



News for U.S. Military Widows in Korea

TRICARE and Medicare

You have TRICARE Standard hospital insurance for free until you reach age 65. This insurance pays 75% of your costs at Korean hospitals. You should check with the TRICARE office before using a Korean hospital. Then you will be sure that TRICARE insurance will be pay for your hospital care.

When you reach age 65, TRICARE Standard hospital insurance stops. Military retirees can get Medicare Part B hospital insurance from Social Security. This will also give them TRICARE for Life insurance at no extra cost. For Korean wives and widows of U.S. military retirees, there is a problem. Medicare Part B is only available if you are a U.S. citizen, or if you are a Korean citizen who lived in the U.S. for at least five years just before applying for Medicare Part B.

This means that many of the Korean wives and widows lose their TRICARE hospital insurance when they reach age 65. I thought that when Korean citizens became eligible for Social Security, they also became eligible for Medicare Part B. That is not correct and I apologize for giving incorrect information to some people.

The RAO is working to try to find a solution to this problem. The only thing I can tell you right now is to be sure that you have the Korean medical insurance. I do not know how long it will take to fix this problem. Please be patient.

Retiree Office Location

In the previous newsletter, I included a map to the new, temporary office location for the RAO. On the map, I forgot to show that the office is still at Osan Air Base. Some widows were looking for Building 781 at Yongsan. I will try to be clearer in the future.

Building 936 is almost ready. I think that the RAO will be back into Building 936 in July, but that is not yet definite.

Check Your Mail

After mailing the newsletters, I receive some newsletters that cannot be delivered. When I check, I learn that the widows are still living there, but they have not been checking their mail. If the mail stays in the box too long, the post office will close the box. This could cause a problem if you are not able to receive important mail. Please try to check your mail once a week. If you become sick, ask another widow to check your mail for you, or call the RAO.

Summer Vacation

The Retiree Activities Office will be closed for summer vacation from July 26 until August 6. If you need help during that time, call 017-477-1441. I will have another reminder about the summer vacation in the next newsletter.

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