

RETIREE OFFICE NEWS – 171st ARW



Retiree Office
300 Tanker Road #4210
Coraopolis, PA 15108-4210
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412-776-7538, Fax: 7441
BJKRIBERNEY@MSN.COM

Office Hours: Thursdays 0800 – 1200



“My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy! ~ Thomas Jefferson

Retiree Office CLOSED: Thursday, July 4th and August 1st

Prescription Distribution Changes: The distribution date has changed for July prescriptions filled at WPAFB, due to the Weather Flight annual training exercise in August. July 2013 Prescriptions will be distributed one week later on Thursday, August 8th.

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

“Don’t forget to ask for your military or senior discount!!!”

Time: 1100 hours

It is wonderful to see so many retirees at the luncheons. Everyone enjoyed the good food, but most of all seeing and talking with good friends. Attending, we had 80+ in January and 70 in April. A **“Big Thank You” to Marty Patterson** from the 911AW Casualty Assistance Office, for attending and for the very informative briefing on what his office can do to assist retired members and the importance of having a plan and their personal affairs together in the event of their passing.

Hope to see you all at the next Retiree Luncheon on July 15th!

112th Reunion: The 112th Reunion was held on Monday, April 22, 2013 (112th day of the year) at the 911th AFRES Club. There were approximately 80 in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the good food, the display, and seeing and talking with old friends. A **“Big Thank You” goes out to Brad Gilles** for all his time in planning the reunion and setting up the large display of memorabilia, and most of all for keeping this tradition ongoing.

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

Rank	Last Name	First Name	Retired
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APR 2013

LTC	TATRO	ROBERT	01-Apr-13
SMS	TEYSSIER	KENNETH	01-Apr-13
MSG	PLUNKARD	JAMES	16-Apr-13
TSG	KIMBLE	ROY	17-APR-13

MAY 2013

LTC	SCHELLER	STEVEN	01-May-13
CMS	YOUNG	ANN	28-May-13
MSG	KOMO	NICHOLAS	04-May-13
MSG	SOETGEL	PETER	25-May-13
TSG	LEWIS	ERIC	05-May-13
TSG	WARNER	ANTHONY	05-May-13

JUN 2013

LTC	WALLACE	JEFF	01-Jun-13
SMS	MILLER	JOHN	20-Jun-13
MSG	MULVIHILL	DANIEL	01-Jun-13
MSG	PRITCHARD	JEFFREY	01-Jun-13

Get-Well Wishes: Get-well wishes and a speedy recovery go out to Joe Burckhart for his recent Heart Stints Surgery (Joe retired as a SMSgt from Vehicle Maintenance). Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Sympathies: We extend ‘Our Deepest Sympathy’ 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.

[MSgt Thomas Zepp - 19 Jun 2013 - Age 55](#) - 147th Life Support

[SMSgt Carmen Mastroguiseppe - 13 Jun 2013 - Age 64](#) - Previously a 171st member of CE

‘Our Deepest Sympathy’ is also extended to two of our fellow guardsmen who recently lost their spouse.

- ~ Retired SMSgt Marty Coyne for the passing of his wife, Kathleen, of 47 years
- ~ Retired Maj Bill Garbarino, Jr. for the recent passing of his wife, Arlene

Civil Air Patrol needs serviceable military clothing and equipment:

The Civil Air Patrol Squadron 603, (located on the 911th Air Force Reserve Base), would gladly accept all serviceable Air Force military clothing and equipment you have that is no longer needed for both males and females. The Cadets wear the older Air Force blues as well as the woodland camouflage BDU. They can use just about anything you may have to include items such as the BDU Uniforms (field jackets/shirts/pants/belts/hats/boots), Blues Uniform (jackets/shirts/pants/belts/hats/low quarters), canteens, ribbon racks, web belts, etc.

If you have any military clothing or equipment that you can donate, you can either:

1. Drop them off at the 171ARW Retiree Office on any Thursday
2. Bring them to the next Retiree Luncheon on Monday, Jul 15th
3. Call Brian Finnegan in Moon Township at (412) 915-0352 to arrange a pick-up

Thank you!

Important Contacts Upon Death of a Military Retiree:

Contacts:

“BEST CHOICE TO CONTACT FIRST” –

911th AW Casualty Assistance Office: (412) 474-8558, Fax: (412) 474-8987

Address: 911th FSS/FSMPS, 2475 Defense Ave, Bldg 316, Rm 112, Coraopolis, PA 15108

Email contact: Martin W. Patterson, <mailto:martin.patterson.1@us.af.mil>

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) – Retired Military & Annuitants: Customer Service: 1-800-321-1080 or visit their web site <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

Other Agencies important to Contact: When a military retiree passes away, there are several steps you should take to take ensure his or her pay and benefit accounts are closed out properly and loved ones are cared for properly. After [notifying DFAS](#), you may also need to notify the following agencies as soon as possible.

Social Security Administration 800-772-1213

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System 800-538-9552

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 800-827-1000 (if the retiree received disability compensation)

Office of Personnel Management 888-767-6738 (if the military retiree also was a current or retired federal civilian employee)

VA 800-669-8477 (if the retiree was enrolled in a VA-sponsored life insurance policy, such as Veterans' Group Life Insurance or National Service Life Insurance)

Office of Service Member's Group Life Insurance 800-419-1473 (if the retiree was enrolled in Service Member's Group Life Insurance)

Know Your Military Memorial Benefits:

The most important thing you need to do if you wish to have Military Memorial Benefits is to make your spouse/family aware of your wishes and make sure they have the proper documentation to obtain Military Memorial Benefits for you in the event of your passing.

Families of eligible veterans request Memorial Benefits through their funeral director. The funeral director will assist in completing the required forms and contact the appropriate Military Service to arrange for the funeral honors detail. The following information is included to make you aware of your benefits and what is required.

> Documentation needed to verify Military Service to obtain benefits:

- DD Form 214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty" is the preferred.
- NGB Form 22, "Report of Separation and Record of Service" is accepted for guard retirements
- MPF by verbal verification
- Active Duty (AD) will require an AD Order or something to show their AD status
- Guard/Reserve on Active Duty may use DEERS/ID Card but is not necessarily the best choice

> Military Funeral Honors: <http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/military-funeral-honors.html?comp=7000022774516&rank=2>

U.S. law now mandates the rendering of Military Funeral Honors for an eligible veteran, if requested by the family, provided at no cost by the Department of Defense. An honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. Military Funeral Honors ceremonies must be scheduled in advance through your funeral director.

Eligible:

Active Duty Members – Full honors, 20 person team

Military Retirees – 7 person team (Note: Currently 2 under the Sequestration)

Veterans – 2 or 3 person team

> Burial Flags: <http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/burial-flags.html?comp=7000022835714&rank=1>

The VA provides an American flag for services, and a flag to be given to the next of kin or a close associate of the deceased, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service to his or her country.

You may apply for the flag by completing VA Form 2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes. You may get a flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office. Generally, the funeral director will help you.

> Headstone and Markers: <http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/headstones-and-markers.html?comp=7000022774516&rank=3>

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides headstones and markers for the graves of veterans anywhere in the world and for eligible dependents of veterans buried in national, state veteran or federal cemeteries. Flat bronze, flat granite, flat marble and upright marble types are available to mark the grave of a veteran or dependent in the style consistent with existing monuments at the place of burial. Twenty-year reservists without active-duty service are eligible for a headstone or grave marker, if they are entitled to military retired pay at the time of death.

When burial is in a national cemetery, military post or state veteran's cemetery, the headstone or marker is ordered through the cemetery, which will place it on the grave. Headstone or marker and installation are free of charge.

When burial occurs in a cemetery *other than* a national cemetery or a state veterans cemetery, the headstone or marker must be applied for from VA, by completing a [VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker](#). Headstone or Marker is free of charge. Cost of installation is not covered. Most funeral directors will assist you in completing this form.

> National Cemeteries: <http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/national-cemeteries.html?comp=7000023431425&rank=2>

Veterans and armed forces members who die on active duty are eligible for burial in one of VA's 114 national cemeteries. An eligible veteran must have been discharged or separated from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and have completed the required period of service. Spouses and dependent, minor children of eligible veterans and of armed forces members also may be buried in a national cemetery.

Reservists and National Guard members who, at time of death, were entitled to retired pay under Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60 are eligible. Specific categories of individuals eligible for retired pay are delineated in section 12731 of Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code.

> "Presidential Memorial Certificate: <http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/presidential-memorial-certificates.html?comp=7000023431425&rank=2>

Initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, a "Presidential Memorial Certificate" is an engraved parchment certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged, deceased veterans. Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail and include a copy of the death certificate and discharge/separation document (DD214, NGB22).

> VFW and American Legion Members:

Many funeral homes offer caskets and other merchandise at a discounted price to members of the American Legion or VFW. Other discounts may apply on prepaid arrangements. Check with your funeral director.

> Burial Allowance: <http://www.military.com/benefits/burial-and-memorial/burial-allowance.html?comp=7000022774516&rank=1>

Veterans buried in a private cemetery may be eligible to receive a partial reimbursement for their burial costs. For Service-Related Deaths, the VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses. For Non-Service-Related Deaths, a burial expense allowance (up to \$700) and a plot allowance (up to \$700) may be given.

In order to receive a VA burial allowance you must meet the following conditions:

- . Payment for the veteran's burial was made without any reimbursement from a government agency or other source, and
- . The veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- . The veteran died because of service-related disability, or
- . The veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation, or
- . The veteran died in a VA hospital or nursing home under VA contract.

171st ARW Announces New Base Commander:

Colonel Ted Metzgar has been selected to be the next 171st ARW Commander. Col Metzgar is currently the 128th ARW Commander in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He will transition to the 171st in late July and the Assumption of Command will occur during the August UTA.

171st ARW one of 5 bases slotted for new KC-46A Tanker Aircraft:

The 171st Air Refueling Wing in Pittsburgh has been named as a "reasonable alternative" as a future home for a squadron of new KC-46A tankers, the Air Force's next-generation tanker fleet. The 171st ARW is one of five finalists selected nationwide. In the first round, the "preferred alternative" for the first Air National Guard KC-46A main operating base is Pease Air Guard Station, N.H. There will be three more rounds and Pittsburgh's 171st is among a handful of bases across the country being considered for the new planes.

For additional information, click on the links below:

<http://murphy.house.gov/latest-news/enews-from-congressman-murphy39/> -
[Congressman Tim Murphy - Promising News for 171st Air Refueling Wing](#)

http://www.toomey.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=994 - Casey, Toomey Push for
[new Tanker Aircraft at 171st](#)

Oakdale Commissary Hours Change:

The C.E. Kelly Commissary has announced changed operating hours starting 8 July and ending 30 Sep 2013 in response to the expected furlough as a result of the Sequestration.

They will be closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday through Friday hours of operation will be 0830 to 1830. Saturday hours will be 0830 to 1700.

New Phase for myPay:

The Spring 2013 **myPay** release will affect all users and be phased in over the next five months, beginning May 11. It requires users to change their passwords every 60 days using stronger 15- to 30-character passwords. Beginning in May, groups of users will be required to establish new passwords when they attempt to access their accounts. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) expects it will take four months before all users have updated their passwords. DFAS plans to send email alerts 10 days before expiration of a user's password. Customers logging into **myPay** using DOD computer access cards or a similarly encrypted federal identification card will not be required to enter a password to log in to **myPay**. More information on the **myPay** Spring 2013 release and the new password requirements is available at the [DFAS website](#).

New changes for Military Retirees on **myPay**: <http://www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo/forretirees.html>

- 1099R Tax Statement - In addition to the current tax year, two prior year's tax statements are now available in **myPay**.
- Designate up to 5 Beneficiaries – **myPay** now offers retirees the option to designate up to five Arrears of Pay beneficiaries online, without the hassle of forms, envelopes or waiting. You can change beneficiaries whenever you want should your life and desires change. Of course, you can still have more than five beneficiaries but will need to submit a [DD Form 2894](#). Instructions and mailing address are included with the form. Click on [Arrears of Pay \(AOP\)](#) and [Designating an AOP Beneficiary](#) for further information available on DFAS.mil.
- Stop or Change Non-EFT Allotments - The new release will now allow you to view all of your allotments, including mortgage payments, insurance, or charitable contributions that are not paid via electronic fund transfer (EFT). Non-EFT allotments will now feature **Stop** or **Change** buttons, to allow you to make changes.

Moon Military Commissary update as of 3 May 2013:

Since the ground-breaking ceremony on August 17, 2012, the Mississippi-based Carothers Construction company is progressing on 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.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND LINKS:

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

911th AW Casualty Assistance Office: (412) 474-8558, Fax: (412) 474-8987

Address: 911th FSS/FSMPS, 2475 Defense Ave, Bldg 316, Rm 112, Coraopolis, PA 15108

Email contact: Martin W. Patterson, <mailto:martin.patterson.1@us.af.mil>

Provides assistance to a retiree/spouse/dependent upon the passing of a retired military member or dependent in processing the required documentation and survivor benefits.

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

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

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/benefits>

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