



Chartered March 16, 1988

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER 58 Trooper

March 2009

A Quarterly Publication
of Tampa Bay Chapter 58

Notes From The President

Increasing Tampa Bay Chapter membership top goal in 2009

Let me start by saying thanks for your confidence in naming me the new Chapter president. We will not forget those members that have kept our Chapter active for the last five year.

Our most important goals this year are to increase membership and member participation in Chapter activities. To do this, I assigned the most qualified board member to the tasks. So far this year, I have been notifying our members that continue supporting us with their dues and donations of all our goals.

Harold Atwood and I attended the quarterly Health Care meeting at the MacDill AFB base hospital in January. We briefed the highlights of that meeting at the February 17 board of directors meeting. That included the base's new clinic, the new ser-

vices offered and that it will open in September 2009. The hospital staff said there is a possibility they will start taking appointments from retirees over 65.

We have the MacDill AirFest coming March 28 and 29. We need 12 people to work our TREA booth at the event, which is on a weekend. All Chapter members are invited to participate. This is a very important fund raising activity.

We are still having a problem getting Chapter members to attend meetings. To change our Chapter bylaws and standard rules we need approval from all our members. But you have to show up to vote. If you are not satisfied with the present meeting schedule, published in the Voice, let us know. We will be happy to take the



Lou Arana, President of TREA Tampa Bay Chapter 58.

action to accommodate our members. Get involved — this is your Chapter.

In March we celebrate the Chapter's 21st anniversary. Come to the meeting, at the MacDill AFB Surf's Edge Club on March 17, and help us celebrate.

Still serving,

Lou Arana

MacDill AFB AirFest 2009

As always, members of the Board of Directors have volunteered to work along with other base organizations in this years AirFest to be held on March 27 and 28 at MacDill AFB. This year our chapter will be working two lemonade carts. The total of 8 persons are needed each day dur-

ing the two day festivity, each cart will have four workers. This is a fund raising activity for our chapter, thanks to those board members that make this happen. To those chapter members out there, come and join us...if you want to help: Call 813-684-5414



Happy 21st
Anniversary
TREA
Tampa Bay
Chapter 58



Letters Sent to Florida Veterans Week of January 12, 2009

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) mailed disability verification letters to more than 265,000 Florida veterans and surviving spouses who may be eligible for state or local tax exemptions. Some state tax laws provide veterans and their surviving spouses with state, county or

local tax relief. VA helps veterans receive these benefits by providing letters verifying their military service and disability evaluations. Florida veterans and survivors are advised to contact their [county property tax appraiser's office](#) or [tax collectors office](#) with any questions about

Florida state tax abatement programs. For more information on VA benefit programs, go to www.va.gov or call 1-800-827-1000.



Priority 8 Veterans May Receive VA Care

Plans to re-open enrollment to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system to Priority 8 Veterans are underway; however, VA officials have not yet specified who will qualify. Priority 8 in-

cludes veterans who either have no service-connected disability or a zero percent disability rating, with incomes above specified thresholds based on family size. New enrollments are expected to begin in

June. For details please read the full article at the following link:

http://www.armytimes.com/news/2009/01/military_priority8_veterans



VA Announces \$320 Million in Dividends To Be Paid in 2009 To 1,000,000 Insured Veterans

Veterans who served between 1917 and 1956 and hold certain VA Life insurance policies will automatically get these payments on the anniversary of their policies. They have held these policies since they left the

military and should have been getting annual reports on the relevant trust funds investments. The policies have letters that would indicate if your policies are in the relevant groups. They V, J, JR, JS, RS, W,

and K. If you need more information on this please go to www.insurance.va.gov email them at: VAinsurance@va.gov; or call them at 1-800-669-8477





CHAPTER 58 ANNUAL DUES FORM

(Mail: TREA, Chapter 58, P.O. Box 6676, MacDill AFB, FL 33608-0676)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

_____ One (1) Year: \$10.00_

(These dues are due annually on the first day of January each year.)

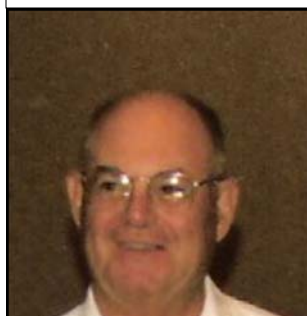
Happy
St. Patrick's Day



Member Birthdays

<i>Geoffrey Parker</i>	<i>Jan</i>
<i>James Murrey</i>	<i>Jan</i>
<i>Carlos Barradas</i>	<i>Feb</i>
<i>Ben Reynolds</i>	<i>Feb</i>
<i>Robert Zastudil</i>	<i>Feb</i>
<i>Efren Pol</i>	<i>Feb</i>
<i>Leonard Black</i>	<i>Mar</i>
<i>Gene Idziak</i>	<i>Mar</i>

Meet Your Board of Directors



Harold Atwood, E6, USAF (Ret)
2nd Vice President



Leonard Black, E9, USAF (Ret)
1st Vice President

VETERANS POST NEWS.....
Carries Chapter 58 Information



TREA Tampa Bay Chapter 58 has become a member of the Veterans Post News organization. As a member, Chapter 58 will be able to publish news about our Chapter in their Veterans Post News each month. The Veterans Post News also has a web site that operates 24/7 with a link to Chapter 58. www.veteranspostnews.com/TREA58.htm. Chapter 58's website will carry photos, event information, meeting times to our members. The first information will be published in the March issue of the Veterans Post News.

CHAPTER 58

2009 MEETINGS

Surf's Edge Enlisted Club
MacDill AFB, Florida

1300 hours

- Jan 20 BOD
- Feb 17 BOD
- Mar 17 General Mbrship
- Apr 21 BOD
- May 19 BOD
- Jun 16 General Mbrship
- Jul 21 BOD
- Aug 18 BOD
- Sep 15 General Mbrship
- Oct 20 BOD
- Nov 17 BOD
- Dec 15 GMM- New BOD Installation and Xmas Party



Military Humor



HAVE YOU HEARD:

An old Navy Chief and an old Marine Gunny were sitting at the VFW arguing about who'd had the tougher career:

'I did 30 years in the Corps,' the Marine declared proudly, and fought in three of my country's wars. Fresh out of boot camp I hit the beach at Okinawa , clawed my way up the blood-soaked sand, and eventually took out an entire enemy machine gun nest with a single grenade. As a sergeant, I fought in Korea alongside General Macarthur. We pushed the enemy inch by bloody inch all the way up to the Chinese border, always under a barrage of artillery and small arms fire. Finally, as a gunny sergeant, I did three consecutive combat tours in Vietnam. We humped through the mud and razor grass for 14 hours a day, plagued by rain and mosquitoes, ducking under sniper fire by day and mortar fire all night. In a firefight, we'd fire until our arms ached and our guns were empty, then we charge the enemy with bayonets'.

'Ah', said the Sailor with a dismissive wave of his hand. 'Lucky Son Of A Gun', all shore duty, huh?



TREA Tampa Bay Chapter 58 Working events in local area



TREA Chapter 58
members Leonard Black and Herman
Sharpe representing our Chapter at
the Veterans
Appreciation Day held
at MacDill Air
Force Base





Tampa Bay Chapter 58 at work.....



The Veterans
Appreciation Day
At MacDill Air Force Base.
Leonard Black,
Louis Arana,
Mrs. Luz Arana and
Harold Atwood
passing out information
to retirees about
TREA
Tampa Bay Chapter 58



CHANGING CHAPTER NAME

Director Carlos Barradas proposed to the Chapter BOD to change the name of Chapter 58 to the TREA JORGE BLONDET CHAPTER 58. The changing of the chapter name will be open for discussion at the next general membership meeting on March 17, 2009. I would like to have as many members as possible at this meeting. This is a major change and has to be discussed with the chapter membership. *Louis Arana, President*



The Trooper



Attention Members:

If you have a friend who is retired military and does not belong to the Retired Enlisted Association, bring him or her to our meeting and let them see what we are all about. We want to get our Chapter back to where we can bring in speakers to keep us up to date on retiree issues. So come and bring a friend.....

PREAMBLE

We, as retired enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the United States of America being ever mindful of the glorious traditions of our military services, our duty to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, our responsibility to support a strong defense establishment, our interest in the welfare of our fellow service members in fortune or distress and with reverence of God, Country and our departed comrades, unite to further the aims and objectives of The Retired Enlisted Association.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EMAIL

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Director.....	Geoffrey Parker	(813) 752-6988	
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