



RETIREE RAG

September 2015



RETIREES...Not gone, Not forgotten.

November 21 2015, RETIREE BRIEFING IN TOPEKA. The Retirement Services section cordially invites you and your spouse to our semi-annual **Gray Area** pre-retirement briefing. If you were or are currently a traditional drilling soldier and between the ages of 55 and 60 (over 60 if you have not yet applied for retired pay) you are eligible to attend.

When: November 21, 2015

Where: Museum of the Kansas National Guard, 6700 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS

Time: 0830-1530

Briefings Include: Applying for Retired Pay, TRICARE, VA, Annuity & Survivor Benefits, and more.

Please register by email to etoi.d.purnell.mil@mail.mil or call 785-274-1085 to reserve a slot. ID Card Machine will be available, must have 2 forms of ID. If dependent is not in DEERS, must have a marriage license to get an ID.

SPACE AVAILABLE TRAVEL

McConnell Space-A Flight Information

<http://www.mcconnell.af.mil/library/mcconnelltravelsite/index.asp>

McConnell Passenger Terminal
Building 1220
McConnell AFB, KS 67221-3622

72 Hour Flight Recording: DSN 743-5404/
Commercial 316-759-5404

Service Counter: DSN 743-4810/ Commercial 316-759-4810

Fax: DSN 743-3011/ Commercial 316-759-3011

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Space-A E-mail Sign Up

E-mail at space-a@us.af.mil must include:

- Rank, Last, First, MI
- Service Leave Dates (Active Duty only)
- List of dependents names that will be flying
- Status (Active Duty, Retiree, Dependent, etc.)
- Country choices
- Social Security number is not mandatory.



NOTE: All dependents traveling with the sponsor must be identified by name (Social Security or passport number is optional).

190th ARW Space Available

Information <http://www.190arw.ang.af.mil/resources/spaceavailabletravel/>

Air Terminal - Forbes Field ANGB
5920 SE Coyote Drive
Topeka, KS 66619-5370

Passenger Service Center: 785-861-4386

Fax: 785-861-4324

Space-A Hotline: 785-861-4558

E-mail: 190ARW.LRS.SpaceA@ang.af.mil

Hours of Operation: 0700-1600, Mon-Fri

** Due to base construction and heavy traffic, all Space-A travelers should be aware of new front gate procedures (100% ID Check) and a new parking area. Effective immediately until further notice, Space-A travelers will be parked on the west side of BLDG 668 this is across the street from the Air Terminal BLDG. You may drop off bags first at the Air Terminal BLDG 670.



*"Integrity is telling myself the truth. And honesty is telling the truth to other people."
~Spencer Johnson~*

VSO MEETING. A meeting of Veterans Service Organizations will take on Saturday, October 24, at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard, 6700 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, Kansas. Beginning at 0900, NGAKS is sponsoring the event, and will provide lunch and coffee. The purpose of the meeting is to share legislative concerns and issues among organizations, to collaborate on similar goals.

WHY RETIREES SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO CONGRESS and KANSAS LEGISLATURE. Right now in Congress, there are several bills and issues that directly impact KNG retirees and families. It is important to keep note of these, and contact your legislators when the time is right for action.

The easiest way to be "in the know" on issues impacting retirees is to sign up for the NGAUS legislative alerts. It is easy!!! Go to <http://www.ngaus.org/manage-subscriptions> for news, notices and legislative alerts.

Some of the key issues right now in Congress impact us:

- Military COLA is slated for reduction from 2.3 to 1.3;
- Tricare Co-pays are slated to increase;
- FY 2016 Budget deadline; will there be a resolution?

A new bill has been introduced to provide **hearing aid access and assistance to veterans**. Check out **Senate Bill 564/House Resolution 353** which will create a new provider class for hearing aid specialists under the VA, including wait time and response time reporting to Congress. **Please contact your senators and representatives and urge them to support these bills** (you can do this at www.ngaus.org).

KANSAS. The Kansas Legislature is in the interim session (break) and only meets for committee work. This is the time you will see NGAKS work to develop their legislative initiatives for the 2016 session. Are there issues you are aware of that should be advocated for or against with the Kansas Legislature? Please share those with Capt Nicki Inskeep (neinskeep@gmail.com) or Capt Keith Marshall (keith.l.marshall@gmail.com).



Where in the world are the KNG Retirees? Does your unit hold a reunion or get together event each year? Is there a web page or newsletter you know about from any KNG unit? Please let us know, we would like to share those events (dining ins, dining outs, reunions, socials) with other KNG Retirees. Watch for notices in the Retiree Rag and via the Adjutant General's office Public Affairs (Jane Welch). Send any notices to Sheli Sweeney or Jay Gradinger Jay Gradinger, jaygradinger@gmail.com 785.364.7767 Sheli Sweeney, shelisweeney@hotmail.com 785.213.9053

REUNION EVENTS COMING UP.....

<https://www.facebook.com/184th-Forever-Jayhawks-225146120959535/timeline/>

184th Forever Jayhawks. The 184th Forever Jayhawk Retiree Breakfast was founded by Vern Moss a few years ago in order to promote a sense of family & camaraderie for current and former

member of the 184th Kansas Air National Guard. Breakfast is the 2nd Sat of the month, once a quarter (Mar, Jun, Sep & Dec). It is held at the Hometown Buffet, 6820 W Central Ave, Wichita at 7:45 am. Usually the Dec breakfast is the busiest and we will try to meet about 7 am.

The Kansas City, Kansas, Armory Annual Reunion
Friday, November 6, 2015. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:45 p.m. Kansas City Armory, 18th and
Ridge, Kansas City, Kansas. Anyone who has
served or is still serving in the Kansas City Armory
is invited, along with spouses, relatives and friends.
See old friends and fellow soldiers. Bring

scrapbooks, memorabilia, a bottle of wine and your
memories. All food and drink provided – barbecue,
chips, beer, soft drinks, coffee, water, etc. Bring a
dessert (optional). Cost is \$5 per person at the door.
Dress is casual. Sign up by emailing retired Sgt.
Maj. Steve Gfeller stephen.gfeller@att.net so we
can get a headcount.

New \$1 Veterans Ticket Supports State Veterans Programs The Kansas Lottery
has launched a new \$1 instant scratch game, the proceeds of which are directed
to programs that assist Kansas military veterans. Tickets in the new 7/11/21
game all for \$1 each. Players can win from a free ticket to \$2,100. The Kansas
Lottery is in its 13th year of generating direct revenue for programs that help
Kansas military veterans. Since the legislation authorizing Veterans Benefit
games was passed in 2003, the Lottery has transferred nearly \$13.6 million from the sales of these
games, including \$1.6 million in Fiscal Year 2015. Current beneficiaries of proceeds from
veterans tickets are:



- \$ 30% - Veterans Enhanced Service Delivery Program
- \$ 40% - Kansas National Guard Education Assistance Scholarships
- \$ 30% - Kansas Veteran Homes and Cemeteries

*Several of the NGAKS members have participated in an Honor Flight—as a veteran or escort for a
veteran including Joe Wheeler and Nick Hay. If you have done so, will you share that with us? If
you are Send a note to shelisweeney@hotmail.com or 785.213.9053. Thank you!*



Honor Flight Programs in Kansas

*We cannot adequately articulate our thanks to those service members who served in World
War II, Korea, or Vietnam, but we can honor them with our remembrance of their service.*

The Honor Flight Program takes World War II, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans and their guardians to Washington, D.C., where they spend time visiting various memorials. The trip is organized by *Honor Flight* whose mission is to transport veterans to Washington at no cost to them. Public contributions cover the trips for veterans, while their guardians may pay their own way.

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. We transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to senior veterans, World War II survivors, along with other veterans who may be terminally ill.

If you know a veteran from World War II, Korea, or Vietnam and you want to nominate them to participate in an honor flight or you want to make a donation, the information for both follows. If you would like to support this program as a Guardian, and assist a veteran during the flight and memorial visit, you can apply to be a Guardian. You may also support the program with donations, either to fund a Veteran, or a Guardian to assist a Veteran.

Want to send a check or money order? *Kansas Honor Flight at <http://www.kansashonorflight.org/> P.O. Box 2371, Hutchinson, KS 67504 OR *Heartland Honor Flight at <http://www.heartlandhonorflight.org/applications.php> John Doole, PO Box 12047, Kansas City, MO 64152. When making donations, please indicate for whom and how you would like the donation contributed, i.e., in memory or honor of, or simply in your name. Thank you!

Honor Flight Story of a NGAKS Member.....

Colonel Paul Idol, Kansas Army National Guard, Retired, recently participated in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. COL Idol is a Korean War Veteran, serving 1952-1953 in Korea as a Combat Infantry Medic. His son, Deric, accompanied him on the flight. The Honor Flight Program was developed to honor World War II and Korean War veterans, taking them to Washington to visit the memorials that recognize their wartime service. The World War II Memorial was built in 2004 and the Korean War Memorial was completed in 1995. The Honor Flight program is free to veterans who served in those wars, and each veteran has an escort during the trip that ensures their safety and comfort throughout. Paul's group flew out of Wichita, Kansas and was greeted at the Wichita Intercontinental airport by many individuals, wishing them well and holding signs and flags to wave them on their way.

Once in Washington, at their hotel, a dinner was given in their honor, with entertainment and recognition of their service. They flew into and left from Baltimore, MD, & our Motels were also there. At dinner that night, a coordinator called a "Mail Call" and each veteran was given mail—some notes were from individuals who had written their friends ahead of time, but some were from school children who had done a class project of writing the letters to Honor Flight veterans. Paul received notes from old friends, his grandchildren, Congressman Pompeo, and one that was a crayon-colored picture of a heart shaped like a flag, from a child that said "Thank you" written in her young child's wobbly letters.

They stayed in the hotel the first night, saw the sights & tours the second day via a large bus. The group visited many memorials and monuments in Washington, allowing each veteran to visit the ones of importance to them. Paul got a picture next to the sculpture in the Korean War Memorial that was a combat medic—he doesn't carry a rifle. They were up early the third day and headed for the Southwest 737 for the return flight to Wichita. They landed at the Midway Chicago airport both coming and going, with crowds gathered to wish them well. The escorts were much appreciated and they had wheelchairs for all that needed them. COL Idol was met by Col Neil Johnson, a Kansas Guard retired Colonel who lives outside of D.C. He was in OCS class #24 and Col Idol was in OCS Class #1 in 1957. What a surprise!

This was not Paul's first trip to Korea, he visited in 2001 by invitation of the American and South Korean Cultural Foundation, and was presented with a beautiful medallion during an honorary dinner and tour of several cultural sites in South Korea. One story Paul shared about his service in the war, was that when he was in route to Korea, an officer stopped he and another young man, and told them to report to Camp Dray in Japan. The Army authorities at Camp Drake, Japan, changed their jobs as they had checked the records and found both had two years of college. So, both were assigned to go to a 30 day Combat Medical School, were deemed Combat Medics and sent off to Korea! His service in Korea was with the 14th Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division.



L: COL Idol at the Korean War Memorial 2015 next to the Combat Medic Statue

R: COL Idol in 2001 in Korea at the event sponsored by the South Korean Cultural Foundation

Korea was a hard and brutal place to serve. Paul was dealt a terrible tragedy while serving in Korea, when his dear mother passed away. He cannot but think of that when he remembers his service in Korea. Paul said that he would like to go to Korea again, to places where his fellow troops that did not return are buried. He said that no matter who he helped as a medic, they all called him "Doc." It is the closest he would ever get being a doctor, he says. Following his tour in Korea, he was assigned to the 32nd Division and then the 8th Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. After discharge from the Army, he joined the Kansas Army National Guard's 154th Field Artillery Battalion as a forward observer in Hiawatha, Kansas, holding other posts throughout his career, and retiring in 1992. Col Idol was inducted into the Kansas National Guard Hall of

Fame in 2010, and you can hear his own comments on his wartime service at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Re7Mdsjoj> . Thank you, to COL Idol and all who served and are serving now. Thank you for sharing your story.