



JOURNAL OF THE WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND CHAPTER, ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

The President's Message – Spring 2012

By the time this is published, we will have completed the Sixth Region Meeting in Olympia WA. I will provide a mini write-up of info from the meeting and place it on the website, upon my return. Plan to attend next year's Sixth Region meeting in Sacramento CA, at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza – close to home – on April 11-14, 2013.

The 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) returned home from Afghanistan in January. It was a welcome sight to see every member return safe. Many of these fine Soldiers will be looking for job opportunities, so please show your support and let me know if you can provide them with work in your business.

Congratulations to the Veterans Guest House on winning \$250,000 from the Home Depot's Aprons in Action; and, a very special thank you to all of you who helped by voting on facebook.

The 2012 Women Veterans Forum will meet on Friday, May 11, 2012, 1030-1600, Capri Ballroom, Peppermill Resort, Reno NV. Our theme this year is "Charting a Course for Success." This event will focus on women Veterans and is free to all participants. Take advantage of the employment opportunities, education information, VA benefits, and our guest speaker SSgt Genevieve Chase. Lunch is at noon. Business attire preferred. Contact Zola Ferguson or Theresa Thurman at zola.ferguson@va.gov or theresa.thurman2@va.gov or 775-328-1767 for reservations (registration required) or more information.

We look forward to each of you joining us for the Armed Forces Day General Membership Meeting and Dinner on Friday, May 18, 2012, at The Tamarack Junction, Reno NV. This is a must attend for everyone! You will be voting for your new President at this dinner; only attendees will be able to vote. Share dinner with your friends and enjoy one of the most amazing stories of heroism you will ever hear. Commander Kirk S. Lippold, USS Cole, will be our very special guest speaker for the evening. He will also bring his new book, "Front Burner: Al Qaeda's Attack on the USS Cole", which will be on sale and available for signing. The Agenda will also include a book signing by our own Dick Hobbs, the Legislative Update by Richard LaHue, a Raffle, and more.

Thank you for "serving" our great Nation, and for continuing to "serve" through AUSA. The "service" example you set for our next military generation is commendable.

See you at the Armed Forces Day Dinner!

Newsletter Design by Bernie Stolzman



New Members:

PFC Jason Deighton	LTC Hugh Somsen
Byron Falk	Todd Peterson
Charmaine Lamay	Leslie Hastings
PFC William Hamilton	PVT Joshua Phelps
CSM Daryl Keithley	Marybeth Smith
CSM Patrick Moore	PFC Andrew Spilman
SPC Jacob Glass	LTC Edward Draper
LTC Scott Maylath	Bronwyn Leeper
SSG Roy Sabine	Grand Sierra Resort

Renewal Members:

BG George Baxter	CSM Stephen Sitton
Richard Catlin	John Pappas
Harry Pappas	COL Al Lemberes
CSM Delbert Lepley	COL Charley Grundy
COL Paul Plemmons	Blair Poulsen
LTC Gary Utterback	LTC Richard La Hue
SGM Lloyd Rahif	MAJ Harloe Norvell
COL Dennis George	COL Alan Moloff
LTC Herbert Wells	SFC Clifford Hymes
CPT Ronald Rettig	Vince Sabatino
COL Phillip Gustafson	Dr. Stephen Milstein
John Pecharich	COL Jack Logan
COL Richard Petersen	SSG Robert Stoelb

Alan Callanan Nominated for President

By Jack Logan

Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Alan Callanan has been nominated for the Presidency of the Westmoreland Chapter. If elected, he will replace Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Sharlee Smith who will become the Sixth Region President on July 1, 2012.

Balloting will be accomplished at the Armed Forces Day Dinner on May 18, 2012, with the new President being introduced at that time.

Alan is a life member of the AUSA with service in both Afghanistan and Iraq. A biographical article appears elsewhere in this copy of the Warrior.

Out & About**From Sharlee Smith, President**

On April 6, 2012, Veterans and Military & Service Organizations met with Senator Dean Heller on the current state of our military and the budget. Some of his comments were –

- Veterans are always held above partisan issues on Capitol Hill
- It is the fundamental responsibility of Congress to set the budget (but they were told to ignore it, because it is an election year)
- Will work with Congressman Amodei and Governor Sandoval to determine a proposal for a Veterans retirement home for the Northern Nevada region
- Would like to see college campuses work to have Veterans organizations available on campuses
- Would like this type of meeting to become an annual event

If you know one of our local Wounded Warriors, please invite them to attend any of our General Membership Dinner Meetings. We would love to thank them for their service and introduce them to our membership.

Are you a member of The Army Historical Foundation? Do you know about the National Museum of the United States Army or their Registry? Get more info at 1-800-506-2672 or www.army-history.org.

Upcoming Events –

- 2012 Women Veterans Forum, Friday, May 11, 2012, 1030-1600, Capri Ballroom, Peppermill Resort, Reno NV; “Charting a Course for Success”
- Armed Forces Day Meeting/Dinner, Friday, May 18, 2012, 6-10pm, The Tamarack Junction; guest speaker Commander Kirk Lippold, USS Cole
- Reno Aces Baseball Military Appreciation Night, Friday, June 1, 2012
- Veterans Guest House Poker Run, Saturday, June 23, 2012

From Alan Callanan, VP Membership

Did you know that you have access to your individual AUSA membership file at the National AUSA website, www.ausa.org? Check your file to ensure your address, email, phone number, etc is correct, and update it, if it is not. With the correct data on file, you will receive the latest information from National, Regional, and your Chapter.

From Richard La Hue, VP Legislative Matters

An important way that we can advocate for our Army Soldiers (past, present and future) and their families is by sending letters (emails) to our Nevada Congressional Delegation. Open the AUSA web-site; www.ausa.org/legislation/congressionalinfo and use the “Contact Congress” button and send already prepared text or create new text and send to our Congressional Delegation..

Nevada Congressional Delegation Contact Info**Senator Harry Reid**

400 S. Virginia St. Suite 902, Reno NV 89501, (775) 686-5757

Senator Dean Heller

400 S. Virginia St. Suite 738, Reno NV 89501, (775) 686-5729

Representative Mark Amodei

400 S. Virginia St. Suite 502, Reno NV 89501, (775) 686-5711

From Scott Maryott, VP JROTC**Upcoming JROTC Award Ceremonies –**

08 May 2012 (Tue)	Sparks H.S. Gym (1830)
09 May 2012 (Wed)	Galena H.S. Gym (1900)
10 May 2012 (Thurs)	North Valleys H.S. Gym (1900)
15 May 2012 (Tues)	Hug H.S. Gym (1900)
16 May 2012 (Wed)	Spanish Springs H.S. Theater (1900)
17 May 2012 (Thurs)	Wooster H.S. Gym (1900)
18 May 2012 (Fri)	McQueen H.S. Gym (1900)
22 May 2012 (Tues)	Reed H.S. Gym (1900)
23 May 2012 (Wed)	Incline H.S. Theater (1730)
24 May 2012 (Thurs)	Reno H.S. Gym (1900)
30 May 2012 (Wed)	Damonte Ranch H.S. Gym (1900)

From Jerome Guerrero, VP SROTC**Upcoming SROTC Events –**

04 May 2012 (Fri)	Awards Ceremony (1300)
18 May 2012 (Fri)	Commissioning (1000)

Charley Smith Elected Region President

By Jack Logan

At AUSA's Sixth Region Meeting held April 27-28, 2012, in Olympia, Washington, it was announced that Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Sharlee “Charley” Smith has been elected as the next Region President. Her term of office begins July 1, 2012, and runs for two years.

The Region President is the major link between the National Organization and the Chapters located throughout the Region. In the case of the Sixth Region, Charley will be working with 13 Chapter Presidents located in the six western states.

Each of the Chapters selects a member to serve on a nominating committee to identify candidates for the Presidency. In the case of the Westmoreland Chapter, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Scott Maryott was appointed to the nominating committee. Through electronic meetings, candidates are identified, with the balloting being done at the Region Meeting every two years.

Charley Smith is uniquely qualified to serve as Region President. Having served in the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve and the active Army she is knowledgeable of the structure and programs of each of the components of the Army that are represented throughout the Region. For the past three years, she has served as a member of AUSA's Resolutions Committee which has given her new insights into the workings of the National Organization and friendly relationships with members of its staff.

Most importantly, she has been an outstanding Chapter President for the past two years taking our Chapter to new heights in membership and in participation in events designed to support Soldiers and their Families. She understands well the responsibilities that come with Chapter leadership.

We will miss her motivation and her dedication and wish her much success in meeting the challenges of being our Region President.

Command Sergeant Major (Ret) Alan Callanan

by Jack Logan

"I can't get the Army out of my blood. I love the Army, and whatever I can do to support the Army I will do." With these words, Alan Callanan accepted the nomination to become the next President of the Westmoreland Chapter of the AUSA.

Alan completed 36 years of service in the Army he loves on December 31, 2007 following a steady rise in rank from his first assignment from Basic Training at Fort Knox, until his final position on active duty as the Command Sergeant Major of the 209th Corps, at Camp Spann in Masar-E-Sharif, Afghanistan.

Callanan was born in August of 1947 in Detroit, Michigan having two sisters and a brother. His early education took place in Detroit graduating from Lutheran East High School in 1965. He attended the Detroit Institute of Technology, until enlisting in the Army in 1971. He would later finish his college work earning a BA degree from the Institute of Technology in 1975. Some years later he earned a Masters Degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix.

CSM Callanan's first assignment took him to Fort Huachuca as a Finance Specialist. In 1974, his request for a one year administrative leave was granted enabling his return to Detroit for completion of his college undergraduate degree. The following year he began a one year tour as a member of the Second Infantry Division at Camp Casey, Korea. This was the first of two tours in Korea, the second one following reenlistment at Fort Huachuca. Upon completion of his second Korean tour he was assigned to the Fourth Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado.

While assigned to the Division Finance Office, Alan met Specialist Shane Peters, whom he married in 1980. Wanting to begin a family and to insure a more predictable future, Alan left the active Army as a Sergeant E6. For the next 10 years, he served as an infantryman in an Army Reserve unit in Colorado, during which time daughters Lindsay and Christine were born. His civilian job during these years was that of an insurance claims adjuster.

After a one year assignment in Oregon with the same Reserve unit, Alan, Shane and their two daughters moved to Nevada where Shane's family had settled following her dad's retirement from the Navy. Alan's life continued to be a busy one as he joined a Reserve Combat Engineer battalion and accepted a position working for Nevada as the Project Challenge Coordinator. Project Challenge was designed to enable at risk youths to earn a high school GED.



Upon deactivation of Callanan's Reserve unit, he was selected as the First Sergeant of the Army National Guard's 150th Maintenance Company stationed "about two blocks from my home." After three years with the Maintenance Company he was promoted to Command Sergeant Major on April 1, 1997. During the next 10 years, he served with various National Guard units culminating in his deployment to Afghanistan with the 41st Brigade Combat

Team, a unit of the Oregon National Guard in late 2006. As mentioned earlier, his final assignment was as the Command Sergeant Major of the 209th Corps in Masar-E-Sharif, Afghanistan. He retired on December 31, 2007, having earned the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, five awards of the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal and various other awards and service ribbons.

Alan's service in hostile lands was not over, however, as he took a position as a security supervisor for Secure Our Country, a civilian contractor that provided civilian guards for various installations in Iraq. "I had never been to Iraq and thought this was a good way to learn another culture." Back home in 2011, Alan is now a Military Services Coordinator providing counsel, aid and support for survivors who have lost a military family member. "It is rewarding work

to know that I have helped the family of one of those whose life has been lost."

Callanan's relationship with the AUSA began in 2003 when he ran his first AUSA sponsored "Ten Miler" in Washington, DC. Always a fan of fitness, "I knew I had to join this Organization that put on such a successful Meeting and attracted so many athletes for the 10 mile run." He is now a Life Member of AUSA, having served as the Westmoreland Chapter Secretary before going to Iraq. Since his return, Alan has been our Chapter's Vice President for Individual Membership.

His ties to the military continue as he proudly informs me that his youngest daughter, Christine, is a Specialist in the Army National Guard, having returned earlier this year from a one year tour in Afghanistan with the 422nd Signal Battalion. This pride continues as he tells me "my oldest daughter, Lindsay, now a veterinarian assistant, spent eight years in the Army Guard. They both made this old Soldier proud."

And "oh yes," he will run his ninth "Ten Miler" this October in Washington, DC.

Patriot Award Honors the Nugget

By Jack Logan

John Ascuaga and Director of Casino Marketing Michelle Salonek received the prestigious Patriot Award in a ceremony held at the Nugget on January 26, 2012. The Awards were jointly presented by retired Brigadier General Doug Byington and Jenetah Avant, Program Support Manager for Nevada's office of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

The Patriot Award is one way the ESGR recognizes an employer "for contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserve Force." ESGR was established by President Nixon in 1972 and is an agency of the Department of Defense.

To receive the Patriot Award, an employer must be nominated by an employee who is a member of the National Guard or Reserve and who believes his or her employer has gone beyond what is required in supporting their service and time away from their jobs.

PFC Michael Sehorn of the Army National Guard, a security supervisor at the Nugget, and who nominated John Ascuaga, wrote "since I have been here he (John Ascuaga) and his organization have supported me 100%. I am currently on deployment to Afghanistan for a year. As a National Guardsman, we are always concerned with what we will do when we get home. I can say with certainty that I will not have to worry about my job while I am deployed. It is nice to know I can return to work when I get home. It allows me to concentrate on my mission while I am gone."

Specialist Scott Bethea, also of the Army National Guard, had similar thoughts in nominating Michelle Salonek. "My boss is always 100% supportive of my military career and knowing that I have that support means the world to me."

Jenetah, who has been with ESGR since 2006, finds that one of her favorite aspects of the job is presenting these awards. She was quick to tell me about Doug Byington's earning of the ESGR's

Standing Alone in a Gathering Storm

Richard La Hue, LTC (Ret)

The Pentagon Plan: Pushing you out of TRICARE

The Military Coalition received some disturbing data in late March about the cost assumptions the Pentagon used in the proposal to save \$51 billion over 10 years by dramatically raising TRICARE fees.

A full 60% of those savings are derived from the assumption that higher fees would cause tens of thousands of military retirees to drop TRICARE – and start using civilian plans instead.

#1. That’s likely a false assumption, since most civilian plans would still cost more.

#2. It’s grossly wrong to use health care promises to entice generations of service members to endure 20-30 years of extraordinary sacrifice and then, after they’ve fulfilled their part of the bargain, pull this kind of “bait and switch” move to try to prevent them from using the benefit they were told their service has earned.

What the FY2013 Budget Means for TRICARE and You

Specifically noted is that the FY2013 DoD budget would shift \$33 billion in costs to military beneficiaries over 10 years by:

- Raising annual fees by as much as \$1,500 or more for retired families under age 65.
- Establishing new annual enrollment fees of up to \$950 for retired couples age 65 and older.
- Imposing means-testing of military retiree health benefits - which no other federal retirees endure, not even the President of the United States.
- Dramatically increasing pharmacy co-pays to approach or surpass the median of civilian plans.
- Tying future annual increases to an unspecified health cost index (estimated 6.5% per year annual growth), not the current COLA.

Defense leaders talk of grandfathering retirement for current troops, but would cut their future health benefits by up to \$2000 a year. And if breaking faith with the currently serving is wrong, so is changing the rules on those who already completed 20-30-year careers, after being induced by promises of the current benefits.

Think About what these Proposals will Mean for You and your Family

It is important to understand that the increases in fees are, at this point, just a proposal. Congress will have the opportunity to stop their implementation, in the same way that they did in 2007, when we saw the last effort from DoD to change retiree health care costs. In March, the Military Coalition testified to Congress in the hopes that they could negate the proposed changes with a Budget Resolution. This is why the next two months will be so critical to stave off the increases, and why our local Chapters of MOAA/AUSA will need everyone’s help in contacting our Senators and Representative.

Bottom-Line: If Congress fails to act, the changes to the TRICARE pricing structure will go into effect on October 1, 2012.

Call to Action: PLEASE go online (MOAA and AUSA Websites) and select their prepared text, or create your own text, and send an e-mail to our Nevada Congressional Delegation (Senator Reid, Senator Heller, and Representative Amodei) often (WEEKLY) for the next three months. THANK YOU.

UNR ROTC Awards



Charley Smith is congratulated by George Lanning on her election to Region President.

Richard La Hue, LTC (Ret), *continued from last issue*

After Berlin, Richard was assigned as Airfield Commander at Bad Toltz, home at last! Although he and the family had returned to Bad Toltz, Infantry assignment people in DC thought he was due for attendance at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and he began the year long course in 1976. What followed was beyond his imagination. He was selected to attend the Army's language school at Monterey, California for a one year course in German to be followed by a two year attendance at the German War College in Hamburg, Germany. "Only one percent of the top ten percent of German Army officers are selected to attend the prestigious school. Everything was in German and my most difficult studies involved tactics where I had to make the translation to English to understand the scheme and then back into German to share my solution."

Returning to the States, Richard was assigned to the Pentagon as a Major and further assigned to the Intelligence Command with a duty station of Arlington Hall. From 1980 to 1983, he headed up an effort known as "REDTRAIN" which involved placing items of National Intelligence in the hands of battalion commanders and their staffs throughout the world. Richard and five agency national level intelligence specialists traveled to every major Army command throughout the world acquainting them with how to access the intelligence network for useful information. "It was gratifying to be part of something that had benefits that are still being used in a more sophisticated way throughout the Army."

From Pentagon duty, Richard and Monica returned to Bad Toltz, Germany, where Richard was assigned as the Deputy Commander of the Bad Toltz Garrison. He felt he had "gone full circle from a PFC pulling lifeguard duty to being the Deputy Commander in a place we both so loved."

Part of the satisfaction of the assignment was his responsibility to organize the first Army Special Forces Europe Command (ARSOFE) complete with operators and administrative and logistical support involving US forces and the forces of other members of NATO. Continuing to jump out of airplanes on a regular basis, Richard broke his back on a jump in 1984 that ended a promising career for a unique officer whose potential was just being realized.

In a tough decision, Lieutenant Colonel Richard LaHue, with more than 27 years of service, decided that "if I couldn't keep up with the troops, I would retire which I did in July of 1985 in San Francisco." His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Divers Badge and several foreign awards for gallantry.

Retirement for Richard lasted only 3 months when he took a job with McDonnell Douglas in Southern California as a project manager working on aircraft programs sponsored by the Army. His talents soon took him and Monica to Washington DC where Richard became a legislative liaison to the Congress as well as a lobbyist for McDonnell Douglas with the Defense and State Departments. One year later he was

promoted to the Marketing Director of a newly formed Electronics Division of the Company.

Wanting to travel a more independent path, Richard began his own company in 1992 representing both American and German companies in the marketing of sensor equipment for use by industry. Two years later he retired once more and with Monica moved to Incline Village where they thought they might stay for all time.

Richard became the President of the Homeowners Association and became involved in the two sports he loved, golf and skiing. Six months a year he provided customer service at the Incline Village Golf Course Pro Shop and managed the course marshals. Four months a year he provided customer service at the Diamond Peak Ski area at Incline Village. Life was good!

In 2000 they moved to Reno and five years later Richard received an offer from his old boss from his golfing days, "to form a demonstration team to exhibit new equipment at the various courses in Northern Nevada and Eastern California. After the demonstration, we will play golf." How could Richard refuse such an offer?

He couldn't, and to this day Richard is semi-employed doing something he loves. Along the way he found time to be the President of the Homeowners Association for five years responsible for the landscaping project in the beautiful Reno subdivision where they live.

As the LaHues traveled the world, Monica combined the raising of two children with pursuit of a career of her own. As the children grew older, Monica found an outlet for her talents working in operations at brokerage firms and later in banking. She had begun on this path in 1960, two years after meeting her Lifeguard in Bad Toltz. Today, Monica is busy working for the Assistance League of Reno and Sparks.

Born Hungarian in Slovakia, Monica, at the age of three, and her parents fled before the advancing Russian forces continuing their westward flight until reaching Salzburg, Austria. Following her parents' divorce, Monica's mother met and later married a Master Sergeant in the American Army. It was through her step-father's assignment to Bad Toltz that Monica met her lifeguard, Richard, who had traveled all the way from Fort Bragg to make her acquaintance. In the years that followed, they raised a son and daughter. Richard Victor, a graduate of VMI, is a mechanical engineer who is also a major in the Army Reserves and a veteran of a year long deployment to Afghanistan. Daughter Andrea is a former model who now is a successful artist with some of her paintings proudly displayed in the LaHue's home.

Together, this remarkable couple has contributed to the freedom of our Country and to the organizations and communities to which they have belonged. Each time Richard rises to brief us on the latest legislative struggles, look beyond the coat and tie, and see the covert warrior he has been and the successes he has known.

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Please Join Us to Celebrate

Armed Forces Day

When: Friday, May 18, 2012

Time: 1800 (6:00 PM)

Where: The Tamarack Junction
13101 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV

Cost: \$35.00 per person (no host bar)

Speaker: Commander (Ret) Kirk S. Lippold, USS Cole

Buffet Menu Includes: Roasted Prime Rib of Beef (carving station), Baked Salmon with Dill Sauce, Lemon Chicken, Vegetable Sauté, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Wild Rice Pilaf, Garden Salad, rolls and Butter, Coffee and Tea, and Mini Dessert Bar

Please help us support our brothers and sisters by bringing a non-perishable food item(s) (prefer cereal & dry goods such as pasta - no cans please) for Operation Feedback (a Hands of Hope Food Bank organization providing support for Northern Nevada Veterans, www.operationfeedback.us)

Please RSVP by May 14, 2012
AUSA Westmoreland Chapter
P.O. Box 8144, Reno, NV 89507-8144

Checks payable to: AUSA Westmoreland Chapter
(Reservations must be pre-paid. There is no "pay at the door" for this event. Thank you.)

Patriot Award Presentation, continued



Michelle Salonek & Michonne Ascuaga Hold Patriot Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. Doug was the first of only two people in Nevada to have received this national award.

General Byington started Nevada's ESGR in 1973, under the direction of Major General Floyd Edsal, who was then the State Adjutant General. Through the years, Doug Byington has been the State Chairman and an ombudsman, mediating when problems arise between an employer and a service person. He was chosen to assist in presenting the awards because of his long and active service in the ESGR and his close relationship with the Ascuaga family. Michonne Ascuaga accepted the award for her father, John.

Several years ago the Ascuaga family joined the Association of the United States Army as a Corporate Sponsor to help recognize the support the Organization furnishes to servicemen and women and their families. Other members of the Westmoreland Chapter of the AUSA who are active in the ESGR are Colonel (Ret) Bob Fritz and Sergeant First Class Dave Sousa.