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Tomb sentinels with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) conduct a changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. (AUSA PHOTO)

Tomb site opens to public for centennial

For the first time in nearly a century, members of the public will be able to walk on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Plaza and lay flowers to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sacred site.

In honor of the centennial, which will be marked on Nov. 11, the public will have the opportunity to lay flowers in front of the tomb on Nov. 9–10.

Registration is required here.

“This is a rare opportunity for the public to walk next to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a privilege otherwise given only to the sentinels of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, ‘The Old Guard,’” according to an Arlington National Cemetery press release.

Since Nov. 11, 1921, the tomb has been the resting place for one of America’s unidentified World War I

service members, and additional unknowns were added in 1958 and 1984.

It has been under the constant watch of soldiers since July 1937.

In addition to the flower laying ceremony, there will be a 21-gun salute on Nov. 9 and a wreath ceremony and joint flyover on Nov. 11.

For those who are unable to attend in person, the Arlington National Cemetery has a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier exhibit that can be viewed virtually.

A group of nonprofit organizations, led by the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Foundation, is working to organize local commemorations of the centennial.

For a list of events, click here.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

continues to inspire Americans to reflect on our fundamental values, said Karen Durham-Aguilera, executive director of the Office of Army Cemeteries.

“As the stewards of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, it’s our honor to lead the centennial commemoration of this site,” Durham-Aguilera said. “The Tomb has served as the heart of Arlington National Cemetery. It is a people’s memorial that inspires reflection on service, valor, sacrifice and mourning. As a sacred memorial site and the grave of three unknown American service members, the Tomb connects visitors with the legacy of the U.S. armed forces throughout the nation’s history.”

For more information on the centennial events, click here.



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POWER TO PROTECT

Jensen: Army Guard adds depth, stamina to total force



Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen, director of the Army National Guard, meets with soldiers in the Missile Defense Element at Schriever Space Force Base, Colorado, during a visit with the Colorado National Guard's 100th Missile Defense Brigade. (U.S. ARMY/STAFF SGT. ZACH SHEELY)

Despite the Army National Guard's visible role in responding to domestic missions, it's "incredibly important" that the component continues to be the combat arms reserve for the Regular Army, no matter where in the world soldiers are needed, the component's top officer said.

Among senior leaders in the National Guard and the active-duty Army, "there is no desire to take the Army National Guard and move it back to a strategic reserve. We really need the Army Guard to remain an operational reserve," said Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen, director of the Army National Guard. "It's incredibly important to us."

Jensen noted that while threats coming from the Indo-Pacific are the U.S. military's focus for potential future conflict, the Army National Guard is on duty in other places, such as Europe,



Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard's 297th Military Police Detachment train with fellow military police soldiers from the Kuwait Army at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (U.S. ARMY/CPL. JOSEPH BLACK)

that bear watching as well.

"We can't forget about all of the other obligations we have across the globe and the potential threats outside of Indo-Pac and China," Jensen said Oct. 20 during an event hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

In the past year, Jensen said, the Army National Guard has supported

more than 25 joint exercises around the world and has some 27,000 soldiers mobilized on Title 10 orders at any given time.

That level of operational experience is what "creates the capability" the Guard needs to meet its domestic missions as well as it does, he said.

"As I like to describe it, the Army Guard provides that stamina and that endurance and that depth for the Army," Jensen said. "So, whether it's Indo-Pac, whether it's Europe or Southwest Asia, we're going to be there in a combat arms role, as an operational reserve contributing to the Army team."

Jensen described the Army National Guard as a "very dynamic organization" that's organized exactly like the Army, and an "organization whose primary role and function is to serve as the primary combat arms reserve of the United States Army."

Tricare open season allows retirees, beneficiaries to change health plans



Army veteran Joe Gallagher receives a COVID-19 vaccine at the 7th Army Training Command's Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany. (U.S. ARMY/MARKUS RAUCHENBERGER)

Military retirees and eligible beneficiaries who use Tricare will soon be able to enroll in or make changes to their health care coverage.

Tricare open season begins Nov. 8 and ends Dec. 13. During that time, beneficiaries who use Tricare Prime or Tricare Select can choose to stay on their plan, enroll in a plan or change plans. Any changes will go into effect on Jan. 1.

This will be the second year Group A retirees, whose initial enlistment or appointment occurred before Jan. 1, 2018, and their beneficiaries must pay monthly enrollment fees for Tricare Select coverage.

Mandated in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, 2020 was the first time this group of beneficiaries were charged such fees.

Affected beneficiaries can pay via a monthly allotment through their DoD pay center or via electronic funds transfer, credit card or debit card.

As it was last year, individual enrollment fees are \$12.50 a month or \$150 a year. Retirees on a family plan pay \$25 a month or \$300 a year.

Enrollment fees are waived for active-duty family members, survivors or medically retired retirees or family members, according to Tricare.

Those who are not already in a plan and don't enroll during open season could still receive care, but they will "only be eligible for care at a military hospital or clinic if space is available," according to the Tricare website.

Outside of Tricare open season, beneficiaries can enroll or change their enrollment following certain life events, including marriage or retirement from active duty.

Eligible beneficiaries also have until Dec. 13 to enroll in or make changes to their vision and/or dental coverage through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program. The program offers a range of plans at varying costs, and coverage is not automatic, so beneficiaries must act to enroll in a dental or vision plan.

For more information on Tricare open season, click [here](#).

For more on the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, click [here](#).

AUSAExtra

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Support For the Soldier*

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PERK OF THE WEEK

Hearing loss is a common problem with many causes. In adults, it's most commonly a result of aging and exposure to loud noise or noise over time.



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New compendium features four Medal of Honor recipients

By Joseph Craig

Nov. 5, 1950, marks the day that Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. “distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty” along the Chongchon River in Korea.

Red Cloud not only risked his life—he sacrificed it to stop the Chinese from overrunning his company’s position.

His story was told in a digital graphic novel released earlier this year by the Association of the U.S. Army.

Now his story is available again in a new format, as part of the collection *Medal of Honor, Volume 3*.

The paperback compendium features four issues of the Medal of Honor series published in 2021. The book was officially released

at the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition, which ran Oct. 11–13 in Washington, D.C.

Medal of Honor, Volume 3 collects the stories of four men who have been recognized with the nation’s highest military honor. In addition to Red Cloud—one of only 10 Native American recipients since the start of the 20th Century—readers will find the



tales of Jacob Parrott, the first to receive the medal; “Wild Bill” Donovan, the highest-decorated soldier of World War I and later founder of the Office of Strategic Services; and Roger Donlon, the first recipient from the Vietnam War, as well as the first Special Forces recipient.

These full color works were created by a talented team of professionals

drawn from the world of the comic book industry, and the details are vetted by professional historians.

Four artists bring the recipients to life in the separate issues: Karl Moline, who has worked on *X-Men*, *Deadpool* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*; Peter Pantazis, whose work includes *Justice League*, *Superman* and *Black Panther*; Andrew Paquette of *Detective*, *Hellraiser* and *Avengers*; and Geof Isherwood, who has worked on *G.I. Joe*, *The ‘Nam* and *Conan the Barbarian*.

Chuck Dixon, whose previous work includes, *Batman*, *The Punisher* and *The ‘Nam*, wrote the scripts for all four graphic novels.

Pantazis, in addition to providing the line art for *Medal of Honor: Mitchell Red Cloud Jr.*, colored the works, and Troy Peteri, who has worked on *Spider-Man*, *Iron Man* and *X-Men*, handled the lettering.

Please contact your local AUSA chapter for more information on *Medal of Honor, Volume 3*. And keep your eye on the Medal of Honor website for new issues to be released in 2022.

Joseph Craig is AUSA’s Book Program Director.

Longtime AUSA vice president Arthur Welch dies at 91

Arthur Welch, a longtime vice president of finance and administration, treasurer, and chief financial officer for the Association of the U.S. Army, died Oct. 3.

He was 91.

Born in Sewanee, Tennessee, Welch graduated from Benjamin Franklin University in Washington, D.C. He joined the military in 1948 and served for 20 years in the National Guard and Army Reserve.

Welch joined AUSA’s staff in 1954 and served for 46 years before retiring in 2000, after which he became a consultant for the association.

“He was proud to have participated

in 63 AUSA Annual Meetings,” according to his obituary in the *Washington Post*.

Welch also was a volunteer for the AARP Tax Aide Program and a member and international president of the Administrative Management Society, the *Post* reported. He also served as vestry, treasurer and junior and senior warden at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C.

Welch is survived by his daughters, Suzanne Hulse and Christine Welch, and his granddaughter, Victoria Welch.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Nov. 20 at St. John’s Episcopal



Arthur Welch. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to an organization benefiting military veterans.

Chapter recognizes VA workers for outstanding service

The Association of the U.S. Army's West/Central Alabama chapter recently honored Navy veterans Herb and Linda Champion as its 2021 Veterans of the Year during an event at the Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The couple, who volunteer at the center, said they were surprised and humbled by the recognition.

"It's humbling, really. The truth of the matter is there are so many people who do it with us. We don't do

West/Central
Alabama

anything by ourselves. There are so many people that work with us,

other veterans and other people who work with us from the community, so it is not just us," Herb Champion said, according to the *Tuscaloosa News*.

Linda Champion added, "We do what we do because we want to, not because we want someone to recognize us."

At the Oct. 20 event, the chapter also recognized Josh Leow, who leads the engineering team at the Tusca-



Herb and Linda Champion are honored as Veterans of the Year by AUSA's West/Central Alabama chapter. (TUSCALOOSA NEWS/GARY COSBY)

loosa VA, and Amy Wyatt, head of the environmental management team, for outstanding service.

"I decided it was time to recognize the people who do these jobs," said retired Lt. Col. Nicolas Britto, the chapter president, according to the *Tuscaloosa News*.

Other honorees included hospital volunteer Deborah Cain; Dr. Nathan Walker, a VA physician; Walter Turner from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6022; and T-Mobile, for a donation of seven powered wheelchairs and associated security equipment valued at \$11,000.

AUSA member helps honor groups for serving veterans

KC Bertling, vice president for retiree/veteran affairs with the Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville chapter, recently hosted the 20th anniversary luncheon for the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition.

The Oct. 6 event at The Summit conference center in Huntsville, Alabama, included guests such as Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker, deputy commander of Army Materiel Command; Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle; and retired Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips, the keynote speaker.

The coalition consists of 30 member organizations throughout the region.

Redstone-
Huntsville



Spc. Ezekiel Hunter, left, sings the national anthem at a luncheon for the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition as KC Bertling, right, retiree/veteran affairs vice president for AUSA's Redstone-Huntsville chapter, looks on. (THE REDSTONE ROCKET/ERIC SCHULTZ)

"There is a significant synergy through this coalition," Phillips said, according to the *Redstone Rocket*. "You all perform a great service to our

veterans and their families, and all the folks in the Tennessee Valley and elsewhere are so fortunate for what you do every day."



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