

UMA SCUTTLEBUTT



May 2016

<http://ptomilitaryassociation.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/USPTOMilitaryAssociation>

UMA Mission: To provide *fellowship, mentorship, and advocacy* for military Veterans working at the USPTO, and to *help educate others* on the important contributions that Veterans have made and continue to make to the workforce and our nation at large. UMA membership is open to Veterans and non-Veterans alike. **Prior military service not required.**

Welcome to our new UMA Members! Russ Slifer, Shawn Walker, Kenneth Norman, Martin Dale, Kevin Brown, Marie Black, Nathan Newhouse, Satyanarayana Gudibande, Porsche Williams, and Hank MacDonald!

Wreaths Across America 25th Anniversary Reception. UMA recently hosted a reception at the Officer's Club on Fort Myer for Wreaths Across America. It was an amazing event in which the Founders and Executives of WAA honored those who have helped them fulfill their mission to spread the message about the importance of Remembering our fallen heroes, Honoring those who serve, and Teaching our children about the sacrifices made by Veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms. We would like to thank Catherine Ferreira (call sign Hummingbird 7) for coordinating everything! In addition, we would like to thank Mr. Fred Steckler for his keynote address, Troy Tyler, (who was also master of ceremonies), Hank MacDonald, Melissa Harvey, Sherry Anderson, Arlene Jones, Mark Booker, Clifton Randolph, Aretha Grayson, George Andonyan, Albert Gagliardi, Gair MacKenzie, and Brian Simpkins for making the event a resounding success! See the [UMA Website](#) for more!

Military Spouse Appreciation Day. The UMA will celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 5th from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Madison West Room 5A44. Cake and refreshments will be served. The event will celebrate the contributions of military spouses who work at the USPTO. America's military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops during mission, deployment, reintegration and reset. They are the silent heroes who are essential to the strength of the nation and they serve our country just like their loved ones. If you are a military spouse working at the USPTO, please contact the UMA at uma@uspto.mil.

Wounded Warrior Letter Writing Campaign: The UMA will wrap up our letter writing campaign for wounded, ill and injured service members who are recovering at Walter Reed and Fort Belvoir and their families. Please join us at our weekly coffee or at our table for Community Day.

Heroes. Heroes is an original play in Remembrance of America's Fallen Heroes written and directed by UMA member, US Army Reserve Captain Sherry Anderson, which will be performed from 11:00-12:00 in the Madison Auditorium on May 16th. The play tells the story of five friends who meet to remember loved ones lost in war.

Memorial Day Walk of Thankful Recognition. The Memorial Day Walk of Thankful Recognition is from 11:00-12:00 beginning on the Madison Atrium and ending at the Alexandria National Cemetery. Commissioner for Patents Drew Hirshfeld, along with decorated combat Veterans Congressman Steve Russell and retired Marine Brigadier General William Weise will speak.

UMA Quarterly Meeting. Due to an unexpected scheduling conflict with the conference center that just arose, the UMA Quarterly Meeting has been postponed. More information will be provided when it is rescheduled.

DD-214s are now Online. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) now has a [website](#) for Veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online. Alternate website is [here](#).

Patents wants your pictures in uniform! The PEET initiative is looking for photos of Patents Veterans in uniform. Deadline for photo submissions is Friday, May 13, 2016. Please note ONLY USPTO employees can appear in the photos. [Click here to submit your photos.](#)

Coffee Break: We would like to thank you to all of the new faces that have been coming out and enjoying the coffee and share war stories. The weekly UMA coffee breaks are across from Innovation Grounds on Tuesdays from 9:00-10:00. Please drop by, even if only for a couple of minutes to say “Hi”.

How are we doing? [Click here](#) to take the 10 question survey and let us know how we're doing.

UMA Calendar of Events:

Veteran Events:

- Veterans Upward Bound is a TRiO program at Prince George's Community College that provides short-term remedial and refresher courses for Veterans who have delayed pursuing a post-secondary education. [Click here for more details.](#)
- Homes for Our Troops is hosting two events in Nokesville, VA for medically retired Army Sergeant Steven Curry. SGT Curry suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and the amputation of his left leg below the knee after the vehicle he was riding in was struck by four explosively formed penetrators in Iraq. Homes for our Troops will provide him with a specially adapted home with single-floor living. [Click here to read more.](#)
 - Volunteer Day, Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 10:00. Help install the landscaping plan for this home! Please bring gloves, shovels, and landscaping rakes.
 - Key Ceremony, Saturday, May 14, 2016 at 10:00. About the Key Ceremony: An escort will bring SGT Curry to the home site and we encourage all supporters to line the street to help welcome this Veteran to his new home. Distinguished guests will address the audience during the ceremony. At the conclusion, SGT Curry will be given the keys to his specially adapted home. After the Ceremony guests are welcome to tour the home.
- 2016 Manassas Regional Airport Airshow & Open House, Saturday: May 7, 2016 10:00-4:00. [Click here for more details.](#)
- The Gary Sinise Foundation is building a home for a local Veteran and they are hosting a fundraiser at [Katie's Coffee](#) (the Old Brogue) in Great Falls, VA on May 9th. There are 2 seatings, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m. Call for reservations, (703) 759-2759. Katie's will donated 10% of the proceeds and raffle tickets are available as well.
- Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band will be performing live in DC on May 21st at the Howard Theater. Tickets are still available. General admission is standing, some VIP tables are still available \$600-\$1,000 (seats 8). [Click here for more details.](#)
- Mark Fastosos's film 'JEREMIAH' will be screened in Fairfax at the Angelika as part of the GI Film Festival on May 29th at 3:15pm. [Click here for more information about the GI Film Festival.](#)
- The U.S. Army Warrior Transition Command will be hosting the [2016 DoD Warrior Games](#) at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, June 15-21, 2016 and are looking for volunteers. You can check out the [Facebook page](#) for more information as it becomes available.
- D-Day Remembrance Event, Old Town Alexandria, VA from 2:00-5:00 on Saturday, June 4th. There will be music, reenactors and displays, and dancers.
- From the Front Lines to the Home Front commemorates our country's war experience with a focus on Loudoun County. Free to active duty personnel and retired Veterans. July 9-10. [Click here for more information.](#)
- 9/11 Heroes Run event in Alexandria on Saturday, September 10th. IHOP is expected to provide FREE pancake and bacon breakfast to all participants. And Starbucks will be back again with unlimited coffee. A very patriotic event complete with pancakes, bacon and coffee...life doesn't get much better than that!
- October 9th is the [Army Ten-Miler](#) in Washington, DC.
- October 30th is the [Marine Corps Marathon](#) in Arlington, VA.
- The American Veterans Center's Conference & Honors. November 3-5, 2016 in Washington, DC. The three-day event will feature panels and discussions with America's most decorated and distinguished Veterans and active duty personnel from World War II to the present day. The event is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to spend a weekend in the company of heroes. To attend and/or learn more about the Conference, call 703-302-1012 ext. 227 or e-mail info@americanveteranscenter.org. [Click here for more information.](#)
- Loudoun Therapeutic Riding provides quality equine-assisted activities and therapies for wounded military and Veterans. [Click here to find out more about their "Equine Services for Heroes" program.](#)
- If you know of any other Veteran-related events, please send an email uma@uspto.gov and we will include it in the next update.

Volunteers needed: The UMA is looking for members to help us with the following activities:

- Facebook Admin
- UMA Dining Out LNO

The 2016 UMA Board members are President Dean Dominique, Vice Presidents Asghar Bilgrami and Anhtuan Nguyen, Treasurer Albert Gagliardi and Secretary Melissa Wiley. Members at large are Eric Atkisson, Aretha Grayson, Hank Macdonald, Clifton Randolph, Neal Sereboff, Keith McCray, Paul Kloborg, Mark Booker and Catherine Ferreira. Sieg Chencinski serves as a special nonvoting member. Mr. Fred Steckler is our Executive Sponsor.

A special thanks to our UMA Volunteers:

- Webmaster - April Blair
- Quarterly Newsletter - Arlene Jones
- Wounded Warrior Letter Writing Campaign - Jill Wolf and Gair MacKenzie
- Wreaths Across America Committee - Troy Tyler and Brian Simpkins
- Memorial Day Event Committee - Sherry Anderson and Arlene Jones
- Social Coordinator and Veteran's Day Committee Lead - Dr. Olivia Wise
- PTSD Awareness Month - John Menkaure

UMA membership is open to all USPTO employees, Veterans and non-Veterans alike. If you are not currently a dues paying member, we invite you to join us. Prior military service not required. Simply fill out the four highlighted blocks of the [Membership Form](#) and return it to us via email.

If you haven't already done so, please like our [Facebook page](#) and check out the [UMA website](#).

The Scuttlebutt may include stories, links and references not directly connected to the USPTO Military Association, but which may be of interest to our Veteran community. If you have questions or comments about anything appearing (or not) in the UMA Scuttlebutt, please contact us at uma@uspto.gov.