MILITARY Appreciation RESOURCE BOOK

2019, Vol. 1

From submarine officer to credit trading associate

Victor Perez
6-year U.S. Navy veteran; team member since 2016

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National Military Appreciation Month

The month of May contains more national observances in honor of the armed forces than any other month

National Military Appreciation Month was created to encourage the nation to publicly demonstrate their appreciation for the sacrifices and successes made by Service members -- past and present. The declaration summoned U.S. citizens to observe the month of May "in a symbol of unity, to honor the current and former members of the Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace."

In 1999, Senator John McCain introduced legislation to make Military Appreciation Month an official designated date, both the Senate and House of Representatives adopted resolutions calling for Americans to recognize and honor U.S. Service Members.

In April of 2004, more comprehensive legislation was passed by unanimous consent of both Houses of Congress as H. Con. Res. 328 solidified May as National Military Appreciation Month.

It also reminds the President of the United States to issue annual proclamations calling Americans to recognize this special month through appropriate ceremonies and events.

...Continued on page 2

... Military Appreciation continued from page 1

Loyalty Day

Wed, May 1, 2019

Loyalty Day is observed annually on May 1st. in the United States

National Loyalty Day was first observed in 1921 as a holiday for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of America, and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom.

Loyalty Day was made an official reoccurring holiday on July 18th, 1958, although it was first recognized on May 1st, 1955.

Loyalty Day has been honored with an official proclamation every year, by every president, since its inception as a legal holiday in 1958.

Public Service Recognition Week

Sun, May 5th, - Sat, May 11th

Since 1985, Public Service Recognition Week has been celebrated the first week of May, beginning on the first Sunday of the month.

Public Service Recognition Week recognizes the contributions made by public servants, including the military, at local, state, regional and federal levels.

Victory in Europe Day - V-E Day

Wed, May 8

V-E Day, or Victory in Europe Day is observed on May 8th all over the world to celebrate the acceptance of surrender from Nazi Germany on May 7th, 1945. In 1945, it was celebrated as a public holiday in the United States. V-E Day currently hasn't been observed as a public holiday since 1945 in the U.S. but many countries around the world still observe V-E Day as a holiday.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Fri, May 10

National Military Spouse Appreciation Day is celebrated on the Friday before Mother's Day in May.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan recognized the profound importance of spousal commitment to the readiness and well-being of military members with Proclamation 5184.

Congress officially made Military Spouse Appreciation Day part of National Military Appreciation Month in 1999. Subsequently, the Department of Defense standardized the date by declaring the Friday before Mother's Day every year as "Military Spouse Appreciation Day" to show appreciation for the sacrifices of military spouses.

Armed Forces Day

Sat, May 18

The United States, Armed Forces Day is always celebrated on the third Saturday in May to honor Americans serving in the five U.S. military branches – the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard.

The inception of this Armed Forces Day dates back to August 31, 1949, following the consolidation of the military services in the United States Department of Defense. It was intended to replace the separate Army-, Navy-, Air Force-, Marine Corps- and Coast Guard Days but, today, the separate holidays are still observed independently.

The holiday was first observed on May 20, 1950. The theme for that day was "Teamed for Defense" which expressed the unification of all military forces.

Armed Force Day focuses on expanding public knowledge and understanding of the role of the military within civilian life and as a day of honor for all military members.

Memorial Day

Mon, May 27

Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday, commemorating those who have died in military service to their country. It is observed annually on the last Monday of May.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day - an occasion to decorate the graves of the war dead - and was created in the aftermath of the American Civil War.

Memorial Day, and the long weekend that it creates, is generally seen to mark the beginning of the summer season (Labor Day marks the end).

Decoration Day

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month.

"The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed.

The preferred name for the holiday gradually changed from "Decoration Day" to "Memorial Day," which was first used in 1882. Memorial Day did not become the more common name until after World War II, and was not declared the official name by Federal law until 1967.

Retired Army Col. Gregory D. Gadson, Left, story on page 28.
Army Major Jeremy is the father of eight, right, story on page 24.

Published by:

America's Publisher, LLC

America's Publisher, LLC.
P.O. Box 777116 • Henderson, NV 89077
Phone: 702-476-9186
www.AmericasPublisher.com

Photos in this publication are provided by the Department of Defense. Cover photo by Semper Fi Fund.

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Table of Contents

National Military Appreciation Month ..... Pg. 1
Military Spouse Appreciation Day ..... Pg. 4
- Military Spouses in the Labor Market ..... Pg. 4
- Military Spouse Employment Partnership ..... Pg. 5
- VA Joins Military Spouse Employment Partnership ..... Pg. 6
- National Militay Family Association ..... Pg. 6
- Military spouses are skilled, diverse, and motivated, with ..... Pg. 7
- Licensing & Credentialing ..... Pg. 7

HIRE Vets Medallion Program Demonstration ..... Pg. 9
Memorial Day History ..... Pg. 11
Semper Fi Fund 15 Years ..... Pg. 14-28
- Semper Fi Fund Keeping Up With the Terrain ..... Pg. 14
- Semper Fi Fund Apprenticeship Program ..... Pg. 22
- Semper Fi Fund Caregiver Support And Retreats ..... Pg. 23

Army Major Jeremy Is The Father Of Eight ..... Pg. 24
Commander, Actore, Athlete Shares Life Lession ..... Pg. 26
Iwo Jima Flag Raising ..... Pg. 29
Civilian Law Enforcement Looks To Transitioning Military To Fill Ranks ..... Pg. 32
- Transitioning Out ..... Pg. 33
- Unbreakable Bonds ..... Pg. 34

Military Housing Privatization Initiative ..... Pg. 36
- Military Family Advisory Network Research: Privatized Military Housing Survey ..... Pg. 37
- US Military plans release of Tenant Bill of Rights ..... Pg. 36
- DRAFT • Military Housing Privatization Initative BILL OF RIGHTS ..... Pg. 37

2019 Warrior Games ..... Pg. 38
2019 National Veterans Golden Age Games ..... Pg. 40
$50 Billion Of Gross Regional Product ..... Pg. 41
- Military in San Diego ..... Pg. 42

Canine Companions for Independence ..... Pg. 43
Advertiser Index ..... Pg. 44

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Military Spouse Appreciation Day

A day to honor military spouses with appropriate ceremonies and activities, Friday, May 10th, 2019. Military Spouse Appreciation Day recognizes the important role our military families play in keeping our Armed Forces strong and our country safe.

History

The first Military Spouse Appreciation Day was observed on May 23, 1984. It was established as a one-off observance through a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan.

The day was later made into an annual observance by Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger. In 1999, the U.S. Congress declared May as National Military Month to acknowledge the service of the men and women in the military.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day, which is also sometimes known as Military Spouse Day, aims to bring national attention to the role that military spouses play in maintaining the morale of the military and in supporting their significant others while they serve the country.

A 2013 Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense report estimates that men make up just over 7 percent of the Active Duty spouse population and the number of male spouses rising each year.

Officer's spouses were often discouraged from working back in the mid-to-late 80's. They were expected to lead and support fellow military spouses in their husband's unit or squadron. If they did work, they filled mainly school teacher or administrative roles. Spouses were discouraged from pursuing professional careers on their own.

Today military spouses work in many different professions and are often encouraged by their Active Duty spouses to climb the career ladder.

A growing number of spouses have become entrepreneurs and start businesses that can be relocated when they are moved to a new location.

Military Spouses in the Labor Market

Council of Economic Advisers
Press release: May 9, 2018

American military spouses, who number approximately 690,000, are a diverse population. Like their active duty husbands and wives, they come from varying racial and ethnic backgrounds, and bring a diversity of skills to the labor market. But military spouses face a particular challenge: they often find their labor market activities, including choices over whether to work, how many hours, and in what occupation, to be subject to the geographic and temporal constraints imposed by their active duty spouse.

Spouses of service men and women stationed abroad are particularly disadvantaged, as foreign hosts often do not grant spousal work visas.

But even stateside assignments can bring difficulties. Military families typically move every two to three years, requiring frequent labor market adjustments for those who do not have remote work arrangements. In anticipation of frequent moves, employers may be reluctant to hire military spouses or they may offer these workers a lower wage in an attempt to recover turnover costs. Moreover, short cycles in each location may make it more difficult for military spouses to recoup the costs of occupational licensing and other fixed costs of labor force participation. Indeed, military spouses may be the quintessential "trailing spouse," their situation made even more challenging because their families encounter location assignments, rather than location choices, and the result may not be conducive to employment. Indeed, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (2017) reports that many military bases are located more than 50 miles from an urban center.

Read the full report:
www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Military-Spouses-in-the-Labor-Market.pdf

MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

About MSEP

While military spouses are well educated and highly qualified for a range of careers, they face a 26 percent unemployment rate and a 25 percent wage gap compared to their civilian counterparts. 77% of these spouses want or need work, yet frequent relocation is often a barrier to finding and maintaining a rewarding career.

The inability of spouses to obtain and retain fulfilling employment as they relocate with the military compromises the quality of life of military families and the readiness of the military force.

The Presidential Study Directive-9 Report, Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment, published January 25, 2011, highlights the need for a unified Federal government approach to help develop career and education opportunities for military spouses.

Among the target activities to accomplish this goal is increasing opportunities for military spouses to obtain private sector careers.

As a result, the Department of Defense (DoD) leveraged the successful partnerships created under the Army Spouse Employment Partnership by expanding the program to Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force spouses.

The expanded program -- the Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP) -- officially launched in June 2011 during a ceremony at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

MSEP is part of DoD's broader Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) initiative, which seeks to strengthen the education and career opportunities of military spouses by providing career exploration opportunities to help them understand their skills, interests, and goals; education and training to help them identify academic, licensing, or credentialing requirements that can help them reach their career goals; employment readiness assistance to optimize their self-marketing skills; and employment connections that help them find and maintain a rewarding career. MSEP, a targeted recruitment and employment solution, creates employment connections that provide companies with direct access to military spouses seeking career opportunities and spouses with direct access to employers who are actively recruiting. MSEP currently has more than 390 partners, who have hired over 130,000 military spouses.

...continued on page 6

...MSEP continued from page 5

About MSEP "ed"

An initiative of the MSEP program, MSEP "ed" focuses on fostering stronger relationships between military spouses and their local schools and school districts to assist in spouse employment. While MSEP "ed" primarily focuses on connecting military spouses with educator opportunities, other employment opportunities within the school are also included (e.g. counselors, nurses, administrators, food service workers).

https://msepjobs.militaryonesource.mil/msep/home

VA joins Military Spouse Employment Partnership

Press release, Friday, October 26, 2018

Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) announced it is advancing employment opportunities for military spouses through by joining the Department of Defense (DOD) Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP).

MSEP is a career program connecting military spouses with more than 390 affiliated employers who have committed to recruit, hire, promote and retain military spouses in portable careers.

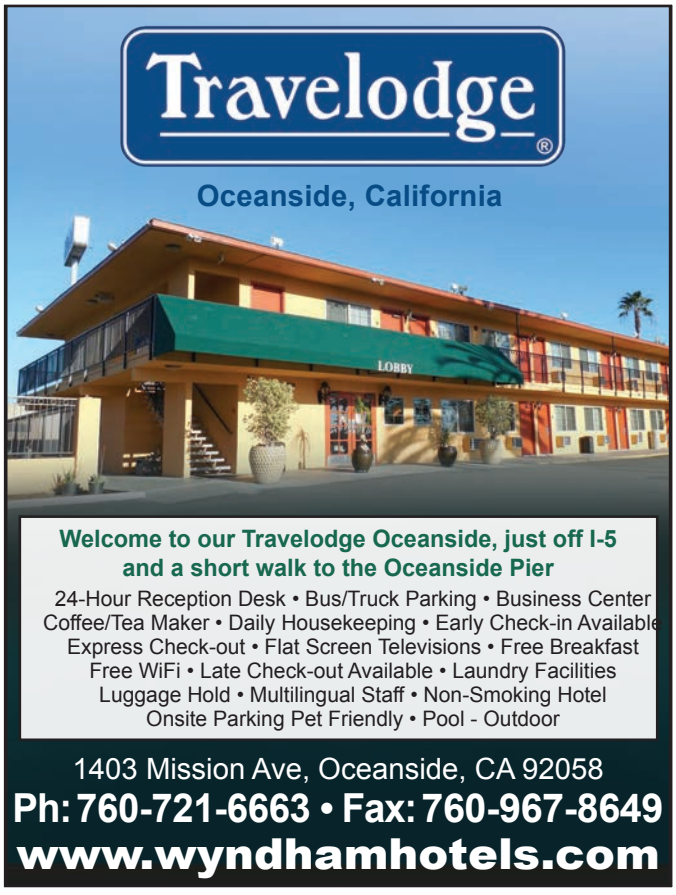
"By developing skills, knowledge, and abilities that can be used in high-demand industry sectors, military spouses – especially those who face frequent relocations – can achieve employment continuity and increased opportunities for upward career mobility," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "BVA is committed to delivering better services to Veterans and their families, and we understand that military spouses offer unique perspectives that can help us deliver on our promise to care for Veterans."

The Board's mission is to conduct hearings and decide appeals properly and in a timely manner.

The MSEP is part of the DOD's broader Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) program, which seeks to reduce the 23 percent unemployment rate experienced by military spouses and 25 percent wage gap experienced by military wives. SECO provides education and career guidance to military spouses worldwide and offers free, comprehensive resources and tools related to career exploration; education; training and licensing; employment readiness; and career connections. SECO also offers free career-coaching services six days a week.

To learn more about SECO, visit Military OneSource or call 800-342-9647 to speak to a SECO career coach.

For more information on the MSEP and the 350,327 active job postings for military spouses, visit **https://msepjobs.militaryonesource.mil/msep/home**



NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Together we're stronger®

NMFA is the voice of military families because, for 48 years, we have proven that we stand behind service members, their spouses, and their children. Our Association is the "go to" source for Administration Officials, Members of Congress, and key decision makers when they want to understand the issues facing our families. They know we have "boots on the ground" with military families and understand better than anyone that "military families serve, too." Through the support and programs we provide, and our respected voice on Capitol Hill, at the Pentagon and Veterans Administration, our Association always looks out for the families who stand behind the uniform and for those who serve.

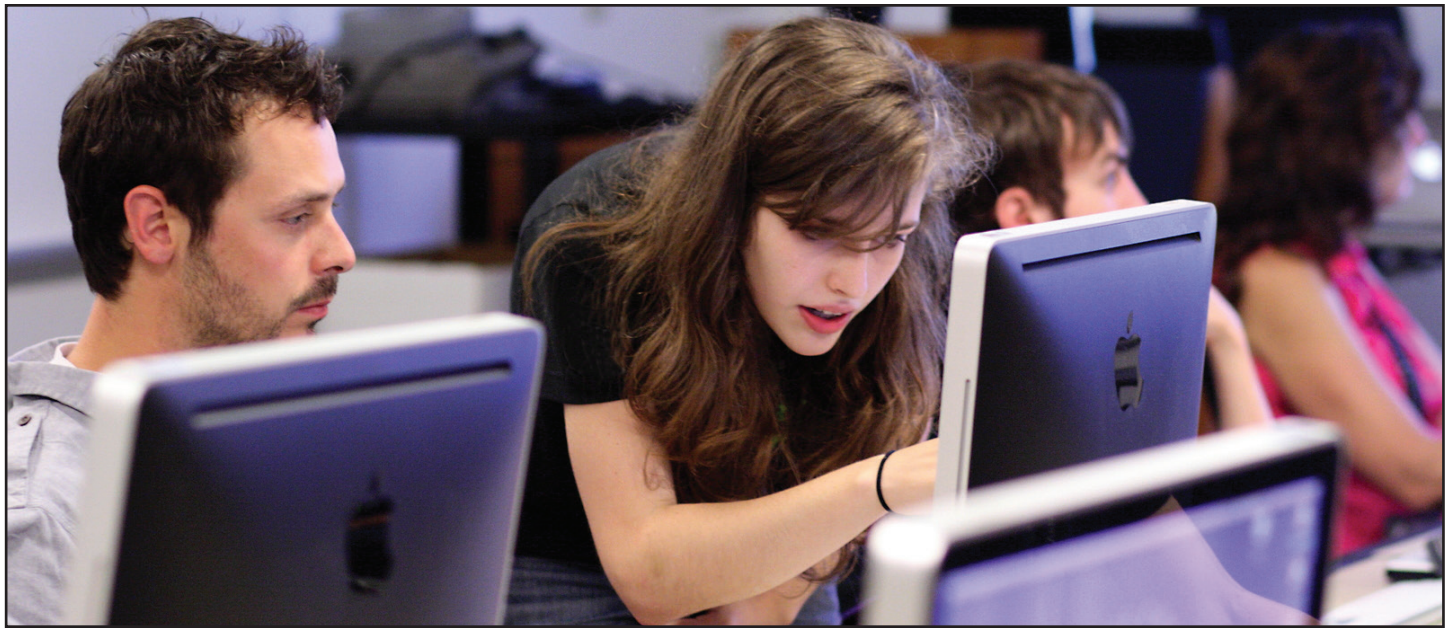
Military Spouse Scholarships
National Military Family Association

NMFA awards can be used for a variety of educational and employment pursuits. Scholarship funds on average are $1,000 and can be used towards degrees, certifications, licensure, clinical supervision for mental health licensure, CEUs, business expenses and more! Any spouse eligible to hold a valid military ID is eligible.

We are running a rolling application so the application will technically be open year round. However, we will close the 2019 applications on September 30, 2019.

The 2020 application will open October 1, 2019.

https://scholarships.militaryfamily.org/offers/nmfa-spouse-scholarship/



Other Education Sources

Military One Source

Whether you are a service member thinking about a college degree, a military spouse wanting to connect with a network of military-friendly employers or a parent hoping for a smooth school transition for your child, Military OneSource offers practical information and resources for pursuing education goals and achieving career aspirations. Take the next steps to make your education and career ambitions come true

www.militaryonesource.mil/education-employment

Fisher House Foundation Scholarship Finder

Scholarships for Service is a free public resource for students of families with a military service background to search and access thousands of scholarship options. Every scholarship listed here is specifically tailored for active, guard and reserve military, Veterans, retired personnel or their families.

http://search.militaryscholar.org/

Military spouses are skilled, diverse, and motivated, with sound work values and a strong work ethic.

These characteristics are highly valued by America's top employers. Supporting military spouses is an important part of the Department's mission to expand opportunities for all American workers. VETS is proud to partner with the Military Spouse Employment Partnership to help connect military spouses with employers.

Licensing & Credentialing

Many states have laws to make it easier for military spouses relocating from out of state to carry their occupational licenses to a new state. Use the map and license finder tool below to find out where to apply for an occupational license in a new state. You can search by occupation, job title, license name, or state agency.

www.veterans.gov/milspouses/

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https://cook.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-cook-joins-labor-department-in-recognizing-employers-who-hire-vets-0

Honoring the Employers who Hire our Nation's Heroes

Nov 8, 2018 Press Release

WASHINGTON, DC – Rep. Paul Cook (R-Apple Valley) attended the U.S. Department of Labor announcement of the 2018 HIRE (Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing) Vets Medallion Program Demonstration Award, recognizing the meaningful and verifiable efforts undertaken by job creators to hire and retain veterans. Honorees include small businesses, community-based nonprofits, and national companies.

In 2017, President Trump signed into law Rep. Cook's bill, H.R. 244, the HIRE American Military Veterans Act, creating the HIRE Vets Medallion Program.

The HIRE Vets Act promotes private sector recruiting, hiring, and retaining of men and women who served honorably in the U.S. military through the voluntary participation of employers. The awards program recognizes employers who have truly demonstrated efforts to reach out and support our veterans searching for employment.

Rep. Cook said, "It's an honor to see this legislation come to fruition. Today's recipients deserve to be recognized for making significant strides toward hiring more veterans. Veterans who serve this country honorably shouldn't struggle to find employment, and this bill creates an innovative system to encourage and recognize employers who make veterans a priority in their hiring practices. I look forward to seeing full implementation of the program next year."

Recipients of the 2018 HIRE Vets Medallion Program Demonstration Award were evaluated based on a range of criteria, including:

- **Veteran hiring and retention**
- **Availability of veteran-specific resources**
- **Leadership programming for veterans**
- **Dedicated human resources**
- **Compensation and tuition assistance programs for veterans**

2018 Program Demonstration Award Recipients
www.hirevets.gov/about/award-recipients

For more about the HIRE Vets Medallion Program and Award, please visit ***www.HireVets.gov.***

Benefits of the Program

The purpose of the HIRE Vets Medallion Award is to recognize employers who hire and retain veterans, including their efforts to establish employee development programs and veteran specific benefits to improve retention.

Award recipients will have the opportunity to utilize the medallion in the marketing of their firm as a veteran friendly business when hiring, and in efforts to attract additional business.

U.S. CONGRESSMAN

Col. Paul Cook (ret.), US House California's 8th Congressional District, currently serves on the House Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs committees.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Col. Cook's military career spanned twenty-six years. His actions in combat earned him a number of honors, including two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star Medal with a V for valor.

He retired from the Marine Corps in 1992 as a colonel.

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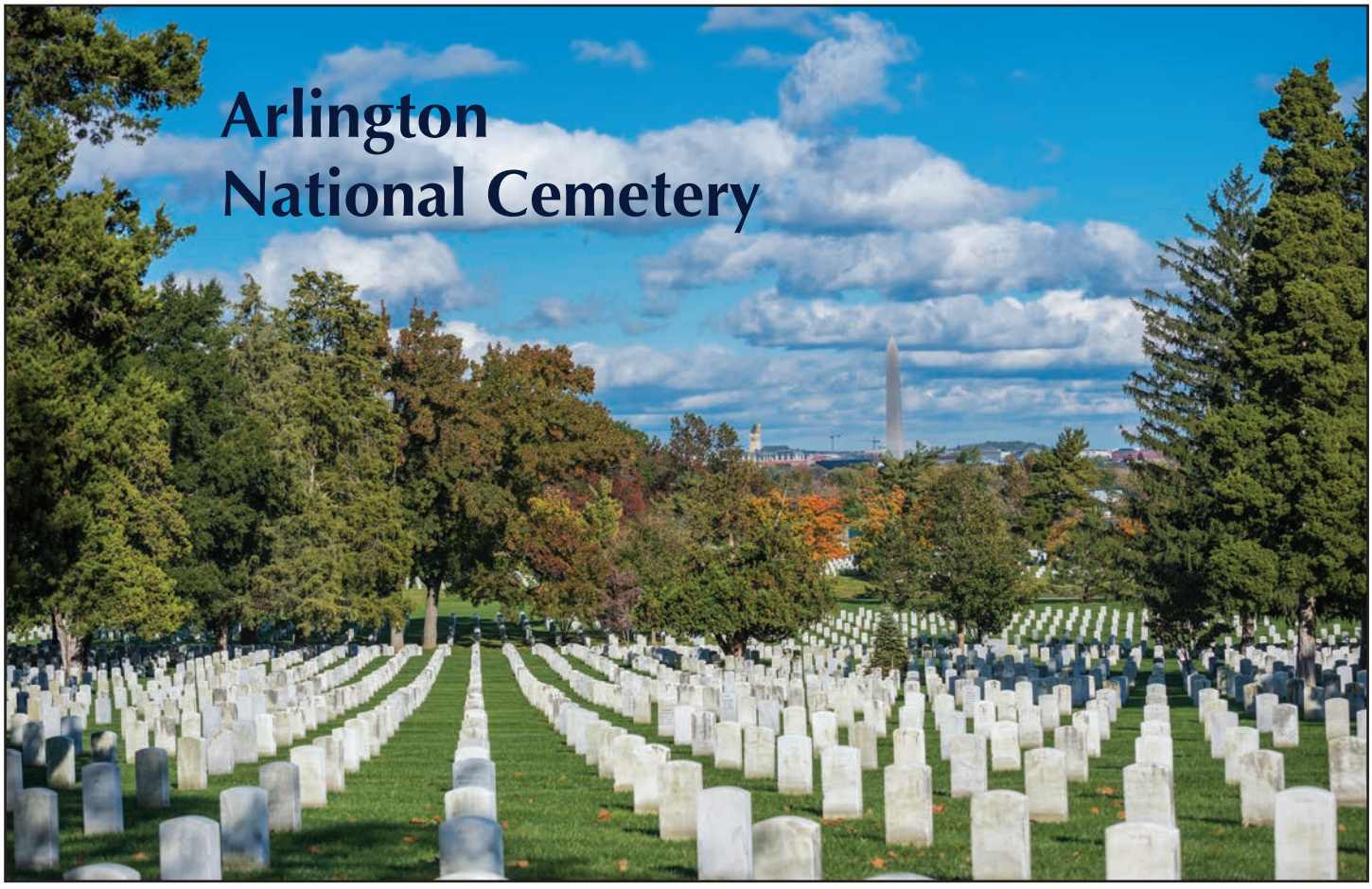


Section 12 of Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, Oct. 29, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser / Arlington National Cemetery / released)

Memorial Day History

The Grand Army of the Republic Established Decoration Day

Memorial Day History

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies.

After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local observances claim the event was the first springtime tributes to the Civil War dead. Even though other observances already had been held in various places.

One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today, cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va.

The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

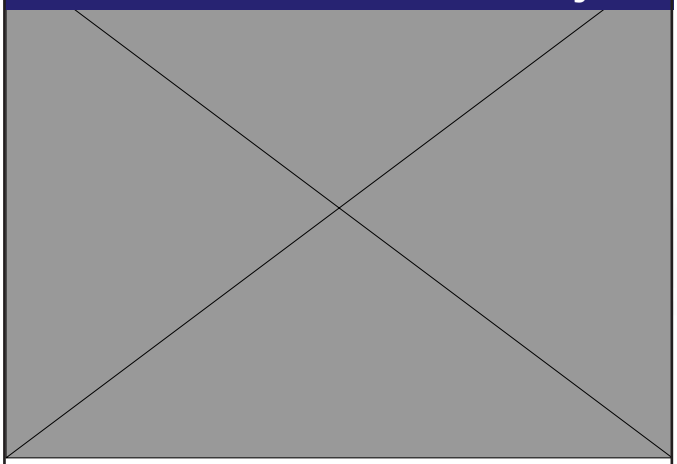
Official Birthplace Declared

Official Birthplace Declared In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State

...continued on page 12

California National Cemetery



The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Cemetery Administration maintains 136 national cemeteries in 40 states (and Puerto Rico) as well as 33 soldier's lots and monument sites.

www.cem.va.gov/cems/state.asp?State=CA

Facts About The National Cemetery Administration

- **More than 5.4 million people visited VA national cemeteries in FY 2018**
- **Largest National Cemetery: Calverton, NY, 1,045 acres.**
- **Smallest National Cemetery: Hampton VAMC, VA, 0.03 acres.**
- **Oldest National Cemetery: 12 established in 1862.**
- **Newest National Cemetery: Pikes Peak National Cemetery. Established in October 2018.**
- **Volunteers donated more than 209,000 hours at national cemeteries during FY 2018.**

www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/facts.pdf

California National Cemeteries

Bakersfield National Cemetery
30338 East Bear Mountain Blvd., Arvin, CA 93203

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery
Cabrillo Memorial Drive, San Diego, CA 92106

Golden Gate National Cemetery
300 Sneath Lane, San Bruno, CA 94066

Los Angeles National Cemetery
950 S Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049

Miramar National Cemetery
5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego, CA 92122

Riverside National Cemetery
22495 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside, CA 92518

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery
5810 Midway Road, Dixon, CA 9562

San Francisco National Cemetery
1 Lincoln Boulevard, Presidio of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA 94129

San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery
32053 W McCabe Rd., Santa Nella, CA 95322

www.cem.va.gov/cems/state.asp?State=CA

View of Arlington National Cemetery, WIMSA and Arlington House.
Photo by Jennifer Lynch

...Memorial Day History continued from page 12

legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Some States Have Confederate Observances Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April, Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day.

Gen. Logan's order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 "with the choicest flowers of springtime" urged: "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

American Flags

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation's wars: "Not

only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men."

To ensure the sacrifices of America 's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser / Arlington National Cemetery / released

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day." ✪

https://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/history.asp

Arlington National Cemetery to Expand

By Claudette Roulo, March 13, 2019

Work is expected to begin next year on a long-planned expansion of Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, the cemetery's executive director told Congress.

The cemetery now occupies about 625 acres of land near the nation's capital and is the final resting place of more than 400,000 service members and their family members.

But, after more than 150 years of service, the cemetery is running out of room.

"The expansion will add 37 acres of burial space and extend the cemetery's active life," Karen Durham-Aguilera said during a hearing of the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on military construction, veterans affairs and related agencies.

Arlington National Cemetery lies on the former Arlington Estate — land that once belonged to George Washington Parke Custis, grandson of Martha Washington and stepgrandson of George Washington.

By the start of the Civil War, the property had passed into the family of Robert E. Lee through marriage. In May 1861, Union troops occupied the estate after the Lee family fled south.

The property served as a Union Army camp and headquarters throughout the war, and starting in 1863, as the site of Freedman's Village, a home for freed slaves that provided housing, education, training and medical care to help former slaves transition to freedom.

The first military burial at Arlington, for William Henry Christman, was made on May 13, 1864. By war's end, more than 16,000 soldiers had been buried there.

Today, the cemetery holds funeral services Monday through Saturday (except federal holidays), conducting between 27 and 30 services each week day and between six and eight services each Saturday. Information on burial eligibility and military honors is available on the cemetery's website.

https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/#/

Founder, president and CEO of Semper Fi Fund, Karen Guenther, center, gathers with members of the Semper Fi Fund staff in their office at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., during the organization's early years. Guenther attributes much of the organization's success to the strength and resiliency of the military spouses that built the fund into a $187 million charity.

"Keeping Up With the Terrain"

Over 15 Years, Semper Fi Fund Founders Adapt Mission as Needs Evolve

By Sara W. Bock • Photos courtesy of Semper Fi Fund

In June 2007, Gunnery Sergeant Davey Lind was recovering in a hospital bed in Bethesda, Md., dealing with the reality that his life would be changed forever. During his third deployment to Iraq, his vehicle had struck an improvised explosive device, and the blast severed both of his legs from the knee down.

His wife, Lisa, took a leave of absence from work and was by his side for the entirety of his 45-day stay, but their four children remained home at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., where Lind was assigned to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion. The separation took a toll on the entire family, he recalled with raw emotion in his voice more than a decade later.

And that's when Semper Fi Fund—a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing immediate financial assistance and lifetime support to combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured servicemembers—stepped in and provided the funds for his children to travel twice from California to Bethesda and back. It was a gesture that Lind says was crucial to his family's stability as he recovered and attempted to find a new normal.

"Hey, Dad is down but he's not out. We're going to be OK, and it's going to take me a while to get back up on my feet—but once I do get back up on my feet, I'm not going to be deploying anymore. Be patient, let me get better and we'll get through this,'" Lind, now a retired master sergeant, recalls telling his children.

By alleviating many of the stressors that easily could have overwhelmed Lind during that time, the support provided by the fund allowed him to focus solely on his recovery—and it worked. Just two months after his injury, he took his first steps on prosthetic legs.

"I am largely successful because at a very crucial time I had a strong foundation of support," said Lind.

During his hospitalization, Semper Fi Fund helped the family pay their bills, gave them meal vouchers and ensured that his wife, who was now taking on a new role as caregiver, had the support she needed. And nearly 12 years after his injury,

"Serving those who preserve our freedom"

SEMPER FI FUND 15

Inspiring Years

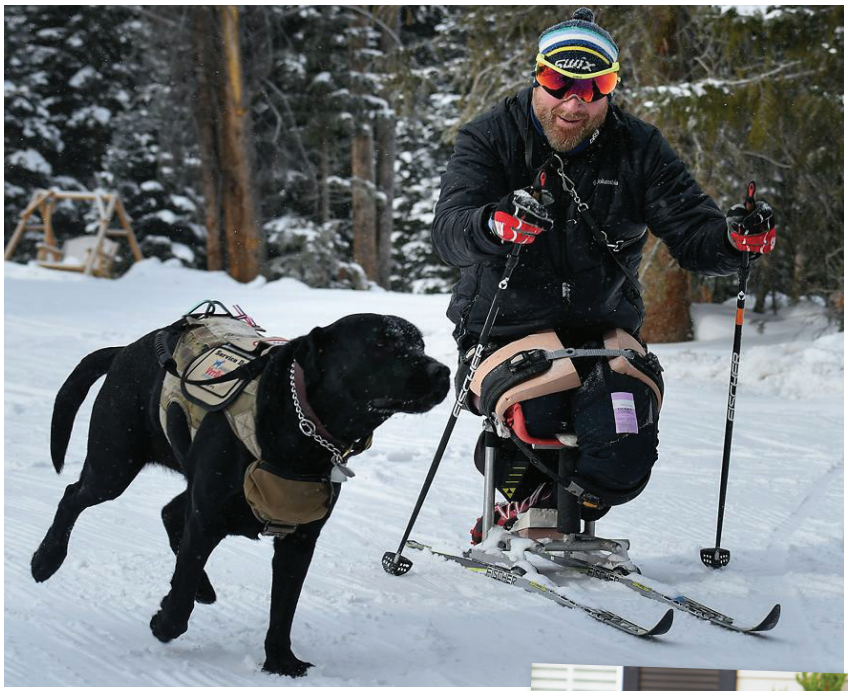
22,000 service members assisted

$193 million in assistance provided

4 Stars Charity Navigator | A+ CharityWatch | 2019 GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency

The Semper Fi Fund provides immediate financial assistance and lifetime support to post-9/11 combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

Find us in the CFC Catalog under "Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund" — CFC #11459



Using adaptive ski gear, a double amputee enjoys the thrill of adventure alongside his service dog. Semper Fi Fund unites wounded, ill and injured servicemembers with well-trained dogs to assist in their transition to civilian life, as well as provides sports and integrative wellness programs that allow them to participate in the physical activities they enjoyed prior to their injuries.

he says the organization continues to honor their commitment to "lifetime support." The Semper Fi Fund staff, he says, is like family to him. An avid golfer, he's even had the opportunity to give back by raising money for the Fund at golf tournaments and takes advantage of every opportunity he can to share the Semper Fi Fund story.

The support network that proved to be vitally important during Lind's recovery had come to life just a few years earlier when a group of Marine wives gathered around Karen Guenther's kitchen table in the San Luis Rey housing community on MCB Camp Pendleton.

The wives had become aware of a growing need within their Marine community. Marines with catastrophic injuries from the initial invasion of Iraq were being medevacked to Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton in 2003, and the women—whose husbands also were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom—had an up-close and personal view of the severity the injuries sustained by the Marines, and also of the effect on the family members who sat at their bedsides as they recovered.

Guenther, a registered nurse who worked in the ICU, had mobilized a group of fellow spouses from 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, who she'd come to know through volunteering on base in various capacities.

"I just pulled together friends that I had volunteered with to greet the medevacs and meet with the families," recalled Guenther. "We thought that was all we were going to do—to be there to support the families as their spouse came home."

Among her earliest teammates were Sondria Saylor, who was with her from day one, and Wendy Lethin, who joined in 2004. Both continue to serve as members of Semper Fi Fund's executive team.

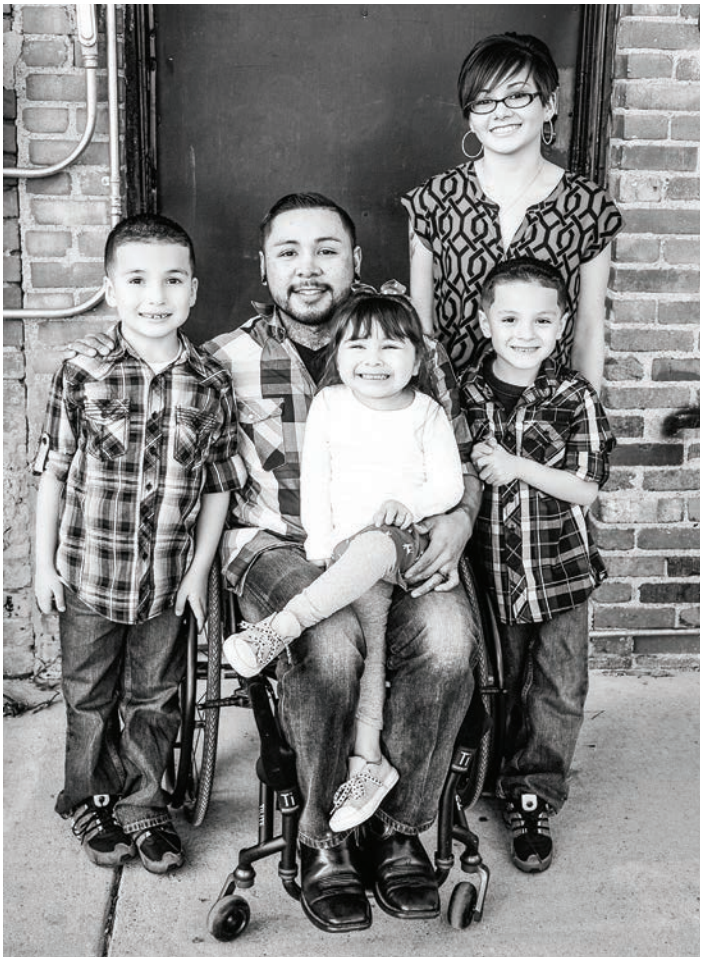
"It was just kind of meant to be, because Karen was there, she saw the need and we were all friends who said, 'What can we do to help?'" said Saylor, Semper Fi Fund's Vice President for Case Management West. "It's pretty amazing and I think it just shows you what you can do if your heart is in it."

As the wounded Marines and Sailors continued to arrive at Camp Pendleton and she spent time with their family members, Guenther became keenly aware of the financial, emotional and logistical challenges they faced as they found themselves

> "I just pulled together friends that I had volunteered with to greet the medevacs and meet with the families. We thought that was all we were going to do—to be there to support the families as their spouse came home."
> —Karen Guenther

Above: MSgt Davey Lind, USMC (Ret), with his young son. In 2007, as MSgt Lind recovered from severe injuries from an IED in Iraq, he said Semper Fi Fund stepped in and provided the support that his family needed.

Left: A recovering servicemember takes a break to spend time with his daughter during the 2013 Marine Corps Trials at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., a qualifier for the Department of Defense Warrior Games.



Families of recovering servicemembers, like the one pictured here, benefit from Semper Fi Fund's assistance during the challenging recovery period and beyond. From financial assistance to caregiver retreats and summer camps for children, the impact a servicemember's injuries have on the family unit is not overlooked by the organization.

Semper Fi Fund staff and volunteers share their mission at the Modern Day Marine Expo at MCB Quantico, Va., in September 2018. The fund relies on donations to provide immediate assistance and lifetime support to America's wounded, ill and injured servicemembers.

"I wish I could say I had this wonderful grand vision, but I didn't. The war started, Camp Pendleton was a ghost town, and we saw needs that needed to be addressed."
—Karen Guenther

living a reality they never expected or planned for.

She and her fellow volunteers wanted to do more, so they began to assemble welcome bags for the families, containing simple donated items like calling cards, toothbrushes and toiletries. They reached out to local churches and community organizations asking for support—and the responses they received surpassed their expectations.

Soon, they were booking flights and hotel rooms for families who hadn't been able to travel to Camp Pendleton due to the cost of travel and providing them with meals and other necessities.

Then there was a moment that Guenther considers pivotal. Her nurse supervisor at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton was aware of her group's efforts and came to her for help. A young Marine who had returned home from Iraq a quadriplegic needed an adaptive van; since he had left the hospital, his wife had been attempting to lift him in and out of the family's SUV.

"OK, we have some important work to do," Guenther remembers saying to herself after hearing their story. She contacted retired Colonel Jack Kelley, who was involved with a local nonprofit, San Diego Nice Guys. "Jack, I need a van," she told him.

After two weeks and with the help of generous donors, they delivered a brand-new, fully adaptive van to the family.

"That just went viral," Guenther recalled. "After that, hospitals around the country started calling us with different needs and requests."

The kitchen table meetings had evolved from packing gift bags to brainstorming ways to meet needs they hadn't known would exist. They essentially were venturing into uncharted territory and they were determined to do their part to ensure that the past didn't repeat itself.

"We all saw what happened with the Vietnam veterans, and our team has just pledged that we'll make sure as much as we can that that does not happen to this generation of military members," said Guenther.

Looking back today from the helm of an organization that has provided more than $187 million in assistance and has expanded its reach

Veterans of "Alpha" Battery, 1st Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment gather in Granby, Colo., for a unit reunion sponsored by Semper Fi Fund. Reunions are one of the many ways the fund supports combat veterans by allowing them to "reconnect, remember and recover together."

from only Marines and Sailors to servicemembers of all branches of the Armed Forces, Guenther, Semper Fi Fund's President & CEO, credits her team—still made up largely of military spouses located all over the globe—with Semper Fi Fund's remarkable success.

"I wish I could say I had this wonderful grand vision, but I didn't," said Guenther of the Fund's early days. "The war started, Camp Pendleton was a ghost town, and we saw needs that needed to be addressed. We really truly thought the war would be over soon."

With the relatively short length of Operation Desert Storm as their only real frame of reference, Guenther, Lethin and Saylor never imagined that Marines would remain engaged in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan for more than a decade.

Guenther took a leave of absence from her nursing job, certain she would return within a year. But as time went by, she and her team became even more aware that the need for support would be ongoing and also would evolve as the first wave of wounded Marines left the hospital and headed home, where they would face new challenges. With zero experience in nonprofit management, Guenther read books like "Nonprofit Kit for Dummies" to gain the basic knowledge she needed to move their efforts forward.

From the very beginning, Guenther was insistent that she and her team do the right things for the right reasons.

"We're doing important work, but we also make sure that we're doing things the right way," said Guenther, who said that not long after they first started showing up at the hospitals, people began handing her big checks. "We made a commitment to that early on when we first started this. We go to great lengths to do things right and make sure that the focus stays on that donor and their confidence. It's sacred to us that they believed in us enough to give us even $10, that we have to manage that properly and we take that very seriously."

In May 2004, Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund—which later would be shortened to just "Semper Fi Fund"—was officially incorporated and given 501(c) 3 status as a national nonprofit, dedicated to providing financial assistance and quality of life solutions to wounded, ill and injured Marines and Sailors and their families.

"The first times just helping—seeing relief on the families' faces or hearing a father call who was so upset that he couldn't take his son home because they didn't have a ramp to get into the house, and just saying, 'Don't worry, we've got you. We'll get someone to do the ramp, and don't worry about it,'" said Lethin, now Vice President for Community Outreach, of the experiences that impacted her during Semper Fi Fund's early days.

At every turn, said Guenther, people whose guidance they needed—a lawyer, a CPA and others—arrived in their path to help them along the way. She considers it divine intervention. As word

spread about their work, the team expanded their efforts outside of Southern California and donations poured in from across the country.

"I can remember going and checking the mail, and on a good day there would be three or five checks in there and we were really excited," said Saylor.

By the end of its first year as an incorporated nonprofit, the fund had raised more than $5 million.

"We were really just so focused on our jobs and on the mission and helping them. We truly had our nose to the ground, saw the need and really kept going just one day at a time—and we turned around and we were pretty big!" said Susan Rocco, who joined Semper Fi Fund's efforts in 2005 and today is Vice President for Case Management East, overseeing efforts to support wounded, ill and injured servicemembers and their families who are located east of the Mississippi River.

As Semper Fi Fund grew and they spent more time with recovering servicemembers and their families, they developed an even greater appreciation for those they were serving. Each has had moments they'll never forget. For Saylor, it was a visit with severely burned Marines in the burn unit at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. She cried the entire flight back to San Diego, she said, and it's an experience she still thinks about often. Rocco recalled that during the "busy years" at National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, there were dozens of Marine amputees arriving for treatment and recovery. In an effort to encourage them and their families, Semper Fi Fund brought back amputees who had been injured several years prior.

"You can run a marathon in two years. You can have a more enriched life in just a little while," Rocco recalled the amputees saying to the newly injured. "I'll never forget crying. It's just such a beautiful thing because their whole faces changed, and their parents and their spouses who were sitting at the bedside said, 'Oh my gosh, look at this man walking in my room who is also a double amputee, and look what he's doing now.' It's just a beautiful moment … and these are the things we carry with us each day when we do our jobs."

The team recognized early on that due to the nature of their lives as Marine Corps spouses, they would have to create a model for the Semper Fi Fund that would allow them to work remotely as they relocated due to military orders. They have retained a small office at Camp Pendleton, but the majority of Semper Fi Fund's staff, now about 140 members strong, works out of locations worldwide.

"We've got this talented team of military spouses that just make it work. There's no other option. We have to," said Guenther, emphasizing the resiliency and strength that they bring to the table. "This team doesn't say, 'No, this can't work.' This team says, 'Let's figure out how to do it.' I think that's the secret of our success."

And with staff members—and hundreds of dedicated volunteers—located on or near military installations worldwide, Guenther believes the

Right: A grateful couple stands outside their newly adaptive home made possible by Semper Fi Fund.

Below: During the early years of what was then "Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund," staff and volunteers gather at a race to raise awareness for their growing mission.

"This team doesn't say, 'No, this can't work.' This team says, 'Let's figure out how to do it.' I think that's the secret of our success."

—Karen Guenther

From the left, Capt Marc Tucker, USMC (Ret); Madeline Manzanet; Cpl Larry Bailey, USMC (Ret); and Vanessa Keane attend the Marine Corps Cryptologic Association's 2018 reunion dinner, benefiting Semper Fi Fund. Tucker and Bailey were invited to attend and speak about how the Semper Fi Fund has helped them through their recovery, and Manzanet and Keane are members of the fund's community outreach and events team.

Below: Recovering servicemembers benefit from Semper Fi Fund's Jinx McCain Horsemanship Program, which takes place at working cattle ranches. The program promotes camaraderie and individual achievement while imparting valuable skills.

distance between them is an asset to the mission of the organization. Case managers are on site at each of the nation's major military and VA hospitals, ensuring that no one who qualifies for and needs assistance slips through the cracks.

"Our ear is always to the ground and our staff are in the units, so we have a very unique positioning to be very keenly aware. We don't have to spend millions of dollars on studies because we live the life," said Guenther of one of the many benefits of remaining primarily staffed by military spouses. "I think that's really been a huge part of evolving our programs to make sure they're relevant, because if they're not, then we don't want to do them."

During its nearly 15 years of existence, Semper Fi Fund has established three major programs: servicemember and family support, transition and integrative wellness.

From injury and recovery to integration into the community and health therapies designed to improve "body, mind and spirit," each program offers a variety of support and resources to help ensure the Fund's commitment to lifetime support for the entire family.

Offering services like retreats for caregivers, a Semper Fi Fund Kids Camp in numerous locations each summer, and the Tim and Sandy Day Canine Companions Program, which launched in 2012 to provide well-trained service dogs to the injured and critically ill, the Fund's reach has grown far beyond the initial bedside financial support. The Jinx McCain Horsemanship Program also was established in 2012 and offers a riding program designed to build confidence, and Semper Fi Fund continues to provide assistance in housing, transportation and adaptive equipment.

For transitioning servicemembers, the Semper Fi Fund's Veteran to Veteran (V2V) program trains veterans to help their peers transition from active-duty to civilian life. A variety of apprenticeship programs allow recovering servicemembers to learn new skills and trades, and unit reunions sponsored by the Fund allow units to reconnect and help each other recover.

Since 2006, Team Semper Fi has promoted "recovery through sport," and its members, all of whom endured life changing injuries, critical illnesses, traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), train for and compete in

Semper Fi Fund staff members Karen Hetherington and Helen Toolan visit with CPT Pat Horan, USA (Ret) and Patty Horan during a "Military Appreciation Monday" event at the Old Brogue in Great Falls, Va., in September 2018. The fund's staff, volunteers and recovering service-members consider themselves a "family" and are proud of the friendships they have formed.

triathlons, marathons, races, competitive sports and other athletic events. The Fund also promotes wellness by offering counseling, specialized equipment and a NeuroFitness program.

As soon as they had the resources to do so in 2012, Semper Fi Fund started "America's Fund" and opened assistance to all service branches. It was a natural evolution of their mission, said Guenther, and was something they had wanted to do for years as they watched Marines recover alongside servicemembers from other branches, particularly the Army.

Last year, with the launch of the Lance Corporal Parsons Welcome Home Fund for Vietnam Veterans, Semper Fi Fund extended its reach beyond post-9/11 veterans to include catastrophically combat-injured Vietnam veterans who weren't given the assistance and support they needed and deserved when they returned home from war. The program's inception was made possible by the support of Bob Parsons, a Vietnam War Marine veteran who founded GoDaddy.com and has been a longtime

Karen Guenther and her daughter Brooke, left, spend time with LCpl Chuck Sketch, USMC (Ret), a double amputee who also is blind, and his father, Roger Sketch, during the first-ever Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 2010.

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supporter of Semper Fi Fund, donating $51 million over the past seven years, the majority of which was part of a matching campaign that brought in a total of $100 million.

While Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom are over, catastrophically wounded service-members continue to arrive home from locations all over the world, said Guenther, with injuries from training accidents and combat operations.

"We still have medevacs coming back, and it's not always in the news," said Rocco. "We still get cases from all over the country, from [veteran] centers, from servicemembers that deployed maybe three or four times and just now are seeking care for their post-traumatic stress."

Moving forward, the women of Semper Fi Fund will continue to evolve and adapt their programs to meet ever-changing needs as they arise.

"I think we reinvent ourselves to keep up with the terrain that's in front of us," said Guenther.

And despite tremendous growth and a list of more than 22,000 servicemembers helped, they haven't lost sight of where they came from and remain focused on maintaining individual relationships.

MSgt Davey Lind's son recently graduated from boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, following in his father's footsteps and earning the title "Marine." Lind proudly texted photos from the graduation to family and close friends, including Wendy Lethin and Sondria Saylor, who after all these years, have remained an integral part of his life.

"They are family," he said.

Semper Fi Fund surely is a testament to the strength and determination of military spouses, but its founders insist that the real fortitude is found among those they serve.

"I'm just in awe of our caregivers, and the bravery and strength of our servicemembers. They don't give up, and I think that's something that impacts all of our staff and volunteers," said Guenther. "We're so blessed that we get to see this every day. We watch heroes and heroic acts every single day. We don't have to go to the movies or read about them in books. They're right in front of us… They have this amazing resolve to make this next chapter of their life the best that it can be."

Semper Fi Fund Apprenticeship Program

Establishing mentoring relationships with leading industry experts provides a powerful and productive way for service members to reintegrate into the community. This program assists service members with a 70% or greater disability rating find meaningful trades, careers and small business opportunities through short-term vocational education and apprenticeships.

Semper Fi Fund's staff works directly with motivated service members to assess readiness, personal strengths and professional interests; if a good match exists to the trades and careers offered, Apprenticeship Program staff help participants develop training/education plans, timelines and goals. This may include vocational training, community college, and/or a series of workshops.

Once training is complete, staff will then help service members find apprenticeship opportunities and help establish mentoring relationships with leading industry experts.

"This was not only critical in keeping me moving ahead in my program, but it reduced virtually all of my financial stress and allowed me to focus purely on the task at hand. Thanks to the support from the Semper Fi Fund, I now have a great career path where I will eventually make a comfortable living and earn a great retirement. But the best part is that I am in a position where my work and efforts will go directly towards helping children and families that desperately need it."

~USA Sergeant, HERO Program Apprentice

"I am totally and permanently disabled with TBI/PTSD, ligament tears, and a partially fractured spine. It would be so easy to just lay down and play woe is me. Being able to actually produce something of worth for my family and friends to see is so important to my health. The best part was graduating from architecture and development schools, receiving my SAM certification and then producing nine networks for clients!"

~USMC Corporal, Cloud-Based Business Solutions Apprentice

SemperFiFund.org/what-we-do/transition/apprenticeship/

Caregiver Support and Retreats

Caregivers take on a wide variety of roles critical to the recovery process: nurse, aide, psychologist, physical therapist, homemaker, cook, healthcare advocate and so much more. We understand the challenging and stressful nature of what caregivers do all day, every day.

Semper Fi Fund's Caregiver Support Program encompasses a variety of activities designed to assist the spouses, parents, siblings, extended family members and close friends who drop everything to care for a catastrophically wounded, critically ill or injured service member.

"Honestly, there are no words. I find it hard to express what we do day in and day out. I know that it leads to compassion fatigue, and you become so overwhelmed that you want to quit. Instead you just cry. The best scenario I could give as an example would be it is like running a marathon, becoming dehydrated, and it is causing your whole body to cramp. Nevertheless, no matter the exhaustion of mental, physical, and emotional pain, you can never stop. These retreats keep us alive! They mean the world to us, and we are so thankful for those who care. #donorssavelives."

"Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to participate in this event. It was my first time as a spouse really being cared for by any connection of resource(s) having to do with my husband. I have found that all of the focus is always on the veteran and seldom on caregivers of family. It was great to network with other caregivers to learn of other resources that are also available that I was unaware of. A heartfelt thank you."

SemperFiFund.org/what-we-do/family-support/caregiver-support-retreats/

Army Major Jeremy Is The Father Of Eight

Army Major Jeremy is the father of eight children, ages ranging from one to seventeen.

After being injured in Afghanistan from a bullet and shrapnel lodged in several places in his spine, Jeremy thought it impossible that he was even going to live. (as they loaded him on the Medevac.) Not only did Jeremy survive, but he is able to play an active role in all of his children's lives.

While serving as an Aide-de-Camp to a General Officer, he was shot four times. As his security teams prepared to depart their site, a gunman opened fire from a window near Jeremy. Fighting to remain conscious, he recalls someone whispering, "He's not going to make it."

Jeremy remembers opening his eyes and wondering if he was dead and saying to himself, "Heaven sure looks a lot like Afghanistan." He heard one of his teammates ask if he was alive. With every breath in his body he said, "I am alive." Medics picked him up multiple times, but his entire body was numb. Jeremy was taken to an aid station and from there he was driven to a MEDEVAC drop zone. Minutes later, helicopters took him to Bagram, Afghanistan. With a gunshot wound to the spine, both legs, and right shoulder, he fought to stay alive. The last thing he recalls was a doctor looking down saying, "We are going to take care of you."

Army Major Jeremy and his wife

One of the most rewarding jobs a man can take on in his life is that of being a father. It is a lifelong duty that greatly affects the lives of the children one is raising. When a service member is injured, one of the greatest worries they can have is how to take care of their children. Sometimes the roles get reversed and children actually take on the caregiver role. With a second chance at life, spending more time with his kids has been one of Jeremy's priorities. When he feels like quitting, his family is there to refuel his spirit.

His children were his main motivation for recovery, "Every day I endure constant pain that deters me from

performing basic tasks, but my kids empower me to work through my challenges, and when pain becomes unmanageable, they are there to give me a hug."

With the assistance of the Semper Fi Fund, Jeremy was able to be participate in his children's activities with increased independence. Immediately after injury, Semper Fi Fund presented Jeremy with a grant to help with the bills and childcare since his wife quit her job to care for him. SFF was also instrumental in arranging flights, lodging, and providing assistance so his children could visit him in the hospital. Later, when Jeremy was ready to go home, the Fund provided a grant to acquire an adaptive vehicle. With a body brace keeping his spinal cord aligned, he was given the chance to re-learn how to drive.

His children were his main motivation for recovery, "Every day I endure constant pain that deters me from performing basic tasks, but my kids empower me to work through my challenges, and when pain becomes unmanageable, they are there to give me a hug."

"I was sinking into depression, feeling helpless and unable to fulfill basic duties as a husband and father. Driving gave me a purpose and independence." Jeremy then discovered the freedom of handcycling. With his Fund's case manager encouraging him every step of the way Jeremy embraced many new activities.

A Segway wheelchair allows Jeremy to take part in a favorite activity of all fathers-walking the kids to school!

The Semper Fi Fund has been blessed to be a part of Jeremy's journey and will continue to be involved in the lives of this wonderful family. Jeremy is an extraordinary example of post traumatic growth!

A Service Dog is More Than a Vest

Help Prevent Service Dog Fraud

Become familiar with the current American with Disabilities Act (ADA) law around service animals. It is important to know that disabilities are not always visible and legitimate service dogs come in all breeds and sizes. We do not recommend approaching a stranger with a potentially fraudulent service dog.

Why This Matters

When untrained pets posing as service dogs behave badly, people who truly need assistance dogs can face added discrimination and lose access to public places both violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It's a devastating problem for people like Peter Morgan, who can't bend over without pain because of a spinal disorder. His Service Dog Echuka is trained to pick up dropped items and prevent him from getting hurt. But service dog fraud is making it difficult to keep them together.

"In the last few years, the questions and the looks I get have radically changed," Peter says. "Now wherever I go, I see fraudulent service dogs. I have been kicked out of businesses because employees think I'm an impostor."

Service dogs are more than a vest purchased for a few dollars online. They require years of expert training to perform specific commands and provide calm, reliable assistance to people with disabilities-including U.S. veterans injured while fighting for this country.

http://www.cci.org/get-involved/advocate.html

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship Services and Kid Size Discipleship - 9:30am
Christ In Common (*Adult Discipleship Class*) - 11:00am

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Retired Army Colonel Gregory D. Gadson addresses a crowd as the guest speaker for observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Fort Meade.

Commander, Actor, Athlete Shares Life Lessons With 20th CBRNE Command Soldiers

By Suzan Holl
20th CBRNE Command Public Affairs, February 2, 2018
www.army.mil/article/200053/commander_actor_athlete_shares_life_lessons_with_20th_cbrne_command_soldiers

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. -- Like a lot of American boys, retired Army Col. Gregory D. Gadson had dreams and goals of becoming a Super Bowl champion. By the time he was a senior in high school it looked like he was well on his way of making those dreams a reality.

Gadson was an all-state football player in Virginia, captain of his all-star team. He thought he was heading to the University of Virginia on a full scholarship, but the school had a change of heart.

"I gave up on my dreams of becoming a professional football player and ended up going to West Point because that was the only other place I had to go," Gadson said at the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command's town hall meeting Jan. 26 at Edgewood Arsenal on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

But football wasn't out of the picture entirely. He played defensive tackle for the Golden Knights for all four years at West Point finishing his collegiate career on top with Army winning the Commander in Chief's Trophy his senior year.

Gadson graduated in 1989 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the field artillery. He served in several major conflicts including Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Joint Forge, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On May 7, 2007 he was in Iraq serving as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery, when his whole life changed.

"I was returning from a memorial service for two fellow service members," said Gadson. "I'll never forget that day because the lives of those two men stuck with me. I had to wonder if it was worth it – whether their sacrifice and that god-awful time in Iraq was worth it," and that's when the vehicle he was riding in hit an improvised explosive device.

"I vaguely remember hitting the ground and coming to a stop on my back," said Gadson, "I couldn't move but I knew something was wrong." He said the last thing he recalls is telling God he didn't want to die in Iraq and then he lost consciousness.

Sgt. 1st Class Fredrick Johnson, whose vehicle was behind Gadson's, performed CPR and another soldier, 19-year-old Pvt. Eric Brown, tied tourniquets on to Gadson's severely injured legs. It was Brown's quick actions that saved his commander's life.

"Brown was one of your own," he told the 20th CBRNE Command soldiers, "And the doctor's told me that it was his actions that saved my life."

Gadson's medic didn't deploy with the battalion because of a broken ankle. When Gadson asked for a replacement the Army told him they didn't have one available. Instead they sent Brown to a two-week emergency medical technician course at Kansas State University. Brown finished the course just days before deploying to Iraq.

A week after Gadson arrived at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. on May 11, he was told that the blood vessels in his left leg were so badly damaged they could no longer sustain blood flow and in order to save his life, the leg would need to be amputated. Ultimately, Gadson's right leg also was amputated, and he lost the use of his right hand and arm.

"So, I was down to one functioning limb. That was the straw that broke the camel's back. I went from a strapping 210-pound lieutenant colonel to 148 pounds with one functioning limb," said Gadson. "I quit. Nobody could blame me if I quit, right?"

Or at least he tried. "But I couldn't quit because that wasn't me. As much as I tried, as much as the world would have given me a pass, I was still a husband, a father, a soldier, and I wasn't a quitter. That wasn't me, that wasn't my character, that wasn't the person I had become."

As a former athlete, quitting was not in his character. "As an athlete, I learned to grasp the concept of living up to be the best I can be."

The one thing that football taught him about life was about living in the present and up to your own personal best. Gadson's philosophy is this, "When you put effort into being your best every day, you start to build character – it becomes who you are and you know of no other way."

Gadson said that his faith in God also played a big part in accepting his circumstance.

"I mourned, I asked those questions but ultimately I moved on very quickly. Accepting that there will be things in my life that I will never have an answer for and I will never be able to explain allowed me to move forward," he said.

"True acceptance clears the lane – you're not encumbered by the invisible chains you drag around asking 'Why me?' For me, the question 'why' looks backwards, the question of 'what' moves us forward. Our lives are in front of us, not behind us."

As fate would have it, another one of his West Point classmates, New York Giants Coach Mike Sullivan, gave Gadson a call on a Monday and asked if he'd like to go to their upcoming game with the Washington Redskins. Gadson accepted. Then Sullivan called him Tuesday and asked Gadson if he would speak to the team - and he obliged.

"I talked to the team and shared with them about effort and staying in the moment and doing the best you can every day because tomorrow is not promised."

That Sunday the halftime score was 14-3 Redskins. "Heck of talk I gave 'em, huh?" joked Gadson. But the Giants rallied and won the game 24-17 and went on to win 11 consecutive road games that culminated in Super Bowl 42 when they beat the 18 and 0 New England Patriots.

When asked by one of the soldier's in the audience if he had any Super Bowl rings and if the Giant's gave him credit for their 11 game winning streak he said, "They did! And I have two Super Bowl rings. "

To this day, he maintains his mentoring relationship with the Giants.

Gadson continued to move forward with life and his active duty career. In 2010 he received the NCAA Award of Inspiration as he headed up the Army's Wounded Warrior program. In 2012, film director Peter Berg gave Gadson a starring role portraying a wounded veteran in the movie "Battleship". That same year he became the U.S. Army Garrison Commander at Fort Belvoir, Va. – the Army's first double amputee commander. Gadson retired from active duty in 2014 with over 25 years of service to his country.

"It's an honor to wear the uniform so live up to it," Gadson said at the conclusion of the 20th's town hall, "Make the most of it. There's no greater satisfaction then knowing you did your best.

"It's funny how life takes you. You can have a dream or a goal and sometimes you get disappointed if it doesn't follow your path. But if you keep believing in things you never know what will happen. I'm a Super Bowl champion." ✪

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Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue. The Marine Corps War Memorial, also called the Iwo Jima Memorial, is a military memorial statue outside the walls of the Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Va. The memorial is dedicated to all personnel of the United States Marine Corps who have died in the defense of their country since 1775. Photo By: Sgt. Christopher Zahn

Iwo Jima Flag Raising Proposed for Camp Pendleton, Home of the 5th

When Iwo Jima veterans were asked why they wanted a monument built at Camp Pendleton the responses ranged from: "It's where we trained" to "Camp Pendleton is the right place for it's where the 5th MAR division was founded."

For one Army aircraft mechanic, "The Marines saved my butt." after a fierce attack of their quarters near airstrip MOTO #1." For a corpsmen, it will remind him of his friend, George Whalen, who received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his tremendous bravery.

As the founder of Iwo Jima Monument West nonprofit 50lc3 a woman in Orangte County, Laura Dietz, is passionate in her belief that this is a great offer to the USMC that benefits the nation. "It has been the greatest honor of my life to meet so many Iwo Jima veterans. I've made three trips to Iwo Jima with veterans and each one brings greater appreciation for what they did, the impossible made possible by sheer determination and passion to the mission and each other."

Her research has discovered that there are 9 Iwo Jima flag raising monuments around the US in 8 states.

"The research in the USMC History Division and the National Archives has turned up some real jewels. Combing through the files of Commandants Vandegrift, Cates, and Shepherd, it was Vandegrift who negotiated the arrangement with AP (Associatd Press) to use the famous Joe Rosenthal photograph for purposes to benefit the US Marine Corps, for recruiting as the planning to land 1 million Americans on mainland Japan had begun.

She organized a dinner iin Carlsbad (2017) for Iwo Jima veterans to speak to the spellbound audience about their experiences. After all she had concluded, "They fought the battle. Who better to talk about it?"

Points about the Plan for Camp Pendleon

The architect Curt Fentress who designed and built the magnificent award winning, spectacular National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle VA opposite the Quantico base submitted the best design concept. General James Mattis (before becoming Secretary of Defense) was invited

...continued on page 30

...Iwo Jima Flag Raising continued from page 29

to speak at the national announcement of the design winner in Newport Beach. (He was committed to be in WDC and abroad during that entire month and sorrowfully regretted).

The highly competent Lt. General Terry Robling former CG of Marine Corps Forces, Pacific.gave a great keynote, thanking Ms. Dietz for her leadership and dedication to the mission.

Monument Features Provide Unique Benefits

The Fentress design concept will be seen from the 49 million vehicles who pass through that 54 Intersection (Main Gate), on the hillside above Vandegrift Blvd. just north of the new Naval Hospital. It's terrace area will provide for ceremonies where granite walls will be etched in words that the USMC has chosen to tell its history. Linkded to the current memorials outside the Pacific Views Event Center (PVEC) in the garden area, it will stand on the same axis as the 1999 Iwo Jima Battle Memorial off of "Iron Mike's (Sgt. Major Mike Mervosh) Lounge, who passed in October 2017 at age 93.

The unique glass enclosure system will provide needed protection for the monument to last at least 500 years from the ravages of the hot sun and rain. Each side has glass doors that allow close inspection can be locked by the base (their decision) as needed for whatever reasons.

The photo-voltaic roof provides for its own power system (so as not to draw on the base supply) in this design. The hardscaping will be developed after it is built to provide Marine and Navy officials an opportunity to define its uses for special events, ceremonies, et al.

The night lighting will make it a landmark from air, land and sea. Seating areas will allow for visitors to reflect on its meaning as the sun sets while rising over Japan, now our best ally in the Pacific rim. It is after all, as defined by the American Legion, the most definitive image of our US flag at war.

The advantage to being viewed by so many from the highway each and every year will make it possible to never, ever forget what happened and to whom we owe so much.

It's right and now is the time as we approach the 75th anniversary of the ending of WWII and the role of the USMC in that great victory that made the US the greatest power for good on this earth. ✪

Make A Difference

"Some people go through an entire lifetime wondering if they mad e a difference. The Marines don't have that problem." President Ronald Reagan

"This Nation will remain the land of the free, only so long as it is the home of the brave." Elmer Davis, US War Information Bureau.

Americans who understand that the Iwo Jima flag raising image has a very special place in the hearts of Americans. It demonstrates that America is the "home of the brave" and that our Marine Corps can always be counted on no matter what "to win" whatever it takes, Its absence at Camp Pendleton where over 450,000 Marines trained who deployed to the Pacific War along with their faithful Navy partners and airmen did the impossible.

All of America will benefit from this effort, as the monument travels across the US for millions to see.

Note if you wish to make a donation in honor of /in memory of a loved one or friend.

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Message 24/7 at 844-IWO-JIMA
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Iwo Jima Monument West 501 c3 (non-profit) EIN 46-7128553, estabilised 11/15/13. We are not yet old enough to qualify for charitable nagivator but our 2014 tax return is available. The Executive Director and advisors take no compensation.

Photo courtesy: Iwo Jima Monument West

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FORT LEONARD WOOD, Missouri - Students at the Marine Military Police Officer Basic Course, conduct a traffic stop during the Watch Officer Exercise at Fort Leonard Wood. The Watch Officer Exercise is meant to simulate the daily duties at a provost marshal office and geared toward garrison law enforcement. Photo By: Cpl. David Staten

Civilian Law Enforcement Looks To Transitioning Military To Fill Ranks

By Mr. Ryan Thompson (Fort Leonard Wood)

www.army.mil/article/209047/civilian_law_enforcement_looks_to_transitioning_military_to_fill_ranks

The U.S. Army Military Police School hosted Kentucky law enforcement leaders July 18 to 19. The tour, planned by the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs, provided law enforcement from the state a look at military police training.

"The desired end state was to bring our law enforcement to Fort Leonard Wood so that they could get an overview of the training that was going on and take that back and overlay that on their curriculum," said Blaine Hedges, Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs executive director.

Hedges said the idea is to streamline the process so they can get veterans and service members into law enforcement as quickly as possible.

"When we have veterans or service members who are transitioning out of the Army who want to work in law enforcement in the state of Kentucky, we want to accelerate the hiring process and get them into the workforce faster," said Hedges.

The group wanted to see how closely military police training mirrored the type of training police officers get in the civilian world.

"We have these folks coming out of the military with a certain number of training hours, a certain number of years they have served, and we want to see where that fits in to what is required to be a POPS (Police Officer Professional Standards) certified police officer in Kentucky," said Alex Payne, Department of Criminal Justice Training commissioner.

According to Fran Root, Kentucky Law Enforcement Council executive director, there is no reason for MPs to have to complete the full extent of police academy training because of the experience and training they have already gained.

"They are not going to have to go through another 20 weeks of training before they hit the street. They are only

going to have to do about 80 hours of training before the end of their first year. They will be good to hit the streets right away," Root said.

Hedges also made it a point to showcase service members' passion to serve by asking current MPs questions. Hedges asked Master Sgt. James Havlin, Basic Military Police Training Division noncommissioned officer in charge, if he would be interested in civilian police work after transitioning from the Army.

"I came into the Army as an MP at age 17, because this was the only place I could get into law enforcement at that age," Havlin said.

"I love being an MP. I can see myself doing local law enforcement once I leave the military," Havlin added.

In addition to the training the MPs already have, Hedges said he would like to see more service members become law enforcement officers in the state of Kentucky because of who they are and what they stand for.

"The majority of the time our service members are well disciplined; they understand how to work as a team, know how to show up on time, are drug free, are of character, they come with strong values," Hedges said. ✪

U.S. Army Military Police School

The USAMPS is located in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and trains over 20,000 students annually in both basic and advanced law enforcement practices and processes. The USAMPS is committed to ensuring military police leaders, soldiers, and Department of the Army civilians receive top-quality, realistic training in an environment that fosters learning. The USAMPS training programs prepare these soldiers, civilians, and leaders to effectively perform their duties in MP and law enforcement units.

Practice the proper use of ballistic shields at the Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Photo by Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem, USA.

Transitioning Out

Military To Civilian Law Enforcement

Servicemembers or veterans making the transition from the military to a new civilian career in law enforcement can feel like a perfect fit. The training and job experience you received during military service can provided valuable skill for civilian law enforcement and security jobs.

A large number of police departments and law enforcement agencies prioritize the hiring of military veterans and undertake initiatives that encourage the recruitment and hiring of candidates with service experience. In some cases extra points are applied on applications.

The process of transitioning from military service to civilian law enforcement is a challenging one that will require you to make considerable adjustments in both your practical training and your mindset. Be prepared to unlearn some of the tactics of aggression and occupation that apply only in military situations. You will learn new tactics specific to policing, including conduct during routine non-criminal encounters, adherence to constitutional rights, and the parameters for use of force—either lethal, less-than-lethal, or non-lethal. The need for security and protection gives military police veterans a number of career choices. Highly specialized skills and training, such as crisis prevention and investigation techniques and firearms handling are invaluable with law enforcement situations in the civilian workplace.

Jobs where military experience can be used:

Police and Detective Jobs

Military and civilian law enforcement are not the same but are very similar in the training.

Police officers

Most of their time on patrol and work in public to forestall and prevent crime, intervening as soon as a situation is detected.

Detective

Investigates the crime after the incident has occurred. Police officers and detective jobs require training to react appropriately in crisis situations.

A high school diploma is all that is required in some jurisdictions, but some may require a bachelor's degree.

Correctional Officers

Experience gained during military service is particularly valuable. The job duties are to maintain order, and to insure that all rules and regulations are followed to provide the safety and security of jails and prisons.

Other Job opportunities: Security Guards, Gaming Surveillance Officers, Forensic Science Technicians, Transportation Security Screener, Transportation Security Administration (TSA). ✪

Unbreakable Bonds

By Lance Cpl. Megan Roses
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton
June 11, 2018

U.S Marine photo by Lance Corporal Tayler P. Schwamb

Marine Corps K9s are born and trained at Lackland Air Force base in Bexar, Texas. When the dogs are between the ages of 12 to 36 months, they begin training to do one of three specialties: specialized search dogs, patrol explosive dogs, or patrol drug dogs. The Marine Corps K-9 program employs Labrador retrievers, which are specialized off-leash search dogs and trained to locate explosives however, they are not trained as bite and attack dogs. German Shepherds are employed as patrol explosive and drug dogs.

These German Shepherds are also trained to bite and attack in addition to locating explosive material or drugs. Upon completion of their training, the dogs are assigned to their new units where they will remain for the majority of their service.

Once a K9 is placed with a dog handler, they spend the first month bonding. "This sets the tone for how their relationship will be." said Sgt. Braxton Rico, military dog handler, 1st Law Enforcement Bn., IMEF.

Slowly the pair will build a trust in one another. Handler and K9 will need to know each other almost as well as they know themselves. For six months, the two will train daily to enhance obedience, proficiency and trust. Knowing their K9 and his or her every detail not only keeps the handler and dog safe, but those around them.

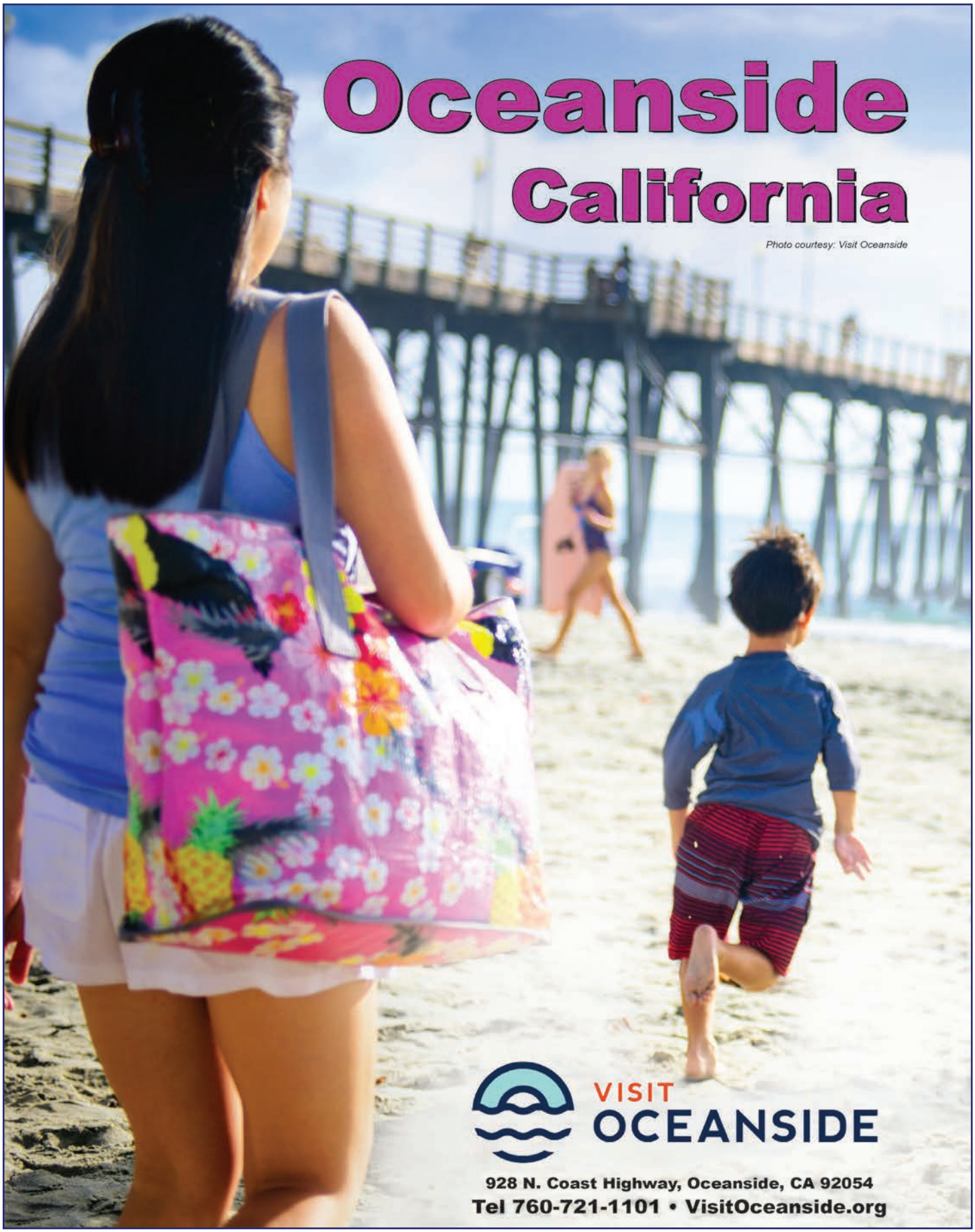
"As dog handlers, our main priority is to train 24/7 to ensure we are ready to deploy, keep people safe and find explosives," said Miller.

In December 2015, Miller was assigned to work with Tessa. The two instantly clicked according to Miller. Tessa was an older dog, so she understood her role to the fullest and when the two met, they clicked immediately. With incredible determination and desire, Tessa would often push her limits. Miller had to learn quickly how to recognize Tessa's limits to ensure she was given time to rest and relax. After six months together, Miller felt like Tessa knew exactly what he wanted her to do, practically reading his mind when they worked.

While deployed with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Miller and Tessa's bond grew even stronger while serving in the Middle East. During their deployment, Miller and Tessa were assigned to clear a large area where a forward operating base would soon be established. Miller said his fondest memories were spending day-in and day-out, working under the hot sun and sleeping together in dirt holes.

This year, Tessa will be retiring from the Marine Corps. During her glory days, she displayed immense loyalty to the Marines she worked with. Miller says the greatest thing Tessa taught him was about patience and to enjoy the time he shares with those who mean the most. The bond they built in just two years was powerful.

"It is kind of unexplainable," said Miller. "I can't explain the bond we share with the dogs we trust our lives with."✪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Military Housing Privatization Initiative

The ***Subcommittee on Personnel*** and the ***Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support*** held herings on the current condition of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative on Feb. 13, in Washington, D.C.

The hearing was held because a series of recent reports about substandard housing at military installations across the country was brought to their attention.

"This is an important hearing. Ensuring our troops have a safe, healthy, decent place to live is paramount. I want to hear from the Pentagon and private contractors about what they're doing to ensure the health and well being of our troops and their families when it comes to housing," said U.S. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), the ranking member of the Senate's Armed Services Committee.

"I also want to hear from Rhode Islanders and military families about their personal experiences and encourage people who live on post or in military housing to share their stories with me on Facebook or on my website, reed.senate.gov. Hopefully, this hearing sheds a light on the scope of the issue and can help us develop solutions, make improvements, and enhance the quality of life for our troops and their families."

Marine Corps photo/Jeff Nyhart

Military Family Advisory Network Research: Privatized Military Housing Survey

Executive Summary

February 13, 2019 by MFAN

The mission of the Military Family Advisory Network (MFAN) is to connect military families with leaders and decision makers. We share the stories of those who serve and respond to their needs through collaboration and, when needed, program development. After hearing from military families about issues with privatized military housing last October, MFAN began researching the extent of the problem and launched a questionnaire three months later to gain a better understanding of the issue.

This executive summary provides a high-level overview of our initial findings from the questionnaire. A full report that outlines methodology, more detailed preliminary findings, family profiles, photos, and documentation is attached.

The online questionnaire was fielded on January 30, 2019 and remained open until February 6, 2019. During that time, 16,779 individuals responded. Participants were first asked a series of questions to determine eligibility to fit the targeted demographic. They were required to either be living in privatized military housing currently, or within the past three years. The remaining questions were also neutral in nature, inquiring whether the military family's experience with privatized housing was favorable or not favorable.

MFAN also conducted 40 interviews with survey participants who shared their contact information. Over the next several months, MFAN will apply qualitative coding methods to gain a complete understanding of families' perceptions of privatized military housing. In the interim, initial findings show the following:

- More than half (55.53%) of respondents had a negative or very negative experience with privatized military housing.
- Issues are not unique to specific companies, 35 companies were referenced by respondents from every state in the country with privatized military housing.
- Military families are living in dangerous situations with reports of the existence of black mold, lead paint, faulty wiring, poor water quality, pesticides, and a wide variety of vermin, insects, and other animals (e.g., bats, skunks, and squirrels) in their homes.
- Families report illnesses with life-long implications caused by poor housing conditions.
- Respondents file reports and request remediation, which is often denied or ignored.
- Families report attempts by housing company silence their complaints and several report receiving threats. Many fear retribution or negative impacts on their service members' military career.
- Families have little or no recourse. Rent cannot be withheld for poor condition, mismanagement, or noncompliance with lease terms.

The sheer number of questionnaire respondents is astounding. While 44.7% of respondents responded neutrally or favorably, 55.53% dissatisfaction rate is alarming. As we continue our qualitative analysis, we will learn much more about their experiences and identify geographic "hot spots" for issue areas.

Through our preliminary research it has become apparent that there is a disconnect between our findings related to resident satisfaction and what has been reported by privatized housing companies.

MFAN recommends that the Department of Defense (DoD) collaborate with nonprofit NFEs ("non-federal entities") who support military families, such as the Military Family Advisory Network, in support of metrics-based, performance-tied initiatives to gain a more authentic understanding of the military family experience for better-informed and utilized services and programs.

Military Family Advisory Network
https://militaryfamilyadvisorynetwork.org/about/
Military Family Advisory Network, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

US Military plans release of Tenant Bill of Rights

www.army.mil/article/218198/us_military_plans_release_of_tenant_bill_of_rights

WASHINGTON -- All four military services of the U.S. Department of Defense are preparing a joint Tenant Bill of Rights in an effort to ensure service members and their families have safe, quality homes and communities, and clear rights while living in them. It is intended to increase the accountability of privatized housing companies by putting more oversight authority in the hands of local military leaders.

All three service secretaries have seen firsthand and reviewed problems in housing units, and the Tenant Bill of Rights is intended to help remedy them by both protecting and empowering service members and their families. The Tenant Bill of Rights will be enforced through renegotiated leases with the privatized housing companies. The Bills of Rights will be implemented in the coming weeks. ✪

(THE FOLLOWING IS A DRAFT) • MILITARY HOUSING PRIVATIZATION INITATIVE BILL OF RIGHTS

Military Housing Privatization Initative
BILL OF RIGHTS

All Residents of Privatized Military Housing are afforded protections under their tenant lease and Federal, State and Local Residential Landlord and Tenant Law. In addition, every Military Service Member and their Family members residing in Privatized Housing have the following rights:

1. Safe and Healthy Homes and Communities.
Residents have the right to reside in homes and communities that are safe; meet health and environmental standards; have working fixtures, appliances, and utilities; and have well-maintained common areas and amenity spaces.

2. Advocate for Housing.
Residents have the right to a housing advocate, as designated by the Installation Chain of Command, to provide advice and support to tenants and advocate for tenants' rights before the Landlord.

3. Professional Property Management Services.
Residents have the right to property management services that meet or exceed industry standards and that are performed by professionally-trained, responsive, and courteous customer service and maintenance staff.

4. Responsive Communications.
Residents have the right to multiple, convenient methods to communicate directly with the landlord and maintenance staff, and to receive honest, straightforward, and responsive communications at all times.

5. Prompt Repairs.
Residents have the right to prompt and professional repairs and shall be informed of the required timeframe for those repairs pursuant to the applicable housing privatization agreements when a maintenance request is submitted.

If requested repairs are necessary to address an immediate life, health and safety issue, residents shall have the right to be promptly relocated into suitable lodging or other housing at no cost to the Residents until the repairs are completed.

If life, health and safety repairs are not completed within 30 calendar days, a Resident shall be offered a no-cost move into an alternative residence on the installation or within the surrounding local community.

6. Dispute Resolution, Mediation, and Arbitration.
Residents have the right to have landlord-tenant disputes concerning repairs, damage claims, and rental payments resolved by a neutral decision maker. A decision in favor of the resident shall include a determination of any reduction in rent owed by the landlord to be paid or credited to the resident in accordance with the applicable state laws and regulations.

7. Withholding of BAH.
Rent payments made by a resident engaged in a dispute that is being heard by the neutral decision maker shall be segregated and not used by the property owner or property manager until the Arbiter's decision regarding the matter in dispute is made, which may result in a refund to the resident or payment of rent.

8. Move-in and Move-out Procedures.
Residents have the right to be fully briefed by the Landlord on all rights and responsibilities associated with tenancy prior to signing a lease, and a 30-day follow-up to review these responsibilities. Residents have the right, opportunity, and sufficient time to prepare and be present for both move-in and move-out inspections, and to submit necessary paperwork.

9. Privacy.
Residents have the right to reasonable advance notice of any entrance into their rental units by a landlord, except in cases of an emergency.

10. Predictable Rent.
Residents have the right to clearly defined rental terms in the lease agreement. Other than the annual BAH adjustment, Residents have the right to written notice prior to any rent adjustment.

11. Fees.
Residents have the right to not pay non-refundable fees and to not have rent payments arbitrarily held.

12. No Reprisal.
Residents have the right to engage government housing staff or the Installation Chain of Command regarding housing issues without fear of reprisal.

For more information, please contact Army Public Affairs at 703-693-4723, Navy Public Affairs at 703-697-5342, Marine Corps Public Affairs at 703-614-4309 or Air Force Public Affairs at 703-695-0640.

DRAFT

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WARRIOR GAMES

The U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) will host the 2019 Department of Defense (D0D) Warrior Games June 21-30 in Tampa, Fla.

DoD Photo by Cyrus McCrimmon

Military Adaptive Sports Program

Are you an active duty wounded, ill, or injured Service member

Military Adaptive Sports Program (MASP)

The Office of Warrior Care Policy oversees the Military Adaptive Sports Program (MASP), which provides reconditioning activities and competitive athletic opportunities to all wounded, ill and injured Service members to improve their physical and mental quality of life throughout the continuum of recovery and transition.

This program is designed to enhance recovery by engaging wounded, ill, and injured Service members early in individualized physical and cognitive activities outside of traditional therapy settings. The program hopes to inspire recovery and physical fitness and encourage new opportunities for growth and achievement. The benefits of physical activity for injured Service members include reduced stress, increased quality of life, lower blood pressure, weight management, and enhancement of the rehabilitative process.

Through this program, Service members also have access to the Healing Arts, which support both physical and psychological recovery and rehabilitation from visible and invisible wounds of war including traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and others.

Adaptive Sports Site Coordinators

WCP executes MASP at three major Medical Treatment Facilities. Site Coordinators facilitate daily activities, access to community-based events and resources, sports camps, and clinics. MASP offers a variety of single-sport clinics, multiple-sport camps, and mentorship opportunities to help wounded, ill and injured Service members learn new skills and promote lifelong fitness and well-being.

Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinators are available at military treatment facilities and installations across the country. They work within the military services' wounded, ill, and injured programs including:

- **U.S. Army Warrior Care and Transition Program (WCT)** ***http://wct.army.mil/***
- **U.S. Navy Wounded Warrior – Safe Harbor (NWW)** ***www.navywoundedwarrior.com/***
- **U.S. Air Force Wounded Warrior Program (AFW2)** ***www.woundedwarrior.af.mil/***
- **U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment (USMC WWR)** ***www.woundedwarrior.marines.mil/***
- **U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Warrior Care Program (Care Coalition)** ***www.socom.mil***

Adaptive Activities Include:

The activities listed are examples and not an exhaustive list of MASP-approved events.

Cross Country and Track • Cycling • Golf • Hiking
Wheelchair Basketball • Baseball and Softball
Field Sports such as Discuss, Shotput and Javelin
Paddling Sports such as Kayaking and Canoeing
Rock Climbing • Rodeo • Sitting Volleyball
Sled Hockey • Snow Skiing • Surfing
Swimming and Scuba Diving • Triathlon
Air Rifle, Air Pistol, Skeet and Trap Shooting
Equine • Archery • Hunting and Fishing • Yoga

For more information on the Military Adaptive Sports http://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/carecoordination/masp

Swimming competition the 100 meter freestyle. (DoD Photo by Cyrus McCrimmon)

Warrior Games History

The Department of Defense (DoD), and the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) in a joint effort started the Warrior Games competion in 2010. The Warrior Games showcase the resilient spirit of today's wounded, ill or injured service members through Paralympic-style sports. The first Warrior Games was held in Colorado Spings, Co. and was named the Best New Sports Event by SportsTravel magazine.

"Recognition of the Warrior Games is recognition for our nation's finest who serve in the Armed Forces," said USOC Chief Executive Officer Scott Blackmun. "The USOC, DoD and United Service Organizations (USO) are honored to provide opportunities through physical activity and sport that assist in the rehabilitation process and get these heroic men and women back to living full and productive lives."

One-hundred eighty-nine wounded, injured and ill servicemen and women competed in the 2010 Warrior Games from all five service branches. The goal of the competition was to inspire recovery, capitalize on physical fitness, and promote new opportunities for growth and achievement. The Warrior Games demonstrate the continued role physical fitness can play in service members' lives regardless of injury.

2019 Warrior Games Information

The U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) will host the 2019 Department of Defense (DOD) Warrior Games June 22-30 in Tampa, Fla.

Approximately 300 wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans will participate in the competition.

The athletes will represent the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Special Operations Command. Athletes from the U.K. Armed Forces, Australian Defence Force and Canadian Armed Forces will also compete.

The 2019 DoD Warrior Games will feature 11 adaptive sports: archery, cycling, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track and field, wheelchair basketball and three new sports debuting this year: indoor rowing, powerlifting, and time trial cycling. (The shooting event is conducted using Olympic competition pellet guns).

Who is eligible to participate:

Before a wounded, ill or injured service member may compete to participate in the Games, he or she **must first be enrolled in his/her respective service's wounded warrior program**, which provides non-medical care to post-9/11 service members who are seriously wounded, ill or injured. The links below provide details for how to contact the respective wounded warrior program:

- **U.S. Army Warrior Care and Transition**
  www.wct.army.mil/index.html
- **U.S. Air Force Wounded Warrior**
  www.woundedwarrior.af.mil/
- **U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment**
  www.woundedwarrior.marines.mil/
- **U.S. Special Operations Command Care Coalition**
  www.socom.mil/care-coalition
- **U.S. Navy Wounded Warrior**
  www.navywoundedwarrior.com/
- **U.S. Coast Guard (under U.S.Navy)**
  www.navywoundedwarrior.com/

Once enrolled, service members may then participate in structured camps, clinics, trials and daily adaptive sports activities that are executed nationwide with support from the Department of Defense's military adaptive sports program. Athletes are able to compete based on their professionalism, dedication and determination and that of their military medical teams' and families' supporting their recovery efforts.

Warrior Games are important to the DoD and the Armed Services

Fitness and teamwork are a way of life in the military. Serious illness or injury can profoundly impact that way of life, often confining a service member to a hospital bed and significantly altering their physical capabilities.

Adaptive sports help wounded warriors build strength and endurance, while also drawing inspiration from their teammates. The goal of the Warrior Games is to demonstrate the incredible potential of wounded warriors through competitive sports.

2019 National Veterans Golden Age Games

Anchorage, Alaska • June 5 – 10, 2019

Adaptive Sports and Therapeutic Arts
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Community

The Games are open to Veterans, ages 55 or older, who receive health care from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Registration to compete deadline was March 8, 2019.

History of the National Veterans Golden Age Games

Celebrating its 34th year, the National Veterans Golden Age Games offer sports and recreational competitive events for Veterans 55 years of age and older. It is the largest sports and recreation competition for this age group of military Veterans in the world! The Games continue to serve as a showcase for the rehabilitation value that wellness and fitness provide in the lives of older Americans.

The National Veterans Golden Age Games are an outgrowth of the historic involvement in geriatric programs by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). For many years, VA has put major emphasis on health and fitness with the goal of Veterans living healthier, longer lives. Many of the events began as recreational activities at VA hospitals and nursing home care units across the country. Inspired by the health and fitness movement for America's senior citizens, the Games extend that concept to our nation's aging Veterans.

In 1985, the first National Veterans Golden Age Games took place in Albany, Georgia, with 115 competitors representing VA medical facilities across the United States.

A "fountain of youth" for the rapidly aging Veteran population, the Games provide a multi-event sports and therapeutic recreation program for eligible Veterans receiving care at any VA medical facility. It is the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program in the United States, and the only national seniors' program designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. This event truly reflects VA's mission – to provide quality programs and health care for America's aging Veteran population. It has become one of the most progressive and adaptive rehabilitative senior sports programs in the United States and the world.

Over the years, competitive events at the National Veterans Golden Age Games have been adapted to meet specific needs of the participants. The Games have separate age groups and gender divisions. Additionally, because many Veterans also face medical challenges, events were added for those who use wheelchairs and those who have visual impairments. To accommodate the varying degrees of physical conditioning, motor and cognitive skills of the participants, basic competition rules were adapted.

The modification of rules and use of adaptive equipment in many events allow non-ambulatory and visually impaired Veterans to participate, in separate divisions where needed and with ambulatory and sighted Veterans when possible. This has made the National Veterans Golden Age Games a truly adaptive therapeutic sports competition that has become a model for other local, state and national senior sports events.

Since 2004, the National Veterans Golden Age Games have been a qualifier for the National Senior Games, a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee. Through this partnership, gold, silver and bronze medalists in certain events have the opportunity to compete further, among America's elite senior athletes.

This outstanding program has grown from 115 participants its first year to more than 700 in 2010, making it the largest of VA's six rehabilitation special events. For the past several years, the aging Vietnam Veteran population has entered the Games in greater numbers each year, making up the largest group of competitors by period of service. By age group, the over-70 age categories are now the largest.

Since the Games began, Veterans have competed in cities across the United States.

www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/national-veterans-golden-age-games/

$50 Billion Of Gross Regional Product

In 2018, San Diego benefited from $26 Billion in direct defense spending which equated to $50 Billion in GRP and was supported by 340,000 jobs within the military sector

The amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) enters a dry dock at the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company in San Diego, Calif. DoD photo by Senior Chief Petty Joe Kane, U.S. Navy. (Released)

San Diego's military complex represents the region's most important and biggest economic driver.

The region is home to the largest concentration of military in the world. Its military bases, intricate supply chain servin major defense contractors, and its population of over 241,000 Veterans and retirees make it a true "mega cluster."

San Diego stands at the center of what could be a turning point in national defense spending. After a decades long trend of declines relative to the overall U.S. economy, military outlays are again rising.

China's ascension as an international power has caused a shifting of more defense resources to the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region. San Diego's position on the Pacific Rim, its network of Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard bases, and its complex of shipbuilders and defense contractors make it a vital cog in the Nation's expanded security goals. No other region is better positioned to benefit from the upswing in military outlays. More than one fifth of San Diego County's economy relies on this key mega cluster.

- An estimated total of $26 billion in direct spending related to defense flowed into San Diego County during FY 2018, an amount equal to over $7,700 for each of the County's residents.
- Defense-related activities and spending generated approximately $50 billion of gross regional product (GRP) for San Diego County in FY 2018. This represented 22% of the region's total GRP.
- The military sector was responsible for nearly 340,000 of the region's total jobs in FY 2018 after accounting for all of the ripple effects of defense spending. This represented more than one out of every five jobs (22%) existing in the County.

...continued on page 42

...Defense spending continued from page 41

- A total of 143,000 members of the Navy, Marines Corps, Reserves, Coast Guard, and civilians currently work in San Diego County for the DOD, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), or VA. San Diego is home to more than one of every six of the Nation's Sailors as well as over one-fourth of the total U.S. Marines Corps.
- The jobs created as a direct and indirect result of defense spending span a wide range, including health care, engineering, transportation, real estate, construction, shipbuilding and repair, education, food services, retailing, and wholesale trade.
- Income generated as a result of all direct and multiplier effects of military-linked spending equaled $22 billion in FY 2018. This included wages, salaries, other compensation, and small business owners' income.
- In FY 2018 the 57 U.S. Navy ships homeported in San Diego involved direct spending of $2.2 billion that equated to a total economic impact of $6.6 billion in GRP. The two aircraft carriers based in San Diego brought a combined $1.6 billion of GRP to the economy in FY 2018.
- SPAWAR, headquartered in San Diego, continues to be the Navy's primary research and development conduit for technology and information warfare capabilities. Nearly half of SPAWAR's 10,000 worldwide employees work in San Diego and SPAWAR ranks as one of San Diego County's primary employers.
- Navy Medicine, with its two major San Diego hospitals and other facilities, employed nearly 8,400 individuals and brought approximately $1.2 billion of DOD dollar directly into the region in FY 2018.
- The Coast Guard is a key partner to the Navy and Marine Corps in San Diego in its roles as a law enforcement agency, member of the U.S. Intelligence Community, and first responder. The Coast Guard employed nearly 720 Active Duty and civilian employees in FY 2018 and with a direct spending base of $68 million contributed about $195 million to San Diego's GRP.

- The VA in San Diego provides a wide range of services, ranging from health care to education, job training, and loans to the estimated 241,000 Veterans who currently reside throughout the County. In FY 2018 the VA employed more than 3,800 individuals. With total direct spending of $3.4 billion, it provided the region with about $3.6 billion in GRP.

- The military and private sectors can offer each other a vital pool of employees with technical and nontechnical skills. These employees include experts in cyber security, engineering, biotechnology and other sciences, sheet metal fabrication, welding, and electrical systems.
- The surge of innovation emanating from the government, academic, and private sectors linked to defense spending has further potential as a major driver of economic development in the San Diego region.
- Total spending funded by the DOD, Coast Guard, and VA is expected to advance by close to 4% in FY2019, adding to the similar advance estimated for FY 2018. Increases in military personnel, pay raises, and a projected double-digit rise in total defense contracts are expected to lead the advance, resulting in a projected $26.7 billion in direct spending, equating to $51 billion GRP and 344,000 jobs.
- While the immediate outlook is bright, San Diego's military future remains vulnerable to changes in the Nation's political priorities. Locally, San Diego's defense network in the year ahead will face challenges in housing, labor availability, tariffs, and taxes even as it enjoys the largest influx of defense dollars in the region's history. ✪

San Diego Area

Over 60% of the Navy's Pacific Fleet and over 40% of the Marine Corps combat capability are in the San Diego area. Additionally, more than 50% of Marine Corps recruits are trained at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, which benefits from its close proximity to Camp Pendleton for additional recruit training.

San Diego's deep water port, bases, training ranges for land, sea and air (67% of our Nation's military training airspace is in the southwest and within 210 nautical miles of San Diego), logistic and repair facilities, and an entrenched contractor base that supports the military are essential to our national security.

The Marine Corps has three major installations in the San Diego area that allow them to train Marines from recruits to fully integrated combat-ready Marine Corps Expeditionary Forces.

San Diego Military Advisory Council (SDMAC) was founded in 2004 with the mission to facilitate and advance the partnership between the military, elected officials, civic leaders, and the business community in order to enhance the understanding of the military's many contributions to the San Diego region.

Copies of this report may be obtained by visiting the SDMAC website at: **www.SDMAC.org**

Source: 10th Annual SDMAC Military Economic Impact Study
https://militarycouncil.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2018/11/SDMAC-2018-MEIS-Full-Report.pdf

CANINE COMPANIONS
FOR INDEPENDENCE®

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www.cci.org

With 4.2 million military veterans facing a combat-related disability, nonprofit Canine Companions for Independence® is increasing the depth of their services for veterans through expertly-trained assistance dogs. A successful pilot program at Canine Companions® began earlier this year for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), joining the ranks of over 6,000 service dog teams matched by the organization.

Nationwide, hundreds of veterans have benefited from the professionally trained assistance dogs provided by Canine Companions that open doors, pick up dropped items and alert to important sounds. Now, service dogs are learning commands to help mitigate PTSD symptoms such as nightmare interruption and distance retrieve.

"According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), an average of 20 veterans per day are committing suicide," says Canine Companions CEO Paige Mazzoni. Canine Companions participated in a VA research study on the efficacy of service dogs for veterans with PTSD and expect the results in 2019.

Canine Companions began an independent pilot program, placing their first class of service dogs for veterans with PTSD in October 2018.

The highly-skilled service dogs are trained to create physical space in public for the handler, turn on lights, and interrupt flashbacks, anxiety episodes and nightmares, helping to mitigate the veterans' PTSD symptoms. In 2019, the new program will expand to Canine Companions' training centers in Texas and New York.

Canine Companions has also broken ground on a state-of-the-art training building at its national headquarters in Santa Rosa, California. The sensory-friendly building was designed to better serve veterans with PTSD and as supplementary training space for Canine Companions professional trainers and dogs in training.

The newest veteran teams are already seeing the life-changing effects of partnering with a Canine Companions service dog. "After receiving his new service dog, one veteran explained that he had his first restful night in over 30 years," shares Mazzoni. "Canine Companions is committed to helping those who have sacrificed so much by matching them with service dogs trained to mitigate the effects of PTSD. With our recent program expansion, we can help more veterans across the nation."

www.cci.org/locations/northwest

In 2007, Caleb joined the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Afghanistan with the 3rd Battalion 2nd Marine Regiment Scout Sniper Platoon.

He was one of the first to participate in a joint study with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Canine Companions to scientifically document whether veterans with PTSD, as a primary diagnosis, can be helped with an expertly-trained service dog.

Caleb was matched with Velvet, a 6-year old Labrador/Golden Retrieve cross who has been trained by Canine Companions for Independence professional instructors. Velvet is there to help ameliorate Caleb's PTSD symptoms in a variety of ways by performing specific commands. The commands include, "block", "search", "light", "lap", "behind".

Caleb and his service dog Velvet are a very special team to our organization, which up until now, has only served people with physical disabilities. The results of this blind study won't be released until 2019, however, Caleb will enthusiastically tell you how much Velvet helps him in his everyday life.

www.cci.org/news-media/latest-news/leading-assistance-dog.html

Southwest Training Center

Oceanside, California

Southwest Training Center
The Dean, Gerda and Trixie Koontz Campus
124 Rancho del Oro Drive • Oceanside, CA 92057
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(760) 901-4350 Fax
(800) 572-BARK (2275) Toll-free

The Southwest Region of Canine Companions was founded in 1986. We serve Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Southern California, Southern Nevada and Hawaii.

Canine Companions dogs are trained to perform a variety of tasks, and we place our dogs in teams that will utilize their training and celebrate their spirits.

Our location trains Service Dogs, Hearing Dogs, Facility Dogs and Skilled Companions.

www.cci.org/assistance-dogs/Our-Dogs/

The Dean, Gerda and Trixie Koontz Campus is located in Oceanside, California. We invite you to explore our volunteer opportunities, make a donation or attend an event.

Presentations are also available for your group by Canine Companions representatives.

Tours and Presentations

Public tours of the Southwest Training Center in Oceanside, California are offered on the third Thursday of every month at 1:30 p.m. The tour lasts approximately one hour and consists of a brief video, a docent-guided tour, and a training demonstration.

Reservations are not required. For groups of ten or more, please make arrangements by calling (760) 901-4308 or

www.cci.org/locations/southwest/tours-and-presentations.html
www.cci.org/locations/southwest

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Advertiser Index

Budget • Budget Truck of Camp Pendleton ..... Pg. 7
Coldwell Banker • Marta Hall ..... Pg. 7
Coleman & Coleman Advanced Dentistry ..... Pg. 3
Days Inn Oceanside ..... Pg. 5
Coleman & Coleman Advanced Dentistry ..... Pg. 3
mmanuel Lutheran Church ..... Pg. 25
Nissan of San Juan Capistrano ..... Outside Back Cover
Oceanside California ..... Pg. 35
San Luis Rey • Bakery/Restaurant ..... Pg. 27
Sea World ..... Inside Back Cover
Shadowridge Village Apartments ..... Pg. 39
St. Catherine's Academy • Catholic School ..... Pg. 8
The Joint Chiropractic ..... Pg. 31
The Potter's House • Christian Fellowship Church ..... Pg. 44
Travelodge, Oceansid, California ..... Pg. 6
Veterans Association of North Country ..... Pg. 3
Wells Fargo ..... Inside Front Cover

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