

Seminole County Veterans Newsletter



SEMINOLE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT | VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE

September 2020

This Veterans Newsletter is compiled and provided by the Seminole County Veteran's Services Office. Its intent is to keep Seminole County Veterans informed about their rights, benefits, and news of interest. It is non-political and, except where noted, all articles are excerpted from outside sources. Local events honoring/supporting Veterans will be included as made available. You are encouraged to provide feedback and recommendations, as this is your Newsletter. Together with my small Team, I hope you find it both valuable and interesting.

Rusty Keeling, Seminole County Veterans Services Officer

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1. **Seminole County Veterans' Services – Rusty Sends –** If you need assistance, please call and schedule an appointment. We can do appointments both face to face and in person. Keep in mind we can provide assistance for most issues over the phone. Please try to schedule an appointment rather than just walking in, we are still social distancing!

2. **Records Requests –** If you need copies of DD-214's or other records, please visit <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/> .

3. **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) -** The SBA Programs and Services provide free support to the military community that's looking to launch or grow a business. Please feel free to visit our website www.sba.gov/northflorida, to learn more about the agency.

4. **VA Caregiver Program Opens to Eligible WWII, Korea and Vietnam Vets** After a yearlong delay, veterans from World War II through Vietnam who need around-the-clock care from a loved one can apply for the [Department of Veterans Affairs'](#) family caregiver program, starting Oct. 1. [Read more...](#)
5. **VA Facilities Continue to Hide Doctors' Misconduct, Probes Find** - A [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) hospital in Richmond, Virginia, rehired a pathologist who had been previously fired for failing to diagnose or misdiagnosing cancer in at least a dozen patients, [the VA Office of Inspector General reported Wednesday](#). [Read more...](#)
6. **Nearly 12,000 US Troops Will Pull Out of Germany at Cost of Billions, SecDef Says** - Nearly 12,000 U.S. troops will be withdrawn or repositioned from Germany, with more than half of them returning to the U.S., under a long-term plan aimed at strengthening NATO's eastern flanks against Russia, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Wednesday. [Read more...](#)
7. **Most Unique or Newest Veterans State Benefits** - U.S. states offer Veterans a wide range of benefits. State representatives provided VA the most unique or newest benefit for Veterans, part of a five-part series. Below is a list of the benefits in alphabetical order by state. [Read more...](#)
8. **Army Guard Begins to Reorganize Force into Eight Divisions** - WASHINGTON -- The Army National Guard will move most of its brigades under the command of its eight division headquarters as it reorganizes its fighting formations to give the force more combat power and some soldiers new career opportunities, officials said. [Read more...](#)
9. **MOAA Seeks 12-Month Grace Period for New TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee** - As the Defense Health Agency (DHA) works on implementation plans for the new TRICARE Select enrollment fee, MOAA is advocating for a 12-month grace period for impacted beneficiaries to ensure no retirees lose TRICARE coverage because they were unaware of the new enrollment fee requirement. [Read more...](#)
10. **How to Find Your Old Military Buddies After You Get Out** - From time to time, we here at Military.com get emails from veterans wanting to know how to contact their old military buddies. While that isn't necessarily an easy task, in today's connected society, it's easier than ever before to locate someone if they want to be found. [Read more...](#)
11. **The COVID-19 Unemployment Crisis May Be Turning Around for Veterans** - The unemployment rate for all veterans fell to 7.9% in July from 8.6% in June, led by a drop of more than two percentage points in the jobless rate for post-9/11 veterans to 8.2%, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Friday. [Read me...](#)
12. **VA welcoming back volunteers – with safeguards** - Thirty-one years ago, Harold Lee Davis, an Army Veteran, began serving Veterans by volunteering along with his wife Hilda, first at the Fort Howard VA Medical Center and then at the Loch Raven VA Medical Center. Today, he has a dual role as a representative for the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks on the medical center's VA Voluntary Service Committee and as a volunteer group leader. [Read more...](#)
13. **Suicide Prevention Bill Named for SEAL Commander Passes Senate; Fate Uncertain** - The Senate passed a veteran [suicide prevention](#) bill Wednesday that aims to expand vets' access to mental health programs outside the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) and improve health care for troops transitioning out of the military. [Read more...](#)
14. **What Does the President's Payroll Tax Announcement Mean for Military?** - Last week, President Donald Trump issued a memorandum that would defer the payment of payroll taxes for most military members, effective Sept. 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2020. [Read more...](#)

15. Pearl Harbor ceremony to mark end of World War II will be limited to local veterans

- HONOLULU — A Pearl Harbor ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II — possibly the last opportunity for many aging U.S. veterans to commemorate the day — will be limited to survivors of the war living in Hawaii because of coronavirus concerns. [Read more...](#)

16. **Rising military personnel costs may mean future cuts in troop numbers** - Despite White House and Pentagon suggestions that [military end strength](#) should continue to grow in coming years, the total number of personnel is likely to stay flat or start shrinking due to budget pressures on the Defense Department, according to a new financial analysis. [Read more...](#)

This Day in United States History

August 2, 1990 - The Iraqi army invaded Kuwait amid claims that Kuwait threatened Iraq's economic existence by overproducing oil and driving prices down on the world market. An Iraqi military government was then installed in Kuwait which was annexed by Iraq on the claim that Kuwait was historically part of Iraq. This resulted in Desert Shield, the massive Allied military buildup, and later the 100-hour war against Iraq, Desert Storm.

August 6, 1945 - The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., by the American B-29 bomber *Enola Gay*. The bomb detonated about 1,800 ft. above ground, killing over 105,000 persons and [destroying the city](#). Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of [radiation effects](#).

August 7, 1964 - Following an attack on two U.S. destroyers in the [Gulf of Tonkin](#) off North Vietnam, the U.S. Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, granting President Lyndon B. Johnson authority "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."

August 9, 1945 - The second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki. About noon, the bomb [detonated](#) killing an estimated 70,000 persons and [destroying](#) about half the city

August 14, 1945 - Following the two Atomic Bomb drops and believing that continuation of the war would only result in further loss of Japanese lives, delegates of Emperor Hirohito accepted Allied surrender terms originally issued at Potsdam on July 26, 1945, with the exception that the Japanese Emperor's sovereignty would be maintained. Japanese Emperor Hirohito, who had never spoken on radio, then recorded an announcement admitting Japan's surrender, without actually using the word. The announcement was broadcast via radio to the Japanese people at noon the next day. The [formal surrender ceremony](#) occurred later, on September 2, 1945, on board the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

August 24-25, 1814 - During the War of 1812, Washington, D.C., was invaded by British forces that burned the Capitol, the White House and most other public buildings along with a number of private homes. The burning was in retaliation for the earlier American burning of York (Toronto).

August 31, 1786 - Shays' Rebellion began in Massachusetts as ex-Revolutionary War Captain Daniel Shays led an armed mob. The rebellion prevented the Northampton Court from holding a session in which debtors, mostly poor ex-soldier farmers, were to be tried and likely put in prison. Following this, in September, Shays' troops prevented Supreme Court sessions at Springfield, Massachusetts. Early in 1787, they attacked the Federal arsenal at Springfield, but were soon routed and fled. Shays was sentenced to death but was pardoned in 1788.