



Chartered March 16, 1988

TAMPA BAY CHAPTER 58 Trooper

June 2011

Second Quarter Publication
of Tampa Bay Chapter 58

Notes From The Chapter President

June is here already, and I would like to bring you up to date on some of our chapter accomplishments of the past months. But first let me say two things. Let me thanks the dedicated Chapter 58 members who continue supporting the chapter but I also would like to apologize for any inconvenience you may have experienced during the four months that the MacDill AFB Surf's Edge Club has been closed and we had to find another location to hold our meeting. Thanks for your patience.

The past few months have treated us well. Second Vice Harry Johnson continues doing an excellent job on the membership committee. He has been on the phone calling people to ensure they renew their membership. His efforts have paid off and our membership renewals are up. Keep up the good work. Col. Lenny Richoux, MacDill's 6th Air Mobility Wing commander, was our guest at the Jan. 18 board of directors' meeting. The colonel told us he

wants to get involved with all the organizations connected with MacDill and wants to see what he can do to assist the retired military population in the Tampa Bay area. Maybe you have a suggestion. Let us know and we'll pass it on to the colonel. We continue supporting Junior ROTC programs at five area high schools and the demand for our sponsorship has increased. But we do not always have the volunteers needed to attend award ceremonies and present the TREA certificate and medals to cadets. We sure could use more volunteers to help the chapter with that important program.

Remember, the chapter's main annual fund-raising event, the MacDill AirFest, will not take place until November this year. Hopefully, this change will prevent it from being rained out like last year — and we can make more money for our chapter fund. It is not too early to ask how you can help us during this fun and patriotic event.



Louis Arana, President of TREA
Tampa Bay Chapter 58.

In the next issue of the chapter newsletter, The Trooper, I will update you on the June picnic and general membership meeting. We have a committee planning the event. We could use more help to make the event as successful and fun as in the past.

We are finalizing our preparations for the TREA National Convention, which will start Sept. 26 at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada. The chapter will be well represented at the convention, like it is every year. And we hope to bring home some awards to continue the tradition we have established in the past few years.

So come and join us. Come to one of our meeting and get involved. It doesn't take too much time and it will be rewarding. You won't be disappointed, and you will get to meet other chapter members.

UNITED WE STAND

Louis A. Arana



ATTENTION MEMBERS:

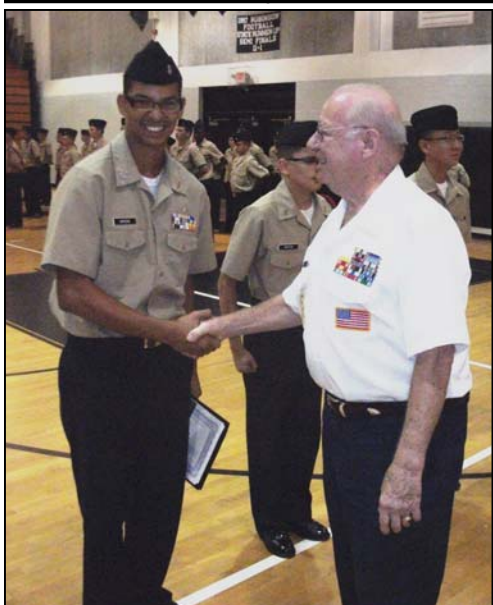
The June GMM/Picnic is going to be on June 18, 2011 at Coons Creek Pavilion starting at 1200 Hours. Come join us for the meeting and good food. Please contact: Lou Arana 684-5414 or Juanita Ans-pach 837-5065 if you will be attending.

BIRTHDAYS

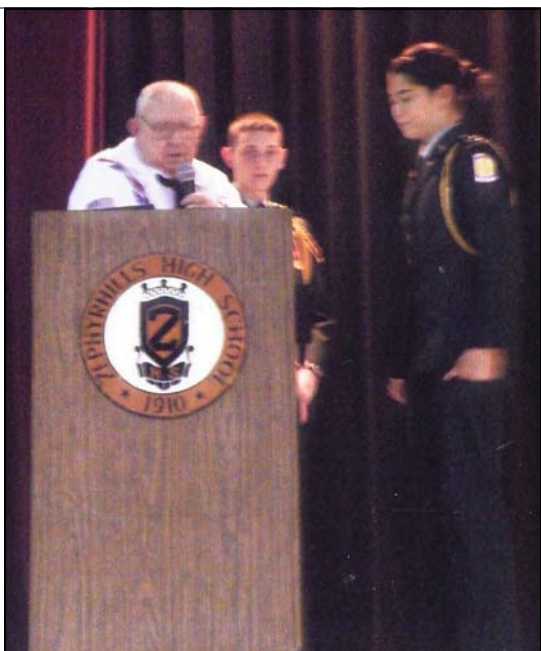
***Happy Birthday
to all our member
Birthdays
in***

***July,
August,
September
2011***





First Vice President Leonard Black of TREA Chapter 58 presented a TREA Certificate and Medal to JROTC Cadet Greene of Robertson High School, April 2011.



Past President Hermon Sharpe of TREA Chapter 58 presented a TREA Certificate and Medal to JROTC Cadet Nacol Solenman of Zephyrhills High School, May 2011.

HONOR FLIGHT WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

HONOR FLIGHT TAMPA: WORLD WAR II VETERAN HEROES FLY FROM TAMPA FOR LONG-AWAITED THANK YOU

Tampa, Florida, May 3, 2011...Twenty-five American Heroes were on their way to Washington. Just after 6:00 a.m. a group of World War II veterans took off aboard a Southwest Airlines flight from Tampa International Airport. Among those veterans was Director Geoffrey Parker of TREA Chapter 58. First VP Leonard Black was a co-founder of the Honor Flight.



Major General Michael D. Jones, Chief of Staff, United States Central Command welcoming back Geoffrey Parker from his Honor Flight to Washington.



First VP Leonard Black is escorting James F. Rollison, Army (Europe 1944-1945) to the Plane for his Honor Flight to Washington.

It's been more than 65 years since their service and sacrifice saved our way of life. This free trip is a way to thank them. They'll be seeing the Memorials built on the National Mall honoring World War II, Vietnam and Korea. Organizers say they're facing a race against time to thank these vets. The average age of this groups is 94. World War II veterans now pass away at a rate of a thousand per day. This is the first-ever Honor Flight like this to leave from the Tampa Bay area.



**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.)**

(Print page and cut here and mail with check)

ANNUAL NATIONAL TREA RENEWAL DUES FORM:

If you need to up-date your National TREA membership, please contact **HARRY JOHNSON**, 863-655-1669, **P E T E R GATHERS**, 813-473-3615, OR **LOUIS ARANA**, 813-684-5414, if you did not receive a notice.

....ATTENTION CHAPTER MEMBERS: If you have paid your chapter's dues for this year or more and have not received the chapter membership card, please notify President Louis Arana at 813-684-5414 or larana3@verizon.net

INFORMATION FOR OUR MEMBERS: Tampa Bay Chapter 58 has 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, call Juanita Anspach 813-837-5065. Don't wait and not have all the information you need when you need it.

CHAPTER 58**2011 MEETINGS****Seascapes Beach Club****MacDill AFB, Florida****1300 hours****JUN 18 GMM**

JUL 19 BOD

AUG 16 BOD

SEP 20 GMM

OCT 18 BOD

NOV 15 BOD

DEC 20 GMM



Veteran Affairs Services (VAS):

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in anyway. Websites with the name "vaservices" immediately after the "www" ARE NOT part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Government agency. Do not go to them or if approached or called, do not offer them any information concerning yourself or data on other veterans. Keep in mind that the real VA website ends in —.gov. Be aware that the Department of Veterans Affairs does not randomly call veterans, nor does it ask veterans for information which it does not already have--like Social Security Numbers. In particular, if you have not dealt with the VA previously--and in person--and all of a sudden, you receive a call from someone saying they are with the VA or something similar sounding, hang up the phone. Also, do not respond to emails which suggest that they are from the VA. The VA never conducts official business nor asks for personal information by email. VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Michael G. Daugherty, Staff Attorney, Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel (022G2) 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20420. [Source: Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, VSO Liaison Kevin Secor msg. 23 Feb 2011 ++]

➤ **Calendar.** This year, July has 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays. This happens once every 823 years.

New Flag Rules for Cemeteries

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki recently announced changes that will allow flags to be placed on gravesites at National cemeteries on Memorial Day and any other day of the year on a case-by-case basis. Federal rules had previously prohibited placement of American Flags on any day other than Memorial Day, including Veterans Day. The rule change was made at the request of Rep. John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-TN). NAUS Note: A small but very important improvement. Thank you, Rep. Duncan, for your request and thank you VA for listening.





VETERAN'S CORNER



VETERAN'S PROPERTY TAX DISCOUNT

(JOINT RESOLUTION by Bennett; (Co-Introducers) Sachs; Altman.

Veteran's Property Tax Discount proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to expand the availability of the property tax discount on the homesteads of veterans who became disabled as the result of a combat injury to veterans who were not Florida residents when they entered the military. If approved, would be placed on the ballot for Public Approval at the next General Election. The discount would be in a percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent, service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. <http://www.fisenate.gov/Session/Bill/2011/592>.

MORE Veterans bills:

Elections violations (SB 330/HB 553): Punishes candidates who falsely represent themselves as military veterans during elections.

Veterans Day (SB 1062/HB 375): Requires schools to observe Veterans Day as a holiday and not hold classes.

Driver's License fees (SB 368/HB 123): Reduces driver's license fees for certain disabled veterans.

Veterans Crisis Line

The VA is reaching out to veterans in crisis with a new public service announcement (PSA) about the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). The new television spot encourages veterans in crisis to call the crisis hotline number at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and then push 1 on their telephone keypad to reach a trained VA mental health professional who can assist the veteran 24 hours a day, seven days a week. So far, more than more than 200,000 veterans, family members or friends of veterans have called the hotline, which has led to more than 13,000 rescues of actively-suicidal veterans. The PSA can be viewed on [YouTube](#).



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 keep our Chapter members up to date on retiree issues. So come on out 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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1st VP..... Leonard Black

2nd VP..... Harry Johnson

Treasurer..... Allan Adams

Secretary/NewsLtr..Juanita Anspach

Director..... Peter Gathers

Director..... Louis Arana-Barradas

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(813) 684-5414

(813) 949-6192 Legislative/Vet Affairs

(863) 655-1669 Membership Reports

(727)289-6787 Financial Reports

(813) 837-5065 NewsLtr/Web Site

(813) 473-3615 Membership Reports

(210) 602-9167 NewsLtr/ Web Site

(727) 364-6212 Sgt-At-Arms

(813) 752-6988 Fund Raising

(813) 831-2000 Fund Raising

(813) 661-7573 Parliamentarian/By-Laws

(813) 839-0780 Chaplain

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