

Rhode Island National Guard Retirement Updater



A Quarterly publication of the
Rhode Island National Guard Retirees Association

Builders of the only memorial to the National Guard in R.I.

Vol. XXXIII, No. 3, *September 2026* issue

On the Web. Ringretirees.org



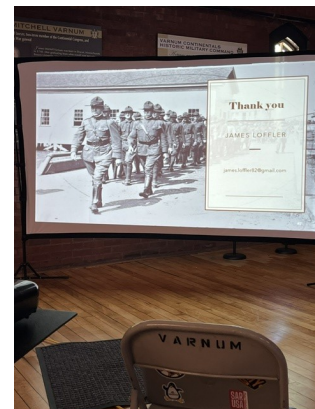
Amazing History Lesson in June



Our June quarterly meeting was held at the Varnum Amory and Museum. While the entire museum was closed at the time, there was plenty to see upstairs where the meeting took place. There were examples of rifles and muskets from the colonial era and American Revolution, the Civil War cannons from Rhode Island units, assorted small arms and a complete WW II aircraft cockpit dash board.

After the meeting, our State Historian MSG (RET) James Loffler gave a presentation on the Evolution of the Militia in New England. The Militia System was introduced in 1607. Myles Standish in Plymouth and Roger Williams in RI started their own militias to protect their colonies and uniting militias in 1638. The militias fought in the Colonial Wars, numerous wars such as King Philip's War through the French and Indian Wars. Units were formed for the American Revolution between 1774-1778. After the war the militia was used to put down the Whiskey Rebellion, Dorr Rebellion and Harpers' Ferry Raid 1859 then the

Civil War started in 1861 and the New York Draft Riots happened in 1863. The Posse Comitatus Act was made law in 1878 the use of the Militia/National Guard was regulated. Still the National Guard was present to protect the public in all the major riots until the present day. Militia men served in the Spanish American War 1898. The Dick Act in 1903 replaced the Militia Act of 1792 in forming the modern National Guard. The Guard participated in coastal artillery 1903, Mexican Border 1916, and WW I 1917. The Guard responded to the Natick Mill Strike 1922, the steamer Mackinac 1925, The ITW Strike, Narragansett Racetrack 1937 and the Great Hurricane of 1938. Noticeable is that many of these events happened in Rhode Island. The National Guard was involved in every major conflict to the present day.



Volume XXXII No 2 June 2026

The **RING Retirement Updater** is published quarterly to precede the quarterly meetings of the **RING Retirees Association**

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**143d Air Wing Reunion** was held on Saturday, 25 July 2026.

The "Gathering of the Clan" has been held for many years at local American Legion posts, VFW, and Elks Club locations. This year resulted in an amazing fundraising effort for one of their own, the Lavallee family, of over \$1200. Thanks to the efforts of MSgt (Ret) Sharon Jesse Sullivan for many years, and MSgt (Ret) Stephen Plante most recently, the event has continued. There were nearly 80 attendees and a wonderful time was had by all!



LtCol (Ret) John Parente, COL (Ret) Ed Johnson, BG (Ret) Jack Caputo



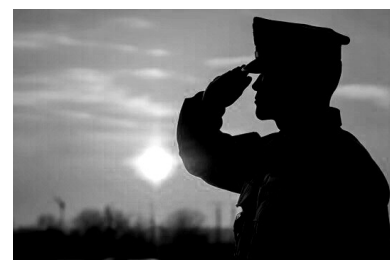
Lt Col (Ret) Vin Petrarca and MSgt (Ret) Phil Ryan

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IN MEMORIAM 2026

Michael Hickey ANG
 Mark Pierson ARNG
 Rocco Sciamacco ARNG
 Fred Scuncio ARNG
 Chester Zuromski ANG



Visit Our Website for Legislation Updates at ringretirees.org

ID Website <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>

Our Guest Speaker for September



BIOGRAPHIES

UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND

Javier Alexander Reina

Major General, United States Army National Guard
Deputy Commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs
U.S. Southern Command

Major General Javier A. Reina serves as the Deputy Commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, U.S. Southern Command, Doral, Florida. He is the principal advisor for reserve matters to the commander providing oversight on manpower, personnel and administrative functions to maximize the effective integration of the Reserve Component in support of the Combatant Commander's theater campaign plan.

Major General Reina joined the Army in 1982. Following enlisted service with the 82nd Airborne Division and the 1/11th Special Forces Group (Airborne), he was commissioned through the Rutgers University Army Reserve Officer Training Corps program in 1989.

His education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Rutgers University, a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Bryant University, and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Major General Reina has served in various key leadership, command, and operational assignments. Upon joining the Rhode Island National Guard in 1993, he was assigned as a Platoon Leader 115th MP Co. and later served as the Law and Order Operations Officer 118th MP BN. He served briefly in the Hawaii National Guard as the Logistics Officer HHC 29th IN BDE, and returned to Rhode Island as the Commander 115th MP Co.. Other Key assignments include Logistics Officer S4 43D MP BDE, Operations Officer S3 43D MP BDE, Commander 118th MP BN, Commander 43D MP BDE, and Land Component Commander. He most recently served as the Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Rhode Island National Guard.

Major General Reina is a veteran of two deployments: in 2002 as the Plans Officer Joint Task Force 160 (Guantanamo Bay Cuba), and in 2005 as the Logistics Officer S4 43D MP BDE (Baghdad Iraq). Throughout his career, BG Reina has earned various personal, joint, unit, service, and campaign awards.

His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

In his civilian capacity, Major General Reina works for the Department of the Navy as a Defense Security Cooperation Management professional, supporting the planning, management, and execution of Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases with international strategic partner nations, for the procurement and implementation of undersea defensive systems. Major General Reina and his wife Maria are the proud parents of Ryan and Allie.



“ANNUAL” RING RETIREES CRUISE!

On 5 July 2026, some members of the association headed out of Boston on the Norwegian Cruise Line “Breakaway”. First stop was Halifax in Nova Scotia, followed by a day and a half on the open sea. The ship then docked overnight in Bermuda. There was plenty of time to get off and explore in both Canada and Bermuda. The ship held a military appreciation event onboard one afternoon where all current and former members of the military were recognized and thanked for their service by the entire staff of the Breakaway. The trip back to Boston was much calmer, and the group arrived in Boston on 12 July refreshed and ready to do it again next year!



Back Row

BG9Ret) Jim Reed, COL (Ret) Bill Pond

Front Row

COL (Ret) Patty Ryan, MAJ (Ret) Steve Souza, SSG (Ret) Mike Kelleher, SPC (Ret) Dave Kelleher

Left to Right

Patty Ryan

Holly Pond

Bill Pond

Dave Kelleher



RING RETIREES SUMMER REUNION was held on Friday, 7 August 2026 at the Quonset "O" Club. With nearly 80 attendees, MSG (Ret) Bob Antonelli and his wife Dottie once again pulled off a tremendous event! RING TAG and CSM provided an update of the RING current activities, to include deployments, facilities and changes in primary staff. The food was wonderful as always! Great to see everyone and catch up with those who live near and far!



MG Andrew Chevalier and
CSM Clarke Hall

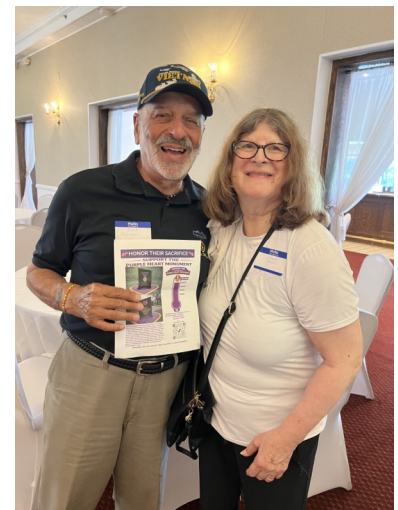
George Wilkins. Pete Papa and
Ernie Pavao



Vinnie Pezzullo and
John Cianci



Dottie and Bob Antonelli on the left and
Jim and Lisa Loffler on the right



Bert Guarnieri and Linda D'Andrea

1-126th Aviation's OIF-III 20th Anniversary Reunion

Twenty years after taking to the skies over Iraq, approximately 65 retired members of the 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment (CSAB) reunited on 18 April 2026, to honor their shared legacy. The milestone event commemorated the battalion's 2004–2006 deployment in support of the Global War on Terror.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom III, the 1-126th Aviation Battalion formed the core of Task Force Dragon Wing, operating out of Balad Airbase (also known as LSA Anaconda). Their operational tempo was relentless, accumulating 17,180 combat flight hours and executing over 1,900 air missions. By the end of their tour, the unit had transported more than 66,000 personnel and 5,100 tons of critical cargo. These achievements earned the Battalion the Presidential Unit Citation and the prestigious title of Army Aviation Association of America's (AAAA) 2005 Outstanding Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year.

Highlighting the event was a nod to that very achievement. Shown in the accompanying photos is a recreation of the original 2005 AAAA National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year award acceptance picture, featuring our former Adjutant General, MG (Ret.) Christopher Callahan and CSM (Ret.) Bob Fortin, with the unit's AAAA trophy. The award is on permanent display at the Army Aviation Support Facility at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, serving as a lasting testament to the battalion's excellence during that deployment.

Written and submitted by:

COL John S. Macdonald



RING RETIREES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

The purpose and objective of the RING Retirees Association is to provide benefit information to military retirees, to maintain the camaraderie of the military, and to offer services to fellow members as the need arises.

☐ **NEW MEMBER** (dues free your first year if you sign up for a total of 3 years for \$10)

☐ **RENEWAL** ☐ \$5 - 1 yr. ☐ \$10—2 yrs. ☐ \$15—3 yrs. ☐ \$20—4 yrs. ☐ \$25—5 yrs.

Name _____ Rank (optional) _____

Address _____ D.O.B. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + Four _____

E-mail address (required) _____ Telephone _____

No. of Years in the RI National Guard _____ No. of years in other branch (Army, USAF, etc.) _____

Total Years Service _____ Retirement Date _____

Unit Assigned to at Retirement _____

Second Address for December & March issues ☐ OR June & September issues ☐ (Check One):

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + Four _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (Check One)

☐ **Active Member**

Any individual who has served at least six (6) years in the Rhode island national Guard and has completed twenty (20) years or more total military service and retired with an honorable discharge is eligible for membership with voting rights. The privilege of voting is extended to members who are currently paid annual members or honorary life members.

☐ **Associate Member**

Anyone who is former military with an honorable discharge, or a current member of the military, or the spouse of a former or current member is eligible to become an associate member. The privilege of voting is not extended to these individuals. They may participate on committees and activities of the organization, provided their dues are paid through the current membership year (1 October through 30 September).

Exception: Associate military retired members who provided exceptional support to the organization for three or more years may be granted full membership with voting rights by the members during a quarterly meeting.

Please make checks payable to:

RING Retirees Association

Mail to:

RING Retirees Association/Membership

c/o CW5 (Ret.) Carole Angolano

46 Ballou St

Cumberland, RI 02864-2031

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Amount Received \$ _____ Date ____/____/____

Check Number _____ Check Date ____/____/____

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R.I.N.G. Retirees Association

705 New London Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920-3003

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MEETING CALENDAR

**Meetings are at the Schofield Armory, 705
New London Avenue, Cranston, RI**

Quarterly Meetings SAT, 0900 hours

12 September 2026

12 December 2026

Executive Board Meeting WED, 1800 hours

14 October 2026

11 November 2026

THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!

If the last two numbers on your mailing label are 25 (or lower), then this WILL be your last issue. It means your membership has expired. Renew with the form on page 7 and mail it with your check by November 2025.

In the example below, the first set of numbers (937) is the membership number; the letter (P) is the type of membership (P = Active and A = Associate); and the last two numbers (25) indicate the year your dues are up for renewal.

If you have not joined or you are due for renewal, please fill in the form on page 7 and mail it with your check. Your membership card will be mailed to you. If you have already joined, thanks for your support and pass the application form on to someone else who has not yet joined. **If you move, PLEASE LET US KNOW.** Because this newsletter is mailed Fourth Class, the Post Office will not forward it to your new address.

(937 P25)

CPT (RET) JAMES T. KIRK

1 SPOCK DRIVE

ENTERPRISE, RI 12345-6789