

**May 1st, 2017 By: Maggie Baker/ Kerr County Veterans Service Officer 12th Edition pg.1**



**Kerr County Veterans Newsletter**

***The Kerr County Veteran's Newsletter is a quarterly newsletter***

***I will be including information about our Kerr County Veterans, Surviving spouses, Veterans Organizations as well as all information to help to keep our Kerr County Residents informed of ways to help our Veterans.***

***The position of a County Veterans Officer is to help Veterans with Disability and Pension claims, to help our Veterans and Surviving Spouses with claims after the passing of their loved one and many other issues the Veterans, Surviving Spouses and Dependents may have. Every claim is very different as is Every Veteran.***

***I am hoping that with this information included from our many Veterans Organizations will help our Kerr County Veterans as well as the residents of Kerr County.***



**MEMORIAL DAY 2017**

***We hope to see you at the Kerr County Court House at 12:00 noon***

***With our special speakers:***

***Kerr county Judge Pollard***

***Kerrville Mayor Bonnie White***

***A speaker from the leadership of the Audie L. Murphy Hospital***

***And Key-Note speaker:***

***Senator Ted Cruz***

***If you have comments, stories or photos, send them to my office.***

***Let me put you on my email and mailing list.***

***The information of this newsletter is the property of Kerr County and the***

***Kerr County Veterans Service Officer***

***It cannot be duplicated or copywrited.***

***mkbaker@co.kerr.tx.us or call: 1-830-792-2203***

## Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs

December 8, 2016, 02:09:00 PM

### VA National Cemeteries Now Offering Pre-Need Eligibility Determinations

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced it now provides eligibility determinations for interment in a VA national cemetery prior to the time of need.

Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a VA national cemetery.

“MyVA is about looking at VA from the Veterans’ perspective, and then doing everything we can to make the Veteran Experience effective and seamless,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “This new program reaffirms our commitment to providing a lifetime of benefits and services for Veterans and their families.”

Interested individuals may submit [VA Form 40-10007](#), *Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery*, and supporting documentation, such as a DD Form 214, if readily available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; email to [Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov](mailto:Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov); or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

VA will review applications and provide written notice of its determination of eligibility. VA will save determinations and supporting documentation in an electronic information system to expedite burial arrangements at the time of need. Because laws and personal circumstances change, upon receipt of a burial request, VA will validate all pre-need determinations in accordance with the laws in effect at that time.

VA operates 135 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers’ lots in 40 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA’s national cemeteries. VA also provides funding to establish, expand and maintain 105 Veterans cemeteries in 47 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. For Veterans buried in private or other cemeteries, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. In 2016, VA honored more than 345,000 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private cemeteries.

Eligible individuals are entitled to burial in any open VA national cemetery, opening/closing of the grave, a grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, and a government-furnished headstone or marker or niche cover, all at no cost to the family. Veterans are also eligible for a burial flag and may be eligible for a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, from the Internet at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov), or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000.

## How to Support Women Who Serve, Their Mental Health: Tips for Providers

Posted by D Co E Public Affairs - Deployment Health Clinical Center May 16, 2017



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Aaron Ellerma

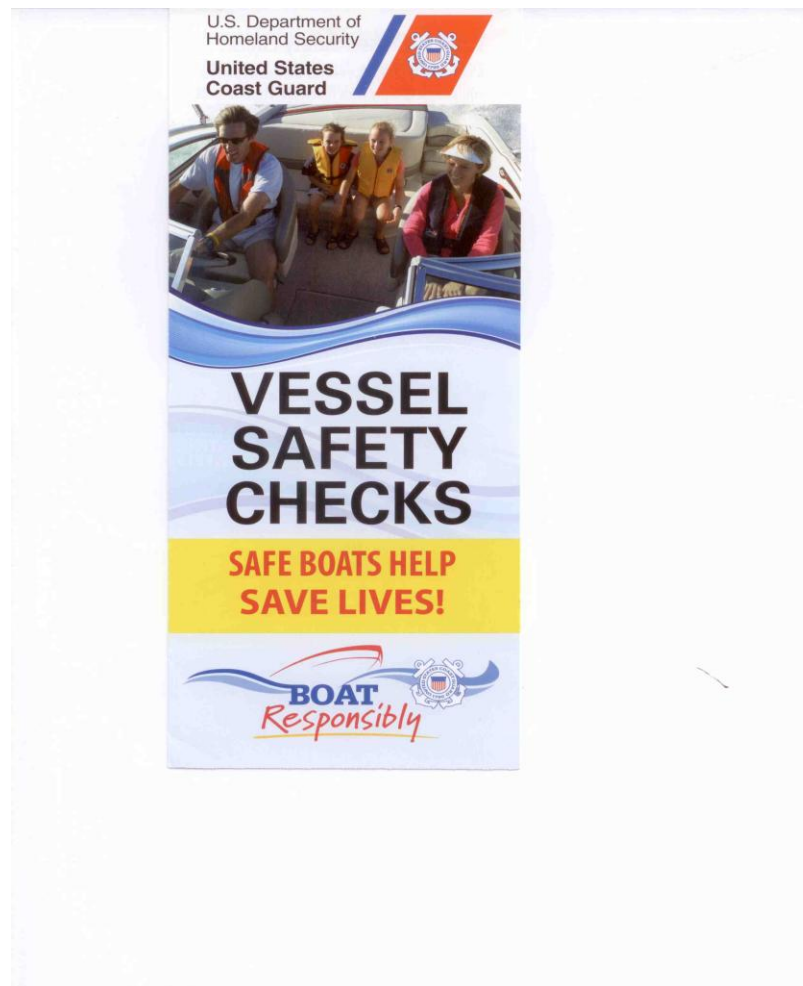
Women represent about 16 percent of our active-duty military force. As they continue to serve, it's critical that clinicians are equipped to treat their psychological health concerns.

Deputy Director Dr. Kate McGraw of the **Deployment Health Clinical Center (link is external)** has spent more than three decades working for the military. Much of her work has been dedicated to the psychological differences and needs of women in the military.

This excerpt from a **Clinician's Corner (link is external)** post, written by McGraw, highlights her perspective on the challenges military females face:

*Our female warriors are brave, are dedicated to risking their lives to defend our country, and often juggle a whole lot of other responsibilities at the same time they're performing their military duties. The problems they face can involve leadership acceptance, childcare, the biological impact of estrogen, societal role expectations, sexual harassment and assault, and ostracism by peers due to gender differences and can directly impact psychological health. Females appear to cope with combat-related stress as well as men, but they are more likely to experience higher rates of sexual assault and sexual harassment. They're also more likely to be treated for depression than men, and appear less likely to endure negative impact from deployment if they experience strong social support pre and post-deployment compared to men.*

*While psychological health research may show us that over time in some situations women do things differently and respond to events differently than their male counterparts, different doesn't mean better or worse, it just means different. Fortunately, we're making forward progress; some of Defense Department health research is now focused on how to better understand and help military females with a variety of psychological issues, as well as how we can help the culture better support and respect differences amongst us. We also now have a standing Defense Department work group dedicated to supporting the mental health needs of women in the military, developed and implemented at the Deployment Health Clinical Center.*



**The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the Civilian Volunteer branch of the U S Coast Guard.**

**The Auxiliary emphasis is about offering education to the general public about boating safety issues.**

**To that end, the local auxiliary representative, Ben Rosario, offers Free safety checks on boats and required safety equipment as well as brochures and pamphlets on many boating issues. Local contact is (936)-203-6966 (cell).**

**Call to schedule the Free safety class.**



**JOIN KERR COUNTY VETERANS FOR MEMORIAL DAY 2017**

**MONDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Event starts at: 12:00 Noon**

**Please arrive at 11:00am If you are a participating Individual**

**VENUE: KERR COUNTY COURT HOUSE**  
**CORNER OF MAIN AND SYDNEY BAKER STREETS**  
**Located on the steps of our**  
**"Military War Memorial Monument and New Military Benches"**

**"OUR SPEAKERS"**

**KERR COUNTY JUDGE, JUDGE POLLARD**  
**CITY OF KERRVILLE MAYOR MS. BONNIE WHITE**  
**A REPRESENTATIVE FROM OUR SOUTH TEXAS VA MEDICAL CENTER LEADERSHIP**  
**AND**  
**"THE HONORABLE SENATOR TED CRUZ- OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER"**

**INCLUDING**  
**HILL COUNTRY HONOR GUARD/COLOR GUARD/BUGLER**  
**MILITARY MUSIC PERFORMANCES**

**"Our laying of the Wreaths"**  
**Please call to get your name on the list for the reading**

**Also, If you would like to be a volunteer, please call.**

**\*\*IF\*\* FLOODING OR SEVERE WEATHER, WE WILL CHANGE VENUES TO**  
**THE KERRVILLE VA MEDICAL CENTER AUDITORIUM**  
**NEXT TO THE VA MEDICAL CENTER (WILL SEND OUT MAPS)**

**FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
**Maggie Baker - Kerr County Veterans Service Officer 830-792-2203**  
**Or**  
**Terri Garza - Kerrville VA Administrative Assistant – 830-896-2020**

**SCHEDULE OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**A M V E T S 1000:** American Veterans Organization: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 5pm at Freedom Path's Activity Center on the grounds of the VA Medical Center in Kerrville

**Hill Country Veterans Council:** Meets at the Chamber of Commerce - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 9am

**The VA Stakeholders meetings:** Meetings at the Kerrville VA -3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday – 11:30am-Quarterly

**American Legion:** to be announced

**Military Order of Purple Hearts:** Contact Byron Warren: [bhbuda@ix.netcom.com](mailto:bhbuda@ix.netcom.com)

**Military Order of World Wars:** Contact Deborah Dombeck: [debdombeck@gmail.com](mailto:debdombeck@gmail.com)

**Viet Nam Veterans Welcome Home Event - :** Annual –March, 2017

**Memorial Day Event-2017**

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 Noon  
Kerr County Court House Grounds  
At our beautiful War Memorial Monument and  
Beautiful New Military Veteran's Benches  
Including: "Laying of the Wreaths"  
Seeking Volunteers for our Committee  
Call: 830-792-2203

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Event:**

Contact the Dietert Center

**Kerr County Veteran's Brown Bag Lunch Meetings:**

The Last Thursday of each month at the Union Church in Kerrville  
This Month's Thursday's Speaker: Melissa McKennon –  
Army Veteran and Program Director of  
"Grace Under Fire"  
11:30 am till 1:00 pm.  
May25, 2017

**" Surviving Spouse and Female Veterans \*\*Coffee and Get Together\*\***

Date: June13th- 4PM at the Dietert Center.  
For more information, call Maggie Baker @ 1-830-792-2203 or  
The Dieter Center @ 1-830-792-4044  
Speaker: Teresa Salmon – [rpok.mkt@meridiansenior.com](mailto:rpok.mkt@meridiansenior.com)

**Kerr County Veterans Day Parade: November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Be sure to Watch for All Events on: **\*\*Kerr County Veterans Face Book Page\*\***



**PLEASE JOIN ALL VETERAN'S SURVIVING SPOUSES,  
FEMALE VETERANS AND ALL OF OUR  
FEMALE FRIENDS OF ALL COUNTIES FOR A  
"COFFEE GET-TOGETHER"**

**WHERE: DIETERT CENTER**

**451 GUADALUPE STREET**

**KERRVILLE, TX**

**WHEN: THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

**NEXT COFFEE- June 13th**

**TIME: 4PM to 5PM**

**Join us as we talk about all items of interest to our ladies of Kerr County**

**THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER: TERESA SALMON OF RIVERPOINT**

**Community Relations Director  
1441 Bandera Highway  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
830 258-4150 office**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:**

**MAGGIE BAKER:  
KERR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER  
830-792-2203**

**NICK VILLANUEVA  
DIETERT CENTER  
830-792-4044**

**Important Numbers for Veterans of Kerr County**

Kerr County Veterans Service Officer as well as all counties in Texas under the Texas Veterans Commission receive their annual numbers from the VA for veterans and the amount of money that comes to each County from benefits to our Kerr County Veterans. These Texas Veterans Commission numbers have gone up.

These are the current numbers from 2015.

**2016 Numbers will be available in May 2017**

**These numbers are from our Kerr County Veteran’s Service Officer as well from the Kerrville VA Medical Center Texas Veterans Commission Officer. Myself and Ben Rosario have worked hard to help our Kerr County Veteran’s get the help they so greatly DESERVE!**

<b>Veteran</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Compensation/</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Loan</b>
<b>Population</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Pension</b>		<b>Voc / Rehab</b>	
<b>Guaranty#</b>					
<b>4,857</b>	<b>\$69,032,000</b>	<b>\$30,077,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,535,000.000</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
	<b>General</b>	<b>Insurance/</b>	<b>Medical</b>	<b>Unique</b>	
	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Indemnities</b>	<b>Care</b>	<b>Patients</b>	
	<b>\$8,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$438,000.00</b>	<b>\$36,973,000.00</b>	<b>2652</b>	

Next set of important numbers will be coming to us this month of May

**Important Contact Information for our Kerr County Veterans**

**Maggie Baker: Your Kerr County Veteran’s Service Officer:  
Texas Veteran’s Commission Accredited: 830-792-2203  
Kerr County Court House/ 1<sup>st</sup> floor [mkbaker@co.kerr.tx.us](mailto:mkbaker@co.kerr.tx.us)  
For all your Veterans and Surviving Spouses claims and resources**

Kerrville VA Medical Center Administrator Ms. Kim Hoge/ 830-896-2020

Ben Rosario: T V C – VA Representative: 830-896-2020

Medical Emergency: Dial 911

National Suicide prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-talk (8255)

Mental Health Crisis Number: 1-877-466-0660

Texas Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Hotline: 1-800-252-5400





**JOIN KERR COUNTY VETERANS  
&  
CITIZENS OF KERR COUNTY  
FOR OUR MONTHLY VETERANS'  
BROWN BAG LUNCH MEETING**

**DATE: LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH  
MAY 25TH, 2017  
TIME: 11:30AM TO 1:00PM  
MEETING: UNION CHURCH  
CORNER OF TRAVIS & MEMORIAL BLVD.**

**“Our May Speaker”**

*Melissa McKennon, MSODL | US Army Veteran*  
Program Director for the Organization, “Grace After Fire”  
P.O. Box 218604 | Houston, TX 77218  
p: 210-887-8608 | e: [melissa@graceafterfire.org](mailto:melissa@graceafterfire.org)

The Mission of Grace After Fire is to provide the means for Women Veterans to gain knowledge, insight and self-renewal.

*Just bring your Brown Bag Lunch and enjoy!*

***If you are a Veteran or know other veterans  
Please, invite them.***

*Maggie Baker/ Kerr County Veterans Service Officer  
Kerr County Court House-First Floor #118  
Kerrville, TX 78028 / 830-792-2203  
Email: [mkbaker@co.kerr.tx.us](mailto:mkbaker@co.kerr.tx.us)  
Fb @ Kerr County Veterans*

*Call or email for an appointment for help with your disability or pension claim  
Also; other resources that I may be able to help you with.*

## Air Force Veteran encourages the rediscovering of Memorial Day's true meaning



Posted on Thursday, May 18, 2017 1:55 pm Posted in Guest Posts, Honoring Vets by Vantage Point

Memorial Day; a holiday to honor those who gave their lives for our country, has evolved into a day recognized primarily through parades, barbecues, drinks and discounts. Though U.S. service members today fight and die in multiple countries, and cemeteries across the country stand as monuments to lives lost at war, we've forgotten how to commemorate sacrifice. But I believe we can rediscover the meaning of this special day on May 29

It's not surprising that we've lost track of Memorial Day's purpose and meaning. With less than one percent of today's U.S. population serving, and less than seven percent having served at some point in their lives, it is easy for Americans to lose track of war's toll.

For me, Memorial Day immediately takes me back to remembering my late father, Air Force Veteran Lt. Col. Tom Charters. He embodied service before self and sacrifice. Well before I was born, he received orders in his first year on active duty to deploy in support of Vietnam with the 474th Tactical Fighter Wing. He returned home, met my mother, got married and continued proudly serving his country for 28 years. He faced many challenges in the military, but met his greatest challenge as a Veteran, when he was diagnosed with cancer. His battle ended at home and not in war, yet he is the first person I think of every Memorial Day.

Suddenly, the superman we knew became human. I wish I knew how to prepare for this hardest chapter of our lives. Together, we supported each other as a family and his strength was what kept everyone going. The last day I was in his presence, he was draped in our nation's flag and still carried the same strength I was so familiar with. Not everyone has a personal story and connection to Memorial Day.

The key to renewing our recognition of Memorial Day – and making sure all Americans once again feel encouraged and empowered to express their respect for our deceased military heroes – lies in our knowledge of Memorial Day's history. Originally known as Decoration Day, it was inaugurated after the Civil War, when Union Veterans established it as a day to lay flowers on the graves of Union war dead.

The act of laying flowers is a simple act that does not require one to personally know someone who gave their life for a cause, only to recognize the value of the sacrifice a stranger made on behalf of our common nation. A small non-profit, The Memorial Day Flowers Foundation, has already worked in recent years to reclaim this effort by laying roses on as many graves as it can reach at Arlington National Cemetery, the nation's flagship Veterans cemetery. They have laid a foundation Campaign, so that we can properly recognize our nation's deceased heroes – People like my dad.



*Brandon Charters, a five-year Air Force Veteran, is the director of accounts for Rally Point, the nation's largest military social network.*



**Kerr County Veterans Service Office**

**Maggie Baker, Kerr County Veterans Service Officer**

*Providing service (Disability and Pension Claims as well as a list of many resources)  
to our Kerr County Veterans and Surviving Spouses*

**Office Hours**

Monday – Friday: Please call for an appointment  
Walk-ins are also welcome

**Office Location**

**“Kerr County Court House”** - first floor: 700 Main Street #118 Kerrville, TX 78028  
Telephone: (830) 792-2203 FAX: (830) 792-2204  
Email: [mkbaker@co.kerr.tx.us](mailto:mkbaker@co.kerr.tx.us)

**General Information**

The Kerr County Veterans Service Officer is responsible for assisting Armed Forces Veterans and their dependents; who reside in Kerr County, of the legal benefits available to them under U. S. Federal and State laws.

The Veterans Service Officer reports to the Commissioners Court,  
And performs duties under the technical Guidelines; established by the  
Texas Veterans Commission and Federal Law under C.F.R. 38.

**There is no charge for our services.**

**This office does not adjudicate claims.**

**Some of the Programs I can assist you with include:**

<b><u>Service Connected Compensation</u></b>	<b><u>Non-Service Connected Pension</u></b>
<b><u>Widow’s Benefits</u></b>	<b><u>Burial Benefits</u></b>
<b><u>Education Benefits</u></b>	<b><u>Obtaining Military Records</u></b>
<b><u>Hospital / Outpatient Benefits</u></b>	<b><u>Other Local Assistance Information</u></b>
<b><u>Requesting and Registering DD-214 or other Discharge documents</u></b>	

**Miscellaneous:** Property tax exemptions for Service Connected Disabled Veterans; Applying for special license plates; Obtaining Certificate of Eligibility for Home Loan;



**SUPPORTING OUR KERR COUNTY VETERANS**

**LOCAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS**

**&**

**ARMED SERVICES**

