



# Member Briefing

Winter 2020 ★ A Newsletter for the Members of the Uniformed Services Benefit Association ★ Vol 58, Issue 1

## Bringing Holiday Cheer to VCP During COVID-19

The holidays are an important time for USBA, and this year we wanted to bring that holiday spirit to those who fought for our country.

The privately funded Veterans Community Project (VCP) of Kansas City, Missouri has made great strides to provide the support homeless veterans need to transition to a new phase in their lives. This support includes a village of tiny homes, a Veterans Outreach Center and the VCP Village Community Center.



This fall, USBA spent a day putting up holiday lights on the tiny houses and spreading cheer throughout the VCP community. The lights were strategically placed in a red, white and blue pattern that reflects the United States flag if seen from above. USBA has also volunteered in the home construction and property maintenance phases, and along with our underwriter New York Life, sponsored one of the tiny homes. ★



## President's Perspective

As the end of the year and my retirement approaches, I've been thinking about my fifteen years at USBA and wondering where the time went. With our newly designed website up and running, I've thought about all the technology advances I've seen over the years, and everything that used to be done on paper is now done online—but the extraordinary people I've worked with at USBA have been a constant—from the Board of Directors to the Senior Leadership and the dedicated staff—I've had the opportunity to work with talented people who maintain the highest standards of service to our membership. Because of them, we always made our decisions based on what would ensure the longevity of our organization, so we could continue to serve our members in the years to come.

I'm extremely proud to turn the reins over to USBA's next President/CEO, Connie Markovich, because I know what a tremendous job she's done for over 38 years with the organization, including the last nine as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. She not only has the respect of our staff and business partners, but she constantly strives to keep us focused on our members and making sure the membership experience is the best it could possibly be.



I wish nothing but the best for USBA in the future. ★

Respectfully,

**Robin A. Snyder**  
Colonel, USAF (Ret.)  
President/CEO

# 3 REASONS TO BUY LIFE INSURANCE IN YOUR 20S AND 30S

By Susan Malandrino



**You're young. You're healthy. Why should you consider buying life insurance now? A longtime financial expert said the answer is simple: now is the best time to buy.**

Let's take a look at the top three questions to consider when adding this investment to your financial portfolio in your 20s or 30s as compared to later in life.

## 1. WHY NOW?

No one wants to think about getting older, but proactive planning is a key component of financial readiness.

"Your 20s or 30s ironically is a great time to buy life insurance - you're often your 'healthiest you,'" says Connie Markovich, executive vice

president and chief operating officer of USBA - a not-for-profit association that provides a family of affordable insurance and financial products and services to military personnel, federal employees, National Guard and reserve members, veterans and their families.

She adds that being in this age demographic helps you qualify for life insurance.

"It makes the whole application process easier typically - and can help you snag the best rates out there, even preferred rates on select plans," Markovich said. "If you buy whole life insurance, the premium is locked in for your whole life; the younger you are, the less you pay, age for age on that policy. It builds

some cash value too over time, so a piece of your premiums is paid back later if you cash it in."

## 2. BUT WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The tangible benefits of life insurance can be felt when the unexpected happens, but Markovich says there's value in the intangible of life insurance too.

"What is often expressed is a sense of reassurance, comfort that having life insurance provides," she said. "Knowing that if something happens, now or years from now, the financial part of dealing with the loss of a loved one (or of yourself) is lessened or eliminated. Even a young single person can have financial obligations or wish to help those who helped them - with college loans, buying a house, a car, children - any number of expenses we accumulate over the years."

## 3. IS THIS RIGHT FOR ME?

A common misconception is that life insurance is for older generations, which is simply untrue.

"It's not just something your grandparents need. It's for you. Now," she said.

By purchasing life insurance at a younger age, veterans and military spouses can benefit from it being less expensive and easier to apply for because your health is typically better. Plus, there is peace of mind in being better prepared for the unexpected.

"At younger ages, it may never be cheaper. Buy it while you qualify, put it away and rest easy knowing you've planned for the unexpected," Markovich added. ●

## Identity Theft Protection During COVID-19

Cybercriminals are always on the lookout for the tiniest cracks in your defenses so they can steal your information. The pandemic has offered new opportunities for creative thieves to separate you from your money and your identity, using a variety of consumer and medical scams.

To help you remain vigilant and safe, we offer four simple tips from industry leader IDShield<sup>SM</sup> Identity Theft Protection:

- Do not order products that claim to be effective against COVID-19. To date, no medications or products have been approved to treat or prevent the virus, so claims to the contrary are a red flag.
- Don't click on links that promote these unapproved products. Thieves may be trying to install malware on your device so they can collect your data and steal your identity.
- Be wary of emails claiming to be from health professionals. Do not click on any links. If you're curious, visit the alleged organization's website for more information instead.
- Don't make a charitable donation to any organization until you do your homework. If a charity requires cash or a money order, be particularly cautious.

Being constantly on guard against the risks of cybercrimes can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to go it alone. IDShield can help you proactively arm yourself with identity protection, monitoring and restoration. This is especially important during the pandemic, because we're all spending more time online than ever before.

To increase its ability to protect you and your family, IDShield recently added important new features:

- The IDShield \$1M insurance policy now offers 401K and health savings account (HSA) reimbursement coverage. If you discover that money was fraudulently withdrawn from your account, you can apply for reimbursement.



- The telecom monitoring feature focuses on your phone number history, watching for phone number changes. You can feel confident that your phone number is not being redirected.
- IDShield now monitors social media accounts, watching for indications that your personal information has been exposed through images, captions, posts and comments.
- Enhanced privacy management helps you remove your private data from anywhere it shouldn't be:
  - Data broker sites, including Spokeo, MyLife and more
  - Social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube
  - Voice assistance devices, including Alexa, Google Assistant and Siri
  - Online browsers, like Brave and Ghost
  - Smart TVs
- IDShield helps you protect your children with anti-cyberbullying tools that monitor their social media accounts, alerting you to language that is profane, violent, sexually explicit or drug- and alcohol-related.

As a USBA member, you and your family are eligible to receive a members-only discount of 15% for individuals and 48% for families. In addition, you get peace of mind, and it's hard to put a price tag on that. ★

## USBA and COVID-19

At USBA our top priority is to ensure the safety and health of our employees, their families, and our communities. As the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to impact the lives of people across the world, we are doing our part to honor both this commitment to our employees, and to meet the ongoing needs of our Members and their families.

We know that these times can bring unexpected challenges, and we are working to help accommodate our members in the best way we can.

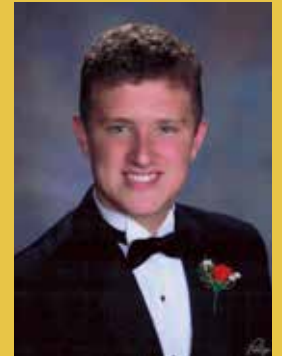
- USBA in conjunction with our underwriter, New York Life, is allowing a 90-day grace period for due dates February 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. This is not a waiver of premium, but a way of allowing our members affected by the pandemic additional time to make their premium payments during this challenging period. Representatives are available to provide additional information if needed.
- In Accordance with New York State Executive Order: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our partner life insurance companies have temporarily extended premium payment periods to ensure that impacted members continue to remain insured even if they are having difficulty making premium payments at this time. If you have been impacted by COVID-19 or the Stay At Home orders and are having difficulty making premium payments, please contact us to see how we can help. While we cannot waive the premium due, we can work with you on a payment schedule to bring your premiums current over time.

**For more information, please call us at 800-821-7912. We're here Monday – Friday, 9 am to 4 pm, Central time. \***

## 2020 Dietrich Scholarship Recipients



**Sloane Lawson**



**Paul Ringenbach**

Sloane Lawson and Paul Ringenbach were this year's winners! Sloane is from Clever, MO and Paul is from Phoenixville, PA. Recipients were selected based on academic achievement, leadership accomplishments and participation in community activities. Congratulations, scholars!

The scholarship is named in honor of past President of USBA, Retired Air Force Major General William A. Dietrich.

- Deadline for application: March 31, 2021
- You can download the application from our website.
- \$2,000 grant given to each recipient.
- Must be the child, stepchild, foster child or grandchild of USBA Member, be a graduating high school senior, and be accepted into a full-time college or university in the United States.

For more scholarship requirements and information, visit [usba.com/dietrich-scholarship](https://usba.com/dietrich-scholarship) \*



## Privacy Policy

**How USBA Safeguards Your Privacy** The Uniformed Services Benefit Association (USBA) knows you want us to keep your personal information private and secure. We're committed to doing this and have policies in place to protect your privacy. We've built our business with integrity, honesty, and trust. And we'll protect your privacy with those values in mind.

You are receiving this notice because you obtained a financial product or service from us or our affiliate, USBA Services, Inc., for personal, family, or household purposes. The provisions of this apply to both current customers and former customers, unless we state otherwise.

### Our Privacy Pledge

We offer group life insurance through USBA and other insurance and financial services through USBA Services, Inc. (our wholly-owned subsidiary). In order to provide these services, we collect personal information about you. Some of this is called "nonpublic personal information," which includes personally identifiable information that is not publicly available, that is provided by you, obtained by us for nonaffiliated third parties, or that results from your transactions with us. As we collect and maintain this information, we pledge to:

- Collect only information needed to deliver superior products and services.
- Control access to your information, both in the office and on the Internet.
- Keep your health information private and NEVER disclose it to nonaffiliated third parties for marketing purposes.
- Require strict standards from nonaffiliated providers that help us process transactions.
- Keep your personal information confidential, and let you choose whether or not you are mailed marketing offers from nonaffiliated providers with whom we do business.
- Remind you of our policy at least once a year.

### Here's How We Keep Your Information Private

Access is limited to personnel who need the information to provide or administer products and services. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that meet or exceed state and federal regulations. And we continually update and improve our security standards, procedures and technology, to help us protect against anyone gaining unauthorized access to your confidential information.

### Categories of Information We Collect and May Disclose

In the normal course of business we may collect the following types of personal information:

- Information you give us on applications and other forms (such as name, address, date of birth, Social Security number, health information, and beneficiaries).
- Information about your transactions (such as your policy coverage, premiums and payment history).
- Information we gather from our website through online forms and information collection devices (i.e., cookies).
- Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency (such as your credit-worthiness and credit history).
- Information about you from our affiliates or other sources (such as public records).

We may disclose any of the above information we collect to affiliates and nonaffiliated third parties, in the manner described below.

### Information We May Share with Affiliates

USBA and USBA Services, Inc. are affiliated companies engaged in the sale of life and health insurance. The law permits us to share among our affiliates any information about our transactions and experiences with you. In order to offer you a broad range of products and services, and to better serve you, we may share among our affiliates some or all of the personal information that we obtain from our transactions and experiences with you.

We otherwise do not share any personal information about our customers with our affiliates, except as permitted or required by law.

### Information We May Share with Nonaffiliated Third Parties

Nonaffiliated third parties are companies not controlled by USBA.

- We do not sell personal information about our customers to nonaffiliated third parties.
- We do not disclose personal health information about our customers to nonaffiliated third parties, except as authorized or required by law.
- We may share the personal information we obtain about you (as described above) with financial institutions (such as insurance underwriting companies, insurance agents and brokers, and banks) with whom we have joint marketing agreements, or with non-financial companies who perform services on our behalf.
- We may also disclose such personal information about you with nonaffiliated third parties as permitted by law, including disclosures necessary to process and service your account, to protect against fraud, in response to a subpoena or government inquiry, to protect the security or confidentiality of our records, or with your consent.

We otherwise do not disclose any personal information about our customers to any other nonaffiliated third parties, except as permitted or required by law.

If you do not want us to share your information in the ways described above, simply call (800) 821-7912 and let us know.

### Remember

**To protect your privacy, USBA provides information ONLY to the owner of a policy. When a policy owner calls us for information, we always ask a few questions to confirm the identity of the caller.**



Subscribe to our blog to stay up-to-date on USBA news and current events - [usba.com/blog](http://usba.com/blog).

## We are LIVE!



Check out our new website! It offers:

- New responsive design – easy access from whatever device you choose – smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop.
- New tools to make your experience better, like our Coverage Estimator Tool!
- Visit [USBA.com](http://USBA.com) today!

## Keep Us Current

Please be sure we have your current mailing address and email address, so we can better serve you.

[usbainfo@usba.com](mailto:usbainfo@usba.com) or 800-821-7912