



SCA eNews



To Promote the history and traditions of the Medical Service Corps, to enhance the continuing education, support social and recreational

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Secretary: Dave Bitterman

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Reunion: Beverly Beavers

SCS Liaison: Brett Venable

Serving the Army community of present and former US Army MSC officers

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From our President

Greetings all. I hope that you are all well as we continue to live and learn with this pandemic.

I am very excited to serve as your president for this next year. We are going to continue on the azimuth laid out by Chuck Adams and MG(R) David Rubenstein. I am very grateful and appreciative of Chuck and David's leadership and passion for our Association. Thank you both and the Boards you led.

At our core we remain a Social, Informational and Philanthropic organization focused on promoting the history and traditions of the Medical Service Corps, enhancing the continuing education of members while supporting the social, recreational activities and reinforcing camaraderie among our members.

This year I am excited to be joined by a dedicated and energetic board and committee structure who will pursue 5 primary goals:

1. Plan and conduct safe and successful Reunion.
2. Increase and improve information flow via social media etc.
3. Investigate use of sponsored events (pod casts, town halls etc.) to educate members and raise funds.
4. Grow Membership.
5. Increase our support to MSC community via scholarships, education events,

development and growth in our Silver Caduceus Society partners.

One thing that will never change is the success of this Association rests on the servant leadership that is the bedrock to our Corps. I ask each of you to please reach out and recruit new members and consider giving of your time and talents to our various committees.

With great respect,

Colonel Kyle D. Campbell, FACHE, USA Retired

President, Silver Caduceus Association

Past President Message

Howdy, all. I trust you're well.

This year the Army held its first Battalion Commander Assessment Program (BCAP) which helped leaders select battalion commanders who overall have higher cognitive abilities, are more physically fit, and are better written and verbal communicators. The program also helps identify and potentially remove leaders who exhibit toxic behaviors. A number of LTCs selected for command were removed from the list after going through the BCAP assessment.

Specifically, per the Army Chief of Staff, the BCAP resulted in a 34 percent change in officers chosen for key billets. Out of 436 line officers chosen for command and key billets, 150 either declined to be assessed, were found not ready for command, or became an alternate.

Harvard Business Review published an in-depth article about the program, highlighting it as one of the most groundbreaking changes in personnel management. You can find the article here.

<https://hbr.org/2020/11/reinventing-the-leader-selection-process>.

HBR authors state "BCAP has given the Army the most carefully vetted class of battalion leaders in its history." In September, the program expanded to brigade commanders.

Next the BCAP will expand to Acquisition Corps Colonels and Sergeants Major. The AMEDD selection process for LTC- and COL-level commands will not be far behind.

The Chief's goal is "to prioritize people first and achieve our vision of becoming the premier human development organization."

More to follow.

Army Medicine, Army Strong!

Control the controllable.

For yourself, for others.

David Rubenstein, FACHE

Immediate Past President

Membership Information

Become a member of the Silver Caduceus Association (SCA) and join more than 550 current and former Army Medical Service Corps (MSC) Officers proudly promoting the interests of MSC officers serving around the globe. The SCA is open to current and former Army MSC Officers and Warrant Officers who have honorably served in the Active Component, National Guard, or Reserves. The purpose of the SCA is to promote the history and traditions of the Medical Service Corps; enhance continuing education; and support social and recreational activities for its members.

SCA Member Benefits

SCA membership is an investment in yourself and also your military career.

- **Network** with current and former MSC Officers
- **Build life-long friendships** with fellow MSC professionals
- **Find professional development** through national and local chapter events
- **Access member-only information** on SCA's comprehensive website
- **Apply for scholarships** through SCA's scholarship program
- **Recognize MSC officers** through the SCA's awards program
- **Share** event photos on the SCA website
- **Connect** with friends and mentors at the Biennial SCA Reunion

SCA Scholarship Program

SCA awards academic scholarships each year to deserving SCA members and their family members. Applications are accepted in January and June. For more information, visit the SCA's website at <https://www.silvercaduceusassociation.org/about/scholarships>.

How to Join SCA

Join SCA On-line: <https://www.silvercaduceusassociation.org/members/join>

Renew Membership On-line: <https://www.silvercaduceusassociation.org/members/renew-membership>

Follow SCA On-Line

Official SCA Website: <https://www.silvercaduceusassociation.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Silver-Caduceus-Association-287265814776102/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4979073/>

Membership Report

The Silver Caduceus Association (SCA) membership count is ever changing as new and renewed memberships are processed every month. As of 2 Oct 2020, the membership count was 580 and was made up of 383 Regular, 192 Lifetime, 3 Associate, and 2 Honorary members. All new SCA members and renewed Regular or Associate members receive a membership card that shows their member number and membership expiration date if applicable. All memberships with an expiration date expire on the 31st of December in the final year of their current membership. As expected, all Lifetime and Honorary memberships have no expiration date. If you have any questions concerning your membership status, feel free to contact our Membership Coordinator, Roger Williams, at rogerfwill@aol.com and he will be happy to assist you.

Scholarship Program

The 2020 Silver Caduceus Association (SCA) scholarship program has ended with the awarding of four \$1,000 scholarships to the individuals shown below.

Joseph Hoiden, Tacoma Community College, Major: Engineering
Jason Neptune, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Major: Criminal Justice
Christian Olson, Southern Utah University, Major: Business
Vivian Warren, University of Missouri, Major: Nursing

Nomination and eligibility criteria for the 2021 scholarship award year will be posted to our website by the end of December with scholarship applications accepted between 1 January and 30 June 2021.

Our scholarship program has awarded more than 55 \$1,000 scholarships since the program was started in 2006. It has been able to do this through the generosity of its membership and others who support our purpose to enhance continuing education. To those of you who have already contributed to the program, a hardy thanks. We are open to donations 365 days a year as you simply send a check made out to SCA with Scholarship Program written on the "For" line. Mail the check to SCA, Inc., PO Box 39514, San Antonio, TX 78218. Soon we will be adding an on-line donation feature to our website allowing you to donate via your credit card. We will let you know when that is available.

Honoring Deceased MSC Officers

The Silver Caduceus Association (SCA) has been honoring deceased Army MSC officers even before the association was formally organized. Starting with the 2000 Reunion of United States Army Medical Service Corps officers, the names of deceased Army MSC officers have been recognized and honored in a memorial service. The Memorial Service continues today as a major item on SCA Reunion schedules and we now have another way of honoring our deceased officers. We have just finalized the construction of an "In Memoriam" tab on our SCA website to present the names of our fallen comrades in arms. This tab has been under construction for several months and is now ready for your review. The list contains the names of 665 deceased Army MSC officers along with a link to an online obituary when one was available. We will keep it current as information of deceased officers is sent to us. We encourage all members to review the names on this "Memorial Wall" and help us to keep it up to date. Clicking on the link below will bring you to the In-Memoriam tab.

<https://www.silvercaduceusassociation.org/members/in-memoriam>

Vietnam Dustoff



By [Mike Bruce](#)

Anyone remember FSB Henderson? May of 1970 we helped with a mass-casualty evacuation. Bodies laying all over. Guys on the ground were begging for reinforcements. We'd land and they'd throw on wounded (mostly) and we'd drop them off in Quang Tri. Then repeat. Several other helicopters alternated with us. A boot and a poncho was left on ours.



[From Larry Kipp](#)

Technically, moving KIAs is a supply problem, not a medical problem. We only carried KIAs if there was any room left after getting the wounded on. We were flying Dustoff when General Ware (of 1 ID) was killed. This is what I wrote in my memoir, *Small War*: "The Bu Dop, Loch Ninh, Song Be area was close to the Cambodian border and the Ho Chi Minh Trail. It was part of our area at the Quan Loi station. Often our stay there was uneventful, but just as often, fighting would erupt and we would be kept busy. On September 13, 1968, heavy fighting broke out and all of a sudden, our hearts game came to an end. We took off and discovered that we had about fifty wounded in several areas that needed immediate evacuation. Several hours of moving wounded didn't seem to relieve the pressure. We still had fifty casualties waiting for pickup."



During the fighting, the commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Keith Lincoln Ware, a Medal of Honor recipient from WWII, was killed. His immediate subordinate took command and got on the radio and called us. He told us to quit what we were doing and come down and pick up the dead general's body and take it back to Loch Ninh.

Randy Radigan, our AC, asked if the general was dead and the reply was, "Yes, now get your butt moving."

Randy replied that he understood the situation but that he had about fifty wounded still to move. The radio blasted back that moving the dead general was more important.

Randy replied that he had wounded to go pick up and that the dead general would have to find another way back.

"Dustoff 41, I am ordering you!" came back the radio. Randy replied that moving the wounded was our mission. He then stated that he was refusing to remove the body. The general replied that this was in defiance of a direct order.



Randy, very coolly, said, "Sir, I am an Aircraft Commander. You do not have the authority to 'order' me." The general on the radio then asked for his name, rank and serial number, which Randy provided.

The general then said, "So, if I can't order you, who can?"

Randy replied, "No one in Vietnam can, Sir, not even (the theater commander) General Westmoreland. If you get the President or the Secretary of Defense to order me, I will."

"Goddamn you," the general replied.

"Sir," the AC said, "I'm sorry to be blunt, but moving a body is a supply problem, not a medical problem. I've got living men to go pick up, and that's my mission." The general never replied.

Much later that night, after all the hauling was done and we were back in the RTO shack at Quan Loi waiting for another mission, we were playing poker with the red light on to protect our night vision. The RTO got a call; someone was asking to speak with Dustoff 41. Being right there, Randy picked up the mic and said, "Go ahead, this is he."

"This is the 1st Infantry Division Surgeon, Maj. General (I don't recall his name)."
"Yes?" said the AC.

"I called to say that you made the right call today about General Ware. You spoke with the second in command, and they were close friends. That's all I've got to say. Goodnight," and he hung up."

There is one obvious mistake in the piece. The 1st Infantry Division Surgeon that is mentioned in the piece was obviously not serving in the rank of "Major General." Probably a colonel, possibly a lieutenant colonel.

2021 Reunion

Now is the time to begin making plans to attend our 2021 reunion which will be at the Marriott Hotel in Arlington (Crystal City), VA in the National Capital Area
Sep 27, 2021 to Oct 5, 2021

MAKING RESERVATIONS

A dedicated website is now available for your attendees to book their hotel rooms online. Reservations can be made starting Jan 14, 2020 at this web address:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50054283>

Message from the Silver Caduceus Society Liaison

Fellow MSC Officers,

Greetings from the Silver Caduceus Association (SCA)! My name is COL Brett Venable, and I am the new Silver Caduceus Society (SCS) Liaison. In this role, I will help connect the SCA (national level) with the SCSs (local level) operating on our military posts and joint bases. If you need assistance with establishing a SCS, acquiring resources for an event, or obtaining general information about the SCA, please do not hesitate to call or send me an e-mail. I am here to help!

As we embark on a new fiscal year, now is the perfect time to create or re-energize a SCS on your installation. SCSs are easy to organize and NOT considered formal organizations. This means there is no requirement for a constitution, by-laws, or any other official paperwork. The senior MSC officer in an area simply decides to have a SCS meeting, an action officer is appointed, and then MSC officers coalesce for the event. It's that simple. The goal is to bring MSC officers together once a quarter for professional development, networking, and fun.

While our Army continues to operate under pandemic conditions, the SCA recognizes that face-to-face events may neither be sensible nor permissible at your location. In this case, we encourage SCSs to leverage Zoom, MS Teams, or other video conferencing platforms for their meetings. This will keep our MSC officers connected while complying with social distancing and other recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions.

As you host SCS events in the future, please submit photos and short articles to SCA so we may post them on our website. Face shots on Zoom or MS Teams are acceptable! We look forward to hearing from you!

For more information, please contact COL Brett Venable, Silver Caduceus Society Liaison at brett.h.venable.mil@mail.mil.

COL Brett Venable

Silver Caduceus Society Liaison