



# THE SIGNAL

News Publication of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States Auxiliary

"SIDE BY SIDE WE STAND WITH PRIDE"

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 15

President's Message  
Margie V. Holcomb, President

December 2023

Auxiliary Members, Family & Friends:

*Happy Holidays!*

We see and hear happy holiday messages everywhere during this time of year and those messages resound the meaning of the warmth of love, joy, peace, and gratitude of the season and beyond. We enjoy shining the light on blessings that energize us for a happy and healthy new year.

This time of the year, we reflect on the good things we have as our thoughts turn gratefully to those who made contributions to ensure our successes. We look back with appreciation for the loyalties and look forward to embracing what will prove to be an exciting new year.

It is truly a privilege and a joy to work with all of you because it is your hard work, your loyalty, and faith in our organization that has allowed us to be blessed on this path forward and into another great year.

We send our blessings to the servicemen and women as they work across the world for peace and protect our country and our freedoms. Bless the families with your hope that you may carry them through the difficulties and stresses they face.

It will be a very busy 2024! Enjoy the presents under the tree, the people who put them there, and the extra spark of gratitude the season brings. Take some well-deserved rest and relaxation, enjoy the fun, and get ready for round two 2024.

Until the next issue of the *Signal*, enjoy the read....

**"May the dawn of the new year fill your heart with bright, hopeful days as you turn your dreams into reality and your efforts into great achievements."**

~Margie



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## PRAYERS & CARES

### A Prayer for Our Military

“Heavenly Father, as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces and their families. May they experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing.”

Amen



The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with Joy.

Psalms 126:3

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:10



### In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Pauline Wyatt (DE) - Illness  
Donzella Johnson (DE) - Recovering from Surgery  
Cynthia Motley (VA) - Family Member Illness  
Vivian Taylor (MS) - Illness  
Gretchen Gipe (KY) - Recovering from Surgery

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” ~ Psalm 34:18



### In Our Hearts



LTM 679 Linda Sue (Taylor) Locklar (MS) - Spouse passed SFC (Ret) Don Kent Locklar - 03 December 2023

LTM 336 Gilda Reuter (WI-Passed 2011) - Spouse Robert W. Reuter [WI/NG] passed 04 December 2023

LTM 075 Rose V. Troutman (PA) - Passed 01 October 2023

LTM 257 Ella M. Robinson (ME) - Passed 07 September 2023

LTM 582 Doris J. Langford (MN) - Passed 25 April 2023

*Life is the greatest gift that God has given us.  
Death is only a bridge towards eternal life with God.  
Certainly, heaven is rejoicing for another soul has finally reached their true home.*

*“Wherever a beautiful soul has been there is a trail of beautiful memories.”*

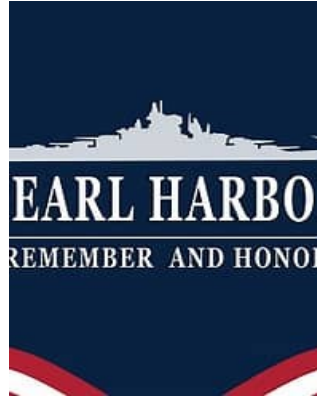
*-Author Unknown*

You can send prayer requests privately to the EANGUS Auxiliary Chaplain  
Shelia M. Brookins at [eamgky.brookins@gmail.com](mailto:eamgky.brookins@gmail.com)

# PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY



1941 Japanese attack  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii



1958 USS Arizona Memorial authorized by Congress



1962 USS Arizona Memorial dedicated by President Kennedy



1991 Pearl Harbor 50th Anniversary Commemorated



The Japanese military attacked Pearl Harbor with no warning on the morning of December 7, 1941. According to the National Park Service, 2,403 service members and civilians were killed and another 1,178 people were injured in the attack. The attack lasted just under two hours.

The USS Arizona, a battleship was sunk in the attack. A memorial stands over the sunken USS Arizona.

USS Utah, a battleship that was sunk in the attack. A memorial to honor the crew of the USS Utah was dedicated on the northwest shore of Ford Island.

There were 21 ships damaged or destroyed 188 aircraft.

The U.S., under President Franklin Roosevelt, declared war with Japan and officially entered into World War II. Roosevelt famously called the date of the attack "a date which will live in infamy".



USS Arizona



USS Utah

## 5 Facts About Pearl Harbor and USS Arizona

1. Twenty-three sets of brothers died aboard USS Arizona.
2. USS Arizona's entire band was lost in the attack.
3. Fuel continues to leak from USS Arizona's wreckage.
4. Some former crewmembers have chosen USS Arizona as their final resting place.
5. A memorial was built at the USS Arizona site, thanks in part to Elvis Presley.

[5 Facts About Pearl Harbor and USS Arizona | HISTORY](#)

## Happy 387th Birthday!



“We recognize Dec. 13 as the birthday of the National Guard. On this date in 1636, the first militia regiments in North America organized in Massachusetts. Based upon an order of the Massachusetts Bay Colony’s General Court, the colony’s militia was organized into three permanent regiments to defend the colony better. Today, the descendants of these first regiments – the [181st Infantry](#), the [182nd Infantry](#), the [101st Field Artillery](#), and the [101st Engineer Battalion](#) of the Massachusetts Army National Guard – share the distinction of being the oldest

units in the U.S. military. Dec. 13, 1636, thus marks the beginning of the organized militia, and the birth of the National Guard’s oldest organized units is symbolic of the founding of all the state, territory and District of Columbia militias that collectively make up today’s National Guard.”

For more information: [387th Birthday - The National Guard](#)



Massachusetts National Guard Logo



Spring of 1637  
First Muster of the Massachusetts Bay Colony Militia

U.S NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY DATES		
Year	Date	Day
2024	13 December	Friday
2025	13 December	Saturday
2026	13 December	Sunday
2027	13 December	Monday

## AUXILIARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Need History from State Auxiliaries

Your History Committee requests your help. Please provide a brief history of your state Auxiliary for the year **2023** and send to any of the History Committee members who are listed at the end of this request. The information is always requested to be sent in **by January 31** each year. Information you might include:

- ◆ Summary of State Conference—Date, Location, Speakers, Major Business, Awards Presented, First Timers, etc.
- ◆ Auxiliary Membership—totals for annual, lifetime, associate, life associate
- ◆ Special Projects—Philanthropic, Ways and Means, Community Outreach, etc.
- ◆ Deceased Members
- ◆ Participation in EANGUS Auxiliary Conference
- ◆ Participation in Area Caucus

At the current time, the History Committee is only collecting information that can be stored electronically as the Auxiliary does not have access to a storage facility for physical items.

If you have questions and/or comments please contact President Margie Holcomb or one of the History Committee members.

Margie Holcomb, [margie\\_holcomb@msn.com](mailto:margie_holcomb@msn.com)

Vivian Taylor, [sarabess2020@aol.com](mailto:sarabess2020@aol.com)

Sara Hendricks, [hendhaus@q.com](mailto:hendhaus@q.com)

Roxie Barwick, [drbar@execpc.com](mailto:drbar@execpc.com)

### PROPOSED REVISIONS TO AUXILIARY CONSTITUTION & SOP

**Date:** May 15, 2023

**To:** EANGUS Auxiliary President, Margie Holcomb  
EANGUS Auxiliary Constitution Committee Chair, Richard Bryant

**From:** Amanda Wilwert Bradley

**RE:** Proposed Revisions to Auxiliary Constitution and Standard Operating Procedures

EANGUS Auxiliary Constitution Folder: [Click Here](#)

### 2024 EANGUS Auxiliary Membership Announcement

During the 2023 EANGUS Auxiliary Conference the membership voted to change the membership reporting date from **31 December to 30 April**. We are hoping this change will make the process easier and avoid the rush during the holiday season.

Look for a new transmittal and instructions in the **January Signal**.

~Debra J. Campbell, EANGUS Auxiliary Treasurer

[campbelldj@cox.net](mailto:campbelldj@cox.net)

# SCHOLARSHIPS



## EANGUS AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS



### EANGUS Auxiliary 2024 Scholarships

- One (1) USAA Auxiliary scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 (one thousand dollars)
- One (1) EANGUS Auxiliary Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 (one thousand dollars)
- One (1) EANGUS Auxiliary Scholarship in the amount of \$500 (one five hundred dollars)

Liz Bryant, EANGUS Auxiliary Scholarship Chair  
[labrab0704@gmail.com](mailto:labrab0704@gmail.com)

Note: Auxiliary scholarship sponsors need to ask your State's Auxiliary National Scholarship Chair what is the state deadline date. This allows the State Scholarship Chair/Committee to review applications and forward eligible applications to Liz Bryant, EANGUS Auxiliary Scholarship Chair by postmark date of 30 June 2024.

### NOTICE

The EANGUS Auxiliary Scholarship Application for 2024 has been revised and will be available for completion and submission online. A link to the scholarship application will be provided once the webpage is opened for access. Assistance for completion of applications may be provided by EANGUS Auxiliary Area Directors and Auxiliary State Presidents. We apologize for any inconvenience this is causing in getting the application to prospective applicants. We thank you for your continued patience.

## EANGUS SCHOLARSHIPS



There are two types of scholarships available. The CSM Virgil R. Williams and the Patriot Scholarships are paid by EANGUS directly to the school the selectee is attending. The second type of scholarships are presented by specific universities that EANGUS has partnered with. The link below will guide you to the applications you will need to submit for each type of scholarship. The tabs provide details for each scholarship along with the requirements. If at any time you have questions, please contact [scholarship@eangus.org](mailto:scholarship@eangus.org) and someone will respond to your inquiry or request for assistance.



### SDI / EANGUS SCHOLARSHIP

Sonoran Desert Institute (SDI) is proud to partner with the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) to offer the SDI/EANGUS Scholarship. The scholarship provides full tuition and fees each semester for the Associate of Science in Firearms Technology Degree program to one recipient annually.

LEARN MORE AT  
[SDI.EDU](http://SDI.EDU)



Command Sergeant Major  
Advisory Council



INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



GRAND CANYON  
UNIVERSITY

Source/For a Full List of Sponsors Visit: <https://eangus.org/scholarship-information/>



# Legislative Action Center



Make sure you visit the Legislative Action Center to help get our voice heard.

Take action on issues that will affect the benefits, services and programs of National Guard members and their families.



Download the VoterVoice phone app on your mobile device:

- iPhone App Store
- Google Play Store

It is quick and easy to answer the CALL. Go to the EANGUS website: <http://eangus.org/> Click on the Legislative tab. To respond to the CALLS, enter your ZIP CODE. Note: Some ZIP Codes have split congressional districts so use your nine-digit zip code to get your actual congressional representative. Those having PO Box numbers may want to look up physical residence address zip codes for accurate information. You will see your congressional representatives at the bottom. Choose which action alert (CALL) you wish to respond. Compose your message (you can use the pre-written letter, modify the letter or draft your own letter). Fill in your sender information. **Click SENDING MESSAGE and it will automatically assign your congressional representatives and send letters to them. You will receive a confirmation noting your letter has been sent and to whom.**

(Remember to keep track of contacts and responses and forward numbers to your legislative contact person.)

### ***Legislative Priorities Position Paper***

- [Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act](#)
- [EANGUS TriCare for all Reservists](#)
- [Major Richard Star Act](#)
- [Affordable Health Care for Gray Area Reserve Retirement](#)
- [Early Tricare for Eligible National Guard Members](#)
- [Fully Burdened and Lifecycle Costing Model](#)
- [Remove Forced Arbitration from SCRA](#)
- [Reserve Employers Comprehensive Relief and Uniform Incentives on Taxes Act](#)
- [Space Force Reserve Component Importance](#)
- [Taxes Update Tax Laws and Policies to Reflect Changes in the Military](#)
- [The Servicemember's Civil Relief Act - Waiver Section 517 Removal](#)

### **Legislative Tool**

- [EANGUS Appropriations 101](#)
- [Tools and Tips for Effective Advocacy](#)



[Legislative | EANGUS](#)



# Legislative Action Center



## **EANGUS needs your Help!**

3M has settled the most significant litigation in the U.S. court system history. We need our member's help to spread the word about the impact of this on our enlisted servicemembers, not only in the National Guard but in all services.

If you have a personal story regarding earplugs and how they have impacted your life, please email [legislative@eangus.org](mailto:legislative@eangus.org). Or contact the EANGUS Legislative team.

On Aug 29, 2023, 3M agreed to pay \$6.01 billion to settle lawsuits by U.S. military veterans and service members who say they suffered hearing loss from using the company's earplugs, the company and lawyers for the plaintiffs announced on Tuesday.

The deal comes after a failed attempt by 3M earlier this year to move the lawsuits, which had grown into the largest mass tort litigation in U.S. history, into bankruptcy court in the hope of limiting its liability.

About 240,000 people are expected to be eligible for the settlement, Chris Seeger, a lead lawyer for the plaintiffs, said at a press conference. 3M has the right to walk away from the deal if less than 98% of eligible claimants decide to participate, but Seeger said he was confident that the threshold would be met. The company said in a statement that the money will be paid out from 2023 to 2029, and \$1 billion will be in the form of 3M stock. The Minnesota-based company said it was not admitting liability and that the earplugs "are safe and effective when used properly."

"This historic agreement represents a tremendous victory for the thousands of men and women who bravely served our country and returned home with life-altering hearing injuries," Seeger and his co-lead attorneys, Bryan Aylstock and Clayton Clark, said in a joint statement.

3M's shares were up more than 2% on Tuesday. They closed 5.2% higher on Monday on earlier reports that a settlement was imminent. Some analysts' estimates of the company's potential liability from the earplug litigation had been as high as \$10 billion.

"In light of the recent 3M earplug lawsuit, which resulted in a settlement favoring the well-being of our nation's Veterans and military members, EANGUS applauds the \$6 billion settlement and stands ready to collaborate with 3M and other like-minded companies moving forward. By taking a proactive approach, we aim to create opportunities and establish protocols and pathways to ensure that incidents like this never happen again. Our nation's heroes are our greatest asset, and the safety, quality of life, and well-being of our service members will always remain our top priority." said MSgt (Ret) Daniel Reilly, President of EANGUS.



**Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States  
2024 Appropriations Letter**

On behalf of over 450,000 Enlisted Soldiers, Airmen, and their families, as well as over 350,000 retired members of the National Guard, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) urges Congress to pass the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Defense Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bills before funding expires on this fiscal year. Our nation faces growing threats to its security, has commitments spanning the globe, and our veterans have earned the best care we can provide. Another continuing resolution (CR) or government shutdown would damage national security and progress on critical priorities. (Please Use this link to access the EANGUS Letter to Congressional Leadership <https://eangus.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Enlisted-Association-of-the-National-Guard-of-the-United-States-2024-Appropriations-Letter-1-1.pdf>).

As you know, a CR damages the uniformed services' ability to equip and train the total force. The services would be prevented from starting new programs that commanders need and instead devote funds to lower priorities. During CRs, resources tighten, procurement programs languish, and taxpayer dollars are spent ineffectively. Casualties of an additional CR could include mission-critical training (inclusive of vital reserve component training) and required maintenance. Military families could suffer from inadequate maintenance and upgrades to military installations and significant delays in household moves. They deserve better, and their care is crucial to the readiness and retention of servicemembers.

Military pay, benefits, and quality of life programs suffer during CRs. Modernization, training, and other essential readiness programs are adversely impacted. As Secretary of Defense Austin stated, "In terms of real dollars, a CR would represent a budget cut." CRs hurt readiness, waste resources, and endanger warfighters. Our national security requires stable, predictable funding and prudent long-range planning. Further, a CR would likely hamper new investments to care for our veterans - including facility improvements and hiring additional staff.

It is simply irresponsible, particularly during these unprecedented times. Even short-term CRs or shutdowns could have long-term effects on the National Guard enlisted servicemember. Reduced funding and stoppage of required training and military education would most definitely cause more than a year of delays on some lower enlisted promotions. If IDTs are forced to be canceled due to a government shutdown, it would affect retirements for years. Both situations would result in financial shortages for National Guard Families for many years.

Over the last three years, the states have become growingly dependent on the National Guard. The National Guard has responded to more than 390,000 activations since early 2020, and we expect this number to continue to grow unprecedentedly. The citizens depend on the services and assistance the National Guard provides, which would be critically affected by another CR or Government shutdown.

EANGUS requests that you pass these critical appropriations bills by the end of this fiscal year to adequately support the millions of service members, civilians, veterans, and military families who serve or have served our great nation.

The EANGUS Legislative Director, Kevin Hollinger, stands ready to assist you or your staff in any way he can. Please do not hesitate to contact him at (202) 670-1826 or email at [kevin@eangus.org](mailto:kevin@eangus.org) for any questions regarding this or any other National Guard issues.

## LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION CONT'D

### **EANGUS Call-to-Action, FY2024 Appropriation Bill**

Last week, on the 20th of September 2023, President Daniel Reilly penned a letter to the top leadership in the 188th Congress. President Reilly expressed his concerns with the FY2024 Appropriations Bills need for the most basic readiness needs of the National Guard. EANGUS now needs out members to help get this message to their members of Congress. Please respond by clicking the link below and bring our concerns to the desk of your congressional representatives and senators.

The National Guard is a dual-status force that serves both the state and federal governments. It is comprised of Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen who train and serve on a part-time basis. The National Guard is called upon to respond to a wide range of missions, including State emergencies (natural disasters), Federal emergencies (border security and homeland defense, and Wartime missions).

The National Guard relies on funding from both the state and federal governments. The federal government provides funding for the National Guard through the Department of Defense (DoD) appropriations bill. This bill includes funding for the National Guard's personnel, equipment, and training.

It is essential for the National Guard that an appropriation bill get passes to maintain readiness: the National Guard must be ready to respond to missions at a moment's notice. This requires regular training and the maintenance of equipment. The DoD appropriations bill provides the funding the National Guard needs to maintain its readiness. To support service members and families: The National Guard comprises Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen who have families and civilian careers. The DoD appropriations bill provides funding for benefits such as healthcare, education, and childcare for National Guard members and their families. To modernize: The National Guard must keep up with the latest technology and equipment to be effective in its missions. The DoD appropriations bill provides funding for the National Guard to modernize its equipment and training.

If an appropriation bill is not passed, the National Guard may not have the funding to maintain its readiness, support its service members and families, or modernize. This could significantly impact the National Guard's ability to respond to missions and protect the country.

In addition to the above, the appropriation bill also provides funding for several other important National Guard programs, such as:

- The National Guard Youth Challenge Program provides at-risk youth with the opportunity to earn their high school diploma and learn life skills.
- The State Partnership Program pairs National Guard units with foreign militaries to promote cooperation and understanding.
- The Counterdrug Program helps to combat drug trafficking and abuse.

The appropriation bill is, therefore, essential to the National Guard's ability to carry out its missions and serve the country.

For further information, please contact the EANGUS Legislative Director, Kevin Hollinger, at (202) 670-1826 or keving@eangus.org. Thank you

**Please Note if you are having an issue sending this message due to your representative's maximum size policy, please delete paragraphs 2-5, leaving the link to the letter President Reilly signed. Thank you.**

### **EANGUS Call-to-Action, Reinstate Army National Guard SLRP**

The Army National Guard has halted Student Loan Repayment. Due to "unforeseen funding issues," The Army National Guard has ceased paying soldiers for student loan debt. The funding issue is currently isolated within the Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP). It's unclear whether the service component has notified the more expansive force about the payment holdups.

The Federal student loan repayment program permits agencies to repay federally insured student loans as a recruitment or retention incentive. The average student loan debt for a college graduate in the

## LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION CONT'D

United States is \$30,000. This can be a significant financial burden, especially for young servicemembers starting their careers.

The Army National Guard offers several student loan repayment programs to help servicemembers repay their debt. These programs can provide a significant amount of financial assistance, which can help servicemembers improve their financial security and achieve their financial goals.

In addition to the financial benefits, student loan repayment programs can provide other benefits for servicemembers. For example, they can help servicemembers build their credit history, making it easier to qualify for loans and other forms of credit in the future. They can also help servicemembers demonstrate their commitment to their education, which can be helpful for career advancement.

Overall, student loan repayment can be an essential benefit for servicemembers in the Army National Guard. It can help Servicemembers reduce their financial burden, improve their financial security, and achieve their financial goals.

The following are some of the student loan repayment programs offered by the Army National Guard:

- Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP): This program allows servicemembers to repay up to \$50,000 of their student loans over up to 10 years.
- Health Professions Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP): This program provides loan repayment assistance to healthcare professionals in the Army National Guard.
- Teacher Loan Repayment Program (Teach for America): This program provides loan repayment assistance to teachers who serve in Teach for America.

To be eligible for these programs, servicemembers must meet specific requirements, such as having a certain amount of student loan debt, serving in a particular military occupational specialty, and meeting specific performance standards.

Suppose you are a servicemember in the Army National Guard depending on student loan repayment, and that payment was stopped. In that case, I encourage you to contact your Congressional Representatives and inform them of this issue by clicking the provided link.

If you have further questions regarding SLRP payment halts, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Hollinger at kevin@eangus.org or contact him direct at (202) 670-1826

### **US Senate, EANGUS, Health Care for Our Troops**

As you know, the EANGUS Legislative team initiated a Call-To-Action regarding healthcare on June 30, 2023. That Call-to-Action went to the US House of Representatives only. Now it is time for the US to push the Same legislative ask to the US Senate.

EANGUS strongly supports the re-introduction of S. 5142 Healthcare for Our Troops Act, introduced during the 117th Congress. This legislation would have provided Reserve Component (R.C.) servicemembers with zero-cost TRICARE insurance. Additionally, this legislation expands TRICARE eligibility to R.C. servicemembers currently working for the federal government in their civilian capacity.

S.5142 - Healthcare for Our Troops Act was introduced by Sen Tammy Baldwin (WI) and Sen Susan Collins (ME) on November 29, 2022, during the 117th Congress 2nd Session.

Servicemembers are required to meet medical deploy ability requirements. An estimated 130,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists do not have health insurance under the currently disjointed systems of third-party health contractors and Periodic Health Assessments (PHAs), significantly impacting the Reserve Component's medical readiness. Inconsistent healthcare coverage for members of the Reserve Component makes meeting these requirements difficult to achieve.

S. 5142, Healthcare for Our Troops Act, would have ensured servicemembers meet the medical standards of a deployable force at no cost to the servicemember. This change provides the Department of Defense (DoD) with a powerful recruiting and retention tool and a significant employer incentive to retain talented individuals in gainful civilian employment.

EANGUS does not believe that dental care only will make a significant improvement in medical readiness. As a last resort effort, the Reserve components use mitigating systems to provide zero-cost dental

## LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION CONT'D

care and improve dental readiness. They currently use mass medical events with dental providers, a dental voucher system, and send servicemembers to providers near annual training facilities at the cost of the reserve components. With all these systems currently in place, there is no reason to believe that dental insurance solely would significantly improve reserve component readiness. Furthermore, no such plan, system, or program for healthcare currently exists. Healthcare issues are often more complex, time-consuming, and expensive to correct. We believe the most significant impact would be that the enlisted, especially our junior ranking members, would have to take more time away from civilian employers to complete the required dental care currently provided during their military service time.

Under current law, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers who are federal employees in their civilian capacity are ineligible to enroll in TRS. This creates confusion in coordinating benefits for servicemembers and their families and prevents servicemembers from establishing continuity of care and treatment as they deploy or transition in or out of the federal government. S. 5142 would have struck the language that disallows servicemembers from accessing TRS simply due to working for the federal government in their civilian capacity.

Don't hesitate to contact your representative and urge them to support the re-introduction of S. 5142 into the 118th Congress by responding to this Call-To-Action.

### **EANGUS Call-to-Action: Health Care for Our Troops**

EANGUS strongly supports H.R. 4221, the Healthcare for Our Troops Act. This legislation would provide Reserve Component (R.C.) servicemembers with zero-cost TRICARE insurance. Additionally, this legislation expands TRICARE eligibility to R.C. servicemembers currently working for the federal government in their civilian capacity.

H.R. 4221 was introduced by Rep. Andy Kim, D-NJ, and Trent Kelly, R-MS, on June 20, 2023. Servicemembers are required to meet medical deploy ability requirements. An estimated 130,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists do not have health insurance under the currently disjointed systems of third-party health contractors and Periodic Health Assessments (PHAs), significantly impacting the Reserve Component's medical readiness. Inconsistent healthcare coverage for members of the Reserve Component makes meeting these requirements difficult to achieve.

H.R. 4221, Healthcare for Our Troops Act, ensures servicemembers meet the medical standards of a deployable force at no cost to the servicemember. This change provides the Department of Defense (DoD) with a powerful recruiting and retention tool and a significant employer incentive to retain talented individuals in gainful civilian employment.

EANGUS does not believe that dental care only will make a significant improvement in medical readiness. The Reserve components use mitigating systems to provide zero-cost dental care and improve dental readiness. They currently use mass medical events with dental providers, a dental voucher system, and send servicemembers to providers near annual training facilities at the cost of the reserve components. With all these systems currently in place, there is no reason to believe that dental insurance only would significantly improve reserve component readiness. Furthermore, there is no such system or program for health care, and healthcare issues often are more complex and much more expensive to correct. We believe that the most significant impact would be that the lower enlisted would have to take time away from civilian employers to complete the required dental care that is currently provided during military service time.

Under current law, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers who are federal employees in their civilian capacity are ineligible to enroll in TRS. This creates confusion in coordinating benefits for servicemembers and their families and prevents servicemembers from establishing continuity of care and treatment as they deploy or transition in or out of the federal government. H.R. 4221 strikes the language that disallows servicemembers from accessing TRS simply due to working for the federal government in their civilian capacity.

Don't hesitate to contact your representative and urge them to support H.R. 4221 by responding to this Call-To-Action.

### **EANGUS Call-to-Action: Support the Space National Guard Establishment Act.**

EANGUS strongly supports S. 503 and H.R. 3048, the Space National Guard Establishment Act. This bipartisan legislation would create the Space National Guard as the primary reserve component of the U.S. Space Force.

S. 503 was introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., on Feb. 16, 2023. The Senate bill was co-sponsored by Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., Sen. John Hickenlooper, D-Colo., Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind., Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, I-Ariz., and Sen. Jacky Rosen, D-Nev. This is the second time Feinstein and Rubio have introduced this legislation.

Companion legislation to this Senate bill was included in the last two versions of the National Defense Authorization Act introduced in the House. Rep. Jason Crow, D-Colo., and Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., reintroduced a House version of the Space National Guard Establishment Act on May 2, 2023. The House bill was cosponsored by Rep. Salud Carbajal, D-Calif., Rep. William Keating, D-Mass., Rep. John Rutherford, R-Fla., Rep. Steve Womack, R-Ark., Rep. Jared Moskowitz, D-Fla., Rep. Sylvia Garcia, D-Texas, Rep. Ed Case, D-Hawaii, Rep. Jack Bergman, R-Mich., Rep. Jill Tokuda, D-Hawaii, and Rep. Brittany Pettersen, D-Colo.

S. 503 and H.R. 3048, if enacted, would allow the nearly 1,000 airmen currently performing space missions in the National Guard to continue executing these crucial missions unimpeded while providing the Space Force with combat surge capabilities and delivering space-trained personnel and capabilities to support domestic operations and natural disasters.

The Department of Defense is fielding two options regarding reserve components within the Space Force, but has proposed merging all space missions into a full- and part-time force with no Space Guard. cost of hiring temporary employees or paying overtime when servicemembers are absent.

### **EANGUS Call-To-Action- Uniform Incentives on Taxes**

Congress to re-introduce H.R. 1854, initially introduced in the 117th by Rep Ryan (R-OH) and Rep Pallazo (D-MN). The "Reserve Employers Comprehensive Relief and Uniform Incentives on Taxes Act of 2021" or the "RECRUIT Act of 2021" is an EANGUS legislative priority for encouraging employers to hire and retain National Guard and Reserve servicemembers.

EANGUS is dedicated to helping National Guard members with USERRA and SCRA problems; we are all too familiar with their employment problems from deployments. On the other hand, we cannot blame employers because they also shoulder a burden when Guard and Reserve members are on orders. During the 117th Congress, H.R. 1854 would have provided employers a tax credit, encouraging them to hire and retain Reserve Component members. The tax credit would help employers offset the financial cost of hiring temporary employees or paying overtime when servicemembers are absent.

***For more information on this or any other issues concerning the National Guard, don't hesitate to contact EANGUS's legislative and military policy director, Kevin Hollinger, at (202) 670-1826***

***[kevin@eangus.org](mailto:kevin@eangus.org)***



To EANGUS Members and State Associations:

I am writing to authorize EANGUS members and State Associations of EANGUS to receive 10% of the profit from donations to the 9/11 Remembrance Gala. I understand that EANGUS members and State Associations will be responsible for managing the donations and ensuring that they are correctly annotated in accordance with the guidance I'm outlining below.

- Once you have identified a sponsor, either:
  - The individual must email [911RemembranceEvent@eangus.org](mailto:911RemembranceEvent@eangus.org), identifying that the individual or state association worked with the donor.
  - The donor can identify the individual or state association they worked with.
- Once the donation is confirmed, EANGUS will pay the individual or state association.
- Individuals and/or the State Association will be considered contractors of EANGUS and will receive tax information **by January 31st** of the year after they receive payment.

I have complete confidence in EANGUS members' and State Associations' ability to handle this responsibility. They are dedicated and experienced individuals with a proven track record of success.

The success of this event will depend on us all as a group. This event is an excellent opportunity to showcase what we already know. The Enlisted National Guard is the most significant fighting force in the world, and their dedication to their country is unmatched.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Reilly  
President  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States

*This event is dedicated to those who have fallen. Our 9/11 Remembrance Gala is not only about remembering and honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, it's about celebrating life and the human spirit, along with the contributions of the National Guard in furthering the future of America.*

*On 9/11/2024, we will gather to remember our past and thank God for our National Guard heroes.*



or Text **838255**

## What is 988?

**The Veterans Crisis Line's new number—988 then Press 1—helps make it easier to remember and share the number to access help in times of need.**

Signed into law in 2020, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act authorized 988 as the new three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. As part of the law, all telephone service providers in the U.S. had to activate the number no later than July 16, 2022.

Veterans can use this new option by dialing 988 and pressing 1 to contact the Veterans Crisis Line. Veterans may still reach the Veterans Crisis Line with the previous phone number—[1-800-273-8255](tel:18002738255) and [Press 1](#)—by text ([838255](tel:838255)), and through chat ([VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat)).

### How It Works

Your call to the Veterans Crisis Line is free and confidential, and you decide how much information to share. Support doesn't end with your conversation. Our responders can connect you with the resources you need.

### Privacy & Security

The Veterans Crisis line is a confidential, secure resource. You choose whether to share personal information.

For More Information: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/about/what-is-988/>



**USAA IS PROUD TO SERVE THE  
ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF  
THE UNITED STATES**

We've joined forces with the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States to help show pride in their mission and programs. When you join USAA, you become part of an extended, military-based family that can be passed down from generation to generation.

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**Here's how USAA is different.**

We're military focused.



We don't serve everyone — [we serve the military community](#). We understand their unique needs and create products and services made just for them.

We're here to help.



We're here when you need us — no matter where you're at in life. Whether you're looking to [get free advice](#) or [save some money](#), we've got your six.

We give back.



We care about [improving our communities](#). It's our mission to invest time and money into programs that benefit the military and areas where we live and work.

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**IT MATTERS  
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[Exchange Relevancy - Exchange Community Hub \(publicaffairs-sme.com\)](http://publicaffairs-sme.com)



NATIONAL GUARD RELIEF FOUNDATION

We're excited to share that the EANGUS WCFA National Guard Relief Foundation has joined Givebacks; a charitable retail giving program that replaces our previous affiliation with AmazonSmile which was discontinued earlier this year. We're asking all our members, your family, friends, co-workers, and any other shoppers you know to sign up using the Referral link below. It's easy to enroll and your qualified purchases will result in cashback for you and merchant donations to the Foundation that we can use to help National Guard Soldiers and Airmen in need.

**givebacks**

## Join the Movement!

Givebacks is a cashback program funded by 25,000 local and national businesses. But it's not your usual cashback app. When you sign up and become a Backer, **you and the EANGUS WCFA National Guard Relief Foundation** get cashback every time you shop. What are you waiting for?



**Once you become one of our Backers:**

- ★ You'll get up to **10% cashback** every time you shop.
- ★ The National Guard Relief Foundation will get up to **1% cashback** to help Soldiers and Airmen in need.
- ★ The Foundation will also receive a **\$5 BONUS** when you sign up using the Referral link below and make a purchase within the first 90 days.

**It's simple! Once you've selected our cause and created your account, you can do one or ALL of the following, depending on how you shop:**

- ★ Link your credit card for **in-person shopping** and dining cashback. **\*\*This is the easiest way to support us!**
- ★ Download the Givebacks Genie (Chrome browser extension) **on your desktop.**
- ★ Get the Genie **for your phone.**



Cashback you've earned will magically appear in your Givebacks wallet, which you can keep **or donate to the National Guard Relief Foundation** to supercharge your impact. It couldn't be easier. And you'll get to make the world a better place just by shopping your way!




Visit the link below or scan the QR code to become one of our National Guard Relief Foundation backers today!

We get a \$5 bonus for each backer who joins and makes a purchase.  
[www.givebacks.com/referrals/CEO6172468](http://www.givebacks.com/referrals/CEO6172468)

Here's just a few of the merchants where you and NGRF could start earning cashback every time you shop or dine:

Walmart, CVS, Walgreens, Costco, Sam's, Kohl's, Petco, Best Buy, Macy's, Sephora, Hobby Lobby, Staples, Vista Print, Bass Pro Shop, Lowe's, GameStop, GNC, Ace Hardware, Alamo Rental Car, Radisson, Hilton, Outback Steakhouse, Pei Wei Asian Kitchen, Dairy Queen, and thousands more!

Please review the flyer for step-by-step instructions and sign up TODAY!

More information is available on our website:

[www.eangus-wcfa.org/other-ways-to-donate/](http://www.eangus-wcfa.org/other-ways-to-donate/)

## WCFA-NATIONAL GUARD RELIEF FOUNDATION

EANGUS Executive Council and WCFA Board of Directors,

Please share this message regarding the 2024 Combined Federal Campaign with your State Presidents, State Leadership, Units/Wings, and Family Programs. The attached flyer can be printed and posted on unit bulletin boards, included in newsletters, and will be shared on all EANGUS social media sites and in the Minuteman Update tomorrow (14 Sep 2023). Please join me in getting the word out and encouraging participation in the CFC's payroll deduction program.

### **GIVE HAPPY WITH THE COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN:**

As you know, every year, federal employees and retirees rally to support charities they choose through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). It's amazing to see how giving a little out of each paycheck can add up to so much happiness when we all give together....and, studies show when you GIVE HAPPY, you get happy too!

The 2024 CFC Charitable Giving Period began on 1 September 2023, and will run through 15 January 2024. If you are a Federal employee, AGR or active military, or work for another employer who offers CFC payroll deduction, please consider selecting the **EANGUS-WCFA National Guard Relief Foundation (Charity Code: 11859)** as your charity of choice. Federal retirees also have an opportunity to support the causes they care about by giving through the CFC via a deduction from their annuity.

Established in 1992 by EANGUS, the National Guard Relief Foundation provides emergency relief grants and interest-free loans to currently serving National Guard Airmen and Soldiers of all ranks as well as honorably discharged and retired Guard members. The financial assistance provided by the Foundation helps National Guard members who have suffered a catastrophic loss or personal hardship, as well as those impacted by natural disasters. Please join us in our mission to support National Guard members and their families! I hope that your donation and the act of giving to others will make you happy and want to assure you that all individual donations we receive will be used to provide grants to Soldiers and Airmen with a verified emergency need.

Please download, post, and share this year's NGRF CFC Flyer (attached) or it can be found at this LINK <https://eangus-wcfa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/74/2023/09/2023-CFC-Flyer-NGRF-Code-11859.pdf>)

To sign up for payroll deduction or get more information about the Combined Federal Campaign, go to: <https://cfcgiving.opm.gov/welcome>

To apply for assistance from the National Guard Relief Foundation, or make a tax-deductible donation directly to the Foundation, go to our website at: [www.eangus-wcfa.org](http://www.eangus-wcfa.org)

Thanks for your support!

Karen

Karen M. Craig, CSM, USA, Retired  
Chairman of the Board  
National Guard Relief Foundation  
EANGUS We Care for America Foundation, Inc.  
Email: [chairman@eangus-wcfa.org](mailto:chairman@eangus-wcfa.org)  
Phone: 480-213-5769  
Website: [www.eangus-wcfa.org](http://www.eangus-wcfa.org)

# WCFA-NGRF ~ GIVE HAPPY



The National Guard Relief Foundation was established by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United State to take care of National Guard members and their families. The Foundation provides emergency relief grants and interest free loans to currently serving National Guard Airmen and Soldiers of all ranks as well as honorably discharged and retired Guard members.

The financial assistance provided helps National Guard members who have a catastrophic loss or hardship, as well as those impacted by natural disasters.



Select:  
**EANGUS WCFA  
National Guard  
Relief Foundation!**  
CFC Charity Code:  
**11859**

Every year, Federal employees and retirees like you rally to support charities you choose through the CFC. It's amazing to see how giving a little out of each paycheck can add up to so much happiness when we all give together.

Studies show when you give happy, you get happy too!

**GIVE HAPPY today  
at GiveCFC.org**



**Give: Sep 1, 2023 -  
Jan 15, 2024**



FOR MORE INFO ON THE EANGUS WCFA NATIONALGUARD RELIEF FOUNDATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.EANGUS-WCFA.ORG](http://WWW.EANGUS-WCFA.ORG)



The DC0032P - EANGUS We Care for America surpassed the goal of 100 wreaths reaching 177 wreaths purchased as of 28 November deadline. People continued to sponsor wreaths reaching 235 wreaths purchased exceeding the goal by 135 wreaths which equates to \$1,175 being donated to WCFA from WAA. **WOOHOO!**

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION



EANGUS Auxiliary website: <http://eangusauxiliary.org>

Auxiliary Scholarship forms for 2024 will be posted on the Auxiliary website.

Current and Past Editions of THE SIGNAL are on the Auxiliary website as well as some Area and State Newsletters:

<http://eangusauxiliary.org/publications/>

Visit EANGUS & EANGUS Auxiliary on FACEBOOK!



EANGUS Auxiliary Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AuxiliaryPresident/>

EANGUS Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EANGUS72>

EANGUS Has A YOUTUBE Channel!



Check out the EANGUS YouTube videos and other archives. Cannot attend the conference, in a meeting and miss some of the other parts of the conference will be on YouTube!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EANGUSNationalOffice>

For more information visit:  
<https://www.multibriefs.com/briefs/eangus/>

Summer/Fall 2023 Issue

To View the latest issue of the New Patriot Publication use the link provided:  
[EANGUS New Patriot: 2023 Summer/Fall Edition |](#)

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