



The REGISTER

Selective Service System

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January/February 2002

New Frequent Flyer Miles Policy



Effective immediately, a new law allows Selective Service System (SSS) employees to retain promotional items earned on official travel, including frequent flyer miles for personal use. Previous laws prohibited the use of promotional benefits for personal use when traveling at government expense. Such benefits were considered the property of the government.

To take advantage of the new law, SSS employees (including state directors, RFOs, and Board Members) must open their own frequent flyer accounts, at their own expense, if any. However, the law is retroactive, which means employees can use miles earned prior to the law being enacted.

Traditionally, federal travelers are restricted to coach class, but now they may use frequent flyer miles to upgrade services. Any fees assessed for such upgrades, however, will not be paid by the

Agency. According to the General Services Administration (GSA), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) could declare the frequent flyer miles a taxable benefit, but has not yet made the decision to do so. GSA will keep employees informed about any IRS decisions concerning this issue.

The new benefit was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2002, which was signed into law by President Bush on Dec. 28, 2001.

For more information on this new benefit, please visit <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0102/010302t1.htm>. **SSS**

NHQ Mailroom Inspected for Anthrax

In light of the previous Anthrax contaminations and to reassure Selective Service System (SSS) employees at National Headquarters (NHQ), SSS officials contacted the Defense Protective Services at the Pentagon to test the SSS mailroom.

The test itself is confidential and no photos were allowed to be taken while the test was being conducted, but the officers assured the employees that the results were negative.

To prevent the possibility of any future contamination, the SSS has revised its mailroom procedures. **SSS**



Pictured left to right: from Defense Protective Service, Ofcs. Christian E. Hale and Roosevelt Roberts, and Mr. Robert Lynch, Mail Assistant for National Headquarters.

Happenings at National Headquarters

Public Affairs

National Registration Drive

In support of the Selective Service System's (SSS) second annual National Registration Drive, Nov. 5-9, 2001, the Agency prepared and mailed high school kits to 29,800 high school registrars and/or principals in early October. The kits included various colorful attention grabbing posters to increase the awareness of the registration requirement among young high school men.

During the five-day event, the SSS asked registrars, teachers and others who touch young men's lives to support the national registration drive by taking part in various activities. Some of the activities planned by the schools included Internet Registration Day, playing of the Agency produced high school video featuring Lou Holtz, Head Football Coach at the University of South Carolina, and lessons about the SSS and the registration requirement using the Agency's Teacher's Guide. **SSS**



Collage of materials included in high school kits.

PSA Wins Telly

The Selective Service System's (SSS) newest Public Service Announcement (PSA), *Game Show*, was a big hit at the prestigious 2001 Telly Awards. The PSA won the award for Outstanding TV Commercial.

The Telly Awards was founded in 1980 to showcase and give recognition to outstanding non-network and cable commercials. The competition was expanded several years ago to include film and video productions.

The PSA, which features a young man being greeted at his front door with "prizes" for registering with the SSS, was co-produced by the Agency, Three Roads Communication, and Widmeyer Communications, the Agency's contract advertising company. **SSS**



Telly Award pictured with the video box containing the award-winning PSA.

Witness to Catonsville Nine, dies at 92

Mary E. Murphy, former chief clerk for Local Board No. 33 in Maryland, and witness to the destruction of the Selective Service records by the “Catonsville Nine,” recently died of heart failure. She was 92.

On May 17, 1968, nine people entered the building which housed the Selective Service System (SSS) Local Board No. 33 and the Knights of Columbus. The SSS office was on the second floor. The group, led by two Roman Catholic priests, brothers Daniel and Philip Berrigan, took and burned the SSS’ records of approximately 600 draft-age men.

Murphy, a devout Catholic, tried unsuccessfully to get the records away from the group. According to Murphy’s son, John V. Murphy III, an attorney and former Baltimore County councilman, the majority of the records destroyed were those of men classified 4-F (registrant not qualified for military service).


In May 2001, Murphy was reunited with several members of the “Catonsville Nine” during a viewing of *Investigation of a Flame*, a documentary about the seven men and two women who made up the group.

Recalling the events of the past, Murphy told a reporter, that she did not regret what she did on that day, “I was for my country then, and I’m for my



Mary E. Murphy

country now. I’m not against protesting. The American people have the right to protest. But it’s the way they did it. The protesters were violent, and that shouldn’t be allowed.”

Besides her son, John, Murphy is survived by a daughter, Mary Lou Quaid; five grandchildren; and a great-grandson. Her husband of 42 years, John Victor Murphy Jr., died in 1980. 

The **Register** is published six times a year as an unofficial publication of the Selective Service System, National Headquarters, Arlington, Va., 22209. **Editor:** Alyce Teel Burton, **Layout/Design:** Laurie Zaleski and Neal Dallmer.

The **Register** welcomes any news of interest to the Selective Service System employees. Deadline is the 20th of the month, 1 month prior to publication.

Circulation: 11,000

Viewpoints herein do not represent official policy.



Dallas School Superintendent Honored

The Selective Service System (SSS) honored Mike Moses, Ph.D., general superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) in Texas, for his efforts in support of SSS registration compliance.

Moses mandated that all Dallas public high schools initiate "Leadership Assemblies" during the week of Nov. 5-9, 2001, National Selective Service Week. During these assemblies, 17- and 18-year-old males watched an SSS video and were instructed on how to register. In response to their requests, the DISD received 10,000 registration cards.

During a DISD sponsored graduation ceremony honoring those World War II veterans who left high school early to enlist in the Armed Forces, Lt. Col. Carl Kist, Detachment 2 Commander, and Maj. Kurt Neufang, Area Office Coordinator, representing the Agency, presented Moses with a plaque.

At the program, Moses said, "During this National Selective Service Week, our 17- and 18-year-old male students have been learning more about their own leadership, civic, and patriotic responsibilities, and those who are of age have now registered with the Selective Service."



Left to right: Dr. Mike Moses; Maj. Kurt Neufang, Area Office Coordinator; and Lt. Col. Carl Kist, Detachment 2 Commander.



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Office of Public and Congressional Affairs
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2425

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