



IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 19
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

Soldier-Athletes Shine at Paralympic Games

4

Vice Chief Lauds Guard's Contributions

5

Government Affairs

Continuing Resolution Anticipated

7



Chapter Highlights

MG William F. Dean
George Washington

8

Remembering Sept. 11



Members of the Association of the U.S. Army staff, led by retired Gen. Bob Brown, left, AUSA's executive vice president, mark the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks at the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in Virginia. Brown was joined by, from left to right, retired Col. John Davies, Suzanne McCollum and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey. **See story on Page 3.** (AUSA PHOTO)

Vaccinations required for AUSA 2021

People attending the Association of the U.S. Army's 2021 Annual Meeting and Exposition must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have tested negative within the previous 72 hours, the association announced Sept. 3.

The 2021 Annual Meeting and Exposition will be held Oct. 11–13 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

Registration and housing registration are open.

The new COVID guidelines are part of the association's efforts to have a safe in-person event that follows recommendations from the convention center, the District of Columbia government and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In addition to proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test, masks will be required regardless of vaccination status while indoors except while eating and drinking.

"We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the in-person AUSA Annual Meeting," AUSA officials said in a statement. "The health and safety of attendees, presenters, exhibitors, staff and the local community continue to be our top priorities as we count down to this year's important event."

Prior to the Annual Meeting, attendees will be asked to upload proof that full vaccination was completed at least 14 days prior to arriving in Washington, D.C.

Alternatively, attendees can supply

negative results from a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of your first day on-site at the event.

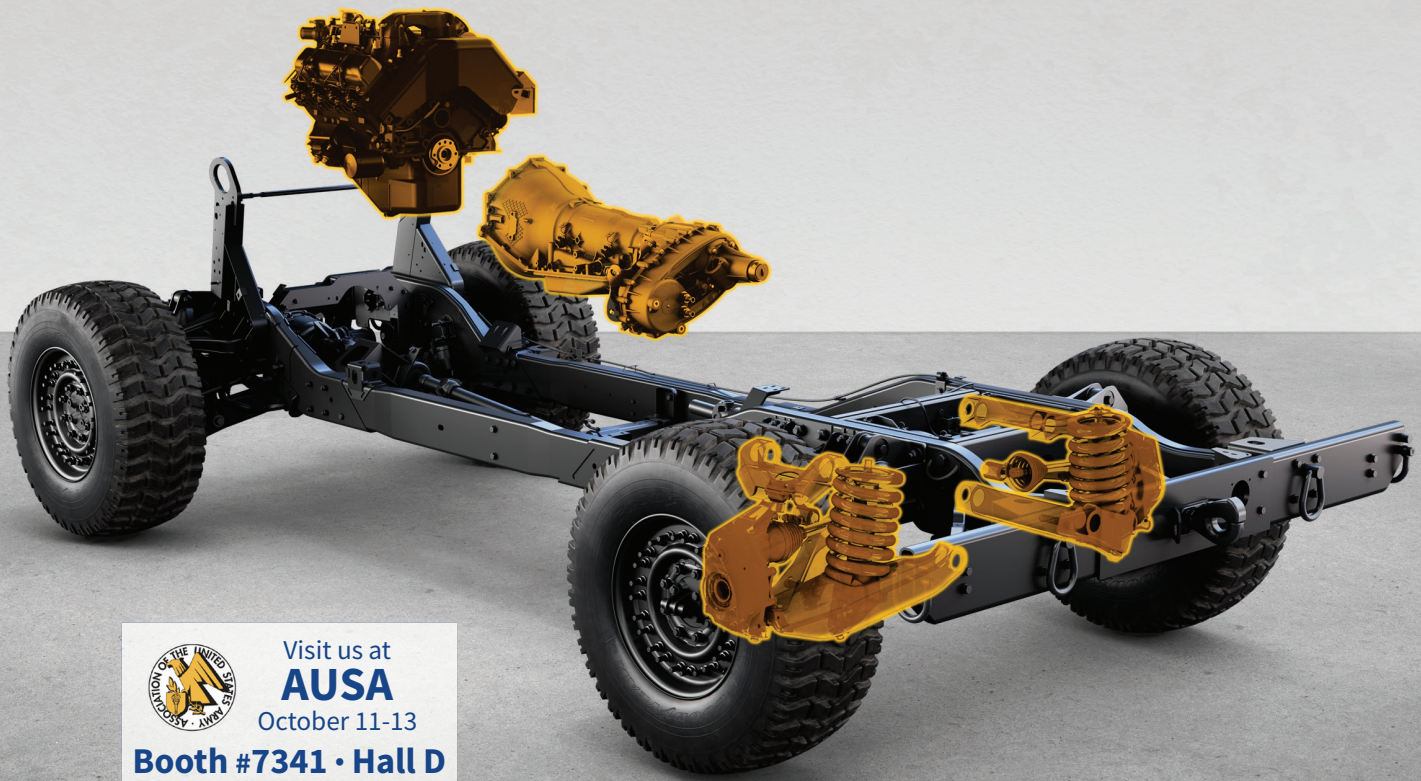
The report must be issued by a medical clinic, agency or pharmacy. Self-tests will not be accepted.

A prior COVID-19 diagnosis or antibody tests are not accepted for entry into the event.

For the purposes of entry to the AUSA Annual Meeting, a person is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines or any World Health Organization approved vaccine for international participants, or 14 days after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

See Annual Meeting, Page 3

TRANSFORMING PERFORMANCE THAT'S READY TODAY



Visit us at
AUSA
October 11-13

Booth #7341 • Hall D

AUTOMOTIVE ENHANCEMENTS

Committed to continuous improvement, AM General delivers the best power-to-weight ratio among all light tactical vehicles. Our automotive enhancements include an improved powertrain system for stability and mobility.

250

HORSEPOWER

500

FT-LB TORQUE

**ELECTRONIC
STABILITY
CONTROL**

**ANTI-LOCK
BRAKING
SYSTEM**

UP TO
40%
FUEL
EFFICIENCY
SAVINGS

UP TO
50%
MORE
SUSPENSION
TRAVEL



www.amgeneral.com

AUSA team honors the fallen at Pentagon 9/11 memorial

Members of the Association of the U.S. Army's headquarters staff, led by retired Gen. Bob Brown, the association's executive vice president, marked the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks by laying a wreath at the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in Virginia.

"The Association of the U.S. Army is honored to have the opportunity to recognize our fallen heroes on the 20th anniversary of 9/11," said Brown, who will become AUSA's president and CEO on Oct. 1.

The ceremony Wednesday was part of the "Wreaths of Remembrance" events at the Pentagon Memorial, which is currently closed to the public. All wreaths will remain on display until Sept. 11.

"We were proud to have been joined by two of our AUSA teammates who were in the Pentagon during the attack—retired Col. John Davies and Suzanne McCollum," Brown said.

Davies, AUSA's membership director, was the deputy director of military personnel management in the Army personnel directorate in 2001.

McCollum, who is AUSA's registrar, at the time worked in the Pentagon as an Army civilian.

Also representing AUSA was retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, the association's vice president of NCO and Soldier Programs.



Members of AUSA's headquarters staff, led by retired Gen. Bob Brown, second from left, tour the Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. (AUSA PHOTO)

At 9:37 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the west side of the Pentagon, shortly after two hijacked planes crashed into the World Trade Center in New York.

United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, at 10:03 a.m. after passengers tried to retake the plane.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed in the attacks launched by al-Qaida, the militant group founded by Osama bin Laden, and they led to the longest war in American history.

"The attacks on September 11, 2001,

reminded us of the true strength of our Nation and our military," Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville said in an August message to the force. "The sacrifices you've made, have and will be a lasting legacy of honor."

The Pentagon Memorial, which opened to the public on Sept. 11, 2008, consists of a park with 184 benches—one for each person killed in the Pentagon attack.

"We remain committed to honoring the fallen and never forgetting the sacrifices made for our freedom," Brown said.

Annual Meeting

From Page 1

Registered attendees will receive an email with details on how documents may be uploaded.

If you haven't registered for the Annual Meeting, the upload process is now part of the online registration process.

On-site registration—with the required proof—will be allowed but could result in delays.

There will be no exceptions to the requirement to be fully vaccinated or have a negative test.

Mask Requirement

The District of Columbia has announced that as of July 31, everyone over the age of 2 must wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Participants at the in-person AUSA Annual Meeting will be required to wear masks at all times, except when actively eating or drinking.

Masks cannot include vents or valves, and gaiters, bandanas and scarves are not permitted.

Food and Beverage

The convention center is now man-

dating that all food and beverage be consumed sitting down or standing at a table. Food and beverage cannot be consumed while moving around the center.

"We will continue to evaluate and expand our COVID-19 protocols as best practices and applicable legal requirements evolve and will send updates, so you know what to expect when you arrive in D.C.," AUSA officials said.

For more information or to register for the 2021 Annual Meeting, click here.

Army Paralympians break records, win medals at Tokyo games

From retired Maj. Shawn Morelli's first medal for Team USA in track cycling to Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Marks' record-breaking gold medal performance, soldier-athletes shone at the Tokyo Paralympics.

Three active-duty soldiers and at least 16 veterans from across the services represented Team USA at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo, which concluded Sept. 5.

In total, Team USA's active-duty or former service members brought home nine medals.

Morelli, who served as an Army engineer officer, took silver in the 3,000-meter C4 individual pursuit cycling event and gold in the women's C4 time trial.

"Thank you all who got me here," Morelli said after winning gold Aug. 31.

"Today was a hard fought day filled with adversity," Morelli wrote on Twitter after taking silver Aug. 25. "I am grateful to be able to p[er]form and come home with Silver. Thank you to all my friends, family, coaches and sponsors."

Retired Staff Sgt. Freddie De Los Santos won a bronze medal in the mixed cycling team relay.

"Cycling has become my coping mechanism to deal with my anxiety, my PTSD. So, that sense, it has given me a new way of life," De Los Santos told *VeloNews*. "It has been the most rewarding experience to be able to compete at this level, despite my disability."

Staff Sgts. John Joss and Kevin Nguyen also represented the U.S. and the Army through the World Class Athlete Program. In the mixed 50-meter rifle prone event Sept. 4, Nguyen placed 20th and Joss placed 29th, according to Olympic results.

Marks, a trailblazer as the Army's first Paralympic swimmer in the service's elite World Class Athlete Pro-



Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Marks displays her gold medal after breaking the world record in the women's 100-meter backstroke by two seconds. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

gram, performed in all her events and accounted for one-third of the medals service members won during the Paralympics.

Marks, who won a gold and a bronze in the 2016 Paralympics, broke the world record in the women's 100-meter backstroke by two seconds on her way to the gold medal in Tokyo.

She also won the silver medal in the 50-meter freestyle and the bronze in the 50-meter butterfly.

Maj. Nathaniel Garcia, who photographed Marks as she took in her gold medal performance, celebrated her win on Instagram.

"Four years of hard work, blood, sweat and tears captured in one moment," he wrote. "You have made your country proud."

"Thank you to everyone in my corner," Marks wrote in an Instagram post after she won bronze in the 50-meter butterfly. "You'll never understand how impossible these moments would be without you."

AUSAExtra

Voice for the Army –
Support For the Soldier

Gen. Carter F. Ham, USA, Ret.
President and CEO, AUSA

Lt. Gen. Guy C. Swan III, USA, Ret.
Vice President, Education, AUSA

Luc Dunn
Editor

Desiree Hurlocker
Advertising Manager

Advertising Information Contact:
Fox Associates Inc.
116 W. Kinzie St. • Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: 800-440-0231
Email: adinfo.rmy@foxrep.com

ARTICLES. Articles appearing in AUSA Extra do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the officers or members of the Council of Trustees of AUSA, or its editors. Articles are expressions of personal opinion and should not be interpreted as reflecting the official opinion of the Department of Defense nor of any branch, command, installation or agency of the Department of Defense. The publication assumes no responsibility for any unsolicited material. Email: extra@ausa.org

ADVERTISING. Neither AUSA Extra, nor its publisher, the Association of the United States Army, makes any representations, warranties or endorsements as to the truth and accuracy of the advertisements appearing herein, and no such representations, warranties or endorsements should be implied or inferred from the appearance of the advertisements in the publication. The advertisers are solely responsible for the contents of such advertisements.

SPECIAL RATES. Individual membership fees payable in advance are \$30 for two years, \$50 for five years, and \$400 for Life Membership. A discounted rate of \$10 for two years is available to members in the ranks of E-1 through E-4, and for service academy and ROTC cadets and OCS candidates. More information is available at our website www.ausa.org; or by emailing membersupport@ausa.org, phoning 855-246-6269, or mailing Fulfillment Manager, P.O. Box 101560, Arlington, VA 22210-0860.

PERK OF THE WEEK



GE APPLIANCES STORE

AUSA members already receive exclusive discounts on GE, Monogram, Café, Hotpoint and Haier products. Now, take advantage of the GE Labor Day sale and get free delivery on orders over \$299 and additional savings on select appliances through Sept. 15. Plus, shop the new suite of small appliances, while supplies last. See www.ausa.org/ge for details.

Vice chief: National Guard ‘indispensable’ to future force

The National Guard will continue to be “indispensable” as the Army modernizes and readies itself against future threats, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Joseph Martin said.

“I’ve been around the block a few times, and I’ve served with National Guard service members [on] multiple occasions,” Martin said. “So, I hope you believe me when I say that based on my experiences, I consider you to be indispensable.”

In the future, the Army’s competitors will test it in unprecedented ways, Martin said Aug. 30 during a keynote address at the National Guard Association of the United States’ General Conference.

The military “will be contested in every domain—think space, air, sea, land, cyber information—all will be in competition,” he said. “And if we’re to be successful in this environment,



Soldiers with the Louisiana National Guard prepare their vehicles for operations in New Orleans prior to the arrival of Hurricane Ida. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. DUNCAN FOOTE)

the Total Army must transform just as it did 40 years ago. This transformation is not about fighting the last war better, it’s about winning the next one.”

Martin identified several challenges the Army is responding to including suicide, sexual assault and harassment and extremism.

See **Martin**, Page 6

REDUCE FOOTPRINT

Maximize existing storage space with Spacesaver mobile solutions.



» UWR® ON HIGH-DENSITY MOBILE SYSTEM



Storage Solved®

readyandsecure.com

Martin

From Page 5

“We are attacking this, but it takes a team of teams,” he said.

“These harmful behaviors of sexual assault, sexual harassment, racism, extremism and suicide are eroding the foundation of our profession and could potentially become an existential threat to us all,” Martin said. “Because if people don’t want to serve in the Army, or any service for that matter, that’s existential for us.”

Zeroing in on the issue of suicide among soldiers, Martin said that there is still more work to do.

“Ladies and gentlemen, we lost 321 soldiers [in the] total force last year to death by suicide,” he said. “That’s a small battalion, and every one of them has got a story.”

When it comes to issues like sexual assault and other challenges, Martin said the Army plans to survey soldiers to proactively identify areas of



Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Joseph Martin, left, speaks with soldiers during a visit to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. (U.S. ARMY/SPC. RHIANNA BALLENGER)

improvement in an effort to get ahead of any issues and having to hold them accountable after the fact.

“I’m convinced that’s the approach that we’ve got to take because then you start developing the soldier as an individual, and you get ahead of the behaviors [before] it’s too late,”

he said.

Moving forward, the Army will continue to transform and adapt, Martin said.

“There is no magical elixir, no silver bullet that can promise success in war,” Martin said. “This is the heart of our transformation.”

LISTEN. LEARN. LEAD.



Tune-in at:

PODCAST.AUSA.ORG



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

AUSA pushes for on-time defense authorization, funding

By Mark Haaland

Welcome to September. School is back in session, summer is over, and Congress returns to continue its work to pass legislation supporting the administration's infrastructure priorities.

Unfortunately, the Association of the U.S. Army does not anticipate that lawmakers will find time to pass the annual legislation to authorize and fund DoD or other federal agencies by the Oct. 1 start of the new fiscal year, even though it is critical for the functioning of the federal government.

We fully expect Congress to pass a continuing resolution, which is a temporary measure to fund the government at fiscal year 2021 levels.

Once the new fiscal year begins, passing the annual appropriations bill or another continuing resolution will be essential to avoid a government shutdown.

Government Affairs

Neither the House nor Senate has passed its version of the defense appropriations bill, so we are projecting that a continuing resolution will be required through October and most likely November, before Congress will be able to pass a defense appropriations bill for the president's signature.

The challenge with continuing resolutions is they harm readiness and slow modernization. These stopgap measures are an inefficient and costly way to run the government and the military.

Each year, AUSA's primary recommendation for Congress is to pass the National Defense Authorization Act and defense appropriations bill before the new fiscal year begins.

AUSA joins The Military Coalition, a group of 35 military, veterans and uniformed services organizations, in advocating for this critical legislation with Congress.

Passing on-time authorizations



Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville speaks during a breakfast for congressional staffers at the 2019 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition. (AUSA PHOTO)

and appropriations are among the simplest and most important (and yet most challenging) actions that Congress can take on an annual basis to maintain and grow our national security.

In August, AUSA joined The Military Coalition in advocating for three legislative measures that would provide Work Opportunity Tax Credits, a federal tax credit available to employers for hiring individuals from certain groups who have consistently faced significant barriers to employment.



To start fiscal 2022, AUSA expects Congress to pass a continuing resolution, which is a temporary measure to fund the government at the previous fiscal year's levels. (ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PHOTO)

If passed, these measures would support military spouse and veteran employment and caregiving for ill family members. They will not completely solve the challenges they seek to address, but these measures will be a step in the right direction.

As we look forward to the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition, scheduled for Oct. 11–13, we are working with the Army to host a breakfast for senior Army leaders and congressional staffers.

Army Secretary Christine Wormuth and Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville are slated to speak during the event.

Following the breakfast, staffers will be invited to visit defense industry displays in the exhibit halls and meet with leaders from the private sector.

If you attend this year's annual meeting, we welcome you to stop by and visit with your AUSA Government Affairs team.

We will be available in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, and we welcome and appreciate your feedback and insights.

Mark Haaland is AUSA's Government Affairs Director.

Retired senior NCO, AUSA member honored at MLB game

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Theodore Dewitt, a member of the Association of the U.S. Army's MG William F. Dean chapter in Pleasanton, California, was recently honored at Chicago's Wrigley Field during a Major League Baseball game.

Dewitt, who retired Aug. 14, was recognized for his 36-year military career that included deployments to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, where he served as the command sergeant major of the 335th Signal Command (Theater) and the senior NCO of the Theater Strategic and Tactical Network.

MG William F. Dean

His final assignment was as command sergeant major of the Army Reserve's 85th Support Command.

"I could not say that I have met a more patriotic group of Americans than I did at that game," Dewitt said in an Army press release. "I mean, it really rocked my soul, and it made me



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Theodore Dewitt waves to the crowd at Wrigley Field, Chicago, during an Aug. 12 baseball game. (U.S. ARMY/CAPT. MICHAEL ARIOLA)

appreciate what I do every day serving this country and made me prouder to be a soldier."

He received a standing ovation from the crowd during the fourth inning of the Aug. 12 game between the Chi-

cago Cubs and Milwaukee Brewers.

"The outpouring of support and appreciation for our military service members from the Cubs and their fans is absolutely amazing," Dewitt said.

AUSA member named Virginia Army Reserve Ambassador

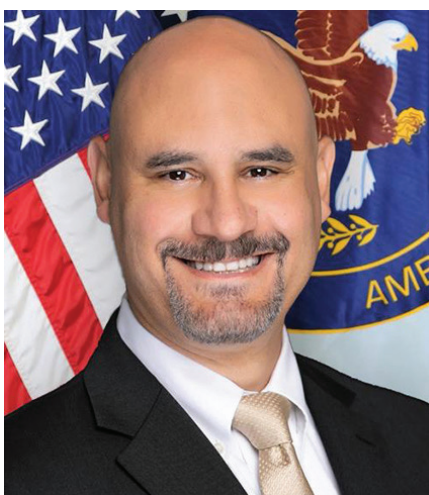
A member of the Association of the U.S. Army's George Washington chapter was recently confirmed as an Army Reserve Ambassador for Virginia.

Maj. Gen. Rod Faulk, commanding general of the Army Reserve's 99th Readiness Division, confirmed the appointment of retired Lt. Col. Michael Buscher made by Army Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels.

Buscher is the chief growth officer for BigBear.ai, which provides artificial intelligence and machine learning-enabled technology to the government and private sector, according to an Army press release.

George Washington

He retired from the Army Reserve in 2017 after 30 years of service. He also served for almost a decade as a senior operations officer at the Cen-



Michael Buscher. (COURTESY PHOTO)

tral Intelligence Agency during his military career.

While in uniform, Buscher deployed with Task Force 145 to Baghdad, Iraq, and served on two separate Joint Terrorism Task Forces.

In addition to AUSA, Buscher is a member of the Reserve Organization of America, the Harvard National Security and Law Association, and the National Defense Industrial Association.

Established in 1998, the ambassador program promotes awareness and serves to educate states and communities to foster support for the Army Reserve.

Similar to civilian aides to the secretary of the Army, ambassadors represent the chief of the Army Reserve and provide feedback on plans, programs and needs of service members and families. While not all ambassadors have military experience, many are retired officers or senior noncommissioned officers.

For more information about the Army Reserve Ambassador program, click [here](https://www.ausa.org).

CONNECTIVITY FOR **SOLDIER MODERNIZATION**



CONNECTIVITY SOLUTIONS

DESIGNED TO SOLVE ARMY
SOLDIER MODERNIZATION
CHALLENGES

 **AUSA 2021**
ANNUAL MEETING & EXPOSITION

BOOTH 8249

fischer[®]
CONNECTORS

fischerconnectors.com