



**RETIREE NEWSLETTER**  
**Retiree Activities Office (RAO)**  
**Travis AFB, California**  
**Fall 2021**

**Volunteers**

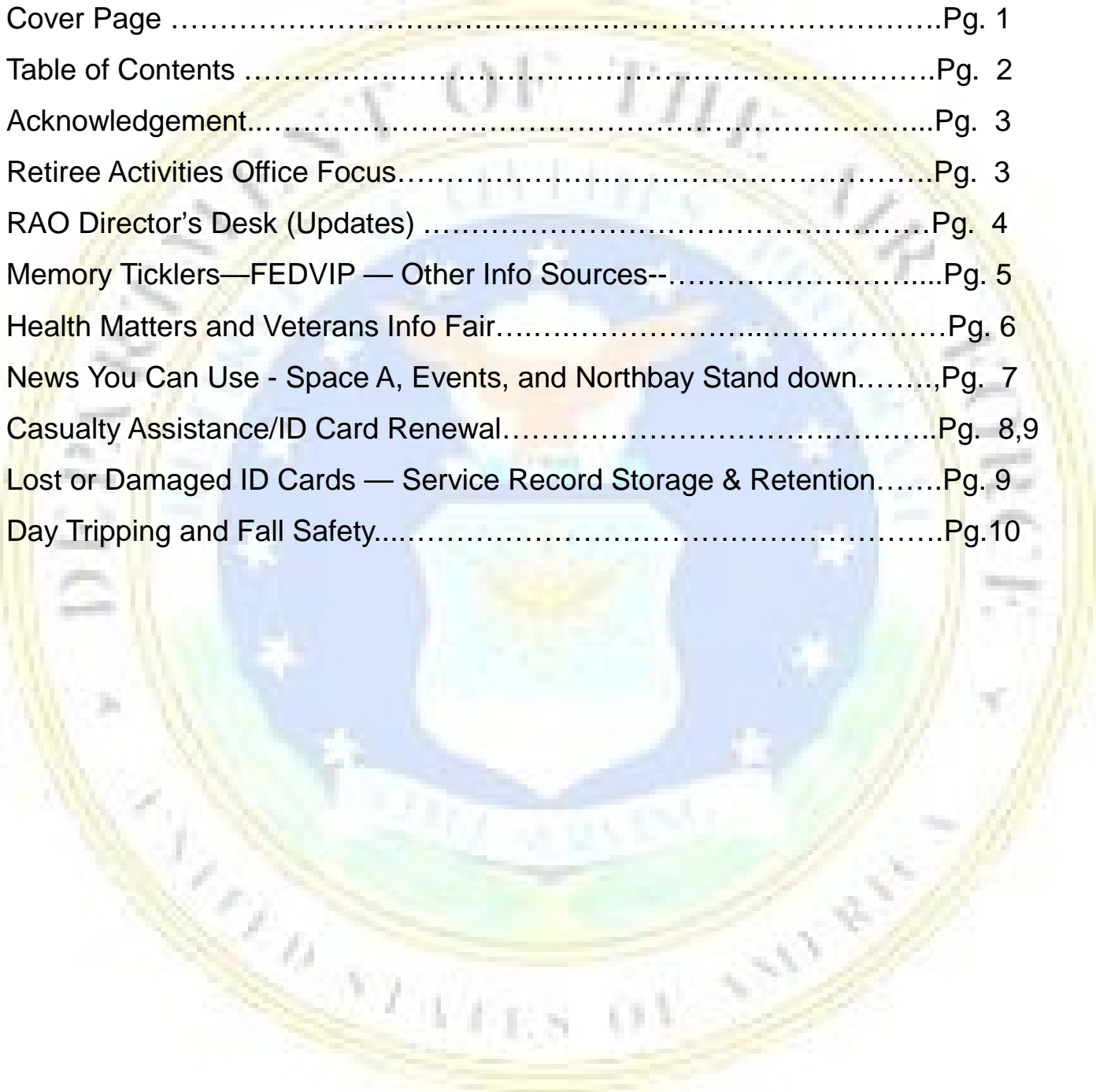
Walt Jue, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)	Roy Sheets, SMSgt, USAF (Ret)
Barry Williams, Lt Col USAF (Ret)	Laurna Sudat, MSgt, USAF (Ret)
Rick Villarina, Jr., Maj USAF (Ret)	Mary Lou Bermudez, MSgt, USAF (Ret)
Rosemary Ingram, EdD	

**Jerry A. Edmonds, CMSgt, USAF (Ret)**  
Director, Travis AFB Retiree Activities Office  
707-424-3904  
raotravis@yahoo.com

**Ms. Bunny Dominguez Medical RAO Coordinator,**  
David Grant USAF Medical Center  
707-423-3649

**Jerry A. Edmonds, CMSgt, USAF( Ret)**  
Interim Director,  
McClellan Park Satellite Retiree Activities Office  
916-640-8445/8446 raomcclellan@yahoo.com

# Table of Contents



Cover Page .....	Pg. 1
Table of Contents .....	Pg. 2
Acknowledgement.....	Pg. 3
Retiree Activities Office Focus.....	Pg. 3
RAO Director’s Desk (Updates) .....	Pg. 4
Memory Ticklers—FEDVIP — Other Info Sources--.....	Pg. 5
Health Matters and Veterans Info Fair.....	Pg. 6
News You Can Use - Space A, Events, and Northbay Stand down.....	Pg. 7
Casualty Assistance/ID Card Renewal.....	Pg. 8,9
Lost or Damaged ID Cards — Service Record Storage & Retention.....	Pg. 9
Day Tripping and Fall Safety.....	Pg.10



## ***Acknowledgement***

Articles appearing in this newsletter are compiled from local sources, newsletters received by this RAO and from other military sources. Information has been edited and reprinted for the benefit of our retiree population.

No commercial gain is derived for this publication. News items are current as of their use in this newsletter. Please advise of any errors, omissions, or suggestions for improving our newsletter.

## ***Your Source of Information***

The RAO has a large library of booklets, pamphlets, flyers, brochures and guides offering useful information covering Veteran and Retiree Benefits, Estate Planning, Personal Loss, Consumer Protection, Security of Personal Finances and Credit, and a host of other topics.

Retirees, dependents and annuitants not vaccinated for COVID-19 won't be seen by our volunteers as walk-ins

If this is the case, email or call us at 707-424-3904/3905 and let us know what you need. We will provide you with copies of the requested material at the door, or if requested, we will email it to you.

## ***Focus of the Retiree Activities Office***

Our customers are retired American service members and their dependents. They have earned our respect, and their retirement benefits, by dedicating their lives to the preservation, protection and defense of the Constitution of the United States of America.

They have sweated and bled in distant lands, foregone the stability and pleasures of family life, and followed the orders given to them without regard to personal cost.

They should take great pride in their accomplishments. In addition, they are entitled to the fulfillment of the contract drawn with our country.

At the Retiree Activities Office, we take great pride in supporting the fulfillment of this contract. It is our mission to maintain open communication and to ensure retirees, their families, and surviving spouses receive the superb service and respect they so rightfully deserve.

Our primary focus shall remain on mission accomplishment, compassionate care of our customers, and the drive to constantly improve and excel.



## From the Desk of the RAO Director

### Kudos and Farewells

Congratulations are in order for one of our volunteers! Dr. Rosemary Ingram was selected as the 2020 Air Force Volunteer of the Year by the Air Force's Retiree Program Council.

During 2020, Dr. Ingram provided 318 volunteer service hours assisting military retirees, their families, and surviving spouses with pay and benefits issues, estate planning, casualty reporting, military records requests, and personal assistance.

Dr. Ingram successfully handled 117 requests for assistance from retirees, veterans and family members during this period. She also filled in the gaps in Volunteer Desk coverage for volunteers that opted to shelter at home during the current COVID pandemic. Her willingness to fill in helped us continue to provide services.

She assisted in the setup of video camera equipment and was the briefer for an initial video presentation project to test the feasibility of conducting an online 2020 Retiree Appreciation Week video series conducted through Facebook and YouTube. A first for the Travis Retiree Activities Office.

In addition to her serving as a Volunteer, she is also our representative to Patient Advisory Committee at David Grant Medical Center.

The volunteer staff also wishes to announce a hopefully temporary departure and express our thanks and appreciation to Captain Jan Homer.

Captain Homer has been a mainstay in our office and we will miss her greatly. Especially, her enthusiasm and joyful personality.

Captain Homer was extremely helpful in our reorganization of office records, forms, guidelines and other materials and helped in the disposal and destruction of out of date material.

### Volunteer Staffing

Without great people volunteering their time and efforts, the Air Force Retiree Activities Program would not exist.

We provide military retiree families with the information and help they need to access benefits they earned through their service to this Nation and its people.

If you are interested in volunteering, please give us a call, or email us to express your interest.

The only qualifications are a desire to be of service to others and a cheerful disposition. We will provide training.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the program. We schedule volunteers for a three hour tour on desk (9 am— 12 pm and 12 pm to 3 pm).

### Walk-in Service

We will see walk-ins fully who were fully vaccinated for COVID-19 that completed the 14 day period after the last dose that allows full immunity to kick in. If this applies, you may unmask in our office if you're comfortable with it.

If you are not vaccinated, please call us at 707-424-3904/3905 or email [rao-travis@yahoo.com](mailto:rao-travis@yahoo.com) for assistance .

There are volunteers staffing the office to answer the telephones and respond to emails requesting assistance or information.

Be sure to leave your name, rank, telephone number, email address, and a brief description of the issue you need help with.

If you have an active email address and you want to get base facilities scheduling changes and other information, please email us at [raotravis@yahoo.com](mailto:raotravis@yahoo.com). We will add you to our military retiree email group so we can quickly get important updates out to you.

# Memory Ticklers

## FEDVIP Open Enrollment Begins



FEDVIP Open Enrollment season for plan year 2022 begins on 8 November 2021 and ends on 13 December 2021.

If you need dental and vision insurance, or you want to change your current dental insurance, we highly recommend you practice using the tools available at the BENEFEDS.com website to compare carrier plans and rates. We have a video tutorial on using the site posted to our Facebook page and our Travis\_RAO Director YouTube channel.

Mr. Will Foley, Defense Account Manager, Federal Long Term Care Insurance program announced DOD would be sponsoring a Virtual Benefits Fair.

The fair will provide a one-stop location where military families and retirees can browse exhibits view and download plan brochures, and connect with carrier representatives by chat session.

Retirees and sponsored/annuitant spouses can register for the Virtual Fair using the following web link: <https://ve.on24.com/vshow/FVBF21/registration/20180>.

If you have difficulty making up your mind which insurance carrier to sign up with, this fair may provide the information you need to make a good decision regarding the carrier you want to use.

Keep in mind, if you don't enroll with a FEDVIP carrier by 13 December, you'll have to wait until open season begins again in November 2022. The only exception is you can change enrollments if you have a life qualifying event (become widowed, divorced, re-married, adopt a child. If you have questions about what qualifies as a life event you can look it up at the FEDVIP or OPM websites, or call and email us and we will provide you with the information.

## Related Facebook Pages

A lot of retirees are averse to using Facebook due to privacy concerns and a fear of getting swamped with electronic ads for all kinds of goods and services.

However, you don't need a personal Facebook account to access individual or organizational Facebook pages. You can access those pages by using your web browser to get to the organizational Facebook pages on line.

Our Facebook page predominately features updates concerning military and veteran's issues — nuts and bolts stuff concerning pay, benefits and services.

We don't corner the market on information that is useful to retiree families and veterans in the immediate area. So, it's always a good idea to check out other websites that may have information or updates posted we may have missed.

We highly recommend scoping out the following Facebook pages:

Beale Retiree Activities Office

Travis AFB Events, Volunteer Opportunities and Resources

David Grand Medical Center

Just type the preceding into your browser's search box and add Facebook page to the tail end and hit enter. The first item in the search results list. Left click on that item and it should land you on the organization or groups Facebook page.

The fun stuff is posted on the Travis AFB Events Facebook page. Jessica Moser over at the A&FRC does a great job posting events and happenings in the local area that won't break the bank.

## Health Matters & Veterans Events

### COVID Booster and Flu Shots

The Allergy and Immunization clinic indicated they would be providing a third booster shot to immunocompromised retirees, spouses and surviving spouses based on vaccine availability.

Examples of immunocompromised individuals would be people with Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Type 1 Diabetes, tumors and other autoimmune diseases (illnesses where the body attacks itself).

At this time flu shots are not available, but the Immunization Clinic will let us know and we will make the information available as we get it.

Check the official David Grant Medical Center Facebook page for the latest updates regarding COVID, clinic operating hours, and general medical center information.

You don't need a personal Facebook account to access their website. Just type the term Official David Grant Medical Center Facebook page in your browser's search box and the link should pop up as the

first item in the search results.

Click on the link and you should land on their page. You may also call us.

### DGMC Pharmacy Update

David Grant's Pharmacy just implemented several new ways to activate your prescriptions.

They've got a QR code you can scan to go through the patient portal using your cell phone to activate a prescription.

You can also send them a text message from your cell phone at 855-803-4450.

Additionally, you can also do it from one of the Kiosks at the Main Hospital Pharmacy, Family Medicine/Warrior Medicine Clinic or Family Medicine Residency Clinic.

Another option—call 707-423-7657 number and press 1 to activate.

We have a flyer we can email you, or you can drop by our office and we will print one out for you for reference.

### Virtual Veterans' Benefits & Services Vet-to-Vet Fair

Yolo Cares is hosting a 3-day Virtual event from 30 September through 7 October covering items of interest to veterans.

The event is targeting veterans living in Yolo, Solano, Sutter, Sacramento and Colusa counties.

Thursday, September 30  
10 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Mr. Ted Puntillo, County Veterans Service Officer for Solano County, will discuss veterans benefits.

Friday, October 1, 2021  
10 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Mr. Jeff Jewell will moderate a Veterans Forum and discuss ways veterans can reduce feelings of isolation.

He formerly served as Director of the Concord Vet Center in Contra Costa County

Mr. Jewell is an Air Force Retiree and has always been a strong advocate of veterans.

Thursday, October 7, 2021  
10 a.m.—11 a.m.

Yolo Cares will sponsor a Vet-to-Vet Café that will give veterans a safe place to meet and discuss their experiences.

Call 530-601-5778 to register or register at [yolohospice.org/news-events/events](http://yolohospice.org/news-events/events) by computer.

# News You Can Use

## Space Available Travel Restrictions

We reviewed Under Secretary of Defense, Stacy A. Cummings Memorandum dated 15 March, 2021 detailing Space A travel Restrictions on AMC's Space A Travel page and they are still in effect.

Please note that general purpose Space A travel for retirees and their sponsored spouses or children is still restricted.

The only Space A travel authorized for retirees now is Space A travel for military retirees or veterans living in U.S. territories or possessions when they need to travel to a military treatment facility or VA Clinic/ Center/Hospital for medical care (i.e. American Samoa or Guam to Honolulu Hawaii).

Periodically check Air Mobility Command's Space Available web site for COVID-19 travel updates. The URL for the web page is: <https://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site/AMC-Space-Available-Travel-Page>

Just click on the red COVID-19 Update banner at the top of the page to get current information, or as usual, you may call us for updates..

## Upcoming Events

10/11/2021— Columbus Day

11/8/2021 through 12/13/2021  
FEDVIP Open Season begins for enrollment with a Dental and Vision Insurance Provider

11/11/2021 — Veterans Day

11/13/2021 — North Bay Veterans Stand Down — Dixon Fairgrounds.

11/25/2021 — Thanksgiving

11/26/2021— Travis RAO closed for AMC Family Day

Please note the Travis Retiree Activities Office is closed on Federal Holidays and the AMC Family Days. We send out changes to operating hours several days beforehand.

If you want to receive updates by email, please send an email to [raotravis@yahoo.com](mailto:raotravis@yahoo.com) to request we add you to our retiree email group.

## Canceled Events

The Retiree Appreciation Day event that normally occurs in October will not take place this year.

We reviewed COVID infection rates and available ICU bed space on Solano County's Health Department website last

month and made a decision not to go forward with it in the interest of protecting the health of the retiree, active duty and local community.

We hope to start planning for an October 2022 Retiree Appreciation Day event and will attempt to setup a planning committee in March.

## Northbay Veterans Stand Down

The Northbay Veterans Stand Down is scheduled on 11/13/2021 at the Fairgrounds in Dixon.

The event predominately focuses on helping veterans at risk, homeless veterans, and veterans with employment or substance abuse issues.

Representatives from the VA, California EDD, California Department of Veterans Affairs, and various service organizations are there to assist veterans in finding shelter, medical treatment, psychological counseling, and accessing services that are available to them to give them a hand up.

If you want to volunteer your services, open your web browser and visit <https://www.nbstanddown.org>. They have a volunteer registration link that takes you to a site where you can volunteer to assist with event setup and support.

# Casualty Assistance & ID Card Renewal Updates

## New Casualty Assistance Representative on Board

Good news on two fronts!

First, Mr. John Gilbertson has been promoted to a new position in the Airman & Family Readiness Center.

Second, Mr. Fred Salas has been promoted and will replace John as the Casualty Assistance Representative/Survivor Benefit Program Advisor. Mr. Salas was formerly in the IT Section in Bldg. 381 and he helped us on many occasions with our computer issues.

Mr. Salas is there to assist surviving spouses with death of sponsor reporting and applying for Arrears of Pay and Survivor Benefit Annuities.

## Walk-in Service 60 AMW/FSS Pass & ID

60 AMW/FSS's Pass & ID shop is now accepting walk-ins for ID card renewal and issue.

Retirees, Dependents, and 100% disabled veterans will be seen Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 AM and 10:00 AM.

If you or your spouse's ID cards are set to expire within the next 90 days, recommend you see their appointment scheduler accessible through the 60th FSS website to schedule an appointment. As of the writing of this article, there were a few appointments left open in October and they go fast.

You'll need an email address and cell phone they can contact you at to use the scheduler. If you don't have a computer or internet service you can call them at 707-424-8480 to make an appointment.



## Need an ID Renewal? Don't live near Travis?

For retirees that live outside a reasonable commute to Travis AFB, give us a call and we just may be able to find a Pass & ID/DEERs office closer to where you live.

If you have a computer and internet service, you can look it up yourself through RAPIDS/ID Card Office Online (IDCO).

The IDCO scheduler can be accessed at: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco>

When you get to the scheduler, just enter your location and in the search radius enter the number of miles you are willing to travel to the issuing site.

Just click on the make an appointment button underneath the location you want to use. Open dates and time slots will be reflected on the calendar. Remember to print out your appointment confirmation

If you have a retiree or dependent's ID card that has expiration dates between January 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021, it will remain valid through January 21, 2022.

Cards with expiration dates before January 1, 2020, or after July 31, 2021 have not been extended and they will not be accepted for base entry. You will need to get a new ID card.

If you fall under the last category, live in the Travis area, and wish to get ID Cards renewed at the 60th AMW's Pass and ID Section you may schedule an appointment online. You need a valid email address and a cellphone number to make an appointment online.

You can get to the appointment application through the 60th FSS' main web page. Just open your browser and type 60 FSS in the browser's search box and hit enter. Click on 60 FSS from the search results list by clicking on it (should be the first item in the search results list). When the page loads, click on the ID Card & DEERS text at the top of the page. The ID Card Appointment page will load. Scroll to the bottom of the page until you see a blue calendar icon with the word "Appointment" under it and click on the icon. It will launch the scheduling application. Just follow the prompts, check your information to make sure it's correct, submit and print a copy of the appointment confirmation.

Also, you can copy this web address in your browser's search bar and it will get you directly to their appointment scheduler: <https://travisfss.com/idcards/>.

If something comes up and you can't make the appointment, call the contact number on the confirmation to cancel the appointment so someone else can use the slot.



## ID Card & Base Entry Updates

In October 2021, your guests will need an ID Card meeting DHS Real ID requirements in order to gain base entry. This is required despite DHS moving the date you need a Real ID compliant card to May 3, 2023 for air travel and entrance to other government facilities.

We called the Travis Visitor's Center and verified this with their supervisor. We'd recommend calling them at 707-424-1462 if you need additional information before your family members or friends come in for a visit.

Per the Department of Homeland Security, everyone traveling by air, or clearing a TSA checkpoint, or entering other government facilities will need to present a Real ID conforming ID card by May 23, 2023. Check <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id> for more details

For military retirees and dependents, a DOD ID card meets the requirements as does a current U.S. Passport, or current California Real ID driver's license.

The compliant CA Driver's license will have a Gold Bear and a Star embossed in the upper right-hand corner of the license.

According to DHS, all states now issue driver's licenses that comply with Real-ID requirements.

Your family and friends living outside California should check

with their respective State's DMV to verify their current license meets the requirements before coming out to visit.

### ID Card Loss or Theft

Sometimes bad things happen to good people! We recently had an assistance request for a 97-year old surviving military spouse from her interim care taker.

The widow was mugged on the way to the grocery store, injured, and had her purse stolen during the assault.

Unfortunately, her ID card and Social Security Card were in the purse when it was stolen .

The sponsor had died sometime ago and the victim didn't remember where the sponsor's military records were stored, or if she even had them. There is a lesson here.

In the course of setting up an estate plan, retirees must set up a binder or file folders containing copies of their DD 214 Record of Military Service, Marriage Certificates, Birth Certificates, retirement orders and other important documents.

Another thing to discuss is the spouse's care after the sponsor dies, should the surviving spouse suffer from dementia or

a debilitating illness.

This is really important if the retiree couple don't have children that can step in to help.

This is critical if your spouse happens to be a naturalized citizen born in another country and if he or she has limited English skills.

The binder or file folder should be stored in a fire safe or safe deposit box. Retirees need to sit down with their spouses, trusted family members or attorney and brief them on where the documents are stored.

They must receive instructions that in the event of the sponsor's death, the documents should not be destroyed or thrown away while the surviving spouse is still alive.

The surviving spouse will need to present some of these documents when applying to replace a lost, stolen, damaged, or non-current ID card or benefits they may be entitled to..

If the documents were thrown away or destroyed after the sponsor dies, it can now take three to six months to get copies after the documents are ordered through the National Archives.

In some cases, they can't be retrieved at all because of a fire that occurred in the St. Louis Archives a number of years ago that destroyed records for World War II and Korean War veterans.

## Day Tripping & Fall Safety



### Travis Heritage Center

Do you have family or friends coming in for a visit and need a budget-friendly activity to keep them occupied?

The Travis Heritage Center and aviation museum is a great place to visit.

If you've never made the trip, it features static displays of military aircraft and memorabilia used during various conflicts from World War II through present day.

If children or teenagers are coming in, a visit just may fuel an interest in a civil or military aviation career.

Normally, the Heritage Center is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. and they are closed on Sundays, Mondays and Federal holidays.

The Heritage Center's web page requests you call 707-424-8180 to confirm the facility is open. Staffing shortages affect operating hours as does extreme heat weather conditions.

You can access additional information by going to their website at <https://www.travisafbaviationmuseum.org/visiting>.

Please note that unescorted non-military civilians not possessing a DOD issued ID card are required to stop at the Travis Visitors Center and should call 707-424-8280 prior to the planned visit to arrange shuttle pickup by Heritage Center staff.

Effective 1 October, 2021, they'll need a Real-ID compliant form of picture ID to gain entry to the base. A U.S. Passport or Real ID compliant state driver's license will meet the requirement.



### Fall Safety

The great Daylight Savings Time change is rapidly approaching.

Now's a good time to put fresh batteries in your home's smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Check your furnace filters and replace them if necessary and have your gutters cleared of leaves and other debris ahead of the rainy season (hope we get some this year).

Although it's unlikely we'll have weather cold enough to burst pipes, it's still a good idea to insulate your home's water pipes.

There's always a possibility of a cold snap and insulating your water pipes should prevent flooding in your home.

It's also a good time to winterize your car, change out your windshield wipers, and check your auto's heating system to prepare for those trips to Ski resorts up in the Sierras and Cascades if you drive that far east or north.