

CORRECTED COPY: As read "Legion Riders Women" on cover now reads "and Women Partners".



Mini Bursts



Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation, Inc.

A Monthly Publication for all post 9-11 Maryland Reserve Component and Active Duty Service Members
September 2010

American Legion Riders



Francis Scott Key American Legion Post 11, Frederick, Maryland

and Women Partners

Working together in support of
Maryland Veterans and their Families

Mini Bursts is published by the Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation, Inc. for the Ft. Detrick, MD All Services Retiree Council as an extension of their community outreach program.

**Major General Boyd Cook
Memorial Foundation Inc.**

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Things You Need to Know

*There are ways to help you
overcome the challenges of
deployments for:*

HOME REPAIRS while you
ARE DEPLOYED
and

REPAIRS OF YOUR CAR
and

BABYSITTING HELP
for doctor appointments,
time to go shopping or
even go to a movie etc. etc.
etc.

**Major General Boyd Cook
Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

< mgbc-md.org >

READ THIS

NEWSLETTER

American Legion Riders

When Legion Rider Director Randy Weddle was asked about the legion riders, he was eager to convey that "We ride with pride and honor for those veterans that gave the supreme sacrifice so that every American can have their individual freedoms and opportunities in this great country!".

He said all the American Legion Riders across the United States are making significant contributions to the welfare of veterans and their families. This is our way of saying thanks for the security they provide 24/7/365.

Freedom did not and still does not come free, without the sacrifice and dedication of the American Soldier and it should never be taken for granted! In Post 11 *American Legion Rider meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm. Membership is FREE to all qualified American Legion Members.*

Director Weddle suggested that Current Service members and veterans interested in the American Legion Riders should Visit:

www.americanlegionriders.net or www.alrpost11.com You do not have to own a motorcycle to become a supporting member.

Today over 425 American Legion Riders programs, organized by chapters, districts, or departments, support Americanism and Children and Youth programs in virtually every state in the nation, and more are organizing each month. One of the fastest-growing and most highly visible of the many programs offered by The American Legion, The American Legion Riders are a very diverse group, and so are the programs that they support. What do American Legion Riders do? The activities are far too many to mention in this space, but here are a few examples:

American Legion Riders chapters and districts, nationally, have become some of the most generous donors for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund, raising as much as \$5,000 or more in a single event.

Legion Riders participate in the annual POW/MIA Rally held each Memorial weekend in Washington D.C. known as "Rolling Thunder".

Legion Riders sponsor or participate in local and national charity events in support of the sponsoring American Legion Post.

Legion Riders ride to raise money for such organizations as local VA Hospitals, Battered Women and Children's Center, Varied Children and Youth programs, a School for Blind Children, Veterans Relief, Needy families and many, many others.

Legion Riders founded a national movement called "Patriot Guard" (www.patriotguard.org) that honors and protects the sanctity of military funerals and memorial services.

Legion Riders have formed special motorcycle Honor Guards and ceremonial teams highlighting the special bonds formed in military service and the motorcycling community.

Legion Riders have also begun to teach motorcycle and driver safety in the community and in schools in cooperation with ABATE and other national motorcycling organizations.

Remember: American Legion Riders are a very dedicated group of Legion Family members. When your Post or district sponsors a new Riders organization, you create a win/win situation for your post, district, and Department!

The Direct Link

The American Legion Riders (ALR) of Post 11, Frederick, Maryland are avid supporters of the **Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation**. The ALR has a membership in excess of 100 members. In addition to the functions and support activities outlined in the previous article the ALR has committed to support the mission and goals of the **Foundation**.

Ms. Robyn Rich is an active participant Post 11 ALR through her fiancée. Ms Rich is currently in the process of becoming a member of the American Legion and will in turn become a member of the ALR. Ms. Rich exemplifies her “can do” attitude by volunteering with several organizations, such as Ft. Detrick, MD Army Family Services, the Patriot Guard, and Rolling Thunder, in addition to her position as **Vice President of Family Support, for the Foundation.**

The **Foundation** is a supporter of the ALR along with an impressive network of Maryland-wide support from non-profit community clubs and governmental organizations with advisory support from: Maryland’s American Legion; AMVETS; Marine Corps League and VFW. They are also endorsed by Maryland’s Adjutant General, Secretary of Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, along with Ft. Detrick, MD’s All Services Retiree Council.

It’s also worth noting that the U.S. National Guard Bureau has offered the Maryland National Guard to be a pilot group working with the **Foundation**, to meet the **Foundation’s** goal of national expansion.

The Foundation is chaired by a retired USPHS Rear Admiral, (*Two Stars*) who hold a Doctor of Medicine degree. He is a surgeon as well as a psychiatrist. He is Past Assistant Surgeon General of the United States and serves on Maryland’s Veterans Behavioral Health Advisory Board chaired by the Lt. Governor. The President of the **Foundation** is a retired US Army Command Sergeant Major who serves on Maryland’s District 3 Congressional Advisory Council, Vice Chair of the Ft. Detrick All Services Retiree Council and a member of the American Legion, AMVETS and VFW.

The **foundation** publishes a monthly electronic newsletter now being coordinated for distribution through the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs to all reserve component service members in the state of Maryland. Copies to active duty service members are distributed through Ft. Detrick’s Morale Welfare and Recreation Office. The newsletter provides a toll free telephone number (1) 877-99-4VETS (8387) for all Veterans from “9-11” forward era and their extended families to call.

In her capacity as Vice President of Family Support with the **Foundation**, Ms Rich has obtained the volunteer efforts of several of the Legion Rider’s Women Partners to provide needed support for answering calls from service members and their families for assistance. Ms. Rich has learned that in addition to financial support, spouses need help with household repairs, vehicle repairs, baby sitting, etc.

The 2010 - 2011 American Legion Post 11 Commander, Howard Hoy congratulates the Legion Riders and their dedicated Woman Legion Riders for assisting service members and veterans.



American Legion Membership

Membership is limited to those honorably discharged veterans and current personnel of the United States [Army](#), [Navy](#), [Marine Corps](#), [Coast Guard](#) or [Air Force](#) who served at least one day of active duty during any of the following periods:

[World War I](#): April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918

[World War II](#): December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946 (Note: [U.S. Merchant Marine](#) eligibility runs December 7, 1941, to August 16, 1945).

[Korean War](#): June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955

[Vietnam War](#): February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975

[1982 Lebanon War](#) and [Operation Urgent Fury](#) (Grenada): August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984

[Operation Just Cause](#) (Panama): December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990

[Gulf War \(Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom\)](#): August 2, 1990, through present, and continuing until cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. government. As such, open eligibility thus applies to all current active-duty service members.

FOUNDATION EXAMPLES OF SUPPORT PROVIDED

Pay & Allowances “TERMINATED”:

A reserve component service member deployed to the Middle East re-enlisted in-country, but because DFAS did not receive his re-enlistment orders, the military concluded that he had been discharged and all pay & allowances--to include TRICARE--were terminated. As a result,, his wife and

three teenagers had no money for living expenses. When **American Legion Post 10** in their community learned of the problem, they provided financial support needed until the error was corrected.

Blown down gutters fixed: The **Foundation** coordinated with a Guardsman’s county home builders’ association for the repair of gutters with all costs paid by the home builders’ association.

100% Disabled Veteran abandoned his car: His car was snowed in at a mall parking lot so he had to take a bus home. After the lot was plowed, he returned for his car, but it wouldn’t start. The mall management later advised him that they would tow the car if he didn’t remove it. Because he had insufficient funds at the time, he was unable to act quickly enough and his car was towed. The towing fee was just under \$300.00. Towson **American Legion Post 22** learned of the problem and paid for the towing, repaired the car and returned his vehicle to him at his home-- at no cost to the Veteran.

Child Care: On three occasions, based on the circumstances of the situation, the **Foundation** provided **\$120.00** for child care. Additionally, the **Foundation** learned that families of deployed reserve components were eligible for benefits such as 10 hours a month no-cost baby sitting at military installations that the family began using.

Major car repairs – 2 times: Both were family vehicles of a Frederick County, MD Guardsman deployed to Iraq that needed unexpected major repairs. The **Foundation** paid over **\$3,000.00** for the first repair and coordinated substantial

discounts and donations from **Frederick Motor Company** (a Ford Dealer), & **His Place** Garage in Emmitsburg. Foundation coordinated the second repair with **Tate Chrysler – Plymouth** in Frederick at no cost to the Guardsman's family.



Thurmont AMVETS Commander Tom Joy
Foundation President Bran Thompson
receiving check for Hotel Bill

AMVETS Helps Evicted Dependent:

Erroneous termination of service member's pay causes wife, 5 children and their dog to live in a hotel. And it gets worse - because the family could not pay rental costs for stored furniture it was scheduled for auction.

As soon as the **Foundation** became aware of the situation from Ft. Detrick's office of Army Community Services, **Thurmont AMVETS Post 7** provided needed assistance to pay the hotel bill and the **Foundation** arranged for auction of furniture to be delayed until pay and allowances were restored.

At the time of this writing the case was being resolved and the **Maryland Realtor's Association** was assisting with locating a home and helping with rental payments.

Active Duty Financial Assistance:

On 3 occasions, Ft. Detrick service members experienced unexpected personal situations that were beyond their financial means to resolve. The **Foundation** provided a service member on emergency leave a no interest **\$2,000.00** note, later converted to a grant.

A service member on deployment orders to Afghanistan with unexpected moving expenses was given **\$1,000.00** of which, \$500.00 was a grant and the balance a no interest note – later converted to a grant and another soldier with a valid need a \$1,000.00 no interest note.



Mystery of Missing Generals

Two lions escaped from a zoo near Washington, D.C., and they took off in separate directions. Weeks later, they ran into each other in the middle of the night.

"I'm having a terrible time getting food," the first lion said. "How have you been getting along?"

"Just fine," the second lion said. "I found a good hiding place in the Pentagon. I eat one general a week. I figure it'll be years before they notice anyone is missing."

Assistance Directory

Assistance is limited to non-profit or government organizations that want to help 9 – 11 forward veterans and their families. It's unfortunate that as a relatively new organization, has already experienced scammers trying to get free assistance by claiming they are veterans when they're not. To stay in compliance with the Privacy Act, we are limited to **verifying** Requestors information through an "Intake Form" shown on next page). The only way we can provide assistance is for you to complete and FAX to us the intake form for our immediate action, we can process your request that day.

CONTACT METHODS

The Foundation

BY TELEPHONE: Women volunteers from American Legion Riders answer calls to our toll free telephone number (1) 877-99-4VETS (8387). You may get an answering machine as a volunteer may not be available. However, a volunteer will call you back no later than the next work day.

BY EMAIL: info@mgbc-md.org

Non Profit Organizations

BY TELEPHONE or EMAIL: To find an organization in your community, access the appropriate participating organizations by their national email address (*listed below*) and drill down to an organization in the community where you live.

American Legion <http://www.legion.org>

AMVETS <http://www.amvets.org>

Marine Corps League <http://www.deptofmdmcl.org>

VFW <http://www.vfw.org>

Maryland Community Services Locator (Resource Links) <http://www.mdcs.org>

FOUNDATION MEMBERS ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS See: mgbc-md.org

Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 1191 Frederick, MD 21769

Foundation operations and meetings are hosted by
Elks Lodge 684 in Frederick, MD where the Foundation meets.

Veteran's Intake Form

Maryland foundation policy for possible assistance is limited to post 9-11 veterans who drill/reside in Maryland or their current home of record is Maryland. FAX Completed form with copy of DD 214 to (301) 619-6288

(A) Caller Information

CONTACT DATE: _____

Gender: M / F **DOB:** _____ **Name:** _____
(YY/MM/DD) t First M.I Last

Phone Numbers: Home _____ **Cell** _____ **Other** _____

Home Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code (REQUIRED)

Email: _____ **Dates of Service – From** _____ **to** _____
(YY/MM/DD) (YY/MM/DD)

Driver's License: _____
State Number Issued (YY/MM/DD) Expires (YY/MM/DD)

Caller Safety - Assess caller's safety only if necessary:

Has caller expressed hopelessness, suicidal thoughts, or unreasonable anger? Hospital? 911?

(B) Caller Current Status – Complete only one side: "Reserve Component" OR "Active Duty"

Reserve Component	Active Duty
<input type="checkbox"/> Army NG <input type="checkbox"/> Air NG <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Marines <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard Rank _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Active <input type="checkbox"/> Inactive <input type="checkbox"/> Discharged <input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> Army NG <input type="checkbox"/> Air NG <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Marines <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard Rank _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Active <input type="checkbox"/> Inactive <input type="checkbox"/> Discharged <input type="checkbox"/> Retired
If Active – Unit Assigned to and mailing address:	If Active – Unit Assigned to and mailing address:
Unit: _____	Unit: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
_____	_____
Unit Contact Verifier – Name/Phone: _____	Unit Contact Verifier – Name/Phone: _____
_____	_____
If Other – Provide Verifier or Documentation: _____	If Other – Provide Verifier or Documentation: _____
_____	_____

C) DFAS / VA Defense Finance & Accounting Center (*Mil Pay Center*) / Veterans Administration (Disability Pay, GI Bill, etc.)

Do you receive any income from DFAS or VA? No Yes

If Yes, indicate name of organization income comes from and an explanation of the income: _____

(D) Assistance Requested – Provide as much information as possible and describe below:

(E) Actions you have already taken – Provide as much information as possible and describe below:

(F) Actions Taken **(FOR USE BY FOUNDATION ONLY)**

(G) Follow Up Actions **(FOR USE BY FOUNDATION ONLY)**

**The Maryland
Department of
American Legion**



**supports the
Major General Boyd Cook
Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

www.mdlegion.org

**The Maryland
Department of
VFW**



**supports the
Major General Boyd Cook
Memorial Foundaton, Inc.**

<http://www.vfwmaryland.org/>

**Maryland Department
of Marine Corps
League**



**supports the
Major General Boyd Cook
Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

<http://www.deptofmdmcl.org>

**The Maryland
Department of
AMVETS**



**supports the
Major General Boyd Cook
Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

<http://www.amvets-md.org>

**The Maryland
National Guard
Adjutant General**



**provides active
advisory support
for the Foundation**

**The Maryland
Secretary of
Veterans Affairs**



**provides active
advisory support
for the Foundation**

**The Ft. Detrick, MD
All Services Retiree
Council is proud to**



**have founded the
Major General Boyd Cook
Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

**🚩 The Ruritan Club of
Jefferson,
Maryland**



**supports the
Major General Boyd Cook
Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

🚩 *Indicates organization is exploring Maryland wide expansion*

 **The Lions Club of
Mt Airy
Maryland**



**supports the
Major General Boyd Cook
Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

**Maryland – Delaware -
District of Columbia
Moose Association**



**supports the
Major General Boyd Cook
Memorial Foundation, Inc.**



Fredericktowne Rotary Club

Our Club has a standing Veterans Committee for the purpose of supporting our service members to include our ongoing support of the U.S. Army Ft. Detrick Post in our community. Holidays and other times of events - activities that we can provide support not available on their installations.

We urge all Maryland Rotary Clubs to join us in these activities by maintaining a close relationship with military installations in their communities. Based upon our experience, all installation commanders will gladly accept offers of assistance and there are many areas they need assistance with. Accept our charge - Be proactive with your assistance. Remember, they are prohibited from asking for assistance, but they will gratefully accept offers of assistance – and there are many.



The Kiwanis Foundation of Crofton, Maryland, Inc. has a program to assist active and retired service members and/or their families under circumstances in which the service member has sustained serious injuries while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and he or she continues to confront serious adverse consequences because of their injuries.

If you or your family member meets these criteria, are within a Thirty-mile radius of Crofton, MD, and want to be considered for Our assistance, please complete and file the Major Gen. Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation, Inc. Intake Form. That Foundation will review the intake forms and vet the information to make the initial determination of which applications should be forwarded to our foundation for our possible assistance.

 ***Indicates organization is exploring Maryland wide expansion***



FORT DETRICK, MD - Army Community Service

Sometimes a Service member and family are faced with emergency financial situations that prevent them from meeting basic needs like food and hygiene products. In most cases, the Fort Detrick's Army Community Service's (ACS) Financial Readiness Program (FRP) is ready to assist by utilizing the local Food Voucher Program (FVP).

At many military installations, food lockers are available to needy service members. However, due to space limitations, Fort Detrick's FRP has implemented the FVP to meet the same emergency needs. The FVP is available to all military personnel, family members, retirees, and their families who meet the eligibility criteria of the program. Emergency assistance is provided through \$25 gift certificates issued at one voucher per registered family member and these certificates may be used at any commissary.

Vouchers may not be used for any tobacco or alcohol products. Certificates may not be redeemed for cash and the recipients are required to pay for any amounts above the given assistance.

The FVP is completely funded by donations; assistance is generally limited to a one-time assistance. Exceptions may be made to this policy. A person seeking assistance must have a valid mil. ID card and be screened by the FRP for need validation.

For more information call: 301-619-2197



For the past 93 years, since 1917 during World War I, the Elks have stepped forward during every conflict or war our Nation has been engaged in and led the way in providing support, relief & assistance for our troops, our "Defenders of Freedom". Currently for the past seven years, our "Army of Hope" has provided that support and a wide variety of assistance for our troops and their families across many of the states and communities our Lodges serve.

Many of our returning Heros are not as fortunate and return with injuries , both physical and psychological, the Wounded Warriors. Others, tragically, are even less fortunate and return as Fallen Heroes. Once again, our "Army of Hope" has stepped into the breach and in many communities provided relief to the individual Hero Warrior, as well as their families.

Our "Army of Hope", through a wide range of fundraising activities, is providing funds for rehabilitation activities, services and facilities, A specific state "Army of Hope" Committee has even donated a new special bus for transportating Wounded Warriors so that they may have access to distant rehabilitation services.

<http://www.elks.org>

 *Indicates organization is exploring Maryland wide expansion*

Additional "National"
Community Non-Profit
Organizations are being
contacted for their support.

Special Job Consideration For Veterans

Maryland Workforce Exchange < mwejobs.com > has an office in all Maryland Counties and maintains a jobs bank for employers and job seekers **AT NO COST**. The Maryland National Guard developed this jobs program agreement with MWE to assist veterans find jobs.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

VETERANS RESUMES: MWE has training at **no cost** for resume writing and will post them in their jobs bank when completed. Veterans' resumes are identified with an icon of a **soldier saluting in front of their resumes**. This enables employers, friendly to hiring veterans, find and hire veterans with ease.

EMPLOYER VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS: All employers, friendly to hiring veterans, have an option of placing the same icon of a **soldier saluting in front of their vacancy announcements**. This enables veterans to quickly locate jobs they are qualified for and a quick way to apply to the employer for a job their qualified for.

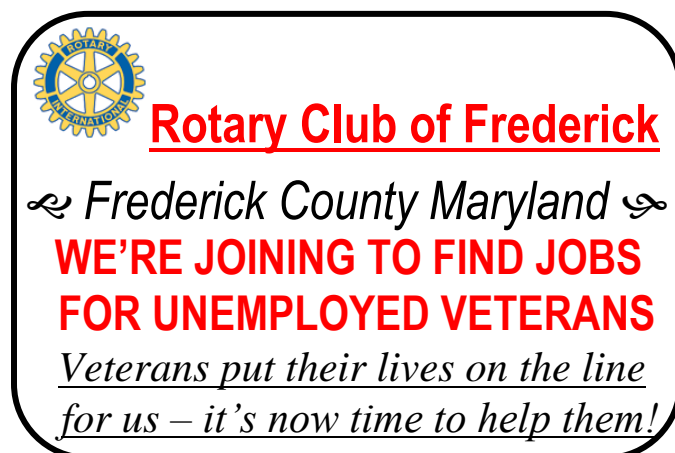
GETTING THE WORD OUT: All veterans organizations and non-profit organizations supporting the **Foundation** are being asked to distribute wallet size "HIRE A VETERAN" cards to employers throughout Maryland. A sample card for Rotary Clubs is shown below that they are distributing.

FRONT



Front of wallet card featuring logos for the Fort Detrick Retiree Council (Department of Defense, Still Serving) and the Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation (Helping Our Veterans). The text reads: "Join us- employers go to a one stop job site: mwejobs.com TO HIRE A VETERAN they're in top 30 percentile of peers."

BACK



Back of wallet card featuring the Rotary Club of Frederick logo. The text reads: "Rotary Club of Frederick Frederick County Maryland WE'RE JOINING TO FIND JOBS FOR UNEMPLOYED VETERANS Veterans put their lives on the line for us - it's now time to help them!"