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VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

FRIDAY, NOV. 11 2021
10:30 AM



Location - Rochester International Event Center

8:30 to 10:00 BREAKFAST SERVED
COURTESY OF POWERS VENTURES

10:30 WELCOME

GEORGE MALLET, KIMT News Anchor

10:31 INTRODUCTION OF JANE BELAU

GEORGE MALLET

10:32 POEM BY JANE BELAU

JANE BELAU, Poet Laureate of Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial

10:35 POSTING OF COLORS

ROCHESTER POLICE HONOR GUARD

*Commands giving by Chad Stowers Retired Army Veteran
American Legion Post 92 Honor Guard, Mazeppa Veterans Honor Guard, Olmsted
County Sheriff Honor Guard, VFW Post 1215 Honor Guard, Chris Moberg and
Richard Howey of the Minnesota Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard."*

Posting of Colors

*A special thank you to the Korean War Veterans Guard who have supported us by
marching and posting of the colors ever since the beginning of our programs, Flute
accompaniment by Gene Eiden*

10:40 "NATIONAL ANTHEM"

PERFORMED BY BRAD BOICE, Well known local singer/performer

10:42 INTRO ERIN STOECKIG

DAVE RUDE, VFW Post #1215 Voice of Democracy Chair

10:44 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ERIN STOECKIG, 2020 National Voice of Democracy first place winner

10:46 IS THIS THE COUNTRY THE FOUNDERS ENVISIONED?

ERIN STOECKIG

10:52 INVOCATION

PASTOR LESTER HORNVEDT, Former Pastor at Zumbro Lutheran Church

10:54 GOLD STAR FAMILY REMEMBRANCE

RICH DALY

10:56 "SOME GAVE ALL"

PERFORMED BY BRAD BOICE

10:59 PLEASE STAND, IF ABLE, FOR 11-11-11

GEORGE MALLET

11:00 SILENCE FOR RINGING ELEVEN BELLS

BELLS FOR ETERNITY, Founder and owner Terry Thronson

11:01 INTRODUCTION OF KATI CARPENTER

GEORGE MALLET

11:02 POW/MIA CEREMONY

KATI CARPENTER, Senior Vice Commander of DAV Chapter 28

11:05 "BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC"

PERFORMED BY BRAD BOICE

11:09 INTRODUCTION OF MAIN SPEAKER

GEORGE MALLET

11:10 MAIN SPEAKER

KEVIN TORGERSON, Olmsted County Sheriff

11:24 "GOD BLESS THE USA"

BRAD BOICE

11:27 BENEDICTION

PASTOR LESTER HORNVEDT, Former Pastor at Zumbro Lutheran Church

11:29 RETIRE COLORS

ROCHESTER POLICE HONOR GUARD

11:29 TAPS WITH ECHO

LES FIELDS AND GENE EIDEN

11:33 CLOSING REMARKS

GEORGE MALLET



We especially would like to recognize and thank the **Color and Honor Guards** that graciously volunteer their time to carry the Colors at our many events over the years. A special thanks to Frank Churchward and the Korean War Club Honor Guard. **We recognize with gratitude, all the volunteers that made this program possible, and the supporters listed below. They support us, please support them.**

Joe and Nick Powers and staff of the Canadian Honker.

Joey Powers, Mary Bowe and the staff at the Event Center for hosting Veterans Day.

POW/MIA Riders and the DAV for their constant support

Terry Thronson and the Bells for Eternity for their ongoing support

Mike Pruett of MLT for his ongoing support of Veterans projects and programs

Lee Herold of Herold Flags for the Flags and his ongoing support.

Phil Schroeder of Renning's Flowers for the centerpieces and his ongoing support.

Oak Summit for the use of golf carts and ongoing support.

Salvation Army for continuous support of our Veterans

Andy's Liquor for their ongoing support of Veterans projects and programs

Gene Eiden and Les Fields who are always available to perform Taps for us.

Richard Swanson and the Byron kids for their help for the mail they gave our Veterans.

Wal Mart for furnishing the masks we need for protection



My Navy Experience



written by Tim Peters

I was a U.S. Navy veteran serving from 1977 to 1981. I served aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Horne CG-30, stationed in San Diego California. I was a Fire Controlmen and worked on radar and computers for missile and gun fire control systems. Basically, the first year of service was boot camp and then schooling on radar and computer (electronics) fire control systems.

Once assigned to my ship, we were deployed for many local operations, one Southern Pacific and two Western Pacific overseas deployments. Local

Deployments was always part of the 3rd Fleet Command in the Eastern Pacific. The SOUTHPAC was a 3-month deployment to Australia and New Zealand, while the WESTPACs were to the area of the western Pacific with many port visits to our Asian allied nations. WESTPACs would generally last 6-7 months, but our second deployment lasted over 8 months. Both the SOUTHPACs and WESTPACs operated as part of the 7th Fleet, western Pacific Command.

On our first WESTPAC we were involved in

several Vietnamese boat rescue missions to provide aid and safe transportation to western nations for those people fleeing the communists in Vietnam. In our first few encounters, we were only allowed to provide food and water to the overcrowded passengers on these large fishing boats. Eventually, orders were given that we were to bring the passengers on our ship and then transport them (via helicopter) to larger vessels with complete air wings. The aircraft from those air wings would then fly them to host nations.

NAVY: Page 6



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NAVY

From Page 4

Our second WESTPAC deployment was extended because of the *Iranian Hostage Crisis*. In addition to operations in the western Pacific, we were ordered to the waters off the coast of Africa, and then on to operations in the Persian Gulf. On this second WESTPAC we not only visited western Pacific Asian ports, we also visited nations in Africa and the Middle East. On transit to Kenya, we crossed the equator and I became a *Shellback* through the *old rights of passage* off the coast of Somalia.

We entered the Persian Gulf under conditions of war while the Iranian government held our American citizens hostage. We had missiles on the rails and were manning battle stations as we passed through the Strait of Hormuz. We had to follow a minesweeper through the passage as the Iranian government was known to lay mines in these shipping lanes. Once in the Gulf, we operated as part of the 5th Fleet Command and often had the Fleet Admiral onboard and served as the Admiral's flagship. For much of the operation in the Gulf we escorted maritime tanker vessels. However, when the Reagan Administration took office and threatened Iran with military action if the hostages were not released, we again were ordered to condition-1 battle stations and had missiles on the rails. We stayed in that posture until the hostages were released and we provided 'missile escort' as the plane flying the released American hostages left Middle East air space. As a Fire Controlmen, we had to man our radar consoles and operate the computer systems for 12 hours straight, then rest and perform other duties. This cycle went on for the entire time that we were in alert status.

When we were not manning our Fire Control Systems, our division was also tasked with handling all 'small arms' on the ship. These included M14s, M16s, M60s, .45s and shotguns. We had to be proficient in all of these and train other crew members as needed. We were a 'nuclear capable' ship so my watch assignments were to make rounds around the ship and most importantly, provide security for the missile house clearing anyone entering/exiting these large magazines where the missiles were housed. When we entered the Gulf, .50 Caliber machines guns were placed on the port and starboard sides to protect against small boat attacks. We had to become proficient in the operation of these, as well, to protect against attacks from any small craft from Iran or other proxy nations. Fortunately, we never had to fire them in anger, only during training exercises.

This Gulf mission was 'alluded to' in several publications (books and other accounts) referring to the "444 Days", the length of time that the hostages were held. We were the ship that provided the safe passage out of the Middle East for the released hostages.

I had two brushes with death while serving on the Horne and both were not during a war posture.

One such occasion was when our ship's galley caught fire and I was the first person on the scene with a fire hose and without any oxygen or other fire fighting equipment. I was ordered to crawl and bring the fire hose to the scene for the fire team to use, but before the fire team was able to respond with the proper equipment. To contain the fire, other ships' crew closed the hatch behind me and I had to find my way through the smoke and without any fresh oxygen supply. Once I got the hose placed near the fire, I had to snake my way along the hose (as the smoke was too thick to see through) to make

it back to the entry hatch. I remember almost passing out from lack of oxygen. The crew manning the door could not see me through the thick smoke. Upon reaching the closed hatch, I banged on the door and I was so weak by that time that they opened the hatch they had to drag me through it and back to

"I have many good memories of serving and made some of the best friends that I have ever had, some of which I still keep in touch with." ★ ★ ★

my sleeping quarters. I was treated for smoke inhalation and put back to full duty status not long after.

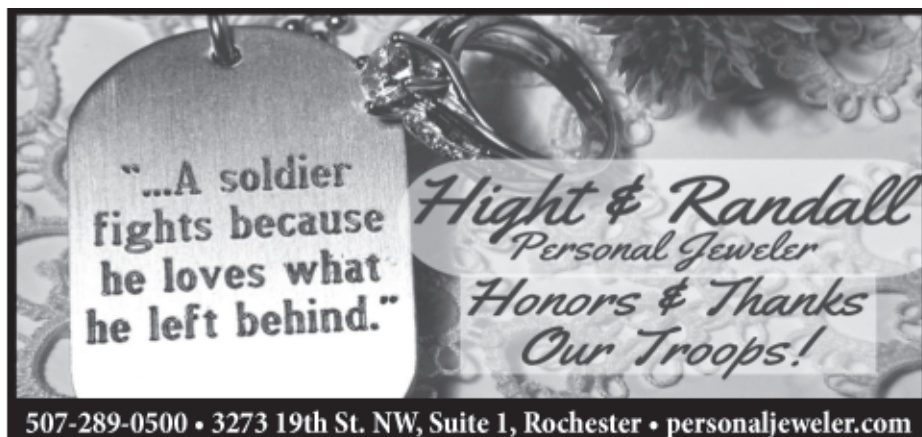
The other occasion was while I was on the flight team. A helicopter from another ship in our task force had

mechanical problems and we were the nearest ship with a flight deck. The helicopter had lost hydraulic pressure and was bouncing on the flight deck as I was running across to man my station. Luckily, we were taught to bend over while crossing the flight deck. Another flight team crew member that was behind me said that as the helicopter bounced on the deck and because it had lost its hydraulics, the blades were forced lower than normal. Had I stood up straight I might have been decapitated.

I have many good memories of serving and made some of the best friends that I have ever had, some of which I still keep in touch with. One good memory that really sticks with me is while returning from our 2nd WESTPAC, we stopped the ship in the middle of the Pacific between Hawaii and California. The captain announced that we would have a swim call in the middle of the Pacific. There is nothing like swimming in the ocean that is several miles deep beneath you. We would dive off the flight deck which was about 30 feet above the water. Before I had my turn to swim, I stood *shark watch* with an M14 sniper rifle.

At the end of my four-year commitment I received an honorable discharge as a 2nd Class Petty Officer (E5). I used my GI Bill benefits to secure a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Programming and I have worked at the same employer for 35 years. I'm a member of the Rochester VFW Post 1215, a member of VFW District 4 Riders Group. I'm in the process of trying to establish a Rochester Post 1215 VFW Riders Group. I have 4 children and 5 grandkids and I'm looking forward to retirement in the coming years.

Proud to have served, Tim Peters



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My Story

★ ★ ★ written by Warren Potter

I was in Elgin Illinois Watchmakers College studying to be a jeweler at the time the Korean War started. At that time I was a member of the Iowa National Guard with two years of service and the rank of PFC, my schooling made it so I could not attend the monthly or weekly meetings. So the Iowa National Guard let me go and the draft took over. I was called for a physical came out A1 with 21 days to report to duty. Mary's mother had to finish a wedding dress early that was in the making, a very hectic time. The one big thing going for us, was the fact that my father was a Minister. We had no problem getting the church or a place for the reception. The wedding came off okay and our honeymoon was a quick trip to Elgin Illinois to pick up all my watch repair equipment. That was 71 years ago and we are still married. I love her just as much now and as I did then.

MY STORY: Page 10



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Thank You Veterans for your service to our Country

Mayo Southeast Chapter 28 of the Minnesota Disabled American Veterans is proud to support Veterans in Southeast Minnesota. Chapter 28 covers seven counties in Southeast Minnesota. Over the past 2 years, Chapter 28 has:

1. Provided over \$96537.70 to veterans in need. This is emergency help for rent, utilities, car repair, food and other daily necessities.
2. Sponsored the first Women's Veteran gala in the state of Minnesota
3. Provided over \$115993.92 to multiple veteran and community service organizations who have further assisted veterans in our region. These organizations include: Operation Hometown Gratitude, Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch (Operation Welcome Home and Gold Star family retreats), and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Southeast Minnesota.
4. Provided for the past ten years deer hunting opportunities for disabled veterans in southeast Minnesota.
5. Provided college and advance technical training scholarships to veterans and their family members.

6. Assisted several disabled veterans with acquisition and training of service dogs
7. Provide free transportation to veterans for medical appointments.
8. Provided table and chairs to the Hasting Veterans and exercise equipment funding to the future Preston Veterans home.
9. The DAV clothing bin program has raised over \$50,000 in 2020-2021 to put towards Veteran support.

DAV Mayo SE Chapter 28 is proud to provide these services to our Veterans. Funding is provided through the Clothing Bin program. Clothing items and shoes ONLY can be dropped off at any DAV clothing bin and the monies received is used to provide free transportation for veterans in Southeast Minnesota.

We would like to thank Andy's Liquor Stores, Deer Creek Speedway and HyVee for conducting fund raising events over the past years. The funds raised during these events go directly to Veterans and their needs. The DAV is very proud to fulfill the commitment made to our veterans. The commitment of these companies and others as well as numerous individual donations has allowed the DAV to continue to support veterans in seven counties in Southeast MN.



DAV Chapter 28 continues to support the women veterans, through the Women Veteran retreats and support to improve the medical and other benefits for women veterans.



Remembering our veterans and never forgetting their sacrifice and the ultimate sacrifice they made for our country.

Jim Sursely was a United States Army Veteran of the Vietnam War, a native of Rochester, MN and a nationally celebrated veteran advocate. Jim Sursely was active in both the local DAV and on the national level. Jim was named the 1993 Disabled Veteran of the Year, the 2001 DAV Freedom Award recipient at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sport Clinic and in 2004 was unanimously elected National Commander of the DAV.

Jim Sursely



We will not forget the over 81671 POW/MIA veterans still listed as missing to include **Sergeant Allan Lloyd US Army Green Beret listed missing since 1970.**

The veterans that gave the ultimate sacrifice and the Gold Star families left behind. **Corporal Curtis Swenson US Marine Corp lost April 2, 2010, in Afghanistan.**



DAV Mayo Southeast Chapter 28 | PO Box 6226 | Rochester, MN 55903-6226



MY STORY

From Page 8

The Army sent me to Camp Cooke California with the first bunch of draftees which filled up the California National Guard and brought them to full strength. When we were ready to ship overseas they announced that we could go home for 10 days. When I went over to pick up travel papers they told me that they didn't have paperwork for me; and that I would have to stay in the barracks by myself. There were four other men in the entire company that did not have paperwork everybody else left. Two days Later the first sergeant came over and said that they now

had the proper paperwork. We called a taxi cab to go to LA, caught a flight out and I called my wife and my parents, who came to Des Moines Iowa and met my plane. I ended up with five days at home then went back to Camp Cooke California and our troop ships to Japan. My military records showed that I was a PFC in the National Guard and was given that rank and then promoted to corporal rating so my guard duty did help me. I was one jump ahead of all the other draftees.

When the 40th division was completely trained and they felt we were ready for duty we left Japan in a big convoy for Korea. It was very cold, so we got on a landing craft and went to the beach. We were picked up in trucks and drove into the night and winter

weather in open vehicles. The men from California who had never been in winter weather were in for the time of their lives. Dropped off in front of some droopy battered up tents in the middle of the night, not very impressed. I had no idea where we were, or what we were supposed to do. There were cots in the tents and we had brought our own sleeping bags so we each took a cot and went to sleep. The next morning I went to the mess tent which had 6 inch planks for tables, with steel reinforcement rods Bent to hold them up. For a cup of coffee that was so hot I couldn't drink it from a metal cup. Then to make things worse we had to give our clean uniforms to the men we were replacing and taking their dirty clothes to wear.

MY STORY: Page 12

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MY STORY

From Page 10

As a sergeant of the instrument section I had to get my truck dug in and leveled up. So we dug into the embankment and lowered the back wheels and got it so that the truck was nice and level to work in. I had four men besides myself to do the instrument work in the truck, which kept us busy all the time. We had 26 men in the Small Arms repair section. Repair got a truck load of weapons every day from the line, to be repaired, serviced and sent back. Everything that was repaired had to be test-fired and I wanted to be involved in that. I shot loads, truckloads of those weapons every day. Everything from machine guns to recoilless rifles I fired everything the Army had except for mortars. No hearing protection used, it's a wonder I can hear today at all. Down the road from us there was a group of soldiers sleeping in their tents in sleeping bags. At night somebody came in and cut the throats of everybody in the tent. I slept at the end of my tent and it was about 10 ft. to level ground behind the tent. Beyond that the hill went up about thirty feet and there was a bunker and trees and brush. It gave you something to think about at night, I slept with my 45 on my chest in the sleeping bag. One night I heard footsteps outside the tent, whoever it was, I realized there was just a piece of canvas between me and the person on the other side. So I unzipped my sleeping bag, my 45 in my hand and a flashlight in the other. I opened the tent flap, turned the light on and there was Corporal Brock. He was supposed to be on guard somewhere and he came over to check on us. I could have shot him. The only time we ever came Under Fire was an incident where Corsairs off of the Boxer flew up and down the valley between the mountains, strafing everything they saw. We were above the 38th parallel and they hit us mistaking us for the enemy. I crawled in a bunker behind the truck. It was dark in there and something was poking me. I got a flashlight out, it was a skeleton I was laying on.

So many experiences I could write about, these were a few of my encounters.

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I am a ★ ★ ★ MARINE

written by Jim Crawley

I had always wanted to be a Marine since I saw the Sands of Iwo Jima with John Wayne. I signed up on the delay program in Dec of 1970, graduated from Mayo High June 71 and 2 days later I was standing on the yellow footprints MCRD San Diego.

We remember...

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"It was at boot camp where I learned that being scared could make you do things you never dreamed."

August 31st, 1971 I graduated and became a Marine.

Home for 10 days, back to California for more training called ITR (Infantry training) and because every Marine is a rifleman regardless of job in the Corps, I learned how to use every weapon the Marine Corps had. After ITR, I went to my school as an Amphibious crewman in an Amtrac. No idea what that was but soon learned. Any Marine that has been in one (or rode on top of one) found out they smelled of gas, oil, leaked, were loud and often broke down. But they could take Marines from ship to shore, re-supply, provide light armor, carry wounded, and as any Grunt can tell it beats walking.

After school I was sent to Okinawa. The war in Nam was winding down and it looked like I would be spending my tour in Okinawa. Approx. 4 months later, while walking guard,

we were approached by OD (Officer of the Day) and asked what company we were in. We replied A company, and we were informed our relief would be there shortly. Left the next morning by ship to the Philippines for 3 days then to Quang tri Vietnam. This was during what they called the Easter Tet in 1972.

On May 24th they choppered South Vietnamese Marines aboard our ships and we made the biggest amphibious assault since Inchon Korea. I did not know it then but we were told later that fact. We stayed for some time before going to Hong Kong and back to Okinawa. After my tour, I rotated back to the states and Camp Pendleton. I got out in 73, went back in in 74, and went back to Okinawa in 75. Again we were staged for the fall of Vietnam in 75 but this time sadly we did nothing. Got out in 76.



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2nd Line of DEFENSE

written by Wayne Stillman



In this time, along with others, I think we should talk about a war that many do not know exists, the Global War on Terror, also known as GWOT. GWOT started on a day we all remember, Sept. 11, 2001, in New York City. At that time our first line of defense was Law Enforcement and since that time it has been known as our second line of defense. Eric Kerska probably said it best, "In the end, what good is a military to protect us from a foreign enemy if we fall from within?"

With that in mind we decided to include those who put their lives on the line every day to protect us on our homeland, just as the Military does overseas, at our Veterans Day program next week. After World War One, World War Two, Korea and Viet Nam who could have imagined that someone would attack our blessed country on our own soil. Since that day 3647 Law Enforcement Officers, an average of 182 per year, have been killed.

Many of our Veterans of the Military continue to serve and protect after they leave the Military Service by serving in Law Enforcement.

As we honor and remember our Veterans next week at our annual Veterans Day program please include in your thoughts and prayers, members of our Law Enforcement now serving and who have served.

I would like to close this by listing a few facts why we

should, and do, honor and remember of brave Veterans.

Veterans Day originated as Armistice Day on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War One and became a National holiday in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day Veterans Day honors all Veterans living or dead but especially gives thanks to living Veterans who served honorably. Veterans Day occurs on Nov. 11th every year in honor of the eleventh hour of the 11th day of the 11th month which was the end of World War One.

In 1954 the name was changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1968 Congress moved Veterans Day to the 4th Monday in October which went into effect in 1971 but in 1975 it was moved back to Nov. 11th.

As of 2018, 18.2 million living Veterans served in, at least, one war. 9 percent of Veterans are Women. Two million Veterans served in the Korean War, Nine million Veterans served in Vietnam, with 2.7 million serving in uniform. Seven million served in the Persian Gulf War and 16 million served in World War Two.

Today Women are 16 percent of the Military.

The Armed Forces consists of 3.1% Army, .08% Marines, 1.7% Navy 1.4% Air Force and .05% non-defense or reserves. 7.5 & of population serving.

Less than 18% of Congress served in the Military.



John G. Ellingson

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★ ★ ★ 1ST BRIGADE, 34TH DIVISION IN IRAQ

written by Eric Kerska
Colonel, Armor, Retired

I served three tours of duty in Iraq. In 1991 I was assigned to 3rd Armored Division, one of the Divisions that conducted the "left hook" which ended the Gulf War and freed Kuwait from Iraqi occupation. In 2006 I deployed with Minnesota's 1st Armored Brigade, 34th Infantry Division. This deployment was extended to 16 months because of the "surge" and we ended up being the longest serving brigade of all for the entire war. The "long deployment" of 2006-2007 was a very dangerous time period during the war in Iraq with high American casualties. Finally, in 2011 I deployed for the last time, again with Minnesota's 1st Brigade combat team. This final deployment was the largest mobilization of Minnesota troops since World War II. During the final deployment, 1st brigade conducted the last mission in Iraq and crossed the border into Kuwait on December 18, 2011.

The war in Iraq is remembered primarily because of roadside bombs, which took such a tremendous casualty toll on our soldiers. Roadside bombs or Improvised explosive devices (IED's) were weapons that were improvised by the enemy. Initially they were mostly old artillery shells stolen by the insurgents from Iraqi army storage areas. Early on in the war, US soldiers travelled primarily in unarmored vehicles, making roadside bombs particularly dangerous. As the war progressed the IED fight became a cat and mouse game between the insurgents and US forces. US forces would change tactics or add




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armor to our vehicles and the enemy would adapt and change what they did, allowing IEDs to remain an effective weapon used against us.

Discovering a hidden IED before it could detonate near a US vehicle became the goal and 1st brigade soldiers became very good at "getting left of the boom". Being able to find IEDs required extensive research and analysis by our intelligence soldiers, coupled with the determination and discipline of vehicle crewmen to know where and what to look for.

One type of IED that was particularly effective against US forces was known as the Explosively Formed Projectile, or EFP. EFPs were very different from other

types of IEDs. While all IEDs were dangerous, EFPs were particularly dangerous because they could penetrate any armored vehicle the US could field. Armor could protect our soldiers against most IEDs, but not the EFP. US soldiers had no defense against the EFP and they caused many US deaths. When an EFP detonated there was more than a 90% chance of a US death or serious wounds. The components were built in Iran and delivered to the Shia insurgents operating primarily in southern Iraq.

In June of 2006, Ben Slaven and Brent Koch were killed by EFPs in two separate attacks one week apart. Losing two of our own in

such quick succession stunned the brigade. The Army had no answer on how to prevent these deaths. The real strength of the National Guard comes from the wide variety of skills brought to the military from the civilian sector combined with the loyalty of units made up of citizens from the same towns and regions. Mike Lins, the brigade engineer, used his talents to solve the EFP problem. Mike discovered that defeating the EFP was a problem of geometry. Once he figured that out, the brigade worked together to prevent any further deaths from EFP's of 1st brigade soldiers while escorting convoys. Over the next 13 months, 1st brigade lost many vehicles

destroyed by EFPs, but no other deaths resulted from these weapons, because we were able to choose what part of the vehicle would be struck when an EFP detonated.

There is something special about citizen soldiers from the American Midwest, and Minnesota soldiers in particular. The sacrifices, determination and accomplishments of 1st brigade soldiers in Iraq is an example of American midwest values in action. Slaven and Koch did not die in vain. Their sacrifice led to a determination by 1st brigade soldiers of "never again". For myself and my veteran brothers and sisters of the 1st brigade in Iraq, the sacrifice of our fallen will never be forgotten.



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What have I gotten myself into?

★ ★ ★ written by Chad Stowers ★ ★ ★

My 23 year, 9 month and 7 day (not that I was counting of course) military journey began in July of 1984 when I enlisted in the U.S. Army under the Delayed Entry Program. My twin brother Dana and I graduated from Backus Public High School in May of 1985 and a month and a half later we were off to Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. "What have I gotten myself into?" I can distinctly remember asking myself when the yelling Drill Sergeants and flying trash cans started my first day at Fort Jackson. Ask me why we were not in the same platoon for Basic. Was very cool going through Basic with your twin brother. We got to see each other practically every day. Our Drill Sergeants did not realize we were siblings much less twins until there was a package mix up during mail call.

MYSELF: Page 22



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MYSELF

From Page 20

After Basic, Dana stayed at Jackson for his Advanced Individual Training (AIT) and I left for Fort Gordon, Georgia for training as a 35K1, Avionic Mechanic on Army Helicopters. After graduating AIT my duty assignments were Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Camp Coiner, Korea, Finthen Army Airfield, Germany, Fort Polk, Louisiana, Camp Humphreys, Korea, Fort Hood, Texas, Heidelberg Army Airfield, Germany (with temporary duties in Sarajevo, Bosnia), Fort Hood, Texas, Camp Eagle, Korea, Quayyuarah West Airfield, Iraq, Fort Riley, Kansas, Al Asad Airbase, Iraq, Fort Riley, Kansas, Contingency Operating Base (COB) Speicher, Iraq, and Fort Riley, Kansas. Ask me about the first time I met my Squad Leader at Fort Campbell.

In 23 years, I served in various

units and positions both stateside and overseas and worked on every helicopter the U.S. Army had. I served as an Avionic Mechanic, Squad Leader, Technical Inspector, Platoon Sergeant, Operational Test NCO, Production Control NCO, Detachment NCOIC and First Sergeant while serving.

When reassigned to Korea for the last time, I thought that would be my final assignment before retiring but, the echelons above reality had other plans. I spent exactly 90 days in Korea at Camp Eagle before deploying as Detachment Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of a 28 Soldier Aviation Intermediate Maintenance (AVIM) unit being assigned to support the 151st Aviation Regiment, a National Guard Apache unit out of South Carolina and later 1st Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

At the conclusion of this tour, I was reassigned to Fort Riley, Kansas with the 82nd MEDEVAC Company (Air Ambulance). This

unit had just departed for duty at Al Asad, Iraq and after 45 days on rear detachment I joined them. I was assigned duty as our Production Control NCO and our unit was assigned to the U.S. Marine Corps 16th MAG, 3rd MAW, 1st MEF as their Medical Evacuation Air Ambulance unit. During this tour the 1st Infantry Division moved from Germany to Fort Riley, Kansas and our unit was realigned under them and assigned a follow on 15-month tour of duty in Iraq to being 9 months after our return. If you run into me, ask me how I got back stateside from this tour of duty in Iraq.

Upon our return to Fort Riley many personnel were realigned within the Aviation Brigade to include myself. I was reassigned to D Co, 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade as the Shops Platoon Sergeant. 9 months later we deployed to COB Speicher at Balad, Iraq as a full Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB). Ask me if Soldiers can fly using just

a poncho. After 15-months our unit deployed back to Fort Riley, Kansas. I did apply for and receive approval to retire from the U.S. Army during this deployment. If you see me some time, ask me about my stop-loss/denied retirement "sob" story.

On May 1st of 2009 I retired from the U.S. Army as an E7/SFC.

During my time in the military, I met and worked for and with some amazing people from all over this great country of ours and got to see some amazing, and not so amazing, places on this earth. I can say without a shred of doubt that there is no place like home.

At the end of the day, I must thank my family for any success I had during my time in the military. My parents, Dale and Barbara, brother Brent (may he rest in happiness and peace) and twin brother Dana kept me grounded and focuses with love and support every day and I cannot thank them enough. Ask me where I bought my house.

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*All photos taken on the island of Okinawa,
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6 Aug 1935, Saint Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Minnesota. Born, the son of a cement man and at an early age received his calling to live and love the hard work and "art" work of cement. Age 19, Jan 1954, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), along with 16 other USMC recruits, traveled by train from Minneapolis, Minnesota to San Diego, California for Basic Training.

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Upon completion of training, traveled by ship to Okinawa, Japan, Mar 1956. Spent 9 months overseas in the Third Platoon building and restoring military buildings on the island of Okinawa. Became known as the expert in cement work, a meticulous finisher and artisan, promoted to SGT, 14 Apr 1956. Awarded the National Defense Service Medal. Returned to civilian life in his hometown of Rochester, Minnesota to resume cement work with his father and brother, 17 Dec 1956. Father of four, experienced the heartache of divorce, known by many as good neighbor and friend. Continued steadfast and committed to his cement work, retired in 1996 after 40 years of service to the community. Richly blessed with a late-life companion and marriage, moved to Fountain, Minnesota. Began an artistic hobby creating numerous pieces of artwork from aluminum cans earning him the title of "The Fountain Can Man". Active in the church and lives of those who followed Our Father and His Only Son Jesus Christ at Fountain Lutheran Church. An avid trout fisherman, now closer to the streams that were always a place of refuge. 1 Dec 2015 entered his heavenly home.



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Korean War Memoirs of Calvin Harwick

Having been in the National Guard for two and a half years and due to be discharged in June 1951, my time in service was extended for one year because of the Korean War. Our division, the 47th Infantry was called to active duty on January 2nd 1951. On January 21st my company, Co. C-135th Infantry regiment, left by train from Rochester Minnesota to Camp Rucker Alabama. I remember the day well because it was about 20 below zero. There we received more training in weapons nomenclature and firing, map reading, first aid, squad, platoon and company tactics. Also marches and overnight bivouacs. Later on the division was used as a cadre for new draftees and regular army recruits. In March my wife Beverly and I were married. The end

of August 1951 I volunteered along with a buddy and was given a two week furlough and sent to Korea. My wife didn't find this out until later, after I was home. We left by train from St. Paul Minnesota. After a few days we arrived in Seattle Washington and trucked to Fort Lewis where we were processed, and after a couple of days we were taken by truck to pier 91 and loaded on the Simon Buckner troop transport ship. After about 5 days we arrived somewhere in Japan where we were processed some more and sent to Inchon Korea. From Inchon we were trucked to the 9th Infantry Regiment where I was assigned to Hq Co 3rd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division as a field wireman. It was in the fall, around the 1st of October. The truce talks

had been going on since July 10th at Kaesong. Little progress was made in the initial talks and were called off. Meanwhile the 2nd division was engaged in the battle for a group of hills South of Mundung-ni including hill 931 known as Heartbreak Ridge. After the conclusion of Heartbreak, around the 20th of Oct. the division went into reserve for a rest and training, and to bring the division back up to strength after 103 days of continuous combat. While in reserve the then Vice President Alben Barkley presented the division with the Presidential Unit Citation earned at the battle of the Soyang River in May 1951. The first part of December we were called back on line to replace the 25th Division in the central part of the line near Chorwan, in the area

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called the Iron Triangle, which was marked by the cities of Chorwan on the west, Pyonggang on the north and Kumwah on the east. This was about 50 miles north of the 38th parallel in the center of Korea. With the defeat of the North Koreans on Heartbreak the communist agreed to resume the truce talks. This brought a lull in the fighting through the winter months of 1951-1952. During the winter months we had a kitchen set up and hot meals were served. On Thanksgiving and Christmas we had the traditional turkey dinner. On New Years eve, every infantry, tank and artillery weapon available opened up with a tremendous army wide barrage to wish the Communist forces a not too happy New Year.

The 3rd battalion went into reserve again in April 1952. After about a week or so we went back on the line. This was to be the last move for me. About a week later the First Sergeant told me I had one hour to pack up I was going home after about seven months in Korea. I recall several incidents that happen

while I was there. One time when we were checking lines we got caught up in a mortar barrage and laid in a ditch for about an hour. Another time we were clearing some old lines when someone tripped a trip wire and set off a land mine slightly wounding one of the guys. We sometimes filled our canteens from one of the numerous springs that run down the side of the hills. We went back to one we had been to before and found a dead Korean soldier laying in the stream. Needless to say we didn't fill our canteens there again. In the last reserve area our tents were set up in a hillside draw. The next morning after we arrived a Russian Mig flew over from the backside of the hill and fired a rocket at us. Luckily he overshot the encampment and did not return. It didn't take long for everyone to leave the tents and head for the hills. In the last place we were at we had just arrived when I heard a blast and a commotion coming from an adjacent field. I looked up and saw two of our Korean laborers carrying another to the aid tent.

He had stepped on a shoebox mine blowing off one foot. A shoe box mine was named that because it was about the size of a shoebox and it had only explosives in it, enough to blow off a foot. A few days later two mortar rounds came in landing next to the aid tent wounding two medics.

I was picked up by truck and taken to a train station and from there we were taken to Inchon and loaded on a landing craft and taken to a ship in the harbor. From there we went to Sasebo Japan where we were processed got a shower and a set of new uniforms. About two days later we were loaded on a ship headed for San Francisco. After a few days we arrived in San Francisco. Coming into San Francisco was the most beautiful sight in the world with the city on the side of a hill and the Golden Gate bridge to the left, which we passed under into the bay, unloaded onto a ferry and taken to Camp Stoneman, processed put on a train to Camp McCoy Wisconsin where I was discharged the same day I arrived May 14, 1952.



Dates of Service

Minnesota National Guard 06/1948 - 01/1951

Active Duty 01/1951 - 05/1952

Korea 10/1951 - 05/1952

Discharged 05/1952

Time in service 3 years 10 months 25 days

Awards Received

Expert Rifleman Badge

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Korean Service Medal with 1 bronze campaign star

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Combat Infantryman Badge

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Note:

Korean War veteran Calvin Thomas Harwick passed away this year on his birthday - June 5th - at the age of 92 years old. Cal was a member of the Korean War Veterans Club of Rochester Minnesota.

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Now, then, the first to be noticed is that the corridors are well travelled and are absent of pretense. For years and years it has been dispensing medical care to those who have served this nation's military. But no longer does it see veterans from World War I; no longer is there

anyone here to reminisce over the battle of the Marne, the Argonne Forest; the Canal Du Nord. There is no one to take us back to the blood-soaked trenches of Verdun or Gallipoli; no one to speak of the dead in Flanders Fields -- or even to sing Lilli Marlene. All the valiant old souls from the world's first great war of five-score years ago are gone now; their deeds are relegated to the nightfall of history. They are being replaced by veterans of other wars, largely from World War II they come, but I am told even those tested

old hands are dying at the rate of a thousand a day now. Soon they will be no more veterans of WWI... But from that war -- the world's largest war -- along these halls many of them move, many who fought the good fight on land, sea, and air -- and in places as far away as Berlin, Rome and Tokyo.

Along these corridors of sacrifice and courage, you're apt to come across a former battery commander, a submariner, a Tuskegee airman, or the gunner's mate from the big war. You might

BRAVE: Page 31

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BRAVE

From Page 30

catch a glimpse of the one who survived Pearl Harbor but was crippled in the Philippines, or find one who had been wounded in El Al Amaine only to go on to be grenaded in Bastogne. You might find one from the battle of the Bulge, and next to him, the truck driver from Guam who, over and over, he continued to deliver the goods to the boys on the front, never allowing his vehicle to be stopped by blockades of fire or by unsurpassable roads, but one whose body still trembles, the one who has since lived a life of fear and is not so very much unlike the pilot next to him -- that sole survivor whose plane, returning from a bombing run over the pacific, overshot the aircraft carrier's landing deck and over sixty -- nay; seventy -- nay; seventy-five years later he is still preparing his crew -- meaning himself -- for the carrier landing. Along these corridors of unstinting duty, you might find the commander of the engineering battalion -- the one whose troops continued to build the bridges in Dresden while the bombs were falling; or find one who captained a ship at Corregidor and another who dared bring his vessel closer to the beach for the landing at Normandy. If not them, see the once-steady hands of a surgeon who served on Saipan, or was it Okinawa? -- the one who continued to operate while the bombs were falling and the machine gun fire would not stop. See, too, the hidden bravery in the lined face of a veteran nurse who, in the face of a vile and sadistic enemy that approached from Tobruk, she refused to leave her surgeon's side, but throughout the rest of her entire life, the poor dear lived to suffer horrors too repulsive to recall. Here it is possible to find one from communications who struggled to keep his comrade alive during the death march of Bataan, just as you might discover the face of a midshipman, a Navajo Code Talker, a coast guardsman, or the unsung young Marine who helped unfurl the flag on the island that was secured after Iwo Jima. Now tarry a bit, because it takes all kinds to feed the gluttony of war: see a member of a stateside band whose music swelled when the big war was over. Then see one of thousands whose music thrilled and thrilled again as the troops were welcomed back to the docks in victory -- oh, that joyous time when peace came, hope was restored, blackouts were gone and the lights came on all over the world, and the celebrations, the

celebrations, the celebrations would not stop.

You'll see others who served on the homefront along these corridors, others who did not see battle or even serve across the seas, but were nonetheless dedicated to the cause in history's greatest war. Support personnel are what they were called. Miracle workers are what they were. And then... a mere five years later, from that war: -- another war; my war; the Forgotten War... a war wherein 54,246 young Americans surrendered life for the sake of liberty. Along these passageways and byways of duty, honor, and sacrifice, you might find a bombardier, a shell-shocked paratrooper, a former POW or even a general too feeble to remember a long-gone command: see, too, the aging foot soldier; and the agnostic! and the atheist!... they found God in a bunker -- and the corpsman who, in that same theater of death, questioned that same God as he held his comrade's stiffening body. They all fought the good fight, these halls will tell you. They fought for freedom. Our freedom.

In this duty-bound building in service of those who served a nation in peace and in war, you might come across the jeep driver, the tank operator, the artilleryman, the company clerk; or how

about the one from supply who fought to stave off an enemy who had broken through barbed wire lines there at Old Baldy and sought to bayonet and kill without mercy? And then -- and then somewhere, too, not knowing he's made it back to the old hometown, you might come across another of yesterday's forgotten, say, the one who left home a boy and came back a man -- but a man so shaken by the big, thundering guns of war, he can hardly recall his yesterdays without going to pieces. Then there's the cook, the ammo-bearer, and the one from the signal corps, the one whose mind is totally blank -- the one whose sanity deserted him even before the start of one of Korea's never-to-be-remembered battles. Freedom is not without cost.

Pick another veteran's medical facility and you might find a mechanic, a Seabee, or the medic who would not stop giving aid to the fallen as others were falling around them. And then look around you, I say. If they're not here, they've been here: Who? God's emissaries; -- the preacher, the priest, the Rabbi. They've been here because everywhere the troops went -- every time and every place there was an American in battle, there they were -- men of the cloth -- unflinching in the

line of duty, virtually unarmed except for the word of God; filled with faith, with hope, and charity, counseling and consoling even when the dying knew all was lost. Chaplains, they are called. I beg your pardon. Unsung heroes are who they were. And what they are.

The VietNam Veteran. Aw, my friends, he's here in this Home for the Brave -- in regrettable numbers, they are. The one I now see is moving along in a wheelchair, festooned with two tiny American flags vying for an unreachable ceiling. Ribbons and medals pinned to rumpled pajamas, an overseas cap cocked over thinning hair, he is being wheeled along as though he didn't have a care in the world. But if he were a weaker man, a care he would have, for he is both legless and he is armless. Look at him! -- but yet not a complaint to be heard from him. Continue on and you'll find the Vietnam veteran who is suffering from Agent Orange, and yet another who is still afflicted with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder -- PTSD! He is talking to himself; he is still seeking answers after all these years. Along these corridors and passageways you might come across one whose body was scorched by a flame-thrower, or

BRAVE: Page 32



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BRAVE

From Page 31

you might see the one who cannot see you: — the blind one; who, in his youth, captained a helicopter, and who, time after time, sat that chopper down in the most god-forsaken of places, and, each — time, amid hails of gunfire — all to rescue the wounded; to save somebody who answered the call for freedom — to save somebody who sought to make this old world a better place. Pick another veterans medical facility; no; — pick the same veterans medical facility and you might find a young woman who stood for freedom in Libya; or you might find a young man perhaps a National Guardsman or a Reservist who did the same in the Philippines — or in Panama; Liberia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, or Somalia. You might find one who served in Bosnia, Haiti, Zaire, Albania, Afghanistan, or Yugoslavia... The list goes on. The list goes on because my country — your country — our country's stand for freedom has been without end. And if you were to walk these long, long corridors of duty, honor, or even ordinary patriotism long enough, you might hear what I heard: the fresh but troubling voice of a young man calling from the shadows of yet another corridor; he is a representative of yet another war: "Hey, Old Soldier!! Old Soldier," he calls. "Don't forget me... I was in...???" You follow the voice, then — there stands the figure. He is bandaged from head to toe, he is being held upright by his nurse. She is someone who cares. He looks at her and says, "Mom... Momma, where was I? Did I fight in Operation Iraqi Freedom, or was it Desert Storm? Or maybe I was in Mosul?... Mom. Momma, was I in Fallujah, or Kandahar? — Did I soldier with General Schwarzkopf, or was I under General Vince Brooks?" He calls

out again "...Help me, Momma. Where was I? ...What happened? What went wrong?"

You would like to reach out to him and say: "What went wrong, Son, is war!! ...War. War. War!!! And we should study war no more... But that is not to but you say nothing.

The image, though — his and others you have seen — will remain with you for the rest of your days. But he is today's hero, and truth be told, as much as you feel for him, you can do nothing but pray for him; thank him for his service, for serving a nation that has known war after war, after war. It is a nation still at war. We can only thank God that it is a nation yet to feel the full clutches of war.

Like his brothers and sisters — new and old — this young man — this shell of a human being did not remain at home to avoid his country's fight, or question his country's motives, as he very well could have. Rather he chose to answer the call by the noble and selfless act of volunteering his all. And wounded though he is, he is proud to have served a great nation; proud to have fought the good fight. This, these halls know. They know, too, that the young man would be the first to say, as those who have served before him have said — as many of you here today would say — as the president of these United States who led us through that first World War of over one hundred and one years ago has said: "We dedicate our lives and everything we are and everything we have with the pride of those who know that America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth. God helping her; GOD helping her, she can do no other.

I thank you all for allowing me to be your guide; I pray you remember: Stand for the flag; kneel for the cross.

"No veterans, no democracy; no democracy, no America."




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After 15 months of training I was assigned to the 9th bomb wing at Fairfield - Susan Air Force Base California, (later named TRavis AFB). I was with the group for about 2 weeks when one morning General Travis, our base commander, took off on a training flight in a B-29 with a full load of 500 lb bombs.

He had just lifted off when for unknown reason, he lost power and crashed into the dependents housing unit killing the entire crew and many wives & children in the housing unit.

The Base fire unit rushed to the scene, unaware that there was a full complex of bombs on board. As the fire was spreading and firemen rushed in to contain the bombs started to explode, killing several firemen and wounding many. After 12 hours, the fire was out and the victims could be recovered.

Needless to say I was beginning to wonder what kind of outfit I had been stuck with. I was later very proud to have served with the same bomb wing that distinguished itself with plans like the Enola Gay and Bockscar in WWII. We later moved to Guam and then to Japan. We performed admirably in the Korean War.

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How to Help Veterans in Need

Many veterans return home from serving overseas in need of help. Offering such help can improve veterans' lives while letting them know their efforts and sacrifices are appreciated.

Millions of men and women serve in the military and make the sacrifices that such service requires. Risking their lives to serve their countries, veterans sometimes endure mental and physical trauma, returning home to face uphill battles as they deal with their injuries.

Many veterans in need are not just in need of medical attention. Learning that their efforts and sacrifices are recognized and appreciated by the ordinary citizens they protect can make a world of difference to veterans as they recover from their injuries. Men, women and children who want to help veterans in need can do so in various ways.



Visit a veterans hospital

Contact a local veterans' hospital to inquire about their volunteer programs. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that each year more than 75,000 volunteers spend more than 11 million hours in service to America's veterans. Visiting veterans at the hospital to hear their stories can lift their spirits and aid in their recoveries. In addition, veterans' hospitals may have volunteer opportunities that make it easier for hospitals to operate at optimal capacity.

Help a neighbor

Unfortunately, many veterans return home with injuries that affect their ability to make it through a typical day without assistance. Disabled veterans may be unable to do their own grocery shopping or maintain their homes. If a neighbor or nearby veteran is facing such hurdles, offer to do his or her shopping or mow his or her lawn. Such tasks won't take much time but can make a world of difference to veterans.

Offer professional services free of charge

Professionals who want to help veterans can offer their services free of charge. Accountants can offer to prepare veterans' tax returns for free, while attorneys can provide legal advice to veterans who need it. Contractors can help disabled veterans by offering to make alterations to their homes for free or at cost.

Employ social media to help local veterans

Many people who want to help local veterans might not be able to do so more than one day per week. But some veterans may require daily assistance. Men and women can start a locally-based Facebook group for fellow members of their community who want to pitch in to help local veterans. Such a group can make it easier to share information and arrange help for veterans in need.

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HONOR OUR HEROES



Samuel Amundson
Navy
WWII



Floyd J. Baumler
Army
1959



Gerald D. Benjamin
Air Force
5/5/53



Michael T. Benjamin
Army
12/1/81



Nathan R. Benjamin
Army
4/4/06



Duane E. Brown
Army
WWII



Ralph P. Buske
Army Air Force
WWII



Roger P. Daly
Army



Duane R. Defries



Lyle T. Engesser
Navy
1958



Herb M. Erickson
Army Air Corps
WWII



Amy K. Espinoza
Air Force
2/23/83



David G. Espinoza
Air Force
8/1/72



Irvie A. Ferguson
Army
WWII



Arnold L. Fredriksen Jr.
Army
1957-1959



Arnold L. Fredriksen Sr.
Army
WWII



Robert J. Fuller
Air Force
1978



Carl L. Gildner
Army
WWII



Cyril J. Gildner
Navy
WWII



Joe C. Gildner
Army
WWII



Vincent P. Gildner
Navy
WWII



Wilbur F. Gildner
Navy
WWII



Matthew L. Guenther
Marines
Afghanistan



Wayne H. Helgeson
Navy
1946



Randy D. Hoffbauer
Air Force
Persian Gulf



Raymond Holst
Marines
WWII



Roy D. Hurlbut
Navy
WWII



Donald A. Jennings
Navy
WWII



Doris L. Jennings
Navy
WWII



James E. Jennings
Army
1948



Merle J. Jennings
Marines
WWII



Wilbur F. Jennings
Navy
WWII



Joyce N. Johnson
Army Air Force
WWII



J. Casey Jones
Army
Desert Storm



Duane D. Jones
Army Air Corp
WWII KIA



Chester W. Koehler
Army
WWII

HONOR OUR HEROES



Franklin P. Kottschade
Army
Berlin Crisis



Donley D. Lamberg
Navy
10/31/55



Austin D. McGee
Army
Kuwait



Jordan J. McGee
Marines
11/18/13



Alex K. McNeill
MN Army National Guard
Kosovo/Kuwait



Marvin D. Miller
Army
Persian Gulf



Gerald J. Patzner
Army



Wayne L. Rauchenstein
Army
WWII



Eugene W. Russell
Army
WWII



Dwayne E. Schacht
Army Air Force
WWII



John A. Spreiter
Air Force
1962



Duane Caryl Spriestersbach
Army
WWII



Wayne Lee Spriestersbach
Army Air Force
WWII



Brent R. Stowers
CPL/U.S. Army
1984 - 1992



Vern & Marge Strauss
Navy
WWII



Charles H. Strutzenberg
Army
WWII



Robert E. Sullivan
Army
WWII



Leon M. Swendsen
Army
WWII



Duane Vonch
Marines Corps
Okinawa



Robert R. Wichser
Marines
WWII



Elmer L. Wellik
Army
WWII

Francis E. O'Brien

Francis enlisted in the Navy on 2/3/1944 at the age of 19. Two years prior to that he worked in the Navy shipyards as a machinist at Bremerton, Washington.

He did his boot training at Farragut, Idaho. In March 1944 he was shipped to the South Pacific on the battleship USS North Carolina BB55. He was in 6 major invasions: Guam, Saipin, Tinian, Philippines, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and Japan. He saw the signing of the peace treaty in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945. Medals received were: Japan Occupational, American Area, Asiatic Pacific Area, World War II Victory, Good Conduct and China Service medal. He served for 6 years and was discharged on 12/13/1949. On May 7, 1947 he married Eileen Rossman who also served in World War II in the Navy WAVES. They made their home on a farm near Kasson, MN and raised 10 children. Eileen died in 2016 but Francis at age 96, remains in their home on the farm. He loves telling stories of the high seas and days of old to his many grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Francis E. O'Brien
World War II
Navy

*The stories here
for all to see,
to show us
freedom isn't free.*

VIETNAM WAR



Carl R. Bassler
Army
Vietnam War



Jerry G. Clausen
Navy
Vietnam War



James Crawley
Marine Corps
Vietnam War



Richard D. Daly
Vietnam



Herb M. Erickson III
Air Force
Vietnam



Dallas S. Finseth
Army
Vietnam War



Dennis W. Hayden
Navy
Vietnam War



Kenneth R. Hurlbut
Army
Vietnam War



Raymond P. Jennings
Army
Vietnam War



Roger Johnson
Marines
Vietnam War



Theodore Johnson
Army
Vietnam War



Roger C. Juhl
Army
Vietnam War



Larry W. Koehler
Navy Seabees
Vietnam War



Duane A. Koehler
Army Vietnam
101st Airborne



Steven A. Law
Army
Vietnam War



Harvey L. Lovejoy
Marines
Vietnam War



James R. McEvoy
Marines
Vietnam War



Bruce M. Mix
Marines
Vietnam War



David A. Ohm
Air Force
Vietnam War



Lowell R. Quimby
Army
Vietnam War



Robert J. Ronningen
Army
Vietnam War



Joseph W. Rouillard
Army
Vietnam War



James A. Sanford
Army
Vietnam War



Roger E. Schwartz
Army
Vietnam War



Terry J. Severson
Marines
Vietnam War



James F. Shaler
Marines
Vietnam War



Gary Stelling
Army
Vietnam War



Merton K. Unnasch
Army
Vietnam War



Richard F. Ward
Army
Vietnam War



Dale P. Wellik
Air Force
Vietnam War



William D. Widman
Navy
Vietnam War

Soldiers Field Veterans Committee



Eric D. Kerska



Jerald Barnhart
Army
Korean



Bob DeWitz
Army
Korean



Craig Qualey-Fisher
Navy
Vietnam



Merle Peterson
Army
Korean



Floyd Riestler
Army
Vietnam



Dave Senjem



Harry Kerr
Marines
Vietnam



Rod Lee
Army
Gulf War



Pete Mathias
Army



Glenn Miller
Marines
World War II



Harold O. Perry
US Naval Reserve
World War II



Wayne Arnold



Chris Stapleton



Scott Eggert



Robert L. Sheridan
Army Air Forces
World War II



Raymond L. Sibley
Army
World War II



Wayne Stillman
Army
1956



Terry Thronson
Navy
Vietnam



Ken Zubay



Al Maves



Mike Pruett

KOREAN WAR



Harlan P. Aakre
Army
Korean War



Lyle E. Abrahamson
Army
Korean War



Tom A. Adams
Army
Korean War



Ronald D. Ahern
Army
Korean War



John L. Ahmann
Army
Korean War



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Army
Korean War



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Army
Korean War



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Air Force
Korean War



Andy Anderson
Army
Korean War



Gordon L. Anderson
Army
Korean War



Wilbur D. Anderson
Navy
Korean War



Edward Appel
Navy
Korean War



Francis S. Appel
Marines
Korean War



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Army
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Leonard D. Babcock
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Army
Korean War



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Army
Korean War



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Korean War



Merle E. Bearden
Army
Korean War



Maurice "Pete" Bennett
Navy
Korean War



Allan B. Benson
Air Force
Korean War



Jerome S. Benson
Navy
Korean War



Roger E. Berg
Air Force
Korean War



Mike Bernard
Army
Korean War



DuWayne F. Besaw
Army
Korean War



Roger W. Bestland
Air Force
Korean War



Dwight E. Bisbey
Army
Korean War



Cayton O. Bishop
Army
Korean War



Oraine (Ole) Bjungan
Air Force
Korean War



Arnold Boese
Army
Korean War



John C. Boler
Navy
Korean War



Edward R. Boxrud
Air Force
Korean War



Vernon G. Bredeson
Army
Korean War



Kenneth J. Bremer
Army
Korean War



Arnold Brendalen
Army
Korean War



Gerald Bridwell
Navy
Korean War



Thomas J. Brogan
Navy
Korean War



Kenneth C. Brown
Army
Korean War

KOREAN WAR



Wally Brunswold
Army
Korean War



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Army
Korean War



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Army
Korean War



Kenneth Buck
Army
Korean War



Harlan V. Buck
Army
Korean War



Robert J. Buehler
Army
Korean War



Ronald Burnes
Navy
Korean War



Gary Burt
Army
Korean War



Wendell Burt
Army
Korean War



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Korean War



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Navy
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Robert Byro
Army
Korean War



Donald O. Callen
Army
Korean War



Gerald L. Campbell
Army
Korean War



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Air Force
Korean War



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Navy
Korean War



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Army
Korean War



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Korean War



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Army
Korean War



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Korean War



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Army
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Navy
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Korean War



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Korean War



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Army
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Korean War



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Army
Korean War



Harold E. DeWitz
Army
Korean War



Robert DeWitz
Army
Korean War

KOREAN WAR



Everett W. DeYoung
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Korean War



Dallas N. DeYoung
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40 Infantry
Korean War



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Army
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Navy
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Korean War



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KOREAN WAR



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Wenzel J. Hartl
Army
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Leo Haubenschild
Army
Korean War



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Army
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Navy
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Army
Korean War



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Army
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Korean War



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Sandy Keith
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Korean War



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Korean War



Lloyd Ketterling
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Herman J. King
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Korean War



James L. Klingsporn
Army
Korean War

KOREAN WAR



Milton (Bud) A. Kitzman
Army
Korean War



Paul M. Kitzmann
Army
Korean War



Kenneth J. Knoepke
Army
Korean War



Mervin E. Knutson
Marines
Korean War



Orrin L. Knutson
Air Force
Korean War



Stan L. Koch
Navy
Korean War



Robert Koenck
Army
Korean War



Charles A. Koenig
Army
Korean War



Edward E. Korbel
Army
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George C. Kramer
Army
Korean War



James Kramer
Navy
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Lewis G. Kramer
Army
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Jerry Kratz
Army
Korean War



Raymond J. Krolak
Army
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Lucian "Dick" Kroska
Air Force
Korean War



Richard C. Kruger
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Paul A. Kruger
Navy
Korean War



Leo Kubat
Army
Korean War



Cyril W. Kubista
Army
Korean War



Walter E. Kuhlman
Army
Korean War



Wilbur Laffrenzen
Army
Korean War



Darrel G. Lande
Army
Korean War



Francis R. Lange
Army
Korean War



Keith Larson
Air Force
Korean War



Gerald F. Lehnher
Army
Korean War



Clinton Lerfald
Army
Korean War



Derwin E. Lester
Army
Korean War



Ervin D. Lewandowski
Marines
Korean War



Floyd R. Lewis
Army
Korean War



Donald F. Lloyd
Army
Korean War



B.J. Loeffler
Army
Korean War



Arvin O. Lubahn
Army
Korean War



Lyle R. Lubahn
Army
Korean War



Basil C. Luck
Air Force
Korean War



Gordon Lukehart
Air Force
Korean War



Clarence C. Lunde
Air Force
Korean War



Douglas S. Lybeck
Navy
Korean War



William E. Lyke
Army
Korean War



Lyle (Mike) Madsen
Air Force
Korean War



William C. Madsen
Army
Korean War



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IS THIS THE COUNTRY THE FOUNDERS ENVISIONED?

written by Erin Stoeckig - Voice of Democracy 2020

They taught us the names of ships. Those were the first lessons of kindergarten history: the Mayflower, the Nina, the Pinta, the Santa Maria. Before we could even spell the name of our country, we knew that it began with ships full of people.

The story of America began in the hearts and minds of people who hadn't even laid eyes on the land they would call home. It began in their hopes for prosperity, their prayers for religious freedom. America is a land born of ideals. It traces its lineage not to one bloodline, one land, one language, or faith, but to the ideas that forged it.

From Enlightenment Philosophy, we took a government's responsibility to the people it rules. From the Magna Carta, the "Great Charter" of British history who's site of creation is now dominated by American monuments, we took rights, written out and guaranteed to citizens. From the Greeks, we took the blueprint of democracy. From these and the hopes of immigrants who crossed an ocean seeking opportunity and freedom, our Founding Fathers constructed the government that serves us to this day.

But, is it truly the same? This question brings us to one final ship, another gift from Ancient Greece: the Ship of Theseus. The story goes that, in the space of a single voyage, all the planks of the ship were replaced, one by one. "Does the ship remain the same?" philosophers have asked for centuries. "Is it still the same ship, even if nothing of the original remains?" Is it still the same country with the people who built it so many generations gone? Is this the

country our founders envisioned?

When the Constitutional Convention began in the spring of 1787, the men who gathered there had already witnessed firsthand the failings of two forms of government: the British parliamentary monarchy and their own Articles of Confederation. They came prepared to debate a vast array of topics, large and small, that would shape the path of their young country, but, at the forefront of their minds must have been this: how do you build a government that will last? Because the Founding Fathers, like ships full of immigrants before and after them, wanted not only a better life, prosperity and freedom, for themselves, but also for their children. They were the fathers of our democracy, yes, but also fathers themselves.

Thomas Jefferson wrote that "...laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind...We might as well require a man to still wear the coat which fitted him when a boy as a civilized society to remain ever under the regime of their barbarous ancestors." So, on top of their steady foundation, their careful checks and balances, the Founding Fathers built a government that could change - that could grow with their nation and their children. They built it with legislative bodies that could create new laws. They demonstrated it by adding a Bill of Rights. They created it - an adaptive country that could withstand a silent, bloodless revolution every four years.

The Constitution of the United States of America, as any 4th grader can tell you,

begins like this: "We the people, in order to form a more perfect union..." "More perfect" they wrote, not "perfect". This country was built to change. When those words were put to paper, "We the people" meant 6%. The 6% who were landowning white men. To form a more perfect union, the 14th Amendment was passed in 1868 and "We the people" came to mean all men. To form a more perfect union, the 19th Amendment was passed in 1920 and "We the people" came to include women. To form a more perfect union, the Civil Rights Act, the 24th Amendment, and the Voting Rights Act were passed to protect the now expanded right to vote and all the people it gave a voice to. Today, almost 80% of the US population is eligible to vote, and our union is far more perfect for it.

But what about that last 20%? Who is left? The children. Your children. Because you, just as the Founding Fathers and ships full of immigrants before you, are tasked with protecting the future. Because the children, not the long-dead giants of our history, will be the ones to judge your work once it is done.

But how do you tell them, how do you tell us, of this beautiful legacy we will inherit? That this country, carefully built and lovingly maintained, has withstood the storm of centuries? That, one day, it will be our responsibility "to form a more perfect union" just as the Founding Fathers, our immigrant ancestors, and you intended?

You start with the names of ships.



Thank You!

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