



GrahamVets Newsletter

(SPECIAL VETERAN'S DAY ISSUE)

-Proper Respect-

Note: Originally printed in Springfield newspaper (Nov. 2004) written By Jordan Gross. Submitted by GrahamVet Daniel Davison US Navy

Mr. Garner's senior government class learned about flag etiquette and on Tuesday, November 2nd, had the chance to take part in an actual flag retirement ceremony. There is no set method for the retirement of the flag, but it is generally known and strongly suggested that if the flag no longer adequately represents America that it be retired, preferably by burning. Each student was given a red or white stripe from the flag to place in the fire to show their utmost respect. The ceremony was concluded by putting the blue field of stars in the fire and by reading the following poem by Howard Schnauber:



MY NAME IS OLD GLORY

I am the flag of the United States of America.
 My name is Old Glory.
 I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.
 I stand watch in America's halls of justice.
 I fly majestically over great institutes of learning.
 I stand guard with the greatest military power in the world.
 Look up! And see me!

I stand for peace - honor - truth and justice.
 I stand for freedom.
 I am confident...
 I am proud.
 When I am flown with my fellow banners
 My head is a little higher
 My colors a little truer.
 I bow to no one.
 I am recognized all over the world.
 I am worshipped - I am saluted - I am respected
 I am revered - I am loved, and I am feared.
 I have fought every battle of every war for more than 200 years.
 My name is "Old Glory"...

MILITARY TRIVIA

Which group of U.S. Veterans, upon their death, are returned to the place of battle for internment (burial) ?

Where is this burial site located?

Can America Survive Going Broke?

With the looming 17 Trillion ("\$17,000,000,000,000") dollar debt, I've found most people are unable to visualize how much 17-trillion dollars is compared to \$1,000,000 (1 Million). Here are some analogies I hope will help you understand how much money our country has borrowed.

If you stack 1 million dollars in 100 dollar bills, it would be approximately 3 feet tall. If you laid the stack over on the goal line of a football field, it would reach the 1 yard line. If you stacked 1 billion dollars the same way, it would reach from goal line to goal line on 10 football fields; however, if you stacked 1-trillion dollars, it would reach across 10,000 football fields. That means our national debt of

17-trillion dollars would reach across 170,000 football fields or 9,650 miles. In other words, it would stretch from Los Angeles to New York and back, then back again to New York.

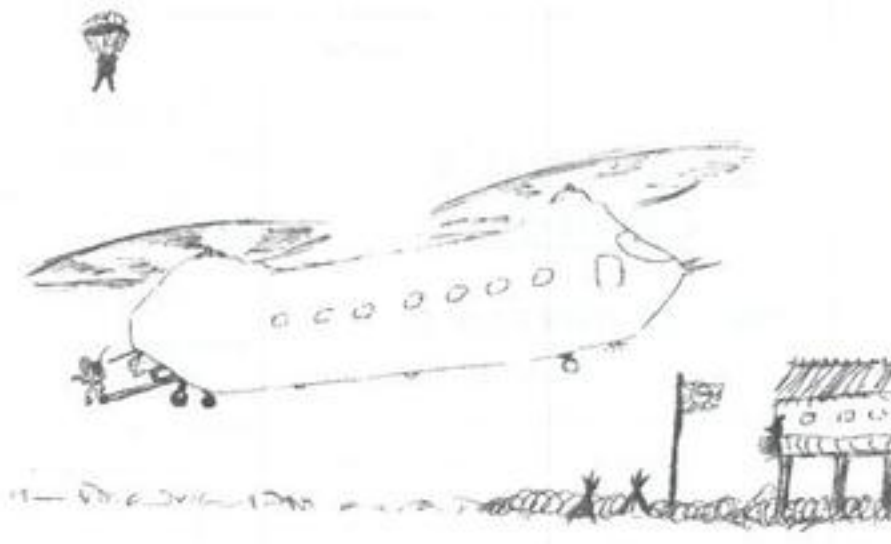
Another way to look at it is, if you spent \$20,000,000 (20 million) per day, which is enough to buy every inmate at Graham a new Mercedes Benz every week for 2000 years, or from the time of the birth of Jesus Christ to today, you would have 2-trillion dollars ("\$2,000,000,000,000") left to spend. If you stacked the 2-trillion left in 100 dollar bills, it would stand taller than 4,130 Sears Tower buildings.

(Submitted by Kevin D. Barrington, USAF)

Make your own caption:

Contest: Write a caption below. The best caption received for this drawing will be posted at a future GrahamVet meeting.

Drawing by Joseph "Red" Stanton NROTC



Commander's Corner

Book report contest: We will be awarding a prize, God willing, for the best " ESSAY " turned in by December's GrahamVet meeting.

FOCUS: 200 Words max

TOPIC: Gulf War (1991)

Illinois Veteran's Benefits: The "SMCRA" article is only one part of the assistance available...

The "*Military Veterans Rights Hotline*" is provided through the Illinois State's Attorney Office and your family can call for help:

1 (800) 382-3000

Military Humor

STAYING HEALTHY : Marine Corps Exercise regimen for people over 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room on each side.

With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides. Hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags.

Then try 50-lb potato bags, and then eventually, try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level!)

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each empty bag.

If you are under 60, put two potatoes in each empty bag.

[DISCLAIMER: This is a joke. Do not attempt to take potatoes or potato bags out of the chow hall!]

Chaplain's Corner

TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

Many ancient cultures allowed punishment that was greatly out of proportion to the offense. The phrase "eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth" was a statement for the Law of Retaliation (Lex Talionis). This principle of legal justice was given to encourage appropriate punishment in a criminal case where there might be a tendency to be too strict.

The idea was "no more than" eye for an eye. However, Jesus teaches—"If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also (Matthew 5:39).

When someone strikes us in the face, whether verbal or physical, it not only hurts for awhile, but is an insult and indignity. Jesus said in effect, we are to bear it patiently and not give violence with violence.

We must ignore it and take no further action, for there are no broken bones and no great harm done—forgive it and forget it. Moreover, if the proud fools (Raca) think the worse of you and laugh at you, we should look at it this way—

(SMCRA)

"Service Member Civil Relief Act"

-Military members enjoy additional consumer rights designed to protect them when called to duty-

NOTE: This summary is compiled from an article published in the Illinois Bar Journal—written by Grant T. Swinger. [*THESE BENEFITS DO NOT APPLY WHILE YOU ARE INCARCERATED – THIS KNOWLEDGE CAN HELP YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS OR CHILDREN THOUGH.*]

WHAT IS SMCRA ?

Certain protections were enacted by the government so reservists, National Guard and active duty military members would not suffer financial harm from current debts due to war zone or natural disaster support.

In January, 2013 Illinois modified the SMCRA to enhance and clarify the consumer protections outlined by the "Federal SCRA" (2007, 2011) and the "Illinois Patriot Plan" (2005)

HOW DOES IT HELP ?

Only a few of the many protections are listed here. One of the most important changes made was to clarify, "primary residence of service member" rather than the service member being the head of household, or primary, listed on the mortgage, lease or utilities contract. In other words; if a reservist is living with parents, siblings or the lease is in the name of their spouse (e.g. commonly done if there is a past credit problem or criminal record) then the SMCRA protections still apply. In many cases the military member is the key financial supporter for the household. Their absence due to mobilization or deployment can create financial hardship for their family and children.

Some other common concerns covered are:

- Contracts for cell phone, apartment rental and car leases can be cancelled without penalty.

- Public utilities (i.e. gas & electric) cannot be cut-off due to missing payments. Within 90-days upon return from deployment / mobilization you must pay all overdue amounts.
- Delays house foreclosure procedures until military member returns from deployment / mobilization.
- Lowers, and caps, all existing credit interest rates to 6% for duration of military orders.
- Prevents repossession of retail property contracts, i.e. furniture or automobile.

HOW DOES IT WORK ?

Simply send a copy of mobilization / activation / deployment orders to the creditor with a request for SMCRA protections to be applied.

MORE INFO ?

Available in G.C.C. Law Library:

- SMCRA Statute- (330 ILCS 63/1 to 63/975) (2013)
- Full Article-Sept. 2013 (vol. 101) issue of Illinois Bar Journal (pg 478)
- USERRA-(38 U.S.C.A. 4301), [employment protection]

"THE NEW SMCRA IS A STEP FORWARD FOR THE MILITARY COMMUNITY. IT RECOGNIZES THAT LEGAL SUPPORT FOR THE MILITARY IS A SHARED STATE AND FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY."

[Reviewed and compiled by

Frank Volkmar, USA and D. Linley USMC]

All the mature and wise men of God will value and honor you for it, for they will know that you are a true follower of Christ Jesus. Although, with some wicked people, this may expose us to the same insults at a later time and it might, we will need to—in effect, "turn the other cheek" yet again, but do not let that disturb you. Perhaps the forgiving of the one injury may prevent another, when the avenging of it would only draw on another. Proverb of the day: Some will be overcome by submission, who by resistance would but be the more exasperated!

(Chaplain Adams, U.S. Navy)