

### TriWest offers New Service

*Week of November 23, 2009*

TriWest Healthcare Alliance is offering a new lung health service to West Region TRICARE beneficiaries eligible for its Disease Management programs. Beneficiaries suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, can receive extra help for a group of lung diseases that include emphysema, chronic bronchitis and, in some cases, asthma. Eligibility is determined by TRICARE and is based on claims history. Once a beneficiary is identified as eligible to participate in the program, DoD refers the beneficiary to TriWest. Beneficiaries can find additional resources on the [TriWest website](#).

Military.com surveys have found that most service members and their families are confused by TRICARE. [Get the facts and latest news on TRICARE.](#)

### Board Elections - Officers

*March 2010*

An election for the three Board Corporation Officers - President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer - is scheduled for 2010. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribes that Officers are elected in even number years (2010) and Directors are elected in odd number years (2011).

The AHA President, John Ruppel, appointed an Election Committee composed of Director CCMSgt Liliana Ramos; Secretary-Treasurer Lt Col Dave Russell; association member at large, CCMSgt Ken Moore; and Newsletter Editor Lynda Fawcett. The committee will be responsible for gathering nominations, distributing, collecting, and counting the ballots. The newly elected Officers will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, the Annual Old Timers Lunch, scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at the Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall, 20835 Rutledge Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Any AHA member in good standing may serve as an Officer. Individuals interested in serving as an Officer should complete the form included in this issue. Return the completed form (or a reasonable facsimile) no later than January 15, 2010, to:

**Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)**  
**6718 Zerillo Drive**  
**Riverbank, CA 95367-2122**

Nominations must be received by January 15, 2010, to be valid. All nominations will be included on the ballot. Ballots, a self-addressed stamped postcard, will be mailed to all members, with information regarding the Old Timers Luncheon, no later than February 15, 2010. There is no write-in provision. Ballots must be returned no later than March 19, 2010, to be valid. The nominees with the highest number of votes for each office will be declared Officers, and will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers Luncheon

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## The Prez Sez

*The President's Column*

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

The nomination period for the 2010 election opens with receipt of December Newsletter. The Association By-laws prescribe that the Association Officers - President, Vice President and Secretary Treasurer - are elected in the even number years. The nomination period will close January 15, 2010. To be valid the nomination must be received by the January date. You must be a member in good standing, defined as dues paid, to run for office. The Newsletter contains a nomination form.

The Newsletter contains an article for DFAS users of myPay regarding new log in procedures that became effective November 30. We are also providing an overview article on Space A travel.

Since the September Newsletter, five comrades have passed away: Major Bill Horky, SSgt Sandee Lawrence, SMSgt Michael "Kip" Kenney, MSgt Bobby Joe Wagner, and Lt Col Tom Laut. The Newsletter contains a biographical article on each.

The Annual Old Timers lunch is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at the Castro Valley Moose Lodge. The January Newsletter will contain reservation information and program details.

The 2010 dues assessment is \$15. Dues notices will be sent in mid-January to those individuals who have not prepaid 2010 dues. Annual dues are due and payable by the Annual Old Timers lunch.

The Board wishes you and yours a joyful Christmas Holiday and a prosperous 2010.

Cheers!!!

*John*



## Improved Security Changes for the myPay User

DFAS will implement new [myPay](#) access requirements to increase the security of user information. This change will require you to establish a new user name (login ID) and password. Requiring you to establish a new customized Login ID and strong Password gives you more protection and increases the security of your personal information.

When logging into [my Pay](#) the first time following implementation of the new security enhancements, you will be allowed to use your existing login ID and PIN and will be prompted to change your login credentials.

New login IDs will require six to 129 alphanumeric characters that will be unique to one user only. If you attempt to create a login ID that has already been established you will be prompted to create a different login ID. Help screens will contain the login ID requirements.

You will be required to establish a password to accompany your customized login ID. Passwords must be no less than eight and no more than 15 characters. Help screens will contain the password requirements.

If you have established a Restricted Access PIN, you will also be prompted to establish a limited access login ID and password using the same requirements.

Use of the myPay interactive voice response system, which allows telephone access to certain pay information, may still be entered using the Social Security number and myPay PIN.

[Get free, confidential help from: Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647. Your military legal assistance office closest to you.](#)

## 2009 Tax Form, Pay Statement Availability Schedule

CLEVELAND (AFRNS) – Air Force retirees with a myPay online account can now download their annual account statements. Internal Revenue Service 1099R forms for retirees and annuitants will be posted December 14, 2009.

Retirees who rely on the U.S. Postal Service for DFAS correspondence can expect to see their account statements soon as they are now in the mail, while tax forms will be mailed December 11, 2009. For annuitants, account statements and 1099R forms begin mailing December 14, 2009.

Statements and forms are mailed to the address on file with DFAS.

Retirees with questions about account statements or tax forms should call the DFAS Contact Center at 800-321-1080. (Courtesy of DFAS)

# *Lt Col Thomas J. Laut*

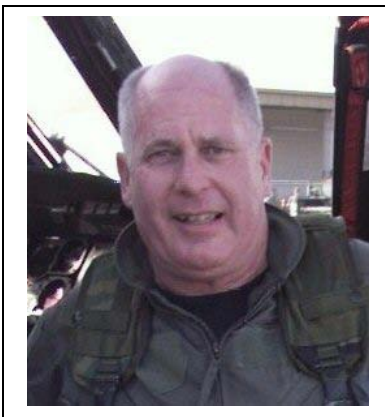
*2 December 1944– 11 November 2009*

Lt Col Thomas J. Laut passed away peacefully in his San Ramon home, surrounded by family and friends, after a short battle with cancer. Tom was adored and will be missed by his daughter Jennifer Rice and son Aaron Laut. He is also survived by brother, Larry Laut; former wife, Nina Irvin; son-in-law, Chris Rice; and a multitude of friends, family, and associates.

Son of Kenneth and Dorothy Laut (both deceased), Tom was born in Massachusetts where he spent much of his childhood and adult life. He grew up primarily in Ohio and graduated from West Lafayette High School in 1962. In his youth, he spent summers at his beloved family cabin in the Berkshires, became an Eagle Scout, and worked as a camp counselor at Camp Chingachgook located near Lake George in New York.



Tom graduated from Ohio State University in 1968, shortly before entering the U.S. Air Force as a commissioned officer which began a dedicated military career. He quickly distinguished himself as both a fixed wing and later a combat helicopter pilot. His professional and heroic combat rescue service brought him many military honors and awards recognition including the Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross. His 32-year military career, which spanned both the U.S. Air Force and California Air National Guard assignments, took him all over the world and touched many lives. He was a 20-year veteran of the 129th Rescue Wing located at Moffett Field, California, where he also served as an Instructor Pilot. His humanitarian rescue and life saving "anytime, anywhere" efforts over both land and sea continued until his retirement in 2000. His service brought great credit upon himself, the State of California, and the United States of America. He was the epitome of a Citizen Soldier. Shortly after retiring he also enjoyed a brief employment with Southwest Airlines.



Tom had a love of road trips and travel, the outdoors, antiques, the following of current events and financial markets, and animals. Since retiring, he most enjoyed spending time visiting family and friends. An avid reader and lifelong learner, Tom could be counted on to have knowledge of and discuss happily most any topic. His keen insight, unique sense of humor, strength of character, and indisputable integrity enriched many people. His warm heart made those fortunate enough to know him honored to share in his all too brief life.

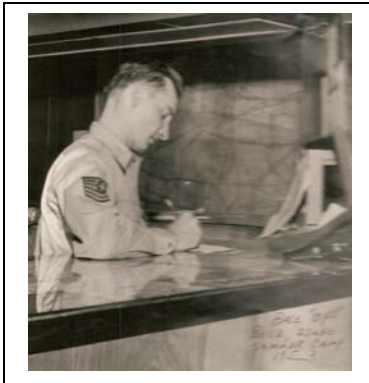
A celebration memorial was held on the NASA parade grounds at Moffett Field, California, on December 5, 2009. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sacramento SPCA, American Cancer Society, or other favorite charity of choice.

# *SMSgt Michael P. "Kip" Kenney*

*19 July 1925 – 24 September 2009*



SMSgt Michael Patrick "Kip" Kenney, Jr., husband of Patricia L. Kenney, who preceded him in death; devoted father of Michael J. Kenney; treasured grandfather of Stacey Harnish, Michelle Padagas, and Michaela Kenney; great-grandfather of Christopher Kenney, Matthew Harnish, Madyson Harnish, and Kieran Padagas; father-in-law of Martha Huante-Kenney; and former father-in-law of Mary Kenney. Kip leaves behind six brothers and sisters: Gloria Best, Reynolds Kenney, Allegra Stevens, James Paulsen, Richard Kenney, and Sandra Jelly. He also leaves a nephew, Richard Best, and a niece, Cheryl Holm.



"Base Ops"  
Summer Camp – Boise, ID  
195?

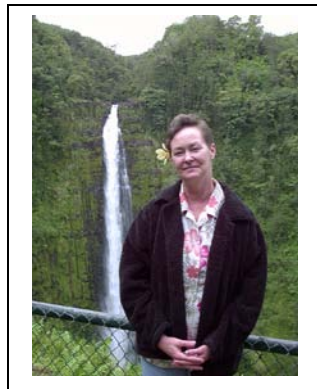
He was born in Canton, Ohio, to Michael P. Kenney, Sr. and Almeda M. Mettie. He grew up in Akron, Ohio; Hollywood, Florida; and Sheridan, Wyoming, where his father managed country clubs. Consequently, he developed a life-long passion for golf, introducing the game to his son and two of his great-grandsons. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II as a crew member on Liberty and Victory ships in the European Theater. In 1953, Kip began his career as a member and full-time employee of the 129th Air Rescue Group of the California Air National Guard. He retired from full-time employment in 1980, and from military reserve status in 1983. He loved big band music of the 1930's and 40's and passed this appreciation along to his son.

Interment with full military honors was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Hayward, California.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the American Cancer Society, Central Alameda County Unit, 7000 Village Pkwy, Suite E, Dublin, CA 94568, or to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), in memory of Michael P. Kenney Jr.

# *TSgt Sandee Lawrence*

*10 November 1951 – 31 October 2009*



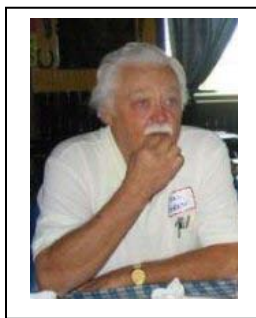
TSgt Sandee Lawrence, USAFR (Ret), passed away on October 31, 2009, after succumbing to pneumonia and related complications following a relatively short, rapidly progressive, and debilitating battle with COPD-emphysema. Sandee leaves her husband, MAJ Dan Lawrence, 129th Civil Engineer Squadron, her children Rodney Baang, Cristian Baang, Kelsie Mishima, and their families; and her step-children Matthew Lawrence, Cheri Lawrence, and their families. She also leaves six grandchildren. TSgt Lawrence served with the 129th Rescue Group/Wing, Supply and Civil Engineer Squadrons from 1988 through 1991, and the units of the 201st Communications Squadron, Supply and Logistics, in Hawaii from 1976 through 1988. She was fully retired on a medical disability in 1998.



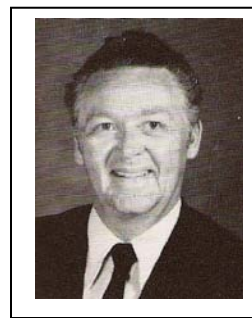
Inurnment will be at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl Crater), Oahu, Hawaii.

# *Maj William "Bill" Horky*

*1936 – 25 September 2009*



Maj William "Bill" Horky, age 73, passed away September 25, 2009, while on a business trip to Idaho. He flew the Caribou and Air Force C7A, in the late 60's in Viet Nam. He was a C-119 and HC-130 pilot with the 129th Rescue Wing. He was a Captain with Western Airlines and Delta Airlines. He was an excellent pilot and a lot of fun to be with when out of the cockpit. Maj Horky had been living in Hazen, Nevada and was interred in Florida.



# MSgt Bobby Joe Wagner

8 December 1949 – 31 October 2009



Bobby Joe Wagner, 59, of Westlake Village, California, passed away on October 31, 2009 in Thousand Oaks, California of multiple organ failure. He was born on December 8, 1949, in Lindsay, Oklahoma, the son of Dale and Mary Wagner. He leaves behind his wife, Toni; his daughters, Heather and Elissa, of Thousand Oaks; his son, Robert, and daughter, Rebecca, both of Phoenix; his brothers, Stephen, of Bakersfield; and Michael, of Tennessee; his sister, Eloise, of Tennessee; and his beloved Cockapoo, Tara.

Bob spent his high school years in the San Francisco Bay area, graduating from Newark High School, and attended Ohlone College before enlisting in the Air Force in 1968. He had a distinguished 22 year military career serving in both the Air Force and Air National Guard. MSgt Bobby Joe Wagner served 7 years active duty Air Force as an Aircraft Mechanic on B-52, KC-135, and RC-121 aircraft. He joined the 129th ARRG at Hayward in 1978 as an Aircraft Mechanic. During BJ's 17 year career with the 129th, he served in many career fields and steadily progressed to ever higher levels of responsibility and leadership, cross-training from aircraft maintenance to Military Personnel as an Education & Training NCO, and rising to Force Management Superintendent. During his Military Personnel career, BJ served as the chief recruiter for the 129th and achieved an outstanding record of recruitments. Every career field within the 129th Group benefitted greatly from his manning efforts, and he was recognized as the California Air National Guard Recruiter of the Year. BJ spent the remainder of his career as a logistician with the 129th Civil Engineering Squadron, planning and participating in many field deployments with our Prime Beef team. BJ received the Air Force Achievement Medal (with 1 device), the Air Force Commendation Medal (with 1 device) and the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal. MSgt Bobby Joe Wagner retired as an AGR with 22 years combined service on November 6, 1995.

After leaving the Air Guard with a service connected disability he joined his wife, Toni, in managing Travel Services of Sonoma, where he lived for 15 years.

He then turned to his favorite pastime – cooking for his friends and family. Creating a new dish always brought a smile to his face and ours since we all knew his secret ingredient – love. Bob also enjoyed all kinds of music and he especially loved attending and supporting Elissa's performances and Heathers' film projects. Bob was very much involved in acting in the Bay Area performing for TheaterWorks, Regional Artists Media and various film projects. He also loved hunting and fishing.

Beleaguered by multiple illnesses, Bob fought valiantly for several years to stay with us as long as he could. We love and miss him. He is forever our hero.

*He rests in blanketed peace,  
Grief and pain can touch him no more  
Eternal sleep beckons his spirit to  
move  
Further into the divine essence of  
immortal awakening  
With light and love will he abandon his  
body,  
And watch over those who mourn in his  
vigil  
In dreams he will descend to comfort  
the brokenhearted  
Picking up the pieces to resurrect a  
memory of strength  
As he dances with angels through  
dark and light  
The Old World never will forget his  
magnificence  
And the spirit, now everlasting, quiets  
the troubled sleep of mortals*

*Forever our laughter  
Forever our hero*

*Heather Wagner*

## Wing Wins Top ANG Award - NGAUS Spaatz Trophy



Maj. Michael Wagle, a pilot with the 129th Rescue Wing, center, accepts the Spaatz Trophy at the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) conference in Nashville, Tenn., on Sept. 13. The Spaatz Trophy is presented each year to the overall outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard. Pictured with Wagle are (left to right) Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard, retired Maj. Gen. Cindy Kirkland of the Nevada National Guard and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief for the Air National Guard. Photo courtesy of Air National Guard

## Wing Wins 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Rescue Rodeo



An MC-130P Combat Shadow crew from the 129th Rescue Wing poses with the first place award it won in the Rescue Rodeo, a combat search-and-rescue flying competition Sept. 13 at Gabreski Airport, N.Y.

Photo courtesy of 129th Rescue Wing

Have some good ideas about things the 129<sup>th</sup> AHA should do?  
Want to make changes in the way things are done?  
Want to be more involved in the day-to-day operations of the  
AHA?

Then nominate yourself to become an Officer of the Association!  
Any member in good standing (that means your dues are paid) can  
run for and be elected to the Board of Directors. Officers are  
elected in even years (2010). Directors at large are elected in odd  
years (2010).

**Now is your chance!  
Let your voice be heard!  
Choose to become involved!**

### **NOMINATION FOR CORPORATION OFFICER**

**Yes! I want to be more involved in the 129<sup>th</sup> AHA!**

**Place my name in nomination for Corporation Officer.**

**President**       **Vice President**       **Secretary-Treasurer**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service in 129<sup>th</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Must be received no later than January 15, 2010. Mail to:

**COL. JOHN L. RUPPEL, JR. (RET.)  
6718 ZERILLO DRIVE  
RIVERBANK, CA 95367-2122**



# Space-A Travel an Option for Retirees

11/18/2009 - SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFRNS) -- Retirees who dream of climbing an Egyptian pyramid, schussing down a black diamond ski slope in Bavaria, or walking on a Hawaiian beach can make these dreams come true with space-available travel.

Typically, these dreams require a lot of money; however, Space-A travel is free with the exception of customs or federal inspection fees on some chartered commercial air service missions.

Air Mobility Command aircraft fly all over the globe and often have open passenger seats available. An AMC aircraft takes off every 90 seconds, according to AMC officials. More than 130,000 Space-A travelers take advantage of this military benefit each year.

Retired Airmen with a retiree ID card and who are eligible to receive retired or retainer pay, fly as Category VI passengers. Since missions can be rerouted, delayed or cancelled for a variety of reasons -- weather, maintenance issues or higher priority missions - retirees need to be flexible. They need to plan for any potential delays and added expenses for stays, especially in high-cost areas.

There are four different methods for signing up for Space-A travel: in person at the passenger terminal or remotely via telephone, fax or e-mail. Sponsors must provide their name and information on all traveling dependents, and their desired destination(s).

Retirees can also use the DOD-chartered airlift missions for Space-A travel, if seats are available. Although retirees cannot visit their grandchildren in Iraq or Afghanistan, they can travel to Germany if the aircraft transitions there. If traveling overseas, retirees should know the restrictions of the host country. For example, retirees traveling to Germany are not authorized to purchase items in the base exchange, but they can go off base and shop in the local community. Status of Forces Agreements restrictions, U.S. State Department Travel Advisory guidelines, the Foreign Clearance Guide and passport and visa requirements are all necessary items to research.

For more information on Space-A travel, visit the AMC travel Web site at [www.amc.af.mil/amctravel](http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel). (Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



## Welcome to All Who Have Honorably Served

**I hope you agree that all men and women who have honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces deserve to do business with a financial services company that understands their unique needs, appreciates their service and does the right thing because it is the right thing to do.**

Your USAA Board of Directors believes so, and I am very pleased to let you know that USAA membership is now open to anyone who has honorably served in the U.S. military.

Starting with our first eligibility expansion in 1923, the USAA family has grown by embracing an ever-larger portion of America's active duty, retired and separated military members. Each time, we have been careful to ensure that USAA has the financial strength, the staff and the technology to maintain our high standards for exemplary member service, competitive pricing and value. Opening our doors today to all veterans who have honorably served, regardless of dates or length of service, fulfills our mission and leaves no one behind.

If you know veterans who honorably served but haven't become USAA members, please share this news with them by clicking on the "[Share USAA](#)" button so that they may know the value of USAA and, by joining, their spouses and children can enjoy the benefits of membership as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josue Robles Jr.", written in a cursive style.

**Josue (Joe) Robles Jr.**  
Maj. General, USA (Ret.)  
President and CEO

A rectangular button with rounded corners, a blue gradient background, and the text "Share USAA" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

# 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 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

Maj William Horky

SMSgt Michael P. Kenney, Jr.

Lt Col Thomas J. Laut

TSgt Sandee Lawrence

MSgt Bobby Joe Wagner



## Memorial Calls for Photos of Vietnam Vets

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- The National Call for Photos, a campaign to gather images of the more than 58,000 men and women whose names are on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, was launched recently at a Newseum event here hosted by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and FedEx Office.

FedEx Office will use its locations across the country to help in gathering photos.

Established in 1979, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial here, promoting healing and educating people about the impact of the Vietnam War.

The fund's latest initiative is The Education Center at The Wall, an underground facility near the memorial that is being designed to help visitors discover the stories of those named on The Wall and celebrate the values embodied by servicemembers from all of America's wars.

Exhibits will include a wall of photographs of people whose names are on The Wall, a selection of the more than 100,000 items that have been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a timeline of key military events of the Vietnam War and a history of the memorial.

The center also will celebrate the values embodied by America's servicemembers: loyalty, duty, respect, service, honor, integrity and courage, officials said. An exhibit will show images of those who have served in America's conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to Iraq.

More than \$20 million has been raised for the education center, including a \$10 million gift from Time Warner. It is estimated that the center will cost \$85 million to build.

Other Memorial Fund initiatives include educational programs for students and teachers, a traveling Wall replica that honors veterans and a humanitarian and mine-action program in Vietnam. (Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

For more information, visit the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund](http://www.vietnamveteransmemorialfund.org) site.

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AND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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129<sup>th</sup> Alumni & Heritage Assn.  
C/O Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret)  
6718 Zerillo Drive  
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Are You Missing in Action?

### *Dead Letter Department*

Have you moved recently - or not so recently? Do we have your correct mail and e-mail addresses & phone number? Please let us know when you move.

The newsletter is mailed out with a request for address correction. The post office does not forward the newsletter to you – nor do they return it to us. They charge us 75¢ for providing your forwarding address. Then we update your file, but you do not get a newsletter until next edition unless you request an electronic copy. Total additional cost to the association is nearly \$1.00 per returned newsletter.

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.

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)  
6718 Zerillo Drive  
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

E-mail: [J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET](mailto:J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET)

NON-PROFIT ORG.

US POSTAGE

PAID

RIVERBANK, CA

PERMIT #20



# Merry Christmas!!

