



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 914<sup>TH</sup> AIRLIFT WING  
2720 KIRKBRIDGE DRIVE  
NIAGARA FALLS ARS, NEW YORK 14304-5000**



JOHN A. CARUSO  
LTC USAF RETIRED  
DIRECTOR/NEWSLETTER

MILITARY RETIREE NEWSLETTER  
"STILL SERVING"

Feb – Apr 2013

ARTHUR A. CLINE  
MAJ USAF RETIRED  
ASST. DIRECTOR

**FROM THE DIRECTOR**



As we go into the New Year, Gayle and I wish all our readers and their families the best of health, happiness and success in 2013. We also wish to thank all of our retiree volunteers who have dedicated their time in support of the RAO.

Also, I wish to welcome Robert Dickerson, LTC US Army Retired to our staff. He is at the office on Mondays.

The 107th AW Commander is now COL John Higgins of the New York Air National Guard at the Niagara Air Reserve Station. The Retiree Activities Office (RAO) welcomes the new Commander and wishes him well.

I would like to ask anyone who is on our Retiree Newsletter Listing to become a volunteer on our staff at the Retiree Activities Office here at Niagara. We could use one or two (preferably) to serve on Thursday from 1000-1400, one day a week for four hours. Call John on Monday or Wednesday at 716-236-2389 or email me at: [john.caruso@us.af.mil](mailto:john.caruso@us.af.mil).

The Air Force Retiree Activities Program is ALL Volunteers. Most of the volunteers have been with us for 10-20 years. We try to have two volunteers each day so Duty Officers rarely serve alone.

James Duffin, a RAO staff member, has been with us for 22 years and is now retiring to spend more time with his family. I would like to take this opportunity to give my special thanks to Jim for his many years of dedication and hardwork on behalf of the retirees from each branch of service in our mailing area.

**PART I. ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST**

**1. Passports/Visas**

Patrick Kalisz has brought it to my attention that you can also visit Canada from WNY through personal experience by using an Original Birth Certificate and a drivers license. Thank You Patrick

**2. Erie County "Thank a Vet" Discount Program**

- ❖ You must be an Erie County Resident and an Honorably Discharged Veteran from any Branch of Service of the United States Armed Forces.
- ❖ Your official **ORIGINAL** Discharge Papers must be on file at the Erie County Clerk's Office

"Thank a Vet" Cards are issued at The Erie County Clerk's Office located at:

**Old County Hall  
92 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202**

- ❖ A list of participating merchants can be found at [www.erie.gov/clerk](http://www.erie.gov/clerk) and follow 'THANK A VET' link.
- ❖ The card does not serve as an official government documentation, and is for use in connection with the discount Program.

### **3. Niagara-AF Inn**

New Room rates: VQ & VOQ \$53.25 per night. DV & Business Suites \$66.75 per night.  
Hours of Operation: Sunday-Saturday: 0600 hrs to 2200 hrs.

Are you planning a wedding, reunion, or having a special event at the Heritage Center at Niagara? Inquire about the availability of lodging rooms at 716-236-2015.

### **4. WNY Armed Forces Week**

There will be an opening ceremony at the Naval and Military Park on Sunday, 5 May at 1300 hrs in Buffalo. The Armed Forces Week luncheon will be hosted by the U.S.Navy. The Armed Forces Week luncheon will be held at the Connecticut Armory, Connecticut/Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY on Thursday, 9 May. Cocktails (cash bar) at 1100-1200 hrs, sit-down luncheon at 1200 hrs @ \$30 per person. Tickets, contact: [afwtickets@wnyafn.com](mailto:afwtickets@wnyafn.com). For Information, contact: [afnlunch@wnyafn.com](mailto:afnlunch@wnyafn.com).

The Military Ball and Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, 11 May also at the Armory. Cash bar will begin at 6:00 PM and sit-down dinner at 7:00PM @ \$35 per person. Tickets-contact: [afwtickets@afn.com](mailto:afwtickets@afn.com). Info-contact: [afnball@wnyafn.com](mailto:afnball@wnyafn.com).

### **5. 914th FSS RECREATION**

Gift Ideas- Available until 28 February 2013 at the Fitness Center

#### **Delta Sonic**

Basic Car Wash & Applebees Coupon (3 Pkg)	\$27.00
Super Kiss Car Wash & Applebees Coupon (3 Pkg)	\$40.00

#### **Regal Cinemas**

Unrestricted Movie Tickets	\$8.50
Restricted Movie Tickets	\$7.50
Ultimate Gift Package	\$28.00

<b>914th/107th Fleece Jacket</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>914th/107th Embroidered Polo Shirt</b>	<b>\$27.00</b>
<b>914th/107th Embroidered Gym Bags</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Air Force Hats</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

## **PART II. ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

### **1. Postage Costs Rise**

The cost of mailing a first-class letter has gone up by a penny on January 1. The price of a first-class domestic stamp is now 46 cents.

The price of a postcard will increase from 32 cents to 33 cents, while a new global “forever” stamp will allow customers to mail letters anywhere in the world for one set price of \$1.10. Currently, the prices for international letters vary. The prices went into effect January 27th.

### **2. Medicare Raises Monthly Premiums**

The following chart shows the 2013 premium rates:

**2013 Medicare Part B**  
(Double income and premium amounts for married couples)

<b>Individual Income</b>	<b>2012 Premium</b>	<b>2013 Premium</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Govt. Subsidy</b>
Under \$85K	\$99.90	\$104.90	+\$5	80%
\$85K-\$107K	\$139.90	\$145.90	+\$7	65%
\$107K-\$160K	\$199.80	\$209.80	+\$10	50%
\$160-\$213K	\$259.70	\$272.80	+\$13	35%
Above \$213K	\$319.70	\$335.70	+\$16	20%

For those with higher incomes, the monthly Part B increase will range from \$7 to \$16 (see chart above).

By law, the premium must cover 25 percent of Medicare costs for the basic category and cover 35 to 80 percent of costs for higher-income groups.

In addition, the Part B deductible will be \$147 for 2013- a \$7 increase over last year.

The Part A inpatient deductible will rise \$28 to \$1184.

Part A premiums, however, actually will drop \$10 a month (to \$441).

The bottom line: Most Medicare patients actually will see a slight reduction in their total Medicare premiums for 2013  
MOAA

### **3. Paper Checks to End**

Most military retirees and annuitants receiving paper checks will be required to sign up for direct deposit by March 1, 2013.

The Department of the Treasury announced that all payments from the federal government must be made electronically.

Get ahead of the rush by setting up direct deposit now.

Visit: [www.dfas.mil/mandatoryeft.html](http://www.dfas.mil/mandatoryeft.html)

### **4. 1099-R Copies**

If you misplace your 1099-R or need a copy for your tax preparer, use one of the following methods to request a duplicate. The easiest way to get a copy of your 1099-R is using **myPay**, where you can access your account 24/7 from the comfort of your home.

1. Log into **myPay**.
2. On the Main Menu click “Tax Statement”.
3. View, print or save your tax statement.

If you have problems remembering your login ID or password, click “Forgot Your Login ID?” or “Forgot or Need a Password?” You can also contact **myPay** at 888-332-7411 (option 5).

## Other Options

Print and mail us a DFAS 9190: Request for 1099-R (find a copy at [www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html)), or send a written request to :Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retired Pay, PO Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130. Fax: 800-469-6559. If you mail or fax us a written request, include your name, social security number, signature and the date. It can take 30-60 days for us to process a paper form or written request.

## 5. Retiree Newsletters

The latest edition of the military service’s retiree newsletters can be accessed at:

- **The Navy Shift Colors:**

<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupersnpc/reference/Publications/ShiftColors/Pages/default.aspx>

- **The Marine Corps Semper Fidelis**

[https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M\\_RA\\_HOME/MM/SR/RET\\_ACT/Semper Fidelis](https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/SR/RET_ACT/Semper_Fidelis)

- **The Coast Guard/NOAA Evening Colors:**

<http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews>

- **The Air Force Afterburner**

<http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner>

- **The Army retiree newsletter Army Echoes**

<http://www.armygl.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp>

MOAA

## PART III. PERSONAL AFFAIRS

### 1. Express Scripts Completes Acquisition of Medco

Express Scripts, Inc. has completed its \$29.1 billion acquisition of Medco Health Solutions Inc., creating the largest pharmacy benefits manager in the country by far.

The deal creates a pharmacy benefits manager so large that it will handle the prescriptions of about 135 million people, or more than one in three Americans

Bflo News

### 2. Mail-Order Pharmacy

All TFL beneficiaries should try the mail-order system for maintenance- because the alternative is raising co-payments.

To get started in the mail-order system, sign up at [www.express-scripts.com/tricare](http://www.express-scripts.com/tricare) Or call (877) 363-1303. You should allow two to three weeks between registering and the first delivery of medication.

To learn more, read MOAA’s Q and A on the topic at [www.moaa.org/mailorder](http://www.moaa.org/mailorder).

### **3. TRICARE UPDATE**

**TRICARE BENEFICIARIES HAVE NEW PHARMACY OPTIONS** available and accessible in the palms of their hands. Express Script's mobile application lets beneficiaries use their TRICARE pharmacy benefits.

The app includes medication reminders and an account registration tool. The reminder feature gives beneficiaries the option to set up daily alerts to make sure they take their medication as prescribed and don't skip a dose. The account registration feature lets beneficiaries create accounts on their smart phones.

Download the app for free at [www.express-scripts.com/mobile](http://www.express-scripts.com/mobile) or use a service like the Apple App Store or Android Marketplace. A mobile-optimized pharmacy website is accessible at <http://m.esrx.com>.

### **4. New Co-Pays for TRICARE Pharmacy Customers**

New co-payments for prescription drugs covered by TRICARE will go into effect soon. The Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act requires TRICARE to increase co-pays on brand name and non-formulary medications that are not filled at military clinics or hospitals. There is no increase to co-pays for generic medications. Increases will be effective sometime in February, depending on when system changes can be made, and the publication of a required Federal Notice.

TRICARE Pharmacy co-pays vary based on the class of drug and where beneficiaries choose to fill their prescriptions. The co-pay for generic prescriptions stays at \$5 when a prescription is filled at a network pharmacy. There is no co-pay when generic prescriptions are filled through TRICARE Home Delivery. The new co-pay for a 30 day supply of a brand name medication purchased at a retail network pharmacy will be \$17, up from the current \$12. Beneficiaries using TRICARE Home Delivery will pay \$13 for brand name drugs, up from \$9. However, the Home Delivery price is for a 90 day supply.

The greatest change in co-pays applies to non-formulary medications. The \$25 co-pay for these drugs increases to \$44 at retail pharmacies and \$43 through Home Delivery. The TRICARE Uniform Formulary is a list of all the medications TRICARE offers.

For fiscal 2014 and beyond, the new law directs that co-pays increase annually by the same percentage as *retiree cost-of-living adjustments*. In years when a COLA increase would total less than a dollar, it will be delayed a year and combined with the next adjustment so increases will always be \$1 or more.

Pharmacies at military hospitals and clinics will continue to provide medications with no co-pays. Visit [www.TRICARE.mil/costs](http://www.TRICARE.mil/costs) for more details.

TRICARE Last updated 1/11/2013

### **4. Big TRICARE Changes Coming**

Pentagon officials announced this week, Jan 11, 2013, that as of Oct 1, TRICARE Prime no longer will be available for most retired and survivor military beneficiaries who live more than 40 miles from a military hospital, clinic, or base closure site.

Defense leaders say the change will affect about 170,000 beneficiaries across the country and most of those beneficiaries will need to switch to TRICARE Standard.

Almost 100,000 of the affected beneficiaries live in the TRICARE South region, where Prime is now almost universally available. About 37,000 beneficiaries in the North region and another 36,000 in the West region will be affected.

Retired and surviving beneficiaries using Medicare and TRICARE For Life won't be affected by the change.

Neither will active duty service members and their dependents. However, non-dependent children covered under the TRICARE Young Adult program until age 26 no longer will be eligible for Prime if they reside more than 40 miles from a military facility.

For weeks, rumors have circulated that beneficiaries in the West region could lose Prime access as early as April 1, when the new contract with United Health takes effect. But defense officials decided to implement the change at the same time- Oct 1 for all three regions.

There is potential for an exception for retired service members, military families, and young adults to remain in Prime if they reside within 100 miles of an available primary care manager and sign a drive-time access waiver.

The main impacts for the affected beneficiaries are:

They might have to find a new doctor. Hopefully, most current Prime providers will continue seeing patients because

Standard often pays doctors more per visit than the reduced rates they accepted under Prime. Rather than paying an annual enrollment fee and flat co-payments per visit under Prime, retired Standard beneficiaries pay a \$150 (single) or \$300 (family) annual deductible and a 25 percent co-payment for both inpatient and outpatient care (certain preventive care and immunizations are covered at no cost). Standard families who incur out-of-pocket costs of \$3000 in a fiscal year are exempt from co-payments for the rest of the year.

The change is largely a cost-cutting measure, as coverage under Prime costs the government more than coverage under Standard. Defense officials say limiting Prime locations in this way will save up to \$56 million a year.

Defense officials say all of the potentially affected beneficiaries will be notified individually, and those eligible for distance waivers will be advised of how to request them. MOAA

## **5. Enhanced TRICARE Retiree Dental Program**

The Enhanced TRICARE Retiree Dental Program is available to all military retirees (including gray area retirees) and their eligible family members, unremarried surviving spouses and their eligible children, as well as MOH recipients and their eligible immediate family members. The program covers cleanings, exams, fillings, root canals, gum surgery, oral surgery and dental accidents on the first day that coverage becomes effective; after 12 months of being in the program, it then covers crowns, bridges, partials, braces and dental implants. (New retirees who enroll within four months after retirement from the Uniformed Services or transfer to Retired Reserve status are eligible to waive the 12 month waiting period for major services; supporting documentation is required).

The Enhanced TRDP provides every enrollee an annual maximum of \$1200 per person, a \$1000 annual maximum for dental accidents and a \$1500 lifetime maximum for orthodontics. It is important to note that the money that the TRDP pays out for preventive and diagnostic services does not count against the annual maximum- those benefits are in addition to the \$1200. Retirees can find more information on the program, as well as enroll 24/7/365, online at [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org).

TRDP enrollees realize the maximum program savings (an average of 22%) when seeing a network provider. To find a network provider. To find a network provider, as well as utilize the Consumer **toolkit** to print ID cards, view annual maximum information, see if claims have been paid and sign up for e-mail updates, please visit [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org).

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please call Doug Schobel at 401-732-0297 or e-mail him at [Dschobel@delta.org](mailto:Dschobel@delta.org)

The RAO at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Air Wing also has applications and complete information on enrolling in TRDP.

## **PART IV. SPACE-A TRAVEL**

### **1. Hawaii Trip, September 2012**

Jan and I decided to take another trip to Hawaii. We left on Thursday, Sept 20, 2012 for Stewart ANGB in Newburgh, NY for about a six hour trip via the NYS Thruway and about \$16 in tolls. We visited the base PAX terminal and found that show time for the flight was at 0700 on Friday. We rented a room at the Days Inn (\$76) and went to Five Guys Hamburgers for dinner. If you go there, just ask for one order of French fries. They are huge!

We went to the base @ 0600 on Friday and were early. We left at about 1000 and arrived at Travis AFB, CA about 5 ½ hours later on a C-17. The individual seats are along the side and also have a head rest. During the flight, I tried to lie down on the floor on a blanket and did get about an hour nap. They did supply blankets and pillows on the flight. It was quite a nice flight.

We left Travis, after picking up about 40 more passengers, some who had been waiting for three days for Hawaii. We landed after about 5 ½ hours at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. We had reserved a car at Enterprise (Hickam), and drove to the Hale Koa in Waikiki. We had reservations for a Partial Ocean View room @ about \$140 per night. This is considered cheap. The rooms next door at the Hilton Hawaiian Village were about \$230 a night. There is also a \$7 per night fee for parking if you have a car. Wi-Fi is available only in the lobby area at this time.

The next morning, we woke around 0330 local time. Hawaii is on standard time and it was a 6 hour time difference. I went to the lobby where there is a small kiosk for Starbucks coffee for \$1.89. After showering and dressing,

we went to KoKos restaurant in the hotel for breakfast. The buffet is a great deal at \$13.95 and \$11.95 for seniors, (65 and older).

We decided to go to Hickam to the commissary, but could not get out of Waikiki because of the International Floral Parade in downtown. All the roads were blocked, so we just watched the parade, (three hours). We then went to the world's largest BX/PX sponsored by the Hilton Hawaiian Village (next door).

23 Sept.- We went to Hickam for Jan's shopping. We had lunch at Sam Choy's where the old Seabreeze restaurant used to be. This is the most beautiful spot in the area. There is a beach just for the base and nice picnic areas and a view of commercial jets taxiing for takeoffs. That evening we went to get acclimated to the 6 hour time difference.

24 Sept – We got up at 0430, coffee at Starbucks. We went to the lobby around 0730 and there were concessions of native Hawaiian "things". We went to the "adult pool" to relax and sun. There are two pools. One for families and one for just over 18 years olds. Most of the time, we just relaxed and got some sun. They did have a water aerobics class on Wednesdays.

We went to Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station to check out rooms for our trip back. They had none available. We called Hickam, same results. We then called Pearl Harbor Naval Base and were successful. Our trip home, hopefully was to be a C-5 from Westover AFB, MA, who was part of the air show and leaving on Monday. We went to Aunti Pasto's in Honolulu and had dinner. It is an Italian restaurant and turned out to be a little pricey, but good. We had a pasta entrée each and a glass of wine and the bill came to over \$50. I guess that's not too bad for Hawaii. The taxi costs \$15 each way.

The next day, we went back to Hickam and got gas for \$4.19 a gallon.

On Saturday, we went to the air show at K Bay. It was HOT! We went back to Honolulu and had dinner at the Wailana Coffee Shop, right near our hotel. There were decent prices and average food.

On Sunday, we checked out of the Hale Koa and drove to K Bay (about a 20 minute drive), where we did get a reservation earlier in the day. The room was \$82 and there was no air conditioning. However, the newly remodeled BOQ was at the top of the hill and had strong breezes most of the time and free Wi-Fi in the room. All DOD lodging prices have increased, as of October 1st.

Monday, October 1, we checked out after our free continental breakfast. Showtime was @ 1345. There were no box lunches available, so we went to McDonald's for lunch. We should have bought a lunch too. We were late in departing and there was nothing available at Travis.

When show time came, it was the biggest (cluster) mess I have ever experienced. The Air Force seems to have procedures down perfectly. However, the Marine Corps did not! There were people who were getting off at Travis and their luggage got mixed up with ours (to Westover). They did not use tags and all luggage had to be offloaded at Travis and reclaimed by the passengers!

We left K Bay at 1630 on a C-5 and arrived at Travis 5 ½ hours later (about 1230 midnight)

Tuesday, October 2- We left Travis at 0330 local time and got to Westover 5 ½ hours later. Our car was still at Stewart, so we had to rent a Hertz locally to get there. It was hard to get to the main gate, since no taxis are allowed on base. There also is not long term parking available on either base. One of the Airmen from OPS finally took us there.

We finally got the rental car and drove about 2 ½ hours to Newburgh. We dropped the car off at Stewart International Airport with no drop-off fee. We ate at Johnny's pizza and restaurant. Very good food. We again stayed at the Days Inn and drove home (6 ½ hrs).

It was difficult getting used to the 6 hours time difference. It is usually easier going West to East. It took us about a week to get back to "normal".

The crews of both aircraft were very helpful. Especially on the C-5, having to climb the stairs/ladder to the PAX compartment which had regular airline seats.

Thanks again for the opportunity to fly Space-A!

Joe and Jan Reece

## **2. Trip to Vincenza Army Base, Italy**

Chaz and I arrived at the Vincenza Army Base Ederle Inn near Vincenza, Italy on Sunday, July 15. Vincenza Army Base is in the plains of Northeast Italy. The staff was wonderful and able to provide us with a room, even though it was prior to the 3: 00 check in time. The rate per night was \$77.50. We had been motoring on this trip from the French/Italian Riviera, where we visited with relatives and appreciated the courtesy. We had booked for only three nights, but went on a waiting list to extend an extra day. Visiting a U.S. base abroad is like a little slice of the States. The commissary, BX and food court are pretty much the same all over and currency is in U.S. dollars. At the Vincenza base,

there is a pool and work-out room we were able to take advantage of. Of course, there are the iniquitous Subway and Burger King. And, no matter what the Italians do to pizza, there is nothing like a slice of Anthony's.

We walked to the Travel Office where they provided us with information about touring the area. We used the Base as our well base, to do day trips during our stay. They advised that the best way to get to Venice from here, which is about 45 miles, and to avoid the traffic and parking hassle, was to take the bus to Vincenza and then the train. We drove the short half-mile or so and parked at the mall across the street from the bus stop. Yes, a real mall in Italy, which we checked out later.

Venice is all that it is said to be. I'm guessing the only city in the world whose streets are water. We took the water bus from the train station along the Grand Canal to the most popular attraction, St. Marco's Square, admiring gondoliers and the architectural features along the way. St. Marco's Square did not disappoint. There is nothing in the U.S. comparable to its sense of age and history. We ate at a quaint restaurant we found as we wandered the back streets off the touristy beaten track of St. Marco's Square.

Following the Travel Office's advice, one day we took the bus into Vincenza and walked around the city. Every Italian city has its castle and Duomo (church). We enjoyed refreshments at one of the eateries in the plaza surrounding the Duomo.

Another day, using the information from the Base Travel Office, we drove to Sirmione at the southern end of Lago di Garda, a beautiful lake about an hour east of Venice, that stretches like a finger into the Southern Alps. We walked around the area and its medieval castle still surrounded by a moat. Lovely white swans were floating in the moat. We drove then to Verona to visit a fictional Juliet's balcony, following the tourist crowd there and then returned to the base.

Using the trusty GPS and the map from the Travel Office, we drove our last day in the area to the Aviano Air Base, a bit more than an hour northeast of Vincenza, at the base of the Alps. Chaz wanted to check out the Space-A facility for future visits. Here, while lunching at the food court, we learned of a recreational area in the Petite Dolomites, where Lungo Lago Long Lake was formed by a dam in the valley, and where we were told, there was a waterfall worth seeing. We decided to go out of our way to drive there. Chaz had by this time, become accustomed to driving the rented five-speed Ford Ka. Driving in Italy is a challenge, especially in those narrow streets and up, down and around the extreme curves in the mountain areas. Most cars in Italy are small due to the narrow streets and the price of gas, approximately \$7 a gallon. Luckily for us, the exchange on Euro was down, about \$1.25 to one Euro.

The waterfall was located in Barcis, a camping and skiing destination. It was on this trip we drove through the longest tunnel, cutting four miles through the mountain. Reaching the small city, population 150 families, we parked and walked about a mile along the lake path, the narrowest of traffic bridges crossing the lake, and up a mountain street to find the waterfall. It was very peaceful here, away from the city crowds, the buzzing of many scooters, and with very little traffic. Most of the people we encountered were camping nearby. We found the waterfall, expecting more. It was merely a crack in the mountainside with water cascading down to a small pool that flowed under the street onto shallow flats. Picturesque, but hardly Niagara Falls!

All the staff at both the Vincenza and Aviano Bases were extremely courteous and helpful. It was a pleasure for me to hear English spoken. With so much to do in the area, we were delighted that a room became available so we were able to extend our stay at Vincenza an extra day.

I cannot close without mentioning that while in Nice, France we took a day trip and drove to the American Cemetery in Draguignan, France to pay recognition and appreciation to patriots who fought to protect freedom. It was about an hour northwest of Nice. Buried here are the American soldiers who lost their lives in the World War II Southern D-Day campaign. The Rhone Cemetery is one of many across Europe. It is on land donated by France and maintained by the US. The pure white crosses marking each soldier's gravesite marched in perfect rows, their whiteness in stark contrast to the well-kept green grass. At the back of the cemetery, there is a repose area with a monument listing those who died in the campaign, but whose remains were unaccounted for. After paying our tribute to those buried here, the curator, who was very knowledgeable, provided us a history lesson about this not as well recognized part of the D-Day campaign.



We certainly wish we could have stayed longer at Vincenza, but left much to see for future adventures  
Sgt Chaz Todaro, Retired, and wife, Sandy, who wrote this article

## **PART V. RESPECT FOR THE FLAG**



### **Fly your Flag Proudly**

#### **Rain is Tough on Flags**

The combination of wind and rain can literally beat some of the dye out of flag fabrics and cause color migration. This condition can occur even to the finest quality dyes and materials. (If your flag suffers color damage due to storm exposure, prompt washing in a mild detergent will usually remove the discoloration). The added weight of moisture in the fabric causes the flag to snap harder and wear out sooner. Be practical...don't fly your flag in the rain.

#### **High Winds Ruin Flags**

When your flag has to take the lashing punishment of high winds, something has to "give". Use common sense, you can tell when the wind is "working" your flag too hard. Remember, wind velocity at the top of your flagpole is usually much greater than at ground level.

**DISCLAIMER:** The Retiree Activities Letter is published by the Retiree Activities Office to inform retirees and family members of matters affecting their military rights, benefits, and obligations. While every effort is made to verify information in this newsletter, neither the editor nor the RAO staff can guarantee the accuracy of information received from outside sources. The editor reserves the right to reduce the length of the material to fit the space available.

**JOHN A. CARUSO Lt Col USAF Ret  
EDITOR**

**GAYLE W. CARUSO  
CO-EDITOR**

**NOTE:** Consider keeping your copies of our newsletters. They can prove to be important references in the future.

#### **Gems of the Day**

Marriage is nature's way of keeping us from fighting with strangers

"Those people who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do"

Isaac Asimo

"The remarkable thing about my mother is that for 30 years she served us nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found"

Calvin Trillin

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
FIRST CLASS



Airman& Famil Readiness	236-2097
Base Exchange	236-2100
Base Billeting	236-2014
Base Gym	236-2101
Chapel	36-2395
Credit Union	236-2348
Customer Service ID	236-2197
Falcon Club	236-2027
Ft. Drum SB	800-772-6900
Ft. Drum Pharmacy	800-354-9280
Pittsburgh Cas. Asst.2 Off	800-235-7780
Family Support Center	36-2097
DEERS	00-538-9552
TRICARE	877-874-2273
TRICARE For LIFE	66-773-0404
Express Scripts Pharmacy	866-363-8667
IT&T Services	236-3367
IRS	800-829--1040

Fitness Center	236-2101
Legal Aid	236-2133
Pass & ID Security	236-2281
RAO	236-2389
RAO Fax	236-3173
Recreation Center	236-2450
Space-A Travel	236-2389
VA Hospital	800-532-8387
VA Hospital	834-9200
VA Affairs	800-827-1000
VA Affairs	888-VETS-NYS
Cleveland DFAS	800-321-1080
DFAS/Annuitant	800-321-1080
Medicare	800-442-8430
Social Security	800-772-1213
Delta Dental	888-838-8737
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