Director Benton’s Outreach Trip

The Director was invited to be a guest speaker at the American Judges Association’s (AJA) annual conference in Lihue, Hawaii. The association has over 3000 members. According to the AJA website: “The objective and purpose of the Association is: to promote and improve the effective administration of justice; to maintain the status and independence of the judiciary; to provide a forum for the continuing education of its members and the general public; and for the exchange of new ideas among all judges.” In his speech, Director Benton noted that men who have been in detention, jail, prison or otherwise involved in the criminal justice system tend to be at higher risk for failing to register. The Director stressed the importance of working with professionals in the criminal justice, parole, and re-entry advocacy communities to increase awareness of the registration requirement, so that no man misses out on an opportunity to improve his life because he, or the people who support him, did not know why, when, or how to register with the Selective Service System.

During his visit, Director Benton met with several government officials, military organizations, high schools, and was guest speaker at various events. After his arrival on the first day of his trip, he met with Judge Catherine Remigio, who serves on the First Circuit Court, as Deputy Chief Judge, Family Division; and Senior Judge, Family Court. From there, the Director went to the Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunset Dinner where he was the invited speaker for the event.

The next morning, Director Benton, accompanied by State Director Andrew Pepper, had a meeting with Governor Ige and Deputy TAG BG Kenneth Hara and discussed that each year over two thousand men in Hawaii fail to register and potentially lose benefits for life because they time-out and become too old to register when they turn 26 years old. Later that day, he met with Mr. Daniel Martinez, Chief Historian for the WWII Valor in the Pacific. Immediately following that briefing, Director Benton had a meeting with the Executive Director of the Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association, Captain Chuck Merkel and Ms. Jane Ferreira, Executive Director of the Navy League of the United States Honolulu Council. He discussed with them...
the association’s education programs and the opportunities available to introduce Selective Service at different age levels and to students across the country and the globe.

On Saturday morning Director Benton spoke at the Oahu Veterans Center Council Meeting and met with Claire Levinson, Executive Director and members of the Oahu Veterans Center Board. Saturday evening the Director was a guest speaker at the American Patriot Dinner sponsored by the Honolulu Council of the Navy League of the United States. During his speech, the Director presented Ms. Jane Ferreira and the Navy League with Selective Service’s Honored Patriot award for her support of those who serve in the sea services, and giving a renewed focus on sailors and the programs that support them. Through her efforts she has strengthened the bond with military families through direct support of Ombudsman and Family Readiness Officers to ensure they are aware of the needs of each ship, submarine, regiment and command to serve their needs. The Navy League has exponentially expanded programs to ‘develop tomorrow’s leaders’ through STEM activities provided for military youth, and Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Science, Robotics, Sea Cadets, and JROTC.

Director Benton was a guest on the KHVH 830AM Rick Hamada Morning Show and was interviewed on Hawaii’s Public Radio show, “The Conversation”. The following day after his speaking engagement at the American Judges Association, Director Benton traveled to three area high schools and met with senior students, JROTC, high school registrars and counselors.

Major Aguilar, Waimea High School and Director Benton

Director Benton and State Director Andrew Pepper decided to inspect the post office farthest west in the nation. So they went and did so. And it was in compliance and had our Selective Service registration forms and materials!

Continued on Page 3
Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Advertising Program

Director Benton and the PIA staff have initiated a new bus and airport advertising program. Our ads are targeting the densely populated, underperforming registration metropolitan cities including Los Angeles, Sacramento, Chicago, Washington D.C., and Boston.

The advertisements are being placed under both a paid advertising schedule campaign and a public service announcement (PSA) effort to be the most cost-effective and impactful strategy. The expectation is that these media efforts will reach the most complete and diverse members of communities. They will be seen on buses, inside and exterior, digital kiosks in airports, metro websites, bus stop shelters, and more.

Washington State Senators Visit

Director Benton gave a warm Washington State welcome to Senator Pam Roach and Senator Mike Padden when they made an office call to Selective Service.

Pennsylvania Outreach

As part of PIA’s outreach, Jacob Daniels represented the Selective Service System at Pennsylvania Congressman Dwight Evans’ Second Annual National Service Opportunity Fair in Philadelphia, PA. The National Service Opportunity Fair introduces middle and high school students, as well as college freshmen, to opportunities to serve their country. Organizations represented at the National Service Opportunity Fair included all of the service academies and respective military branches, the Army Corps of Engineers, FBI, CIA, FEMA, DEA, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Defense Logistics Agency, as well as Selective Service. Approximately 150 young men and women and community leaders attended the Fair from organizations such as JROTC.

Outreach to DC JROTC

Associate Director for Operations Craig Brown briefed approximately 35 JROTC Leaders from DC Public Schools on Selective Service registration and the many benefits linked to the registration requirement. The agency looks forward to continuing our great working relationship with the DC JROTC and appreciates their support.
RFO Training

The agency hosted the Navy Reserve Force Officer semi-annual training at National Headquarters earlier this month. Along with Director Benton, Deputy Director Prigmore, Associate Director for Operations Brown, CAPT Longo, US Navy Reserve Commanding Officer, seventeen Navy RFOs were in attendance.

Commander Alexander G. Flakas, Region I received a Defense Meritorious Service Medal for expertly managing 15 local boards and 74 board members and having zero inoperable boards while maintaining a 100% mobilization readiness.

Pennsylvania State Director Visits Air Reserve Base

This month Pennsylvania State Director John Williams and Detachment PA 1-13 RFO, Major Joseph Miller, briefed Lt Col Jason Price and TSgt Kayla O’Neill, 911th Air Reserve Base, Pittsburgh, PA on the Selective Service mission and thanked them for allowing SSS to use their training facility on base to complete local board member training for over 25 board members during the past three years.

Director Presents Awards to RFOs

Lieutenant Commander Craig B. Halverson, Region III received a Joint Service Achievement Medal for superior leadership, organizational acumen, resourcefulness and foresight in accomplishing the Selective Service System mission in California.
DMC Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

The Data Management Center celebrated Hispanic Heritage month with a luncheon that consisted of delicacies from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Ecuador. The event and display honoring the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans was arranged by employees who also celebrated their Hispanic heritage and culture: Blanca Rivera, Marisela Negron, Daisy Santiago, Andy Gonzalez, Pam Miller, Francisco Morales, Flora Terrazas, Guelia Rodriguez, Luis Vasquez, Clarimarie Mullen, Veronica Quinette, and Brent Downs. Luis Vasquez gave an in-depth presentation and shared stories about growing up in Mexico and the history of his home state, Guanajuato Mexico.

DMC Stands Up for Their Health

The Data Management Center recently installed sit-to-stand workstations as well as ergonomic chairs and anti-fatigue mats. These products are a welcome relief to the DMC employees whose jobs are primarily sedentary in nature. They allow them to adjust their working positions as needed to maintain comfort while continuing to assist the public on a daily basis. These items will help to increase productivity, reduce back pain, improve heart health, and boost metabolism. They are greatly appreciated!

In Memoriam - General Ortiz

General (brevet) Ezequiel “Zeke” Ortiz, passed away on August 29th after a battle with cancer. He honorably served our country. His military career spanned 38 years, 11 months and four days. He rose through the military ranks, starting as an Air Force Airman and ending as a Colonel in the New Mexico Army National Guard. At age 18, he enlisted in the Air Force. He graduated from the University of Albuquerque in 2.5 years with a double major. In the late 1960’s he graduated from Officer Candidate School and became a Lieutenant serving to the rank of Colonel. After retiring he couldn’t rest and accepted a position as the State Director of New Mexico for Selective Service System. General Ortiz was a beloved and active parishioner of St. Joseph’s on the Rio Grande. He was a proud Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus; the head usher and a pastoral council member for St. Joseph’s Catholic Church as well as a volunteer for many other ministries.

His family gave Selective Service System a signed copy of his book Don Jose - An American Soldier’s Courage and Faith in Japanese Captivity. General Ortiz was a wonderful friend to Selective Service and will be greatly missed.
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The Register welcomes any news of interest to the Selective Service System employees. Send article submissions to Editor, The Register, Selective Service System, National Headquarters, Arlington, VA 22209-2425