

VA News – Online Prescription Tracker Gives Veterans 24/7 Online Access to Status

Veterans can now track the status of most of their prescriptions online, thanks to an innovative idea by a VA employee. The new 24/7 service allows online tracking for most prescriptions mailed from the VA Mail Order Pharmacy. The Prescription Tracker was recommended by VA employee Kenneth Siehr, a winner of the President's 2013 Securing Americans Value and Efficiency Award. More than 57,000 Veterans are currently using the service through My HealthVet, and online feather that allows Veteran to partner with their healthcare team. The number is expected to grow as VA starts to educate Veterans about the new feature. Later this month, the tracking feature will include images of the medication that dispensed. Over the next year, a secure messaging alert will be added so that Veterans know when a medication was placed in the mail.

Retiree Hats, Jackets and T-Shirts

Please note the additional costs for shipping that Ron has had to apply because of rising costs of goods and mailing. All products carry the embroidered retiree logo. Golf Shirt – Price: \$24.95 each plus \$5.95 S&H; T-Shirt – Price: \$12.95 each plus \$5.95 S&H; Light Jacket – Price: \$44.95 each plus S&H \$5.95; Sizes for the Golf Shirt, T-Shirt, and Light Jacket are M, L, XL, XXL. Winter Hat (one size fits all) – Price: \$9.95 each plus S&H. Please allow six weeks for delivery. Make checks payable to Ron Koenig and mail your order to him at 320 Red Point Drive, Smithfield, VA 23430 or call Ron at (609) 466-1008 or (908) 507-9008 (cell phones). See Ron's web site at www.retiredairforcehats.com.

Air Force Retired Decal

Air Force Retired Decals are now available and will be on sale for \$2.00 each at the Air Force Retiree Activity Table in the afternoon at the Joint Retiree Appreciation Day. Additionally, the decals can be purchased if a SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED BUSINESS-SIZE ENVELOPE is sent to: Retiree Activities Office 87 FSS/CVR, 2916 Falcon Lane, Room 14, McGuire AFB NJ 08641-5019. Please send cash or a check enclosed in the envelope that is payable to Retiree Activity Office. The cost is \$2.00 for each decal requested.

USAF Retired Automobile License Plate-New Jersey

This special license plate is now available in your own personalized choice. Members of the NJ retired community may still apply for our basic organizational design with the USAF coat of arms and words USAF RETIRED. In addition, our organizational plate can be issued in combination with a PERSONALIZED set from three to five letters and/or numbers, or as a COURTEST plate with a State Senator-approved letter/number sequence. The fees for these plates vary depending on your selected combination. To get instructions and application forms, send a SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED BUSINESS-SIZE ENVELOPE to Retiree Activities Office 87 FSS/CVR, 2916 Falcon Lane, McGuire AFB NJ 08641-5019. Please tell us which plate or combination you will be requesting! The instructions will include the plate cost and any limitations.

DISCLAIMER:

Opinions expressed by the writers of this newsletter are their own and should not be construed to be the official position or policy of DoD, USAF, or Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Editorial efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the information presented; however, no absolute guarantee can be given or assumed.



ALUMNI REPORT

Spring 2015

JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NEW JERSEY

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY, SATURDAY, 25 APRIL 2015 AT BUILDING 3101, LOGISTICS READINESS SQUADRON



On page 2 of this newsletter you'll find your invitation letter from Col James C. Hodges, Commander, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL). The retiree appreciation day program is developed and organized to provide you and your spouse/guest with the services, information, and support that you need the most. Our key note speaker will be the Honorable Lt. Governor of the State of New Jersey, Kim Guadagno. Other speakers will at various times during the day, brief you on other programs applicable to military retirees and their families. On page 3 you will find an outline of the expected special programs that will be available in the afternoon. If you plan to have lunch at the dining facility, please call our volunteer staff at (609) 754-2459. We need this call so that we can let the dining facility staff know how many to prepare for. Opening ceremonies will begin at 0850 at Building 3101. Coffee and doughnuts will be available at 0800.

PROPOSED JOINT RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY -25 APRIL 2015

- 0800 Refreshments and Entertainment
- 0830 Opening Ceremony: Posting of the Colors, National Anthem, Invocation
- 0850 Welcoming Addresses: Col James C. Hodges, USAF, Commander 87th Air Base Wing
- 0900 Keynote Speaker: Hon. Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor and Secretary of the State for New Jersey
- 0930 Health Care Benefits for Military Retirees: Col Andrew T. Cole, USAF, Commander 87th Medical Group
- 1030 Federal Legislation: Retiree Involvement & Legislative Update: Brig. Gen. James J. Grant, NJ Army National Guard, Chief of the Joint Staff, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Lt Col Ray Russell, USAF (Ret), Member, Lakes & Pines Chapter, MOAA
- 1130 Announcements
- 1145-1315 Lunch
- Afternoon Activities: Health Fair and Informational Tables – These will be open for your visit from 1200 until 1530, and will run concurrent with the afternoon briefings
- 1315 Mr. Anthony Camilli – Federal consumer Financial Protection Bureau

1345 LTC Robert J. Hodges, USAF (Ret.), Passenger Advocate (Space Available volunteer) "The Space-Available Privilege for military Retiree Families."

AND THEN THERE WERE THREE



Friday, January 30, 2015
Retired Lt. Col. Edward Saylor, one of the last surviving Doolittle Raiders, died at his home in Washington State on Wednesday at the age of 94. Saylor enlisted in the Army Air Corps on Dec. 7, 1939, and served as an enlisted airman throughout World War II. One April 18, 1942, he joined 79 other volunteers led by Gen. Jimmy Doolittle on a top-secret mission to bomb targets in Japan. Saylor was an engineer in the 15th of 16 B-25 Army bombers, which launched from the USS Hornet Aircraft carrier, something never tried before. Though largely symbolic, the mission was a huge success in boosting American morale and wounding that of the Japanese, in that it proved Japan's home islands were not beyond the reach of US sea- and airpower. Saylor received his commission as an aircraft maintenance officer in October 1947. He served at bases in Iowa, Washington, Labrador, and England, according to his official biography. In November 2013, Saylor – along with retired Lt. Col. Richard Cole, co-pilot of crew 1, and retired SSgt. David Thatcher, engineer-gunner of crew No. 7-attended a final toast to the deceased Doolittle Raiders. The only other survivor, retired Lt. Col. Bob Hite, could not attend due to poor health. Saylor was a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Chinese Army, Navy, and Air Corps Medal, Class A, 1st Grade, according to a Doolittle Tokyo Raiders release. (See also Mission Accomplished from the February 2014 issue of Air Force magazine.)

HELP YOUR RAO TO BETTER SERVE YOU

Our biggest resource in serving our retired community is communication-getting the word out-about all things that affect you. Future communications will be accomplished more and more via electronic media, as we look to do more in a faster, more economical mode, such as email broadcasting. It's conceivable that our next newsletter will be sent via email. To ensure you get the word, please tear out this part, dearly print your email address, and mail it back to:

**RETIREE ACTIVITIES OFFICE
87 FSS, 2916 FALCON LANE
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, NJ 08641**

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

www.gomdl.com

Events, programs and services at Joint Base McGuire Dix-Lakehurst for retired military & DoD

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR MOBILITY COMMAND
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST**

Colonel James C Hodges
Installation Commander
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst
2901 Falcon Lane, Suite 100
JB MDL NJ 08641

Dear Retiree

On behalf of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, I would like to cordially invite you and your spouse or guest to attend the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Retiree Appreciation Day on April 25, 2015. The Joint Retiree Activities Council has organized an informative program that addresses topics relevant to you. This year's keynote speaker will be New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno. Throughout the day, you will receive information on retiree medical programs, benefit and entitlement programs, and an array of special interest programs dedicated to you and your spouse including TRICARE for Life for retirees age 65 and older.

I also invite you to have lunch and experience the atmosphere and social surroundings of the men and women of the joint base as well as your fellow retirees. Lunch—hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, drink etc. will be available for a nominal cost of \$3.

Opening ceremonies for the day are schedule to begin at 8 AM at the Logistics Readiness building 3101—I look forward to seeing each you at the 2015 Joint Retiree Appreciation Day.

Thank you very much for your service!

Sincerely,


JAMES C. HODGES, Colonel, USAF
Commander

UNRIVALED GLOBAL REACH FOR AMERICA...ALWAYS!

THE GREATEST GENERATION – AS IS



Unbroken. The remarkable life story of Lou Zamperini, delinquent, Olympic athlete, bomber pilot, castaway, POW, PTSD sufferer, and born-again Christian has been portrayed in the just released movie “Unbroken.” His indomitable spirit made him a champion, and allowed him to survive the devastation of seven weeks lost at sea and the depredations of two years in a Japanese prison camp.



Unyielding. Elinor Otto, 95, is one of the original “Rosie the Riveter’s” who answered the nation’s call for women factory workers during World War II. She retired November 2014 after working 50 years at the Boeing plant. She said the “Rosie the Riveter” image wasn’t something she and her co-workers thought about much at the time, but it has stuck. “We never thought about it in those days – this Rosie thing came up much later – but we just knew, like I said, we knew this war had to be won and we had to help because the men were gone,” she said. “Not until years later did we think we did anything special.” The iconic image from propaganda posters urging women to work is still one of the most recognized symbols of female empowerment today.

“I thought, well, I’m going to do men’s work. I thought that a long time ago, so I’m not going to try to look like a man,” Otto said. It’s her larger-than-life attitude colleagues said they will miss most. “She’s an inspiration to keep people moving forward,” said Sal Gutierrez, a Boeing senior manager of production.

Through her unyielding determination and devotion to her work ethic Elinor has become the icon that Rosie the Riveter was.

RETIREE DAY SPECIAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1130 – 1530 HOURS

ID CARD Renewal: For ID card renewal, please bring the following documents:

1. RETIREMENT ORDERS OR DD FORM 214
2. MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE (FOR SPOUSE)
3. BIRTH CERTIFICATE (FOR CHILDREN)
4. ADOPTION CERTIFICATE (IF APPROPRIATE)

ID card applicants are asked to go to the Personnel Building for ID card processing. ID cards will be issued from 1130 to 1530 hours. The Customer Service staff greatly appreciates your cooperation. *NOTE: Be sure to bring the applicable documents listed above.*

VEHICLE REGISTRATION: You will need a driver’s license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance, ID card, and DoD decal number.

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS:

Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC):

1-800-525-0102; DSN: M6-6409

Army Billeting World Wide:

1-800-GO-ARMY; 1-800-426-7691

Casualty Assistance (Mon-Fri, 0800-1630): 754-3814

Express Scripts: 1-866-363-8667

Clubs: Enlisted: 754-3153 / Officers: 754-3296

Family Support Center

Director: 754-3154 / Assistance: 754-3294

Commissary: 754-3544

Tri-Care Service Center: 1-877-363-6337

DEERS: 1-800-538-9552

Retiree Activity Office: 754-5717

Retiree Activity Office: TERMINAL: 754-5026

Passenger Terminal: 754-8836
DFAS Cleveland (0800-1800 EST); 1-800-321-1080
Immunizations: 754-9209
Legal Assistance: 754-4601
Pharmacy Call on Base: 754-9464 or 754-4946
Pharmacy Call-in Refills: 1-888-223-2448
Military Clothing Sales: 754-2439
Pass & Registration (Bldg 1911): 754-2200/754-3079

INFORMATION TABLES FOR INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS AND ASSISTANCE:

- Federal, State and County Programs
 - Burlington County Dep’t. of Human Services
 - Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Federal)
 - DFAS
 - US Department of Veterans Affairs
- JB MDL Services/Privileges
 - Andrews Federal Credit Union
 - Armed Forces Heritage House Museum
 - Employer Support for the Guard & Reserve (ESGR)
 - Ft. Dix Retiree Council
 - JB MDL Legal Office
 - McGuire Retiree Activities Program
 - Navy Museum
 - Public Affairs
 - Space Available Program
- Veterans Organizations
 - Air Force Sergeant’s Association
 - American Military Retiree Association
 - Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
 - Military Officers’ Association of America (MOAA)
- Health Fair
 - Deborah Hospital (provider)
 - Delta Dental of California
 - Dietary Information
 - HealthNet Representative
 - Health & Wellness Center
 - Lourdes Medical Center (provider)
 - Men’s Health Issues
 - Women’s Health Issues
 - Optometry
 - Physical Therapy
 - Radiology
 - Stress Management
 - Substance Abuse
 - US Family Health Plan
 - Virtua Memorial Hospital (provider)

Saluting Those Imprisoned With Honor

A lone B-52 passed over the Air force Memorial on Monday the 50th anniversary of the shutdown of the first airman taken prisoner during the Vietnam War. “Fifty years ago today, the United States kicked off Operation Rolling Thunder, led by a B-52 assault,” said Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh before laying a wreath in honor of the service’s prisoners of war during the March 2 ceremony in Arlington, Va. “The US would also lose more than 1,000 aircraft in that campaign,” including the F-100 of pilot 1st Lt. Hayden Lockhart, said Welsh. “He was the first Air Force prisoner of the Vietnam conflict and would remain a prisoner until his release on Feb. 12, 1973, nearly eight years later,” noted Welsh. In addition to the 566 airmen held prisoner during the conflict, another 512 airmen went mission in action. “Imagine that there is no joyful reunion, no tearful hug. Nothing but a deep, dark hole in your heart where love somehow lives on,” said Welsh, addressing the audience of former POWs, their families, airmen, and officials. Welsh charged today’s airmen to pledge themselves “to making those great airmen as proud of us as we are of them.” (See also the Air Force’s release.) (To understand the bravery and endurance of US POWs in Vietnam, read Honor Bound from Air Force Magazine’s archives.)