



MOAA

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

STEVEN COLE — SBCOLE@SBCGLOBAL.NET



May is certainly an interesting month of the year for military families and friends.

May is **NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH**. All are urged to do something for military personnel and their families.

By the time you receive this we may have already celebrated:

May 1 – Loyalty Day, a day set aside for American citizens to reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and to recognize the heritage of American freedom and – **Silver Star Service Banner Day**, a day set aside to honor our wounded, ill and dying military personnel by participating in flying a Silver Star Banner.

May 4 – National Day of Prayer and is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation.

May 8 – Victory in Europe (VE) Day, A day which marks the anniversary of the Allies' victory in Europe during World War II in 1945.

May 14 – Mother's Day. This is one of the most important US military days for obvious reasons!

May 20 – Armed Forces Day, a day set aside to pay tribute to men and women who serve in the United States' Armed Forces.

May 29 – Memorial Day (Decoration Day), the day set aside to commemorate all who have died in military service for the United States.

Keep all of our active, reserve, retired, and deceased service men and women (and their families) in your prayers.

Not involved with someone or something MOAA GDC? The Veterans Center of North Texas is needed your help! Call (214) 600-2966 and volunteer your time and knowledge



October 7th – Save the date! Please join us in celebration of 50 years of the MOAA Greater Dallas Chapter.

Where: Maggiano's Little Italy on the East side of Northpark at US 75 and Northwest Highway.

Costs: Only \$50 per person.

When: Social hours starts at 1600 (hours), dinner at 1700 (hours), and the program from 1800 (hours) to no later than 1930 (hours).

MOAA-GDC receives 2016 Five-Star Level of Excellence Award



UPCOMING EVENTS: C.C. Young Retirement Center.

See Page 8 for more information.

Lt Col Paul Hendricks. USAF (Retired) will be our June luncheon speaker.

See Page 4 for more information.



Saturday October 7, 2017. 50th Anniversary Dinner.

See Page 4 for early reservation coupon.

SAGE SURVIVOR BY NANCY RUTHFORD SODEMAN

According to The Los Angeles Times, since January 14, 2015 veterans have committed suicide 50% more times than non-military civilians. Dr. David J. Shulkin, under secretary for health at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, wrote for the Tribune News Service that these suicides generally result from depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, insomnia and chronic pain. Sexual trauma during military service also plays a part.

Dr. Shulkin offers much advice. He urges that showing compassion for the veteran and listening to what bothers him/her could help. We all can become involved as well as the professionals. Asking pertinent questions about what troubles the veteran and, at some point, suggesting writing a history of time in service are more ways for us to help our veterans.

Professionals are also available. On December 20th the Department of Veterans Affairs opened its new Veteran Crisis Line in Atlanta to help veterans in need of help around the country. Anyone may call this office (VCL). Coordinators are on hand. Call 1 800 273 8255 and press 1. Or you can go online to veteranscrisisline.net/chat. You can send a text message to 838255. As mentioned, anyone may call to help the veteran in distress.

During President Obama's term of office in 2014 Congress approved the "Choice Program" that allowed veterans to use physicians outside the VA; but those in need of help waited so long for help or the doctors were so far away from the veterans' homes that the system faltered. Not only did the veterans suffer but also the doctors in private practice waited so long for payment that they began to quit serving veterans. This Choice Program was due to quit in August of this year; but the House and the Senate voted to extend it so that at least some veterans can look of help outside the VA.

Shulkin seeks to make sure that the information provided on the new website is accurate, easy to read and understand and helpful.

During his presidential campaign President Trump promised several times that veterans would be permitted to seek care outside the VA system. This is being discussed.

Also we keep hearing about a hiring freeze that could put veterans in more dire need of care. The promise to abide by the Budget Control Act enacted on August 2, 2011 to reduce spending by a minimum of \$1.5 trillion over 10 years needs to be reviewed. We don't want our veterans and their families to suffer even more. Contact your members of Congress to make every effort to make sure our veterans are cared for. We can do something!

PERSONAL AFFAIRS BY BEN COLE

As military retirees or spouses, you are, or were, entitled to a number of benefits. I thought I would present a list of them to you at this time. As you will note, the listing is rather lengthy, but your review may prove very beneficial to you. Let's look them over:

1. Retirement Pay
 - a. Traditional 20 year Retirement
 - (1) Entered service before Sept. 8, 1980
 - (2) Entered service on or after Sept. 8, 1980, but before Aug. 1, 1986
 - (3) Entered service on or after Aug. 1, 1986
 - b. Guard and Reserve Points
 - (1) Points accrual, Qualifying/Nonqualifying years/Status
 - (2) Guard and reserve contacts
 - c. New Blended Retirement System, coming in 2018
 - d. Guard and Reserve: The New Benefit

Note: Personal Affairs article continues on page 3

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY BEN COLE

"Heavenly Father, forgive me for being stubborn and proud. Humble me so that I may learn from others and from YOU. Keep me from liking my own opinions too much."

How many times must we utter this prayer before we learn our lesson?

PERSONAL AFFAIRS BY BEN COLE CONTINUED

2. Disability Benefits (Can apply both to retirees and non-retirees/two types...)
 - a. VA disability payments and VA pension payments
 - b. Disability Retirement
 - (1) Permanent disability
 - (2) Temporary disability
 - (3) Disability severance
 - c. Disability Evaluation
 - d. Retired Pay Offset (Revised conditions)
 - (1) Concurrent retirement and disability payments
 - (2) Combat related special compensation...Non taxable
3. Other Benefits
 - a. Allotments (Paycheck deductions to pay discretionary items)
 - b. Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs)
 - c. Death Benefits
 - (1) Entitlements
 - (2) Service related death
 - (3) Nonservice-related death
 - (4) Funeral honors
 - (5) Interment in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington columbarium or other national cemeteries.
4. Life Insurance (SGLI and VGLI)
 - a. Accelerated benefit or Alliance account
5. Medals and Decorations
6. Moving and Storage
7. Retirement Homes
8. Survivor Benefits
 - a. Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)
 - b. Cost of Living adjustments
 - c. DIC offset.....annual reductions
 - d. Paid-up SBP
 - e. Disability
 - f. Divorce
9. Health Insurance
 - a. Tricare Prime/Standard/Extra
 - b. Tricare-for-Life
 - c. Dental Insurance
 - d. Home Health Care
 - e. Pharmacy Program

Of course, you may not be interested in all of these benefits, and, based on your particular time in service, some are no longer available to you. But you must take the initiative to understand and acquire those benefits which fit your needs. To this end let me inform you that Military Times has published a booklet titled "Benefits Guide Handbook for Active, Guard & Reserve". There are no printed copies available at this time for 2017. However, I have a pdf copy from which I have listed the nine benefits above which are detailed on pages 55 through 60 of the booklet and contain telephone numbers and website addresses of the Government offices that you would need to know. If you would email me at ben19320428@att.net (this is a new address for me), we will email those pages to you.

Please look the list over. Don't miss any benefits that you have earned in your service.

PROGRAMS BY BEVERLY THOMPSON**June 27, 2017—Lt Col Paul Hendricks. USAF (Retired)**

Paul Hendricks is a retired Air Force officer who after retirement worked for Rockwell International and Boeing companies and now devotes his time to many endeavors. He works as an officer in his church and in leadership positions with the Military Officers Association of America and Rotary International.



He is also actively engaged with State and National elected officials with the goal to ensure that active and retired military members are recognized and afforded earned benefits. He served on the Fairview Planning and Zoning Commission for 9 years and is currently serving as a Fairview Councilman.

Additionally, he is associated with both the Allen Fairview and McKinney Chamber of Commerce. He also manages the Veterans Center of North Texas. The volunteer non-profit organization assists Veterans and their families find the benefits and resources to become productive citizens within their communities.

Paul Hendricks and his wife of 47 years live in Fairview, Texas. They have two adult children and four grandchildren.

He will speak about "Serving Veterans in North Texas."

The Park City Club 5956 Sherry Lane, 17th Floor Dallas, Texas 75225
Social 11:00 AM — Buffet Opens 11:15 AM Meeting 12:00 Noon

Please send your reservations early to ensure we can make an accurate and timely reservation count. Mail the reservation coupon to MOAA-GDC Programs, PO Box 515495, Dallas, TX 75251; email Dave Schafer moaschafer@att.net or reserve online at www.moaagreaterdallas.org/onlinersvp.html. You may also call Dave at (214)577-4107.



50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2017

Mail Early Reservation for the October 7, 2017 50th Anniversary Dinner
Social 4:00 PM — Dinner 5:00 PM — Program 6:00 to 7:30 PM

of Attendees _____

Contact Information: Name _____

Mail Reservation to:
 MOAA-GDC Programs
 PO Box 515495
 Dallas, TX 75251

Phone _____

Email _____

You will be contacted you in August for payments.

Reserve online at www.moaagreaterdallas.org/rsvp50th.html

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY MAY 2017 BY JIM BROWN CONTINUED



Air Force chief says “It would be devastating’ how budget cuts will affect the military

Stephen Losey stated in an article on 16 April that military leaders have warned that pending budget cuts, if not stopped, will, among other things, ground squadrons across the Air Force, put reassignments on hold, delay necessary training and defer bonuses for critical personnel. More than halfway through fiscal 2017, Congress still has not passed a budget that funds the Air Force and other government agencies that have been operating all year under a continuing resolution that — with a few small exceptions — keeps funding the service at fiscal 2016 levels.

To meet its global national security commitments, the Air Force has had to fly at higher levels than last year, said Col. Patrick Ryder, an Air Force spokesman. The service took the risk of assuming a 2017 budget would be passed. Instead, the armed forces have been operating on Continuing Resolutions, or CRs, that are intended to be short-term budgetary measures to keep operating while lawmakers work out the last details of the budget.

Time is running out for the current CR, which expired on April 28 but has been extended for another week to allow lawmakers to compromise and fully fund the government for the last five months of the fiscal year. If there is no compromise, Congress could make do with a full-year continuing resolution for the Defense Department. If that happens, it would toss an entire range of new problems in the military’s lap, senior leaders warned. With Democrats firmly opposed to the Trump administration and House Republicans in the Freedom Caucus proving they’re willing to buck their party’s president, anything is possible these days.

Chiefs speak out

In an April 5 House Armed Services Committee hearing, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley showed his frustration when he rejected one lawmaker’s suggestion that operating under a constant continuing resolution has become “the new normal.”

“Candidly, failure to pass a budget, in my view, ... constitutes professional malpractice,” Milley said. “The world is a dangerous place, and it’s becoming more dangerous by the day. Pass the budget.”

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Dave Goldfein laid out to lawmakers in stark terms how damaging a full-year CR could be to the service. It would cost the Air Force \$2.8 billion the rest of the year, and it would be “the equivalent of a mini-sequestration round, which we have already been through before,” Goldfein said. “In the Air Force, we still haven’t recovered from round one” of sequester budget cuts, he said.

The most dramatic development would come in late July, when all squadrons that are not deployed or training for imminent deployment will stop flying. “You will have the equivalent of a no-fly zone over your base,” he said, unless a unit is preparing to go into conflict.

Ryder said the Air Force will have to make “hard choices” to prioritize deployed or deploying squadrons and ensure the service can continue waging war on the Islamic State group. “Eventually, there will be degradation in your ability to conduct operations around the world. ... When you start to back things up, you need to be able to train those pilots; you need to be able to have those kinds of exercises that are required to ensure that the long-term sustainment of our force is maintained. Exercises like Red Flag, Green Flag, we’ll have to look at all of those.”

Retraining and recertifying pilots would cost the Air Force about 120 pilot trainee slots at a time when it produces only 1,200 new pilots per year — about 10 percent of its capacity, he said. F-16 pilots need to fly up to 10 sorties per month to maintain basic currency.

More than 2,000 young men and women who have signed up to join the Air Force would not be able to enter and start basic training, Goldfein said. “How many of these talented young men and women won’t wait, and will choose an alternative path, when we desperately need to grow our force?”

Hurting Readiness

Goldfein also said it would hurt the Air Force’s ability to build up the force in new and growing mission areas such as remotely piloted aircraft, cyberspace operations, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and nuclear command, control and communications.

Note: Legislative article continues on page 6.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY MAY 2017 BY JIM BROWN CONTINUED

The Air Force has also been struggling to close significant shortfalls in its aircraft maintenance career fields and pilot ranks — especially fighter pilots. Bonus payments across multiple career fields would be deferred, he said — including the up-to-\$35,000 per year Aviator Retention Pay bonus that is a cornerstone of the Air Force's efforts to hold on to valuable pilots. Funding shortfalls will make it harder to get new spare parts and other equipment necessary to do the work.

"Pilots who don't fly, maintainers who don't maintain, air traffic controllers who don't control will not stay with us," Goldfein told lawmakers, repeating a frequent refrain of his. Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., a former A-10 pilot, expressed exasperation at the situation.

"We're 1,000 fighter pilots short," McSally said. "And you're grounding pilots. And we're expecting them to stay. That's insane. You agree?"

"Yes, ma'am," Goldfein replied.

New VA website will feature up-to-date wait times, patients' review

The VA has opened a new website to help veterans make better choices about their health care, Secretary of the VA David Shulkin told MOAA members last month during the Storming the Hill event.

"You will simply type in where you live or where you want to get care and ... automatically what will pop up is where you can get that care within the VA system and what the wait time will be," Shulkin said. The new site also will allow veterans to rate their care at VA facilities.

The new tools are part of the secretary's 10-point plan to modernize VA care. VA officials have been holding focus groups with veterans on the new website. The goal, Shulkin said, is to make sure the information they're trying to provide on the new site is easy to understand and helpful.

If veterans are unhappy with the care they receive from the VA, he said, they'll "vote with their feet" and leave the system. That could be devastating to his department, which is why he said it's important to make sure veterans are treated well and have the tools they need to make important decisions about their health.

The House and Senate passed legislation to extend the VA's Choice program which was set to expire in August. It allows some veterans to seek care outside the VA. Shulkin said he'll turn his attention toward rewriting the Choice rules. His hope is that a better version of the program becomes a permanent part of the VA's budget, he said. As part of that plan, Shulkin said he would remove the "40-mile, 30-day rule" that currently restricts veterans from going outside the VA for care if they are within 40 miles of a facility or face wait times under 30 days.

"I hope to be able to give more veterans a choice," Shulkin said.



Be Cautious with Compensation Reform

In a 2015 report, the Military Compensation and Modernization Commission noted modernization might benefit individual compensation programs, but "the overall structure of the current compensation system is fundamentally sound and does not require sweeping overhaul." The commission also recommended keeping the basic pay table in its current form and continuing the basic allowances for housing and subsistence (BAH and BAS).

We need legislators to reflect on the potential derailment of a system that is currently working. Altering regular military compensation could have significant impacts on recruitment and retention.

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=77280626>



JUNE 27, 2017



Reservation for the June 27, 2017 Tuesday Luncheon Meeting
The Park City Club 5956 Sherry Lane, 17th Floor Dallas, Texas 75225 Phone: (214) 373-0756
Social 11:00 AM — Buffet Opens 11:15 AM Meeting 12:00 Noon
 _____ Person's at \$25.00 each Check enclosed \$ _____
 payable to "MOAA - Greater Dallas Chapter"
Mail Reservation to: Dave Schafer
MOAA-GDC Programs, PO Box 515495, Dallas, TX 75251

 (Spouse/Guest)

Please print name's below exactly as you wish you name badge's to read:

Need a ride? _____ If yes, your ZIP code _____ Give a ride? _____ If yes, your ZIP code _____

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 The MOAA-Greater Dallas Chapter is a nonprofit organization chartered on November 28, 1967.
 Annual dues are \$20.00 for members and \$10.00 for auxiliary members.

Upcoming Events at C.C. Young Retirement Center

Col John Antal will be speaking on May 25 at 10AM.

SOLDIER: Colonel John F. Antal, U.S. Army (Retired), served 30 years in the U.S. Army from 1973, when he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, until his retirement on July 31, 2003. Antal has commanded U.S. combat soldiers at every level from platoon to regiment. He is an Airborne Ranger and has earned the Expert Infantryman's Badge. He served in combat units in Germany, Korea, Kuwait and the United States and commanded an M1A1 tank battalion on the volatile demilitarized zone in Korea. He commanded the 16th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Knox, Kentucky and was a special assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, from 1998- 2000. In his last Army assignment he served as the operations officer (G3) for the 65,000 man III Armored Corps at Fort Hood, Texas. He has earned numerous military awards and decorations to include three awards of the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

WRITER and FILMS: John Antal has published 9 books (*Armor Attacks; Infantry Combat; Combat Team; Proud Legions; Talon Force Thunderbolt; City Fights; Forests of Steel; Brothers in Arms Hell's Highway [novel]; and Brothers in Arms, Hell's Highway the true History of the 101st Airborne Division in Operation Market Garden*), contributed to several military anthologies (*Maneuver Warfare; Digital War, and By Their Deeds Alone*) and has written over 150 articles for magazines and professional journals. Antal has also appeared on numerous episodes of the *Brute Force* and *Weapons at War* television programs for A&E and the History Channel, including the 2-hour History Channel special: *Brothers in Arms, Road to Hill 30, the Untold Story of the 502d Parachute Infantry Regiment*.

Magazine EDITOR: John Antal is the founding Editorial Director of the *Armchair General Magazine*, a military history magazine sold in over 25 countries.

VIDEO GAME DESIGNER: John Antal is the Vice President for Knowledge Operations for Gearbox Software of Plano, Texas and is the historian and military advisor for Gearbox's exciting WWII video game series, *Brothers in Arms*.

MORE INFORMATION on Col John Antal



C.C. Young Retirement Community,
4847 West Lawther Drive, Dallas, TX 75214

Independence Day Program: The Colonel Is A Lady presented by author Beverly Thompson

Beverly Thompson will be speaking about her "The Colonel is a Lady" at an Independence Day Program at 10:30 AM on July 7. "The Colonel is a Lady" is a poignant and revealing story of an Army Lieutenant Colonel who served as a nurse in World War II, the Korean War, and in Vietnam. The courage of our fighting men and women, and the dedicated skill of those who helped heal their wounds is well told in this inspiring account of Evangeline P. Jamison. She is a woman of great success, not only in treating patients, she also fulfilled important leadership responsibilities throughout her career. After retiring from the Army, Lieutenant Colonel Jamison became a guiding force in the establishment of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C., which she describes as her "greatest accomplishment". Lieutenant Colonel Jamison is a one of a kind heroine and a patriot of the highest order." quote: "Zip" Rausa, former Navy fighter pilot. Editor of Association of Naval Aviation's magazine, "Wings of Gold" since 1988."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following is the meeting schedule for the Executive Committee of the Greater Dallas Chapter of the MOAA.

Meetings are held from 9 am to 11 am at the Point Building, C.C. Young Retirement Community, 4847 West Lawther Drive, Dallas, TX 75214.

2017

20 May, 15 July, 16 September, and 18 November