



COLUMBIA VOYAGER

<http://www.TriCitiesMOAA.org>

chapter@TriCitiesMOAA.org

March 2017

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Honoring Veterans on 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War

As a member partner of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration; we will be recognizing our chapter members that served during the Vietnam Era, with the presentation of the official Vietnam Veteran lapel pin and a reading of the Presidential proclamation at the March meeting.

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The law required the Secretary of Defense to determine the schedule of major events and priority of efforts for the commemorative program, in order to ensure achievement of the objectives specified in Law:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war, or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.

3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home

front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

The meeting will include a presentation of the colors by Kennewick AFJROTC honor guard.

After the great response to the meal in February, we will return to the Clover Island Inn on Tuesday, March 21. Reservations to Paul Seipt by Thursday, March 16.

Dues reminder

Annual dues of \$25 were due in January. Send your dues to:

Paul Seipt
232 Somerset Street
Richland WA 99354

Or better yet, bring it to the meeting

Military Health Care

Update

By Sharon DeVaney, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee member

When servicemembers and dependents turn 65 and they enroll in Medicare, they also will become eligible for TRICARE For Life (TFL). No fees are associated with TFL, however, beneficiaries must pay the Medicare Part B premiums to stay enrolled in TFL. TFL works as the secondary payer to Medicare; Medicare pays 80 percent of covered

services, and TFL pays the remaining 20 percent. TFL also pays the Medicare deductible. Generally, beneficiaries should not have any out-of-pocket costs for Medicare and TRICARE-covered services.

Under provisions of the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, TRICARE benefit plans for service members and dependents under age 65 will be streamlined from three plan types to two. TRICARE Select is the new preferred provider option; it will replace TRICARE Standard. The new TRICARE Select will have an Extra-like network of TRICARE providers who will have agreed to accept a pre-negotiated rate of payment. The other option is TRICARE Prime. It will be modernized so the majority of referrals to specialists from primary care managers will no longer be required to through a pre-authorization process.

TRICARE also has new preventive care coverage, including the Cologuard colorectal cancer screening exam and BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene testing for breast cancer. For children and families, TRICARE's benefit coverage will be consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics' standards of care of well children over age 6. Beneficiaries using TRICARE Standard no longer will pay cost shares for well-child screening and preventive visits.

Regarding pharmacy changes, TRICARE Pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, announced CVS pharmacies no longer would process prescriptions as of Dec. 1, 2016. Instead, Walgreens pharmacies returned to the TRICARE network. Beneficiaries who had been using CVS should have been notified how they could transfer their prescriptions to a nearby network pharmacy.

The FY 2017 NDAA also included a provision that would allow dependents of retired members to purchase hearing aids at-cost. MOAA is working closely with DoD's TRICARE department on the details of this benefit and likely will have updates in a few months.

HQ MOAA sends . . . Final Report On Arlington National Cemetery

An uncomfortable truth about Arlington National Cemetery is that space is going to run out, whether protocol changes or not. Congress has new impetus to take action on this longtime debate after the release of a recent report which included options available to extend the life of the cemetery "well into the future." This report sets the stage for policymakers to act.

The report includes analysis of the impact of almost 20 variations of land expansions, eligibility changes, burial procedures and more. These options were provided

in prior interim reports but now come with substantive analysis of the likelihood of implementation, necessity of legislative action, and general timelines.

Options include, but are not limited to

- adopting the VA requirement for 24 month active duty service minimum
- restricting eligibility to retirement from the armed services at certain lengths of service
- changing eligibility only to those killed in action, active duty deaths, and recipients of qualifying awards
- expanding the grounds beyond current physical boundaries
- establishing a new DoD national cemetery.

MOAA believes it is crucially important for decision makers to consider the interests and desires of the potential affected populations if and when policies change. Veterans who may be eligible for burial at ANC should have a voice in the process, and Congress has indicated a strong desire to prioritize their inputs.

We surveyed our members, and found participants overwhelmingly rejected the idea of restricting retirees, with the majority preferring expansion options as the initial course of action. In fact, most participants favored closing ANC to future burials before excluding retirees.

Clover Island Inn
Clover Island
Kennewick

Social hour at 6:30
Dinner at 7:00
\$30 per person

A reservation made
is a reservation paid.

March Meeting Tuesday, March 21

Reservations by
Thursday, March 16 to
Paul Seipt
375-5221
pama227@charter.net

Menu

Caesar Salad
Orzo Pasta Salad
Bread Sticks
Pasta Alfredo
Steamed Vegetable Medley
Stuffed Manicotti Smothere
in Sausage Marinara
Chicken Marsala
Tiramisu
Coffee, Decaf, Tea, Milk