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National VP for Retired Personnel

**T**hank you to the San Antonio Conference organizers for a first-time experience in your historic city. As a member of the Naval Reserve Association, I was able to participate in the scheduled agenda as well as the Anchors' programs.

Why participate? Why attend local, district, and national NRA activities that promote resolving issues, developing resolutions, and keeping the Association engaged and relevant to the times in which we live? I do, and I call it my motivational shot! Participating allows me to become involved and knowledgeable while still meeting new friends and renewing old friendships.

So, as the result, I just happened to get elected as your National VP for Retired Personnel. Fortunately or unfortunately, I had to return to the fire zone (San Diego, CA) on Saturday before having had the chance to meet with the membership at the evening activities.

Upon arrival home, first item on the agenda was to check out my insurance policies: auto, homeowners, umbrella, and my exclusion. Fortunately for me, all was well covered; but for several military families in the Miramar area, incinerated houses were not adequately covered or covered for rebuilding costs.

Reasons for lack of home coverage varied, such as:

- People whose families had owned their homes for generations and who,

## Thinking Ahead

because of poverty or oversight, had allowed their policies to lapse.

- Insurance – canceled fire policy because of violations such as placing an old washing machine in the yard or owning high-risk property, such as split-level wood houses in highly flammable wooded areas.

- Banks and mortgage companies require homeowners to have fire insurance, but if a home is paid off, there is no lender to require a new policy.

- Renters fail to get renters insurance because it may be too expensive.

Who can help in emergency situations? Your local Red Cross and FEMA grants of SBA loans (1-800-621-3362) are resources.

Why bring up protection insurance in this article? Common sense and emergency! This can happen anywhere and anytime. Retirement wiped out!

Beware of fraud calls and deals. Here are some types of insurance you may be able to do without:

1. **Private mortgage insurance:** Probably the most expensive type of insurance that does you personally no good. Some borrowers are forced to obtain it to get a loan; get rid of it just as soon as you can.

2. **Separate policies and riders:** Try to combine as much insurance as you can. Umbrellas are OK and are frequently separate policies. However, most "additional" insurance should be added to existing policies (such as coverage for jewelry, firearms, etc.).

3. **Flight insurance:** Almost always a bad deal (thankfully). Some credit cards provide this sort of insurance "free."

4. **Credit life insurance:** Credit life insurance and disability insurance is very expensive. If you need this insurance, you probably can't afford it. If you can afford it, you don't need it.

5. **Short-term cash value insurance:** Generally a waste of money. Equity in life

insurance policies (insurance other than "term" insurance) typically builds up over time, and it takes a long time to build up. A short term policy is typically a waste of money, and term insurance would be a better purchase.

6. **Life insurance for children:** This is a small premium policy, but typically one that never pays off and frequently is canceled or cashed out long before death. Dividends are extremely small.

7. **Mortgage insurance:** It is much more expensive than it is worth. These policies are decreasing in value as your mortgage is paid off, but typically the premiums remain the same. Term insurance is much less expensive for the same value.

8. **Disease specific insurance:** Insurance for specific risks such as disease, heart attack, or stroke are similar to "guessing" into which slot the ball will fall while playing roulette in Las Vegas. If you want to gamble, go to the casino; it will be more fun.

9. **Short-term medical insurance:** What I mean here is typical COBRA insurance. When you end a job, frequently, you can continue your insurance for up to 18 months (for example, while looking for a new job). But, the downside is that you pay the full premium. Unless you have a significant medical risk existing and need the insurance coverage for a family, there may be other considerations to keep in mind.

10. **Insurance on appliances:** Appliances are becoming less expensive than insurance.

Now back to the VP Retired Personnel responsibilities. After I was elected, I sat back and said, "Wow! This job is overwhelming. I need to team." I am seeking help for input and members who would be willing to write articles/or part of an article for the *NRA News*. I can be reached at (619) 429-4504. 📧

### ATTENTION RETIREES

Don't confuse MEDICARE and TRICARE pharmacy programs. Recently enacted legislation regarding the MEDICARE prescription drug program does not affect the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program (TSPP). TSPP will continue as a separate program.