

AFSA NEWSLETTER

April 27, 2007

Volume 2, Edition 14

*Protecting and defending the quality-of-life benefits for the
"TOTAL AIR FORCE" Enlisted Corps and their families since 1961*

This is the electronic version of one of AFSA's news publications. It is updated on a regular basis and is posted on the AFSA website (Editor's Note: No issue published during the Annual Professional Airman's Conference, Thanksgiving, week, Christmas/New Years Holiday period).

RECENT CHANGES

HHG COVERAGE: An initiative that AFSA was instrumental in making a reality will finally pay off for military members on the move. Beginning this fall, members making permanent change of station moves will receive full replacement value coverage for household goods. In the past, members who had goods destroyed or lost during shipment received only the depreciated value of those items. Full replacement value coverage will pay members the actual cost to replace the item.

NEW BILL INTRODUCED TO INCREASE PAY: Yesterday, Representative Gus Bilirakis (FL) introduced H.R. 2027, The Military Pay Improvement Act of 2007. According to his Chief of Staff, "The bill provides an additional 0.5 percent increase in the rates of military basic pay for members of the uniformed services above the pay increase proposed by DOD so as to ensure at least a minimum pay increase of 3.5 percent for FY 2008." More information should be available early next week.

COSPONSOR NUMBERS RISE: Since their return from recess, Congressional members have put pen to paper...and often! Several bills currently listed on our legislative summary have had new cosponsors added. The following changes have occurred:

Compensation and Benefits

H.R. 89 -- Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL), The Combat-Related Special Compensation Act (28)

Reserve Component Issues

S. 648 -- Sen. Saxby Chambliss (GA) and H.R. 1428, Rep. Tom Latham (IA), The National Guard and Reserve Retirement Modernization Act (4) and (14)

Education Issues

S. 644 -- Sen. Blanche Lincoln (AR) and H.R. 1102, Rep. Vic Snyder (AR), The Total Force Educational Assistance Enhancement and Integration Act of 2007 (11) and (52)

H.R. 1330 -- Rep. Chris Carney (PA), Extends time limit for use of education assistance by Selected Reserves (37)

Retiree Issues

H.R. 303 -- Rep. Bilirakis (FL), The Retired Pay Restoration Act (113)

H.R. 690 -- Rep. Saxton (NJ), Lowers minimum retirement age (72)

H.R. 1222 -- Rep. VanHollen (MD), Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act (64)

H.R. 1223 -- Rep. VanHollen (MD), Keep the Faith With the Greatest Generation Military Retirees Act (48)

Veteran and Survivor Issues

H.R. 784 -- Rep. Saxton (NJ), accelerates SBP's age 70, 30 years "paid up" provision to October 1, 2007. (87)

S. 935 -- Sen. Nelson (FL) and **H.R. 1927** -- Rep. Ortiz (TX), repeal the requirement for reduction of SBP by DIC. (26) and (33)

H.R. 1115 -- Rep. Latham (IA) and **S. 659** -- Sen. Hagel (NE), provide for death gratuity for certain members to be payable to a parent, brother, or sister. (22) and (5)

Health Care

H.R. 579 -- Rep. Edwards (TX), The Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act, (151)

H.R.1527 -- Rep. Moran (KS), The Rural Veterans Access to Care Act (5)

Number of co-sponsors (#) is current as of 10:00, April 27, 2007.

Updates will be provided (as applicable) via our Capitol Hill Update line. You can also get up-to-date information from the Library of Congress at:

<http://thomas.loc.gov>.

OTHER NEWS

ROLL CALL: This week's Roll Call features the Airman's Creed. "Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley introduced the ideology as a means to

provide Airmen with a tangible statement of beliefs†“they can hold most dear.”
To view the Airman’s Creed, go to:
Go to <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-070418-013.pdf>.

VA TELECONFERENCE: During a teleconference Monday, Secretary Nicholson highlighted recommendations from his Interagency Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes Report he would provide the President later that day. A copy of the report can be found at:
<http://www1.va.gov/taskforce/>

2007 PROFESSIONAL AIRMEN’S CONFERENCE, AUGUST 19 – 22, 2007
“Today’s Service, Yesterday’s Sacrifice, Tomorrow’s Honor”

The Theme for the 2007 PAC Theme Party is: Happy 60th Birthday Air Force. So come dressed to impress in your favorite style of your favorite era (40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and Present)

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL WASHING: Over 80 members of Division 3 made their annual trek to Washington DC last weekend to take part in washing the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Wall.† AFSA members from Charleston, Shaw, Langley, Pope, Seymour Johnson and Bolling arrived at dawn on Saturday to participate in the somber event.† Later that day many of them enjoyed a tour of the Washington Monument and other attractions.† Approximately 30 of the group took advantage of a tour of the Airmen Memorial Building and Museum and a Legislative briefing provided by AFSA Staff. For related story and photos, go to:
<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123050700>

A-B-C APPROACH TO AFSA: From Matthew R. Becker, President, AFSA Chapter 1670:

Good day! As we close out a great month of informing, recruiting and retaining I want to thank all of those who have stood up to the charge! Without you, our mission would be in jeopardy. Hats off! For those “reluctant warriors” out there I offer a simple A-B-C approach to AFSA. These simple steps can be amended to your own specific styles but I encourage you to embrace them and try them out today.

A—ASK! “Sir/Maam, have you heard of AFSA; please give me a minute or two to share what membership in the Air Force Sergeants Association can offer you”

B—BELIEVE! As recruiters we must believe in what we are selling and yes, we are selling AFSA to nonmembers. We have all been in those situations when someone was trying to sell us a car, TV or something we were unsure if we really needed. Unlike a TV or car, a membership in AFSA protects our “livelihood” (i.e. the benefits, privileges and freedoms that our enlisted forefathers fought to gain

and protect). Thus, if you do not believe in the cause, your audiences will not either. We must stay motivated—dedicated—and committed to the cause!

C—CHALLENGE! Challenge those who you have recruited or retained to go out and recruit or retain someone else. Preach the mantra of “Heir Power” where “success breeds success”! We must embrace the T.E.A.M concept “Together Everyone Achieves More” both in our AFSA recruiting and our professional and personal lives!

DID YOU KNOW: The oldest living Air Force retiree was born July 17, 1901; he will be 106 this year. The oldest living military retiree just turned 108 on April 15, 2007. He is an Army veteran born in 1899. He is followed by only seven months by his Navy comrade, also born in 1899, who will be 108 on November 21st. The Marine Corps oldest retiree is the youngest of all...he’s only 100; that is until November 25th when he will celebrate his 101st birthday. (Source: Retired & Annuitant Pay, Defense Finance and Accounting Service - Cleveland)