



The REGISTER

Selective Service System

THE REGISTER


January - February 2008

Ceremonial Signing of Michigan's Legislation

In December 2007, Selective Service Director William Chatfield met with Governor Jennifer Granholm for the ceremonial signing of Michigan driver's license legislation encouraging Selective Service registration. The bill, signed January 4, 2007, will be effective October 1, 2010.

Once implemented, men 18 through 25 will have the option to have their information transferred to Selective Service for the purpose of registration when applying for a state driver's license or an identification card.

The bill was introduced in the Senate on February 6, 2003, by State Senator Valde Garcia. On December 14, 2006, the amended driver's license legislation passed with an overwhelming majority of votes. [See the cover story of the Winter 2007 issue of *The Register*.]

Director Chatfield extended his personal thanks and appreciation to all those involved in getting this legislation passed to support Selective Service registration. In particular, Senator Garcia was acknowledged for his efforts in gaining the support of Michigan legislators. 



CEREMONIAL SIGNING — On a trip to Michigan, Director William Chatfield joined State Senator Valde Garcia for the ceremonial signing of Michigan driver's license legislation supporting Selective Service registration. Governor Jennifer Granholm is pictured here flanked by Director Chatfield (left) and Senator Garcia holding the signed bill.

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National Commander of American Legion meets National Director of Selective Service

Leaders from the American Legion and its National Commander, Martin “Marty” F. Conatser, visited Selective Service and National Director William Chatfield late last fall. This is an annual event hosted by National Headquarters to brief new Legion commanders on Selective Service’s programs and its role in defending the nation in a time of crisis.

The partnership between the Legion and our Agency spans many decades. The proactive assistance of Legionnaires is witnessed by the current national resolution in support of Selective Service programs and capabilities. These patriotic Americans, working through the largest veterans association in the U.S., know firsthand the value of preparedness and the true price of our freedoms. Director Chatfield thanked the Legion leaders for their personal, selfless service to the Nation and their continuous interest in our Agency and its ongoing missions.


Commander Marty Conatser, of Champaign, IL, was elected national commander of the 2.7 million-member American Legion on August 30, 2007. A U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam era, Conatser joined the Illinois National



Guard as an infantryman in 1970. He went on active duty in 1976, and held all positions in Army recruiting, from field recruiter to sergeant major. He retired in 1996.



The American Legion is an organization of veterans of the United States Armed Forces who served during wartime. The organization was founded in 1919 by veterans returning from Europe after World War I and is headquartered in Indianapolis, IN.

In addition to organizing commemorative events and volunteer activities, the American Legion lobbies for the interests of veterans, including support for veterans’ pensions and the Veterans Affairs hospital system. 

NATIONAL LEADERS MEET— Director William Chatfield (left) welcomes American Legion National Commander Marty Conatser during his visit to National Headquarters.

Selective Service Records for Men Born Before 1960

The National Archives and Records Administration has officially taken ownership of Selective Service records for men born before 1960. This means anyone requesting a Selective Service registration number, a copy of the registration card, and/or classification record of a man born before 1960, must now go directly to the National Archives. This transfer of ownership occurred June 1, 2007, when Selective Service no longer had access to any Federal Records Center's research system.

In the first half of Fiscal Year 2007, over 14,000 requests for records were received and researched, and responses were sent to the requesters by Selective Service staff.

At the time of publication, the only means to reach the National Archives concerning a Selective Service records request is through U.S. mail to a post office box number (see below). The National Archives has not yet provided a phone number in their existing voice-mail prompts system, nor a fax number for public requests.

There are two types of records for men who registered prior to 1980: registration cards and classification ledgers. All other records of such registrants have been destroyed as required by the Archivist of the United States.

Some information in the records may be restricted because of privacy rules under the Privacy Act. For


instance, the release of the registration card to anyone other than the registrant himself requires either written consent signed and dated by the registrant, or if the registrant is deceased, proof of death.

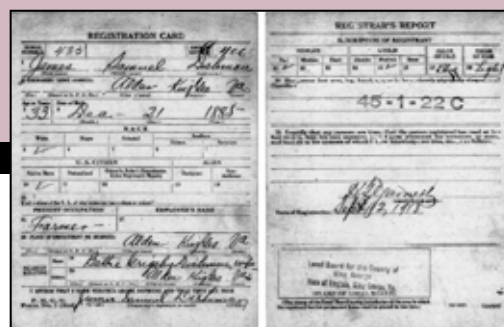
The man's records, depending on where he registered, are stored at one of 17 Federal Records Centers across the United States. Such records go back as far as World War I. There are approximately 75 million Selective Service records created prior to March 28, 1975.

For requests, please write to :

National Archives & Records Administration
ATTN: Archival Programs
P.O. Box 28989
St. Louis, MO 63132-0989

They will forward the request to the appropriate regional facility. The response will then come from that facility.

See Selective Service's web site for more information and on how to obtain Selective Service records for men born before 1960: <http://www.sss.gov/records.htm>. 



What happens when a request for records for a man born before 1960 is received?

If a man needs a copy of his Selective Service registration card and/or his classification record, he must first fill out a request form (<http://www.sss.gov/PDFs/Record%20Request.pdf>), providing his complete birth name, date of birth, Selective Service number if known (which is helpful in locating a man's records), home address at the time of registration, place of registration if known, the signature of the registrant and if deceased, proof of death, a current telephone number, and address where copies of records should be sent.

A registration card shows a registrant's name, date of birth, home address at the time of registration, Selective Service number, and the date of registration. A registration card may include additional information

such as place of employment at the time of registration, prior military branch and service number, and personal characteristics.

A classification record shows a registrant's name, local board number, his classifications, and the dates he received the classifications. To locate a man's classification record, the Selective Service number is first needed since the classification is listed by order of registration number at the time the man registered.

The 17 Federal Records Centers store floor-to-ceiling stacks 20-feet high and fill a room the size of an airplane hangar. The shelves are stacked with boxes and boxes

Steve Greenspan is Budget Officer

Steven H. Greenspan joined the Selective Service System as the budget officer on October 30, 2006. Just prior to joining Selective Service, Greenspan worked for the Postal Service as a budget analyst for eight years.

Before his career with the Postal Service, Greenspan worked for 10 years as head of Operations and Maintenance, Marine Corps Budget Branch, at the Marine Corps Systems Command. He also was on Capitol Hill for nine months as a LEGIS Fellow [a legislative fellow of the flagship LEGIS Congressional Fellows program, offered through the Brookings Center for Executive Education, which provides federal and private sector executives with an unparalleled, hands-on experience, spending seven to twelve months working on the staff of a member, committee, or support agency of the U.S. Congress]. As a LEGIS Fellow, Greenspan worked in the Office of Congressman Solomon Ortiz.

He has held several other budget and accounting positions in the Federal Government with more than 25 years of experience. His first job as a budget analyst was at the Office of Management and Budget of the City of New York.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, he has a bachelor's degree from Brandeis University, and a master of business administration degree from the Amos Tuck School at



Steve Greenspan

Dartmouth College. His majors and concentrations were in economics, accounting, and finance.

Greenspan regularly runs three miles. He is not new to Rosslyn, VA. In 1988, when he began working for the Marine Corps, his office was located at 1300 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA. [SSS](#)

Records Requests *Continued from page 3*

containing the original registration cards filed manually, and ledgers of nearly two feet in length. For instance, the Washington National Records Center, in Suitland, MD, has a facility with the capacity to store 3.9 million cubic feet of records.

Unlike library stacks, these records must be researched manually. Selective Service records requests are considered more involved than most records requests since they require two steps. First, the registration card must be located, and then, perhaps in an entirely different area, the individual's entry in one of the old classification ledgers must be found.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Men born from March 29, 1957, through December 31, 1959, were not required to register with Selective Service because the registration program was suspended by the time they reached age 18. The requirement to register with Selective Service was reinstated in 1980, but only for men born January 1, 1960, or later.

Men born between these dates will not have a Selective Service number; however these men are still eligible for all the benefits and programs linked to the registration requirement. [SSS](#)

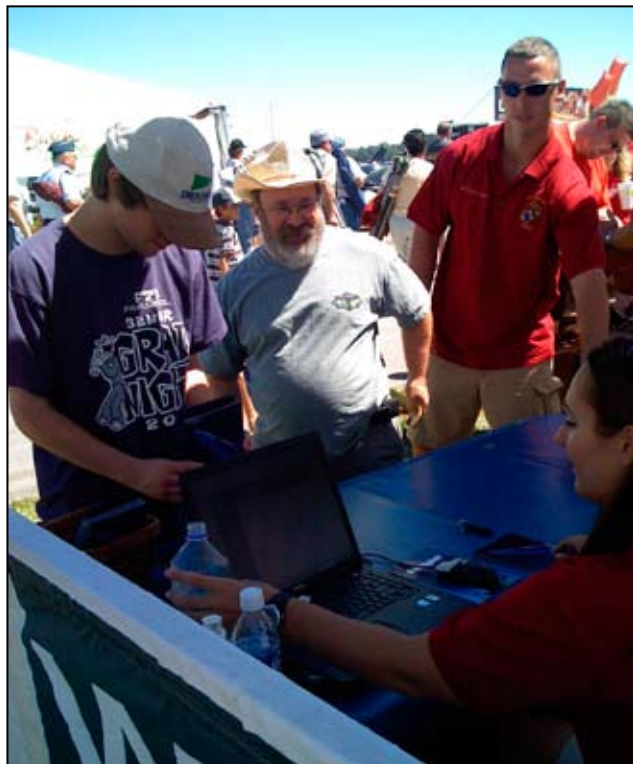
Regional Support for Registration Awareness

Reserve Force Officers (RFOs) from Region III boost Selective Service registration awareness during a California State Fair, held in Sacramento. On the left is Lt. Col. James Griffis, detachment commander of Selective Service's Detachment 3CA, and 1st Lt. Jose Espinoza, a Reserve Force Officer from Detachment 3CA. Note the letters they spelled out with Selective Service pens and clips.

The attendance at the fair was 38,774 people. Over 3,000 people stopped by Selective Service's booth inquiring about the mission of the agency, the board member program, and the registration requirement. **SSS**



REGISTRATION AWARENESS INITIATIVE – RFOs from Region III man Selective Service's booth promoting registration awareness at a California state fair.



St. Louis Air Show 2007

Region III reports that 2007 St. Louis Air Show was a great hit. With young cadets working the crowds and Reserve Force Officers communicating the Selective Service message, more than 8,000 visitors stopped by and visited Selective Service's booth. This is the kind of synergy and dynamics that help to get the registration message out to the public.

In November 2007, Selective Service completed its second season of using the air shows platform to convey the registration message. In 2008, Selective Service will be manning booths at seven air shows across the Nation. **SSS**

AIR SHOWS 2007 – Selective Service set up registration awareness booths at nine air shows across the country. Dedicated Reserve Force Officers from all three regions do a great job manning these booths, fielding questions and furthering the Agency mission.

Local Board Member Bernice Bailey

Since 2003, Bernice Bailey has served as a Region II local board member in Georgia. She is a native of Lawrenceville, GA, daughter of Evelyn J. Mahaffey Bailey and the late Willie Frank Bailey. She credits her parents for instilling good morals and values, and a respect for all people. In her own words, Bailey stated she learned a lot from her parents regarding life; to always keep her faith, and “stay prayed up,” as her mother would tell her. They taught her not to wait for things to happen; sometimes she had to make them happen. Bailey said that she truly lives by the Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” With a smile on her face, she reflects on all the fun she had being raised as one of nine children in her family.

A member of Central Church in Lilburn, GA, for over 20 years, Bailey served in several ministries there. She was previously employed by Marriott Corporation and Equifax Credit Reporting Agency, and she is currently a flight attendant with a major airline based in Atlanta.


Bailey loves meeting new and interesting people from all walks of life. It is not a surprise that Bailey volunteered to serve as a board member with the Selective Service System. She is no stranger to volunteer work. She has mentored for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America for over three years. Other volunteer work includes 1996 Olympics and Para-Olympics, Special Olympics Georgia, the Martin Luther King Center for over nine years, the National Football League, and the Democratic Party Committee. She completed a year-long program with Court Appointed

Special Advocates for Children, as well as the year-long Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Program. Her travels keep her very busy, but she truly loves spending time with her family, her niece and nephews.



Region II Director Keith Scragg congratulates Local Board Member Bernice Bailey upon completion of Selective Service's board member training.

Bailey's hobbies are riding her motorcycle, skating, bowling, traveling, reading, working word games, watching sports, and getting together with good friends.

Region II looks forward to having Ms. Bailey serve as a local board member for many more years. 

Are You Interested in Serving your Community, Nation?

Even though there is no draft today, there is a need to be ready in case a national emergency requires Selective Service to provide additional personnel to augment our volunteer U.S. Armed Forces.

Local board members are citizen volunteers appointed by the Director of the Selective Service System, on behalf

of the U.S. President, on recommendations made by their respective state governors or an equivalent public official.

Local board members play an important role closely connected with our nation's defense. If a military draft becomes necessary, approximately 2,000 local boards

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Meet Ossie Helton, Local Board Member

Ossie Helton joined the Selective Service System nearly eighteen years ago, when he was appointed on May 11, 1990, to serve as a local board member on Local Board 017, in Region II. Helton stated that he had been searching for a way to serve his country and was immediately interested when a neighbor told him about Selective Service.


In all the years he has served as a local board member, Helton has not missed a single year of training and has always stood by his decision to become a part of this Agency. He states that he enjoys being on the local board and that it is a very good and rewarding experience; however, he admits that he is glad there has not been a draft during his tenure.

In his civilian capacity, Helton owns and operates the Helton Brothers Funeral Home in Bremen, GA. He established the business in 1972, with only \$1,200, of which he had saved \$600 and his mother gave him the other \$600. He launched the business and shortly thereafter relocated to California and Texas for a couple of years, continuing to operate his business from out of state. Helton returned to Georgia and entered the Gupton Jones College of Funeral Service, graduating in 1985. He has since continued building the business.

Helton stated that, at times, it was hard to juggle his busy schedule between school, family, the business, and, later on, being a board member; but, that he “kept the faith and always moved forward with zeal and determination.”



GEORGIA LOCAL BOARD MEMBER – Ossie Helton from Region II shares his thoughts on serving as a member of a Selective Service System local board in Georgia.


This sums up the type of dedicated board member our Reserve Force Officers strive to recruit today. Congratulations to Ossie Helton on his longevity with the Selective Service System. 

Serving your Community *Continued from page 6*

throughout the country would decide who among the young men in their community will receive deferments, postponements, or exemptions from military service based on federal guidelines.

There are currently over 10,000 local board members. They go through an initial training session followed by annual training in Selective Service regulations and procedures so that if a draft is reinstated, they will be able to fulfill their obligations fairly and equitably. Training includes sample cases and role playing similar to cases they would determine if a draft were to take place.

Board members must be U.S. citizens, at least 18 years old, and residents of the area served by the board. They may not be regular, National Guard, reserve members of the Armed Forces, or retired military.

If you are interested or have any further questions, please call the Selective Service System at 703.605.4100, or visit the Selective Service web site at www.sss.gov. The Selective Service System is always looking for men and women in the community who would be willing to volunteer as a local board member. 

In Memoriam

Former Reserve Force Officer Robert Washington Passes Away



Robert Washington


A former Selective Service Reserve Force Officer, Robert Edward Washington, died from complications of lupus, January 20, 2008, at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C. He was 72.

Born in Phoenix, AZ, Washington grew up in Fresno, CA, where he spent his youth playing the clarinet and saxophone and was ranked an

All-American basketball player. He was recruited by legendary coach Pete Newell to attend the University of California at Berkeley on a basketball scholarship. He went on to receive bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration in 1974, both from Pepperdine University.

In 1959, Washington was drafted into the Army and attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA. He served on active duty until 1963, and left service with the rank of captain. Then he served in the Army Reserve as a colonel from 1974 until 1989.

At the time of his death, Washington was employed with the State Department as a program analyst and as an independent financial adviser for 11 years. He served in the Army and worked in banking before moving to the Washington, DC, area in 1975. Washington had worked for several federal agencies and institutions, including the Selective Service System as a reservist. Other agencies Washington worked were the Library of Congress, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush appointed him deputy administrator in USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, where he served until 1993.

Washington enjoyed entertaining family and friends and "finding the perfect bottle of wine." He was a big fan of the Washington Redskins and Nationals. An earlier passion was "whisking across the Chesapeake Bay on his Tartan 10 sailboat." 



The Register is an unofficial publication of the Selective Service System, National Headquarters, Arlington, VA 22209. Viewpoints herein do not represent official policy.

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The Register welcomes any news of interest to the Selective Service System employees. Send article submissions to Editor, *The Register*, Selective Service System, National Headquarters, Arlington, VA 22209-2425.