



THE SIGNAL

SIDE-BY-SIDE WE STAND WITH PRIDE

JANUARY 2007

Volume 34 Issue 5

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Greetings Members,

For some of us the New Year has started out with a lot of bad weather. I was not able to attend the Area IV Caucus in Kansas because of weather conditions. However, I was able to attend the Area VI and VII Caucus in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

I can not thank the New Mexico folks enough for their hospitality. We were all welcomed by the Adjutant General of New Mexico who expressed appreciation for our legislative support. President Lever and I were both given the opportunity to speak to the group on our views of where do we go from here, member recruiting and retention and the effect it has on our legislative grassroots efforts.

The New Mexico Auxiliary has great support from its enlisted partner. The President of the Enlisted Association presented Auxiliary President, Petey Garcia with a \$4000 check for the New Mexico auxiliary from the proceeds of a fund raiser. This was truly a side by side moment—I was very impressed with how well they work together. I hope someday every state will be able to do that. All it takes is a little effort from both groups.

Upon the break-out of the Area VI and VII Caucus, EANGUS Auxiliary Board members in attendance to the caucus (a quorum present), held an executive board meeting. We were able to conduct a lot of business.

We will have another executive board meeting in February in Gulfport, Mississippi to update board members who were unable to attend the meeting in New Mexico. We also have a few unresolved issues that we will address at that time. I believe we can get all of our business taken care of when we meet in Mississippi. Any other issues prior to conference will be addressed by email.

Scheduling two meetings has helped to make travel for board members more convenient. We will **not** have an executive board meeting at the June Site Visit. Board members who plan to attend the Site Visit will be responsible for their own expenses. The Site Visit is mainly to view the area and the accommodations so that you know what to expect and can take the information back to your state membership. It also allows you to get out and see the sights because conference time is so full of events you hardly get to see or do much else.

We are working on some changes to the 2007 conference agenda to help alleviate some of the tight scheduling so that we can conduct business and still allow some free time. President Lever and I feel we should have more time to visit the vendors and the city and less time in a meeting room.

It saddens me to report that two of our Area Directors have had to resign due to medical issues. They are Area II Director, Peggy Leadbetter who has a family medical issue and Area IV Director, Hope Troy who has a personal medical issue. Both Peggy and Hope are valued assets to this organization and I hope they are able to be back with us real soon. Please keep them in your prayers. Peggy was also Chair of our Legislative Committee (a key element of our existence). I am pleased to announce that Connie Myers of Mississippi has agreed to accept the position of EANGUS Auxiliary Legislative Chair.

The Leadership Workshop scheduled to be held in Gulfport, Mississippi is only a few weeks away. EANGUS President Lever would like to see at least one person from each state to attend if at all possible. It sounds like it is going to be an awesome learning experience for those in attendance. There is still seating and rooms available. If you plan to attend and have not registered, you should do so now because there is a limited capacity for both. A registration form with instructions/and other information is included in this issue for your convenience.

December 31, 2006 was the membership dues deadline for EANGUS Auxiliary. If your state received a letter from Treasurer, Sandy Hiltner in regards to dues arrears, you must have made them current within the grace period as stated in the letter. Anyone not on the final 2007 membership roster distributed from the treasurer will not be able to serve as a state delegate at the conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma nor serve on an EANGUS Auxiliary committee for the 2007 membership year. We, along with support from our EANGUS partners, have worked hard to get in touch with every state.

Preliminary membership numbers show an overall increase this year. This increase shows 600 plus in life memberships. We will publish more totals when the numbers are finalized. A lot of good things are happening around the states.

I hope you enjoy the bios (some with photos) of state auxiliary presidents included in this issue. I thought it would be interesting for the membership to learn some first-hand information about our presidents who work so hard throughout the year. Some are also area directors which makes their work even harder. As you read the bios, it's clear that we all wear many hats. Also, it is fun to add a face to a name we hear so often. We hope to have more presidents' and or committee chairs' bios in upcoming issues. We ask that each person who participates by sending me their bio and or photo at sheilabandy@aol.com to also send a copy to Dianne Williams at thesignalnews@earthlink.net

I attended the Area II Caucus in Washington, DC this past week end. I am proud to say they are working hard to keep all 10 states chartered and active. All of our Area Directors play a very important role in this challenge.

I will be with my Family Readiness Group this coming week end as my husband's unit prepares for deployment. The Family Readiness Group and the Auxiliary need to work together. We have the same mission—to support the FAMILY and its benefits.

Please check the EANGUS website for the latest updates on the CALL's. There are some new issues that need our immediate attention. Let's not make excuses—let's make a difference.

I hope to see you in Gulfport.

God Bless,
Sheila Bandy
EANGUS Auxiliary President

VALENTINE'S DAY—14 FEBRUARY



EANGUS Mourning the Loss of One of our Association's Officers Secretary, CSM Marilyn Gabbard, Iowa Army National Guard

(Reprinted from Releases sent from the EANGUS Office)

Alexandria, VA Jan 24, 2007 The EANGUS National Office regrettably announces that Secretary Marilyn Gabbard, while serving on an overseas deployment in Iraq, was killed when the UH- 60 Blackhawk Helicopter she was a passenger on crashed northeast of Baghdad on Saturday, Jan 20. There were no survivors on this aircraft which was carrying 11 other Soldiers, 9 of which were Army National Guard members. Due to the nature of this incident, this accident is still under investigation.

Secretary Gabbard, who was a life member of EANGUS, was elected as the Association's National Secretary during the EANGUS annual conference this past August in Salt Lake City, Utah. CSM Gabbard was also appointed by the Association's President to serve on various committees within the Association.

CSM Marilyn Gabbard

Secretary Gabbard deployed from Iowa on Dec 16, 2006, assuming her duties as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the National Guard Affairs Team in Baghdad, Iraq on Dec 26. Gabbard began her 27 year military career as a private in the Iowa Army National Guard in October 1979. Upon her promotion to Command Sergeant Major on April 1, 2001, Gabbard became the Iowa National Guard's first female Command Sergeant Major and only the 2nd woman promoted to the highest enlisted rank of E-9 within Iowa. In her last assignment she was the State Operations Sergeant Major at the Iowa National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston.

CSM Gabbard will be remembered as a very Patriotic Soldier who was dedicated, compassionate and professional in all that she pursued. In the last email that we received dtd Jan 15th, Secretary Gabbard expressed she was settling into her position and counting down the days till she could come home. CSM Gabbard is survived by her husband Edward, also an EANGUS life member and retired SGM, and several other family members to include eleven grandchildren.

The following is a list released by DoD of the National Guard Soldiers that were on board that fatal crash:

- * CSM Marilyn L. Gabbard, 46, of Polk City, IA, Iowa N.G.
- CSM Roger W. Haller, 49, of Davidsonville, MD, 70th Regiment Regional Training Institute - Maryland N.G. (Title 10 Tour)
- ** COL Paul M. Kelly, 45, of Stafford, VA - Joint Force Hqs - Blackstone, Virginia N.G. (National Guard Bureau (NGB))
- LTC David C. Canegata, 50, of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands N.G.
- MAJ Michael V. Taylor, 40, of North Little Rock, Arkansas N.G. 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, 77th Aviation Brigade, Camp Robinson
- CPT Sean E. Lyerly, 31, of Pflugerville, Texas N.G.
- * 1SG William T. Warren, 48, of North Little Rock, Arkansas N.G. 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, 77th Aviation Brigade, Camp Robinson
- SFC John G Brown, 43, of Little Rock, Arkansas N.G. 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, 77th Aviation Brigade, Camp Robinson
- SSG Darryl D. Booker, 37, of Midlothiam, Virginia, N.G., 29th Infantry Division, Sandston, VA
- SSG Floyd E. Lake, 43, of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands N.G. (NGB)

* Denotes an EANGUS member ** Highest ranking Guard member to die since the Sept 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. (The other two Soldiers on board were Active-Duty Army officer COL Brian D. Allgood, 46, of Oklahoma and CPL Victor M. Langarica, 29, of Decatur, Georgia.)

Also lost in this terrible crash was EANGUS annual member Sgt 1st Class William T. Warren from North Little Rock, AK. Final arrangements are still being coordinated for these outstanding American Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country. To find out more information about these National Guard Soldiers and what is being arranged for burial and memorial services, please refer to the attached link to view the DoD press release No. 081-07 which provides the Public Affairs contact phone numbers for each respective state office.

AREA/STATE NEWS; CARES/CONCERNS

Area I – NY, RI, MA, NH, CT, ME, VT

Cares/concerns to:

Claude Imagna's wife, Jeannette.

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

Cares/concerns to:

Peggy Leadbetter needs our continued prayers.

Dan Chandler (husband of **Sue**); he is recuperating from broken ribs.

Laura Mowry, Title 10 Auxiliary, is working on their member recruiting. **Utey Vance** is working on member recruiting for the West Virginia Auxiliary.

Claudette Cuffee is working on member recruiting for the DC Auxiliary.

Thanks to these enlisted association state presidents for willingness to work in support of their state auxiliaries: **Randy Dunham**, President OH and **Tommy Young**, President West Virginia.

The Kentucky membership will hold elections at their 2007 state conference.

Area III – AL, FL, GA, PR, SC, TN, VI

Cares/concerns to:

Bob Jackson, husband of EANGUS Auxiliary Chaplain, **Kathy** had a surgical procedure on 26 January—He is recovering well.

The Tennessee Auxiliary and their enlisted association have finalized plans for their 2007 State Conference as has South Carolina, Alabama, and Florida.

The Georgia Auxiliary (AEANGGA) and partner EANGGA (Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia) are counting down to State Conference 2007 with final plans and preparations being put into production. The auxiliary has revised their AEANGGA Member Brochure for use in their member recruiting campaign kit.

Director **Marie Brabham** and I have been in communication to create the agenda and discuss other relative plans for the Auxiliary meeting at the 2007 Area III Caucus.

Dianne Williams

Area IV– AR, KS, LA, MS, MO, OK, TX

Cares/concerns to:

The family of George Bouse who passed away on 23 December.

Past President **Brooks Marr** has recuperated from her stay in the hospital and has returned to work. Brooks has a new email address: marrb@bellsouth.net

Area IV– AR, KS, LA, MS, MO, OK, TX

Cares/concerns to:

Hope Troy needs our continued prayers.

Brooks Marr's daughter, **Christy** who sustained an injury. She is doing well.

Glenda Bosse— father passed away.

Jody Ward had a surgical procedure on Friday, 29 December. She is recovering well.

Diane Sullivan incurred an injury on 25 December; she is recuperating.

Paula Carrigan's recuperation from her surgery is going well.

Al Hoxie has had some medical tests— He received a good report.

Ruth Murphy, Danna Davis' mother was hospitalized in early January.

Ricky Myers, husband of **Connie** had a surgical procedure on 06 February.

Thanks from **Alice Tupman** to all those who sent her Happy Birthday messages.

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

Cares/concerns to:

Ed Gabbard (husband of **Marilyn**) and family—his mother passed away on 29 January.

From **Shirley Spitz**—

Our big push this year will be to increase membership and to work with Illinois and Indiana in getting their auxiliaries up and going. The Area V Caucus; **18-20 May**.

Debbie Skeim is a new life member from Minnesota.

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

Area VI State Presidents—

Please keep your Area Directors, Pat Vogan and me posted on your changes of officers or any other pertinent data about your state. Send copies of your state newsletters to each of us so that we will know when your state conferences are and what is going on in your state. We would love to be able to attend all the state conferences in Area VI, but because of the distances involved in the west, that may not be possible.

Best wishes to all of you for a healthy, happy year in 2007. May you and yours receive many blessings during the coming year. Email me at ericsonarea6@msn.com

Virginia Ericson

Area VII – AK, CA, GM, HI, OR, WA

Alaska, California and Hawaii are working on their memberships.

NEWS AND BIOS



NCOAA PRESENTS CHECK FOR GV "SONNY" MONTGOMERY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Noncommissioned Officers Association Auxiliary presents a check for \$250 to Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong (right), president of Mississippi State University. The donation is for the MSU-Meridian Campus G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Endowed Scholarship fund.

Making the presentation (middle) is, Connie Myers, MS Auxiliary president; and Danna Davis, MS Auxiliary Vice president. Also pictured (left) is Maj. Brad Crawford, executive officer of the Mississippi Air National Guard's 186th Air Refueling Wing.



l/r: Governor Hoeven; Shelli Kasin

Shelli Kasin, NDEA Auxiliary President

My name is Shelli Kasin and I am proud to be the President of the North Dakota Enlisted Association Auxiliary. This is my 3rd year and it gets pretty busy at times. This year ND is celebrating their 25th year for the Auxiliary.

I work as an Administrative Assistant for a Fargo Engineering firm. I am a mother of 3 girls and 15 years ago, I married a father of 2 girls and a boy. We call them our "Brady Bunch Six Pack". They are all grown now but had at one time or another lived with us. They have their own families, our son is in Bagdad right now and he and his wife are expecting an addition which would be three for them. The oldest daughter has graduated college this year in accounting. She has one boy. My youngest daughter graduated last year with a degree in Statistics. She and her husband are now expecting their first child. We have a daughter in Chicago with a boy and girl and another daughter in Fargo with a boy and girl. The two

grandbabies coming are numbers 8 & 9. Unfortunately I lost my middle girl when she was 15.

During my first year with the auxiliary, I don't think I was aggressive enough about being involved but by the second year I had become obsessed. I like to do things to get membership. Our charter members did the hard work; we just have to continue their work. Last year we had our conference at the Radisson in Fargo, we had many different vendors, and I had made some floral and little bears as a thank you to the vendors and also a large bouquet that was raffled off with other items. Governor Hoeven was kind enough to help draw tickets for me.



Laura Mowry, Title 10 Auxiliary President—

A native of Rhode Island, Laura currently resides in Fairfax, Virginia, with her husband Master Sergeant David Mowry, NGB/A1 Conference Coordinator and current President of EANGUS Auxiliary Title 10.

I hold a Bachelors Degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies and a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science. I have worked in libraries for 29 years. For the past 12 years, I have served as a Law Librarian for an international organization in Washington, D.C.

Living in the nation's capital, the center of military and political policy, life is constantly touched by the experiences of our citizen soldiers. In response to the growing need for support for our military, the T-10 Chapter of EANGUS Auxiliary has held annual fund raisers for the Fisher Houses, which provide housing that enables family members to be close to loved ones during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury.

In my spare time I enjoy doing genealogical research, gardening, bird watching, hiking and remodeling my house.

BIOS



Linda Gillmore

Linda Gillmore, EAANG Auxiliary President—

My name is Linda Gillmore. I live in North Little Rock, Arkansas. I work as the Assistant Bookkeeper at the MWR Canteen on Post at Camp Robinson. My husband (Ken) and I have six children, Zac-22, Brooke-18, Heather-17, Ashley-13, Harlea-12, and Emily-10. I have one grandchild, Dash-5 months, and a daughter-in-law, Veronica-21. My husband and my son, Zac are in the Arkansas National Guard and members of the EAANG. We are proud to be a part of the EAANG family. Although, my life outside of EAANGA is filled with activities such as homework, housekeeping, cheerleading, soccer, and awanas, I am delighted to make time to serve as President of the Arkansas EAANG Auxiliary. I proudly honor and support our troops at home and away in every way possible. The auxiliary stands behind our Enlisted Association in all they do. We are here to serve and support them in any way to benefit our soldiers and their family's. As president of the Arkansas Auxiliary, I want to first of all thank God for all my blessings. and to also personally thank all our soldiers. our Enlisted Association.

the Auxiliary Board members, Associate members, and all of the volunteers who have helped make this a successful year so far. I am so thankful to have such a loving and supportive family inside and outside of EAANG. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. If you have comments. questions. or suggestions. please contact me at lcgillmore@hughes.net. or call me at 501-812-0025.

Pam Whisenhunt—NNGEA Auxiliary President

Guardsmen. Wife of a Guardsman. Mother of two; Stasia 15. Savannah 7 and Nebraska National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary President.

I work full time with the NE National Guard. I'm a Sr. Personnel Records NCO at the Automated Records Branch. I keep busy with the girls' activities, my husband and friends but I also love to watch Football and play Volleyball; I'm on a summer VB league. I try my best to put time aside for me. When I do I scrapbook, stamp and catch up with friends over coffee. I love to entertain. If I could go on a vacation it would definitely be skiing! I am also back at school at Doane College working on my degree in Public Administration. I only get in one class a term, but its enough!

I volunteer; Relay for Life-American Cancer Society, Girl Scouts-when the leaders need assistance, Family Readiness and of course, the Enlisted Association and Auxiliary. I brought our Auxiliary out of dormancy in 2004 and got it a non profit/tax exempt status. We have been very active ever since. I spend a lot of time with quarterly meetings, fundraisers, membership drives, and the family readiness groups throughout the state. We have also kick-started our state legislative program and hope to get three pieces introduced during the new session in the next two weeks. It's been very exciting! I spend most of my time working with the Enlisted Association and Auxiliary because I truly believe in what they do and stand for. It's a continuous struggle to balance it all but love every piece and wouldn't have it any other way.

Ann Story, EANGTN Auxiliary President—

I was born and raised in the small rural town of Bradford, Pennsylvania. After graduation, I went to Jefferson County Vocational Tech School in 1986 and graduated as a LPN. In 1990, I met my current husband of 15 years, SFC Terry Story, and moved to his hometown of Charlotte, TN with my 2 girls and 1year old grandson, Aaron. In February of 1991, I started working for St. Thomas Medical Center in Nashville, TN. where I am still currently employed as a LPN. As a blended family of 5 children (one of the five is now deceased), we have 7 grandchildren.

In my spare time I raise and care for 5 horses, 2 dogs and 1 cat. I like to trail ride horses and go camping with my family. Since moving to Tennessee, my husband I have engaged the military style of life and friendships. I have been an active volunteer at the unit level as a FRG leader with getting our accreditation in 1994.

I served as an AFTB (Army Family Team Builder master trainer) and GFTB trainer during Desert Storm and the first year of the current war in IRAQ. I am the current president of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Tennessee (EANGTN) Auxiliary. I have held this position for the 3 consecutive terms. I served one term as Area 3 Director/Army for EANGUS Auxiliary.



LEGISLATIVE CALL'S

(Reprinted from the EANGUS Website)

SUBJECT

Senate National Guard Caucus

To ensure that the National Guard continues to have a strong voice, it is essential that your Senators are aware of not only the Caucus, but also of the importance of the National Guard's role in their state.

There are currently 82 Senators who are already members of the United States Senate National Guard Caucus. The current co-chairs of the Caucus are Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-MO) and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

RECOMMENDATION

If your Senators are not already a member of the Caucus, call, write, fax or email to solicit their support of the National Guard by joining the National Guard Caucus.

Attached is a sample letter for your convenience. It may be duplicated and used, however we encourage you to rewrite it in your own words. Just address and sign it. Put your return address at the top. Add your Senator's name after "The Honorable." After "Dear" put his/her name again. Then sign the bottom of the letter.

Step one: Dial 1-866-877-HILL (4455). This is a toll-free number. Calling it will connect you to the Capitol switchboard where you can ask to be connected to your Congressman's office.

Step two: Tell the individual who answers the phone in the Capitol Hill office that you are a constituent of the Senator. Give your name, address and phone number. Tell them what the issue is and that you would like to have the Senator support the issue. Ask that you receive a phone call or letter back concerning your phone call. Ask for the individual's name you talked to and tell them you will follow up the call with a letter or a fax.

Step three: Write or fax a letter to the Senator at his Capitol Hill or district office. Tell them that you called the office, the date you called and the name of the person you talked to. Remember, ask for a reply.

Step four: Forward a copy of the correspondence you sent to the Capitol Hill office to the Senator's state/local office. Ask them to contact the Capitol Hill office to express your view on the issue. State and local offices are in constant communication with the Capitol Hill offices.

SAMPLE LETTER

The Honorable
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator

The National Guard Caucus was formed to serve on behalf of National Guard and Reserve members as their voice in the House on defense issues and to undertake the pursuit of common legislative objectives.

Please show your support of the National Guard by becoming a member of this organization. You will join the other members of the Senate who share a commitment to supporting a well-trained, well-funded, unmatched National Guard force that is prepared to do the federal mission as well as the necessary assistance to state governors in times of emergency.

Please respond with your perspectives on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me or my representative at the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, 1-800-234-3264.

Sincerely,

SUBJECT**House Guard and Reserve Caucus****BACKGROUND**

In 1996, upon the announcement of the retirement of Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, the National Guard and Reserve Components Congressional Members Organization (also known as the Reserve Components Caucus) was formed by Rep. Paul McHale and Rep. Steve Buyer. They formed the Caucus to serve on behalf of National Guard and Reserve members as their voice in Congress on defense issues and to undertake the pursuit of common legislative and research objectives. Rep. Gene Taylor took over the co-chair seat from the retired McHale in 1999.

CURRENT

To ensure that the National Guard continues to have a strong voice, it is essential that your Congressional Representative is aware of not only the Caucus, but also of the importance of the National Guard's role in his or her congressional district. A current roster of members of the Caucus can be found at: <http://stevebuyer.house.gov/ReserveCaucus/ngrcmembers.html>.

RECOMMENDATION

If your Representative in the House is not already a member of the Caucus, call, write, fax or email to solicit his or her support of the National Guard by joining the Reserve Components Caucus.

Attached is a sample letter for your convenience. It may be duplicated and used, however we encourage you to rewrite it in your own words. Just address and sign it. Put your return address at the top. Add your Congressman's name after "The Honorable." After "Dear" put his/her name again. Then sign the bottom of the letter.

SAMPLE LETTER

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative _____ :

The National Guard and Reserve Caucus was formed to serve on behalf of National Guard and Reserve members as their voice in the House on defense issues and to undertake the pursuit of common legislative objectives. Congressmen Steve Buyer and Gene Taylor are the co-chairs of the caucus.

Please show your support of the National Guard by becoming a member of this organization. You will join the other members of the House who share a commitment to supporting a well-trained, well-funded, unmatched National Guard force that is prepared to do the federal mission as well as the necessary assistance to state governors in times of emergency.

Please respond with your perspectives on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me or my representative at the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, 1-800-234-3264.

Sincerely,

SUBJECT**Department of Defense Proposed TRICARE Fee Increases*****BACKGROUND***

Last Fiscal Year, the Department of Defense (DOD), in the FY07 President's Budget, requested an increase in TRICARE fees for two significant groups of beneficiaries. DOD was seeking to increase the annual fees for under age 65 retirees at a rate of over 200%. DOD took aim at those who use TRICARE Standard by asking for an enrollment fee of \$150 per person and increased co-payments and deductibles. Congress, in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2007 (Public Law 109-364), did not implement any fee increases, keeping the same fees for one more fiscal year.

CURRENT

In February 2007, the FY08 President's Budget will again request TRICARE fee increases. Benefits for military members cannot be compared to those of civilian employers. Military members swear an oath with their very lives, and make a sacrifice that less than 1% of America is willing to make. This sacrifice pays the price of their medical care, a cost that those who are the protected must pay for those who protect them. EANGUS remains opposed to any increases in TRICARE fees, co-payments or deductibles.

RECOMMENDATION

Contact your elected representatives and express your opinion about increased TRICARE fees, co-payments and deductibles.

Attached is a sample letter for your convenience. It may be duplicated and used, however we encourage you to rewrite it in your own words. Just address and sign it. Put your return address at the top. Add your Member's name after "The Honorable." After "Dear" put his/her name again. Then sign the bottom of the letter.

SAMPLE LETTER

The Honorable
U.S. Senate (or US House of Representatives)
Washington, DC 20510 (20515 for House)

Dear Senator (or Congressman)

The Department of Defense is attempting to raise health care fees, co-payments and deductibles for military members who have already paid a significant sacrifice for this nation. Military men and women have sworn an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States with their very lives, a sacrifice that less than 1% of this nation is willing to accept. Their benefits, to include medical care, cannot be compared to any civilian health care plans. The citizens of America must bear the cost for those willing to make the sacrifice for their freedoms and ways of life.

Please show your support of military members by supporting legislation that blocks any proposed health care fee increases, enrollment fees, or increased co-payments or deductibles.

Please respond with your perspectives on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me or my representative at the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, 1-800-234-3264.

Sincerely,

**EANGUS 2007 MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP
 ANG, CRTC, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI
 REGISTRATION
 23-25 FEBRUARY 2007
 OPEN TO ALL EANGUS AND AUXILARY MEMBERS**

Forward to the EANGUS National Office eangus@eangus.org or fax 703-519-3846.
 NLT 12 February 2007

Room Cost \$25.00 per Night

Meals \$20.00 per day (includes Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Transportation to and from the Gulfport, Mississippi Airport will be provided to those providing an itinerary to the National Office. Contact Bryan Birch 800-234-3264.
 Cell 571-201-2802.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

State Affiliation: _____ Auxiliary: _____

In Case of Emergency Notify: _____

Phone Number: _____

I will require Rooming: Yes: _____ No: _____

I will be eating meals in the Dining facility: Yes: _____ No: _____

I require a special diet: (if so explain) _____



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Major Robert Palmer
(800) 336-4590

Guardsmen, Reservists and their family members encouraged to nominate their employers for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards at ESGR website

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, announced nominations will be accepted at the ESGR website for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards.

The nomination process opens on January 8, 2007 and will conclude on February 28, 2007. The goal of 5,000 nominations is a relatively small number, as ESGR estimates over 200,000 employers in America employ National Guardsmen and Reservists.

To nominate their employers, National Guardsmen, Reservists, or their family members should visit the ESGR website at www.esgr.mil and complete the 2007 Freedom Award nomination form. ESGR Field Committees will review the nominations and have the option to present three nominations per committee for review by the National Selection Board, which will select up to 15 recipients.

In 1996, Secretary of Defense William Perry instituted the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR). The award publicly recognizes employers nominated by their employees, who voluntarily serve in the National Guard and Reserve, for exceptional support above the requirements of the USERRA Law. This prestigious award is the highest in a series of Department of Defense employer support awards that include the Patriot Award, the ESGR Above and Beyond Award and the Pro Patria Award.

“I am encouraging all National Guardsmen and Reservists worldwide, and their family members, to visit the ESGR website at www.esgr.mil to nominate their employers for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This prestigious national award recognizes supportive employers who provide exemplarily support above the USERRA Law requirements for their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve,” said Bob Hollingsworth, ESGR Executive Director.

Previous recipients have included Starbucks, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Sears, General Electric, DuPont, Verizon, and United Parcel Service. State and local governments and a number of America’s small businesses, who are the majority of National Guard and Reserve employers, have also been recipients.

When asked about the impact of employee military service on small business, Hollingsworth said, “At no time in our recent history have the small businesses of America been asked to give so much in our nation’s defense.”

“Today, in support of the war on terrorism and the ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, an essential alliance has been formed. Many of America’s employers have become inextricably linked to the nation’s defense by sharing their most precious asset, their employees,” added Hollingsworth.

In the current environment of continuous mobilizations of National Guardsmen and Reservists, ESGR has recognized that more employers are impacted by the loss of key employees. The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award was expanded in 2004 from five recipients to now recognize up to 15 outstanding employers annually.

The 2007 recipients will be honored in Washington, D.C. at the 12th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony hosted by ESGR on September 12, 2007.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve. ESGR volunteers provide free education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees.

As the 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserve continue to perform an increasing number of unique missions that require extraordinary actions on the part of everyday citizens, ESGR will continue to be the informational agency for the employers of America’s new Minutemen. More information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities are available at www.esgr.mil, or by calling the National Committee Office at (800) 336-4590.

THE SIGNAL NEWS

Everyone is welcome to send in news/information from around the states each month to be published in *The Signal*. The **deadline** to submit news/information for publication in *The Signal* is the **15th** of each month.

Email: thesignalnews@earthlink.net with a **courtesy copy:** to President Sheila Bandy at sheilabandy@aol.com

Articles/information received *after* the **15th** of the month *or* that may require more space than is available in one issue will be edited/published in the next issue.

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