

UMA Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter for USPTO Veterans and Families
September 2013, Volume 1, Number 3



Veterans Day: A Brief History

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed Nov. 11, 1919 as Armistice Day.

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the council of the nations..."

The U.S. Congress passed a concurrent resolution seven years later on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue another proclamation to observe Nov. 11 with appropriate ceremonies. As a result a Congressional Act that was approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day."

With support from President Dwight Eisenhower, Congress amended this act on June 1, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans", and the holiday has been known as Veterans Day since then.

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UMA POC

- President** Joe Hirl
- Vice President** Brent Howard
- Treasurer** Aretha Grayson
- Secretary** April Blair
- Representatives at Large:**

- Eric Atkisson
- Stuart Snyder
- Asghar Bilgrami
- Kacy Verdi
- Sieg Chencinski
- Anhthuan Nguyen

Honor Flight

EVERY DAY IS A BONUS.....

Stars and Stripes Honor Flight honors all veterans by flying WWII, Korean War, and terminally ill veterans from other wars to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials for the wars in which they fought.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

As the last of the Greatest Generation approach their final days, we, the younger generations, are the witnesses to a unique loss, and so we have to embrace this precious opportunity.

The VA estimates that 640 WWII veterans pass away every day, taking with them their stories, their history, and enormous bravery. These men and women fought in wars that threatened our very existence as a nation, or imperiled the freedoms of millions around the world. Soon there will be no other way to say THANK YOU for those still among us.

HONOR FLIGHT The Movie

The movie HONOR FLIGHT is like no other movie ever made. It celebrates the Greatest Generation of our time and inspires thousands of people. On Aug. 11, 2012, the movie set a Guinness World Record at the Miller Park Stadium screening in Milwaukee, Wisc., where over 28,000 people attended the showing.

If you would like to participate:

Honor Flight Information for D.C. area

BWI Arrivals— Glen Anderson
ganderson@qis.net

IAD Arrivals—Kim
heroeswelcomeiad@gmail.com

DCA Arrivals—Chris Zvir
DCA.honorflight@gmail.com

Or you can just ask Kat Wyrozebski for a copy of the flight schedule.

CFC Code 67307
Website www.honorflight.org

It does not matter if your uniform fits or not. There is no better time to say THANK YOU.



Deployments:



Khalid Kader from TC1600 is recalled to active duty for three years. Come back safe and sound!

For more information on HONOR FLIGHT or to volunteer, please go to www.honorflight.org.

Please note—honorflight.com is a very different website not related to honorflight.org.



EVERY DAY IS A BONUS



Family Group POC

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HR Benefits Corner

Service Credit for Leave Rate Accrual

For leave accrual, retirees receive credit only for:

actual service during a war declared by Congress (includes World War II covering the period December 7, 1941, to April 28, 1952) or while participating in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge is authorized;

or

all active duty when retirement was based on a disability received as a direct result of armed conflict or caused by an instrumentality of war and incurred in the line of duty during a period of war as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(11). "Period of war" includes World War II, the Korean conflict, Vietnam era, the Persian Gulf War, or the period beginning on the date of any future declaration of war by the Congress and ending on the date prescribed by Presidential proclamation or concurrent resolution of the Congress.

Submit the SF-813 only to request verification of a retiree's military service performed in a non-wartime campaign or expedition for which badge/medal was authorized, in order to credit such service for leave accrual rate and reduction-in-force purposes.

Note:

1) Use SF 813 only for persons who are retired from active military service. Do **not** use this form if the person has completed 20 or more years of Reserve or National Guard service but will not receive a pension until age 60.

2) If retirement is from the U.S. Coast Guard, allow six months from the date of retirement before submitting this form.

HR POC

HR Representative for UMA and all USPTO Veterans:

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HR Compensation and Benefits Division 571-272-6209

UMA Fitness

We stay fit. If you would like to join us, here is a good starting point:

Softball— POCs Brent Howard and Albert Gagliardi

Scuba Diving — POC Albert Gagliardi

Gym Workouts, Basketball/pick up games — POC Marta Dulko and Margaret Squalls

Tough Mudder run —POC Marta Dulko and Kat Wyrozewski

Sky Diving and other exhilarating special events —POC Brent Howard

Game/sports watching events — Basketball, Soccer, College Football, and Monday Night NFL football if anyone is interested.

Fitness challenge — Gym workout team challenges you to attend total body conditioning class with Drew on Mondays at 4 p.m. It is a good preparation for Tough Mudder. Can you outlast Kat and Marta?



Current Events

Wounded Warrior Events for Soldiers in Local Hospitals

The UMA is in the process of organizing small volunteer pizza parties and events for wounded service members at the Fort Belvoir and Bethesda military hospitals. If you are interested in participating in one of these future events, please notify Brent Howard of your desire to join this team at UMA@uspto.gov. Dates of events will be available soon. Keep an eye out for the event dates here and in the Scuttlebutt issues.

Career Q&A for Veterans and Their Families at USPTO

Last Q&A session was a success. These are quarterly sessions, so if you have a topic you would like to see the UMA present, please contact Kacy Verdi or Kat Wyrozowski.

Fundraisers and Volunteer Programs

HONOR FLIGHT

Honor Flight program is on-going. Please contact Kat Wyrozowski if you are interested in participating. Flights are scheduled through the end of October. November TBD.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) External Outreach

UMA members volunteer with ESGR in organizing H2H Events that teach current veterans how to write effective resumes and how to gain proper interview skills. For more information, please contact Kat Wyrozowski or Lawana Hixon.

Classifieds

Photo contest: Please submit any photos you have of you and your family with a military theme. Top 3 winners will be included in the next issue of the newsletter. If you would like to post classifieds, please write to UMA@uspto.gov

Editors

Editor-in-Chief, Kat Wyrozowski
Asst Editor, Eric Atkisson
Asst Editor, Brent Howard

Looking for newsletter co-editors. If you would like to consider writing for the UMA Newsletter, please email us at UMA@uspto.gov.

For more details, please contact Kat at 571-272-1127 or Katarzyna.Wyrozowski@uspto.gov

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