

HOUSTON METROPLEX

5TH NEWSLETTER

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SISTERS RETIRE AFTER 33 YEARS TOGETHER IN THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD BY: J.D. SIMKINS



Lt. Col. Lynn Currier, left, and Master Sgt. Lisa Currier, during Lynn's retirement ceremony in Latham, New York. (Army)

It's a story that could easily be turned into a sitcom.

Two sisters simultaneously join the Army National Guard, deploy together, retire together after over 30 years, and become roommates after buying a house together.

That was indeed the sister act of Master Sgt. Lisa Currier and Lt. Col. Lynn Currier, who enlisted together in February 1986, shipping off to boot camp on the buddy system.



PENTAGON SCIENTISTS ARE MAKING TALKING PLASMA LASER BALLS FOR USE AS NON-LETHAL WEAPONS BY: TODD SOUTH



The Pentagon is advancing work on plasma technology that can deliver intelligible speech to nearby locations, create limitless flashbang deterrents and generate painful non-lethal deterrents that could be fielded to troops in the coming years.

Instead of beaming a flashing light or shouting over a loudspeaker to keep people away from sensitive areas, new technology being developed could allow troops to fire a laser that can form a "plasma ball" that talks to the potential intruders.

The Laser Induced Plasma Effect program is part of the Joint Non-lethal Weapons Directorate program to find ways to deter, stun, basically stop adversaries short of killing them.



BIG NEW ARMY CAPABILITIES COMING SOON BY: AUSA



Tuesday, July 16, 2019

The Army's failure to modernize "has been detrimental across the board" but big improvements are on the way, said Lt. Gen. Paul A. Ostrowski, Army Acquisition Corps director and principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology.

Speaking July 16 at a breakfast hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare. Ostrowski said the Army remains strong using legacy weapons that have had upgrades. "This is one Army you don't want to mess with." he said. But the Army could soon be far more capable because big changes are coming.

For example, Ostrowski anticipates the first laser weapon will be fielded by the Army in 2022, and bigger, more powerful laser weapons will quickly follow. "In the next several years, you will start to see them on the battlefield." Ostrowski said.



THOUSANDS OF DISABLED VETERANS MAY GET REFUNDS OF VA HOME LOAN FEES BY: KAREN JOWERS



More than 53,000 disabled veterans may be owed refunds totaling about \$189 million in home loan fees they were incorrectly charged by the Department of Veterans Affairs, according to estimates from the VA Inspector General in a report issued on the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Auditors said they found it "troubling" that senior Veterans Benefits Administration officials were aware in October, 2014 that thousands of exempt veterans were owed refunds, but didn't take adequate action to issue refunds.

Nearly 73,000 exempt veterans were incorrectly charged an estimated \$286 million in funding fees for their VA home loans from 2012 through 2017, auditors estimated. During that period, VA issued about \$97 million in refunds to 19,700 of the veterans -- leaving an estimated 53,200 who may still get refunds.



MILLEY: U.S. MUST 'ADAPT FASTER' TO FACE DYNAMIC CHALLENGES BY: AUSA



Thursday, July 11, 2019

President Donald Trump's pick to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a time when the military is turning its focus to great-power competition and preparing for a complex and dangerous future, pledged to always provide his best military advice to the nation's top leaders.

Gen. Mark A. Milley, who has been the Army chief of staff since August 2015, said his advice will be candid, honest, rigorous and thorough, and draw upon his combat experience.





Seaman Marcus White stands watch as aft lookout aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) on June 30, 2019, during a replenishment-at-sea with the Nimitzclass aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) in the Philippine Sea. (Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Harris/Navy)



The 143d Airlift Wing welcomed home more than 100 airmen from their recent deployment in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel on July 4, 2019, at Quonset Air National Guard Base, North Kingstown, R.I. (Staff Sgt. Deirdre Salvas/Air National Guard)



Fireworks explode behind a C-130J Super Hercules during Celebrate America at Yokota Air Base, Japan, July 3, 2019. (Airman 1st Class Brieana E. Bolfing/Air Force)



Soldiers detonate an M58 mine clearing line charge during a live-fire training exercise at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., June 12, 2019. (Cpl. Alisha Grezlik/Army)



QUOTE OF THE MONTH — "A WEALTH OF INFORMATION CREATES A POVERTY OF ATTENTION." — HERBERT SIMON





UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 13th: DAV Monthly Meeting

DAV Ch. 233 Fort Bend Monthly Meeting – Save the Date

WHO: DAV Chapter 233 WHAT: Monthly Meeting WHERE: United Way Fort Bend Center 1st Floor ADDRESS: 12300 Parc Crest Dr, Stafford, TX 77477 DATE: 2nd Tuesday of the Month TIME: 6:30pm to 8:30pm COST: FREE QUESTIONS: Senior Vice Commander (281) 222-4888 DAV MISSION STATEMENT We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.



Executive Committee Meeting -Time: 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. August 14



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING -TIME: 6 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

AUGUST 22



SAVE THE DATE 2019 FORT BEND SENIOR EXPO & HEALTH FAIR

FREE FOR SENIORS, FAMILIES & CAREGIVERS

2019 EXPO THEME: MARDI GRAS



For Vendor/Sponsorship/Speaking Opportunities: • 1-855-238-7274
info@seniortradeshows.com

Medicare, Social Security and Elder Law Workshop

You are invited to attend a special Workshop hosted by Jennifer Chiang, Attorney at Law and Stephanie Salcedo, Senior Insurance Advisor

Wednesday, September 4th, 2019, 6:30 pm

Sugar Land Mortuary | 1818 Eldridge Rd. | Sugar Land, TX 77478

Seats are limited. Please RSVP on Eventbrite or (832) 953-4229

Special Guest Speaker

Andy Hardwick from the Social Security Administration Office

Mr. Hardwick will discuss Social Security benefits that are important to you and will answer your questions.



VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

hosted by RICHMOND VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

SAVE THE DATE

Rosenberg Civic Center 3825 Hwy 36 S Rosenberg, TX 77471

Thur, Sep 26, 2019 1pm to 4pm

We would love to have you participate!



AUSA October Annual Meeting which will be held October 14-16, 2019 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington D.C. AUSA Houston



AUSA FAMILY CONNECTIONS

A Quarterly Newsletter for AUSA Family Members

SUMMER 2019

AUSA Family Readiness Member,

Summer. It flies by so quickly, doesn't it? And if you are like most families, summer has become a busier time than we can remember.

Here at AUSA we are in full planning mode for the October Annual Meeting which will be held October 14-16, 2019 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington D.C. If you can't be there in person all of our family forums will be live-streamed so you won't miss a thing! Be on the lookout for further information in the October newsletter.

WELCOME Army Spouses Club of the Greater Washington Area (ASCGWA) members to the AUSA family! As a brand-new association member, all members of ASCGWA receive a one-year digital membership to AUSA which gives additional benefits to ASCGWA members, such as discounts negotiated by AUSA with merchants; advanced registration information for AUSA events, including the Annual Exposition and Meeting in October; and a digital subscription to AUSA's professional development publications, like ARMY Magazine and AUSA News. The full range of benefits is on the AUSA website at <u>www.ausa.org/benefits-services</u>. If you are already a member of AUSA, this membership will be in addition to your existing AUSA membership.

A huge THANK YOU to all of our family members at AUSA. Our numbers are climbing, and our voices are getting stronger as you'll see in an article below on eliminating the widow's tax.

We hope you find this edition of Family Connections to be informative and fun. Until next time we remain, Family Strong – Army Strong.



Grow With Google: New Tools Help Military Spouses Thrive By Mary Spence

Service members aren't alone in making great sacrifices for the good of our country. Military spouses are the backbone of their families and communities, often serving alongside service members and assuming responsibilities on the homefront. As a military spouse, I've experienced the challenges that this life brings. While separated from my husband for two and a half years, I took on all responsibilities for our home and managed several out-of-state moves.....



Photo by Elizabeth Fraser

AUSA Supports Ending "Widow's Tax"

By Patty Barron

Emphasizing the Association of the United Sates Army's strong opposition to survivor benefit inequities that are contained in current law, Gen. Carter F. Ham, USA, Ret., AUSA president and CEO, <u>wrote to House and Senate leaders</u> supporting legislation that would not only address these inequities, but also eliminate them.



2019 STAR VETERANS SENIOR EXPO & HEALTH FAIR

Free Event Veterans • Families • Caregivers



TECHNOLOGY

ON THE SPOT HIRING FAIR

ON THE SPOT

VETERAN CAREER

ADVISORS



GRAND PRIZE Large Screen TV!! must be present to win



Stephen Andriko Event Erncee, Speaker, Author & Senior Care Advocate, Former U.S.Marine

SilverLint

Home Care, LL.C

Veterans AID &



Jennifer Chiang Attorney Elder Law Planning









RECENT EVENTS IN JULY



Victory Early College High School and Carver Magnet High School Military Signing Day



Career Military Signing Day at HISD on 16 May 2019. President Liza Garza was instrumental in working with HISD to have the 1st time ever Military Signing Day.

This allowed for the high school graduates enlisting into the military immediately after graduation to go in front of their parents or legal guardians, public & news media where they signed a certificate between the Military Branch they enlisted with and themselves.



AUSA HOUSTON PRESENTED MEDAL AWARDS TO JROTC CADETS U.S. ARMY COMMUNITY COVENANT SIGNING WITH THE U.S. ARMY HOUSTON RECRUITING BATTALION NORTH COMPANY LED BY COMMANDER CPT RICHARD NASEER HOSTED A LUNCHEON AT PERRY'S STEAKHOUSE WHERE ALL EDUCATORS, BUSINESS LEADERS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS THAT HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE SUCCESS OF THE U.S. ARMY RECRUITING TEAM. ADD PHOTOS ATTACHED. 28 JUNE.







ARMY 244TH BIRTHDAY ON 14 JUNE IT WAS TELEVISED ON THE GREAT DAY HOUSTON-DEBRA DUNCAN



Helping a Hero Luncheon AUSA Houston supported the volnteer appreciation event and invited USAREC Houston to join them. Lee Greenwood and other Senators were in attendance.





VETERANS RESOURCES

MAKE THE RIGHT CALL





Family Houston builds stronger families by teaching the life skills necessary to face financial, health, relationship and other critical challenges. Whether it's counseling students in schools, financial education or enrolling a veteran for benefits, our counselors, case managers, and coaches help strengthen families – leading to a healthier, more stable community.

> Visit their website Fort Bend Thrive or take a look at their flier



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration



Health Care Benefits Overview 2018 Edition, Vol. 1



VETERANS LIONS CLUB

WHO: All Board Members

WHAT: Monthly Club Meetings

WHERE: Mosaic's North Tower

ADDRESS: 5925 Almeda Road Last Tuesday of the every month

PARKING DETAILS: Valet available for \$6.00.

Free parking available at Hermann Park Golf Course (Opposite the venue -2155 MacGregor Way, Houston, TX 77030

AUGUST 27TH, 2019 5:30PM - 8:00PM MEETING REMINDER



CORPORATE & BUSINESS





Contact Us

Houston Texas ausatexas.org

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