



CDR Sharon K. Kleinschmidt, USNR (Ret)
National VP for Retired Personnel

Potpourri

because it supports the important work nonprofit organizations perform for individuals and communities.

Retirement Pay and SBP Premium Calculation

Go to <www.bol.navy.mil> (BUPERS On-Line) to the Annual Retirement Point Record (ARPR), input the requested information, and view your anniversary years and points accrued. Then, go to our Association Web site at <www.navy-reserve.org> and request a retired pay estimate. You may also get your Survivor Benefit Plan questions answered by calling CAPT McAtee at 703-548-5800.

Retiree Status and Categories

In time of war or national emergency declared by Congress, the Secretary of the Navy may recall any retired member of the Reserve Component, with the approval of the Secretary of Defense, when it is determined there are insufficient qualified Reservists in active status. The Department of Defense categorizes all military retirees:

- Category I retirees are those within their first five years of retirement who are under the age of 60 and are not disabled.
- Category II retirees are those who have been retired more than five years and are under the age of 60 and not disabled.
- Category III retirees include all others, and include those who are disabled.

All Category I and II retirees are considered mobilization assets. Category

III retirees with selected skills, primarily medical personnel, are also considered mobilization assets.

Did You Know?

* Vietnam Veterans – Vietnam veterans with prostate cancer may apply for VA disability compensation if they served in Vietnam between 9 January 1962 and 7 May 1976. Vietnam veterans are not required to prove they were exposed to Agent Orange. The VA presumes any veteran who served within the borders of South Vietnam or in adjacent waters was exposed to the compound. Those wishing advice or guidance should call the VA Claims office at (800) 827-1000.

* Scholarship season kicks off and children of active, reserve, and retired may apply through 18 Feb. for the Defense Commissary Agency Scholarship. Apply at a commissary or on-line, <www.militaryscholar.org>.

* Support our Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard. When you buy at the commissary and exchange, part of the money goes to support the moral, welfare and recreation fund at the installation. Without this money, there would be no ball fields, basketball courts, gyms, golf courses, hobby shops, or picnic facilities at some bases.

CDR Sherry's retirement thought: *"I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship"* – Louise May Alcott. ⚓

Tax Benefits in Charitable Planned Giving

By Kathleen Sweeney, CFP

As many Americans engage in writing big checks for their 2003 tax bills, it may be time to look for ways to avoid the same pain again in April 2004. One strategy that will substantially reduce income taxes – eliminating the need to write the Internal Revenue Service a bonus check on 15 April 2004 or increasing the amount of the refund – is charitable planned giving.

This approach makes it possible to make a tax-deductible gift to a charity while retaining the right to use the asset or to derive income, or payments, from it. Many donors don't realize that they may receive payments from assets transferred to a charity. Two of the most popular vehicles are charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts.

Charitable planned giving, which pays larger dividends for millions of taxpayers each year, is encouraged by federal and state governments. Our lawmakers have protected and enhanced provisions in the tax code that encourage charitable giving

TAP INTO A VALUABLE MEMBER SERVICE:

SAFEGUARDING YOUR RESERVE CAREER DOCUMENTS

The Association is accepting photocopies of your DD214, NOE, RCSBP election, and retirement orders for safekeeping at Headquarters. This is a member service designed specifically to assist you in safeguarding your important Reserve career documents as you transition toward retirement. To take advantage of this member service, just forward a photocopy of any or all the Reserve career documents mentioned above to the Naval Reserve Association, Attn: Mark DeVille; 1619 King Street; Alexandria, VA 22314. We will annotate your membership record as to which documents we have safeguarded for you. Retrieval is accomplished upon request by you or your family.