

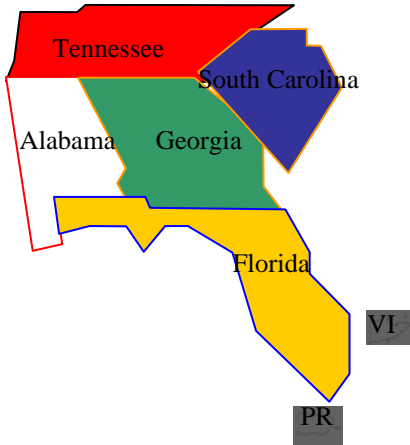


# THE SOUTHERN DRAWL

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2007 APRIL

## AREA III



## Georgia Enlisted Association and Auxiliary holds 2007 Annual Conference

On 20-22 April the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Georgia (EANGGA) and its auxiliary (AEANGGA) held their annual state conference at the Holiday Inn Hotel/Conference Center in Valdosta, GA.

The Friday evening Poolside Social included food, entertainment by the 116<sup>th</sup> Army Dance/Jazz Band and the annual Live Auction hosted by the auxiliary.

Auctioneers **Joseph “JP” Stevens** and **James “Jay” Grady** once again succeeded in keeping the bidding exciting and eventful. They were kind enough to allow me to display the items to ensure everyone had an up close and personal view of each item.

**EANGUS Past President/life member of EANGGA and AEANGGA, Ed Brown** was the successful bidder of the EANGUS Auxiliary “throw” (captured in left photo). On Saturday morning, he addressed the conferees during the opening ceremony with emphasis on the urgency of member recruiting/retention. In his continued dedication and support, he previously sponsored a successful fundraiser (raffle for an EANGUS Life Membership) to benefit AEANGGA. **We can not thank him enough!**

We were also fortunate to have in attendance, **EANGUS Area III Chair, Jim Rains** and wife, **Barbara** (photo below; left—seated next to **Barbara** is **Brenda Atkinson** and **Betty Neely**. Back row l/r: **Nicole Douse; Minnie Halliburton**.

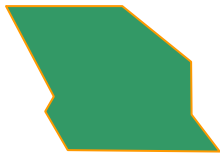
From the Friday evening Social/Live Auction Event



L/R: EANGUS Past President, Ed Brown, EANGGA’s Sidney Reed, EANGGA President Joseph Stevens; AEANGGA President, Dianne Williams

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## Georgia 2007 Annual Conference (cont'd from page 1)

**E**ANGUS Area III Chair **Rains** addressed conferees during the joint assembly as well as during the independent business sessions.

During his presentation to the joint assembly, he shared that he was very impressed with member recruiting and retention efforts from both organizations (EANGGA and AEANGGA); and was additionally impressed that AEANGGA had placed a **key member recruiting tool** in the assembly room prior to occupancy and urged increased support of the auxiliary.

**W**hen speaking to the auxiliary during their business session, Chair **Rains** extended the member support challenge to auxiliary members, encouraging them to join their respective associations.

**Barbara Rains** was also given time to address auxiliary members. She reiterated the urgency to increase member recruiting/retention and stated that she, too was impressed with AEANGGA's efforts in this area.

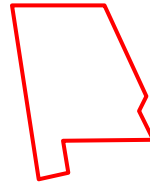
**Thomas McKennie** gave an impromptu presentation on Safety at the conclusion of the business session. He held a short Q&A session following the presentation.

I was fortunate to be invited to a wonderful lunch with **Jim and Barbara Rains** on Saturday afternoon. Again— my thanks to both of you.

The Hospitality Room proved yet again to be the favorite gathering site for visiting.

The Conference concluded with a Presidents' Reception followed by the annual Banquet event where the keynote speaker was the mayor of Valdosta, **The Honorable John J Fretti**.

**Our thanks to everyone who helped to make a great EANGGA/AEANGGA 2007 Conference!**



## News from Alabama Auxiliary, President Starr Boatright

Hope all are having a great start to this week. I am— I just won a tennis match in a tie breaker; it sure was fun. I took Steve to Birmingham a few days ago to fly to Panama. He will be there for 18 days.

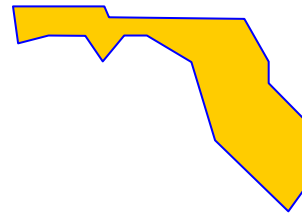
To EANGUS Area III Director, **Glenn Schmidlkofer**—

Thanks for all that you do.

Remember the lives lost in the Virginia tragedy and their families.

I want all of you to know how proud I am of our auxiliary—we are truly family.

I love each of you.



## New from Florida

**Director Marie Brabham**, FL has accepted the appointment of EANGUS Auxiliary Scholarship Chair.

If you have already submitted documents to participate in the Scholarship Program, your documents will be forwarded accordingly.

If you have not and plan to submit documents to participate in the program, mail them to **Marie** at:

**3329 Aspen Forest Drive;  
Middleburg, FL 32068.**

Electronic submissions can not be accepted under the current program.

**Deadline: 30 June 2007**

## CARES



### Our cares/prayers/concerns to—

**Starr Boatright, AL**—her mom is not feeling well and her step dad has an untreatable illness.

**Pat Reed, GA**—her mom was hospitalized for a surgical procedure; her step dad had a surgical procedure as well.

**Kathye Jackson, TN**—daughter, **Anita Russell** had a “flare-up from an existing illness.

**Alice Tubbs, TN**—lost her son on 04 April after an extended illness.

**The Family/friends of Doris Williams**—**Doris Williams**, one of the founding ladies of EANGUS Auxiliary and who served as the first EANGUS Auxiliary President, passed away on 03 April 2007.

A more detailed bio/informative article will be published in the April issue of *The Signal*.

**She will be missed.**

## Reporting Membership Numbers

### State Presidents and or Membership Chairs—

**E**ANGUS Area III Chair, **Jim Rains**, will continue to include our Area III Auxiliary member numbers as he tracks and reports the member recruiting/retention activity for Area III.

He will need this information on a monthly/timely basis—the time of submission to be **not later than the first of each month**.

**Please keep us (your Area III Auxiliary Directors) informed of your state member numbers whether there is a change to your numbers or not.**

Thanks for your participation in the effort to submit this information timely.

## REMINDER... State Legislative Activity

**Remember to send in your state legislative activity to EANGUS Auxiliary Legislative Assistant III, Barbara Rains prior to 15 May 2007.**

**Barbara will need to submit her report to the National Legislative Chair by 15 May 2007.**

**If you have questions/concerns, contact her at [jrbrrain@earthlink.net](mailto:jrbrrain@earthlink.net)**

**Your legislative activity may help to influence the outcome of Guard-related bills brought before Congress. Your activity also gives you automatic entry/participation in the EANGUS Auxiliary Legislative Awards Program.**

# EANGUS Junior Enlisted Committee for Oklahoma City 2007 National Conference

A panel consisting of:

Command Sergeant Major John Gipe - ARNG CSM  
Command Chief Master Sergeant Dick Smith - ANG CCM  
Command Sergeant Major Ray Hudson - Senior Enlisted Leader at NGB  
Sergeant Major Joseph Staudt - Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs

will preside at the 2007 Conference in Oklahoma City, Ok during a time at the Junior Enlisted Committee Meeting (**STATE JUNIOR ENLISTED ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**) to hold a Q&A session.

Members of the panel will speak for about 3-5 minutes each and then open up the floor for questions.

If a member of your state association's Junior Enlisted has a question or questions and would like to have it/them on the agenda at the conference, he/she can email it to

SSgt Joe Franco at: EMAIL HOME: [JoeFranco@cox.net](mailto:JoeFranco@cox.net)  
EMAIL WORK: [Joe.Franco@oktuls.ang.af.mil](mailto:Joe.Franco@oktuls.ang.af.mil)

**P**erson/s electing to send in question/s via email will not have to ask the senior leadership directly— this will help to speed the process. However, everyone is encouraged to feel free to ask the question/s themselves. The panel will be more than happy to answer all questions.

## GOT NEWS?

**S**hare your news—state, area and national.

If you have local news, area and or national news to include personal experiences/announcements/ideas and wish to share with the memberships, send it to us.



## **Reserve Retirement in the Senate**

On Wednesday, April 18, 2007, the Senate Armed Services Subcommittees on Personnel, Readiness and Management held a joint hearing on the readiness impact of quality of life and family support programs to assist families of active duty, National Guard, and reserve military personnel. During the course of this hearing, the committee discussed retirement benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve and Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) provided a statement on his bill, S.648, The National Guard and Reserve Modernization Act.

During his statement, Senator Chambliss noted that Since September 11, 2001, an annual average of about 60 million duty days have been performed by Reserve Component members the equivalent of adding over 164,000 personnel to the active strength each year represents almost a five-fold increase since the 1990s. Referring to the cash bonuses now in place to enhance retention, Senator Chambliss said that, despite the effectiveness of these bonuses, he would much rather motivate behavior over the long-term by providing an early retirement benefit based on continuous service and deployments. Given that Guard and Reserve members are the only federal retirees who must wait until age 60 to collect retirement pay. Senator Chambliss bill will reduce the age for receipt of retirement pay by three months for every 90 days a Guard member spends on active duty in support of a contingency operation or while responding to a national emergency since September 11, 2001. Senator Chambliss said that the bill is the right thing to do because Guard members who are called away to duty are sacrificing their civilian careers, including their retirement benefits.

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) agreed, calling the bill a great ideal and further stating that now is the time to look at the retirement system of the Guard and Reserve.

## **Senate Takes a Look at MILCON**

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veteran's Affairs and Related Agencies held a hearing on the proposed fiscal 2008 appropriations for programs within its jurisdiction. The Senate has shown that it is fully aware of the significant impact that the elimination of MILCON dollars is having on the Army and Air National Guard.

## **House Asks Where UAVs Belong**

The House Armed Services Air and Land Forces Subcommittee held a hearing on the proposed fiscal 2008 budget. In particular, the hearing focused on the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle program and the issue of single control of the program under one service. Many issues of efficiency and effectiveness were discussed, leading to a request for answers in writing from the panel explaining how many service members are currently working within the UAV fields for each service and also a detailed response on how having the Air Force as the executive agency for UAVs would effect other services getting what they needed when they needed it. The question on the number of service members comes from a previous hearing where General Moseley stated that 75,000 airmen are performing jobs normally filled by the Army.

During this hearing Michigan Representative Candice Miller brought the importance of the National Guard's role with UAVs to the committee's attention, noting that the UAV has an important place in border security particularly within the National Guard.

## Senate Looks at Insurrection Act

**T**he Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony relating to Presidential authority to deploy the National Guard in emergencies. A provision that was quietly inserted into the 2007 Defense Authorization Act amended the Insurrection Act of 1807, expanding the President's authority to federalize the National Guard.

The move has drawn criticism from members of Congress, the Guard, Governors, and law enforcement officials, who believe it will undermine the states' abilities to respond to emergencies. Senator Christopher Bond (R-MO) called the measure ill-conceived, unnecessary, and dumb and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) said it stripped control of the National Guard from the Governors.

Senators Bond and Leahy have sponsored S.513, a bill designed to repeal the language inserted into last year's defense authorization act.

The bill is supported by all 50 Governors, including North Carolina Governor Michael Easley, who said in testimony Tuesday that the provision undermines our ability to protect the people we serve.

Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, testified that the employment of the Insurrection Act takes authority from the Governors and places it with the federal government and Maj. Gen. Timothy Lowenberg, Adjutant General of Washington, told the Judiciary Committee that, in times of emergencies, states need federal assistance, not a federal takeover.

**W**hile the Insurrection Act granted the President the authority to respond to acts of insurrection or domestic violence, the new language expands that right to restore public order, a term that is not so simply defined. Leahy took further issue with the way that the language was slipped into the bill.

It's not just bad process, he said. It's bad policy.

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*Thanks for your time—  
everyone!*

