

From the *Editor*

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we pause to honor our veterans, past and present. I've set my PDA to this precise moment so that I will be reminded to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by those who have worn the uniform of their country. This is the day that we should all stand tall and be proud of service to country. I salute each and every one of you.

To the residents of Emporia, Kansas, this is a special anniversary year – their 50th celebration of Veterans Day. In 1953, Emporian Alvin King proposed that Armistice Day be changed to Veterans Day to recognize and honor all veterans from all wars. That year, a Veterans Day observance took place in Emporia while the rest of the country observed Armistice Day. Congressman Ed Rees, also from Emporia, proposed the change to Congress, and President Eisenhower, also from Kansas, signed the bill in 1954, making November 11th Veterans Day. Thus, the first nationwide observance of Veterans Day was on 11 November 1954. So, Emporia, Kansas, proudly claims that they are the founding city for Veterans Day. To that, I say BRAVO ZULU!

On November 14th, history will be made. On that day, all State and Territorial Governors will join President Bush in signing simultaneous Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week Proclamations declaring the week of 17 November to 23 November 2003, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. This country couldn't be at war on so many fronts without the dedication of Guardsmen and Reservists, and support from their employers. Have you thanked your employer?

Let me take you back a month (I'm writing this in early October.). I just attended the Change of Office and Retirement Ceremony for VADM Totushek in Washington Navy Yard's Luetze Park. The former VCNO was the guest speaker and presented VADM Totushek with the Defense Distinguished Service Medal. VADM Totushek's remarks centered on groups of individuals who supported him in his career - family being a very important part of that. The incoming leader of the Naval Reserve, VADM Cotton, held to the aviation tradition of keeping his remarks brief. So, in my book, he's off to a good start! We have asked VADM Cotton to give us his views of the challenges that lie ahead for the Naval Reserve. He has accepted; so look for it in the December issue. Because the issue you are reading is going to press before the conference in San Antonio, we'll have the complete line up of our newly elected officers in December as well. And, because the defense bills either haven't passed or haven't been signed by the President, we'll give you our take on them next month.

This month, we feature the Naval Reserve Public Affairs professionals. As you would suspect from the "spin masters," they have done a phenomenal job in presenting their community to you. Our own professionals have done a masterful job in this issue bringing you timely information and food for thought – CAPT Marc Hardy, CAPT Ike Puzon, and CDR Al Carper. Our "Quack," RADM Lynch, and retirement expert, CAPT John Wheeler, close out their elected offices – both leaving us hungry for more of their good work. We are so very fortunate to have such committed individuals stepping up to the plate for our members and for Naval Reservists everywhere. Sincere thanks to all!

On page 6 of this issue, we express our appreciation to the many members who have sent in contributions that sustain our programs. We highlight one individual, CAPT Peacock, who sent us his first retirement check! All other contributors are listed on our Web site. Many thanks for your continued support and membership. I hope that you enjoy the read.

Best,



Steve Keith

Looking Ahead

December. Our San Antonio, TX, Fall Conference highlights will be featured. VADM Cotton will tell us about his goals and objectives as the new leader of the Naval Reserve.

January 2004. In our Tax Tips for Reservists feature we'll update you on the latest tax laws and advise on how you can take advantage of every deduction under those laws.

February. The feature article this month will be on the Naval Reserve Space and Network Warfare program.

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