

DEC 13th – HAPPY 385TH BIRTHDAY TO THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL GUARD

DEC 20th – HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY TO THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH – VETERANS LUNCHEON: Farmington (NY) AMVETS Post 332 hosts a monthly Veterans Luncheon on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Starts at 11:30 am at Mertensia Lodge, 1394 Mertensia Road, Farmington, NY 14425. All local veterans are invited. Contact Commander Ed Hemminger, 585-261-4502 or email at edhemminger@gmail.com for more information.

DATES TBA – YOUR FUNCTION: Have your military/veteran-related function listed here. Send complete information to timstreb1@gmail.com no later than the 15th of the month for insertion in the notes.

HONOR FLIGHT FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 23, 2021 – 7 p.m.

Barnard Restaurant and Party House, 360 Maiden Lane, Rochester (Greece), NY 14616

Annual fundraiser for Honor Flight Rochester featuring Patrick Johnson, Elvis Impersonator considered to be one of the top tribute artists in the country, will be entertaining. You don't want to miss this! Door prizes and 50/50 raffle. Food and beverages will be available for a nominal fee. Tickets are only \$15.00, and can be purchased from Karen Gerrish (coordinator), 4260 Culver Road #228, Rochester, NY 14622 (585-615-2901).

391ST REGIMENTAL OFFICER ASSOCIATION OKTOBERFEST

Thursday, October 28, 2021 – 5 p.m.

The Lamplighter Restaurant, 831 Fetzner Road, Rochester (Greece), NY 14626

Gather at 5 p.m. at the bar to renew old acquaintances. Dinner at 6 p.m. The OKtoberfest menu is \$26.95 (plus tax and gratuity) and includes sauerkraut and potato pancake plus one of the following: Wiener Schnitzel, Sauerbraten, or Knockwurst. You can also order off the regular dinner menu. Please let Frank Panczysyn know **no later than October 24th** if you will attend, and if you will order the OKtoberfest menu, or off of the regular dinner menu. They will have no problem if you order off the menu, as long as they know how many of you will do so. Please RSVP reply email at fpancy@gmail.com or by cell phone at 585-748-0432 on or before Sunday, October 24th, with your intentions, yea or nay to attend, and if you plan to order off the regular menu. Go to <https://www.lamplighterrestaurant.com/> to view the regular menu.

A STARS & STRIPES CELEBRATION FOR THE VETERANS OUTREACH CENTER

Friday, November 5, 2021 – 6 p.m.

Oak Hill Country Club, 145 Kilbourn Rd, Rochester NY 14626

Join the Veterans Outreach Center for its annual Stars & Stripes Celebration. All money raised will support critically needed services for local veterans at the Veterans Outreach Center. Individual tickets are \$175. **Tickets for military and veterans are only \$75.** Order tickets now at <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?id=32&name=E12388> See complete details on this and related events at <https://veteransoutreachcenter.org/celebration> **The silent auctions has begun:** go to https://events.readysetauction.com/veteransoutreachcenter/ssc2021/catalog/items?filter=all&page=1&rsa_submit=catalog_page to see and bid on the items (new items added daily).

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 246TH BIRTHDAY BALL

Saturday, November 6, 2021 – 5 p.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton, 1111 Jefferson Road, Rochester (Henrietta), NY 14623

There will be the traditional cake cutting, great music for dancing and partying, and an excellent dinner buffet with roast strip loin of beef with bordelaise sauce, chicken marsala with sauteed mushrooms, ziti with choice of either marinara or alfredo sauce, as well as potatoes and vegetable, plus all of the traditional trimmings. Cost: \$95 pre-purchased on line at <https://www.mcccrochester.org/birthday-ball-1> **Note: Reservations must be received no later than Saturday, October 23, 2021.** Also, for those desiring to stay overnight, there is a special room rate of \$99 for ball attendees.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 – 8 a.m.

Red Fedele's Brook House, 920 Elmridge Center Drive, Rochester (Greece), NY 14626

Marines of any age or period. Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen, Sea Bees and Chaplain's staff are also welcome. Breakfast with your fellow Marines. DRESS: Casual or period uniforms. 0800 Greetings and Coffee, 0900 Birthday Ceremony, and 0915 Buffet Breakfast. Cost: \$22 pre-purchased on line at <https://www.mcccrochester.org/birthday-breakfast-2021>

U. S. ARMY HRC GRAY AREA RETIREMENTS (GAR) BRANCH

Servicing Retired USAR and ARNG Soldiers processing retirement pay packets and family members with RCSBP. Phone (888) 276-9472 or (502) 613-8950 Download retirement application: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/asset/19367> or email request to usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-ask-hrc@mail.mil HRC-GAR website: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Gray%20Area%20Retirements%20Branch>

TRICARE & MEDICARE – TURNING AGE 65

Everything you need to know about Medicare and TRICARE For Life is explained in this October 2021 brochure available at file:///C:/Users/timo/Downloads/Turning65_Br.pdf

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Medicare Parts A&B, plus TRICARE For Life, provide sufficient coverage for the vast majority of military retirees and surviving spouses, so they will not need a Medicare Advantage Plan. However, some retirees and surviving spouses may qualify for no-fee plans, plus potentially other free services, especially if they are considered to be low income. Medicare open enrollment is now through December 7th. Go to https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare/?utm_campaign=20211015_oep_mpf_gsm&utm_content=english&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#/questions?year=2022&lang=en to learn about if Original Medicare, a Medigap Plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan may be right for you.

DENTAL & VISION OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR MILITARY RETIREEES & SURVIVORS

Most military retirees and survivors are eligible for FEDVIP dental and vision plans. **Open enrollment begins November 8th, and ends at Midnight EST on December 13th.** Coverages and rates vary by plan, and changes to both coverages and rates will change for 2022. Go to <https://www.benefeds.com/tools/search-plans> to see what plans are available where you live, and to decide which plan is best for you and your family.

ARE YOU READY?

It is getting colder outside. Soon the roads will get icy (watch out for that black ice), and the snow will begin to fall. Is your vehicle ready for winter? Don't procrastinate, especially when it comes to tires. Be safe for you and those around you. Make sure you have good tires: snow, all-season, or as a minimum great treaded regular tires.

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 or Brittany 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

HONOR FLIGHTS IN THE U.S.A.

HONOR FLIGHTS AROUND THE NATION – Information on Honor Flights in all 50 states can be found at <http://www.honorflight.org/regional-honor-flight-hubs.html>. Note: For example, Honor Flights are conducted from 9 airports in New York State, so be sure to check this website for the nearest airport in your area or state.

DOD LODGING

All Department of Defense Lodging Operations to include Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy Gateway Inns & Suites and Navy Getaways Leisure/Space available reservations may be limited and/or cancelled due to drawdown of services and reduction of operating hours in response to COVID-19. Select locations may take reservations based on local direction. Please call sites directly for the most up to date information. Go to <https://www.dodlodging.net/> to find installations, obtain information and make reservations.

ARMY ECHOES: AUGUST - OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE

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

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES FOR MILITARY RETIREEES' FAMILIES AND SURVIVORS:
THE SURVIVORS OUTREACH SERVICES OFFICE (SOS):**

Find your nearest SOS coordinator at <https://dcsq9.army.mil/safr/sos/sos-find.html> Use the dropdown lists to find survivor coordinators by state/county or country/region. If a coordinator is not listed, please call 855-707-2769 for survivor assistance.

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>

Casualty Assistance Office (call upon the death of the Retired Military Retiree): 1-800-626-3317; overseas, call collect (502) 613-3317 <https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reporting%20A%20Death>

VA: 1-800-827-1000 <http://www.va.gov>

Social Security: 1-800-772-1213 <http://www.ssa.gov>

Update ID cards: 1-800-538-9552; www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl

Nearest Retirement Services Office: <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/rso> 99th Readiness Division JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey (609) 562-1696/7055/7425/1688 RSO email: Army99RSO@mail.mil services the following states: CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, 7th MSC (Europe).

RETIRED SOLDIER CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST: (Fill this out now and keep it in a safe place where your loved ones can find it):

https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Post/Retired_Soldier_Casualty_Assistance_Checklist.pdf

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 Memorials 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.

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 that 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/>

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
- Home loan guaranty
- 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>

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/>

VA.GOV SITE IS CENTRAL LOGIN FOR ACCESSING BENEFITS

Veterans and their families can access their VA benefits and services on the new user-friendly <https://www.va.gov/> website. Users are able to access information about VA benefits and services through a single site rather than through multiple locations.

TRICARE HEALTH MATTERS NEWSLETTER – 2021, NEW ISSUE NO. 3

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)

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-](https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/?utm_campaign=20200909_emd_cc_gal&utm_content=english&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

[compare/?utm_campaign=20200909_emd_cc_gal&utm_content=english&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery](https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/?utm_campaign=20200909_emd_cc_gal&utm_content=english&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

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??

APPLYING FOR VA HEALTH CARE

Prepare before starting the application. Go to <https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/> to find out if you are eligible for VA health care benefits, and then gather the documents that you'll need to fill out an *Application for Health Benefits* (VA Form 10-10EZ). **How do I apply?** You can apply online right now at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/>

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
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, 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/>

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 1-800-321-1080, option 6. Go to <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html> for 24-hour service.

DFAS RETIREE NEWSLETTER: The June 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 June 2021 *DFAS Retiree Newsletter*, plus earlier editions going back to September 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/>

NEW DFAS MYPAY ACCOUNTS FOR GRAY AREA RETIREEES

For Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Air Force Reserve Gray Area Retirees, there is a new avenue to stay connected and informed between the time they stop drilling and the time they start receiving retired pay. It's a new kind of **myPay account** especially for Gray Area Retirees. Go to <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/plan/Gray-Area-Retirees/fbclid/IwAR1vEAtgsHSxsF4-F1hQaVeZ-jFTGkGIYHcmRcu3UPInzDxeLS2clxn1tFo/> to learn all about this new type of account and how to enroll.

DEFENSE FINANCE & ACCOUNTING OFFICE (DFAS)

Retirees, dependents, and surviving beneficiaries can find everything they need to know about retirement and annuitant pay at <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/> Retirees need to check their retired pay account often, and update their account information when needed. Keeping your account up-to-date includes making sure your mailing address, email address, banking information, and your beneficiaries are current. Events such as 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>

SIGN UP FOR THE FORT DRUM RETIREE ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Sign up by sending an email to the RSO at usarmy.drum.rso@mail.mil Put Newsletter in the Subject line. The Newsletter will provide updated information on TRICARE, Retired pay, and other topics important to you.

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: <https://home.army.mil/drum/index.php>
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