



CITIZEN SOLDIER

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FROM THE EDITOR

Are you aware that each year over 1,000 Reserve Component soldiers with 20 or more qualifying years of service for retirement die before age 60? And did you realize that, under the present law, their widows will not receive any benefits from their service other than those who have elected to participate in the Serviceman's Group Life Insurance Program?

In 1977 H.R. 97, which would amend title 10 and provide benefits for survivors of Guardsman and Reservists, was introduced by Rep. G. V. Montgomery (D-MS). This bill reached hearings in the House Armed Services Committee about a year ago and appeared in modified form as H.R. 11797 this past winter. It was approved by the full House on June 26.

S. 2856 was introduced in the Senate this spring by Sens Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Robert Morgan (D-NC) and co-sponsored by Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX). This bill provides basically the same benefits as does H. R. 11797 and has been referred to the Senate Armed Service Committee. If the committee fails to take up this bill this session, the entire Reserve SBP package will have to be re-introduced next year.

Basically HR 11797 will provide survivor protection to the Guardsman's spouse; spouse and children; children alone; or "persons with an insurable interest." When you reached the 20-year-for-retirement point you would have three months to elect one of three options:

1. No change from current plan; that is, there would be no coverage under age 60 for the survivor(s) other than SGLI.
2. First new option would pay the Guardsman's survivor(s) an annuity beginning on the date he would have attained age 60 if he dies before age 60 or on the date of death if later.
3. Second new option would pay the Guardsman's survivor(s) an annuity beginning on the date of the Guardsman's death, regardless of age.

The cost to Guardsmen electing immediate coverage at retirement will be in the form of an additional reduction - above the standard of 2½ percent of the first \$300 of retired pay plus 10 percent of the remainder. The cost to the survivor(s) will be in the form of a reduction to the 55 percent of retired pay normally re-

ceived.

These reductions are designed to ensure that the additional coverage afforded is at no additional cost to the government. Should you decline to participate in any of the early-option plans the bill would require that your wife be notified. Additionally, medical benefits would be provided at the same time as survivor annuity.

Guardsmen who complete 20 years before the bill becomes law would be given a year to sign up for the plan. Survivors would be ineligible to participate if the Guardsman died before the bill becomes a law. You would be permitted to drop out of the plan when there is no longer a living beneficiary and if you remarry or request inclusion of a new beneficiary, re-admittance to the plan would be permitted after a year.

Since you have looked forward to receiving that monthly retired paycheck; since you have given up week-ends, vacations, and a lot of free time and perhaps lost income from your civilian job because of your commitment to the Kentucky

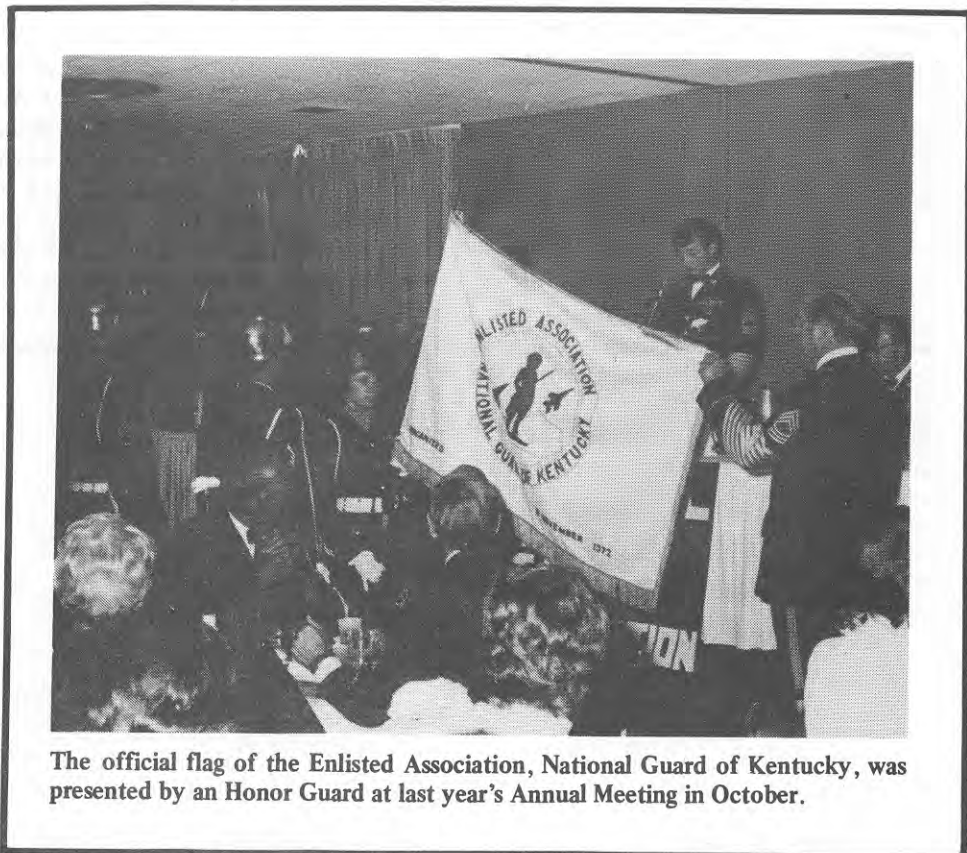
National Guard, don't you think it important that you write Senator Huddleston and Senator Ford and your Representative and ask his support for this legislation?

CONVENTION

With Annual Training a thing of the past now, all efforts are now being directed towards the annual meeting of the Enlisted Association, National Guard of Kentucky.

Advanced registration is \$25 per couple and \$15 for a single, which includes the dinner and dance on Saturday evening. Late registration will be \$30 per couple and \$17.50 a single.

The Red Carpet Inn in Bowling Green will be the place and the dates are Oct. 27-29. Every unit should be training "their mouse" and be sure to bring him to the race. Roger Lambert, Convention Chairman, feels that this race, to be held during the reception Friday evening, will be second to none, including the Derby. The business session will commence at 9 a.m. on Saturday.



The official flag of the Enlisted Association, National Guard of Kentucky, was presented by an Honor Guard at last year's Annual Meeting in October.

YOUR OFFICERS IN BRIEF

President. . . CSM James H. Garritson has been a member of the Kentucky Army National Guard since 1953 when he enlisted in the 201st Engineer Battalion which was located in Paducah at that time. He served as First Sergeant in the 2d MTB when that unit was mobilized in 1961 for the Berlin Crisis, and he is now the Command Sergeant Major for the 1st Battalion, 123d Armor in Paducah.

Garritson is a National Guard technician and, along with his wife Carolyn, is very active in the Junior Program of the National Rifle Association.

Most active in the Enlisted Association both in Kentucky and nationally, he has served as President for two terms.

Vice-president (Army). . . CSM Robert L. Bailey has served with the Kentucky Army National Guard since 1957. His varied career includes duties as Battalion Ammo Sergeant, Battalion Supply Sergeant, Battalion Personnel Sergeant, Battalion Operations Sergeant, and First Sergeant. Called to active duty in 1968, he served with the 2d Battalion, 138th FA in Vietnam.

Bailey is a Major with the Louisville Fire Department and is assigned as the 2d District Battalion Chief. His wife, Linda, is very active in the EANGKY Auxiliary and they have three children.

CSM Bailey has served the EANGKY in many positions and for the past two years, he has served as Vice-president (Army).

Vice-president (Air). . . TSGT Robert E. Denton enlisted in the Kentucky Air National Guard in 1952 and is now assigned to the 165th Photo Lab as a Heating and Air Conditioning technician. He was called to active duty during the Pueblo Crisis and stationed at Itazuki Air Force Base in Japan for ten months. TSGT Denton is a distinguished graduate of the Air National Guard NCO Academy and is employed as a National Guard technician at Shewmaker Air National Guard base in Louisville.

A charter member of the EANGKY, TSGT Denton served as an Area Director prior to his election as Vice-president (Air), a position he has held for two terms.

Secretary. . . SGT Etta Kelly Withrow was among one of the first women enlisted in the Kentucky Army National Guard in 1974. The daughter of a former Kentucky Army Guardsman, her son is carrying on the tradition as a member of the 2113th TAM. SGT Withrow has been employed by the Adjutant General's Office since 1970 and is assigned to the Personnel Section.

A member of the EANGKY since 1974 she is the Editor of the Citizen Soldier and has served as Secretary of the Association for two years.

Sergeant-at-Arms . . . SFC Jack K. Hite has served with the KyARNG for over 16 years and for the past 10 years has been employed in the Logistics Section of USP&FO. Hite had duty in Armor, Infantry, and MP units prior to his assignment as TAC NCO with the Kentucky Military Academy.

His wife, June, is a member of the Air National Guard and they both are Charter members of the EANGKY.

FAT OUT

Fat is out, thin is in. That's the word as found in NGR 600-9, which has recently been implemented in the National Guard.

A revised weight table is listed as an appendix to the regulation and weights are set according to height. This table is different in one respect from the old chart in that there is not reference to age. According to the table, if you are 5'9", you should weight between 119 and 186 - whether you are 18 or 48.

Lt. Col. Armando Alfaro, state director of Personnel, says that members of the 475th Combat Hospital will be visiting armories throughout the Kentucky Army National Guard to provide counseling and hard facts on why overweight soldiers should get within the table.

Realistic weight loss goals will be set and weigh-ins will be made to determine progress. If standards are not met within a reasonable length of time, it could be concluded that the condition is due to a lack of self-discipline or apathy. Persons could be recommended for discharge.

Commanders have been instructed to administer corrective actions and educate persons in the merits of maintaining proper weight. Overweight Guardsmen cannot be promoted until they meet weight requirements. EER's could also reflect lack of self-pride and discipline.

So keep those pounds off.

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