

Volume 15, Issue 2

May 2011

TRICARE Home Delivery

Week of May 23, 2011

Beneficiaries who use TRICARE pharmacy home delivery get prescription medications shipped to their door. They also have the option of automatic prescription refills when their medication supply is running low. Beneficiaries using home delivery also save money. Copayments at retail pharmacies are three times higher for a 90 day supply of the same medication. For more information about home delivery, visit the [TRICARE website \(www.tricare.mil/homedelivery\)](http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery). To sign up for home delivery, or to enroll existing home delivery prescriptions in the automatic prescription refill program, beneficiaries should go to [ESI's website \(www.express-scripts.com/tricare\)](http://www.express-scripts.com/tricare), or call the TRICARE Member Choice Center at 877-363-1433.

The Prez Sez

The President's Column

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

The annual Old Timers Luncheon was attended by 103 members and guests. Guest speaker Andrew Hughan presented a slide presentation on his Afghanistan media experience. Col Steve Butow, the 129th Wing Vice Commander, provided a Wing update and conducted a question and answer session. A lifetime membership was presented to Ron VandenBerghe in recognition of his significant and continued support to the 129th AHA Scholarship program. Jay Craddock was also presented with a lifetime membership in recognition of his service as a Board Officer and Director since the establishment of the Association. The Newsletter contains several event photos.

Governor Brown on April 9th appointed Brigadier General David Baldwin as the 46th California Adjutant General. He succeeds Major General Mary Kight. When appointed, General Baldwin was serving in Afghanistan and had previously served as the CNG Joint Staff Director.

Lt Col Steve Butow was promoted March 12 to Colonel. The Association extends congratulations.

The Association was informed of the passing of MSgt Larry Avilla on March 6, Ms. Helen Reed on April 19, and SSgt George Zozula on March 26. Obituaries are included in the Newsletter.

With the start summer, please watch for kids – both young and old – at play. Have a safe holiday and travel safely!

Cheers!

John

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DOD to Drop Social Security Numbers From ID Cards

Posted 4/4/2011 Updated 4/4/2011

by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

4/4/2011 - **WASHINGTON (AFRNS)** -- Beginning June 1, Social Security numbers on military identification cards will begin to disappear, said Air Force Maj. Monica M. Matoush, a Pentagon spokeswoman.

The effort is part of a larger plan to protect service members and other DOD identification card holders from identity theft, officials said.

Criminals use Social Security numbers to steal identities, allowing them to pillage resources, establish credit or to hijack credit cards, bank accounts or debit cards.

Currently, the Social Security number is printed on the back of common access cards, and on the front of cards issued to dependents and retirees. Beginning in June, when current cards expire, they will be replaced with new cards having a DOD identification number replacing the Social Security number, officials said. The DOD identification number is a unique 10-digit number that is assigned to every person with a direct relationship with the department. The new number also will be the service member's Geneva Convention identification number.

An 11-digit DOD benefits number also will appear on the cards of those people eligible for DOD benefits. The first nine digits are common to a sponsor, the official said, and the last two digits will identify a specific person within the sponsor's family.

Social Security numbers embedded in the bar codes on the back of identification cards will remain there for the time being, and will be phased out beginning in 2012.

The department will replace identification cards as they expire.

"Because cards will be replaced upon expiration, it will be approximately four years until all cards are replaced with the DOD ID number," Matoush said.

The identity protection program began in 2008, when DOD started removing Social Security numbers from family member identification cards.

<http://www.retirees.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123249871>

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 Larry S. Avilla
MSGT Howard Bachman
CWO Eugene E. Baker
MSGT David S. Bain
SMSGT John S. Beasley
LTC Gregory A. Bose
COL John R. Breeden
MSGT Tommy D. Brooks
TSGT Greg Brown
LTC Joseph J. Budro
MSGT Sam Burgess
SMSGT Fredrick E. Burkett
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
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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
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MAJ William "Bill" Horky
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BGen Charles W. Koenig
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MSGT Bartley J. Lee
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CMSGT Joseph Martin
MAJ Lawrence Mauch
COL Ralston D. McKee
SGT Kevin McKenna
MSGT Edwin D. McNemar
LTC Charles Means
MSGT Paul Medeiros
LTC Robert Morrison
LTC Robert A. Morton
TSGT Rodney W. Morton

MAJ Mark Mutchler
MAJ Terry Nelson ★
COL James M. Newton
SSGT Charles L. Nobriga
COL Ralph L. Nobriga
LTC Frank Oddo
LTC John W. O'Sullivan
LTC Edmund M. Petracco
SMSGT Michael Patterson
COL Fred H. Petersen
MSGT Leon Pope
LTC Leonard J. Pringle
Marge Rainsford
LTC John Reading
Ms. Helen Reed
Ronald Roach
COL Joseph W. Rodricks
A1C Robert R. Rossie ★
COL Lina S. A. Ruppel
MSGT Frank M. Sacramento
MSGT Thomas Santiago
BGen Albert R. Santos
CWO John D. Schary
SMSGT Don Shanks
SSGT John D. "Jack" Smith
Claudia L. Cortez Sonnenfelt
LTC Les Spencer ★
MAJ Ira States
LTC Donald W. Stewart
TSGT Nicholas Stoopin
CMSGT Harold R. Strickler
COL Herman Vandever
LTC Urban B. Vandever
LTC John A. Vinther
SSGT Edward C. Vittorio
MSGT Bobby Joe Wagner
MSGT Clarence W. Wagner
LTC Louis F. Wang
LTC James Ward
CWO+ Albert S. Warnick
MSGT Kenneth H. Warwick II
SMSGT Paul F. Wilkins
LTC Don F. Winters
SSGT George Zozula
A1C Larry Zimmerman ★
MSGT Donald H. Zumsteg
★Killed in Action

MSgt Larry S. Avilla

17 February 1923 – 6 March 2011



Larry Silvino Avilla Resident of Union City Feb. 17, 1923 - Mar. 6, 2011 Larry Silvino Avilla passed away on Sunday after a defiant bout of medical problems. His effects on many lives were tremendous and most caring. Larry was born in the big island of Hawaii. During his childhood, his parents relocated to the island of Kauai. While there, adding to the family were his brother Albert, sister Virginia, & sister Dandy, (all three in the last 25 years have passed each one at different times), and another surviving brother Henry. At the age of 16, as a renegade, he skipped school; and, as a "faked" 18-year old, he joined the National Guard, which became U.S. Army when Pearl Harbor happened. In the meantime, his family moved to Honolulu, Oahu. He participated in the Battle of Guadalcanal during WWII. After his Army Discharge in 1945, he worked for the Navy at Pearl Harbor and took correspondence courses whenever he could. He married; and, as a family man and pending closures of Navy bases, he decided to move to California in December, 1949, to look for a better job future. In 1952, he joined the California Air National Guard, as an Auto Mechanic in the motor pool, then located in Hayward. In 1983, he fully retired militarily and as a full-time employee. During his retirement, he enjoyed golfing, fishing, & taking Art Classes at Chabot College, Hayward. Larry is survived by his loving wife, Philippa (Phyl), his devoted children Jesse Avilla & his wife Tess of Fremont, Terence Avilla of Union City, Lorelei Avilla-La Joure & son-in-law Eric La Joure of Modesto. Zachary Avilla, his eldest son, a Vietnam Veteran, had passed away on Aug. 19, 2004. Larry is also survived by grandchildren James M. Clark, Jr. of Carson City, Nevada, David T. Clark of Union City, Jordan Avilla-La Joure of Modesto, Zachary A. Avilla II of Richmond, and great grandchild Tahlisa Kimbro of Oklahoma; his only surviving younger brother Henry & wife Miyoko of Honolulu, HI, his deceased brother-in-law Julian Mendoza's widow Agnes of Honolulu, Oahu, his many nieces and nephews of Honolulu, HI and Las Vegas, Nevada. They will all sorely miss his most caring ways & dry humor with that contagious smile. Memorial service was held on Thursday, Mar. 17, 2011 at the Niles Veterans Hall, 37154 Second St., Fremont, CA. Burial at the National Cemetery, 32053 West McCabe Road, Santa Nella, California.

Helen Marie Moore Reed

8 March 1928 – 19 April 2011



Helen Marie Reed, 83, passed away on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 in Quitman, Texas. She was born to Melba A. (Gresham) and William C. Moore, Sr. in Little Rock, Arkansas on March 8, 1928 and spent her childhood in Heber Springs, near her grandparents, John A. Gresham and Elizabeth Moore. After graduating from Quitman High school in 1945, she accompanied her parents and brothers, Alder and William C. Moore, Jr. to California where she met and married John W. Reed.

Ms. Reed was a wonderful mother, grandmother and friend. She spend many years working for the California Air National Guard, first at Camp San Luis Obispo and later, when she moved to Sunnyvale to be near her parents, with the 129th Airborne at Moffitt Field, in the San Francisco Bay area. These people were like family to her and she often regaled her family with tales of the interesting, aggravating and humorous antics of the people she worked with. Although she retired in 1995, she still kept in contact with some of the 129th, attending retirement parties, promotion parties and special occasions with them whenever she could travel.

After she retired from working for the California Air National Guard in 1995, she settled first in Sonora, California where she put her expert seamstress skills to work with costuming the local theater productions, acting as a docent at the restored historical mining town of Columbia, and serving lunch every Wednesday at the Senior Center.



Helen moved to Quitman, Texas four years ago to be near two of her daughters and her brother, Alder Moore and his wife, Georgia. She was an avid gardener and often had friends over for tea. She again worked with the local theater company, Quitman Community Theatre Group, creating exactly the right costumes for the many productions, some of which can be seen at the theater's website (www.qctheatre.org).

She is survived by her children: her daughters Yvonne Henrichsen, Deborah Ralston and Sharon Brewer; her son J. Arthur Reed; granddaughters Suzie Krzyzanowski, Lisa Anderson, Sarah Lubeck, Dawn Pacheco, Rebecca Henrichsen, Bethany Jennings, Emily Williams, and Diane Mikulenka; grandsons Matthew Reed, Michael Henrichsen and Joshua Mikulenka; step-grandchildren Chad and Merritt Steeverson; brothers Alder Moore of Winnesboro, Texas and William C. Moore, Jr. of Napa, California; eight great-grandchildren, two nephews and two nieces; her uncle, Guy Gresham of Heber Springs, and numerous Moore and Gresham relatives.



A memorial service was held on Saturday, May 21, 2011 graveside at the Pearson Cemetery, outside of Heber Springs, Arkansas. Memorial contributions can be made in her name to the Cypress Basin Hospice at 207 Morgan St, Mount Pleasant, TX 75455 (www.cbhospice.org) or the Mount Vernon Music Scholarship Fund at PO Box 719, Mount Vernon TX 75457 (www.mountvernonmusic.org).

Note from Yvonne Henrichsen: The urn was designed by our aunt for her interment. It is really cool with a big brim hat, a dress manikin, and a hat brim with elephants and teacups which mom always collected.

SSgt George Zozula

15 April 1953 – 26 March 2011

SSgt George Zozula was born 15 April 1953 in Los Angeles, CA. He passed away 26 March 2011. Internment was at Forest Lawn, Glendale, CA. He is survived by his daughter Erica Zozula; mother Ksenia Zozula; brother Walter Zozula; a niece and nephew; and two great-nephews.

SSgt George Zozula joined the California National Guard 146th Airlift Wing at Van Nuys in 1973, and transferred to the 129th at Hayward in 1978. He returned to the 146th in Van Nuys in 1981.

2012 Retiree COLA Update

May 20, 2011
Terry Howell

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics the national inflation rate is still trending upward. Of course anyone who has been grocery shopping lately could tell you that, but, the BLS reports that the Consumer Price Index for April is up 0.8 percent over the March CPI, which bodes well for COLA in 2012.

This is important for military retirees, and those drawing VA benefits, because the CPI is the indicator used to determine the annual [cost-of-living-adjustment \(COLA\)](#) and adjustments to VA [Disability and Compensation](#), [Vets Pension](#), and other VA rates for the following year.

According to the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) the April 2011 CPI is up 2.9% from the 2008 CPI. The 2008 CPI will be used to calculate the 2012 COLA since there has been no COLA since 2009. This means that if the trend continues the COLA for 2012 could be quite substantial. This will also mean an increase in VA Compensation and Pension programs as well as social security rates.

NOTE: The COLA referred to here is the annual [cost-of-living-adjustment for retirees](#). It is not the same as the [Cost-of-Living-Allowance for active duty](#).

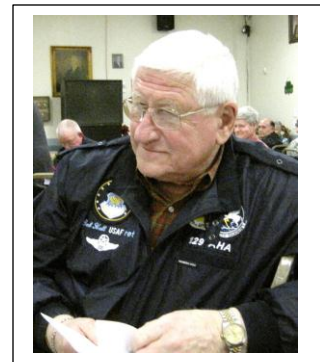
Read more: <http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2011/05/2012-military-retiree-cola-update/#ixzz1NKdHdDhK>

MilitaryAdvantage.Military.com

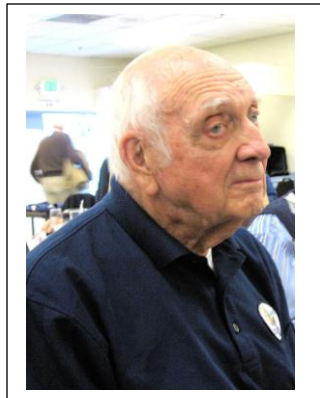


Bert Bartholomeu &
Gene Pasqual

Old Timers'
Lunch
March 23,
2011



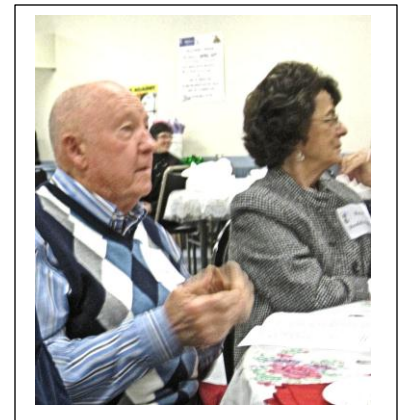
Bob Hall



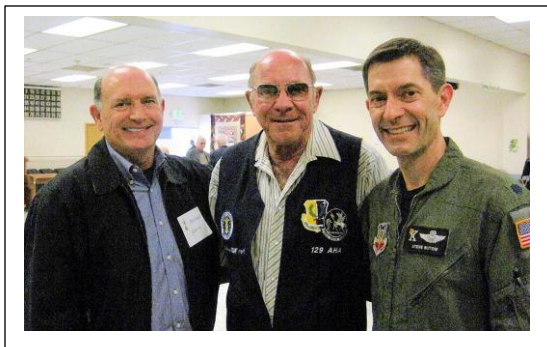
Jim Badgrow



Tom DeTar



Ed & Rose Boddington



Mike Garcia, Larry
Rengstorf, Steve Butow



Phil Henry, Bob McClure,
Jim Rommelfanger



Bob Hall
Larry Rengstorf
Phil Henry



A1C Amber Poyner
Col Lina A. Ruppel Scholarship
John Ruppel

Andrew Hughan
Guest Speaker



SSgt Leslie Zapata
Lt Col Glen Hatley Scholarship
Charles Fuller

Jay Craddock & John Ruppel



SrA Gaspare Cammarata
129th MDG Airman of the Year
Dr. Danilo Lucila



A1C Edgar Beaver
BG Albert R. Santos Scholarship
Ron VandenBerghe & Brad Santos



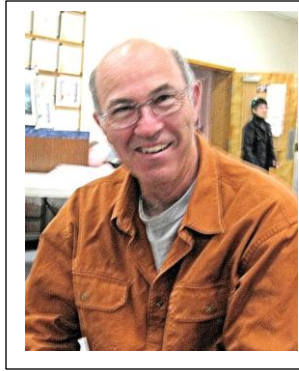
Ron & Patty VandenBerghe

MSgt Jessisa Brown
Senior NCO of the Year
John Ruppel
A1C Jessica Green
Honor Guard Member of the Year





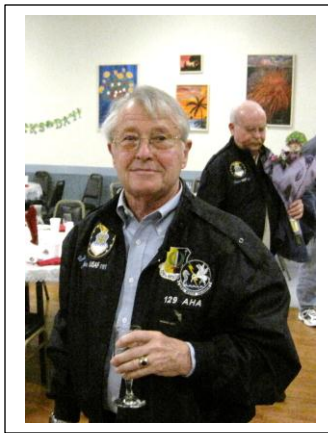
Raffle Winners
Dave Cantrell & Gene Pasqual



Uwanna Perras



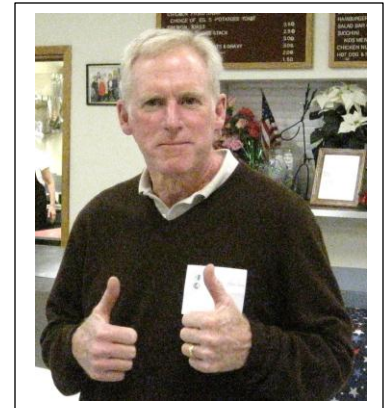
Leon Kempner



John Ruppel



Tim Wright & William Doyle



Ridge Haslam



Steve Butow
Pete Uranga



Stu Loux & Lori Huntley



Stu Loux
Tony Jeffrey
Jim Badgrow

Photos Courtesy of
SMSgt Larry Rengstorf

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	

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

MSgt Larry S. Avilla
Ms. Helen Reed
SSgt George Zozula



New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

CMSgt Norman Jacobs
SMSgt Leon Kempner

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

New TRICARE Resource

Week of May 23, 2011

TRICARE beneficiaries who want to learn more about their health care plan and how it works can get short, relevant tips once a month with the launch of TRICARE TV. The videos are short and easy to follow, ranging in length from two-to-four minutes. To view TRICARE TV, beneficiaries can visit [TRICARE's YouTube channel](#) or www.tricare.mil/mediacenter. Subscribe to get e-alerts when a new episode is posted by going to www.tricare.mil/subscriptions or through the e-mail link at the TRICARE media center.

Plan to Freeze GI Bill Stipends Dropped

Week of May 23, 2011

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee's plan to freeze Post-9/11 GI Bill housing stipend rates for two years has been dropped from the [Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011 \(HR 1383\)](#). The proposed housing rate freeze was seen as a means of covering the \$50 million cost of HR 1383, a law that would correct one of the many unintended consequences of the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, the law commonly known as [GI Bill 2.0](#) (the fix to the Post-9/11 GI Bill). Most of the provisions of GI Bill 2.0 are set to go into effect this fall. The specific issue HR 1383 will address is the impact on student veterans in seven states who will face increased out-of-pocket tuition expenses due to the \$17,500 a year private school tuition and fees cap. Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL), the bill's author, has offered a change to the bill that would adjust VA Home Loan origination fees for veterans who use the home loan program more than once.

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AND
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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.

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Happy Memorial Day

