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RAD 2015
October
23, 2015
Almost
Here!!

Ft Riley Military Retiree Council



THE ROAD AHEAD

Chair's Corner (Call to Action!)

By CSM (Ret) Terry Young



Every additional year we are given on this Earth passes faster than the previous one, or so it seems, and 2015 is no different. Throughout Kansas and our surrounding states it's time for football season, crop harvesting, hunting season, cooler weather, colorful leaves and all the traditional Fall activities. I sincerely hope you and your families had a fantastic Summer with memories to carry you throughout the rest of the year.

In the last newsletter, I discussed the profound changes in our leadership structure occurring this year not only at Fort Riley but in the most senior leadership positions at the Department of the Army. These changes in our leadership remain ongoing as Major General Wayne Grigsby Jr. recently assumed Command of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley with a fantastic ceremony. We also said heartfelt farewell to Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Paul E. Funk II. I urge you to keep these and all leaders in your thoughts and prayers for them to make intelligent and timely decisions for our Army.

Members of the Fort Riley Retiree Council work diligently year round to ensure issues throughout the Retiree and Veteran communities are voiced and solved whenever possible. Some members have been with us longer than others. This past quarter LTC (R) Jack Hoagland resigned his membership after serving on the council from October 1997 until July 2015, nearly 18 years! He diligently served the council in many positions, the latest being our Social Coordinator. Jack, a big thank you from everyone for your dedication and service to this council, our community and the military. We wish you and your family all the best in the future.

Please continue to involve yourself wherever you can in your local communities to make a positive impact. As I have stated before, it is a never ending struggle to preserve our Military benefits, but when Retirees stick together and make our voices heard it tends to make for positive outcomes on issues important to us all.

Our Retiree Council Members are now fully engaged in preparations to make the 2015 Retiree Appreciation Day a success. Please mark your calendars for October 23rd from 0800 until 1530 at Riley's Conference Center located on Fort Riley. You will be reminded several times in this newsletter but I want to re-state it here, with the recent security changes here on Fort Riley it is imperative you bring your military ID Card with you **(See Page 5)**

RAD 2015—On the Horizon and Closing Fast

By COL (Ret) C. Kay Hutchinson

Military Retirees residing in the Fort Riley area are making plans now for Retiree Appreciation Day 2015 (RAD 2015) scheduled at Riley's Conference Center on Fort Riley Friday, 23 October.

As in the past, RAD 2015 will offer something of interest for all military retirees – including one of the most popular activities, getting one's inoculations updated. See the "RAD Attendees Get Shots" article elsewhere in this edition.

Attendees at this year's Retiree Appreciation Day will be greeted by the newly-assigned First Infantry Division and Fort Riley Commander, Major General Wayne Grigsby, Jr.; will hear from the Commissary and PX managers; Irwin Army Community Hospital Commander, Colonel Risa Ware; and the most-acclaimed feature each year, learning about one's healthcare from Glenn Seutter, the subject matter expert on TRICARE and general healthcare issues for retirees.

Those attending the lunch will get insight on the "Lone Survivor of the Battle of the Little Big Horn" presented by LTC (Ret) Robert Kornacki. Those planning to attend the luncheon must make advanced reservations. Learn more about the luncheon presentation on page 6. Information about making lunch reservations is located on page 8.

Retirees planning to attend RAD 2015 will need to make some advanced planning regarding their entrance onto Fort Riley if they don't possess a federally-issued identification card, due to recently enacted enhanced security measures at the post. For details, please read the "Getting onto Fort Riley" article on page 3.

And – as in the past, retirees will be in line for numerous door prizes that will be given away throughout the general session of RAD 2015. Last year, RAD 2014 handed out over \$4,000 in door prizes to many lucky participants in the day-long event.

Throughout the day, retirees may visit the numerous healthcare and area retiree-related information booths set up adjacent to the conference center – open from 8 o'clock through 3:30 in the afternoon.

Registration begins at 8 o'clock, the morning of Friday, 23 October. Early arrivals will be feted to hot coffee and pastries provided by Fort Riley's Armed Forces National Bank and a musical interlude by a select group of musicians from the First Infantry Division's Band.

All in all, there's something for everyone at this year's Retiree Appreciation Day at Fort Riley, Kansas. For a fun and fact-filled day, one should be making plans now to attend.



Military Retirees and Access to Fort Riley for RAD 2015

By COL (Ret) C. Kay Hutchinson

Military Retirees looking forward to Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD 2015) on Friday, October 23rd will need to consider the recently activated, enhanced security at this military post.

While in the past, most visitors to Fort Riley could gain access to the installation using their state-issued driver's license; that is no longer viable because of the tighter security practices now in place.

Retirees holding their federally-issued Retired Military ID cards may access the Post via any of its several entrances; however, those without such cards may only come on the installation through the **Marshall Field/Henry Gate at exit 301 off of Interstate 70**. Those that don't have such valid identification – such as spouses that may not have kept their ID cards up to date, or visitors having no such identification – will need to stop at the Visitor's Center located just off the street at the Marshall Field/Henry Gate, in order to get a one-day visitor's pass.

Those planning to attend RAD 2015 who are lacking that “federally-issued ID card” may expedite their access to Fort Riley on Friday, October 23rd by calling ahead to the Retirement Services Office (RSO) and requesting that their name be placed on a Special Post Access List that will be valid only for that date.

To be placed on that special list, contact the **RSO at 785-239-3320** and provide your name, address, birth date, and Social Security number. Once Fort Riley Security has vetted your name and information, you will be placed on the one-day-only list. The guards at the Marshall Field/Henry Gate will match that information to your driver's license – or other legally issued ID – allowing you to enter the facility for RAD 2015.

Of course, all military retirees and their spouses holding the Retired Military ID cards will have easy access to the Post and should be cleared to enter any of the entrance gates to the facility, with a show of ID card and open windows for inspection. Just a note of “compliance”, you can expedite your entrance through the guard posts by having your vehicle windows rolled down prior to reaching the entrance gate so that military personnel may get a clear look inside your vehicle. If you don't have them rolled down when you reach the guard post, you will be asked to do so. Also please make sure your vehicle registration, Driver's license and proof of insurance are current. Random searches occur.

Plan ahead – and enjoy Fort Riley's RAD 2015 on October 23rd. For those needing to call the RSO to be placed on that “special list”, the sooner you do that, the better.



World War II Airman Dies

By BG (Ret) Dayle Williams



In the first week of September 2015, Ben Kuroki, a very true WW II hero passed away at his home in Camarillo, California. He was 98. A number of us in Nebraska were very familiar with his long and storied career as he was born on a potato farm near Gothenburg, Nebraska on May 16, 1917 to Japanese born parents. Soon after Pearl Harbor his father pushed him to enlist in the Army. That became very difficult as Japanese Americans in California and other areas were being interned. Through great effort, both he and his brother were accepted as service members. The acceptance did not solve the problem as throughout basic training Ben encountered racial prejudice and served consecutive days and nights on kitchen police (KP).

He pushed hard in every way to have a combat role. Those that became friends really went to bat for him and soon they found out he was not an ordinary airman. To say it nicely, he fought a battle to get into battle. As the story unfolds, somewhere at an airbase in England, just one year after Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1942, Lieutenant Jake Epting extended a hand and that hand held the gunners wings that Ben so desired. As a gunner on board of B-24's, he flew 30 European missions and 28 more on B-29's in the Pacific Theater. Many have said, amidst all of this he waged a "59th mission" against prejudice, bias and ignorance.

After all of these missions, Kuroki returned to the United States and was asked to speak to many groups. On one of those occasions he had this to say, "I learned more about democracy than you will ever find in books. Because I saw it in action. When you live with men under combat conditions for 15 months you begin to understand what brotherhood is all about, what equality and tolerance really mean, they are no longer just words." It was obvious that the brotherhood was great in Kuroki's B-29 crew with many missions over Japan, the plane was named for him, Honorable Sad Saki. Sad Saki's hardstand was back-to-back with Enola Gay.

After the war, Ben Kuroki came back to Nebraska, attended the University of Nebraska and received a journalism degree. He became a newspaper man in Nebraska for a number of years before moving to California. While I knew his story well, I never had the opportunity to meet Kuroki until 2005. During that year, a number of his friends that were in military service with him insisted on a more complete review of his records. They asked U.S. Senator Ben Nelson to assist. I was serving on Senator Nelson's staff and the entire staff was elated about the fact we could team up with Ben's friends and determine if additional honors could be awarded many years after his service. In early March 2005, it was a great day in the Nelson office as the U.S. Army Human Resources Command advised Senator Nelson that "the expanded file justified formal review by the Army Decorations Board."

The big event came on August 12, 2005 when Technical Sergeant Ben Kuroki, ASN 17024561 (Ret) received the Distinguished Service Medal at a gathering of a great many friends and family. It was a distinct honor for me to take part in the pinning ceremony as General William J. Dendinger, USAF (Ret) and former Chief of Chaplains made the presentation. I was asked to join along with Brigadier General Lloyd Johnson, Nebraska Air National Guard, also a WW II fighter pilot with "The Most Honorable Son" as he received the long overdue recognition. It was a "fleeting moment", to stand with a WW II gunner, who served in four Air Forces, the 8th, 12th, 9th and 20th. A truly authentic hero.



(Con't from page 1) to gain entry to Post. Those visitors without a military ID must enter through Henry Gate (by the Airfield) where they will be processed at the Visitors Center for a temporary pass.

Hope to see you and your families at Retirement Appreciation Day!

Still Serving!

Veteran's Health Care

By BG (Ret) Dayle Williams

The constant struggle for improvement of veteran's health care between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Congress continues. It is well-known that mismanagement issues for veteran's health care have been centered on the Veterans Administration. However, it seems a little less is known about how unwilling both the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees have been to work together to provide solutions to at least some of the stated problems. Complaints seem to abound rather than working together on solutions.

The latest brouhaha started in mid-July 2015 when the Department of Veterans Affairs announced because of its inability to budget, VA hospitals around the country would be shutting down in August. This short notice caused even greater strained relations with House and Senate members. Fortunately, after much consternation, the rescue started on July 29, 2015. On that date, the House passed the Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act (HR 3236) with a vote of 385 ayes and 34 nays.

The Senate took similar action on July 30, 2015 with a vote of 91 in favor. Senator Ben Sasse of Nebraska was one of the Senators that voted against restoring funding. Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas, a very influential member of the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee skipped voting on the measure and had this to say, "It's another instance of the VA telling Congress, the Veterans Committees and others about how, if we give them money, it would be spent, and then it is a different plan once we give them money."

Even with this overwhelming support to avoid hospital closures before the end of the fiscal year, it seems obvious that a cooperative spirit will be hard to obtain. Surely members of Congress do recognize the extraordinary demand on VA resources. Congress has improved funding for the Veterans Administration over the past several years and more veterans are coming to the VA for care. According to the Department, VA completed more than 56.2 million appointments between June 1, 2014 and May 31, 2015. This represents an increase of 2.6 million more appointments than were completed during the same time period in 2013/2014. VA made over 3 million authorizations for Veterans to receive care in the private sector from June 1, 2014, through June 15, 2015.

The increase in Veteran's requirements for health care is unprecedented. The cost to provide the health care is also unprecedented. The costs are at an all-time high as a result of fighting two wars for over a decade and caring for the many injured that are returning from those wars. Caring for aging veterans from others wars is also increasing costs. Payments cannot be delayed. The men and women who have served their country faithfully deserve better from their elected representatives. It is fully recognized that the VA has many problems, but cooperation is essential and the constant bickering solves little.



Luncheon Presentation—“Lone US Survivor” (Speaker-Bio)

By James (Jim) Hill, SFC (Ret), Newsletter Editor



Rob Kornacki is a retired US Army, Armor Branch, Lieutenant Colonel. After the Armor Officers' basic course at Fort Knox, Kentucky in late 1969, his first duty assignment was in Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam where he worked with indigenous Montagnard regional and popular forces. Over the next 22 years, he functioned in a variety of armor and related assignments in the continental United States as well as in Germany. His last assignment was as the Deputy Class Director of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. Upon retirement, he worked for several US corporations as a training director and later as a

military analyst on Fort Leavenworth. While in the civilian sector, he helped establish a training curriculum and program for a GE call center while in Hyderabad, India.

He and wife Cathie have twin daughters, both of whom are presently regular Army officers. Daughter Tess is in her third year of dental school on Army deferment, while daughter Erin is a Physician Assistant, assigned here at Fort Riley. The family's common interest and lifelong recreational pursuit has been with horses, mostly as mounted foxhunters. One of Rob's horse-highlight experiences was when in England, being allowed to take Alpenstock, a past Grand National horse, cross-country, over fences in the training area of the military academy at Sandhurst. Rob has also competed in professional rodeo events in Kansas City, where he made enough money to just about cover the bruises.

LTC (Ret) Kornacki will present a talk about Comanche. This 7th Cavalry horse as our most famous and distinguished US Army horse, has always held his interest. The enamored, factual story of this notable animal will be related in his presentation, with the added element that the story continues to evolve to this day! Army records indicate that Comanche's body was buried on Fort Riley with full military honors upon his death in 1891, but unfortunately at a now forgotten and unmarked location. LTC (Ret) Kornacki's intention is to remedy that!



Comanche-Early Years



CPT Miles W. Keogh

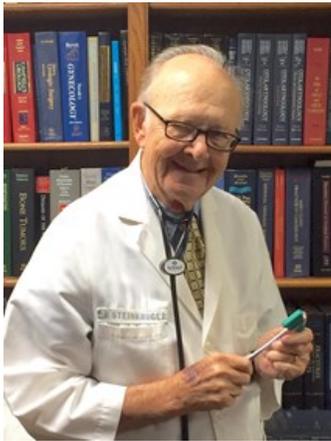


KU Natural History Museum

“The horse known as Commanche being the only living representative of the bloody tragedy of the Little Big Horn, June 25, 1876, his kind treatment and comfort shall be a matter of special pride and solicitude on the part of every member of the 7th Cavalry, to the end that his life be preserved to utmost limit. Wounded and scarred as he is, his very existence speaks in terms more eloquent than words of the desperate struggle against overwhelming numbers, of the hopeless conflict and the heroic manner in which all went down on the fatal day. The Commanding Officer of Troop I will see that a special and comfortable stable is fitted for him., and he will not be ridden by any person whomsoever, under any circumstances, nor will be put to any kind of work. Hereafter upon all occasions of ceremony, Commanche, saddled, bridled, draped in mourning and led by a mounted trooper of Troop I will be paraded with the regiment.” (Colonel Samuel D. Sturgis, General Orders No. 7., April 10th, 1878)

“Dr. Stein’s MedCents”

By COL (Ret) Verlyn Steinkruger, MD



My name is V. W. Steinkruger M.D. I am a retired Family Physician, having graduated from the University of Nebraska, College of Medicine in 1953. My general practice of many years was located in Phillips and Smith County, Kansas. I'm a retired medical officer from the Kansas Army National Guard. I retired with forty-two years of service, from 1945 to 1995. The majority of these years was with the Kansas Army National Guard. The final fifteen years, I was the State Surgeon for the Kansas Army National Guard and retired as a Col (O-6) in 1995. My most prized award was admission to the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame in the year 2000. I am married, my wife (Mary Lou) and I live in Manhattan, KS. We have one son and one daughter. We have two grandchildren

I have served on the Fort Riley Retiree Council for over ten years. It has been a great honor to be a part of this elite organization. There is so much "Bonding and Brotherly Love" for each other that I feel that this "Spirit of Love" should be extended to all veterans and their spouses of this great country that we have fought to preserve.

The Fort Riley Retiree Council, in a recent quarterly meeting, gave me approval to write a few lines of medical advice for a column in this newsletter. This column contains a few simple ideas for you to use to provide more efficient use of your medical privileges at Irwin Army Community Hospital at Fort Riley.

However, I do want you to realize that these ideas of simple advice should by no means be a substitute for your health care provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant). These ideas should be used as a suggestion that you take to your health care provider to consider if the suggestion would be applicable in your situation.

I will give you a brief example of the type of advice that you might expect to receive in this column. Many of you are taking an 81 mg (baby) aspirin every day to avoid any cardio-vascular problems. If you will check with your health care provider and obtain a prescription (Rx) for the 81 mg aspirin to present to the pharmacies on post and at Irwin Army Community Hospital, this should be provided for you.

I realize that this is a rather small and insignificant item, and only costs a few cents every day out of your own pocket. I am a believer in the "Ben Franklin Philosophy". A few cents every day will soon add up to a dollar which will soon add up to several dollars and pretty soon you are up to "big bucks".

I will be interested in your feed-back and comments to this medical advice column.

You can visit with me at the next RAD, on October 23rd, 2015 at Riley's Conference Center. I'll look forward to seeing you there.



2015 FORT RILEY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

23 October 2015

REGISTRATION FORM

NOTICE: THIS REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE RETIREE COUNCIL NOT LATER THAN **16 October 2015**. THIS INFORMATION IS NEEDED FOR HEADCOUNT AND PLANNING PURPOSES. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE THIS FORM IF YOU ONLY PLAN TO ATTEND THE RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY (23 October 2015) AND WILL NOT ATTEND THE LUNCHEON.**

CHECK APPROPRIATE BLOCKS AND FILL INFORMATION AS REQUIRED:

I will attend the luncheon (Yes)_____ (No)_____ Guest _____ Enclosed is my payment of _____.

NAME OF RETIREE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NAME OF GUEST _____

FRIDAY LUNCHEON – 23 October 2015

- Mixed Green Salad
- Oven Roasted New Potatoes
- Green Beans Almandine
- Herb Marinated grilled Chicken Breast
- Honey Glazed Ham
- Rolls and Butter
- Chefs Choice Desert

\$18.00

(Includes Gratuity)

Please indicate in each block how many reservations you would like. Luncheon reservations must be paid for in advance and need to be returned with this form. No refunds can be made after 4 October 2015 in the event of a cancellation. Please make check or money order payable to **Fort Riley Retiree Council** and return **NLT 16 October 2015 to:**

Fort Riley Retiree Council
Attn: CSM (Ret) Terry Young
P.O. Box 2161
Fort Riley, KS 66442

The mailing address for your Council:

Fort Riley Military Retiree Council
 P.O. Box 2161
 Fort Riley, KS 66442



***Your Retiree Council
 ... Serving those who
 served!!***

Retirees get Shots at RAD 2015

By COL (Ret) C. Kay Hutchinson

One of the more popular events at Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD 2015) will be the opportunity for participants to update their “shots records” and acquire important inoculations that may ward off infectious diseases in the coming months.

Scheduled for this year’s RAD will be the annual flu shots – with those over 65 getting the High Dose Influenza shots. Other available inoculations provided by the Irwin Army Community Hospital staff include tetanus, whooping cough, pneumonia and shingles for those qualifying and desiring such injections. RAD 2015 attendees are encouraged to bring with them their health records so that they may be checked for needed shots, then updated with the inoculations received at this event.

In addition to those important shots, RAD 2015 attendees will be provided a host of healthcare information by members of the Irwin Hospital staff via the Health Fair “county fair” booths arranged conveniently in the conference center.

EDITOR’S NOTE: We have a very limited budget based solely on donations, so please provide us your email address in order to save postage, if you are receiving a mailed copy. Our Council Secretary, Ms. Mary Sue Moore, has volunteered to provide her email for this purpose. Her email is msm@ksu.edu. Your efforts are appreciated! Thank you in advance for your efforts!

Editorial Policy:

This quarterly newsletter is published to inform, call to action and update the military retiree community. Statements and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of DOD, the Fort Riley installation or any other government agency. All submissions are approved by the current Chairperson of the Fort Riley Military Retiree Council. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future articles please let us know.

Ft Riley Military Retiree Council



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*PLACE STAMP
HERE*