



AUGUST 2008

Website: [www.usawoa-silver-az.org](http://www.usawoa-silver-az.org)

The official electronic monthly newsletter of the Western Region, USAWOA

REGION LEADERSHIP

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**WEBMASTER**  
Position  
Open

TAPS FOR GUS



**CW4-R Raymond T "Gus" Gustafson**  
California Army National Guard  
Charter member of the  
Southern California Chapter

On 22 July, this email was received from Gus' email address in his normal size 24 font:

Hi all - I must very sadly tell you all that my Dad, Raymond Gustafson or "Gus" to some of you, died today. It comes as a shock to us as he was in such great health since he moved into Bixby. But he suffered a fall and then in the hospital acquired blood clots that stopped his lungs from functioning. We will miss him soooooo much. I am writing from my Dad's computer so that I might catch so many of you, his friends that I might not know.

We will have his memorial service Monday, July 28th at 10 am at Faith church in Long Beach. (500 East San Antonio Dr. Long Beach, phone there is 562-427-1653). We will have a light lunch provided there in the fellowship hall afterwards. Please feel free to pass this information on to anyone who might not receive this email. Thank you for being a friend to my Dad.....Wendy Dugan

PS- if you need to contact me, my email is [Swdug@msn.com](mailto:Swdug@msn.com), phone # 562-920-7281.

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Joint Force Headquarters  
Office of the Adjutant General  
9800 Goethe Road  
Sacramento, California 95826**

CAAD-G1-MSB

25 July 2008

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEATH OF  
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FOUR RAYMOND THEODORE GUSTAFSON II (Retired)**

1. It is with deepest sympathy that I announce the death of Chief Warrant Officer Four Raymond Theodore Gustafson, age 75, on 22 July 2008 in Long Beach, California. Chief Warrant Officer Four Gustafson is survived by his daughters; Kim Gekler, Wendy Dugan and Linda Gustafson; Granddaughters, Kristie Dugan, Tammy Dugan and Katie Gekler; and sister, Joyce Seeley.
2. Chief Warrant Officer Four Gustafson was born in Orange, New Jersey on 24 February 1933 and enlisted in the 733rd Ordinance Battalion, Illinois Army National Guard on 2 May 1950. In June of 1956, Staff Sergeant Gustafson moved to Long Beach, California and enlisted in the 123rd Ordinance Company, California Army National Guard. On 20 June 1961, Staff Sergeant Gustafson was transferred to the Headquarters and Company A, 40th Ordinance Battalion in Bell California. During this time he was promoted to Sergeant First Class. In March of 1963, Sergeant First Class Gustafson transferred to the Headquarters and Company A, 40th Maintenance Battalion. He was promoted to Sergeant Major during this time. On 29 January 1968, Sergeant Major Gustafson was reassigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 115th General Support Group, in Roseville, California. On 17 March 1969 Sergeant Major Gustafson was reassigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 161st Maintenance Battalion in Long Beach, California and on 1 August 1969 he was reassigned back to the 115th General Support Group and appointed Command Sergeant Major.
3. On 29 May 1973, Command Sergeant Major Gustafson received his initial appointment as Warrant Officer Two, in Company D, 540th Support Battalion in Bell, California. In January of 1974, Warrant Officer Two Gustafson was transferred to the Headquarters and Company A, 540th Maintenance Battalion in Long Beach, California as Electronics Maintenance Platoon Chief. On 30 May 1973, Chief Warrant Officer Two Gustafson was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer Three, and in May of 1985, he was promoted to Chief Warrant Four and transferred to the Headquarters (-) STARC in Sacramento, California. On 28 February 1993 Chief Warrant Officer Four Gustafson was honorably separated from the Army National Guard and transferred to the Retired Reserve - USAR Control. In civilian life, Chief Warrant Officer Four Gustafson worked for the Long Beach Combined Support Maintenance Shop, in Long Beach, California as an Electronics Maintenance Shop Supervisor.
3. Chief Warrant Officer Four Gustafson's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Armed Forces Reserve Medal (3rd Award), Army Service Ribbon, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and California Commendation Medal (2nd Award).
4. Services will be held at the Faith Presbyterian Church, 500 East San Antonio Drive, Long Beach, California, on 28 July 2008 at 1000. There will be a light lunch in the fellowship hall after the service, with Chief Warrant Officer Four Gustafson's mementos on display. He will also be cremated on 28 July 2008. The family said that flowers would be nice and that donations should go to the American Legion.

///s///  
**WILLIAM H. WADE II**  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

Announcement #08-08

## THE DIRECTOR SAYS

This is a very sad time for me. A very long time friend has just passed away. CW5 Raymond "Gus" Gustafson passed away on the 22d of JUL 08.

I knew Gus for over 40 years. He and I have shared apartments together, worked together as National Guard Technician and tending bar at the Officers club at Terminal Island. When he was President of the Sergeant Major's Association he held the annual meeting at Rochelle's in Long Beach and I was his Protocol Officer and presented the formal program at the banquet.

We did not always agree on everything. When Gus took on a project it was always done in a very professional manner. Gus was a very strong supporter of the USAWOA and many other organizations. More than I can think of. He was always volunteering to help someone. I won't say good bye to him because I hope someday to see him again within the big command in the sky.

This is the month to really start working of your chapter's recruiting. I am very excited about our chapter challenge and hope to have to give each chapter within the Western Region \$25.00 and of course one chapter \$50. For the most members recruited.

Do not forget about the Western Region's Web Site contest. I know that the judges have been looking at the chapters Web Sites. I think they will be struggling with a choice of a winner between about 4 or 5 chapters.

As this is an Election year, next month we will present the letters from both candidates running for the Region Director position. If you have not already sent in your reservation for the 2008 AMM you need to do it soon. Remember to make your hotel reservations separate.

In the past years we have had problems with Proxy's. This year your Proxy can be sent in via e-mail. Remember to put your membership number on your Proxy. This is the only way that you Proxy can be authenticated.

Remember to assign you Proxy to someone you know will be in attendance. At the last minute something may happen and you may not be able to attend and this way your vote will count.

As these are my last months in office I hope to see as many of you there as I can and I hope that your chapter will be getting either \$25.00, \$50.00 or \$100.00 and you won't want to miss being there - in person to see it happen. *Harry*



Holiday Inn Aberdeen-Chesapeake House

## THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

The 36th Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) will be held in Aberdeen Maryland. The dates are from 20th to the 24th of October 2008. It is the honor and pleasure of the Northeast Region & Chapters under the direction of Regional Director CW4 (Ret) Pete Hill to host this years AMM.

Aberdeen is located on the beautiful and historic Chesapeake Bay. We are blessed to be living in an area that offers just about everything a visitor would want to see from the old town of Havre de Grace to the Inner Harbor of Baltimore.

The AMM continues to support our members by:

**First:** acquiring professional information for circulation to warrant officers from our official and unofficial contacts with Department of the Army, Department of Defense, Congress, The Military Coalition, and other associations.

**Second:** and just as important, our Association acts as a focal point to receive professional recommendations, suggestions, concerns and general comments from warrant officers in the field and after analysis, review, study, and approval, present these views to the appropriate offices with the support of the USAWOA.

The process for registration is a two part function:

The First part is booking the hotel reservation directly with the Holiday Inn. The rate is \$79.00. We have rooms set aside for our members, please be sure to register by 6 October 2008. When making reservations, make sure you let the staff know you are with the Warrant Officers Association. Select the Hotel Registration tab to register for your room.

The Second part is booking the AMM portion by selecting USAWOA 2008 Annual Meeting of the Members Registration Form and completing the form. Please follow the instructions on the web site. If paying with credit card e-mail the form with your credit card information or mail registration form with check to: USAWOA 462 Herndon Parkway, Suite 207 Herndon, VA 20170-5235 If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call: USAWOA- 1-800-5-USAWOA or Pete Hill 1-410-278-9309/610-932-6713 Greg Gouty 1-410-278-0391/610-998-1323.

### DA Information for Meetings of National Service-Related Organizations

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 1-211 (Attendance of Military and Civilian Personnel at Private Organization Meetings).
- b. AR 360-1 (Army Public Affairs).
- c. AR 690-400 (Employee Performance and Utilization).
- d. JFTR (Joint Federal Travel Regulations, Vol. 1; Uniformed Servicemembers).
- e. JTR (Joint Travel Regulations, Vol. 2; Department Of Defense Civilian Personnel).
- f. DoD 5500.7-R (Joint Ethics Regulation) (JER).
- g. Private Organizations Reference Guide (HQDA, Director of Management).
- h. Foundational Authority For This Activity Is Public Law 101-189.

(Note: Per phone conversation on 23 Jul 07 with the HQDA Public Affairs Office "The Army will no longer be publishing the annual message on organization authorized to attend conferences. The authority is at the organization level and if there is a doubt in the mind of the commander the individuals should check with the local Standards of Conduct Office. Since a new message is not to be published and as last years does not have an expiration date, it may be cited."

## AMM EARLY BIRD REGISTEREES AS OF 7-17-08

LAST	FIRST	RANK	BR	STAT
COOPER	DAVID F	CW5R	AV	ADW
COX	ALFRED	CW3R	OD	RET
GILL	JOE	CW3R	OD	RET
GOTTFRIED	BEN F	CW2R	OD	RET
GOUTY	GREGORY	CW4R	OD	RET
HESS	DON	CW4R	AG	RET
HILL	KENNETH "PETE"	CW4R	OD	RET
MARTIN	CANDIS	CW4R	QM	ARW
MEEKS	FRANKLIN	CW5R	AG	RET
NISKER	GARY	CW5R	AV	NGW
OSCOVITCH	VIRGINIA	CW2R	AG	ARW
PATTERSON	MICHAEL K	CW3R	OD	NGW
PERRINO SR.	EUGENE L	CW3R	OD	RET
ROBINSON	RILLY RAY	CW5R	OD	ARW
SCOTT	ROBERT D	CW4R	SC	RET
STEPHENSON	EDMUND	CW5R	QM	RET
TAIJI	BRUCE	CW4R	SC	RET
VALIANT	ROY A	CW4R	AV	RET
VEILLARD	NATASHA	CW2R	AG	NGW
WHALEN	RONALD	CW4R	QM	RET
WILSON	HARRY C	CW4R	OD	RET

THERE IS STILL TIME TO ADD YOU NAME TO THE LIST.

[www.usawoa.org/AMM2008.htm](http://www.usawoa.org/AMM2008.htm)



## DIS AND DAT

**Social Security's New Homepage** - Social Security has redesigned its homepage to make it more welcoming and user-friendly. The new page is cleaner, easier to navigate and makes better use of graphics. While the look of our homepage has changed, the web addresses have not. Favorite sites that you and other frequent users have bookmarked will not change. See for yourself how easy it is to use at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**VA Announces SGLI and VGLI Premium Reductions** - Veterans and military personnel with life insurance policies managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will see a reduction in their premiums, thanks to improved investment earnings and a reduction in non-combat claims. On July 1, 2008, the premiums for basic SGLI will be 6.5 cents per month for \$1,000 of coverage, down from 7 cents per month for \$1,000. This translates into a 7 percent savings.

**With Troops' Freedom to Choose Beneficiaries Comes Greater Responsibility** - Starting in July, servicemembers can choose to whom a \$100,000 death gratuity will be disbursed if they're killed in action. Currently, troops can assign half the posthumous payment to recipients of their preference, with the remainder paid according to a hierarchy determined by the Defense Department: first to the spouse, or if unmarried, to children, then grandchildren, followed by parents and, barring these antecedents, the next of kin. But when the policy shift becomes effective July 1, troops should use caution while exercising their new freedom to bequeath.

**USAWOA ANNUAL AWARDS** - Do you know of a really outstanding member or spouse who is always out front supporting your Chapter, our Corps and the members and family of our military? See

[www.usawoa.org/downloads/AlbertMHolcombeAwd-IP-appl.pdf](http://www.usawoa.org/downloads/AlbertMHolcombeAwd-IP-appl.pdf)  
[www.usawoa.org/downloads/VirginiaHolcombeAward-IP-appl.pdf](http://www.usawoa.org/downloads/VirginiaHolcombeAward-IP-appl.pdf).

Any member may nominate another member for consideration. For the [Albert M. Holcombe Memorial Warrant Officer of the Year Award](#) and/or the [Virginia M. Holcombe Memorial Warrant Officer Spouse of the Year Award](#). Chapter members must forward their nominations through their respective chapters and regions. Members not affiliated with a chapter may submit nominations directly to the Home Office. Nomination forms for the awards are available at the chapter level or at the Home Office. Nominations for the Annual Awards are still being accepted up until 15 August. Make sure that all the deserving Warrant Officers and spouses in your Chapter are properly recognized. Nominate them to give them the recognition they deserve. See the USAWOA Awards Manual at [www.usawoa.org/downloads/M900-1-NatIAwds-Apr08.pdf](http://www.usawoa.org/downloads/M900-1-NatIAwds-Apr08.pdf).

## USAWOA BENEFITS

- Army Times Subscription Discounts
- Auto Insurance for USAWOA Members and families
- Auto Rental Discounts for USAWOA Members and families
- Awards Program - National and local
- Camaraderie
- Chapter, Regional, and National Activities
- Credit Cards accepted by USAWOA
- Family Member Scholarships - Administered by the USAWOA Scholarship Foundation
- History of the Warrant Officer - provided by the Warrant Officers Heritage Foundation
- Memorabilia for both USAWOA and Warrant Officers
- Networking Among Peers
- Professional Development Seminars
- Representation - in Washington, DC and on Capitol Hill through The Military Coalition
- Scholarship Program
- Social and Community Service Events
- **New!** Sprint/Nextel Employee Value Program
- USAWOA Job Bank - free job search tools for Warrant Officers and their families
- USAWOA Tuition Grant from Grantham University
- Vehicle Buying and Leasing Discounts
- VISA Cards with USAWOA Logo - from Pentagon Federal Credit Union
- 10-10 Dial-Around Service