

## **RMS December Update: National Guard will receive \$4 million for historical records**

*Message from Remember My Service President, Sharlene Hawkes*

On Saturday morning, December 19th, the Senate passed the Defense Spending Bill, which includes a specific funding earmark of \$4 million for National Guard historical records to recognize the service and legacy of individual Guardsmen.

Since that amount will not cover the entire Guard for this year, I wanted to give the Guards a “heads up” that they will be receiving an all-states letter from the National Guard Bureau shortly. This is pretty exciting news actually—this is the first time in military history that Servicemembers are being funded to receive a record of their service. When something like this has been done in the past, Servicemembers have typically paid for it themselves. Now that it is being presented by the Commander in recognition of valiant and honorable service to Country, it is no longer a souvenir. It is a substantive and comprehensive record of how this one Battalion, or Group, or Division, or Command—and each individual therein—contributed to America's defense and continued liberties. Now, all those photos, videos and documents that PAOs, Historians, families and Servicemembers already collect and store on computers everywhere, will be integrated.

We want to thank Senator Robert Bennett of Utah for his role in getting the funding for these highly efficient, and truly meaningful historical records that not only recognize the individuals who serve, but also educate families and communities for generations to come about their important service.

### **Bullets:**

For FY 2011 defense appropriations, additional Senator support is needed for further funding.

Please contact Sharlene at either 801-860-6820 or [shawkes@storyrock.com](mailto:shawkes@storyrock.com) if your Division/Command is willing to contact your Senator.

The Wyoming National Guard will be the first Guard to employ the new journals, which will include a brief written history of the WYNG, and a complete list of questions to prompt the user what to write about in their journal, for their own private use. These questions are a non-threatening way to therapeutically process their experience in the Service, and were developed by a team of mental health experts at the National Center of Veterans Studies.

Just because we're talking a lot about the Guard in this issue *doesn't mean historical records are only for the Guard!* Of course not...

### **Wishes:**

Everyone at Remember My Service wishes you and your family a peaceful new year at home and in theater. We won't ever stop wishing.