



TRICARE and the National Health Care Reform

For DOD and, specifically, its 9.6 million TRICARE beneficiaries, this law will not affect the TRICARE benefit. Eligibility, covered benefits, copayments and all other features of the TRICARE program remain.

The United States Congress has passed major health care reform legislation, the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#), which President Obama signed into law on March 23, 2010.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said in a statement issued March 21, 2010, that the TRICARE military health plan meets the standards set by this legislation.

Secretary Gates reassured service members and their families that the legislation won't have a negative effect on TRICARE, and that their health and well-being are his highest priority

TRICARE "already meets the bill's quality and minimum benefit standards," affirmed Gates. "The president and I are committed to seeing that our troops, retirees and their families will continue to receive the best quality health care."

Lowe's Military Discount Now Year-Round



Most members of the military community no longer will have to wait for a special holiday discount to buy shovels, paint, and other home improvement needs.

Home improvement retailer Lowe's has expanded its 10 percent military discount to all day, every day, for active-duty, National Guard and reserve, retiree, and disabled service members, and their families, company officials announced Wednesday.

Those who want to receive the discount must present a valid military ID card.

All other military veterans will receive the 10 percent discount on the holiday weekends of Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day.

The discount is available on in-stock and special-order purchases of up to \$5,000. It cannot be used on sales at [Lowe's.com](#), on previous sales, or on sales of services or gift cards.

"Lowe's was founded on the heels of World War II by veterans Jim Lowe and Carl Buchan and has always been a supporter of the military," said Larry D. Stone, Lowe's president and chief operating officer, in a statement announcing the new policy.

"The year-round discount program is one way we are reaffirming our commitment to the thousands of men and women who are serving throughout the world, as well as their family members at home."

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The Prez Sez

The President's Column

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

The 2010 Old Timers' Lunch was the Association's most successful with 140 members and guests attending. A special thanks to Jay Craddock for organizing the luncheon and obtaining the guest Speaker Lt Col Rhys Hunt, the 129th RQS Director of Operation. The luncheon would not run smoothly without Lynda Fawcett, her efforts are most appreciated.

The 2011 Old Timers' Lunch will be held Wednesday March 23rd - mark your calendars.

The Board Officers appreciate the member's confidence in re-electing them to another term. We pledge to continue provide a member-focused 129th AHA

The annual 129th RQW Family Day is still in the planning stage and is tentatively set for the August drill weekend. When available, information will be distributed thorough the Association information program.

The Association has been informed of the passing of Col William Cox, Lt Col Glen Hatley, and Major James Harshman. The Newsletter contains an article on each.

Lynda has included several informational pieces of interest to the membership. Take a moment and review the various articles. We endeavor to provide information from various sources of interest to the membership.

Please have a great summer - and those with pools - keep them pool safe!

Cheers!



Retiree Dental Coverage Available

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) -- Good oral health is an important part of maintaining overall health, and a military retiree's access to dental coverage does not end when they hang up their uniform. With the Tricare Retiree Dental Program, retired servicemembers can purchase affordable dental coverage for themselves and their eligible family members, say officials.

The Tricare Retiree Dental Program is available worldwide to retired servicemembers who receive retirement pay, "gray area" retired National Guard and Reserve members who are entitled to -- but not yet receiving -- retirement pay, and Medal of Honor recipients. Children up to age 21, or 23 if they are full-time students, and the spouses of these retirees are also eligible for the retiree dental program.

Participants in this voluntary plan can get dental care from any licensed dentist within the program's designated service area; however, visiting an out-of-network dentist may require participants to pay higher out-of-pocket expenses and file their own claims.

The Tricare Retiree Dental Program is a premium-based plan administered by Delta Dental and it has cost shares for certain services after beneficiaries reach their \$50 per-person deductible. Most preventive, diagnostic and emergency dental services are covered or available for cost-sharing immediately after enrollment, but some services including orthodontics, dentures and crowns are available with a cost-share only after 12 months of continuous enrollment.

The monthly premium rates vary based on the retiree's location and the number of people covered by the plan. These premiums are automatically deducted from retirement pay.

Those interested in the Tricare Retiree Dental Program may enroll online, by telephone or by mail. Visit www.trdp.org and click "Prospective Enrollees" for more information on rates and benefits. (Courtesy of Tricare)

129TH ALUMNI & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL DAY HONOR ROLL



*Day is done.
Gone the sun
From the hills,
From the sky.
All is well.
Safely rest.
God is nigh.*



MSGT Pastor D. Abelaye
BGen Harold A. Aherns
SSGT Harry Ahlborn
TSGT Gary R. Albertson
LTC Richard Allen
MSGT Manuel Amaral
LTC Shirley R. Ashby
MSGT Howard Bachman
CWO Eugene E. Baker
MSGT David S. Bain
SMSGT John S. Beasley
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TSGT Larry Butts
TSGT James A. Calvin
LTC Malcom B. Campbell
LTC Neil Campbell
SGT Steven Carlyle ★
1LT Desmond Casey
LTC Paul Chabot
SMGT Robert Clayton
SMSGT Vaughn H. Clearman
SRA Raeann M. Cordova
SSGT Steve Courtney ★
LTC William E. Cox
LTC Gene Cunningham
LT Gary Curtis ★
SMSGT Donald L. Delucchi
MSGT Robert Denham
LTC Philip J. DiGiovanni
LTC Ward H. Douglass
SSGT Robin Eal
COL Raymond J. Fitts
MSGT Herschel Flygare
SSGT Johnny Forlanda
LTC Billy Freeman
CWO+ William Gateley
MAJ Russ Gibeson
SMSgt Howard L. Gibson

SMSGT Arch R. Girvin
SMSGT Wallace J. Glavor
MSGT Clarence F. Gruenert
SMSgt Blaine D. Hall
MAJ Carl Haller, MD
MSGT Lloyd Hamilton
MAJ James H. Harshman
LTC Glen E. Hatley
COL William Hein
Mrs. Shirley L. Hemphill
CPT Phil Hepner ★
TSGT Joe Hernandez
MAJ William "Bill" Horky
TSGT John E. Horton ★
LTC James A. Hunt
COL Eugene J. Ignatow
MAJ Jerry Ingram
CPT Clyde Jackson ★
TSGT William L. Jackson
TSGT Bobby J. Jarman
MSGT Art Johnson
COL Edwin Kalkowski
TSGT John Karpaty
A3C Alan A. Kelley ★
LTC John W. Kenney
SMSGT Michael "Kip" Kenney
MSGT Henry Kern
BGen (Chaplain) James Kintzi
BGen Charles W. Koenig
COL Charles J. Kuban
SRA Mary Lou Lara
LTC Thomas J. Laut
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MSGT Bartley J. Lee
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CMSGT Joseph Martin
MAJ Lawrence Mauch
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LTC Don F. Winters
A1C Larry Zimmerman ★
MSGT Donald H. Zumsteg
★ Killed in Action

Lt Col Glen Hatley

27 November 1926 – 18 May 2010

Glen passed away on May 18th, 2010, joining his wife Mel in Heaven on their 58th wedding anniversary. Born November 27, 1926, in Bellingham, WA to Arthur and Effie Hatley, Glen spent his childhood years in the Palo Alto-Menlo Park area.

In 1944, he graduated from Sequoia High School in Redwood City, where he excelled in track & field as a high jumper. As a young man, he worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad, Western Pipe and Steel Company, Sutter Cannery, and bottled whiskey at General Distillers Ltd. Towards the end of World War II, he served as a Merchant Marine.

Glen attended San Jose State University in 1947. That same year, he earned his pilot license at Palo Alto Airport. He was a founding member of the SJSU Aqua Ski Club and shuttled members of the club to Clear Lake in a seaplane. They fabricated their own wooden water skis and sometimes used the seaplane to pull water-skiers.



He joined the Air Force and met Amelda Ruth Crowley at Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento, where she was working as a secretary to the base commander. Glen served in Korea where he flew B-26 attack bombers on low-level night missions. He also served as a forward observer and was voted "least likely to return" by his fellow fly-boys as he flew so close to the ground.

But he did return to marry Amelda on May 18, 1952, in Palo Alto. The newlyweds traveled to stations in Delaware and Georgia before settling in Mountain View, California, in 1955, where they lived and raised a family for 53 years. Glen joined the Air National Guard in 1955, serving in the 129th Air Rescue Group until he retired in 1977 as squadron commander.

Glen continued studies at SJSU in Electronic Engineering and worked as an analog engineer and later as a design engineer for Sierra Electronics, Sylvania, and then GTE Government Systems for more than 30 years.

His post-retirement years were full of adventure - exploring the Northwest Passage on a Russian icebreaker, climbing Yosemite's Half Dome, and bungee jumping in New Zealand at age 70. He was a brilliant engineer and inventor, a fearless pilot, and an avid Ham radio operator. He enjoyed playing bridge, dancing, fishing, flying, hiking, bird-watching and traveling the world.

Glen was a wonderful, loving husband and father, and enjoyed his role as a fun Grandpa. He spent 56 years of happiness with wife Mel, until Alzheimer's robbed him of his memory. Mel cared for him until her death in January 2009. His last year was spent at Barrington Court Memory Care in Danville where the staff treated him with respect and kindness.

The family will scatter his ashes, along with Mel's, off the Kona Coast in Hawaii where they spent many happy times together. Glen is survived by his children, Barbara (James) Fiksdal, Elayne (Patrick) Pedley, Jeffrey (Monica) Hatley, his brother Arden (Elizabeth) Hatley, sister-in-law Judy Eddy, grandchildren Trisha, Laura and Brendan Pedley and Monica's children Toni and Austin and nephews Doug and Stan. Funeral services were May 27, 2010, at First Christian Church, Palo Alto, CA. A reception followed at the same location.

Memorial donations may be made to: Alzheimer's Assoc, 225 N. Michigan Ave, 17th floor, Chicago IL 60601 www.alz.org; or Audubon Society, 225 Varick St, 7th floor, New York, NY 10014 www.audubon.org

Major James H. Harshman

30 June 1935 – 19 May 2010

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Jim moved to San Jose as a young boy. Jim graduated Fremont High School in 1953 and attended San Jose State University.



Jim became a navigator for the United States Air Force in 1957 and served in the 129th until 1979, retiring as a Major.

Jim only had one job listed on his resume and that was his 43 year career as a Sr. Research Engineer for Lockheed Missiles and Space.

Jim was a family man. He enjoyed holding a baby grandchild or watching them play.

Jim is survived by his wife of 38 years, Marilyn; his 5 children, Diana, Craig, Donald, Karen and Timothy; 13 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren and Sister, Roberta.

Visitation and services were Monday, May 24, 2010, at Alameda Family Funeral Home, Saratoga, CA. Burial was at Alta Mesa Memorial Cemetery in Palo Alto.

Col William E. Cox

20 January 1922 – 22 March 2010

Col William E. Cox, 88, of Kihei, Hawaii, died March 22, 2010, at home with hospice care.

A memorial service was held April 24, 2010, at the Royal Mauian. The family requested aloha attire. Nakamura Mortuary assisted with the arrangements.

Col Cox was born January 20, 1922, in Oklahoma. He was a retired Colonel in the California Air National Guard, serving with the 129 Rescue Wing from 1950 through 1977.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley M. Cox; a son, Will Cox; a sister, Desiree Petray; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Ron VandenBerghe with
A1C Mathew Webster
Lt Col John W. Kenney Scholarship



Gene Miller & Tony Jeffrey



Dean McDowell & Bob Hall



Brad Santos &
Ron VandenBerghe with
SrA Jamie Prevoznak
BG Albert Santos Scholarship



John Ruppel with A1C Kayla Sather
Col Lina A. Ruppel Scholarship



Lt Col Rhys Hunt
Guest Speaker

Old Timers'
Luncheon
March 24, 2010
Photos Courtesy of Ray Aquino
129th Public Affairs Office



Col Mark Sheehy, Capt Mary Jennings,
John Ruppel



Col Mark Sheehy



Capt Alyson Teeter



Lyle Davis, Bob Singleton, Ed Wiemken, Jim Badgrow, Mel Woolcock,
Prudencio Uranga, John Macias – World War II



A1C Kayla Sather
Scholarship Awardee

SrA Jamie Prevoznak
Scholarship Awardee

SSgt Leslie Zapata
Airman of the Year

Emmanuel Matsamura
Guest



Ed Wiemken, Dick Kern, Dean McDowell, Bob Singleton, Joe Preciado, Myron Tejada, Carl Jaegel,
Mel Woolcock, Prudencio Uranga, John Macias, Roy Francies, Robert Castro, Gene Miller
Korean War

DFAS to Resume VSI/SSB Recoupment

Cleveland (April 20, 2010) – Recoupment of military retirees' Voluntary Separation Incentive, Special Separation Benefit and other separation payments by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will resume in August 2010.

VSI, SSB and certain other separation payments, such as severance pay, were offered to active duty military members in an effort to reduce manpower in certain career fields, primarily during the 1990s. Because federal law prohibits military members from receiving both separation and retirement payments for the same period of service, provisions of these programs included repayment should an individual join the Ready Reserve or return to active duty and earn status as a military retiree.

On June 1, 2009, in response to retirees' concerns, DFAS temporarily stopped deducting these repayments from retirement pay while the DoD conducted a formal review of the recoupment program. Prior to the review, the federal statutes governing these programs did not allow the Department of Defense or DFAS to alter repayment rates or provide alternative repayment plans regardless of the financial hardships a retiree may be experiencing.

The DoD review is complete, and Congress has amended Sections 1174(h) and 1175(e) of Title 10, United States Code, to help limit the financial strain on military retirees as they repay their outstanding balances. The new statutes allow DFAS more flexibility to accommodate for financial hardship and modify payment plans. As a result, DFAS has reduced the maximum recoupment rate from 90 percent to 40 percent. DFAS also will consider more lenient repayment plans for retirees who are experiencing financial hardship.

Affected retirees will receive notification letters at least 90 days before recoupments resume. If they feel the rate of recoupment will create a financial hardship, they may request a more lenient repayment plan by providing financial information on the Financial Statement of Debtor form enclosed with the notification letter.

This monthly recoupment may also affect former spouses who receive Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act payments from such retirees. Former spouses affected by this recoupment also will receive a notification letter prior to the resumption of recoupments.

Retirees and former spouses who have questions may find more information at www.dfas.mil/rapay.html or by calling Retired and Annuitant Pay Customer Service at 1-800-321-1080.

Exclusion of Combat-Related Pay

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will no longer consider any combat-related military pay as income when determining whether spouses and children of members of the uniformed services are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The rules also clarify that the SSA will not consider retroactive payments of certain military pay as resources for nine months following receipt. This change in the rules protects spouses and children of members of the uniformed services from a reduction in, or loss of, benefits because their spouse or parent serves in a combat zone. The final rule will be effective March 24, 2010. The SSI program provides a minimum income level for aged, blind, and disabled persons who do not have income or resources above levels specified in the Social Security Act. Although a member of the uniformed services on active duty is unlikely to apply or be eligible for SSI benefits, some members of the uniformed services have spouses or children who receive or may apply for SSI benefits. To learn more, please go to: <http://www.ssa.gov>

Retiree Eye Exams Allowed Every Two Years

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFRNS) -- Maintaining healthy eyes and vision is an important part of personal safety and quality of life, say Tricare officials, and getting an eye exam is a smart idea for anyone, whether or not they have vision problems.

Retirees and their family members using Tricare Prime can get an eye exam every two years. Routine eye exams for retirees and their family members using Tricare Standard and Extra, and Tricare for Life are not covered.

These exams are more than the standard letter charts and include a check into the health of the eye. Retirees and their families enrolled in Tricare Prime can make an appointment with any Tricare-authorized optometrist or ophthalmologist for an exam. Tricare Prime beneficiaries do not need a referral unless they see a provider outside of their region's Tricare network.

All retirees, even Tricare for Life recipients, may receive one pair of standard issue glasses each year from the Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity. Visit the NOSTRA Web site at www.med.navy.mil/sites/nostra and select the "How to Order: Retirees" link for more information. Family members and surviving spouses are not entitled to NOSTRA support.

Tricare officials said there are many ways to preserve and protect one's vision besides getting eye examinations. Avoid injury by wearing appropriate eye protection when handling tools and chemicals, and while playing sports. Also, wear sunglasses, hats and visors to protect eyes against the sun's harmful ultra-violet rays.

Learn more about Tricare vision benefits at the Tricare beneficiary portal at <http://tricare.mil/mybenefit>. Learn about eye health and protection at the National Institutes of Health's National Eye Institute at www.nei.nih.gov. (Courtesy of Tricare)

New AF Dining Program Opens Doors for Retirees

by 1st Lt. Gina Vaccaro McKeen
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFRNS) – Thanks to the Air Force's Food Transformation Initiative, retirees at six bases will soon be able to use military food service establishments previously reserved for active-duty Airmen.

Retirees will pay the same market price as everyone else, and there will not be an added surcharge on top of the menu price.

The six Air Force bases participating in the initiative are Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, Patrick AFB, Fla., MacDill AFB, Fla., Fairchild AFB, Wash., Little Rock AFB, Ark., and Travis AFB, Calif.

This pilot program not only opens food establishments to all members of the base community, but customers will also see changes to food and beverage options, resulting in greater quality and variety, said Air Force Services Agency officials.

Diners will see an overall increase in the variety and availability of healthy menu options on base.

With FTI, the Air Force is changing the way it delivers food in order to meet the needs of today's Airmen. For the past 60 years, the Air Force has been feeding Airmen based on a much larger, more stationary force. With the transition to a smaller, expeditionary force, Air Force leaders are looking to make dining programs more flexible, available, and efficient.

"FTI is about Airmen and for Airmen," said Brian Floyd, the deputy director of the force support squadron at Travis Air Force Base, one of the pilot bases for this initiative. "We have heard loud and clear what our Airmen want, and FTI is all about offering them better quality food, more variety and a sense of community when dining."

FTI will reinvigorate Air Force dining by hiring a contractor to transition to hybrid facilities on bases that will be open to the entire base populace, much like common business and university campuses, services officials said.

Many base dining facilities have use rates of less than 50 percent. Instead of closing these facilities, Air Force plans call for transforming operations. This transformation will preserve the mission of providing meals to Airmen and bringing positive changes to the way Airmen are fed on base, services agency officials said.

While services officials are excited about the forthcoming changes, they emphasized things will not happen immediately and that each base will be different. The first phase of the program is about improving menu options, they said, and the total transformation will take time.

Opening the transformed dining venues to retirees and base employees will restore a sense of community because everyone will be able to eat together, Mr. Floyd said.

"Now all of these groups of people will be able to share quality food in a family type of atmosphere at the dining hall as well as at other food venues on base," he explained.

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 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

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 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.

All profits are used for 129 AHA benefit projects.

Have you moved? Know a former member of the 129th 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: _____ 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!!**

Form is available at www.129aha.org

Final Fly-By

In Memoriam

Lt Col William E. Cox
Major James H. Harshman
Lt Col Glen Hatley



New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

MSgt Gary Alstrand
MSgt Steven Beaulieu
MSgt Marianne Dove
SMSgt Kenneth J. Dudick
SMSgt Jacqueline Harris
Capt Mary Jennings
Lt Col Victoria King, MD
MSgt Robert Nichols, Sr.
TSgt John C. Ross
SMSgt Prudencio Uranga
MSgt Tim Wright

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!

DFAS Updates Retired and Annuitant Web Pages

In February, DFAS launched improvements to its website for retired military and annuitants. The pages are organized into four topical sections: Retirement Pay, Annuities, Disability Benefits, and Planning for Retirement. Visit the DFAS website at <http://www.dfas.mil/>.

Military One Source New Special Needs Content

DOD has announced the launch of new special needs content on Military OneSource. The homepage features items relevant to the military special needs community. Visit the special needs homepage at www.militaryonesource.com/specialneeds.

TRICARE -- Hospice Benefit

TRICARE's hospice care benefit is a zero-deductible benefit that gives TRICARE beneficiaries access to personal care and home health aide assistance. It initially provides two 90-day periods of care, followed by an unlimited number of 60-day periods. Each period requires prior authorization from the regional health care contractor. Not all care is covered by the hospice benefit. Charges for medical care not related to the terminal illness fall under the beneficiary's basic TRICARE benefit. For more information about the hospice benefit, visit the TRICARE website at www.tricare.mil, contact TRICARE For Life, the regional managed care support contractor, or your TRICARE Area Office.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION
AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. – (209) 869-2879
J-L.Ruppel@att.net

VICE PRESIDENT

LTC Steven L. James – (925) 974-1820
SLJames@backgroundprofiles.com

SECRETARY - TREASURER

LTC David P. Russell – (209) 551-8077
dprussell1@sbcglobal.net

DIRECTORS

LTC Jesse Craddock – (650) 968-0446
B25jay@sbcglobal.net

SMSgt Joaquin “Joe” Preciado
grumpy4lif@comcast.net

CCMS Liliana Ramos – (408) 263-5352
LilRamos@pacbell.net

CCMS Douglas B. Sale – (408) 786-9339
douglas.sale@sbcglobal.net

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

CCMS Liliana Ramos – (408) 263-5352
LilRamos@pacbell.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lynda Taft Fawcett – (916) 349-1019
LTFAWCETT@hotmail.com

129th 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 129th 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@ATT.NET

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Have a Safe Summer!!

