

# USBA



## M E M B E R B R I E F I N G

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## Saying “Hello” and waving “Goodbye”

Each day, approximately 1.8 million travelers go through the nation’s airports. A frequent and familiar sight for many is the singular or small group of service personnel, dressed in BDUs and lugging a duffel bag while walking the corridors. They could be traveling home for R&R, en route to a war zone or duty station or part of a military charter flight.

Sometimes, these service members are treated to occasional gestures of gratitude by traveling civilians or airline personnel. Other times, they are just another face in the daily crowd passing through the airport.

In New Hampshire, Maine and Minnesota, non-profit volunteer groups have made it their mission to meet military flights and welcome each soldier home from the war and give a proper send-off to those heading overseas. “It does not matter if it is 0400 in the morning or 1600 in the afternoon, our people are there to welcome the troops,” says Charles E. Cove, Chairman of The Pease Greeters, a group of patriotic Americans that has welcomed over 170,000 soldiers since 2005 at the Pease International Airport in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Cove says troops are met with the applause of hundreds of volunteers along with treats and free

phone service (either international or domestic). Just before they board the plane for their next stop, the officer of the day will salute the troops and say, “We, the old warriors, salute you, the young warriors.”

At the Bangor International Airport, you’ll find the Maine Troop Greeters who have greeted flights since May 2003 clocking in more than 1.4 million service members and 359 military dogs.



“It’s our pledge to be here to greet them as long as there are U.S. Armed Forces serving overseas,” promises Debbie Miner, Operations Chairperson for Maine Troop Greeters, a non-profit group of veterans and civilians.

The group was founded in 1991. Today, it meets every military charter flight, greeting the troops, offering free cell phone usage, long-distance calling cards, snacks and other amenities.

The Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC) is a non-profit group supported by a volunteer work force and contributions working out of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport. Founded in 1970 by Maggie Purdum after her son died in Viet Nam, AFSC has provided free food, shelter and services for over 900,000 active duty military and their dependents to date.

## PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

### No Generation Gap Here...



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

operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to the Vietnam, Korean Wars, several veterans stood up around me.

When they reached WWII, the oldest war of which we still have living veterans, only a few stood up. I’m reminded that out of 16 million Americans who served in WWII, less than 1.5 million are with us today.

In that concert hall, I felt a connection with every person who stood up that evening. We may not have been of the same generation, but we’ve shared the same experiences: deployments, sacrifices, loss and triumphs. It’s a bond that never weakens.

It’s the same link I have with you, our member. We both know firsthand what it really means to serve our country. And

This past Memorial Day, I was at a concert where the host asked veterans of each war era to stand up, group by group, to be recognized by others in the audience. As they counted backwards from our current

*“It’s a bond that never weakens.”*

(continued inside)

(continued inside)

# Finding the best auto insurance requires following the right map

If you've been wondering if it is time to switch auto insurance carriers, be sure to follow some rules of the road so you don't run into any dead ends or nasty detours:

*“Loyalty can be expensive if you haven't really looked at what's out there..”*

**Be timely:** Start with your current coverage's expiration date. Most policies are issued for six months or a year. Changing insurers before your term expires could mean paying penalties. Even if you don't have to pay a penalty, it could mean a long wait for a refund of already paid premiums. Decide if the savings warrant cancelling a policy mid-term or if you'd rather wait out the ride.

**Be smart:** Maybe you've never considered looking at another carrier, believing you are happy with the current company that has insured you since you had your first car. Loyalty can sometimes be expensive if you

haven't really looked at what's out there and simply just let your policy continually renew. In the highly competitive auto insurance market, you could be bypassing a better deal.

**Be specific.** While some online insurance quote sites may be fast, the end results may not be the most accurate for your unique needs. Take the time to shop around and look at specific carriers to get their initial online quote and then talk to someone if you want to confirm the details.

USBA has partnered with MetLife Auto & Home® to offer members exclusive deals on auto, home and other types of personal property insurance. Participation in this program gives members access to special group rates and hassle-free payment options. (Note: Home coverage is available in most states to those who qualify.)

To get more information or obtain a quote for your auto or property insurance, simply visit [www.usba.com/Members/MetLife](http://www.usba.com/Members/MetLife).

## Saying “Hello” and waving “Goodbye” (continued from front)

“The AFSC has a core group of 30 volunteers to serve as ‘troop greeters’ and roll out mobile canteens at all hours and greet combat troops via military charter flights or bus,” explains Debra Cain, Executive Director, AFSC.

Cain recalls when AFSC marked its 260th military charter near Valentines Day this year by welcoming 195 outbound troops from California with Subway sandwiches and a chance to send their loved ones a greeting card during their last touchdown on U.S. soil. The cards, stickers and stamps were donated, just as the Christmas treat bags were they surprised 140 troops with upon their return this past holiday.

One of Cain's warmest memories also occurred this past Winter. “During a returning flight that we met in February, over 100 passengers stood near the gate and applauded until the last soldier entered the secured restricted area,” she shares. “We were so moved, we thanked them!”

Do you have a memorable Welcome Home story about yourself or another serviceperson you'd like to share on our Facebook page? Visit [www.facebook.com/USBAMilitary](http://www.facebook.com/USBAMilitary).



**WANT TO  
MAKE A  
DONATION?**

Armed Forces Service Center in Minnesota  
[www.mnafsc.org](http://www.mnafsc.org)

Maine Troop Greeters  
[www.MaineTroopGreeters.com](http://www.MaineTroopGreeters.com)

Pease Greeters in New Hampshire  
[www.PeaseGreeters.org](http://www.PeaseGreeters.org)



## Don't let an emergency derail your Summer vacation

According to travel website Orbitz.com, three-quarters of Americans are planning to take some sort of a vacation this Summer. Whether a short getaway, a family reunion or a planned trip to an exciting destination, statistics say you may eventually encounter an unfortunate bump on that road you're traveling.

An AAA Motor Club study notes one in four road trips could end up in a case of something as mild as car sickness or more serious. In-flight medical emergencies can occur in about one in every 604 flights, according to an article in this year's Spring New England Journal of Medicine. And we've all read the news stories about cruise ships returning to dock with sick passengers.

"Rather than fear the unknown when planning a trip, it makes more sense to be prepared for it," says Connie Markovich, USBA's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and a frequent traveler herself. "USBA worked with EA+ to bring this innovative program to our members at a discounted rate so they could focus more on enjoying their trips and less on worrying about them."

Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) provides medical and travel assistance by supplying travelers with emergency protection and services when they are away from home. Their global response center is part of a network that offers customized medical, security and travel assistance to more than 10 million travelers 24 hours a day, year-round.

Not to be confused with a travel insurance company, EA+ offers over 20 travel benefits that are invaluable during a crisis away from home:

- Emergency medical evacuation to get you to the facility you need if you are traveling and your current one is unable to provide adequate care
- Vehicle returned home if you're incapacitated and cannot drive after you have been medically evacuated
- No-limit emergency cash transfers for unexpected medical bills, against a valid credit card
- Telephone assistance for lost or stolen travel documents

To review the entire list of benefits available and enroll, visit the Special Offers section of USBA's Member Service Center. The cost of enrollment for USBA members only is \$89 (an exclusive discount from \$169) and \$109 for member and family (discounted from \$189).



### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

(continued from front)

this knowledge is what makes each of us at USBA proud to work for you.

Whether it is a young 20-something serving in Afghanistan today, or a 90+ "years young" veteran of WWII, we are all connected to each other in this special way.

Of course, this bond also gives us a "power of one" advantage that is valuable when USBA works with third parties to negotiate low group discounts on your behalf for insurance and financial service products. However, its significance goes deeper than that when you consider everyone reading this newsletter is someone who has served America either through military or government service or as a family member providing support to such a person.

That's several generations gathered together in this membership. Each one a memory-keeper for their unique time in America's history. Everyone representing the definition of honor. All of us remembering the sacrifices others have made in their own era.

I can't help but find that rather amazing.

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

## USBA SPONSORS NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



USBA was present at the nationally televised Memorial Day Parade held in Washington D.C. this year. It was the second year for the partnership between the Parade and USBA, which also gave publicity to the event through its holiday eCard.

USBA's CEO and President, Colonel Robin A. Snyder, USAF (Ret.), and his wife, Magda, visited with the Parade's Grand Marshals, actor

Gary Sinise (above) and veteran J.R. Martinez in addition to its host, Inside Edition reporter Rita Cosby (below). Also attending the Parade as Colonel Snyder's guests were USBA members David W. Fields, USAF (Ret.), member since '95, Colonel Karl A. Smith, USAF (Ret.), member since '93, and Marlon Hayes, member since '95. Petty Officer William C. Hatchett, USN, member since '98 attended the Kennedy Center Memorial Day Choral Festival the evening before.

If you live in the Washington D.C. area and would like your name entered in a drawing to attend next year's Parade as our guest, please send an email to [kvogan@usba.com](mailto:kvogan@usba.com) with your weekday contact information.



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# What's Happening at USBA?

## 2014 Dietrich Scholarship recipients announced.

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Dietrich Memorial Scholarship Award!



*Andrew Hurst*

Andrew Hurst of Chesterton, Indiana and Brianne Hoglin of Monument, Colorado have been selected as this year's Scholarship winners on the basis of their academic achievement, leadership accomplishments and participation in community activities.

Andrew plans to attend Yale University, majoring in Biology. He is the grandson of Norman Beesley, a Commander in the Navy and a member of USBA since 1972.

Brianne plans to attend Lipscomb University, majoring in Exercise Science/Physiology. She is the granddaughter of Richard Hoglin,



*Brianne Hoglin*

a Major in the Air Force and a member of USBA since 1989.

The scholarship, now in its 24th year, was established to honor the memory of former USBA

Executive Director and President, the late Maj. Gen William A. Dietrich, USAF (Ret.), and is awarded every year to a graduating high school senior who is a child or grandchild of a USBA member in good standing. The deadline for the 2015 Scholarship is March 31, and details can be found on USBA.com.

**MEMBER BRIEFING**

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**Published periodically for USBA members. Please send your comments and suggestions to the Newsletter Editor at the address above or email: [kvogan@usba.com](mailto:kvogan@usba.com). Or visit our Website: [www.usba.com](http://www.usba.com).**

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