

## July 2019 TAA Resource Packet

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness (US 1776). July is a time for reflection on where we came from and who we are today as a Country, as United States Citizens and to celebrate our milestones” (Thomas Jefferson, 1776, p. 4).

### Partner Resource Packet

We offer this resource packet to you, our partners and stakeholders, to support you in the work that you do AND to make you aware of the services we provide. The packet contains sample articles (included below), suggestions for social media content, and tools and resources for military service members. Look for a new packet each month!

Use this material to:

- Highlight the importance of communication
- Connect military service members to helpful resources

### 4 Question Survey

Please complete this 4-question survey to let us know your thoughts on this material <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TAAResourcePacketFeedback>.

### What is the Transition Assistance Advisor Program (TAA)?



The Transition Assistance Advisor Program serves Reserve Component service members who have dedicated themselves to serving our nation, often at great personal sacrifice. The program's principal role is to provide **direction** to Reserve Component service members so that they can secure all **benefits**, entitlements, and services earned through their military service with the **compassion** of someone who's been there.

To reach the Transition Assistance Advisor in your state/territory or District, go to <http://www.taapmo.com/Docs/about/TAA Maze Roster.June17.pdf>.

## SAMPLE Articles

Use all or some of the articles included for your newsletter, website, email communication, and social networking needs such as Facebook, Twitter, etc.

## Independence from Britain and the birth of our Union- July 2, 1776

Independence is formally declared! Within the following days, a committee of five drafted the Declaration Independence. On July 4, 1776, the draft was finalized, and the 56 delegates began adding their signatures. The signing was symbolic of the moment



when the 13 united colonies identified themselves as free and independent from British allegiance and political connection (US 1776).

### Facts about our Declaration of Independence:

- On June 7, Richard Henry Lee, from Virginia, introduced a motion calling for the colonies' independence before the

### Second Congressional Congress.

- Fifty-six signatures are on the Declaration.
- Additional signatures were added on August 2, 1776.
- John Hancock, from Massachusetts, was the first signature on July 4, 1776.
- Matthew Thornton, from New Hampshire, was the last signature on November 4, 1776.
- Benjamin Franklin, from Massachusetts, was the oldest to sign, at 70 years old.
- Edward Rutledge, from South Carolina, was the youngest to sign at 26 years old.
- Two delegates never signed, John Dickinson from Pennsylvania and Robert Livingston from New York.
- Two versions of the Declaration were sent to the 13 colonies. The first did not include all signatures. In January of 1777, the final version went out that included all 56 signatures.

**Military Pensions** - "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan" (Lincoln, 1865, para. 4).

As early as 1636, Plymouth put forth a law in the colonies that provided pensions to disabled Veterans in a war against the Indians. In 1776, the Continental Congress adopted a pension law offering soldiers half their pay for life if they sustained a loss of limb or other serious or debilitating disability. This pension was put in place to recruit more members to the colonial Army. However, the financial burden was placed on individual states, because the Continental Congress did not have the authority or the money to make pension payments.



### Facts and Timeline:

- **1776.** Only 3,000 Revolutionary War Veterans drew a pension, and those who served until the end of the war received grants for public land.
- **1789.** Federal pension legislation enacted.
- **1816.** There were 2,200 pensions in place. Allowances were on the rise for all disabled Veterans, while widows and orphans were granted half the pay of soldiers from the war of 1812, for up to five years.
- **1818.** The Service Pension Law. This expanded pensions from disabled Veterans and their families to officers (\$20.00 a month) and enlisted (\$8.00 a month) who served in the Revolutionary War and needed assistance.
- **1816 to 1820.** Pensions increased from 2,200 to 17,730 and climbed from \$120,000 to a substantial \$1.4 million.
- **1858.** Half pay pensions to Veteran's widows and orphan children up to the age of 16, were authorized.
- **1862.** The General Pension Act. This provided disability pay based on the degree of disability and rank of the soldier in peace time and during the war. This act allowed payment compensation for certain diseases due to military service for the first time in history.
- **1873.** The Consolidation Act. This act established payment on the degree of disability and not rank, and started the aid and attendance program, in which allows the disabled Veteran to pay for a nurse or housekeeper.
- **1890.** The Dependent Pension Act. This act provided pensions to veterans unable to perform manual labor. Legislation passed in the 19th century had established a general pension system that could be applied to future pension recipients.
- **1912.** The Sherwood Act. The first act to grant pensions to all veterans.

**Have questions or need assistance with disability claims and pensions? Your TAA can help you. [http://www.taapmo.com/Docs/about/TAA Maze Roster.June17.pdf](http://www.taapmo.com/Docs/about/TAA%20Maze%20Roster.June17.pdf).**

**For the fun of it - July 19<sup>th</sup>** is Stick Out Your Tongue Day.

Go ahead, stick out your tongue at that never-ending red light or the song you don't like, or even a friend. For more information, visit <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/fun/stick-out-your-tongue-day>



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To learn more about **VA Benefits**, go to <http://taahealthy.com/> or use the QR Code.

