



Chartered March 16, 1988

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER 58 Trooper

September 2009

Third Quarter Publication
of Tampa Bay Chapter 58

Notes From The President

September: We're still alive and well, and committed to continuing our struggle to attract new members and their participation in chapter activities. And I'm very glad to mention that attendance to our board of directors meetings are improving.

It's time to start searching for volunteers for the 2010 board of directors — all positions are up for grabs. Each of our current board members will receive an officer nomination form at our Sept. 15 general membership meeting at the MacDill Air Force Base Surf's Edge Club. I encourage chapter members in good standing, who want to participate to call board member for information. Their telephone numbers are listed on the Chapter 58 Web

site at the Veteran's Post News: log on to: www.veteranspostnews.com/TREA58.htm.

We also need volunteers to participate in the November 2009 Veterans Appreciation Day at the MacDill BX Food Court. The time has not been set.

Five board members will represent the chapter at the TREA National Convention in Rapid City, South Dakota, Sept. 23-27, 2009. We will bring back all issues affecting our chapter for discussion in our October meeting.

It's also time to submit a new chapter meetings calendar for 2010. I suggest we hold our eight board meetings at the MacDill Surf's Edge Club. I'd also like to move the



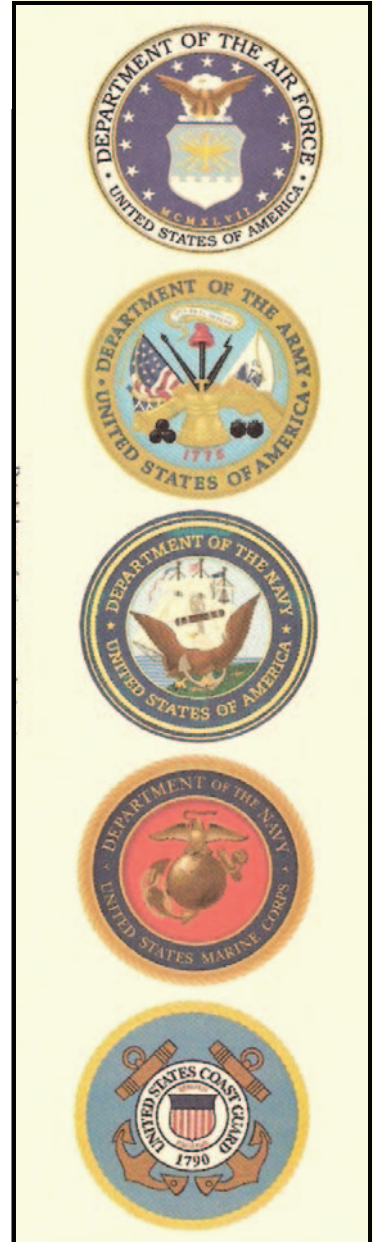
Lou Arana, President of TREA
Tampa Bay Chapter 58.

four general membership meetings to the base marina's Coons Pavilion. I believe this will help increase participation at our meetings and activities.

In closing, we will begin planning the Dec. 12 general membership meeting and Christmas Party. Don't miss the opportunity to socialize and have a good time. Come and celebrate with us.

"UNITED WE STAND"
Louis A. Arana
President

INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS: Tampa Bay Chapter 58 has access to a booklet called "Need to Know 101" Military Wives Your Guide to Being Prepared. This booklet was prepared by the Society of Military Widows, Tampa Bay Chapter 35. In this booklet is all the information you will need and that can be inserted by you and your spouse before it is needed. If you would like a copy, please call Juanita Anspach, Secretary, 813-837-5065.





Veterans Health Care Bill Introduced

Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Bob Filner recently introduced H.R. 3365 to allow veterans to use their earned Medicare benefits to receive health care and services from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Current law prohibits the billing of Medicare, barring elderly veterans from using their earned Medicare benefits at VA health care facilities. H.R. 3365, the Medicare Reimbursement Act of 2009, would require VA to develop a program that would allow VA to bill Medicare for services rendered to veterans enrolled in Medicare Part A or B.

The text of H.R. 3365 is available on the Military.com. Legislative Center.

[How do you feel about this action? Let your public officials know how you feel!](#)



Mark Your Calendar...

December 12, 2009

Chapter 58

Holiday

Party



TREA Tampa Bay Chapter 58 is holding their December General Membership Meeting and Christmas Party at the Coon Creek Pavilion at MacDill AFB on Saturday, December 12, 2009 starting at 11:00 AM. Mark your calendar and plan to attend our event and bring a guest or family members to join us. The Menu is going to be ham, turkey, sweet potatoes, vegetable, salad, and desert. Cost will be \$10 per couple, cost for guests will be \$5 each. Children under 12 free. We are going to have a raffle for gifts, also an auction. So come and join the fun and support your TREA Chapter. Any questions call: Lou Arana 684-5414



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.)

Meet
Your
Board of
Directors
2009



Member Birthdays

*Sept Harold Atwood
Sept Peter Gathers
Oct Wm Biaggi
Oct Pattie Marks
Oct Elwin Stone
Nov Harold Connor*

Top Row: Dir. Carlos Barradas, Sec. Juanita Anspach, President Lou Arana, 2nd VP Harold Atwood, and Treas. Allan Adams.

Bottom Row: Dir. Harry Johnson, Past Pres. Hermon Sharpe, 1st VP Leonard Black and Dir. Geoffrey Parker..

Not Present: Dir Peter Gathers, Dir. Jerry Torgerson and Dir. Gene Idziak.

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 12 GMM- New BOD
Installation and Xmas Party**





MORE FEMALE VETERANS ARE WINDING UP HOMELESS, VA RESOURCES STRAINED; MANY ARE SINGLE PARENTS...

The number of female service members who have become homeless after leaving the military has jumped dramatically in recent years, according to new government estimates, presenting the VA with a challenge as it struggles to accommodate the hundred of thousands of returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. As more women serve in combat zones, the share of female veterans who end up homeless while still relatively small at an estimated 6500, has nearly doubled over the last decade, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. For younger veterans it is even more pronounced. One out of every 10 homeless vets under the age of 45 is now a woman, the statistics show.

(Boston Globe, July 6, 2009)

Cost Of Living Decline – No COLA Expected, No Medicare Increase

As previously reported, the inflation index used to set the January 2010 federal retiree COLA dropped another 2-tenths of a percent in July, sending the COLA count deeper into negative territory. The count now stands at -2.3 (negative 2.3) percent making it all but certain that there will not be a COLA increase for 2010. On the plus side, although the cost of living has fallen, federal and military pensions, social security benefits, VA disability and survivor benefits will not be reduced.

In addition, a “hold-harmless” provision in Social Security law prevents premiums for most Part B enrollees from increasing in 2010 and possibly additional years. This provision limits the premium increase to the dollar amount of a beneficiary’s cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

The premium protection would exempt about 75 percent of beneficiaries from paying higher Part B premiums in the event Social Security pay is unchanged. The remainder not eligible for premium protection would be individuals with modified adjusted gross incomes above \$85,000 or couples with adjusted gross incomes of \$170,000. The protection would not apply to any surcharge paid by Medicare users who delayed their enrollment in Part B beyond age 65.

JAMES A. HALEY VETERANS’ HOSPITAL



DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

From: Carri-Ann Gibson, MD, DAAPM, Director, Trauma Recovery Program

The Trauma Recovery Program at James A. Haley VA Hospital provides state-of-the-art services to meet the needs of our veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Our intent is to provide a safe and supportive environment to allow veterans and their families to recover from military-related trauma. James A. Haley VA Hospital is one of the busiest VA hospitals in the country and through our work with veterans who have PTSD we have learned that many also struggle with chronic pain and substance abuse related to their traumatic experience.

In order for us to ensure the recovery of our veterans we have developed an integrated treatment program that will address not only PTSD, but will also treat the co-morbid illnesses of substance abuse and chronic pain. If left untreated, both chronic pain and substance abuse will interfere with achieving full sustained recovery from the impact of military-related trauma.

Our program is also actively involved with the family members because a veteran in recovery needs to have a strong and stable support system at home. Through intervention, support, and education, we are able to provide care for our veterans that is comprehensive and also addresses the treatment needs of the family members.

Our staff members are committed to ensuring the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States of America receive the highest level of treatment.



Retiree Casualty: DOs and DON'Ts



Upon the death of a uniformed service retiree, the next of kin should call the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), London KY Center. DFAS will close the retiree's pay account and send a survivor benefits package. Typically, forms will be included that instruct the next of kin on how to recoup the retiree's unpaid pay. You must fill these out promptly and return them with a copy of the death certificate.

Survivors should report retiree deaths to the DFAS London KY Center's casualty office at 1-800-321-1080. Faxes can be sent to the office at 1-800-469-6559.

DO:

- Have retiree's full name.
- Have retiree's Social Security Number.
- Have retiree's date of death.
- Have beneficiary name and relationship to deceased.
- Retiree's current address.
- Notify Social Security Administration.
 - Return and cancel any payments received after the date of death.
 - Have a list of benefits to which beneficiaries are entitled.
- Notify the Local County Veteran's Service Office and request their assistance.

DON'T:

- Don't use any retired payments received after date of retiree's death.
- Don't return any retired payments that have been directly deposited to a bank account; DFAS will automatically reclaim the money that needs to be returned when you notify DFAS of the retiree's death.
- Don't use any VA or Social Security payments issued after the date of death. A beneficiary can be required to pay any money back that was used after the date of death.

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



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

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