

Volume 15, Issue 1

February 2011

Retiree Tax Statements

Retirees and annuitants who have a myPay account at [DFAS- MyPay](#) can access their 1099R. The 1099Rs were not mailed to retirees and annuitants unless they selected the hardcopy option for their annual account statement or tax forms. Those recipients should receive their 1099Rs in the postal mail sometime in mid-January 2011. If you have not received yours by that time, verify your correct postal mailing address with DFAS by calling 1-800-321-1080.



The Prez Sez

The President's Column

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

The Newsletter contains a postage paid ballot to facilitate voting. Association members have volunteered their time to serve as Board members. Please express your support and appreciation by voting and returning the ballot.

The Association Annual lunch will be held March 23, 2011, at the Castro Valley Moose Lodge. Reservation material and directions to the Lodge are contained in the Newsletter. We will be presenting six \$1,000 scholarships to Wing members, as well as honoring the Wing 2010 Outstanding Airmen of the year.

The annual dues period began January 1, 2011, and \$15 annual dues notices are in the mail to members who have not prepaid their dues. If you do not receive a dues notice, your 2011 assessment has been paid. Members attending the annual luncheon can combine the dues and luncheon fees into one check.

CMSgt Ken Huntley died January 1, 2011. The Wing is holding a memorial service February 5th at 3:00 PM in the Maintenance Hangar. The Newsletter contains a piece on CMSgt Huntley's career.

Cheers!

John

Inside This Issue

1	Retiree Tax Statements / Pres Sez
2	2011 Scholarships / Board of Director Election
3	2010 Outstanding Airmen of the Year
4	In Memoriam – CMSgt Kenneth Huntley
5&6	2011 Old Timers Luncheon – Map & Registration
7	Money Talk – 2010 Financial Report
8	129 th RQW History / CRDP & CRSC Open Season
9	Project for Vietnam War Veterans
10	Reemployment Protection
11	ObamaCare Repeal Won't Affect TriCare
11	TriCare Announces New Program
12	Dondi's Mercantile Shop / Member Application
13	Final Fly-By / New to the Gang
13	Survivor Assistance From VA
14	Board of Directors / Missing in Action

2010 Scholarship Awards

CCMSgt Liliana Ramos

The Association will award six Wing members \$1,000 scholarships. The Santos, Delucchi, and Koenig scholarships are being awarded with a generous donation from Patricia and Ronald VandenBerghe. The Hatley and Harshman scholarships are being awarded with a generous donation from Col. Charles Fuller. Col John Ruppel has funded the Ruppel scholarship. The winners will receive their checks during the annual Old Timers Lunch. Congratulations to following Wing members who have been awarded the 2010 scholarships!

BG Albert R. Santos Scholarship

✚ A1C Edgar Beaver – 129th FSF

SMSgt Donald Delucchi Scholarship

✚ SSgt Ricky Karicas – 129th SFS

BG Charles W. Koenig Scholarship

✚ SSgt Leah Simpson – 131st RQS

Col Lina A. Ruppel Scholarship

✚ A1C Amber Poyner – 129th OSF

Lt Col Glen Hatley Scholarship

✚ SSgt Leslie Zapata – 129th OG

Maj James Harshman Scholarship

✚ SrA Ryan Lyau – 129th SFS

Liliana



Board Election

March 2011

An election for the three at-large Directors is scheduled for 2011. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribe that Directors are elected in odd number years (2011) and Officers are elected in even number years (2012).

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 Wednesday, March 23, 2011.

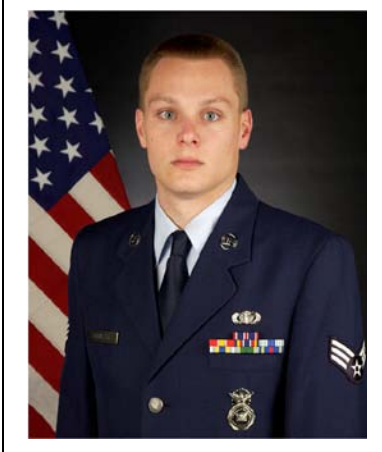
All AHA members in good standing may vote for Director. Ballots have been included in your newsletter if you paid your 2010 membership dues. If your last year's dues were not paid, you are not considered to be in good standing and are not eligible to vote. There are four names on the ballot: CMSgt Stu Loux, SMSgt Joe Preciado, CCMS Liliana Ramos, and CCMS Doug Sale. There is no write-in provision. Please vote for four nominees. The 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.

The self-addressed stamped ballot should be postmarked by March 16, 2011, and mailed to:

Ms. Lynda Taft-Fawcett
c/o Col. John Ruppel
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

Mark and mail your ballots today!





Airman of the Year
Sr A Bryson Barnette
129th SFS

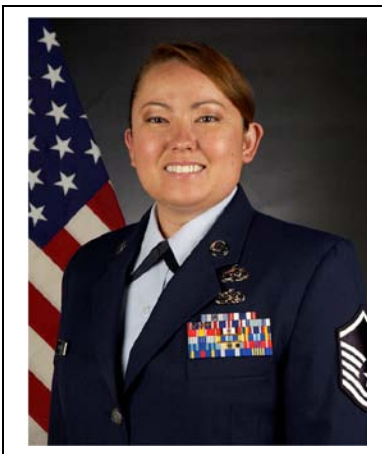
2010
Outstanding
Airmen
of the
Year



NCO of the Year
7Sgt Douglas
Montgomery
129th SFS

The Wing has selected the Outstanding Airmen for 2010.
These individuals will be our guests at the Old Timers Luncheon
and will be presented with a one-year membership to the Association.

Congratulations and Welcome!



Sr NCO of the Year
MSgt Jessica
Brown
129th MXG



1st Sergeant of the Year
MSgt Anja O'Neil
129th MXG



Honor Guard
Member of the Year
AIC Jessica Green
129th Wing Staff

CMSgt Kenneth W. Huntley

2 August 1954 – 1 January 2011



Kenneth William Huntley, 56, of Astoria died January 1, 2011 at home surrounded by family. He was born Aug 2, 1954 in Schenectady, NY to Harold W. and Maxine E. (Hughes) Huntley. Ken enlisted in the Air Force on May 15, 1974 and served on active duty with the 15th Military Airlift Squadron, Norton AFB, CA as a C-141 Loadmaster. He separated from active duty in May 1978, spending the next 10 years working in the electronics industry in the Santa Clara Valley. He joined the 129th Rescue Squadron, Air National Guard, at Moffett Field, CA on July 31, 1988 as a C-130 Loadmaster. He attained the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. He remained in the Air National Guard until his death. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

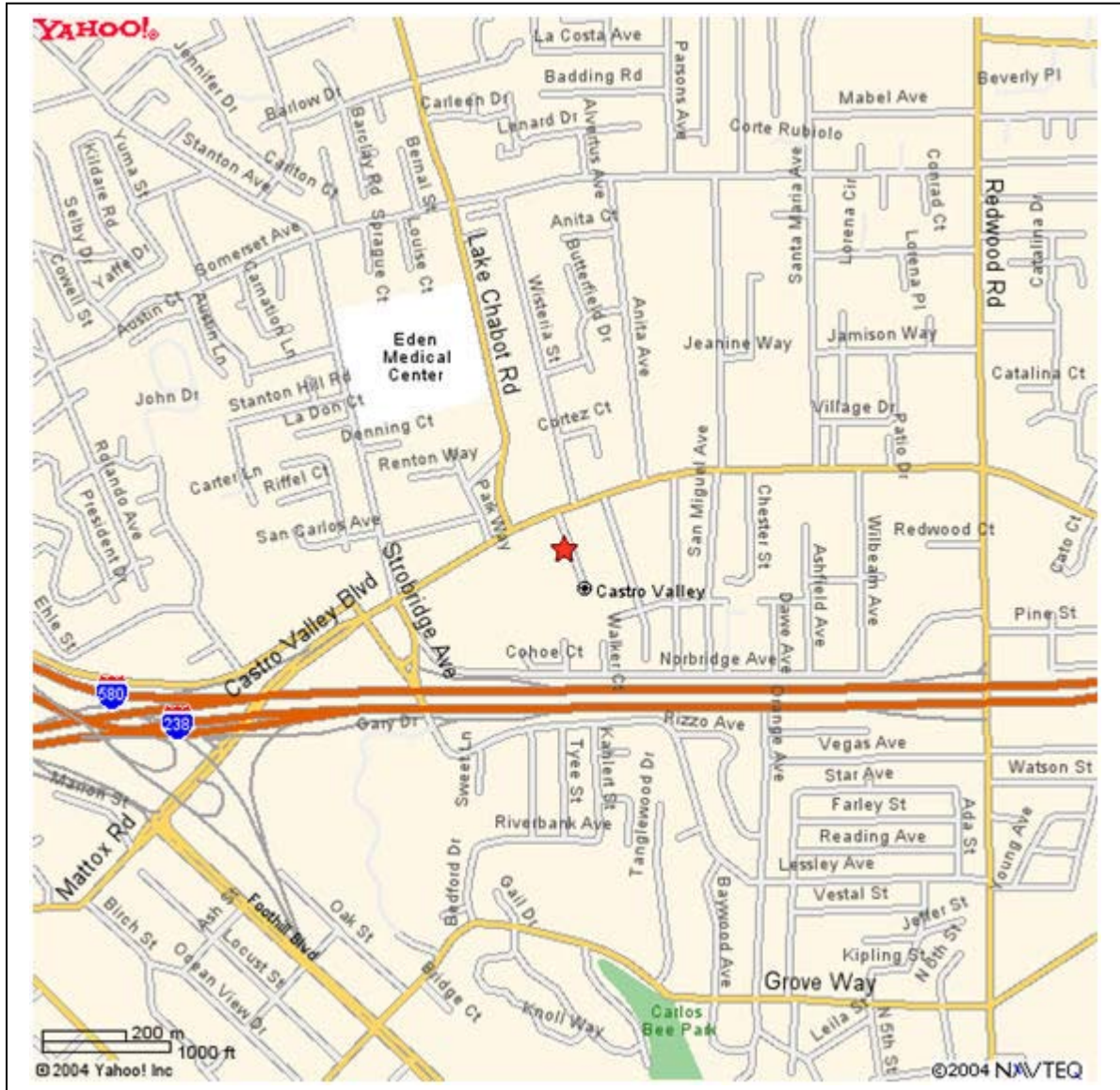
Ken and his wife, Lori, moved to Astoria in March of 2001 when Lori accepted a position with the 116th Air Control Squadron, Air National Guard, at Camp Rilea.

He is survived by his wife Lori (Perkin) Huntley; his daughter Kristen Hilton and husband Brian and granddaughter Caitlyn; and daughter Kimberly Huntley of Sacramento; mother Maxine Martin of Sweet Home, OR; and step-mother Gene Huntley of Lincoln City, CA; sister Barbara Scott and husband Ken of Sequim, WA; sister Judy Kwasman and husband Michael of Spokane, WA; brother Robert of Campbell, CA; step-sister Gretchen Truxal and husband Jeff of Granite Bay, CA; step-sister Joanne King and husband Bill of Maui, HI; step-sister Cena Jane Hartley and husband Roger of Sonoma, CA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Service and burial were at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland on Jan. 12, 2011.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011 at 3 p.m. at 129 Rescue Wing, Moffett Field, Calif., located in Mountain View, Calif.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, www.Cancer.org or Clatsop Animal Assistance, www.dogscats.org or the charity of one's choice.



Driving Directions to the Castro Valley Moose Hall – 20835 Rutledge Road

- From 580 West
 - Take the Strobridge Avenue Exit
 - Turn Right on Strobridge Avenue
 - Turn Right on Castro Valley Boulevard
 - Turn Right on Rutledge Road.
- From 580 East
 - Take the Castro Valley Boulevard Exit (towards Hayward)
 - Turn Left on Castro Valley Boulevard
 - Turn Right on Rutledge Road



The Annual
129th AHA Old Timers Luncheon
March 23, 2011

Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall
20835 Rutledge Road
(510) 537-0830

- 1130 Hrs** **At the Bar**
Trim Adjustment, Hangar Flying, Ramp Rumors, Old Buddies Checklist
- 1215 Hrs** **Gear Down & Locked Lunch**
Roast Beef and Chicken Buffet with all the trimmings - \$18.00
- 1330 Hrs** **129th AHA Annual Meeting**
Call to Order, Announcement of New Board Officers,
Presentation of Scholarship Awards
- 1400 Hrs** **Invited Guest Speaker**
TSgt Andrew Hughan, 129th Public Affairs, Teaching in Afghanistan
- 1430 Hrs** **Raffle and Social Hour**

Spouses and guests are welcome!

P.O.C. Lynda Taft-Fawcett (916) 871-4903
Jesse Craddock (650) 968-0446

Reservation Form - Must Be Received (with payment) by March 18, 2011

Please Reserve Ramp Service For:

Name: _____

_____ **Lunch (\$18.00)** _____ **2011 Membership Dues (\$15.00)**

Guest's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Number of Souls Attending:** _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$18.00 per person - Lunch): _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$15.00 – 2011 Membership Dues): _____

Make Check Payable To: 129th AHA
Mail Check and Reservation Form To:

Ms. Lynda Taft-Fawcett
c/o Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr.
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

Money Talk

The Secretary – Treasurer's Report Lt Col Dave Russell (Ret.)

The annual financial statement is presented below. The dues assessment remains at \$15 for 2011. The Board continued the Scholarship Program award policy limiting awards to the funds generated in any one business year. Additionally, the award amount was maintained at \$1,000 to encourage more applications and insure an adequate reserve is maintained. If you have questions or comments, please contact me by email or at the Old Timers' Luncheon. Your continued support is appreciated.

129th Alumni and Heritage Association Financial Statement - 2010

EXPENSES	2010	INCOME	2010
Membership	\$ 259.86	Memberships	\$ 3,671.00
Newsletter	\$ 3,030.47	Dues Trust	\$ 700.00
Scholarships	\$ 4,000.00	Scholarship	\$ 4,433.00
Deployment Bag Project	\$ 299.59	Deployment Bag Project	\$ 150.00
Old-timers Lunch	\$ 2,205.00	Old-timers Lunch	\$ 2,502.00
Mercantile Store	\$ 143.79	Returned OTL Cash	\$ 150.00
Secretary - Treasurer Expense	\$ 364.24	Mercantile Store	\$ 528.00
Board Expense	\$ 301.60	Commemorative Coins	\$ 5.00
Total 2010 Expenses	\$10,604.55	Total 2010 Deposit Income	\$12,139.00
Total 2010 Deposit Income	\$12,139.00	Bank Bal 12/31/09	\$15,651.49
Dues Trust Transfer Income	\$ 630.00	2010 Income	\$12,139.00
Total 2010 Income	\$12,769.00	2010 Expense	\$10,604.55
Total 2010 Expenses	\$10,604.55	Bank Bal 12/31/10	\$17,185.94
2010 +/-	\$ 2,164.45	Encumbrances:	2010
		Scholarship Program	\$ 6,879.34
		Scholarship Awards 2010	\$ 6,000.00
		Prepaid Dues	\$ 1,410.00
		Sub Total Encumbrances	\$14,289.34
		Unencumbered Bal	\$ 2,896.60
		Funds Total	\$17,185.94

129th Rescue History - Volume II

LtCol Steve 'Bucky' Butow, 129RQW/CV

When I first joined the 129th, I spent a lot of time reading the stories and news clippings posted in the hallways of Hangar 3; each one was marked by a trophy of our efforts (life ring, etc.). In the years since, some of these items have disappeared or were misplaced during the move to our new operations complex. We've recovered many photos and articles, but the stories are incomplete. Another significant change has been the loss of the Air Force historian program. This combined with the digitization of photos, reports and records leaves little in terms of tangible history that we can all enjoy and pass to the grandkids.

One of the greatest accomplishments in our illustrious history was the publication of the "Yearbook" nearly 20 years ago which captured the first 25 years of our unit's history. Being a second generation member (and not quite ready for retirement, mind you), I am selfishly motivated to muster an effort to capture the second 25 years including our outstanding war effort since 2001.

Our history is way too important to go untold.

So here's my proposal... I would like to work with other members of the AHA to establish a BLOG or social media website where members of the 129th, past and present, can post photos, articles and personal stories of their rescue and wartime exploits. This will serve as a collection point where we can re-build much of our lost history and accumulate materials for publication of a Volume II. I look forward to seeing you all at the Old Timers' Luncheon on March 23rd!

Bucky

Decision Time: CRDP and CRSC Open Season

Week of January 24, 2011

Many military retirees are eligible for both Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) and Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC), but, federal law prohibits receiving both. Each year these retirees are encouraged to evaluate and choose which entitlement they prefer to receive during what is called an "Open Season," which runs from Jan. 1 to Jan. 31. These benefits are specific to each retiree's personal situation. For many, the decision comes down to which program offers the better benefit based several factors including payment and tax rates. If you are eligible to participate in the Open Season, you will receive a letter detailing the benefits of each entitlement by mail this month. Along with the letter, you'll receive an Open Season Election Form, which allows you to choose the type of payment you wish to receive. Retirees are encouraged to carefully review their options.

Learn more, read the full article on the [Military Advantage Blog](#)

<http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2011/01/crdp-and-crsc-open-season/>

Department Begins Project for Vietnam War Veterans

Release No. 01-09-11 Jan. 20, 2011

By Terri Moon Cronk

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- More than three decades after the war's end, the Defense Department has begun a project to pay tribute to the nation's Vietnam War veterans.

The 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration was spawned from the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.

"It was a very important time period for veterans, because most Vietnam veterans as a whole never received the homecoming that our troops receive now," said Army Lt. Col. Hunter Holliday, public affairs officer for the commemoration.

At the center of the project is a website, "50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration," at www.vietnamwar50th.com, which will serve as a clearinghouse for information on commemoration activities once it is fully functional, a milestone expected this spring.

Information gleaned from the website is expected to be used for myriad purposes, such as to chronicle facts, provide educational materials, and offer resources for a commemorative partners program, Colonel Holliday said.

The partners program will comprise guidance and materials for agencies, veterans groups, local government and nongovernment organizations to conduct their own Vietnam War commemoration activities.

The website is expected to play a major role in the campaign, said Jeff Wilson, who handles marketing for the project, noting it will be highly interactive and will include content on historical events, a timeline, photos, documents, video and audio. A calendar will list major Defense-sponsored events.

The website offers a prelude of activities and ceremonies to:

-- Honor Vietnam War veterans and their families -- including prisoners of war and those listed as missing in action -- for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States.

-- Highlight armed forces service during the Vietnam War, in addition to contributions made by government and private organizations.

-- Pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by U.S. citizens.

-- Highlight the advances in technology, science and medicine in military research made during the war.

-- Recognize contributions and sacrifices made by U.S. allies during the war.

"Hopefully [the commemoration] will be a healing process for the veterans who were never recognized properly when they came home," Colonel Holliday said, noting the volatile political landscape that surrounded the war.

Reemployment Protection - USERRA Overview

Have you ever wondered what will happen to your civilian job if your Reserve or Guard unit is called into Active Duty? When you return to the civilian world, will you have to search for a new job? What can you do to ensure you'll be able to work again? The following is a summary of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994.

Fortunately, the **Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA)**, enacted in October 1994 (and significantly updated in 1996 and 1998), provides reemployment protection and other benefits for veterans and employees who perform military service. Under USERRA, if a military member leaves his civilian job for service in the uniformed services, he is entitled to return to the job, with accrued seniority, provided he meet the law's eligibility criteria. USERRA applies to voluntary as well as involuntary service, in peacetime as well as wartime, and the law applies to virtually all civilian employers, including the Federal Government, State and local governments, and private employers, regardless of size.

USERRA Eligibility

Reemployment rights extend to persons who have been absent from a position of employment because of "service in the uniformed services." "Service in the uniformed services" means the performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service, including:

- Active duty (Including Reserve and Guard members who have been called up)
- Active duty for training
- Initial active duty for training
- Inactive duty training
- Full-time National Guard duty.
- Absence from work for an examination to determine a person's fitness for any of the above types of duty.
- Funeral honors duty performed by National Guard or reserve members

In order to have reemployment rights following a period of service in the uniformed services, a military member must meet five eligibility criteria (discussed separately below):

1. You must have held a civilian job.
2. You must have informed your employer that you were leaving the job for service in the uniformed services.
3. The period of service must not have exceeded five years. (Certain exceptions apply that may extend the 5 year period, contact the Dept. of Labor for assistance)
4. You must have been released from service under "honorable conditions."
5. You must have reported back to your civilian employer in a timely manner or have submitted a timely application for reemployment.

ObamaCare Repeal Won't Affect TRICARE

Military Advantage Blog

January 20, 2011

Terry Howell

3 Reasons the repealing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act won't change TRICARE

A recent article by [Leo Shane of Stars and Stripes](#) explains how and why any actions to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will not make any immediate changes to [TRICARE](#) or the new [TRICARE Young Adult](#) option. In fact there are three main reasons why the actions taken by the House to repeal the act won't change anything right away.

Reason 1. When PPAC was passed, Congress quickly followed up by passing the [TRICARE Affirmation Act](#), a law which ensured that TRICARE wouldn't change due to PPAC. Simply put, TRICARE was shielded from the rules for PPAC in the first place, so any repeal won't have an effect anyway.

Reason 2. The expansion of TRICARE coverage to include adult children over 21 (known as the TYA option) was not included in the original Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. In fact TYA is part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011, which means that any effort to repeal PPAC will not have an immediate effect. Congress would have to pass a separate bill to eliminate the TYA program.

Reason 3. Although the House passed the repeal, it is not likely to get any traction in the Senate and there is no chance that this president will sign any such repeal.

But, this may serve as a gut check, of sorts. How would most TRICARE beneficiaries react to a repeal of the TYA option? Just asking...

Note from the Author: *Many readers have voiced concern about the use of the term "ObamaCare." From my perspective the term was widely used in the public domain. I assure you no political commentary was intended. I'll be mindful of the use of such shorthand terms in future postings. Your feedback is appreciated. –Terry*

TRICARE Announces New Program

Week of January 24, 2011

DoD announced the new premium-based TRICARE Young Adult program (TYA), which extends medical coverage to eligible military family members to age 26. TYA is expected to be in-place later this spring, but premium costs are not yet finalized. Adults who are no longer eligible for TRICARE, but need health insurance coverage, may wish to explore the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP). CHCBP offers temporary transitional health coverage for 18 to 36 months. Coverage must be purchased within 60 days of loss of TRICARE eligibility. For more information on TYA and CHCBP, visit the [TRICARE website](#).

For more details on this new program, visit the [Military Advantage Blog](#).

<http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2011/01/tricare-young-adult-will-be-expensive/>

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 2011 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

CMSgt Kenneth Huntley



New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

Lt Col Taft Aujero

1 Lt Autumn DeCosta

Lt Col Jeffrey Magram

Capt Mike Stasio

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!

Application form is available at

www.129aha.org

Survivor Assistance From VA

The VA Office of Survivors Assistance (OSA) wants you to know that veterans are not the only group that the VA provides services and assistance. To learn more about benefits for survivors, and what OSA is doing on their behalf, [visit the OSA home page](http://www.va.gov/survivors/).
<http://www.va.gov/survivors/>

The Office of Survivors Assistance (OSA) was established by Public Law 110-389, Title II, Section 222, in October 2008 to serve as a resource regarding all benefits and services furnished by the Department to survivors and dependents of deceased Veterans and members of the Armed Forces. OSA also serves as a principal advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and promotes the use of VA benefits, programs and services to survivors.

We are your advocate to ensure fairness, equity and appropriateness of all survivor benefits and to serve as the liaison for inter- and intra-agency collaboration and coordination on survivor issues. We are also fully committed to staying in step with the needs of survivors to ensure that OSA remains a viable advocate for the survivor community.

OSA will continuously improve the design, content and types of communications on this Web site as we move forward, and welcome any suggestions you might have as to how we might modify it further. Please contact us at officeofSurvivors@va.gov.

Debra A. Walker
Director

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AND
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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

NON-PROFIT ORG.

US POSTAGE

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RIVERBANK, CA

PERMIT #20



Ballots Due March 16!!
See You at the OTL!!

