

RETIREE OFFICE NEWS – 171st ARW



Retiree Office
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“The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.” ~ Harriet Ann Jacobs

171ARW News: The 171st ARW web page has replaced the “Tanker Times” which includes a wealth of information and news to keep you up to date on the 171st. A “Retiree Column” has been added at the bottom left hand corner of the home page. Here you will find the “Retiree Office News” beginning with April 2012. <http://www.171arw.ang.af.mil/>

Email Addresses: If you would like to hear about upcoming retiree news and events, please provide your email address to Bonnie Kriberney at <mailto:bjkriberney@msn.com>.

Retiree Lunch: 3rd Monday in January, April, July, and October

When: CY 2013 - January 21st, **April 15th**, July 15th, and October 21st

Where: Golden Corral, 900 Park Manor Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(Near Mall at Robinson) (412) 788-1776

Time: 1100 hours

PLEASE NOTE RESTAURANT CHANGE to Golden Corral effective Oct 15, 2012. See “July/August 2012 Retiree News” for further details and directions. Don’t forget to ask for your military or senior discount.

Hope to see you all at the next Retiree Lunch on April 15th!

112th Reunion: The 112th Reunion is held on the 112th day of the year and is scheduled for 2013. Hope to see you there!

When: Monday, April 22, 2013

Time: 1600 – 2300 hours

Where: 911th AFRES Open Mess

Details: Cash Buffet, Cash Bar, and a fun filled evening with good friends

Billeting: (412) 474-8230 (for those of you who would like to stay over)

POC: Brad L. Gilles

Retirements: Congratulations to our recent retirees who retired in January, February and March 2013. Please do not hesitate to contact the Retiree Office, if you need assistance.

| Rank | Last Name | First Name | Retired |
|------|-----------|------------|---------|
|------|-----------|------------|---------|

JAN 2013

| | | | |
|-----|----------|---------|-----------|
| SMS | DIFRANGO | MICHAEL | 01-Jan-13 |
| MSG | VERDONI | ROBERT | 05-Jan-13 |
| TSG | COLLINS | REGIS | 31-Jan-13 |

FEB 2013

| | | | |
|-----|-----------|-------|-----------|
| LTC | WITTMAYER | MARK | 28-Feb-13 |
| MSG | BRICKLEY | JAMES | 24-Feb-13 |
| MSG | CUSTER | LISA | 28-Feb-13 |
| MSG | PORTER | DAVID | 26-Feb-13 |

MAR 2013

| | | | |
|-----|-----------|---------|-----------|
| MSG | ALLEN | KEVIN | 01-Mar-13 |
| MSG | PEGG | ROBERT | 23-Mar-13 |
| SSG | PATTERSON | BYRON | 01-Mar-13 |
| SRA | NICOTRA | TIMOTHY | 28-Mar-13 |

Sympathies: We extend our sympathies to the families and relatives of the following retirees who passed away. Please inform our office if you hear of the passing of one of our fellow 171st, 112th, or 258TH members. Click on each name to view the obituary.

[Lt Col Joel Stedford - 16 Jan 2013 - Age 55](#) - Navigator & Intelligence Officer

[SMSgt James D. Fuchs - 16 Mar 2013 - Age 87](#) - Comptroller/Data Processing Supv

[MSgt George R. Ducsay - 29 Jan 2013 - Age 73](#) - Maintenance Squadron

[SMSgt Amedeo I. Scalone - 08 Feb 2013 - Age 86](#) - Parachute Shop

James D. Fuchs, Retired SMSgt, 171ARW Retiree Office:

James Fuchs, Retired SMSgt, Age 87, passed away at home on Saturday, March 16, 2013 after a long battle of kidney disease. He served in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard - 171ARW from 1949 to 1986. After retirement, he became one of the founders of the 171st Retiree Office and began volunteering his time to serve his fellow guardsmen by providing them assistance in transitioning into retirement for the past 26+ years. His service and dedication were honored when he was inducted into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame in 1998. He will be deeply missed by everyone at the 171st Retiree Office and many retired members he has served.

There is no visitation. Following his cremation, there will be a **funeral mass at 10am on Friday, June 21st, at St Margaret Mary, 1 Parish Pl, Coraopolis, PA**, which is located in Moon Township off of Beaver Grade Road. **Interment will follow with full military honors at the Allegheny County Memorial Park Cemetery, 1600 Duncan Ave, Allison Park, PA 15101.**

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes or Wounded Warriors Project. Details are provided in the link to his obituary on the previous page.

I am including his home address, for those of you who would like to express your sympathy to the family at this time.

**Mrs. Wanda Fuchs & Family
112 Bradley Drive
Coraopolis, PA 15108**

I will also send out a reminder email in June regarding Jim's Funeral Mass, for those of you who wish to attend.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

PennDOT - New Special License Plates:

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has a new special license plate "Honoring Our Veterans" that became available on November 26, 2012. Further details are available at the following link along with the application for the license plate. The fee required with the application is \$35 with \$15 of the fee going to the Veterans' Trust Fund.

http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/license_plates/special_fund.shtml

Military Benefits: Space-A Travel

Space-A Travel for Retired Uniform Service Members (Reserves/Guard/Active Duty), Age 60+ collecting retirement:

- Space-A Category VI
- Dependents are authorized to travel with their Sponsor
- Documentation Required
 - Military ID Card, DD Form 2 (Blue) Military ID - Sponsor
 - Dependent ID Card when accompanying the sponsor
 - AMT IMT 140, Space Available Travel Request
 - Passport, VISA where applicable
- Travel Authorized
 - CONUS to CONUS
 - OVERSEAS to OVERSEAS
 - CONUS to OVERSEAS
 - OVERSEAS to CONUS

Space-A Travel for Reserve component members entitled to retired pay at Age 60 (gray area retirees):

- Space-A Category VI
- Dependents are not authorized to travel Space-A with these members
- Documentation Required
 - Military ID Card, DD Form 2 (Red) - Sponsor
 - AMT IMT 140, Space Available Travel Request
 - DD Form 1853, Verification of Reserve Status for Travel Eligibility
 - Passport, VISA where applicable
- Travel Authorized
 - CONUS to CONUS
 - Directly within/between the CONUS and Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa
 - Guam and American Samoa travelers may transit Hawaii or Alaska
 - Traveling within Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands

AMC Space-A Travel - This link gives a fairly comprehensive list of passenger terminals and answers to many space-A questions. <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp>

171ARW Space-A Travel - For flights departing the 171ARW, call 412-776-7531 for a recording of upcoming flights and specific requirements. If you have additional questions, the 171st Small Air Terminal can be reached at 412-776-7808 or 7809.

Top Places to Live for Veterans – Pittsburgh #1:

Pittsburgh ranks as the top place in the nation for veterans to transition from combat boots to civilian shoes, according to a new study commissioned by USAA and Military.com.

The “Best Places for Veterans” list identifies U.S. metro areas that offer America’s most recent veterans more opportunities to find a job or go to college while providing a higher quality of life in an affordable location. Here is the entire top list:

1. Pittsburgh
2. Phoenix
3. Dallas
4. Cleveland
5. Atlanta
6. Warren, Michigan
7. Ann Arbor, Michigan
8. Cincinnati
9. Columbus, Ohio
10. St. Louis

USAA and Military.com commissioned Sperling’s Best Places to develop a list. Researchers reviewed variables for 379 major U.S. metropolitan areas, which are defined as one or more central cities including the surrounding county or counties. The variables, which have an impact on employment and general quality of life, included:

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Military skill-related jobs (See Note 1) | • Unemployment rate | • Airport proximity |
| • Presence of colleges/universities | • Volume of DoD contracts | • Recent job growth |
| • Economic stability | • Health resources | • Recreation |
| • Mass transit availability | • Affordability | • Sales tax |
| • Crime level | • Property tax | • Climate |
| • Local schools | • Number of federal government jobs | |

Note 1: Engineering, Medical, Protective/Emergency Services, Maintenance/Material Handling, Aviation, Defense, Government

Each of the variables was weighted based on what soon-to-be or recent veterans said was important to them, and each metro area was then ranked based on its total points for all variables. Metro areas with the following attributes were excluded from the list: unemployment rate more than 1% above the national average, cost of living greater than the national average and total crime rate more than 25% above the national average.

This list does not represent any endorsement, expressed or implied, by the Department of Defense or any other United States government agency.

Moon Military Commissary update:

Since the ground-breaking ceremony on August 17, 2012, the Mississippi-based Carothers Construction company has begun the \$12 million contract. If you drive past the corner of University Boulevard and the Interstate 376 Business Route in Moon, which is the new location of the Military Commissary, you will see the construction. The 43,000 square-foot facility is projected to open in the fall of 2013.



TRICARE Pharmacy drug fees – Express Scripts:

Effective January 2013:

| Drugs | 30 Day Supply at a Tricare Retail Pharmacy | 90 Day Supply Home Delivery – Express Scripts | Military Pharmacies |
|-------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| Formulary Generic | \$5 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Formulary Brand | \$17 | \$13 | \$0 |
| Non-Formulary | \$44 | \$43 | n/a |

For fiscal 2014 and beyond, the plan directs that drug fees be raised annually by the same percentage as retiree cost-of-living adjustments. In years when a COLA increase applied to pharmacy fees would total less than a dollar, it will be delayed a year and combined with the next adjustment. So that drug fee increases, when executed, are always a dollar or more.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND LINKS:

171st Air Refueling Wing: <http://www.171arw.ang.af.mil/>

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) – Retired Military & Annuitants:
<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

Customer Service: 1-800-321-1080 (if you don't have computer access)

Express Scripts – TRICARE Pharmacy: <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE/>
Toll-Free within the U.S.: 1-877-363-1303

Military.com Benefits: <http://www.military.com/>

myPay: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

TRICARE Health Insurance Coverage & Benefits Plans: <http://www.tricare.mil>

Tricare North Region – Health Net Federal Services: 1-877-874-2273

TRICARE For Life: 1-866-773-0404

Air Force Retiree Services: <http://www.retirees.af.mil/>

AMC Space-A Travel: <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp>