

Winter 2020

84th Railsplitters Association

Bugler



WELCOME 2021

What's new, you ask? Everything! It's a new year inviting new beginnings and new opportunities. Say goodbye 2020 and hello 2021.

Last year took us by surprise, but we adjusted and realized just how blessed we were and accepted the changes. During this pandemic we had more time to relax, to start or finish projects, spend time with our families, play games, cook a little more, learned how to visit with friends and loved ones virtually, and try new things. Let's continue with the new ideas and trials, finding out we are never too old to learn.

Sadly though, the pandemic continues to disrupt traditions causing all of us to re-evaluate what and where we can go. With this in mind it is unfair of us to ask you to choose between your health and socializing with your military family. Therefore we have made the decision to cancel this year's Valentine's Dinner. In the coming weeks we will be

reassessing future 2021 events. As information becomes available you will be notified.

Have you visited our website www.84thrailsplitters.com recently? If not, please do. LTC (Ret) Ron Moe has done a great job of making the site functional, informative and appealing to the eye. If you have anything you would like added please let CW2 (Ret) Scott Griffith email: gman8123@yahoo.com or myself email: goldgrl123@hotmail.com know. We'd like to think we are everywhere and know everything but nothing could be further from the truth, so if you have stories to tell, please let us know. Hearing from you helps fill the void we have with no personal contact. If you've heard of a fellow Railsplitters passing, reach out to us. We'd like to make sure they get their final bugle call on our "Taps" page.

Lastly, I'd like to thank our 84th Railsplitters Association Board for their patience and understanding as we have needed to adapt to how we conduct our meetings and communications. Also, a huge "Thank You" to you our members for your loyalty and understanding as we have had to adjust our plans to be in compliance with mandated directives on the pandemic. Until we get to meet again... stay safe....stay healthy....wear a mask...and social distance.

Strike Hard!!!!

Goldie M. Schuh, MSG (Retired)
President, 84th Railsplitters Association, LTD



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Cancellations due to COVID-19

During the past year, so many events have been cancelled or postponed. Here's a look at some of the events we've had to go without:

40th Golden Raspberry Awards
London Book Fair 2020
Defender of the Fatherland/Victory Day Parade in Kazakhstan
Miss World 2020
2020 Pokémon World Championship
Milan's Men Fashion Week
European Scout Jamboree 2020 in Gdańsk, Poland,
The International Conference on Database Theory 2020
33rd Annual Sheep Shearing Festival in Waltham, Massachusetts



And the latest cancellation, the 84th Railsplitters Association Valentines Dinner. It's a difficult decision, but the board has your best interests at heart. We hope to see you soon.

Now Free Admission for Veterans and Gold Star Members to All National Parks

National Parks, wildlife refuges and other federal lands are all free for veterans and Gold Star family members to use since this last Veterans Day, Interior Department officials announced earlier this fall. The change extends to veterans and Gold Star families the existing free admission policy already in play for active-duty troops and their families, as well as Guard and Reserve members. It waives both entrance and day use recreation fees for lands managed by the Department of the Interior nationwide.

While not all of the system's 2,000 public recreation areas charge entrance fees, many of the more popular destinations do, such as Yellowstone National Park and Grand Canyon National Park. The fees vary by location. Instead of paying individual entry fees, visitors can purchase an annual "America the Beautiful" pass for \$80. Seniors over age 65 can purchase a lifetime pass for \$80. Disabled veterans qualify for the Access Pass, which gives free admission and a 50% discount on some costs such as camping or boat launch fees. Other passholders pay out of pocket for those costs.

The new program expands free park access to millions of honorably discharged veterans. To gain access, veterans can present a DoD ID card; a Veteran Health Identification Card; a Veteran ID card; or a state-issued card displaying veteran status, according to the release.

While the free pass for active-duty troops can be used by their dependents, the new free-access rule for veterans does not extend to their immediate family members. That means that at parks where entrance fees are paid per vehicle, veterans and their families will be able to enter free using the veteran pass. At parks where admission is paid per person, however, only the veteran will be able to enter free.

Free entrance for Gold Star family members is limited to those designated as "Gold Star" by law. To meet the definition, families must be the "next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a 'qualifying situation,' such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces," according to the release.

It was not immediately clear how Gold Star families will be asked to prove their qualification.

ID Cards in the Times of COVID

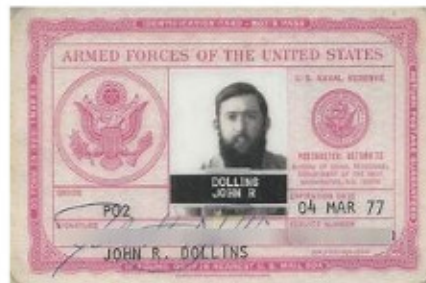
The DOD has expanded online ID card renewals and reissuances, enrollment and eligibility updates, and replacement of lost or stolen cards for military and their family members through June 30, 2021. Other updates continuing through June 30, 2021, include:

- Contact your nearest RAPIDS site for assistance or schedule an appointment to renew your ID card or get a replacement if it is lost or stolen. Note that cards that are remotely issued from online application will have an expiration date of one year from the date of issuance.
- Use your ID card if your eligibility has not changed, and your ID is due to expire on or after Jan. 1, 2020. Your benefits are secure through June 30, 2021.
- Do not use your ID card if your eligibility has ended. The DOD will verify your eligibility electronically before taking away an expired ID card with an expiration date on or after Jan. 1, 2020.

If your status is listed below in the Individuals column of the following chart, you are eligible to continue using your current military ID while you take the step(s) noted to renew your ID card that is set to expire on or after Jan. 1, 2020.

Individuals	Impact to Benefits	Steps to Take
Sponsors and dependents turning age 65	You must be enrolled in Medicare Part B for continued benefits.	Check milConnect to see whether Medicare Part B has been reported. Then contact your nearest RAPIDS site for assistance and have the following ready: Completed DD Form 1172-2, indicating that sponsor is providing more than 50% support and proof of enrollment in Medicare Part B
Dependents turning age 21	You must be enrolled as a full-time student, be approved as an incapacitated dependent or be registered for TRICARE Young Adult for continued eligibility.	See the following website for more information: https://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-relationships/family-life/covid-19-resources/military-id-updates-during-covid-19
Retiring service members and dependents	Benefits for members who are retiring and their dependents are tied to the member's status.	Must enroll in TRICARE Select online.

https://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-relationships/family-life/covid-19-resources/military-id-updates-during-covid-19?utm_campaign=mos-enews-oct2020&utm_content=html&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery







*Send your pictures to
railsplitters84th@yahoo.com.*



Memories





Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those who passed away recently:
LTC Thomas M. Bowe Jr, G3, 84th Division 1SG Bob Cox, 2/334 Kewaunee
Technical Sergeant Vincent Clementi, served in WWII 2/334, 84th Infantry Division Julie Koss' father
Also, remember the following friends in your prayers:

Pat Horter
Barbara Brinza
Gerald Brettschneider
Sheri Sigh Minhas
COL John Horter
Tim Vandenboom

And any other members who have had COVID-19—

Remember to send any information, or correspondence for Get Well, Encouragement, Sympathy, etc. to:
Mary Orley at (414) 425-0256 or email, maryo_44@yahoo.com



PVT Olzak



CW5 Olzak



Mr. Olzak

Anyone recognize Dennis Olzak? His military career started by being drafted in 1963 with a 14 month stint in Korea. Then Dennis joined the 4th Bde, 84th Division in 1965 as a sergeant. He was appointed as a Food Service Advisor (W1) in 1971. With reorganizations within the division, he was reassigned as a Personnel Technician in 1980, and completed the qualifying MOS at Ft Ben. Later in 1984, he was reassigned as a Supply Technician with the 3d Bde. As the brigade supply technician, he served in the first ever Army Reserve Artillery Mob exercise at Ft Hood and was mob'd with the 3d Bde for Desert Storm. He was appointed CW5 with the G4 in 1992 and helped the division in converting to unit automated property books! And he retired from the 84th Division in 2003.

Since retiring, he's been semi retired...and busy. He attended the New Berlin Police and Waukesha Sheriff's Citizen Academies and continues to serve on the New Berlin City Safety/Crime Committee and serve on the Waukesha County Crime Stoppers Board.

He's always been a family guy and enjoys spending time with his two daughters, his son and their families. He and his wife, Marilyn, pretty much helped raise their granddaughter for the first three years of her life. She's now 16...and, oh yes, they've been spoiling her over the years.

He and Marilyn continue to get away to Florida—primarily Cape Coral and Orlando—during January through March. But, as he puts it, "this virus sucks" and it has put things on hold of late. Arizona has also been a place they go now and then as well as weekend getaways for a day or two with his daughter and son-in-law on their boat in northern Wisconsin.

With all this retirement stuff, he has not yet been able to shake having a small garden. When the weather warms, you'll find him sitting on the patio drinking a Tito's & Sprite just watching it grow.

VA administers over 55,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses in two weeks

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it has administered initial COVID-19 vaccine doses to more than 5,000 Veterans residing in its Community Living Centers and Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Centers and more than 50,000 health care employees in its first two weeks (Dec. 14-Dec. 27) of providing COVID-19 vaccines.

The 37 initial sites to first receive the vaccine were selected based on several factors, including having the capacity to store the vaccine at extremely cold temperatures and the ability to offer high-throughput vaccination. Last week, VA announced it began COVID-19 vaccinations at 128 additional sites (including Madison VA Hospital and Tomah VA Medical Center in Wisconsin) using the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. Both vaccines require two doses for maximum efficacy.

The VA is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans and VA health care personnel. There are a lot of questions, and information is changing quickly. Please check their website often for updates.

The VA is working to get COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans as quickly and safely as possible based on CDC guidelines and available supply. They would like your help to prepare and in order to keep you informed at every step they have a sign up on their website. They will send you updates on how they're providing vaccines across the country—and when you can get your vaccine if you want one. They also offer information and answers to your questions along the way.

Go to: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed>

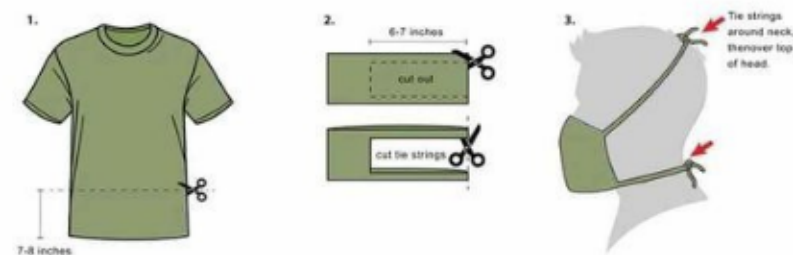


Quick Cut T-shirt Face Covering (no sew method)

Materials

- T-shirt
- Scissors

Tutorial



Masks



Gen. James C. McConville, and Lt. Gen. R. Scott Dingle wearing masks similar to what will now be standard issue.



Currently, the military branches require all personnel on base to wear face coverings when they cannot maintain six feet of physical distance in public areas or work centers. This applies to all military personnel, Defense Department civilian employees, contractors, family members and other base visitors.

All exchanges and commissaries require all patrons to wear face coverings in stores both on and off base.

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Please support:

Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith

American Legion Post 449

Home of the 84th Railsplitters

Association



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Humor noun

hu·mor | \ 'hyü-mər, 'yü- \

Definition of *humor*

1a: that quality which appeals to a sense of the ludicrous or absurdly incongruous : a funny or amusing quality // Try to appreciate the *humor* of the situation.



COVID 19 Self-TEST - This is the best available so far.

A new and easy test for the horror of COVID-19 is doing the rounds and it's simple, quick, and positive (or negative if you see what I mean). Take a glass and pour a decent dram of your favorite whisky into it; then see if you can smell it. If you can, then you are halfway there.

Then drink it. If you can taste it then it is reasonable to assume you are currently free of the virus because the loss of the sense of smell and taste is a common symptom.

I tested myself 7 times last night and was virus free every time, thank goodness.

I will have to test myself again today because I have developed a throbbing headache which can also be one of the symptoms.