



MiniBursts

Compressed Issue
Complete Issue on line at: mgbc-md.org



Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation, Inc.

A Bi-Monthly Publication for all post 9-11 Maryland Reserve Component & Active Duty Service Members
December 2010 – January 2011



Left to right: Howard Hoy, Frederick, MD American Legion Post 11 Commander; Jennifer Whetzel, Washington County, MD wife of a wounded Army Veteran, Randy Weddle, Post 11 Director of Legion Riders; and Robyn Rich, Member, Post 11 Auxiliary/Women of Legion Riders, and Vice President, Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Fixing a Wounded Warriors Broken Christmas

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.



A VETERAN'S FAMILY IN NEED OF HELP It began when PFC Whetzel was in the turret of his Humvee that got hit with an IED in Iraq and he was severely wounded. He was transferred back to Ft. Bragg, NC and had several surgeries at Ft. Bragg, but because he needed additional specialized surgery, in July of 2010, he was transferred to Ft. Lewis, WA. His household goods were transported to his new unit and his wife was to receive per diem for her and their special needs daughter to follow in a few weeks. Because her family lived in Maryland, they moved in with her parents while awaiting per diem payment.

After 6 months went by, although not wishing to be a complainer, Mrs. Whetzel appealed to **Ft. Detrick, MD's Morale Welfare and Recreation's office of "Army Community Service"** to seek assistance. She hoped they could get the per diem due her in time to get the family together by Christmas at Ft. Lewis, WA. After two intensive days by Ft. Detrick's ACS Financial Readiness Manager Pam Tucker, the proper paperwork was completed. However, it was the same story Mrs. Whetzel heard at Ft. Bragg: processing by Defense Finance Accounting System would take at least two weeks for her to receive the per diem and there was nothing that could be done to accelerate the process.

On **Friday Dec. 10th, Ft. Detrick ACS Staff** opted on a standing offer from the Major General Boyd Cook Memorial Foundation, Inc., Robyn Rich, Vice President for Family Support (*and a volunteer at Ft. Detrick's Army Community Service*) to provide community outreach for situations like this when needed. Two days later, on **Sunday December 12th**, Robyn Rich, also a **Woman's Partner of Post 11's American Legion Riders**, visited Mrs. Whetzel at

her parent's home in Washington County, MD to determine how to help her. On **Monday the 15th**, at a Post 11 Legion Riders Meeting, also attended by Post 11's commander Howard Hoy, over \$1,000.00 for Mrs. Whetzel was raised. Another \$1,000.00 was raised the following **Tuesday and Wednesday between Frederick Elks Lodge 684 Auxiliary, Fredericktowne Rotary and the Foundation** for a total of over \$2,000.00 and given to Mrs. Wetzel. On **Thursday, December 16th**, Mrs. Whetzel was on the road in their family pickup with her 12 year old daughter driving to Ft. Lewis. **They arrived at Ft. Lewis, WA Christmas Eve at 10:30 PM.**

MORE SUPPORT: Additionally, because Mrs. Whetzel and her daughter had no winter clothing, (*Their family's winter clothes were at Ft. Lewis, WA*) **the president of Frederick's Goodwill Dan Kurtenbach**, had Mrs. Whetzel escorted through a shopping tour of their store and provided, free of charge, all the winter clothing they needed to include a suitcase. **A staff member of MD's 6th District U.S. Congressman Roscoe Bartlett** offered her frequent flyer miles so Mrs. Whetzel could have a friend ride with her to Ft. Lewis and fly back home.



Help us locate veterans and their families in need

If you know of post 9/11 veterans and/or family members in need of support or know of veterans in need through friends and neighbors, please let us know. Foundation members are all volunteers led by a Retired Rear (2 star) Admiral, William Prescott, MD, who is a past Assistant Surgeon General of the United States.

Contact the Foundation

through the Foundation's web site < mgbc-md.org > or call our toll free number (1) 877.99.4VETS 8387. All calls are answered by Volunteer American Legion Riders' Women Partners 7 days a week.

**"The way to do things is
begin"** - Thomas Carlyle

HOW VETERANS REQUESTS ARE PROCESSED



Frederick Post 11 American Legion Riders Woman Partners coordinate all requests for improved woman-to-woman communications seven days a week via toll free telephone conversations or emails.

SAMPLES OF VETERANS ASSISTED

Pay & Allowances “TERMINATED”: A reserve component service member deployed to the Middle East re-enlisted in-country. However, because Defense Finance and Accounting 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 the **Thurmont American Legion Post 10** 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 local 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 the vehicle to him at his home--at no cost.

Child Care: On several occasions, based on the circumstances of the situation, the **Foundation** provided funds 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 family members were unaware of. After the **Foundation** spread the word dependents began using the complimentary child care.

Major car repairs – 2 times: Both were family vehicles of a MD Guardsmen deployed to Iraq that needed unexpected major repairs. The **Foundation** paid over **\$3,000.00** for repair for discounts for the other vehicle.

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.

Moving Expenses: 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.

AMVETS Helps Evicted Dependent: Erroneous termination of service member's pay causes wife, at the urging of the Foundation provided all funeral arrangements to include flowers.

Return for the Holidays: A Maryland Guardsman who was severely burned in Iraq did not have funds for he and his wife (*She was staying with him in Texas*) to return back home to visit family during the holidays. Donations from the **Foundation and Middletown AMVETS Post 9** in the amount of **\$1,000.00** each enabled him and his wife to return for the holidays.

Family Information Day Because families of deployed Guardsman were not familiar with benefits due to them, **Frederick Elk's Lodge 684** donated meeting space for an information day and the **Ladies' Auxiliary** paid for family transportation costs (*One wife came from Richmond, VA*) and their lunches. **The**

Foundation provided no cost babysitting. Volunteer presenters from **Ft. Detrick Child**

Care, Chaplain, Judge Advocate and several members of Morale Welfare and Recreation office explained the extensive support provided by their office. A community CPA donated his time to review financial planning and the president of **AMVETS Post 9 Ladies' Auxiliary** (*Who is a professional in child care.*) reviewed do's and don'ts of what to look for in child care.

Ft. Detrick's office of Morale Welfare and Recreation has an informal program for active duty families transferring into Ft. Detrick who experience pay delays of providing them with a needed amount of **\$25.00** Commissary Gift Certificates for family food. Because donations to fund the program were depleted the **Foundation** donated **\$500.00** to resolve their immediate problem.

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. The case was finally resolved by the **Maryland Realtor's Association** assisting with locating a home and helping with rental payments.

Funeral Expenses: A mother of a Guardsman deployed to Iraq passed away with no insurance. While the Army was returning her son home on emergency leave, The Foundation coordinated funeral arrangements with a funeral home in the Guardsman's neighborhood. at the urging of the Foundation provided all funeral arrangements to include flowers.