

THE AMERICAN Legion

www.legion.org

\$2.50 MARCH 2016

The magazine for a strong America

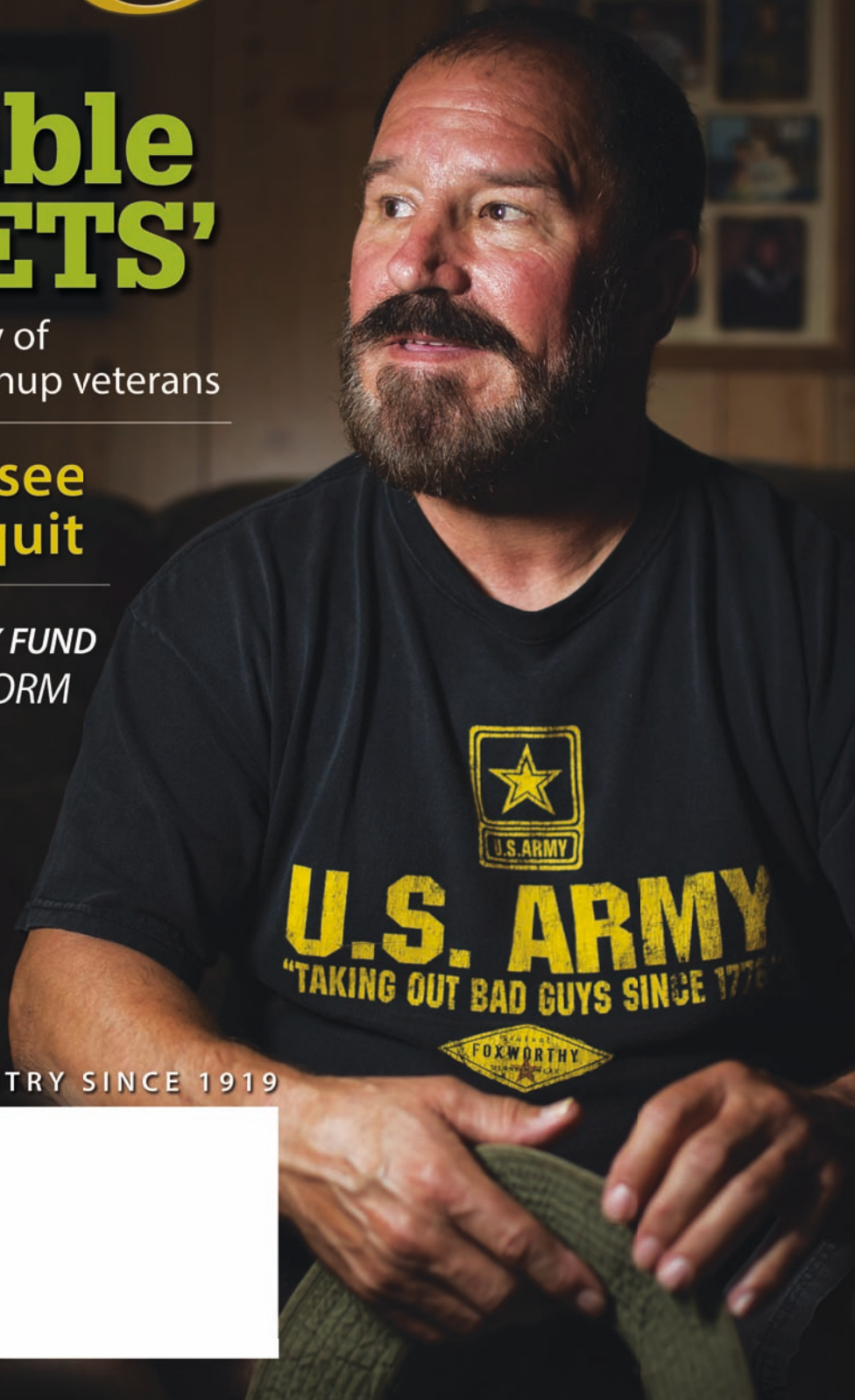
'Invisible BULLETS'

The dangerous duty of
Enewetak Atoll cleanup veterans

You'll never see
Travis Mills quit

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND
CALM AFTER THE STORM

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY SINCE 1919





97 YEARS OF SERVICE. A MILLION THANKS.

USAA salutes The American Legion on nearly
100 years of helping veterans and their families.



EXCLUSIVE 2016



VAULT RELEASE

HISTORIC 1st YEAR ISSUE

\$20 GOLD DOUBLE EAGLE



- ✓ Super Low Mintage
- ✓ First Year of Production
- ✓ Designed by the Legendary Augustus Saint Gaudens
- ✓ Gov't Issued US Legal Tender Gold
- ✓ Philadelphia Mint Mark
- ✓ Lettered Edge

FREE 2016 \$5 Gold Eagle and FREE 2016 \$1 Silver Eagle for first 500 orders of the \$20 Gold Double Eagle

30th Year Anniversary

2016 BRAND NEW ISSUES

DUE TO HIGH DEMAND, US MINT SUPPLY COULD BE LIMITED
CALL TODAY TO SECURE YOUR ORDER

2016 \$1 Silver
American Eagles

\$16.00



2016 \$5 Gold
American Eagles

\$105.00



Prices subject to change. No dealers, please. Due to limited supply, offer may be withdrawn or limited at any time. Some coins enlarged to show detail.



UNITED STATES
PRECIOUS METALS



FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OF
\$1000 OR MORE

VAULT CODE AL1603

(855) 203-6320



Legion

contents

March 2016 • Vol. 180, No. 3

20 'A Crutch Some People Don't Have'

The Legion's National Emergency Fund provides immediate financial assistance and hope in the aftermath of natural disasters. *By Henry Howard*

26 Bogus Benefit

The USAJOBS website continues to frustrate veterans as military downsizing sends thousands into the civilian workforce. *By Ken Olsen*

5 Vet Voice

8 Commander's Message

10 I Am The American Legion

12 Big Issues

14 Living Well

18 Veterans Update

50 Rapid Fire

68 Comrades

72 Parting Shots

34 Toxic Paradise

Veterans of the 1970s Enewetak Atoll atomic cleanup continue to pay a high price.

By John Raughter

44 'Never See Me Quit'

A growing outdoor recreational camp gives quadruple amputee Travis Mills the opportunity to inspire others who have served. *By Henry Howard*

A HEARTY WELCOME

Desert Storm veterans wave from an armored personnel carrier during a Gulf War victory parade in the nation's capital June 8, 1991. A crowd of 200,000 had grown to 800,000 by the time a fireworks display ended that night. Twenty-five years ago this month, the first U.S. combat forces began returning home. *Getty*

ON THE COVER

Paul Laird of Otisfield, Maine, drove a bulldozer on Enewetak Atoll in 1977, cleaning up radioactive fallout and debris. Since then, he has had three bouts with cancer, and wants Congress to reclassify those who served on the atoll as "atomic veterans" eligible for VA medical care. *Photo by Lucas Carter*

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.2 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 14,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



NOTICE TO VETERANS WITH MESOTHELIOMA

**YOU ARE IN
THE FIGHT OF
YOUR LIFE.**

**FIGHT FOR THE
SETTLEMENT
YOU DESERVE.**



As former Marines and sailors, we served together yesterday. As seasoned attorneys, my firm and I will fight for you today. Attorneys at Coady Law Firm have successfully represented veterans in mesothelioma claims nationwide for more than two decades. We've helped veterans understand their rights—and secured millions for their families in just compensation.

Trust in the experience and commitment of a shipmate who served with you. Contact the Coady Law Firm. Receive a **FREE**, no-obligation consultation.



Bud Coady

*Harvard, 1979
USMC, 1979-89, 1991
Gulf War Veteran
Attorney at Law*

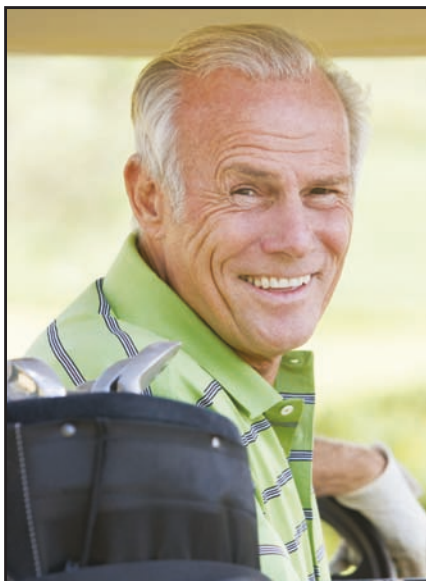
\$30 Billion

**FROM U.S. COMPENSATION
TRUST FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR
VETERANS WHO QUALIFY**

**Call 1-888-802-MESO (6376)
TO DETERMINE YOUR ELIGIBILITY.**

75 Arlington Street, Suite 500 • Boston, MA 02116 • Web: www.coadylaw.com





What Adult Diaper Companies Don't Want Men To Know . . .

“Health risks and high out-of-pocket costs . . . men are unaware of Liberty's healthier alternative!”

“Men's Liberty is terrific. I can keep doing what I want to do, without having to worry about running to the bathroom or changing my clothes. It is a Godsend.” - John in Michigan



Covered by Medicare!

Millions of men spend thousands of dollars each year on diapers, which are not covered by Medicare. These men are paying as much as \$300 out of pocket each month... Men's Liberty is covered by Medicare, most state Medicaids, VA/Tricare and most private insurance plans.

Ask if you qualify to receive Men's Liberty. We handle all claims and billing to Medicare and your Insurance provider.

www.MensLiberty.com

The Diaper Dilemma

Urinary incontinence affects more than 4 million men in the United States of all ages. Diapers trap moisture, causing UTIs, discomfort and injury rates up to 38%.

Men's Liberty Alternative

There has not been a confirmed UTI or serious skin injury caused by Men's Liberty, after **more than three million sold**. This is a non-invasive, external product that allows men to improve their lifestyle at work and quality of time with family.

CALL TODAY!

1-800-814-3259

PROMO CODE:
AML0316

Hablamos Español



THE AMERICAN Legion MAGAZINE

NATIONAL COMMANDER	Dale Barnett
PUBLISHER	The American Legion
EDITOR	Jeff Stoffer
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS	Henry Howard
MANAGING EDITOR	Matt Grills
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	Laura Edwards
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Julie Campbell Jennifer Harman
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR	Steve Brooks
DISPATCH EDITOR	Cameron Richardson
BURNPIT EDITOR	Mark Seavey
VISUAL TEAM MANAGER	Holly K. Soria
MEDIA DESIGN SPECIALIST	Celesta Török-Lee
SR. VISUAL MEDIA SPECIALIST	Lucas Carter
VISUAL MEDIA SPECIALIST	Clay Lommeth
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Tony Heath
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR	Alan W. Dowd

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

CHAIRMAN	Walter W. Ivie, <i>Austin, Texas</i>
VICE CHAIRMAN	James C. Morris, <i>Cardington, Ohio</i>
COMMANDER'S REPRESENTATIVE	Terry D. Lewis, <i>Philadelphia</i>
CONSULTANTS	Rodger A. Bennett, <i>Thawville, Ill.</i> Robert A. Corrigan, <i>Bronx, N.Y.</i> Albert W. Coughlin, <i>Park Ridge, Ill.</i> Jerilyn Strande, <i>Cottonwood, Ariz.</i>
MEMBERS	Roger H. Anderson, <i>South Windsor, Conn.</i> Richard A. Baxter, <i>Palisade, Neb.</i> Fae Casper, <i>Douglasville, Ga.</i> Thomas A. Fernlund, <i>St. Cloud, Minn.</i> John J. Gasper, <i>Archbald, Pa.</i> C. Jacob Greeing, <i>Bellevista, Ark.</i> Paul L. Greer, <i>Leesville, La.</i> James H. Hall, <i>Hopewell, N.J.</i> Robert W. Hensley, <i>Mountain City, Tenn.</i> James Huls, <i>Madison, S.D.</i> Paul M. Kennedy, <i>Pittsburgh</i> Doug Malin, <i>West Haverstraw, N.Y.</i> Larry J. Marcouillier, <i>Harrington, Del.</i> Silas M. Noel, <i>Frankfort, Ky.</i> Norman J. Nuismer, <i>Nashville, Tenn.</i> James Albert Owen, <i>Appomattox, Va.</i> Willis J. Pritchard, <i>Oakes, N.D.</i> Shelli Romeu, <i>Tampa, Fla.</i> Raymond J. Samko, <i>Worcester, Mass.</i> David E. Shafer, <i>Dixon, Mo.</i> David L. Sharber, <i>Mount Vernon, Ind.</i> Terri L. Shelefontiuk, <i>Lakewood, Colo.</i> George J. Sinkewitz, <i>Huntington, W.Va.</i> Jerry J. Smith, <i>Trussville, Ala.</i> Frank C. Ward, <i>Greer, S.C.</i> Danny K. Wiley, <i>Leavenworth, Kan.</i>
NEC LIAISON COMMITTEE	Randall Coffman, <i>Chairman, Russellville, Ky.</i> Hugh E. Crooks Jr., <i>Los Angeles</i> Charles W. Goodin, <i>Jefferson City, Mo.</i> Cecil F. Hennis, <i>Murrells Inlet, S.C.</i> Bill G. Richard, <i>Maiden, N.C.</i>

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING MANAGER	Diane Andretti
ASSISTANT ADVERTISING MANAGER	Chris Elliot
CONTACT	The American Legion Magazine P.O. Box 7068 Indianapolis, IN 46207
ADVERTISING SALES	James G. Elliott Company, Inc. (917) 421-9055
NEW YORK	(312) 348-1202
DETROIT	(312) 348-1202
CHICAGO	(213) 596-7215
LOS ANGELES	

Copyright 2016 by The American Legion

The American Legion (ISSN 0886-1234) is published monthly by The American Legion, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN 46204 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The American Legion, Data Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Canada Post International Publications Mail (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. PM40063731. Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Station A, P.O. Box, Windsor ON N9A 6J5. Re-entered second-class mail matter at Manila Central Post Office dated Dec. 22, 1991.



Printed in USA
Member Audit Bureau of Circulations

The Magazine for a Strong America

HOW TO CONTACT US

ADDRESS CHANGES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

CUSTOMER SERVICE (800) 433-3318
cs@legion.org
The American Legion
Data Services
P.O. Box 1954
Indianapolis, IN 46206

For change of address by mail, attach old address label, provide new address and membership number.

ARTICLE PROPOSALS

MAGAZINE (317) 630-1272
magazine@legion.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS (317) 630-1200
700 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
MAGAZINE magazine@legion.org
EMAIL (317) 630-1298
TELEPHONE www.legion.org
WEBSITE Free with membership
Non-members: \$15
SUBSCRIPTIONS Foreign: \$21
Post-sponsored and widows: \$6
Single copies: \$3.50

MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans who served at least one day of active military duty during wartime, or are serving now, are potentially eligible for membership in The American Legion. Members must have been honorably discharged or still serving honorably.

ELIGIBILITY Aug 2, 1990 – current
DATES OF Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990
MILITARY Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984
SERVICE Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975
June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955
Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946
April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918
(Merchant Marines who served from Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946, are also eligible.)
TO JOIN Membership Division
membership@legion.org
(317) 630-1321
www.legion.org

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION (202) 861-2700
VA&R@legion.org
VETERANS EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT 202.861.2700
VE&E@legion.org
FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK (800) 504-4098
familysupport@legion.org
CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE (317) 630-1384
cfa@cfa-inc.org
www.legion.org/flag
LEGION RIDERS (317) 630-1265
www.legion.org/riders
legionriders@legion.org
AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL (317) 630-1249
baseball@legion.org
www.legion.org/baseball
BOYS NATION (317) 630-1207
boysstate-nation@legion.org
JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS (317) 630-1249
juniorshooting@legion.org
NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST (317) 630-1249
oratorical@legion.org
USA (877) 699-2654
www.usaa.com/legion
BLOOD PROGRAM (202) 263-2993
www.legion.org/security/blood

SCHOLARSHIPS & CHARITABLE TRUSTS

AMERICAN LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP (317) 630-1212
scholarships@legion.org
AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND (317) 630-1202
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION (317) 630-1202
www.cwf-inc.org
NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (317) 630-1376
ia@legion.org

AMERICAN LEGION MERCHANDISE

ORDER PLACEMENT AND CATALOG REQUESTS (888) 453-4466
emblem.legion.org
emblem@legion.org

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY (317) 569-4500
www.legion.org/auxiliary
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (317) 630-1200
www.legion.org/sons



'We'll Be Back for You'

Thank you for telling the inspiring story of Tom Hudner, a genuine American hero and a true gentleman. Readers may be interested to know that the Navy's next *Arleigh Burke*-class guided missile destroyer will be named *USS Thomas Hudner*. The ship, DDG 116, is currently under construction at Bath Iron Works in Maine. Those of us privileged to know Hudner are extremely proud that the Navy has chosen to honor our humble friend.

— Paul Gregory Smith, Ashburnham, Mass.

Thanks to Adam Makos for his article. I served aboard *USS Leyte* as a pipefitter third class. He details what our young pilots faced when they left the flight deck to provide close air support to surrounded troops during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. I am proud to have been part of that operation.

— Louis J. Pettis Jr., East Lansing, Mich.

Thank you for publishing the excellent article about two American heroes, Jesse Brown and Tom Hudner.

In 1973, at the commissioning of the Knox-class frigate *USS Jesse L. Brown*, Hudner said, "In the cold desolation of North Korea and throughout the years, I've wondered why Jesse Brown was chosen to die. He was in the van of those leading his people across the threshold of equal rights and acceptability. He was destined to spread his influence throughout society as he grew. He died in the wreckage of his airplane with courage and unfathomable dignity. He willingly gave his life to tear down barriers to freedom of others."

— Guy Simmons, Hertford, N.C.

It always catches my attention when I see an article about the Chosin Reservoir campaign. My uncle, Army Cpl. Charles A. Williams of the 32nd Infantry, was killed there the night of Nov. 27, 1950, after being overrun by an overwhelming Chinese force. When he was found the next morning, he still had his .45 pistol in his hand and was surrounded by dead Chinese. His remains were found by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) in the fall of 2003 and he was repatriated to his home state of Kentucky in July 2004. My then 80-year-old father and his sister were finally able to lay their brother to rest after a wait of nearly 54 years.

As many Chosin survivors have told me over the years, the ones who did not make it out were the heroes. I hope that Ens. Jesse Brown's remains will be recovered some day. It means so much to the families to have their missing loved ones' remains returned to the United States. I believe we owe them all a debt of gratitude. Freedom is not free.

— Larry A. Williams, Lubbock, Texas

'VA's Illnesses Are Not Terminal'

I enjoyed the article by National Commander Dale Barnett (Commander's Message, January). He is spot-on in saying that VA does not need to be privatized but does need the funding to operate properly. I am a Vietnam War Navy veteran and have been enrolled in the VA health-care system for more than 25 years. Although I don't have a service-connected disability, I have had many procedures done as I age. I was a full-time RVer, traveling the country, needing the services of VA facilities coast to coast. All my experiences were positive, but the system needs to be tweaked, as Barnett says.

— Rich Host, Mesa, Ariz.

Beyond the profile

You had a nice article about Richard Anderson (I Am The American Legion, January), but a significant segment of his history was not covered. To those of us in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), he is Brig. Gen. Anderson, who served as national commander of CAP for many years.

— Richard J. Foxx, Newark, Del.

D.C. legalization of marijuana

In regard to the debate about legalizing marijuana (Big Issues, January), Rep. Dana Rohrabacher is talking about medical marijuana and Rep. Andy Harris is talking about recreational use of it. These are not the same. As a nurse, I am in favor of medical use but not recreational. I would have liked to read Harris' view on the medical aspect of this issue.

— Helen Fosmer, Fremont, Neb.

I am a 100 percent service-connected veteran with spinal damage and am in constant, severe pain. I am personally opposed to the recreational use of marijuana but see the possible medicinal benefits. If the government is considering use of marijuana for strictly medicinal purposes, it needs to be handled like any other prescription drug or controlled substance: generically packaged by regulated drug companies, prescribed by an individual's licensed medical professional and dispensed through established pharmacies.

— Laurence Rose, Phoenix

I do not wish to play devil's advocate, but I shall. I do not know what percentage of patients truly need to use marijuana to alleviate pain due to glaucoma or cancer, or if it helps diminish pain caused by seizures. From my experience in the military and with civilian law enforcement, the lion's share of pot users use it to "get high," as one would consume alcohol to relax or escape from life's stresses by self-medicating. On the other hand, here in California the money-grubbing legislature never saw a tax it could pass up. Thus, couched under the proposition of "medical marijuana," it was passed by voters. I believe we are opening up a Pandora's box in legalizing marijuana; the abuse of alcohol causes enough destruction financially and socially. Overall, the issue should be left up to states exercising their 10th Amendment rights, not the federal government.

— Darrell Reeves, Carmichael, Calif.

VA relocation program

Regarding Tom Philpott's article on VA executives' abuse of the relocation program (Veterans Update, January), it is a snapshot of the endemic corruption in our government. Unelected bureaucrats are bulletproof, even when caught with their hands in the till; what they hear is, "Sorry you got caught, but we'll give you an easier job in your new town and you can keep your big salary ... oh, and we'll give you a moving bonus, too."

No wonder we are \$18 trillion in debt. The inmates are running the asylum.

— John Sanford, Blue Eye, Mo.

All of the people involved in the VA relocation scandal need to be fired. The top executives are not doing their jobs. Clean house; hire people who are honest and qualified. The Legion should be putting pressure on Congress to start firing all incompetents who are not doing their jobs. A slap on the wrist and transfer to other positions will not solve the problems; firing them will. VA should sue to get back the money these people stole.

— Leonard Weems, Loudon, Tenn.

I worked in VA's Central Office from 1975 to 2004, and I saw senior VA officials abuse the bonus program and promote their lovers. I am not surprised that the rot extended to the relocation program. The higher the position, the greedier the executives got.

— Daniel Moeller, Rohrsersville, Md.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing.

Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206
magazine@legion.org

Analog and
digital display

Stop watch
function

Built-in alarm

LCD complications

Electro-luminescence
backlight



*Suggested
Retail \$395...
NOW, on your
wrist for \$29⁹⁵
For a limited
Time Only*

Amazing New Hybrid Runs Without Gas

*The new face of time? Stauer's Compendium Hybrid fuses form and functionality for **UNDER \$30!** Read on...*

Innovation is the path to the future. Stauer takes that seriously. That's why we developed the **Compendium Hybrid**, a stunningly-designed hybrid chronograph with over one dozen analog and digital functions that is more versatile than any watch that we have ever engineered.

New technology usually starts out at astronomical prices and then comes down years later. We skipped that step to allow everyone the chance to experience this watch's brilliant fusion of technology and style. We originally priced the Stauer **Compendium Hybrid** at \$395 based on the market for advanced sports watches... but then stopped ourselves. Since this is no ordinary economy, we decided to offer the **Compendium Hybrid** at 92% off. That means this new technological marvel can be yours for only \$29⁹⁵!

Welcome a new Digital Revolution.

With the release of the dynamic new **Compendium**, those boxy, plastic wrist calculators of the past have been replaced by this luxurious LCD chronograph that is sophisticated enough for a formal evening out, but rugged and tough

enough to feel at home in a cockpit, camping expedition or covert mission.

The watch's extraordinary dial seamlessly blends an analog watch face with a stylish digital display. Three super-bright luminous hands keep time along the inner dial, while a trio of circular LCD windows track the hour, minutes and seconds. An eye-catching digital semi-circle animates in time with the second hand and shows the day of the week. The watch also features a rotating bezel, stopwatch and alarm functions and green electro-luminescence backlight. The **Compendium Hybrid** secures with a rugged stainless steel band and is water-resistant to 3 ATM.

Guaranteed to change the way you look at time. At Stauer, we believe that when faced with an uphill economy, innovation and better value will always provide a much-needed boost. Stauer is so confident of their latest hybrid timepiece



The Compendium: The spectacular face of the latest watch technology.

that we offer a money-back-guarantee. If for any reason you aren't fully impressed by the performance and innovation of the Stauer **Compendium Hybrid** for \$29⁹⁵, simply return the watch within 30 days for a full refund of the purchase price. The unique design of the **Compendium** greatly limits our production, so don't hesitate to order! Remember: progress and innovation wait for no one!

WATCH SPECS:

- Three LCD windows show hour, minute and second
- Stop watch function - Fits 6 3/4"-8 3/4" wrist
- 2 year warranty on movement

Offer Limited to First 2500 Respondents

92% OFF

Stauer Compendium Hybrid Watch—~~\$395~~ Now \$29⁹⁵ +S&P **Save over \$365**

Other discounts and coupons do not apply to this exclusive offer.

Call now to take advantage of this limited offer.

1-800-333-2045

Promotional Code VHW697-06
Please mention this code when you call.

Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Dept. VHW697-06
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337
www.stauer.com

Keep fueling a culture of Legion growth

The American Legion is fast approaching the dawn of its second century. The centennial presents an exciting opportunity to build on a rich legacy of accomplishments: the formation of VA, establishment of the U.S. Flag Code, unparalleled troop support, relief for veterans suffering from service-related health conditions, career and education opportunities, and youth programs that improve lives in amazing ways generation after generation. There's a lot to build on.

While traveling the country this year, I have been inspired not only by young people who respect what The American Legion *has accomplished* in the past, but more so by what The American Legion *is accomplishing* now and is poised to *accomplish* in the future.

Post-9/11 veterans are stepping into Legion leadership roles everywhere, adding 21st-century talent and energy to our time-honored values. The newest generation is invigorating local posts with healthy activities, from mountain biking, horseback riding and kayaking to fishing trips for families of men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. Legion posts are routinely providing free Wi-Fi and computer access. Just last year, nearly 1,000 posts reported coordinating at least one local veteran employment event. Behind the scenes, our service officers helped hundreds of thousands get answers to their benefits questions. American Legion leaders are leveraging Facebook and Twitter as tools of instant connection, communication and camaraderie.

In nearly every state and community I have visited, American Legion Family members were at work revitalizing districts, transferring national members into local posts and persuading young veterans to join our ranks and help guide our future. Some departments are on track to grow for the first time in a decade. Where Legionnaires are working to achieve a culture of membership growth, growth is happening. That's progress.

I was delighted that 52 out of 55 American Legion departments had reached or exceeded their 2016 membership goals by Jan. 20, the best performance in recent years. And the Legion now has nearly 100,000 post-9/11 members, and increasing.

But what's happening here is not just about numbers. It's what the people behind those numbers are doing: taking active roles as champions of their fellow veterans, regardless of war era, on such issues as transferability of military training hours into credits for specialized career fields, better treatment of PTSD and traumatic brain injury, improved benefits processing, enhancing the GI Bill and making significant progress in the way our nation cares for women veterans. That's just some of what our members are doing for veterans and their families.

What I sense today is momentum. I see Legionnaires making growth plans and successfully executing them. They're using electronic and social media, but haven't forgotten the power of knocking on doors and shaking hands. Those who believe in a bright future are inviting post-9/11 veterans to join the Legion and taking the next step of inviting them to help lead. I can think of no greater 100th-anniversary gift than this shift in culture, a shift toward growth that we all have to stimulate for the Legion to keep accomplishing great things, long into its second century.




National Commander
Dale Barnett

MEMORANDA

AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY

Posts around the world will celebrate the Legion's birthday this month. Download a suggested speech, share your birthday celebration stories at Legiontown, and start a post page at the Centennial website.

 www.legion.org/publications

 www.legion.org/legiontown

 www.legion.org/centennial

LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE

The American Legion will stream several 2016 events live online. Listings are Eastern time, and are tentative and/or subject to change.

Oratorical Contest Finals,

10 a.m. April 17

National Convention Color

Guard Contest, 5 p.m. Aug. 26

National Convention Band

Contest, 1 p.m. Aug. 27

National Convention Patriotic

Memorial Service, 11 a.m. Aug. 28

National Convention General

Session Day 1, 8 a.m. Aug. 30

National Convention General

Session Day 2, 8 a.m. Aug. 31

National Convention General

Session Day 3, 8:30 a.m. Sept. 1

 www.legion.org/legiontv

For all those moments
you missed to serve us,
it's our turn to serve you.



In honor of our veterans and their families, we're proud to offer great rates on leisure stays for all of our military, active and retired. You've already given us so much, it's our turn to return the favor.

HOMWOOD
SUITES
BY HILTON™

Hilton

ALWAYS GET THE LOWEST PRICE*, ONLY WHEN YOU BOOK DIRECT AT [HOMWOODSUITES.COM/MILITARY](https://www.homewoodsuites.com/military)

Subject to availability at participating Homewood Suites hotels. Valid only for guests with valid military ID including active duty, reserve, and retired service members and their spouses and families. Enter promotion code "MFR" at time of booking. Must present your current and valid military identification card at check-in. Tuesday night arrivals must book a minimum of 3 nights. Wednesday night arrivals must book a minimum of 2 nights. Additional terms apply. Please see www.homewoodsuites.com/military. *To learn more about our best price guarantee, visit hiltonguarantee.com ©2016 Hilton Worldwide

VISIT OUR WELCOME HOME HEADQUARTERS ON [FACEBOOK.COM/HOMWOODSUITES](https://facebook.com/homewoodsuites) AND CELEBRATE BEING AT HOME | 

TONY PATERNOSTRO

"Hearing positive responses from (Oratorical) participants shows that the programs we're doing in The American Legion are benefiting the youth of our country."



When he joined The American Legion four decades ago, Tony Paternostro immediately started looking for a program in which he could get involved. Having experience with youth – and wanting something that accommodated his work schedule – he turned to the Oratorical program.

Thus began 35 years of volunteering at the post, department and national levels, in a relationship that Paternostro describes as mutually beneficial.

"I listen to (Oratorical participants) talking about the Constitution, and I learn something from them every year," he says. "It makes me feel good because it's nice to see some young people we can rely on as the years go on."

Paternostro believes that the Legion's annual Oratorical Contest, and its focus on giving young Americans a better understanding and appreciation of our nation's founding documents, is more needed than ever.

"It seems we're getting away, in the education system, from learning about our United States," he says. "It seems like everything is going to testing. U.S. history seems to be put on the side. I think we need some type of a program by which young people can learn about our country and keep our country on the right track."

Paternostro says he's in awe of the talent he sees in the Oratorical program. He knows of two New York participants who went on to study at Harvard and become Rhodes scholars.

"If I don't have a piece of paper in front of me, I probably wouldn't remember three lines," Paternostro says. "It's amazing how they can take a speech and speak from eight to 10 minutes on a subject, with no problems."

BRANCH OF SERVICE

Air Force (1966-1970)

MOS Civil engineer

RANK Staff sergeant


POST Post 1033, Elmost, N.Y.; Charles Wagner Post 421, Hicksville, N.Y. (current)

YEARS IN THE LEGION 35

LEGION ACTIVITIES

- Department Oratorical chairman (2008-2016)
- Post commander (2012-2013)
- Post adjutant (1991-1994)

Watch an interview with Tony Paternostro online:

 www.legion.org/magazine

See an archive of past interviews:

 www.legion.org/iamlegion

Photo by Amy C. Elliott

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN



Expertly crafted in solid stainless steel with black ion plating



Dramatically detailed eagle sculpture and powerful POW-MIA symbols



Inscribed on the front and inside the band with meaningful sentiments



"Never Forgotten" Men's Ring

A Fine Jewelry Exclusive from The Bradford Exchange

The freedom that we so dearly cherish and fight for... comes at a cost. Now, honor the incomparable courage of our U.S. Military personnel who were taken as prisoners of war, or listed as missing in action, with the "Never Forgotten" Men's Ring. An exclusive design, it is a powerful reminder of the heroes who will live on in our hearts forever, and will never be forgotten.

A Moving Achievement in Craftsmanship and Design
Crafted of solid stainless steel with black ion plating, the "Never Forgotten" Men's Ring features a dramatically sculpted dimensional eagle, its mighty wings stretched out beneath the POW-MIA logo. A sculpted banner displays the heartfelt sentiment "You Are Not Forgotten."

Inscribed inside the band are the poignant words, "Freedom has Always been Worth fighting for," and along both sides of the ring are classic chevron patterns and a row of stars. A distinctive tribute of remembrance that any patriot would be proud to wear.

Exceptional Value...Immense Significance

This magnificent ring can be yours for just \$99*, payable in four convenient installments of \$24.75. To reserve a ring in your name (available in whole and half sizes from 8-12), backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee, send no money now. Just fill out and send in your Reservation Application today. But hurry—this is a limited time offer!

www.bradfordexchange.com/189472

©2015 The Bradford Exchange
All rights reserved 01-18947-002-BIAL

LIMITED-TIME OFFER

Reservations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.



Respond as soon as possible to reserve your ring.

Actual size

RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
JEWELRY

P.O. Box 806, Morton Grove, IL 60053-0806

YES. Please reserve the "Never Forgotten" Men's Ring for me as described in this announcement. Ring size: _____ (if known)

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

To assure a proper fit, a ring size will be sent to you after your reservation has been accepted.

*Plus \$9.98 shipping and service. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of your jewelry after we receive your initial deposit. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Signature _____

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

E-Mail (Optional) _____

01-18947-002-E94901

Rejection of the Keystone pipeline



SUPPORT

**Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva,
D-Ariz.**

■ Grijalva is the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee.

There's no denying the United States consumes a lot of energy, and as long as there's money to be made companies will meet the demand. But that doesn't give them a blank check to ignore the consequences of how they do it.

That's why I supported President Obama when he rejected the Keystone pipeline. Canada's newly elected federal government is right to stand with him rather than continue its predecessor's mistakes.

Despite the president's rejection, the pipeline's backers still try to tell us this is a national priority. There's a troubling element of doublespeak in their pitch, which essentially says, "Oil pipelines provide energy to people who need it, so what's the big deal?" The big deal is that we can't keep doing things the same old way. Keystone's parent company, TransCanada, and some of its friends in Washington, D.C., seem to see climate change as the cost of making a profit. Many of us consider it an alarming trend we need to address.

I find it cynical when Keystone supporters use an "all of the above" mantra to claim that the pipeline is part of some comprehensive energy strategy. Show me where Keystone backers are funding wind turbines or solar panels at the same level they've spent on lobbying for the pipeline, and I'll change my mind.

If this pipeline is built, Americans get a lot of environmental risks – especially Midwestern farmers facing a polluted aquifer when Keystone leaks – in return for the right to help Canadian oil developers make money on the world oil market. How is that in our national interest? This is not about helping the American people, but about padding the bottom line for a company that doesn't deserve special favors from the government.



OPPOSE

Rep. Erik Paulsen, R-Minn.

■ Paulsen serves on the House Ways and Means Committee.

For years, approval of the Keystone pipeline rested with the State Department because it crossed an international border. What started as a slam-dunk infrastructure project quickly spun out of control due to politics. Tragically, after seven

years of delay, the Obama administration finally decided to kill the project in November.

The decision actually flies in the face of the State Department's own findings. According to its reports, the project would support

42,000 U.S. jobs and reduce our reliance on oil from the Middle East. Being an energy leader means we can flex soft power on the world stage and undercut efforts by oil-rich countries that don't have our best interests in mind.

The reports also found that not building the pipeline would be more dangerous and worse for the environment. For instance, in my home state of Minnesota, building the pipeline would mean safer communities and a more environmentally sound method of transportation. Most oil in the state is still shipped by rail, which has a greater chance of spillage due to derailments.

Business entities and unions voiced their support; that's why Congress voted with huge bipartisan support in the House and Senate to move forward with the pipeline. However, the president vetoed that legislation.

Despite polls showing that more than 70 percent of Americans wanted the Keystone pipeline to be built, the Obama administration instead decided to play politics.

While the project looks dead for now, there will be further opportunities to put U.S. jobs and energy independence first. We need to seize those opportunities.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE
President Obama ultimately rejected the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, citing environmental risks. The project's supporters press on, saying it would create thousands of American jobs and increase the nation's energy independence.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121



FREE

Awning Idea Kit and DVD

- Cool Shade in Seconds
- 99% UV Protection
- Great Relaxation and Entertainment Spot
- Exceptionally Affordable — Prices as Low as \$499!
- Saves Energy, Helps Cut Air Conditioning Bills
- Motorized & Manual Models
- Easy to Use, Totally Retractable
- Screen Rooms
- Many Exciting Accessories
- Many Designer Color Choices
- Unsurpassed Quality
- 5-Year Limited Warranty
- No Risk Home Trial
- A Must Have for Decks and Patios

Learn how to transform an ordinary deck or patio into a beautiful, shaded outdoor room — a cool, protected retreat where you and your family will love to spend time.

SunSetter, the #1 best-selling awnings in America for over a decade, invites you to call, email, or send today for our **FREE Awning Idea Kit and DVD**. Discover how to outsmart the weather and protect your family while you turn your deck or patio into your favorite 3-season outdoor room — a lovely focal point of your home and a center for outdoor enjoyment.

A SunSetter puts you in control of the weather on your deck or patio. Relax and entertain outside anytime you want without worrying about hot sun, harmful UV

rays or passing light showers. It can be up to 20° cooler under your awning! A SunSetter gives you far more cool shade and protection than a tippy patio umbrella — yet it's so affordable you'll wonder why you waited so long to get one. **Get your Free Idea Kit and DVD today.**

SunSetter®
RETRACTABLE AWNINGS

Find out more with absolutely no obligation. Get your **FREE Awning Idea Kit and DVD** in any of 4 simple ways:

- 1. Call Toll Free: 1-800-876-8060, ext. 31550**
You can call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- 2. Email to ideakit@sunsetter.com**
Be sure to include your full name and mailing address.
- 3. Go to www.sunsetter.com**
- 4. By Mail:** SunSetter Products, Dept. 31550
184 Charles Street, Malden, MA 02148. Be sure to include your complete mailing address and email address.





Media Bakery

Choose 'the safer'

BY LANCE FRAZER

"In 1736 I lost one of my sons, a fine boy of 4 years old, by the small-pox ... taken in the common way. I long regretted bitterly, and still regret, that I had not given it to him by inoculation. This I mention for the sake of parents who omit that operation, on the supposition that they should never forgive themselves if a child died under it; my example showing that the regret may be the same either way, and that, therefore, the safer should be chosen."

– Benjamin Franklin

In the 18th century, 20 percent of smallpox victims died. If inoculated, the odds of dying dropped to around 3 percent. Measles, while less often fatal, was still dangerous.

There's a big difference between smallpox and measles, but they do have this in common: there are vaccines designed to protect humans against both. However, the development of vaccines has long been accompanied by resistance to vaccination.

Vaccines are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, but there is no federal vaccination mandate, a task left to state governments. (Mississippi has the highest rates of childhood immunization at over 99 percent of children up to age 6, with West Virginia at 96 percent.)

Shannon Stokely of the CDC's Immunization Services Division says the good news is that less than 1 percent of U.S. children are completely unvaccinated. But the percentage varies by age group and vaccine type.

"We calculate that about 92 percent of U.S. children 19 to

35 months old have had at least one of the two recommended doses of the MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccine," she says. "But if you look at the HPV vaccine, three doses of which are recommended for those 13 to 17, only 57 percent of the girls and 35 percent of the boys have received at least one dose." This is in part because of protests that the vaccination against HPV, what the CDC describes as "the most common sexually transmitted virus" in the United States, will encourage children to become more sexually active.

Vaccinations do more than protect those vaccinated; they also serve as a firewall between the disease and those who cannot be vaccinated. For measles, you need a vaccination rate of at least 95 percent to protect the unprotected. Take too many bricks out of that wall, and protection collapses.

Courts continue to wrestle with vaccination exemptions. Neither Mississippi nor West Virginia allow religious or philosophical exemptions, although both are considering challenges to these positions. While there are viable reasons for non-vaccination (such as for those immunocompromised due to chemotherapy, recent transplants or HIV/AIDS), this form of regulation creates pockets of vulnerability around the country, says Glenn Fennelly of Rutgers University's Department of Pediatrics.

"In some states," he says, "all you have to do is declare that it's against your belief, and that has led to areas where 20 to 30 percent of the population is vulnerable."

See **VACCINATION** on page 17

Recommended by
the CDC for adults 65+

WHAT IF ONE STRAWBERRY COULD HELP PREVENT HEART DISEASE?

Wishful thinking, right?
But there is one step that can help
protect you from another serious
disease, pneumococcal pneumonia.
The PREVNAR 13[®] vaccine.

As you age, your risk of getting pneumococcal pneumonia increases. It's a serious disease that could put you in the hospital. Symptoms include coughing, fever, chest pain, and difficulty breathing. If you are 50 or older, one dose of the PREVNAR 13[®] vaccine can help protect you. Even if you've already been vaccinated with another pneumonia vaccine, PREVNAR 13[®] may help provide additional protection. Immune response may be lower if given within one year after another pneumonia vaccine. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if PREVNAR 13[®] is right for you.



GET THIS ONE DONE.

INDICATION FOR PREVNAR 13[®]

- Prevnar 13[®] is a vaccine approved for adults 50 years of age and older for the prevention of pneumococcal pneumonia and invasive disease caused by 13 *Streptococcus pneumoniae* strains (1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F, and 23F)
- Prevnar 13[®] is not 100% effective and will only help protect against the 13 strains included in the vaccine

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- Prevnar 13[®] should not be given to anyone with a history of severe allergic reaction to any component of Prevnar 13[®] or any diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine
- Adults with weakened immune systems (eg, HIV infection, leukemia) may have a reduced immune response

- In adults, immune responses to Prevnar 13[®] were reduced when given with injected seasonal flu vaccine
- In adults, the common side effects were pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site, limitation of arm movement, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, decreased appetite, chills, or rash
- Ask your health care provider about the risks and benefits of Prevnar 13[®]. Only a health care provider can decide if Prevnar 13[®] is right for you

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of vaccines to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Visit www.vaers.hhs.gov or call 1-800-822-7967.

Please see Important Facts for Prevnar 13[®] on the adjacent page.

PREVNAR 13 is a registered trademark of Wyeth LLC. Manufactured by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Inc. Marketed by Pfizer Inc. PSA758417-01 © 2015 Pfizer Inc. All rights reserved. September 2015



IMPORTANT FACTS



Pprevnar 13® (pronounced “Prev • nar 13”)

Generic Name: Pneumococcal 13-valent Conjugate Vaccine (Diphtheria CRM₁₉₇ Protein)

WHO SHOULD RECEIVE PREVNAR 13® (Pneumococcal 13-valent Conjugate Vaccine [Diphtheria CRM₁₉₇ Protein])?

- Pprevnar 13® is approved for adults 50 years and older for the prevention of pneumococcal pneumonia and invasive disease caused by the 13 vaccine strains
- Pprevnar 13® is a vaccine also approved for children 6 weeks through 17 years of age for the prevention of invasive disease caused by the 13 strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* included in the vaccine, and for children 6 weeks through 5 years for the prevention of ear infections caused by 7 of the 13 strains
- Pprevnar 13® is not 100% effective and will only help protect against the 13 strains included in the vaccine

Adults 50 years and older:

- A single dose of Pprevnar 13® is recommended for adults aged 50 years of age and older

Children 6 weeks through 5 years of age:

- Pprevnar 13® is recommended for children 6 weeks through 5 years of age
- Pprevnar 13® is given as a 4-dose series at 2, 4, 6, and 12 to 15 months of age
- **Transition schedule:** Children who have received 1 or more doses of Pprevnar® (Pneumococcal 7-valent Conjugate Vaccine [Diphtheria CRM₁₉₇ Protein]) may complete the 4-dose immunization series with Pprevnar 13®
- **Catch-up schedule:** Children 15 months through 5 years of age who are considered fully immunized with Pprevnar® may receive 1 dose of Pprevnar 13® to elicit immune responses to the 6 additional strains
- The immune responses from the transition or catch-up schedules might be lower for the 6 additional strains (types 1, 3, 5, 6A, 7F, and 19A) than if your child had received the full 4 doses of Pprevnar 13®

Children 6 years through 17 years of age:

- In children 6 years through 17 years of age, Pprevnar 13® is given as a single dose

WHO SHOULD NOT RECEIVE PREVNAR 13®?

Children or adults who have had a severe allergic reaction to any component of Pprevnar 13® or any diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine should not receive Pprevnar 13®

BEFORE STARTING PREVNAR 13®

Tell your health care provider or your child's health care provider about all medical conditions, including:

- Previous allergic reactions to other vaccines
- Especially tell the health care provider if your child or you are taking medicines that can weaken the immune system, such as steroids (eg, prednisone) and cancer medicines, or are undergoing radiation therapy
- If you are pregnant or nursing, or if you plan to become pregnant

WARNING

- A temporary pause of breathing following vaccination has been observed in some infants born prematurely. Decisions about when to give Pprevnar 13® to infants born prematurely should be based on consideration of the individual infant's medical status, and the potential benefits and possible risks of vaccination
- The safety and efficacy of Pprevnar 13® when given to persons with a weakened immune system (such as HIV infection, damaged spleen, cancer, or kidney problems) is not known. Children or adults with a weakened immune system may have a reduced response to Pprevnar 13®

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS?

- In adults, the common side effects were pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site, limitation of arm movement, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, decreased appetite, chills, or rash
- The most commonly reported serious adverse events in children were bronchiolitis (an infection of the lungs) (0.9%), gastroenteritis (inflammation of the stomach and small intestine) (0.9%), and pneumonia (0.9%)
- In children 6 weeks through 17 years, the most common side effects were tenderness, redness, or swelling at the injection site, irritability, decreased appetite, decreased or increased sleep, and fever. Most commonly reported side effects in children 5 years through 17 years also included hives

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT RECEIVING PREVNAR 13® WITH OTHER VACCINES?

- In adults, immune responses to Pprevnar 13® were reduced when given with injected seasonal flu vaccine
- When given within 1 year following pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine, immune response to Pprevnar 13® may be lower

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The safety and effectiveness of Pprevnar 13® when used in children less than 6 weeks of age is not known
- In a study in which children received acetaminophen prior to Pprevnar 13®, immune responses to some strains in the vaccine were lower compared with responses among children who received acetaminophen after vaccination only as needed
- Ask your health care provider about the risks and benefits of Pprevnar 13®. Only a health care provider can decide if Pprevnar 13® is right for you or your child

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

- This is only a summary of important information. Ask your health care provider or your child's health care provider for complete product information
- Go to www.Pprevnar13.com or call 1-800-666-7248

PREVNAR and PREVNAR 13 are registered trademarks of Wyeth LLC.

Manufactured by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Inc. © 2015 Pfizer Inc. All rights reserved. June 2015. Marketed by Pfizer Inc.
Based on LAB-0469-12.0 (May 2015)

Rx only



Media Bakery

VACCINATION *continued from page 14*

"We don't remember, collectively, how devastating measles can be," he says. "Then we're confronted with influential celebrities speaking out against vaccination, and the opposition gets reinforced. Not with sound clinical evidence, but it gets reinforced nonetheless."

Because there are many strains of the influenza virus, the flu vaccine is not always a perfect match. "The issue is that too many people believe it's either 100 percent or 0 percent," says Melissa Skupin, lead author on a local study of influences on vaccine rates. "Considering how dangerous the flu is (3,000 to 50,000 deaths in the United States annually), even partial protection is critical."

Some people have a mistrust of the government or science, while others rely on questionable sources of information and don't bring issues up with their doctor, Skupin says. "We found that if the physician is a strong advocate for immunization and offers to address the questions and concerns of the patient, they're more likely to have the vaccination (98 percent) than if not (58 percent)."

As for cost concerns, Stokely points out that under the Affordable Care Act, insurers must cover recommended vaccinations with no cost-sharing. For those who cannot afford insurance, the government's Vaccines For Children (VFC) program offers free vaccinations through provider pediatricians for children up to 18.

What are the risks? "Your risk of serious complication from the vaccine runs around one in 1 million," Fennelly says. On the other hand, one of every 20 children who gets measles also develops pneumonia; one in every 1,000 develops encephalitis, which can lead to deafness or permanent intellectual disability; one to two of every 1,000 dies. If you're younger than 5, elderly or immunocompromised, your odds of complication increase dramatically.

Overall vaccination numbers remain low, especially among adults 18 and older. Pneumonia vaccine rates among adults run just over 20 percent, while tetanus coverage is below 20 percent and adult-flu vaccine rates are only 39 percent. HPV vaccine numbers show a 69 percent increase from 2008 to 2012, but coverage only increased from 16.6 percent to 28.1 percent.

Still, the issue of mandatory vaccination remains thorny, Fennelly says. Should there be a federal law that requires immunization against diseases like measles?

"Speaking from a public health perspective, I would say absolutely," he says. "Will that come to pass? I doubt it. But deciding not to

immunize a child anywhere puts children everywhere at risk."

Lance Frazer is a California-based writer specializing in health and medicine, science, nature and the environment.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

Got milk?

Drinking milk may help keep our brains young and even fight Alzheimer's disease.

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, researchers from the University of Kansas Medical Center studied the dietary intake of older adults, even performing brain scans on participants to measure the levels of glutathione, a naturally occurring antioxidant. The subjects who reported drinking the most milk had higher levels of glutathione – and possibly a lower risk of Alzheimer's disease.

"Glutathione is a major antioxidant in our brains and is known to fight against oxidative stress and protect our nerve cells," says In-Young Choi, lead study author. "Therefore, increasing glutathione concentrations could be an important strategy to promote brain health."

Unfortunately, most U.S. adults don't meet the Department of Agriculture's recommendation of three cups of daily dairy intake.

StockSnap

Multiple myeloma, by the numbers

March is Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month. The second most common blood cancer, multiple myeloma moves from plasma cells in bone marrow to cause tumors on the bones themselves. Men, blacks, people with a family history of the disease and anyone exposed to radiation appear more likely to develop multiple myeloma. The majority of patients are older than 35 when diagnosed, and as yet there is no definitive cause or cure. It is considered a presumptive disease for VA Agent Orange benefits; ask your doctor if you think you may be at risk for any reason.

0.7 Percent of an American's lifetime risk of developing multiple myeloma

26,850 Approximate number of expected new cases in 2015

11,240 Approximate number of deaths in 2015

Backlog falls, but e-claims system costs soar

BY TOM PHILPOTT

The Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) has processed over 2 million disability claims electronically since it was rolled out in June 2013. The claims backlog, which peaked at 611,000 in March 2013, has fallen to 75,000.

But the costs to build VBMS so far are double what VA projected. The system is so riddled with software gaps and technical flaws that user satisfaction is uncertain, and VA failed to meet its goal to eliminate the backlog by the end of 2015.

The strengths and weaknesses of VBMS got a fresh look at a January hearing of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Auditors from the Government Accountability Office and VA Office of Inspector General outlined serious problems found during separate reviews of the e-claims system.

Senior VA officials answered critics and, with a lack of specificity that irked some lawmakers, sought to explain the way ahead.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., committee chairman, noted that in 2009 VA projected VBMS would cost \$580 million. So far it has spent \$1 billion and said the total would soon reach \$1.3 billion. More, it can give no guarantee costs won't keep climbing.

Cost overruns "are bad enough," Miller said. "But after six years in development, VBMS is still not able to fully support disability claims and pension applications." As for claims on appeal, VBMS "only acts as a document repository." So while VBMS does speed processing of original claims, the number of veterans awaiting decisions on appeals has jumped 70 percent since 2013, to 433,000, Miller added.

Brent Arronte, deputy assistant inspector general for VA audits and evaluations, blamed cost overruns on a combination of "inadequate cost controls, unplanned changes in system and business requirements, and inefficient contractor promises."

But Beth McCoy, VA's deputy undersecretary for field operations, suggested that VA has simply embraced an approach that relies on periodic software upgrades that continually improve it for both processors and claimants.

"Scope and cost increases were planned, essential and approved to move beyond just an initial electronic repository functionality," McCoy said. More and more automation over time is enhancing the processing platform.

Arronte and Miller challenged how much credit VBMS deserves for reducing the backlog. Miller noted that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) hired 7,300 more full-time employees from 2007 to 2014. Arronte added that VBA spent a combined \$255 million on mandatory overtime for claims staff dedicated to the backlog. It reallocated staff to process only claims affecting the backlog, sacrificing work on other types of claims, and implemented the fully developed claims (FDC)

process to shorten processing times. Whatever backlog relief VBMS has provided, its "final end-state costs remain unknown," Arronte said.

The IG recently substantiated allegations of a significant backlog of unprocessed mail for entry into VBMS. At a scanning facility for the St. Petersburg, Fla., VA regional office, it found "more than 41,000 mail packages and over 1,600 boxes of evidence waiting to be scanned" by a contractor. A number of documents had been waiting more than 30 days despite a requirement that claims evidence be scanned into VBMS within five days of arrival.

Meanwhile, The American Legion advised the committee of two frustrations with VBMS experienced routinely by claim developers and veterans: improperly identified scanned documents and lack of true search capabilities. Also, VA promised while developing VBMS that it would have the ability to rapidly search data in a veteran's medical file for information relevant to the claim. Yet the search feature is a continuing disappointment.

VBMS "offers little to no improvement over manually searching through paper files, with perhaps additional eye strain from staring at monitors," the Legion stated.

Tom Philpott has been covering military personnel and veterans issues for nearly 40 years.



Shutterstock

No
Contract

"My friends all hate their cell phones... I love mine!" Here's why.

FREE
Car
Charger

Get
Double
Minutes for Life
with WE♥TALK.

Say good-bye to everything you hate about cell phones. Say hello to Jitterbug5.

"Cell phones have gotten so small, I can barely dial mine." Not Jitterbug®, it features a larger keypad for easier dialing. It even has an oversized display so you can actually see it.

"I had to get my son to program it." Your Jitterbug set-up process is simple. We'll even pre-program it with your favorite numbers.

"I tried my sister's cell phone... I couldn't hear it." Jitterbug is designed with a powerful speaker. There's an adjustable volume control, and Jitterbug is hearing-aid compatible.

"I don't need stock quotes, Internet sites or games on my phone, I just want to talk with my family and friends." Life is complicated enough... Jitterbug is simple.

"What if I don't remember a number?" Friendly, helpful Jitterbug operators are available 24 hours a day and will even greet you by name when you call.

"I'd like a cell phone to use in an emergency, but I don't want a high monthly bill." Jitterbug has a plan to fit your needs... and your budget.



Available in
Blue and Red.

Monthly Plan	\$14.99	\$19.99
Monthly Minutes	was 50 NOW 200	was 200 NOW 600
Operator Assistance	24/7	24/7
Long Distance Calls	No add'l charge	No add'l charge
Voice Dial	FREE	FREE
Nationwide Coverage	YES	YES
Friendly Return Policy¹	30 days	30 days

More minute plans available. Ask your Jitterbug expert for details.

"My cell phone company wants to lock me in on a two-year contract!" Not Jitterbug, there's no contract to sign and no penalty if you discontinue your service.

"My phone's battery only lasts a couple of days." Unlike most cell phones that need to be recharged every day, the Jitterbug was designed with one of the longest-lasting batteries on the market, so you won't have to worry about running out of power.

Enough talk. Isn't it time you found out more about the cell phone that's changing all the rules? Call now, Jitterbug product experts are standing by.

Order now and receive a
FREE Car Charger for your Jitterbug –
a \$25 value. **Call now!**

Jitterbug5 Cell Phone

Call toll free today to get your own Jitterbug5.

Please mention promotional code 102389.

1-877-651-0859

www.jitterbugdirect.com

jitterbug

firstSTREET
for Boomers and Beyond®
1998 Ruffin Mill Road
Colonial Heights, VA 23834



We proudly accept the following credit cards.



IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: WE♥TALK offer valid on 400 minute plan and applies to new GreatCall customers only. Offer valid until plan is changed or cancelled. Jitterbug is owned by GreatCall, Inc. Your invoices will come from GreatCall. All rate plans and services require the purchase of a Jitterbug phone and a one-time set up fee of \$35. Coverage and service is not available everywhere. Other charges and restrictions may apply. Screen images simulated. There are no additional fees to call GreatCall's U.S. Based Customer Service. However, for calls to an Operator in which a service is completed, minutes will be deducted from your monthly balance equal to the length of the call and any call connected by the Operator, plus an additional 5 minutes. Monthly minutes carry over and are available for 60 days. If you exceed the minute balance on your account, you will be billed at 35¢ for each minute used over the balance. Monthly rate plans do not include government taxes or assessment surcharges. Prices and fees subject to change. We will refund the full price of the GreatCall phone and the activation fee (or set-up fee) if it is returned within 30 days of purchase in like-new condition. We will also refund your first monthly service charge if you have less than 30 minutes of usage. If you have more than 30 minutes of usage, a per minute charge of 35 cents will be deducted from your refund for each minute over 30 minutes. You will be charged a \$10 restocking fee. The shipping charges are not refundable. Jitterbug and GreatCall are registered trademarks of GreatCall, Inc. Samsung is a registered trademark of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. ©2016 Samsung Electronics America, LLC. ©2016 GreatCall, Inc. ©2016 firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.

'A crutch some people don't have'

George Washington Hayden of Post 1165 in Birmingham, Ala., stands in front of his home, repaired following tornado damage in 2011. Grants from the Legion's National Emergency Fund helped Hayden and other victims rebuild in the aftermath of the tornado. Photo by Clay Lommeth



The Legion's National Emergency Fund provides immediate financial assistance and hope in the aftermath of natural disasters.

BY HENRY HOWARD

As a massive F4 tornado roared toward Birmingham, Ala., on April 27, 2011, George Washington Hayden took shelter in his basement.

"I thought, 'I'm 62 years old and I've never seen a tornado,'" he recalls. "After I pulled the curtain back and looked out the window, the spirit of God said, 'Stand back.' And at that moment, it hit. You could see it, hear it, feel it. That window I was standing at shattered."

When Hayden emerged from his two-story home, he noticed all its windows were blown out except those in his study. Somehow that was the only room the tornado didn't damage. "That's God's room," the pastor says. "All my books, Bibles and tapes are in that room."

After wrecking the homes of Hayden and several others, the tornado moved downhill, spreading its wrath throughout the neighborhood. Though tornadoes had been predicted, the severity of the destruction shocked homeowners.

"We thanked God for all of our lives," recalls

Hayden, adjutant of American Legion Post 1165 in Birmingham. "Our neighbors all just walked outside and cried and hugged."

The multiple-vortex tornado reached sustained maximum winds of 190 mph as it ripped a path of destruction from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham, causing \$2.4 billion in damage and killing dozens of people in what is one of the deadliest outbreaks of tornadoes ever recorded. About 1,500 people were injured.

In the storm's aftermath, Hayden was one of several recipients of grants from the Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF). A handyman, he wanted to purchase a truck to haul materials and equipment so he could start to rebuild his home; he used the grant to help cover the cost.

"With the grant I got from The American Legion, I talked (the truck's owner) down and bought it," he says. "It has been very helpful in bringing in supplies because I did all my own repairs. It would have been very difficult (without the grant). When I get a sum of money, I don't want to spend it frivolously."

King Solomon's Secret Treasure: FOUND

Ancient beauty trapped in mines for centuries is finally released and available to the public!

King Solomon was one of the wealthiest rulers of the ancient world. His vast empire included hoards of gold, priceless gemstones and rare works of art. For centuries, fortune hunters and historians dedicated their lives to the search for his fabled mines and lost treasure. But as it turns out, those mines hid a prize more beautiful and exotic than any precious metal: chrysocolla.

Prized by the wisest king of the Bible. Known as the "Wisdom Stone," chrysocolla was considered a powerful talisman of healing and calming energy. Ancient rulers of the Biblical era relied on it for guidance and now this legendary treasure can be yours with our stunning *Earth & Sea Chrysocolla Necklace*. Call today to bring home 325 carats for **ONLY \$49!**

Nothing like it on Earth. The mesmerizing swirls of color in chrysocolla come from a unique combination of elements found in the rich mineral deposits of copper mines. When miners find a vein of blue-green, all digging stops so that the delicate chrysocolla can be extracted by hand.

Masterpieces of natural art. Our *Earth & Sea Chrysocolla Necklace* features a strand of polished, enhanced chrysocolla ovals—and silver-colored beads—that meet at a gorgeous teardrop pendant. Every chrysocolla is unique, showcasing a canvas painted by Mother Nature herself.

Your satisfaction is guaranteed. Wear the *Earth & Sea Chrysocolla Necklace* for a few weeks. If you aren't convinced that it's one of nature's most elegant creations, simply send it back within 60 days for a full refund of your purchase price. But once you experience this gorgeous gemstone for yourself, we're betting that you'll want to share King Solomon's secret with the world!

**Own the Most
Beautiful Stone
You've Never
Seen Before—
325 carats
for only \$49!**

TAKE 84% OFF INSTANTLY!

When you use your **INSIDER OFFER CODE**

Earth & Sea Chrysocolla Necklace \$299*

Offer Code Price—\$49 + s&p

You must use the insider offer code to get our special price.

1-800-333-2045

Offer Code ESN318-01

Please use this code when you order to receive your discount.

- 325 ctw of chrysocolla
- 18" necklace (with 2" extender) secures with a lobster clasp

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™

** Discount for customers who use the offer code versus the listed original Stauer.com price.*



Stauer®

14101 Southcross Drive W.,
Dept. ESN318-01,
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

www.stauer.com

Necklace enlarged to
show luxurious detail.





Willie Scott of Birmingham sits atop a retaining wall that was part of his house before a tornado destroyed it in 2011. In the days following the disaster, Scott used an NEF grant for food and transportation. Photo by Clay Lometh

NEIGHBORS NO MORE A couple of miles away, neighbors Willie Scott and Glenn Thomas were planting tomatoes as the storm approached. They scrambled into their homes just in time.

For the 35-year neighbors, this was the third and final straw. Their homes sustained minor damage from tornadoes in 1977 and 1998, but the F4 that hit in 2011 demolished their houses and destroyed their vehicles.

“As I looked around, I said, ‘Praise the Lord. We’re all safe and not harmed,’” Thomas recalls. “At the time I told Mr. Scott, ‘That’s enough for me. That’s two for me (Thomas was stationed at Fort Benning in 1977) and three for my family. I know I am not coming back.’”

The Scott and Thomas families moved elsewhere around Birmingham, now living 12 miles apart. The longtime friends still see each other every couple of weeks.

“The tornado tried to suck (my wife) up and she was hollering and screaming,” Scott remembers. “It didn’t last long. It looked like black mud. She kept screaming and hollering. My wife cried for two weeks. She had PTSD: post-tornado stress disorder. We lost everything but our lives.”

Both men credit then-National Commander Jimmie Foster and Post 1165’s commander – Joe Thomas, Glenn’s brother – with helping them secure immediate NEF grants they used for food and transportation.

“Thank God for The American Legion,” Scott says. “It means a hell of a lot that there are organizations that aren’t all about taking; they are about giving. I’m proud of the Legion and I’m proud to be a member of the Legion.”

Disasters such as the Birmingham tornado are why the NEF exists: to help American Legion Family members in their most desperate hour.

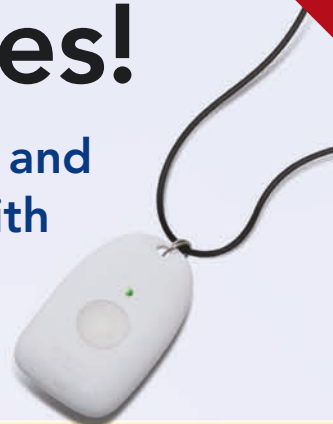
“I first learned of the NEF during a flooding emergency in my home state of Georgia,” says American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett, who has set a goal to raise \$1 million for the program this year. “I cannot express how important it is to provide some immediate financial resources to someone who has been struck by a hurricane, tornado, flooding, wildfire or other devastating natural disaster.

“It’s an honor to be able to provide support to these veterans and their families in their time of need.”

**2
FREE GIFTS**

This Button Saves Lives!

Get Peace of Mind and Independence with Medical Alert Monitoring!



Includes Everything You Need



- Base Unit
- Waterproof Pendant or Wristband



Round-the-clock monitoring with **Medical Alert** system not only provides you with piece of mind, it also assures you and your loved ones that you'll never be alone. With the **Medical Alert** system, a simple button device can be worn anywhere—even in the shower. If emergency help is needed (medical, fire or police), push the button and a certified operator responds immediately.

- No Long-Term Contracts
- No Activation Fee
- Easy to Set Up & Use
- FREE Equipment
- Sales and Monitoring Agents Based in the USA
- UL Listed Monitoring Station

Call Now Toll-Free
1-800-800-4170
www.MedicalAlert.com

NO HOME PHONE, NO PROBLEM!
Ask About Our Mobile Solution!



VETERANS
Receive a
FREE 2nd Button
and **Locking Keybox!**
Order Now!



The only Medical Alert system to earn the **Ease of Use Commendation** from the **Arthritis Foundation**.



MedicalAlert
Help at the Push of a Button

Glenn Thomas of Post 1165 holds up a photograph of his former Birmingham home, which was demolished in the historic tornado outbreak of 2011. Thomas and his wife relocated to another part of the city shortly afterward. Photo by Clay Lomneth



‘READY TO HELP’ Last October, severe flooding hit South Carolina. A weather system brought tropical moisture into the state and then stalled, creating a historic three-day rainfall that displaced residents and caused billions of dollars in damage.

“(People) couldn’t get out to the roads, which became rivers,” recalls Greg Bennett, adjutant at American Legion Post 69 in Andrews. “Legionnaires came down to the town hall to help out and offered the Legion hall for use as a staging area to give out supplies. However, the National Guard said the Legion (building) was actually under about five feet of water.”

So Legion Family members pitched in, helping unload food and cleaning supplies at the Andrews town hall, a Baptist church and a National Guard Armory. After a few days, post members were finally able to assess the damage to their building.

“When we finally got into Post 69, it was devastating,” Bennett says. “There were crawfish all over, muddy water and the stench of mold. The chairs were pushed all over, the tables were ruined – everything was waterlogged.”

A \$6,000 NEF grant helped Post 69 begin to rebuild, with a new vision for serving veterans and local families. Post members are still repairing damage, including insulation, tiled floor and paneled walls. At the same time, they’ve made sweeping changes, such as removing the bar and surrendering the liquor license to turn the post building into a community center. In addition, the post’s service officer will have office space.

“We know that help came from our American Legion Family, and that is so uplifting,” says Bennett, adding that the post is planning to reopen

DONATE TO THE NEF

Support Legion Family members recovering from natural disasters by contributing to the National Emergency Fund.

 www.legion.org/donate

Watch a video in which tornado victims discuss how NEF grants provided relief.

 www.legion.org/legiontv

for Memorial Day. “My commander, myself and all our members are very grateful.”

During his years of membership in The American Legion, Barnett says he has witnessed the power of the nation’s largest veterans service organization in times of need.

“Much of what The American Legion does is veterans helping veterans,” Barnett says. “The National Emergency Fund is a prime example of how veterans can help their brothers and sisters who have faced the wrath of a natural disaster. From wildfires in the West to tornadoes in the Midwest to flooding along the East Coast, NEF stands ready to help those in need.”

For Hayden, the NEF grant he received five years ago is a great example of what makes the Legion and its members so special.

“I thank God for The American Legion,” he says. “Not only did the Legion help during this storm, but it helped me file claims with VA. I think with The American Legion, I have a little crutch that some people don’t have. It’s a very powerful organization, and I’m proud to be part of it.” 🌿

Henry Howard is deputy director of The American Legion’s Media & Communications Division.

★★★★★ TO HONOR ALL U.S. MILITARY WAR VETERANS ★★★★★

THE UNITED STATES MILITARY "NIGHT PATROL"™ WAR VETERAN TACTICAL WATCH

PERSONALIZED WITH YOUR INITIALS, SERVICE BRANCH AND YEARS SERVED

We proudly present our Night Patrol Tactical Watch which we are customizing to honor Your Service to Country as a proud War Veteran. Our special watch has features not found in other watches. It is being issued directly to all War Veterans and their Families, and will not be sold in stores.



THE DIAL:

- SOLID BRASS DIAL MINTED LIKE A FINE COIN WITH A DRAMATIC BACKGROUND OF GLEAMING BLACK ENAMEL
- UNIQUE WAR MEDAL & RIBBON DIALS FOR WWII, KOREA, VIETNAM, DESERT STORM, AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ VETERANS. EACH DIAL IS CRAFTED IN HAND-POLISHED HIGH RELIEF & OFFICIAL RIBBON COLORS
- 24 HOUR MILITARY TIME TRACK



THE WORKS:

- FINE QUARTZ MOVEMENT - ACCURATE WITHIN SECONDS PER MONTH
- DATE WINDOW AT 6 O'CLOCK POSITION
- HACK FEATURE FOR SYNCHRONIZATION
- LIGHT ACTIVATED LUMINOUS HANDS



THE CASE AND BAND:

- 45MM GUN METAL BLACK-PLATED ALLOY WITH PEBBLED BEZEL & STAINLESS STEEL CASE BACK
- RUGGED PU RUBBER BAND FOR COMFORT AND DURABILITY
- WATER RESISTANT TO 3ATM (100 FT)
- SCRATCH-RESISTANT, OPTICALLY CLEAR, HARD MINERAL CRYSTAL



PERSONALIZATION:

- ASSEMBLED AND CUSTOMIZED IN AMERICA BY SELCO OF OKLAHOMA
- CASE BACK ENGRAVED WITH YOUR INITIALS, SERVICE BRANCH AND YEARS SERVED
- WAR MEDAL ON TIN
- GIFT BOX (shown on order form)



THE COST AND GUARANTEE:

- THANK YOU PRICED AT \$79.95*
- 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR RETURN WITHIN 30 DAYS FOR REFUND OR REPLACEMENT



WWII



KOREA



DESERT STORM



AFGHANISTAN



IRAQ

FREE FLAG PIN
WITH EACH ORDER!



FOR FASTEST SERVICE CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER:

Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm EST Have Credit Card ready when ordering.
OTHER DIALS AVAILABLE - CALL FOR DETAILS

1-800-255-3048

OR, MAIL TO: Veterans Commemoratives™ Watch Order Center
Two Radnor Corporate Center, Suite 120, Radnor, PA 19087-4599

☐ YES. I wish to order a Military War Veteran Watch, featuring my War Medal and Ribbon, and personalized with my initials, service branch and years served.

DIAL CHOICE: ☐ VIETNAM ☐ WWII ☐ KOREA ☐ DESERT STORM
☐ AFGHANISTAN ☐ IRAQ (NEW!)

ENGRAVING: INITIALS (3): _____
(Print clearly) SERVICE BRANCH: _____

YEARS SERVED: _____ to _____

I WISH TO PAY AS FOLLOWS:

☐ Enclosed is my check or money order for \$79.95* per watch payable to "Veterans Commemoratives", OR

☐ Charge my credit card \$79.95* per watch.

* Plus \$14.95 per watch for shipping & handling. PA res. add 6% (\$5.70) sales tax.

INCLUDES HANDSOME
TIN GIFT BOX WITH
YOUR WAR MEDAL!



CREDIT CARD:

☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER Exp. ____/____

CC#: _____

CSC # _____ Signature: _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes) Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # (____) _____

In case we have questions about your order

Email: _____

©2016 ICM

WNPWAT-ALM-0316

VISIT VETERANS COMMEMORATIVES™ ONLINE AT WWW.VETCOM.COM

BOGUS BENEFIT

The USAJOBS website continues to frustrate veterans as military downsizing sends thousands into the civilian workforce.

BY KEN OLSEN



Before John Spanogle left the Army in the fall of 2014, he enrolled in a weeklong transition course at Fort Knox, Ky., and hired a professional résumé service to translate two and a half decades of leadership, training and distinguished service into civilian terms. A career officer with a top-secret security clearance and six combat tours that culminated in responsibility for U.S. Special Forces worldwide for the Pentagon, he had plenty to offer almost any employer, particularly the federal government.

If he could only have gotten its attention.

In the past year, Spanogle has applied for everything from entry-level work at VA to airport security supervisor for the Department of Homeland Security, through USAJOBS.gov. It has taken months to get a response from any of the federal agencies to which he applied. A simple acknowledgment of his application was rare. He landed not a single interview.

"It's a sham," says Spanogle, a retired lieutenant colonel with a master's degree in business and a 60 percent disability rating. "The Army just riffed a bunch of guys. If it's this hard for me, imagine what it's like for the young enlisted soldiers. Can you see the hopelessness?"

Despite presidential proclamations, an overhaul of the USAJOBS website and federal agencies' sloganeering about their desire to hire former servicemembers, veterans still find applying for a federal job arduous and – because the odds of success are so low – a waste of time.

"It's ridiculous," says Casey Curry, who served 26 years with the Oregon Army National Guard and has had much experience with the website, USAJOBS.gov. Curry spent a year looking for work through USAJOBS when she got out in 2007, without success. Then she interned with the Oregon employment office in 2012 and 2013, helping other veterans trying to negotiate the federal job application process. It was as frustrating as it was fruitless.

"I don't know of one person who got a job using that website," says Curry, who is now outreach coordinator for the Returning Veterans Project, which helps connect veterans and families in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington to free counseling and other health services.

Roger Peterman, who helps veterans find jobs as transition assistance adviser for the Indiana National Guard, cites equally bleak numbers. "In eight years of working with USAJOBS, I only know of two people who got jobs applying through the website. And either they knew somebody or we were able to connect them with somebody in the federal agency who could pull them along."

The problems with USAJOBS are well known. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) stopped using a contractor to administer the website in 2011, brought it in-house and made several improvements, a spokesman says.

The relaunch of what was called USAJOBS 3.0 was fraught with problems, however, and quickly became the object of ridicule on social media. Even today, the agency acknowledges that USAJOBS needs more work, including making the online application process more user-friendly.

"Veterans are not alone in expressing frustration with the federal hiring process, including USAJOBS. gov," an agency spokesman says.

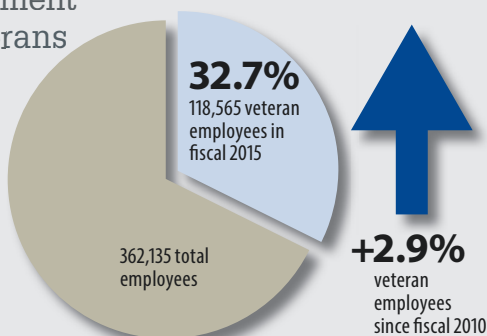
But the website is unavoidable. USAJOBS is the single gateway for a multitude of civil service jobs. That alone is an issue. "There are tens of thousands of résumés on USAJOBS," Peterman says.

Federal statistics show just how competitive it is. Veterans initiated nearly 7.5 million applications through USAJOBS in fiscal 2015, an increase of 2.4 million compared to fiscal 2013.

Veterans also suspect that many positions are posted to comply with legal requirements by agencies that have already decided who they want to hire. And there are complaints that some job listings aren't

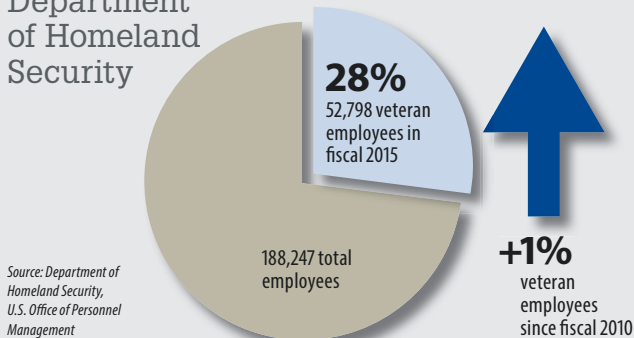
Veteran employment, by the numbers

Department of Veterans Affairs



Source: VA

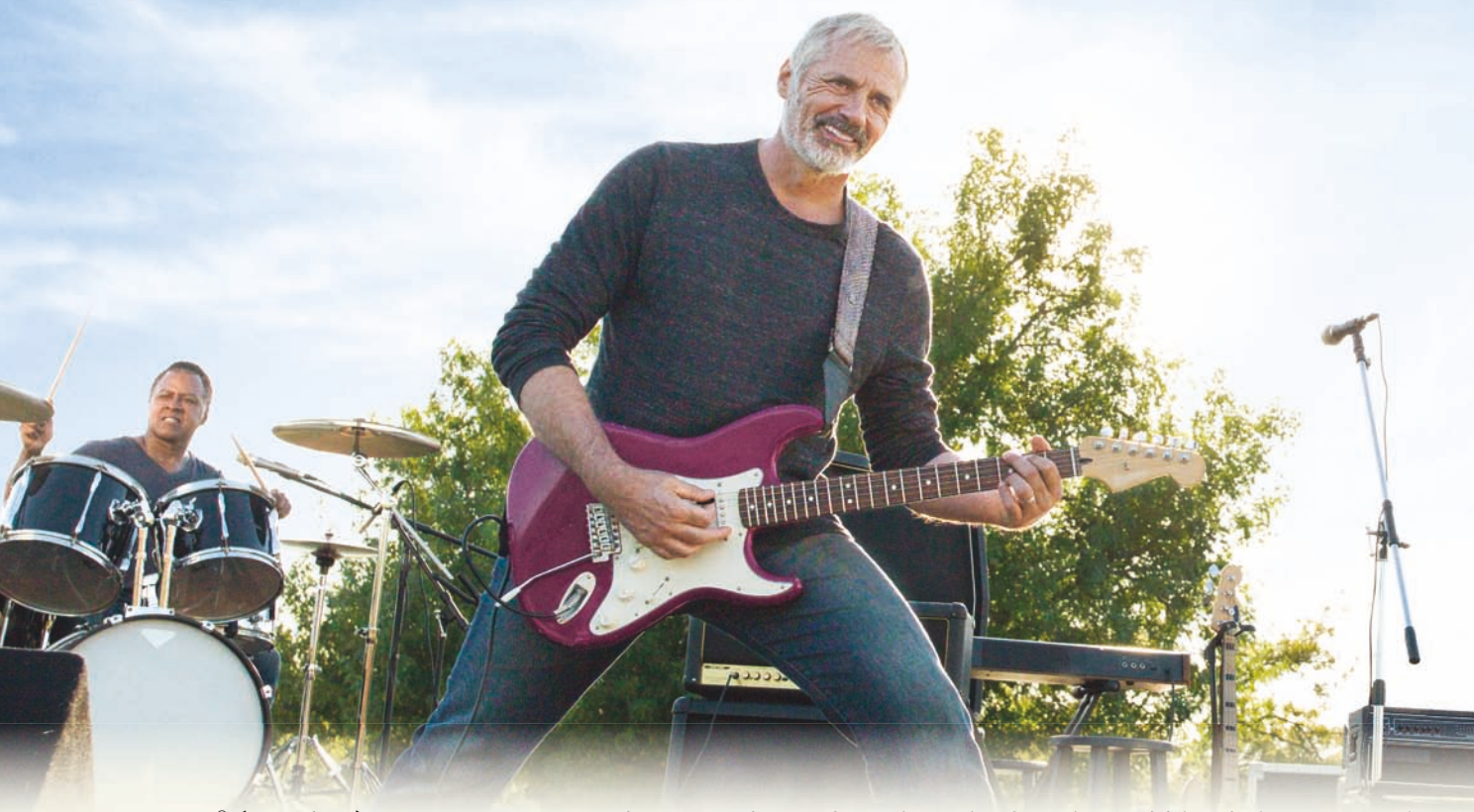
Department of Homeland Security



Source: Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Office of Personnel Management

For people with a higher risk of stroke due to
Atrial Fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem

I won't accept going for less than my best.



ELIQUIS® (apixaban) is a prescription medicine used to reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation, a type of irregular heartbeat, not caused by a heart valve problem.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- **Do not stop taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke.** ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.
- **ELIQUIS can cause bleeding, which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.**
- **You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, NSAIDs, warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, SSRIs or SNRIs, and other blood thinners. Tell your doctor about all medicines, vitamins and supplements you take.**

While taking ELIQUIS, you may bruise more easily and it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop.

- **Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:**
 - unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as unusual bleeding from the gums; nosebleeds that happen often, or menstrual or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
 - bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
 - red, pink, or brown urine; red or black stools (looks like tar)
 - coughing up or vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
 - unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain; headaches, feeling dizzy or weak
- **ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.**

Now I'm going for something better than warfarin. ELIQUIS.

Reduced the risk of stroke
better than warfarin.

ELIQUIS[®] (apixaban)

Had significantly less
major bleeding than warfarin.

No routine blood testing.

ELIQUIS and other blood thinners increase the risk of bleeding
which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death.

Ask your doctor if switching to ELIQUIS is right for you.



- **Spinal or epidural blood clots (hematoma).** People who take ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis). This risk is higher if, an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine, you take NSAIDs or blood thinners, you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.
- **Before you take ELIQUIS,** tell your doctor if you have: kidney or liver problems, any other medical condition, or ever had bleeding problems. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant or breastfeed.
- **Do not take ELIQUIS if you** currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding or have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS.

A reaction to ELIQUIS can cause hives, rash, itching, and possibly trouble breathing. Get medical help right away if you have sudden chest pain or chest tightness, have sudden swelling of your face or tongue, have trouble breathing, wheezing, or feeling dizzy or faint.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see additional Important Product Information on the adjacent page.

Individual results may vary.

Learn about savings and offers.
Visit ELIQUIS.COM or call 1-855-ELIQUIS

ELIQUIS[®] and the ELIQUIS logo are trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.
©2015 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
432US1503794-01-01 2/16

Eliquis[®]
**(apixaban) tablets 5mg
2.5mg**

IMPORTANT FACTS about ELIQUIS® (apixaban) tablets

Rx ONLY

The information below does not take the place of talking with your healthcare professional. Only your healthcare professional knows the specifics of your condition and how ELIQUIS may fit into your overall therapy. Talk to your healthcare professional if you have any questions about ELIQUIS (pronounced ELL eh kwiss).

What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS (apixaban)?

For people taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation: Do not stop taking ELIQUIS without talking to the doctor who prescribed it for you. Stopping ELIQUIS increases your risk of having a stroke. ELIQUIS may need to be stopped, prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking ELIQUIS and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking ELIQUIS, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

ELIQUIS can cause bleeding which can be serious, and rarely may lead to death. This is because ELIQUIS is a blood thinner medicine that reduces blood clotting.

You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take ELIQUIS and take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, such as aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (called NSAIDs), warfarin (COUMADIN®), heparin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), and other medicines to help prevent or treat blood clots.

Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one listed above.

While taking ELIQUIS:

- you may bruise more easily
- it may take longer than usual for any bleeding to stop

Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding when taking ELIQUIS:

- unexpected bleeding, or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
 - unusual bleeding from the gums
 - nosebleeds that happen often
 - menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
- bleeding that is severe or you cannot control
- red, pink, or brown urine
- red or black stools (looks like tar)
- cough up blood or blood clots
- vomit blood or your vomit looks like coffee grounds
- unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
- headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

ELIQUIS is not for patients with artificial heart valves.

Spinal or epidural blood clots (hematoma). People who take a blood thinner medicine (anticoagulant) like ELIQUIS, and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of

forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis). Your risk of developing a spinal or epidural blood clot is higher if:

- a thin tube called an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine
- you take NSAIDs or a medicine to prevent blood from clotting
- you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures
- you have a history of problems with your spine or have had surgery on your spine

If you take ELIQUIS (apixaban) and receive spinal anesthesia or have a spinal puncture, your doctor should watch you closely for symptoms of spinal or epidural blood clots or bleeding. Tell your doctor right away if you have tingling, numbness, or muscle weakness, especially in your legs and feet.

What is ELIQUIS?

ELIQUIS is a prescription medicine used to:

- reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation.
- reduce the risk of forming a blood clot in the legs and lungs of people who have just had hip or knee replacement surgery.
- treat blood clots in the veins of your legs (deep vein thrombosis) or lungs (pulmonary embolism), and reduce the risk of them occurring again.

It is not known if ELIQUIS is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take ELIQUIS?

Do not take ELIQUIS if you:

- currently have certain types of abnormal bleeding
- have had a serious allergic reaction to ELIQUIS. Ask your doctor if you are not sure

What should I tell my doctor before taking ELIQUIS?

Before you take ELIQUIS, tell your doctor if you:

- have kidney or liver problems
- have any other medical condition
- have ever had bleeding problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ELIQUIS will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if ELIQUIS passes into your breast milk. You and your doctor should decide if you will take ELIQUIS or breastfeed. You should not do both

Tell all of your doctors and dentists that you are taking ELIQUIS. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed ELIQUIS for you, before you have **any** surgery, medical or dental procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some of your other medicines may affect the way ELIQUIS (apixaban) works. Certain medicines may increase your risk of bleeding or stroke when taken with ELIQUIS.

How should I take ELIQUIS?

Take ELIQUIS exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Take ELIQUIS twice every day with or without food, and do not change your dose or stop taking it unless your doctor tells you to. If you miss a dose of ELIQUIS, take it as soon as you remember, and do not take more than one dose at the same time. **Do not run out of ELIQUIS. Refill your prescription before you run out.** When leaving the hospital following hip or knee replacement, be sure that you will have ELIQUIS available to avoid missing any doses. **If you are taking ELIQUIS for atrial fibrillation, stopping ELIQUIS may increase your risk of having a stroke.**

What are the possible side effects of ELIQUIS?

- See **“What is the most important information I should know about ELIQUIS?”**
- ELIQUIS can cause a skin rash or severe allergic reaction. Call your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
 - chest pain or tightness
 - swelling of your face or tongue
 - trouble breathing or wheezing
 - feeling dizzy or faint

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all of the possible side effects of ELIQUIS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This is a brief summary of the most important information about ELIQUIS. For more information, talk with your doctor or pharmacist, call 1-855-ELIQUIS (1-855-354-7847), or go to www.ELIQUIS.com.

Marketed by:
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Princeton, New Jersey 08543 USA
and
Pfizer Inc
New York, New York 10017 USA

COUMADIN® is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharma Company.



Bristol-Myers Squibb



Bristol-Myers Squibb

PATIENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

This independent, non-profit organization provides assistance to qualifying patients with financial hardship who generally have no prescription insurance. Contact 1-800-736-0003 or visit www.bmspaf.org for more information.

© 2015 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
ELIQUIS is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.
Based on 1356615 / 1356514 / 1356454 / 1356616
June 2015
432US1501088-11-01

current. “They don’t keep it updated,” Curry says. “People are filling out applications for jobs that are already closed.”

There’s also a sense that applications go into a black hole where veterans preference isn’t considered. “There’s no accountability on the federal agency side,” Curry adds. “You don’t know if they are looking at (veterans preference) or not.”

OPM disagrees. “USAJOBS.gov is the means by which veterans can find information about many job vacancies,” an agency spokesman says. “In this context, USAJOBS.gov helps veterans use the hiring preference to which they are entitled by making them aware of job openings they might not otherwise know are available.”

But there’s evidence that some federal agencies purposefully circumvent veterans preference laws and discriminate against veteran applicants who successfully negotiate USAJOBS. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), an arm of the Department of Energy, manipulated the qualification ratings of at least 117 veteran applicants from 2010 to 2012, according to an investigation by the Energy Department’s inspector general. That amounted to nearly half the applicants for BPA jobs.

In at least one case, a BPA administrator closed the hiring process after learning that a veteran was the most qualified applicant – and then rewrote the job description to include criteria the veteran couldn’t meet. BPA’s human resources department was ultimately blamed for the agency’s discrimination, and vowed reform after its hiring practices were exposed in 2013.

Vietnam War veteran Rick Shuart had a notably better experience with USAJOBS. While it took him a while to master the website, he learned to tailor his résumé for each job he applied for and write a cover letter to the hiring manager indicated in the job posting, he says. Shuart also became selective about the positions he pursued.

“I rarely applied for a job where there was one slot open,” he says. Still, it took him a year to find a job even though he has a master’s degree in business administration. VA even turned down his application for a file clerk’s job in Baltimore.

Today, Shuart helps fellow veterans find work as an employment development manager at Services for the UnderServed in New York City. But his organization rarely steers former servicemembers toward USAJOBS because most cannot afford the time it takes to secure federal employment. Instead, Shuart’s organization focuses on private employers with whom it has a relationship – the sorts of places it can call and encourage a hiring manager to review a veteran’s application.

Likewise, Peterman also encourages veterans to look beyond the federal government for work.

“There’s a lot of great civilian companies looking for veterans,” Peterman says. He works with an organization called Operation: Job Ready Veterans, which claims a 70 percent success rate in helping former servicemembers find work. But even then, it takes time.

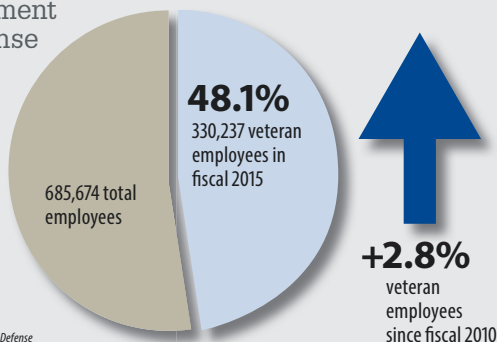
“You’ve got to be patient,” Peterman advises. “You’ve got to be able to sell your skills from the military. Get somebody who can help you.” Develop an elevator speech. Be willing to take an entry-level job to get a foot in the door.

In the end, Spanogle finally landed a job as vice president of a nonprofit organization where he will help former National Guardsmen find jobs. He’s looking forward to making differences for his fellow veterans. “This is everybody – not only the unemployed, but the underemployed as well,” he says.

But he won’t be looking to USAJOBS for help. “I’m done with it,” he says. “It’s a ridiculous waste of time.” 🌿

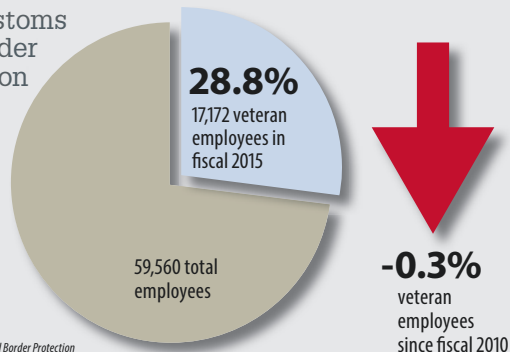
Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.

Department of Defense



Source: Department of Defense

U.S. Customs and Border Protection



Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Washington State troopers denied veterans preference for decades – in violation of state law

In early November 2012, a frustrated veteran wrote to the Washington State Patrol's human resources department to find out if his employer followed state laws that would have accelerated his hiring and promotion in acknowledgment of his military service.

The answer: the State Patrol had never followed veterans preference laws and didn't think it was obligated to do so. This came despite a 1951 state attorney general's opinion that clearly spelled out the State Patrol's obligation to give veterans a 5 to 10 percent increase on their entrance exam score and a 5 percent increase in their score on one promotional exam if they were called to active duty by their military reserve unit while working for the agency, says Matthew Crotty, a Washington National Guardsman and one of two attorneys suing the agency on behalf of veterans.

The agency's refusal to acknowledge military service has resulted in long delays in hiring and promotion for veterans, affecting their pay, pension benefits and seniority. The State Patrol has also limited paid military leave to employees who serve in the Guard and reserves, in violation of federal law. And at least one trooper was told not to join the Army Reserve, according to the lawsuit.

The consequences are far-reaching. More than 10 percent of the Washington State Patrol's 2,500 employees are veterans. Overall, an estimated 1,000 veterans may have been denied veterans preference benefits over the past 20 years, Crotty estimates.

"The irony is that we're a law-enforcement agency that isn't following the law," says Jason Longoria, a major in the Washington Air National Guard and Iraq War veteran who has worked for the State Patrol for nearly 20 years. "It makes a complete mockery of the state's veterans preference statutes."

It's not about a loss in pay, adds Christina Martin, who juggles her career with the State Patrol with her commitments to the National Guard. It's about earning the seniority to be able to work in a location near home and family. It's about having an employer who makes sure troopers who also serve in the military aren't penalized for being called away to serve their country.

"I am frustrated, but I am encouraged that we have put our foot down," says Martin, an Iraq war veteran and one of the troopers who filed the lawsuit after failing to persuade management to fix the agency's veterans preference problems. "I'm proud to be one of the six people who put their names on the lawsuit. My co-workers said to me, 'Are you sure you want to do this? You'll never get promoted.' People were afraid."

The Washington State Patrol isn't commenting on the litigation. But it is reaching out to veterans who believe they



Christina Martin



Jason Longoria

might be affected by the issue. "We're doing Facebook ads, Yahoo, newspaper ads, direct mail outreach to tell people that if they feel they didn't have veterans preference points counted toward their employment, we want to hear from them," says Kyle Moore, a State Patrol spokesman.

Longoria first tried to get a job with the Washington State Patrol in 1994. "I just liked the service aspect – some of the same

reasons I chose to be in the military," he says.

Like most of the veterans, Guardsmen and reservists who work for the State Patrol, he wasn't aware of Washington's veterans preference laws. There was nothing in the job advertisement to which Longoria first responded after he left the Army. "I was young and naive and didn't know they existed," he says.

The denial of veterans preference delayed Longoria's hiring by nearly a year, while his wife was pregnant with their second child. So he worked part time for the National Guard and relied on his GI Bill benefits to get by until he was able to land a job with the State Patrol in 1995.

Likewise, Martin's promotion to sergeant was delayed seven months when she first tested for the position in 2009. The delay then meant she had to wait an additional two years to test for lieutenant. If the State Patrol had obeyed veterans preference laws, Martin would have the rank of lieutenant today, she says.

Martin and Longoria first heard about the laws from co-workers a few years ago. Each asked the agency to apply the points to a previous or a future promotional exam. The agency refused. They took other steps to resolve the issue internally. Again the agency refused. Even then, it was difficult for them to decide to sue.

"I really struggled with it," Longoria says. "We tried everything. We tried our chain of command. We tried going through the personnel department."

Then Martin and Longoria learned the State Patrol had quietly settled with a couple of troopers who had challenged the agency on its failure to follow veterans preference laws. That pushed them to go to court. "I couldn't believe they were just going to do it for those guys," Martin says.

She and five other veterans filed suit in January 2014. The State Patrol initially tried to have the case dismissed. That failed. Now the agency appears to be taking steps to rectify the situation. For example, it is now notifying employees that they may be entitled to veterans preference points when taking a promotional exam, Martin says.

"They know what they have done here is wrong," she adds, "and they are trying to make it right."

– Ken Olsen

BRANCH LAW FIRM
IS ACCEPTING CASES INVOLVING
IVC FILTERS
MANUFACTURED BY
C.R. BARD & COOK MEDICAL
ACTION IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION.
CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

Retrievable IVC (inferior vena cava) Filters manufactured by C.R. Bard and Cook Medical have been known to be faulty, causing punctured veins, fracture, or migration to other parts of the body. These filters were implanted in the veins of patients who are unable to take blood thinners to prevent blood clots from moving into the lungs. In 2014, the FDA issued a Safety Communication stating that most IVC filters should be removed between after the 29th day but before the 54th day after implantation because of the risks involved. Unfortunately, this warning came too late for many people. The products with the highest incidents are:

- The Bard G2 filter
- The Bard G2 Express filter
- The Bard Recovery filter
- The Cook Celect filter
- The Cook Gunther Tulip filter

If you or a loved one received a C.R. Bard or Cook Medical IVC Filter and have experienced complications as a result of having the filter, **please contact us** at **1-800-828-4529** immediately. We will conduct a confidential interview with you regarding your possible case. You may also visit our website at www.branchlawfirm.com. Your case will be handled on a contingency fee basis, which means: **No Recovery. No Fee. Guaranteed!**

Turner W. Branch, a principal and senior partner of the Branch Law Firm, left the United States Marine Corps as a 1st Lieutenant in 1968. He served on active duty in Camp Pendleton, California and at the Marine Corps Air Facility (MCAF) in Santa Ana, California. While at Camp Pendleton, he served with the Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division (FMF) USMC.



BRANCH LAW FIRM®
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW



Super Lawyers®

1-800-828-4529





TOXIC PARADISE

*Veterans of the 1970s
Enewetak Atoll atomic
cleanup continue
to pay a high price.*

The United States conducted 67 tests of nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands, the site of the U.S. Pacific Proving Grounds, from 1946 to 1958. Radioactive strontium-90 exceeding U.S. environmental standards was detected in well water in 1977. U.S. troops who participated in the resulting cleanup have experienced a number of health abnormalities. Getty

BY JOHN RAUGHTER

Crystal white sand, clear blue water and coconut palm trees. Add tropical weather, and you have an atmosphere more suited for a cruise-liner destination than a carcinogen. Yet for thousands of veterans who participated in atomic cleanup operations in the late 1970s, Enewetak Atoll was no Fantasy Island.

“Invisible bullets entered our bodies, and we carry them with us daily,” says Paul Laird, a three-time cancer survivor from Otisfield, Maine. The 58-year-old Army veteran operated a bulldozer on Enewetak for the 84th Engineer Battalion in 1977. “We were told to do a job. You either did the job or you faced Leavenworth (federal prison).”

Enewetak was the site of 43 U.S. nuclear tests from 1948 to 1958. Nearly 20 years after the last test, soldiers like Laird returned to the chain of islands with a different mission: to clean up and contain the debris.

“We didn’t worry much about it,” says Gary Pulis, a cleanup veteran who lives in Auburn, Ind. “Nothing was ever going to harm us. We were young. We were invincible.”

Time has shown that to be untrue. Even for men in their late 50s and 60s, veterans of the Enewetak cleanup suffer from an alarmingly high rate of cancer and face other serious health issues. Laird estimates that two-thirds of the members of the

SAFETY ZIP SECURITY WALLET

DOUBLE THE SECURITY



2 Large Billfolds

Hidden Inside Pocket



SHOP With Security!
TRAVEL With Security!

6 Clear Photo/
Credit Card/
ID Sleeves

3 Credit
Card Slots



Buttery Soft, Quality Genuine Leather! Plus Peace-Of-Mind Security!
A bugging wallet that's open or only snaps shut is an invitation to thieves. But our handsome SAFETY ZIP SECURITY WALLET keeps everything you carry safe, secure and always in place. Quality crafted of supple genuine leather, it features multiple sleeves, slots and even a hidden inside pocket to hold all of your vital credit cards, driver's license and cash. 4 1/2" x 3 1/2". Great for women, men, travelers, elderly.



FREE
SHIPPING & HANDLING
WHEN BUYING
2 OR MORE

SAVE \$3.00
OFF ORIGINAL PRICE

ONLY
\$9.99

Order Now Toll-Free **1.800.530.2689** / **DreamProducts.com** web offers may vary

FREE

SHIPPING & HANDLING
WHEN BUYING 2 OR MORE

Plus

FREE
SURPRISE GIFT
WITH EVERY ORDER!

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back

Safety Zip Security Wallet

#97287	_____ Safety Zip Security Wallet(s) @ \$9.99 each	\$
	CA residents must add 7.5% sales tax	\$
	Add \$3.95 Regular Shipping & Handling 1st item.	
	FREE Shipping & Handling when buying 2 or more	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING (optional) Add An Additional \$2.95 (receive your order 5-7 days from shipment)	\$ 2.95
Please Print Clearly		TOTAL \$

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover®/NOVUSSM Cards

Dept. 72637

Card#

Exp. Date

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ST _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Check or money order payable to: **Dream Products, Inc.**

Send Order To: 412 Dream Lane, Van Nuys, CA 91496



“We have found only 323 survivors ... the government doesn’t want to tell us how many are still here.”

– Paul Griego

Paul Griego, center, checks in at a hot zone after working all day on Runit Island in 1978. Shorts were his typical working uniform.

Photo courtesy Paul Griego

Enewetak Atoll Cleanup Project Facebook group have had sicknesses that could be related to radiation exposure. One of the group’s founders, Richard Masculine, died of cancer in 2013.

U.S. Rep. Mark Takai, D-Hawaii, estimates that the cancer rate among the cleanup workers is about 35 percent. In November, he introduced the Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act, H.R. 3870, which would provide for the treatment and service-connection presumption of certain disabilities for Enewetak cleanup veterans.

“These men and women risked their lives in answering the call of duty to serve their country and are suffering as a consequence,” Takai said. “We as a nation need to take care of our veterans, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting them and thanking them for their service. Let us honor the past generations and remember that once a soldier, always a soldier.”

Although Takai’s bill has picked up several sponsors from both parties, it is still awaiting companion legislation in the Senate. The website GovTrack.us only gives the bill a 3 percent chance of being enacted into law.

Paul Griego, who worked at Enewetak as a civilian contractor in 1978, says he believes that a large number of the approximately 6,000 personnel who participated in the cleanup are dead.

“After four years of searching on the Internet, we have found only 323 survivors,” he says. “The government has Social Security numbers for every one of us who served there. Under normal mortality rates, there should be about 5,300 of us still alive. But the government doesn’t want to tell us how many are still here.”

Unlike veterans who participated in actual nuclear testing that occurred at sites throughout the Pacific and in remote areas of the United States, Enewetak Atoll cleanup veterans are not designated “atomic veterans,” even though plutonium has a half-life of 24,000 years. Veterans who apply for benefits related to illnesses possibly connected to radioactive exposure during the cleanup are routinely denied.

“At 43, I was diagnosed with testicular cancer,” says Jeff Dean of Belfast, Maine. “My cancer was military-related, but they will not recognize any of us as atomic veterans. I can feel it. My cancer treatment was \$250,000, and after insurance I had to pay 20 percent. VA says we were adequately protected, but I feel like we were lab rats.”

The passing of a good friend and Army buddy prompted Dean to speak out.

“I lived with him for three years,” he says. “His name was Tod Lentini. He said, ‘I feel lucky, no side effects.’ Two months later he was dead. I walked right down to the *Bangor Daily News* and then gave

NEW BRANCH VETERAN CAP!



**Honoring our
Veterans Yesterday,
Today & Tomorrow!**

Medals of America Hat Offer, 114 Southchase Blvd, Fountain Inn, SC 29644

Enclosed is my check or money order for ☐ \$9.95 OR Credit Card:

CC# _____ Exp Date _____ CVV _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Branch/Conflict _____



Offer cannot be combined with other offers. Pricing & items subject to change. Valid on select merchandise only. Offer only valid while supplies last, just include \$9.95 per cap! Allow 2-8 weeks for delivery due to demand. One per style of cap. More great military items & gear available online at www.MedalsofAmerica.com.

**\$9.95 + FREE
Shipping & Handling!**

**Call, Mail or Visit Now
MedalsofAmerica.com/SPECIAL**

1-800-308-0849



www.MedalsofAmerica.com



**Do you or a loved one
STRUGGLE on the stairs?
We have the AFFORDABLE solution!**



*The only stairlift
to earn the
Ease of Use
Commendation
from the Arthritis
Foundation.*

• The **WORLD LEADER**
in stairlifts

• The **MOST TRUSTED** name
in the industry

• **BUY DIRECT** from the
manufacturer and **SAVE**

• **A+ Rating** with the
Better Business Bureau



CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE INFORMATION KIT AND DVD!

1-877-242-3122



ACORN
STAIRLIFTS
AcornStairlifts.com



*Not valid on previous purchases. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Not valid on refurbished models. Only valid towards purchase of a NEW Acorn Stairlift directly from the manufacturer. \$250 discount will be applied to new orders. Please mention this ad when calling.

MENTION THIS AD FOR

**\$250*
OFF!** THE
PURCHASE
OF A NEW
ACORN
STAIRLIFT!

A TROUBLED HISTORY

The story of Enewetak Atoll is fascinating, if ultimately tragic. In February 1944, the battle to liberate “Eniwetok” – a group of 40 islands in the Marshall Islands chain held by Imperial Japan – cost 348 American lives and nearly 3,400 Japanese.

After World War II, the atoll became a U.S. territory, and in 1974 changed its official spelling to Enewetak to more closely resemble islanders’ pronunciation.

In U.S. nuclear tests between 1948 and 1958, approximately 31.8 megatons of power blasted the area – the equivalent of 2,120 Hiroshima-sized explosions. With code names such as Operation Castle, Redwing and Hardtack I, Enewetak was home to nearly 6 percent of the total nuclear test yield worldwide.

A three-year cleanup operation began in 1977 and involved a U.S. military task force moving more than 111,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris. The waste was placed in a 30-foot crater left by the Cactus nuclear test and capped with a concrete dome on Runit Island on the eastern side of the atoll.

During testing and cleanup, the native population was relocated throughout the Marshall Islands. Enewetak gained independence in 1986, after the United States established a fund to cover economic losses, environmental restoration and residents’ personal claims. The total cost was \$239 million.

Today, an estimated 850 Marshallese people live in the atoll’s southern and western islands.



A member of the 84th Engineer Battalion prepares to head to the hot side of Runit Island. Veterans claim that hazardous material suits were in short supply and impractical for cleanup workers laboring in high temperatures. Photo courtesy Alan Leeman

interviews to *Stars and Stripes* and the local NBC channel.”

Old military photos are as compelling as the narratives. In them, the men are as likely to be wearing shorts and sandals as hazmat suits.

“If we stayed in those suits, there is no way we could have met their deadlines,” says retired Maj. Harold Rumzek, who served as the Air Force element commander on the atoll in 1977. “We didn’t have enough suits to use anyway.”

Even the official DoD publication *The Airman* acknowledged the impracticality of the gear.

“Under the stifling tropical sun, the temperatures inside the anticontamination can reach 185 degrees,” the magazine reported in its July 1978 issue.

“We had guys passing out within 20 minutes,” Senior Master Sgt. Bobby Baird told *The Airman*.

Even so, the advice given in a 1980 report by “60 Minutes” correspondent Morley Safer – “wear rubber boots and surgical masks” – seems quaint by today’s safety standards.

With a doctorate in health psychology from the University of North Texas under his belt, Rumzek,



Getty

**SAVE
OVER 75%!**



Common
reverse



Own a Prized Set of WWII Silver Mercury Dimes!

Last 5 Years of a Classic Series 1941-1945...

Remember America's great World War II victory in Europe and the Pacific with a prized 5-coin set of 1941-1945 Mercury dimes – all struck in 90% fine silver! This historic circulated set represents every year of U.S. involvement in WWII and contains the last 5 years of a classic silver series....

Order your set by deadline for
ONLY \$9.95 – a savings of **OVER 75% OFF** the regular price of ~~\$44.50~~ – and

get a **FREE** reprocessed 1943 Steel Cent (struck to save copper for the war). You'll also receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance in 15 days – with option to cancel at any time.

**Mail coupon today or visit
www.LittletonCoin.com/specials**

Due to fluctuations in the coin market, prices and limits are subject to change.

45-Day Money Back Guarantee of Satisfaction

FREE!

when you order by deadline



**Reprocessed 1943
Steel Cent! Minted in
steel to save copper
for the war effort**

©2016 LCC, LLC

Special Offer for New Customers Only

☒ **YES!** Please send my 1941-1945 WWII Silver Mercury Dime Set for **ONLY \$9.95** – regularly ~~\$44.50~~, plus **FREE** Shipping (limit 3 sets). Also send my **FREE** reprocessed 1943 Steel Cent (one per customer, please).

Method of payment:

- ☐ Check or Money Order payable to Littleton Coin Co.
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover Network

Card No.

Exp. Date

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Name

Please print your complete name and address clearly

Address

Apt#

City

State

Zip

E-Mail

Order Deadline: 12:00 Midnight, March 31, 2016

How Many Sets (limit 3): _____

Total Cost @ \$9.95 per set: \$ _____



Add Custom Mercury
Dime Display Folders
& **SAVE 15%** @ \$2.95
each! (Regularly ~~\$3.49~~): \$ _____

Shipping & Handling: \$ **FREE!**

Total Amount: \$ _____

Please send coupon to:



**Littleton
Coin Company**

America's Favorite Coin Source • TRUSTED SINCE 1945

Dept. 4AT407
1309 Mt. Eustis Road
Littleton NH 03561-3737



**“I feel like
we were
lab rats.”**

– Jeff Dean

Jeff Dean of Belfast, Maine, spent four months working with the Enewetak Radiological Support Project in 1979. At 43, he was diagnosed with testicular cancer, and says that others who served at the nuclear testing ground have suffered similar health problems. Dean hopes VA will designate them “atomic veterans.” Photo by Lucas Carter

77, is far more cynical today about the cleanup mission than he was 38 years ago. “I took the radiation seriously,” Rumzek says. “Like everyone else, I was stupid enough to believe they would take care of us. We trusted them (the government). I wouldn’t send anybody to any place I wouldn’t go.”

Like other Enewetak veterans, Rumzek says he has no faith that the dosimetry badges they used provided accurate readings of radiation levels.

“If there’s no radiation, then why did we spend two and a half years pouring concrete into a mountain?” he asks. “They said the highest radiation found was equal to a dental X-ray. That was all BS. What about the water we drank and the water we swam in?”

If Takai’s legislation passes in its current form, Griego wouldn’t reap any benefits; the bill concerns only military veterans, not civilian contractors.

“I was hired because I worked in a health physics lab in Albuquerque for two years,” he says. “I had no college degree but suddenly, at 21, I’m an environmental sampling operations supervisor at Enewetak. Why didn’t they hire someone wiser, more educated and experienced? They wouldn’t have gone there.”

Though Griego lived on the main Enewetak island – often called the “clean island” – he worked on others in the atoll that were considered more risky. “I worked on 15 to 20 contaminated islands and

never saw a scientist or health physicist on any one of them,” he says.

When most of the task force members asked for their dosimetry readings, the news was almost too good to be true, he adds. “We would get reports back that the reading were 0.00, which is about as likely as getting 777 on a slot machine.”

Dean says it’s impossible to believe they weren’t exposed to dangerous levels of radiation. “How could we not have been?” he asks. “Our pores were open because of the heat. We kicked up dust, and we were breathing it in.”

Kenneth Brownell, a cancer survivor and cleanup veteran living in Albany, N.Y., says he worries about the negative health effects he may have passed on to his children.

“We have insurance through my job, but what if his cancer comes back?” wonders Brownell’s wife, Kathi. “Even if I knew he’d be covered by VA, it would be a relief. The medical bills alone can be catastrophic. I’m blessed to have insurance, but if, God forbid, something happens to me, what does he do? It’s not easy.”

Laird has questions, too. “I love my country, and I’d fight for it,” he says. “But why do they just use us and forget about us?” 🌿

John Raughter is media manager for the national commander of The American Legion.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR VETERANS!



LIFETIME
LIMITED WARRANTY



Financing available
with approved credit

Arthritis Foundation

**Ease of
UseSM**



A Safe Step Walk-In Tub will offer independence to those seeking a safe and easy way to bathe right in the convenience and comfort of their own home. Constructed and built right here in America for safety and durability from the ground up, and with more standard features than any other tub.

- ✓ **Carefully engineered hydro-massage jets strategically placed to target sore muscles and joints**
- ✓ **New! MicroSoothe Air Therapy System** – which oxygenates, softens and exfoliates skin while offering life-changing therapeutic benefits
- ✓ **A NEW heated seat** providing warmth from beginning to end
- ✓ **The highest quality tub complete with the most comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub**
- ✓ **Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price**

SAFE STEP
WALK-IN TUB CO.
www.BuySafeStep.com

You'll agree – there just isn't a better walk-in tub on the market. So take your first step towards feeling great and stay in the home you love. **Give us a call today!**

For your **FREE** information kit and DVD,
and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free

1-800-232-5476

www.BuySafeStep.com

Call today and receive
exclusive savings of

\$1500 OFF

for a limited time only

Call Toll-Free 1-800-232-5476



Leroy Supak looks through photos of the 3rd Marine Division, with granddaughter Lindsay Lindley, left, and daughter Margie Herring. He says his family suffered multiple health problems as a result of radiation exposure. Photo by Alysha Beck

FAITH, FAMILY AND THE BOMB

"Scorched wool" is how Marine Corps veteran Leroy Supak describes a herd of sheep that had the misfortune of grazing near an atomic blast at Yucca Flat, Nev., on April 18, 1953. Unfortunately, Supak and 221 other Marines weren't much further away from the radiation cloud.

"The sheep were about 3,000 yards from ground zero," Supak says. "They were all dead except for one. We were about 4,000 yards away in a trench. I was told there was no way we could survive being that close to the blast, but we did. I was OK, but I think my family paid a price."

Supak, 88, has watched cancer ravage his wife and daughter in the decades following his participation in the Operation Upshot-Knothole Badger test exercise.

"We stayed in the same clothes we wore during the test. I took those clothes home and Mama washed them clothes," he says of his wife, Annie, who was pregnant at the time. Supak continued to wear the same field jacket for years after it was exposed to radiation.

Annie and their daughter, Lorrie Gander, survived multiple bouts of breast cancer. Their older daughter, Margie, also had breast cancer. Their son, Mark, was recently diagnosed with a blood disorder. Annie strongly believes that a tumor Leroy had in the 1960s was cancerous.

"I think the radiation had a big effect on us," Annie says. "They didn't really talk about it back then. When you're in the service, you have to do what they tell you to do. Leroy had breast cancer. Margie had breast cancer. Lorrie had it twice, and I had it. The Atomic Energy Commission sent Leroy a letter years ago saying he was eligible for benefits, but we had our minds more on our family and never did anything about it."

The American Legion wants to help right this wrong. During a visit to the Supak family farm in El Campo, Texas, Steve Henry of the Legion's National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division started the benefit application process for Supak.

"He is qualified for health-care benefits based on the fact that he was exposed to radiation through atomic testing," Henry explained to Leroy's family. "He served his country. He applied

for those benefits, and I will do everything I can to see that he gets those benefits."

Gander says she is grateful for the assistance.

"When I was diagnosed with cancer in 2004, it was very aggressive, and we treated it with six rounds of chemotherapy and radiation," she says. "The doctor told me that it was a very weird form or type of cancer. It returned in 2011."

In 1994, Mark attempted to track down the Marines of Easy Company who participated in the Badger test. Of 222, only 32 were still alive. "There was one young boy from Indiana who had a blood disease and wanted to know if I knew anybody who was still living, and that's when we started looking," Supak says. "What bothers me is what happened to my family. They did not just use me. They used my whole family. Deadly radiation is not something that is found in the genes."

Thousands of veterans are believed to have been exposed to harmful radiation during above-ground nuclear testing common in U.S. deserts between 1945 and 1962. Other "atomic veterans" earned their designation while serving at Hiroshima and Nagasaki following World War II and other testing in the Pacific.


The atomic test at Yucca is etched in Supak's memory. "It was 4:35 a.m., but everything was so bright," he says. "They told us to close our eyes, but I cracked them open a bit. I could see the bones through my hands. To my left was everything the bomb destroyed, and to my right everything was still green."

Supak, who served in the 25th Infantry Division during World War II before joining the Marine Corps, is a member of American Legion Post 151 in El Campo. After his discharge in 1954, he raised seven children while working mostly as a farmer.

"I served my country and I served for freedom," he says. "That is something I will always be proud of. I believe that my Lord Jesus Christ has taken care of me."

— John Raughter

See a video about Leroy Supak and his family.

 www.legion.org/legiontv

All hats are embroidered, solid back, 100% brush cotton twill. Adjustable strap - one size fits all.



USA Pride



Air Force*

\$12⁹⁵
ONLY EA.

**All Hats Available
With or Without Eggs***
*Richly Embroidered Scrambled Eggs Add \$5ea.
(shown on brim)



WWII

Marines

**Also Available
In Womens
Sizes**



Air Force



USA Pride

**ANY WATCH
ONLY**

Sale Price

\$39⁹⁵
EACH

Each military watch is distinctly designed with the official branch insignia. Two-tone gold and silver adjustable stainless steel band. These water resistant watches have easy to read Roman numerals and unique glow in the dark hands.

Order Toll Free: 1-866-741-7874 or at www.RushIndustries.com. Use Code: NHW386TD

[illegible]

Note: For personal checks, there will be a 10 day verification period.

Phone # () _____ Email _____

© RUSH Industries, Inc. 2016

'NEVER SEE ME QUIT'

A growing outdoor recreational camp gives quadruple amputee Travis Mills the opportunity to inspire others who have sacrificed in uniform.

BY HENRY HOWARD



Travis Mills describes himself as “just a guy who had a bad day at work.”

During a routine patrol in an Afghan village on April 10, 2012, Mills put down his 80-pound backpack and set off an improvised explosive device that left him as one of only five surviving quadruple amputees from the war on terrorism.

“I’m not going to make it,” Mills recalls telling Sgt. Daniel Bateson, one of the medics who immediately responded. “‘Leave me, and go save my guys.’ And he told me, ‘With all due respect, Sgt. Mills, shut up. Let me do my job.’”

The wounds he tried desperately to treat were so severe that Bateson remembers thinking, “Nobody lives after this.”

Mills, however, isn’t just anybody. Not only did he survive, he has flourished, drawing on his winsome personality, leadership skills and inspirational message to help fellow veterans dealing with severe physical injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder.

BORN TO LEAD Growing up in his small hometown of Vassar, Mich., Mills excelled in football, baseball and basketball. In the book “Tough As They Come,” his high school football coach remembers Mills as a gifted athlete.

“His junior year, Travis and his friends got into weightlifting and powerlifting and went to all the football camps,” Vince Leveille writes. “That year, we won the conference championship and made the playoffs for the first time ever. Travis’ work ethic motivated everybody. Everybody got stronger because Travis was their leader.”

Mills went on to college but started to feel pulled in a new direction. After returning home to Vassar, he met with military recruiters and found what seemed to be missing in his life.

“Joining the military felt like joining a sports team,” Mills writes. “With the military came camaraderie. The job itself took a lot of drive. I was an adrenaline junkie, and it seemed like a big adventure.”

He did basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg,

N.C. After two tours in Afghanistan, he began his third in early 2012.

The assignment wasn’t unlike the previous ones: work with Afghan government officials to help them provide their own security. But this time Mills and his unit were deployed to the dangerous Maiwand district in Kandahar province.

On top of that, Mills was leaving behind his wife, Kelsey, and their 5-month-old daughter, Chloe. The 6-foot-3-inch, 240-pound soldier told them goodbye Feb. 23, 2012, wrapping his arms around them for the last time.

On the eve of that third deployment, Mills felt uneasy. “I don’t know if I’m coming back from this one,” he recalls telling a fellow soldier.

BRUNT OF THE BLAST That “bad day at work” was supposed to be a day off for Mills and his unit. But an informant’s tip changed everything.

Mills, the weapons squad leader, suited up and headed out to investigate with two dozen soldiers and an ordnance disposal team. He instructed his team to secure a perimeter around an abandoned Afghan army post they believed the Taliban was using to make explosives. As the soldiers began their work, Mills’ backpack detonated the IED, which blew off his right arm and leg and badly injured his remaining two limbs.

“My left hand was still there, tattered up, so the first thing I did was radio my lieutenant and tell him I was hit,” Mills says. “I told him we needed some help and a medic came rushing up, tourniquets everywhere. The medics fixed me up and got me on the helicopter. There were two others who got hurt with me, and we flew to the hospital. I was calm and awake the whole time. Got to the operating table, and I told them to quit touching me and to leave me alone because I was fine.”

Though Mills was the most severely wounded, he was more worried about his men while en route to the military hospital in Kandahar. Shane Waite, one of the flight medics, sent a message to Kelsey about her husband.

“His face was dirty and there was dust in his eyes, but he never shed a tear,” Waite writes. “I replay a moment in my mind when he looked at another wounded soldier and winked to reassure him that all would be OK.”

The medical team at Kandahar sedated Mills during the immediate surgeries and recovery period. His left arm and left leg had to be removed, leaving him a quadruple amputee. Doctors woke up Mills on April

OUR WAR

A SPECIAL REPORT
THE POST-9/11 VETERAN

Retired Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills of the 82nd Airborne talks with children at Freedom Fest in Fort Kent, Maine, on Aug. 9, 2014. After losing portions of both arms and legs in an IED explosion while on patrol in Afghanistan in 2012, Mills has become a motivational speaker, author, and advocate for veterans and amputees. Photo by Lucas Carter



Maine first lady Ann LePage celebrates a successful jump with Travis Mills after the pair parachuted with others into Fort Kent, Maine. Photo by Lucas Carter

14 – his 25th birthday. Three days later, he arrived at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., for more surgeries.

Kelsey, her parents and Travis’ parents took turns staying at his bedside. Mills wouldn’t talk to Kelsey for two days. On the third day, he told her “to take Chloe, my little girl who was only 6 months old, and the money in the account, and go. There was no reason for her to put up with this. This isn’t who she married. I lost everything, I thought. Thankfully, she gave me the confidence and strength to keep going.”

Still, those first few days at Walter Reed were extremely difficult. Mills questioned whether or not he wanted to live. He slept most of the time; his waking hours were brutal.

Amputees often report feeling a sensation of intense burning in the areas of their missing limbs. The patient’s brain interprets the misfiring of an amputated nerve ending as pain. Usually, medication and/or electrical stimulation can alleviate it. Mills says treatment felt like he “was being filleted alive.”

Nothing eased his pain. So doctors put him in a ketamine coma – a procedure likened to rebooting the body like a computer, so rare it has been performed fewer than three dozen times.

Five days later, Mills woke and began experiencing wild hallucinations – marauding with Genghis Khan, chatting with Kramer from the TV show “Seinfeld” and playing in the National Hockey League – mixed with fits of screaming. Eventually, though, he came out of it. No more pain. No more hallucinations. No more wanting to die.

He realized the worst was over and glanced at a plaque on his nightstand. A verse that once angered him now gave him comfort:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

– Joshua 1:9

LEGION SUPPORT Before the ketamine treatment, Mills wanted to call it quits. “Who would open jars for Kelsey?” he wondered. But he didn’t give up, thanks to family, friends, various community organizations and his own indomitable spirit.

When Mills returned home to Michigan for a visit, the men and women of American Legion Post 400 in Richfield were waiting for him.

“The Legion was the first organization to reach out to my parents and ask what they could do to help,” says Mills, now a post member. “They found out I was coming home for my first time, knowing I was in a wheelchair and that I didn’t have any legs yet to be able to walk up and down stairs or in and out of the house. The Legion helped put a ramp on the house so I could get inside to be with my family.”

The Richfield post also put on dinners to raise money to help the Mills family pay for renovations to their home. “They are always calling to see if there is anything else they can do,” Mills says. “It’s just great to know that people are out there who want to help in situations like this. I wasn’t really planning to lose my arms and legs, but it happens, I guess.”

About four weeks after the explosion, Mills received his first prosthetic hand and began learning how to control it. “Then, seven weeks in, I got to put my legs on for the first time and walk, which is pretty fast. Then it was next step, next step, next step, and I was able to fully recover within 19 months. I was able to drive, shower, dress myself, feed myself, things like that. Back

Masterfully
sized at 16
inches high

A Classic Tribute of Heroic Stature

JOHN WAYNE

COLD-CAST BRONZE MASTERPIECE SCULPTURE

- ★ Stirring, fully-dimensional Duke portrait figure sculpted in cold-cast bronze atop his horse Dollor
- ★ Remarkable sculptural detail captures Duke's expression and riding stance
- ★ Duke holds real leather reins, adding to the realism of the presentation
- ★ Mahogany-finished base; includes hand-numbered Certificate of Authenticity

John Wayne: A Grand Western Icon

From ancient Greek statues to Frederic Remington's visions of the Old West, some of the world's greatest heroic sculptures have been crafted in bronze. Now the *John Wayne Cold-Cast Bronze Masterpiece Sculpture* pays tribute to an all-American hero in this rich medium. Limited to only 5,000 worldwide this gallery-quality work of art portrays Duke on horseback. Fittingly, considering Duke's stature, stands 16 inches high, making it the largest cold-cast bronze sculpture ever offered by The Bradford Exchange.

**An exceptional value;
satisfaction guaranteed.**

Strong demand is likely for this limited-edition tribute, so act now to acquire the *John Wayne Cold-Cast Bronze Masterpiece Sculpture* at issue price, payable in four interest-free installments of \$37.49 for a total of \$149.95*. Your purchase is risk-free, backed by our 365-day money-back guarantee. Send no money now. Just return the Reservation Application today!

Shown much
smaller than
actual size of
16 inches
high

Limited to
just 5,000
sculptures!

JOHN WAYNE, *Duke*, DUKE and THE DUKE are the exclusive trademarks of, and the John Wayne name, image, likeness and voice, and all other related indicia are the intellectual property of, John Wayne Enterprises, LLC. ©2014. All rights reserved. www.johnwayne.com

©2014 BGE 01-17898-001-BIR

www.bradfordexchange.com/jwsulpt

RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
—HOME DECOR—

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the *John Wayne Cold-Cast Bronze Masterpiece Sculpture* for me as described in this announcement.

Limit: one per order.

Please Respond Promptly

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

E-mail (optional)

01-17898-001-E94991

*Plus \$17.99 shipping and service. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 5,000 issues. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

to pretty much everyday normal life, as much as I could get.”

Mills worked hard at his physical therapy – hip flexors, core work, walking and pulling weight – and occupational therapy, which included picking up items and shaving his face.

Nowadays, Mills snowboards, kayaks, canoes and rides a gravity bike. “It’s fun to get back out there and know that I can still do things with my daughter, which is more important to me than anything in the world,” he says. “I love the things I can do with my daughter, like take a Polaris Ranger through the trails.”

CAMP CONNECTION Mills’ passion for outdoor activities and his desire to give back, as well as his recovery experience at Water Reed, were catalysts for his initiative to create a camp for wounded veterans.

While undergoing rehabilitation in an apartment at the military medical center, Mills spent time visiting patients in their hospital rooms, giving them hope, encouragement and even a chuckle or two. He realized early on how crucial it was for his wife to be at his side while he adjusted to his life-altering injuries. So when it was Mills’ turn to motivate others, he assembled a support team – sometimes bringing along Kelsey and Chloe, or other wounded veterans – to comfort those who did not have family or friends on site.

That was only the beginning. Mills says he was inspired by the assistance he received from the Legion and others in the immediate aftermath of his “bad day at work.”

“When I first got blown up and was in the hospital, all these people came to see me and wanted to help out by donating money to me,” he recalls. “I just felt like with all the good out there, I should take that money and donate it back to something else. What better way than to build a veterans camp?”

The Travis Mills Foundation sponsors weeklong camps for wounded servicemembers and their families, where they participate in archery, horseback riding, tubing, bass fishing and trail riding. Of course, everything in the camp – including the zip line – is designed with the severely injured in mind.

Taylor Morris, a Navy veteran and quadruple amputee, was injured about a month after Mills lost his limbs. The two bonded at Walter Reed. Morris says the camps have helped him as he continues to recover.

“We did boating, fishing, swimming, kayaking and a bunch of golfing, and had campfires every night,” he says. “One of the camps had a ropes course up in the trees that was pretty fun, a confidence-builder.”

For Morris and others like him, the camps offer far more than achieving physical success.

“Fellowship is an important part of it,” he says.

“That’s not just limited to other veterans. I think the people who were in that situation maybe understand a little better some of the things you are going through.”

Morris’ wife, Danielle, appreciates that the camps include the whole family. “I think it is great that Travis is building it on the basis of both supporting military personnel as well as their families,” she says. “I also think it’s great that he’s focusing on past wars as well. So many others served before this generation, and it’s important for them to connect as well.”

A PERMANENT HOME Last year, Mills’ foundation purchased the former Elizabeth Arden estate in the Mount Vernon-Rome area of Maine as a site for a permanent facility. It is undergoing renovation and is expected to be ready in 2017.

“It will be 100 percent handicap accessible and will cater to veterans who are wounded,” Mills says. “It will branch out to guys with PTSD, traumatic brain injury and other kinds of injuries, but right now we are focusing on amputation and spinal cord injuries from neck and waist down. We are going to be set up for anything and everything so we can show these guys and their families a great time.”

The plan is to host between six and 10 families each week throughout the summer and then expand into winter camps. In addition to the physical activities offered at previous camps, the new site will have a spa and dedicated areas for arts and crafts. In time, Mills envisions American Legion posts sending groups of members for weeklong retreats.

“I want them to take away memories with their families and have a great time,” Mills says of camp participants. “I want them to take away a network of people they can call and talk to – (people) who are going through any situation they might have. I want people to go away from this camp knowing there are people out there who care and honor their sacrifice. I want them to really focus on themselves and see that they can accomplish great things.”

While Mills’ story of perseverance serves as inspiration to military members and civilians throughout the nation, his source of motivation is closer to home.

“My daughter is always going to help me succeed,” he says. “Whether I fail at first, she will never see me (give up and) quit. I want these guys, women and their families to know they can still be together having a great time. Their life isn’t over. Just because they are wounded doesn’t change the fact that they are still functioning members of their family and the society around them.” 🌿

Henry Howard is deputy director of The American Legion’s Media and Communications Division.



USAA is proud to be the
Preferred Provider
of Insurance and Financial Services
to The American Legion

A GUARANTEED RETIREMENT SOLUTION. NOW WITH A **3%** GUARANTEED BOOST¹



Give your portfolio a boost with our Flexible Retirement Annuity.

For a limited time, earn an extra 3% bonus match on money you contribute for the first year. That's on top of the guaranteed growth,² tax-deferred earnings and minimal economic risk that come standard.

★ **LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GUARANTEED FIXED SAVINGS ANNUITIES.**
USAA.COM/LEGION OR 877-699-2654

Investments/Insurance: Not FDIC Insured • Not Bank Issued, Guaranteed or Underwritten • May Lose Value

¹Premium bonus offer is limited to the purchase of a new USAA Flexible Retirement Annuity only. The advertised rate shown is the rate currently in effect and is subject to change without notice. Premium bonus amount will never be less than 1% of your first-year premiums. Not available in New York. Rate/bonus lock time periods and premium bonus are subject to change. Bonus match percentage is fixed and will not change after the contract is issued. Premium bonus is locked for 45 days after it is issued. If contract is not funded within 45 days, bonus rate could change. ²The fixed annuity guarantee is against principal loss and depends on the claims-paying ability of the issuer.

Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. An annuity is a long-term insurance contract sold by an insurance company and designed to provide an income, usually after retirement, that cannot be outlived. There are fees, expenses and surrender charges that may apply. Money not previously taxed is taxed as income when withdrawn. Withdrawals before age 59½ may be subject to a 10% federal tax penalty. Annuities are suitable for long-term investing, particularly retirement savings. You may wish to seek independent legal or financial advice before selling or liquidating any assets and prior to the purchase of any life or annuity products.

Flexible Retirement Annuity: ARA33846ST 03-99 (varies by state); in NY, NRA36171NY 05-00. Call for details on specific costs, benefits, limitations and availability in your state.

Annuities provided by USAA Life Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and in New York by USAA Life Insurance Company of New York, Highland Falls, NY. All insurance products are subject to state availability, issue limitations, and contractual terms and conditions. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products.

The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2016 USAA. 226794-0216



AP

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Rising tide of refugees

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that more than 60 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide, according to Reuters. The main drivers of this global refugee crisis are wars in Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

Some 20.2 million refugees are fleeing wars and persecution, the most since 1992, UNHCR reports. More than 2 million Syrian refugees have fled the war-torn country; another 7.6 million are “internally displaced,” meaning they have not left Syria but have been forced to abandon their homes. An estimated 34 million people were internally displaced as of mid-2015, about 2 million more than the same time in 2014, according to the report. Yemen had the highest number of new refugees at 933,500.

“If you become a refugee today, your chances of going home are lower than at any time in more than 30 years,” the UNHCR report concludes.

Germany, Russia and the United States received the most new asylum claims in 2015.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

For the République

Applications to join the French military have spiked in the wake of the Islamic State’s siege of Paris, Bloomberg News reports. “The number of daily applications received by France’s armed forces has tripled since the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks in the Paris area,” according to the news agency, with the number of signees jumping to 1,500 per day from an average of 500 per day.

With France galvanized by what French President François Hollande called “an act of war,” the French government says it needs to fill 16,000 military posts in 2016.

ACTIVE DUTY

Not ready for deployment

The Army’s active component has 50,000 soldiers who cannot deploy due to “medical, legal or other administrative reasons,” Military.com reports. That’s the equivalent of three of the Army’s 10 active combat divisions. The National Guard has 28,000 non-deployable troops and the Army Reserve 25,000.

“Medical reasons make up the largest category for non-deployable status,” Military.com notes, citing Army officials. About 27 percent of the active Army’s medically non-deployables are Category 1, which accounts for short-term medical profiles under 30 days. About 50 percent are Category 2, enfolded injuries requiring more than 30 days of recovery. About 23 percent are Category 3, for serious injuries such as those caused by IEDs.

BY THE NUMBERS

F-35 production takes off

45 F-35s delivered by Lockheed Martin to U.S. and allied militaries in 2015

126 Operational F-35s worldwide today

36 F-35s delivered in 2014

493 Operational F-35s worldwide by 2019

Source: Defense News

Wikimedia Commons





On Nov. 11, American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett, Alabama Legionnaires and city officials crossed Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge during a Walk for Veterans event. The civil-rights landmark "is a reminder of how precious freedom is," Barnett said.

Photo by Lucas Carter

POST ACTIVITIES

Join a Walk for Veterans in your area

National Commander Dale Barnett's nationwide Walk for Veterans campaign continues this spring with more events:

- Little Rock, Ark., March 9
- Virginia Beach, Va., March 11
- Tampa Bay, Fla., March 25
- Columbus, Ga., May 25
- Watertown, S.D., June 18

Departments and posts that want to conduct an event can contact the Membership Division for a promo kit, sample press release and more.

📞 (317) 630-1406 ✉ mherndon@legion.org

🌐 www.legion.org/walkforveterans

🌐 www.legion.org/walkforveterans/events



BY THE NUMBERS

75

Number of employers participating in a Hiring Our Heroes job expo March 17 in Glendale, Ariz., looking to hire veterans and their spouses. The event is hosted by the Legion in conjunction with the National Hockey League's Arizona Coyotes and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

\$6,000

Amount in gifts provided to the West Texas VA Health Care System from the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program, including bicycles, music instruments and gardening equipment

9,000

Hospitalized and homebound veterans who received holiday visits and presents through the American Legion Department of Illinois' Gifts to the Yanks program, now in its 72nd year

\$10,000

Grant awarded to American Legion Baseball from the Baseball America Foundation, to help expand the program



Millions Demand America's Purest Silver Dollar. Shouldn't You?

Secure Your New 2016 Eagle Silver Dollars Now!

Millions of people collect the American Eagle Silver Dollar. In fact it's been the country's most popular Silver Dollar for thirty years. Try as they might, that makes it a very hard "secret" to keep quiet. And right now, many of those same people are lining up to secure the brand new 2016 U.S. Eagle Silver Dollars —placing their orders now to ensure that they get America's newest Silver Dollar, in stunning Brilliant Uncirculated condition, before millions of others beat you to it.

America's Brand New Silver Dollar

This is a strictly limited release on the 30th anniversary of one of the most beautiful silver coins in the world. Today you have the opportunity to secure these massive, hefty one full Troy ounce U.S. Silver Dollars in Brilliant Uncirculated (BU) condition. The 100-year-old design features a walking Lady Liberty draped in a U.S. flag on one side and a majestic U.S. Eagle and shield on the other.

But the clock is ticking...

The Most Affordable Precious Metal— GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED

Silver is by far the most affordable of all precious metals — and each full Troy ounce American Eagle Silver Dollar is government-guaranteed for its 99.9% purity, authenticity, and legal tender status.

A Coin Flip You Can't Afford to Lose

Why are we releasing the most popular Silver Dollar in America for a remarkably affordable price? We're doing it to introduce you to what hundreds of thousands of smart collectors and satisfied customers have known since 1984—GovMint.com is *the best source for coins worldwide.*

Timing is Everything

Our advice? Keep this to yourself. The more people who know about this offer, the worse for you. Demand for Silver Eagles in recent years has shattered records. Experts predict that the 30th anniversary 2016 Silver Eagles may break them once again.

30-Day Money-Back Guarantee

You must be 100% satisfied with your 2016 American Eagle Silver Dollars or return them within 30 days of receipt for a prompt refund (*less s/h*). Don't miss out on this exciting new release. Call immediately to secure these American Eagle Silver Dollars NOW!

2016 American Eagle Silver Dollar BU

Shocking Low Price \$17.95 ea.
(*plus s/h*) LIMIT 10.

Additional 2016 Silver Eagle BU Dollars may be purchased for \$18.95 each. Limited to 50 total coins per household.

FREE SHIPPING on 9 or More!

Limited time only. Product total over \$150 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

For fastest service, call today toll-free

1-800-969-0686

Offer Code ESB216-03
Please mention this code when you call.

GovMint.com • 14101 Southcross Dr. W. Dept. ESB216-03 • Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

Prices and availability subject to change without notice. Facts and figures deemed accurate as of December 2015. NOTE: GovMint.com® is a private distributor of worldwide government coin and currency issues and privately issued and licensed collectibles, and is not affiliated with the United States government. GovMint.com is not an investment company and does not offer financial advice or sell items as an investment. The collectible coin market is speculative, and coin values may rise or fall over time. All rights reserved. © 2015 GovMint.com.



GOVMINT.COM®

THE BEST SOURCE FOR COINS WORLDWIDE™



Bob Massie, left, and his son Matt return lost military treasures to families.

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

Father, son reunite war memorabilia with families

A father and son in central Indiana have made a hobby out of putting orphaned war memorabilia back in the hands of their original owners or their descendants. Now they're planning to take it to television.

Indianapolis-area Marine Corps veteran and Legionnaire Matt Massie runs an online military insignia business for which his father, Bob, blogs. At an auction just over a year ago, Bob came across – and bid on – a collection of World War II memorabilia that had become separated from its original owner. “I thought, ‘This is not right,’” Bob says.

The Massies began to purchase similar collections, featuring stories and pictures about them on the blog. Initially, their goal was just to tell the stories of the boxes’ contents, such as photos and letters; they assumed that no one with any connection to the items was still living.

Last summer, Bob began posting descriptions of military keepsakes that had belonged to Joe Baris, a U.S. soldier who served in the European theater during World War II. He did some searching online and found obituaries for some of Baris’ relatives, but none for Baris himself. Bob contacted a Utica, N.Y., church mentioned in the obituary, which informed him that Baris is still alive. So Bob, Matt and the box journeyed to Utica to deliver to Baris – now 90 – his wartime memorabilia.

This meeting and other encounters with veterans’ families have inspired the Massies to develop a television series based on their quests.

“It has all the fun of a mystery but all the beauty of family,” Bob says.

The Massies are focusing on 10 boxes of the 75 in their possession, and want to devote an episode to each box’s story and reunion – staging it, when possible, at an American Legion post. A crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo was launched Jan. 15; donors can receive perks, such as pictures of themselves in the set’s background to possession of a “foster box” for which no family has yet been located.

Those interested in supporting the Massies’ project can go to LettersHome.com or social media for more information and the latest news. The more followers they can get, the more receptive a network may be to airing their show, the Massies say.

“This is an attempt to keep things that are important to us relevant,” Matt says. “This is a story with which the Legion is almost certainly entwined.”

– Laura Edwards

Learn more about the Massies’ project online:

 www.lettershome.com

LEGION BASEBALL

Legion Baseball alum Piazza elected to Hall of Fame

The fourth time on the National Baseball Hall of Fame ballot proved successful for former Major League Baseball (MLB) catcher and American Legion Baseball alum Mike Piazza. Piazza, who spent most of his 16-year baseball career with the New York Mets and Los Angeles Dodgers, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., on July 24 – the 68th Legion Baseball alum so honored.

Besides the Dodgers and Mets, Piazza spent time with the Oakland Athletics, San Diego Padres and Miami Marlins. The 12-time All-Star and 10-time Silver Slugger Award winner finished his career in 2008, holding the MLB record for most home runs hit by a catcher with 427, along with a .308 batting average and 1,335 RBIs.



Wikimedia Commons



Media Bakery

VERBATIM

**I’m not the hero here.
The deployed, they’re the heroes.**

Paul Betlyn, owner of Betlyn Heating and Cooling in Moon Township, Pa., who repaired a military wife’s broken furnace in January for \$1. When she called Betlyn, Bridget Stevens – a mother of two – mentioned that her husband was deployed with the National Guard and wasn’t there to take a look. The job would usually cost about \$150, but after fixing the furnace Betlyn handed Bridget a bill that said, “Deployment discount, \$1.00.” Source: Fox News

If you are a victim of occupational asbestos exposure request this **FREE VIDEO** now!

A Video Guide for Asbestos Victims

*Especially helpful for those diagnosed
with Mesothelioma or Lung Cancer*

Everything you need to know about:

- The health effects of asbestos on you.
- What is, or isn't asbestos disease.
- Where to turn for medical help.
- Available asbestos disease treatment.
- Your legal rights as an asbestos victim.
- How to get the compensation you deserve.
- Choosing the right law firm.



Call 1-888-411-LAWS (5297)

A public service to victims of asbestos exposure from the Law Firm of Weitz & Luxenberg, P.C.

WEITZ LUXENBERG P.C.
Law Offices

WWW.ASBESTOS-VIDEO-GUIDE-WEITZLUX.COM

700 BROADWAY | NEW YORK, NY 10003

BRANCH OFFICES IN CALIFORNIA & NEW JERSEY



ATTORNEY ADVERTISING. Prior results do not guarantee a future outcome. We may associate with local firms in states wherein we do not maintain an office. If no recovery, no fees or costs are charged, unless prohibited by State Law or Rule. Not licensed to practice law in Louisiana. Gary Klein, Esq.

HISTORY

Pershing, Patton and Pancho Villa

BY MARC DAVIS

As the sun rose over Columbus, N.M., on March 9, 1916, a ragtag band of Mexican revolutionary troops led by Gen. Pancho Villa attacked the small U.S.-Mexican border town.

Villa's cavalry killed and raped civilians, burned down several buildings, and looted banks in a brutal, unprovoked onslaught. The assault went on for hours until Villa and his men galloped back into Mexico at about noon with stolen horses, weapons and other plunder.

Villa paid a steep price in casualties for his attack on the town. Sixty-seven of his men were killed and numerous others were wounded. U.S. losses were comparatively light, with eight cavalry troops and 10 civilians dead.

Outraged by the invasion of U.S. territory and the massacre, President Woodrow Wilson ordered a "punitive expedition" of American military to "pursue and punish Villa." A brigadier general named John "Black Jack" Pershing was assigned to lead the mission, and would later command American forces in World War I.

One of Pershing's chief aides was 30-year-old 1st Lt. George S. Patton, later to command the U.S. 7th Army and 2nd Armored Division during World War II. For this expedition, he was in charge of logistics and mustering a unit of troops.

The pursuit of Villa began on March 15, as an initial contingent of about 3,900 U.S. men – mostly cavalry complemented with a number of motor vehicles – rode into Mexico. Before them lay the vast expanse of the Sonoran Desert, a flat plain of parched, barren earth with scant foliage beyond the mesquite and tumbleweeds.

A squadron of eight airplanes was also attached to the expedition and assigned reconnaissance and messenger duties.

On Pershing's western flank ran the Sierra Madre Occidental mountains, a massive, craggy outcropping of rock where Villa, it was later learned, hid out in a camouflaged cave as he recovered from a severe bullet wound to his right leg.

On the night of March 17, Pershing set up his headquarters at Colonia Dublán, a desolate Mormon outpost near a railroad line. By the time the aircraft reached Pershing's headquarters, two planes had already crashed. The six remaining planes flew reconnaissance missions over the mountains where Villa was believed to be hiding. They were unable to locate him.

Villa, a former bandit before becoming a revolutionary general, operated in this scarcely populated northern desert area for many years and knew the territory well, especially the deep canyons and mountain summits where he and his men could conceal themselves.



Brig. Gen. John Pershing crosses the Rio Grande in 1916. Corbis

Because he was first an outlaw before he became a revolutionary hero, Villa was loved by many of his fellow Mexicans and feared by countless others.

American journalist John Reed called Villa "the Mexican Robin Hood," because of Villa's many generous gifts to the poor. But he also inspired terror because of his ruthless murders and summary executions of his enemies and prisoners of war.

The first major battle of the campaign, and Pershing's most successful, was fought by the legendary 7th Cavalry at Guerrero. A detachment of 360 Villistas were attacked by U.S. forces, resulting in some 75 enemy dead or wounded. There were no American fatalities and only five wounded in the encounter. By then, boosted by reinforcements, Pershing had nearly 11,000 men under arms.

Villa, however, was still at large, his army, Division Del Norte, now at war with both the United States and rival Mexican revolutionary general Venustiano Carranza, who the U.S. government supported.

As Pershing pushed deeper into Mexico, firefights and skirmishes between his forces and elements of Villa's army took place at isolated towns such as Namiquipa, at a ranch near Agua Caliente, at the city of Parral and elsewhere. Some of these battles occurred as chance encounters, and others were planned assaults on units of Villa's army.

But Villa was not among the combatants in any of these engagements and continued to elude capture.

So despite Pershing's best efforts, his advantage in troop strength, equipment and military know-how, Villa was never apprehended. Nevertheless, Pershing called the mission a success. The Pershing Punitive Expedition ended as the last of U.S. troops left Mexico on Feb. 5, 1917.

Two months later the United States declared war on Germany, and soon both Pershing and Patton would have a much bigger war to fight.

Marc Davis has written for AOL, Forbes Investopedia, the Chicago Tribune and other national publications.

SHOWER EASILY SHOWER SAFELY

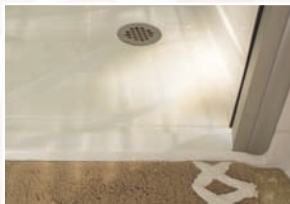
With A Premier Care in Bathing Easy Access Shower or Walk-In Bath!

ATTENTION VETERANS!

Taking A Shower Has Never Been So Easy!

COMFORT AND SAFETY Our contemporary styled Easy Access Showers are the ideal choice for customers who need easy accessibility to shower with independence.

- Easy to Clean
- Premium Fixtures
- Secure Hand Rails
- Fixed & Flexible Shower Heads
- Ultra Low, Barrier Free Entry
- Sturdy, Fold Away Seat
- Slip Resistant Floor
- Leak Free Construction
- Custom Installation



Trackless Barrier Free Entry



Easy To Use Faucet

All of our showers are protected by PremShield® antimicrobial lifetime protection. The built-in gel coat keeps your shower clean and safe!



FREE INFORMATION KIT

\$1,500 CASH BONUS*

CALL NOW

Promo Code 21390

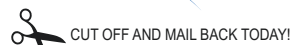
1-800-956-8379

or Visit www.MoreTubInfo.com Today!



Premier Care in Bathing™

*Discount available on a fully installed Walk-In Bath or Easy Access Shower and may be taken off the retail price at time of purchase or as cash back after installation.



☒ **YES!** Please send me a **FREE COLOR BROCHURE** about Premier Care Easy Access Showers and Walk-In Baths.

21390

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Email

Telephone ()

By submitting this request, I agree that Premier Care in Bathing may contact me by telephone using automated technology at the telephone number provided.
I consent to the privacy policy and understand this consent is not a condition of purchase.

Send To Premier Care in Bathing, 2330 South Nova Rd., South Daytona, Florida 32119

MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES

Post helps homeless veterans rebuild lives

Army veteran Richard Devlin found his purpose at the Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community in Colorado – “a second chance at life,” he calls it.

Now, through his work at the facility and as commander of Fort Lyon American Legion Post 9313, Devlin is trying to help others find their own second chances.

A recovery facility for homeless people with substance addiction and mental health issues, Fort Lyon makes a special effort to assist veterans by providing an environment of on-site and community-based education, employment and other services for its residents.

Devlin, who retired from the Army in 2010, came to Fort Lyon about two years ago. About the same time, Post 9313 was chartered, and Devlin eventually became commander.

The post has 26 members and conducts honor guard ceremonies at the nearby Fort Lyon National Cemetery. Joining the post made a difference in Devlin’s life and the lives of other Legionnaires there, he says.

“Something happens to an ex-soldier when you put a uniform on them,” he says. “The shoulders go back. The head gets held a little higher. It works. It did for me, and I see it every time (other post members) do it. It’s a self-esteem builder to the maximum, and I think it helps out with their recovery to the maximum.”

James Ginsburg, director of the Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community, says American Legion membership has a similar effect on residents who join the post. “We’ve found their retention rate is a lot higher,” he says. “What the Legion really has done is give these guys a sense of purpose.”

“The other thing is that this is really a peer-led program. These guys take a leadership role and set an example for other people. And it normalizes the military for non-veteran residents, which has been fascinating.”

The idea for starting a post at Fort Lyon came from Johnny Camacho, commander of Post 6 in nearby Las Animas and District 1’s commander from 2013 to 2015. When Fort Lyon became a homeless and addiction facility in 2013, Camacho and other Legionnaires made a visit to see how the department could help.



Richard Devlin, commander of Post 9313, runs a bike shop for residents at the Fort Lyon recovery center. Photo by Lucas Carter

Aware that there were enough veterans to charter an American Legion post, Camacho believed they might be able to provide funeral honors at Fort Lyon.

“The guys there were eager,” he says. “It just seemed like the right thing to do.”

Devlin, who started out living in one of Fort Lyon’s dormitories but now has his own house at the facility, makes the most of his time there. An avid bicyclist, he established a bike shop that not only provides bicycles for the residents but offers repair services for surrounding communities, charging only for parts.

“All the residents are able to come in between 7 and 9 in the morning and get issued a bicycle,” Devlin says. “They don’t have to bring it back until 7 in the evening. We have 560 acres. There’s plenty of areas for them to get exercise.”

Camacho says that Post 9313 has helped many veterans make positive changes in their lives.

“It just feels very rewarding – not only Richard, but there have been other veterans who touched my heart,” he says. “A lot of these guys didn’t have income coming in. They didn’t have a place to sleep. You go down there, (and) they have a place to sleep. They have purpose.”

– Steve B. Brooks



VERBATIM

We fear an ‘over fix’ that would bar any veteran from owning a weapon. Veterans have fought to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans. The American Legion believes that the rights of these heroes deserve protection.

National Commander Dale Barnett, expressing concern that executive action on gun sales might discourage some veterans from seeking treatment for mental illnesses or conditions. While “nobody wants violent criminals or those with extreme mental disorders to have firearms,” treatment for PTSD or depression by itself, “which a number of wartime veterans experience, should not be the sole factor in denying a veteran the right to purchase a firearm,” Barnett said.

Photo by Lucas Carter

OVERSTOCKED!

This-Ad-Only Offer! Act Now!

To make room in our warehouse, we are selling all of our jersey pants for **\$5 LESS** than the regular price!

NOW UNDER \$10 A PAIR!

These are the softest, comfiest leisure pants on earth! Cotton/polyester jersey knit stretches naturally for full, easy movement. All-around elastic waist with drawstring for ideal fit. And a feature the other guys don't have — a zip fly!

PLUS PLENTY OF POCKETS!

There's 2 in front & 2 in back with button closures.

Machine wash. All Sizes Under \$10 a pair. Don't Miss Out! Order Now!

Durable Drawstring!

**All Sizes
Up To 5XL
Same Low
Price!**

Grey
Heather

Black

Burgundy

Charcoal

Taupe

**360° Stretch
Waist!**

Navy

HURRY & GET \$10 OFF!

JERSEY PANTS now only **9⁹⁹** each when you buy 2

reg.
14.99
each

2 for \$19.98 • 3 for \$29.47 • 4 for \$37.45 • 5 for \$45.37

Haband #1 Bargain Place, Jessup, PA 18434-1834



Card # _____ Exp.: ____ / ____



Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

☐ Visa

Phone/Email _____

☐ MC

☐ Discover®

I enclose \$ _____ purchase price, and only \$5.99 shipping & handling for my entire order. Please add applicable state & local sales tax for the following states: AZ, FL, GA, MA, MN, NE, NJ, PA, WI, & WV.

☐ AmEx

☐ Check

Imported

S(30-32) M(34-36) L(38-40)
XL(42-44) 2XL(46-48) 3XL(50-52)
4XL(54-56) 5XL(58-60)

Inseams: XS(25-26) S(27-28)
M(29-30) L(31-32)

[XL(33-34) inseam available in
S to XL waists only]



7XP-07273

WHAT WAIST? WHAT INSEAM? HOW MANY?

03	NAVY			
6J	GREY HEATHER			
01	BLACK			
EB	BURGUNDY			
07	CHARCOAL			
13	TAUPE			

☐ Check here for Protection Plus! (X46)
Expedites replacement of items lost in transit.
Add \$2.99 to protect your entire order.

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
or Full Refund of merchandise purchase price.

When you pay by check, you authorize us to use information from your check to clear it electronically. Funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

MEN'S HABAND

For Faster Service Call: 1-800-543-4810 or visit www.Haband.com/bestdeals

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

World War II Museum opens 'Road to Tokyo'

Visitors to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans are invited to take a journey through naval battles, the jungles of Guadalcanal and the air bombing campaign of World War II as part of the "Road to Tokyo" Pacific Theater Galleries.

"Road to Tokyo" joins the "Road to Berlin" for a combined 32,000 square feet and 19 total galleries, says Keith Huxen, the museum's senior director of history and research. "Tokyo" opened to the public Dec. 12.



The National World War II Museum's new "Road to Tokyo" gallery takes visitors into a daunting moment in history. Photo courtesy National World War II Museum

Upon entering the gallery, visitors see a nine-monitor video wall that shows the spread of the Japanese empire and key strategic challenges for the Allies. Exhibits describe in great detail the major events in the Pacific theater, including the Doolittle Raid and the battles of Coral Sea, Midway, Guadalcanal and Okinawa.

"What I am hoping visitors feel when they walk through all of it is a sense of awe and appreciation of what the World War II soldiers went through and achieved," Huxen says. "It's a tremendous war out there in the Pacific, and it's very different than what we experienced in Europe."

With a raised ceiling of 37 feet, the Guadalcanal exhibit takes visitors into the middle of the jungle. The museum uses special atmospheric treatments similar to the Battle of

the Bulge exhibit in the "Berlin" gallery, which includes cold air, to set the mood.

"This gallery is a narrow pathway through the jungle, with an introductory video and lots of tall trees in a terrifying dark environment," Huxen says. "We want to use this gallery as an experiential piece for the visitor. Hopefully we are going to scare them a little bit."

The 10th and final gallery in the "Road to Tokyo" is titled "Downfall," and chronicles the air campaign that led to Japan's surrender.

There, visitors watch the devastating bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 16-foot video screens.

"It's a very somber and reflective mood that the music will establish," Huxen says. "What we want people to understand is that the bombings were not a one-off that just happened. They happened within the context of this larger air war campaign."

The gallery tour concludes with a two-minute silent video piece documenting the surrender ceremony in Tokyo Bay. Afterward, visitors go through a door and take escalators into the "Berlin" gallery.

— Henry Howard

CONVENTION



Larry Gatlin & The Gatlin Brothers Facebook page

LEGENDARY FAMILY ACT TO PERFORM AT BANQUET

Larry Gatlin & The Gatlin Brothers will perform at the National Commander's Banquet in Cincinnati on Aug. 30. Texas natives Larry, Steve and Rudy Gatlin have been performing together for more than 50 years, making their mark from country music to gospel and beyond. Tickets are \$45; those interested in attending should contact their department adjutants.

CONVENTION MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

The American Legion's 2016 Convention Marketing Opportunities outline is now available online. The package covers exhibition, sponsorship, fundraising and advertising options for companies wishing to reach the American Legion Family.

Hours for the Exhibit Hall, located in the Duke Energy Convention Center, will be 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 26, Aug. 27 and Aug. 29, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 28 and Aug. 30.

www.legion.org/convention

(317) 630-1393

a.watson@legion.org



Perfect Choice HD™ is simple to use, hard to see and easy to afford...

Invention of the Year

PERSONAL SOUND AMPLIFICATION PRODUCTS (PSAPs)

THEY'RE NOT HEARING AIDS



NEW

**Now with more
power and
clarity!**

*Virtually
impossible
to see.*

Perfect Choice HD is NOT a hearing aid. It is a Personal Sound Amplification Product (PSAP). Hearing aids can only be sold by an audiologist or a licensed hearing instrument specialist following hearing tests and fitting appointments. Once the audiologist had you tested and fitted, you would have to pay as much as \$5000 for the product.

Personal Sound Amplification Products use advanced digital processing to amplify the frequencies of human speech. Thanks to the efforts of a doctor who leads a renowned hearing institute, this product is manufactured in an efficient production process that enables us to make it available at an affordable price.

The unit is small and lightweight enough to hide behind your ear... only you'll know

you have it on. It's comfortable and won't make you feel like you have something stuck in your ear. It provides high quality audio so soft sounds and distant conversations will be easier to understand.

Try it for yourself with our exclusive home trial. Some people need hearing aids but many just want the extra boost in volume that a PSAP gives them. We want you to be happy with Perfect Choice HD, so we are offering to let you try it for yourself. If you are not totally satisfied with this product, simply return it within 60 days for a refund of the full product purchase price. Don't wait... don't miss out on another conversation... call now!

**Perfect
Choice HD™**

**Call toll free now for
our lowest price.**

1-877-772-8109

Please mention promotional
code 102391.

1998 Ruffin Mill Road,
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Perfect Choice HD is not a hearing aid.
If you believe you need a hearing aid,
please consult a physician.
Not available in the state of Washington

WEIGHT	Less than 1 ounce
SOUND QUALITY	Excellent: Optimized for speech
FITTING REQUIRED?	No
ONE-ON-ONE SETUP	Free
RETURN POLICY	Full refund of product purchase price within 60 days
COLOR	Silver or Beige

BUSINESS

ASK THE
VETREPRENEUR

MARK ROCKEFELLER

A look at
alternative
financing**Q:** *What is crowdfunding?***A:** Crowdfunding is a way to fund a project or new idea by a group of individuals contributing

a small portion of the overall financial goal. Unlike a loan or investment, the individuals participating in a crowdfunding project do not necessarily receive a return on their investment; crowdfunding is more of a merit-based reward system in which the owners give away something, like a sample of their product, to the people who funded them. Two examples of this are Kickstarter and Indiegogo.

Crowdfunding is a great option for startups with a working, viable product. If your business isn't yet a year old and has not produced much revenue, this might be a good funding option for you.

Q: *What is peer-to-peer lending?***A:** Rather than going through a bank or traditional financial institution for a loan, small business owners can have money lent to them by their peers, typically through an online marketplace.

Peer-to-peer lenders differ across the board. Most offer a fully anonymized experience where neither party knows anything about the other; lenders are given insight into the financials and riskiness of lending to the borrower, but know nothing about their business. Other lenders offer a more social experience that combines elements of crowdfunding. These marketplaces allow the borrowers to pitch their businesses and explain why they need the funds, while also providing insight into their financials and creditworthiness.

Peer-to-peer lending is a great option for small businesses that have been in business for a year or longer and are producing revenue.

Mark L. Rockefeller is an entrepreneur, attorney and veteran. He is the co-founder and CEO of StreetShares, an online marketplace where investors compete to provide shares of commercial loans to small businesses.

Follow Rockefeller on Twitter @markrockefeller or StreetShares @StreetShares

Have a question? Send it to him at questions@streetshares.com.



CENTENNIAL

Post 29, Jackson, Mich.

Richard F. Smith Post 29, which received its initial charter in 1919, was famous for its drill team from 1925 to the early 1970s.

According to the post's Centennial Celebration page, the Zouave drill team "did star formations and other movements at 300 steps per minute. At the end of a 15-minute performance they scaled a 12-foot wall. The team performed five times on 'The Ed Sullivan Show' and was part of a movie in Hollywood titled 'The Court Jester' starring Danny Kaye."

The Zouaves started as French army regiments in the 1830s, but their name and distinctive costumes were adopted by units around the world, including a number during the U.S. Civil War.

Share your post's legacy

Upload stories, photos and videos of your post's history on the Legion's Centennial Celebration website.

www.legion.org/centennial

EDUCATION



End near for REAP

Q: *I am attending college using the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP). I heard this benefit is set to expire. What does that mean for me?***A:** On Nov. 25, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2016 sunsetted REAP. The program bridged the education benefit gap between those eligible for the

Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve and those who were called to active duty but were not eligible for the benefit. In many ways, the Post-9/11 GI Bill has replaced REAP by providing eligibility for certain members of the reserves and National Guard called to active duty.

■ **Current REAP beneficiaries.** If you were attending an educational institution during the semester, quarter or term that immediately preceded Nov. 25, 2015, you may continue to receive REAP benefits.

■ **REAP beneficiaries not attending school.** Those who applied for REAP but were not attending an institution during the semester, quarter or term that immediately preceded Nov. 25, 2015, are not eligible to receive REAP benefits.

■ **New REAP applicants.** If VA received your initial application after Nov. 24, you are no longer eligible for REAP benefits.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Arizona. askvalerie@legion.org

BY THE NUMBERS

Number crunch

20.1 Percent of the federal budget devoted to national security spending in fiscal 2010

15.9 Percent of the federal budget devoted to national security spending in fiscal 2015

4.6 Percent of gross domestic product devoted to defense in 2010

3.3 Percent of gross domestic product devoted to defense in 2015

570,000 Size of active-duty Army in 2012, in troops

490,000 Size of active-duty Army in 2015

450,000 Size of active-duty Army in 2018 (projected)

Source: Tampa Bay Times/Politifact

FREE

Korean War 60th Anniversary Coin

Now you can preserve important history of the Korean War with a FREE U.S. Half-Dollar.

Coin features the 38th Parallel – the line that divided a country. Imagine owning this 60th anniversary commemorative coin – for just \$2.95 shipping and guaranteed delivery.

Send today and you'll also receive special collector's information and other interesting coins on approval. Limit one coin. Your satisfaction is guaranteed.



Just \$2.95 shipping and guaranteed delivery.

FREE Korean War Coin

☒ **Yes!** Send me the Korean War coin. Enclosed is \$2.95 for shipping and guaranteed delivery. Satisfaction guaranteed. Limit of one coin.

Quick order at MysticAd.com/JJ133

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ Zip _____

☐ Check or money order ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

NY State residents add sales tax.

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Send Payment to: Mystic Stamp Company, Dept. JJ133, 9700 Mill St., Camden, NY 13316-9111

LOWEST PRICE EVER on DR® Leaf Vacuums!



Perfect for **SPRING CLEAN-UP!**

- ☒ **Rated #1 in Vacuum Power**
- ☒ **Easy, 1-Hand Dumping**
- ☒ **Stores Flat in Minutes**
- ☒ **Converts to a Utility Trailer**

The NEW DR® Leaf Vacuum is designed from the top down to make yard clean up easier, faster, and more thorough than ever before. And for a limited time we are offering them at incredible low introductory prices!

NEW Models

Starting at **\$1,299⁹⁹**

DRleafvac.com

SIMPLER STRONGER FASTER

...than any Hydraulic Log Splitter!



DR® RAPIDFIRE™ FLYWHEEL LOG SPLITTER

- **So simple**, no hydraulic pumps, valves, pistons, hoses or fluids to leak or replace.
- **So strong** its cast iron flywheel and steel components show almost no wear after splitting hundreds of cords.
- **So fast**, splits anything a hydraulic splitter will in one-sixth the time!

NEW Models

Now at Our **LOWEST PRICES EVER!**

DRlogsplitters.com



2016 MODELS!

NOW Starting at just \$799⁹⁹!

Turn Your Rough Driveway into a Smooth Ride!

DR® POWER GRADER

- **Tows behind your ATV or Riding Mower** to remove ruts, potholes, and washboard.
- **Grading depth adjusts easily** from your towing vehicle. Models with wireless remote control available.
- **Saves you money** by loosening and redistributing existing drive-way material.

ALSO GREAT FOR HORSE RINGS, BALL FIELDS, AND PARKING AREAS!

DRpowergrader.com

FREE SHIPPING

6 MONTH TRIAL

EASY FINANCING

SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY. CALL OR GO ONLINE FOR DETAILS.

Call for a **FREE DVD and Catalog!**

Includes product specifications and factory-direct offers.

TOLL FREE **877-788-4074**



POW/MIA

Missing under the sea

Richard B. Anderson Memorial Post 44, on Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific, has taken to heart The American Legion's commitment to a full accounting of the nation's missing in action.

Last year, a post subcommittee called the Kwajalein MIA Project formed to continue and centralize ongoing efforts to locate World War II-era planes believed to be in the surrounding waters.

Volunteers do everything from help operate sonar and other equipment to getting up-close looks by diving toward possible wrecks. One doesn't need to be a member of the Legion, or even a veteran, to be part of the Kwajalein MIA group; the subcommittee's chairman, Dan Farnham, says about half of the group's 28 members are veterans, and most belong to an American Legion post somewhere.

In 2011, Farnham helped launch a search for a missing plane. Early last year, he decided the project should expand to include all MIA-related plane wrecks in the Kwajalein lagoon. Post 44 Commander Mike Woundy agreed, and the subcommittee was created.

Volunteers don't actually dive to crash sites or handle



Photo courtesy Dan Farnham

wrecks or remains; however, they work closely with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, which takes over the search when an object has been found.

In recent years, the crash sites of three planes have been identified, accounting for four MIAs:

- PBM-3D Mariner, Lt. j.g. Wilburne E. Piercy (August 2009)
- F6F-3 Hellcat, Ens. John R. Clem (October 2011)
- PB2Y-5R Coronado, Lt. Harold A. Bowman and Lt. Cmdr. Samuel O. Givens (2010, confirmed in 2015)

Seven plane wrecks and eight missing U.S. servicemen remain unaccounted for, but Farnham says the subcommittee will continue its searches.

— Laura Edwards

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Help available for Legion families planning to relocate

Thinking about moving? Most Americans who relocate do so between May and September, making summer the busiest time of the year for the moving industry.

With demand for trucks and crews at a premium, here are three tips to make your move as stress-free as possible:

■ **Plan ahead.** If you need to move this summer, start getting quotes now. Ask about any date restrictions, discuss what weeks are better to move than others, and try to set your closing/move-out dates accordingly.

■ **Schedule early.** Once you have an offer on your home or are certain that a move date is in the near future, your next call should be to your move coordinator to schedule packing and loading dates, even if the plans are only tentative. It is easier for moving companies to delay your dates to a later time than it is to accommodate last-minute requests during the busy summer months.

■ **Be flexible.** Reduce your stress level, and leave a day or so of flexibility around moving and closing dates. Even well-planned relocations run into unforeseen last-minute delays.

Did you know that as an American Legion member, you are entitled to discounts on professional packing, moving and storage services from two of the world's largest moving companies? The Legion and Sons of The American Legion have updated their long-standing moving discount program to further increase the savings offered back to members who move through the program.

Receive VIP treatment by scheduling your move with North American Van Lines or Allied Van Lines, and get the protection of no longer being a one-time customer. When you schedule a

service under any of the American Legion benefit programs, you are purchasing through a network of vetted providers that together have a record of service that aligns with the high standards on which The American Legion was built.

The savings offered by North American and Allied Van Lines are exclusive to members and family, so you must qualify with each company by calling their toll-free numbers, or by visiting and submitting for a free estimate through the dedicated Legion member web portals. No membership information is required; the numbers and links are only available to members online or in the magazine.

North American Van Lines is one of the world's largest moving companies and has been proudly serving Legion members for more than 25 years. The American Legion agreement provides members with free liability coverage for up to \$100,000 of coverage, no deductible, and exclusive member discounts on long-distance moving, packing and storage services. The free coverage represents an impressive \$869 savings to members.

Allied Van Lines continues to be a global moving industry leader, with more than 500 locations within the United States and more than 600 locations worldwide. Trust your move to the professionals.



1-800-524-5533

www.legion.movingnavl.com



1-800-871-8864

www.legion.movingallied.com

**FREE
SHIPPING**

Magnetic Posture Corrector Helps
SOOTHE & SUPPORT
Your Spine



Designed To:

Correct Posture

Improve Circulation

Reduce Stiffness

Relieve Pain

Great For
**MEN &
WOMEN**

SAVE \$13

Off Catalog Retail

Now Only

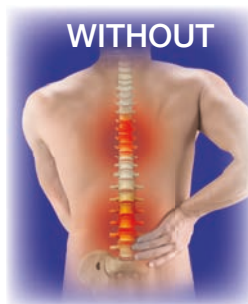
\$16⁹⁹

Helps
Soothe Sore
Muscles &
Joints

Pain Relieving Posture Support

Magnetic therapy has long been used by ancient and modern cultures as a way to soothe sore muscles & joints, improve circulation and relieve tension, pain and stiffness. There are twelve 400 gauss magnets embedded along the spine and in the lumbar area of your back. Imported of gently stretchable neoprene, polyester & cotton. Measure by waist size.

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back



Dept. 72638 © 2016 Dream Products, Inc. (Prices valid for 1yr.)



DreamProducts.com

website offers
may vary

1-800-530-2689

Order Now
Toll-Free

Receive A **FREE SURPRISE GIFT**
With Every Order

CORRECT Your Posture!



INDICATE NUMBER OF ITEMS ORDERED UNDER SIZE		
#83326 Regular (28"-38")	#83327 Large (38"-48")	#83328 X-Large (48"-60")
_____	_____	_____
Magnetic Posture Corrector(s) @ \$16.99		\$ _____
CA residents must add 7.5% sales tax		\$ _____
FREE Regular Shipping		\$ FREE
Handling Add \$2.00 Each		\$ _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING (optional) Add An Additional \$2.95 (receive your order 5-7 days from shipment)		\$ 2.95
Please Print Clearly		TOTAL \$ _____

Magnetic Posture Corrector	
<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover®/NOVUS SM Cards	Card# _____
Dept. 72638	Exp. Date ____/____/____
Name _____	
Address _____	
City _____ ST _____ Zip _____	
Daytime Phone # _____	
Email Address _____	
Check or money order payable to: Dream Products, Inc. Send Order To: 412 Dream Lane, Van Nuys, CA 91496	

PERSONAL FINANCE



Social Security filing strategy deadline nears

FOCUS ON FINANCES



J.J. MONTANARO

Deciding when to start collecting your Social Security benefits is about to get easier. And while easier is usually better, there is a trade-off: the changes could shrink your potential lifetime Social Security income.

Last year's budget bill will soon put a halt to two Social Security filing strategies for couples that we have

previously discussed in this column: file-and-suspend and restricted application. Let's review the strategies:

■ **File-and-suspend.** By filing for and immediately suspending benefits at full retirement age, a person allows his or her spouse to draw spousal benefits while his or her own benefit increases through delayed retirement credits by up to 8 percent per year until the person reaches 70. Just the act of filing opens the door for the spouse to receive benefits based on the suspender's record.

■ **Restricted application.** Someone who has reached full retirement age could elect to restrict his or her application to only spousal benefits. This allows benefits based on the person's own record to accrue delayed retirement credits, but still provides some income. When used in conjunction with the file-and-suspend strategy, there's a potential for a large boost to lifetime Social Security benefits.

Those currently using one of these strategies will not be affected by the new rules. However, if neither you nor your spouse is claiming Social Security come May 1, the file-and-

suspend strategy will no longer be an option. Those 66 and older can use it until April 30; after that, you'll still be able to suspend benefits, but no one else (spouse or child) will be able to claim benefits based on your record if you're not receiving them.

There's a little more leeway with the restricted application rules. If you turned 62 last year, you'll still be able to file a restricted application for only spousal benefits at 66 – allowing your own benefit to grow larger. But to do this, your spouse must be receiving a benefit.

These changes will not affect survivors, who will still have the ability to claim a reduced survivors benefit at 60 and allow their own benefit to continue to grow. Alternately, survivors can claim benefits at 62 based on their work records and allow the survivors' benefit to grow.

With the elimination of these two strategies, the options around Social Security filing shrink, but the decision of when to begin benefits remains an important part of retirement planning.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.

🌐 www.legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances

See where you stand with retirement:

🌐 www.usaa.com/inet/pages/advice_retirement_planners_and_calculators_main

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Welcome back, America

A quarter-century after unceremoniously booting the United States out, the Philippines is welcoming U.S. military power – and U.S. military aid – back to the archipelago nation. As *The New York Times* reports, Manila recently signed a 10-year agreement that “would let the United States station troops, weapons and materiel at bases across the Philippines.”

Deeply troubled by China's threatening behavior, the Philippine government is even considering whether to invite the Navy back to the “deepwater docks, airstrips and craggy shores of Subic Bay,” once among the U.S. military's largest overseas bases, the *Times* reports.

The agreement is still being ironed out by the Philippine Senate and Supreme Court, but if it goes forward the *Times* notes that “the pact would give the United States the ability to operate a stronghold on the shores of the South China Sea, less than 500 miles from the new islands built by the Chinese.” To project stability and security in the region, the United States currently relies on bases 1,500 miles away, in Japan and Guam.



Photo courtesy UXO LAO

VERBATIM

We're now down to about 50 a year. And 50 a year is still too many.

Secretary of State John Kerry, on the number of Laotians killed or seriously wounded every year by ordnance left over from the Vietnam War. The United States is considering increasing aid to help the communist-run country clear its land of unexploded bombs, up from \$19.5 million in 2015. Source: *The Washington Post*

United States Marine Corps Challenge Coin Collection



Shown smaller than actual size 13" wide x 9 3/4" tall. Glass covered case displays your collection on a tabletop or wall. Mounting hardware included.



Issue One "Iwo Jima"
This historic WWII victory cemented the Marines' valor in the minds of their countrymen



The reverse
of each coin

FREE booklet outlines the challenge coins and their significance in Marine Corps history and includes official images and facts about the United States Marine Corps



Celebrate Marine Corps History

The FIRST EVER challenge coins fully authorized by the United States Marine Corps for use by all Marines—pay tribute to the traditions and values all Marines share. These substantial two-inch diameter coins are handsomely crafted of real metal, plated with 22K gold and enhanced with hand-applied enamel. Each coin comes sealed in a crystal-clear collector capsule, which can be removed to show them off. A custom glass-covered display case — a \$100 value — is yours for the same low price as a single edition.

A Collector's First in Limited Editions — Order Now!

Strong demand is expected for this first-ever authorized collection limited to only 5,000 complete collections. Act now to acquire each of the thirteen editions (twelve coins and display) at the \$19.99* issue price, backed by our 365-day money-back guarantee. You'll receive one edition about every other month. You may cancel at any time by notifying us. Send no money now; just return the attached coupon today!

Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps. www.marines.com 1.800.marines
Proud supporter of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum Historical Society

www.bradfordexchange.com/903923

©2015 BGE 01-20591-001-BD

PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE
BRADFORD EXCHANGE
—COLLECTIBLES—

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please accept my order for the *United States Marine Corps Challenge Coin Collection*. I need send no money now. I will be billed with shipment.

Limit: one per order.

Please Respond Promptly

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (optional)

903923-E94901

*Plus \$3.90 shipping and service per edition. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 295 casting days. Please allow 4-8 weeks for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance. Display ships after Edition Two.

How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information via our website, www.legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.**

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life

memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

3rd SPS K9 (Bien Hoa, Vietnam), Pigeon Forge, TN, 5/12-14, Rick Ingler, (863) 273-5182, k9vietnam@yahoo.com; **22nd Trp Carrier Sqdn/ MAS (Tachikawa, Japan) & C-124 Vets,** Fairborn, OH, 6/7-9, Henry Trujillo, (719) 545-4156, alute@comcast.net; **47th Air Police,** Pigeon Forge, TN, 5/24-26, John Watts, (828) 686-4648; **363rd TFW(P) (Desert Storm),** Shaw AFB, SC, 5/21, Wayne Austin, 363tfwalumnidesertstorm@gmail.com; **475th Ftr Grp, "Satan's Angels," Sqdns 431, 432 & 433 (WWII), All P-38 Grp,** Chino Hills, CA, 5/19-22, Dana Grossman, (858) 692-1358, dana@grossman.info; **5074th ABS & 1935th Comm Sqdn,** Memphis, TN, 6/2-5, Jim Fetrow, (616) 443-1946, fetrowj590@gmail.com; **6937th Comm Grp (Peshawar Air Station, Pakistan),** Las Vegas, 4/28-5/1, Will Dresser, (702) 948-8114, will.dresser@sbcglobal.net; **Ramey AFB Hist Assn,** San Antonio, 4/13-16, Elton Lanier, (309) 698-9695, mrzip@mtco.com

ARMY

1st Bn 40th Field Arty (Vietnam), Harrisburg, PA, 6/13-17, James Bishop, (209) 952-0535, jabishop12@comcast.net; **1st Mil Intel Bn (Vietnam),** Seattle, 9/15-17, Don Skinner, (503) 648-6059, donsk@frontier.com; **3rd Bn 187th Inf Rgt 101st Abn Div (Hamburger Hill, Vietnam, May 1969),** Clarksville, TN, 5/16-19, Thomas Martin, (856) 453-8407, tomsmai196@yahoo.com; **4th Inf Div ("Ivy Division") Assn,** Knoxville, TN, 7/18-24, Rusty Armstrong, (414) 630-2484, ivyleaveseditor@gmail.com; **7th Cbt Eng 1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech),** Las Vegas, 5/9-12, Thomas Grafton, (314) 416-0535, graftonthomas@hotmail.com; **9th Inf 171st Inf Bde,** Nashville, TN, 9/13-15, Alex MacFarlane, (847) 543-0926; **11th Armd Cav A Co (Camp Carson, CO, Feb 1953),** New Ulm, MN, 6/10-11, Carl Vogt, (507) 776-7292, cvogt@frontier.net; **19th Cbt Eng Bn Assn & Attached Units (Vietnam),** St. Roberts, MO, 9/8-10, Tom Ebrite, (765) 286-4906, s2snoopy@comcast.net; **25th Inf Div, Honolulu,** 10/3-8, Sarah Krause, (215) 248-2572, tropicltn@aol.com; **44th Eng Bn Assn "Broken Heart" - Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Fort Carson, CO & Associated Units,** St. Joseph, MO, 9/14-16, Ken Jobe, (757) 428-0328, kejo425@aol.com; **61st & 360th Trans Co Petrol (Vietnam, 1967-1970),** Gatlinburg, TN, 8/26-28, John Cardwell, (615) 207-7107, johncardwell@yahoo.com; **73rd Heavy Tank Bn (Korea, 1950-1957),** Pigeon Forge, TN, 5/1-5, Vic Caproni, (523) 662-4949, vsaproni@yahoo.com; **83rd Inf, Washington,** 7/27-30, Paula Nezezon, (315) 769-3385, pnezezon@gmail.com; **86th Eng Det (An Khe, Vietnam, 1966-1967),** Jasper, IN, 5/12-14, Robert Brame, (931) 387-2450; **91st MP Battalion, LeClaire, IA (Cruise),** 7/18-22, Jack Walker, (319) 338-4654, walkernancy36@gmail.com; **169th Eng (Vietnam),** Franklin, TN, 9/9-10, William

Mallory, (812) 686-8138, rmallory@roadrunner.com; **360th TC (Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, 1971),** Las Vegas, 4/22-23, Tom Berry, (316) 393-7716, tom@teberry.com; **547th Eng Bn (Cbt),** Fort Leonard Wood, MO, 9/15-17, Glenn Chase, (603) 969-9749, glenn.chase@gmail.com; **549th MP Co (Panama, 1960-1965),** Savannah, GA, 5/5-8, H.B. "Rob" Robinson, (863) 421-2250, hbr1939@gmail.com; **A Co 25th Avn Bn 21st Inf Div,** Branson, MO, 4/20-24, Garry Paris, (254) 547-8436, gparis@hotmail.com; **Army Counter Intel Corps,** Pensacola, FL, 4/12-16, Stan Solin, (714) 998-1562, agentreport@gmail.com; **Battle of the Bulge Vets,** West Palm Beach, FL, 4/17, George Fisher, (561) 585-7086, georgefivbob@aol.com; **D Co 40th Armor (Anchorage, AK, 1966-1969),** Blackwood, NJ, 6/8-11, R. McCarty, (573) 893-4516, rmccarty@mediacombb.net; **Delta Trp Blackhawks 7/1 Air Cav,** Fort Knox, KY, 5/19-22, Joe Vernengo, (586) 337-3334, jvern106@comcast.net; **F Trp 8th Cav "Blue Ghost,"** Dayton, OH, 4/21-24, Dennis Galinski, (352) 419-5148, dennisg65@tampabay.rr.com; **Kilo Btry 4/13, Quantico, VA,** 5/18-22, Tom Gafford, (434) 546-0774, tomgafford@gmail.com; **L Co 21st Inf Rgt 24th Inf Div, Harrisburg, PA,** 5/11-15, George Vlasic, (910) 287-5618, geonanvlasic@atmc.net; **"Red Warriors" 1/12th Inf 4th Inf Div, San Diego,** 10/10-12, Tim Swan, tpswan@charter.net, www.redwarriors.us; **Saumur Sig Depot,** Charleston, SC, 5/1-5, Richard Miller, (949) 770-2543, rkgmiller@hotmail.com; **US Army Sergeants Major Academy,** El Paso, TX, 7/14-17, Hank Green, (915) 491-8992, henry4906@att.net; **Vietnam Air Defense Artillery Veterans (VADAV) - Dusters, Quads, Searchlights, Hawks & Vulcan Combat Team,** Auburn, IN, 7/6-10, Dale Peters, (574) 686-2067, camdenumc@tds.net; **Vietnam Guntrucks and All Transportation Units ("The Gathering"),** Chattanooga, TN, 8/8-14, John Dodd, (434) 724-1469, johndodd@centurylink.net

COAST GUARD

Lightship Sailors Assn, Norfolk, VA, 10/10-12, Bill Quigley, (603) 966-8690, wanderingmanitook1@msn.com

JOINT

3-War Veterans (1941-2016), Washington, 5/5-8, Cory Plykka, 1-888-452-3434, threewarveterans@yahoo.com; **Franklin D. Roosevelt CVB/CVA/CV 42 (Ship's Co, Mar Det & Air Wings),** Covington, KY, 5/11-15, Garry Theis, (419) 649-3878, garry7925@gmail.com; **Hornet CV 8 & CV/CVA/CVS 12 - Ship's Co, Officers, Air Grps, Crew, Marines & Families,** Portland, OR, 9/13-18, Sandy Burket, (814) 224-5063, hornetcv8a@aol.com; **Khe Sanh Vets,** San Antonio, 10/9-16, Tom Eichler, (773) 625-2101, teic1448@aol.com; **NAS Sanford, All Units & Sqdns (1942-1968),** Sanford, FL, 6/23-26, Ralph Feeback, (407) 302-2252, dlfrsf@aol.com

MARINES

1st & 3rd Amtracs (Vietnam, 1965-1968), Swansboro, NC, 6/23-26, Fred Davidson, (410) 819-8774, fdamd44@aol.com; **1st Bn 5th Mar Rgt (1986-1992),** Macomb, IL, 5/6-8, Scott Hainline, (309) 351-2050, ptmfim@yahoo.com; **3rd 8-Inch Howitzer Btry (SP),** Charleston, SC, 9/15-18, Dennis O'Brien, (803) 340-6286, cobrien@rpdssquared.com; **Bulk Fuel,** Charleston, SC, 4/28-5/1, Howard Huston, (609) 432-4027, hhust61@aol.com; **Combined Action Program,** Albuquerque, NM, 11/7-13, Sardo Sanchez, (505) 999-8129, sardosanchez3@gmail.com; **Fox Co 2nd Bn 1st Mar (Vietnam, 1965-1966),** Nashville, TN, 5/3-6, Kenneth Johnson, (816) 228-8717, kjdjusc@comcast.net; **Mar Brks Bermuda,** Quantico, VA, 6/14-19, Dennis McDonald, (763) 473-3458, d.mcdonald82575@comcast.net; **Mike 3/7 (Vietnam),** San Juan, Puerto Rico, 9/14-18, Ramiro Morales, (219) 741-1549, cmorales.phoenix@gmail.com

NAVY

Abnaki ATF 96, Portland, OR, 9/7-10, Darrel Plank, (541) 910-4132, mtmnan1118@gmail.com; **Adair APA 91 (WWII),** Pigeon Forge, TN, 4/25-28, P.G. Caudell, (706) 677-3611; **Ajax AR 6,** Kenner, LA, 6/8-12, Thomas Judge, (210) 288-7904, tjudge7673@sbcglobal.net; **Andrew Jackson SSBN 619,** Reno, NV, 8/16-19, Jack "Doc" McAllister, (941) 493-7488, patiopapa37@yahoo.com; **Antietam CV/CVA/CVS 36,** Myrtle Beach, SC, 9/11-14, Lyonel Young, (316) 680-0252, lyonel.young@cox.net; **Ashtabula,** Madison, WI, 6/22-25, Paul Stein, (608) 845-9311, paul8678@gmail.com; **Aucilla AO 56,** Melbourne, FL, 4/25-29, Anthony Flynn, (386) 671-1988, tyga141@aol.com; **Bang SS 385,** Chattanooga, TN, 9/12-15, Richard Gahan, (770) 735-4278, bangreunion@gmail.com; **Bluefish SSN 675/SS 222,** Myrtle Beach, SC, 4/28-30, John Wittenstrom, (910) 235-0191, jwittenstrom@nc.rr.com; **Charles R. Ware DD 865,** Myrtle Beach, SC, 9/20-25, Frank Biondo, (516) 481-0034, munkb@msn.com; **Chikaskia AO 54,** Myrtle Beach, FL, 4/10-15, Robert Grant, (352) 753-7552, bobgrant1942@gmail.com; **Conyngham DD 731/DDG 17,** Crystal City, VA, 7/21-24, David Suckow, (651) 226-6179, dsuckow264@icloud.com; **Decatur (All Hulls),** New Orleans, 9/29-10/3, John Rogers, (985) 868-8419, kroge2@aol.com; **Destroyer Leader Assn,** Kissimmee, FL, 9/10-18, Mike Bugara, (401) 635-8860, mjbugara@hotmail.com; **Eldorado AGC 11,** Portland, OR, 9/20-24, Scott Katrina, (503) 504-1818, sdkatrena@yahoo.com; **Finch DER 328,** Las Vegas, 9/25-29, Bob Piazza, (707) 337-9700, rwpiazza@comcast.net; **Floyd B. Parks DD 884,** Colorado Springs, CO, 9/12-18, Jim Smith, (218) 224-3581, jwsmith@paulbunyan.net; **Fred T. Berry DD/DDE 858,** Harrisburg, PA, 9/29-10/2, John Tittsworth, (203) 531-6618, skiptonit@aol.com; **Gearing DD 710,** Washington, 5/12-16,

Attention Veterans!

Discover the world's best walk-in bathtub from *American Standard*



Commended
by the Arthritis
Foundation



American Standard
LIBERATION

Benefits of our Walk-In Bath

- 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage
- Ultra low entry for easy entering and exiting
- Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND the installation
- Patented Quick Drain® fast water removal system

Backed by 140 years of experience by the name and heritage of American Standard

- Handcrafted in the USA
- Professional installation - includes removal of old tub



LIMITED TIME
ONLY
FREE American
Standard Cadet
Pro Toilet

✂ fill out, clip and return this coupon

LIMITED-TIME OFFER...

CALL **1.855.519.8829**

For your no-risk, FREE Info Kit

Name

Address

Phone

City

State Zip

Mail to:
American Standard
2201 Broadway Ste. 103
Oakland, CA 94612



synchro
FINANCIAL



FREE
INFO KIT!



Discount applied by team member at time of purchase contract execution. Offer expires 6/30/16, one discount per household, first time purchaser only. Free American Standard Cadet Pro toilet with the purchase and installation of bath or shower. Liberation by American Standard™ is a licensed brand and product of Safety Tubs Company, LLC. Safety Tubs Company, LLC is an affiliated company of American Standard Brands. Offer only eligible on a fully installed Liberation Walk-In Bath. Please see www.AmericasBestTub.com for additional license information. CA 982796.



✓ Huge Selection



✓ Fast Shipping



✗ High Prices



✓ Easy to Use Website



✓ Parts for Your Car

MotorWeek
Television's Original Automotive Magazine



✓ As Seen On TV

ALL THE PARTS YOUR CAR WILL EVER NEED

www.RockAuto.com



PAIN AFTER RASH IS GONE?

Do you suffer from painful rashes and experience tingling, burning, or a blistering skin rash that often results in lingering pain? Many people are putting up with the discomfort and itching because they are not aware of this new advancement in skin care.

MagniLife® Painful Rash Relief Cream contains 16 powerful ingredients such as arnica and tea tree oil to restore the skin and relieve the pain and itch. *"Thank God. It works! It has been a life saver. It*

controls the pain and after." - Shirley R., KY.

MagniLife® Painful Rash Relief Cream is **available at CVS/pharmacy and Rite Aid Pharmacy**. Or you can order risk free for \$19.99 (\$5.95 S&H) for a 1.8 oz jar. Get a **FREE** jar when you order two for \$39.98 (\$9.95 S&H). Send payment to: MagniLife SH-AL3, PO Box 6789, McKinney, TX 75071 or call **1-800-605-0893**. Satisfaction guaranteed. Order now at **www.PainfulRashRelief.com**

MUSCLE & JOINT PAIN?

If you are one of the 16 million Americans suffering from all over pain, have difficulty sleeping, or have the feeling of little or no energy, you should know relief is now available.

MagniLife® Pain & Fatigue Relief combines 11 active ingredients to relieve deep muscle pain, arthritis pain, painful joints, and back and neck pain. *"These tablets have just been WONDERFUL. I'd recommend them to anyone and everyone!"* - Debra, WV. Tablets are

safe to take with other medications. *"They also help me immensely with my sleep!"* - Cathy W.

MagniLife® Pain & Fatigue Relief is **sold at Walgreens, CVS/pharmacy and Rite Aid**. Order risk free for \$19.99 (\$5.95 S&H) for 125 tablets per bottle. Get a **FREE** bottle when you order two for \$39.98 (\$9.95 S&H). Send payment to: MagniLife F-AL3, PO Box 6789, McKinney, TX 75071 or call **1-800-670-1556**. Satisfaction guaranteed. Order now at **www.PainFatigue.com**

LIVER SPOTS?

Are unsightly brown spots on your face and body making you uncomfortable? Liver spots, also known as age spots, affect the cosmetic surface of the skin and can add years to your appearance. Millions of people live with the dark spots and try to cover them with makeup, or bleach them with harsh chemicals because they are not aware of this new topical treatment that gently and effectively lightens the shade of the skin.

MagniLife® Age Spot Cream uses botanicals, such as licorice root extract to naturally fade age spots, freckles, and other age-associated

discolorations. Ingredients are proven to help protect skin from harmful external factors, and emollients soften and smooth skin. *"It is fading my liver spots. This product actually works!!!"* - Patricia C., NJ.

MagniLife® Age Spot Cream can be ordered risk free for \$19.99 (\$5.95 S&H) for a 2 oz jar. Get a **FREE** jar when you order two for \$39.98 (\$9.95 S&H). Send payment to: MagniLife AC-AL3, PO Box 6789, McKinney, TX 75071 or call **1-800-605-0893**. Satisfaction guaranteed. Order now at **www.AgeSpotSolution.com**

Robert Witkowski, (718) 824-3733, rjwemail@aol.com; **Hull DD 945/350**, Las Vegas, 10/18-21, Robert Modell, (818) 701-0882, reunion2016@usshullassociation.org; **Jenkins DD/DDE 447**, Norfolk, VA, 5/11-15, Robert Roginsky, (440) 582-5856, bjski1@aol.com; **John S. McCain DL 3/DDG 36**, Kissimmee, FL, 9/10-18, Peter Peterson, (321) 952-2066, peteusna@aol.com; **Kretschmer DE/DER 329**, Covington, KY, 9/14-28, Jim Strong, (937) 436-1245, jimstrong@usskretschmer.org; **Macon CA 132**, Macon, GA, 5/23-27, Ted Parker, (302) 947-1923, btparker1@msn.com; **Manatee AO 58**, Reno, NV, 5/24-26, Joe Kraus, (209) 473-0570, celebritygalleries@sbcglobal.net; **Mitscher DL 2/DDG 35**, Kissimmee, FL, 9/10-18, Gary Marchido, (231) 206-1665, garymarchido@aol.com; **Mullany DD 528**, Helena, MT, 9/5-9, Bob Hollister, (406) 351-1687, bhollister@mt.net; **NAS Atlanta (Marietta & Chamblee)**, Dillard, GA, 5/13-14, Al Nordin, (678) 581-9594, anordin91@aol.com; **NMCB 4**, Springfield, VA, 9/16-18, Al Duncan, (610) 247-2162, duncansa2000@yahoo.com; **NMCB 58**, Davisville, CT, 5/11-14, George Baldwin, (860) 889-6291, g-baldwin@sbcglobal.net; **NMCB 62 Seabees**, Gulfport, MS, 4/28-5/2, Norm Hahn, (715) 379-8482, normhahnjr@yahoo.com; **Noa DD 841**, Norfolk, VA, 4/27-5/1, Pam Robbins, (812) 614-9343, probbins66@yahoo.com; **Norfolk DL 1**, Kissimmee, FL, 9/10-18, Bob Godas, (516) 293-4115, bobg190@verizon.net; **O'Brien DD 725**, Charlestown, OH, 9/13-18, William Ladd McCarnan, (513) 398-8688, mccarnanladdy@aol.com; **Okanogan APA 220**, Jacksonsville, FL, 9/18-22, Dave Meierhoff, (620) 340-7406, damcsm@gmail.com; **Picuda SS 382, Quillback SS 424 & Trutta SS 421**, San Antonio, 10/13-16, Mike Wingeier, (901) 356-3107, 69cudaa@rittermail.com; **Raton SS/SSR/AGSS 270**, Branson, MO, 9/14-18, Larry Kramer, (360) 697-2842, ldkramer43@hotmail.com; **Regulus AF 57**, Independence, OH, 5/12-15, Ric Neiman, (404) 561-4720, ricneim@aol.com; **Savannah AOR 4**, Virginia Beach, VA, 9/11-16, Ray Heinrich, (252) 715-3132, aor4ray@yahoo.com; **Sphinx ARL 24**, Branson, MO, 9/12-16, Dennis Klein, (215) 527-8176, dckdck@aol.com; **Thomas A. Edison SSBN/SSN 610**, St. Louis, 5/17-22, Doug Farnham, (618) 316-4780, jjaaxster@gmail.com; **Thomaston LSD 28**, San Diego, 9/15-19, John Rumer, (352) 382-0246, jrumer@tampabay.rr.com; **Ticonderoga CV/CVA/CVS 14**, Las Vegas, 5/19-23, Floyd Frank, (702) 351-6660, papacva14@aol.com; **VAH-21/TRIM**, Dayton, OH, 6/15-19, Gerald Tripp, (951) 926-6047, trippg748@verizon.net; **VF-92**, Branson, MO, 5/18-22, Jeff Grates, (612) 720-0456, jppedalcar7@msn.com; **VP-44/Maritime Patrol Assn Symposium**, NAS Jacksonville, FL, 4/12-15, Gene Toffolo, (229) 559-7959; vp44paxmd@aol.com; **Wilhoite DE/DER 397**, New Orleans, 9/12-15, Elisabeth Kimball, (479) 968-1236, canerday@centurytel.net; **Wilkinson DL 5**, Kissimmee, FL, 9/10-18, John Lair, (619) 479-7387, hobocamp@aol.com; **Willard Keith DD 775**, Branson, MO, 5/11-14, Don Hempstead, (501) 884-6242, dhempj2@artelco.com; **Willis A. Lee DL 4**, Kissimmee, FL, 9/10-18, Frank Graham, (718) 934-6410, frankdl4@optonline.net

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Post 24, ME: Henry J. Arsenault, George W. Carrier, John T. Edwards, Aime L. Fournier, John L. Gould, Emerson F. Jepson Sr., Lawrence R. Kerr, Louis Razzano, Frank F. Senkbeil
Post 64, MI: Robert Gaines, George LeMieux
Post 318, MO: Charley Kutz

IN SEARCH OF

16th AOD (Fort Bragg, NC & Echterdingen AAF, 1959-1960), Tom Senuta, (860) 705-1328, twstrucks@yahoo.com
32nd Sig Bn A Co (Cambria Fritch Kaserne, Darmstadt, Germany, 1960-1961), Tom Senuta, (860) 705-1328, twstrucks@yahoo.com
74th Msl Det 74th Arty Det (Schwabstad Kaserne, Klosterlechfeld, Germany, Sept

1968-May 1971, Dennis Wagner, (404) 569-5204, talltree40@bellsouth.net
149th Sqdn Army Airways Cmd Comm & Cryptology Sect (USAAC Guadalcanal, 1944-1945), Richard Hicks, (248) 932-0558, cahicks@gmail.com

325th Sig Bn (Bang Pla, Thailand, Sept 1970-Oct 1971), Walter McCarty, (765) 569-6756, waltermccarty@yahoo.com

355th Dispensary (Takhli, Thailand, 1967-1970), Butch Broutzos, (603) 540-9604, greek9@comcast.net

591st Eng Co (LE) (1966-1972), Ken Kiel, (414) 529-7731, kccconst@wi.rr.com

595th Eng Co (LE) (1966-1970), Ken Kiel, (414) 529-7731, kccconst@wi.rr.com

809th Eng Bn (Guam, 1956-1960), Richard Ohl, rohl742@embarqmail.com

1256th Cbt Bn (Camp McCain, MS, England & Germany, 1944-1946), Frank Hamwey, (904) 516-7832

A Btry 537th FA Bn (Dugway Proving Ground, 1951), Donald Rosafo, (914) 666-7320

A Co & HQ 4th QM Bn 4th Armd Div (Goeppingen, Germany, 1957-1960), Lloyd Harfst, (636) 742-2071, mlhmarfst@charter.net

B Co 3/23 2nd Inf Div (Korea, July 1968-Aug 1969), Roland Leech, (574) 850-5777

Bibb WPG/WHEC 31, Lloyd Hensley, lhensley@yahoo.com

D Co 17th Armd Eng Bn 2nd Armd Div (Anderson Bks, Dexheim, Germany, Dec 1954-Sept 1957), Gary Wilcox, (570) 553-2693, gwilcox5@stny.rr.com

G Co 1st Army 3rd Tng Rgt (Fort Dix, NJ, Sept-Nov 1958), Tom Senuta, (860) 705-1328, twstrucks@yahoo.com

Woodson DE 359 (July 1944-May 1946), Harry Gamble, gamble29554@hotmail.com

YR-71 (Da Nang & Mekong Delta, Vietnam,

1971), Mike Cassesse, (203) 605-3307, mike17cassesse@hotmail.com

TAPS

Lewis L. Adams, Dept. of Nebraska. Dept. Cmdr.

1970-1971, Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1990-1991, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1972-1973, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1973-1979, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1976-1980, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1980-1984, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1980-1984, Nat'l Resolutions Subcmte. Memb. 1983-1984, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Region 6 Memb. 1984-1987, Nat'l Veterans Pref. Cmsn. Memb. 1988-1990 and 1991-2010, and Nat'l Veterans Pref. Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 2009-2010.

Andrew J. Cooper, Dept. of Alabama. Dept. Cmdr. 1968-1969, Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1989-1990, Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1957-1959, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1969-1974, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1978-1982, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1982-1988, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 3 Memb. 1990-1993, Nat'l Military Affairs Cmte. Memb. 1994-2005, Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmsn. Memb. 1974-1982, Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1982-1988 and Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. 1988-1989.

Kerrie G. Gill Sr., Dept. of Pennsylvania. Dept. Cmdr. 2011-2012, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1999-2001, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2004-2005 and 2006-2007, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2006 and 2008-2011, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2007-2008 and Nat'l Constitution & By-Laws Cmte. Memb. 2012-2015.

Kenneth F. Governor, Dept. of New York. Dept. Cmdr. 2013-2014, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice

Chmn. 2003, Nat'l American Legion Insurance Cmsn. Memb. 2003-2006, Nat'l American Legion Insurance Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 2006-2009, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Memb. 2009-2011, Nat'l Citizens Flag Alliance Memb. 2011-2013 and Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Chmn. 2011-2013.

Eugene G. Heiman, Dept. of Kansas. Dept. Cmdr. 1992-1993 and Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1993-2007.

Hershel O. Ladner, Dept. of Mississippi. Dept. Cmdr. 1975-1976, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1986-1990, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1972-1974 and 1989-1990, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. 1990-1997, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Memb. 1987, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 1997-2000, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1990-2000, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Consultant 1987-1989, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1980-1984, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Memb. 2001-2012, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 2000-2001, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1976-1978 and 1986-1987, and Nat'l Subcmte. on Cmtes. Memb. 1993-1997.

Roy L. Layton, Dept. of Washington. Dept. Cmdr. 2007, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 2007-2013, Nat'l Law and Order & Homeland Sec. Cmte. Memb. 2013-2015 and Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2013-2015.

Eugene R. Paul, Dept. of Pennsylvania. Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2007 and Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 2007-2015.

John J. Ross, Dept. of Iowa. Dept. Cmdr. 2003-2004, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2005-2009, Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Cmsn. Memb. 2006-2009, Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2010-2013, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2009-2013, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2004-2006 and Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2009-2010.

LEGION SHOPPER

DIGITAL HEARING SALE
 5 year warranty **\$339.95** Any size or style
 Made in the U.S.A. **\$249.95 to \$499.95** None higher
NEW! OPEN FIT TECHNOLOGY Most Brands
 FREE Telephone Hearing Test
 FREE Consultation with Technician
FREE TRIAL • FREE S&H Repairs \$77⁹⁵ Since 1981
Hearing ONE • 1-800-249-4163
 100 Main St., Marty, SD 57361
NOT AVAILABLE IN WA

www.FlagAndBannerSupply.com
FLAG & BANNER SUPPLY
 Full discounts to organizations
 • Top Quality • Heavy Duty • All U.S. Made
 Call for quotes and discounts
 Full Line of Flags & Banners
 Online Catalog
1-800-526-FLAG (3524)
740-606-1890 Also eves
fayetteflag1@gmail.com

U.S. MILITARY MEDALS & RIBBONS
FREE COLOR CATALOG!
TOLL FREE TEL: 800-864-5062
VETS SUPPLY LINE
10550 CO RD 81, #218
MAPLE GROVE, MN 55369
WEB SITE: www.MilitaryVetsPX.com
CUSTOM BALL CAPS-NAVY SHIP CAPS

WIDESHoes.COM
EEE-EEEEEE
SIZES 5-20
 Free Catalog!
800-992-WIDE
 Hitchcock Shoes • Hingham, MA 02043 • dept. 5D6

2 Seater

 www.palmerind.com
 Now, One hand operated
 Unlimited range hybrid electrics
Free Brochure 800 847 1304
 Made in USA Palmer Industries Since 1973
 P O Box 5707AWL
 Endicott NY 13763
 Small scooters, Pedal/Electrics,
 Electric Hub Kits for Trikes & Bikes

LIKE THE LEGION ON FACEBOOK
WWW.LEGION.ORG/FACEBOOK

HAT PINS • MEDALS • BALL CAPS
FREE COLOR CATALOG
 • 2500+ Military Designs
 • Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines
Call now! Toll-free!
1-888-223-1159
 • Custom pins & patches available.
 Dealer Inquires welcome.
HONORS
 by Hoover's Mfg., Co.
 P.O. Box 547AL, Peru, IL 61354
 Fax: 1-815-223-1499
 Email: dave@hmcnors.com
 Website: www.hmcnors.com

I changed my password to "incorrect," so that whenever I forget it the computer tells me, "Your password is incorrect."

A TEACHER said to her class, "Whoever answers my next question can go home." Just then, a lunch bag whizzed past her head and out the window.

"Who threw that?" she demanded.

"I did," one boy said. "Bye!"

A FROG called a psychic hotline and was told, "You're going to meet a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you."

"Great!" the frog exclaimed. "Will I meet her at a party or something?"

"No," the psychic said. "Next semester in her biology class."

WHILE DRIVING down a country road, a traveler saw a farmer standing in the middle of a huge field. He pulled over, walked out to the farmer and asked, "Excuse me, but what are you doing?"

The farmer said, "Trying to win a Nobel Prize."

"How?" the man asked, puzzled.

"Well, I heard they give the Nobel Prize to people who are out standing in their field."

A TRAVELER was at the airport, checking in at the gate, when an agent asked him, routinely, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?"

"If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" he responded.

The agent smiled and said, "That's why we ask."



"I know you never get Grandpa's texts, but I don't have the heart to tell him it's a TV remote."



"Do you mind if I put you on hold for a minute? I have a really short attention span."



"I didn't think it was fair to leave milk and cookies for Santa Claus but nothing for the Easter Bunny."

A GEORGIA state trooper pulled over the driver of a pickup truck on Interstate 75. The trooper asked, "Got any ID?"

The driver replied, "'Bout whut?'"

A WORKER went to see his supervisor in the front office one morning.

"Boss," he said, "we're doing some heavy housecleaning at home tomorrow, and my wife needs me to help with the attic and garage, moving and hauling stuff."

"We're short-handed," the supervisor replied. "I can't give you the day off."

"I knew I could count on you, sir."

"AMAZON JUST UNVEILED new prototype drones for its Prime Air delivery service, and it said it hopes to deliver packages in under 30 minutes. Then people waiting to depart from LaGuardia were like, 'How much weight can they hold? I'll try it.'" – Jimmy Fallon

"To you, it's the perfect lift chair. To me, it's the best sleep chair I've ever had."

— J. Fitzgerald, VA

Easy-to-use remotes for massage/heat and recline/lift



Complete with battery backup in case of power outage

Sit up, lie down — and anywhere in between!

We've all had nights when we just can't lie down in bed and sleep, whether it's from heartburn, cardiac problems, hip or back aches – it could be a variety of reasons. Those are the nights we'd give anything for a comfortable chair to sleep in, one that reclines to exactly the right degree, raises feet and legs to precisely the desired level, supports the head and shoulders properly, operates easily even in the dead of night, and sends a hopeful sleeper right off to dreamland.

Our Perfect Sleep Chair® is just the chair to do it all. It's a chair, true – the finest of lift chairs – but this chair is so much more! It's designed to provide total comfort and relaxation not found in other chairs. It can't be beat for comfortable, long-term sitting, TV viewing,

relaxed reclining and – yes! – peaceful sleep. Our chair's recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of positions, including the Trendelenburg position and the zero

gravity position where your body experiences a minimum of internal and external stresses. You'll love the other benefits, too: It helps with correct spinal alignment, promotes back pressure relief, and encourages better posture to prevent back and muscle pain.



This lift chair puts you safely on your feet!

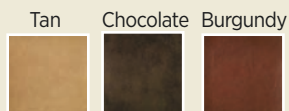
And there's more! The overstuffed, oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. The high and low heat settings along with the dozens of massage settings, can provide a soothing relaxation you might get at a spa – just imagine getting all that in a lift chair! Shipping charge includes white glove delivery. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! Includes one year service warranty and your choice of fabrics and colors. If you're not 100% satisfied simply return the chair within 30 days for a refund of the product purchase price. – Call now!

The Perfect Sleep Chair® Call now toll free for our lowest price.

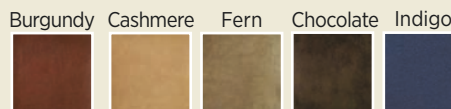
Please mention code 102390 when ordering.

1-888-232-0132

**Long Lasting
DuraLux Leather**



**DuraLux II
Microfiber**



© 2016 firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.

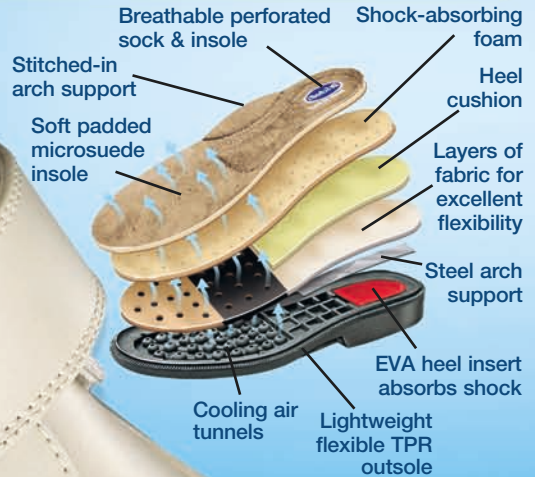
ACT NOW & **SAVE \$10**



COMFORT CASUAL LEATHER SHOES now only **29⁹⁹** per pair
Reg. 39.99

Dr. Scholl's is a registered trademark of MSD Consumer Care, Inc. © 2016 MSD Consumer Care, Inc. All rights reserved. MagicCling™ is a trademark of Haband Company.

Double Air-Pillo® COMFORT-FLO DESIGN



Soft Padded Collar!

Traction Treaded!

Easy On & Off MagicCling™ One-Strap!

Driftwood

Supple Leather!

Plus, **FREE SHIPPING!**

Plus these Best Features at the Best Price:

- ★ **Genuine Leather Uppers!** Our most buttery soft long-wearing leather with supple, durable man-made trim!
- ★ **Comfort-Flo Design Outsole!** Custom designed for us, this outsole passes air through the shoe with each and every step you take!
- ★ **One-Strap MagicCling™!** No bothersome laces, just a quick & easy MagicCling™ strap that never comes undone!
- ★ **AVAILABLE IN SIZES UP TO 14EEEE! FREE SHIPPING! Order Today!**

MENS **HABAND®**



COMFORT CASUAL LEATHER SHOES now only **29⁹⁹*** per pair
2 pairs 56.47 • 3 pairs 81.45 • 4 pairs 105.37

Haband #1 Bargain Place, Jessup, PA 18434-1834

☐ Haband! ☐ BLAIR ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover® ☐ AmEx ☐ Check

Card # _____ Exp.: ____/____/____

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City & State _____ Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

I enclose \$_____ purchase price, and only \$~~5.99~~ shipping & handling for my

entire order. Please add applicable state & local sales tax for the following states: AZ, FL, GA, MA, MN, NE, NJ, PA, WI, & WV.

FREE SHIPPING!



D Widths:

7 7½ 8 8½ 9 9½
10 10½ 11 12 13 14

*EEE Widths (\$4 more per pair):

7½ 8 8½ 9 9½ 10
10½ 11 12 13 14

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

or Full Refund of merchandise purchase price.

When you pay by check, you authorize us to use information from your check to clear it electronically. Funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

On-Line Quick Order

Imported

	77E-478A8	WHAT SIZE?	WHAT WIDTH?	HOW MANY?
2G	DRIFTWOOD			
1C	BLACK			
04	BROWN			
2E	KHAKI			
06	GREY			
U4	DARK TAN			

For Faster Service Call: 1-800-543-4810 or visit www.Haband.com/bestdeals