



STILL SERVING



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STILL ARMY STRONG!

NOTES FROM THE RSO STEVE ASHLEY

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I hope this finds everyone doing well.
It has been quite a year so far and the future is going to be even better. The Retiree Appreciation Day will be held on October 1 at the Fort Meade Pavilion. (More on this in the newsletter).
Please feel free to check out our homepage. You will find prior issues of the "Still Serving" newsletter, Fort Meade Retiree Council minutes, and up-to-date information on events happening on Fort Meade. The site is: www.ftmeade.army.mil/rso-index.html. Please save this in your favorites.
A big thank you to my staff, Cynthia Johnson and Don Eisenhart. Their dedication, support, and hard work have made this office one of the best. Cynthia and Don work the pre-retirement portion of the office. I would also like to thank the Retiree Council for their dedication to the area retirees.
I would like to take a moment to thank all of you retirees and your families for your continued service to our country. You have made my job a pleasurable one.
If you have been to our office lately you have noticed construction in the rear of the building. An elevator is being built and should be ready by summer. This will mean that everyone, regardless of disability, will be able to reach our office.
2010 will be a year of transition for our office. After working in the Retirement Services Office for over 24 years (8 years, 9 months as the RSO) I will be retiring on June 30.

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NOTICE

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**RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY
OCTOBER 1, 2010
FORT MEADE PAVILLION**

**NOTES FROM THE FORT MEADE RETIREE
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
MG (USA RET) ROD ISLER**

What a surprise this past fall to receive a request from the Installation Commander, COL Dan Thomas, asking me if I would consider taking over as the Retiree Council Chairman for the Fort Meade Community. As many of you know, COL (USA Ret) Bert Rice submitted his resignation a few months ago from the Retiree Council as its Chairman. It did not take long to respond to Colonel Thomas' request to say yes and I would be proud to serve as the Fort Meade Retiree Council Chairman.

First, let me briefly introduce myself as your new Chairman. I retired from the Army in 2002 and started a second career with a Government contractor and retired from them about a year ago. I was drafted in the military in March of 1968 and served as an enlisted Soldier for almost three years and retired almost 34 years later as a Major General. As most of you can relate to, I have had numerous assignments all over the world and have had several tours here at Fort Meade during my Army career. I have served as a Deputy Director for Military Support for NSA and later served in the CIA as well as DIA.

My family is very familiar with the Fort Meade community having lived on post from 1996 until I retired from the Army in 2002. My daughters are graduates of Meade High School and we are members of the golf club having served this past year as its Council Chairman.

Let me end by saying thank you to Bert Rice for his wonderful service to the Fort Meade community as its Retiree Council Chairman and he has said he will continue to serve on the council as a member. I look forward to 2010 and beyond as the council continues to look out for the welfare of our retiree community. We have many events scheduled for the coming year and I know the council will try and make these the best ever.

As a former Commander, four times, there is no greater mission than to take care of our people that are serving our country, either as active, inactive or retired. I pledge to each of you that I will work with the Retiree Council to continue that mission. I look forward to serving each and every one of you as the new Council Chairman.

God bless the Fort Meade community and America.

ID CARD NEWS

As the RSO, I have listened to many complaints about the waiting time to obtain a new ID Card.

It can be quite a wait. With individuals obtaining CAC cards (this alone can take up to 15-20 minutes per person) and all else hinging on computers, it can be up to a 4 hour wait at times. Please do not blame the person sitting at the desk (it is easy to shoot the messenger). We are in the great computer age. A

couple of tips that might alleviate headaches and frustration are:

1. Come early in the morning. Their hours are from 730 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (They are closed the first Thursday morning of the month).
2. Don't wait until the day before a holiday or the day before school begins.
3. Call ahead and check the wait time. You may do this by calling (301)677-3342.
4. Make an appointment. That's right! You can now make appointments by going to the following web address: <https://es.cac.navy.mil/signup.pl>. Select Fort Meade MD location. I think you will be pleased.
5. Make sure you have (two) forms of current identification. Drivers license (birth certificate, social security card, passport, etc.). The ID Card section cannot accept any expired cards as identification. This is not their rule but is in the DoD regulation.
6. Divorce decrees must be submitted to DEERS within one month of becoming final.

TRICARE AND NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORMS

The United States Congress has passed major health care reform legislation, the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#) that President Obama signed into law on March 23, 2010.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said in a statement issued March 21, 2010, that the TRICARE military health plan meets the standards set by this legislation. Secretary Gates reassured service members and their families that the legislation won't have a negative effect on TRICARE, and that their health and well-being are his highest priority.

TRICARE "already meets the bill's quality and minimum benefit standards," affirmed Gates. "The president and I are committed to seeing that our troops, retirees and their families will continue to receive the best quality health care."

EARLY SUMMER EDITION

As you probably noticed, this edition is a little early. The reason for this is that after working in the Retirement Services Office for over 24 years and overall with the Army 38 years, 8 months (military and civilian) it is time to turn over the position to someone younger with fresh ideas. I have loved working with you all and I will always bleed green. It has been a privilege to serve my country, either while in Vietnam and Germany or serving all retirees, annuitants and survivors. I have done the best I can for you and truly thank you for your service. I am sure that whoever replaces me will ensure that the Retirement Services Office will carry on with the outstanding customer service quality that it is known for.

R.A.D.

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY – 1 October 2010

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. / 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. /
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Information Booths
Medical Screenings
Flu Shots?
Door Prize Drawings

12:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch at Freedom Inn Dining Facility
(A shuttle will be provided starting at 11:45)
Cost is \$4.25-\$4.50, **please have monies with you.**

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker – Representative from Retired Pay,
Defense Finance & Accounting Center
Questions and Answers

***Both morning and afternoon events will take
Place at the Fort Meade Pavilion.***

RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS DIRECTIONS / GATES

From North – Travel south on Rt 295 to the Jessup/Odenton exit (Rte 175). Exit east on Rte 175 towards Odenton. Turn right onto Reece Road (3rd light).

From West – Travel east on Rte 175, turn right on Reece Road.

From the East - Travel Rte 175. Either enter at the gate on Llewellyn Road (this will not permit you on to the main post) or the gates at Reece or Mapes Road.

From South – Travel North on Rte 295 (B/W Parkway) and then east on Rte 198. Take the circles at Rte 32 and come through Mapes Road entrance or drive North on 95 then east on Rte 32 to Mapes Road entrance.

DIRECTIONS TO THE FORT MEADE PAVILION

Coming from Rte 175 west or north enter on Reece Road, turn left on Ernie Pyle Road. Take a left at the 2nd major intersection (Llewellyn) The pavilion is located on the left.

Coming through the Rte 198 entrance follow Mapes to Ernie Pyle Road. Turn right. Directions are the same as above.

For those coming from Rte 175 that do not wish to come all the way on post, the entrance gate at Llewellyn Ave will be open to the Pavilion parking lot only.

Be prepared for delays.

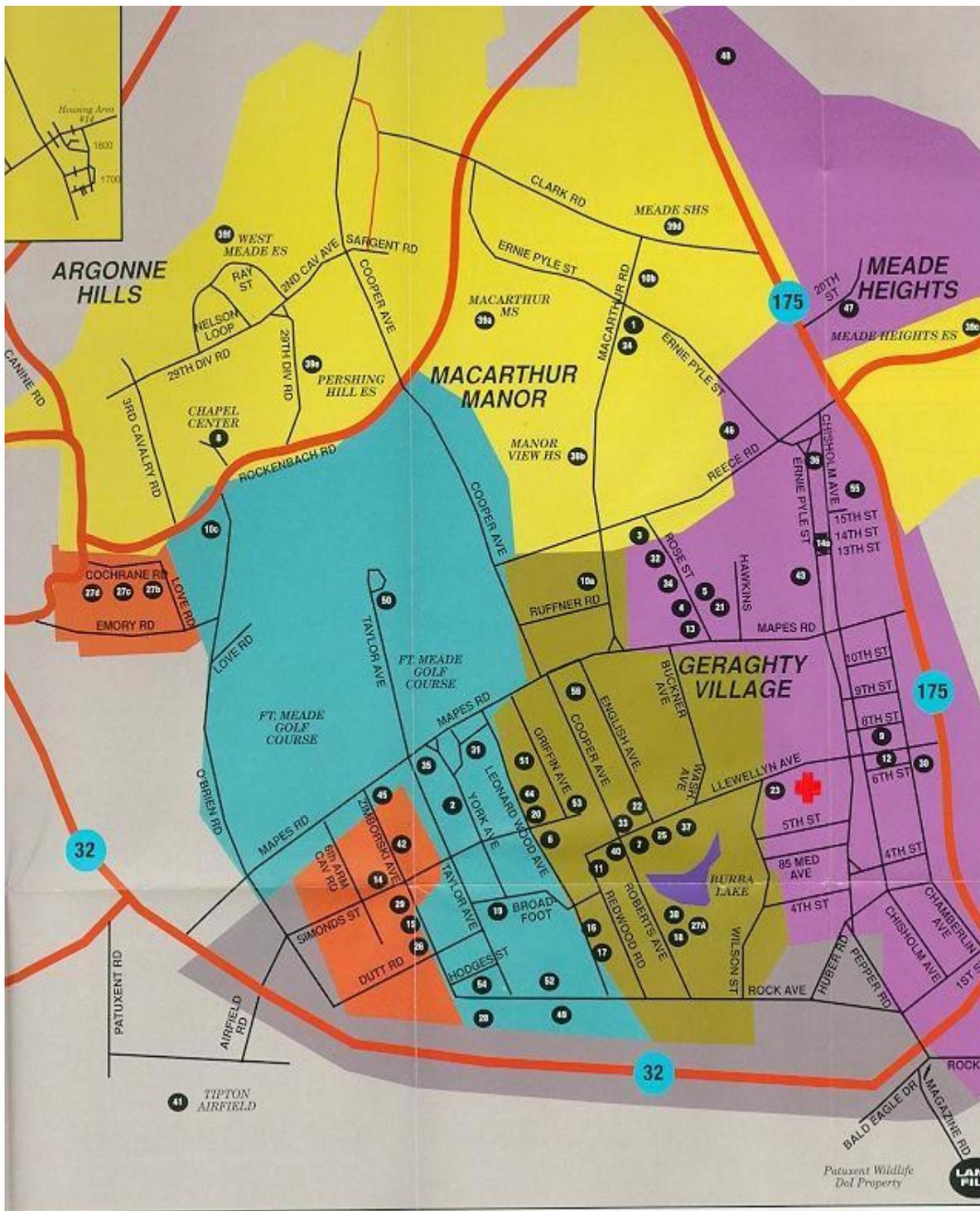
COST FOR LUNCH AT FREEDOM INN IS \$4.25 - \$4.50. CASH ONLY IS ACCEPTED. PLEASE DO NOT SEND MONEY FOR LUNCH.

Please fill out the form on the following page and return it as soon as possible.

There will be breakfast refreshments but remember, some medical screenings might want you to come in fasting

SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDING

AAFES
COMMISSARY
CHARLOTTE HALL VETERANS HOME
DELTA DENTAL
AA COUNTY DEPT OF AGING & DISABILITIES
DAV
JOHNS HOPKINS US FAMILY HEALTH PLAN
MOAA
MOWW
VFW
AUSA
LEGAL ASSISTANCE



#9 FORT MEADE PAVILION IS BETWEEN 8TH STREET AND LLEWELLYN AVE. THE LLEWELLYN AVE GATE WILL BE OPEN FOR PAVILION ONLY.

**RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY
RESERVATION FORM**

Mail to: Retirement Services Office
ATTN: IMND-MEA-HRR
2234 Huber Road, STE 5073
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755-5073

PLEASE RESPOND NLT 20 SEPTEMBER 2010.

_____ Number planning to attend.

_____ 1 October -- Lunch at Freedom Inn Dining Facility (cost \$4.25 - \$4.50 per person, cash only, please bring with you - **do not send in**) A shuttle bus will provide transportation from Pavilion to Dining facility.

_____ 1 October – Medical Screening*
* Those individuals belonging to another medical plan other than TRICARE may not be able to have some medical screenings done.

_____ 1 October – ID Card/s (Replacement) (See ID Card article)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____