

Steel Valley Dolphins

September 2018



The official newsletter of the
USS Requin Base of the USSVI
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

USSVI Creed:

"To perpetuate the memory of our shipmates who gave their lives in the pursuit of duties while serving their country. That their dedication, deeds, and supreme sacrifice be a constant source of motivation toward greater accomplishments. Pledge loyalty and patriotism to the United States of America and its Constitution."



Meetings held on the second Saturday of the month normally in BADen at the American Legion Post and quarterly meetings held around our membership area.

- **Make a difference, get to a meeting!**

----- Pride Runs Deep -----

Next Meeting: 1230 13 October at the American Legion in Baden Pa.

2017 USS Requin Base Officers

Base Commander	Hubert C. Dietrich	412-486-2635	hueyfromglenshaw@aol.com
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2nd Vice Commander	Rick Elster	412-751-7967	Relster565@comcast.net
Secretary	Jeff Simon	724-502-4505	jeffsimon@zoominternet.net
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SVD Hard Copy	Rick Elster	412-751-7967	relster565@comcast.net

----- Pride Runs Deep -----



Binnacle List

: Major Galloway
Jack Sutherin



v
Lee Bookwalter
Garry Gresh
Lois Stewart
Nancy Bouts

Requin Base Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2018

Baden, PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Mike Allen, Greg & Mary Bayne, Tino & Sally Bolcato, Eric Bookmiller, Lee & Patsy Bookwalter, George Brown, Tom & Deneen Calabrese, Ron Campbell, Joe Campisi, Huey & Edie Dietrich, Rick & Judy Elster, Jerry & Linda Gaylor, Dick & Beverly Geyer, Bob & Lynn Gourley, Bill & Donna Greenlee, Rick & Joan Guntang, Lou Hamill, Mark Hoag, Bill & Sandy Lindsay, Chuck & Nancy Loskoch, Bat Masterson, Jim & Sandra Messer, Frank Nicotra, Chip & Sharon Porter, Dave & Ann Sawin, Harry Sills, Jeff Simon, Carl Stigers, Jack & Jenny Sutherin, Mike & Tina Wyckoff and guests Marion Miller & Elanor Smith

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Quotes of the day: "The reason why worry kills work is because more people worry than work"

Requin History: September 18, 1945 Requin arrived at Staten Island, New York, to begin what would be in the words of Commander Cutter, "a dull and boring assignment" essentially becoming a target for sonar school ships. September 30, 1963 Requin completed her 5000th dive. September 4, 1990 Requin arrived at the Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Base Commander Huey Dietrich: Let us at this time, with a moment of silent prayer, remember our Shipmates who made the supreme sacrifice that we may gather here in Peace. We dedicate this meeting to our Shipmates on Eternal Patrol, to perpetuate their memories in our lives and to honor our Shipmates on active duty in the service of the first line of defense of our Nation.

Boats Lost:

USS S-5 (SS 110) September 1, 1920

USS GRAYLING (SS 209) September 9, 1943

USS S-51 (SS 162) September 25, 1925

USS CISCO (SS 290) September 28, 1943

We also wish to remember our shipmate of the Requin Base, Donald Miller, Marion Irons, Don Lennox, and Monty Silvers. Finally, we honor remember all the brave submariners who died performing their duties aboard submarines, some individually and some in groups, but where the submarine itself was not lost.

Chaplain Carl Stigers gave the Invocation.

Chief Of The Boat Chip Porter led the Base in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members introduced themselves and the boats they qualified on.

Base Secretary Jeff Simon reported that Minutes of the previous meeting were published in the SVD and on the Requin Base website. With no objections, the minutes will stand as published.

Treasurer Lee Bookwalter reported an accounting of base assets, expenditures, and deposits which was approved by the members present.

Other Reports:

Binnacle List: Lee Bookwalter, Garry Gresh, Lois Stewart, Nancy Bouts

Membership stands at 188

Storekeeper Frank Nicotra reported on items available for sale at each meeting and on the website

Memorials, Parades And Ceremonies:

Washington parade – Saturday November 10, 1400 hours

Beaver Veterans Day parade – Sunday November 11, muster 0900 hours

Navy Ball – October 12, 1800 hours. Rick Elster is coordinating

Old Business:

Flag raising on USS Nautilus

New Business:

Flag raising on USS Requin

Motion to accept Marian Miller as associate member was approved by the members present

Good Of The Order:

Thresher memorial is being planned at Arlington Cemetery.

National Convention cruise will occur this October.

National election is underway.

Motion to pay a base member's life membership dues in recognition of his donations to the base was approved by the members present.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Baden PA American Legion at 1230 hours on October 13, 2018

Commanders column: - **OUR LAST BASE MEETING:**

The meeting was a great gathering of loyal shipmates and first mates. We had fifty (50) shipmates and first mates in attendance. The meeting was very informative with various shipmates adding pertinent information on subjects. I was getting nervous about the food being late, but as usual, it arrived on time.

Everyone raved about the choice that was picked from the menu. It was stuffed pork chops, mashed potatoes with gravy and mixed vegetables. And what can we say about the first mates – they honored us with all kinds of desserts that were added to the dessert table. Imagine that, a whole separate table for desserts!!! Thanks to every member that properly notified me that they were going to be in attendance and either staying for lunch or not staying. We were very fortunate that we had extra chops for everyone. Also, for everyone to know, we have an open tab (on us) for (soft drinks) at the bar. We encourage everyone to utilize this convenience. The American Legion does not charge us for the meeting room, so we want to give back to them in this little way by buying pop from them.

The American Legion has started their Friday night food. We cannot set up for our meeting room on Fridays during their food service. The room has to be set up Saturday morning prior to the meeting. It was so appreciated that our shipmates arrived early to help set up and also for hanging around to break down the room after the meeting. We treat the meeting room with much respect and want to leave it ship shape, as we do our own home. KUDOS to all the shipmates that come early and stay late to perform this task.

The American Legion members offer to help us set up and to bring our supplies into the building. Afterwards, they send us over some liquid refreshments and comment what a great group of individuals we are, both shipmates & first mates. I brought in 19 jars of our home-made SALSA. After the members had the first opportunity to purchase them, the rest were made available to the legion. Captain Tom, asked if it was ok to take a few out to the bar to sell them and I said sure. In five (5) minutes, he came back and wanted to take the rest out to the bar and they were all sold in 60 seconds.

I am very proud of Cap Tom taking the opportunity to help sell the salsa. All the receipts (profits) made on the Salsa and various jams goes to the base.

NEXT BASE MEETING

Due to a scheduling issue, our next meeting will be held on October 13, 2018, at the American Legion Post 641 in Baden, Pa., at 12:30 hours.

DUES

The dues collection process is underway for 2019. I am waiting on the 2019 USSVI calendars to arrive. They should arrive by the end of September. The dues collection in September is for base officers and committee persons to start the process. The shipmates that live in Pennsylvania will receive their dues packet in the mail for the October collection. Enclosed in their packet, will be Pa., License (USSVI) plate application. We took over the program last year and its turning into a great success. If interested, contact Joe Campisi – jcampisi654@comcast.net

The out of state shipmates will receive their dues packet in the mail for November dues collection. Our new base members who have joined this year will receive their notice for December collection.

As in the past, if anyone does not want to receive their 2019 USSVI calendar, to please let me know and it will **NOT** be sent. There are 15 shipmates that made a request last year, not to send them a calendar and their request will be followed this year. Our treasurer Booky is healing up after a serious operation and I am assisting him on the collection. If you receive a calendar in error, please return it and deduct the postage from your dues payment. NO HARM NO FOUL. This is the only fund raiser that the ENTIR base uses to raise money to cover our base expenses and to balance our base BUDGET!

VETERANS DAY PARADES

The Requin Base and our Nautilus Float will be participating in the Washington, Pa Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, Nov 10th. Also, we plan on marching in the Beaver County Veterans Day Parade on Monday, Nov 11th.

We plan to honor a shipmate that was on the Scorpion who was from Washington. His sister will be in attendance and she will be presented with a American flag that has flown over both the Nautilus and Requin.

NAVY BALL

The Navy Ball will be held on Friday, October 12, 2018. Please contact Rick Elster for tickets – 412- 751-7967 or relster565@comcast. net

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

MEMBERS

SPOUSE

Beadle, Bill 10/29/35	MacPherson, Deb 10/06	Calabrese, Tom & Deneen 10/31
Beal, Jeff 10/26/67	Bates, Tammy 10/04	Dietrich, Huey & Edie 10/15
Bruce, Jon 10/04/50	Calabrese, Deneen 10/07	Elster, Rick & Judy 10/09
Bookmiller E 10/02/54	Gasparovic, Kela 10/25	Gaylor, Gerry & Linda 10/08
Ewald, John 10/03/57	Lukasik, Ginny 10/30	Gresh, Gary & Debra 10/13
Galloway, M 10/12/52	Galloway, Loretta 10/25	Johnston, James & Karen 10/21
Garlock, R 10/12/29	Schmidt, Kathy 10/19	McGee, Bob & Jean 10/19
Humes, Carl 10/02/65	Dolgos, Kathleen 10/15	Kontir, James & Ann 10/04
Kaufman, R 10/21/19		Moore, Bob & Jean 10/19
Loskoch, Chuck 10/29/46		Gibson, Chris & Peggy 10/24
McGinty, Shawn 10/30/69		Greenwald, Eric & Danielle 10/17
McKenzie, Paul 10/06/46		Phelps, Jim & Marianne 10/24
Nunnery, Doug 10 09/36		Simpson, Dick & Betty 10/30
Perlowitz, Ed 10/31/63		Taylor, Don & Rachel 10/07
Porter, Clyde 10/02/54		Thompson, Dick & Betty 10/30

BASE ELECTION

ARTICLE XII – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The Commander, First Vice-Commander, Second Vice Commander, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected by a majority vote of the regular members in good standing at the regular meeting held in the month of December.

Section 2: A nominating committee will be appointed in the month of October to solicit nominations and will present the slate of nominees to the membership at the November meeting.

Section 3: Additional nominations may be made by any member on the floor of the meeting prior to the election.

Section 4. Any vacancy in office shall be filled by the Requin Base Commander, with approval of the Board of Directors, to complete an unfilled term.

Battle of Gettysburg Update 01 ► Six Lessons Learned

July 1-3 is the 155th anniversary of the bloodiest battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere: Gettysburg. In the first three days of July in 1863, some 52,000 Americans were killed, wounded, or missing. The Union Army of the Potomac (about 90,000 troops) led by General George Meade clashed in a titanic battle with the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia led by General Robert E. Lee. Gettysburg is the battle that almost every Civil War buff loves to study because of so many "what ifs" and twists and turns. It could have gone so many different ways. Many also love studying this battle because of the life lessons we can learn from the fascinating circumstances and the very fine men who fought on both sides. Here are a few life lessons we can learn today:

1. The small things count. Gettysburg began by "accident" because some Confederate infantrymen were looking for shoes in that little town. No one planned on a battle there that day. Both armies had been looking for each other. Contact was made in the early morning hours of July 1 when some of Henry Heth's troops looking for shoes (thousands of Lee's troops were barefoot) "bumped into" John Buford's Union cavalrymen. Word went out to both armies and within hours troops came pouring in from every direction. That little search for something as insignificant as shoes turned into the bloodiest battle of the Civil War.

On the second day of the battle, Confederate infantry was to assault the far left wing of the Union army. The hill known as Little Round Top was unoccupied. If the Confederates could take that hill then they could flank the entire army of the United States and possibly win the battle. The men of the 15th Alabama and supporting units at first scrambled up Big Round Top. The temperature was in the low 80s but it probably felt hotter to all those troops clothed in wool uniforms and with a battle raging around them. They had been marching all day to get into position to fight, and they had given all their canteens to a few men to get water. Those men with the canteens were all captured by Union cavalrymen. Now, the Confederates climbing Big Round Top had no water to drink. When they reached the summit, they took a break for about 10 minutes.

While the Confederates were climbing the hill the Union general Warren realized they had left Little Round Top unoccupied! He quickly ordered the troops of Colonel Joshua Chamberlain's 20th Maine to occupy that critical position. In the 10 minutes that the Confederate troops were resting, the Union was fortifying the hill the Confederates needed to take. The 15th Alabama, along with the 4th and 5th Texas launched their attacks against Chamberlain's men on Little Round Top, but it was too little too late. If only they had not stopped to rest for 10 minutes, if only they were not parched and sapped of strength for lack of water, if only they had been joined by one more Confederate regiment ... but the 20th Maine fought them off and the Union was able to hold that critical hill.

Colonel William Oates of the 15th Alabama, recalled many years later, "great events sometimes turn on comparatively small affairs." During the third day of battle, when Lee ordered "Pickett's Charge" of some 12,000 Confederate infantry, he preceded the assault with an artillery barrage. His cannons missed the Union lines, shooting over them, and consequently did not take out the Union infantry. Were the Confederate artillerymen just really bad shots? No. Besides the fact that it's difficult to see over a mile away when the field is filled with smoke from 150 cannons, we now know that the fuses they were using for their cannon shells were from factories in Charleston and Selma (fuses they did not normally use). These fuses burned for just one extra second, making the cannon balls explode later ... just long enough for them to blow up BEHIND the Union lines on July 3, 1863 and not on the Union infantrymen. Small things indeed matter.

2. Communicate properly. One of General Lee's biggest problems throughout the Gettysburg campaign is that he simply did not communicate exactly and completely with his generals. His chief of cavalry, "J.E.B." Stuart, was off riding around the Union army and generally creating havoc against the enemy, but without his cavalry Lee was essentially blind. He did not know where the enemy was or how many troops he faced. His vague orders to Stuart gave the cavalry commander the liberty to go off and "do his own thing." That lack of command on Lee's part cost him dearly. On the first day of battle the Union army was in full retreat. The Confederates were on a roll and all they had to do to seal the deal was continue the attack and drive the Union forces off Seminary Ridge. General Lee saw this moment of opportunity and told his Second Corps commander, Richard Ewell, to "take that hill if practicable." What do you mean "if practicable?" If it's not too hard? If it seems like it's a good idea that day? Again, Lee was too vague. He should have said, "take that hill at all costs!" But he did not, and the opportunity to win was frittered away by his non-aggressive field commander.

3. Be merciful. One of the stories from Gettysburg is that of General Gordon giving aid to his enemy, General Barlow. This story has come under fire in the past 30 years and some historians have called it "myth." However, here is a scholarly rebuttal to that charge.

On the first day of the battle, Confederate General John Gordon of Georgia saw the Union General Francis Barlow of New York fall in battle. Gordon's forces drove the Union troops back, and Barlow lay wounded on the ground. Gordon saw a Union general on the ground, dismounted, and quickly gave him aid (water and brandy). He summoned his medical staff who rescued the critically wounded Union general. And that was the last Gordon saw of Barlow. It turns out however, that Barlow recovered and fought in several more battles during the war. Many years later, they met at a party. Gordon was now a U.S. Senator from Georgia and Barlow was a successful lawyer. They each thought that the other had been killed in the war! Imagine their surprise when they "found" each other alive and well at that party! Gordon asked, "Are you the Barlow who was wounded at Gettysburg?" Barlow asked, "Are you the Gordon who gave me aid?" That started a friendship that lasted until Barlow's death many years later. There was mercy to a fallen foe, even in the heat of battle.

4. Be humble.

Many leaders of the Civil War who were modest, humble men (Lee, Grant, "Stonewall" Jackson for starters). Abraham Lincoln, however, tops the list when you think of Gettysburg. He was not present at the battle, of course. But a little over four months after the battle he came to that town to help dedicate the cemetery and deliver the now famous "Gettysburg Address." He was not the main speaker that day! A famous orator, Edward Everett was the main speaker ... and man did he speak! Mr. Everett's speech was two hours long! Then Lincoln got up. He spoke for about two minutes. And in those two minutes he spoke some of the most poetic, stirring, sublime truths ever uttered.

Even if you are not a Lincoln "fan" you cannot help but tremble when you read the Gettysburg Address. The whole speech is about the sacrifice of the soldiers and the urgency of the cause of the United States. He even says that the world will little note what he says there. It is doubtful he thought that his short speech would become the greatest American speech ever. His words sink down deep into our souls ... because we know Lincoln had a humble spirit when he wrote it and delivered it.

5. Be courageous. The Battle of Gettysburg is the story of one courageous man after another. Both armies were filled with men of valor. Many from their youthful years on thrill to hear the stories of men on both sides who fought with incredible bravery and honor. This article writer's favorite story is that of Colonel Joshua Chamberlain and his men of the 20th Maine who fought on Little Round Top. He had less than 200 troops. He was facing an attack of well over 1,000 in his sector. Chamberlain was given orders that they could not retreat. They could not surrender. They had to fight to the death that day. It would be their last day on earth. When he tells this story to school kids dressed up in one of his Civil War uniforms, and gets to this point in the story where Chamberlain and his men run out of ammo and he asks the kids, "What would you do? It all comes down to just you now. Are you gonna run away and cry to mama? Or are you gonna fight?"

He never forget one little girl in the fifth grade, looking at him with all the determination in the world shouting in class: "I'm not running away! I'm gonna FIGHT!" He smiled at her and said, "I know you will. You'll fight just like Colonel Chamberlain!" Then he went on and tell the kids the rest of the story of how Chamberlain launched a bayonet charge and saved the United States that day (at <https://youtu.be/ZL-5uy44WA> can be viewed his famous charge from the movie Gettysburg). There will be times when we will be outnumbered. We will be "out of ammunition." The temptation will be great just to chuck it all and give up. But Chamberlain inspires everyone to dig deep, "fix bayonets," not give up ... and charge.

6. Take responsibility. General Robert Lee, often maligned in these "politically correct" days, was truly a man of integrity. He ordered the largest infantry attack at that time, now known as "Pickett's charge" (named after General George Pickett). The attack was a colossal failure, resulting in over half the force being wiped out by the Union army. Many men would try to pawn off the failure onto others. Maybe the troops were not brave enough or quick enough. Maybe the generals did not obey Lee's orders fast enough ... or misunderstood him. No, Lee would never blame others for mistakes that he knew were entirely his. That is why he rode out to his troops and told them that it was all his fault. He took ALL the blame. He later wrote a letter of resignation to President Jefferson Davis (Davis refused the resignation).

Do we have men and women in leadership today who take such responsibility for failure? We hear politicians whine excuses after excuses, but rarely do we hear a real person of integrity say, "Yeah I screwed up. It was all my fault and no one else's." Lee's men loved him even more because they knew that in him, for better or for worse, they were following a real man who was full of integrity; not hot air. There are many other life lessons we could glean from this momentous battle, and from the whole war itself. God help us to learn good lessons, and not repeat the horror of a war that killed 700,000 of us, and left us scarred for generations. [Source: PJ Media | Jeff Sanders | June 30, 2018++]

Vet Death Preps ► What To Do Before A Veteran Dies

One of the eventualities in life that spouses and families of veterans face is the death of their loved one who served America in uniform. To help ease the burden on loved ones, veterans can make preparations in advance. The first step is to make certain the family has easy access to important documents such as: □ The veteran's discharge certificate (DD form 214). □ VA documents, if any, indicating a VA claim number. □ A copy of all marriage certificates and divorce decrees (if any previous marriages). □ Insurance policies, including beneficiary designation. □ A copy of the family will (not required for VA benefits). □ Location of safety deposit boxes (not required by VA). □ Business address, email address, office and cell phone numbers for local American Legion service officer.

Veterans who die on active duty, or with discharges that are other than dishonorable, are entitled by law to: □ A gravesite in any national cemetery with available space, opening and closing of the grave. □ A government headstone, marker, urn, or medallion in a national and/or private cemetery. □ A government-issued U.S. flag to drape over the casket, and for presentation to the surviving spouse or next-of-kin. □ A Presidential Memorial Certificate signed by the president of the United States.

[Source: American Legion | A Guide for Pre-Planning | July 23, 2018 ++]

What DoD Will Provide Upon Death

Burial in a VA national cemetery -- Every eligible veteran who is entitled to burial in a national cemetery as long as space is available and the following conditions are met: □ Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. □ Veteran was not subsequently convicted for offenses involving prohibited weapons of mass destruction, genocide and international terrorism. □ With certain exceptions, service beginning after Sept. 7, 1980, as an enlisted person and service after Oct. 16, 1981, as an officer must have served for a minimum of 24 months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty. For a description of requirements refer to www.cem.va.gov

Burial benefits in a VA national cemetery include the following: gravesite, headstone, marker or medallion, opening and closing of the grave, and perpetual care of the grave site. Many national cemeteries have columbaria or gravesites for cremated remains. Gravesites in national cemeteries cannot be reserved. Many national cemeteries are closed to new casket interments. Funeral directors or others making burial arrangements must apply at the time of death.

Spouses and minor children of eligible veterans and of servicemembers may also be buried in a national cemetery. If a surviving spouse of an eligible veteran marries a nonveteran, and remarriage was terminated by death or divorce of the non-veteran, the spouse is subsequently eligible for burial in a national cemetery. Visit the National Cemetery Administration website at www.cem.va.gov for a listing of all national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries. Send questions on benefits eligibility to VA at public.inquiry@mail.va.gov.

Headstones and markers -- VA provides headstones and markers anywhere in the world for the unmarked graves of veterans who died before Sept. 11, 2001. For the marked graves of veterans who died on or after Sept. 11, 2001, double marking is authorized. Flat bronze, flat granite, flat marble, upright granite and upright marble type are available to mark the grave in a style consistent with the cemetery. Niche markers are also available for urns. When burial is in a national cemetery or state veterans cemetery, the

headstone is ordered by the cemetery, which will place it on the grave. When burial occurs in a private cemetery, the headstone must be applied for from VA. The headstone is then shipped at government expense. VA does not pay the cost of placing the headstone on the grave. The cost is borne by the veteran's family or other party. These charges may be included in many prepaid funeral packages. VA Form 40-1330 (application for headstone) can be obtained from most funeral home directors, through veterans service officers, or through VA. This form may also be downloaded and printed out by visiting www.cem.va.gov/hmm.

VA rules allow for custom inscriptions on headstones. Belief symbols such as Christian Crosses, Stars of David, Islamic Crescents and others are available. However, VA has limited other graphics such as logos, military decorations and fraternal organization marks. The best way to assure that you get the desired stone or plaque is by obtaining and filling out VA Form 40-1330 (Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans Cemetery) and filing it with other documents. When a spouse or child is buried in the same grave as a veteran, VA will have a contractor inscribe the reverse side of the headstone. Twenty-year reservists are eligible for a headstone or marker. Specific steps must be taken for authorization from The American Legion to affix an American Legion emblem onto the headstone.

Burial flag -- A U.S. flag is provided, at no cost, to drape over the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service. Eligibility for former members of Selected Reserves were added by Section 517 of Public Law 105-261. The flag will be issued once only for burial purposes and will not be replaced if lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed. National cemeteries with avenues of flags, and many state veterans cemeteries, accept donations of burial flags for mass display on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other occasions. The standard issue burial flag is made of cotton and will not withstand continuous outdoor display. Burial flags may be obtained at VA regional offices, national cemeteries and most local post offices. Overseas, U.S. flags can be obtained from U.S. embassies or consulates. VA will furnish a burial flag for veterans who served during wartime, died on active duty after May 27, 1941, who served after Jan. 31, 1955, peacetime veterans who were discharged or released before June 27, 1950, certain people who served in the organized military forces of the commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces, and who died on or after April 25, 1951, and certain former members of the Selected Reserves.

Burial and plot-interment allowance -- You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if all of these conditions are met: ☐ You paid for a veteran's burial or funeral. ☐ You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer. ☐ The veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met. The veteran: ☐ Died because of a service-related disability. ☐ Was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death. ☐ Was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay. ☐ Died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility. ☐ Died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care. ☐ Had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death. ☐ Died on or after Oct. 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA approved state nursing home. VA will pay the following amounts: ☐ For a veteran's service-related death: If the death was due to his or her service-connected disability, VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses occurring on or after Sept. 11, 2001. ☐ For a veteran's non-service related death since Oct. 1, 2011: If the death occurred while hospitalized by VA, it will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses. ☐ If a veteran's death was not due to a service-connected disability and the veteran was not hospitalized by VA, the veteran must meet at least one specific condition to receive up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance.

Applications for payments must be filed within two years after the burial. If the application is incomplete at the time it is originally submitted, VA is required to notify the applicant of the evidence necessary to complete the form. If such evidence is not received within a year from the date of notification, no allowance may be paid. Also, payment for some or all the cost of transporting veteran remains to a VA national cemetery may be reimburse: ☐ If the death is related to a veteran service-connected disability, and the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery ☐ If the death was not related to a veteran's service-connected disability and the veteran was hospitalized at a VA facility, or at a non-VA facility at VA expense, or under VA contracted nursing home care.

The applicant can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits and attach a copy of the veteran's military discharge document (DD 214 or equivalent), death certificate, funeral and burial bills. The applicant must prove the burial expenses have been paid. Downloaded the form at www.va.gov/vaforms. To obtain assistance in filing a claim, find an American Legion Department Service Officer at www.legion.org/serviceofficers or call 202861-2700.

Presidential Memorial Certificates -- Presidential Memorial Certificates express the nation's recognition of a veteran's service. Certificates bearing the signature of the president are issued honoring deceased veterans with honorable discharges. Eligible recipients include next-of-kin and other loved ones. The award of a certificate to one eligible recipient does not preclude certificates to other eligible recipients. To establish honorable service, a copy of a document such as a discharge (form DD-214) must accompany requests for a certificate. A Presidential Memorial Certificate is issued when a headstone or grave marker is issued. If the certificate is lost, stolen or destroyed, a new one may be issued if requested in writing. VA regional offices can assist in applying for original or replacement certificates.

Arlington National Cemetery -- Arlington National Cemetery is under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army. Eligibility for burials is more limited than at other national cemeteries. For information on Arlington burials, write to Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA 22211, or call (877) 907-8585. Visit the website at www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.

Military funeral honors -- As of Jan. 1, 2000, all eligible veterans, including military retirees, are entitled to military funeral honors. The funeral honors ceremony will include the folding and presentation of the U.S. flag and the playing of Taps. At least two uniformed military personnel, in addition to a bugler, if available, shall perform the ceremony. If a bugler is not available, a high-quality recording may be used. DoD has contracted for a ceremonial bugle that does not require a trained bugler. For information, visit www.ceremonialbugle.com. One of the uniformed military personnel will be from the deceased veteran's parent military service and will present the flag to the next of kin. The military services may provide additional elements of honors and may use additional uniformed military personnel or other authorized providers, such as members of a veterans organization, to augment the funeral honors detail. The appropriate individual must request the funeral honors. DoD policy calls for funeral directors, rather than next-

of-kin, to contact the military. This toll-free number, (877) 645-4667, has been set up for funeral directors. See www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh for details.

TRICARE Dental Program Update 17 ► TRDP Ends Dec. 31, 2018

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) ends on Dec. 31, 2018. Beginning in 2019, dental and vision plans will be available through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). Now is a good time to become familiar with FEDVIP options. FEDVIP 2019 plans and rates will be online in the fall. But you can look at 2018 plans and rates now. FEDVIP offers a choice between 10 dental and 4 vision options. This fall will be your first chance to enroll in a FEDVIP dental or vision plan for 2019 coverage. If you're eligible, you can enroll in FEDVIP during the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season. This runs from Nov. 12 to Dec. 10.

Who is eligible? ☐ Retired service members and their families who were eligible for TRDP are eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage. Also, they're eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage if enrolled in a TRICARE health plan. ☐ Family members of active duty service members who are enrolled in a TRICARE health plan are eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage. ☐ Children enrolled in or eligible for TRICARE Young Adult (a plan that qualified adult children can purchase after eligibility for "regular" TRICARE coverage ends at age 21 or 23 if enrolled in college) aren't eligible to enroll in FEDVIP.

When do you enroll? ☐ You can enroll in FEDVIP during the Federal Benefits Open Season. This year's open season runs from Nov. 12 through Dec. 10, 2018. Your coverage will begin on Jan. 1, 2019. ☐ If you currently have TRDP, you must enroll in a FEDVIP plan during the Federal Benefits Open Season to continue dental coverage for 2019. ☐ The Federal Benefits Open Season is your annual opportunity to enroll in, change, or cancel a FEDVIP dental or vision plan.

For more information, visit the FEDVIP website. You can see if you're eligible for FEDVIP in 2019. You can also compare FEDVIP plans, look up frequently asked questions, and sign up for updates.

Social Security Statement ► New Access Policy

With instant access to your Social Security Statement at any time, you will no longer receive one periodically in the mail, saving money and the environment. It is recommended that you review your statement at least annually. The new procedure to do that is to go to <https://www.socialsecurity.gov/reviewyourstatement>. Upon accessing the site you will be required to enter your user name and password. If you don't have an account you will be given the opportunity to create one (Note that your password must be updated at least every 6 months). Next you will be asked if the email on file is your current email. Upon responding you will sent a separate email providing a security code. Upon entering it you will be provided a 'Terms of Service' which you must agree to continue. After clicking 'Next' your Social Security Statement will open. It will include:

1. A message from Social Security which contains: ☐ Estimated Benefits ☐ Last Reported Earnings ☐ Opportunity to view your earnings record
 2. Benefits & Payments ☐ What you are receiving ☐ When your next payment will be received and its amount ☐ Opportunity to get an official Benefits verification letter if you need proof that you receive Social Security.
 3. Social Security Card Replacement option if you need to request a new card
 4. Profile Access which allows you to view or update your: ☐ Personal information ☐ Contact information ☐ Direct deposit information
- [Source: www.ssa.gov | my Social Security | July 18, 2018 ++]

Home Security Update 01 ► More Tips

Each year, there are reportedly 2.2 million burglaries that occur in the US. That's one every 15 seconds. Security companies use that fact to scare you into purchasing the best alarm and surveillance systems money can buy. If you want to spend all your hard-earned cash on that sophisticated gear, go ahead — that's entirely your choice. But, instead of going out and breaking your bank on enhancing your home's security, former Navy SEAL Clint Emerson, author of 100 Deadly Skills: The SEAL Operative's Guide to Eluding Pursuers, Evading Capture, and Surviving Any Dangerous Situation, wants to show you a few cheap, simple tricks that'll help protect your family.

1. Make your property appear unpredictable -- Intentionally display evidence of having children or dogs in your home. When your home has a great element of unpredictability — both children and dogs can make a lot of noise at a moment's notice — burglars will stay away. Is it a pit bull or a cute, little poodle? There's no way to know.
2. Reinforce your exterior door frames -- Burglars like to kick in entrances or pry them open with crowbars. By drilling in a few extra wood screws into your door's frame, you'll increase its sturdiness. Make sure you reinforce above and below the lock plates. Also, make sure you have solid door locks. Locks don't keep intruders out entirely, but the better the lock, the longer it'll take to bypass, giving you time to prepare.
3. Have some security signage on the perimeter -- Security stickers on your windows and signs posted on your front lawn show thieves that you might have your house wired — even if you don't. You can get these signs simply by having a sales representative come to your home for a consultation. There are some good security companies out there, so you may want to consider purchasing their services. Either way, it's free advertisement for them if you post a sign, so they'll be happy to provide.
4. CCTV cameras -- Closed-circuit television cameras are relatively inexpensive and can be found easily on Amazon. If you're going to spend cash on cameras, make sure they're high enough quality to ID an intruder. If your cameras' video quality is too pixelated, it'll do you no good.
5. Light up your property -- Keeping the exterior portions of your home well-lit takes away any nighttime concealment factor from someone who is looking to break into your home. Since bad guys don't want to be seen, blanketing your home with 360-degrees of light should provide added safety. Good luck not being seen lurking around this well-lit home.
6. Use your neighbors as a security resource -- A burglar will almost always look to your mailbox to see if you've let it pile up for a few days — it often means nobody's home. If you know you're going out of town, ask a trusted neighbor to pick up your mail and to keep an extra eye on the place. If they help you, make sure you repay them in kind. [Source: Frontlines of Freedom Newsletter | July 27, 2018 ++]
