

Brittany Pointe Estates Veterans Affairs Committee



BPE Pointer Article

Veterans' Corner

by Bob Berger

The new year has arrived, 2019, with all the excitement it deserves. Your Veterans Affairs Committee has already begun planning for the Veterans Day Ceremony, to be held on November 10th. Over the holidays, we have analyzed last year's event. We reviewed what went well and other items that require repair. The very first correction for the new year was to put the service symbols in the approved sequence. Unfortunately, the person who designed our committee letterhead made an error (is my face red?) for which a stern rebuke was received as I will explain. We had sent out several written invitations to some very special people. One of them happened to be a retired United States Coast Guard Captain. Upon arriving at his home in Doc Woods, he and his wife gave me a very warm welcome. Then we visited for a while but upon leaving he handed me an official looking document. The title of this document was "Symbols of the Five Military Branches of the United States in Precedent Order" (*Title 10, USC 113b, 133(b); DOD Directive 1005.8 dated 31 Oct 1977, certified as current on 21 Nov 2003*), and it revealed that the letterhead on the invitation I sent him was in error, as the six service emblems were not in the correct and official order. This rule applies to symbols when in a parade or inspection formation and for display of flags, seals, emblems, insignia, etc.

So, to start the new year on solid footing, our new letterhead (above) displays the symbols in the correct sequence. No need for anyone to contact the commander-in-chief or the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff for disciplinary action. Fortunately, the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Corps at North Penn High School displayed all the flags in perfect order during the 2018 Veterans Day Ceremony. Thanks to them, our future looks very bright for the new year and years to come.