



Voice OF V

The official voice of Region V



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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



On December 12, 2009, **Mary Fischer** and **Terry Swanson** had the honor of joining members of the **Maine Funeral Directors Association (MFDA)** to participate in the 18th Annual “Wreaths Across America” Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. 15,000 wreaths were delivered to the cemetery by four semi-tractor trailers, which were unloaded and placed on the graves by 3,000 volunteers. The group also participated in the MFDA Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.

“Wreaths Across America” is a non-profit organization in which fresh wreaths are placed on the graves of veterans in over 300 locations, with wreath laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries.

Not only did we participate in the wreath laying ceremonies, but the trip had many activities planned over the course of four days in both Arlington, Virginia and Washington DC. During the trip, we toured the United States Capitol and Capitol Visitors Center, visited the National

Museum of American History (which recently underwent a \$85 million restoration project), had a private tour with **Jack Metzler** (Cemetery Superintendent and MFDA member) of Arlington National Cemetery, toured the Capitol City with **Anthony Pitch**, where we visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, the Korean Memorial, and the World War II Memorial. We also attended “*A Dickens Christmas Carol*” at Ford’s Theatre, which was an excellent play. On the last day of our trip, we toured **The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** – “America’s Catholic Church,” after which we attended Mass.

Sally Bélanger (Executive Director of the Maine Funeral Directors Association) did a wonderful job planning and coordinating the entire trip. She welcomes any DMORT member who is interested in participating in the “Wreaths Across America” program (December 9-12, 2010) to contact her directly at:

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Mary Fischer and Terry Swanson laying wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

As many of you may already know, the DPMU team has been dissolved, having been integrated into NDMS LRAT (Logistical Response Assistance Team). Some of the former DPMU members have chosen to stay with the team, while others have opted to rejoin their former Regional teams. We are pleased to announce that **Joe Main** and **Jim Weldy** have decided to come back to Region V. We are glad to have them back. Welcome back Jim and Joe!!!

It is with much regret that we announce the resignation of **Bob Shank Jr., Shannon Dotson, Robert “Bubba” Stevens, Mike Gedert, Scott Davis and Mark Whetstone** from DMORT. They have been an integral part of Region V and the DMORT DPMU Team for many years and we will miss them all greatly. I'm sure everyone in Region V joins us in wishing them the best of luck in the future.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Sue Atwood

myPay

myPay has implemented new access requirements to increase the security of user information. This change requires that you establish a new login ID (if you are currently using your social security number) and password at your convenience.

The first time you log into myPay after December 10, 2009, you must use the Login ID and PIN that you normally use. Login ID is your social security number with no dashes.

You then will be prompted to change your login credentials. If you attempt to create a login ID that has already been taken by another user, you will be prompted to create a different one.

To make address changes, login to myPay under "Pay Changes" and select the option "Correspondence Address." <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

LOGIN ID

New login IDs must be:

- * No less than six and no more than 129 characters. (you may use an e-mail address)
- * Cannot be only nine numbers.
- * May contain letters and/or numbers and may also contain the following special characters:
@ (at sign), _ (underscore), - (dash), .(period), ` (apostrophe)

PASSWORD

Using the Virtual Keyboard, you will be required to establish a new password to accompany your customized login ID. New passwords must be:

- * No less than eight and no more than 15 characters.
- * May not include the last four numbers of your Social Security number.
- * May not match your login ID.
- * May not match any of your previous 10 passwords.
- * Must contain at least one letter and one number.
- * Must contain at least one of following special characters: # (pound), @ (at sign), \$ (dollar), % (percent), ^ (caret), ! (exclamation), * (asterisk), + (plus), = (equal) , _ (underscore).

After you've changed your login ID and password, you will be directed to review your e-mail address in myPay and certify if correct or make any necessary changes. You will be prompted to add an e-mail address if you don't have one.

If you have established a Restricted Access PIN, you will be prompted to establish a Limited Access login ID and password using the same requirements.

The myPay interactive voice response system, which allows telephone access to certain pay information, may still be entered using the Social Security number and myPay PIN.

Although most users have established their new login credentials with no trouble, some users have been calling the Centralized Customer Support Unit for help. As a result, the call center is experiencing high call volume, and customers are waiting on hold longer than usual. We have added Step-by-Step Instructions to the myPay web site that you can print off and use to guide you through the process.

If you have tried to establish your new Login ID and Password and are having difficulties, please contact our Centralized Customer Support Unit toll free at 1-888-DFAS411 or 1-888-332-7411, commercial (216) 522-5096, Defense Switching Network (DSN) 580-5096, press # 5 for myPay. The hours of operation are 7:00 A.M - 6:30 P.M. / Eastern Time.

While this security enhancement is intended to help keep your information secure and prevent unauthorized access to pay accounts, DFAS encourages you to take appropriate actions to keep your login IDs and passwords private. This can include storing them in a lockable and secure place, memorizing them and destroying any written record, and not sharing them with anyone.

Leave and Earning statements are available for review by clicking on the link provided below to access your latest LES.

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx?FLPS=LES~DCPS>

Passports

I am collecting **copies of passports** to upload into HQ's database (RMS). Please either scan and e-mail or send via snail mail your copy to me as those coming through via fax are illegible.

Immunizations

Immunizations are tracked via RMS so make sure you are sending updated records **to Jim Adams** at jim@dmort.org.

Contact information

If you **move, change a contact number or change banks**, there are forms which must be filed with HQ. This information is also tracked in RMS. Rosters are generated in RMS and unless this information is kept concurrent, you will not be considered deployable.

Responder e-Learn certificates

Responder e-Learn certificates are being added to RMS but currently are not required as the ICS courses are (100, 200, 700 and 800b). Please complete the 1000 and 2000 series and send me the certificates when you have completed all of the courses.

CredentialSmart

If you hold a position on the team which requires a license, you must register with **CredentialSmart** and send me a copy of your current license as well. CredentialSmart applies to everyone except mortuary officers. Mortuary officers will need to just send me their current license. Current licenses are also uploaded into RMS.

Let's stay prepared and ready to go, if needed.



The Region V Leadership and staff of the V of V newsletter would like to wish a very Happy
New Year to all of our team members!!