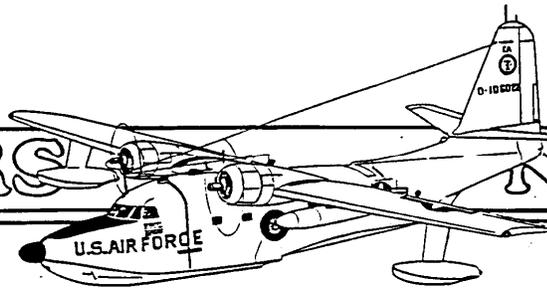


OLD TIMERS' NOOZZE



Volume 12, Issue 4

December 2008

WWII Vet Goes Back to School



Former 129 AHA President, Lt Col Jay Craddock, has returned to school! The World War II Veteran was invited to speak to the children attending Almond Elementary School in Los Altos on Veterans' Day so they could meet a "real WWII Vet". "I gave a very short synopsis of my adventures, but I thought the best part was watching the kids all stand and pledge allegiance to the Flag. Maybe the 'next Generation' will turn out OK-----yet!"

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Board Election

March 2009

An election for the three at-large Directors is scheduled for 2009. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribe that Directors are elected in odd number years (2009) and Officers are elected in even number years (2010).

The AHA President, John Ruppel, will appoint an Election Committee composed of the Vice President, Steve James; the Secretary-Treasurer, Dave Russell; Newsletter Editor, Lynda Fawcett; and an association member at large, James Rommelfanger. The committee will be responsible for gathering nominations, distributing, collecting, and counting the ballots. The newly elected Directors will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, the Annual Old Timers' Lunch, scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2009.

Any AHA member in good standing may serve as a Director. Individuals interested in serving as a Director should complete the form included in this newsletter. Return the completed form (or a reasonable facsimile) no later than January 17, 2009, to:

Col John Ruppel
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

Nominations must be postmarked by January 17, 2009, to be valid. All nominations will be included on the ballot. Ballots, a self-addressed stamped postcard, will be mailed to all members, with the next edition of the newsletter, in early February. There is no write-in provision. Ballots must be returned with a postmark no later than March 13, 2009 to be valid. The three nominees with the highest number of votes will be declared Directors, and will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers' Luncheon

Interested in serving? Get your nomination form completed and returned ASAP!

The Prez Sez

The President's Column

COL John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)

As the busy holiday season approaches, it seems appropriate to pause and review the Association's year. The year began at the annual Old-Timers Luncheon with the installation of new Association officers and the awarding of four scholarships. The generosity of several Association members, the Military Officers Association, the 129th Wing Chiefs Group, and membership dues contributions will provide five 2009 scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded at the March 24, 2009, Old-Timers' Luncheon. Mark your calendars now.

The Board appreciates the membership support which has facilitated a successful year.

The Association undertook a project to provide the Wing with a heritage display of the Wing Aircraft. The membership and Wing personnel response provided funds to purchase nine aircraft and a display case. The display was dedicated in August and resides in the Wing Headquarters Building adjacent to the Commander's Office.

In response to a Wing request, the Association delivered 200 deployment bags October 27th for distribution to deploying personnel. The bags were assembled by Lynda Fawcett and contain several holiday treats and a special surprise. A special thanks to Lynda for undertaking the project.

As a member service, Lynda has been including news release information drawn from DOD resources, providing pertinent information that Board deems of value and that the membership may not have access to.

Association dues provide the support for the Newsletter, Scholarship Program, and other activities. If the Newsletter mailing label indicates "Delinquent" or contains a "late" notice, this is a reminder that your 2008 dues have not been paid. Please give this attention. At a minimum, please let us know in writing should you not wish to continue, so the Membership Director does not waste valuable time and the Association unnecessarily waste resources.

As is customary, the 2009 Association election announcement and nomination material is included. If you are interested in serving, please complete and return a nomination form.

Last week the Association lost two members, Lt Colonel Ward Douglass and TSgt James Calvin. A piece on Ward and Jim is included in the Newsletter.

The Board wishes you and yours a joyful holiday season and a prosperous 2009. Cheers!!!

John

Enhanced VA Mortgages Possible for Vets in Distress

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- Veterans with conventional home loans now have new options for refinancing to a Department of Veterans Affairs guaranteed home loan. These new options are available as a result of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, which President Bush signed into law Oct. 10.

"These changes will allow VA to assist a substantial number of veterans with subprime mortgages refinance into a safer, more affordable, VA guaranteed loan," said Dr. James B. Peake, VA secretary. "Veterans in financial distress due to high rate subprime mortgages are potentially the greatest beneficiaries."

VA has never guaranteed subprime loans; however, as a result of the new law VA can now help many more veterans who currently have subprime loans.

The new law makes changes to VA's home loan refinancing program. Veterans who wish to refinance their subprime or conventional mortgage may now do so for up to 100 percent of the value of the property. These types of loans were previously limited to 90 percent of the value.

Additionally, Congress raised VA's maximum loan amount for these types of refinancing loans. Previously, these refinancing loans were capped at \$144,000. With the new legislation, such loans may be made up to \$729,750 depending on where the property is located.

Increasing the loan-to-value ratio and raising the maximum loan amount will allow more qualified veterans to refinance through VA, allowing for savings on interest costs or even potentially avoiding foreclosure.

Originally set to expire at the end of this month, VA's authority to guaranty Adjustable Rate Mortgages and Hybrid ARMs was also extended under this new law through Sept. 30, 2012. Unlike conventional ARMs and hybrid ARMs, VA limits interest rate increases on these loans from year to year, as well as over the life of the loans.

Since 1944, when home loan guaranties were offered with the original GI Bill, VA has guaranteed more than 18 million home loans worth more than \$911 billion. This year, about 180,000 veterans, active-duty servicemembers, and survivors received loans valued at about \$36 billion.

For more information, or to obtain help from a VA loan specialist, veterans may call VA at (877) 827-3702 or visit www.homeloans.va.gov.

NOMINATION FOR DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Now is your opportunity!

Do you want to have a hand in running the 129th Alumni and Heritage Association? Do you want to be more involved in the Association? Do you have lots of great ideas for things the Association could be involved in?

Now is your opportunity. Nominate yourself (you CAN NOT nominate another person) to serve for 2 years as a Director at large. If elected, you will serve on the Board of Directors of the 129th Alumni and Heritage Association.

Volunteer NOW!

NOMINATION FOR DIRECTOR AT LARGE

**Yes! I want to be more involved in the 129th AHA!
Place my name in nomination for Director at Large.**

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Rank: _____ Dates of Service in 129th: _____

Signature: _____

Must be postmarked by January 17, 2009. Mail to:

Col John Ruppel
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122
Email: J-L.Ruppel@worldnet.att.net

*Tis The Season

Army Christmas Operations Order 00-5689:
Subject: Christmas

1. An official visit by MG Santa (NMI) Claus is expected at this headquarters 25 December 2009. The following instructions will be in effect and govern the activities of all personnel during the visit.

a. Not a creature will stir without official permission. This will include indigenous mice. Special stirring permits for necessary administrative actions will be obtained through the C1. Mice stirring permits will be processed through the C2 for proper clearances and obtained through Veterinary Services, ARCENT-KU.

b. Personnel will settle their brains for a long winter nap prior to 2200 hours, 24 December 2009. See MAJ Dickenson for pre-napping medical requirements. See MAJ Adams for napping demonstration. Uniform for the nap will be: Pajamas, cotton, light, drowsing, with kerchief, general purpose, camouflage; and Cap, camouflage w/ear flaps. Equipment should have been drawn from homestation CIF prior to deployment.

c. Personnel will utilize standard Sharq Market sugar plums for visions to dance through their heads. Artificially sweetened plums are authorized for those in the unit weight control program. Specifications for this item will be provided by the servicing dining facility.

d. Stockings, wool, cushion sole, will be hung by the chimney with care. Necessary safety precautions will be taken to avoid fire hazards caused by carelessly hung stockings. ARCENT-KU safety officer will submit stocking hanging plans to this headquarters prior to 0800 hours, 24 December 2009, ATTN: MAJ Salada, for approval.

e. At the first sign of clatter from the lawn, all troops will spring from their beds to evaluate noise and cause. Immediate action will be taken to tear open the shutters and throw open the window sashes. PMO Plan (Saint Nick), Reference LO No. 3, paragraph 6c, this headquarters, 2 February 2008, will be in effect to facilitate shutter tearing and sash throwing. Section OICs will familiarize all personnel with procedures and are responsible for ensuring that no shutters are torn open nor window sashes thrown open prior to start of official clatter. See CPT Donley for hardcopy.

f. Prior to 2400, 24 December 2009, all personnel will be assigned "Wondering Eye" stations. After shutters are thrown open and sashes are torn, these stations will be manned.

g. SSG Bekono will assign one each Sleigh, miniature, M-66, and eight (8) deer, rein, tiny, for use of MG Claus' driver who, in accordance with current directives and other applicable regulations, must have a valid SF56 properly annotated by Driver Testing; be authorized rooftop parking and be able to shout "On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer and Vixen, up Comet, up Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen".

2. MG Claus will enter quarters through standard chimneys. All units without chimneys will draw Chimney Simulator, M-6, for use during ceremonies. Chimney simulator units will be requested through SPC Oswalt on Job Order Request Form submitted to the Furniture Warehouse prior to 19 December 2009, and issued on DA Form 3161, Request for Issue or Turn-in.

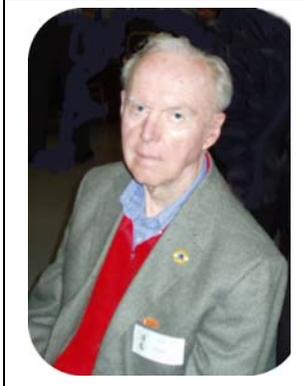
3. Personnel will be rehearsed on shouting "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night." See LTC Pride for demonstration. This shout will be given on termination of General Claus' visit. Uniformity of shouting is the responsibility of section NCOICs.

/s/
CHRISTOPHER K. RINGLE
Colonel, USA
OIC, Special Services

Distribution:
Everybody Who Still Believes

Lt Col Ward H. Douglass

10 January 1920 - 23 November 2008

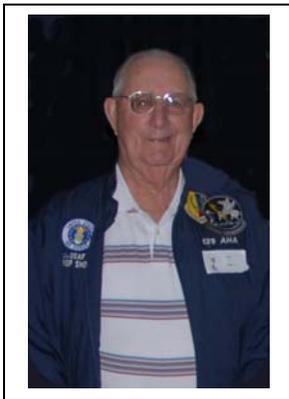


Ward H. Douglass was born January 10, 1920, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He passed away quietly in his sleep on November 23, 2008, at the age of 88. He was preceded in death by his wife of many years, Mildred. They are survived by a son, Robin.

Lt Col Douglass was an avid sportsman in high school and college, and joined the Army Air Corps after graduation. He served with the 355th Fighter Group in England during World War II, and was an early member of the 129th Resupply Group.

TSgt James A. Calvin

29 June 1923 – 28 November 2008



Resident of San Leandro James Andrew Calvin entered peacefully into rest in San Leandro on November 28, 2008. He was 85 years old. Born in Oakland on June 29, 1923, Jim worked as a propeller and hydraulic mechanic for various companies including Golden Propeller Shop, Mikkelsen Machine Shop, and Sweetland Corporation. He was an integral part in the set up of Travis Air Force Base. Jim proudly served his country during World War II as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps and after the war as a member of the 129th Air National Guard Squadron out of Hayward. He was known as the "Tootsie Roll Man" because he would give two tootsie rolls to everyone he met. Jim had a machine shop in his garage at home and everyone in the neighborhood knew to go see him when anything they had was broken and Jim would fix it for them. He will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife and best friend of 65 years, Gladys Calvin of San Leandro; his loving children and their spouses, Shirley and Dennis McCarthy of Palo Cedro, Ca, Noreen and David Johnson of Mokena, IL and James and Diane Calvin of Casa Grande, AZ; his sister, Mildred Kilner of Castro Valley; grandchildren, Kevin McCarthy, Chris Johnson, Steffani Johnson, Travis Calvin, and Dawn Calvin; 8 great grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, extended family and cherished friends. He was preceded in death by his grandson Keith McCarthy. Jim will be laid to rest at a private family ceremony at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo, Ca. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations be made in Jim's memory to your favorite charity.

Tricare & Medicare Work Together for Eligible Beneficiaries

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) -- Tricare officials want beneficiaries who receive a disability check to ensure they are getting the Tricare coverage they are entitled to receive.

In general, most beneficiaries become eligible for Medicare at age 65; however, many beneficiaries younger than 65 also qualify for Medicare and there is one critical fact they need to know:

"Most Tricare beneficiaries who are eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A are required under federal law to enroll in Medicare Part B to keep Tricare benefits," said Anne Breslin, the Tricare For Life program manager.

Medicare Part A covers inpatient care in hospitals and skilled-nursing facilities. It also covers hospice and some home health care.

Medicare Part B is medical insurance. It helps cover outpatient and physician services as well as some physical and occupational therapies and home health care. The Medicare Part B monthly premium is currently \$96.40 and will remain the same for 2009. Individual premiums could be higher, based on income.

When Medicare coverage is effective, it becomes the primary insurance, while Tricare becomes the secondary. Beneficiaries who take appropriate steps to maintain their Tricare eligibility will often have no out-of-pocket expenses for health care services covered by Medicare and Tricare.

Generally, beneficiaries who receive Social Security disability benefits begin receiving Medicare benefits after two years, and they may choose between options such as Tricare Prime or Tricare for Life. Most will need to have Medicare Part B, although there are some exceptions.

"Whatever they choose, we can't emphasize enough that beneficiaries need to look carefully at their options before making decisions that could result in a loss of Tricare coverage," said Ms. Breslin.

Factors beneficiaries must take into consideration before making a decision when it comes to Medicare and Tricare include: whether their spouse is on active duty; if they are disabled because of injuries suffered while serving on active duty; if they have other health insurance; or if they are enrolled in the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan or Tricare Reserve Select.

Other factors may also apply, but help is available to understand the complexities of this benefit. Detailed information on how Medicare and Tricare work together for eligible beneficiaries younger than 65 is available through the Tricare Web site at www.tricare.mil/medicare, where users can also download a new "Using Tricare and Medicare" flier.

For more information, contact visit Medicare at www.medicare.gov or call (800) 633-4227; visit the Social Security Administration at www.ssa.gov or call (800) 772-1213; or call Tricare for Life at (866) 773-0404. (Courtesy of Tricare)

2008-2009 UTAs

2008

6-7 December

2009

3-4 January

7-8 February

7-8 March

4-5 April

2-3 May

6-7 June

11-12 July

1-2 August

12-13 September

3-4 October

7-8 November

5-6 December

Possible Data Breach at Express Scripts

TRICARE was informed by Express Scripts that they had a data breach. At this time, there is no confirmation that any TRICARE beneficiary information has been compromised. Follow this link to view the Express Scripts announcement.

<http://www.esisupports.com/> The following is an excerpt from the Express Scripts site.

"Express Scripts notified the FBI, and there is an official investigation underway. We have notified the members whose information was contained in the letters. The company has also launched its own investigation with the help of top experts in data security and computer forensics."

"While we are unaware at this time of any actual misuse of any members' information, we understand the concern that this situation has caused our members."

"This site is designed to keep you updated on developments concerning that situation and to provide you with important tools and resources to help protect yourself against identity theft."

"We are taking this situation very seriously and want to reassure you that we are committed to doing what we can to secure your data."

To learn more about protecting your personal information, TRICARE recommends you visit their Privacy Office website at <http://tricare.mil/tmaprivacy/itpr.cfm> . As a reminder, AFA also offers free tools and tips to protect yourself at www.afaprotect.com .



2009 ANG Western Golf Invitational

Hosted by the Copperhead Golf Club

(September 8, 9, and 10)

*Location: Wigwam Golf Resort, Litchfield, AZ
Just 3 miles South of Luke AFB*

Singles/Doubles : \$119.00
Bacabi Suite : \$119.00 (Already Reserved for the Copperhead Golf Committee)
Additional Suites : \$159.00-\$209.00

All room rates are quoted exclusive of applicable state and local taxes, which are currently 10.27%, as well as a \$15.00 per room/per day resort fee* (waived for your group), which includes the following:

- Unlimited high speed internet access
- In room coffee service
- Valet and resort parking
- USA Today (delivered weekdays)
- Unlimited use
 - Health and Locker Room Facilities
 - Bicycles
 - Phone calls (local and 800)



****Gratuities for other services or for Food and Beverage are to your discretion.**

8 September 2006 (Tuesday)

- * 0730 – Golf Skins Game at the Wigwam Golf Course (Practice Round) with handicap: (\$\$ skins Pot) plus green fees. Green fees should be around \$35 - \$40. There will be 2 Closest to the Pins.
- * Approx. 1000 – 1400 hrs: Golf Registration Check in at the Bacabi Suite. Subject to change
- * 1700 hrs: POC meeting – Bacabi Suite
- * 1800 hrs - ??? – Let's get together and PARTY, food, drink, mix-it-up at the Bacabi Suite
- * Approx. 1900 hrs – Texas Holdem Tournament - \$20 buy in (3000 in chips) with one re-buy \$10 (2000 in Chips).

9 September 2006 (Wednesday)

- * Approx. 0800 – 1st round of the tournament – shotgun start
- * 1800 - ??? - Let's get together and PARTY, food, drink, mix-it-up at the Bacabi Suite

10 September 2006 (Thursday)

- * Approx. 0800 – 2nd round of the tournament – shotgun start
- * Approx. 1800 hrs – Awards Dinner – included with the golf registration fee:
 - Choice of dinner – to be determined when you register on 5 September or possibly earlier
 - Awards and presentation by next years host base.
 - Music & Dancing

It is imperative that you reserve your rooms ASAP! The Wigwam explained to us that these days are one of their busiest and rooms are going fast. There is a 6 day grace period for cancellation without penalty. Please take advantage and reserve now, or you might have to stay at a hotel nearby. If you have any questions please feel free to contact any Copperhead Golf Club Committee Member on the web link. We hope to make this year's event one to remember.

More Documentation Necessary to Replace, Renew ID Cards

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFRN) -- Homeland Security Directive 12 now requires retirees and family members seeking to renew or replace a military identification card to provide two types of ID.

Retirees and family members needing identification cards must have two of the following types of current identification - one of which must include a photo:

- Driver's license or ID issued by a state or outlying U.S. commonwealth or possession
- ID card issued by federal, state or local government agencies or entities
- School ID card with a photograph
- Voter's registration card
- U.S. military ID card
- U.S. passport
- Certificate of U.S. citizenship
- Certificate of naturalization
- For persons younger than 18, who are unable to present a document previously listed, they may bring:
 - School record or report card
 - Clinic, doctor or hospital record
 - Day-care or nursery school record

The listing above is not all inclusive. A list of acceptable documents can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/I-9.pdf>, Page 4.

Before visiting a military ID card issuing facility, people may want to call first to determine what specific documents may be required, and to verify the process to renew or replace an ID card. For contact information and the location of the nearest ID card issuing facility, visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/owa/home>. On this Web site, people can search by city, state or ZIP code.

Social Security Announces 5.8 Percent Benefit Increase for 2009

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for more than 55 million Americans will increase 5.8 percent in 2009. The 5.8 percent increase is the largest since 1982 and will begin in January 2009. Increased payments to more than 7 million Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries will begin on December 31. Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$106,800 from \$102,000. Of the estimated 164 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2009, about 11 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum. Information about Medicare changes for 2009 can be found at www.medicare.gov.

Retirees Get 5.8% COLA for 2009

The 2009 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retired pay will be 5.8%. This increase, which goes into effect on December 1, 2008, also applies to SBP annuities, Social Security checks, and VA disability and survivor benefits. Retirees will see the increase in their January 2009 checks. Retirees who first became a member of the uniformed services on or after Sept. 8, 1980, and retired in 2008 under the High-36 retirement will receive a Partial COLA on a prorated basis. This COLA is the highest seen in over 15 years. Check out the [2009 Retired Pay COLA](#) details.

Military to See 3.9% Pay Increase in 2009

The President has signed the National Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which authorizes an across-the-board raise of 3.9 percent in basic pay for all military personnel.

New Law Helps Guard and Reserve Members Facing Bankruptcy

President Bush signed the National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008 (S. 3197) into law on October 20, 2008. S. 3197 will help Guard and Reserve members who are struggling financially to receive bankruptcy assistance. The 2005 Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention Act changed the U.S. bankruptcy code making it more difficult for individual debt to be discharged in bankruptcy. The changes to this law require filers to pass a rigorous means test to assess whether the individual is qualified for bankruptcy protection. The means test looks at an individual's income and expenses for the six month period preceding a bankruptcy filing, which unfairly penalized Guard and Reservists who no longer receive the pay active duty provides, but are still evaluated as if they do. S. 3197 exempts Guard and Reservists from this means test, giving them a window of time to get their finances in order and to file for bankruptcy protection if needed. Source: National Military Family Association www.nmfa.org

Tricare Encourages People to Give Flu Vaccines a Shot

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) -- Tricare officials urge people to prepare for this year's flu season by receiving a flu vaccine.

In the United States more than 220,000 people are hospitalized and 36,000 die every year as a result of the flu and flu-related complications. Although infants and the elderly are most at risk for serious illness or death, many young people are also hospitalized or die from the flu each year.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials, a record number of flu vaccine doses (more than 140 million) have been created for use in the United States this flu season.

For the first time, CDC officials recommend children ages 6 months to 18 years get the flu vaccination. Previously, CDC officials recommended flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 5 years. Now, all school-aged children are encouraged to have it.

Annual recommendations for adults have not changed. Any adult who wants to reduce the risk for becoming ill or transmitting the flu to others should be vaccinated. Vaccinations are specifically recommended for all in the following groups:

- Adults aged 50 years and older
- Persons aged 2 to 64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions
- All women who or may be pregnant during the influenza season
- Children aged 6 months to 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy
- Health care workers involved in direct patient care
- Household contacts and caregivers of children and those 50 or older.

Tricare covers the vaccine in two forms: The flu shot is an inactivated vaccine containing a killed virus that may be used in all age groups. The nasal-spray flu vaccine, or Flu Mist, is a vaccine made with live, weakened flu viruses available only to healthy people who are not pregnant or between ages of 5 and 49.

The flu shot is covered for Tricare beneficiaries, as long as it is administered in a doctor's office. Flu shots administered in a civilian pharmacy, drugstore or other location are not covered by Tricare. For Tricare-for-Life beneficiaries, Medicare covers flu vaccines and Tricare is second payer, if needed.

Military treatment facilities and clinics also offer flu vaccinations. Check locally for more information.

Find out more about flu vaccines on the CDC's flu page www.cdc.gov/flu or the Military Vaccine Agency Web site www.vaccines.mil/default.aspx. (Courtesy of Tricare)

VA Travel Reimbursement Increase

The VA announced that eligible veterans will see an increase in the mileage reimbursement they receive for travel to VA facilities for medical care. Effective November 17th, the mileage reimbursement increased from 28.5 cents to 41.5 cents per mile for all eligible veterans. <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1617> for more information.

VA Expands Protections for Veterans with Missing Paperwork

The VA announced special procedures for processing claims from veterans, family members, and survivors whose applications for financial benefits from VA may have been mishandled by VA personnel. These special procedures come after an audit by VA's Inspector General found documents waiting to be shredded at some of VA's regional offices that, if disposed of, could have affected the financial benefits awarded to veterans and survivors. <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1618> for more information.

News and Multimedia Content Posted on Public Web

In case you missed it, the 129th RQW public Web site has been revamped. Located at www.129rqw.ang.af.mil, the new site includes up-to-date news and information, including coverage of current operations. Photos, videos, graphics, and career information are also accessible from the site. Each month the wing's monthly newsletter, the Rescuegram, is posted in the 'News' section at www.129rqw.ang.af.mil/news/. Check it out!

DONDI'S MERCANTILE STORE

129th AHA Merchandise & Apparel

If you would like to order a 129th AHA jacket, we again have jackets in stock. Please contact Liliana Ramos for ordering information.

Want to own a really unique & distinctive shirt or cap to show your affiliation with the 129th AHA? Dondi's Mercantile Store has a healthy stock of 129th AHA related items. Jackets are customized with your name and rank.

All merchandise can be ordered by phone or on-line. Items and prices are shown at right. Shipping and handling are EXTRA.

Order from Liliana Ramos at:
 (408) 263-5352
 or online at
LilRamos@pacbell.net

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SIZES</u>
Logo Jacket	\$70 - \$75	
Logo Polo Shirts	\$22	M, L, XL, & 2XL
Logo Baseball Cap w/ Embroidered Logo	\$10	
Logo Baseball Cap w/ Silk-screened Logo	\$5	
Large Jacket Patch	\$10	
Small Shirt / Hat Patch	\$5	
Logo Pin	\$5	
129 th Aircraft Collage	\$10	
129 th 50 th Anniversary Commemorative Coin	\$5	

All items can be shipped. Shipping and handling are EXTRA. All items are sent via U.S. Mail.

Have you moved? Know a former member of the 129th who isn't a member yet?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2009 Dues \$10.00

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP+4: _____ + _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

RANK: _____ 129TH SERVICE DATES FROM: _____ TO _____

Please complete the above information and mail to:
 129th Alumni & Heritage Association
 c/o Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret)
 6718 Zerillo Dr.
 Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

**If your personal information has changed,
 PLEASE USE THIS FORM AND NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY!!**

New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

*TSgt Alfred L. Bevis
Capt Jeff Borg
CMSgt Dick Butow
Lt Col Steve Butow
MSgt John E. Gomes*

Welcome!

Do you know someone who has been affiliated with the 129th RQW or its predecessor organizations - and is not a member of the Association? Let's get them signed up!

Final Fly-By

In Memoriam

TSgt James A. Calvin
Lt Col Ward H. Douglass



DFAS Begins Adjudication of Expanded CRDP Eligibility

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFRNS) – Beginning Oct. 1, Section 642 of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act expanded the eligibility requirements for the Concurrent Retirement Disability Payment, or CRDP.

Retirees who were rated by the Department of Veterans Affairs as individually unemployable, or IU, and are receiving VA disability compensation as a result of IU status, are eligible to receive full concurrent receipt of both their VA compensation and retired pay.

This section of the 2008 NDAA is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005.

The Defense Accounting and Finance Center will begin paying approximately 40,000 veterans their fully restored retired pay beginning Nov. 3. The November payday reflects their October entitlement. Eligible Airmen will see their fully restored retired pay reflected on their Retired Account Statement available on myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

The law also provided for a retroactive payment back to January 2005, if applicable. DFAS is beginning payment of these retroactive payments. Cases that are less complicated, such as straight CRDP and certain blended cases, will be paid first as these are capable of being automatically computed. Approximately 20,000 cases fall in this category. Retirees should begin seeing this one-time payment in November.

The more complicated cases, for example garnishments and former spouse payments, require more in-depth adjudication. DFAS workers will compute these cases as quickly as possible while ensuring accurate payments, said officials. The goal is to have all retroactive payments under this section of the law completed by March 2009.

People can log on to the DFAS Web site under “Retired Pay” to find out more information on Section 642 such as viewing frequently asked questions, eligibility criteria, and the current adjudication status at <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredpay.html>. (Courtesy of DFAS)

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