



the Register

May/June 1999

The Newsletter of the Selective Service System

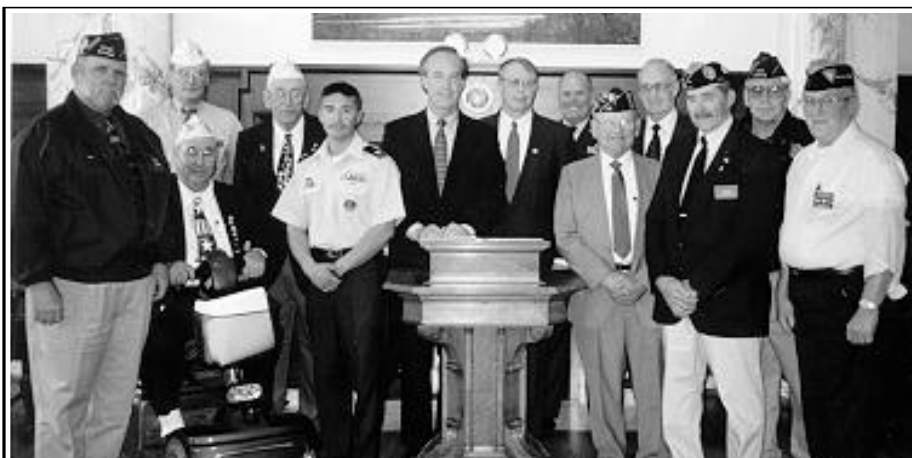
Idaho and West Virginia Become the 26th and 27th States to Enact Supporting Legislation

Idaho and West Virginia have enacted legislation linking state benefits to Selective Service registration, bringing the total number of states with supporting legislation to 27. Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne signed the Idaho bill on March 26, 1999. West Virginia Gov. Cecil H. Underwood signed his state's bill on April 8, 1999. Both laws go into effect July 1, 1999.

"More than half the states now have legislation supporting Selective Service registration," said Gil Coronado, Director of Selective Service. "Nationally, on-time registration rates have declined slightly over the past two years. But with states such as Idaho and West Virginia passing legislation, I'm convinced the downward trend can be reversed," he added.

Under federal law, virtually all men must register with Selective Service within 30 days of turning 18. Although the last draft ended in 1973, registration has been ongoing since 1980 so America remains prepared to conduct a fair and equitable draft in a crisis. Congress has linked many federal benefits to the registration requirement. For example, a man must be registered to be eligible for federal student loans and Pell grants, job training programs under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), and federal jobs in the Executive Branch of the government, as well as jobs with the U.S. Postal Service. Male immigrants who fail to register, as required, cannot obtain U.S. citizenship. Late registrations are accepted, but a man cannot register after reaching age 26.

In recent years, many states enacted laws that mirror federal statutes. The Idaho law requires men to be registered with Selective Service to be eligible for state student financial assistance or jobs in state government. It also prohibits them from enrolling in state colleges and universities unless they are registered with Selective Service. The West Virginia law requires Selective Service registration as a precondition for state student financial aid and state employment.



In Boise, Idaho Governor Dirk Hemphorne (center left, with hands on the podium) celebrates the signing of legislation in Idaho with Region III Director Sam Thiessen (at right of Hemphorne), other Selective Service officials, and state and local dignitaries.

The other states with laws supporting Selective Service registration are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

The Idaho bill was sponsored by State Rep. Max C. Black, (R-Boise) and Senator Robert L. Geddes, (R-Soda Springs), whose efforts were key in defeating an attempt to reconsider the bill. Black steered the bill through a number of committee hearings in both chambers of the Idaho legislature before winning passage in both the House and the Senate. The bill also generated strong support from veterans groups in the state.

"This is a great way to increase on-time registrations in the state," noted retired Idaho Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Darrell V. Manning, Idaho State Director. "It also reminds young men that they are obligated to fulfill their civic responsibility, as other generations have done."

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Kudos for Idaho State Director Manning.

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Army Secretary Caldera Says a Draft Will Not Solve Recruiting Ills

The Honorable Louis Caldera, Secretary of the Army, told a National Press Club audience in March that civic responsibility, not reinstatement of the draft, is the most effective means for alleviating the military's manpower shortage.

"The notion of military service as a civic obligation and articulating the value of such service to the nation and the individual is key to solving our recruiting challenges and manning our Armed Forces," he said. "But its importance goes far beyond providing for the security of our nation; it is also central to producing a society that is willing to give of itself to make our nation stronger and to provide for the common good."

The commitment to military service, Caldera explained, is not as strong with today's youth. He pointed out that just 12 percent of service-age youth express interest in military service, partly because parents today do not encourage their children to serve in the military. Caldera added that a return of the draft was only one option to solve the military's dilemma.

"By its very nature, the draft communicates that military service is everyone's obligation. And it might act as a leveling influence in the ranks and in our society," Caldera said, pointing out young Americans from all walks of life would be drafted, possibly leading to a more cohesive society. Furthermore, Caldera said a draft may not be the most equitable or practical way to recruit Americans for the military simply because the number of recruits needed today is lower than what was required during World War II.

"Today, with our smarter, post-Cold War Armed Forces, our stronger volunteer tradition, and our need for longer terms of service to get a good return on the higher up-front training costs, it would be harder to fashion a fair draft," he said.

Even without a draft, Caldera said it is important to maintain Selective Service as a hedge against underestimating manpower needs in a crisis. And while he does not see any immediate military threat that would require a draft, it is important to maintain our readiness if a major deployment is required. In his words, training and preparedness "... gives us deterrence and security for our nation."



Director Coronado (I.) presents Army Secretary Louis Caldera with the Selective Service Honored Patriot Award during a ceremony at Selective Service National Headquarters last June.

Caldera said that it might be better for the Armed Forces to emphasize the public service aspect of military service, rather than what the military can do for recruits.

"These days, as financial aid and employer-paid training comes easier, our recruitment incentives alone aren't such an attractive offer," he explained. "Given this environment, we face a twofold challenge: not only must we fill the ranks, we must also communicate more broadly that service to the nation is an essential obligation of citizenship that doesn't keep you from achieving your goals, but instead ought to be one of those life-forming goals."

We Want to Hear from You!

The Register welcomes editorial contributions from readers. Please submit items of interest about the Selective Service System and its employees to Ben Cromer, Editor, via e-mail (bcromer@sss.gov) or via Selective Service National Headquarters, 1515 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Va. 22209-2425. The deadline for the next issue is June 20, 1999.



The Biennial National Training Conference will be in San Antonio, June 27-30, 1999.

Texas Delegation Invades Georgia for New Officer Training

In March, a large contingent of Selective Service Officers from Texas took part in New Officer Training at Region II Headquarters in Marietta, Ga. The Texas delegation was led by Deputy State Director Alfonso Carmona. Lt. Col. Rogelio Rodriguez, Chief of Staff at Selective Service National Headquarters, also took part in the event.

The participants, pictured from left to right, were (front row) Second Lt. Jill Trahan and Capt. Heber Olguin; (center row) Lt. Col. Rodriguez, Carmona, and Lt. Col. Pedro Cardenas; and (back row) Capt. Michael Hudspeth, Lt. Col. Jorge Gonzalez, Maj. Wayne Daniels, Maj. John Turner, and First Lt. Clifton Cornell.



Brunwasser Promoted to Major in the Army National Guard

Arthur Brunwasser of New York Detachment 1 has been promoted to major in the Army National Guard. Brunwasser learned about the promotion in February during combined detachment drills at the Army National Guard's Park Avenue Armory in New York. Pictured at right (left to right) are Lt. Col. Glen Ford, Region I Director; Maj. Gen. Rosetta Burke, Ret., the New York State Director; Brunwasser; Col. John Gundy, Detachment 1 Commander; and Lt. Col. Conrad DeCuyper, Detachment 1 Executive Officer.



Selective Service Says "Thanks Houston"

In March, Texas State Director Claude Hempel formally thanked Houston Mayor Lee Brown for the city's efforts in support of registration improvement "blitz" activities. Houston, the third-largest city in the nation, was selected for a registration improvement blitz because it has lower than average registration compliance.

Mayor Brown proclaimed March 1-5, 1999, as Selective Service Registration Awareness Days in Houston, helping focus attention on registration during blitz week. In all, 66 Houston high schools were visited, resulting in nearly 700 new registrations.

At right, Brown (l.) receives a Plaque of Appreciation from Hempel.



DMC HONORS & AWARDS



Blanca Colon

Blanca Colon is DMC Employee of the Year

The Agency's Data Management Center (DMC) has named Blanca Colon as DMC Employee of the Year for 1998.

"I forgot I was in the running for this award," Colon said.

DMC Director Lyle Wilkes presented Colon with a plaque and a cash award. "I am fortunate to have employees of Blanca's caliber," Wilkes said. "She is the epitome of a dedicated and highly efficient worker."

During the year, Colon personally processed over 286,000 forms, at a rate of 14,700 keystrokes per hour, and with an accuracy rate of only 1 error per 10,000 keystrokes. An Incentive Keying Program member, her work output was the equivalent of nearly four entry-level employees. In effect, her performance saved the Agency over \$70,000 in salary costs in one year.

Born in Puerto Rico, Colon and her family moved to Illinois during her teens. In 1987, shortly after she graduated from high school, Colon joined the DMC as a data transcriber. In 1991, she joined the DMC's Incentive Keying Program, an elite group that limits data entry errors to 3 errors per 10,000 keystrokes.

Colon lives in Waukegan, Ill., with her son, Jiovanny.

DMC Employee of the Quarter

Marilyn Jesse, a contact representative at the Agency's Data Management Center (DMC), was named DMC Employee of the Quarter for October through December 1998.

"I've been at the DMC for quite a few years, and always assumed someone else would win it," Jesse said. "I really feel great to be honored in this way."

Jesse received a cash award, a handsome plaque, and a 90-day reserved parking space for her achievements. Her success, she said, is due primarily to a positive attitude, an important attribute when dealing with the public.

"As far as the general public is concerned, I am the Selective Service System, so it's up to me to portray a cordial and efficient organization," she explained. "No matter how many times I deal with the same problem, it makes me feel good when I can satisfy a customer's needs."

During the three-month period, Jesse far exceeded performance requirements. She assisted in the processing of nearly 13,000 paper transactions, updated more than 6,000 records, and answered nearly 4,300 telephone inquiries.

Her supervisor, Daisy Santiago, characterized Jesse's telephone manner as "... exceptional. She goes out of her way to ensure the caller is given the best service possible."

Jesse joined the DMC in November 1986 as a mail processing clerk. She has received several promotions since then, becoming a contact representative in 1992. An Illinois native, she lives in Beach Park, Ill. She has two grown children, Jamie and John.



Marilyn Jesse receives DMC Employee of the Quarter award from DMC Director Lyle Wilkes.

Selective Service Q&A: Should 18-Year-Old Men Have to Register?

A panel discussion about the draft was held on April 22, 1999, in Alumni Hall at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. During the question and answer session following the panel discussion, Lewis Brodsky, Director of Public and Congressional Affairs for the Selective Service System, posed a question to Rear Admiral Barbara McGann, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command; former Senator Gary Hart (D-Colo.); and Dr. John A. Williams, a military sociologist from Loyola University in Chicago. The question: Should the registration program for 18-year-old men continue and should the Agency maintain its current standby status as a hedge against any future conflict?

Commander McGann : "From a recruiting standpoint, I do get a lot of benefit from the registration process. In fact, we are working with your office now to actually put some advertisement on the Selective Service acknowledgment card. If, in fact, we believe that an all-recruited force is possible, and we are committed to putting the right kinds of marketing tools and incentives in place, I am personally not certain it is. From a practical standpoint, I get a lot of benefit from the existing process so I would hate to see it go away from that standpoint."

Senator Hart : "I think we should continue it, but I think the threat in the 21st Century will not be an all out conflict of the type we knew at least twice in the 20th Century. And so the need for mass armies in the field, against other mass armies in the field in my judgment will go down in the 21st Century. I am much more worried about weapons of mass destruction in the urban heartland of this country. All the combat divisions in the world are probably not going to stop that, or B-2 bombers."

Dr. Williams : "I heard a young man say, 'You know I just had to register for the Selective Service, and you know, I think what they are really trying to do is ... they want to know where I am in case there's a war.' Well. (Audience laughter) You broke the code! I absolutely am a great supporter of the Selective Service System for reasons having nothing to do with military necessity, although it is important as a hedge. And that is, it is a reminder to some portion of the population of an obligation that you incur to be a citizen of a liberal democratic state. And there are few of them ... that is one and I would hate to see it go for that reason and no other."

Salute:



Idaho State Director Darrell Manning

Selective Service Praises Idaho State Director Darrell Manning

Idaho State Director Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Darrell V. Manning has been singled out for praise by Region III Director Sam Thiessen for his efforts to enact legislation in Idaho supporting Selective Service.

"Gen. Manning's efforts and expertise were key to passage of this legislation," said Thiessen. "His unique Selective Service, military, and legislative experience were prime factors in helping us make Idaho the 26th state to pass supporting legislation. Having worked with him for more than 10 years, I believe he is a remarkable individual."

Manning's current assignment is his second in Idaho: He served as both the adjutant general and Idaho state director in the 1980s. His political skills were honed during two terms as a state legislator in the Idaho House and one term in the Idaho Senate.

Manning was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1955 and earned his Air Force wings in 1956. He was on active duty with the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam conflict. He was appointed as adjutant general of the Idaho Air and Army National Guard and promoted to brigadier general in 1985. He was promoted to major general in 1987.

A native of Preston, Idaho, Manning earned his B.S. degree from Utah State University in Logan, and attended graduate school at Idaho State in Pocatello. He lives in Boise with his wife, Rochelle Cole. They have two sons, David and Michael.

Lights! Camera! Action!

In March, the Selective Service System went "on location" in New York City to film a new public service announcement (PSA), available this summer. The PSA focuses on benefits that are lost if young men do not register with Selective Service. Several students had speaking roles in the production, filmed near South Bronx High School, adding a touch of realism to the "spot." Agency Director Coronado, who stopped by to view the film shoot, said he was excited by the end result.

"We wanted a fresh approach for this PSA and we certainly got it," Coronado said. "The cast and crew were outstanding. Because of their efforts, this spot should be warmly received by media outlets around the country, ensuring that more young men will heed the call and register with Selective Service."



Cinematographer Jeff Confer films a new Agency public service announcement at Pete's Cafe in New York City.



Director Coronado thanks students from Theodore Roosevelt High School in New York City for participating in a new public service announcement.

Son of Region II Employee Keeps It All in the (Military) Family

Brian Waggoner, the 18 year old son of Robert and Deborah Waggoner, was sworn into the U.S. Air Force in January by Col. Keith Scragg, Region II Director.

Brian's mother is the Program Assistant for the East Team at Region II Headquarters in Marietta, Ga. He is stationed at Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, Texas; in September, he will be transferred to Okinawa, Japan.

At right, Scragg congratulates Brian following the swearing-in ceremony.



Selective Service Honors Dr. Henry Williams for 50 Years of Service

Dr. Henry N. Williams, Counselor and General Counsel for Selective Service at National Headquarters, was honored in April with the Honored Patriot Award for his 50 years of government service. Williams received the award from Director Coronado at an Agency staff meeting.

"We are indeed fortunate to have such a distinguished individual on our staff," said Director Coronado in announcing Williams' award. Afterwards, Williams received a commemorative cake from National Headquarters' staff.

Williams joined the Agency in July, 1970, after stints with the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, and the U.S. Army. He also is a retired U.S. Army Reserve Officer.

Williams is a life member of the American Law Institute, a member of the American Bar Association, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, the Federal Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, and the Cambridge Society in Great Britain.



Dr. Henry N. Williams



Jesse L. Talley, Sr. (r.) is congratulated by Director Coronado

Director Coronado Recognizes Jesse Talley's 40 Years of Government Service

In February, Director Coronado traveled to Region I Headquarters in Great Lakes, Ill., to recognize the efforts of Jesse L. Talley, Sr., a Selective Service board program manager, for his 40 years of federal government service.

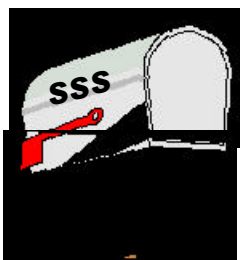
Talley has served 38 of those 40 years with the Selective Service System. After he received the award, Talley recalled his experiences as a board program manager during the Vietnam-era, citing one incident where a Selective Service office was broken into, resulting in a typewriter being melted to a desk. It was the kind of "I was there..." story that few employees can tell.

During the award ceremony, the Director presented Talley with an award certificate and a lapel pin commemorating his 40 years of service to the nation.

It's a Fact...

Fifteen percent of American men under age 65 have served in the military.

Computer Addresses Wanted



Do you have mail? "E-mail," that is. If so, Selective Service National Headquarters would like your e-mail address if you are a reserve force officer, board member, state director, or otherwise affiliated with the Agency. That way, we can reach you quickly and easily with news of interest to the greater Selective Service family. Please respond by e-mail to members@sss.gov. In addition to your e-mail address, let us know your name, street address, and position in the Agency. We look forward to your reply.

Selective Service Launches Public Awareness Campaign

A bold public awareness campaign has been launched by the Agency to support registration improvement activities. The first poster in a series of products for this campaign was distributed to Region Headquarters offices to support the remainder of the Agency's 1999 blitz activities. The poster, pictured at right, is designed so that a local contact person can be listed. A Spanish-language version of the poster will be available this summer. In future months, Region Headquarters offices will receive other promotional products, including a "registration benefits" card, written in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese. A Selective Service Registration "Hot Link" computer disk, allowing a high school to link its home page to the Selective Service System's Web site, also has been distributed to the regions. It will be inserted into the Fiscal Year 2000 high school kit. The new campaign will include other posters in addition to radio and television public service announcements.



The Selective Service System
Office of Public and Congressional Affairs
1515 Wilson Blvd., 4th floor
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2425

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