



# The REGISTER

Holiday 2011



## Amazing Turn Around

The Selective Service System was presented the “Most Improved Small Federal Agency” award by the private Partnership for Public Service which ranks the “Best Places to Work in the Federal Government.” The Agency improved 31% this year in employee satisfaction. Director Romo accepted the award on behalf of the Agency at the November 16th breakfast and awards presentation hosted by the organization. Accompanying the Director to the event were Mr. John Miller, DMC, Ms. Mary Neely, Region I and Ms. Annie Boyd, Headquarters. SSS was “the most improved small Federal Agency” with a ranking of 25 out of 35 in the 2011 OPM Employee Viewpoint Survey.



Director Romo Receiving the Award.

to achieve the second highest participation rate in the Federal Government, and Agency leadership made the difference acting with positive, decisive changes. Thank you all for what you do and how well you do it. ■

Our Agency also achieved remarkable progress from its 2010 worst ranking – 34 out of 34 -- by doing better on 12 of 14 crucial categories. For example, our five greatest gains were in the categories of Fairness (42.2%), Leaders (41%), Employee Empowerment (35.7%), Strategic Management (26.5%), and Effective Leadership (26%). In fact, SSS was up in all categories except two: Pay (-5.1%) and Employee Skills/Mission Match (-0.5%). Even in these two categories alone, our Agency still ranked 21 out of 35. Partnership officials said “Leadership” is what really drove improved scores government-wide, and SSS proved it with its leapfrogging almost one-third of all small agencies from the bottom in 2010 to 25th place in 2011. In summary, SSS has accomplished major recognized improvement since 2010, employee morale has not been higher in recent memory, you all were interested enough



Left to Right: Annie Boyd, IT, Director Romo, John Miller, DMC and Mary Neely, Region 1

Agency News	1
Awards	7
Spirit of Giving	9
Human Interest	12
Milestones	17

## SSS Bids Farewell to Mainframe

The IBM mainframe used for processing Selective Service registrations for the last 30 years, had been housed in the MEPCOM Information Technology Directorate Computer Center, formerly known as the Joint Computer Center (JCC), North Chicago, Illinois. It has been replaced by a modernized desk top computer system. The new Registration Compliance Verification (RCV) system began operating on capability September 20, 2011.

Over the past three decades, 67 million registrants were processed and maintained with approximately 200 million ancillary records and files used in support of registrants and peacetime registration. The contributions of the MEPCOM support staff were monumental in helping Selective Service accomplish its mission through a continued evolution of technology. The DMC was responsible for maintaining mainframe computer programs, developing system improvements, maintaining records in data bases, and processing additions. These efforts enabled the Agency to boast a 100% records accountability rate, maintain a 98% deliverability rate of registrants within the prime year of vulnerability, add 2.3 million new registrations each year, and update 750,000 registrant files annually. This system also provided for an effective computer matching, internet, telephone, and correspondence verification system for over 12 million men annually.

In 2008, Advanced Information Services, Inc. (AIS), was awarded a series of contracts transitioning the Agency off the mainframe and implementing the RCV phase. SSS IT Directorate worked closely with the DMC and AIS staffs, assumed overall leadership of the three year project, and coordinated all data security and technology aspects. Observed DMC Manager Susan Cappo, "DMC has been involved in numerous high profile system development projects over the decades, including implementation of Compliance, RIMS, HCPDS, plus countless technology initiatives, but none came close to RCV's complexity and the level of subject matter expertise needed. I am thankful for the proficiency and dedication of the talent employed at the DMC who were paramount in making this transition a reality. Nearly the entire DMC staff was involved in some aspect of this project, ranging from

clerical support, customer feedback, requirements and system analysis, and testing. Special recognition is given to Linda Michalek, who assumed the DMC project leadership role, and to the key support staff of Peggy Nichols, Paula Adams, and Mike Gomski who assisted Linda in ensuring that no stones were left unturned." Cappo added that although considerable employee resources were expended on this project, it obviously did not preclude the DMC staff from accomplishing its on-going mission of administering all programs associated with peacetime registration. ■



Left to Right: Mike Gromski and Sue Cappo from the DMC



AIS staff and Jerry Klotz, IT (far right)

## Director Host Chamber of Commerce Committee

Director Romo hosted a visit by the Defense Committee of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce at National Headquarters on October 11th. The 14 ladies and gentlemen were briefed on our Agency: its missions, operations, programs, and budget. They were most interested in Selective Service being the only backup to the U.S. all-volunteer military. As the nation's economy improves unemployment is reduced, and the U.S. Armed Forces are downsized to counter budget deficit, a national risk is accepted that will make a future draft more likely. Naturally, these strategic international issues must be addressed politically by the current or a future Administration together with the Congress. ■



Director briefing Chamber of Commerce Committee, Dick Flahavan (far right)



Chamber of Commerce Committee listening to presentation



## Center Leadership Visits Selective Service

Cassandra Costley, Alternative Service Program Manager, hosted a gathering of ten visitors from the Center on Conscience & War, formerly the National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors (NISBCO) formed in 1940. The Center is a faith-based organization that advocates for the rights of conscience objectors to war and violence and opposes military conscription. Its services are provided to the public at no charge. Dick Flahavan, Associate Director for Public & Intergovernmental Affairs, briefed on the Agency's roles and missions, including budget and legislative issues. Associate Director for Operations Mario Campos covered questions as the proponent for our national alternative service program. And Ms. Costley, conducted the major briefing on COs, alternative work in the civilian community, and its implementation throughout U.S. history. The Center's new Executive Director Marie Santelli and Counseling Coordinator Bill Galvin led their delegation which included Brethren Volunteers and six enthusiastic interns. The session lasted three hours; the SSS staff would not end it until every last question or observation was addressed. Director Romo gathered them all in his office for closing remarks. it is important to remember that the classification of men as conscientious objectors by Selective Service Local Boards and the management of their assignments in the local community represent one-half of our Agency's mission. So we were pleased to share information with the Center staff as our constituents and customers. ■



Cassandra Costley briefing visitors from Center.



Richard Flahavan (Center), Marie Santelli (Left) and Bill Gavin (Right)



# Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention San Antonio, Texas

The Veterans of Foreign Wars 2011 National Convention (VFW) was held in San Antonio, Texas from August 27-31, 2011. The booth was manned by Director Romo, along with Texas State Director Claude E. Hempel, and Captain Stephanie Harris of 2TX. CW5 Mark Kelsey, a former Region II RFO and now State Resource Volunteer, also helped man the booth.

During the exhibit, Board Member recruitment was one of the top priorities. Potential Board Members were recruited for 12 active and 3 potential vacancies located throughout all three Regions. ■



Mr. Romo and Keith Knight (applicant from Region 1) are shown above as Mr. Romo administers the Oath of Office for Board Members



CW5 Kelsey displays his "Help Wanted" sign showing the applications received during the convention



## HR Organizes Wellness Event

As part of the Director's commitment to ensure the well being of all SSS employees and to provide a positive "Quality of Life" in the workplace, the Human Resource office organized a visit from the GSA Health Unit to provide flu vaccine shots for headquarters staff. The 2011-2012 flu vaccine is one shot that protects against the influenza B, H1N1 and H3N2 viruses. Over 25% of the staff participated and received the flu shot. Most healthy people recover from the flu without problems, but certain people are at high risk for serious complications. Vaccination is the best protection against contracting the flu.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention some of the Influenza symptoms usually come on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- Fever\* or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

\* It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.

For additional information about the Flu and Flu Vaccine please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/> ■



Pat Schuback, PIA getting his shot

## Colorado American GI Forum Presentation

Major Alan Smith (CO 3-7 RFO) and Mr. Robert Vaccarella (RIII Program Analyst) participated in the Colorado American GI Forum on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at the Mile High Chapter in Denver, CO. The subject of their presentation included the mission of the agency, and the Board Member Program in Colorado with emphasis placed on counties with current vacancies. Board Member applications were provided to interested personnel.

While at the meeting, Mr. Vaccarella presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Jose Martinez (CO State Commander), for his support to the Selective Service System. ■



Major Alan Smith



Mr. Robert Vaccarella and Mr. Jose Martinez

## RFO Presents City of Philadelphia With Award

MAJ Drew Techner, RFO Region 1 and a civilian employee of the city of Philadelphia, was the guest speaker for the Philadelphia's Veterans Day 2011 Ceremony, held in Washington Square. MAJ Techner nominated the city for Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) organization awards. He presented the awards to the Mayor and other city officials for their support of himself and other city employees that serve on long deployments. ■



MAJ Techner and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier in Washington Square, Philadelphia



Mayor Nutter with the award



MAJ Techner and family with Mayor Nutter

## Alaska Detachment Commander Given Award

Captain Janice I. Golub, Army National Guard, was awarded the Joint Service Commendation medal for “exceptional meritorious service” with the Selective Service System from July 10, 2002 to May 24, 2011. ■



MG Tom Katkus, (The Adjutant General) pinning Captain Janice L. Golub and Alaska State Director MAJ (R) Charles A. Smith in the background



Capt Golub (center), BG Deborah McManus, Director of the Joint Staff (third from right)

## State Director Dr. Labat Honored

District of Columbia State Director Dr. Margaret Labat received the “Commitment to Excellence Award” from the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency in Washington, DC at their Community Justice Advisory Network 2011 Annual Citywide Forum on September 30, 2011. Dr. Labat was honored in recognition of her dedication to community engagement.



## Lake County Sidewinders Volunteers Make a Difference

DMC employee Mike Gomski coordinated a short-term mission trip in June, 2011 through G.O. Ministries to the Dominican Republic for his son's travel baseball team from northern Illinois. The planning process started in the fall 2010. The group of volunteers consisted of eighteen people, including Mike, his wife Tabra, daughter Vicky and son Adam. While in the Dominican Republic, all of the boys from the 15U Lake County Sidewinders helped facilitate a baseball camp for about seventy-five Dominican boys, ages 6-10. The baseball team worked alongside local missionaries in providing training in the fundamentals of the game, i.e. pitching, hitting, infield, and outfield. When not working at the baseball camp, the volunteers assisted in serving meals to children at two feeding centers and helped with many local construction projects in Santiago, Dominican Republic.

When not busy volunteering and helping the local community, the Sidewinders were able to play competitive baseball games against local teams, including the best academy in the area and the Dominican Republic 16U National team which is scheduled to play in the Pan American games. They finished the week with three wins, three losses, all losses being a one-run differential. ■



Youth Baseball camp in Santiago D.R., with G.O. Ministry Missionaries, Sidewinder team members, and young Dominican Nationals



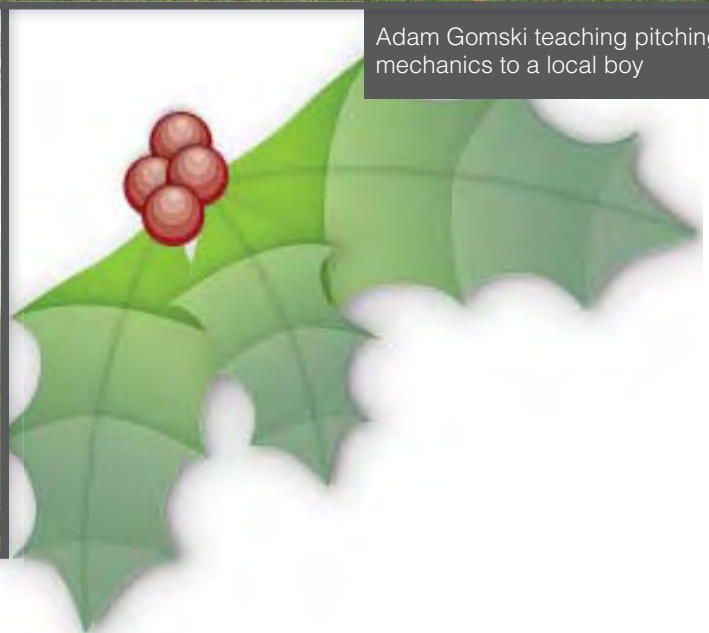
Mike Gomski and daughter Vicky building a rooftop



Adam Gomski teaching pitching mechanics to a local boy



Mrs. Tabra Gomski hauling boulders used to fortify the banks of a river



# Tournament Donates Over 3,000 Pounds of Fish

Rob Grinton, Management Services Assistant for SSS Region I and a U.S. Marine veteran who served in Desert Storm, is on the Board of Directors for the PFC Geoffrey Morris Memorial Governor's Cup Fishing Tournament. The annual two day tournament is held in honor of PFC Morris who was deployed to Iraq and killed in action on April 4, 2004. It is one of the largest salmon/trout fishing tournaments held on Lake Michigan among the four surrounding states. The tournament has grown over the years and hosts more than 300 participants. Proceeds from this tournament are donated to the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund. The Fund's purpose is to assist the families of Illinois National Guard members and reservists who face economic hardship when the military serviceman or servicewoman is called to active duty.

Thousands of fresh salmon and trout are caught Throughout the weekend. Rob Grinton takes an active role in the planning and operation of the tournament and coordinates with the local food pantries in Northern Illinois to ensure fish is distributed to churches, soup kitchens and smaller pantries. Last year, the tournament donated over 3,000 lbs. of fresh fish to the surrounding food pantries for distribution.

Following the two-day tournament, Rob and the committee host a "Heroes of Freedom Fishing Derby" for wounded and disabled veterans. Veterans from the various VA hospitals in the area come out to fish for the morning. Following the Fishing Derby, the USO from the Great Lakes Navy Base sponsors a luncheon in which participants are honored for the services and sacrifices they have made for our country.

Rob has proudly worked with this tournament and has been on the committee for the past six years.



Cleaning station where thousands of pounds of salmon and trout are cleaned and processed by volunteers for delivery to local food pantries.



Rob Grinton with the Northern Illinois Food Bank Truck that was donated for the weekend to help keep all the processed fish fresh and to transport it to the local food pantry for distribution.



## CWO4 Michael Cleary Helps with Drawdown

As one of the farthest forward deployed Coast Guard members, Chief Warrant Officer "BOSN" 4 Michael P. Cleary, USCGR, assigned to Selective Service System, Region I, Illinois Det. 1-2 is on Title X, currently serving with the U.S. Coast Guard's Patrol Forces Southwest Asia Redeployment Assistance Inspection Detachment (RAID) from April 2011 to March 2012. CWO4 Cleary, along with the Detachment of twenty seven (27) Active Duty and Reserve Personnel who travel throughout the Southwest Asia Theatre of Operations in IRAQ, Afghanistan and Kuwait, is responsible for Department of Defense intermodal cargo container inspection assistance. The RAID team supports the U.S. Army's Surface Deployment Distribution Command's (SDDC) 595th Transportation Brigade and its subordinate Transportation Battalions with the redeployment process. Specifically, the RAID team provides clear guidance on redeploying cargo containing Hazardous Materials. RAID members inspect containers in compliance with the Convention of Safe Containers (CSC), the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), and the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) safe cargo transportation requirements. CWO4 Cleary

also serves as a Federal Customs Border Clearing Agent. The primary mission, however is to train Army personnel, specifically Unit Movement Officers (UMOs), in their proper preparation to ship gear and cargo home in compliance with all transportation regulations. As the Operations Officer, CWO4 Cleary has logged more than 100 hours of fixed wing and rotary wing flight time, traveled to numerous forward operating bases, kept close tabs on the RAID team, and has provided the command staff direct oversight and outstanding leadership enabling superb results in the Coast Guard's efforts to help with the ongoing responsible drawdown of Iraq and Afghanistan troops and cargo. ■



CWO4 Michael Cleary



## CPR Saves Father's Life

This summer, Paul Gnat, Region I, and his wife were visiting his parents at their home in Woodridge, Illinois to celebrate his father's birthday. While there, Paul's dad didn't feel well but didn't think it was anything to worry about. His dad thought antacid would help so they went to the store to purchase some. On the way to the store Paul noticed that his dad had gotten very pale didn't look well and asked his dad if he wanted to go to the hospital. His dad said no he was ok so they finished their errands and went home. Paul explains what happened next, "About 30 minutes after getting home I was talking to my mother when I noticed my dad had closed his eyes. I assumed that he was just napping. My mother said something to him and received no response. I went over to the chair to find out that he was not breathing. I place him on the floor and started CPR. My wife called 911. For about 3 to 4 minutes which felt like a life time I performed CPR. When the paramedics arrived they shocked him and took him to the hospital. Later, I found out he had suffered a heart attack. It happened on his birthday. Today he is 77 years young and doing great. This has become somewhat of an annual occurrence with my mother and father. In 2010 my mother took her turn while my father was in ICU. Having both in the hospital at the same time. I take no credit for the events, but would like to give my wife credit because without her helping it would have been a real hard situation. Also having the knowledge and training in CPR greatly assisted me with the unexpected events." ■



Paul Gnat

## Heart Attack Symptoms from the American Heart Association:

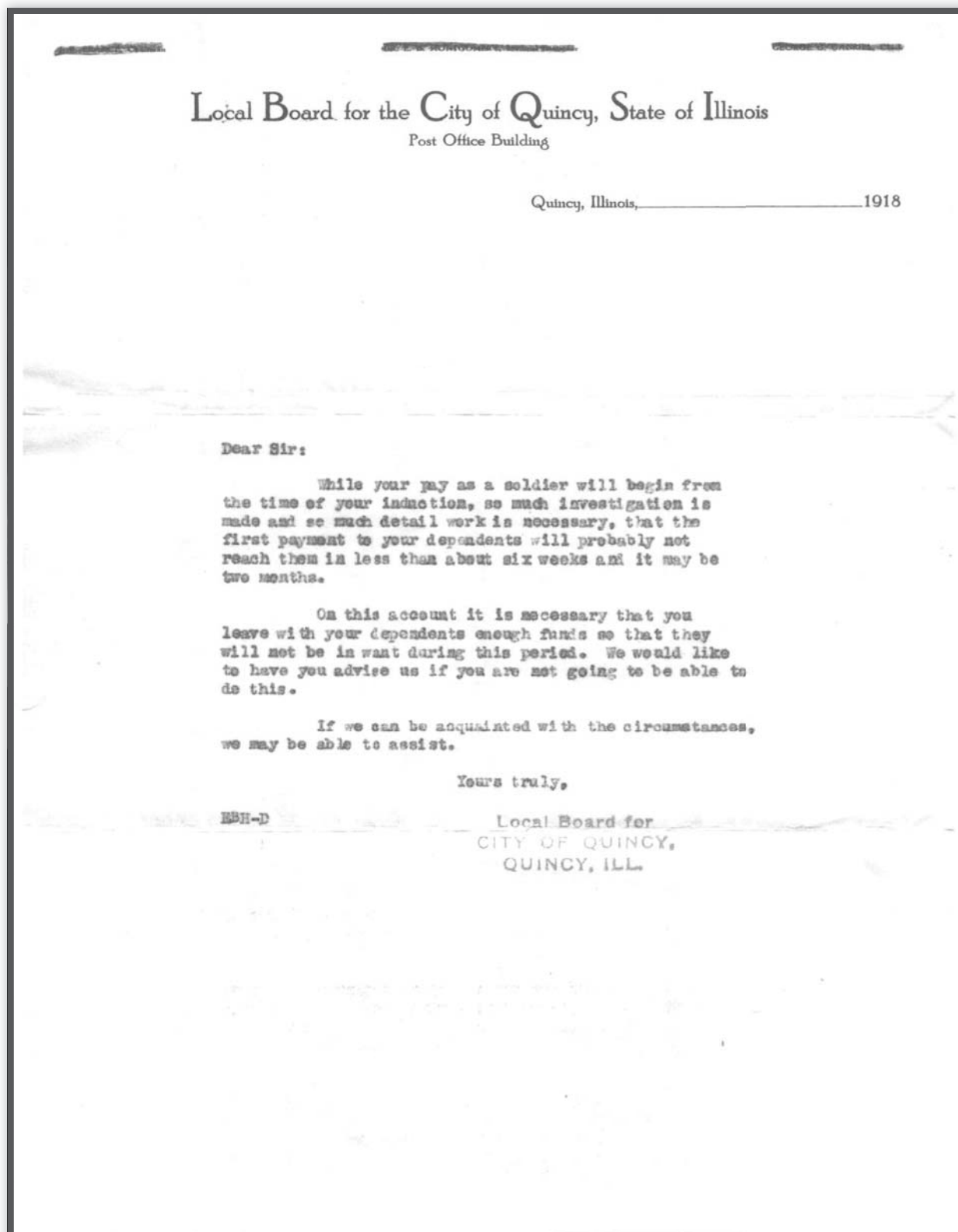
- \* Chest discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- \* Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.
- \* Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- \* Shortness of breath. This may occur with or without chest discomfort.
- \* Other signs. These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort. But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting, and back or jaw pain.

For more information, please contact the American Heart Association  
<http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/> ■

## Blast from the Past

The Selective Service staff is definitely creative – even before the Agency existed! During World War I the draft was managed by the U.S. Army; the Selective Service System did not exist until September 16, 1940, at the start of World War II. Below is a copy of the City of Quincy, Illinois, Local Board letter from World War I explaining to an inductee when his dependants might first receive his military pay. It appears that this historic letter was a locally-developed piece of correspondence to answer a frequently asked question by inductees. While both the typing and associated grammar are not perfect, the man's concerns were fully addressed. ■



## Bring the Past to the Present

Joann Swain, Region II Administrative Officer, recently tasked herself with tracking her ancestors. After asking for information from her mother Luella and her Aunt Annette she managed to obtain some “nicknames.” With the limited information she received, she decided to sign up with a genealogical website to begin her search. She plugged in the names given to her and was surprised when a link was formed, taking her to other names. Before she knew it, she had found her grandfather, her great grandfather, and her great-great grandfather.

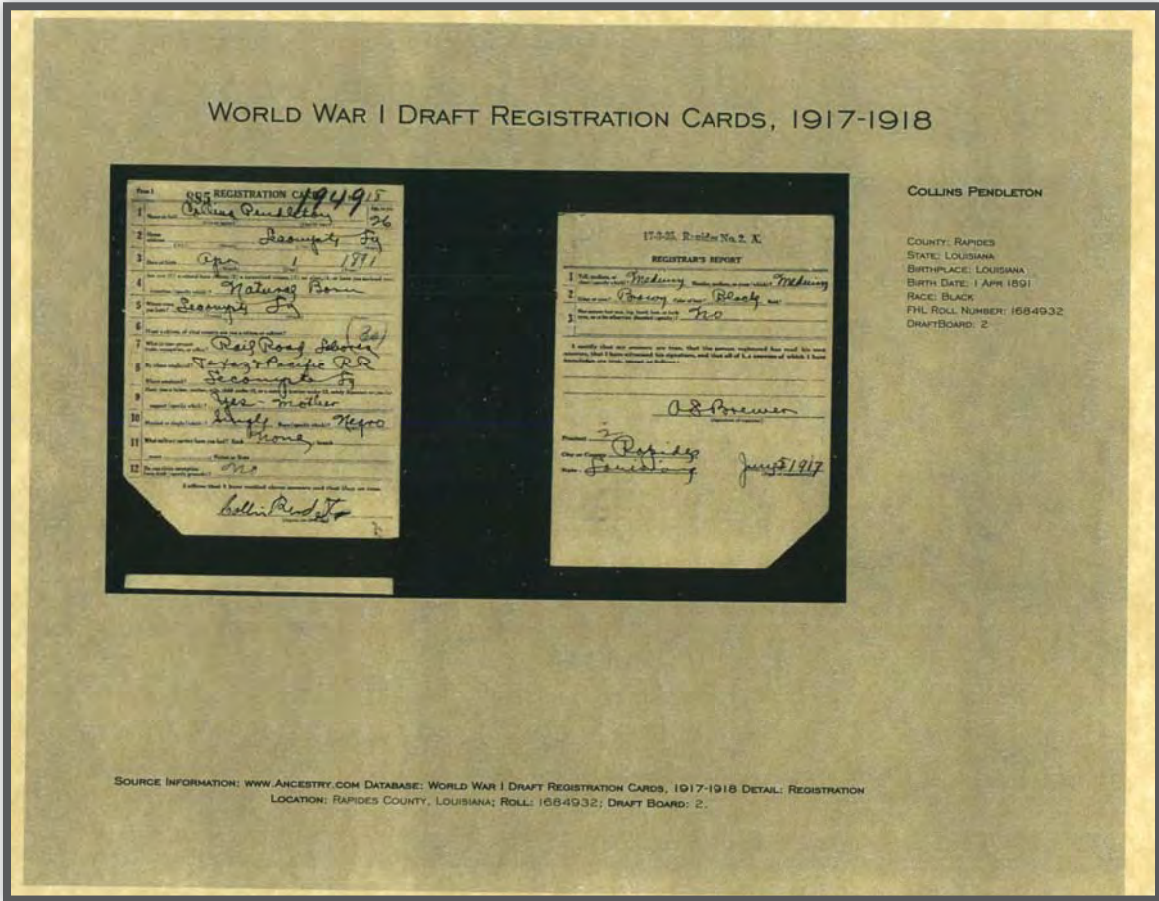
Although her grandfather, Collins Pendleton, died when Ms. Swain was just a child, she did have a slight memory of him. However, through the website she was able to obtain copies of the Selective Service System registration cards for both her grandfather and great-grandfather. The information showed that Mr. Pendleton was born in 1891 and died in 1955. Mr. Pendleton registered for the draft for World War I in 1917. He was employed as a Laborer at the Texas & Pacific Rail Road

in Lecompton, Louisiana. Her great grandfather, General Jenus Pendleton, was born in 1846 and died in 1920. He was in the United States Colored Troops Military Service during 1861-1865 and was employed as a Laborer.

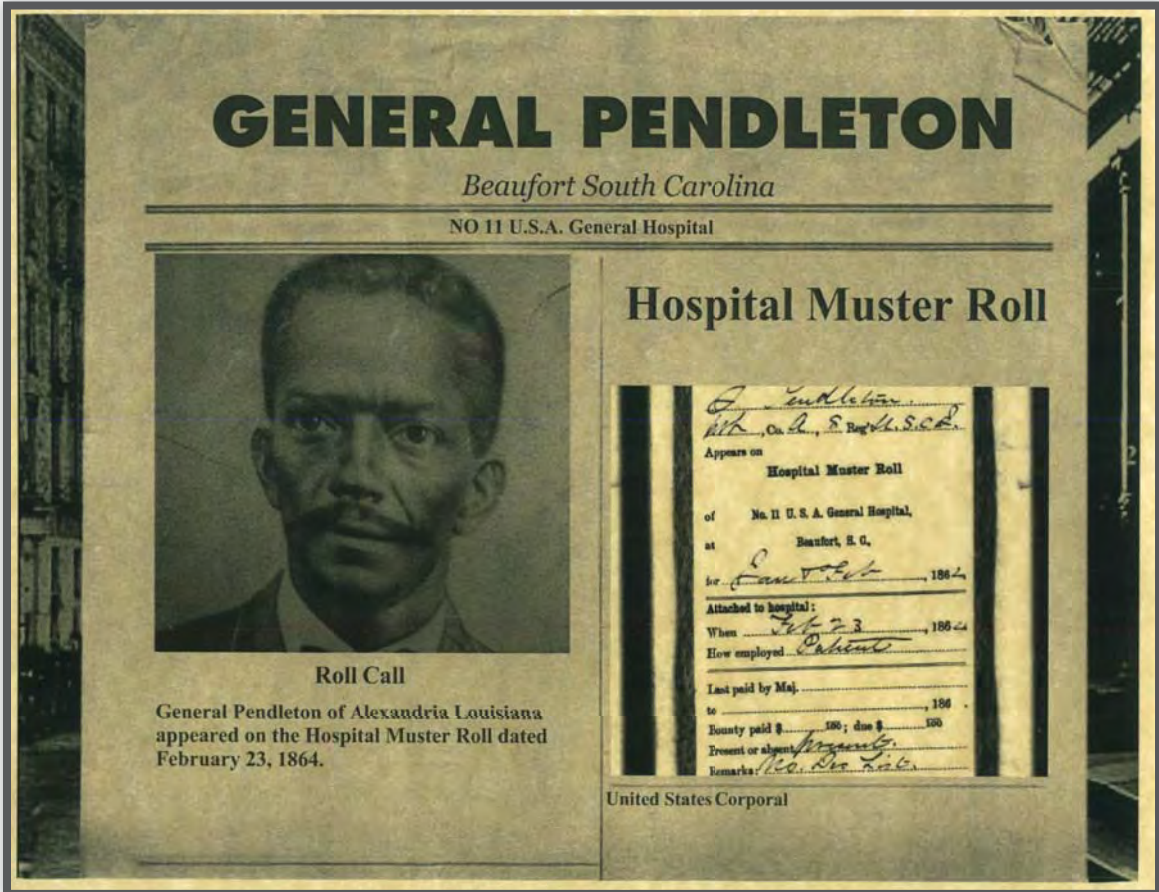
Ms. Swain was very excited about the information that she learned and plans to continue to research her family ancestry. ■ [Continued on Next Page](#)



Joann Swain with Grandfather's and Great-Grandfather's documents



Collins Pendleton's WWI Draft Card



General Pendleton's Listed on 1864 Muster Roll



## Agency Leader Departs

Our Associate Director for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Rakesh Gupta, is now back with the Internal Revenue Service. Although assigned to Selective Service for only 14 months, Mr. Gupta did turn the Information Technology Directorate around to focus on several significant projects. Major progress was achieved on the annual FISMA and demonstrated advances were completed in IT security. The NHQ telephone system was replaced together with other equipment upgrades. The Registration, Compliance, and Verification functions were transferred from the MEPCOM mainframe to a more efficient, smaller automated platform. Mr. Gupta has always maintained that all these significant accomplishments would not have been possible except for the wonderful assistance of his IT staff. His positive legacy is in place and already paying dividends. We wish him much success in his new assignment. ■



Mr. Rakesh Gupta being presented the Special Services Plaque by Director Romo

## Congratulations on Retirement

Ms. Debora Pinkney, IT Specialist, started her Federal career with the Interstate Commerce Commission in the summer of 1978 as a clerk-typist GS-2. She then went to the Department of Interior and worked in the Office of the Director, National Park Service. While there Debora enrolled in college as a part-time student. In December, 1988 she accepted a position at the Selective Service System (SSS) as secretary to the Executive Director, CAPT. Pete Walls. While at SSS, she graduated from the University of Maryland University College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management. In 1992, Debora was hired through the upward mobility program as a Computer Specialist in the IT department. It is in this position that she found her niche. She taught classes on Windows, WordPerfect, Word, FrontPage, Section 508 guidelines, PerForm Pro, and Lotus1-2-3 to the SSS employees. Additionally, she provided support on hardware and software needs throughout the Agency. Debora was instrumental in the development of SSS's first Intranet site, organizing and training several employees on how to create web pages and how to make them Section 508 compliant.



Debora Pinkney

In her personal time away from the office, Debora worked part-time at Prince Georges Community College and at Shabach Community Services – a non-profit organization arm of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden as an instructor. She taught basic computer skills in Windows, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and HTML on Saturdays for several years. In 2004, Debora joined a ministry called “Prosperity Partners” that provides guidance to those that are having difficulty managing their finances and helps them become financially free from debt. Debora continues to provide assistance and guidance at the ministry and received a recognition award as a Senior Prosperity Partner. For the last 3 years, Debora has also served as a facilitator for Divine Discipleship for Sisters, which is a program for women that helps them walk with the Lord and to be Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Although she will be retired, Debora hopes to continue to teach at the church. In her free time she will enjoy her three beautiful grandchildren and spoil them as only a grandmother can! We will miss Debora and the SSS family wishes her all the best in her future endeavors. ■



Debora Pinkney in her office

## Contributors

### Special Thanks to:

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