



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
PUBLISHED BY THE MEARNG RETIREE COUNCIL

- [COMMENTARY](#) 1
- [RETIREMENT BENEFITS & SERVICES](#) 2
- [TRANSITIONS](#) 2
- [TAPS](#) 3
- [MISCELLANEOUS](#) 3-4
- [UPCOMING EVENTS](#) 3-4
- [RETIREE E-MAIL ADDRESSES](#)..... 4-6
- [Me VETS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION](#) 7-9
- [FREEPORT FLAG LADIES INFO](#) 9-10
- [MEARNG ARMY AVIATION REUNION](#)12
- [MeNG DEPLOYMENT](#)-----13



NOTE:

This newsletter and all previous issues of the newsletters can be found on the following web site: this is a new change for retiree page

<http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/resources/retiree/>

We are continuing to update our mailing list to include all MEARNG retirees. **If you know any retiree(s) who are not receiving the newsletter, please send their name and address to a member of the Retiree Council or e-mail us.**

Please advise us of mailing address changes . If you do not wish to continue receiving the newsletter, contact a council member

Continuation of Newsletter

COMMENTARY This is the forty-third Retiree Newsletter, normally published in Apr, Aug and Dec. Our purpose is to keep you informed and provides you a continuing sense of belonging to the Guard after retirement. We hope the newsletter helps accomplish that purpose.

Information is furnished through various sources, and is only made available in this newsletter for your information. Information and comments contained in this newsletter is intended solely for the personal interest of the recipient and should not be considered as an endorsement. If you have an item you would like considered for publication, please send it to the MEARNG Retiree Council, Camp Keyes, Augusta, Maine 04330

The retiree council has decided to continue the Retiree Newsletter to spouses of deceased retirees when the spouse requests it. Many items in the newsletter may prove valuable to the surviving spouse.

New Members: Membership is open to retirees of all ranks and gender from all parts of Maine. If you or a retiree you know are interested, please contact a Council member. Retired NCOs should consider getting involved to have their concerns surfaced and to demonstrate they are still an active member in military affairs

****RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND **SERVICES****

Shop on line at military exchanges: aafes.com or usma-mccs.org or ornavy-nex.com or cg-exchange.com

Pickings from the grape vine. or odds and ends.

Correction from item last newsletter. This is web site for free glasses for retirees:

www.med.navy.mil/sites/nostra/order/pages/retiree.aspx

If you want to be informed of events in a timely manner please send me your e-mail address. Once you do that please keep me informed of any e-mail changes.

albertwhite36@comcast.net

****TRANSITIONS****

RETIREMENTS

SGT JAMES W BERGERON
SPC ROXANN M HAWES
SGT JAMES W BERGERON
LTC DANIEL P GOODHEART
CSM DAVID N SMITH
SSG GERALD R FORTIN
SFC WALTER S BURRILL
SGT FREDERICK T PARSONS
SSG THOMAS W. PUSHARD
SSG MILTON G TURNER
COL PRISCILLA J. CUTTS
CW3 RANDALL E. RICHARDSON
SFC TAMMY L MORANG
SGT KIRBY G TOUCHETTE
SGM SANDRA A BEAUCHESNE
SGT PAUL E. WOODMAN
SSG JOHN S. MACKENZIE



(**Any names that are not on this list, was not done intentionally, please advise.)



TAPS

- 1SG VICTOR BROWN
- RANK UNK JOSEPH G CLOWES
- 1SG MATTHEW E CONNOLLY
- LTC ADREIN E DUFOUR
- CSM ROLAND MARTIN
- SFC ARTHUR J. TURCOTTE

It is suggested that the Headquarters at Camp Keyes, Augusta, Maine be made aware of a deceased retiree. Upon receiving notification, word will be disseminated to Staff and Units of the Maine Army National Guard. This will enable any active guard member who may have served with the retiree to pay their condolences. Person to call is the Directorate of Personnel at 207-626-4536



We will never forget

MISCELLENEOUS

WEB SITES YOU NEED TO HAVE

FOR INFO ON MEARNNG RETIREES TO INCLUDE NEWSLETTERS go TO:
www.me.ngb.army.mil/resources/retiree/ then click on archives newsletters under the related links in the sidebar.

For National Guard Association of Maine "NGAME go to: <http://www.ngame.us/>

For Maine Army National Guard go to: <http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/default.htm>

For Maine National Guard Family Assistance go to:
<http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/family/default.htm>

****UPCOMING EVENTS****

MeARNG Retiree Council Meeting Dates for 2011:

The Council meets on Tuesdays at 0900 in the USP&FO conference room, Camp Keyes, Augusta. Any retiree or non-retiree is welcome to attend.

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>
	Mar 8 2011	Tuesday
	April 12 2011	Tuesday
	June 14 2011	Tuesday
	August 09 2011	Tuesday
	October 11 2011	Tuesday

*All meetings at 0900 hours – USP&FO conference room
Jim Laflin, Chairman*

Maine Army Retiree Council Meetings – Calendar Year 2011:

(Not to be confused with the MEARNNG Retiree Council. This council is for all branches of service in Maine).

The Maine Army Retiree Council has not schedule any meetings for 2011. members are listed below

- CSM Edward L. Davis, AUS (Ret) (207) 469-7918, PO Box 50, East Orland, Me 04431
- CSM Estol R. "Mac" McClintock, USA (Ret), (207) 683-6121, 59 Huff Corner road, Wellington, Me 04942-8709
- SFC Harold L. Ware, AUS (Ret) (207) 642-2757, 110 Fort hill Road, Standish, Me 04084

Maine Military Historical Society Board of Directors and annual meeting dates:

The Society is looking for additional board members. If you are interested contact the Society president David Goggins at 626-4437 All members or friends are welcome to attend board meetings. 2011 board meeting dates are: 11 January; 8 March; 10 May; 14 June; 13 September; 11 October; and 8 November



Retiree E-Mail Addresses**

Listed below are e-mail addresses of some of our retirees. This is a way of keeping in touch, providing upcoming events and news of interest between regular issues of the newsletters. If you would like to have your e-mail address included in this list, contact al white at albertwhite36@comcast.net

If you change your e-mail address you will need to provide me with the change. An incorrect e-mail address can affect my distribution group for sending out e-mails. One bad address can affect the entire group. This is also a way of keeping you informed of deaths, legislative issues, family support, etc.

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Correct Mailing Address

HELP!!!!

It is imperative that we have your correct mailing address in order for you to receive your newsletter.

Please provide your correct mailing address by contacting a member of the Retiree Council or mailing it to:

Dept. of Def., Vet. & Emerg. Mgmt.
33 State House Station
ATTN: MS. Lori Jones
Augusta, Maine 04333-0033

We are now up to 1,520 members str
****RETIREE COUNCIL**
MEMBERS**

James Laflin	Chairman
	Vice Chairman
	Secretary
	Chairman Retiree List
	Martin Asdourian
	Al White newsletter editor
	David Blair, David Shorey
	Jeanne Clements, Dean Soule, Donald Laflin
	Edward Davis Douglas Welsh Jr.
	Estol (Mac) McClintock Nathan Grass

(UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

To all,

The Maine Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program will perform its 6000th Military Funeral Honors Ceremony in Benton Maine on Saturday, 6

November 2010.

I want to thank everyone for their support over the past 6 years that allowed this program to become the tremendous success that it is.

We have gone from performing an average 35 services per month in FY-04 to now performing an average of over 102 services per month.

The Soldiers on the team are of the highest caliber and represent units throughout the state. They perform services for the Veterans of Maine to the same standard as those Veterans being honored at Arlington National Cemetery. From Soldiers killed in action to Veterans with no next of kin to receive the folded flag, the members of the Army National Guard Honor Guard perform to the absolute highest standard.

Again, my appreciation for the support of the unit leadership who allow their Soldiers to participate, the Staff Directors who go out of their way to support the program and the people who physically action the requests for supplies and equipment. We couldn't do it without your support.

Please stop by the Augusta Armory when you are in the area and say hello to the team and view some of the training.

Sincerely,

Mr. Frank R. Norwood

Maine Military Funeral Honors
Coordinator
Office toll free: 1-800-958-5967
Office: 207-626-7822
DSN: 626-7822
Cell: 703-901-8531
FAX: 207-626-7804
Web site: www.funeralhonors.org

It's about People

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Maine Veteran's Property Tax Exemption

Who may qualify for a veteran's exemption?

Any person, who served in active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and was discharged under other than dishonorable conditions that:

1. is 62 years of age or
2. is receiving a US Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) pension or compensation for 100% disability;

AND

1. Served during any federally recognized war period; or
2. Served during the periods from February 28, 1961 to August 4, 1964, August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 and December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990; or been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; or
3. Became totally disabled during active service in the line of duty (applies to veterans who did not

serve during one of the recognized war periods above).

NOTE: This exemption may apply to the unmarried surviving spouse of that person

How much is the exemption?

Most veterans or their surviving spouse may receive an exemption of up to \$6,000 off the valuation of their property in the municipality where they reside. Veterans of World War I or their surviving spouse may receive an exemption of up to \$7,000, and paraplegic veterans or their surviving spouse may receive an exemption of up to \$50,000.

How to apply for exemption?

Property owners must file a one time application on or before April 1st in the municipality where they live.

Applications are available at your town office or online at

<http://www.state.me.us/revenue/forms/property/appsformspubs.htm>.

Documentary evidence, such as a DD214, may be requested by the Assessor.

The Law states that the exemption may be up to \$6,000 but my tax bill shows only a \$5,400 reduction.

Why is that?

When a municipality assesses its properties at less than 100% of fair market value, the municipality must also adjust the amount of the veterans exemption to reflect the same assessment percentage or ratio. For example, if the municipal assessor determines that local assessments reflect approximately 90% of fair market value,

the assessor is required to only allow 90% of the \$6,000 veteran's exemption. (90% of \$6,000 = \$5,400). Only in municipalities where property is assessed at 100% of fair market value will the veteran receive the full \$6,000 exemption. Additional examples are provided on the following page.

A municipality assessing at:

- 100% of full value may allow the full \$6,000 exemption
- 95% of full value may only allow a \$5,700 exemption
- 90% of full value may only allow a \$5,400 exemption
- 85% of full value may only allow a \$5,100 exemption
- 80% of full value may only allow a \$4,800 exemption
- 75% of full value may only allow a \$4,500 exemption
- 70% of full value may only allow a \$4,200 exemption

How much has my tax bill been reduced because of the exemption?

You can determine the reduction in your property tax by multiplying the amount of the veterans exemption you actually received by the municipal tax rate stated on your tax bill. For example, if you received a \$5,400 veteran's exemption and the municipal property tax rate is .0150 (this may also be stated as 15 mills on your tax bill), multiplying \$5,400 by .015 equals \$81. In this example, the veterans exemption reduces your property tax bill by \$81. Likewise, a veteran receiving a \$4,800 exemption in a municipality which has a tax rate of 19 mills (.0190) receives a \$91.20 reduction in their property tax bill (\$4,800 x .019).

If I have more questions, is there someone I can call to get more information?

If you have questions concerning your property tax bill or if you want to know whether the exemption has been applied properly to your tax bill, you should contact the assessor in the municipality where you live. If you are looking for more general information about the

veteran's property tax exemption, you may also call the Property Tax Division at Maine Revenue Services at 207-287-2013.

THE FREEPORT FLAG LADIES

Go on line at: www.freeportflagladies.com for more information on these super individuals!



History of The Flag Ladies

On September 11th our lives were forever changed. In answer to a prayer by Elaine to be shown a way to be of service we began a mission to commemorate the lives of the heroes of 9-11 and those who perished. Each Tuesday morning and on the 11th of every month we stand on Main Street in Freeport wearing our countries colors and waving the American flag.

We have held our ground in rain, sleet and snow, with temperatures so cold that our fingers and toes were numb and with the summer sun beating down on us. Somewhere along the way we were dubbed the Freeport Flag Ladies and the title stuck.

When our soldiers entered Afghanistan and Iraq to bring freedom and democracy there while also defending our own safety and liberty our original mission expanded to stand in support of our troops. Every day during the declared Iraq War we were on the hill without fail. All the patriotic holidays find us decked out in red, white and blue and waving the flags.

We are on hand to see off our Maine Army National Guard when they are deployed and to welcome them back to Maine whenever possible.

As the Freeport Flag Ladies we drive over two hours each way to Bangor to join with the Maine Troop Greeters to meet the troop flights whenever possible. We have greeted thousands of soldiers from all over this great nation who were being deployed or returning home often after long deployments. We have taken many hundreds of pictures of the soldiers and endless hours are spent at the computer working with them, putting them on the web site and emailing them to families that request copies. Small gifts are given to many of the soldiers whose pictures are taken by us - things like peanuts, flea repellent, games, notebooks, mints, etc. Wherever we go we are always on the lookout for a gift that might bring a smile to the face of a soldier.

One year Elaine spearheaded Flowers for Freedom, growing flowers and selling them to raise funds to buy the gifts and cards and stamps and pay for the trips to Bangor to meet the troops. Each year many yard sales are held to raise additional funds.

Each member of the deployed Maine Army National Guard received Valentine and Christmas Cards last year. Many other cards were sent to soldiers from around the country that we were privileged to meet during their stop at the Bangor Airport. Cards have been sent to Walter Reed and are being sent to the wounded in hospital in Germany.

On each anniversary of 9-11 Elaine organizes 9-11-Tributes that attracted hundreds of people and are covered in local and national newspapers and TV programs. In 2002 the Freeport Freedom Festival was held the weekend after 9-11. All branches of the military had booths set up and the Maine Army National Guard and the Navy Show bands performed. The Lady Liberty Craft Show, Uncle Sam's Flea Market and the Victory Garden Farmer's Market attracted crowds. Everyone had the opportunity to feel the countries spirit.

We speak with school children and community groups whenever invited to do so in support of our soldiers.

We were given the Americanism Award by the Maine American Legion on June 19, 2004. Donald Simoneau presented us with two beautiful American flags. He said it seemed more appropriate to him than the plaque that is usually presented. We carry those flags on all special occasions.

Three American flags have been sent to us that were flown in missions: one from Iraq by the 54th Medical Co., one from Afghanistan by Fast Force Mountain and one from Guantanamo Bay by the 169th Military Police. We are especially honored that wonderful soldiers would take the time and effort to recognize the work that we do and we will always cherish these flags.

We are also working with the Veteran's groups and the VA Hospital at Togus to make sure that these men and women do not feel forgotten or unappreciated.

During the years since 9-11 we have been privileged to be a part of many events involving 9-11 and the support of our troops. We were the Grand Marshall's of Freeport's 4th of July parade and in the Parade of Heroes in the Yarmouth Clam Festival. We carried the flags in Freeport's Sparkle Parade and Durham's Pumpkin Festival. Last December we participated in the dedication of a 150-foot wreath covered with 10,000 lights and 2,000 yellow ribbons. It has been our pleasure to work with Susan Morrisette of The Heart of America Quilt and Loretta Sobek of Operation Yellow Ribbon.

We do not espouse any political cause, but applaud the freedom to hold diverse opinions - a freedom that has been given to us by the sacrifices of our soldiers through the ages.

**NEED YOUR HELP IN KEEPING THE COMMISSARY
AT NAVY BRUNSWICK OPEN!**

**PLEASE SEND A SHORT LETTER TO EACH OF THE
FOLLOWING REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN KEEPING THE
COMMISSARY OPEN. NOTES FOR YOUR LETTER; IF IT CLOSES
THE GROCERY BILL FOR SERVICE MEMBERS WILL INCREASE
BY 30%. Commissaries at the Air National Guard Base in Bangor
and Portsmouth Shipyard would require up to a two hour drive
one way. Vehicle fuel at \$3.50 a gallon makes it almost
prohibitive.**

**Our service personnel and families are under extreme stress, under
supporting a constant conflict, multiple deployments, we do not need to
have more added if the commissary closes.**

SEND TO:

**Secretary of the Navy
Honorable Ray Mabus
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000**

**Assistant Secretary of the Navy
Honorable Juan M. Garcia 111 (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000**

**Under Secretary of Defense
Personnel and Readiness
Honorable Dr. Clifford L. Stanley
4000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-4000**

Remember this is not over until its over!

Editor.

2011 Maine Army National Guard Army Aviation Reunion

Planning is under way for a reunion of all service members current and retired of the Maine Army National Guard who have ever served in MeARNG Army Aviation unit.

Date: Saturday 21 May 2011

Location: Old 112th Armory top of the hill

Time: Probable social hour starts at 1700 hours

Who is invited: All of the above and spouses/ guests, current and former Adjutant Generals

Tours of the AASF: Probable start time 1200 hours

Expect invitation letters with all the info by February 28, 2011

CW4 Ben Ayer is the planning Point Of Contact. Request you E-mail Ben at: Benjamin.d.ayer@us.army.mil with your e-mail address and current mail address. Or call at 207-735-1192

Last reunion was held on 20 May 2006. A lot has transpired since then, we need to get together enjoy each other, share war stories (Real Now) and try some Army Aviation punch!

As usual prizes will be given for many interesting categories!

PLEASE PASS THE WORD

SAVE SATURDAY 21 MAY FOR A GREAT TIME!

Written by Al White, Newsletter editor, and former Master Army Aviator.

RETIREE NEWSLETTER

John Elias Baldacci
Governor
State of Maine
(207) 287-3531



John W. Libby
Major General (Retired)
Commissioner
(207) 626-4271

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 03, 2011 THRU JANUARY 09, 2011

MILITARY BUREAU

The following charts depict Maine Army and Air National Guard units and personnel currently alerted, mobilized and deployed as well as the operation or mission they are supporting.

MAINE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD INDIVIDUAL DEPLOYMENTS				
Unit	Mission	Personnel	Location	Status
Detachment 3, Medical Detachment	Community-Based Health-Care Organization (CBHCO)	1	Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts	Deployed
Joint Force Headquarters	Operation Iraqi Freedom	1	Iraq	Deployed
Joint Force Headquarters	Operation Enduring Freedom	1	Bagram	Deployed
Joint Force Headquarters	Operation Enduring Freedom	1	Kabul Military Training Center	Deployed
Total:		4		

MAINE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNIT DEPLOYMENTS				
Unit	Mission	Personnel	Location	Status
1136th Transportation Co	Operation Enduring Freedom	173	Afghanistan	Deployed
Total:		173		

MAINE AIR NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENTS				
Unit	Mission	Personnel	Location	Status
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom, and AEF	1	Al Udeid, Qatar	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Other/Air Reserve Component Volunteer	1	Andrews Air Force Base, National Guard Bureau	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Other/Air Reserve Component Volunteer	1	Antarctica	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Other/Air Reserve Component Volunteer	1	Baghdad International Airport, Iraq	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom, and AEF	1	Balad Air Base, Iraq	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Other/Air Reserve Component Volunteer	1	Curacao, Netherlands	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Other/Air Reserve Component Volunteer	1	Djibouti, Africa	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom, and AEF	1	Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Other/Air Reserve Component Volunteer	1	Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom, and AEF	1	Manas, Kyrgyzstan	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Other/Air Reserve Component Volunteer	1	McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom, and AEF	2	Ali Al Salem, Kuwait	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Detainee Movement Operation	2	Classified	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Other/Air Reserve Component Volunteer	2	Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico	Deployed
101 st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor	Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom, and AEF	3	Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates	Deployed