



# **Association of Army Dentistry (AAD)**

## **Fall 2019 Newsletter**

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Each fall we observe the national holiday honoring the service of all military veterans. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed by Congress, which moved the celebration to the fourth Monday in October. The law went into effect in 1971, but in 1975 President Gerald Ford returned Veterans Day to November 11th, due to the important historical significance of the date. Great Britain, France, Australia, and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World War I and World War II on or near November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Here are some facts about the veteran population of the United States as of 2018:

- 16.1 million living veterans served during at least one war.
- 6 million veterans served in peacetime.
- 2 million veterans are women.
- 7 million veterans served during the Vietnam War.
- 5.5 million veterans served during the Persian Gulf War.
- Of the 16 million Americans who served during WWII, about 495,000 are still alive. More than 350 of these veterans die every day.
- 2 million veterans served during the Korean War.
- The VA health care system had 54 hospitals in 1930. Since then it has expanded to include 171 medical centers, more than 350 outpatient, community, and outreach clinics, 126 nursing home care units, and 35 live-in care facilities for injured or disable vets.

Thank you and all veterans for your service and the sacrifices you made for our nation.

Ron  
Ronald J. Lambert, COL, USA (Ret)  
President and Chairman, Board of Directors

# Membership

The mentorship committee, chaired by Richard Shipley, COL, USA, Ret, recently completed work on their project to assist transitioning dental professionals. Below is a note from COL Shipley:

In an effort to remain relevant to all Army dentists, active and retired/separated, our association has created a section on our website that is designed to assist you as you transition from active duty to retired/REFRAD status or possibly from one civilian career field to another. Go to our website at <https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/career-transition-assistance/> and you will find a pull down menu titled **Career Transition Assistance** with career tracks within the fields of clinical dentistry and non-clinical dentistry. There is information to assist the transition to private or group practice, the Guard and Reserve (COMPO 2&3), teaching/education, the Veterans Administration (VA), Government Service (GS), and non-clinical fields as well. Within each field, we have listed at least one successful Point of Contact who you may contact for further information. We hope you will find this information useful for you personally, and for others you may know who are preparing to make a career transition. Let us know if you find this information helpful or if you would like us to include any additional information. Good luck!

The Dental Corps AMEDD Museum Sculpture Committee is currently in the concept and design phase of the project to honor and commemorate the contributions of the U.S. Army Dental Corps in providing support to our Soldiers during past, present, and future campaigns at the AMEDD Museum at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. The letter for approval of the project has been approved by the Board of Directors at the AMEDD Museum Foundation and the AMEDD Center and School and is currently working its way through TRADOC and the Department of Army. Below is a note from Mike Rethman, COL, USA, Ret, Chair of the Committee, and Theresa Gonzales, COL, USA, Ret.

"The Association of Army Dentistry's long awaited effort to install a Dental Corps memorial at the AMEDD museum is well underway. A number of lines of effort have converged to produce a fitting monument that will recognize all members of the Army oral health care team and their contributions.

The outdoor site at the AMEDD Museum has been selected and reserved. The approval process through the various approval agencies proceeds. The project will proceed in phases. Phase I, consisting of the design of the cast bronze portion depicting a dental officer, an enlisted assistant and a military patient in a field environment, is well along. An octagonal design for the pediment upon which sculpture will rest has been decided. Phase II will include smaller installations, perhaps etched stone tablets that can be inserted into the pediment to illustrate in fine detail the many aspects of the Dental Corps mission throughout its laudable history.

We estimate the total cost of the memorial will be approximately \$200,000. Please consider a tax deductible gift to fund this Dental Corps initiative. We encourage all members of AAD to donate. Pledges of \$2500 or more will earn the donor a "Founder's Circle" designation. Pledges of \$5,000 or more will convey to the donor a "President's Circle" designation. Those who donate will be recognized appropriately -- with details published as our planning and execution strategy matures. By donating an early stage of the project, you can assure the progress to memorialize the Army Dental Corps at the AMEDD museum will continue unabated. The Association will establish a separate donation tab on our website once the project is approved by DA for donations or they can be mailed to our treasurer at

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## **Active Component News**

With the summer transition, the new Corps Specific Branch Proponent Officer is COL David Ferguson. MAJ Alyson Lasater now serves as the Executive Fellow at Office of the Chief, US Army Dental Corps, Joint Base San Antonio and functions as the primary liaison with the Association of Army Dentistry. The June, July and August 2019 editions of *The Dental Corps Bulletin*, were received from the Corps Chiefs office and have been added to our website since our last newsletter. Each of the Bulletins is placed on our website when received.

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/the-dental-corps-bulletin-2/>

### **Army Surgeon General**

R. Scott Dingle, MG, MSC, became acting Surgeon General of the Army after the July 19, 2019 retirement of LTG Nadja Y. West. He was nominated for promotion to lieutenant general and permanent assignment as the 45<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General of the Army on July 22, 2019, and confirmed by the Senate on September 26, 2019. MG Dingle will be promoted by the Chief of Staff of the Army, GEN James C. McConville on 17 October, 2019, at 1600 hours at Fort Myer Memorial Chapel.

# Reserve Components News

This month's reserve component news features an article by Mark Bodenheim, COL, USA, Ret. Many of you had the great fortune to have worked with Mark as he worked tirelessly to standardize and improve the dental readiness of our Soldiers.

## **Mark Bodenheim, COL, USA, Ret**

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself to those members who do not know me and best wishes to my Active and USAR Army Dental Corps colleagues during my 39 year service within Army dentistry. In 1973, I accepted an HPSP scholarship to Ohio State's dental school followed by my first assignment in 1976 at Ft. Gordon, where in 1978 I was appointed to manage the dental readiness center for the post cadre. I left the active Army in 1981 and joined the USAR 3299th Dental Service Detachment, then the largest USAR dental unit (55 dentists and 100 enlisted). Ft. Benning DENTAC was our backfill mission, and most personnel thought we would be mobilized if there was a WWII. In the meantime, I managed a private group practice in Atlanta and in 1986 became the public health District 02 dental director managing 13 clinics in NE Georgia. This combination of military, private sector and public health experiences would be invaluable in my future Army career.

In August 1990, my USAR unit was mobilized to the Ft. Benning DENTAC and dispersed to mobilization sites throughout CONUS. Assigned to Ft. Sam Houston, I participated in Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP); was assigned to manage the FSH DENTAC First Term Dental Readiness program; and learned about mobilization planning through colleagues at the Dental Directorate. In after action reports I noted the need for standardization of dental SRPs; a more efficient use of USAR dental personnel (10% of the 3299<sup>th</sup> dentists lost their practices); and that 90% of the Reserve Components (ARNG and USAR) were not dental ready. My USAR unit was disbanded in 1995 (replaced by MSUs) and I was asked by a former Dental Directorate officer to accept the SE Regional Dental Command IMA commander position. Here I initiated using USAR dental units to perform their AT during the summer months to support dental readiness of RC troops. I actively engaged with the SE Regional Medical Command mobilization personnel on SRP planning. Over the next 17 years I advanced into the IMA Dental Command Chief of Staff, the IMA Dental Commander and the IMA to the Dental Corps Chief positions.

I mobilized in 2003 telling my wife Mary that I would return in three months. That turned into a 9 year tour of duty working on RC mobilization issues under 6 DENCOM commanders and 4 Dental Corps Chiefs. I coined a phrase, "reduce

the number of moving parts” in developing the 2008 MEM (Mass Event Module) electronic exam record and the 2010 RC electronic SRP (the green-red screen). My only regret is that it took so long to get the three Army components to agree on protocols and connect their digital systems. In 2008, COL Jim Honey and I developed the Army Selected Reserve Dental Readiness System (ASDRS) which paid for year round exams and Class 3 care for RC Soldiers. In 2008 I testified before a House Armed Services Subcommittee on the ASDRS. Good bipartisan committee members and their staff got this common sense legislation passed. The ASDRS reduced the number of RC Soldier NO GOs at mobilization sites from 90% in 2003 to 10% by 2010. In 2011, I developed the Dental Readiness Information Center (DRIC). RC individual Soldiers and commanders could access mobilization dental requirements and care programs. I was invited to present the history and process of the electronic dental SRP at the annual IMA dental meeting in Jan 2019. My goal all along was to produce systems that did not require reinventing the wheel the next time mobilizations occur except for upgrades with newer digital technology.

Mary and I reside in West Central Florida about 7 miles east of Crystal River, FL which is famous for its manatee sanctuary (“swim with the manatees”). We enjoy the rolling hills and natural beauty while we play golf on the highest elevation golf course in Florida (260 feet above sea level). Two former IMAs (Pete Tan and Rich Ready) have moved here upon their own retirement search without knowing we lived here. Mary and I belong to the local USA Spirit of Citrus ballroom dance club and other USA dance clubs are in the area. Our club has performed for county Halloween charity balls, worked with mentally challenged adults on learning dancing, and performed for Alzheimer and nursing home patients. The common denominator- the human instinct enjoys music and dance which promotes the mind “to perk up”. Mary’s mother, a 97 year old WWII Veteran, lives about a mile away from us and our children and two grandchildren are in Atlanta. We currently travel overseas twice a year. But not all is fun and games in the retirement world because there is work that needs to be done too. I am active as the Board of Trustees chairman, a lay reader, and a substitute Sunday service pastor of Hernando United Methodist Church.

I am a Life Member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and currently the MOAA Citrus County Chapter president. MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers (350,000 members) which represents all career, former and retired service members on Capitol Hill. I invite all officers to join the national MOAA organization (you can do that at no cost now) to have someone representing you at the national level on compensation, benefit and legislative matters.

MOAA recently was successful in getting the House to pass their version of the FY2020 defense bill to include directing DoD to perform more studies on the proposed reduction of 18,000 medical billets. I met with our district's Congressman to educate his staff on the retiree, combat readiness and recruitment issues with the DoD proposal. MOAA's influence on Congress 4 years ago eliminated a 1% reduction in your COLA. Multiply that 1% reduction over your retired years and it equals tens of thousands of dollars over a retired career. If you don't join organizations like MOAA, things you cherish will disappear over time.

Citrus County has one of the largest Veteran populations (20,000) per capita in the U.S. Locally, our chapter educates the public on Veterans issues before our County Board of Commissioners. As an example, the county Veterans Service Officer position had become a revolving door due to its low salary. Veterans groups for 10 years had complained about this issue but never presented research on the subject. In Nov 2018, I presented to the board a detailed analysis of the amount of retired pay and VA disability benefits brought into our county by Veterans. They voted to approve a 25% salary increase for that position once they learned Veterans brought over \$100M of income annually to the county. I also manage the Veterans in the Classroom (VITC) program where Veterans give presentations on military service to over 7000 children during the two weeks prior to Veterans Day.

Best wishes to all and thank you for this opportunity to say hello. As the MOAA motto states, "Never Stop Serving".

Mark and Mary Bodenheim



## Healthcare Corner

The following article appeared in the October 2019 edition of *Military Officer*.

The four-week window for TRICARE Prime and Select beneficiaries and for retirees who last year enrolled in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) to review their health care needs for 2020 is rapidly approaching. Unless you experience a qualifying life event (e.g., marriage, divorce, birth of a child, or retirement from active duty, etc.), open season is your only opportunity to enroll in or make a change to your enrollment for the participating programs.

Open season will run from November 11 – December 9. During that window, TRICARE Prime and Select enrollees have the opportunity to move between the two programs in order to ensure that they have the best coverage for next year. Retirees who enrolled in FEDVIP for 2019 dental and vision coverage will also have the opportunity to review carrier options.

For the 2020 benefit year from January 1 – December 31, retirees and their family members, along with active duty family members enrolled in a TRICARE health plan, might qualify for FEDVIP vision coverage. FEDVIP offers ten dental and four vision carriers.



To retain your TRICARE Prime or Select coverage or if you want to retain your current FEDVIP coverage, no action is required during open season. Open season provides an opportunity to decide whether another coverage type would better suit your health care needs in the coming year. However, you must take action to initiate dental or vision coverage through FEDVIP if not already enrolled.

[https://tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/10\\_10\\_19\\_2019/TRICARE\\_Open\\_Season\\_Federal\\_Benefits\\_Open\\_Season\\_Starts\\_Next\\_Month](https://tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/10_10_19_2019/TRICARE_Open_Season_Federal_Benefits_Open_Season_Starts_Next_Month)

To begin preparing for changes to your vision and dental benefits, visit [www.tricare.benefeds.com](http://www.tricare.benefeds.com)

## Gold Star Mother's Day

Gold Star Mother's Day, also known as National Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day, was recently observed. It honors the mothers and families of fallen military service members on the last Sunday of September each year. The following article appeared in *Soldier Today Magazine*.

The observance of Gold Star Mother's Day began during World War I and was created to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter who served our country in the United States Armed Forces. A gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving the United States Armed Forces.

### GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY HISTORY

On June 23, 1936, a joint congressional resolution designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day, which has been proclaimed annually by each president. In 2011, President Barack Obama amended the day to "Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day."

The history of National Gold Star Mother's Day and their families begins with a young country thrown into the midst of a great war. Army Captain Robert L. Queissner, whose two sons were serving on the front line during World War I, created what is now called the Service Flag. The flag was displayed with a blue star to represent a child serving in the military during times of war or hostilities. When a service member died, families stitched a gold star over the blue star.

**American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.**, was incorporated in 1929 and obtained a federal charter from the United States Congress. It began in the Washington, D.C., area and soon expanded to include affiliated groups throughout the United States. An ocean often divided families from their deceased sons, as was the case of the founder of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. organization, Grace Darling Seibold. While waiting for confirmation of her son's death, she visited the VA hospital almost daily, volunteering her services in the process.



Afterward, she continued to visit the hospital and formed the organization that unites Gold Star mothers still today.

**“Gold Star mothers and families know the immeasurable cost of fighting for the ideals we believe in, and they know the pride that comes with exemplary service to America.” President Barack Obama ~ September 23, 2011 ~ Presidential Proclamation**

## In Memoriam

Floyd W. Baker, MG, USA, Ret, died on 18 July 2019 at the age of 92. An Army Medical Corps officer, MG Baker retired in 1986 after 41 years of distinguished military service.

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/MG%20Floyd%20W.%20Baker%20%205-25-1927%20-%20-%207-18-2019.pdf>

Ronald D. Woody, COL, USA, Ret, passed away on 26 August, 2019, at the age of 81. COL Woody had a distinguished 21 – year Army career, followed by 34 years as a Tenured Professor and Director of Graduate Prosthodontics and Implant Dentistry at Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, Texas.

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Ronald%20Dixon%20Woody%2C%20COL%2C%20USA%2C%20Ret%2C%20January%205%2C%201938%20-%20August%2026%2C%202019.pdf>

Simon Civjan, COL, USA, Retired.

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Simon%20Civjan%2C%20COL%2C%20Ret%205-25-1920%20-%20-%205-24-2018.pdf>

Ralph Civjan, COL, USA, Ret, shared the obituary of his father, Simon Civjan, COL, USA, Ret, who died on 24 May 2018, at the age of 97. COL Simon Civjan retired in 1979 after 30 years of service to his country as an enlisted Soldier and as a dental officer. Ralph shared the following two stories about his father’s research at USAIDR.

1. During the Vietnam War there was great interest in developing a good temporary restorative material for battlefield dental emergencies. All that was available at the time was zinc-oxide eugenol. ZOE is a great obtundent, but does not hold up well. My father did research into various

things to mix with ZOE to make it more durable. He published the following 2 articles:

*a. Characterization of Zinc Oxide-Eugenol Cements Reinforced with Acrylic Resin*

Simon Civjan, Eugene F. Huget, George Wolfhard, Published January 1, 1972 in the *Journal of Dental Research*

*b. Further Studies of Resin-Modified Temporary Restorative Materials*

Simon Civjan, Eugene F. Huget, Laszlo B. De Simon, Thomas V. Rapheld, Published January 1, 1973 in the *Journal of Dental Research*

Not long after the 2 articles were published, Caulk asked if they could tour his research facilities at Walter Reed. He, of course, was most proud to show off his latest research. Shortly after the tour, Caulk came out with IRM.

IRM initially came out in 3 patriotic colors...Red, White and Blue...for the military. The 3 colors intended usage was as follows: 1 (probably white) signified all decay had been removed; 2nd (probably red) signified that a direct pulp cap had been done; and, 3rd that not all caries had been removed.

In later life my father could not believe that IRM was still being used in dentistry.

2. My father was given a new material by the Navy to test and evaluate to determine if there might be any medical applications:

Potential Applications of Certain Nickel-Titanium (Nitinol) Alloys

Simon Civjan, Eugene F. Huget, Laszlo B. DeSimon ,

Published January 1, 1975, the *Journal of Dental Research*

"The mechanical behavior ("shape memory") associated with martensitic solid-state transformation in nearly equiatomic Ni-Ti alloy (55-Nitinol) has been studied. Potential dental and medical applications for 55-Nitinol (~55% Ni, 1.5% Co, balance Ti, by weight) and for 60-Nitinol (~60% Ni, by weight) have been suggested."

One of the usages for dentistry he saw and suggested was for use in orthodontics!

Obituaries, organized by year of death, can be accessed at the following link on the Association of Army Dentistry's webpage:

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/about/in-memoriam/?loggedout=true>

We post the obituaries that are brought to our attention; if there are others that you wish to share on our website, please forward them to the AAD.

## **Conclusion:**

The AAD would like to thank each of you for your continued membership and support of our charitable mission. If anyone has an interest in serving on our board of directors or assisting in another capacity, please contact me. Best wishes for an enjoyable and productive fall.

Ron

## **AAD Officers**

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