

Chaplain's Corner

By Dennis Ducharme, Post Chaplain



My Fellow Legionnaires: Please keep Marty Frank and Dick Bray in your prayers, as they're both not feeling well.

If you know anyone who is sick or needs comforting, please let me know.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month and Clergy Appreciation Day is the second Sunday in October, October 8th for 2006. Don't forget to set your clocks back on October 29th, as Daylight Savings Time ends. For God and Country,

Dennis

H & E News

By David Paris, 2nd Vice Commander



Thanks to all who participated in the Sept events hope you enjoyed each one you attended. Continue to visit the post and check the flipchart by the kitchen. Even with a calendar in the newsletter we're always adding items. For example, our sister Post 667 wants to see which post is better at horseshoes so for 4 Saturdays beginning Oct 14th we'll alternate sites. October also brings Oktoberfest, a brisket BBQ Early Bird dinner, Comedy Club after Steak Night, and Halloween parties for young and old.

Thanks to the "Shuffleboard Gang" for staffing breakfast. The food was great and it gave other volunteers a nice break! Thanks also to all who brought food Labor Day weekend. Lastly, thanks goes to the ALR members who cooked burgers, dogs, brats, tots, etc. for six Thursdays in a row. All profit went to General Fund. At press time I don't have a final total nor do I know if vols stepped forward to continue 6 more weeks before the holidays come around (hopefully they did!) All those thanks leads us looking past October to November and Thanksgiving, and yes, we will have turkey available during the day with potluck sides.

Dave

"Old Baldy" Nets Over \$4 Grand!

I would like to Thank everyone that helped John, Dennis and myself during the Old Baldy Fundraiser. With the assistance of many people, we were able to raise over \$4200 for the General Fund. It was refreshing to have such large numbers of members helping out, either through donations, "advertising", or simply encouraging the competition. I never in my wildest imagination thought that we would get past \$1500, much less over \$4000!



First Vice Jack Leaneheart "Leans" into the pain of losing his hair at the Old Baldy Fundraiser.

Also, it appeared that everyone had a great time the evening of the hair cutting. Although it may have looked like John and I were going through a grueling time, we actually



Finance Officer John Orff "Pre-Medicates" prior to the final razor cut during the Old Baldy Fundraiser.

had fun. Remember, neither John nor myself are allowed to wear any headwear inside the Post until after October 3rd, so enjoy the "shine" and help keep us in line! Again, thanks so much for the donations ... you made this happen!

History of the Legion Emblem: Part 2



The Wreath forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States, that liberty might endure.

Service Officer News

By Sebastian Rodriquez, Service Officer



According to Defense Department and Veterans' Affairs (VA) sources, some disabled retirees due retroactive pay could start to see their payments in mid-October if all goes as planned. A small number may see payments before that; however, VA officials caution that, if any unexpected glitches crop up, the payments will be delayed until the second half of January. That's because they'll have their hands full at the end of the year reprogramming and implementing new pay rates for 2007.


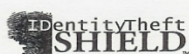
Over 100,000 retirees now drawing either Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) or Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) ultimately will receive back payments -- and that number is growing daily with new awards. Because of the complexity of calculating who is due how much (individual circumstances vary widely, and many cases require manual review), the majority of the payments will likely be phased in from January through next summer.

Why is retroactive pay due? While the VA disability award letter usually establishes a retroactive effective date, the VA doesn't initially make retroactive payments for retirees with less than a 100% disability rating. That's because there's usually at least some offset required for retired pay already received. If the VA paid all retroactive awards immediately, it would cause major headaches for many disabled retirees, who would then have to pay back large amounts of their military retired pay.

Only if and when a disabled retiree is awarded CRDP or CRSC can the VA find out whether back disability pay is due - but it needs a ton of data from the Defense Department to figure out how much. On the other hand, retirees who experience changes in their disability awards may also be due retroactive CRSC/CRDP payments from the Defense Department.

The bottom line is that the new and complicated CRSC and CRDP programs have created major administrative and budgetary headaches for Pentagon and VA administrators. Their first priority has been to get the pays started while minimizing confusion or aggravation for disabled retirees. Now, they've invested months of combined effort to change their policies, systems, and budgets to finish the hard part - figuring out who is due how much in retroactive payments.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) sources say the affected retirees will receive specific details at the time their retroactive payment is made. DFAS expects to publish a detailed news release later this month. (Source: Military.com)

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