



EAGLE NEWS

The official Newsletter of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
Central Minnesota Chapter 115

April thru June 2010

STATE OF MINNESOTA HOLDS “VETERAN’S DAY ON THE HILL”

The Veterans Day on the Hill for 2010 was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 in the Capitol Rotunda.

A snow storm reduced the number of attendees, but the good turnout of veterans was evidence to our legislators that there are many veterans in Minnesota that speak their minds and concerns.



(R to L) Ralph Donais and Jerry Kyser, joined hands during a photo opportunity, before meeting with their legislators.

Ralph and Jerry recently switched places in the United Veterans Legislative Council of Minnesota. Ralph is now the Chairman and Jerry is the 1st Vice. Ralph and Jerry are very involved with Veteran’s Issues at the capital.

ID CARD NUMBERS UPDATE

Phase Two of the process to remove printed Social Security numbers from retiree identification cards set to begin early this year has been delayed until further notice. When a new plan is made available to the Services, information will be advertised through

Air Force retiree news outlets and other public affairs media. There are more than 1,500 ID card centers worldwide. To find the nearest center, refer to the RAPIDS site locator at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home. Officials urge cardholders to call first to

ensure duty hours and determine what documents are required. People must present two forms of identification and one must be an unexpired federal- or state-issued photo ID.

[Source: Afterburner article Feb 2010 ++]

DISABLED VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE TRANSIT

MINNEAPOLIS – (July 1, 2009) – Minnesota’s disabled veterans are now able to use public transportation throughout Minnesota at no charge beginning today. The transit benefit was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Gov. Tim Pawlenty this year.

Disabled veterans simply need to show the proper identification card to bus operators of any fixed-route service in the state, including Metro Transit and suburban transit providers in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area as well as regular-route services in Duluth, St. Cloud, Rochester, Moorhead, East Grand Forks and Mankato.

“This initiative will provide a tremendous service for disabled veterans in Minnesota. They are our nation’s heroes,” said Clark Dyruud, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

“How appropriate that this benefit for disabled veterans begins so close to the Fourth of July when we show our respect and support for those who defend the freedoms we enjoy,” said Peter Bell, chair of the Metropolitan Council, which oversees public transportation in the Twin Cities.

There are approximately 50,000 disabled veterans in Minnesota. The free ride benefit also extends to a personal care attendant who may be assisting a disabled veteran as they travel.

In the Metro area, this benefit is also available on the Hiawatha light-rail line and on the Northstar commuter rail line, which will begin operations late this year between Big Lake, Minn., and downtown Minneapolis.

“The transit providers in Greater Minnesota are an important part of our

multi-modal transportation system. I appreciate that the fixed-route transit providers are acknowledging the contributions of our disabled veterans by offering them free service,” said Tom Sorel, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, which oversees and funds transit service outside of the metro area.

To qualify for the free rides, disabled veterans must show a Veterans Identification Card, or VIC issued by a VA Medical Center with the words “Service Connected” or the initials “SC” below the photo. The cards are available at the VA medical centers in Minneapolis and St. Cloud. For information call 612-467-1991 or visit va.gov/healtheligibility/application/IDC.ard.asp for more information.

LOWE'S COMPANY MILITARY DISCOUNTS

Lowe's Companies, Inc. recently announced that it is expanding its support of the military by offering a 10% discount 24/7 to all military personnel who are active, reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family members, with a valid, government-issued military ID card. All other military veterans (non-

disabled) will receive the 10% discount only on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day weekends. The discount is available on in-stock and Special Order purchases up to \$5,000. Excluded from the discount are sales via Lowes.com, previous sales, and purchases of services or gift cards. In addition, Lowe's has also extended

benefits for its employees serving in the military and offers employment opportunities to military personnel after their military service has ended. Currently, more than 12,000 Lowe's employees are military veterans or reservists.

[Source: EANGUS Minuteman 26 Feb 2010 ++]

TREA CHAPTER 115 CENTRAL MINNESOTA MINUTES OF 13 FEBRUARY 2010

Call to Order by Chapter President Ralph Donais. Invocation by Dell Fuller. Pledge of Allegiance by Ralph Donais. Announcements and welcome to guests.

Approval of minutes for 10 Oct 2009 – Motion by Dell, Second by Dave, motion passed

Treasurer's Report by Dennis Rock.

Checking is \$800.49 and Savings is \$3,067.65. Motion to accept report by Dave C., Second by Dave H., Motion passed.

Legislative Report – The MN Commanders Task Force (CTF) and United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC) are pushing to keep the MN Dept. of Veterans Affairs Higher Education program. Governor has said he won't cut Veterans Programs. There is a proposal to keep the Property Tax Exception for Disabled Vets continuing for spouses past 2 years. Issue with County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) having taxed levied differently. There is money for Veterans Homes construction projects. There is a proposal for a Special Court System for PTSD Vets. A trial program will be held in Hennepin County.

MAAG is supporting the Special Court Trials. A push for Small Business support for Veterans. Can be 6% over and still get the contract. Support for Tax Relief for retired military and the Higher Education program. Veterans Day on the Hill was a success. Good speakers and Governor confirmed no cuts for Veterans Programs.

Membership Report – no report.

However, Dennis mentioned he merged the MAL and RAD list from last summer together. He also reminded

that Disabled Vets can ride Public Transportation free in MN.

Chaplin's Report & Metrovets Report – no report.

Health Benefits Advisor Report – Ralph mentioned that all the elevators in the Mpls VA Medical Center are being worked on. Social Security will have no COLA this year.

Presidents Report – Ralph is attending meetings at the State Capitol for MAAG and UVLC. He is also working at the Serviceman's Center at the Mpls Airport. It is a good experience.

OLD BUSINESS -- JROTC presentations are coming soon. Como is requesting we attend on May 26. We need volunteers to present at these events.

Fundraiser – The question was raised if we should do just Cub or Corborns or both. There were more questions about the events and Ralph will check for dates and get more information.

Election of Chapter Secretary – Motion by Dennis, second by Dave C., motion passed. David Hammer is the new Chapter Secretary.

Budget for 2010 – Covered at the last meeting.

AFRAD – The date for Camp Ripley is set for August 28th. Speakers are getting lined up and Ralph will check on rooms.

Membership Party – Ralph brought up the idea of a membership party. Forward ideas to Ralph.

MALS Mailing – Ralph got a comment at the Capitol that the member liked getting the mailings. Dennis and Ralph found there is a USPS service where you send them the newsletter and a mailing list. USPS will then mail it out. Dennis will investigate since the bulk

mail renewal is coming up for a fee of \$185. Motion by Dell and second by David that "if it is a better deal or same cost to switch to the new system". Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS -- Award Submittal – Send information to Dave C.

Membership is a key factor plus other activities such as volunteering.

Newsletter printing – Dennis reported that the printer is not giving the \$25 discount anymore. Approval to continue with Speed-Ex. Ralph will investigate other printers.

Veterans Rest Camp – Dennis requested this information be posted on the chapter website.

Form 990 – Ralph will file the Form 990 and other documents for non-profit status.

By-Laws – Need to update and change some items. Will update at the next meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER -- Questions were asked about Ralph's election to the TREA National position. He reported no meetings yet. There will be a mid-term meeting in May. Al Bollut is in the hospital.

TREA will pay mileage and dinner for going to RAD's. The Camp Ripley Snack Bar by the hangar is being converted into a club. It will include a 500 seating area. An artist is doing paintings for the Little Falls Cemetery about each branch.

Benediction by Dell Fuller. Motion to adjourn by Dave C., Second by Dave H. Respectfully submitted, David Hammer

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ARE CONSOLIDATING AND GETTING NEW NAMES

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's directive to consolidate 26 stateside military installations into 12 joint bases. The 12 new base names which became effective in the last six months are:

- Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base became **Joint Base Lewis-McChord**, led by the Army;
- The Navy's Anacostia Annex and Bolling Air Force Base here became Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, led by the Navy;
- Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, became **Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam**, led by the Navy;
- Charleston Air Force Base and Naval Weapons Station Charleston,

S.C., became **Joint Base Charleston**, led by the Air Force;

- Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson, Alaska, became **Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson**, led by the Air Force;
- Lackland and Randolph Air Force bases and Fort Sam Houston, Texas, became **Joint Base San Antonio**, led by the Air Force;
- Langley Air Force Base and Fort Eustis in Virginia became **Joint Base Langley-Eustis**, led by the Air Force.
- Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek and Fort Story in Virginia became **Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story**, led by the Navy;

- Fort Myer and the Marine Corps' Henderson Hall in Virginia became **Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall**, led by the Army;
- Andrews Air Force Base and Naval Air Facility Washington, in Maryland, became **Joint Base Andrews**, led by the Air Force;
- McGuire Air Force Base, Fort Dix and Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, all in New Jersey, became **Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst**, led by the Air Force;
- Navy Base Guam and Andersen Air Force Base in Guam became **Joint Region Marianas**, led by the Navy.

[Source: AFPS Lisa Daniel article 24 Mar 2010 ++]

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Articles may be reprinted wholly providing the intent is to promote the

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TREA Chapter 115, as a nonprofit organization, is nonunion, nonpartisan and nonsectarian. Views expressed in this publication are not the official views of TREA, Chapter 115 or any governmental agency.

The editor reserves the right to revise or reject any article due to length or opinion, deeming it unacceptable, no

articles discriminating on the basis of race, sex, political stance, religion or age will be accepted for publication.

The absolute deadline for articles is the 5th of January, April, July & October to Dennis Rock at dennisvictoria@usfamily.net

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FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 8, 2010
August 28, 2010 at Camp Ripley after the Saturday AFRAD
Saturday, November 13, 2010
Saturday, February 12, 2011

Central Minnesota Chapter 115
The Retired Enlisted Association
906 Lookout Place
Elk River, MN 55330

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

All 1100 meetings are held at the VFW Sports Complex 7350 Quaday, Otsego, MN 55330. Phone 763-241-5225. Spouses and guests are always invited to attend.

From I-94 in Rogers: Go north on highway 101 towards Elk River to CR 42/River Road. Turn Left at the light. Second road on the Left is Quaday Ave NE. Turn Left. Follow Quaday until you see several brown buildings which is the VFW Sport Complex on your Left.

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From Highway 10 in Elk River: From Elk River take Hwy 101 South towards Rogers, exit on CR 42/River Road, turn right at the light onto River Road. The next road on the left will be Quaday Ave NE. Turn Left. Follow Quaday until you see several brown buildings which is the VFW Sport complex on your Left.

COMMISSIONER DYRUD TO RETIRE, GOVERNOR PAWLENTY APPOINTS PUGLIESE TO LEAD AGENCY

Saint Paul (March 31, 2010)- Governor Tim Pawlenty announced today that Clark Dyrud, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is retiring from state service effective April 14. Governor Pawlenty also announced the appointment of current Deputy Commissioner Michael Pugliese as the

incoming Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, effective the same date. "Clark Dyrud has been an exceptional advocate for Minnesota's veterans," Governor Pawlenty said. "With more than 30 years of service to our veterans, he has touched the lives of thousands. We are extremely grateful to him and thank him for his service."

Pugliese began his career serving veterans after graduating from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) National Service Officers Academy in 1994. Prior to joining the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, he worked as a DAV National Service Officer in Minnesota and was promoted to supervise the state's national service office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AFRAD 2010 on Saturday, August 28.

TREA Chapter 115 will again host a morning and afternoon Armed Forces Retiree Appreciation Day at Camp Ripley. Details and a registration form will be in the July issue of the EAGLE NEWS. All are welcome



IF your mailing label contains incorrect information, or if you are not receiving the Chapter e-mail announcements, notify Mark Davidson at ldavidson77@msn.com