

**Sent:** Monday, November 09, 2009 7:54 AM

**To:** COA@LIST.NIH.GOV

**Subject:** [COA-DC-BRANCH] Smart Brief - Benefits Available to PHS Officers

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AREA BR**



To members of the D.C. Metropolitan Area Branch,

This Smart Brief is a journal style email message intended to help keep you informed about various uniformed service benefits available to PHS officers. Please note that some offers may only apply to Armed Forces members; however, these Smart Briefs will help promote awareness and push toward including the common language of "Uniformed Services" in more legislation and benefits packages.

For the current posting, please forward any questions or comments to LCDR Robert Windom at [robert.windom@foh.hhs.gov](mailto:robert.windom@foh.hhs.gov). We also welcome any hot topics or special discounts that you wish to share with your fellow officers. Thank you.

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### Current Posting

1. Veterans Day in the Nation's Capitol
2. President Obama Signs National Defense Authorization Act
3. Department of Defense Military Health System Conference Jan 25-28
4. Veterans Day Offers for Uniformed Service Members

### Previously Posted

1. Shades of Green on Walt Disney World Resort
  2. "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" Tickets
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### 3. **Universal Orlando Resort Military Salute Program**

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#### **Current Posting**

##### **1. Veterans Day in the Nation's Capitol**

Veterans Day is a great time to visit the monuments and memorials in Washington, DC. Many of the memorials and a few other attractions around the region host special events in honor of America's veterans. Please see attached schedule for 2009:

##### **2. President Obama Signs National Defense Authorization Act**

On October 28, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the FY10 National Defense Authorization Act. The purpose of the bill is to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes. Although the focus is primarily on the US Armed Forces, it has a significant impact on the US Public Health Service as well. Please see attached for excerpts of the National Defense Authorization Act or visit [National Defense Authorization Act](#)

##### **3. Department of Defense Military Health System (MHS) Conference Jan 25-28**

Three-thousand military and civilian medical personnel from the U.S. Department of Defense Military Health System (MHS) are expected to attend the 2010 MHS Conference, which will provide health-care professionals a platform to share knowledge and improve best practices. Each day will feature its own educational theme, and all plenary and breakout sessions aligned to the daily themes. For registration information, visit the [2010 MHS Conference](#) website.

##### **4. Veterans Day Offers for Uniformed Service Members**

**Military Eat Free at Golden Corral** - Golden Corral's 9th annual Military Appreciation Monday dinner will be held on Monday, November 16, 2009, from 5 to 9 pm in all Golden Corral restaurants nationwide. The free dinner meal is a special "thank you tribute" to any person who has ever served in the United States Military. If you are a veteran, retired, currently serving, in the National Guard or Reserves,

you are invited to join us for Golden Corral's Military Appreciation Monday dinner. To date, Golden Corral restaurants have provided over 2.2 million free meals and contributed over \$3.3 million to the Disabled American Veterans organization.

**Eat Free at Applebee's** - Military veterans and active-duty service members will be able to eat for free at any Applebee's across the U.S. on Veterans Day, Wed., Nov. 11, 2009. There will be six entrees from the menu to choose from. Guests will be asked to show one or more of the following as proof of service: a U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement, Veterans Organization Card, a photograph in uniform, or wearing a uniform in person. For more information about Veterans Day at Applebee's, visit the Applebee's website at [www.applebees.com/vetsday](http://www.applebees.com/vetsday). A complete listing of all Applebee's locations is available at [www.applebees.com](http://www.applebees.com).

**Lowe's Offers Military Discount for Veterans Day** - 10% Discount for Active, Reserve, Honorably Discharged, and Retired Military Personnel and Their Immediate Families. Lowe's Companies, Inc. announced today it will offer all active, reserve, honorably discharged, and retired military personnel and their immediate family members a 10 percent discount on in-store U.S. purchases made during the Veteran's Day holiday. The discount is available November 6 – November 11. The discount is available on in-stock and Special Order purchases up to \$5,000. To qualify, individuals must present a valid military ID or other proof of service. Excluded from the discount are sales via [Lowe.com](http://Lowe.com), previous sales, and purchases of services or gift cards. In addition to offering military discounts at specific times during the year, Lowe's has extended benefits for its employees serving in the military and offers employment opportunities to military personnel after their military service has ended.

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### **Smart Brief archives and future notices**

For your convenience, a link has been created on the DC COA website that will allow you to access past Smart Brief editions. Please note that future Smart Briefs will be sent out on a monthly basis, unless there is a need to send more time sensitive information that we come across. Please look for future editions around the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. We hope that you have enjoyed these Briefs and we continue to look forward to sharing and discussing topics of interest with you. [DC COA Smart Briefs](#)

Veterans Day is a great time to visit the monuments and memorials in Washington, DC. Many of the memorials and a few other attractions around the region host special events in honor of America's veterans. Here is the schedule for 2009:

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

**November 11, 2009, 1 p.m. Constitution Avenue and Henry Bacon Dr. NW, Washington, DC.** Features color guard, speakers, and a wreath-laying ceremony.

**Arlington National Cemetery**

**November 11, 2009, 11 a.m. Across the Potomac from Washington at the west end of the Memorial Bridge, Arlington, Virginia. (703) 607-8000** National Veterans day service features a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Seating in the amphitheater is limited, so visitors should plan to arrive at least a half hour before the ceremony.

**Vietnam Women's Memorial**

**November 11, 2009, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. Constitution Avenue and Henry Bacon Drive, NW Washington, DC. (301) 314-8505.** Vietnam-era veterans and the children of veterans tell stories "in their own voices" about their experiences.

**World War II Memorial**

**November 11, 2009, 8 a.m. 17th Street, between Constitution and Independence Avenues, NW Washington, DC. (202) 619-7222.** Wreath laying ceremony.

**Navy Memorial**

**November 11, 2009. 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC. (202)737-2300. 12:00 p.m.** Book Signing and Q&A with David Sears, author of At War with the Wind. In the last days of World War II, a new and unknown weapon terrorized the United States Navy sailors in the Pacific Ocean - kamikaze. 1 p.m. - Naval District Washington Commemorative Wreath laying, 1:30 p.m. - Screening of "Pappy Boyington Field," followed by Q&A with director Kevin Gonzalez. During World War II, Major Gregory "Pappy" Boyington led a squadron of Marine Corps fighter pilots known as the legendary "Black Sheep" of VMF-214. The movie details the controversial campaign Veterans groups initiated to add his name to an Idaho airport near his hometown for his courageous leadership.

**National Marine Corps Museum**

**November 10, 2009, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway, Triangle, Virginia. (800) 397-7585.** Celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday and Veterans Day with a ceremonial sword cake cutting.

**Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens**

**November 11, 2009. Mount Vernon, Virginia. Special activities include a patriotic community concert by the all-veteran barbershop chorus at 11 a.m., at 2 p.m. wreath laying at the tomb of our first commander-in-chief, George Washington, and "Martha Washington" talking about her work with veterans at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the Little Theater.** Active duty military personnel and veterans are admitted free-of-charge. The wreath laying is included with regular Mount Vernon admission, \$13 for adults and \$6 children. The barbershop concert and Martha Washington program are free.

**National Building Museum**

**November 8, 2009. 401 F Street NW Washington, DC.** The National Building Museum offers a concert with the Navy Band, family activities, and special tours of its facility in honor of Veterans Day. Bring the family, a blanket, and picnic (food can be purchased in the cafe in the Museum's Great Hall, while listening to a free, noon-time performance by the United States Navy Band Cruisers. Special historic building tours will be offered for free at 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 2:00, 3:00, and 3:30 p.m.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FY 2010

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes

Notable excerpts that may impact USPHS:

- S.RES.135 : A resolution designating May 8, 2009, as "Military Spouse Appreciation Day".  
**Sponsor:** Sen Burr, Richard [NC] (introduced 5/6/2009)  
**Latest Major Action:** 5/6/2009 Passed/agreed to in Senate. Status: Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.
- H.R.1182 : To amend the Service members Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency, and for other purposes.  
**Sponsor:** Rep Carter, John R. [TX-31] (introduced 2/25/2009) Cosponsors (206)  
**Committees:** House Veterans' Affairs  
**Latest Major Action:** 10/8/2009 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.
- S.475 : A bill to amend the Service members Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency, and for other purposes.  
**Sponsor:** Sen Burr, Richard [NC] (introduced 2/25/2009) Cosponsors (44)  
**Committees:** Senate Veterans' Affairs  
**Senate Reports:** 111-46  
**Latest Major Action:** 9/8/2009 Held at the desk.
- (Sec. 583) Amends the Service members Civil Relief Act to include phone, cable, Internet, and various utilities services among those services that a member being deployed on active duty for more than 90 days may terminate, upon receiving deployment orders, without the payment of early termination or related fees. (Currently, only contracts for the leasing of premises or automobiles are included).
- (Sec. 594) Amends the Service members Civil Relief Act to revise generally provisions concerning arrearages and other obligations and liabilities upon service member termination of a residential or motor vehicle lease due to active-duty deployment for a period in excess of 90 days.
- **Title VI: Compensation and Other Personnel Benefits - Subtitle A: Pay and Allowances** - (Sec. 601) Waives any FY2010 pay increases tied to increases in the General Schedule of Compensation for government employees. Increases by 3.4%, effective January 1, 2010, the rates of basic pay for military personnel.
- (Sec. 604) Directs the Secretary to report to the defense and appropriations committee's findings and recommendations on housing standards used to calculate the monthly rates of basic allowance for housing.
- (Sec. 664) Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) members and their families and military retirees deserve ongoing recognition and support for their service and sacrifices;

and (2) Congress will continue to be vigilant in identifying appropriate direct spending offsets that can be used to address shortcomings within those military programs that incur mandatory spending obligations.

- (Sec. 665) Requires a report from the CG to Congress on the costs incurred by cities and other municipalities that cover the difference between an employee's military salary and the municipal salary.
- **Title VII: Health Care Provisions - Subtitle A: Improvements to Health Benefits -**  
(Sec. 701) Prohibits the Secretary concerned from converting any military medical or dental position to a civilian medical or dental position on or after October 1, 2007. Provides, in the case of any such position so converted from October 1, 2004, through September 30, 2008, that if the position was not filled by a civilian by the latter date that position shall be restored to a military-only medical or dental position.
- (Sec. 702) Directs the Secretary to provide chiropractic services for members serving on active duty. Requires such services to be provided only by a doctor of chiropractic. Allows the Secretary to conduct one or more demonstration projects to provide such care to deployed members.
- (Sec. 710) Directs the Secretary to report to Congress on progress made on the establishment of a Joint Virtual Electronic Lifetime Record for members to improve the quality of medical care and create a seamless integration between DOD and the VA.
- (Sec. 710B) Authorizes DOD to provide treatment for autism spectrum disorders as part of authorized medical and dental care for dependents of members. Requires such treatment if a health care professional determines it to be medically necessary. Outlines authorized treatment types. Provides funding.
- (Sec. 713) Requires the Secretary of: (1) Defense to report to such committees on the health care needs of military dependents; and (2) the Army to carry out a pilot program on the mental health care needs of military children and adolescents. Requires an interim and final report from the Secretary of the Army on the pilot program.
- (Sec. 714) Directs the Secretary to report to such committees on stipends paid to members of the reserves for health care for dependents determined to possess special health care needs.
- (Sec. 715) Requires the Secretary to report to such committees on the appropriate number of military mental health providers required to meet the mental health care needs of members, retired members, and dependents.
- (Sec. 716) Directs the Secretary to report to the defense and appropriations committees on rural access to DOD health care.
- Sec. 903) Redesignates: (1) the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps; and (2) the names of the Secretary and other statutory offices within the Department. Makes conforming amendments to other federal provisions to reflect the redesignations.

- (Sec. 933) Directs the Secretary to establish within DOD a School of Nursing, organized so as to graduate 25 students with a bachelor of science in nursing in the first class, 50 in the second, and 100 annually thereafter.
- (Sec. 2723) Expresses the sense of Congress that, with respect to an expected significant increase in local traffic due to the planned expansion of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland: (1) multiple methods are available to DOD to implement the defense access roads program to help alleviate such traffic congestion; and (2) all efforts to alleviate traffic impact need to be pursued to ensure readily available access to health care there.