RETIREE LUNCHEON NOTES – DECEMBER 2024

SICK CALL: Milton Banks, Jane Benedict, Bohdan Cholach, Steven David, Pat Feeley, Nick Grzymkowski, Bob Helmes, Sally Kent, David Pupo, Michael & Josie Rhodes, Otis Robinson, and Richard & Cathy Weyersberg are on our sick call list. Please keep each of them in your prayers. Notify Tim Streb at <u>MilitaryRetireeLuncheon@gmail.com</u> to <u>add</u> or <u>remove</u> someone from the sick call list (they must agree to be listed).

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

MSG ROBERT J. DOMINIK, U.S. Army (Ret.), Webster, NY passed away on November 30, 2024 at the age of 71. Please go to <u>https://willardhscott.com/tribute/details/4933/Robert-Dominik/obituary.html#tribute-start</u> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence

LTC ROBERT S. CHAVKIN, U.S. Army (Ret.), Victor, NY passed away on November 22, 2024 at the age of 91. Please go to <u>https://brightonmc.com/obituaries/robert-s-chavkin/2819/</u> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence

DONNA A. MATHAR, wife of LTC (Ret.) George Mathar, Carthage, NY passed away on November 29, 2024 at the age of 74. Please go to <u>https://www.dlcalarco.com/obituary/Donna-Mathar</u> to read her obituary and to leave a message of condolence.

JAMES D. "JAMIE" PENLON, U.S. Army (Ret.), Cincinnati, Ohio/Rochester, NY passed away on December 4, 2024 at the age of 56. Please go to <u>https://www.faresjradel.com/obituary/james-jamie-d-penlon/</u> to read his obituary and to leave a message of condolence.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES FOR MILITARY RETIREES' FAMILIES AND SURVIVORS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 7

IMPORTANT CHANGE TO SOCIAL SECURITY LOGIN

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is requiring users to transition their accounts to Login.gov or ID.me to access their online services: **Users who created their account before September 18, 2021** will need to transition their accounts to Login.gov or ID.me. **Users who created their account on or after September 18, 2021** already have the correct setup and do not need to take action.

Go to <u>https://blog.ssa.gov/how-to-transition-your-social-security-account-to-login-gov/</u> for complete details and instructions.

UPCOMING SWITCH TO LOGIN.GOV AND ID.ME FOR VA ONLINE SERVICES

The VA will move to using Login.gov or ID.me sign-in options starting in 2025, eliminating the use of user names and passwords for My HealtheVet and DS Logon. Learn how to create new accounts to ensure a smooth transition and continued access to VA online services. Go to <u>https://news.va.gov/133159/prepare-for-vas-secure-sign-in-changes/</u> for the full story.

NEW FORT DRUM RETIREE NEWSLETTER

The Winter 2024 edition of the Fort Drum Retiree Newsletter *Mountain Honors* is now available online at <u>https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=34843ad591&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1818078131286749498&th=193b1c6d8540b13a&view=att&zw&disp=inline</u>

RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICES

Want to talk to a Retirement Services Officer? Whether you're Regular Army, Army National Guard, or Army Reserve, you have an assigned Retirement Services Officer (RSO). Find yours at the interactive RSO maps at: <u>https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/rso?maps=all</u> on the Army Retirement Services website. See page 12 for a complete list of RSOs and other important information for military retirees (AC, USAR & ARNG).

NEXT MILITARY RETIREE LUNCHEON

The next Military Retiree Luncheon will be on **Thursday, January 16, 2025** at the **Grand Super Buffet**, 1100 Jefferson Road, Rochester (Henrietta), NY 14623. Registration will begin at 11:15, with announcements beginning around 12:15. The price of the luncheon is \$16.00. **Please be sure to email** <u>MilitaryRetireeLuncheon@gmail.com</u> to let us know if you will or will not be attending.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC 25th – CHRISTMAS: A Federal Holiday

DEC 25th thru JAN 2nd – HANUKKAH: A Jewish Holiday

DEC 26th – "GEVA THEATRE – FREE TICKETS: Geva Theatre is proud to present a free performance of A Christmas Carol called *Home for the Holidays*" on December 26th at 7PM for activeduty service men and women, Veterans, and their families. GEVA Theatre is located at 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14609. To reserve your tickets, call the Box Office at 585-232-GEVA (4382).

JAN 1st - NEW YEARS DAY: A Federal Holiday

JAN 20th – MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY: A Federal Holiday

JAN 11 – JUN 28, 2025 – ARMY RESERVE RETIREMENT SEMINARS: Reserve Seminars:

Virtual and in-person seminars are scheduled throughout 2024. They are designed to ensure **Retired Soldiers**, current Soldiers, and their families receive information and referrals on benefits and entitlements. Retired Soldiers awaiting retirement at age 60 are encouraged to attend. Seminars are scheduled throughout the U.S., its territories, and virtually. Go to <u>https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/ArmyReserve</u> for a retirement seminar near you.

<u>JAN 15 – MAR 27, 2025 – JOB HIRING FAIRS:</u> *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 <u>https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/events/hiringfairs</u> to find a location near you. Dates and locations are subject to change, so please refer to the web site often for current information.

JAN 16th – MILITARY RETIREE LUNCHEON: See bottom of page 1 for details.

JAN 26th – LEGION RIDERS MEAT RAFFLE: See flyer on page 9.

FEB 13th – SIGNAL ALUMNI DINNER: All former Soldiers who were assigned to any Signal Unit are invited to the next dinner at Heintzelman's BBQ Pit, 6361 Knickerbacker Road, Ontario, NY 14519. Meet and greet around 6;30 p.m., with dinner to follow. Note: MG (Ret.) Dennis Lutz will be there, so please save the date and pass the word. Please contact Kent Schneider at 585-704-1562 to let him know you will be there (to help him plan the reservations).

FEB 17th – WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY: A Federal Holiday

MAR 1 – NOV 7, 2025 – RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS (RAD): Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) is a program that connects the retired community to resources for their benefits and entitlements. Content varies, but many include guest speakers, medical information, and ID card services. A RAD near you can be found at https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/retiree-appreciation. See page 9 for more information.

<u>SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH – BREAKFAST:</u> 8 a.m. - Noon at American Legion Post 330, 691 Trimmer Road, Spencerport, NY 14559. Go to <u>https://www.fgpost330.org/site/eventscalendar.php</u> for more information. (open to the public)

EVERY TUESDAY – FREE VETERANS BREAKFAST: Pittsford, NY American Legion, 8-10 a.m. See flyer on page 10 for details.

EVERY WEDNESDAY – VETERANS SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH: Avon, NY. Details on page 10 **EVERY WEDNESDAY – BUSHCRAFT WORKSHOPS:** Open to all Veterans. Learn outdoor skills at the farm. Enjoy brunch around a fire. See flyer on page 10 for details.

EVERY WEDNESDAY – VFW BINGO: Fairport, NY. See flyer on page 11 for details. **EVERY WEDNESDAY – FREE YOGA CLASSES:** VOC, Rochester, NY. See flyer on page 11. **FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH – VETERANS & FIRST RESPONDERS FREE**

LUNCHEON: 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. at Wayne Masonic Lodge, 1932 Ridge Rd., Ontario, NY 14519. Go to the Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/events/202957472912492 for details. See flyer on page 10.

FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH – AMERICAN LEGION TRIVIA NIGHT: Canandaigua, NY. See flyer on page 11 for details.

SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH – VETERANS LUNCHEON: 11:30 a.m. at Mertensia Lodge, 1394 Mertensia Road, **Farmington**, NY 14425. Hosted by AMVETS Post 332. All local veterans are invited. Contact Ed Hemminger, 585-261-4502 or email at <u>edhemminger@gmail.com</u> for more information.

DATES TBA – YOUR FUNCTION: Have your military/veteran-related function listed here. Send complete information to <u>MilitaryRetireeLuncheon@gmail.com</u> no later than the 10th of the month for insertion in the notes. Please include a flyer if available as well as a link to a website or Facebook page.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Continued from page 2)

<u>MORE EVENTS AT</u> <u>https://www.rocveterans.org/events</u> Note: Roc Veterans is a collaborative dedicated to serving those who have served our nation. The website connects veterans and their families with events in the Finger Lakes area. It includes the counties of Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates. If your group is missing, send an email with your group's details to rocveterans585@gmail.com

TRICARE REGIONS ARE CHANGING JAN 1, 2025

There will be changes to the TRICARE regions in the U.S. on Jan. 1, 2025. While there will still be two TRICARE regions, six states currently in the East Region (Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin) will move to the West Region. There are also some zip codes in two states that will be exceptions to the region changes. Read the article at <u>https://newsroom.tricare.mil/News/TRICARE-</u> News/Article/3983190/reminder-tricare-regions-are-changing-jan-1-2025 to learn more.

FREE REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE (RTS) BUS PASSES

The Veterans Outreach Center, Rochester, NY has partnered with to provide bus passes to veterans completely free of charge. The passes can be used on any RTS bus in Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, and Wyoming counties and are good for five years. Go to <u>RTS — Veterans Outreach Center</u> for detailed instructions and requirements.

FREE AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS

Every U.S. household can order four (4) COVID-19 at-home tests — shipped directly to your home at no cost. Visit <u>COVIDTests.gov</u> to place your order.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

The Department of Defense (DOD) has implemented an improved installation access process for veterans and caregivers eligible for medical appointments, shopping at commissaries and exchanges, and taking advantage of certain morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) services. Veteran and caregiver eligibility will now be electronically verified during the installation access process. Go to

https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3965985/dod-improves-installation-access-for-eligibleveterans-and-caregivers/ to learn how this new access process works.

WAR RELATED ILLNESS AND INJURY STUDY CENTER (WRIISC)

The war related illness and injury study center (WRIISC) is a national program dedicated to Veterans' postdeployment health concerns and unique health care needs. Check out the Center's latest newsletter at <u>https://www.warrelatedillness.va.gov/</u>

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS Check This Out Before Disaster Strikes

Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and other severe weather have impacted millions of Americans so far this year. As the strong forecasted hurricane season arrives, it's important for Veterans and their families to know that the VA is there to help. Go to https://news.va.gov/132965/disaster-assistance-and-resources-for-veterans/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=10JUL2024 to read about some of the resources that are available.

The Veterans Crises Hotline is 998 and press 1; or Text to 838255.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION BENEFITS & HEALTH CARE

Everything in one convenient, easy-to-remember website: <u>https://www.va.gov/</u>

APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE AT https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application

Check out the new Stars and Stripes Flag Store E-Newsletter at http://eflagstore.com

NEW ID CARDS FOR RETIREES, ANNUITANTS & DEPENDENTS

DoD Uniformed Services ID Card Reissuance

The Next Generation USID card incorporates an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud, and is printed on plastic cardstock. Retirees and their eligible dependents are encouraged to have their paper-based USID card replaced at their convenience. Use the "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" option on ID Card Office Online at https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/ to find ID card sites near you. After selecting the site you want to go to, use the "Schedule an Appointment" button. The "More Site Info" link may provide additional and pertinent site information. You also may want to check to see if that facility provides "walk-in" services. Some sites have appointments booked for several months in advance. In that circumstance, you are encouraged to use alternate searches to find other sites with availability and please keep checking back as they update their calendars. See below about renewing ID cars online.

ATTENTION RETIRED MILITARY MEMBERS: Beginning in 2026, the old-style ID cards will no longer be accepted, regardless of the printed expiration date. In order to maintain base access, obtain a new ID card. If you are unable to make it to an ID card issuing office, you can also request a new card through the RAPIDS ID Card Office Oline at https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/ NOTE: This policy applies to ID cards of all colors (except for the new white ones). They should all be updated in order to maintain base access.

RENEW ID CARDS ONLINE

USID cards may now be renewed online. See the on-line USID card renewal page at https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/Renewing-Online/ for complete information. This page provides details on how to renew your USID card online. Sponsors may request Uniformed Service ID (USID) Card renewal online, which if approved, are mailed directly to the card recipient; no in person appointments necessary. This page provides details on how to renew your USID card online.

MILITARY ID CARD/DEERS - OFFICES OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Rochester: Rochester Reserve Center, 49 Jetview Drive, Rochester, NY 14624. Call **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 <u>www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl</u> (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%2 0INFORMATION%20w%20schedule.pdf for schedules and additional information.

Around the World: Find the nearest ID card office on the Rapids Site Locator at <u>www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl</u> IMPORTANT - SEE ARTICLE ABOVE ABOUT UPCOMING CHANGE TO POLICY REGARDING THE NEW ID CARDS.

VETERANS BENEFITS BY STATE & TERRITORY

Go to <u>https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/State/Territory-Benefits</u> to view the benefits available by each U.S. state or territory by clicking on the map or select from the drop down menu. State benefits include tax benefits, education benefits, employment benefits, health insurance benefits, and more. Each fact sheet contains details of the benefits available and eligibility to Soldiers and family members.

VA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR

Ashley Smith, LCSW, is the coordinator at the Finger Lakes VA (Canandaigua, NY). Her role is an extension of the VAs suicide prevention efforts. She takes a public health perspective to engage with all veterans in the community and their support systems. Ms. Smith works with a wide variety of organizations to provide any assistance they would find helpful to further their suicide prevention efforts. She can provide suicide prevention training, Veterans Crisis Line materials, and gun locks – all free of charge. Contact Ms. Smith at 585-364-9783, or email her at <u>ashley.smith14@va.gov</u>

FIND VA LOCATIONS AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES NEAR YOU

Search for your nearest VA medical center and other health facilities (including approved Urgent Care facilities and pharmacies), benefit offices, cemeteries, community care providers and Vet Centers with the facility locator tool at <u>https://www.va.gov/find-</u>

locations?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VAntage??

FREE ONLINE CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Free 6-week online workshop offers group support for caregivers of Veterans. Full details on this valuable program to help caregivers of disabled veterans is available at https://signup.buildingbettercaregivers.org/enroll/?utm_source=CSPList&utm_medium=email

CLAIMS PREDATORS WANT TO PREY ON YOUR VA BENEFITS

Have you noticed advertisements from companies offering to help with your VA claims and appeals? Some of these companies are legitimate and are certified by the VA, but others are predators offering claims services and charging hefty fees. You do not have to pay anyone to receive your benefits. The VA urges Veterans to use only VA accredited representatives and to be on the lookout for aggressive claims predators. Go to https://news.va.gov/133852/beware-claims-predators-want-to-prey-on-your-benefits/ to learn more.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ARMY RESERVE RETIREMENT PAY

Army Reserve grey area retirees need to know when and how to apply for retired pay. Retired pay is NOT automatic! The forms are not difficult to complete, but including the required supporting documents could be time consuming. Grey area retirees should begin the process at least one year prior to eligibility to receive retired pay, but the sooner the better. Everything you need to know is available at

<u>https://www.usar.army.mil/Retirement/PayApplication/</u> Recommend you contact your county Veterans Service Agency if you need assistance in obtaining supporting documents or want someone to review your application. In New York, go to <u>https://veterans.ny.gov/office-locations</u> to find an office near you where you can meet with a Veterans Benefits Advisor.

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 https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/

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

MILITARY EXPOSURES & YOUR HEALTH

The latest issue of the newsletter *Military Exposures* & Your Health is now online at https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/publications/military-exposures/meyh-13/index.asp

ACCESS TO IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records 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

VETERAN RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

VetResources is a weekly newsletter from the Veterans Benefit Administration. It contains important up-todate information for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. Anyone can sign up to receive the newsletters at <u>https://www.va.gov/VetResources</u> Copies of the newsletters dating back to 2019 are available at <u>https://news.va.gov/vetresources/?utm_source=header&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources</u>

VETERANS CRISIS HOTLINE = DIAL 988, THEN PRESS 1

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RETIREE AND ANNUITANT PAY DATES

The following is the DFAS schedule of retiree and annuitant pay dates for t. 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 2024	November 29, 2024	December 2, 2024	
December 2024	December 31, 2024	January 2, 2025	
January 2025	January 31, 2025	February 3, 2025	
February 2025	February 28, 2025	March 3, 2025	
March 2025	April 1, 2025	April 1, 2025	
April 2025	May 1, 2025	May 1, 2025	
May 2025	May 30, 2025	June 2, 2025	
June 2025	July 1, 2025	July 1, 2025	
July 2025	August 1, 2025	August 1, 2025	
August 2025	August 29, 2025	September 2, 2025	
September 2025	October 1, 2025	October 1, 2025	
October 2025	October 31, 2025	November 3, 2025	
November 2025	December 1, 2025	December 1, 2025	
December 2025	December 31, 2025	January 2, 2026	

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

YOUR 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 <u>myPay Web Site (dfas.mil)</u> for 24-hour service.

NEW - SEPTEMBER 2024 DFAS RETIREE NEWSLETTER: The September issue contains important information for all Military Retirees, Annuitants and Former Spouses. This issue includes information on the new ID cards, early retirement pay for gray area retirees, new information on reporting the death of a military retiree or SBP annuitant, preparing for the new income tax filing year, and much more. Go to <u>https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/newsevents/newsletter/</u> and click on the link to review the newsletter, as well as for earlier editions going back to December 2023. **IMPORTANT**: **Points of contact are contained on page 27** of the newsletter.

<u>MANAGING RETIRED OR SBP PAY ACCOUNT - NEW CHANGES TO DFAS</u>: Check out the improvements to DFAS that will help you manage your retired pay or SBP pay at https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/Quick-Tools-for-Retirees-SBP-Annuitants-Survivors

ARMY ECHOES: - NEW NOV 2024 - JAN 2025 ISSUE

Army Echoes, the official newsletter for Retired Soldiers, Surviving Spouses, and their families. The latest issue is now available at https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/echoes/latest.pdf Previous editions going back to January 1997 available at https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/echoes/latest.pdf Previous editions going back to January 1997 available at https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/echoes/latest.pdf Previous editions going back to January 1997 available at https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/echoesissues The current featured items include: Changes to DFAS; state Veterans benefits; state Veteran benefits; enhanced VA claim status tool; what to do if you have a new SBP beneficiary; harmful voice cloning, Retiree Activities Day (RAD) calendar and more.

Army Echoes Blog: The Army publishes an additional 3-5 articles to the Army Echoes Blog each week. These are the same types of articles published in Army Echoes. Read the blog at https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog;

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES FOR RETIREES' FAMILIES AND SURVIVORS

THE SURVIVORS OUTREACH SERVICES OFFICE (SOS): Find your nearest SOS coordinator at <u>https://www.usar.army.mil/Featured/Family-Programs/Directors/</u> Use the dropdown lists to find survivor coordinators by state/county or country/region.

TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A MILITARY RETIREE: Call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080. When you call, be prepared to provided the retiree's name, social security number and date of death. It is important to report the death as soon as possible to preclude overpayments. Go to <u>March2024 Prepare Your Loved Ones (dfas.mil)</u> for more information.

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: <u>https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/rso_99th Readiness Division JB</u> McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey (609) 562-1696/7055/7425/1688 RSO email: <u>Army99RSO@mail.mil</u> services the following states: CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, 7th MSC (Europe). <u>RETIRED SOLDIER CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST</u>: (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 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.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS: 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. The funeral director who handles the veteran's service will request the honors. You will need to provide the veteran's discharge papers to verify eligibility. If you need a copy, either you or the funeral director must submit an emergency request for military records to the National Archives at https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Misc%20Files/mos-mfh-nara-form.pdf

<u>SURVIVORS AND BURIAL BENEFITS KIT</u> 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)
- Survivor's pension; Special monthly pension benefits
- Home loan guaranty

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 <u>https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/VASurvivorsKit.pdf</u>

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USEFUL INTERNET LINKS

198th Army Band Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/198thArmyBand/?fref=ts 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 American Legion (Monroe County, NY) - http://www.monroecountyal.org Armed Forces Vacation Club: http://www.afvclub.com Army Bands: https://www.bands.army.mil Army Reserve Family Programs: http://www.arfp.org/skins/ARFP/home.aspx?mode=user 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 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=68kWgxhF 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/retirementservices-office-rso Fort Drum Telephone Directory: <u>https://home.army.mil/drum/contact/phone-directory</u> 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 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: <u>https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx</u> 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: <u>http://projectnewhope.net</u> 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 ROC Veterans: https://www.rocveterans.org/events 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 Organizations and Events: https://www.rocveterans.org/events Veterans Outreach Center: <u>https://veteransoutreachcenter.org</u> Veterans Ticket Foundation: <u>http://www.vettix.org/</u> 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



RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS

LOCATION	DATE	CONTACT	
JBSA-Lackland, TX	1 Mar	(210) 671-9204	
USAG Fort Stewart, GA	22 Mar	(912) 767-5013	
Kingwood, West Virginia	5 Apr wvrmcrad@gma		
Pittsburgh, PA	25-26 Apr usarmy.usarc.rso army.mil		
Fort Wainwright, AK	26 Apr	(907) 353-2095	
Fort Jackson, SC	1-3 May	(803) 751-6715	
JBER-Richardson, AK	3 May (907) 384-3500		
JB Lewis-McChord, WA	27 Jun (253) 966-5884		
Presidio of Monterey, CA	19 Jul	(831) 242-4986	
Tobyhanna Army Depot, PA	16 Aug	(570) 615-7019	
Fort Leonard Wood, MO	12-13 Sep	(573) 596-6637	
Fort Sill, OK	18-19 Sep	p (580) 442-2645	

LOCATION	DATE	CONTACT
ort Campbell, KY	20 Sep	(270) 798-5280
ort Gregg-Adams, VA (Fort Lee)	27 Sep	(804) 734-6973/7345
ort Bliss, TX	9-10 Oct	(915) 568-5204
B Ellington, Houston, TX	11 Oct	(210) 221-9004/9793
B Langley-Eustis, VA	18 Oct	(757) 878-3648
Carlisle Barracks, PA	18 Oct	(717) 245-4501
ort Belvoir, VA	24-25 Oct	(703) 806-4551
ort Knox, KY	24 Oct	(502) 624-7236/1280
ort Leavenworth, KS	25 Oct	(9130 684-5583/2425
Fort Novosel, AL (Fort Rucker)	31 Oct	(334) 255-9124/9739
ort Johnson, LA (Fort Polk)	1 Nov	(337) 531-0363/0402
t. Moore, GA (Fort Benning)	7 Nov	(706) 545-1805/4434

ETIRE





COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST - NO RSVP REQUIRED POST MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED **VETERANS - ANY AGE, ANY LENGTH OF SERVICE**



WEDNESDAY SOUP &

MONROE COUNTY



Proceeds to benefit Veterans in Need



SERVING 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM RESUMING SEPTEMBER 4TH FREE FOR VETERANS \$5 FOR SUPPORTERS

> AVON AMERICAN LEGION 5480 AVON - E. AVON RP





FIRST and THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH TRIVIA NIGHT

Enjoy a fun-filled evening of Trivia questions, Food, and Beverages.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

50/50 RAFFLE KITCHEN OPENS AT 5:00

ALL PROCEEDS BEFEFIT

The Legion and Our Veterans

AMERICAN LEGION POST 256 454 NORTH MAIN STREET, CANANDAIGUA

WIN A ROUND • WIN A PRIZE • \$100 CASH FINAL PRIZE







RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICERS (RSOs) Do you have questions about benefits, SBP, Retiree Appreciation Days, or anything else retirement-related? Contact the RSO for your area or go to the Army Retirement Services website https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/contact-us.

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ALABAMA Redstone Arsenal 256) 842-2719 Isarmy,rsa.rso@army,mil Ft. Novosel (Ft. Rucker) 334) 255-9124/9739 Isarmy,rucker,rso@mail.mil VASKA JB Elmendorf- tichardson 800) 478-7384 (AK only) 907) 384-3500 1967) 353-2095 Warso@wainwright.army,mil RIZONA Ft. Huachuca 520) 533-1120 Isarmy,huachuca.imcom- entral.mbx.sfl-rso@army, mil RIKANSAS isee Ft. Sill, OK ALIFORNIA Presidio of Monterey 831) 242-4986 COLORADO Ft. Carson 719) 526-2840 Isarmy,carson.rso@army, mil COLORADO Ft. Carson 719) 526-2840 Isarmy,carson.rso@army, mil COLORADO Ft. Carson 719) 526-2840 Isarmy,comrso@army, mil COLORADO Ft. Carson 719) 526-000000000000000000000000000000000000		(270) 799-5280/3310 CampbellRSO@army.mil - Ft. Knox (502) 624-7236/1280 usarmy.knox.rso@army. mil - Ft. Johnson (Ft. Polk) (337) 531-0363/0402 usarmy.polk.rso@army. mil - Ft. Johnson (Ft. Polk) (337) 531-0363/0402 usarmy.polk.rso@army. mil - See Ft. Drum, NY MARYLAND - Aberdeem Proving Grnd (410) 306-2322/2345 apprso@army.mil - Ft. Meade (301) 677-9603 armyrsomeade@mail.mil MASSACHUSETTS See West Point, NY MICHIGAN - UP: See Ft. McCoy, WI - Lower Mich. Selfridge ANGB (586) 239-5880		and the second	UTAH See FL Carson, CO YERMONT See FL Drum, NY VIRGINIA - FL Belvoir (703) 806-4551 Usarmy belvoir imcom. mbx.rso@mail.mil - IB Langley-Eustis (757) 878-3648 Usaffible.733-msg.mbx. fr-eustis-rso@army.mil - FL Gregg-Adams (Ft Lee) (804) 734-6555/6973 Usarmy.lee.imcom.mbx Ieee-ima-rso@army.mil - JB Myer-Henderson Hall (703) 656-5948/3689 Usarmy.jbmhh.rso@mail.mil WASHINGTON - JB Lewis-McChord (253) 966-5883/5884 Usarmy.ibmhh.rso@mail.mil WISCONSIN - Ft. McCoy (502) 898-3716 Usarmy.mccovid- readiness.mbx.dh-rso@ army.mil WYOMING See FL Carson, CO
DELAWARE See Ft. Meade, MD D.C. See JB Myer-Henderson Hall, VA FLORIDA C Central & West MacDill AFB	usarmy.leavenworth. imcom.mbx.retirements@ mail.mii - Ft. Riley (785) 239-3320/3667 usarmy.riley.rso@army.mii	dhr-rso@army.mil MONTANA See JB Lewis-McChord, WA	chr-rso@army.mil NO. DAKOTA See Ft. Riley, KS OHIO See Ft. Knox, KY	(254) 287-8761/5210 army.hoodrso@army.mill - JB San Antonio (210) 221-9004/9793 usafjbsa.502-abw. mbx.502-fss-fsh-retirement- serviceof@army.mil	PUERTO RICO - Ft. Buchanan (787) 707-2061/3546 usarmy,buchanan, imcom-atlantic.mbx, retirement-service- office@mail.mil
IQ IMCOM Europe	Bavaria	OVERSE		Japan Camp Zama	Camp Humphreys 010-2916-0578
1611-143-544-1530 Jsarmysembachid-europe.mbx. etirement-svcs@army.mil	09641-70-526-4430 <u>usarmy.</u> rsobavaria@mail.mil	Stuttgart 09641-70-596-2010 usarmy.rsostuttgart@mail.m		011-81-46-407-3940 usarmy.zamarso@mail.mil	usarmy.humphreys.id -pacific.mbx.mpd-rso
Sermany Ansbach 19641-705871814 isarmy:ansbach.id-europe. isi.dhr-retirement-services@ Irmy:mil Baumholder 36111-143-541-1021 Jsarmy:rsobaumholder@ mail.mil	Grafenwoehr 09641-83-8709 usarmy,bavaria.ret-sycs@mail mil Rheinland-Pfalz 0611-143-541-1021 usarmy.rheinland-pfalzid- europe.mbx.garrison- retiree-sycs@army.mil	Wiesbaden 0611-143-548-1614 usarmywiesbaden id-europp list retirement-services-offici armymil Belgium 011-32-65-32-6293 usarmyrsobenelux@mail.mil	Middle-East See HQ IMCOM Europe east HQ IMCOM Europe 011-31-45-534-0260 usarmy.rsobenelux@mail. Italy/So, Europe/Africa Vicenza 011-39-0444-71-4831	Korea Yongsan 010-2916-0578 usarmy.humphreys.id-pa pe.list. mbx.mpd-rso@army.mil	

ARMY RESERVE RSG

63rd Readiness Division Moffett Field-Mountain View, CA (650) 526-9513/9512 RSO email: <u>usarmy.usarc.63-rd.mbx.63-</u>

States: AR, AZ, CA, NM, NV, TX, OK

Rotes, Japan S1st Readiness Division Ft. Jackson, SC (803) 751-9546/9661 RSO email: <u>wsarmy.usarc.81-rd.mbx.dhr-</u> psd-rso@army.ml

States: LA, MS, NC, PR, SC, FL, KY, TN, GA, AL, 1st MSC

Ret Readiness Division Ft. McCoy, WI Office: (608) 386-7448 RSO email: usarmy.usarc.88-rd.mbx. retirement-services! Barmy.mil States: (A. JD., Li, N.C, OK, SM, MM, MO, MT, ND, NE, OH, OR, SD, UT, WA, WI, WY

 Synth Mission Support Command Honolulu, HI 808-438-1600 x3553
 RSO email: usarmy.mil states: IA, ID, IL, IN, CO, KS, MI, MN ND, NE, OH, OR, SD, UT, WA, WI, W RSO email: usarmy.shafter.9-msn-sup-cmd.

 RSO email: usarmy.shafter.9-msn-sup-cmd. Istretirement-services-difices-affice@army.mil Area: HI, AK, Guam, America Samoa, Japan, Korea, Saipan
 99th Readines: Division JB McGuire-DivLakehurst, NJ G09) 562-1696/7052742521/688 RSO email: Army.99fSOearmy.mil
States: CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, 7th MSC (Europe)

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD RSOs

To contact an Army National Guard RSO, visit the MyArmyBenefits Resource Locator at

Click on the state you're interested in for the National Guard points of contact there.

HRC GRAY AREA RETIREMENTS (GAR) BRANCH

Servicing Retired USAR and ARNG Soldiers by processing retirement pay applications, and family members with RCSBP claims. Phone (888) 276-9472 or (502) 613-8950. Retirement application (and RCSBP claim forms) are available on the HRC-GAR page ww.hrc.army.mil/ at: https://v content/Grav% %70Re or email request for retirement application packet to: usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-a k-hrc@armv.mil

soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement

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