



Chartered March 16, 1988

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER 58 Trooper

June 2009

A Quarterly Publication
of Tampa Bay Chapter 58

Notes From The President

I would like to extend my thanks to 1st Vice Leonard Black for stepping in to take care of the chapter needs during my absence. I also want to thank the dedicated board members who attended the April 21, 2009, board of directors meeting. It's good knowing we have such capable people who can run the chapter business when I'm away.

These past four months have been busy ones for us, with the preparation of the budget, the audit of our financial records, the appointments of committees and the important addition of a Chapter 58 Web site. The credit for creating the web site goes to Juanita Anspach for her hard work and dedication to make this happen. Check the site for chapter events information.

www.veteranspostnews.com/TREA58.htm.

However, we still have a low turnout at our general membership meetings and the

ranks of our chapter continue to drop. Hopefully, other retirees and our chapter members will start checking our Web site and get involve in more chapter activities. One way to get involved is by attending our upcoming Chapter 58 picnic, which we have scheduled at MacDill Air Force Base on June 20. Check out the details in this edition of The Trooper.

I also want to report that we presented Jr. ROTC Kits to cadets during their graduation ceremonies at Zephyrhills and Alonzo high schools. 1st VP Leonard Black and Past President Hermon Sharpe helped me make these presentations in behalf of our chapter. In addition, we presented each cadet a \$50 check courtesy of Past President Hermon Sharpe and chapter member Louis Arana-Barradas.

(Pictures on Page 5)



Lou Arana, President of TREA
Tampa Bay Chapter 58.

Finally, we have several days of note in May and June, so I wish you a happy Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day and Flag Day!

Most of all, I wish all good health.

United We Stand

Lou Arana



TREA Chapter 58 Having a Picnic....

Tampa Bay Chapter 58 is holding a picnic for its membership at the MacDill AFB Marina on 20 June 2009 starting at 11:30 AM. We have a pavilion reserved and you and your guests are invited to attend and enjoy the food and fun. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and potato salad are on the menu. Any questions contact: Lou Arana, 813-684-5414. This is a good time to come and



meet your new Board of Directors. So join us....



PICNIC





COMMITTEE REPORTS and Your BOD at Work:



Hospital Care Meeting: There are no changes in the Tricare Program. The new pharmacare facility to open around the 15th of June. There will be a new drive thru window. The next meeting will be scheduled for the 25th of August. Submitted by *Harold Atwood*.



Harold Atwood
Allan Adams
And
Carlos Barradas



Hermon Sharpe
And
Leonard Black
Juanita Anspach



Herman Sharpe, Past President, swearing in a new Director, Harry C. Johnson, to the Tampa Bay Chapter 58. Director Johnson lives in Lorida, Florida.

VA BLUE WATER CLAIMS Update 04: On 5 MAY 09 Rep Bob Filner (D-CA-51ST) introduced the Agent Orange Equity Act of 2009 (H.R.2244). This legislation would clarify the legal presumption of exposure to Agent Orange for veterans who served in the vicinity of Viet Nam. Currently, 38 US Code Section 1116, defines a Viet Nam veteran as "a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975." The Department of Veterans Affairs uses a conservative interpretation to mean "boots on the ground" which excludes most Navy and Air Force personnel who have Agent Orange related issues but who cannot prove "boots on the ground." H.R.2254 would clarify this section by redefining a Viet Nam veteran as one who during active military, naval, or air service (a) served in the Republic of Vietnam (including the inland waterways, ports, and harbors of such Republic, the waters offshore of such Republic, and the airspace above such Republic) during the period January 9, 1962 - May 7, 1975; (b) served in Johnston Island during the period April 1, 1972 - September 30, 1977; or (c) received the Vietnam Service Medal or the Vietnam Campaign Medal. If you would like to see this legislation passed you should contact your legislator and ask that he/she sign on as a sponsor or cosponsor to the bill. One easy way to do this is to go to [http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=13301656&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=13301656&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id]) where you will find a preformatted message that you can use as is or edit the text of to your personal style and forward automatically by entering your zip code and contact data. [Source: NAUS Legislative Alert 8 May 09 ++]



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.)



Member Birthdays

Louis Arana May
 Harry Johnson May
 Allan Adams June
 Hermon Sharpe June
 Juanita Anspach July
 Jerry Brown July



Memorial Day is a day when we pause to give thanks to the people who fought for the things we have.

TREA Tampa Bay Chapter 58 Celebrates
 21st Anniversary at March General Membership Meeting



*Cake donated
 by
 Mrs. Luz Arana*

**CHAPTER 58
 2009 MEETINGS
 Surf's Edge 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





AIRFEST 2009 MACDILL AFB Letter to Chapter 58....

Greetings Private Organizations,

On behalf of the Force Support Squadron we would like to express our sincere appreciation to you and your booth workers for your hard work and contributions during AirFest 2009 and for making the event successful – another MacDill AFB win!

We know first-hand the amount of effort (and patience) you and your booth workers put forward ... our heartfelt thanks. More importantly we know everyone is curious to learn what their share cut is ... drum-roll ...

Share totals are:

1 share =\$2000

½ share \$1000

It was our distinct pleasure working with each of you and we hope to see you at next year's AirFest!

VR

Team FSS

AirFest 2009~



VA HEARING AIDS/EYEGASSES Update 02: The Department of Veterans Affairs must provide audiology and eye care services and hearing aids and glasses to military veterans with any compensable service-connected disability. Public Law 104-262, the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996, changed eligibility laws to allow VHA to furnish prosthetic appliances to veterans. However, that law further provided that VHA could not furnish sensori-neural aids (hearing aids and eyeglasses) except in accordance with guidelines that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prescribes. Subsequently, the Department published regulations (Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), §17.149) in the Federal Register establishing such guidelines. In 2002, VHA issued Directive 2002-039 to establish uniform policy for the provision of hearing aids and eyeglasses. It is now VHA policy that all enrolled veterans and those veterans exempt from enrollment are eligible for medical services that include diagnostic audiology and diagnostic and preventive eye care services, and that the prescription and provision of hearing aids and eyeglasses must be furnished to all eligible veterans in accordance with the parameters and criteria defined in VHA DIRECTIVE 2008-070 dtd 28 OCT 08. **Full details of the directive can be viewed at http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1789.**

VETERANS REPORT

— The Military's Largest Benefits Update —



Veterans Report is the most comprehensive newsletter available to help Veterans stay current on benefits changes, learn about important legislation, get great discounts, and use the benefits earned in service. Make sure that you and your colleagues [subscribe](#) for this free update publication. www.military.com

Deal of the Week: Coupons and Discounts for Military: The Military.com discount center has thousands of exclusive discounts and coupons for the military community.





TRICARE INFORMATION.....

Reminder: TRICARE Requires DEERS Updates

Keeping all of your family's information up-to-date in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is essential for maintaining your TRICARE benefit coverage. DEERS is a worldwide, computerized database of uniformed service members (sponsors), their family members and others who are eligible for military benefits. TRICARE uses the information in DEERS to verify TRICARE eligibility. For an overview on DEERS, visit TRICARE's [eligibility Web page](#). Updating your information is simple to do.



TREA CHAPTER 58 AWARD PRESENTATION TO JROTC SCHOOLS.....



TREA Chapter 58 President Louis Arana presents the TREA Award of Merit Medal to Army JROTC Cadet Sgt. 1st Class Edward Larking during a ceremony at Zephyrhills High School, May 13, 2009. Sitting are school Bulldog Battalion commander Lt Col. Chase Thornton and the Command Sgt. Major Dakota Graves, battalion sergeant major. The Tampa Bay, Fl., chapter also presented Cadet Edwards with a \$50 check.

Photo by retired Army 1st Sgt. Jimmy McAuley

CMSgt USAF Ret Leonard Black presented TREA Award to JROTC Lucas Silver during Alonzo High School Awards Ceremony and Military Ball. Cadet Silver was given the TREA award for his outstanding adherence to the cadet creed. Alonzo JROTC is one of the largest one in the Southeast USA with 234 cadets and a graduating class of 54 with an average GPA of 3.39.





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

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

President.....	Louis Arana	(813) 684-5414	larana@tampabay.rr.com
1st VP.....	Leonard Black	(813) 949-6192	lblack1927@aol.com
2 nd VP.....	Harold Atwood	(813) 831-2000	hatwood2@tampabay.rr.com
Treasurer.....	Allan Adams	(727)289-6787	aadams81@tampabay.rr.com
Secretary/NewsLtr..	Juanita Anspach	(813) 837-5065	vegasbnd@tampabay.rr.com
Director.....	Peter Gathers	(813) 473-3615	snekPete@aol.com
Director.....	Gene Idziak	(727) 577-4005	geneidziak@msn.com
Director.....	Carlos Barradas	(813) 661-7573	carpil@verizon.net
Director.....	Harry C. Johnson	(863) 655-1669	
Director.....	Geoffrey Parker	(813) 752-6988	
Director/Chaplain...	Jerry Torgerson	(813) 837-0169	Torgystoy1@aol.com
Past President.....	Hermon Sharpe	(813) 839-0780	hsharpejr@verizon.net