



# The E-9ers

## COLORADO

<http://www.e9ers.org/>  
<http://www.e9ers.com/>

Army  
Navy  
Air Force  
Marine Corps  
Coast Guard

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Volume 14 Number 12

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello Fellow Vets:

Hope all of you had a memorable and enjoyable Veteran's Day. Ann and I had a very nice meal at Applebee's along with many other Veterans and active duty folks. What a nice perk! Thank you Applebee's and all the other businesses who have shown appreciation to us for our contribution to our beloved country.

Now we are fast approaching the busy season of Christmas. May you all have a very special Holiday. Ann I will be travelling to Wisconsin to spend time with family. Hope the weather cooperates. Hope to see many of you at our Christmas party on the 4th.

Your Prez,  
Bill

## HOLIDAY MAIL DEADLINES SET

The United States Postal Service and Military Postal Service Agency have released deadlines to ensure packages arrive to Military and State Department post offices overseas by December 25. Deadlines to ensure arrival by December 25 are November 12 for parcel post mail; November 26 for space-available mail; December 3 for parcel airlift mail; December 10 for priority mail and first-class mail, letters and cards; and December 17 for express mail military service. Not all Military or State Department post offices are eligible for Express Mail Military Service. For information on mailing deadlines and restrictions, email the Military Postal Service at [MPSA-TR@conus.army.mil](mailto:MPSA-TR@conus.army.mil) or visit the Military Postal Services Agency website at <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/>.

Military.com Article, Dated October 24, 2011

## DOD OVERSIGHT POLICIES INADEQUATE

Stars and Stripes reports that a recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has found that most U.S. servicemembers who believe they have been sexually harassed do not bother to file formal complaints because, in part, they do not think their concerns will be taken seriously. The GAO report took the Department of Defense to task for a perceived lack of sufficient control over incidents of sexual harassment in the armed forces. You can read the full report on the GAO website at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-809>.

Military.com Article, Dated November 7, 2011

## The E-9ers OFFICERS

The following officers of the E-9ers Association are interested in hearing from you and what suggestions that you may have to improve our group. If you have any thoughts that you would like to share, please give one or more of them a call. They would love to hear from you.

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## The E-9ers Association Next Monthly Meeting

January 25, 2012

11:00 a.m.

at

Mr. Panda Restaurant  
2852 S. Havana Street  
Aurora, CO

## DEAL TO SEARCH FOR US WAR DEAD IN NORTH KOREA

The Pentagon says it has agreed with North Korea to resume - after a six-year break - the search for remains of U.S. servicemen unaccounted for from the Korean War. The deal was made October 20 after three days of negotiations in Bangkok. The U.S. and North Korea began working together on the recovery of U.S. war remains in 1996. But in 2005, the Bush administration called a halt, saying it was concerned for the safety of the U.S. teams in North Korea. The Korean war ended with an armistice in 1953. The new searches are part of a broader U.S. effort to improve relations with North Korea. Plans are also in the works to hold what the State Department calls exploratory talks with the North on its nuclear weapons program.

Military.com Article, Dated October 21, 2011

## PHOTOCOPYING OF MILITARY ID AND CAC CARDS PROHIBITED

Commander, Navy Installations Command issued an announcement reminding all personnel that the photocopying of military identification cards and common access cards (CAC) is strictly prohibited beginning November 1.

There have been recent incidents reported of commercial establishments photocopying U.S. government identification to verify military affiliation or provide government rates for service. These incidents are a violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701 and are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.

Although commercial establishments may request to see military/government identification, they may not photocopy or duplicate it in any way. Many military personnel and commercial establishments are unaware of the prohibition and the reasons it exists, which results in this being a fairly common practice.

Navy News Article, Dated November 2, 2011

## AF LODGING RESERVATIONS GO ONLINE

Airmen and families now have an easier way to make lodging reservations for Air Force Inns worldwide. The Defense Lodging System (DLS) now features online reservations and the capability for customers to leave online feedback about their stay at an Air Force lodging facility. Nearly 90 percent of all Air Force Inns have transferred to the new system. The remaining facilities are scheduled to be online by January 2012.

"DLS allows customers to make duty and space available online lodging reservations and provide us direct feedback with our online comment card system," said Jeff Richard, the Air Force Lodging technology branch chief at the Air Force Services Agency (ADSVA). While the system provides customers with a convenient option for reservations, the system also provides an added benefit to the lodging staff, Richard said. "DLS provides us an additional channel to enhance customer service and increase room occupancy with online reservations," he said. "We can immediately capture and track customer feedback to improve on any weak areas."

The consolidation of the software and data centers DOD-wide also removes system redundancies. "DLS centralization allows us to eliminate server and software upgrades performed at installation level," said Maj. Bruce Staufer, the AF-SVA lodging division chief. "It also has a direct interface with our centralized non-appropriated fund accounting system to electronically transfer financial data versus manual input."

Military.com Article, Dated November 8, 2011

## VA APPROVES NEW EMBLEM OF BELIEF

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has approved the Armenian Cross as an emblem of belief that can be placed on the government headstones or marker of a deceased American veteran. To date, 38 denominations have had their "Emblem of Belief" accepted by the Veterans Administration for use on government headstones or markers. The grave markers and tombstones are free of charge. The marker will be sent directly to the cemetery where the veteran is buried, and the cemetery staff will install the marker on the grave site. For more information, e-mail [mps.headstones@va.gov](mailto:mps.headstones@va.gov) or contact National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 5109 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134-3903.

Military.com Article, Dated November 7, 2011

## ARMY DESERTION RATE LOWEST SINCE VIETNAM

The U.S. Army's desertion rate dropped sharply in the past year to the lowest point since the Vietnam war, a welcome relief which experts believe is thanks to a sputtering economy, better recruits, and the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq. "The Army right now is in a place where it can be very selective of the Soldiers that it recruits," said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Steve Warren "and because of that we are bringing into the Army the very best that America has to offer."

Despite a patriotic surge in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Army had trouble keeping its ranks filled amid the intense pressures of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The desertion rate actually jumped in the wake of the attacks, with 4,399 Soldiers fleeing their posts in 2001, and began to rise as Iraq unraveled in 2005 and 2006. It peaked during the 2007 surge to 4,698 troops, which was just under one percent of the service rolls and the Army's highest desertion rate since records became available in 1970.

A 2002 Army report found that the number of deserters and AWOL Soldiers usually rises in wartime as more demands are placed on troops and enlistment standards are lowered -- something that happened as Iraq careened into chaos. Those deserting also rose amid programs like "stop-loss," an Army program that kept thousands of GIs on active duty after their commitment expired during part of the Iraq war. Another factor could be that the Army was forced to loosen its recruitment standards by expanding the admission of felons, high school drop outs, and recruits with the lowest scores.

That changed in 2008 when the U.S. economy fell into the deepest economic downturn in decades. Just 1,202 Soldiers were dropped from the service's rolls after being labeled deserters in fiscal year 2010, which ended September 30. The number is down by nearly third from the 2009 total of 1,717 troops and is the lowest percentage for desertion since 1973.

While the economy plays a role in driving recruits and troop retention, desertion is often more complex and personal, said Bernard Trainor, who led Marine recruiting in the Northeast from 1974-1976, and co-wrote an acclaimed history of the Iraq invasion. "The economy has got to be a player, but it's not the 100-percent factor, and I don't know what the other percentage is because there's a lot of other motivations that attract or drive people into the military," Trainor told AFP. "Therefore, with them being more selective, they're getting a better-quality guy and that automatically is going to lower the dissatisfaction rate and, with it, the desertion rate."

University of Maryland military sociologist David Segal studied the phenomenon with researcher D. Bruce Bell in the 1970s. He said Soldiers deserting during Vietnam generally did so because of financial or family problems, or because they could not adjust to life in the military. Vietnam's bitter legacy and the early years of a volunteer military led to a force beset by drug abuse, racial strife, and poor-quality trainees.

Evidence of trouble in the ranks was borne out virtually every week as FBI agents brought Marine deserters to Trainor's Garden City, New Jersey headquarters. "We found the Vietnam-era deserters to look like World War II and Korean War deserters," he said. "They tended to be young, unmarried, less well educated, in lower mental-aptitude categories, in less-skilled military occupations, and in the lowest pay grades." It was not uncommon for the wayward troops to say they ran from their posts because of fears over violence -- and even being killed by other Marines. "Most of the deserters were the bums, the slime, but there was a significant percentage of people that deserted at that time because the quality of life and the leadership was so bad in their perception, and for them, it was a rational decision," Trainor told AFP.

Today's Soldiers are older, better educated, and more likely to be married and holding more-skilled occupations than their draftee and early-volunteer force counterparts, said Segal, the military sociologist. The Army also has an array of programs to help Soldiers and their families deal with financial and social issues that did not exist during the Vietnam era.

The Army classifies Soldiers as deserters after they have been absent without leave for a month. The bulk are typically lower-ranking GIs who have not finished their first year of duty. Soldiers deserting in times of war can be executed. But a review of Army judicial records shows that just 1,213 desertion cases were tried from 1990 to 2007, averaging slightly more than 71 a year. Over that time, at least 43,810 deserted.

"The normal way you get rid of them is with an administrative separation called a Chapter 10, a discharge in lieu of court-martial," said one-time Army lawyer Geoffrey Corn, a professor at South Texas College of Law in Houston. "It's a plea agreement."

## HONOR VETERANS BY HELPING LEGITIMATE CHARITIES

There are many ways we honor members of the armed services. We rise and applaud them at sporting events, wiping our eyes at the sight of muscular young men with prosthetic legs. We hang banners from overpasses, welcoming home local men and women who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. We attach "Support Our Troops" stickers to our cars. While symbolic measures are no doubt appreciated, veterans need much more than a standing ovation and a pat on the back. Many are suffering from traumatic physical and emotional wounds. Civilian jobs are scarce. More than 135,000 veterans are homeless. There are dozens of charities that claim to help veterans. You've probably received a phone call from some of them, or been solicited for donations at the grocery store. Sadly, though, the track record for veterans' charities is poor, charity watchdogs say, for two reasons:

- Veterans organizations, along with groups that solicit funds for firefighters and police officers, are magnets for hucksters and thieves. For example, a man who identified himself as Lt. Cmdr. Bobby Thompson raised millions of dollars and cozied up to some well-placed politicians by creating a sham charity called the U.S. Navy Veterans Association. An investigation by the St. Petersburg Times found that the charity reported income of more than \$100 million since 2002. The group's founder, who never served in the military and apparently stole someone's identity, has been indicted, but his whereabouts are unknown. Crooks gravitate to veterans charities because they're lucrative, says Ken Berger, chief executive of Charity Navigator, a charity watchdog. Helping veterans "is a very powerful mission that pulls at many people's heartstrings," he says. "They see a big bucket of money to rip off."
- A large percentage of donors' funds go to telemarketers and professional fundraisers. Many well-meaning founders of veterans groups don't have the time or expertise to run a charity, so they hire telemarketers and professional fundraisers, Berger says. Too often, he says, they turn a blind eye to the amount of money the professionals keep for themselves. Some large veterans charities spend up to 90 percent of donors' contributions on fundraising, says Daniel Borochoff, president of CharityWatch (formerly the American Institute of Philanthropy). Borochoff's research into the high cost of fundraising by veterans charities led to congressional hearings in 2007. Borochoff told Congress that 75 percent of the veterans charities he analyzed received a "D" or "F" rating, vs. 22 percent of all charities. Since then, the situation has gotten worse, Borochoff says. "It's a national disgrace that hundreds of millions of donations intended for veterans are being wasted on massive direct-mail campaigns and gimmicks such as unordered greeting cards."

### Tips for donors:

- Don't respond to phone solicitations unless you already have a relationship with the charity, Borochoff says. Those calls are typically made by fundraisers, which means only a fraction of your contribution will go to veterans programs.
- Don't give money to people who solicit for contributions outside retail stores or on the street, even if they're wearing a military uniform. There's no way of knowing whether the money is going to vets — or even if the individual asking for funds is really a veteran, Borochoff says.
- Don't give because you received something in the mail. Some charities send prospective donors flags, desk sets, blankets, and other premiums. These organizations hope recipients will feel compelled to send in a contribution to pay for the items, Borochoff says. "If you start getting a lot of unordered merchandise, the charity is probably really inefficient."
- Don't be misled by impressive-sounding names. Just because a charity is named after a well-known admiral or military hero doesn't mean it's a well-run organization.

Military Times Article, Dated November 7, 2011

## NEW VA RECORD SHARING RULE

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that it is amending an agency rule in the Code of Federal Register to remove an inappropriate restriction on sharing of information about treatment for certain types of medical conditions with the Department of Defense (DOD). This confidentiality statute was enacted before other privacy laws were in place to protect against the unauthorized disclosure of VA medical records relating to treatment for drug abuse, alcoholism or alcohol abuse, infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and sickle cell anemia. The interim final rule is available online. Written comments may be submitted through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or faxed to (202) 273-9026.

Military.com Article, Dated November 7, 2011

## **REPORT: VETS STAY HOMELESS LONGER THAN CIVILIANS**

Homeless veterans spend more time on the street than their civilian counterparts and are more likely to develop serious mental health illnesses or physical problems as a result, according to new research. The 100,000 Homes Campaign released its study of more than 23,000 homeless citizens on November 8, the same day a new Pew Research Center report showed dissatisfaction among wounded troops with their post-military care. More than half said the government does not provide enough assistance. "The physical, emotional and, economic toll of a serious service-related injury does not end when the service member leaves the military," the Pew report states. "Years and even decades after they were discharged, veterans who were badly hurt while serving are significantly more likely to be in poor health and somewhat less likely to be employed." Neither report focused solely on Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, but both hint at the long-term struggles facing that population in the years to come. Defense Department officials estimate that more than 1 million current servicemembers will leave the military by 2016, putting new pressure on veterans support services.

For years, veterans advocates have known that those who served in the military are more likely to end up in desperate poverty than civilians. But the new homelessness report, based on interviews with homeless people across the country, found that veterans are likely to stay in those impoverished conditions almost two years longer on average than civilians. Homeless veterans average almost six years on the streets, compared to four years for non-veterans. The extra time takes an emotional and physical toll. Homeless veterans suffered kidney disease, liver disease, frostbite, and mental health illnesses at higher rates than non-military, researchers found. For veterans who spend more than two years without a home, the rates jump even higher. "This shows we've got to go out and find these veterans who aren't coming in to the shelters, given how lethal homelessness can be," said Becky Kanis, director of the 100,000 Homes Campaign. "Every day we can take off the process could save a veteran's life."

Veterans interviewed for the report said wait times for housing assistance programs can reach up to year. Kanis said while the Department of Veterans Affairs has made great strides in addressing homelessness in recent years, better coordination with local assistance programs needs to be a priority. In a statement, VA spokeswoman Michelle Hammond said identifying and reaching homeless veterans is the primary challenge for department assistance efforts, but officials have focused on those efforts in recent months.

The Pew Center's survey of nearly 2,000 former servicemembers found deep concerns that government efforts to help veterans don't go far enough. Roughly a third of healthy veterans and more than half of wounded veterans said they feel the government "has not given them enough help." That included criticism of the utility of VA programs, access to veterans hospitals, and the Defense Department's commitment to treat lingering injuries related to military service. Despite those issues, 99 percent of the wounded veterans surveyed by the center said they were proud of their service and would advise others to enlist. VA statistics show that about 2.2 million veterans — roughly one in every 10 veterans in American today — have a service connected disability.

Stars & Stripes Article, Dated November 9, 2011

## **VA TO ALLOW EASIER SHARING OF MEDICAL INFORMATION WITH PENTAGON**

The Department of Veterans Affairs said October 26 that it is changing its rules to make it easier to share some kinds of medical information with the Department of Defense. The rule change will make it easier for the VA and Pentagon to exchange information on treatments for drug abuse, alcoholism or alcohol abuse, HIV status, and sickle cell anemia. VA officials said its rule prohibiting information-sharing was overly strict because the agency was concerned about patient privacy. Other laws are sufficient, and making the change should enable veterans to receive better, and more timely treatment.

"VA and DOD clinicians must have the most accurate and comprehensive data available to ensure they provide the highest quality care possible," VA secretary Eric K. Shinseki said in a statement announcing the change. "We have discovered that, particularly in this age of electronic health records, this regulatory restriction created an impediment to maximizing this exchange of information." The change comes as the VA and the Pentagon are more than two years removed from a commitment its leaders made to create seamless, lifetime medical records for troops and veterans. Officials said during the summer in their most optimistic estimates, they hope to have the system set up by 2017.

Stars & Stripes Article, Dated October 26, 2011

## DEFENSE SUPPORTERS MAKE CASE FOR NO MORE CUTS

Budget analysts helping the House Armed Services Committee resist cuts in the defense budget are worried about talk of making politically expedient reductions in military spending for one or two years before returning to robust spending sometime after the 2012 elections. Rep. Buck McKeon, R-CA, has been leading a campaign to prevent the defense budget from being cut by more than the \$465 billion over 10 years that has already been agreed to.

He is waging that fight as the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction is meeting to come up with recommendations for a \$1.2 trillion or larger cut in federal spending — which McKeon hopes does not include any additional cuts to the defense budget. “Our effort is aimed at convincing everyone, especially the ‘supercommittee’, that defense has already been cut,” said one of McKeon’s aides. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity. The problem is that additional cuts, even for just one or two years could have serious and not easily reversible consequences, the aide said. “The myth is you can cut without harm if you do it for a short period and then raise the defense budget back up. That isn’t true. Even a couple of years of cuts could have real harm.”

Additional cuts in defense are likely to focus on personnel levels, which already are scheduled to decline. Cutting 150,000 troops or more a year, on par with the massive reductions made after the Cold War ended, likely would require cutting mid-grade officers who could not be quickly replaced later. “If you cut deeply into your captains, majors, and lieutenant colonels this year to reduce costs because of budget cuts, you cannot replace them next year if the appropriations committee suddenly decides to support a bigger defense budget,” said a senior McKeon aide. “You have lost this experience and it is not coming back.”

Civilian personnel cuts, especially if they fall in the acquisition workforce, also could lead to problems, aides said. “If you lose people training in contracting and contract management, it hurts because we have been trying to build up those areas,” said the senior aide. “It also decreases the likelihood of programs coming in on time and on budget.” Similarly, aides warned cutting development funds for a new Air Force bomber or for a new Navy submarine would be big setbacks in those programs that would delay improvements in critical capabilities. Cutting defense for one or two years as part of a \$1.2 trillion package of spending cuts is attractive for political reasons. It could make it easier to get votes for spending cuts that include painful reductions in federal entitlements if the package includes reductions in the defense budget because it would show that a wide range of programs are affected.

The bipartisan deficit reduction committee is expected to make recommendations on spending cuts by November 18, with votes in the House and Senate planned by the end of the calendar year under rules that allow approval or disapproval of the package without any chance for amendment. The procedures, set earlier this year by the Budget Control Act, require the deficit reduction package to be signed into law by January 5 to avoid automatic across-the-board cuts in federal spending. Both the deficit reduction panel package and the across-the-board cuts would apply in 2013, under the budget process.

Military Times Article, Dated October 19, 2011

## GULF WAR DRAFT REPORT RELEASED

The Department of Veterans Affairs' Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force has completed the draft of a comprehensive report that will outline how VA addresses the concerns of veterans who deployed during the Gulf War in 1990 and 1991. The public notice and instructions on how to submit comments are available on the [Regulations.gov](http://Regulations.gov) website. The draft report will be open for comment for 30 days.

Military.com Article, Dated October 31, 2011

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**WHAT:** E-9ers Christmas Party - Sunday Brunch

**WHEN:** Sunday, December 4, 2011, at 11:30 A.M.

**WHERE:** Marie Callender's Restaurant, 51 West Dry Creek Court, Littleton, CO

**COST:** \$19.00 per person including tax and tip.

**ADDITIONAL INFO:** Sign up sheet will be available at the October 26th and November 16th meetings. You can also call Mardy at 303-587-2666 (cell) to make your reservation. Deadline for reservations and payment is November 19th. Checks need to be made out to the E-9ers Association. Checks can be given to Mardy at either meeting or mailed to her at P.O. Box 336818, Greeley, CO 80633. As in the past, a \$10.00 gift exchange will be held for those wishing to participate. Bring a gift-receive a gift. Gifts should be gender-neutral.

## RISK TO PATIENTS FROM DATA BREACH MET WITH PROACTIVE RESPONSE

A loss of computer tapes by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) may have placed Tricare patient data at risk. There is no evidence that any of the data has actually been accessed by a third party, and analysis shows the chance any data was actually compromised is low, but proactive measures are being taken to ensure that potentially affected patients are kept informed and protected. SAIC is a contractor for the Tricare Management Activity (TMA). On September 14, TMA learned that an SAIC employee reported that on September 12 computer tapes containing personally identifiable and protected health information (PII/PHI) of 4.9 million military clinic and hospital patients in Texas, or those patients who had laboratory exams sent to the military hospitals in Texas, were stolen. The data contained on the tapes may include names, Social Security numbers, addresses and phone numbers, and some personal health data such as clinical notes, laboratory tests, and prescriptions. There is no financial data, such as credit card or bank account information, on the backup tapes.

"We take this incident very seriously," said Brigadier General W. Bryan Gamble, TMA deputy director. "The risk to our patients is low, but the Department of Defense is taking steps to keep affected patients informed and protected." TMA has directed SAIC to provide one year of credit monitoring and restoration services to patients who express concern about their credit. SAIC will also conduct analysis of all available data to help TMA determine if identity theft occurs due to the data breach. "These measures exceed the industry standard to protect against the risk of identity theft," Gamble said. "We take very seriously our responsibility to offer patients peace of mind that their credit and quality of life will be unaffected by this breach."

The risk of harm is judged to be low despite the sensitive data involved. Retrieving data from the tapes requires knowledge of and access to specific hardware and software and knowledge of the system and data structure. However, as a standard practice individuals may protect their personal information by taking the steps suggested by the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/idtheft/idth04.shtml>. Concerned patients may contact the SAIC Incident Response Call Center, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time, at (855) 366-0140 (toll free) for United States callers and (952) 556-8312 (collect) internationally.

Tricare Media Center Article, Dated November 4, 2011

## VETERANS COMMITTEE LEADERS ALL OPEN TO VA CUTS

The top leaders of the House and Senate veterans' affairs committees are willing to cut funding for the Veterans Affairs Department in hopes of averting across-the-board cuts in federal spending. "We believe no constituency better understands the challenge America faces, and no constituency is better suited to, again, lead by example by putting country first," says a rare joint letter signed by the four top Democratic and Republican members of the veterans' committees. The letter to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction is dated October 14 but was not made available until October 17. It is signed by Sen. Patty Murray, D-WA, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee chairwoman; Sen. Richard Burr, R-NC, the Senate's committee's ranking Republican; Rep. Jeff Miller, R-FL, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee chairman; and Rep. Bob Filner, D-CA, the House committee's ranking Democrat.

Murray is also the Senate chairwoman of the 12-member joint committee, known as the "supercommittee," that is empowered to make recommendations by Thanksgiving on how to cut \$1.2 trillion or more in federal spending. The letter avoids the irony of Murray writing a letter to herself by having the veterans' committee message sent to the entire joint committee rather than to the House and Senate co-chairs. Miller said in a statement October 17 that he remains committed to veterans' programs. "We all have a responsibility to America's veterans to ensure that the benefits they have earned remain intact and that their needs remain a priority," Miller said. "We also have a responsibility, however, to ensure that during these tough economic times, we provide to the Joint Select Committee information that is pertinent to its decision-making process in a transparent and bipartisan manner."

No specific cuts were recommended by the four lawmakers, but they attached a list of all of the reductions made in veterans' benefits since 1980 as part of other deficit reduction packages and a separate one-page list of ongoing initiatives to reduce expenses. Past budget-cutting efforts have included modest increases in co-payments for veterans receiving treatment and prescription drugs for health problems not directly related to military service; making veterans wait until the first day of the following month after approval of benefits claims for payments to begin; raising fees for using the veterans' home loan guarantee program; and verifying income through the Internal Revenue Service for veterans or survivors receiving pensions for low-income people. "In past times of fiscal restraint, thoughtful and measured areas of budgetary savings found within veterans' programs have advanced on a bipartisan basis," the joint letter says. "We recommend that the select committee refer to these lists when making the difficult decisions ahead."

Military Times Article, Dated October 17, 2011

# 2011 CALENDAR



# DECEMBER

- 4 Holiday Social
- 7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 22 First Day of Winter
- 25 Christmas Day

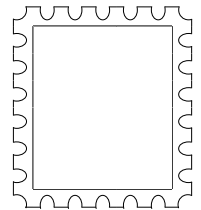
## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Dec. 2, 1949 (62nd) Ken & Shirley Deal
- Dec. 12, 1964 (47th) Larry & Rosalyn Mitchell
- Dec. 19, 1964 (47th) Robert & Diann Oden
- Dec. 23, 1956 (55th) Nils & Cookie Trulsson
- Dec. 25, 1987 (24th) Warren & Donna Tellgren
- Dec. 29, 1951 (60th) Earl & Betty Severson

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 2 Joy Lowe
- 3 Bob Saville
- 5 Ken Deal
- 5 Stanley Galloway
- 10 Art Samson
- 12 Cheri Phelps
- 14 Jeanette Schlager
- 16 Cal Keil
- 17 Warren Tellgren
- 23 Elizabeth Kuettel
- 25 Marlene Harding
- 26 James Boyle
- 26 Leslie Jones
- 27 Frank Cress
- 28 Linda Westensee

**The E-9ers Association**  
 Hank Kordek, Editor  
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 Aurora, CO 80012-3520



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

