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HONORS is an annual publication published each summer. It is distributed to all Army Retired Soldiers in receipt of retired pay, Gray-Area Retirees, and Army surviving spouses residing in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, and the 32 northern-most counties of Illinois. HONORS is available on the Fort McCoy website, https://home.army.mil/mccoy.

Select menu, "For Soldiers," and "Retirement Services Office" to view the most current edition. Feel free to share this site with fellow Service Members and their Families.

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by Patricia Kime



















FORT MCCOY GARRISON COMMANDERS MESSAGE

"THIS NEWSLETTER, I WANT TO EXPRESS ONE THOUGHT: GRATITUDE. THERE'S NO MORE NOBLE ACT THAN RAISING ONE'S RIGHT HAND TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HAVE DONE THIS TO ENSURE OUR FREEDOM, AND THEY'RE ONE OF THE MANY REASONS AMERICA CONTINUES TO THRIVE.

YOU, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT ONLY RAISED YOUR HAND, BUT SERVED 20 YEARS AFTER YOUR DATE OF ENTRY. YOUR DECADES OF SERVICE MATTERS. YOU ARE SPECIFICALLY TRAINED IN LEADERSHIP UNLIKE ANY OTHER PROFESSION. THE MILITARY HAS POURED INTO YOU WITH EDUCATION, EXPERIENCES, GROWTH, AND LIFE SKILLS LIKE NO OTHER. YOU ARE A LEADER!

LEADERSHIP IS THE MOST PINED AFTER TRAIT THE WORLD SEEKS. EMPLOYERS DESPERATELY LOOK TO HIRE LEADERS IN CORPORATE AMERICA, GOVERNMENT POSITIONS, PRIVATELY OWNED COMPANIES, LOCAL AND STATE JOBS, AND IN EVERY WORKPLACE. VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS DESPERATELY NEED LEADERS TO INSPIRE, MOTIVATE, AND ATTRACT PEOPLE TO HELP IN THEIR MISSION. AND FAMILIES NEED LEADERS TO LEAD THEIR SPOUSES, CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, EXTENDED FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORS.



STEPHEN T. MESSENGER
COLONEL, U.S. ARMY
GARRISON COMMANDER FORT MCCOY

THE MILITARY UNDERSTANDS THAT LEADERSHIP IS THE LYNCHPIN TO SUCCESS. NO MATTER THE BRANCH OR SERVICE, YOU HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY TRAINED IN THIS DISCIPLINE.

YOU RETURNED TO THE CIVILIAN SECTOR AS LEADERS. YOU TOOK YOUR SKILLS AND ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE. THE BROTHER AND SISTERHOOD IN WHICH YOU GREW UP HAVE EMBEDDED IN A CULTURE OF LOYALTY AND LEADERSHIP. YOU KNOW THE MISSION CANNOT FAIL AND YOUR PEOPLE ARE THE ONES WHO ACCOMPLISH YOUR CURRENT MISSION.

FINALLY, YOU RETAIN A WARRIOR ETHOS. YOU HAVE GROWN UP IN AN ETHICS-BASED ENVIRONMENT WHICH ONLY ADDS TO YOUR VALUE OUTSIDE THE MILITARY. RETIREES HAVE A MULTIPLYING EFFECT WHETHER LEADING IN THEIR PLACES OF WORK, VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES, OR HOMES. THEY ARE TRULY PEOPLE FIRST, AND KNOW WINNING MATTERS.

NO MATTER WHAT STAGE OF LIFE YOU'RE IN, YOUR LEADERSHIP IS NEEDED TODAY. IT IS NEEDED IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL, PERSONAL, AND VOLUNTEER LIVES. I AM SO GRATEFUL THAT YOU CONTINUE TO SERVE OUT OF LINIFORM

YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE—FIRST IN THE MILITARY AND NOW IN THE COMMUNITY. ONE DAY, I TOO WILL LEAVE MY SERVICE AS A MILITARY LEADER AND BECOME A RETIRED VETERAN. YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE SO, HAVE SERVED HONORABLY, PROUDLY, AND HUMBLY. WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT—THANK YOU!"









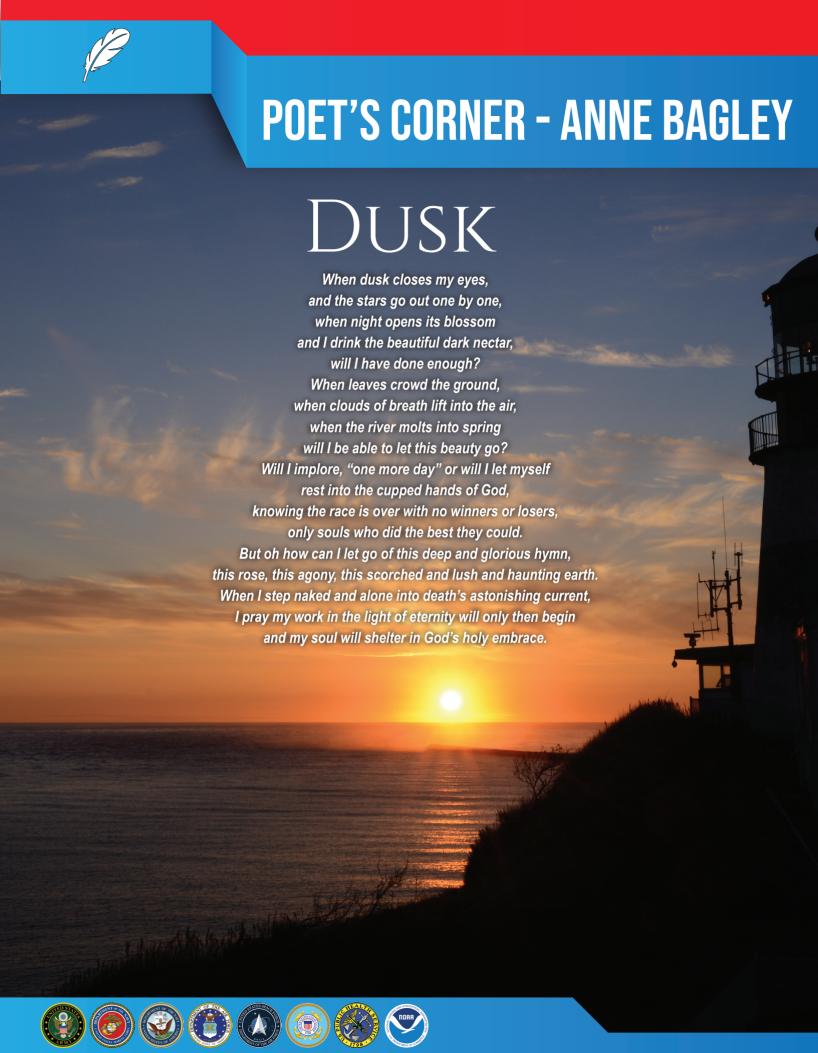








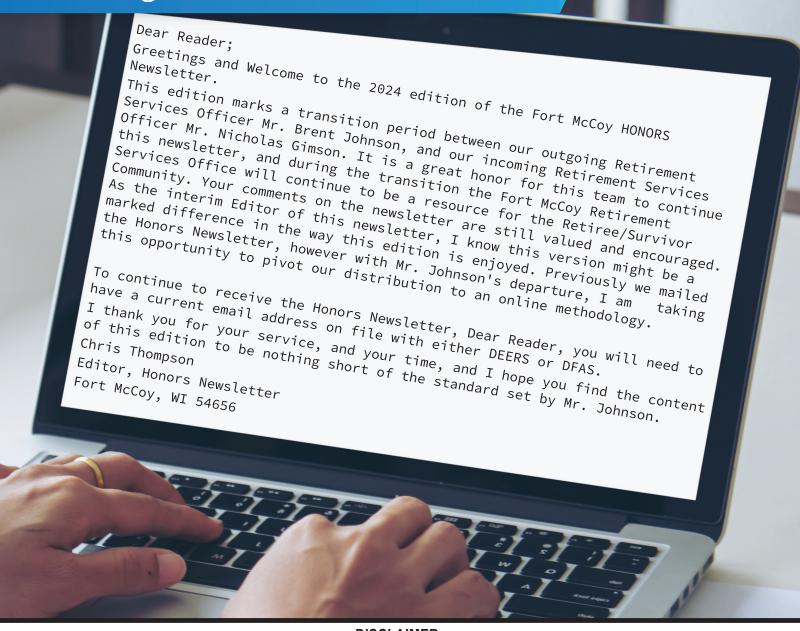






LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Digital Edition is Here!



DISCLAIMER

Articles for the Honors do not necessarily reflect the position of the Department of the Army, or Fort McCoy, WI. The material in this newsletter was provided by a number of sources. Sources and materials are checked to be as accurate as possible at the time of printing.

The Soldier for Life - Retirement Services Office (SFL-RSO) publishes the Retirement Services Newsletter in accordance with Army Regulation 600-8-7, Retirement Services Program.

The SFL-RSO is located in building 2187, Fort McCoy, WI. While it is recommended that you contact the office for an appointment prior to visiting, walk-ins are welcome. The toll-free phone number is locally 608-388-3716. Emails can be sent to:usarmy.mccoy.id-readiness.mbx.dhr-rso@army.mil.















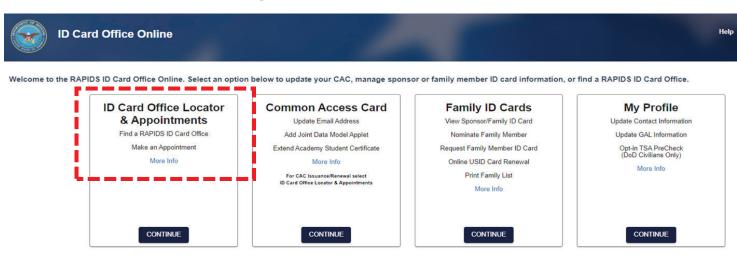




ID CARD OFFICE ONLINE IS OPEN!



To make a new appointment, or a renewal appointment online for an ID Card, visit the online tool: https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/



- Click on: "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" Enter "Fort McCoy or 54656";
- Select Location #2 "Ft McCoy or 54656" (Installation ID Card Facility).
- After you select our Location (or even our site ID: 102072), you will see a button at the bottom of the page to "Schedule Appointment" click on that button.
- Available appointments will be visible in the calendar on your screen.
- Click on an available date (by scrolling up or down), and then chose an open appointment time that fits your schedule.
- Once you have done that you will see a confirmation of your appointment to include date and time.

What to Bring to Your ID Card Appointment

Two (2) Forms of valid state or federal identification are required for all adults (18 years or older; one must be a photo ID). Identification documents may include a military ID Card; driver's license or passport. Children 10 years and older require one (1) form of identification. Sponsor must be present for all transactions or Family Member must have current verified DD Form 1172-2.



















2024 RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS & LETTER FROM THE NEW RSO



| Date | Location | Phone Number | SCAN QR | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------|--|
| 09-AUG-2024 | ARDEN HILLS, MN | 763-350-1653 | | |
| 15-AUG-2024 | DES MOINES, IA | 515-577-4966 | | |
| 06-SEP-2024 | FORT MCCOY, WI | 608-388-3716 | | |
| 21-SEP-2024 | SELFRIDGE, MI | 586-239-5580 | | |
| 19-OCT-2024 | ROCK ISLAND, IL | 563-508-5123 | | |

Welcome to the 2024 edition of the Fort McCoy HONORS newsletter.

I took over this position in March 2024, before taking over this position I worked for the 88th Readiness Division Retirement Services Office for 6 years. I am bringing experience and knowledge to you and your families that you may not be aware of such as Survivor Benefits, TRICARE information, and more. Please don't hesitate to ask questions or reach out for information. I will provide you and your families with as much guidance and resources as I can to help you in your situation. As with anything in the world today things are always changing or evolving, I look forward to assisting you and your families as you navigate through the world of being retired.

Please note that our office has moved onto the installation we are now located at 2187 South J Street, Fort McCoy, WI 54656. The email box is: **usarmy.mccoy.id-readiness.mbx.dhr-rso@army.mil** or you can scan the QR code below labeled EMAIL. The office number is: 608-388-3716.

I thank you and your families for your service to our great nation.

Nick Gimson Retirement Services Fort McCoy, WI 54656



















MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE MIDWEST

Fort McCoy, Wisconsin

The following extensions begin 608-388-Post Operator 2222 Army Community Service 3505 **Auto Skills Center** 3013 Commissary 3542 Legal Office 8751 Leisure Travel Services 3011 McCOY'S Community Club 2065 MWR Car Wash 3213 Pine View Campground 3517 Post Exchange 4343 3213 Recreation Center Rumpel Fitness Center 2290 Ski Chalet 2260

Great Lakes Naval Station, Illinois

The following extensions begin with 847-688-Base Operator 3500 Base Exchange 847-578-6104 Commissary 2644 Information/Tickets/Travel 3537 Legal Office 3805 Marina/Rental Center 5417 MWR 2110 **RV** Park 6675 Samuel Adams Brew Club 6946 Willow Glen Golf Course 4593

Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan

www.detroitarsenalfmwr.com

The following extensions begin 586-239-(unless otherwise indicated)

| (| |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Post Operator | 586-307-4011 |
| Base Exchange | 0960 |
| Benefit Mulligan's Dining/C | Catering 2337 |
| Commissary | 5570 |
| FMWR | 586-282-0992 |
| Golf Course | 4653 |
| Health Benefit Advisor | 586-282-5273 |
| Legal Office | 4078 |
| Retiree Activity Office | 5580 |
| | |

Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois

www.rianmwr.com

The following extensions begin 309-782-

| Post Operator | 6001 |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Army Community Service | 0829 |
| Auto Skills Center | 8631 |
| Cannon Falls Driving Range | 0090 |
| Commissary | 4614 |
| Fitness Center | 6787 |
| Health Benefit Adviser | 0800 |
| Legal Office | 1443 |
| Leisure Travel Services | 5890 |
| Outdoor Recreation | 8630 |
| Post Exchange | 309-788-4940 |



















INTERNET LINKS

Army Retirement Services

https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement

Army Echoes Newsletter

https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/echoes/latest.pdf

Navy Retirement Services

https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/Culture-Resilience/Retired-Activities/

Navy Shift Colors Newsletter

https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Media-Center/Publications/Shift-Colors/

Coast Guard Retirement Services

https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/gp/#guides

Coast Guard Evening Colors Newsletter

https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-16&category=us-coast-guard

Marines Corps Community Services

https://www.usmc-mccs.org/

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Newsletter

https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Portals/61/Docs/ MMSR-6/VOL%2068%20NO%201%20JAN-MA R%202024.pdf?ver=Nq8WHpeVos4uiuXQntpB8 A%3d%3d

Air Forces Retirement Services

https://www.retirees.af.mil/

Air Force Afterburner Newsletter

www.retirees.af.mil/library/afterburner

Army Emergency Relief (AER)

https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/

Army & Air Force Exchange Service

www.shopmyexchange.com

Army Retired Pin & Decal

www.shopmyexchange.com - type Army Retired in the search box

Burial & Memorial Benefits (VA National

Cemetery Administration)

www.cem.va.gov

Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) - (DFAS)

https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crsc.html

Concurrent Retired Disability Pay (CRDP) - (DFAS)

https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp

Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP)

www.benefeds.com



















MORE INTERNET LINKS

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) www.dfas.mil eBenefits

https://www.ebenefits.va.gov

Express Scripts (Mail Order Pharmacy)www.express-scripts.com

Federal Long Term Care Insurance

www.ltcfeds.com

Fort McCoy Homepage https://home.army.mil/mccoy

Life Insurance (SGLI, TSGLI, VGLI) www.benefits.va.gov/insurance

Medicare 2024 (Social Security Administration)

https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf

Military Eyeglasses

https://www.med.navy.mil/Naval-Medical-Readiness-Logistics-Command/Naval-Ophthalmic-Readiness-Activity/Ordering/How-to-Order-Retiree/

Military Funeral Honors (Military One Source)

www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/tools/military-funeral-honors-directory/

Military Living Publications

www.militaryliving.com

Military OneSource—financial, legal, health & wellness assistance and much more

www.militaryonesource.mil

My Army Benefits

https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/

My Air Force Benefits

www.myairforcebenefits.us.af.mil/

RAPIDS Site Locator (DEERS Enrollment & ID Card Issuing Facilities)

idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/

Social Security Administration (SSA) *www.ssa.gov*

Space Available Travel (Space-A)www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel-Site/

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) *www.tsp.gov*

TRICARE

tricare.mil

U.S. Army Human Resource Command Fort Knox (HRC)

www.hrc.army.mil

U.S. Department of Veterans Administration (VA)

www.va.gov



















MIDWEST MILITARY AREA RETIREE COUNCILS & RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICES

Military Retiree area councils serve as a vital link for the military Retiree community. The councils provide an avenue for suggestions and recommendations on military matters to reach the proper level in the chain of command. The councils also plan and execute Retiree Appreciation Days (RADs) to provide up-to-date information about benefits and entitlements to the military retired community. The RADs are open to all Retirees from all branches of service.

The Fort McCoy Soldier For Life – Retirement Services Office currently supports eight military Retiree area councils, which are subordinate to the Fort McCoy Retiree military main council. Council members serve as "eyes and ears" of the community regarding military-Retiree-related issues. Through the area councils, members are able to voice concerns through their respective chains of command to the Fort McCoy Garrison Commander.

Area councils are located in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Although these councils are sponsored by Fort McCoy, membership is open to Retirees from all services. Please feel free to contact any council if you have issues to discuss or if you are interested in serving as a member. Area councils rely on the military Retiree community to be effective.

New members are always welcome. Military Retiree area councils sponsored by Fort McCoy are listed below with contact numbers for the respective chairperson or Retiree Activity Office (RAO):



| Des Moines Area Council | 515-277-6113 | | | |
|--|--------------|--|--|--|
| Duluth/Superior Area Council | 715-398-3152 | | | |
| Lower Michigan Area Council | 586-239-5580 | | | |
| Quad Cities Area Council | 563-508-5123 | | | |
| Fort Sheridan Area Council 719-317-0420 (the office is still located at Fort Sheridan in IL) | | | | |
| Twin Cities Area Council | 763-516-2931 | | | |
| Wisconsin Area Council | 414-630-2484 | | | |





















MIDWEST MILITARY AREA RETIREE COUNCILS & RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICES (CONT.)

Fort Sheridan, IL – Monday-Friday, 9 A.M. – NOON 3155 Blackhawk Drive 719-317-0420

Madison, WI – Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. 2400 Wright St.
Email – widma.retiree@wisconsin.gov
800-335-5147, ext. 3115

Milwaukee, WI – Tuesday & Wednesday, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. 1835 East Grange Avenue usaf.wi128-arw.list.rao@mail.mil 414-944-8212

Minneapolis, MN – Monday-Friday, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Minneapolis Airport, Bldg. 727 612-713-1517

Selfridge, MI – Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Selfridge Air National Guard Base 44195 Jefferson Ave., Bldg. 835 Email – selfrao@yahoo.com https://detroit.armymwr.com 586-239-5580





















New lifetime pass available for Military Veterans and Gold Star Families to access public lands.



WASHINGTON - Today, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that starting on Veterans Day (Nov. 11), veterans of the U.S. Armed Services and Gold Star Families can obtain a free lifetime pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests.

News Release Date: November 8, 2022 "We have a sacred obligation to America's veterans. This new lifetime pass is a small demonstration of our nation's gratitude and support for those who have selflessly served in the U.S. Armed Forces," said Secretary Deb Haaland, whose father served during the Vietnam War. "I'm proud the Department of the Interior can provide veterans and Gold Star Families opportunities for recreation, education and enjoyment from our country's treasured lands."

"Our national forests and grasslands represent so much of the beauty of the nation our brave service members have sacrificed so much for," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Though they can never be fully repaid, by connecting the families of the fallen and those who served with these iconic places, we can, in a small way, say thank you."

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our federal teammates are proud to honor our veterans with free lifetime access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas across the nation," said Lieutenant General (LTG) Scott Spellmon, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"This is a small token of appreciation for veterans who have bravely dedicated their lives to defending our freedom." "This pass conveys our immense gratitude and respect for those who have given so much," said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams. "As a veteran, I know firsthand the many sacrifices that members of the Armed Forces and their families have made in service to our country, and I am thrilled that Gold Star Families and military veterans can now enjoy lifetime access to national parks and other public lands."

Each lifetime pass covers entrance fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle (or passholder and up to three adults at sites that charge per person) at national parks and national wildlife refuges, as well as standard amenity fees at national forests and grasslands, and at lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Veterans can present one of the four forms of acceptable ID (Department of Defense ID Card, Veteran Health ID (VHIC), Veteran ID Card, or veteran's designation on a state-issued US driver's license or ID card) at participating federal recreation areas that normally charge an entrance fee. Gold Star Families obtain information, self-certify they qualify and download a voucher on NPS.gov.

The Alexander Lofgran Veterans in Parks Act, passed in December 2021, authorized free lifetime access to federal lands to veterans and Gold Star Families. The new lifetime pass for veterans and Gold Star Families is in addition to the free annual Military Pass, which has been available to active duty service members and their families since Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2012.

Federal recreational land management agencies offer additional lifetime passes, including a Senior Pass for US citizens or permanent residents over age 62 and an Access Pass for US citizens or permanent residents with a permanent disability. More information is available on NPS.gov. The Interior Department and other federal land agencies also offer fee-free entrance days for everyone throughout the year to mark days of celebration and commemoration, including the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., National Public Lands Day, and Veterans Day.



















SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN (SBP) TIDBIT

The SBP allows military Retirees to provide a portion of their retired pay to their designated beneficiaries. Retired service members pay about 60 percent of the SBP cost, and the government pays the remainder. The retired service member is considered "paid up" when he/she has made 360 payments and has reached age 70.

The SBP annuity (pay-out) is 55 percent of the military Retiree's elected pay base amount.

To read more, visit the Army's Soldier for Life Survivor Benefit Plan page here.





FUNERAL HONORS

Did You Know?

The Department of Defense (DoD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. "Honoring Those Who Served" is the title of the DoD program for providing dignified military funeral honors to Veterans who have defended our nation.

Upon the Family's request, Public Law 106-65 requires that every eligible Veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the Veteran's parent service of the armed forces.

The DoD program calls for funeral home directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the Veterans' Family. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration cemetery staff can also assist with arranging military funeral honors at VA national cemeteries. Veteran organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors. When military funeral honors at a national cemetery are desired, they are arranged prior to the committal service by the funeral home. The Department of Defense began the implementation plan for providing military funeral honors for eligible Veterans as enacted in Section 578 of Public Law 106-65 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2000 on Jan. 1, 2000.

While many cemeteries have similar eligibility requirements for burial options for Veterans and their Families, some require state residency and some services, particularly for Family members, may require a fee.

Questions or comments concerning the DoD military funeral honors program may be sent to the address listed below. The military funeral honors website is located at Militaryonesource.mil. This website also offers more detailed information on the "Honoring Those Who Served" program.



















DFAS HELPFUL TIPS & TOOLS FOR RETIREES NEW TO RETIRED PAY

Pay Schedule

Retired pay is paid monthly, on the first day of the month, unless that day is a weekend or holiday. In that case, it is paid on the last business day of the prior month. For example, if May 1 is a Sunday, payday will be Friday, April 29. See www.dfas.mil/rapaycal.

Our goal is to pay your first retired pay on the first business day of month following your retirement date. However, we can only do that if we receive a complete retirement package, including a correct, signed DD Form 2656.

Retiree Account Statements

You are used to seeing a Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) when it's (almost) payday. Once you begin receiving retired pay, you will see a Retiree Account Statement (RAS), which is the equivalent of an LES for those receiving military retired pay.

Your Retiree Account Statements will be available to view and download from myPay when your first retired pay is issued and then each month a few days prior to payday.

When your retired pay account is established initially, and your first payment issued, DFAS will mail you a welcome letter with a breakdown of your pay and deductions. However, depending on your first pay date, you may see your pay deposited in your bank account before your postal mail letter gets there. You may also see your first RAS in myPay before you get your postal mail letter.

After that first RAS, if you set the preferences in your account to receive statements via postal mail, you will only receive a mailed monthly RAS if your pay changes. You will also receive a mailed RAS each January with your tax statement. However, your pay statements are available each month in myPay to view and download.

Tax Statements

After you start receiving retired pay, your annual tax statement will be an IRS 1099-R instead of a W-2. Your annual 1099-R will be available in myPay to view and download, usually in mid-to-late December. If you have the preferences in your account set to receive statements via postal mail, those statements are mailed no later than January 31 of each year, along with your December RAS.

Military Retired Pay Taxation Tips

Military retired pay is paid for many different reasons under many different laws. There are differences in the types of pay a military retiree might receive and the tax laws that apply to them. Whether a portion or all of an individual's military retired pay is subject to federal income taxes depends on his/her individual circumstances.



















DFAS HELPFUL TIPS & TOOLS FOR RETIREES NEW TO RETIRED PAY (CONT.)

A military retiree can either use myPay or send an IRS Form W-4 to change the amount DFAS withholds for federal income taxes from their military retired pay.

An individual's choice to have no withholding for federal taxes does not impact whether the individual's military retired pay is actually subject to federal income taxes. Ultimately, the IRS will determine the amount of taxes owed on the military retired pay.

Please note: the IRS requires any individual claiming exemption from federal withholding to provide a new Form W-4 at the beginning of each tax year certifying their exemption from withholding.

DFAS cannot provide tax advice. Please consult a tax professional or the IRS.

Please see our webpage regarding taxation of retired pay: www.dfas.mil/retpaytax.

Retired & Annuitant Pay News

Keep up with the latest news and announcements on the Retired & Annuitant Pay main webpage, plus quick links, and how-to's for myPay at www.dfas.mil/rapay.

Forms Library

Need a form? The retiree and annuitant Forms library provides quick links to download forms, Form Wizards, and other helpful form tools at. www.dfas.mil/raforms.

Tools to Make Forms Easier to Fill Out and Submit

DFAS is rolling out new tools to help retirees and annuitants fill out and submit forms easily and correctly. The tools include helpful PDF Form Wizards, how-to checklists, and how-to videos.

The Form Wizards "take the form out of the form" by asking a series of questions and filling in your answers in the appropriate areas of the form. The how-to checklists and how-to videos provide quick tips and walk-throughs of the forms to help you fill them out correctly and easily.





















YOUR CAREER CAN BE HISTORY -WARD ZISCHKE

As a retiree, your career can be history. A military career can be history if audio recorded or written down. If your career is not written down or recorded, it just degenerates into a smaller number of factoids, which eventually are forgotten. Only you can prevent your experiences from being totally lost to time, and you can help yourself, future Soldiers who serve, and the historians who capture the history of the Army.

As a retiree, you have lots of stuff left over from your career, including documents, electronic media, and uniforms and equipment, which you acquired during your service. These items can bring back fond memories of the past but can also cause present domestic friction with your spouse. "You retired. Why do you keep all this crap." All the papers and electronic media you squirreled away contain information about the unit organization, missions, equipment, doctrine, and daily activities during the drills, annual training, and mobilization. Why not give copies of these materials to someone who will put these materials in unit folders to help preserve the history of the units you served in and inspire

future Soldiers. You may think, "The units I served in were inactivated years ago." In that case, it is essential to share what you have. The Army reactivates units frequently, and the history you can provide for these reactivated units is vital.

In addition to documents, you have enough equipment and uniforms in your house to make a Central Issuing Facility (CIF) jealous. The importance of a uniform or piece of equipment is in the story behind it such as where and what it was used for, and its modifications. If you don't donate an item while you are still alive, your story will provide importance and context to the item. After you die and your kids try to donate it, the story is lost, and the item can be easily put in the "So what." Category. Unfortunately, Ouija boards don't work, so curators can't ask you about items that your kids donated after you have completed your final PCS move. The most everyday items with lots of wear and repairs frequently have the best stories.





















YOUR CAREER CAN BE HISTORY (CONT.)

In addition, historians need to record the story of your military career through an interview. The Army constantly changes doctrine, equipment, personnel, and technology. If you are willing to give an interview, you can contribute a lot to capturing and preserving Army history. Even if you aren't impressed with what you have done, your kids usually will be and will probably understand better why you are the way you are.

To whom can I send copies of documents and electronic media and provide an interview? That individual is me. I am Ward Zischke, 88th Readiness Division (RD) Historian, Fort McCoy, WI. My phone number is (608) 388-0320, and My email is ward.e.zischke.civ@army.mil. I assist Army Reserve units in the 88th RD's 19-state area of responsibility with their historical programs and unit history. Even if you were not a member of the Army Reserve, I can direct you to a historian who would cover your service. I can even assist in facilitating donations to the Army's Center of Military History.

I also support Army Reserve unit reunions with equipment displays, slide presentations featuring unit documents and photographs, and downloadable unit history files.





















TRIVIA TIME -GIDEON ASCHE

What is our nation's highest military award?

Now, that's a trivia question that all of us can answer off the top of our heads. However, 90% of us will say the Medal of Honor, and be wrong. In our defense, few people today have heard of SS Dorchester or the more than 900 men who went into the Icy North Atlantic waters on that February day 81 years ago. I first heard this story when a fellow "old guy" asked me that same question. I gave the "obvious answer." He responded with a riddle that I wouldn't understand until he finished.



Two Protestants, a Jew and a Catholic, showed up at the Pearly gates at precisely the same time. Soaking wet, looking like drowned rats with bits of seaweed and kelp hanging from their uniforms, they expected to be let in looking that way. — What did St. Peter say?

My bet is that Ole Pete simply snapped to attention, rendered a crisp salute, and opened the gate —The four men paid their entry fee on 3 February 1943 when the troop transport ship Dorchester was torpedoed by German U-boat U223 while enroute to Greenland.

On board were hundreds of American soldiers, including 4 chaplains of different faiths. Aside from attending the Chaplains' course together, the four men had but two

things in common – the same God and the same flock.

Officers were quartered on the upper decks and kept their personal lifejackets in their quarters, while enlisted men were in the crowded hold and had to collect theirs from storage bins as they escaped to the deck. In the chaos, many of the life jackets became inaccessible. As the men prepared to abandon ship, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the soldiers wore Lifejackets.

From right to left: Fr. John Washington; Chaplin Polling; Rabbi Goode; Chaplin George Fox









The Chaplains knew that men who went into the water without life jackets were doomed. All but two of Dorchester's lifeboats were damaged in the attack. US Navy protocol required that non-combatants be put in the first Lifeboats. All four Chaplains refused, knowing it meant they would freeze or drown in the next few minutes.



















TRIVIA TIME (CONT.)

The four Chaplains were last observed standing on Dorchester's deck with locked arms, singing hymns and encouraging their men as she went below the waves. Only 230 men who went into the water that day were rescued — Four of the survivors were wearing Life Jackets with the names Chaplain George Fox, Chaplain Clark Poling, Rabbi Alexander Goode, and Father John Washington stenciled on the back.

General Eisenhower recommended the Dorchester Chaplains for the Medal of Honor but was denied due to the stringent requirement of "actions under enemy fire." Technically, they died as the result of not being rescued, not enemy fire. This didn't sit well with Gen. Eisenhower. When he became President he proposed a one-time-only Posthumous Special Medal for Heroism to be authorized by Congress and awarded to the four Dorchester Chaplains. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor. However, since it has only been awarded to 4 men, it technically holds a higher place.



Some men need to be remembered and some stories need to be told— Summarized by Gideon Asche

















GARRISON CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Thanks is a hard word to describe other than to say the word. It is a difficult word to respond to when it is said back to you. And the world could use more "thanks" to be said then will ever be spoken. As a Veteran when you hear the word "thanks" it means so much more than your time in uniform.

We extend a "thanks" for the footsteps you paved for each person serving today. We offer "thanks" for leaving a legacy many have felt compelled to follow you into military service. We shout "thanks" for meeting many of us at the airport when we deployed and returned, and ensured the entire country would say nothing but "thanks" for those serving in the military.

We holler "thanks" for building and serving in Veteran Organizations who stand-up for better service conditions and so much more. We pray "thanks" for the numerous support groups created and those sharing their stories. We cry "thanks" for each of your sacrifices and willingness to improve the communities you live in now.

We whisper "thanks" for the abundant times you waited on hold to be seen, heard, and answered. We exclaim a "thanks" for each time you felt appreciated, loved, welcomed, and a part of something. We say "thanks" for what can and will be.

We welcome you!

"In every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude." – Acts 24:3

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