

Volume 13, Issue 3

September 2009

**[www.129AHA.org](http://www.129AHA.org) Web Site Updates**

*September 2009*

Since the last newsletter was published in May, there have been some additions to our website [www.129aha.org](http://www.129aha.org).

A travel section has been added, and contains links to all the AFRC resorts, the new AMC Travel site, as well as other information on travel packages, travel bargains, and Space A travel.

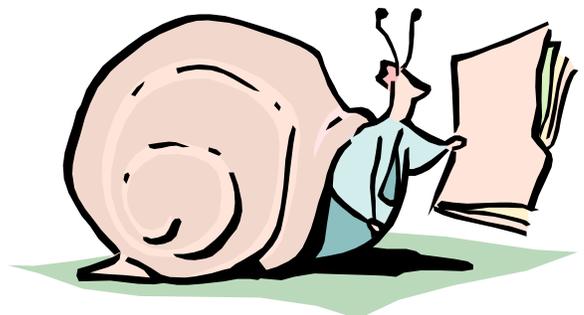
Sadly, there are four new names on the Remember When page. You will find obituaries and pictures of our departed brothers and sisters linked to their listings on the Honor Roll.

Copies of the first two year's editions of the Newsletter were recently unearthed, and the issues from 1997 and 1998 have been added to the Newsletter page. I have the electronic copy of the September 1999 newsletter, but the electronic gremlins stole the pictures. If anyone has a paper copy, would you please let me know? The pictureless version is posted, but I would love to know what pictures were originally there!!

We have updated some of the photos on Dondi's Mercantile page. And, of course, you will find the latest issues of both the Newsletter and theRescuegram!

**Membership Dues Delinquency Policy**

Effective January 1, 2009, any individual failing to pay the yearly dues assessment by December 31 will have his or her Association membership automatically suspended. The January dues notice will indicate the arrears plus the new yearly assessment which must be paid in full by the annual March Old Timers' Lunch. The notice will constitute delinquency notification in accordance with the Association Bylaws Article 11. Nonpayment will result in immediate membership termination for dues delinquency and forfeiture of all membership privileges. The Newsletter mail label will continue reflecting dues status, and a courtesy notice will be included in the delinquent member's mailed copy.



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## The Prez Sez

*The President's Column*

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

Congratulations are in order to Col Bagdasarian and the Wing members on the receipt of the Spaatz Trophy, which is awarded annually to the top Air National Guard aviation unit. Awarded by the National Guard Association of the United States, or NGAUS, the Spaatz Trophy is named in honor of former Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Carl A. Spaatz and is presented to the overall outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard. This is the second Spaatz Trophy awarded to the 129th.

Sadly, we have lost four members this past quarter. You will find obituaries for Lt Col Philip DiGiovanni, TSgt William Jackson, Col Lina Ruppel, and SSgt Edward Vittorio both in the newsletter and on the "Remember When" page of the website, [www.129AHA.org](http://www.129AHA.org).

I want to thank all of you for the many prayers, phone calls, emails, and condolence cards remembering Lina. Your support and friendship are greatly appreciated. She was truly a great lady and wonderful partner, and will be missed by all.

As a reminder, the Board revised the dues delinquency policy effective January 1, 2009. A member who fails to pay the annual dues assessment by December 31 will have his or her membership automatically suspended. If the arrears plus next yearly assessment is not received by the March Old Timers' Lunch, membership is terminated and all membership rights are forfeited. Several members are in jeopardy of losing their membership! Check your mailing label – if it has DELINQUENT above your name, your dues have not been paid.

Dues for 2010 will increase to \$15. While Association dues have been held at \$10 for ten years, a financial review indicated that the Association's operating costs have continued to increase, necessitating the 2010 dues increase.

The Association website has been recently updated. A travel section has been added, and the first editions of the Newsletter have been located and uploaded. Remember, copies of all the Newsletters and Board minutes, as well as the Wing publication *Rescuagram*, are available online.

All deployed members of the 129th RQW have safely returned from Afghanistan and Djibouti. Congratulations on a job well done, and welcome home!

The Wing Family Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2009. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us there!

Cheers!!!

*John*

## Tricare Gets Lower Prices on Retail Prescription Drugs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) – The Defense Department is projected to reduce spending by \$1.67 billion on prescription medications sold in retail pharmacies in fiscal 2010, following the full implementation of Section 703 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2008.

"These are significant savings to the Department of Defense and are crucial to our effort to slow the rapid growth of pharmacy costs," said Rear Adm. Thomas McGinnis, chief of Tricare pharmaceutical operations.

For the past several years the DoD has paid commercial rates for prescription drugs purchased in the Tricare retail pharmacy network; however, the DoD is included in the 1992 Veterans Health Care Act as one of the "big four" government agencies entitled to federal prices when it purchases pharmaceuticals for its beneficiaries.

The DoD currently receives federal ceiling prices, the maximum price that can be charged for brand name drugs in military treatment facilities and the Tricare Mail Order Pharmacy. Through authority provided in Section 703 of the 2008 NDAA and the "final rule" implementing the regulation, the DoD will now get these same discounts in the Tricare retail pharmacy network.

Tricare beneficiaries who need a prescription filled right away and are unable to get to a military pharmacy, can visit one of the more than 54,000 civilian pharmacies that are part of the Tricare retail pharmacy network.

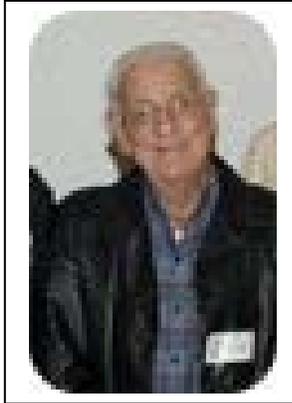
Through retail network pharmacies, beneficiaries can fill prescriptions -- up to a 30-day supply of most prescription medications -- for minimal out-of-pocket costs. They present the pharmacist with a written prescription, along with their uniformed services identification card.

TRICARE retail network pharmacies are available in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands. They are not located in any other overseas areas.

To locate a retail pharmacies in the network based on ZIP code, call the Tricare retail pharmacy program at 866-363-8779. (Courtesy of Tricare)

# *Lt Col Philip J. DiGiovanni*

*16 October 1920 – 17 July 2009*



Lt Col Philip J. DiGiovanni passed away peacefully at age 88 on Friday, July 17, 2009, in the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Palo Alto. He was a first generation native of San Jose, CA, and attended San Jose High School and San Jose State College before entering WWII in the 184<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Phil served in the Pacific Theater and earned a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star prior to military separation in 1945. Subsequently, he served in the United States Army Reserve and completed his military service in 1981, retiring as a Lt. Colonel from the Air National Guard's 129<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron after his transfer from the Air Guard's 144<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Wing (USAF). Phil was employed in an administrative position with Southern Pacific Railroad for 40 years.

An active member of the community, Phil was a member of Tricarico Social Club, Elks Club, 129<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing Alumni and Heritage Association, Golden Spikes Railroad Retirement Club, Saint Christopher's Parish, and a past president and current member of the Italian-American Heritage Foundation.

Phil was preceded in death by his wife of more than 40 years, Genevieve DiGiovanni.; his sister, Marianne Hamilton; and by Winifred Davis. He is survived by his daughter, Jolie Swann; sister, Carolina Bayne of Carmel; many loving nieces and nephews; care giver, Sam Santos; many caring friends and neighbors; and many fruit trees whose bounty he enjoyed sharing with friends and family he loved.

Vigil Services were held Thursday, July 23, 2009, at LIMA CAMPAGNA ALAMEDA MISSION CHAPEL, San Jose, California. Funeral Mass was Friday, July 24, 2009, at Saint Christopher's Church, San Jose, California.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Homeless Garden Project, PO Box 617, Santa Cruz, CA, 95061 (phone 1-831-426-3609).

# *Col Lina Susan Audibert Ruppel*

*16 September 1944 – 15 August 2009*

Lina Susan Audibert Ruppel, RNC, NP, MSN, was born at home on September 16, 1944, in Moretown, Vermont. She ended her earthly journey on August 15, 2009, after a valiant battle with cancer.



After graduation from Johnson High School, Johnson, Vermont, Lina earned a Diploma in Nursing (1965) from Jeanne Mance School of Nursing, Burlington, Vermont. She entered the USAF as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1965, and served as a staff nurse for 3 years. Lina left active duty in 1968, entered private practice, and joined the California National Guard in 1972 as a staff nurse in the 129th TAC Dispensary, Hayward California. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from California State University, Sacramento, in 1977, and graduated from the USAF Obstetrics and Gynecology Nurse Practitioner Program in 1981. In 1989, she received a Master of Science degree in Nursing from the University of California, San Francisco, and received her Flight Nurse wings after graduation from USAF School of Aerospace Medicine Flight Nurse course in 1991. She was promoted to the rank of Colonel in June, 1990, becoming the first woman to hold that rank in the California Air National Guard. Col Ruppel served as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Command Nurse, Air Mobility Command, and retired in 1995 after serving as the Clinic Commander, 129th Rescue Wing. Upon her retirement, Lina was promoted to California State Brigadier General. She served as Nurse Manager, OB/GYN, Family Planning Department, Stanislaus County, for many years, and retired in 2007 as the Assistant Director, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency.



Lina was preceded in death by her parents, Edgar and Cecile Audibert; and her brother, Ernest Audibert. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, John L. Ruppel, Jr.; sisters, Alice Maguder, Rita Lehouillier (John), and Helen Lacey (Bud); brother, Louis Audibert (Linda); sister-in-law, Eleanor Audibert; in-laws, David and Carol Ann Allen, and Michael and Donna Ruppel; fourteen nieces and nephews; numerous cousins, grand nieces and nephews; five god-children; and many friends.

Funeral Mass and memorial services will be 11:00 a.m., Friday, September 11, 2009, St. Joseph's Catholic Church ([www.stjmod.com](http://www.stjmod.com)), 1813 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355-2999, 1-209-551-4973. Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Funeral Mass and memorial services will also be held 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 16, 2009 (Lina's 65th birthday) at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, St. John Street, Johnson, Vermont 05656, 1-802-888-3318. Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Interment will be at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl Crater), Hawaii.

In celebration of Lina's life, donations to your local chapter of the American Cancer Society are suggested.

# *TSgt William Lawrence Jackson*

*2 August 1931 – 6 July 2009*

TSgt William Lawrence Jackson was born August 2, 1931, in Oakland, California. He passed away on July 6, 2009, after a 10 year battle with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Hodgkins Lymphoma.



Bill graduated from Fremont High School, Oakland, California, in 1949. He was a Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt with the JROTC where he participated on the Drill Team and learned target shooting. His first job after high school was with Transoceanic Airlines at the Oakland Airport as an aircraft mechanic.

Bill joined the California Air National Guard as a member of the 129<sup>th</sup> Air Resupply Squadron at Hayward serving from 1955 to 1961. He completed Aircraft Mechanic Training at Lackland AFB, rising to the rank of TSgt and qualifying as a flight mechanic. He loved to tell stories about working on aircraft such as the SA-16, P-51, C-47, and T-6. He was very knowledgeable about 8 cylinder radial engines such as the Continental 220 hp W-670, the Pratt & Whitney 450 hp, and the Lycoming 225 hp. One of his real favorites was the 4360 which had 16 cylinders – two 8-cylinders bolted together. These were very complex engines, and Bill knew them inside and out.



Bill Jackson, John Macias, Bob Singleton, Vern Mendoza

After leaving the Air Guard in 1961, Bill went to work for the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in Livermore, California. He was a Senior Mechanical Technologist in the Applied Research Engineering Division of the Mechanical Engineering Department., and retired from the Lab in 1993.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, Isaac (Ike) Jackson; and brother, Albert Jackson. He is survived by his mother, Lillian Johnson; brother, Jim Jackson; his loving wife of 25 years, Madeleine; sons, Larry Jackson, and Jeffrey Jackson; step-daughter Cindy Ledbetter (Allen); and his beloved cats, Sarah and Bandit, who miss that warm, familiar lap.

A Celebration of Life was held Sunday, August 2, 2009, at Lincoln Hills Community Church, Lincoln, California.

# *SSgt Edward C. Vittorio*

*7 December 1951 – 24 July 2009*

SSgt Edward C. Vittorio, 57, passed away July 24, 2009, in Templeton. He was born December 7, 1951, to Tony and Gladys Vittorio in Duluth, Minnesota.



Edward took pride in serving his country for 20 years in the California Air National Guard, serving as First Sergeant in the Civil Engineering Group. He was also a dedicated health and safety engineer and safety inspector for 30 years at a Waste Water Management Company.

One of Edward's favorite pastimes was his enjoyment as a master carpenter. He loved to entertain family and friends, and was a wonderful cook.

He is survived by his lovely and loving wife, Madellane Vittorio; their beloved Shih Tzu hound, Sophie; and many friends.

A memorial service was held at Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home, Paso Robles, California, on Sunday, August 2, 2009

# Wing wins top ANG award, NGAUS Spaatz Trophy

Capt Allyson M. Teeter, 129 RQW/PA

The 129th Rescue Wing commander announced here June 4 that the 129th was selected as the recipient of the Spaatz Trophy, which is awarded annually to the top Air National Guard aviation unit.

Awarded by the National Guard Association of the United States, or NGAUS, the Spaatz Trophy is named in honor of former Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Carl A. Spaatz and is presented to the overall outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard.

"Winning the Spaatz trophy is a highly commendable achievement, and our Airmen should be proud," said Col. Amos Bagdasarian, 129th Rescue Wing commander. "It's been an incredible year for the 129th and our hard work has paid dividends since this is the second prestigious honor we've been awarded recently."

In April the wing was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

According to the NGAUS Web site, selection of the Spaatz Trophy is based on overall combat readiness during the reporting year and the unit's performance with respect to all other Air Guard flying units. Factors included in the evaluation are flying safety; aircraft operation readiness; weapons firing; unit alerts; unit manning; skill level qualifications; retention; drill attendance; operational readiness inspections; outstanding accomplishments and special missions and exercises.

This is the second Spaatz Trophy awarded to the 129th; the first was in 1998. The wing will formally receive the award in a September NGAUS ceremony.

## VA Secretary Establishes ALS as a Presumptive Compensable Illness *Cites Association between Military Service and Later Development of ALS*

WASHINGTON – Veterans with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) may receive badly-needed support for themselves and their families after the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that ALS will become a presumptively compensable illness for all veterans with 90 days or more of continuously active service in the military.

"Veterans are developing ALS in rates higher than the general population, and it was appropriate to take action," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake said.

Secretary Peake based his decision primarily on a November 2006 report by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM) on the association between active-duty service and ALS.

"We are extremely grateful to Secretary Peake, Congressman Henry Brown and Senator Lindsey Graham for standing on the side of veterans with ALS across the country," said Gary Leo, president and CEO of The ALS Association. "Thanks to their leadership, veterans with ALS will receive the benefits and care they need, when they need them. Thanks to their efforts, no veteran with ALS will ever be left behind."

The report, titled *Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in Veterans: Review of the Scientific Literature*, analyzed numerous previous studies on the issue and concluded that "there is limited and suggestive evidence of an association between military service and later development of ALS."

"ALS is a disease that progresses rapidly, once it is diagnosed," the Secretary explained. "There simply isn't time to develop the evidence needed to support compensation claims before many veterans become seriously ill. My decision will make those claims much easier to process, and for them and their families to receive the compensation they have earned through their service to our nation."

ALS, also called Lou Gehrig's disease, is a neuromuscular disease that affects about 20,000 to 30,000 people of all races and ethnicities in the United States, is often relentlessly progressive, and is almost always fatal.

ALS causes degeneration of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that leads to muscle weakness, muscle atrophy, and spontaneous muscle activity. Currently, the cause of ALS is unknown, and there is no effective treatment.

The new interim final regulation applies to all applications for benefits received by VA on or after September 23, 2008, or that are pending before VA, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, or the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on that date.

VA will work to identify and contact veterans with ALS, including those whose claims for ALS were previously denied, through direct mailings and other outreach programs.

To view the entire regulation published in the Federal Register today, go to: [www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2008-21998\\_PI.pdf](http://www.federalregister.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2008-21998_PI.pdf). For more information on VA's disability compensation program, go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or contact 1-800-827-1000.

# New AMC Web Site Offers Space-Available Travel Info

by Mark Diamond, Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFRNS) -- Air Mobility Command here recently unveiled its first official, command-level AMC Travel Web site.

People planning to travel the AMC military travel system can now point their Web browsers to [www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp](http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp) for the latest in AMC travel information.

The site, which officially went live July 24, offers prospective space-available travelers a wealth of information, including an updated AMC passenger terminal contact list (complete with phone, e-mail and Web links), and more than a dozen travel documents, example letters and brochures.

Every day around the world, hundreds of military and military-contracted commercial aircraft travel the world delivering troops and cargo. And each year, hundreds of thousands of military personnel, retirees, and their family members go along for the ride, courtesy of the AMC space-available travel program.

Space-available flights, also known as "military hops," are a unique benefit to U.S. servicemembers, retirees and their families. Under the AMC travel program, unused seats on U.S. military and military-contracted aircraft are made available to non-duty passengers on a space-available basis (once space-required or official-duty passengers and cargo have been accommodated).

According to one AMC travel expert, the AMC Travel Web site was created simply because "AMC customers deserve it."

"(The AMC Travel) site was created to provide our customers a wealth of AMC travel information, which can be counted on to contain the most accurate and up-to-date travel information available," said Tech. Sgt. Steve Katsonis of the AMC passenger policy branch. "Our customers deserved a Web site where they can obtain travel information that is correct, up to date and validated by AMC. This Web site will give them that."

Sergeant Katsonis said AMC officials understand the massive amount of anxiety and stress felt by space-required and space-available travelers.

"Our goal is that this site will answer any questions the passengers will have, therefore minimizing their stress before they leave their homes," he said.

In the past, prospective space-available passengers frequently turned to one of several AMC headquarters offices in search of travel information. Sergeant Katsonis said although headquarters personnel are trained to respond to these public queries, he hopes the new Web site will provide all their information and more. Additionally, he said trained passenger service agents at AMC terminals worldwide are standing by to assist. People searching for up-to-the-minute AMC travel information are encouraged to contact their nearest AMC passenger terminal. A current listing is available on the new AMC Travel site.

Another benefit of the new AMC Travel site is that it will be updated with the latest breaking news and updates.

For instance, Sergeant Katsonis said active-duty dependent travel policies have gone through a few significant changes during the past few years.

He said Department of Defense officials now allow unaccompanied travel by dependents when the military spouse is deployed on contingency/exercise/deployment orders, also known as CED orders. According to Sergeant Katsonis, when the deployment is for 120 days or more, unaccompanied travel is authorized in category IV; and for deployments of 366 days or more, unaccompanied travel is authorized in the bottom of category III.

Sergeant Katsonis said he wants people to know that space-available travel is a great benefit, but it can be a stressful experience without the proper planning.

"AMC never guarantees travel, and passengers need to be prepared for their (space-available) trip to take more time than it would were they traveling commercial," the sergeant said.

He added that not every base is equipped with facilities or lodging capable of handling passengers stranded by a broken or rerouted aircraft.

"The most important thing to remember when traveling Space-A is be prepared to fly commercial if problems are encountered" Sergeant Katsonis said. "The key to a stress-free trip is to have a plan. Have enough money for all contingencies, and be mentally prepared for disappointment when plans don't come together." (Courtesy of AMC News Service)

You will find a link to the AMC Travel Site on the Travel Page of [www.129AHA.org](http://www.129AHA.org).

## **DOD announces new Tricare regional care contractors**

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) -- Department of Defense officials have announced the selection of new Tricare managed care support contractors for the North, South and West Tricare regions in the United States.

Tricare Management Activity administers the health care plan for 9.4 million servicemembers, retirees and their families worldwide. Managed care support contractors provide health, medical and administrative support services to eligible beneficiaries in each of the three Tricare regions within the United States.

The third generation, or T-3, contracts are worth an estimated \$55.5 billion over the base and five options periods. Transition from the current contracts is scheduled to begin immediately, with the start of health care delivery under the new contracts anticipated to be April 1, 2010. The transition will occur during the base period and health care delivery will begin with the first option.

The Tricare West region retains its current contractor, TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp. The selected contractors in both North and South are new.

Aetna Government Health Plans of Hartford, Conn., is selected for the North region where Health Net Federal Services is the current contractor. UnitedHealth Military & Veterans Services of Minnetonka, Minn., is selected for the South region where Humana Military Healthcare Services is the current contractor.

"We expect all of our managed care support contractors to provide top quality health care and the highest possible customer satisfaction," said Ellen Embrey, acting director of TMA. "Delivering quality health care to our nation's heroes and their families is our number one priority -- with a special emphasis on our wounded warriors."

Ms. Embrey is also performing the duties of the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

"Our military hospitals and clinics continue to be at the center of our health care delivery system," said Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, TMA deputy director. "At Tricare we are fully committed to augmenting that system with high-quality care for all beneficiaries."

Although two new contractors have been selected, the three-region structure in the United States and all of the Tricare benefit options offered under the current contracts remain the same.

The T-3 contracts feature financial incentives to encourage exceptional customer service; high-quality care; detection of fraud, waste and abuse; increased electronic claims processing; better program management, improved preventive care and cost savings. To apply these incentives fairly, Tricare has improved methods to measure and assess network provider, beneficiary, and military treatment facility commander satisfaction.

As with the current contracts, the new contracts require prime service areas around military treatment facilities and Base Realignment and Closure sites. Under T-3, some prime service areas may be discontinued, and as a result some beneficiaries will no longer be offered Prime. These beneficiaries still retain Tricare coverage under the Standard or Extra plan. Tricare Standard is the most flexible of the Tricare options and is available everywhere, said officials. Tricare Extra is a discount given to Tricare Standard beneficiaries when they use a Tricare network provider. Officials remind beneficiaries that both Tricare Prime and Standard are excellent options with high satisfaction rates.

"TMA and all the managed care contractors are dedicated to making a smooth transition with minimal impact on beneficiaries," said Admiral Hunter. "We will ensure that key information flows to all of our beneficiaries and stakeholders, in particular those affected by the changes in contractors or providers."

States included in each region and other contract information can be found at a special Web page at [www.tricare.mil/T3contracts](http://www.tricare.mil/T3contracts).

# VA Creating 28 New Vet Centers

8/14/2009 - WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced Aug. 14 that combat veterans will receive readjustment counseling and other assistance in 28 additional communities across the country where the Department of Veterans Affairs will establish vet centers in 2010.

"VA is committed to providing high-quality outreach and readjustment counseling to all combat veterans," Secretary Shinseki said. "These 28 new vet centers will address the growing need for those services."

The community-based vet centers, already in all 50 states, are a key component of VA's mental health program, providing veterans with mental health screening and post-traumatic stress disorder counseling.

The existing 232 centers conduct community outreach offering counseling on employment, family issues and education to combat veterans and family members. Staffs also offer bereavement counseling for families of servicemembers killed on active duty and counseling for veterans who were sexually harassed on active duty.

Vet center services are earned through service in a combat zone or area of hostility and are provided at no cost to veterans or their families.

They are staffed by small multidisciplinary teams, which may include social workers, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, master's-level counselors and outreach specialists. More than 70 percent of vet center employees are veterans themselves, a majority of whom served in combat zones.

The vet center program was established in 1979 by Congress, recognizing that many Vietnam veterans were still having readjustment problems. In 2008, the vet center program provided more than 1.1 million visits to over 167,000 veterans, including over 53,000 visits by more than 14,500 veteran families. More information about vet centers can be found at [www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp).

Communities receiving new VA vet centers include:

- American Samoa
- Arizona -- Mohave and Yuma Counties
- California -- San Luis Obispo County
- Delaware -- Sussex County
- Florida -- Marion, Lake, Collier, Okaloosa and Bay Counties
- Georgia -- Muscogee and Richmond Counties
- Hawaii -- Western Oahu
- Indiana -- St. Joseph County
- Louisiana -- Rapides Parish
- Michigan -- Grand Traverse County, also serving Wexford County
- Missouri -- Boone County
- Montana -- Cascade and Flathead Counties
- Ohio -- Stark County
- Oregon -- Deschutes County
- Pennsylvania -- Lancaster County
- South Carolina -- Horry County
- Texas -- Jefferson and Taylor Counties
- Utah -- Washington County
- Washington -- Walla Walla County, also serving Umatilla County, Oregon
- Wisconsin -- LaCrosse County, also serving Monroe County.

(Courtesy of VA)

# Dondi's Mercantile Store

129<sup>th</sup> AHA Merchandise & Apparel

If you would like to order a 129<sup>th</sup> 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 129<sup>th</sup> AHA? Dondi's Mercantile Store has a healthy stock of 129<sup>th</sup> AHA related items. Jackets and vests 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

[LilRamos@pacbell.net](mailto:LilRamos@pacbell.net)

or online at

<http://www.129aha.org>

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SIZES</u>
Logo Jacket or Vest	\$65 - \$80	
Logo Polo Shirts - Men's & Ladies	\$22	M, L, XL, & 2XL
Logo Baseball Cap	\$15	
Large Jacket Patch	\$10	
Small Shirt / Hat Patch	\$5	
Logo Pin	\$5	
129 <sup>th</sup> 50 <sup>th</sup> 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 129<sup>th</sup> who isn't a member yet?

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2009 Dues \$10.00 & 2010 Dues \$15.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ 129<sup>TH</sup> SERVICE DATES FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the above information and mail to:  
129<sup>th</sup> 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!!**

# Final Fly-By

In Memoriam

Lt Col Philip DiGiovanni

Col Lina Ruppel

TSgt William Jackson

SSgt Edward Vittorio



## Dondi's Mercantile

Wouldn't it be a great gift to give a retiring member a 129<sup>th</sup> AHA membership along with a hat, shirt, jacket, or pin. Or maybe there is a promotion, birthday, going away, special occasion ... coming up for someone that you know... and you're wondering what to get them. Why not get them something from Dondi's Mercantile? We're only a phone call or an email away.

And if you haven't done it already, please remember to go online to fill out the Dondi's Mercantile survey. We need your input!

<http://www.129aha.org/Dondis%20Mercantile/default.htm>

# Happy Shopping!!

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION  
AND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Are You Missing in Action?

### *Dead Letter Department*

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Please take a moment to remember the 129<sup>th</sup> AHA when you notify your correspondents of your new address. A member information form is included in every issue.

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