

# Air Force Sergeants Association



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

## ON "THE HILL"

### **AFSA To Tackle the Montgomery GI Bill**

AFSA International President McCauslin is meeting with members of the House and Senate the week of 24-27 September to discuss a "major overhaul" of the Montgomery GI Bill. There are 24 separate bills in both houses addressing this topic. Each one addresses some aspect of education for a specific segment of the eligible population. However, none of them provide for a comprehensive and meaningful program available to all eligible personnel. We need to fix this problem as soon as possible and with the Congress and American people fully supporting their troops, the timing is right. The current GI Bill contains several individual inequities. There are around 18000 individuals WITHOUT ANY educational benefits at all. There are time limits, 10 years for an active duty retiree, and 14 years for the reserve component personnel. Neither program offers a family transferability option. The cost of education continues to rise. Tuition Assistance is a program that could be decreased in light of the on-going budget constraints. The Air Force just decreased special duty pay. We need every AFSA and Auxiliary member to telephone their Representative and Senators asking them to support a comprehensive Montgomery GI Bill overhaul. Call **(888) 762-8760** and ask to speak to your elected officials. Ask them for their committed support and positive vote in changing this critical benefit for all who have, currently are, and will serve this great nation.

**Mike Carton**  
**AFSA Legislative Chairman**

**COSPONSOR NUMBERS RISE:** Several bills currently listed on our legislative summary have new cosponsors.

### **Compensation and Benefits**

**H.R. 89** -- Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Combat-Related Special Compensation Act (38)

### **Reserve Component Issues**

**S. 648** -- Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and **H.R. 1428**, Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA), The National Guard and Reserve Retirement Modernization Act (15) and (29)

### **Education Issues**

**S. 644** -- Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and **H.R. 1102**, Rep. Vic Snyder (D-AR), Total Force Educational Assistance Enhancement & Integration Act of 2007 (16) and (69)

**H.R. 1330** -- Rep. Chris Carney (D-PA), Extends time limit for use of education assistance by Selected Reserves (41)

**H.R.81** -- Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. (R-MD), Bartlett Montgomery GI Bill Act (2)

**S. 22** -- Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA). Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007 A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes. (21)

**S. 723** -- Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), Montgomery GI Bill Enhancement Act of 2007, A bill to provide certain enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill Program for certain individuals who serve as members of the Armed Forces after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and for other purposes. (1)

### **Retiree Issues**

**H.R. 303** -- Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), The Retired Pay Restoration Act (144)

**H.R. 690** -- Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ), Lowers minimum retirement age (110)

**H.R. 1222** -- Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act (93)

**H.R. 1223** -- Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Keep the Faith With the Greatest Generation Military Retirees Act (76)

**H.R. 343** -- Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), Military Retiree Health Care Relief Act of 2007, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B. (8)

## Veteran and Survivor Issues

**S. 326** -- Sen. Lincoln (D-AR) and **H.R. 2234** -- Rep. Farr (D-CA), The Disabled Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2007. (28) and (90)

**H.R. 784** -- Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ), accelerates SBP's age 70, 30 years "paid up" provision to October 1, 2007. (114)

**S. 935** -- Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) and **H.R. 1927** -- Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), repeal the requirement for reduction of SBP by DIC. (41) and (69)

**H.R. 1115** -- Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA) and **S. 659** -- Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), provide for death gratuity for certain members to be payable to a parent, brother, or sister. (30) and (6)

**H.R. 1589** -- Rep. Brown (R-SC) -- This bill reintroduces the Military Retiree Survivor Benefit Equity Act. (71)

## Health Care

**H.R. 579** -- Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX), Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act, (178)

**H.R.1527** -- Rep. Jerry Moran (R-KS), The Rural Veterans Access to Care Act (11)

NOTE: Number of co-sponsors (#) is current as of 1400hrs, 13 Sep 07. 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>.

# TOTAL FORCE NEWS

## The CFC Lifeline

It is that time again; that 6-week period of time starting 18 September when the fundraising drive for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) kicks off. Key-workers, in a frenzy to drop off booklets and receipts. The booklets list who you can give your money to and the receipts prove to the IRS that you gave your money to a charity. 100% contact is the catch-phrase that seemed to be born of the CFC storm. I can't say that I donated money every year since I have been in the military, but I can say that I did donate most years. The years that I did donate chronicled the lives of me, my family, and my friends.

The first years that I donated money reflected my naivety, my youth, and the lack of any real unpleasantness touching my life. My main concerns were about saving the endangered animals and preserving the rainforests. I was so thrilled when one of the charities sent me a thank you note and a bumper stick with a green bear on it. Someone was personally thanking me and I was tickled. Not long after I started giving to CFC, we started a family. I now had children to think about.

Within my circle of friends and co-workers with children, the talk was about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). I even heard through the grapevine that my technical school roommate had lost a child to SIDS. The tales of caution, the worry of what if it happened to my baby, and the grief that I knew my roommate had gone through--there was no doubt who I would be donating my money to the next time the CFC Key-workers came around. My children continued to blossom, although it became apparent that all parents were not as blessed as my husband, Tom, and I were.

A close friend of ours had a child diagnosed with autism. Our friend and his family were devastated. Any previous knowledge I had of autism was distant and only what I saw on TV documentaries. I had a close look at how a child's disability can strain a family. Then it seemed as if people all around us had children being diagnosed with this particularly frightening malady. Once again CFC was my way to help; I donated to an autism research center. Then life took a step closer to my family's inner circle in the form of cancer.

Two of our extended family members were diagnosed with different types of cancer. Cancer is a vicious and exceptionally cruel disease. You just don't know when it will show up, how invasive it will be, or who will succumb. I gave my donations to another research center; this time to find a cure for cancer. I hope the cure is found soon, but time doesn't wait and once again circumstances of life shape our focus and priorities. The change in focus evolved with my husband's deployment to Iraq.

When Tom deployed, I knew he was the best person for the job and I was confident that he would do great things. I was excited for him and worried for both of us. My kids and I were very fortunate; he came home. There were a few that Tom trained and served with that did not come home, one being a Master Sergeant with a wife and newborn baby. This year I will be donating a portion of my CFC donations to help those families left behind and those whose long goals and dreams have been altered by the circumstance of war and death. The other portion of my donation will be given to the Air Force Sergeants Association's (AFSA) Airmen Memorial Museum.

I reflect on my own career and the steps that AFSA has taken to promote the interests of our enlisted force, to include dedicating a museum honoring that force. I find that AFSA's interests and my interests are very similar. AFSA's steps to ensure the current/former enlisted military personnel are taken care of; that their interests are looked out for; and last but not least, that the enlisted heritage is recognized and honored are all things that have gained in importance as the twilight of my Air Force career draws closer. I want to be a part of that preservation of heritage through donating to the AFSA Airmen Memorial Museum.

The Memorial Museum is not the only worthy cause that AFSA spearheads. AFSA accepts donations for their "Four Worthy Charities". More information about these charities can be found on the AFSA website: [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org). The four charities are the Airmen Memorial Building, the Airmen Memorial Foundation, Airmen Memorial Museum and the Airmen Memorial Foundation Scholarship Programs. Supporting your worthy charity is what CFC is all about.

I don't know what the next years of my life have in store, but I know I have a wonderful outlet for all those unpleasant things that creep up. I may not be able to teach autistic children,

cure cancer, or start my own museum, but I can contribute to “the cause”. I can make a difference through the venue of the Combined Federal Campaign.

MSgt Angela M. Schultz  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
Division 610, Communications Trustee  
Goodfellow AFB, TX

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To learn more about what is happening in Division 610, you can visit their website at <http://afsadivision610.org>.

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### **AFSA Chapter Self-Inspection Checklist**

An AFSA Chapter Self-Inspection Checklist was developed and distributed to Chapter representatives and Division Presidents who attended the AFSA Professional Airmen's Conference and International Convention. That checklist is all encompassing and a great management tool for every chapter Executive Council. A copy of this checklist will be in the Chapter and Council mail that will be distributed soon. In addition, it will soon be on the AFSA Web site under the RESOURCES tab and then under the FORMS tab.

## MEMBERSHIP HAS REWARDS

### **NEW! AFSA Group Life Insurance Plan**

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month, and AFSA wants to help you determine the best way to provide a secure future for your loved ones. By visiting [www.afsainsurance.com](http://www.afsainsurance.com), you'll receive thorough, practical advice about life insurance. You'll discover how easy it is to gain financial security through AFSA's Group Life Insurance Plan. To ensure a solid financial foundation for those you care about, visit [www.afsainsurance.com](http://www.afsainsurance.com) today!

### **NEW! AFSA Members Only On-line Shopping Mall**

Shop on-line with special member discounts from over 400 of the best in class retailers. Your purchases will also earn AFSA cash back rebates! It's a win-win situation!

Shop online at <http://shop.afsa.mallnetworks.com>

### **NEW! AFSA Members Only Wireless Center**

Shop on-line for your NEW wireless phones and services! Enjoy special pricing, FREE phone offers and other AFSA Member-only incentives from all of your top wireless providers including: AT&T, Alltel, Nextel, T-Mobile, Verizon and Sprint! Compare all the available cell phones side-by-side. Fast free Fed-Ex shipping!

**Free Phones for AFSA members!** As an AFSA member you are eligible for free phones and accessories on selected products and savings up to \$100 on your next new phone at the AFSA Wireless Center.

To take advantage of these exceptional wireless offers, go to [www.afsamobile.org](http://www.afsamobile.org) or call (866) 416-3060 now!

### **AFSA Banking Center**

- Earn higher rates on your deposits and enjoy all the convenience and flexibility of on-line banking—plus the benefits of traditional banking with the AFSA Banking Center. Developed exclusively for AFSA, the High-Yield Money Market Savings Account, Checking Accounts, and Certificates of Deposit offer great rates and you can choose from a wide variety of superior banking services, including online bill payment.

- Log on to [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org) to open your accounts and find out more.

- If you have questions please call 1-888-580-0041 or e-mail: [customercare@afsabankingcenter.com](mailto:customercare@afsabankingcenter.com).

### **Auto Rentals**

- Alamo: Code 93804 (800) 354-2322
- Hertz: Code 0010635 (800) 654-6511
- Enterprise: Code: 16WAFSA, PIN: AIR  
(866) 279-9963

### **Privacy Assist/Identity Theft Program**

Go to [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org) and click on the "Privacy Assist" icon or call Bank of America at (800) 516-9561

### **GEICO AUTO INSURANCE & SERVICES**

#### **GEICO Eligibility and Options**

- Persons of all grades can apply.
- Special percentage-off discounts in most states to qualifying members.
- Lowest rates to "safe" drivers.

- Choice of payment plans.

#### **Other GEICO Services**

- Homeowners Insurance.
- Customized Insurance on almost any type of vehicle.

#### **AFSA/Marsh Affinity Insurance Programs**

Marsh Affinity: (800) 882-5541

- Vehicle storage and other services.
- AFSA/GEICO: (800) 368-2734

#### **Carlson Leisure Travel Services**

(866) 428-7448 or [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org)

#### **Inglewood Travel Consultants**

- Individual or group and pleasure trips.
- Call AFSA/Inglewood Travel at (301) 858-0230, (410) 451-8470 or (800) 873-6446.

#### **AFSA/Bank of America Credit Card**

(800) 789-6262, or

[www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org)

#### **Pentagon Federal Credit Union**

- Offers a variety of professional services to AFSA members such as various saving and checking options, auto financing and buying services, and much more at more than 20 locations worldwide.
- Call PFCU at (800) 247-5626.

#### **AFSA/Bank of America Credit Card**

- Platinum MasterCard available to qualifying members.
- Credit lines up to \$100,000.
- Automated account information.
- Call AFSA/Bank of America: (800) 789-6262 or log on to [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org) and click on the Bank of America icon.
- Plus: PRIVACY ASSIST—the MBNA identity theft protection service.

#### **Scholarships**

Go to [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org) and click on the “About” icon

#### **Capitol Hill Update Hotline**

(800) 638-0594 (dial 400 at the prompt)

***Call any time!***

*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).*