



MILITARY SERVICE COALITION - AUSTIN, TEXAS VOL. 10 NO. 10 October 2009



## Wounded Soldiers Return to Iraq, Seeking Solace



Joao Silva for The New York Times

Rick Kell, of Troops First, comforted Sgt. John Hyland, who had returned to Iraq after losing a leg in an explosion in 2007. By [ROD NORDLAND](#) Published: October 14, 2009

### Subject: Operation Proper Exit

It is good to hear from you, again. Welcome home!

I traveled to Iraq, last week, with 6 other Soldiers and 1 other Marine, all of us severely wounded in Iraq since 2003. We were "tourists" in every sense of the word, and we were greeted by the most successful warriors on the planet, still in a "war-zone". I saw victory with my own eyes. Iraqis are taking the lead, and the US is in the background, ready for calls for assistance. My perspective is seeing the change over the last five years since my injury.

I arrived in Baghdad and we didn't wear our body armor or helmets! When we landed our helos anywhere, during the week, we grounded our gear and walked around feeling safe. I slept in Baghdad every night for 6 nights, and I never heard one mortar, rocket or explosion. We traveled from Talafar to Tikrit, Ramadi to Baquba, and Taji to Muqdadiya, and we never saw a tracer or heard an explosion. Across the country, we were briefed by Iraqi Army Generals, Iraqi Police Colonels, and US Commanders, including General Odierno, himself. They are proud of the accomplishments, and we are, too.

Here is the piece that ran on the front page of the NYT, last week, covering the trip. This success needs to be broadcasted, in my opinion. <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/15/world/middleeast/15exit.html>

Semper Fidelis,

Click on Icon above to activate your branch of service



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH 2009 FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED MSC MEETING 2:00PM @ THE CAMP MABRY MUSEUM, AUSTIN, TX

### **PERSONALITY DISORDER DISCHARGE Update 01:**

In the Senate, Barack Obama fought for better mental-health care for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Now that he's president, some of his former colleagues want him to pick up the gauntlet once more and make sure troops are getting the benefits they deserve. "In 2007, we were partners in the fight against the military's misuse of personality disorder discharges", four senators Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Charles Grassley (R-IA), Kit Bond (R-MO) and Sam Brownback (R-KS) wrote in an OCT letter asking Obama for a report to Congress on the current use of the discharges. "Today we urge you to renew your commitment to address this critical issue facing thousands of returning service members." Because the military views personality disorders as a pre-existing condition, many service members returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with mental health problems have been unable to receive health benefits. There have been questions, however, about how scrupulous the military has been in making sure that the personality disorder discharges were proper. A Pentagon spokeswoman said the department would have no immediate comment.

Obama was the junior Democratic senator from Illinois two years ago when he and other lawmakers asked the military to examine how it treated troops who came home with mental disorders. Failing to get a response from the Pentagon, several senators, including Bond, Obama and Democrat Claire McCaskill of Missouri, asked the Government Accountability Office to investigate. They were concerned about the rising number of troops who were returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions. Many were diagnosed with personality disorders. "In many instances, service members discharged with 'personality disorders' are forced to repay thousands of dollars to the federal government in re-enlistment bonuses they deserved while serving in hazardous combat conditions," the senators said in their letter this week to the president.

In a report last year, the GAO studied troops who'd been discharged with personality disorders from 2001 to 2007 and found that the Pentagon often failed to meet all the necessary criteria. Compliance, for instance, with mandatory counseling requirements ranged from 40% of the time to 99%. The Pentagon "does not have reasonable assurance that its key personality disorder-separation requirements have been followed," the GAO concluded. It said military officials "could not explain why these separations were approved." In the wake of the report, the military established a system to ensure that all the proper discharge steps were followed. Bond, Brownback, Lincoln and Grassley want Obama to make sure that they are. Paul Sullivan, the executive director of Veterans for Common Sense, a nonprofit activist group, said the Defense Department hadn't done a good job of ensuring that veterans with mental health disorders were being diagnosed correctly. "We urge them to fix the problem now and share the information with Congress and veterans groups," he said. [Source: McClatchy Newspapers David Goldstein article 20 Oct 09 ++]

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**DISABLED RETIREE BACK TAX Update 02:** If you retired from the USCG or NOAA based on years of service and are later given a retroactive service connected disability rating by the VA, your retirement pay for the retroactive period is excluded from taxable income up to the amount of VA disability benefits that you would have been entitled to receive. The form 1099R reports the entire distribution because the income, when paid, was taxable under the law. A corrected form 1099R which could support the decrease in taxable income will not be issued by the PPC (Pay and Personnel Center). This policy is contained in the DOD Financial Management Regulations, VOL 7B and also is stated in the IRS instructions for form 1099R, which directs that the entire income distribution will be reported if a part is taxable and a part is not taxable. When preparing your 1040A/1040 you should provide copies of the Form 1099R and the VA Award Letter to claim a refund of taxes paid on the excludable amount. You may also claim a refund of any taxes paid on an excludable amount in previous years by filing an amended return on Form 1040X, subject to Statute of Limitations. If in doubt on how to proceed consult a tax preparer for assistance. [Source: USCG/NOAA Retiree Newsletter Oct-Dec 09]

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### **Wreaths Across America**

As Christmas nears, so, too, does the 15th Annual Wreaths Across America tribute to veterans. At nearly 350 locations across the country, wreaths will be placed at veterans' gravesites in remembrance of sacrifices freely given to preserve our freedom. For as little as \$15 you can sponsor a wreath. NAUS staff, for the fourth year in a row, will gather at Arlington National Cemetery to contribute our part in honoring the fallen. The wreaths will be laid simultaneously all across the nation on Saturday, December 12, at 12:00 noon EST. For more information or to donate or participate go to the [Wreaths Across America](#) website.

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### Widows Win SBP Lawsuit

On October 22, the Defense Department announced it will not appeal the August 2009 ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals in the case of three widows who sued the government to keep both their VA survivor benefits and their military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities. At issue is a 2004 law that restored DIC payments to veterans' surviving spouses who remarry after their 57th birthday. Before the law change, survivors lost DIC upon remarriage at any age.

In July 2007, three widows filed a lawsuit claiming that the unique wording of the 2004 law entitled widows who remarry after age 57 to receive both Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities from DoD and VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), without any offset between the two.

Defense Department lawyers argued that was a flawed interpretation, arguing that the 2004 law's language barring offset for any other "veteran's benefit" didn't apply to SBP, because SBP is a DoD benefit, not a VA benefit. After the U.S. Court of Federal Claims ruled in favor of the widows, the government filed an appeal. But the U.S. Court of Appeals issued a strong rejection of the government's appeal, and the Pentagon's decision not to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court ends the discussion.

The Defense Department has issued guidance to the services and Defense Finance and Accounting Service to identify all SBP annuitants who are eligible for DIC and who remarried after their 57th birthday. Qualifying survivors will be eligible to receive both payments in full, retroactive to January 1, 2004 or the date of their remarriage, whichever is later. Payments will be reduced by the amount of any previous SBP premium refund and by the amount of any Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance payments the survivor may have received.

Although the number of survivors affected is relatively small, this decision gives us yet another equity argument to change the law for all remaining SBP-DIC widows. It simply doesn't make sense to have two separate standards in the law, one that allows payment of full SBP and DIC for survivors who remarry after age 57 and another that forces a dollar-for-dollar offset between the two benefits for all others.

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**President Signs Defense Bill:** The President signed the National Defense Authorization Act this week, which authorizes \$550.2 billion for FY 2010 Department of Defense programs, and \$130 billion to support overseas military operations. Some highlights include:

- No proposed Tricare fee increases.
- A 3.4% pay raise for active duty, Guard and Reserve members.
- Authorizing premium-based Tricare coverage for "gray area" Reserve retirees who are under age 60.
- Authorizing special compensation on behalf of caregivers of severely wounded warriors while on active duty.
- Requiring a medical examination before administrative separations of members affected by traumatic brain injury or PTSD.
- Protecting absentee voting rights for military members and families.
- Expanding active-duty Tricare eligibility for activating Guard/Reserve members and their families.


A detailed summary of the bill can be found at: <http://armedservices.house.gov>.

However, notably absent from the bill is the elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset and the provision of concurrent receipt to Chapter 61 retirees (medically retired) which the President asked for in his fiscal year 2010 budget request.

**FY11 IB Critical Issues Now Online:** The *Independent Budget* critical issues report for fiscal year 2011 is now online. The critical issues report is designed to alert Congress, the Administration and VA on issues we believe need special scrutiny and attention. The new IB will be released in February, concurrent with the President's proposed VA budget release. Coauthored by VFW, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America, the IB is a comprehensive recommendation of what VA needs to provide healthcare, benefits and services to America's veterans. For the FY11 IB critical issues report, go to [http://www.independentbudget.org/2011/CI\\_2011.pdf](http://www.independentbudget.org/2011/CI_2011.pdf).

### Social Security Disability Benefits for Wounded Warriors

Military service members can receive expedited processing of disability claims from Social Security. Benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application. The expedited process is used for military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs. The following are answers to questions most people ask about applying for disability benefits. Knowing the answers to these questions will help you understand the process. <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10030.pdf> The expedited process is used for military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs. <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10131.html>

SSA Publication No. 05-10131, October 2007, ICN 468766 [[View .pdf](#)]  ([En Español](#))

[Returning Service Member OIF/OEF](#) <http://www.oefoif.va.gov/> or [Depart of Veterans Affairs](#)

### Warrior Champions, Produced by IAVA, Premiers at Austin Film Festival

Posted by [Michael](#) on [October 21](#)

Today, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), the nation's first and largest non-partisan, nonprofit organization representing veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, is proud to announce the premiere of "Warrior Champions: From Baghdad to Beijing," at the 2009 Austin Film Festival on Friday, October 23rd. Filmed and produced by Brent and Craig Renaud, in association with IAVA, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and the U.S. Paralympics Division, "Warrior Champions" chronicles the inspiring journey of four servicemembers who were severely wounded in Iraq as they recover and compete for a spot on the US Paralympic Team, bound for the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing. IAVA is an Executive Producer of the film.



"Warrior Champions' is a powerful and important film that all Americans should see. This film is not just another film about war-it is about service, world-class athletes and the triumph of the human spirit," said IAVA Executive Director Paul Rieckhoff. "This film centers on four amazing warriors, but it tells the story of all of us who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. IAVA and our national membership are proud to partner with the Renaud Brothers and the USOC in creating and premiering this historic film."

"Warrior Champions" will premiere on Friday, October 23 at 7:30 PM CDT at the Austin Film Festival's Rollins Theater, 701 W. Riverside Drive, Austin, TX 78704. For more information, [click here](#).

To view the film's trailer, [click here](#).



### New VA Gravesite Locator

The VA recently launched a new nationwide Gravesite Locator, which makes the gravesites of more than 6.7 million veterans easier to locate using cell phones with Internet capability.

The new [gravesite locator](#) is enhanced for viewing and browsing on "smart phones." Users enter a name to search and find a burial site. The website will provide the name of the cemetery and a grave location, offer a link to a Google map, driving directions to the cemetery, and if the deceased is buried in a national cemetery or State veterans cemetery, provide a link to a cemetery map to help find the section where the grave is located.



## SBP & DIC for All Widows Who Marry After Age 57

NAUS member Patricia A. Sharp notified us this week that the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense informed her by letter that DoD would NOT appeal the decision against it in the Sharp v. United States court case.

As you know, NAUS members Patricia Sharp and Margaret Haverkamp along with Iva Dean Rogers sued DoD over the Department application of an offset of their Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) by the amount of Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) they receive after they remarried after age 57.

Public Law (PL) 108-183 took effect in January 2004. It was enacted in part to eliminate the practice of offsetting [deducting] Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments. This law applied only to survivors who remarried after the age of 57.

The Federal Appeals Court agreed with the widows that the "intent" of Congress was to fully restore both pays and that the DoD action was unlawful and ordered DoD to cease this practice and refund any improper offsets.

In the notification letter, DoD wrote, *"The Department will comply with the Court's decision without further appeal. In addition to the named plaintiffs, the Department will treat all similarly situated surviving spouses the same as the Sharp plaintiffs."* To see the full letter and the guidance for implementation of the policy click [here](#) to see it on the NAUS website. NAUS Note: We applaud the DoD decision to stop the fight against remarried widows and the payment of SBP and DIC due. NAUS commends the Department for its announced active search for other widows/survivors affected by this appropriate decision. It is too early to tell, but this action may help to induce the elimination of the current SBP/DIC offset for all survivors.

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**VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL Update 04:** Repair work was under way 21 OCT at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall as a private memorial fund took over landscaping and maintenance of 13 acres from the National Park Service. Over the next two weeks, workers are restoring the flagpole's bronze finish and its decorative base with five military branch insignias. They will also restore the bronze finish for five stands that hold directories that help people find names on famous V-shaped memorial wall, which draws millions of visitors each year. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which built the memorial, also has repaired an irrigation system and is reseeding and sodding the grass. Last month, the group announced plans to pay for maintenance at the site because of scarce funding from the federal government. They plan to raise more than \$1 million to care for the memorial and grounds, including \$500,000 to buy replacement granite if sections of the wall need to be replaced in the future. "Everybody has the same goal: We want it to look good," said fund spokeswoman Lisa Gough. "We want it to shine." The memorial's bronze fixtures — including the flagpole and a statue of three soldiers — will be restored for the first time since they were installed more than 25 years ago, said James Cummings, who was part of the memorial's original architecture team the project. The fund is working to raise \$100,000 to restore the statue in the next year. The bronze is worn down and has turned green on the soldiers' noses and arms, Cummings said. The weather caused some of the damage, along with the hands of many visitors. "No one expected the memorial itself would have such an impact with the culture," said Cummings. "There's a plan now to take care of it." [Source: MarineCorpsTimes Brett Zongker article 21 Oct -09 ++]

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**WE CARE FOR VETERANS PROGRAM:** Homewatch CareGivers is offering up to 20 hours of free in-home care to a disabled or injured U.S. military veteran in honor of their service and sacrifice through the We Care for Veterans Program. They feel the best way to pitch in and show their support is by providing their services to those who have sacrificed so much for our nation. If eligible sign up at 1-800-777-9770 or contact your area location to apply. You can find a list of nationwide locations by entering your zip code at [www.homewatchcaregivers.com/Blog.aspx#](http://www.homewatchcaregivers.com/Blog.aspx#). Applicants must be signed up for the We Care for Veterans promotion by November 30th.

Homewatch CareGivers gives back to the community through its Veterans Outreach Program, which provides guidance and education about the Aid and Attendance Benefit to veterans as well as surviving spouses. Homewatch CareGivers make every effort to put potential claimants together with service offices from groups like Legion and Purple Heart who will represent the claimant before the VA for no charge. Contact your area location for more information. [Source: [www.homewatchcaregivers.com](http://www.homewatchcaregivers.com) 21 Oct 09 ++]

**VA Benefits and Health Care Information**

New Websites TexVet and the 2-1-1 Texas.....	<a href="http://www.texvet.com">www.texvet.com</a>
Veterans Health Care ENROLLMENT .....	<a href="http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/">http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/</a>
Federal Benefits for Veterans Health Care .....	<a href="http://www1.va.gov/opa/IS1/1.asp">www1.va.gov/opa/IS1/1.asp</a>
Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents 2009 Ed.....	<a href="http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp">http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp</a>
VA Compensation, Pension Benefits & Rate Tables.....	<a href="http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/">www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/</a>
VA benefits online Application.....	<a href="https://vabenefits.vba.va.gov">https://vabenefits.vba.va.gov</a>
Health benefits and Services.....	<a href="http://www.va.gov/vbs/health/">www.va.gov/vbs/health/</a>
My HealthVet account, order medications.....	<a href="http://www.health-evet.va.gov/getaccount.asp">www.health-evet.va.gov/getaccount.asp</a>
Burial and Memorial Benefits.....	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/">www.cem.va.gov/</a>
Education Benefits and Services.....	<a href="http://www.gibill.va.gov/">www.gibill.va.gov/</a>
US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.....	<a href="http://www.vetapp.uscourts.gov/">www.vetapp.uscourts.gov/</a>
VA Survivor Benefits .....	<a href="http://www.vba.va.gov/survivors/index.htm">www.vba.va.gov/survivors/index.htm</a>

**VETERANS RESOURCES**

**Click here for contact information for your Senators:**

[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

County Veterans Service Office (State Wide) or call the Texas Veterans Commission to locate a CSO near you: <http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/County-Service-Officers.html>

Texas Veterans Commission [www.tvc.state.tx.us](http://www.tvc.state.tx.us) 1-800-252-VETS (8387)  
 Texas Veterans Land Board [www.texasveterans.com](http://www.texasveterans.com) 1-800-252-VETS (8387)

Texas Women Veterans <http://www.texaswomenveterans.org/>

**Travis County Veterans Service Office**  
[http://www.co.travis.tx.us/veterans\\_services/default.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/veterans_services/default.asp)

**Military Family Tax Relief Act**  
 Among its provisions are tax breaks related to military personnel.

**Military Loans for Homebuyers**  
 Getting a VA home loan is easier than most people think.

**Reserve and Guard Programs**  
 Find out how you can play a critical role in the defense of our country.

**Military Education Benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill** <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>  
 Find out about the various education benefits you've earned.

**Veteran Health Benefits & Services**  
 VA benefits for veterans: comprehensive health care plan for needed care,  
 Prescription Refills 1-800-244-2912

**Military Compensation & Pensions**  
 This program evaluates disability resulting from military service.

**Veteran Burial Benefits** Veteran benefits available for national and private cemeteries. And the VA Burial Benefits <http://www.cem.va.gov/>

**Locating Buried Veterans** New site as of 11-09 <http://m.va.gov/gravelocator/>  
 Veterans Burial benefits available for national and private cemeteries, location assistance provided by the VA for family and friends.

**Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA)**  
 Active duty umbrella of protection until you leave the military.

**U.S. Senators**

517 Hart Senate Office Bldg (SOB) Washington, DC 20510	<b>Phone</b>
John Cornyn Austin, TX Washington, DC Fax 202-228-2856	512-469-6034 202-224-2934
Kay Bailey Hutchison 284 Russell, Washington, DC Fax 202-224-0776	512-916-5834 202-224-5922

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Cannon House Washington, DC 20515	
Michael McCaul (Dist 10)	512-473-2357
Ron Paul (Dist 14)	202-225-2831
Lamar Smith (Dist 21)	512-306-0439
Lloyd Doggett (Dist 25)	512-916-5921
Chet Edwards (Dist 17)	254-752-9600
John R. Carter (Dist 31)	512-246-1600

**Governor and Lt Governor**

Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711	
Rick Perry Fax 463-1849	463-2000
David Dewhurst	463-0001

**Texas State Senator**

Kirk Watson (D-14) Box 12068 Capitol Station Austin, 78711	463-0114
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**Senate Committee on Vet Affairs**

<b>&amp; Military Institutions</b> Leticia Van de Putte (D-26)	463-2211
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**Defense Affairs & State Federal Relations**

Rep. Frank Corte, Jr. (R-122)	512-463-1393
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**State House of Representatives**

Box 2910, Capitol Station Austin, TX 78768	
Donna Howard (D-48)	463-0631
Patrick Rose (D-45)	463-0647
Valinda Bolton (D-47)	463-0652
Mark Strama (D-50)	463-0821
Elliot Naishtat (D-49)	463-0668
Dawnna Dukes (D-46)	463-0506
Eddie Rodriguez (D-51)	463-0674
Mike Krusee (R-52)	463-0670

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PO Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767	
Mayor, Lee Leffingwell	974-2250
Bill Spelman PI 5	974-2256
Chris Riley PI 1	974-2260
Mike Martinez, PI 2 (P/T)	974-2264
Randi Shade, PI 3	974-2255
Laura Morrison, PI 4	974-2258
Sheryl Cole, PI 6	974-2266

**Travis County Commissioner's Court**

PO Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767	
Judge Sam Biscoe	854-9555
Pct 1 Ron Davis	854-9111
Pct 2 Sarah Eckhardt	854-9222
Pct 3 Karen Huber	854-9333
Pct 4 Margaret Gomez	854-9444

**Veterans Service Office**

Olie L. Pope, Jr. 100 N. IH 35, Austin, TX 78701	854-9340
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**Military Service Coalition**  
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**Reminder:** The Military Service Coalition Board of Directors for 2009 encourages all MSC member organizations listed (below), to support the MSC organization with a \$50 to \$100 donation. This 2009 membership donation will help support this organization's concerns for Veterans issues and the MSC Newsletter.

**You are encouraged to copy, distribute and or disseminate this edition of the MSC Newsletter**

The MSC Newsletter is published monthly by the  
Military Service Coalition & the [Travis County Veterans Service Office](#)  
100 North Interregional, Suite 2400  
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**Olie L. Pope, Jr. – Editor,** <mailto:olie.pope@co.travis.tx.us>,

All correspondence intended for the newsletter should be forwarded by mail to the  
Travis County Veterans Service Office at the MSC address noted above.

The MSC consists of representatives from each of the following organizations: Air Force Association, American GI Forum, American Legion Posts 76 – 83 – 326, Austin Community Eagles, Austin Navy League, Austin Retired Officers Association, Bergstrom/Austin Community Council, Capitol City EX-POW's, Catholic War Veterans, China-Burma-India Veterans Assoc., Jewish War Veterans, Disabled Am. Veterans, DAV – Chapter 4, 173, & 219, Lone Star Special Forces Assn., Fleet Reserve Association & Auxiliary, Military Affairs Council of Austin Chamber of Commerce, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of World Wars, National Sojourner, Assn of the United States Army, National Assn for Uniformed Services, Austin/Navy/Marine Retired Activity Office, Non-Commissioned Officers Assn., National Guard Assn Of Texas, Pearl Harbor Survivors Assn. Of Austin, Paralyzed Veterans Assn., Reserve Officers Assn., Austin Retired Chiefs Society, Retired Officer's Wives Club, Texas Assn. Of Vietnam Veterans, Austin Military Officers Assoc. of America (AMOOA), Texas Retired Officers Assn., Texas State Guard Assn., Texas Veterans Foundation, The Lonestar Group, Veterans For Change, Veterans of Foreign Wars District 28, VFW Travis County Council, Veterans of Foreign Wars Travis County Council Honor Guard, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliaries of Posts 1309 2010 2527 3377 4009 4475 4476 5254 6115 6525 6795 8200 8313 856 8587 8787 8906 8925 9078 10427, Vulture Locale 175, 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomber Group Ass'n, Special Ops Team Texas, Tejanos in Action, BPOE #201 of Austin, and the Vietnamese American of Austin Texas, Vietnam Veterans of America, Texas Women Veterans, Austin Texas Chapter, Marine Executive Association, Blinded Veterans of Central Texas .

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