

# Division 89

## Newsletter

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### Council Update



**President Dale Lutzen:**

**Dear Friends/Division 89 Members:** At our annual Division 8&9 Conference/Convention, held at O'Fallon, Illinois April 30-May 2, 2009 - We successfully merged our two divisions. We are now AFSA Division 89 "Heartland of America."

Our borders now encompass 10 states; North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. We were thrilled to have AFSA International President Michael Carton, along with several past AFSA International Auxiliary Presidents attending this year's conference. I was elected President by the delegates to lead us for the next two years. Although an era has passed, I am excited about and look forward to our journey into the future doing what we do best – recruiting and retention, promoting and protecting benefits and helping those less fortunate than ourselves. We're looking forward to the challenge of a combined division. You should see little change at the chapter level. Thanks to all for lending your support as a member of this most worthy organization – "The Voice of the Enlisted!" Together we will make a difference!

Dale Lutzen

President, Division 89



## Council Update

### **Auxiliary Coordinator, Jean Kolwitz:**

For those of you who do not know me, I am Division 89 Auxiliary Coordinator. I had originally been the Division 8 Auxiliary Coordinator since 1995.

Last September, International Auxiliary President Marie McDowell appointed me the Division 9 Coordinator until the Division Conference this year. When Divisions 8 and 9 merged at the Division 8/9 Joint Conference this past April/May, I was elected the Division 89 Coordinator for the next two years. I had been working with the Auxiliaries in Division 8 since 1995 and Division 9 Auxiliaries since September 2008 and now I am looking forward to working with the Auxiliaries in Division 89.

As Coordinator I am responsible for the six Auxiliaries in our Division—A804 Kansas City, MO, A851 Milwaukee, WI, A856 Wausau, WI; A858 Minneapolis, MN; A859 Duluth, MN, and A982, Lincoln, NE. As I have said on many occasions, I am more than willing to help your reactivate the Auxiliary in your area.

As we all know, membership is a big problem for the organization and for the Auxiliary especially. Our numbers are shrinking even though we have members who work on retentions and recruiting. I encourage all AFSA Chapter members to get their families in the Auxiliary. There is no age restriction now. Your spouse, children, brothers, sisters and parents are all eligible to be in the Auxiliary and it is only \$16 for one year. There is a proposal to raise our dues to \$20 after the upcoming International Conference. This could be voted on then.

I can always be reached at 262-673-7503 or budjean3@intergate.com. Anyone who knows me knows I will respond as soon as humanly possible. I normally respond

with 24 hours. If you have a question and I don't have an answer, I will get it for you.

Look forward to working with everyone.

Jean Kolwitz

Division 89 Coordinator

### **Communications, Gary Swanson**

I would like to welcome everyone to our inaugural newsletter for Division 89. I hope you enjoy the articles and will take an interest in helping to grow this newsletter into one that keeps the entire division advised on happenings within our chapters and the rest of AFSA. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm always looking for articles from the chapters, so please take the time to let us know the great things your chapter is doing. Our newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis so be on the lookout for the next edition coming out around the first part of October.

I also want to point you towards our new website located at:

<http://www.afsativ89.org>

We are continuing to add new content on a weekly basis so check it out and let us know what you think.

One of the features you may want to check out are the mail lists. You can sign up to receive email notifications on a variety of subjects concerning AFSA. If you decide down the road that you do not want to continue receiving the emails, you can unsubscribe from the list at anytime.

If you ever have any ideas for improvement, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Gary Swanson, Communications Trustee

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# Legislative Update

## Senate Panel Approves People Fixes

On June 25, the Senate Armed Services Committee adopted its own version of the defense bill, including a number of personnel, compensation, and health care provisions of interest, such as:

*Military Pay Raise:* Like the House bill, it would provide a 3.4% raise for 2010 (vs. the 2.9% proposed by the Pentagon). Since it's in both bills, the 3.4% raise is now a done deal.

*Gray Area" Reserve TRICARE:* Also like the House bill, it would authorize premium-based TRICARE coverage for Guard and Reserve members (and their families) who have retired from active drill status but haven't yet attained age 60.

*Force levels:* It approves the Pentagon-recommended increases for each service, and also authorizes an additional 30,000 for the Army in FY2011/2012, provided the Army budgets for the higher force levels.

*TRICARE:* Requires the Pentagon to "initiate a process for reform and improvement of the TRICARE health system." A primary consideration is to improve beneficiary access to care, but this is a blanket tasking that would need to bear watching, if retained in the final defense bill.

*Disabled TRICARE Eligibility:* Exempts disabled beneficiaries under age 65 from having their TRICARE eligibility revoked retroactively (and being dunned for the cost of past care) if they don't make retroactive Medicare Part B payments.

*Behavioral Health Capacity:* Requires the Pentagon to develop and implement a plan to increase the number of DoD military and civilian behavioral health personnel.

*Caregiver Compensation:* Authorizes special compensation for designated caregivers for servicemembers with combat-related catastrophic illnesses/injuries while on active duty.

*Employer TRICARE Incentives:* Requires a GAO review of the implementation and impact of the recent law change that barred civilian employers from offering financial incentives to use TRICARE in lieu of the employer's health plan.

*Military Children:* Requires the Pentagon to make a comprehensive assessment on the impacts of deployments on children and their mental health needs, and requires development of programs to provide increased support to children with autism and their families.



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## Legislative Update

### **House Adopts Concurrent Receipt Measure**

After wading through nearly 70 amendments, the House voted overwhelmingly (389-to-22) on June 25 to approve its version of the FY 2010 Defense Authorization Bill (HR 2647). One of the most important floor amendments was offered by Committee Chairman Ike Skelton (D-MO), to phase out over five years the disability offset to military retired pay for service-members retired for disability (Chapter 61).

The first three years of the five-year phase-out would end the offset for more severely disabled Chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service:

On January 1, 2010, Chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service and a VA rating of either 90% or 100%, or who are deemed "unemployable" by the VA, would become eligible.

On January 1, 2011, Chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service and a VA rating of either 70% or 80% become eligible.

On January 1, 2012, Chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service and a VA rating of either 50% or 60% become eligible.

Over the following two years, the offset would be eliminated for all remaining Chapter 61 retirees:

On January 1, 2013, Chapter 61 retirees with a VA rating of either 30% or 40% will become eligible.

On January 1, 2014, Chapter 61 retirees with any VA rating become eligible.

The one caveat is that House leaders were able to identify funding only for the first increment in 2010. Congress would have to come up with additional funding by Oct 1, 2010, or the program would expire. As a practical matter, there doesn't see much chance of Congress letting this high-profile initiative (which was generated by President Obama) lapse. Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), the senior Republican on the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee, expressed his support of the bill but said the House "could have done so much more." AFSA agrees, and will work to include an expanded concurrent receipt initiative in the Senate version of the bill.

### **Aid for Military Homeowners, Wounded Warriors in Economic Stimulus Bill:**

Military personnel forced to sell their homes during the current real estate crisis may find some relief due to a new program included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, more commonly referred to as the economic stimulus package, that was signed into law by the President. The new program, the Home-owners Assistance Fund, authorizes the Pentagon to spend up to \$555 million to buy the title to a service member's property or reimburse him or her for losses after a sale or foreclosure. It is primarily intended for wounded warriors who need to move for medical reasons, surviving spouses of those killed in action, and service members short-toured or receiving unexpected PCS orders. The program is also available to the widows of Defense Department civilian employees killed in the line of duty. It is modeled on an existing DOD program for civilians affected by base closures under BRAC.

The Obama administration's first defense budget will not seek an increase in Tricare fees,

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## Legislative Update

according to a White House statement and a representative of a major military organization. However, the promise not to touch Tricare is good for only one year. Omission of Tricare fee increases from the 2010 defense budget is not a complete surprise. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said in early April that after Congress rejected Defense Department requests in 2007, 2008 and 2009 to increase fees for working-age military retirees and their families and to raise some fees for using retail pharmacies, there didn't seem much point in asking again in the 2010 budget.

If the Pentagon had proposed dramatically raising health cost for retired families by:

Raising the \$460 family TRICARE Prime enrollment fee as high as \$2,090.

Raising annual \$300 family TRICARE Standard fees as high as \$1,270.

Establishing an annual \$120 enrollment fee per person for TRICARE For Life.

Raising retail pharmacy copays for all from \$3 generic/\$9 brand/\$22 non-formulary to \$15/\$25/\$45.

## Division 8 and Division 9 Annual Award Winners

Division 8 and Division 9 will compete as separate divisions for all 2008 Annual Awards

	<b>Division 8</b>	<b>Division 9</b>
Member	TSgt Bob Young (872)	SMSgt Michael Dorazio (951)
FTAY	SrA Shea Young (881)	SrA Candice Desa (984)
NCOY	TSgt Jeremiah Love (872)	TSgt Kelly Rodriguez (964)
SNCOY	MSgt LePage (881)	N/A
Chapter (<500)		Chapter 988 Altus AFB
Chapter (>500)	Chapter 851 Milwaukee, WI	Chapter 985 Tinker AFB
Website	N/A	Chapter 985 Tinker AFB
Community Service	N/A	Chapter 985 Tinker AFB
VSP	N/A	SMSgt Gregory Gallup (959)
Chapter Legislative	N/A	Chapter 985 Tinker AFB
Ind Legislative	Harry McLane	SMSgt Bryan Thompson (985)
Recruiting Chapter	Chapter 872 Scott AFB	Chapter 985 Tinker AFB
Retaining Chapter	Chapter 851 Milwaukee, WI	Chapter 985 Tinker AFB
Top Recruiter	TSgt Bob Young (872)	Michael Parente (984)
Top Retainer	Bud Kolwitz (851)	Jonathan Bennett (985)
Aux Member	Patti Parrish (A804)	
Aux Recruiter	Donna Peterson	
Aux Retainer	Willa Hyde (A804)	

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## Around The Division

### Division 89

**Reports:** We're always concerned with the accurate and timely submission of reports. Div 89 Standing Rule 2009-3 was written to help you in this area. Until our Division 89 website is fully operational, you can find this standing rule (and the others) on the old Div 9 website: [www.afsativ9.org](http://www.afsativ9.org). Click on Division 9 Tools and then Standing Rules for downloadable versions. The first quarter is coming to an end so please plan ahead to get your reports in on time.

**Zip Code Realignments:** We have met our goal to get all division 89 members currently assigned to an inactive chapter reassigned to the closest active chapter. This may in some cases transcend state lines, but will remain within our new division's boundaries. For example; the Topeka chapter was recently deactivated. Most of those members will be realigned to the Kansas City chapter; while some may be realigned to the McConnell chapter.

**2010 Division 89 Convention:** Planning is ongoing for next year's convention. Currently we are looking at sites at Tinker AFB and Ellsworth AFB. If you have any questions or comments on proposed locations, please contact DP Lutzen, [president@afsativ89.org](mailto:president@afsativ89.org).

**PAC Dinner:** DP Lutzen would like all Division 89 members attending this year's PAC to gather for a division dinner. Please contact DP Lutzen during

the convention for details.

### Chapter 804

**AFSA Chapter 804 & A804** hosted the annual Membership picnic on June 12 at the Richards-Gebaur pool grounds. Burgers, hot dogs, side dishes, and beverages were enjoyed by all. Our larger than expected crowd was a pleasing sight.

Our monthly meeting site is changing due to the closing of the Martin City VFW.

We will now meet at the old R-G NCO Club, 15790 Elmwood, Kansas City MO. 64147, Conference Room C (downstairs by the K-BAR). Our meeting dates are: July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10 and December 1. We begin at 7 pm.

Every Wednesday the Chapter 804 hosts the Cover-All Bingo. We start at 5 pm and usually are finished by 6 pm. Come on out and have a great time with us. Also the old NCO Club downstairs stag bar is open to the public. The K-Bar usually has a good crowd, come on out!



### Chapter 951

Clayton Bejot was a WW II B-17 pilot and flew 35 combat missions in the European theater.

The aircraft he flew was a B-17, dubbed "Flak Dodger". A book was written about this particular B-17 "Flak Dodger" and her

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## Around The Division



**CLAYTON BEJOT BEING REUNITED WITH HIS WWII BOMBER JACKET**

exploits. A copy of this book can be found in the South Dakota Air and Space Museum.

While researching support material for a D-Day display in June, museum director, TSgt Steven Wilson ran across an old aviator bomber jacket named "Flak Dodger". TSgt Wilson then cross checked the jacket with the previously discovered book and found that it belonged to 1Lt Clayton Bejot.

Inside the book, "Flak Dodger", there was a picture of a young 1Lt Clayton Bejot standing in front of the B-17.



**CMSgt COLE, 28 BW COMMAND CHIEF, CLAYTON BEJOT, MSgt DAVE WELLS AND MSgt (RET) DAVE BAMBURG**

TSgt Wilson was able to locate Clayton Bejot, a resident of Ainsworth, Nebraska and contacted him to see if he would like to be reacquainted with his bomber jacket, which he had not seen in 20+ years. MSgt David A. Wells, AFSA Chapter 951 Secretary and the Military Affairs Committee arranged for Clayton Bejot to be reunited with his aviator jacket during the "Dakota Thunder" 2009 Air show at Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota. Mr. Bejot then re-donated his bomber jacket to the Air and Space Museum where the jacket and other items will be displayed.

Mr. Bejot is 88 years old and is truly an "American Hero". Mr. Bejot was reunited with his bomber jacket one last time, and was also made an associate member of AFSA. Pictures were taken by SSgt Jon Longoria, Chapter 951's Communications Trustee, who also escorted Mr. Bejot throughout the Air Show.

## Chapter 872

Chapter 872 will be hosting the 21st Annual Inter-service Dining Out on October 16th, 2009. Chapter 872 would like to extend an invitation to all AFSA members within Division 89 to attend this event.

Because of the joint nature of Scott AFB, this is a truly unique event since members of all five services will be in attendance.

The event will also be attended by numerous former POWs who participate in a very moving POW ceremony. If you are interested in attending, please contact

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# Around The Division

SMSGT Gary Swanson,  
[gary.swanson.1@us.af.mil](mailto:gary.swanson.1@us.af.mil).

## Div 8/9 Convention

### Lapel Pin/Coin

DP Lutzen is acquiring the new lapel pin for Division 89. As these become available more information will be sent out on how to purchase.

Also in the works is a new division coin which will be for sale once they arrive later this summer.



OUTGOING DIVISION 8 AND DIVISION 9 PRESIDENTS DALZELL AND LUTZEN

Coin Front



HOST CHAPTER 872 GROUP PHOTO WITH INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT MIKE CARTON

Coin Back



INCOMING DIVISION 89 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BEING SWORN IN BY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT MIKE CARTON

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## Air Force Enlisted Heritage

### The Air Force Chevron

All of us have worn them during our time in the Air Force. They signify our rank in the hierarchy of military position but most of us don't really know much history behind the evolution of the rank we wore for so many years and the wide variety of chevrons the Air Force has used over time.

When we became a separate service on 18 September 1947, most people didn't really notice much difference. They put on the same uniform they wore the day before and went to work. At that time Air



AN ORIGINAL DESIGN E-3 CHEVRON CIRCA 1950

Force personnel were still called Soldiers.

It wasn't until 9 Mar 1948 that the Air Force had a rank chevron to call its own. On that date, CSAF General Vandenberg approved the chevron based on a poll of 150 Airmen at Bolling AFB. That poll indicated that 55% of those polled approved of the new stripes.

At that time we were still using Army rank names, they were Private, Private First

Class, Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Technical Sergeant, and Master Sergeant.

In 1950, General Vandenberg directed that enlisted personnel would now be called Airman vs. Soldier. Finally, in 1952 the Air Force recognized that it needed to build a force structure that met the needs of the Air Force. By restructuring, the Air Force could concentrate on improving leadership training for the top three NCO ranks. It was also determined at this time to redesign the lower three Airman chevrons to signify the difference between the Airman and NCO structures. The new Airman chevrons were redesigned with horizontal wings vs. the familiar upward



HORIZONTAL RANK APPROVED BY GENERAL VANDENBERG IN 1950 AND LATER DISAPPROVED BY GENERAL TWINNING.

swept wings. General Vandenberg approved the new chevrons but held off on implementation until current supplies of chevrons were exhausted. When supplies of the current Airman grade chevrons were depleted in 1956, the change was resubmitted then CSAF General Twining. He closed the book on this change with a short memo..."No change to be made in

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## Air Force Enlisted Heritage

insignia.”

At this time our enlisted grades were called Airman Basic, Airman Third Class, Airman Second Class, Airman First Class, Staff Sergeant, Technical Sergeant, and Master Sergeant.



A RARE, SUBDUED, FEMALE CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE CHEVRON

Our chevrons saw three additional significant changes through the 1950s. The first was the introduction of the diamond to signify the position of first sergeant.



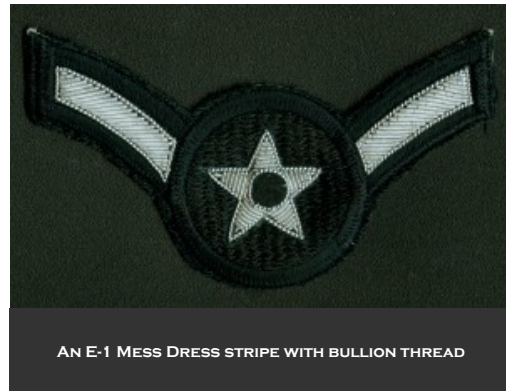
AN E-8 WHITE CEREMONIAL CHEVRON, CIRCA 1960

The second was the introduction of the “Super Grades” of Senior and Chief Mas-

ter Sergeants and lastly, was the introduction of the all white chevron worn on the white ceremonial dress uniform.

With the introduction of the black Mess-Dress for enlisted personnel a new chevron was introduced. It had stripes that were sewn with silver metallic thread on a black background.

The only other major change to Air Force chevrons in the 1960s was the introduction of the chevron for the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. The original design for this new stripe was to add an additional stripe to the top of the current Chief stripes. After being modeled for the uniform board by future CMSAF Don Har-



AN E-1 MESS DRESS STRIPE WITH BULLION THREAD

low, the Air Staff determined the extra stripe to be “Too Much.” The addition of a wreath around a smaller star in the center of the chevron was adopted and remained in use until CMSAF Murray’s tenure when two additional stars and an eagle were added.

The 1970s saw a major change to chevrons with the introduction of the split E-4

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## Air Force Enlisted Heritage

rank. With this change, the first three chevrons for Airman, Airman First Class and Senior Airman would have a blue star vs. the silver star worn since the insignia was adopted. Once Senior Airmen met certain criteria, they would earn their NCO status and the star would be "turned on."

The 70s also saw the adoption of metal rank insignia for rain coats after many years of debate and testing of numerous solutions.

The 1980s saw very little changes to our chevrons with one exception. Probably one of the most debated changes in Air Force chevron history was the implementation of shoulder boards for senior NCOs. This change seemed to quickly break into two camps, those that loved it, and those that hated it. Regardless, the shoulder board rank only survived about 25 years and were recently phased out by the Air Force Uniform Board.



THE CURRENT CHEVRON FOR E-7 MASTER SERGEANT WITH THE ROCKER ON TOP

1991 saw a major retooling for enlisted rank. In an effort to distinguish the senior NCO corps from the lower grades, the

Master Sergeant stripe was moved from the bottom of the chevron and joined the other senior NCO stripes on the top. Along with this change the stripe color was changed from silver to white and the star was also turned back on for the Airmen grades.

The final major change that we witnessed was the color change of the chevrons worn on our fatigue uniforms. With the advent of the new Airman Battle Uniform, the green and blue stripes worn by Airmen since the late 1970s have given way for the grey and midnight blue stripes of the new ABU. The green and blue stripes can still be worn until the Battle Dress Uniform is fully phased out in 2011.

The Air Force enlisted chevron has seen many changes since it was first adopted in the early 1950s, and will most likely see additional changes throughout the future of the Air Force. What is most important is that all Airmen, regardless of generation always wear them with pride and know that those stripes represent the backbone of the Air Force.



AN E-4 PROTOTYPE CHEVRON. IT IS UNKNOWN WHAT THIS CHEVRON WAS DESIGNED FOR BUT IT IS FROM CIRCA 1950

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## Division Leadership Directory

<b>President</b>	SMSgt (ret) Dale Lutzen	<a href="mailto:president@afsadiv89.org">president@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	SMSgt (ret) Steve Zalesky	<a href="mailto:vice@afsadiv89.org">vice@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	SMSgt Thomas Pavlick, Jr	<a href="mailto:trustee1@afsadiv89.org">trustee1@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	MSgt Terry L. Turner	<a href="mailto:trustee2@afsadiv89.org">trustee2@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	MSgt (ret) Roland Kolwitz	<a href="mailto:trustee3@afsadiv89.org">trustee3@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	SMSgt Gary Swanson	<a href="mailto:trustee4@afsadiv89.org">trustee4@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Trustee</b>	SMSgt (ret) Jon Bennett	<a href="mailto:trustee5@afsadiv89.org">trustee5@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	SMSgt (ret) Denise Roberts	<a href="mailto:secretary@afsadiv89.org">secretary@afsadiv89.org</a>
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<b>Senior Advisor</b>	SMSgt (ret) Charlie Dalzell	<a href="mailto:senior@afsadiv89.org">senior@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Auxiliary Coordinator</b>	Jean Kolwitz	<a href="mailto:auxiliary@afsadiv89.org">auxiliary@afsadiv89.org</a>
<b>Historian</b>	SMSgt (ret) Don Sullivan	<a href="mailto:history@afsadiv89.org">history@afsadiv89.org</a>

## Internet Directory

### AFSA Websites

AFSA Homepage	<a href="http://www.hqafsa.org">http://www.hqafsa.org</a>
Division 89, Heartland of America	<a href="http://www.afsadiv89.org">http://www.afsadiv89.org</a>
Chapter 858, Minneapolis, MN	<a href="http://afsa858.home.att.net">http://afsa858.home.att.net</a>
Chapter 872, Scott AFB	<a href="http://www.afsa872.org">http://www.afsa872.org</a>
Chapter 951, Ellsworth AFB	<a href="http://www.afsa951.org">http://www.afsa951.org</a>
Chapter 984, Offutt AFB	<a href="http://www.afsa984.org/">http://www.afsa984.org/</a>
Chapter 985, Tinker AFB	<a href="http://afsa985.org/">http://afsa985.org/</a>

### Legislative Websites

- Legislative Information from the Library of Congress: <http://www.thomas.gov>
- Legislative Information from MOAA.org: <http://www.moaa.org>
- U.S. House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov>
- U.S. Senate: <http://www.senate.gov>

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