



May 2010 Newsletter

Welcome to the Silver Star Families of America's Newsletter!

The year 2010 has been very busy, so far, for all those that have volunteered within the organization. The numbers of proclamations received in support Silver Star Service Banner Day have reached an all time high. To date we have received over 2,860 representing communities throughout our nation and abroad. Every state within the US has been represented.

Communicating with communities and making the requests has been time consuming, but very rewarding, to all that helped out. Sometimes they found they needed to make a request more than one time, sometimes the community couldn't wait for the initial contact and contacted the representative themselves so they wouldn't be late.

FIRSTS:

This year was the first year we tried an online form for cities and towns to join in the celebration. It seemed to be an excellent tool.

It was also during this time that the first form has been released for cities and towns to order a banner to place at their respective government halls showing support for their local wounded, ill, and dying veterans.

Many ceremonies and events throughout the nation were held on the 1st in honor of the day. A lot of publicity through the media with interviews, press releases, letters, and even marquees.

The most exciting news came on April 21st when the House of Representatives passed H. Res 855 making Silver Star Service Banner Day an official recognized day! Many shed tears with this news, a very momentous event indeed!

A bit of history on Silver Star Service Banner Day:

In 2007 President / Cofounder Steve Newton announced that 44 states and many cities had declared Silver Star Day as a date to remember the sacrifices of our wounded. This was the very first Silver Star Banner Day. This was the first attempt to send requests to states and communities...never would we realize how far it could go.

In 2008, as President Janie Orman took the reigns, there were 46 states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, and 175 nation wide communities

joined the cause of celebrating Silver Star Day. After the date, May 1st, passed by other communities wanted to know why they were not asked to join in.

Last year, 2009, it was decided that if everyone wants to join in the celebration lets invite them. Forty eight state governors signed along with 1,323 communities including Guam, and the Chickasaw Nation. At this time the name was changed to Silver Star Banner Day as to not be confused with the Silver Star Medal.

So, what's next with Silver Star Service Banner Day?

First, we will do a follow up with many communities to see if they never sent in their proclamation. Our count of over 2860 could still climb before the end of the month.

And while that follow up takes place we all need to contact our senators and ask them to support S. Res. 320. Let's ask them to recognize this honorable day for our wounded, ill, dying veterans from all wars from this year forward. It only takes a minute of your time. If you need contact information please ask for it. If they sign then the President of the United States should sign. Now wouldn't that be something?

But, Silver Star Families does not stop with one day, though that is a very important day for the organization and our "kids".

Other accomplishments we have achieved over the last few months include, but not limited to:

Starting in January, continuing with our mission for our Wounded, Ill & Dying Veterans and with the concerns with the overall health & safety of our troops, SSFOA strongly urges the cessation of the use of burning pits.

In February our founder, Steve Newton, was drafted into the Patriot Honor Hall by David Bancroft, Founder of USA Patriotism.

Also, in February, it was announced that the Silver Star Families of America started a new program designed to monitor and assist wounded warriors that may have complaints about their treatment.

As March came around President of The Silver Star Families of America, Sunshine Roth, announced that The Silver Star Families of America and Military.Com were partnering with a new group forum.

Also, a search was completed in locating the best Military and Veteran Affairs primary care physicians and practitioners in the country. It was titled "Top Doc". Before the end of the month Elaine Yildiz at North Chicago VA Medical Center in North Chicago, Illinois was recognized and a presentation was made to her.

In April the President and Cofounder/Treasurer, Sunshine and Diana, attended the VAVs Conference Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services on behalf of the organization.

The organization now has a song and video that “belongs” to us. Entitled “Here For You” can be viewed at: Silver Stars Website:
<http://www.silverstarfamilies.org/SSFOA-PTSD.html>
or youtube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJ7mlgfLj_I

And finally, the big push to have the proclamations arrive in time for Silver Star Service Banner Day was made.

While all these items were achieved there were other items going on in a continuous manner, such as:

Under the direction of Robin Brewer, letter team captain, the team continued to write letters to those in VAs throughout the nation. They continue to offer words of encouragement and birthday messages. If you know of anyone that would like to receive one please let us know by contacting Robin, Kathy Landess, or Sunshine Roth. Of course they are always looking for people who would like to write a few letters as they can. So if interested in helping in that aspect let them know too.

How can you help?

There are many volunteer opportunities within the Silver Star Families organization. Some of them are through committee style work often through internet discussions and other forms of volunteering can be done individually. If you are interested in helping ask what you can do. We can always use help. Come be a part of this experience. There is a saying: “Alone I can do little, but together we can do anything”. We need your help to make things the best they can be.

If you have any suggestions for the organization to look into so we can assist our veterans, our “kids”, please let us know.

Several volunteers with SSFOA have received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. They earned the awards through accumulated volunteer hours with and for the military / veterans. For the year 2009 we totaled over 21,659 hours of volunteer time.

If you volunteer at all, please turn in your hours to Vice-President Kathy Landess. A reminder goes out every Sunday evening on the Yahoo discussion site. We are all volunteers within the organization. It does not matter if it is one hour or 30 hours, they all add up.

We currently are growing in the yahoo official group site and also have 275 members on our facebook page. As long as you are somewhere staying informed is all we ask.

****For the entire month of May we are participating in the “Pepsi Refresh Project” grant for financial assistance. We ask that you go to the following website and vote daily. It only takes a couple seconds. Tell your friends too! Vote once a day through your email address. We are trying to raise funds to purchase “Tunes for the Troops”.**

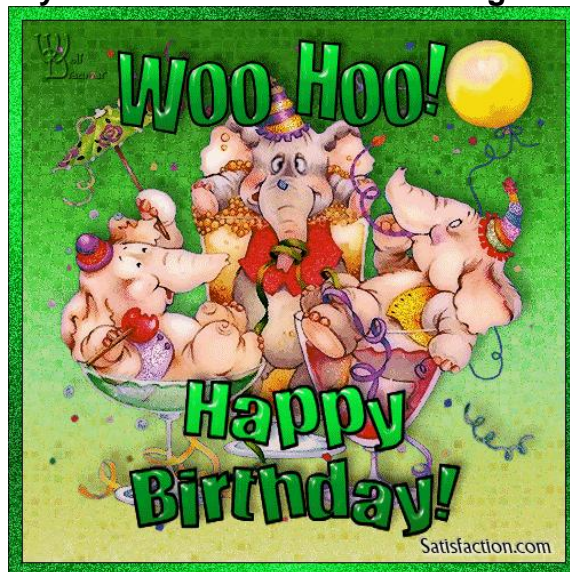
Link: <http://www.refresheverything.com/tunesfortroops>

Donations:

As with many organizations, the decline in the economy has affected our organization. We have to continue to serve our wounded and ill war veterans. If you happen to have a few dollars to spare please consider making a donation, not matter how small. Go to the www.silverstarfamilies.org website and make a donation. Ask your friends and relatives to make donations in your honor for your birthday. There is a paypal button to make donations or send checks / money orders to Silver Star Families of America, 525 Cave Hollow Road, Clever MO. 65631. Remember that all donations are tax deductible.

To conclude our newsletter, we wish you all a wonderful Military Appreciation Month. Yes, May is Military Appreciation Month (MAM) and a couple of our members are offering some information three times a week. It could be an interesting tidbit or it could be a point of military history. It all deals with the military in some manner. The site they can be seen is being sent to the SSFOA yahoo sites and facebook site.

Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating in the near future!
And Happy Anniversary for those that are celebrating an anniversary!



Thank you all!

**Sunshine Roth, President of SSFOA
With assistance from Nancy Spoerke**
