



HONORS

Serving the Retired Military Communities of
Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa & Michigan

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HONORS is an annual publication published each summer.

It is distributed to all Army Retired Soldiers in receipt of retired pay, Gray-Area Retirees, and Army surviving spouses residing in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, and the 32 northern-most counties of Illinois. HONORS is available on the Fort McCoy website, <https://home.army.mil/mccoy>. Select menu, "For Soldiers," and "Retirement Services Office" to view the most current edition. Feel free to share this site with fellow Service Members and their Families.

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FROM THE FORT McCOY GARRISON HEADQUARTERS



Thank you for your service to this great Nation! Your service is appreciated and honored. The entire Fort McCoy workforce is committed to supporting veterans through initiatives like Retiree Appreciation Day, Veteran Recognition Events, ID card services, legal services, volunteer opportunities, religious support services, and many more supporting efforts. You have our deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment to safeguarding our freedom.

As a community rooted in service, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have worn the uniform and supported our Armed Forces. You are part of that 1% of Americans who took the oath and dedicated years of their life to ensure we can continue to enjoy freedom today.

Fort McCoy has long been a cornerstone of military readiness, training thousands of soldiers annually. Beyond training, we are committed to being the gold-standard supporting the Army's mobilization mission and the Nation's strategic support mission.

In addition to these missions, Fort McCoy continues to expand its outreach to veterans and their families. From housing programs combating homelessness to commemorative events like reunions for Vietnam-era veterans, we strive to create a welcoming environment where the sacrifices of our heroes are remembered and celebrated.

We pledge to enhance these efforts, ensuring every veteran and family member feels valued. Whether through training support, community events, or expanded resources, Fort McCoy remains dedicated to serving those who served us.

Thank you for your service and commitment! Together, we will continue building a stronger community that honors our shared values.

- Cameron M. Cantlon

Garrison Manager, Fort McCoy



Flight - Victoria Jayne O'Hare



With each flash of flickering flame
That slowly licks beneath my skin,
Unfurled wings grow ever brighter—
An action paramount to sin.

What growling Universe is this
That hurtles me towards the Sun?
Does it know the pain within me?
Does it think this to be fun?

I swim towards the fading ground;
Whips of torture hold me back.
“You suffer and you fly,” they haunt,
With their swarming limbs of black.

“Those in pain must take the flight,”
The voices snivel on in glee,
A raucous symphony of horrors
That has not long infested me.

I’m hoping, longing to be normal,
To breathe the air so fresh and clean.
But pain’s grip is like a chokehold
With no exit to be seen.

“Those with pain do not belong,”
The chorus echoes in a tizzy.
I lose track of fellow fliers,
And I’m starting to get dizzy.

The flames inside me boil up
To form creeping, festering sores,
Yet leave no trace of their existence
On my body’s milky shores.

A fellow flier plummets down,
Having reached their body’s limit.
I keep flying upward,
Soaring a mile a minute.

“Go up and find your peace,”
The layered voices say to me.
I keep on flying upward,
Having nowhere else to be.

Living is a choice that
Humans make most every day.
But for those with chronic pain,
There is no easier way.

We must fly towards the Sun,
To reach some heights unknown,
Then fall to Earth like Icarus
Into a grave with flowers grown.

- Victoria Jayne O'Hare

Dear Reader;

Greetings and Welcome to the 2025 edition of the Fort McCoy HONORS Newsletter.

Retirement Services Officer Mr. Nicholas Gimson remains committed to being your primary resource. It is a great honor for this team to continue this newsletter, and your comments and feedback on this newsletter are still valued and encouraged. As the Editor of this newsletter, I have retained the Poet's page, updated the Garrison Commander's page with our new Garrison Manager Cameron M. Cantlon.

To continue to receive the Honors Newsletter, Dear Reader, you will need to have a current email address on file with either DEERS or DFAS.

I thank you for your service, and your time, and I hope you find the content of this edition to be nothing short of the standard we set last year.

Chris Thompson

Editor, Honors Newsletter
Fort McCoy, WI 54656



DISCLAIMER

Articles for the Honors do not necessarily reflect the position of the Department of the Army, or Fort McCoy, WI. The material in this newsletter was provided by a number of sources. Sources and materials are checked to be as accurate as possible at the time of printing.

The Soldier for Life - Retirement Services Office (SFL-RSO) publishes the Retirement Services Newsletter in accordance with Army Regulation 600-8-7, Retirement Services Program.

The SFL-RSO is located in building 2187, Fort McCoy, WI. While it is recommended that you contact the office for an appointment prior to visiting, walk-ins are welcome. The toll-free phone number is locally 502-898-3716. Emails can be sent to: usarmy.mccoy.id-readiness.mbx.dhr-rso@army.mil.

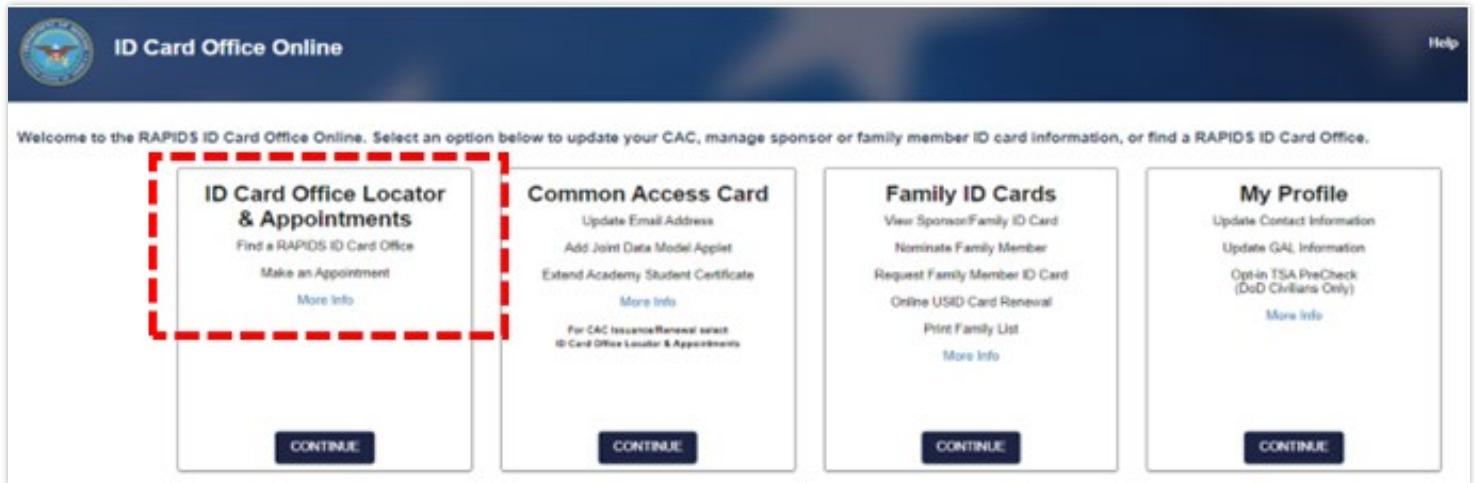
ID CARD OFFICE ONLINE IS OPEN



Book your appointment online with the booking tool!

To book a new or renewal appointment online for an ID Card, visit the online tool:

<https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>



Click on: “ID Card Office Locator & Appointments” Enter “Fort McCoy or 54656”; Select Location #2 – “Ft McCoy or 54656” (Installation ID Card Facility).

After you select our Location (or even our site ID: 102072), you will see a button at the bottom of the page to “Schedule Appointment” click on that button. Available appointments will be visible in the calendar on your screen.

Click on an available date (by scrolling up or down) and then chose an open appointment time that fits your schedule. Once you have done that you will see a confirmation of your appointment to include date and time.

What to Bring to Your ID Card Appointment

Two (2) Forms of valid state or federal identification are required for all adults (18 years or older; one must be a photo ID). Identification documents may include a military ID Card; driver’s license or passport. Children 10 years and older require one (1) form of identification. Sponsor must be present for all transactions or Family Member must have current verified DD Form 1172-2.



LETTER FROM THE RSO & RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS

Welcome to the 2025 edition of the Fort McCoy HONORS newsletter.

As you have learned or are learning, whether you want to or not, a lot of information is moving to a digital platform. Due to the cost of shipping or return postage, or the cost of supplies to make a booklet like this have went up. Its has been more cost effective to publish it digitally and we can get it to the Soldier and their family faster. Also, it does not cost us anything additional to have the HONORS published digitally in color. I bring this up because I want you to give it a try. We can publish a lot of information on public site and “touch” thousands of individuals in minutes rather than taking days trying to get something out in the mail. So, we are working on updating our public webpage and keeping it current with information, to include these HONORS newsletters. (see below for website) I am asking that you help spread the word about the public webpage that you all can utilize for information, please bare with me as it will have a lot of changes at first but I promise it will get better once we have a solid platform.

<https://home.army.mil/mccoy/contact/soldier-life-retirement-services-transition-assistance-program>

I thank you and your families for your service to our great nation.



- Nick Gimson

Retirement Services

Fort McCoy, WI 54656

Retiree Appreciation Days

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Registration link</u>
14-Aug-2025	American Legion Post #403 Van Meter, IA	Click here to register
5-Sep-2025	Building 905 Fort McCoy, WI	Click here to register
20-Sep-2025	Selfridge Air National Guard Selfridge, MI	Click here to register
18-Oct-2025	Rock Island, IL	Click here to register



MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

in the Midwest - CONTACT

Fort McCoy, Wisconsin

The following extensions begin 502-898-xxxx

Post Operator	2222
Army Community Service	3505
Auto Skills Center	3013
Commissary	3542
Legal Office	8751
Leisure Travel Services	3011
McCOY'S Community Club	2065
MWR Car Wash	3213
Pine View Campground	3517
Post Exchange	4343
Recreation Center	3213
Rumpel Fitness Center	2290
Ski Chalet	2260

Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan

www.detroitarsenalfmwr.com

The following extensions begin 586-239-xxxx

(unless otherwise indicated)

Post Operator	586-307-4011
Base Exchange	0960
Benefit Mulligan's Dining/Catering	2337
Commissary	5570
FMWR	586-282-0992
Golf Course	4653
Health Benefit Advisor	586-282-5273
Legal Office	4078
Retiree Activity Office	5580

Great Lakes Naval Station, Illinois

The following extensions begin with 847-688-xxxx

(unless otherwise indicated)

Base Operator	3500
Base Exchange	847-578-6104
Commissary	2644
Information/Tickets/Travel	3537
Legal Office	3805
Marina/Rental Center	5417
MWR	2110
RV Park	6675
Samuel Adams Brew Club	6946
Willow Glen Golf Course	4593

Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois

www.rianmwr.com

The following extensions begin 309-782-xxxx

(unless otherwise indicated)

Post Operator	6001
Army Community Service	0829
Auto Skills Center	8631
Cannon Falls Driving Range	0090
Commissary	4614
Fitness Center	6787
Health Benefit Adviser	0800
Legal Office	1443
Leisure Travel Services	5890
Outdoor Recreation	8630
Post Exchange	309-788-4940



Army Retirement Services

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Army Echoes Newsletter

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/echoes/latest.pdf>

Navy Retirement Services

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/Culture-Resilience/Retired-Activities/>

Navy Shift Colors Newsletter

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Media-Center/Publications/Shift-Colors/>

Coast Guard Retirement Services

<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/gp/#guides>

Coast Guard Evening Colors Newsletter

<https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-16&category=us-coast-guard>

Marines Corps Community Services

<https://www.usmc-mccs.org/>

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Newsletter

<https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Portals/61/Docs/MMSR-6/VOL%2068%20NO%201%20JAN-MAR%202024.pdf?ver=Nq8WHpeVos4uiuXQntpB8A%3d%3d>

Air Forces Retirement Services

<https://www.retirees.af.mil/>

Air Force Afterburner Newsletter

www.retirees.af.mil/library/afterburner

Army Emergency Relief (AER)

<https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/>

Army & Air Force Exchange Service

www.shopmyexchange.com

Army Retired Pin & Decal

www.shopmyexchange.com - type Army Retired in the search box

Burial & Memorial Benefits (VA National Cemetery Administration)

www.cem.va.gov

Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) - (DFAS)

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crsc.html>

Concurrent Retired Disability Pay (CRDP) - (DFAS)

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html>

Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP)

www.benefeds.com



Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)

www.dfas.mil

eBenefits

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>

Express Scripts (Mail Order Pharmacy)

www.express-scripts.com

Federal Long Term Care Insurance

www.ltcfeds.com

Fort McCoy Homepage

<https://home.army.mil/mccoy>

Life Insurance (SGLI, TSGLI, VGLI)

www.benefits.va.gov/insurance

Military Service and Social Security (*Social Security Administration*)

<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10017.pdf>

Military Eyeglasses

<https://www.med.navy.mil/Naval-Medical-Readiness-Logistics-Command/Naval-Ophthalmic-Readiness-Activity/Ordering/How-to-Order-Retiree/>

Military Funeral Honors (*Military One Source*)

www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/tools/military-funeral-honors-directory/

Military Living Publications

www.militaryliving.com

Military OneSource—financial, legal, health & wellness assistance and much more

www.militaryonesource.mil

Military Personnel Records Request

www.archives.gov

My Army Benefits

<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>

My Air Force Benefits

www.myairforcebenefits.us.af.mil/

RAPIDS Site Locator (DEERS Enrollment & ID Card Issuing Facilities)

idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/

Social Security Administration (SSA)

www.ssa.gov

Space Available Travel (Space-A)

www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel-Site/

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)

www.tsp.gov

TRICARE

tricare.mil

U.S. Army Human Resource Command Fort Knox (HRC)

www.hrc.army.mil

U.S. Department of Veterans Administration (VA)

www.va.gov



MIDWEST MILITARY AREA RETIREE COUNCILS & RAO'S

Military Retiree area councils serve as a vital link for the military Retiree community. The councils provide an avenue for suggestions and recommendations on military matters to reach the proper level in the chain of command. The councils also plan and execute Retiree Appreciation Days (RADs) to provide up-to-date information about benefits and entitlements to the military retired community. The RADs are open to all Retirees from all branches of service. The Fort McCoy Soldier For Life – Retirement Services Office currently supports eight military Retiree area councils, which are subordinate to the Fort McCoy Retiree military main council. Council members serve as “eyes and ears” of the community regarding military-Retiree-related issues. Through the area councils, members are able to voice concerns through their respective chains of command to the Fort McCoy Garrison Commander.

Area councils are located in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Although these councils are sponsored by Fort McCoy, membership is open to Retirees from all services. Please feel free to contact any council if you have issues to discuss or if you are interested in serving as a member.

Area councils rely on the military Retiree community to be effective. New members are always welcome. Military Retiree area councils sponsored by Fort McCoy are listed below with contact numbers for the respective chairperson or Retiree Activity Office (RAO):

COUNCIL CONTACT

Des Moines Area Council	515-277-6113
Duluth/Superior Area Council	715-398-3152
Lower Michigan Area Council	586-239-5580
Quad Cities Area Council	563-508-5123
Fort Sheridan Area Council	719-317-0420
(the office is still located at Fort Sheridan in IL)	
Twin Cities Area Council	763-516-2931
Wisconsin Area Council	414-630-2484



Retiree Activities Offices (RAO)

Fort Sheridan, IL – Monday-Friday, 9 A.M. – NOON

3155 Blackhawk Drive

719-317-0420

Madison, WI – Tuesday & Thursday, 7:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

2400 Wright St.

Email – widma.retiree@wisconsin.gov

800-335-5147, ext. 3115

Milwaukee, WI – Tuesday & Wednesday, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

1835 East Grange Avenue

usaf.wi128-arw.list.rao@mail.mil

414-944-8212

Minneapolis, MN – Monday-Friday, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Minneapolis Airport, Bldg. 727

612-713-1517

Selfridge, MI – Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Selfridge Air National Guard Base

44195 Jefferson Ave., Bldg. 835

Email – selfrao@yahoo.com

<https://detroit.armymwr.com>

586-239-5580



Our nation comes together every November 11 to reflect and appreciate our veterans during Veterans Day. It's a day we recognize and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices of our nation's veterans. Although November 11 is one day,

MyArmyBenefits

(<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>) has benefit information year-round that can assist veterans, Retired Soldiers, and their Families in learning about the benefits they are eligible for and how to access them.

Many Soldiers know their benefits while they are in the service but may not know that as veterans, there are a variety of federal and state benefits available to them and their Families, which can be found in the MyArmyBenefits Benefit Library

(<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library>). Within the Benefit Library, each fact sheet explains the benefit, who is eligible for it based on duty status, and benefit highlights and resources.

One of the many fact sheets for veterans is Social Security Disability, or (SSDI)

(<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Social-Security-Disability>).

This fact sheet includes information on the disability and medical criteria for The Social Security Administration disability benefits.

Another benefit eligible veterans and Families should check out is the Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program

([https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Survivors-and-Dependents-Education-Assistance-Program-\(DEA\)?serv=120](https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Survivors-and-Dependents-Education-Assistance-Program-(DEA)?serv=120)) This benefit offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and completely disabled due to a service-related condition, or of those who died while on active duty or as a result

This program offers 36 months of education assistance per dependent and for those that qualified on or after August 1, 2023, there is no time limit on when the benefit must be used.

State and Territory benefits are also included in the MyArmyBenefits Benefit Library

(<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/State/Territory-Benefits>). Any veteran, spouse, or Family member can click on their state in the State/Territory Benefit Library and view all the state/territory administered benefits available to them. State and Territory fact sheets can inform veterans about state taxes, veteran state employment benefits, education benefits, and more that are specific to each state.

One example of a state specific benefit is the Florida Hometown Heroes Program (<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/State/Territory-Benefits/Florida#Miscellaneous>), which offers down payment, closing cost, and lower first mortgage rate assistance to eligible veterans when purchasing a home in Florida. The program is available to veterans who received a discharge other than dishonorable and are purchasing a primary residence.

As you go about the business of life, remember that veterans, as well as their Families, can receive benefit information year-round with

MyArmyBenefits

(<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>). Be sure to follow MyArmyBenefits on social media (<https://www.instagram.com/myarmybenefits/>) to stay up to date on new benefits and benefit updates.

Lifetime Passes Available For Veterans and Gold Star Families!



News Release Date: November 8, 2022

Contact: NewsMedia@nps.gov

WASHINGTON — Today, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that starting on Veterans Day (Nov. 11), veterans of the U.S. Armed Services and Gold Star Families can obtain a free lifetime pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests.

“We have a sacred obligation to America’s veterans. This new lifetime pass is a small demonstration of our nation’s gratitude and support for those who have selflessly served in the U.S. Armed Forces,” said Secretary Deb Haaland, whose father served during the Vietnam War. “I’m proud the Department of the Interior can provide veterans and Gold Star Families opportunities for recreation, education and enjoyment from our country’s treasured lands.”

“Our national forests and grasslands represent so much of the beauty of the nation our brave service members have sacrificed so much for,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “Though they can never be fully repaid, by connecting the families of the fallen and those who served with these iconic places, we can, in a small way, say thank you.”

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our federal teammates are proud to honor our veterans with free lifetime access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas across the nation,” said Lieutenant General (LTG) Scott Spellmon, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“This is a small token of appreciation for veterans who have bravely dedicated their lives to defending our freedom.

“This pass conveys our immense gratitude and respect for those who have given so much,” said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams. “As a veteran, I know firsthand the many sacrifices that members of the Armed Forces and their families have made in service to our country, and I am thrilled that Gold Star Families and military veterans can now enjoy lifetime access to national parks and other public lands.

Each lifetime pass covers entrance fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle (or passholder and up to three adults at sites that charge per person) at national parks and national wildlife refuges, as well as standard amenity fees at national forests and grasslands, and at lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Veterans can present one of the four forms of acceptable ID (Department of Defense ID Card, Veteran Health ID (VHIC), Veteran ID Card, or veteran’s

designation on a state-issued US driver’s license or ID card) at participating federal recreation areas that normally charge an entrance fee. Gold Star Families obtain information, self-certify they qualify and download a voucher on NPS.gov.

The Alexander Lofgran Veterans in Parks Act, passed in December 2021, authorized free lifetime access to federal lands to veterans and Gold Star Families. The new lifetime pass for veterans and Gold Star Families is in addition to the free annual Military Pass, which has been available to active duty servicemembers and their families since Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2012.

Federal recreational land management agencies offer additional lifetime passes, including a Senior Pass for US citizens or permanent residents over age 62 and an Access Pass for US citizens or permanent residents with a permanent disability. More information is available on NPS.gov.

The Interior Department and other federal land agencies also offer fee-free entrance days for everyone throughout the year to mark days of celebration and commemoration, including the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., National Public Lands Day, and Veterans Day.



**Claim
Yours
here**

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN

(SBP) TIDBIT

The **SBP** allows military Retirees to provide a portion of their retired pay to their designated beneficiaries. Retired service members pay about 60 percent of the SBP cost, and the government pays the remainder. The retired service member is considered “paid up” when he/she has made 360 payments and has reached age 70. The SBP annuity (pay-out) is 55 percent of the military Retiree’s elected pay base amount.

To read more, visit the **Army’s Soldier for Life Survivor Benefit Plan** page [here](#).



Did You Know?

The Department of Defense (DoD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. “Honoring Those Who Served” is the title of the DoD program for providing dignified military funeral honors to Veterans who have defended our nation.

Upon the Family’s request, Public Law 106-65 requires that every eligible Veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the Veteran’s parent service of the armed forces. The DoD program calls for funeral home directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the Veterans’ Family. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration cemetery staff can also assist with arranging military funeral honors at VA national cemeteries. Veteran organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors. When military funeral honors at a national cemetery are desired, they are arranged prior to the committal service by the funeral home. The Department of Defense began the implementation plan for providing military funeral honors for eligible Veterans as enacted in Section 578 of Public Law 106-65 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2000 on Jan. 1, 2000.

While many cemeteries have similar eligibility requirements for burial options for Veterans and their Families, some require state residency and some services, particularly for Family members, may require a fee.

Questions or comments concerning the DoD military funeral honors program may be sent to the address list-ed below. The military funeral honors website is located at [Militaryonesource.mil](https://militaryonesource.mil). This website also offers more detailed information on the “Honoring Those Who Served” program.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy) 4000 Defense Pentagon, Room 5A726 Washington, DC 20380

For more information, please contact your local funeral home director or local county Veterans Service Office, or click [here](#).

DFAS HELPFUL TIPS & TOOLS FOR RETIREES NEW TO RETIRED PAY

By Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Pay Schedule

Retired pay is paid monthly, on the first day of the month, unless that day is a weekend or holiday. In that case, it is paid on the last business day of the prior month. For example, if May 1 is a Sunday, payday will be Friday, April 29. See www.dfas.mil/rapaycal.

Our goal is to pay your first retired pay on the first business day of month following your retirement date. However, we can only do that if we receive a complete retirement package, including a correct, signed DD Form 2656.

Retiree Account Statements

You are used to seeing a Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) when it's (almost) payday. Once you begin receiving retired pay, you will see a Retiree Account Statement (RAS), which is the equivalent of an LES for those receiving military retired pay.

Your Retiree Account Statements will be available to view and download from myPay when your first retired pay is issued and then each month a few days prior to payday.

When your retired pay account is established initially, and your first payment issued, DFAS will mail you a welcome letter with a breakdown of your pay and deductions. However, depending on your first pay date, you may see your pay deposited in your bank account before your postal mail letter gets there. You may also see your first RAS in myPay before you get your postal mail letter.

After that first RAS, if you set the preferences in your account to receive statements via postal mail, you will only receive a mailed monthly RAS if your pay changes. You will also receive a mailed RAS each January with your tax statement. However, your pay statements are available each month in myPay to view and download.

Tax Statements

After you start receiving retired pay, your annual tax statement will be an IRS 1099-R instead of a W-2. Your annual 1099-R will be available in myPay to view and download, usually in mid-to-late December.

If you have the preferences in your account set to receive statements via postal mail, those statements are mailed no later than January 31 of each year, along with your December RAS.

Military Retired Pay Taxation Tips

Military retired pay is paid for many different reasons under many different laws. There are differences in the types of pay a military retiree might receive and the tax laws that apply to them. Whether a portion or all of an individual's military retired pay is subject to federal income taxes depends on his/her individual circumstances.



DFAS HELPFUL TIPS & TOOLS FOR RETIREES NEW TO RETIRED PAY CONT.

A military retiree can either use myPay or send an IRS Form W-4 to change the amount DFAS withholds for federal income taxes from their military retired pay.

An individual's choice to have no withholding for federal taxes does not impact whether the individual's military retired pay is actually subject to federal income taxes. Ultimately, the IRS will determine the amount of taxes owed on the military retired pay.

Please note: the IRS requires any individual claiming exemption from federal withholding to provide a new Form W-4 at the beginning of each tax year certifying their exemption from withholding.

DFAS cannot provide tax advice. Please consult a tax professional or the IRS.

Please see our webpage regarding taxation of retired pay: www.dfas.mil/retpaytax.

Retired & Annuitant Pay News

Keep up with the latest news and announcements on the Retired & Annuitant Pay main webpage, plus quick links, and how-to's for myPay at www.dfas.mil/rapay.

Forms Library

Need a form? The retiree and annuitant Forms library provides quick links to download forms, Form Wizards, and other helpful form tools at www.dfas.mil/raforms.

Tools to Make Forms Easier to Fill Out and Submit

DFAS is rolling out new tools to help retirees and annuitants fill out and submit forms easily and correctly. The tools include helpful PDF Form Wizards, how-to checklists, and how-to videos.

The Form Wizards "take the form out of the form" by asking a series of questions and filling in your answers in the appropriate areas of the form. The how-to checklists and how-to videos provide quick tips and walk-throughs of the forms to help you fill them out correctly and easily.



DFAS Why You Should Attend a Retiree Appreciation Day

Retiree Appreciation Days, also called **RADs**, are a great way for retirees to get information regarding your military retired pay. These events are hosted by the branch of service's Retirement Service Office or Retirement Activities Office. Organizations that offer services to military retirees are invited to speak at the events and/or to provide information and answer questions for retirees virtually or in-person. You will often find speakers from the branch itself, the base or post hosting the event, the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS), the Department of Veteran's Affairs, TriCare, and many other organizations who serve retirees. Each event is slightly different depending on which organizations can attend; please check with the hosting office for a list of speakers and attendees.

DFAS presents on the best ways to manage your retired pay, new projects that we are working on to help retirees, and any new legislation that may impact military retirees. We can also answer more individualized questions one-on-one following our briefing. If there is a RAD close to where you live, we highly encourage you to attend. When you do, please say "hello" to the DFAS representative and let them know you saw this article. And while we won't be there to hand out DFAS-branded frisbees, we know you'll walk away better informed about your retired pay and encouraged by all the exciting things we are working on to serve you better.

Here is a list of the upcoming events. We hope to see you there.

Retiree Appreciation Day

Date: August 16, 2025; 0700

Location: Tobyhanna Army Depot, PA

Point of contact: 570-615-7019/7834/2734

RSVP: usarmy.tyad.usamc.mbx.rso@army.mil

Retiree Appreciation Day

Date: September 20, 2025

Location: Buckley SFB Aurora, CO

Point of Contact: Buckley SFB RAO - 720-847-6693

RSVP: Not required, but can contact RAO at raobuckley@gmail.com





Blue Angels | Feel the Thunder. Witness the Majesty. Experience the **Blue Angels**.

Prepare to be awestruck by the Navy's famed Blue Angels! These elite pilots push the limits of flight, delivering breathtaking aerial displays of precision, speed, and teamwork. Watch in amazement as their F/A-18 Super Hornets dance across the sky in tight formations, heart-stopping loops, and thunderous flybys. More than just an airshow, it's a powerful demonstration of Naval aviation excellence, inspiring patriotism and awe in audiences of all ages.

The Blue Angels represent the skill, dedication, and pride of every Sailor and Marine. And the Navy deeply appreciates the service and sacrifice of our military community. "The United States Navy proudly offers military discounts as a token of our gratitude for the dedication and service of our military personnel and their families. **We recognize the sacrifices made, and we are honored to provide a way for military members to enjoy events and experiences.**" Look for military discounts at Blue Angels airshows and other Navy-related events – a small way we say "thank you" for your unwavering commitment. Don't miss the chance to see these incredible aviators and celebrate the spirit of naval aviation!

Website: <https://www.blueangels.navy.mil/> (This is the main official site - look for a "Show Info").

2025-2026 Schedule

MAY 2025

3 · 4 | Fort Lauderdale Beach, FL | Air Dot Show Ft. Lauderdale
10 | NAS Corpus Christi, TX | NAS Corpus Christi Air Show
17 · 18 | Brunswick, GA | The Golden Isles Air Show
21 | USNA, Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Air Show
23 | Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Graduation Flyover
24 · 25 | Middletown, PA | Air Dot Show Central PA

JUNE 2025

7 · 8 | Smyrna, TN | The Great Tennessee Air Show
14 · 15 | Ocean City, MD | Air Dot Show Ocean City
21 · 22 | Belleville, MI | Belleville Air Show
28 · 29 | Eau Claire, WI | Chippewa Valley Air Show

JULY 2025

5 · 6 | Duluth, MN | Duluth Air and Aviation Expo
12 | Pensacola Beach, FL | Pensacola Beach Air Show
19 · 20 | Milwaukee, WI | Milwaukee Air and Water Show
Miramar, CA | MCAS Miramar Air Show

AUGUST 2025

2 · 3 | Seattle, WA | Boeing SeaFair Air Show
9 · 10 | MCAS Kaneohe Bay, HI | Kaneohe Bay Air Show
16 · 17 | Twin Falls, ID | Twin Falls Air Show
23 · 24 | Columbus, OH | Columbus Air Show
30 · 31 | Branson, MO | Branson Wings of Pride Air Show

SEPTEMBER 2025

1 | Branson, MO | Branson Wings of Pride Air Show
6 · 7 | Portsmouth, NH | Thunder Over New Hampshire Air Show
20 · 21 | NAS Oceana, VA | NAS Oceana Air Show
27 · 28 | MCAS Miramar, CA | MCAS Miramar Air Show

OCTOBER 2025

4 · 5 | Salinas, CA | California International Airshow
11 · 12 | San Francisco, CA | San Francisco Fleet Week
18 · 19 | Rome, GA | Wings Over North Georgia
25 · 26 | Jacksonville Beach, FL | Sea & Sky Air Show

NOVEMBER 2025

1 · 2 | Punta Gorda, FL | Florida International Air Show
7 · 8 | NAS Pensacola, FL | Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show

MARCH 2026

14 | NAF El Centro, CA | NAF El Centro Festival of Flight
21 · 22 | NAS Lemoore, CA | NAS Lemoore Air Show
28 · 29 | NAS Meridian, MS | NAS Meridian Air Show

APRIL 2026

11 · 12 | Coco Beach, FL | Air-Space Expo
18 · 19 | NAS Kingsville, TX | Wings Over South Texas
25 · 26 | Vidalia, GA | Vidalia Onion Festival Air Show

>>>continued next page>>>

2025-2026 Schedule

MAY 2026

2 · 3 | JB Charleston, SC | Charleston Air Show "Heroes of Flight"

9 · 10 | MCAS Cherry Point, NC | MCAS Cherry Point Air Show

16 · 17 | Vero Beach, FL | Vero Beach Air Show

20 · 22 | USNA, Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Air Show / Graduation Flyover

23 · 24 | Harrisburg (Middletown), PA | Air Dot Show Harrisburg

JUNE 2026

6 · 7 | St. Louis (Chesterfield), MO | Spirit of St. Louis Air Show & STEM Expo

13 · 14 | Dayton, OH | CenterPoint Energy Dayton Air Show

20 · 21 | Patuxent River, MD | NAS Patuxent River 75th Anniversary Air Expo

27 · 28 | Ft. McHenry, Baltimore, MD | Maryland Fleet Week & Fly Over Baltimore

21 | USNA, Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Air Show



Your Career Can Be History

- Ward Zischke

How can you use your former military career to improve the morale of your kids, grandkids, fellow retirees from units you served in, yourself, and me?

Now that you are retired, you may want to put aside those memories from your military career, but wait, other individuals would beg to differ. These people are your kids, otherwise known as a source of worry and expenses, who sometimes do not understand or listen to you. Well, there is good news. As your kids age and begin to look and sound like you and affect your mannerisms, they often want to know about your previous life in the military. They usually regret not having listened to you more carefully in the past when you were leaving and returning from drill, AT, and deployment.

In addition, your kid's kids usually want to know about your military career. I, Ward Zischke, 88th Readiness Division Historian, know this due to the calls and emails I get from people asking for help to finding more about mom or dad's or grandparents' military career after death, Alzheimer's, or a stroke and this very difficult if not impossible if they do not have some basic information. Please help them and me by reviewing your military electronic and hardcopy military records and selecting the documents explaining what units you were in and when.

Supplement these documents with a written narrative of your career. After you have done this, take the time to brief your kids about what these records mean and give them copies while you keep a file for yourself. It would be much better if you could get them to record this briefing in audio or video format.

Besides creating the document files and briefing for your kids, take the time to reconnect with former Soldiers from the units you served in by attending unit reunions. These reunions are wonderful for reconnecting with former friends and discovering how much those jerks you didn't like have changed for the better. Yes, this does happen; think of your high school reunions. Unit reunions are also a great place to share copies of photos and documents. In addition to dealing with documents, there is the question of physical items from your military career, such as uniforms, equipment, TMs, and training aids such as GTA cards. Take the time to document when and where you used these items. With uniforms, this is as easy as writing this information on paper and putting it in the pocket. For other items, you can use paper tags with string. The story you include with the item is called provenance. Including the provenance (story of the items use) makes the item more meaningful for your kids if they want to keep it and for museums if they don't. Use a pencil to record this information so the ink does not smear on the item or fade.

Completing any of these steps will help your offspring understand what you did and, eventually, me as I work to capture and preserve the history of the Army Reserve. My contact information is (502) 898-0320, and I am located in Fort McCoy, WI, even though the phone number makes it appear that I am in Fort Knox. My email is ward.e.zischke.civ@army.mil. I assist Army Reserve units in 19 states with their historical programs and can help retirees properly dispose of the items mentioned above and unit reunions





Eddie Heimberger was one hell of a singer; he was already a star on Broadway and acted in six major Hollywood films, putting him well beyond draft age on Dec. 8th. Eddie decided to serve anyway, signing up to sing at USO shows in the Pacific, but it didn't take Eddie long to realize he was a warrior at heart and his place was in the fray, not on the stage. At least not while others were fighting.

Eddie couldn't wait in the wings; he needed to be in the fight, he needed to serve his country—so he did. He accepted an Ensign's commission to the U.S. Navy at the extreme old age of thirty-seven.

Assigned to troop transport USS Sheridan (APA-151), Eddie took command of a Higgins boat squadron, commanding one of the Control Boats, leading the beach landings on the south tip of Tarawa Atoll.

They saddled up and delivered his Marines to the beach under blistering enemy fire. Eddie's job was done. All he had to do was get his crew back to Sheridan in one piece. His gunner nudged Eddie, pointing back to dozens of boats hung up on the coral reef.

Nearly a half mile from the shore, withering enemy fire raked the 600 Marines in the swamped Higgins boats. Scores of wounded floundered in the waist-deep water, prey to enemy gunners and the razor-sharp coral reef. With little concern for himself, Eddie turned back toward the cacophony of battle.

With his coxswain and gunner holding the Higgins steady and returning fire. Eddie went into the water and began pulling Marines to safety. Heavy with wounded Marines and her plywood hull riddled with holes, Eddie turned the Higgins back to sea and ran for the closest transport.

He unloaded his wounded, grabbed a new boat, one with fewer holes, and then organized a flotilla of Higgins Boats to go back for the Marines left on the reef. In spite of every enemy gunner training their fire on Heimberger's flotilla and Eddie being wounded on the first trip, he went into the water over and over, retrieving wounded comrades. Eddie and his crew are personally credited with rescuing over seventy wounded US Marines from the water on that sunny day in November 1943.

After the war, Heimberger went back to his career as a singer, entertainer, and later a very successful actor. Years of being errantly introduced as "Eddie Hamburger" prompted him to drop his last name and use his middle name.

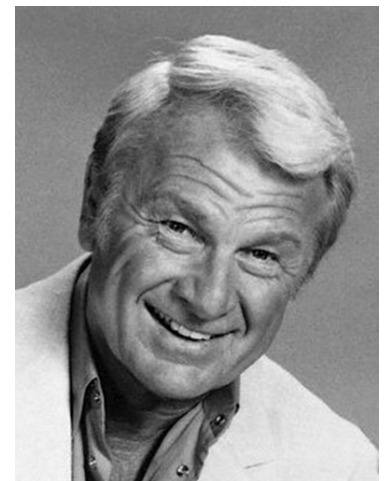
Shortly before he passed, an entertainment reporter asked "Eddie Albert" Heimberger what his most significant accomplishment in life was.

Eddie's eyes moistened as he whispered: "I was at Tarawa."

You probably remember him as the pitchfork-wielding Mr. Douglas from "Green Acres" re-runs, or as that velvety smooth tenor on the radio.

Lt. E. A. Heimberger made that last muster in May of 2005.

*He was 99 years old— Summarized by [Gideon Asche](#), *Fratribus Sine Pari**



Army Legal Assistance Program

/ Estate Planning Services

Among the benefits of serving and retiring from the Armed Forces is that they gain access to the Army's Legal Assistance Program under Army Regulation 27-3.

Active Duty retirees and Reserve or National Guard retirees who are receiving retiree pay are eligible for Legal Assistance services. Additionally, their dependents, and surviving dependents are also eligible for services. Here at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin the legal assistance program is part of the Installation Legal Office currently located in Building 2171 on South 8th Avenue, just a short ways West of the Main Gate entrance.

As for the services available, the Legal Assistance program authorizes aid in several categories of cases including Family Law, Estate Planning, Real Property, Consumer Transactions, Torts, and Taxes, as well as notarizing signatures on legal documents. By far the most often utilized and most helpful to Retirees is Estate Planning. The most common items prepared are Wills and Powers of Attorney and Advanced Medical Directives.

Wills are the quintessential estate planning document and are in essence a set of instructions on what should be done with all your assets, personal property and real estate, that is not otherwise provided for by other means. This is commonly known as the Probate Estate. Property and assets can be given before death, sometimes with consequences for Estate Taxes, though rarely, or with respect to being able to qualify for Medicaid assistance for nursing home care. Other means of gifting might include Transfer on Death instruction on an account or for real property and designating beneficiaries for life insurance and retirement accounts. Currently at Fort McCoy we can prepare for every state except Louisiana unless the Legal Assistance Attorney is also a member of the Louisiana State Bar because that state follows the Napoleonic Legal Code unlike the other 49 States. Puerto Rico also has special rules for executing Wills and may require assistance from a Military Attorney or Judge Advocate based there.

Powers of Attorney are authorizations for other people to act in your place on either broad list of things as in a General Power of Attorney, or in a narrow and more limited scope for Special Powers of Attorney. Discussing your needs with a Legal Assistance Attorney can help clarify which type may be best suited for you. Additionally, either type may be limited to a certain time frame, or to only become active upon certain events, or a later separate written authorization. A subset of Powers of Attorney includes Medical Powers of Attorney which allow an authorized agent to make medical decisions for you including for end of life or terminal care when you are no longer able to make such decisions.

Finally, Advanced Medical Directives, often known as a 'Living will' are similar to Healthcare Powers of Attorney but are simply about laying out one's wishes and preferences for medical care, especially for end-of-life treatment in cases where one is incapacitated and unable to make their own decisions for care. Often these are useful to allow one to pass away with dignity and not be kept indefinitely on life support and providing family members with peace of mind knowing that one's wishes are being fulfilled.

All these services can be provided currently at Fort McCoy, and most other Military Installations. If you would like to discuss these matters, other services and legal questions or to request an Estate Planning Worksheet, or to schedule an appointment please contact our office at: 502-898-2165. The legal assistance office is open for walk in services on Tuesdays 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. and by appointment Monday – Friday 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.



This message comes from Henry
Wadsworth Longfellow **A Psalm of Life:**

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
Act,— act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;
Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

Connect with [Fort McCoy Religious Support Office](#) c
Facebook!

Amy Noble
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S.
Army
Garrison Chaplain Fort
McCoy



Army Echoes and Casualty Assistance Checklist

Army Echoes Mobile App Updated



Have you missed an issue of Army Echoes? The current and past issues, dating back to 1997, are available on the Army Echoes app. Download the free app:

Apple Store Link: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/u-s-army-echoes/id890635050>

Google Play Link: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=mil.Army>

RETIRED SOLDIER CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST



If you died tomorrow, would your loved ones know what to do? Would they know where all the important documents and accounts (physical and online) are and how to access them? Would they know if you want to be buried in uniform and whether or not they will receive the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity?

Filling out the Retired Soldier Casualty Assistance Checklist

(https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Post/Retired_Soldier_Casualty_Assistance_Checklist.pdf) found in a printable PDF format at the Army Retirement

Services website (<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement>), can help ease their burden during the difficult time.

Don't wait until it's too late to discuss. Start filling it out now, keep it updated, and make sure your loved ones know where to find it.

LOCATION OF DOCUMENTS

Will _____

DD214 _____

Current retired pay statement _____

Marriage certificate _____

Divorce decree (property settlement) _____

Death certificate _____

Birth certificate (children) _____

Retirement Orders and/or 20-year Letter _____

Sold deposit book _____

Tax returns _____

Social Security Cards _____

Investment papers (IRAs, Mutual Funds, etc.) _____

Retired gift certificates _____

Medical and dental records _____

Real estate deeds _____

PHONE NUMBERS/WEBSITES

How to report the death of a Retired Soldier: Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Military Affairs Operations (DCAO) (DMACO) anytime by calling (800) 433-1317. You will be immediately referred to a Casualty Assistance Center (CAC), who will request the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) to stop retired pay and initiate the various benefit process. If you create an online account and the toll-free number is not available, call your Retirement Services Office (RSO) (see link below). When reporting the death, please provide as much of the following information as you have: • Full name • Disability Rating Copy of death certificate • Social security number and/or service number • Circumstances surrounding the death • Next of Kin (NOK) information • Retired rank • Retirement date • Date and place of birth

For additional information, please refer to the HRC page at <https://www.army.mil/TAG2/Reporting/2019/02/04/>

Retirement Services Office: Listed in every copy of Army Echoes and at <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Your family must report your death to the following agencies:

- DCAO (Retired Assistance) (800-421-1388) <https://www.dcao.mil/retirement/>
- Social Security Administration (SSA) at 1-800-772-1213, <https://www.ssa.gov>
- For receipt of compensation or a pension from the VA, call VA at 1-800-827-1085, <https://www.va.gov>
- If a VA life insurance policyholder, call Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) at 1-800-686-8477, <https://www.vetgroup.com>
- Update ID cards: 1-800-518-8122, www.dmda.mil

National Cemetery Scheduling Office: 800-635-1117

For more information on retirement topics, visit the Army Retirement Services website at <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

This pamphlet was prepared by the Army Retirement Services Office and may be reprinted by Army Retirement Services Officers. It is also printed at <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

RETIRED SOLDIER CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST

RETIRED SOLDIER INFORMATION

Name _____

Social Security number _____

Date of birth _____

Date of retirement _____

Retired rank _____

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN

Enrolled in ☐ SBP or ☐ NCSBP (check one, if applicable)

Division Category _____

Did you die in combat? ☐ YES ☐ NO (Check one)

VA CLAIMS

Eligible to show VA disability compensation? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Receiving Social Security? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Organ donor? ☐ YES ☐ NO

SPOUSE INFORMATION

Name _____

Date of birth _____

Social Security number _____

Date of marriage _____

Place (City, County, State) _____

CHILDREN INFORMATION

Name (Date of birth) _____

Name (Date of birth) _____

Name (Date of birth) _____

Incapable of self support? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, Name (Date of birth) _____

LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

Policy # _____

Company _____

Amount _____

Beneficiary _____

Agent (phone/email) _____

INVESTMENTS

Account # (Type) _____

Issuer _____

Account # (Type) _____

Issuer _____

Account # (Type) _____

Issuer _____

BANK ACCOUNTS

Bank Name _____

Phone/website _____

Account # (Type) _____

Account # (Type) _____

Account # (Type) _____

CREDIT

Name/Account # _____

Phone/website _____

Name/Account # _____

Phone/website _____

BURIAL INFORMATION

I would like to be: ☐ Buried ☐ Cremated

Who should be notified of your death:

Name _____

Relationship _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Name _____

Relationship _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Name (location of cemetery where you want to be buried or have your ashes scattered) _____

Do you want to be buried in your uniform? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Do you want a funeral? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, where? _____

Do you have a preference of funeral home? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, which one? _____

Do you want a military honor guard? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Do you have a pre-need eligibility letter for burial at a VA National Cemetery? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, where is it located? _____

Help your family today by filling out this trifold and making sure your family knows where to find it.

LOCATION OF DOCUMENTS

Will: _____

DD214: _____

Current retired pay statement: _____

Marriage certificate(s): _____

Divorce decree(s)/property settlements(s): _____

Death certificate(s): _____

Birth certificates/adoption papers: _____

Retirement Orders and/or 20-year Letter: _____

Safe deposit box: _____

Tax returns: _____

Social Security Cards: _____

Investment papers (CDs, Mutual Funds, IRA, etc.): _____

Burial plot information: _____

Medical and dental records: _____

Real estate deeds: _____

PHONE NUMBERS/WEBSITES

How to report the death of a Retired Soldier: Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division (CMAOD) anytime by calling (800) 626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center (CAC), who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process. If you reside overseas and the toll free number is not available, call your Retirement Services Office (RSO) (see link below). When reporting the death, please provide as much of the following information as you have: • Full name • Disability Rating • Copy of death certificate • Social security number and/or service number • Circumstances surrounding the death • Next of Kin (NOK) information • Retired rank • Retirement date • Date and place of birth

For additional information, please refer to the HRC page at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reporting%20A%20Death>

Retirement Services Office: Listed in every copy of *Army Echoes* and at <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/rso>

Your family must report your death to the following agencies –

- DFAS Retired/Annuitant Pay: 1-800-321-1080, <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/>
- Social Security Administration (SSA) at 1-800-772-1213, <http://www.ssa.gov>
- If in receipt of compensation or a pension from the VA, call VA at 1-800-827-1000, <http://www.va.gov>
- If a VA life insurance policyholder, call Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) at 1-800-669-8477, <https://www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/sglivgli.asp>

Update ID cards: 1-800-538-9552, www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl

National Cemetery Scheduling Office: 800-535-1117

For more information on retirement topics, visit the Army Retirement Services website at <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

This pamphlet was prepared by the Army Retirement Services Office and may be reprinted by Army Retirement Services Officers. It is also posted at <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/post-retirement>



RETIRED SOLDIER CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST



If you died tomorrow, would your family know what to do? You can help your family today by filling out this checklist and making sure your family knows where to find it.

RETIRED SOLDIER CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST

RETIRED SOLDIER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Social Security number: _____

Date/place of birth: _____

Date of retirement: _____

Retired rank: _____

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN

Enrolled in: **SBP or RCSBP** (Check one, if applicable)

Election Category: _____

Did you dis-enroll? **YES NO** (Check one)

VA CLAIM #: _____

Eligible to draw VA disability compensation?: **YES NO**

Receiving Social Security? **YES NO**

Organ donor: **YES NO**

SPOUSE INFORMATION

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Social Security number: _____

Date of marriage: _____

Place (City, County, State): _____

CHILDREN INFORMATION

Name/Date of birth: _____

Name/Date of birth: _____

Name/Date of birth: _____

Name/Date of birth: _____

Incapable of self-support?* **YES NO**

*If yes, Name/Date of birth: _____

LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

Policy #: _____

Company: _____

Amount: _____

Beneficiary: _____

Agent phone/email: _____

Policy #: _____

Company: _____

Amount: _____

Beneficiary: _____

Agent phone/email: _____

INVESTMENTS

Account #/Type: _____

Issuer: _____

Account #/Type: _____

Issuer: _____

Account #/Type: _____

Issuer: _____

BANK ACCOUNTS

Bank Name: _____

Phone/website: _____

Account #/Type: _____

Account #/Type: _____

Account #/Type: _____

Help your family today by filling out this trifold and making sure your family knows where to find it.

CREDITOR

Name/Account #: _____

Phone/email: _____

Name/Account #: _____

Phone/email: _____

BURIAL INFORMATION

I would like to be: **Buried Cremated**

Who should be notified of your death:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Name/location of cemetery where you want to be buried or have your ashes inurned: _____

Do you want to be buried in your uniform? **YES NO**

Do you want a funeral? **YES NO**

If YES, where? _____

Do you have a preference of funeral home? **YES NO**

If YES, which one? _____

Do you want a military honor guard? **YES NO**

Do you have a pre-need eligibility letter for burial at a VA National cemetery? **YES NO**

If Yes, where is it located? _____