



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY ALASKA
724 POSTAL SERVICE LOOP #5000
FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99505-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

APVR-RAG-RS

30 Oct 06

MEMORANDUM FOR Members, Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting, Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council (5 Oct 06)

1. Under the provisions of AR 600-8-7, Retirement Services Program, the Greater Fairbanks Military Retiree Council met 5 Oct 06, 7:00 p.m., Last Frontier Community Center. Chairperson Ladd McBride presided.

2. Present:

Joe Sheehan	Ladd McBride
Mary Alice Jackson	Doris C. Mercer
Ralph Miller	Diane Miller
Richard Miller	Terry Miller
Wendell Gillman	Neil Wetherington
Bill Bieskei	Carlton
Dennis Gilletzer	Rita Gilletzer
Klee Hardcastle, MEDDAC	
Terry Ogino, AAFES	
Sharon Harris, RSO	

3. Chairperson Ladd McBride called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Members stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made. Wendell Gillman (Ret. Army), Dennis & Rita Gilletzer (Ret Air Force), and Carlton (Ret MC) were first time attendees.

4. Minutes: Approved as written.

5. Committees:

a. Membership: No report.

b. Legislative: Richard Miller reminded everyone if they have an email address to please provide it on the sign in sheet as he sends out emails close to three times a week. There are some council members who do not have email but Sharon Harris stated she could take care of mailing them the information Richard sends out weekly. The following items came out of the 2007 NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) Bill: No increase in TRICARE this year, no pharmacy co pay increases and 2.2 pay raise for the military. The Air Force Afterburner will not be printed in hardcopy effective immediately.

c. Medical: Klee Hardcastle informed the council that MEDDAC has a new Commander, COL

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MaryAnn McAfee. Klee will consult with the Cdr to see when she will be available to attend a council meeting. Other new physicians include: Dr. Vince Barnhardt, Chief of Medical Staff and COL Jeff Hilliard, Deputy Cdr Clinical Services. MEDDAC got the keys to the new hospital on 4 Oct. They are planning to move in within approximately six months. There is a great deal of new art; one of the 1st sculptures (metal) have been put in on the side closes to the gas station. A sculpture depicting a Medic Soldier carrying a wounded Soldier is the next scheduled sculpture to be constructed around Mar timeframe. Prior to move in, the equipment has to be certified. Move in date is scheduled between May and June 07 depending on how fast the equipment is placed inside. Klee will inform the council of the dedication and open house. The hospital now has a Doctor of the Day. When the 172d extended, so did the physicians. Deployed doctors are still being filled with Reserve physicians.

d. Dental: No report. Not in attendance.

e. AAFES/Commissary Council: Terry Ogino, AAFES Manager thanked everyone for taking care of AAFES employees while she was deployed and the council thanked her for serving our country and donating the snack for the evening. Scott Hill, Commissary was not in attendance.

f. Interior Veterans Coalition: No Report. Not in attendance.

g. Well Being: No report. Richard Miller stated there were not any meetings held throughout the summer.

6. Old Business. Sharon informed the council that the CSA Retiree Council completed the selection process for the new members and the Alaska nominee was not selected. She has the list available for anyone wishing to review the names. The council asked for an email to be sent inquiring why the Pacific was not represented when other regions had two to three representatives sitting on the council. Sharon stated she would send the email forward to Mr. James Euell at USARPAC.

7. New Business:

a. Silver Star Banner program. Ladd McBride explained the Silver Star Banner program is a not-for-profit, all volunteer organization founded for the purpose of establishing a Service Flag to honor our wounded military men and women and to provide assistance and support in any and every way possible to our Wounded Armed Forces and their families. It was founded Apr 11, 2005. The history and mission is at Encl 1. A Silver Star Banner maybe requested by clicking on the Request Banner tab on the home page or submitting the requested information at Encl 2. Qualifications are explained on the request. All information can be found at www.silverstarfamilies.org.

b. The council voted to hold all council meetings at the Last Frontier Community Center, formerly known as the Last Frontier Club. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. Also, the council requested the FWA and Garrison Chain of Command attend whenever possible. Sharon will send an email to the chain of command reminding them of the date/time/location.

c. The council identified Decreasing Medicare rates paid to providers as an issue for submission to the CSA Retiree Council. Sharon provided the format the issue would have to be prepared in. The council will finalize the issues at the November meeting.

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d. Sharon asked the council if the group could start planning the RAD at the Nov meeting. Money was an issue at the FRA RAD in Oct and invites were not mailed and she does not want the same thing to happen at FWA. Also, she would like to prepare a newsletter format for next year's RAD instead of just sending out the past invite format. The council mentioned if money is an issue locally, maybe this should be identified at the Department of the Army level so funds will be made available. It was mentioned that lack of funding could also be an issue to submit to the CSA Retiree Council.

8. Announcements: Retiree website: www.usarak.army.mil/akretiree.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

10. **Next Meeting: Nov 2, 2006, 7:00 pm, Last Frontier Community Center.**

2 Encls

1. Silver Star Families Organizational History
2. Silver Star Banner Request

//Original Signed//
LADD McBRIDE
Chairperson

I have reviewed these minutes.

//Original Signed//
SHARON HARRIS
RSO

The Silver Star Families of America

HOME SSFOA OFFICERS [HISTORY--MISSION](#) SSFOA FOUNDER OPSEC SSFOA AWARDS DONATE

Silver Star Shining for Sacrifice

THE SILVER STAR FAMILIES OF AMERICA

HISTORY AND MISSION
New members please visit [OPSEC](#)

Silver Star Families is a not-for-profit, all volunteer organization founded for the purpose of establishing a Service Flag to honor our wounded military men and women and to provide assistance and support in any and every way possible to our Wounded Armed Forces and their families. The Silver Star Families of America was founded on April 11th 2005, and received 501 c 3 status on December 5th 2005.

The use of Silver for wounded started in 1917 and was adopted for use in several states. After many years the Silver Star fell into disuse. In 1918 the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defenses suggested that mothers who had lost a child in the war wear a gold star on their mourning armband. This led to the tradition of covering the blue star on service flags either with gold, if a service member was killed, or silver if he was wounded.



As you can see we did not just pull "Silver" out of a hat. Many names were considered before we settled on the "Silver Star Shining for Sacrifice." Every time someone sees the Silver Star Flag, we want them to remember the blood sacrifice made by so many for this great Nation.



We considered a "purple" star, "red" star, and even a "white" star. Purple of course, came from the Purple Heart. Red would have signified the blood shed and white would have been for the healing of the wounded.

Service flags continued to be popular during World War II, and were used throughout the Korean War as well. They fell out of favor during the Vietnam War, but returned to more widespread use during the Iraq conflicts. No National Flag symbol ever materialized for a Wounded Soldier even though there was a Flag for Service, the Blue Star and a Flag for our honored dead, the Gold Star.

That is until last year when
THE SILVER STAR FAMILIES OF AMERICA
was born!

Take a look at the rare picture of a Blue, Silver and Gold Star Flag .



"Thank you to the Wisconsin Historical Society"

This is significant because when we first organized we contacted the BSM's about adding a Silver Star to THEIR Flag to honor the wounded. The idea was not well received. We were left with no alternative other than starting from scratch. Designing a Flag and Banner, having them manufactured, forming a viable organization and advertising and distributing the Banners. It was a daunting task at times. But today the Silver Star Flag for the wounded lives.

SSFOA honors Wounded Heroes with our Silver Star Banner and Silver Star Flag. One of our goals is to see that America never forgets the service and sacrifice of our Military, including our Veterans. Every time someone sees the Silver Star Flag, we want them to remember the blood sacrifice made by so many for this great Nation. We would also like them to remember the other wounds that are not so easy to see such as PTSD. SSFOA recognizes ALL wars, past and present.

The Silver Star Flag is now flying at a medical facility in Iraq, USO Germany Landstuhl/Ramstein, Walter Reed, Bethesda, Brooke, BALBOA, Ft. Campbell Community Hospital 101st Screaming Eagles, Post 639 America Legion Post Mt. Vernon Missouri Soldiers Home and several other VA Hospitals and homes. Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, General Petraeus also have been presented with the Silver Star Flag.



Though the Silver Star Flag is recognized by many as the Flag representing our Wounded, we are still working toward seeing legislation passed that will designate the Silver Star Flag as the "Official Service Flag" for our Wounded.

THE SILVER STAR BANNER

Hundreds of our Wounded Heroes have been honored with the Silver Star Banner and Certificate of Appreciation. The Banners are 8.5" X 14 and are suitable for hanging in the window or on the wall.



Individuals qualify for the Silver Star Flag or Banner if they have been injured or incurred a sickness in a war zone. (This includes PTSD) ALL wars are included.

SSFOA defines wounded as Military personnel either currently serving honorably or those who have honorably served in the past who receive medical treatment or are diagnosed with an impairment which has altered or will alter that person physically or mentally, to include but not limited to WIA, non-hostile injuries during deployment, or PTSD.

The individual eligible to receive the Silver Star Banner would not have to be eligible for the Purple Heart or any other military decoration in order to receive a Silver Star Banner.

The Rules?

Only one as yet. The Golden Rule. We ask that everyone please treat each other with the honor and respect they would wish for themselves. I would hope as your organization grows that this is always your prime rule.

One thing I think a lot of us are tired of is politics. I may be naive, but I think any organization can be ran more efficiently if it is based on love of God and love of each other. And NEVER losing site of the mission, which is to promote, protect, honor and help our Wounded Heroes.

Steve Newton
Founder



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The Silver Star Families of America



REQUEST A SILVER STAR BANNER

Please fill out the form to request a
8.5" X 14" Silver Star Banner
for a wounded service member.
For more information contact:
Steve Newton
steven.newton1@att.net



Please fill out each line to request a Banner.
A representative will be in touch with you
to verify information. Please allow a three-
day verification period. Limit one FREE
Banner Package per household.

Name of person
requesting (self)

Your email address or
Phone number if we
need to get in touch
with you for more
information regarding
the SS Banner.

Name of Wounded or
Veteran receiving the
SS Banner

Address to send
Banner

City

State

Zip

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DISCLAIMER: The Silver Star Families of America is
dependant solely on donations. It is our desire to see ALL
wounded receive a Silver Star Banner. However FREE
Banners are limited to one per household. Silver Star
Banners may also be purchased. Go to **SPONSOR A
BANNER** OR **DONATIONS** For more information contact

Steve Newton steven.newton1@att.net

Branch and Rank

Date of Injury and
Location

May we add the
Banner recipients
name to our
Alumni Page

Submit your Banner Request

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