



THE SIGNAL

SIDE-BY-SIDE WE STAND WITH PRIDE

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Everyone—



Once your tree is trimmed, gifts wrapped, stockings filled with goodies, don't forget there is the house cleaning and the cooking for most of us. I promised myself that this year I would be a little quicker at getting all those chores accomplished so that I could sit back and enjoy it with my family. I give the same advice to you. Enjoy your time together. There are many that will not be able to do that again this year due to all the deployments overseas and other reasons. If you are fortunate enough to have your family together, cherish it. Take the photos— memories go a long way.

What is your new year's resolution going to be? My list is so long, I can not afford to print it!

We have a lot to do. We will start off the month of January with an Executive Board meeting to be held January 19-21 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Area 6 & 7 Caucus will be held at that time as well. It's a great way to break that cabin fever and begin the New Year.

The fun does not stop there. Do not forget the Leadership Workshop in Gulfport, Mississippi. President Lever is encouraging all state presidents and past presidents to attend. Vice President Taylor has been in touch with the Board members to ask them if they will be able to attend. We are hoping that those unable to make it to New Mexico in January will be able to come to Mississippi.

Just a reminder, there will not be a Legislative Workshop in the month of March in 2007. It is scheduled to be held in October. We will make sure and get the information out to you in plenty of time to make your plans to attend.

Let's focus on membership and communication with the members we have today as one of our goals for the New Year. We want the members to hear from us so that they know what is going on around the states. Do not forget that your state treasurer will need to make sure your membership roster and dues are mailed and postmarked by December 31 in order to have eligible delegates for the National Conference in Oklahoma. If your state treasurer is new, check to be sure that he or she has all of the information needed to complete your state membership roster to send with the dues. If you need any additional information, please contact Sandy Hiltner or me. We will be more than happy to send you whatever you need so that your dues get in by the deadline.

If your state does not have an auxiliary, I encourage you to get in touch with us and let us help you create one. It is very beneficial and helps strengthen our Legislative support on Capitol Hill. Remember— numbers count toward our voice on Capitol Hill and it takes all of us to make it happen. Now that we have some new faces on the Hill—we need to let them know about EANGUS and its Auxiliary and how we need their support. If you have time, send a Christmas card to your members of Congress. The more they hear from you the better. Our soldiers and families depend on us to not let them forget the sacrifices being made for this country. Our veterans deserve the best.

If you have units coming home from deployment or going to be deployed, send us photos and we will put them in *The Signal* (space available).

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of the upcoming events and wish only the best to you and your family. Be safe in your travels and keep in touch.

God Bless
Sheila Bandy
Side by Side
EANGUS Auxiliary President

RESIGNATION OF EANGUS ACTING SUPERVISOR MEMBER SERVICES

Hi Everyone:

I have resigned to my position of Acting Supervisor in Member Services. My decision was based on personal and professional reasons. It has been an honor and pleasure in working with you all. I feel very emotional right now but sometimes in life we have to do what we have to do not only for ourselves but for our family. You will all be missed and I will continue to support all members, soldiers and troops that are fighting for the freedom and safety of our country!

I will stay in touch! My last day with the association will be December 31, 2006.

I wish you all a **"Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year"** and so many good things and best wishes for the years to come.

Best Wishes to all,
Peggy Zang



AREA/STATE NEWS; CARES/CONCERNS**Area I NY, RI, MA, NH, CT, ME, VT**

EANGUS Director **Debbie Newton** has been working with the Delaware Auxiliary.

Area II – KY, DC, DE, Title 10, MD, NC, OH, VA, PA, W VA

Cares/concerns to:

Peggy Leadbetter for her continued strength in taking care of her many family member situations.

Please keep all of our military members and their families in your prayers. Pray that 2007 brings a renewed hope and peace to all. May we remember the importance of our voices as an EANGUS Auxiliary member and that we can truly make a difference.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jenny Lainhart

Area III – AL, FL, GA, PR, SC, TN, VI**Area III State Presidents—**

Please be sure your state treasurer sends in your membership roster and dues payments to the National Treasurer so that it is **postmarked not later than 31 December.**

If **Director Brabham** and I can assist you or your state treasurer in any way, please let us know.

Have a great Christmas!

Dianne Williams

Area IV– AR, KS, LA, MS, MO, OK, TX

Cares/concerns to:

Teresa Bartsch

Bonnie Wood

Past President, **Brooks Marr** sustained an injury from a fall on 18 December; she is in the hospital.

Albert Blackwell passed away on 22 November.

Paula Carrigan had a surgical procedure on 27 November.

Vivian Taylor sustained a slight injury on 29 November.

Beth Jones has been hospitalized.

Family of Chaplain (LTC) Gordon Oglesby—He passed away while serving in Kosovo.

Our thanks to Ann Hart and Jody Ward (Area IV) for sending in prayer requests/concerns for our members. You do a great service in contacting members around the states in need of prayer keeping us all posted and updated.

Hello, all!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you all are looking forward to a Merry Christmas. I know we are at the Mordecai house.

I know we're all remembering our deployed or deploying servicemembers and their families in our thoughts and prayers. Our family was in those shoes just a couple of years ago, and the memories of those feelings are not far from our hearts.

Area IV– AR, KS, LA, MS, MO, OK, TX

Hopefully everyone is making plans for the Mid-Winter Conference. If you are in need of any information regarding it, or if you need anything else that we can help you with, please let Hope or me know.

Again, here's wishing you all the merriest of Christmases!

Debbie Mordecai

Howdy From Texas,

We hope that your holidays are filled with joy and happiness. In Texas we are eagerly awaiting the return of our soldiers from deployment with KFOR7.

The Lone Star Auxiliary recently hosted a reception and Hail and Farewell for the 36th ID DISCOM by providing table decorations for their event.

I would ask that each of you keep me in your prayers as I prepare for retirement from the Army after 25 years of military service.

“The stars at night are big and bright deep in the heart of Texas”. Merry Christmas!!

Theresa Billeck-Zuniga

Area V – IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI

Cares/concerns to:

Marilyn Freking; experiencing a medical discomfort.

On 14 October, the Lincoln Area Family Readiness Group Members and Friends, gathered to help tie bundles of the Patriotic Note Cards. All of the initial 5,400 cards (450 bundles) had been sold, with a need for more. Currently we have helped earn over \$1,000, which the Auxiliary will give to us to help fund Soldier and Family Activities. This Fundraiser is Sponsored by the Nebraska National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary. Although their primary attention is given to Legislative Issues, concerning our National Guard Soldiers, they also provide assistance with Family Readiness Groups. If you have additional inquiries about the NNGEAA, or would like to become a member please contact **SFC Pam Whisenhunt**, (402) 309-7235.

Area VI – AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY

Cares/concerns to:

Virginia Ericson; experiencing some medical issues.
Clydene Bowen; mom is ill.

Area VII – AK, CA, GM, HI, OR, WA

Cares/concerns to:

Marsha Stark— husband has been ill. He is recuperating.

“We can all always use a prayer. A prayer is never wasted; remember to pray one big prayer for the EANGUS and Auxiliary families, our deployed soldiers and airmen and those who may be soon deploying.”



LEGISLATIVE NEWS; UPDATES AND OTHER INFORMATION

(Contains some reprints from EANGUS Minuteman Update)

Happy 370th Birthday National Guard



The National Guard celebrated its 370th Birthday on Dec 13, or 19 generations of lifers! Pictured here are members of three of the oldest military units in the nation honoring the day with a cake-cutting ceremony in the Serbian province of Kosovo as part of Multi-National Task Force (East) and the 29th Infantry Division (Forward). Brig Gen Douglas Earhart, commander of MNTF(E) hosted the cake cutting ceremony held at a Camp Bondsteel dining facility and the three soldiers who assisted are the youngest from each of their respective units. All three members are from the Massachusetts National Guard, 1st Sq, 182 Cavalry, 1st Btn, 181st Infantry, and A Co., 101st Engineers; which are recognized as three of the oldest units in the United States military. The National Guard traces its history back to the 1636 when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which functioned as the colony's legislature, ordered existing militia companies from the towns surrounding Boston

to form into three regiments: North, South, and East. Other English colonies like Virginia and Spanish colonies like Florida and Puerto Rico had individual towns with militia companies before 1636, Massachusetts was the 1st place in the New World with a large enough population to justify organizing companies into regiments. These regiments became a kind of military "family" for it's members. Although their names have changed, these 3 regiments still exist in the Massachusetts National Guard today. The National Guard is still going strong after 370 years and our military "family" is now reaching across our state lines and territorial borders. Happy Birthday National Guard and wishing you many, many, more!

Levin Calls For Raising Troop Levels

By John M. Donnelly, CQ Staff

The incoming chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said Wednesday he supports increasing troop strength in the Army and Marine Corps to address military readiness problems created primarily by the Iraq war.

In a brief interview, Carl Levin, D-Mich., said he will recommend boosting "end strength," the statutory objective for the number of people who should be in uniform by the end of each fiscal year, though he said he could not quantify it yet.

"I'm not sure what the right number is," he said. "A lot will depend upon Iraq. But in general, Democrats have favored end strength, both for the Army and Marine Corps, being increased."

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have strained the armed forces, such that the non-deployed brigades in the Army, for example, are not judged by their commanders as fit to fulfill their missions, according to Army documents. The lack of preparedness is largely driven by equipment shortfalls but also by shortages of personnel.

The upshot has been a reduction in the president's options for using the military, experts said. Gen. John P. Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, recently testified that a surge of even 20,000 troops in Iraq could not be sustained for long because the Army and Marine Corps are not large enough. And experts said the declining readiness ratings make it more difficult for the president to bring to bear U.S. ground forces should a new crisis require their deployment.

"It matters because it can constrain our ability to respond rapidly and effectively to unforeseen crises abroad," said Michele Flournoy, a former Pentagon official with the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "There are any number of places that could go sour and require some sort of U.S. response. It's an uncomfortable position for a superpower to be in."

To address the personnel shortages, Army and Marine Corps generals are advocating that the fiscal 2008 budget request support an increase in troop levels and that it be funded in the regular budget, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

Levin Calls For Raising Troop Levels

(Continued from page 4)

The fiscal 2007 defense authorization law ([PL 109-364](#)) would maintain an active Army of no fewer than 502,400, with an end strength goal of 512,400, the same as the fiscal 2006 authorized level. The president had requested authorization for a goal of 482,400.

The Association of the United States Army has called for an active Army end strength of 550,000.

For the active Marine Corps, the fiscal 2007 law authorized 180,000 and also set that as the minimum, an increase of 5,000 over both the prior year's level and the president's request.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld has long resisted congressional calls for increasing in law the number of soldiers or marines in uniform. He has argued that the military has enough people and just needs to retrain some of them for jobs that are now most in demand, such as military police and civil affairs.

But Robert M. Gates, who will be sworn in to replace Rumsfeld on Dec. 18, indicated at his confirmation hearing he is open to increasing end strength, though he also sounded sympathetic to Rumsfeld's concerns.

Also on Wednesday, Levin and Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., urged President Bush to tell Iraqi political leaders that the U.S. troop commitment in Iraq is not open-ended. The senators believe sending that signal will help goad the Iraqis into making compromises they otherwise would not make.

"Without these political actions—and they are difficult—then military action by itself will not be effective," said Reed, also an Armed Services Committee member.

Source: **CQ Today**

109th Congress Recessed

The 2nd session of the 109th Congress is officially on recess and will resume congressional business Jan 4th, 2007. Although some light congressional business continues to be worked and discussed the last session of the 109th Congress has ended. Thank you for your support of our National Guard family initiatives we pursued collectively throughout this past year. We, here in the legislative department at EANGUS, look forward to working together again as we present our 2007 legislative platform in the 1st session of the 110th Congress.

Privilege Offer Expires - 12/31/2006

This holiday season, most EANGUS members could probably use some extra cash. A USAA auto insurance policy could save them as much as an extra \$600, however, **time is running out for people who left the military in 2005**. After this Dec 31st, if they haven't already purchased a USAA auto, renters, or homeowners insurance policy, they will no longer be able to take advantage of USAA's low member-only rates and service that's the envy of the insurance industry EANGUS members can go to [usaa.com](#) or call 800-292-8611 to get your free insurance quote. Secure USAA membership today for yourself and your family before it's too late. You've earned the privileges – Don't let this one slip away.

Welcome to the Christmas holiday!

From the Oneplace Team...

Retailers have packed their stores with enough merchandise to satisfy every wish. 'Frenzy' is synonymous with 'shopping' and children can hardly contain their eagerness for Santa's arrival.

Have you begun shopping for those on your gift list?

How much will Christmas cost you?

- It cost Mary and Joseph the comforts of home during a long period of exile in Egypt to protect the infant Jesus.
- It cost mothers, in and around Bethlehem, the slaughter of their baby boys ordered by King Herod.
- It cost the shepherds their routine life, with the call to the manger and to tell the good news.
- It cost the wise men a long trek, expensive gifts and changed lives.
- It cost the early Apostles and Christians persecution and, oftentimes, death.
- It cost missionaries of Christ untold suffering and hardship to spread the Good News.
- It cost Christian martyrs, in all eras, their lives for Christ's sake.
- It cost God the Father His own Son - He sent Him to the earth to save men.
- And it cost Jesus a life of sacrifice and service, and a most savage death.

How much will Christmas finally cost you?



Twas the night before Christmas Poem also called "A Visit from St. Nicholas"

Clement Clarke Moore (1779 - 1863) wrote the poem *Twas the night before Christmas* also called "A Visit from St. Nicholas" in 1822. It is now the tradition in many American families to read the poem every Christmas Eve. The poem *Twas the night before Christmas* has redefined our image of Christmas and Santa Claus. Prior to the creation of the story of *Twas the night before Christmas* St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, had never been associated with a sleigh or reindeers! The author of the poem *Twas the night before Christmas* was a reticent man and it is believed that a family friend, Miss H. Butler, sent a copy of the poem to the *New York Sentinel* who published the poem.

The condition of publication was that the author of *Twas the night before Christmas* was to remain anonymous. The first publication date was 23rd December 1823 and it was an immediate success. It was not until 1844 that Clement Clarke Moore claimed ownership when the work was included in a book of his poetry. Clement Clarke Moore came from a prominent family and his father Benjamin Moore was the Bishop of New York who was famous for officiating at the inauguration of George Washington.

The tradition of reading *Twas the night before Christmas* poem on Christmas Eve is now a Worldwide institution.



Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Was Born

The Meaning of Christmas

Jesus "Christ" is known as the founder or central figure of "Christianity." Christmas is a Christian holiday on December 25 that commemorates the birth of Jesus. Ancient Romans also commemorated Jesus' birth by marking a division of the calendar still in use today. The years before Jesus' birth are marked as B.C. (Before Christ), and the years after Jesus' birth are marked A.D. (Anno Domini, which means, in the year of our Lord).

Christmas literally means the Mass (celebration) of Christ. "Christ" is a Greek word and title, meaning "anointed" or one set apart by God for a special purpose. "Christ" is equivalent to the Hebrew word "Messiah." Based on the words of ancient prophets, the first century Jewish people expected the arrival of the Messiah promised by God as a great deliver of the people.

THE JOYS OF GETTING OLDER.....

FAMILY

Three sisters ages 92, 94 and 96 live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?" The 94 year old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses. "Was I going up the stairs or down?" The 92 year old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful," as she knocked on her wooden table for good measure. " She then yells , "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

OLD FRIENDS

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me . I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is." Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, "How soon do you need to know?"

DRIVING

Two elderly women were out driving in a large car, both could barely see over the dashboard. As they were cruising along, they came to an intersection. The stoplight was red, but they just went on through.

The woman in the passenger seat thought to herself "I must be losing it. I could have sworn we just went through a red light." After a few more minutes, they came to another intersection and the light was red again.

Again, they went right through. The woman in the passenger seat was almost sure that the light had been red but was really concerned that she was losing it! She was getting nervous. At the next intersection, sure enough, the light was red and they went on through. So, she turned to the other woman and said, "Mildred, do you know that we just ran through three red lights in a row? You could have killed us both!"

Mildred turned to her and said, "Shucks, am I driving?"