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# *USAF MSC Association* **NEWSLETTER**

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DECEMBER 2008

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## Officers and Key Contacts

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General Counsel

## From the Chairman of the Board

### **Holiday Greetings:**

While electioneering may be over, elections are not. At our 2009 reunion there will be four board positions coming open – one for the active duty representative; one Reserve/Guard representative; and two from the general membership at large. If you are interested and want to serve, send your résumé in to Charlie Brown, Board Secretary, indicating why you want to serve. Remember, it's your organization, and only YOU can make it better. Please respond by 13 March 2009.

Annually, the board reviews your nominations for the Commitment to Excellence Award and submits one for approval by the Corps Chief in January 2009. If you know any member eligible for this award please submit your nominee to the secretary ASAP but not later than 15 January 2009.

The purpose of the Commitment to Excellence Award is to recognize outstanding service by a retired Medical Service Corps officer who has contributed to the advancement of the Association, the Air Force Medical Service Corps or to the Air Force Medical Service. The period of consideration for this award is the member's service following retirement from active duty.

Candidates for the Commitment to Excellence Award must:

- ✦ Be a member in good standing in the Association,
- ✦ Be nominated by an active member of the Association,
- ✦ Be a recognized leader among Association members,
- ✦ Have made significant contribution to the advancement of the Association, the Air Force Medical Service Corps and/or the Air Force Medical Service after retiring from the Air Force.
- ✦ Be a consummate team player, and role model for others in the Association and Medical Service Corps.

**It is also time to nominate an individual for Honorary Membership in the Association. Do you know anyone not otherwise eligible for membership who has displayed support to the Medical Service Corps? Honorary membership may be bestowed upon any person who has made a notable contribution to the USAF Medical Service Corps and who is not otherwise eligible for membership in the Association, at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Such honorary members may be any individual who has contributed to the advancement, growth, professionalism and success of the Medical Service Corps or its members. Such honorary members shall have no voting privileges and shall not be required to pay dues.**

**Any member of the Association may nominate a candidate for Honorary Membership in the Association to the Membership and Awards Committee at any time. The nominee must have the sponsorship of three current members of the Association, a primary sponsor and two other supporting sponsors.**

**The nomination must be submitted in letter format and signed by the primary sponsor. Letters signed by supporting sponsors must also be included. The letter must contain the specific contributions the nominee has made to enhance or advance the mission of the Air Force Medical Service Corps and/or directly supported Corps members. A brief (1- 2 page or less) biography of the nominee must be included with the letter of nomination.**

**The nomination package must be submitted to the Association Secretary not later than 13 March 2009. The Secretary will, in turn, forward it to the Chair of the Membership and Awards Committee for review and consideration by the committee members. The Membership and Awards Committee will recommend approval or disapproval of the candidate to the Association Board of Directors. Should the Membership and Awards Committee recommend disapproval of the nomination, justification for this recommendation will be included. The Board of Directors will make the final determination as to acceptance of Honorary Membership. If selected, the new Honorary Member will be inducted at the next regular meeting of the Association.**

**Kevin O'Shea has been working on preparing activities for our bi-annual reunion in Charleston, SC, in September. He has put a great deal of effort in securing a great hotel and arranging tours. Read all about what Kevin has set up for us elsewhere in this issue.**

**Art Small, Chairman**

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**As 2008 comes to a close, I want to thank you for continuing your membership in our Association. January is right around the corner and it will be time to renew your membership – so please send your check for a mere \$20 to the Association and continue to be part of your professional MSC Association.**

**By the end of the year we should have a new web site. Jim Moreland and his committee members have been working hard to give our web site a new look, improved functionality and an easier layout to find things. Keep checking our web site address: <http://www.mscassociation.org>**

In our Spring 2009 Newsletter, we'll begin to share details with you about the Reunion in the Fall in Charleston. Kevin O'Shea has been very busy putting together a terrific program.

In early November, the Medical Service Corps Associations from the Air Force, Air Guard, Air Force Reserve, Navy, Army, Army's Silver Caduceus Society (Ft Sam Houston Chapter) and Public Health Service came together for our first joint community service project. For our first effort, we hosted 15 wounded warriors from The Center for the Intrepid at Ft Sam Houston and their families for a day out event at the Enchanted Springs Ranch outside Boerne TX (where the Association held a BBQ event during the 2007 Reunion). Our goal was to provide these families a break from their routine and the rehabilitation programs and a chance to relax away from the Ft Sam Houston environment. The event was an astounding success! We enjoyed a BBQ lunch, a special "hay ride" and the chance to share experiences. Escorts from the sponsoring associations attended to ensure our guests had nothing to distract them from the ranch (I was there as was Mac McClean). The Ranch reduced their charges to the Associations and we paid only for the food at cost. This event went well enough that I hope the Associations come together again in 2009 to host some kind of military-focused, community service project. If you have any ideas, let me know!

With that, I'll close. Cyndi and I wish you and your family a great holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

Ralph Charlip, Association President

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### **2009 MSC REUNION/BIENNIAL MEETING REMINDER**

Plan on Charleston, South Carolina, for 10 – 14 September 2009! Those are the dates for our next biennial reunion.

We'll be gathering at the Francis Marion Hotel in the historic district of Charleston. Directly facing Marion Square Park, the Francis Marion is one of Charleston's grand hotels. With valet parking, business center, wireless internet access, a well-equipped fitness, and *Spa Adagio*, the hotel has all that should be expected, plus easy access to all the sites and fine dining available in downtown Charleston. Our top-floor hospitality suite provides a magnificent view over parts of the city and the Cooper River.



A block of rooms has been reserved for association attendees at the special daily room rate of \$139. Reservations can be made now by calling (877) 756-212 or (843) 722-0600. To receive this rate, reservations must be made by Tuesday, 11 August 2009 and you must mention you'll be attending the USAF MSC Association Biennial Meeting. For more information on the hotel, visit their web site at [www.francismarioncharleston.com](http://www.francismarioncharleston.com).

Besides the general meetings, a dinner buffet will be offered that Friday evening. A memorial service will be held Sunday afternoon to remember those members who've passed away since our last meeting. That evening we'll have our formal banquet and celebrate with dancing.

Tour options that'll be available include an evening dinner cruise; an historic Charleston carriage tour; a visit to Patriot's Point, home to the USS Yorktown (CV-10), several other ships, and the Medal of Honor museum. Additionally, tours will be available to the Fort Sumter National Monument, where the Civil War began; and Middleton Place, one of the historic plantations found along the tranquil Ashley River. More information on these tours can be found on the Association's web site by clicking on the Reunion tab.

For any questions, please e-mail our reunion coordinator at [msc2009@sc.rr.com](mailto:msc2009@sc.rr.com).

Kevin O'Shea  
Reunion Coordinator

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### SURVIVING SPOUSE PROGRAM

Air Force Personal Affairs Officials advise that it is always a good idea to have the following **IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS** together in one place and easily accessible. It is suggested that they be kept in a non-flammable box, either at home or in a safe deposit box. If you keep these documents under lock and key, please insure your spouse knows where the key is or has the combination to the lock.

- Birth Certificate
- Adoption Papers
- Naturalization Papers
- Marriage Certificate
- Divorce Decree/Death Certificates of all Previous Spouses
- DD Form(s) 214
- Retirement Orders
- Most Recent Pay Statement

Additionally, copies of your federal and state income tax returns should be readily available, along with copies of your mortgage papers if you have a mortgage.

Furnished by Ray Inman, Surviving Spouse Program Chairperson

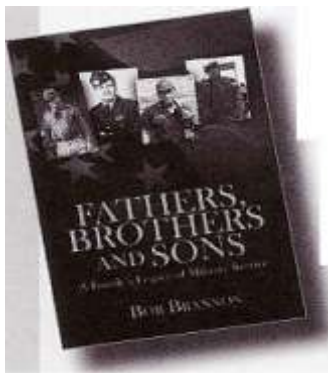
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As income tax time approaches, did you ever notice?  
When you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together it spells

**THEIRS?**

## BOOK REVIEW OF FATHERS, BROTHERS AND SONS BY BOB BRANNON

At our last reunion in San Antonio in October 2007, I was introduced to Bob Brannon, a former Air Force Colonel MSC, by then Board member Barry Morrison, and was asked to review a book recently written and published by Bob Brannon – *Fathers, Brothers and Sons*. Regrettably – and certainly my loss – I put it aside and over a year later picked it up to peruse. I became immediately immersed in the message. I devoured it in one week-end. I never knew Bob Brannon while we were both on active duty, but I suspect our paths crossed numerous times – especially when we were both lieutenants while he was with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Casualty Staging Unit at DaNang and I was with the 10<sup>th</sup> AEGp flying C-141 Aero-Med missions out of DaNang. While my stint in Med-Evac was four years with the MAC Pacific AES during the RVN Conflict, my experiences paled in comparison to his six plus years in Aeromed/Med-Evac operations in diverse operational settings.



Bob very interestingly introduced his Great-Great Grandfather Hiram Brannon in the great American Civil War and developed a chronology of events and of service and sacrifice, love of family and country from the Civil War, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam and beyond. He recounts in vivid detail his many experiences along the way that many of us can relate to over our various military careers. More than that, his encounters with so many of our Air Force MSC military legends – especially in aeromedical evacuation/medical evacuation will draw you into the reading, because these legends are people that many of us served with along the way. It brings the book to life and gives the book special meaning. I commend it to your reading.

*Fathers, Brothers and Sons* is distributed through Baker & Taylor and Ingram and is available at all major book-stores, or online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble or Xlibris. For more information, contact Xlibris at 888-795-4274 or on the web at [www.xlibris.com](http://www.xlibris.com).

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## FRED GRAVES, COL, USAF, MSC (Ret), CONTINUES TO SERVE

This past August, Fred Graves, Life Member of the MSC Association, was re-elected as one of four Vice Commanders-in-Chief for the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW). In this capacity, he has oversight for MOWW Region IV for Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia; Region V for North and South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee; and Region VI for Florida and Puerto Rico. Additionally, Fred serves on four key committees which include the Executive, Budget, Membership and Policy Planning committees. The Military Order of World Wars sponsors patriotic programs. For more details re MOWW, go to [www.militaryorder.net](http://www.militaryorder.net). Well done Fred. We're proud of your continuing service.

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Plan for the future because that's where  
you are going to spend the rest of your life.

~ Mark Twain ~

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE IN JANUARY

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE IN JANUARY FOR 2009!** The address label on the front of the newsletter says “DUES PAID THRU: XXXX” as a reference to your currency. Along with your dues payment, also send in any changes to your contact information on the 2009 Renewal Form. You can let me know at my Email address: [CBrown41@comcast.net](mailto:CBrown41@comcast.net) or use our main Email address: [afmsscassociation@comcast.net](mailto:afmsscassociation@comcast.net). Remember we have a toll free number 1-866-818-2110 which reaches me directly.

When many of you move, you forget to include your new telephone number or Email address. This information helps us many times to get in touch quickly and saves time. Thanks for your help.

Please send dues payments to the Association at 860 Oak Hills Dr., Monument, CO 80132. You can also pay by Pay Pal. Just go to the Website and follow the directions.

**NEW ASSOCIATION LAPEL PIN** - The Board has approved a new MSC Association Lapel Pin which is silver and blue and contains the MSC Association logo. The lettering and background is royal blue and the MSC Badge is antique silver similar to the art work found in college class rings. We will begin mailing them out to the membership after the New Year starting with the Life Members first, then in alphabetical order. This will be a great project for the grandkids – stuffing envelopes!!

Have a great holiday and New Year.

Charlie Brown  
Secretary



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## WOW FROM AN AUSTRALIAN WHOSE SON IS IN IRAQ

I am an Australian and my son is an Australian – as far as we are concerned there is not a place on God's earth better than Australia, and there are no people better than Australians. That was until the past week or so.

My son is in the Australian Army and he is currently on deployment in Iraq. I cannot go into his duties in great depth, but shall we say that he and his fellow army buddies are on a glorified guard duty looking after the Australian Embassy. They don't go out looking for "action," though it is a different story in Afghanistan, there the Aussie troops chase the baddies over the hills and into the valleys.

My son and I just ended a long phone conversation and here are some of his comments, believe me this is what he said. We have all seen the bullshit emails written by some clown in his lounge room pretending to be at the coal face, but this is what was said:

"Before I came over here I thought we (the Australian Army) were pretty hot stuff. Was I ever wrong! The Yanks (I hope you don't mind me using that word) are so professional from the top to the bottom that it is almost embarrassing to be in their company, and to call yourself a soldier.

Don't get me wrong, we are good at what we do but the Yanks are so much better – they are complete at what they do, how they do it and their attitude is awesome. They don't complain, they just get on with the job and they do it right. I carry a Minimi (SAW) so I am not real worried about a confrontation, but I tell you I feel safer just knowing that the US Army is close by. If we got into trouble I know that our boys would come running and we could deal with it but they would probably be passed by a load of Hummers. No questions asked, no glory sought, the Americans would just fight with us and for us because that is their nature, to protect those in need of protection.

We use the American Mess so you could say that we are fed by the Americans. They have every right to be pissed at that but they don't bitch about that they just make us feel as welcome as possible. What gets to me is that the Yanks don't walk around with a 'we are better than you attitude' and they could because they are – they treat us as equals and as brothers in arms. If nothing else, coming here has taught me that the Americans are a truly great Nation and a truly great bunch of people. Let's face it they don't HAVE to be here, they could stay in America and beat the sh\*\* out of anyone who threatened them. BUT THEY ARE HERE because they believe they should be here, and the Iraqis would be screwed if they weren't here. When I come home, you and I are going to the US; we will buy some bikes and we are going riding."

The reason why I am sharing this with you is because I realize that you (as a nation) must get pretty pissed with all the criticism you receive by the so-called "know it alls" who are sitting at home – safe. The reality is that they are safe, just as I am, because of America. If the world went arse up tomorrow there is f\*\*k all we (Australia) could do about it, but I know that the Americans would be there putting themselves on the line for others. That to me is the sign of greatness.

The most precious thing in my life is my son. I look at him and I thank God that I am fortunate enough to be able to spend time in his company. We laugh, we discuss, and we argue, we dummy spit, we have the same blood. I am not happy that he is where he is but that is his duty. He joined the Army to protect and to defend, not to play games. I mightn't like it but I accept it. My reasons for not liking it are selfish and self centered. I felt assured that he would be safe because he is in a well trained army with an excellent record, BUT NOW, I feel a whole lot better knowing that he is with your sons, daughters, brothers and sisters.

Whilst he was growing up, I was always there to look after him, I would not let harm befall him and I would always put myself before him to protect him. I can't do that now. When it comes to looking after him now he and his mates will do the job, but also, THANK GOD FOR AMERICA.

Gentlemen, I have rambled on for too long, but as I finish I say to you, as a foreigner and outsider, a nation is only a collection of its people and its attitude is the attitude of its people, collectively and as individuals. I am really glad you are HERE ON THIS Earth and I respect you as a nation and as a people.

Stand up and feel proud because you deserve it. There is no one else who will do what America does without question. The next time someone howls you down, take some comfort in the fact that America is defending their right to act like an idiot.

Finally, thank you for looking after my son.

Peter Turner  
Provided by Ed Nugent

## OUR STORIES NEED TO BE TOLD

In each Newsletter we include another segment of “Our Stories Need to be Told.” In that tradition, we are publishing a most interesting tale from one of our former Board members, Ken Mackie. Here ‘tis. [Editor]

### Boy, Were They Enthusiastic! A 26-Year Look Back at “The Dirty Thirty”

When the military draft expired in 1972, the motivation for physicians and other health care professionals to voluntarily seek appointment as officers in the U.S. Air Force was largely eliminated. For the Medical Corps, the Berry Plan had been a significant source of new blood. The Berry Plan provided for appointment of physicians as Reserve officers with the promise that they would be permitted to complete their postgraduate training (residency) uninterrupted and then be called to extended active duty (EAD) to fulfill their military obligation. To cope with the absence of the draft, three important programs were employed.

The Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (AFHPSP) provided full professional scholarships, to include tuition, books, fees and a stipend, for medical students (and selected others) in exchange for a period of active duty following completion of school.

Another, yet similar, approach was the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences which included a medical school; Medical students were admitted and commissioned as officers in what was referred to by some as the “medical military academy.” Again, as with the HPSP program, service following schooling was the “payback”.

Both of these sources for the training and accession of healthcare professionals are still with us and many graduates of these programs have remained on active duty to form the backbone and leadership of the Medical Corps.

The third approach to coping with the end of the draft was instituted with the thought of reduced lead-time for accessions. Enter the medical recruiter. While the nurses had for years had a presence in the recruiting community (no draft for women who at that time were predominant in nursing), this was to be a new era for other medical service community components.

In early 1973, plans were developed to place MSC officers trained to be field recruiters at about 25 strategic locations throughout the U.S. to actively recruit practicing physicians in addition to signing up potential medical students for the HPSP. Attracting MSC officers to this duty was somewhat problematic, but nonetheless by the end of the summer 33 had been identified and were either in place or inbound. At that time all officers going to recruiting duty were sent to Lackland AFB to attend the Recruiting Officers Course. And so it was a special course was developed to school these new medical recruiters and it started on 24 October 73, graduating on 13 November 73. This fairly rowdy group of pioneering MSCs referred to themselves as the “Dirty Thirty”. Their long-suffering, yet highly enthusiastic, instructor was a newly promoted line officer and successful recruiter in his own right, Captain J.J. Manion.

Class members and their initial duty locations were as follows:

Capt Alan J. Alpern, Baltimore, MD  
Capt Edwin J. Andrews, Jr., Dallas, TX

**Capt Albert “Dan “Angell, McGuire AFB, NJ**  
**Capt Robert C. Armstrong, Chicago, IL**  
**1st Lt John F. Barrett, Dallas, TX**  
**2d Lt Ramon L. Benedetto, Hanscom Field, MA**  
**Capt Gerald R. Benedict, Cincinnati, OH**  
**Maj Samuel B. Chapman, Hanscom Field, MA**  
**Capt Jerold W. Christen, Westover AFB MA**  
**Capt David G. Couser, Chanute AFB IL**  
**Capt William W. Dick, Lowry AFB CO**  
**Capt Michael P. Grandinetti, Seattle, WA**  
**Capt Richard W. Griffin, Alameda, CA**  
**Capt Glen E. Havel, Memphis, TN**  
**Capt Michael F. Hubbell, Pittsburgh, PA**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Lt Donald A. Jenn, Chicago, IL**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Lt Jan R. Jennings, Pittsburgh, PA**  
**Maj Donald H. McDougald, Robins AFB GA**  
**Capt Kenneth J. Mackie, Alameda, CA**  
**Capt Seymour Milestone, Westover AFB MA**  
**Capt Lloyd A. Montero, Jr., Los Angeles, CA**  
**Capt Warren Paul Murrell, Jr., Houston, TX (course honor grad)**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Lt Allan J. Noblett, Houston, TX**  
**2d Lt James D (Dan) Reay, Baltimore, MD**  
**Capt Lohman D. Reiter, II, Atlanta, GA**  
**Capt Albert Rodriguez, Lackland AFB TX**  
**Capt Glenn T. Satterfield, Raleigh, NC**  
**Capt Wayman Simpson, Robins AFB GA**  
**Capt Thomas R. Temple, Ann Arbor, MI**  
**Capt David W. Templeton, Minneapolis, MN**  
**Capt Earl E. Troxel, Kansas City, MO**  
**Capt Joseph T. Vocks, Sr., Kansas City, MO**  
**2d Lt Richard A. Yates, Hanscom Field, MA**

These MSC officers were precedent setters and paved the way for those who were to follow. Known also as the “first wave”, they made mistakes but also worked out successful approaches to funneling a stream of physicians into the blue suit to replace those whose two-year commitments were ending. Some innovations were employed. For example, since specialists were generally represented in USAF in sufficient numbers -- “Berry Planners” – primary care docs were the focus. And that meant sometimes taking a specialist and converting him into a GMO or flight surgeon. What “sold” docs then, much like today, was aviation medicine. (Guys like airplanes and stuff.) To meet quota (whoops, “goal”) it was not unheard of to find a dermatologist and submit his “app” (application) to be a flight surgeon. Supporting the MSC recruiters in the field was a similar number of capable 906X0 NCOs. Office locations varied. Some were at AF bases; others were right in the middle of town in office buildings and malls, close to the target pool.

Of the 33 officers who were in this group, many remained in the Air Force for a full career, including six who were selected for full colonel. One of these, Bob Armstrong, even returned to head up Medical Recruiting at the headquarters level prior to his retirement. Alas, the very last of the “Dirty Thirty” has left the active Air Force. Colonel Dan Reay retired on 1 September 98. His final assignment was as Director, Health Services Management, HQ PACAF, Hickam AFB Hawaii.

Finally, it's good to see that many are still "enthusiastic" as you will find 12 of their names on the current roster of the USAF MSC Association.

Kenneth J. Mackie, Jr., Col, USAF, Ret.

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**NEW LAW ALLOWS VETERAN'S SALUTES DURING ANTHEM**

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect in October 2008.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Dr. James B. Peake, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to service members while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation's veteran's service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform service members during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008. (Courtesy of VA News)

Release No. 10-16-08 of 31 October 2008

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**The reason a dog has so many friends  
is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.**

~ Anonymous ~

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**THE SENILITY PRAYER:**

**Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,  
the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.**

## **NEW LOOK FOR THE MSC ASSOCIATION WEB SITE-**

Our website (mscassociation.org) is undergoing major changes. The same information you are used to seeing will still be there, but the look and feel will be updated. Before we are finished with the update, we hope to expand our on-line capabilities to include a "shopping" page for MSC memorabilia, and the ability to update contact information. Let us know what you think!

Jim Moreland, Web Site Committee Chairman

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### **NO SMOKING**

An Article about an 88 year old man, who in 1965 decided to quit smoking.  
The article ended with this poem:

#### **No Smoking**

“No Smoking.” You’re joking?

What am I to do?

“No Smoking.” – Not joking?

What it says is true.

Last week I smoked two hundred butts.

Now I think I’m going nuts.

Tried to cut back one by one,

but nicotine is a son of a gun.

Sir Walter Raleigh gave us the binge,

now the Indians have their revenge.

“No Smoking.” What a sad refrain –

Please, conductor get me off this train.

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### **VA OFFERS NEW ONLINE RESOURCE SERVICE**

Release No. 07-07-08 of 25 July 2008

SAN ANTONIO (AFRNS) – The Department of Veterans Affairs is offering a new online service, My HealtheVet (MHV) which is a gateway to veteran health benefits and services.

It provides access to: trusted health information; links to federal and VA benefits and resources; the Personal Health Journal; and online VA prescription refill service.

In the future, MHV registrants will be able to view appointments, co-pay balances, and key portions of their VA medical records online.

My HealtheVet is a powerful tool to help veterans better understand and manage their health, according to VA officials.

The Web site also features a section called “Learn About” which provides resources on a variety of topics such as computers, the Internet, phishing scams and telephone scams. Health information from A to Z plus medical dictionaries, an encyclopedia, journals, and more will be available soon.

To visit the MyHealthVet site, go to [www.myhealth.va.gov/](http://www.myhealth.va.gov/).

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### **THE “WALL OF HONOR” AWARD PRESENTED TO WARREN HOLMES**

As a fellow native Iowan, I recently heard through the “Hawkeye Vine” that a very prestigious award was recently given to Colonel Warren H. “C.B.” Holmes, USAF, MSC (Ret).

The “Wall of Honor” award and plaque were presented to Colonel Holmes at a special ceremony conducted at the Fairfield Iowa Golf and Country Club on 8 October 2008. This award is given to recognize distinguished Fairfield High School graduates of the past 75 years.

P.S. Colonel Holmes will be surprised to find I learned his hometown nickname was “Cue Ball.” When Warren was a child, his barber used the clipper a bit too close and the name “Cue Ball” followed. Although it is still used in Iowa, it has been a well-kept secret until now. If only I had known this while we were still on active duty...!

Contributed by Bart Marschall, Colonel, USAF, MSC (Ret)

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### **WHAT TIME IS IT?**

**HAVE YOU HEARD:** On some bases the Air Force is on one side of the field and civilian aircraft use the other side of the field, with the control tower in the middle. One day the tower received a call from an aircraft asking, 'What time is it?'

The tower responded, 'Who is calling?'

The aircraft replied, 'What difference does it make?'

The tower replied, 'It makes a lot of difference.....'

If it is an American Airlines flight, it is 3 o'clock.

If it is an Air Force plane, it is 1500 hours.

If it is a Navy aircraft, it is 6 bells.

If it is an Army aircraft, the big hand is on the 12 and the little hand is on the 3.

If it is a Marine Corps aircraft, it's Thursday afternoon and 120 minutes to 'Happy Hour.'

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History does not entrust the care of freedom to the weak or timid.

~ Dwight D. Eisenhower ~

## THE PURPLE HEART

There is a flurry of activity around the bed side. The soldier, sailor, airman, or marine is being cleaned up and covered up the best they can be. Several of their comrades are present, along with their medical care givers and the ever present chaplain. The Commanding General (CG) walks in with a small group of soldiers, the Command Sgt Major (CSM), ever present at his side, the aides; a camera is produced and a conversation begins, if possible, between the CG and the wounded US service member. Many times there is no two-way conversation because the patient has just come out of surgery or has a tube down his throat and is sedated because of the pain or the injury. Even if they are unconscious, he talks to them anyway because sometimes even in that state they can remember hearing his voice. The CG and the rest listen as the wounded warrior tells the story of the incident if he is able: IED blast, RPG attack, small arms fire, rooting out the bad guys in a building, in a cave, or shooting it out on a street or roadside.

The CG listens intently, comments on the action and tells the wounded warrior how the big picture turned out that day. Depending on the injury, the CG asks about Mom, Dad, wife, husband, children, girlfriend, boyfriend, asks if they got to make a phone call home. Makes small talk about their unit, or where they are from in the states, all the time trying to gauge the emotional state of the wounded warrior. The CSM tells them how they are going to get better and wonders when they will be able to lead their unit run or PT. But what they both mostly see are broken bones with what looks like an erector set holding them together, tubes and bandages, shrapnel wounds, with signs of blood oozing through. An amputated limb or multiple traumas from the head to the feet. These are heroes who have paid the price of being wounded while serving their country.

The CG finishes up the small talk and then tells them that he knows that they woke up this morning not starting out to win this medal today – then tells the story of the origins of the Purple Heart, explaining why General George Washington’s likeness is on the medal. The CG orders that the citation be read – everyone in the room and those listening outside the room snap to attention as the orders are read. The CG bends down and pins the Purple Heart on whatever clothing or sheet or pillow he can find. He hands them the Combat Action Badge if they have not earned one as of yet, he tries to hand them a coin if they have a hand that he can shake. He tells them to hurry up and get better so that they can get back in the fight.

The ceremony is now over – he leaves them with hope and, if they are going to be Aerovaced to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, what good care they are going to receive there as well. Sometimes it’s hard to walk away; he knows what is in store for them now – a journey of recovery and hopefully a return to duty in their respective services. He starts to leave, the Purple Heart recipient always says thank you sir, he stops, turns and says – no, don’t thank me, I thank you for your service to your country, get well soon. The CG then departs with his staff – others gather around the bed side, some more small talk; it all happens so fast, it could be minutes before they are put on a plane, it could be any time day or night. But it is important enough for all the General Officers of the 101<sup>st</sup> to give the Purple Heart on behalf of a grateful nation for their service and sacrifice. It is a time honored tradition for those who serve in uniform.

**Note: From 1 May 08 to 24 July 08, 96 Purple Hearts have been awarded at Task Force Med by the leadership of the 101st.**

**By Col Charles E. Potter, Deputy Commander, CJTH, Joint Task Force Med – Afghanistan**

**MILITARY ID CARDS UPDATE 02:**

Homeland Security Directive 12 now requires retirees and family members seeking to renew or replace a military identification card to provide two types of ID. Retirees and family members needing to renew identification cards must have two of the following types of current identification – one of which must include a photo of a:

- Driver’s license or ID issued by a state or outlying U.S. commonwealth or possession of an ID card issued by federal, state or local government agencies or entities;
- School ID card with a photograph;
- Voter’s registration card;
- U.S. military ID card;
- U.S. passport;
- Certificate of U.S. citizenship; or,
- Certificate of naturalization

Source: RAO Bulletin of 15 Oct 2008

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**FINAL COLA ANNOUNCED**

It's official. The 2009 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retired pay, SBP annuities, Social Security checks, and VA disability and survivor benefits will be 5.8%, effective December 1, 2008. It will first appear in the January checks.

Source: 17 Oct 2008 MOAA Legislative Update re Final COLA.

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**SOUNDING TAPS**

<b>Capt Kevin Bacon</b>	<b>2 Nov 2008</b>
<b>*Major George A. Barnes</b>	<b>20 Jul 2008</b>
<b>Major Wallace L. Boyd</b>	<b>9 Sep 2008</b>
<b>Major Andrew T. Booth</b>	<b>8 Jul 2008</b>
<b>Major Gene M. Davis</b>	<b>13 Aug 2008</b>
<b>Major Luther Dean</b>	<b>9 Sep 2008</b>
<b>*Col Frank R. Foley</b>	<b>8 Aug 2008</b>
<b>Major Frank C. Gettman</b>	<b>18 Aug 2008</b>
<b>Major George S. Johnson</b>	<b>1 Jul 2008</b>

**\*Denotes Life Member Status**

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## IN MEMORIAM

Major Kenneth Vanway (Ret) advised of the passing of his wife Jackie Faye Vanway on 27 April 2008. He further advised that Jackie had been in an Alzheimer's unit for the past 10 ½ years and had she made it to 5 June 2008 they would have been married for 65 years.

Lt Col Floyd Holmgrain (Ret) advised that his wife of 55 years, Marlene J. Holmgrain passed away on 8 August 2008 at the Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis, MD. She had been a military wife (active and retired) for all those years and was extremely proud to be a member of the MSC community.

Lt Col Robert W. Kelly (Ret) advised of the passing of his wife Fan L. Kelly on 27 February 2008 – just three days before her 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Lt Col Kelly further stated that this is a reminder that we all should take care of our health.

Colonel Thomas E. Vorpahl (Ret) advised of the passing of his wife Shirley Vorpahl on 12 August 2008. Her passing was peaceful, but she suffered considerably with cancer. She was at home at the time of her passing so she had ample care and attention.

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## SOUNDING TAPS REVISITED

Every once in a while we have a hiccup in the notification process of deceased MSCs. In our August 2008 Air Force MSC Association Newsletter, we regrettably notified the premature passing of Lt Col Frank May, USAF, MSC (Retired). Well, it seems Frank didn't quite agree with that assessment. Please see his comments below [Ed].

Date: Thu, 21 Aug 2008 19:14:31

Ralph [Charlip]: My cousin, Alan Rosing, sent me a copy of the Aug USAF MSC Assoc Newsletter. Just wanted to let someone know that my Feb 15 death, reported in "Sounding Taps," was, ala Mark Twain, exaggerated. Don't know where that may have originated, but I'm still receiving retirement pay. Perhaps there were two of us in the Corps – truly a fate undeserved by any group! Oddly, my most recent retiree activities newsletter from Maxwell AFB demoted me from Lt Col to TSgt! There must be something in the water. I was sorry to note of the deaths of Jerry Parker and Ralph Galati – knew both well from my two tours at Big Willie.

I honor you for the work you and others are doing with the MSC Association. Membership is pretty much out of the question for me. I was ordained a deacon in the Catholic Church in 1984 – a second (no pay) career that provides me with all the activity I can handle.

Best Wishes,

Frank May, Jr.

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**2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

***USE THIS FORM ONLY FOR RENEWALS***

Send completed form with dues of \$20 (make check payable to: USAF MSC Association) to:

**USAF MSC Association, Inc.**

**860 Oak Hills Dr.**

**Monument, Co 80132-8829**

(Phone: 1-866-818-2110    email: [afmscassociation@comcast.net](mailto:afmscassociation@comcast.net))

Name: (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: (AD) \_\_\_\_\_ (RET) \_\_\_\_\_ (RES) \_\_\_\_\_ (ANG) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are using an APO or FPO, please indicate:

What city: \_\_\_\_\_ What country: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Declaration: I (agree) (do not agree) to my name, address, phone number, spouse's name and email address being released to other members of the USAF MSC Association. (The Association does not release any information to any outside agencies without prior approval).**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION LEGIBLY**

**SPECIAL 2009 NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM**

If you are renewing your membership, use our RENEWAL form. BEFORE YOU SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION, PLEASE READ "Dues Information" section below. Send completed application to the address below with dues payment as appropriate. If any questions contact us at our Toll Free Number: 1-866-818-2110 or Email: [afmsscassociation@comcast.net](mailto:afmsscassociation@comcast.net). Make check payable to USAF MSC Association and mail to:

USAF MSC Association, Inc.  
860 Oak Hills Drive  
Monument, CO 80132-8829

Name: (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Rank: (AD) \_\_\_\_\_ (RET) \_\_\_\_\_ (RES) \_\_\_\_\_ (ANG) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are using an APO or FPO, please indicate:

What city is this for: \_\_\_\_\_ What country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement date (if retired): \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Status (check all that applies): is/was Active Duty  is/was USAFR/ANG   
Retired  Former AF MSC  (i.e., not an MSC on AD, AFR/ANG, or Ret)

Membership Category (see following):  Life  Annual

Dues Category (see following)

- HSA Graduate within 90 days after graduation  
Class Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (day/month/year)
- Active Duty and Drilling Guardsmen/Reservist grades 01-04
- Retired within the last 90 days
- Gift Memberships: How Many \_\_\_\_\_
- Current member converting to Life Membership
- None of the Above

Membership Directory (check this ONLY if you do NOT want to be listed in the Association's directory)

DO NOT include me in the Association's membership directory. No information is ever released to outside agencies.

### DUES INFORMATION

#### Membership Categories:

There are two categories of dues – Life Membership or Annual. Annual dues are \$20 and payable in January of each year. The Life Membership schedule is based on age and is below.

(Payable in Four Quarterly Installments  
These amounts do not reflect any discount)

Age	Amount (\$)
Over 85	Waived
81-85	60
76-80	80
71-75	200
66-70	250
61-65	295
56-60	335
51-55	360
50 & under	395

#### Dues Category:

The Association currently offers the following discount:

- **Graduates of the Health Services Administration Course:** Graduates are provided a one year free membership. An application is required and you must submit the application within 90 days after graduating.
- **Active Duty, Drilling Guardsmen and Reservists in the Grades of 01-04:** Annual dues for these individuals are \$15 year if you elect the annual dues payment. There is no discount on Life Dues.
- **Newly Retired MSCs:** Newly retired officers are afforded a free one year membership. An application is required and you must submit the application within 90 days after retirement. There is also a \$20 discount off of Life Membership.
- **Gift Memberships:** If you purchase two or more memberships for another person, each of the membership is \$15 for the first year only.
- **ANYONE** currently an active member of the Association may convert from Annual to Life Membership with a \$20 discount.

## USAF MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Several hundred retired Air Force MSC officers met at an ad hoc reunion organized by a group of dedicated San Antonio retirees in 1991. Some of them were "charter" MSCs, having transferred from the Army when our corps was established in 1949. Others were relative newcomers, younger and with different priorities. However, it quickly became a clear consensus that supported creating a formal organization to promote the interests of MSC retirees.

In 1992, the USAF MSC Association was incorporated in the State of Georgia and approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit veteran's organization. We serve as a focal point for communications with and among members for educational, social and recreational purposes. We convene biennial membership meetings (reunions) which have become excellent learning opportunities, not to mention a place to renew acquaintances and enjoy old friends. Since then, our membership has grown to over 780 (and still growing); reunions have been held in Las Vegas (1993, 1995 & 2001), Charleston, SC, in 1997, San Antonio, TX, (1991, 1999, 2007), Biloxi, MS in 2003 and San Diego, CA in 2005. The 2009 Reunion will be in Charleston, SC. Membership rosters are printed annually and sent to active members, and periodic newsletters are published on matters of interest to our members. Most members agree that the value of the roster alone exceeds the cost of annual dues (\$20). Added to that are benefits derived from the reunions which are more and more becoming educational seminars featuring presentations by knowledgeable staff from the Surgeon General's Office, The Military Officers Association of America and similar non-profit groups.

### Membership Criteria

While initially established as an organization of *retired* Air Force MSC officers, bylaws amendments in 1995 opened the association to active duty MSCs and MSCs in the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. Because of the increased number of members from these components, makeup of the board of directors specifically includes an active duty officer, a USAFR officer and an ANG officer. In 2003 the membership eligibility was expanded to include former MSCs who did not attain retirement eligibility.

Air Force Biomedical Sciences Corps (BSC) officers who served on active duty as MSCs and widows/widowers of deceased corps members are also eligible for full membership. Further, the Honorary Membership category is available to recognize worthy individuals who have contributed to the growth of the Air Force Medical Service Corps but are not otherwise eligible for regular membership.

To apply for membership, candidates complete a short application form and mail it to the address shown. Include a check for dues (as outlined above) made payable to the Association. For further information, you may check our website at [www.mscassociation.org](http://www.mscassociation.org) or contact Col Charlie Brown, Association Secretary, via email at [AFMSCASSOCIATION@comcast.net](mailto:AFMSCASSOCIATION@comcast.net) Thanks so much for your interest!

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Be kinder than necessary,  
for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

~ Anonymous ~

## A CUP OF COFFEE

A group of alumni, all highly established in their respective careers, got together for a visit with their old university professor. The conversation soon turned to complaints about the endless stress of work and life in general. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went into the kitchen and soon returned with a pot of coffee and an eclectic assortment of cups: porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal – some plain, some expensive, some quite exquisite. Quietly he told them to help themselves to some fresh coffee.

When each of his former students had a cup of coffee in hand, the old professor quietly cleared his throat and began to patiently address the small gathering.

'You may have noticed that all of the nicer looking cups were taken up first, leaving behind the plainer and cheaper ones. While it is only natural for you to want only the best for yourselves, which is actually the source of much of your stress-related problems.' He continued, 'Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In fact, the cup merely disguises or dresses up what we drink. What each of you really wanted was coffee, not a cup, but you instinctively went for the best cups. Then you began eyeing each other's cup.

'Now, consider this:

'Life is coffee. Jobs, money, and position in society are merely cups. They are just tools to shape and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not truly define nor change the quality of the life we live. Often, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee that God has provided us. God brews the coffee, but he does not supply the cups. Enjoy your coffee!'

'The happiest people don't have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have. So, please remember: Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God. Remember, the richest person is not the one who has the most, but the one who needs the least.

'I'm thankful for the special flavor you add to my 'coffee'.

Anonymous

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## EDITOR'S CLOSING COMMENTS

At the special request of Joe Vocks, Membership Chairman, I have carefully formatted the last two pages to address a questionnaire/summary that Joe and his committee members, have devised for your review/comment. Thus, pages 21-22 are set-aside so you can remove these two pages (back-to-back) and mail them back in to Joe at his home address at:

Joe Vocks  
923 River Way  
Spring Branch, TX 78070-5967

Please return your comments NLT 16 Feb 2009 so that results may be provided in the April Newsletter.

## AF MSC ASSOCIATION RECRUITMENT SURVEY

It has been suggested, and we agree, that you can't adjust the organizations focus and recruit new members if you don't know what "turns folks on/off." To this end we are sending out this questionnaire to find out what you think. While there are some specific areas/questions, the key is really for you to tell us what you would like to see the Association do. Therefore, it is not a simple agree/disagree form – we really need you to provide your comments. Please complete this questionnaire and return it to us by Monday, 16 February 2009, at the address shown at the bottom of this questionnaire/survey.

As a reminder to everyone, the following are our current statements:

**Who We Are:** We are the USAF MSC Association - 700 active duty, Air Guard, Air Force Reserve, retired and former USAF Medical Service Corps Officers and their survivors.

**What We Stand For:** The USAF MSC Association is a professional organization for healthcare administrators. We provide a way for you to stay in touch with other MSCs, support survivors upon the death of a member and maintain a focus on documenting the history of the Medical Service Corps.

**Membership:** Membership is open to all active, Reserve, Air Guard, retired and former USAF Medical Service Corps officers and their surviving spouses. You can learn about the Association by reviewing our web site <http://www.mscassociation.org> and applying for membership (on line or through the mail). Dues are very reasonable - \$15 a year for majors and below on active duty and \$20 for all others. Membership renewal form is available on line and elsewhere in this Newsletter.

**Membership Benefits:** Benefits include a subscription to our periodic newsletter, an annual membership directory, the ability to network with other MSC officers, share ideas on the evolution of healthcare management and leadership and attend our biennial reunion (our next one is in September 2009).

What would you add/change regarding "What We Stand For?"  
Comments:

What would you add/change regarding "Membership?"  
Comments:

The area that most effects retention and recruitment is Membership Benefits.  
Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments:

What would you add/change regarding "Membership Benefits?"  
Comments:

I read the Newsletter and it provides the news/info/updates that I am most interested in.  
Agree \_\_\_\_\_ Disagree \_\_\_\_\_

**What should be added/deleted as topics/areas to the Newsletter?**

**Do you think the format/appearance of the Newsletter should be changed?**

**Comments:**

**Do you use the Directory? Should the format be changed?**

**Comments:**

**Do you use the Association website?**

**Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_**

**I use the website to/for**

**Comments:**

**The website is user friendly**

**Agree\_\_\_\_\_ Disagree\_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments:**

**I would like to see the following added/deleted/changed on the website**

**Comments:**

**Do you attend the biannual Association Reunions?**

**Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_**

**Why?**

**How frequently should the reunions be held?**

**What do you like/dislike at the reunions?**

**When did you retire/leave active duty?**

**When did you join the Association?**

**Are you a "Life" Member?**

**Why are you a member of the USAF MSC Association?**

**What would you do to recruit new members?**

**Comments:**

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**Joe Vocks, Membership Chairman  
923 River Way, Spring Branch, TX 78070-5967**