

THE BORDER BULLETIN

AUGUST 2017



2016



★ EL PASO CHAPTER
★ OF MILITARY OFFICERS
★ ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

★ A Nationally Ranked Five-Star Chapter
★ A MOAA affiliate from January 23, 1956
★ El Paso Chapter of Military Officers
Association of America

Our 61st Year

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The Border Bulletin is the newsletter of the El Paso Chapter, Military Officers Association of America. It is published bi-monthly, even months, to inform the membership of issues and activities of interest to all. elpasomoaa.org is a non-profit entity within the State of Texas organized to represent the membership and to support the activities of the Texas Council of Chapters and MOAA National. Advertising contained on the website and in the newsletter and directory are not endorsed by the Chapter and does not represent any recommendation to the membership. Opinions expressed in articles contained herein are not necessarily those of the membership as a whole or the Chapter. Questions should be directed to the Editor, at the Chapter office.

The advertisements that appear in this publication/website do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or the El Paso Chapter.

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EL PASO CHAPTER NATIONAL AWARDS

Levels of Excellence

Runner-up

2000 and 2001

Five-Star Chapter

2001 thru 2016

Communications Award Print Newsletter

Five Star

2015 and 2016

Winner

2004, 2012, 2013 and 2014

Runner-up

2008 thru 2011

Communications Award Print Legislative Coverage

Winner

2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012

Communications Award Website

Five-Star

2015 and 2016

Winner

2010 thru 2013

Runner-up

2009 and 2014

Special Communications Award

2007



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

COL Forrest Smith, USA, Retired

Storming the Hill. As most of you are aware, MOAA Council and chapter presidents, members of MOAA's national board of directors, members of the Currently Serving Advisory Council (CSAC), Currently Serving Spouse Advisory Council (CSSAC), and Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC), "stormed the hill", converging on Capitol Hill to inform lawmakers on MOAA's legislative priorities. (see www.moaa.org/storming). In addition to continuing to highlight the ill effects of sequestration, MOAA leaders continued to reinforce with legislators the need to eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset (H.R. 846), and reject disproportionate TRICARE fee hikes., to include continued pursuit of the extension of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance beyond the May 2018 expiration date. This allowance currently effects more than 60,000 military widows and widowers.

Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) 29/30 September 2017. Your El Paso MOAA Chapter will also host the 2017 El Paso Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) Dinner (Friday, 29 September) at the Ft Bliss Underwood Golf Course. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the numerous El Paso Veteran Service Organizations during this dinner, as the initial event of the RAD weekend activities. I want to encourage each of you to participate in the RAD presentations at the Sergeant Majors Academy on Ft Bliss on the following morning, Saturday 30 September.

Post-9/11 GI Bill changes. Not sure how many of us are tracking the Congressional review of the post-9/11 GI Bill and proposals to require new service members to contribute \$100/month for 24 months before taking advantage of the GI Bill. The intent of the bill was to serve as a wartime benefit. We need to watch closely changes to benefits inspired by our commitment to the nation's defense, only to be reduced do to fiscal constraints. One more data point worth tracking as a retired veteran.

All National Support starts Locally. So what can you do to support MOAA initiatives to protect YOUR retiree benefits and legislative priorities?

A. Get Informed. Understand MOAA's Top Ten Goals for the year, and track MOAA's progress in fighting for your compensation and benefits.

B. Get involved.

(1) Communicate directly with your political representatives. You can send elected officials your own message of support utilizing MOAA National's website, Legislative Action Center. You can also choose a MOAA-suggested message telling your elected leaders to stop defense bill personnel and compensation cuts. Your message will be pushed automatically to your House and Senate leaders. Communicate directly to your elected officials and be heard. It's easy.

Go to www.moaa.org, and use their simple tools. Its easy...and effective.

(2) Become a MOAA Member and speak with one voice. MOAA's goal is to exceed 400,000 members in 2017. Your membership entitles you to access to, and use of valuable planning tools, and continuous lobbying efforts to preserve your earned military benefits. Join now by visiting www.elpasomoaa.org.

"Professional Leaders belong to Professional Organizations." Become part of the solution. Join MOAA.

"Never Stop Serving".

Forrest Smith COL, USA, Retired
President

El Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation

NAME

The name of this organization shall be El Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation of the Military Officers Association of America, herein after referred to as the MOAA Outreach Foundation. Short Title: elpasomoaaoutreach.org.

The El Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the foundation shall be to seek donations and sponsor fund raising events to support, fund and enhance MOAA objectives and El Paso MOAA Chapter activities; educate and encourage participation in local and national legislative issues and decisions; sponsor educational scholarships; support local individual service member's, units' needs, events, and special requests for support from Active, Reserve, National Guard, Public Health, Retiree, Veteran, Spouse's, and Beneficiaries in the local Military community. These includes and are not limited to:

- Army Ten-Miler Participants
- UTEP ROTC
- El Paso County JROTC Units
- Fort Bliss Junior Enlisted Food Bank
- Bataan Road March Participants
- Fort Bliss Veterans Gala
- Fort Bliss Replica Museum
- Hugh O'Brien Youth (HOBY) Leadership Symposium
- Veteran Transitional Center
- Gift of Caring
- Stand Down for Homeless Veterans
- White Cane Day for Blind Veterans
- Interment Flags for the Fort Bliss Cemetery
- Flags Across America



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Donations

Donations may be sent to:
El Paso Chapter Outreach Foundation, Attn.: Treasurer, PO Box 6144,
Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144



DFAS Changes Mailing Address

In March, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service announced it was changing mailing addresses for retirees and annuitants. Retired Pay correspondence should be addressed to DFAS, U.S. Military Retired Pay, 8899 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN, 46249-1200. Annuitant correspondence should be addressed to DFAS, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay at the same address.

What to watch:

The change from the previous address in London, Ky., took final effect May 1. Mail sent to the wrong address will be forwarded, but it could be delayed by three to five days.

The DFAS website provides information and links to additional paperwork that might need to be submitted.



AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER Patricia Kidney

As a founding member of the award-winning Six Guns & Shady Ladies Old West reenactment group since 1998, Patricia found interest for Shady Ladies Storytellers in 2003. Audiences in Arizona, including the OK Corral in Tombstone, New Mexico, and all parts of Texas have been treated to first person, costumed storytelling of High Spir-

ited and Scandalous Women of the Old West.

Patricia is a native Texan, raised in the historic Rio Grande Valley with a farm and ranching heritage from Bee County, Jones and Haskell Counties. She embraces the Cowboy Way of Life. An El Pasoan since 1967, she has been active in the historical preservation efforts of El Paso County since 1992 through El Paso County Historical Commission, Concordia Heritage Association, and Harvey Girls of El Paso. She is an active Methodist who plays the piano for her Sunday School Class on Sunday mornings with her own "Honky-tonk Gospel style." Her interest in history has led her to form her unique style of storytelling of more than 20 historical characters.

The Shady Ladies Storytellers support Concordia Heritage Association by donating their performance fees to the Association, usually collected by passing the Spittoon!

June Guest Speaker



Chapter President, Forrest Smith, greets Guest Speaker, Angelica Estrada, before the June Membership Meeting and Luncheon.

Lunch Menu AUGUST

Bar-B-Que Buffet

Ranch Beans & Corn O'Brien

Garden Salad w/dressing,

Cornbread w/Butter,

Coffee, Iced Tea, and Water

MOAA Cake

Meeting Program

Saturday, 12 August 2017
Centennial Club

Sequence of Events

1100 — 1200	Social Hour
1200 — 1215	Opening Ceremony
1215 — 1300	Meal Service
1300 — 1315	Staff Updates
1315 — 1345	Program
1345 — 1355	Door Prize Drawing
1355 — 1400	Closing Remarks
1400	Adjournment

Please submit your Dinner Reservations no later than Monday, 7 August

Treasurer: MOAA
PO Box 6144

El Paso, TX 79906-0144

All dinner reservations with payment to our postal mail box

\$20 Per Person

**REMITTANCE
ENVELOPE ENCLOSED**

Report a Retiree Death

Monday - Friday:

0730 - 1700

915-568-5207

After Hours (Installation)

915-569-6950/6951

2017 EL PASO CHAPTER MOAA EVENTS SCHEDULE

August 12, 2017	August Membership Meeting and Luncheon
September 29, 2017	Retiree Appreciation Day / October Luncheon
September 30, 2017	Retiree Appreciation Day
November 11, 2017	Veterans Day
November 23, 2017	Thanksgiving
December 2, 2017	December Membership Meeting and Luncheon
February 10, 2018	February Membership Meeting and Luncheon



FORT BLISS VISITOR POLICY

As part of Fort Bliss' continued efforts to improve installation access, five Visitor Control Centers (VCCs) will begin operating on the 9th of August.

All visitors to Fort Bliss will need to obtain a Visitors Pass at one of the following VCCs before entering the installation: Buffalo Soldier, Chaffee, Old Ironsides (Global Reach), Sheridan, or Biggs Airfield Main (Sergeant Major Blvd). Visitor passes are good for a maximum of 30 days.

Fort Bliss Visitor Control Centers

The Buffalo Soldier VCC will operate from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. every day of the week, including holidays.

The Master Sgt. Peña VCC will be closed to the public indefinitely for visitor passes, but will be open for un-cleared contractor processing only.

The Sheridan VCC will be closed to the public indefinitely for visitor passes and will process foreign visitors and special access only.

However, the Peña and Sheridan VCCs will be the primary automated installation entry registration points, operating between 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. for AIE registration (Mondays-Fridays only). The specific start date for AIE registration will be published in the near future.

The following hours still apply for Fort Bliss VCCs: the Chaffee VCC will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including holidays), and the Old Ironsides VCC will operate from 5 a.m.-9 p.m. every day of the week, including holidays.

Visitors to William Beaumont Army Medical Center are required to use the Fred Wilson Access Control Point and visitors to the McGregor Range Complex are required to use the McGregor Front Access Control Point. Hours of operation: 24 hours, 7 days a week, for both of these ACPs.

As a reminder, all drivers requiring entry to the installation must possess a valid state issued driver's license, vehicle registration document, and proof of insurance for a pass to be issued. All vehicles are subject to random security inspections.

All DOD ID card holders (military, dependent, retiree, and DOD/DA civilians) are authorized to escort those that do not possess a DOD ID card. Individuals being escorted must possess a valid form of government issued ID card (state driver's license or ID card) and present it when entering at the Access Control Point. If an individual does not possess a valid form of government issued ID, they cannot be escorted and must obtain a pass at a VCC.

DOD ID card holders escorting visitors assume responsibility for the escorted visitors. The authorized escort must remain with their guests at all times while they are on the installation.

Retiree and Annuitant Pay Dates for 2017

Entitlement Month	Retiree Payment Dates	Annuitant Payment Dates
January 2017	Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017	Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017
February 2017	Wednesday, Mar. 1, 2017	Wednesday, Mar. 1, 2017
March 2017	Friday, Mar. 31, 2017	Monday, Apr. 3, 2017
April 2017	Monday, May 1, 2017	Monday, May 1, 2017
May 2017	Thursday, June 1, 2017	Thursday, June 1, 2017
June 2017	Friday, June 30, 2017	Monday, July 3, 2017
July 2017	Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017	Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017
August 2017	Friday, Sept. 1, 2017	Friday, Sept. 1, 2017
September 2017	Friday, Sept. 29, 2017	Monday, Oct. 2, 2017
October 2017	Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017	Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017
November 2017	Friday, Dec. 1, 2017	Friday, Dec. 1, 2017
December 2017	Friday, Dec. 29, 2017	Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018

WBAMC Pharmacy Services

Main Hospital Pharmacy

Monday through Wednesday and Friday	7:30 AM – 6:00 PM	915-742-2793
Last Thursday of every month	8:30 AM – 6:00 PM	
Saturday	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	
Closed Sundays and Federal Holidays		

Freedom Crossing PX Pharmacy

Monday – Friday	8:30 AM – 6:00 PM	915-742-9017
Saturday & Training Holidays	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	
Closed Sundays and Federal Holidays		

Soldier and Family Medical Clinic (SFMC) Pharmacy

Monday – Friday	7:30 AM – 6:30 PM	915-742-1802
Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal Holidays		

Soldier Family Care Clinic (SFCC) Pharmacy

Monday – Friday	7:30 AM – 6:30 PM	915-742-1400
Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal Holidays		
Pharmacy Refill Services		915-742-1400

El Paso VA Health Care System Pharmacy

There are four convenient options for refilling prescriptions which can then be mailed directly to your home. Choose any process that is easy for you to use:

- Call the automated phone system at (915) 564-6100 ext. 6110 or 1-800-672-3782 ext. 6110.
- Follow the directions to process your refill.
- Mail in your refill slips.
- Drop the refill slip in the mail-out box located in the pharmacy.
- Use the MyHealtheVet Website: www.myhealth.va.gov

Please note, window service at the Pharmacy will be limited to new prescriptions only. So, for all refills, please use one of the 4 options listed above.

Thank you in advance for using these new steps which should improve the speed and efficiency of getting your prescriptions from the El Paso VAHCS Pharmacy.

Extended Hours

Monday and Friday: 8:00 am to 4:45 pm. Pharmacy intake window will be closed at 4:30 pm.

Tuesdays: 9:00 am to 5:45 pm. Pharmacy intake will be closed at 5:30 pm.

Wednesdays and Thursdays: 7:00 am to 5:45 pm. Pharmacy intake will be closed at 5:30 pm.

Saturday: 8:30 am to 10:30 am for patients with primary care appointment only.

Location
El Paso VAHCS
2nd Floor, West Hallway

Contact Numbers
915-564-7942
800-672-3782



DOC'S CORNER

Dr. William Davitt

This is confusion, even to me, and I've been at it a long time. So that you can make an informed choice, let's discuss the team of "O's" involved in visual system care.

Should a patient lose an eye due to injury, disease, or maybe a birth defect, it's still possible to look normal. A Certified OCULARIST would be the specialist involved. That's someone with the skillset necessary to fashion a match of the other eye, so the false eye [ocular prosthesis] looks right, feels right, and stays put. This area is served by Mr. Dan Wenske who offices in San Antonio, but piles all his gear in a travel trailer, and makes a trip to west Texas every few months. So a needy patient can see Dan on Monday, and have his new eye the next day. Dan chose this career field after losing his eye, only to

What's up with the O's?

learn his own ocularist wasn't up to the task. Dan has a great bedside manner and is somehow able to match eyes well enough to fool me, even when I'm looking through a microscope!

A Certified OPTICIAN is an expert in glasses. Tell them what you need to do, and they will have a solution. We're talking frames, lens material, coatings, tints, adjustments, repairs, prisms, you name it. Such experts are typically associated with an optic shop and many own their business. Sadly, the realities of business today have trimmed the ranks of Certified Opticians in my area. Seems like competing with the folks with the TV ads was a challenge. Northeast El Paso at one time enjoyed the expertise of FOUR such experts. At last count we're down to one.

A Certified OPTICAL LAB actually makes eyeglass lenses. There are labs in town, and at least one if family owned, and has been doing business since 1975. My personal experience is that group puts out a high quality product and their team is totally into customer service. Anything coming out of that lab is "spot on."

So where do you get a glasses pre-

scription? Properly done, either an OPTOMETRIST [OD] or OPHTHALMOLOGIST [MD]. Now here's the difference. The one with the long name is a medical school graduate. Then a year of doing just about everything. Taking my own experience, I've delivered babies, repaired broken bones, treated heart attack victims to include removing a vein for a heart bypass patients, slid catheters into the heart, and diagnosed many previously hidden life threatening problems. Even though my focus now is body and eye diseases, part of my training included 'eye exams' to include glasses prescriptions.

Notice I included CERTIFIED in some designations. This credential speaks to a program that evaluates knowledge, ability, and experience. So each of the O's can elect to undergo rigorous testing and if they pass, Certification is awarded. In some cases, this is time limited, requiring retesting every few years.

I hope this helps you sort out the O's. Then you can make a choice about who does what and who you can trust.

Dr. Bill Davitt, Board Certified Ophthalmologist
Former Chief, Ophthalmology, WBAMC
Former high performance jet instructor pilot, USAF

JUNIOR ENLISTED FAMILY CENTER, YMCA FOOD PANTRY

The Junior Enlisted Family Center's Food Pantry serves Fort Bliss needy families E-6 and under with non-perishable food. Presently, 1200 families are being assisted. The Food Pantry is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12 noon until 4:00 p.m. Approximately 150 people are helped each day.

Located in the Trading Post (old Commissary), 1717 Marshall Road, the entrance is located behind the building on the loading docks that face the Post Office. There are steps up to a door. Once you enter the doorway, immediately turn left and go down a hallway. The Family Center is straight ahead.

If a soldier is in need, the soldier must get a form from a chaplain or

someone in his unit who is authorized to provide the form. Upon entering the Family Center, the soldier or spouse



must provide the form and their military ID. The Pantry is dedicated to helping the truly needy families.

Kimberly Heaverin coordinates the program. She can be reached at 270-804-9506. Wendy Bryant, also, coordinates the program and she can be reached at 423-435-4506.

What can you do to help? You may take donations of non-perishable food to the Pantry during the hours they are

open. Please don't leave donations on the docks as those items are often "lost." Those food items that are in great demand are boxed macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, cereal, oatmeal, pasta and pasta sauce. If you have gently used furniture that you no longer want or other items such as baby strollers, a call to Kimberly or Wendy will get those unwanted items to families on Fort Bliss who need them. Furthermore, the Commissary will place a large carton near the exit for donations of non-perishable food from time to time during the year. Also, several times a year, there are brown paper sacks pre-packaged with food in the commissary which you may purchase and place in a carton near the exit.

Any help that you might provide will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Kimberly or Wendy if you have questions. Thank you.



August 2017 Membership Meeting & Lunch
The Centennial Club and Conference Center
11199 Sergeant E. Churchill St., Fort Bliss, TX 79908

Date: Saturday, 12 August 2017
Time: 1100 - 1400

Guest Speaker: Ms. Patricia Bevel Kidney
Featuring "Bronco Sue"

Menu:
Bar-B-Que Buffet
Ranch Beans & Corn O'Brien
Garden Salad w/Dressing; Cornbread & Butter
Water, Coffee, and Iced Tea
MOAA Cake

Dress: Casual



Brunch Secretary: secretary@elpasomoaa.org
Membership or email queries: membership@elpasomoaa.org
Mail To: El Paso Chapter MOAA, Attn.: Treasurer, PO Box 6144, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144

Please fill in this acceptance slip and return to the Treasurer by Monday, 7 August 2017 with a check for \$20 per person, the cost of the brunch. **Late Reservations**, call Bob Pitt, 915-533-5111 or Bill Moore, 915-842-9650, by Noon, Thursday, August 10, and pay at the door.

Lunch will be on Saturday 12 August 2014 at 11:00 a.m.
Please print guest names clearly to ensure the correct spelling on the registration listing.

I will / will not attend the lunch and there will be _____ attendees in my party.

My check for \$ _____ (\$20.00 per person) made payable to the "El Paso Chapter" is enclosed.

Name of Member: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Name(s) of Guests: _____



AUXILIARY LIAISON

Mrs. Connie Sullivan

Dear Members, Isn't it amazing how rapidly time goes by?

We are now in the month of August, which I call the sweet and bitter month.

The reason is that since some people were able to enjoy their children or grandchildren and maybe both during the summer, now it's time to see them go so they can resume their studies or go back to their jobs.

The experiences of excitement and enthusiasm that was felt, will be in their memories of all of them.

As parents and grandparents, we always have interesting stories to tell about our sons, daughters and little ones. Recently, my neighbor was telling me about an experience she had with her daughter when she was about 8-yrs old.

She said that her daughter decided that she was going to run away from home and left a note saying "I am at the 7 Eleven on the corner of the next block, do not come and get me."

So, my friend and her husband honored her wishes and waited a total of 30 mins. and the daughter was back no questions asked. Little did she know that a family member was nearby.

Everyday can be a beautiful experience. The key is to look forward to what the future holds, for each day can be great if we so choose to enjoy the blessing that comes with it.

MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT— UNDER EXAMINATION

Military spouse employment problems are "under active examination" by the Trump administration, presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said 14 JUN during an event sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation in Washington. "I'm happy this particular issue of military spouse unemployment and underemployment is part of my portfolio, and I share that issue with a number of people in the administration," said Conway, who spoke at a military spouse employment summit, part of the chamber's Hiring Our Heroes program.

Among the issues being looked at, Conway said, are problems with regulations regarding professional licensing. Spouses have long complained about the difficulties and expense in taking their careers across state lines.

Conway said military families shouldn't have to choose between paying a \$500 fee for a professional license and buying groceries or other necessities for that month. Jill Biden, the wife of former Vice President Joe Biden and an advocate for military families, said that with everything military spouses manage on the home front, they shouldn't be worried about paying bills and facing career hurdles. Both Biden and Conway noted the effect spouse employment has on retention and readiness. Biden cited a Hiring Our Heroes survey released at the event that found 81 percent of military spouses and their service members have discussed the possibility of leaving service, with one of the top factors in deciding whether to stay being the availability of careers for both spouses.

The survey involved 1,273 spouses of active-duty or recently separated service members. The report notes a decline in the unemployment rate of spouses from 23 percent to 16 percent in 2017, according to the survey; the new figure is still four times the national unemployment rate. Spouses who do find a job may take one that's below their qualification level, harming their career progression, the report states. And almost half of spouses in their current job make less money than they did in a previous job. "This is the beginning of a conversation that's long overdue," said Eric Eversole, president of Hiring our Heroes. "It's time to take action and start to address the critical challenges of our military families."

[Source: MilitaryTimes | Karen Jowers | June 14, 2017 ++]

Con'td from page 11

Credit Monitoring

4 Reasons Not to Use a Service

customers and pay an additional \$25 million penalty for misleading consumers into paying for add-on credit card products like payment protection and credit monitoring.

4. It costs too much -- Some monitoring services allow you to get your credit report and score any time for free. Against a backdrop of \$11 for a credit report or \$20 for a credit

score, paying \$20 a month for unlimited looks may seem like a bargain. But you can get a free credit report once a year from www.AnnualCreditReport.com, and these days you can easily get free access to your credit score. For details, see "Ask Stacy: Where Can I Get a Free Credit Score?" at <https://www.moneytalksnews.com/ask-stacy-where-can-get-free-credit-score>

One of the things about monitoring services is that we shouldn't need these services in the first place. Unless you're the one who negligently leaves your credit information lying around, you shouldn't have to worry about your

credit history being stolen and you shouldn't have to jump through hoops if it happens. The banking and credit reporting industries make billions annually from American consumers. If they can't be bothered to create a system that protects the information they collect and sell, they should solve — and pay for — the problems that result. But instead of crafting a safer system, they craft clever commercials to sell you "protection."

Is it all bad? There are those who disagree with the above and tout credit

Con'td on page 10

ARMY NURSES PROVIDE HEALTHCARE AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA

BY COL. CONSTANCE J. MOORE, USA (RET.), ARMY NURSE CORPS ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

When Hurricane Katrina hit the coast of Louisiana on August 29, 2005, the immense size and strength combined to turn a disaster in New Orleans into a catastrophe. Many healthcare facilities were damaged or destroyed. The communication infrastructure was knocked out. Over one million people were evacuated.¹ On September 7, 2005, Army nurses and other healthcare providers of the 14th Combat Support Hospital deployed to hurricane-battered "Old Easy" to provide emergency healthcare in the wake of the costliest natural disaster in the history of the United States.

The mobile medical unit set up "64 beds plus operating room, pharmacy, radiology, laboratory, and blood bank in DEPMEDS temper equipment at the New Orleans International Airport."² Later, because Hurricane Rita potentially had the airport in its path, the unit torn down and set up again at the New Orleans Convention Center. The hospital expanded to "84 beds; computed tomography and X-ray equipment were added; and an emergency room, and several ambulatory clinics were set up."³

This move was fortunate not only because it moved the facility closer where hurricane-ravaged survivors might be, but also the Combat Support Hospital became to only facility to

provide trauma support. The Charity Hospital, which normally handled this level of care, had been damaged beyond repair by the floods following hurricane.

Lieutenant Colonel (later Colonel) Kelly Wolgast and the nurses of the hospital found there was no shortage of patients. Many individuals were cut off from care and medical therapeutics, such as oxygen or insulin. Other patients, who were homebound and mentally ill, were somehow missed and not evacuated. This population was also in desperate need of assistance. As in other disasters, the emergency room saw a high number of heart attacks, uncontrolled hypertension, and orthopedic injuries. Newly homeless patients' chronic health care problems were exacerbated as they attempted to come to terms with their loss and try to plan for the future. The 21st Combat Support Hospital deployed on Oct 10, 2005, to replace the 14th as the city's only trauma center.

Army nurses attached to the mobile hospital "worked nonstop 12-hour shifts seeing upwards to 150 patients per day. They provided reassurance as their patients related their stories. These military healthcare professionals helped stabilize individuals so that they could be moved to other hospitals for definitive care. Nurses directed the

efforts of dispensing hand antiseptics, to remind people of basic cleanliness, and to encourage people to rest when they could. They provided the bulk of the "hands on" care such as immunizations and dressing changes. Traumatized clients were highly impressed by the kindly nurses and were appreciative of their excellent nursing skills."⁴

On November 14th, the 21st Combat Support hospital handed over the operation to the newly established Charity Hospital. In total, during the five-week mission, the Army nurses and the other healthcare professionals provided non-urgent, urgent and lifesaving care to more than "1,400 patients including performing 11 operative procedures and seven cardiopulmonary resuscitations. The emergency room saw over 400 patients including emergency stabilization of 106 patients and 36 admissions."⁵

There is no question that Hurricane Katrina was a challenging event in the recent history of our country. These Army nurses demonstrated that no matter what the event, or location that outstanding nursing care can be provided. "It took the skills resident in American's soldiers to overcome the chaos and destruction delivered by Hurricane Katrina."⁶

1 Elizabeth Bridges et al., "Military Nursing Research: Translation to disaster Response and Day-to-Day Critical Care Nursing," *Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America*, 20(2008): 122.

2 "ANC in the Spotlight," *The Connection*, 30(December 2005): 7.

3 Ibid.

4 Patrick Kenney, "The Life of an Army Physician" *Notre Dame Club of Hawaii Newsletter*, December 2005.

5 Tequia Burt, "After the Storm: Experiences and Insight from the Front," *Healthcare Executive*, 24 (March/April 2006): 32-34.

6 James A. Wombwell, *Army Support During the Hurricane Katrina Disaster*, (Ft. Leavenworth, KS: US Army Combined Arms Center, 2009): 6.

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Credit Monitoring 4 Reasons Not to Use a Service

monitoring and protection as a smart thing to do. For example, in this 2010 article, personal finance author Lynnette Khalfani-Cox said: The single big-

gest reason to use credit monitoring is that you'll receive an incredible amount of credit education simply by staying on top of your credit. The mere act of constantly reviewing your credit files and being aware of changes to your credit profile promotes enhanced financial literacy and better credit awareness.

Fine. Monitoring your credit is a good educational experience. And if you're

going to be applying for a mortgage or other big loan, the three free reports you're entitled to yearly from AnnualCreditReport.com may not be enough. But paying \$20 a month — or more than \$50 in Heather's case — for "education"?

[Source: MoneyTalksNews | Stacey Johnson | June 23, 2017 ++]



PERSONAL AFFAIRS

Jose Luis Hernandez

Converting fear into fees -- They say sex sells, and I'm sure they're right. But it is doubtful if it outsells fear. From burglar alarms to bomb shelters, Americans shell out billions annually to protect against all manner of evil: some real, much greatly exaggerated. But wherever fear can be churned up, you can bet there's someone not far behind making a buck. Such is the case with credit monitoring. These services are more sizzle than steak for at least four reasons.

1. You're not liable if someone opens credit in your name

If someone forges your signature on a credit application, check or anywhere else, you're generally not responsible for the results. As with anyone stealing anything, the thief is liable. And if the thief isn't caught or can't make restitution, it's a problem for the institution that accepted the fraudulent charge, not you. Of course, we've all read stories of how credit fraud is passed along to consumers in the form of higher prices. We've also read about the nightmare that ensues when your identity is stolen: Your credit is trashed, and you're forced to spend months — even years — restoring it.

2. Credit monitoring doesn't prevent ID theft

Monitoring your credit is marketed as if it's a burglar alarm that keeps bad guys out. But what it more closely resembles is an alarm that's tripped as the bad guys are leaving. By definition, credit monitoring can only monitor transactions that have already occurred. What you want is to prevent them from happening in the first place. As it happens, dissuading crooks from making off with your identity and going on a spending

spree isn't hard to do, and it doesn't cost a dime. Just put a fraud alert on your account. According to Experian: Fraud alert messages notify potential credit grantors to verify your identification before extending credit in your name in case someone is using your information without your consent.

Doesn't that seem like a good idea? It costs nothing, and there aren't a lot of hoops to jump through. Take a look at the form (https://www.alerts.equifax.com/AutoFraud_Online/jsp/fraudAlert.jsp) and see for yourself. So fraud alerts are one way to slow crooks down. An even more effective method is a credit freeze. A freeze means nobody — including you — can open new credit until your account is "thawed," a process that can take a few days (<https://www.moneytalksnews.com/how-get-heavy-duty-fraud-protection-with-credit-freeze>). Unlike fraud alerts, credit freezes aren't always free or even available, depending on where you live, and some states also allow fees to be charged to temporarily lift the freeze. Read more about credit freezes at this page of FTC.gov and learn about the rules in your state at this page of the Consumers Union website.

Credit Monitoring

4 Reasons Not to Use a Service

3. Who's monitoring the monitors?

-- LifeLock is a monitoring service that's probably the most heavily advertised. But here's something they don't advertise: In 2015, they settled with the Federal Trade Commission in an action that accused them of misleading consumers and not adequately protecting their private information. From the FTC press release: LifeLock will pay \$100 million to settle Federal Trade Commission contempt charges that it violated the terms of a 2010 federal court order that requires the company to secure consumers' personal information and prohibits the company from deceptive advertising.

In 2010 action referred to above, the FTC collected \$12 million from a settlement with LifeLock. From the 2010 press release: "While LifeLock promised consumers complete protection against all types of identity theft, in truth, the protection it actually provided left enough holes that you could drive a truck through it," said FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz. LifeLock isn't the only company that's found itself in hot water over credit monitoring. A few years ago the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau required Capital One Bank to refund about \$140 million to 2 million



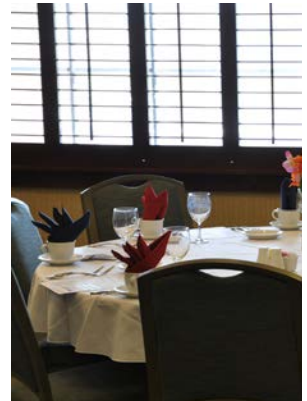
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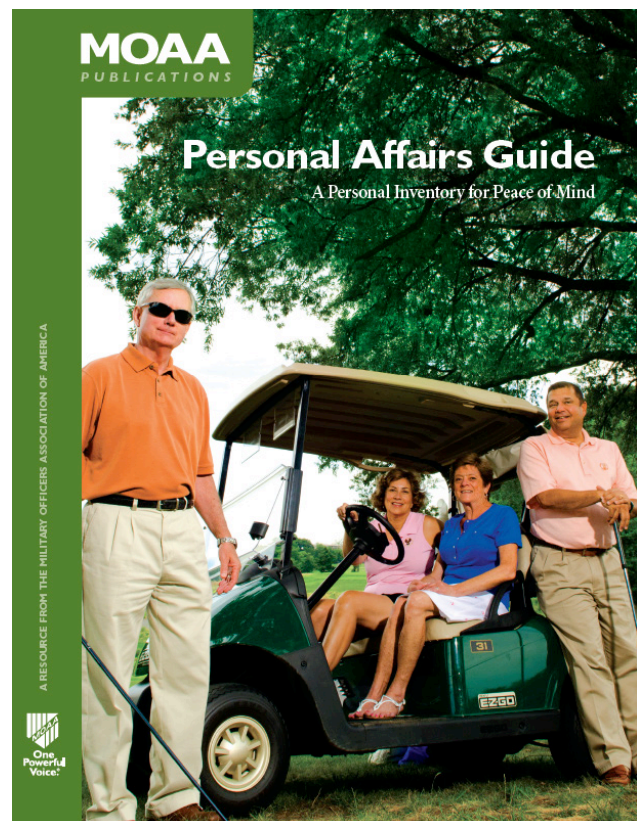
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Medicaid Eligible Vets

Lifeline For 1 In 10 Vets May Be Cut

We are on the eve of Congress enacting radical changes to the American healthcare system, including proposals to significantly restructure the Medicaid program. Republican leadership in the Senate is working to swiftly finalize a bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Although many details are still unknown, the House-passed American Health Care Act (AHCA) included proposals to enact per capita caps or block grant Medicaid, resulting in a \$834 billion cut to the program—the single largest source of funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment in the United States. Some Americans, including members of Congress, have a distorted view of what the Medicaid program is and who it serves. One group it serves is an often-overlooked group of the Medicaid population—America's veterans, a demographic currently facing a mental healthcare crisis resulting in the highest suicide rate in the country.

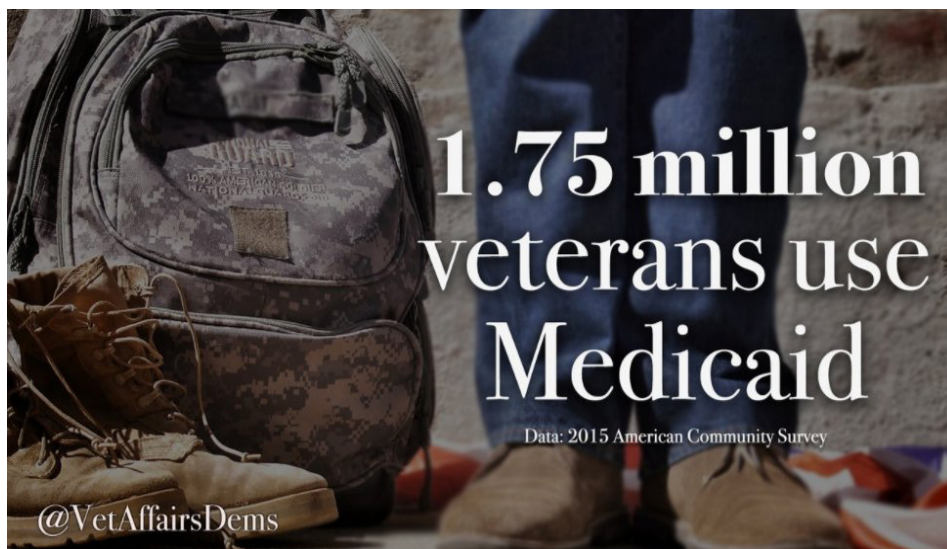
Our nation's current healthcare debate ensuing in the halls of Congress is ignoring the fact that not all veterans receive their health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In fact, only 40 percent of America's approximately 22 million veterans are enrolled in and receive all or part of their care through the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Eligibility depends on minimum service requirements, disability ratings, and discharge status. Additionally, millions of veterans living in rural areas find it impossible to access care at a VA facility. These factors combined leave a significant gap in access to healthcare. For approximately 1.75 million veterans—nearly 1 in 10—Medicaid fills this gap and for many, is the sole

source of coverage for primary and specialty healthcare. Efforts to cap and cut Medicaid risk the health and well-being of veterans most in need. In addition, many veterans require intensive care for service-related injuries, including mental health conditions, and are at particular risk if the program is cut.

America's veterans already face many barriers to accessing quality care and congressional actions to cap and cut Medicaid or phase out Medicaid expansion entirely, would make it impossible for veterans to get necessary health services. In fact, 340,000 veterans would lose their coverage in 2020 if Medicaid expansion is ended. As experts who work with the military community know, stigma is still one of the main reasons veterans are apprehensive in seeking care for a mental health condition. In a culture that demands strength, it is often difficult to step forward and seek help for an injury, such as PTSD, that remains unseen. For this reason, adding another large barrier to accessing mental health services would result in deadly consequences.

Let's consider for a moment, veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance use disorder and other mental health conditions who are relying on Medicaid to cover all or part of their care. The mental health therapies and medications they are receiving is calming the nightmares and flashbacks they experience as witnesses of war—putting them on a pathway to recovery. The proposed draconian cuts to Medicaid threaten to end coverage for this population, a group of dedicated Americans who have sacrificed so much for our Nation's greater good. Men and women who answered the highest call to serve when freedom hung in the balance. Most alarmingly, this proposed cut to care comes at a time when 20 veterans die each day by suicide. This places the risk of suicide for veterans at a 21 percent higher rate than civilians. As a nation, we can and we must do better.

[Source: The Hill | Emily Blair | Opinion Contributor | June 21, 2017 ++]



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION 100%, TOTAL and PERMANENTLY DISABLED? Beyond One's Initial Declaration, a Chief Appraiser May No Longer Require Annual Submission of Proof for Relief of Advalorem Taxation

by Edwin S. Stone, III, Major, U.S. Army, Retired, The Constituent

Until a constituent of Texas Representative Joe C. Pickett, District 79, asked for relief from making the annual trip to the Central Appraisal District to reaffirm one's Veterans Administration total and permanent disability to receive his property tax exemption, one was required by the local Chief Appraiser to make the trek annually.

Representative Pickett introduced House Bill 1101. Senator Jose Rodriguez sponsored the Bill in the Senate. Many "thanks" to both.

The Bill made it through both legislative chambers with all "yea" votes. It, from which the following excerpt is lifted, reads: "... (r) The chief appraiser may not require a person allowed an exemption under Section 11.131 to file a new application to determine the person's current qualification for the exemption if the person has a permanent total disability determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs under 38 C.F.R. Section 4.15.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 2018." <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/85R/billtext/html/HB01101F.htm>

Governor Greg Abbott signed the Bill on 5/26/2017 thus becoming law with an effective date of 1/1/2018.

The legislation was written for those with a Veterans Administration 100% disability which is "total and permanent," key words, as stated under the provisions of 38 C.F.R. Section 4.15 (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title38-vol1/xml/CFR-2011-title38-vol1-sec4-15.xml>), which reads: "**§ 4.15 Total disability ratings.**

The ability to overcome the handicap of disability varies widely among individuals. The rating, however, is based primarily upon the average impairment in earning capacity, that is, upon the economic or industrial handicap which must be overcome and not from individual success in overcoming it. However, full consideration must be given to unusual physical or mental effects in individual cases, to peculiar effects of occupational activities, to defects in physical or mental endowment preventing the usual amount of success in overcoming the handicap of disability and to the effect of combinations of disability. Total disability will be considered to exist when there is present any impairment of mind or body which is sufficient to render it impossible for the average person to follow a substantially gainful occupation; Provided, That permanent total disability shall be taken to exist when the impairment is reasonably certain to continue throughout the life of the disabled person. The following will be considered to be permanent total disability: the permanent loss of the use of both hands, or of both feet, or of one hand and one foot, or of the sight of both eyes, or becoming permanently helpless or permanently bedridden. Other total disability ratings are scheduled in the various bodily systems of this schedule."

The act does not include language granting surviving spouses this same exception.

This effort was for all VA 100%, total and permanently disabled Veterans through out the State but most especially for those 20 something ones that should not have to go before the Central Appraisal District annually for the next 50 years for something that is total and permanent.

Thought: Apply one last time after January 1, 2018; and, get a receipt for your document.





CHAPLAIN CORNER

Mrs. Connie Sullivan

Not long ago I was talking with a wonderful man, Chaplain Trujillo who was telling me about an experience that he had in Afghanistan that made a very strong impact in his life.

He said that in the Province of Gazni Afghanistan at the place where he had been deployed to, one of the times when they were getting excessive bombings, he had gathered some troops to pray in a building. To his astonishment and to the men that were with him, seeing that as soon as they had come out of the place where they had been praying, the structure was bombed.

Which gave them a sense of fear and relief at the same time.

They were watching a miracle right before their eyes not only in shock but extremely grateful to have seen their prayers answered. I can imagine the sense of gratitude to God for saving their lives.

It is really marvelous to see the hand of the Supreme Being at work. Miracles happen every day. Sometimes we just fail to recognize them, ignore them, or simply just over look them or even perhaps we don't believe in them.

But sometimes paying attention to what is happening in our daily lives, could give us a feeling of peace, and of protection of the love of God.

Summer Prayer

Parenting is a lonely occupation at times—just you, the kids, and the digital clock on the nightstand. Gone from your memory are the baby showers, first steps, birthday parties, and adoring friends fawning over your children. Instead, you are faced with one child who is sick and another one who is whining that he has no one to play with since his sister is sick in bed (the same sister that has gifted you with the same cold she has). Your husband is out of town for three days and it has been raining for forever. Lonely, indeed.

Two thousand years ago, your brother Paul knelt before his Father and yours and prayed a simple, profound prayer for you. No, Paul didn't know you by name, but the Holy Spirit does. He directed Paul to pray this compassionate prayer for you, because he knew you would face the loneliness that often comes in a life lived according to God's priorities. Read these words:

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 3:16-19

These words are crafted for all times. This prayer is for times when you know the powerful reality of God's blessing, and also for times of sorrow, times of testing, and times of loneliness. Christ dwelling in your heart by faith—it seems almost too much to ask. But this is exactly the beauty of faith: it is the gift of God. When you are overwhelmed by loneliness in the presence of your children, this prayer is for you!

God's power is available for you through the power of the Spirit. It is not power you have to generate. It is the Spirit's awesome power. This power points you to the love of Christ that surpasses loneliness.

This is the same Christ who was tempted in all things just as you are. He knew the loneliness of being with those who did not see what he saw. Yet he was faithful to his Father and to your Father. Think, pray, and know the love of God in the depth of your loneliness. It is there for you. The cold will pass, both yours and your child's. The whining will be transformed to gratitude. The rain will give way to warmth. But most importantly, Jesus Christ will continue to intercede for you so that you will know the riches of Christ in you, the hope of glory.



LEGISLATIVE

COL. Lennie Enzel

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As you probably know, our Congress passed a resolution to fund our government through 30 September 2017. In my opinion, they are still shirking their main duty which is to pass a cogent budget and not a hodge-podge of continuing resolutions of varying lengths of time. Our earned benefits remain under constant attack. There are still many who want to change our pay and compensation, promotion, healthcare, retirement, and education systems as well as areas of support such as child care. There is still a big push to eliminate the Commissaries and Basic Housing Allowances are facing more cuts. Congress is also seeking to get involved with legislation to curb sexual assaults in the military. Immediately following DoD's release of the FY 2016 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, the House Armed Services Committee's (HASC's) Military Personnel Subcommittee held a hearing on "Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service. While DoD reported that the prevalence of sexual assault in the military decreased last year, it is still at an unacceptably high rate with 14,900 reported assaults (one can only imagine how many go unreported). Twelve percent of service academy students report being sexually assaulted and approximately 50 percent report being sexually harassed during their time at the academies.

TRICARE:

In addition to going from 3 TRICARE Contractors and Regions to 2 (Health Net and Humana), the other major TRICARE change is to replace TRICARE Standard (the fee-for-service insurance option) and TRICARE Extra (the preferred provider option) with TRICARE Select. Under the new TRICARE Select, patients can choose their own providers but if they use a non-network provider, they will incur higher out-of-pocket costs. Cost-sharing will revert to a percentage of TRICARE's allowable charge. TRICARE Select patients using non-network providers also will have a higher deductible to pay. TRICARE Select, unlike Standard, will require an enrollment fee, but only for servicemembers and families who enter active duty on or after Jan. 1, 2018. Beneficiaries who currently use Standard or Extra will be grandfathered from TRICARE Select enrollment fees at least through 2019. There are few plans to change TRICARE Prime (the managed care option). One improvement is they are ending a requirement that Prime users must get referrals from primary care doctors before using a neighborhood urgent care facility.

The new contracts for both TRICARE Medical and Dental Plans for active duty family members and reservists lower the amount they reimburse physicians and dentists leading to concerns that many will flee the program leaving beneficiaries unable to get needed care. The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is unaffected by the new dental contracts.

The Supreme Court is hearing a case involving the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA). The case will determine the extent of a state court's legal authority to divide military retired pay in a divorce where the former servicemember waives a portion of military retired pay in favor of VA disability compensation. The court is expected to rule on the case later this year.

VA:

VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin, told lawmakers he plans to extend benefits to two groups: pre-9/11 caregivers and Veterans with other-than-honorable

discharges who are suffering from mental health issues all whilst using existing resources.

The Caregivers Program, which started in 2010, provides caregivers of Veterans who were injured in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, with monthly stipends, access to health care, mental health counseling, and other services. The VA wants to find ways to extend similar benefits to the caregivers of older Veterans. Hopefully, this will allow elderly Veterans to remain in their own home with a Caregiver and not have to be placed in a nursing home.

Shulkin also promised to offer mental health care to veterans with other-than-honorable discharges. 20 Veterans commit suicide every day which is 21% higher than the adult civilian population. However, only 6 of those are connected with VA services.

Changes in the Veterans Choice Program:

On April 19, 2017, President Trump signed a law that removes the Aug. 7, 2017, expiration date and allows VA to utilize funding dedicated to the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) until it is exhausted. The VCP increases access to care for Veterans by authorizing millions of appointments for Veterans in the community. Before this law change, some Veterans were required to pay the cost-shares/co-pays associated with their private health insurance. Now, those Veterans will not have to pay the cost-shares/co-pays to their private, health-insurance carrier. The law also permits the VA and community health providers to more readily share medical information thereby improving care coordination.

Effective 11/11/17, Veterans will be able to shop online at The Exchange. They must first be authenticated through VetVerify.org.

Texas:

The 85th Texas Legislative Session will end on 5/29/17. A number of bills affecting military and Veterans are being considered by both the House and Senate to include modifications in the Hazlewood Act. I will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Roswell UFO Incident 70th Anniversary

Suddenly, the silver saucer that has been suspended, stationary and silent above and behind four sallow-skinned, somber-faced, spaced-out aliens, starts to spin and spew smoke. Caught by surprise, visitors to the International UFO Museum and Research Center – kids and adults – stand wide-eyed and transfixed, traces of smiles creasing their faces as they watch and wonder what's next. Well, actually, that's about all. This saucer in the museum display does not crash as many people believe – or would like to believe – an actual alien craft did 70 years ago and about 75 miles northwest of here. The so-called Roswell Incident of 1947 is the reason the city of Roswell started a UFO Festival in 1995 and will host the 2017 festival Thursday, June 29, through Sunday, July 2.

It's the reason stores along Main Street sell T-shirts embossed with little green men and slogans such as "Roswell – Green since 1947." It's the reason why this museum was opened in 1992. And it's the reason Dana Lenko, 35, alien-visage antennae growing out of her long, dark hair, is among the museum visitors delighting in the spinning, smoking saucer. Lenko is a native of Melbourne, Australia, but she has lived in this country for three years and makes her home in Austin, where she is a fashion designer. Earlier this month, she was traveling with friends in New Mexico. "I have never been in New Mexico before," she said. "We want to see Santa Fe and Taos. But I've always been very keen on the stars and the vastness of space. My dad was an amateur astronomer. He gave me a love for that and for science fiction and the films. So I wanted to see Roswell for sure. You've got the chance to come here where it all started."

Strange debris

There were reports of Unidentified Flying Objects before whatever happened in New Mexico in the summer of 1947 happened. But the Roswell Incident planted the seed out of which today's fascination with extraterrestrial visitation sprouted. It started when W.W. "Mac" Brazel, who was running a sheep operation on a ranch, 30 miles southeast of Corona, in Lincoln County, found debris scattered in his pasture in the summer of 1947. It was described as lightweight wood, tinfoil, tape, paper and strips of rubber, which sounds mundane enough. Except that some of it has also been described as impervious to fire, knife and hammer and unnaturally resilient. When Brazel told neighbors about it during the first week of July, they said he might have found wreckage from one of those flying saucers that had been in newspaper stories recently. So Brazel drove down to Roswell Army Air Field and reported his find.

The Army collected the debris and on July 8 the Roswell air field public relations officer released information saying the Army had recovered a flying disc. It made newspaper headlines, but the story was retracted by the Army almost immediately. The debris was actually from a weather balloon, the Army said. So sorry for the goof up. That could have been that. Mac Brazel died in 1963 and the years rolled along until 1980, when, in "The Roswell Incident," Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore wrote that the weather balloon story was a cover-up, that not only was the stuff Brazel found from a flying saucer but that the Army had discovered the crashed saucer itself and the bodies of its alien crew. It exploded from there. There were more books with varying body counts and crash-site locations.

There was a 1999 TV movie; a 1999-2002 TV series; countless TV documentaries, including one in 1995 that claimed to depict an autopsy of an alien crash victims (it wasn't); and a 1999 episode on "The X-Files" TV series.

Wall-to-wall people

Roswell, a city of 50,000 about 200 miles southeast of Albuquerque, was not about to miss out on the action or the opportunity. Today, the "Welcome to Roswell" sign sports a tilted saucer on one corner. Through 2016, the UFO Museum had attracted 3,569,826 visitors, 13 percent of whom come from other countries. This year's UFO festival was expected to draw 30,000 people, a boon to hotels, restaurants, service stations and stores with names such as Alien Zone, Alien Invasion, 3RD Rock from the Sun and Roswell Landing. "The festival is our Black Friday," said Robert Marshall, 53, a Roswell native and an employee of Roswell Landing, which sells alien-themed merchandise such as T-shirts, coffee cups, shot glasses, key chains, magnets and so on. "We've been back stocking a lot of merchandise (for the festival). Upstairs is all T-shirts." Jessie Payne, 32, manager of Alien Zone, remembers the 1997 festival, which marked the Roswell Incident's 50th anniversary, as being the landmark celebration to date. "That was wall-to-wall people," she said. "People were walking up and down Main Street for miles. You couldn't (drive) anywhere for stopping for pedestrians." To boost its everyday traffic, Alien Zone features Area 51, a special section where, for a \$2 to \$3 admission fee, patrons can see displays depicting aliens adapting to earthly avocations such as lounging on couches and drinking beer. On a recent day, Kevin Childers, 33, a medical doctor from Hendersonville, Tenn., and his wife, Danielle, 30, checked out Area 51. The Childers said their interest in Roswell had been piqued by "Unacknowledged," a recent documentary about the suppression of alien-encounter incidents, a

Con'td on page 21

recurring theme in the UFO books, articles and films. The Childers said they were having a good time in Roswell.

Something happened

Roswell Landing's Marshall said 95 percent of the people who come into the store are from somewhere else. He said those are the people who want alien T-shirts and coffee mugs. He said it's different for people, such as himself, who were born in Roswell. "You hear about it so much you don't pay attention to it anymore," he said. "But something happened. When the Army tells the Roswell Record (newspaper) they have found a flying saucer, and then the next day they have to come back and say it was a weather balloon." One explanation, and it sounds reasonable, is that the Army was not covering up for a flying saucer find but for Project Mogul, an operation, top secret at the time, aimed at discovering whether or not the Soviet Union was testing atomic bombs. The project employed high-altitude balloons equipped with sensitive microphones that could detect sound waves generated by atomic testing. Maybe it was a Project Mogul balloon that crashed into Brazel's sheep pasture.

Frank Kimbler, 61, one of the guest speakers at this year's UFO Festival, thinks the Project Mogul theory is just so much gas. "A craft of unknown origin crashed in the New Mexico desert and scared the hell out of the American military and out of people (witnesses) to the point they won't talk about it today," Kimbler said. An assistant professor of earth sciences at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, Kimbler was scheduled to give a festival lecture titled "Roswell Crash Site: The Quest for Physical Evidence." Over the last seven years he has been scouring the Brazel debris field, using metal detectors, remote sensing and radiation-detecting devices to search for pieces of debris overlooked by the Army, artifacts that may shed some light on what happened there

in 1947. "All we have is handed-down stories," he said. "I need to take some of my science and see if I can find some physical evidence. I've found some aluminum-type alloys. For good science, you need to have samples tested at three independent laboratories. But as soon as I start to get an answer, things disappear – in the mail or somehow."

Nazi UFOs

Guy Malone, 48, of Roswell organized a series of UFO Festival lectures that challenge the extraterrestrial hypothesis. He himself was to do presentations titled "Are Aliens Demons? Evidences That Suggest 'Yes'" and "Roswell 1947: What Really Happened?" Malone's theory is that the Roswell Incident is about something more devious and sinister than an alien crash and subsequent government cover-up. He thinks it might have involved the crash of an experimental aircraft being developed for the United States by German scientists.

Malone said that following World War II, a secret effort, known as Operation Paperclip, smuggled hundreds of German scientists, engineers and technicians – many of them former members of the Nazi party – into this country. "Hitler was notorious for developing flying craft of different shapes and propulsion devices," Malone said. "The U.S. wanted the technology because the Russians were trying to scoop up these (Germans), as well as other countries." He said some of the Germans were sent to Fort Bliss in Texas and New Mexico and White Sands in New Mexico. Malone believes the cover-up was an attempt to keep new technology under wraps and conceal from the public the fact that Nazis were working for the U.S. government.

Don Schmitt, 62, the co-author of five books about the Roswell Incident, said he was a skeptic when he started investigating the case in 1989. "But the moment we started talking to people who actually handled the material (debris found by Brazel), we started thinking

'What if we are wrong?'," Schmitt said during a phone interview from his Wisconsin home. He said the first 10 witnesses all said the same thing about the debris, that it was like metal but it wasn't, it was like plastic but it wasn't, that it couldn't be cut or burned or creased. Now, he says, he is 99 percent sure the crash involved something from another world. Schmitt and his writing partner, Thomas J. Carey, were scheduled to give several lectures at the UFO festival, one titled "The Misadventures of Two Roswell Investigators." "The investigation is still fluid," he said. "We are planning our sixth archaeological dig (at the Brazel debris field). We may come away with nothing, but we can say we did it."

Mysterious universe

Back at the UFO Museum, Pamela Cortez, 46, of Idaho Falls, Idaho, was checking out the exhibits. She has come to New Mexico to visit her daughter and two grandkids, all of whom live in Carlsbad. Cortez's favorite museum display features statements by persons involved directly or indirectly with the Roswell incident. She thinks an alien spacecraft did slam into a New Mexico pasture 70 years ago. "I believe it's true. I believe the government hides a lot of stuff from us." Fashion designer Lenko, she of the alien antennae, is more cautious. "I believe – in a more scientific way – that there might be other inhabitable planets out there," she said. "It would be a bit arrogant of us to think that in this whole wide universe there is no other life. There's a big universe out there, a lot of mysteries. It is very exciting."

[Source: Albuquerque Journal, N.M. (TNS) | Ollie Reed Jr. | June 25, 2017 ++]

Renewals

CW2 William Tidd



**The El Paso Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
In Conjunction With The
Fort Bliss Retiree Advisory Council
Cordially invites you to the Pre-Retiree Appreciation Day Reception/Dinner to
be held at the Underwood Golf Course, Friday, 29 September 2017.
TIME: 6:00 PM No-Host Social Hour, Dinner 6:30 PM
Program starts at: 7:15 PM
Keynote Speaker: Ms. Brooke Goldberg, Deputy Director of Government Relations
Military Officers Association of America**

**Members and guests of the following organizations are invited to attend:
El Paso Chapter Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Desert Sun Chapter 30, Society of Military Widows (SMW)
Military Order of World Wars (MOWW)
Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)**

Menu

*Chicken Cordon Bleu, Green Bean Almandine, Rosemary Oven Roasted New Potatoes, Tossed
Green Salad w/Dressing, Dinner Rolls w/Butter, Coffee, Tea and Water, and Dessert.*

Reservations are required. Please make your reservations as soon as possible by completing the following reservation form. Please make checks payable to: El Paso Chapter, MOAA, mail to the address indicated below, to arrive NLT: **Friday, September 22nd, 2017. Cost: \$25.00 per person.** Additionally, Reservations are available online at http://elpasomoaa.org/calendar_day.asp?date=9/25/2015&event=227

**Reception/Dinner Friday, 29 September 2017
Honoring Ms. Brooke Goldberg, Keynote Speaker for the RAD**

**TO: El Paso Chapter, MOAA
ATTN: Treasurer
P. O. Box 6144
Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0144**

**Date and Time:6:00 PM until.... Friday September 29th, 2017
Location:The General George Underwood Golf Course
Schedule of Events:Program to be published at a later date
Cost:\$25.00 per person
Dress:Men - Coat and Tie; Ladies – Cocktail Dress/Semiformal)**

Please make reservation(s) for the following persons attending the Reception/Dinner hosted by the El Paso Chapter, MOAA, to be held at the General George Underwood Golf Course on Friday, September 29th, 2017.

NAMES of persons attending:

(Please Print)

Enclosed is my check for the above reservation(s) _____ X \$ 25.00 = \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY SIGNED INTO LAW



On March 29, 1973, the last American combat troops left Vietnam and returned home. Unlike troops of more recent wars, the vast majority of those brave service members did not receive a warm welcome. In fact many were spat upon, called names and treated with disdain. Vietnam Veterans bore the horrors of battle in Vietnam only to come home to shoulder the burden of an unpopular war that was no fault of their own. The way they were treated has often been called a national disgrace and rightly so. They did their duty because their country asked them to. That's what patriots do, they serve when their nation calls. Today, 44 years later, they are getting some of the recognition they earned so long ago.

On 28 MAR, the president signed the "Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017" into law designating March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

The law amends title 4 of the U.S. Code "to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on National Vietnam War Veterans Day" – the simple language creates both the day and encourages the flag to be flown in their honor each year.

Finally. The bipartisan legislation,

co-authored by Indiana Sen. Joe Donnelly and Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey, is the first federal statute to both recognize Vietnam Veterans and create an annual recognition. The legislation passed in the House 21 MAR and in the Senate 3 FEB. To read the full texts of the bill go to:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/305/text>.

VA recognized March 29 with wreath-laying ceremonies at national cemeteries and other facilities across the country.

VIETNAM VETERAN LAPEL PIN

Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

In order to receive a lapel pin, please follow the steps below:

1. Locate upcoming commemorative events by visiting <http://www.vietnam-war50th.com/events/>. Enter your zip code to locate the nearest events.

The blue pins represent future events. Click on a pin for event details, including contact information. If there are no blue pins in your area, check back frequently, as new events are added every week!

2. Another option to receive a lapel pin is visiting the Commemorative Partner Map at http://www.vietnam-war50th.com/partners/partner_map/. Please contact a partner in your area to find out when the next event will be or if they have lapel pins on hand to present to you.

3. Veterans who still need help finding a commemorative event can email whs.vnwar50th_CPP_EVENTS@mail.mil. Please include the city and state of where you are located.

[Source: VAntage Point | arch 29, 2017]

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