



UMA SCUTTLEBUTT

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Email: UMA@uspto.gov

December 2017



The USPTO Military Association (UMA) is a USPTO affinity group and 501(c)(3) non-profit charity whose mission is to ***provide fellowship, mentorship, and support*** 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. Membership is open to everyone and **prior military service is not required**. Contact the UMA for more information at uma@uspto.gov.

Welcome to our new UMA Member!

- Eartha Dunston



President’s Message. Dear UMA Family, it has been an absolute pleasure serving the UMA this year. This experience has been by far the most meaningful and memorable one since being here at the USPTO for almost 15 years. As I reflect back upon this year, the imprints left on my heart are from the people I met, the personal stories I heard, and the hugs I received. Thank you for giving me this opportunity...even though I had no prior military experience. This year has opened my eyes and heart to a world that I knew little about. I will be forever grateful to all the men and women (past, present and future) and their families that sign up to protect this great nation. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I wish you and your families a very joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Like Mother Teresa said, “together we can do great things.”

Sincerely,
Amber

Introducing the 2018 Board of Directors!

Officers

- President: Collin Nole
- Vice President: Candice Dow
- Treasurer: Mariyah Chaudry
- Secretary: Olivia Wise

Representatives-at-large

- Fitzgerald Butac (Silicon Valley Regional Office)
- Dean Dominique (Historian)
- Robin Hylton
- James Miller (Texas Regional Office)
- Anhtuan Nguyen
- Troy Tyler
- Melissa Wiley
- Vacant (Rocky Mountain Regional Office)
- Vacant (Midwest Regional Office)

UMA Award Ceremony. Please join us for the final UMA meeting of the year on Tuesday December 12th from 10:00AM to 11:00AM in Madison Auditorium North where we will present the 2017 UMA Annual Awards and introduce the 2018 UMA Board of Directors followed by lunch at 11:00AM.

Wreaths Across America. Help place Veterans' Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our American heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, December 16, 2017. **There is no sign-up or registration required for you or your family to participate.** However, if you are interested in receiving the latest updates and notifications about the wreath-laying events at Arlington we encourage you to [register your name and email address to volunteer](#). For more information, [please click here](#).

Trees for Our Heroes. The UMA participated in the [USO-Metro's Trees for Our Heroes](#) program. The program allows active duty E1 through E6 families to spend the day selecting a Christmas tree for their home, creating seasonal arts and crafts, snapping pictures with Santa, and enjoying holiday fellowship. The UMA purchased decorations for the Christmas trees.

VA Photo ID Cards for All Veterans: All honorably discharged veterans of every era will be able to get a photo identification card from the Department of Veterans Affairs starting in November due to a law passed in 2015. [Click here to read more.](#)



UMA Rewards Program. The UMA Board of Directors has voted to implement the UMA Rewards Program! Woohoo! Below is a breakout of the rewards program and items received for referring a new member. You may also purchase these items – prices noted below. These items will be available at coffee and other UMA events.

- 1 New Member = 1 Coffee Mug (\$5)
- 2 New Members = 1 Baseball Cap (\$10)
- 3 New Members = 1 Tee Shirt (\$15)
- 5 New Members = 1 Polo Shirt or 1 Windbreaker (\$25)

A big THANK YOU to Gabriela Craciun for leading this effort. If you have any questions, referred a member or would like to purchase an item, please contact Gabriela directly.

Shop at the Exchanges online! Beginning on Veterans Day, honorably discharged Veterans are able to shop on all online exchanges. [Click here to get verified.](#)

VA Disability Claim Assistance. Need help filing a claim? [Click here to search for Accredited Attorneys, Claims Agents, or Veterans Service Organizations \(VSO\) Representatives.](#)

Pro Bono Resources for Veterans. The American Bar Association a great with listings for pro bono resources. [Click here for more information.](#)

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. OEF/OIF/OND/OFS Veterans and Service members who have deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990 as well as those who have deployed to Afghanistan or Djibouti after September 11, 2001 can use the registry questionnaire to report exposures to airborne hazards (such as smoke from burn pits, oil-well fires, or pollution during deployment), as well as other exposures and health concerns. [Click here for more information.](#)

Veteran Resources: Below are some resources that are available for Veterans. This is not an exhaustive list but we hope it will help provide a resource to help you.

- Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 – press 1
- [US Department of Veterans Affairs - Alexandria Clinic](#)
- [Employee Assistance Program](#) - It's free and confidential to help employees cope with problems that negatively affect their emotional well-being or their work performance or conduct. These problems may be marital, family, legal, or financial and may include substance abuse, emotional difficulties, health or behavioral issues, or child and elder care issues. The EAP provides assessment, counseling, referral, training and consultation to USPTO employees and their family members.
- [NAMI-Northern VA](#) - Where individuals living with a mental health condition, family members, youth and the Northern Virginia community find education, support and HOPE!
- [National Center for PTS](#) - The National Center for PTSD is dedicated to research and education on trauma and PTSD. We work to assure that the latest research findings help those exposed to trauma. Link for Veterans - <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/index.asp>
- [Loudoun Therapeutic Riding](#) which sponsors free horse-assisted activities and therapies for wounded military and veterans.
- [Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs](#) which assists our nations' military Warriors and families struggling with Post Traumatic Stress; Serve Our Willing Warriors which provides a "home away from home" environment for our Nations wounded, ill and injured Warriors currently residing at military hospitals in the DC area.

- [Semper K9](#) which seeks to enhance the quality of life for wounded, critically-ill and injured members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families by providing them assistance dogs.
- [Make the Connection](#) – Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury
- [Top 10 Charities that Support Veterans](#) from CNBC
- [Charity Watch](#) is also a good resource. You may search “Veterans” in the search box for a listing of Veteran-related charities that could help you.

Alexandria American Legion Post 24 is located in the Gadsby’s Tavern complex at 400 Cameron Street and is open 6 days a week for your comfort and camaraderie. They are open on Mondays-Saturdays at 5 pm. [Click here for more details.](#)

Leave Donation Request. Karna Cooper is begin treated for cancer. Due to the severity of her condition she has many on-going treatments, follow-up doctor visits, and debilitating effects. Karna’s leave balances have been severely depleted as a result and is in need of donated leave. “If you have any leave you can donate to me, I would greatly appreciate it, If not I understand and appreciate your consideration of my request”. If you would like to donate, please complete the [CD-505](#) (it does not have to be signed off by your supervisor) and send it to the VLTP mailbox at VLTP@uspto.gov. *Barbara Veney* oversees the processing of donor requests so if you have any questions, please contact her.

Replacement Medals and Awards: Did you know that the military services may provide replacement medals at no cost? [Click here for more information.](#)

Cold War Recognition Certificate: If you served in the military or worked for the U.S. Government at any time during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945 through Dec. 26, 1991, then you are eligible for the Cold War Recognition Certificate. [Click here for more information.](#)

State Veteran’s Benefits. Everyone knows about the federal benefits available to veterans, but did you know many states also offer great benefits to their veterans? [Click here to find out about your state.](#)

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](#).

Volunteers Needed! We are in need of volunteers to support and/or lead events for the UMA. [Click here](#) to look at our available volunteer opportunities or contact us at uma@uspto.gov

Do You Know a Speaker? We are always looking for amazing guest speakers to come in and meet with us. If you know someone who may be a great speaker, let us know!

Did You Know? On November 10, 1775, the Continental Congress commissioned Samuel Nicholas to raise two Battalions of Marines. That very day, Nicholas set up shop at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia. He appointed Robert Mullan, then the proprietor of the tavern, to the job of chief Marine Recruiter. Prospective recruits flocked to the tavern, lured by cold beer and the opportunity to serve in the new Corps of Marines.

- If you know of any Veteran-related events, please send an email uma@uspto.gov.



Have a story you want to share? Family members you want to note being deployed? Any special announcements to share (retirement, births, career achievements, etc.)? If you have an event, charity or community service you would like to share with other UMA members – let us know? This is YOUR Scuttlebutt. So please let us know how we may help communicate what’s going on in YOUR world.

The 2017 UMA Board of Directors:

Officers

- President: Amber Ostrup
- Vice President: Catherine Ferreira
- Treasurer: Dean Dominique
- Secretary: Melissa Wiley

Representatives-at-large

- Michael Arguello
- Asghar Bilgrami
- Mark Booker (Historian)
- Sieg Chencincki
- Paul Kloberg
- Anhtuan Nguyen
- Kenneth Norman
- Clifton Randolph
- Olivia Wise
- James Miller (Texas Regional Office)
- Fitzgerald Butac (Silicon Valley Regional Office)
- Vacant (Rocky Mountain Regional Office)
- Vacant (Midwest Regional Office)

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

UMA memberships is open to USPTO employees, contractors and general public. Prior military service is not required. If you know someone interested in joining, please visit our [website](#) for the membership forms.

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.