



Roger That!

The Official Publication of Rolling Thunder®, Illinois Ch 2

Volume 25, Issue 1



OUR MISSION: The major function of Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is to publicize the POW-MIA issue: To educate the public that many American Prisoners of War were left behind after all previous wars and to help correct the past and to protect future Veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners of War-Missing In Action. We are also committed to helping American Veterans from all wars.

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is a non-profit organization and everyone donates his or her time because they believe in the POW/MIA Issue.

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 20 MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY
- 20 INAUGURATION DAY
- 29 CHINESE NEW YEAR

FEBRUARY

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 3 Four Chaplains day
- 4 USO Birthday
- 9-15 National Salute to Veteran Patients
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 President's Day
- 19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

MARCH

- 1 Seabee Birthday
- 3 Navy Reserve Birthday
- 4 Hug a GI Day
- 13 K-9 Veterans Day
- 15 American Legion Birthday
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 21 Rosie the Riveter Day

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DPAA Updates

Remaining Numbers to Date

3 January, 2025

WWII
71,989

Korean War
7,447

Vietnam War
1,573

Cold War
126

Gulf Wars
6

41,000 of these missing are presumed lost at sea due to ship losses or aircraft water losses.

This information is updated every Friday on the DPAA website. Check DPAA.Mil for the most current data.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking at Things Differently!!



WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BUT STILL HAVE A LOT TO ACCOMPLISH!

Happy New Year! I hope that all our members had a meaningful and fulfilling holiday season with family and friends and a little time to reflect on our mission and the good that our Chapter does for our Veteran community.

I look back over the past year, and all the activities that our Chapter participated in, and I wonder how in the world we did it all! Numerous repatriations, the table ceremonies, conducting a candlelight vigil at Fort Sheridan National Cemetery the day before staging a successful Rolling Thunder XXXVI nationwide "Ride for Freedom". And let's not forget, our Chapter's Thunder Run (in the rain for a second year in a row!) and community events like the Arlington Heights Memorial Day Parade, The Algonquin and Zion Day Parades, the 'Stand To' and Wreaths across America.

All the above just doesn't happen by itself! It's the dedication of our Officers and Board of Directors who make sure there is an OPORD issued for every event! OPORDS let everyone know the who, what, when and where of each event. It identifies the sequence of events, concept of operations and the staging area. These let everyone know the details and I believe it has helped to increase the participation of all of our members. This participation is just as important as the work of the Officers and Board! We cannot do this without you!

I expect that our Chapter will be just as busy this year... if not more busy! Therefore I am looking for total participation from our members! We haven't had the opportunity to reinstate our activities or interaction with our veterans at Lovell Federal Healthcare Center. But this year may provide that opportunity for us!

Another program that we will be rolling out in the next few months will be our Rolling Thunder Charities. We have established a relationship with the McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission who will refer us to veterans who qualify to receive assistance. We have set up our own guidelines and requirements based upon Rolling Thunder Chapter One's successful program. Again, we will need our members to participate and become part of the committee. Not only is there an element of reviewing veterans' requests for assistance, but we will also need to raise funds to maintain the program. Please contact me if you are interested.

No matter how you look at things, there is a lot of work to be done by our members to publicize the POW/MIA issue in the upcoming year. From repatriations to the placement of chairs, I am asking everyone to re-commit themselves to our mission!

Remember....We will never Forget!



Whenever we
Gather,
We will
Honor
and
Remember
Gratefully!



V.P.'s Vision

By: Anthony Yarbrough



Tony

Thinking about how to make 2024 a year to remember? Here is a reminder of some ideas for you to consider:

- ♦ *As we plan our Rolling Thunder 2025 events, picture yourself in action and get involved in the things that are planned.*
- ♦ *Plan an event that you know would honor our Mission... Bring it to the Board*
 - ◇ *Find a senior Veteran's facility that could use extra hands!*
 - ◇ *Identify a city, school or other facility that could use an Honor Chair!*
 - ◇ *Plan a gathering for our Chapter to celebrate our great energy!*
 - ◇ *Find a ride destination that will build our resolve to continue our Mission!*
- ♦ *Talk to your family about the importance of remembering our **POW/MIA** Heroes!*

*As we move into 2025... Let's build that energy that motivated those that we Honor!
A Happy and Invigorated New Year to YOU!*

It's Official! Our Active Duty Member has his Patches!

Pictures submitted by: Nick Bender, Proud Father and Most helpful RT Member!



And... Although, he was very happy to have the patches. He also found a partner who promised to travel this military life with him.... Page!

Congratulations to you both, for all of the Wonderful news!

Chairman of the Board Wayne “Traveler” Kirkpatrick



As our calendar approaches the end of 2024, we have conducted more events than most chapters throughout our Nation. We have also had to decline more events than any other

chapter due to schedule conflicts, resources and events that are not consistent with the Rolling Thunder Constitution.

Nonetheless, every one of you has given your best in supporting every mission when and where you can. That's what makes Chapter 2 so successful!

We have about 3 months remaining this year to continue stacking up missions in our

“Win” column.

As this Newsletter is released, we should have already attended the semi-annual James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center's Veteran Memorial service for our Veteran brothers and sisters who have recently passed away. This event is by invitation from the Palliative Care unit. To stand with the families of the fallen during this ceremony is something that we should all embrace. To be invited is something that we should all be proud of.



We are fortunate and honored to participate in, and support, the Repatriation of WWII MIA US Army PFC Harry Jerele of Berkeley, IL with the

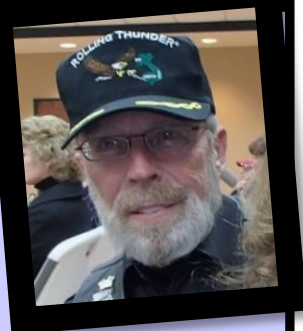
Dignified Transfer on 1 Oct and the funeral on 4 Oct. This will be our first one where Chapter 1 has taken the full lead and we are supporting. It is no less important than the previous eighteen Repatriations that we have completed.

Our annual Stand To and our reputation for this event is growing. We had had two groups request seating and a great turnout.



Also in November, a local Scout troop in Elgin requested our Table Ceremony for Monday evening on Veterans Day, 11 November at an American Legion Hall in Elgin. We were honored to work with America's young men and women and to have the opportunity to demonstrate to them our countries POW/MIA history through our POW/MIA Remembrance Table Ceremony however, due to our limited resources, we declined.

Finally, I want to highlight one of the traits that makes us so good at what we do. At our recent Thunder Run and our VA Table ceremony, it looked like set up and performance were rehearsed, rehearsed, and rehearsed. Everyone on site pitched in and helped with something. No one stood around asking “What should I do?”. With everyone working as a team, all of our missions become routine and look so professional. Our uniform, our experience and our ability to unify as a team to get things done clearly contribute to that success. I would offer that all of us are very proud to work with each other every time we have a mission. I know that I am thankful and proud, to work with all of you!





National Resource Directory

Connecting Wounded Warriors, Service Members, Veterans,
Their Families and Caregivers with Those Who Support Them

By Traveler

The National Resource Directory (NRD) gives service members, veterans, family members, and caregivers the ability to find and connect with organizations that can assist with specialized recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration needs. The NRD is the product of a partnership with DOD, VA, and the Department of Labor. This program is meant to facilitate free connections between individuals and stringently vetted resources that provide support in many areas such as employment, education, veteran benefits, caregiver support, housing, DD214, awards, military records, and the Military Adaptive Sports Program.

Help a Veteran, a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or yourself, by referring them to this resource at: <https://nrd.gov/>



Free VA Healthcare!

Submitted by: Traveler



Do You Know
a World War II
Veteran?
They're Eligible for Free
VA Health
Care.

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced that all World War II Veterans are now eligible for no-cost VA inpatient and outpatient health care.

Nursing home care is free (no copays) for nearly all World War II Veterans who are eligible for nursing home services at VA, including 1) anyone in need of such care for a service-connected disability, (2) anyone in need of such care who also has a service-connected disability rated at 70 percent or more.

However, some Veterans may still have to pay modest copayments for medication or urgent care or long-term care in some cases, depending on their eligibility and service connection.

Under this expansion, Veterans who served in the U.S. military between Dec. 7, 1941, and Dec. 31, 1946, are now eligible for VA health care benefits but must apply because VA cannot automatically enroll them.

VA is reaching out by phone and mail to encourage WWII Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA care to apply today. Veterans who enroll may also keep their private providers, Medicare, and most other insurance to meet their health care needs.

All WWII Veterans are encouraged to enroll in VA health care – the best, most-affordable health care in America for Veterans. Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in overall quality ratings and patient satisfaction ratings.



Heaven Can Wait!

Project Recover, May 2018
Submitted By: Traveler



The remains of a World War II bombardier whose B-24 bomber, "Heaven Can Wait", crashed in 1944 were located under 213 feet of water off Papua New Guinea in late September. Searchers found the remains with the help of specialized underwater sensors and an autonomous submarine provided by Project Recover, a nonprofit of mostly volunteers who work with the U.S. military and families to find missing American service members.

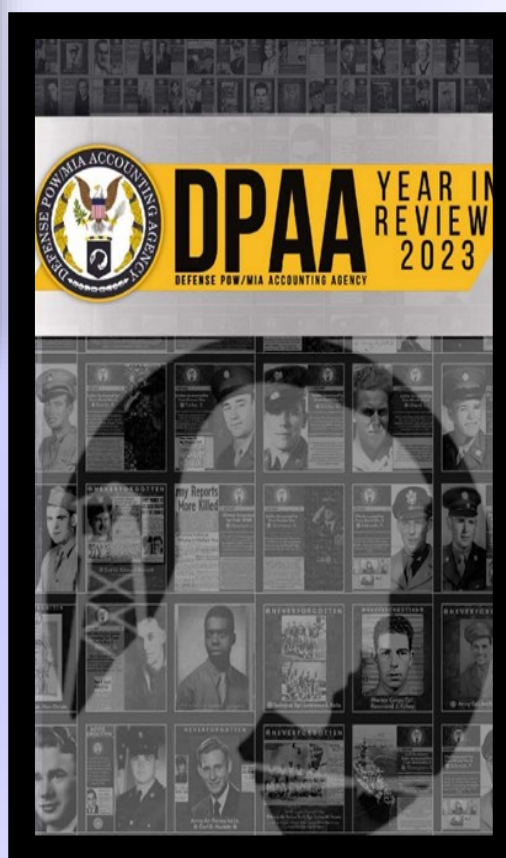
Project Recover began their investigation in 2017 with an archaeological survey of Papua New Guinea's Hansa Bay, where a flight of B-24s had reported one of their own had crashed. The survey covered 27 square kilometers of seafloor using the latest sensing and scanning technology and robots.

In spring 2023, after 10 days of searching a promising area, experts found the remains of 2nd Lt. Thomas V. Kelly, Jr. in a debris field left by his B-24 bomber, 213 feet under the surface. Kelly, 21, from Livermore, California, had served as a bombardier on a bomber named "Heaven Can Wait." In November 2024, defense officials announced that Kelly was accounted for. After waiting more than half a century, the mystery of what happened to Lt. Kelly was put to rest.

Kelly and the crew of Heaven Can Wait were part of the 320th squadron of the "Jolly Rogers" 90th Bombardment Group and had arrived in present-day Papua New Guinea four months earlier to join Pacific

theater combat. There were 11 airmen on board when it crashed into the ocean during a mission to bomb Japanese anti-aircraft batteries around Hansa Bay on March 11, 1944. According to DPAA, Kelly will be buried on May 26, 2025 in California.

The DPAA also recently identified the bomber's navigator, 2nd Lt. Donald Sheppick and radio operator, Staff Sgt. Eugene Darrigan from the wreck site.



Although the 2024 publication is not available, taking a second look at the past year's publication is still very informative. Keep an eye out on the website for the new edition!

Annually DPAA Publishes their Year In Review. This colorful, informative publication

contains an incredible amount of information about recovery procedures, identification of remains, site excavation, repatriations, etc. It portrays the entire spectrum of DPAA operations including such participation as that of the University of Illinois at Chicago's Center for the Recovery and Identification of the Missing. Along with the annual national meeting with families, It keeps the families informed on what is being done to find their loved ones!



This interesting document can be viewed at:
<https://www.dpaa.mil/Portals/85/Documents/>



DPAA sees slight uptick in remains identified over past year

Submitted by 'Traveler'



U.S. Army Sgt. Jathanuel Sealy-Marks, of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, clears a drainage pipe used for screening soil during a recovery mission in Vietnam on March 26, 2024. (Ariel Owings/U.S. Air Force)

The Defense Department agency tasked with accounting for the missing in action from America's wars identified 172 service members in the just-ended fiscal year, a slight uptick from previous years but still short of the effort's annual goal.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identified 135 service members missing from World War II, 33 from the Korean War and four from the Vietnam War in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. That is up from the 158 missing service members identified during the previous fiscal year and 166 from the year before that. About 81,000 Americans are still missing from World War II and subsequent conflicts, with almost 90% of those from WWII.

A provision of the 2010 Defense Authorization Act requires the Defense Department to fund the recovery of MIA remains at a level that ensures capacity to account for at least 200 individuals each year. Over the years, that figure "has translated into a goal" for the agency. The agency's ambitions for fiscal year 2024 were hampered by gridlock in Congress over defense spending that left DPAA, along with the rest of DOD, operating at the previous year's funding levels for almost six months. Today, the families of 1,577 Americans still listed as MIA from Southeast

Asia wait patiently for answers regarding their unaccounted-for loved ones.

Last month, the agency made its 700th identification of service members who went missing during the Korean War.

Other DPAA accomplishments of the past year:

- The remains of 91 unknowns were disinterred from 14 American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries in the Europe-Mediterranean region, which represented the single highest total of unknowns disinterred in that region during any fiscal year.
- The number of unknowns disinterred by DPAA and its predecessor organizations surpassed 500 in the Europe-Mediterranean region.
- In the Indo-Pacific region, 69 unknowns from the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines were disinterred.
- Indo-Pacific personnel conducted 28 investigation and recovery field missions.
- Missions to Vietnam and Papua New Guinea succeeded in recovering bones and other evidence.

DPAA also continued its collaboration with outside organizations, such as Project Recover and the University of Wisconsin's MIA Recovery and Identification Project. An outside team continued to search for a B-24H bomber that crashed in January 1944 on the Isle of Morgo, Italy. Another outside organization searched for remains from a B-24 submerged in 300-foot-deep waters off Bisevo Island near Vis, Croatia.

In the Pacific, partner-led missions in the Philippines and Vanuatu led to the underwater recovery of remains. DPAA and its partners operated in 46 countries during the past fiscal year.

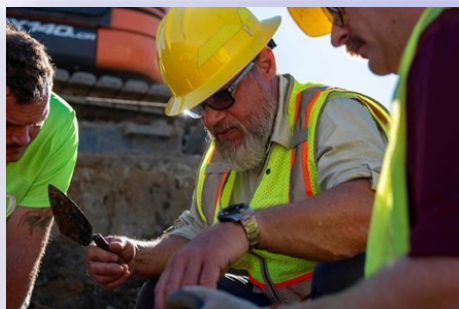


Former Soldier Uses Archaeology Training in MIA Recovery

Extracts from article By [David Vergun](#), DOD News

Submitted by: Traveler

David Brown has wanted to be an archaeologist since he was eight years old, growing up in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, just outside of Chicago. He said he loved the idea of uncovering ancient artifacts and bringing history back to life.



But Brown first had a different mission to fulfill — service to his country.

Brown enlisted in the Army for a two-year tour in 1987, operating

the Multiple Launch Rocket System and other systems within the field artillery branch.

"The Army helped me become a more responsible person," he said. "Also, I became more patriotic, having a better understanding of how the military protects the nation and the dedicated people who do it."

After his enlistment, Brown used his GI Bill benefits to get a graduate degree in archaeology.

Nine years ago, Brown accepted an offer from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to be a laboratory forensic archaeologist and scientific recovery expert.

The agency, which is part of the Defense Department, searches in 45 countries for missing service members from World War II and later conflicts, including the Korean War, Vietnam War and Desert Storm.

Once remains are recovered and the agency's laboratory determines the person's identity through DNA analysis and other means of identification, then the service member's family is notified and arrangements are made for a military funeral.

Brown's work has taken him to remote areas, including Papua New Guinea, Laos, Cambodia and Vi-

etnam. Currently, he's on his second mission in Germany, this time in the northeast part.

He's part of a 25-person team seeking to recover remains of the 10 airmen flying in a B-24H Liberator bomber that was presumably shot down by the enemy while returning from a bombing run.



Although the site is not remote or rugged, the challenge for the recovery team is digging a

deep excavation pit, as the steep angle of the aircraft's impact resulted in it being buried far below the surface of a farmer's field. Also, parts of the aircraft were severely distorted by melting that resulted from the fiery crash, he said.

Brown is the only civilian on the team. The 24 others are from different branches of the military and from different jobs. Brown oversees all the archaeological work.

Every recovery site is different, and every team is different, he said.



"Even though I have a degree and experience in a variety of archaeology projects, I learn something new every day — both from the site itself, as well as from each of the team

members. The diverse experiences of the team definitely contributes to the success of the mission."

Brown said he tries hard not to let his emotions interfere in the work he's doing.

"I want to stay objective as best I can. Too much emotion, such as thinking of the loss of the service members and the grief their families must have experienced, could cloud my judgment. So, I try to keep some separation," he said.

Brown admitted that there were some occasions that he had to stop work for a minute to collect himself. He said he and the team have a full grasp of the important work they are doing — bringing missing service members home.



A fascinating WWII story. Lucky Fluckey

Submitted By Traveler



an of World War II service with a heritage that should not have been melted away without any recognition.

The U.S.S. Barb was a pioneer, paving the way for the first submarine to launch missiles and it flew a battle flag unlike that of any other ship.



In addition to the Medal of Honor ribbon at the top of the flag identifying the heroism of its Captain, Commander Eugene 'Lucky' Fluckey, the bottom border of the flag bore the image of a Japanese train locomotive.

The U.S.S. Barb was indeed, the submarine that SANK A TRAIN! July 18, 1945 In Patience Bay, off the coast of Karafuto, Japan.

It was after 4 A.M. and Commander Fluckey rubbed his eyes as he peered over the map spread before him. It was the twelfth war patrol of the Barb, the fifth under Commander Fluckey. He should have turned the submarine's command over to another skipper after four patrols but had managed to strike a deal with Admiral Lockwood to make a fifth trip with the men he cared for like a father.

On January 8th the Barb had emerged victorious from a running two-hour night battle after sinking a large enemy ammunition ship. Two weeks later in Mamkwan Harbor she found the mothrlode... more than 30 enemy ships.

In only 30 feet of water her crew unleashed the sub's forward torpedoes, then turned and fired four from the stern. As Commander Fluckey pushed the Barb to the

full limit of its speed through the dangerous waters in a daring withdrawal to the open sea, he recorded eight direct hits on six enemy ships.

What could possibly be left for the Commander to accomplish who, just three months earlier had been in Washington, DC to receive the Medal of Honor? He smiled to himself as he looked again at the map showing the rail line that ran along the enemy coastline.

The rail line itself wouldn't be a problem. A shore patrol could go ashore under cover of darkness to plant the explosives... one of the sub's 55-pound scuttling charges. But this early morning Lucky Fluckey and his officers were puzzling over how they could blow not only the rails, but also one of the frequent trains that shuttled supplies to equip the Japanese war machine. But no matter how crazy the idea might have sounded; the Barb's skipper would not risk the lives of his men.

Thus the problem... how to detonate the explosives at the moment the train passed, without endangering the life of a shore party.

Cruising slowly beneath the surface to evade the enemy plane now circling overhead, the monotony was broken with a new idea: Instead of having a crewman on shore to trigger explosives to blow both rail and a passing train, why not let the train blow itself up?

Billy Hatfield was explaining how he had cracked nuts on the railroad tracks as a kid, placing the nuts between two ties so the sagging of the rail under the weight of a train would break them open. "Just like cracking walnuts," he explained. To complete the circuit [detonating the 55-pound charge] we hook in a micro switch... and mounted it between two ties, directly under the steel rail.

" We don't set it off . . the train will." Not only did Hatfield have the plan, he wanted to go along with the volunteer shore party.

There was no shortage of volunteers; all that was needed was the proper weather... a little cloud cover to darken the moon for the sabotage mission ashore.

Lucky Fluckey established his criteria for the volunteer party:

[1] No married men would be included, except for Hatfield,

[2] The party would include members from each department

(Continued on page 10)



Lucky Flucky, Continued...

[3] The opportunity would be split evenly between regular Navy and Navy Reserve sailors,

[4] At least half of the men had to have been Boy Scouts, experienced in handling medical emergencies and tuned into woods lore.

Finally, Lucky Fluckey would lead the saboteurs himself.

When the names of the 8 selected sailors was announced it was greeted with a mixture of excitement and disappointment.

Among the disappointed was Commander Fluckey who surrendered his opportunity at the insistence of his officers that as commander he belonged with the Barb, coupled with the threat from one that "I swear I'll send a message to ComSubPac if the Commander attempted to join the demolition shore party."

In the meantime, the crew would 'lay low' to prepare their equipment, practice and plan and wait for the weather.

Waiting in 30 feet of water was wearing thin on the patience of Commander Fluckey and his innovative crew. Everything was ready. In the four days the saboteurs had anxiously watched the skies for cloud cover, the inventive crew of the Barb had crafted and tested their micro switch.

When the need was proposed for a pick and shovel to bury the explosive charge and batteries, the Barb's engineers had cut up steel plates in the lower flats of the engine room, then bent and welded them to create the needed digging tools.

Anxiously watching the skies, Commander Fluckey noticed a cloud cover was building so, this would be the night.

MIDNIGHT, July 23, 1945

The Barb had crept within 950 yards of the shoreline. If it was somehow seen from the shore, it would probably be mistaken for a schooner or Japanese patrol boat. No one would suspect an American submarine so close to shore or in such shallow water.

Slowly the small boats were lowered to the water and the 8 saboteurs began paddling toward the enemy beach. Twenty-five minutes later they pulled the boats ashore and walked on the surface of the Japanese homeland.

Stumbling through noisy waist-high grasses, crossing a highway and then into a 4-foot drainage ditch, the

saboteurs made their way to the railroad tracks. Three men were posted as guards. The Barb's auxiliary man climbed the tower's ladder, then stopped in shock as he realized it was an enemy lookout tower . . . an occupied enemy lookout tower.

Fortunately, the Japanese sentry was peacefully sleeping. And he was able to quietly withdraw to warn his raiding party.

The news caused the men digging the placement for the explosive charge to continue their work more quietly and slower. Twenty minutes later, the demolition holes had been carved by their crude tools and the explosives and batteries hidden beneath fresh soil.

During planning for the mission, the saboteurs had been told that, with the explosives in place, all would retreat a safe distance while one made the final connection. But if the sailor messed up during this final, dangerous procedure, his would be the only life lost.

1:32 A.M.

Watching from the deck of the submarine, Commander Fluckey allowed himself a sigh of relief as he noticed the flashlight signal from the beach announcing the departure of the shore party.

Fluckey had daringly, but skillfully guided the Barb within 600 yards of the enemy beach sand. There was less than 6 feet of water beneath the sub's keel, but Fluckey wanted to be close in case trouble arose and a daring rescue of his bridge saboteurs became necessary.

1:45 A.M.

The two boats carrying his saboteurs were only half-way back to the Barb when the sub's machine gunner yelled, 'Captain!' There's another train coming up the tracks! The Commander grabbed a megaphone and yelled through the night, "Paddle like the devil!", knowing full well that they wouldn't reach the Barb before the train hit the micro switch.

1:47 A.M.

The darkness was shattered by brilliant light and the roar of the explosion! The boilers of the locomotive blew, shattered pieces of the engine blowing 200 feet into the air. Behind it the railroad freight cars accordioned into each other, bursting into flame and adding to the magnificent fireworks display. Five minutes later the saboteurs were lifted to the deck by their exuberant comrades as the Barb eased away, slipping back to the safety of the deep.

(Continued on page 11)



Lucky Flucky, Continued...

Moving at only two knots, it would be a while before the Barb was into waters deep enough to allow it to submerge. It was a moment to savor, the culmination of teamwork, ingenuity and daring by the Commander and all his crew. Lucky Fluckey's voice came over the intercom. "All hands below deck not absolutely needed to maneuver the ship have permission to come top-side." He didn't have to repeat the invitation. Hatches sprang open as the proud sailors of the Barb gathered on her decks to proudly watch the distant fireworks display.

The Barb had sunk a Japanese train!

On August 2, 1945 the Barb arrived at Midway, her twelfth war patrol concluded. Meanwhile on August 6th the B-29 bomber Enola Gay dropped a single atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. A second such bomb, unleashed 4 days later on Nagasaki, Japan, caused Japan to agree to surrender terms on August 15th.

The story of the saboteurs of the U.S.S. Barb is one of those unique, little known stories of World War II. It becomes increasingly important when one realizes that the eight sailors who blew up the train near Kashiho, Japan conducted the only combat ground operation on the Japanese homeland during World War II.



Members of the sabotage team pose with the Ship's flag (The train mission is noted at the center bottom of the flag)

Congress Approves Renaming US Route 20 to Honor Medal of Honor Recipients

Submitted by: Traveler



WASHINGTON, D. C. -- The nation's longest road -- U.S. Route 20 -- will be designated the "National Medal of Honor Highway," under legislation approved Monday.

that the U.S. House of Representatives

The 3,365-mile road begins in Boston at a junction with Massachusetts Route 2 and ends in Newport, Oregon, at a junction with U.S. 101

The bipartisan legislation approved in a non-controversial voice vote was cosponsored by Toledo Democratic Rep. Marcy Kaptur. The U.S. Senate approved it last year. It now goes to President Joe Biden's desk for his signature.

The chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Missouri Republican Sam Graves, said the name change will honor all 3,519 Medal of Honor recipients, and those who receive the award in the future.

The legislation is supported by the Bend Heroes Foundation, Military Officers Association of America, American Legion, Legion of Valor, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States.

According to Veterans of Foreign Wars, the drive to rename U.S. Route 20 started with an Oregon Vietnam veteran named Dick Tobiason, who heads the Bend Heroes Foundation. In 2017, Oregon's governor and legislature designated their section of the road the "Oregon Medal of Honor Highway."

By the end of last year, all states along the route passed similar measures with encouragement from Tobiason and veterans groups in their states.

A statement from Tobiason said that having a transcontinental National Medal of Honor Highway would be "a permanent tribute to America's members of the Armed Forces who acted with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of their lives during combat with an enemy of the United States."

"Every state from Oregon to Massachusetts has dedicated Highway 20 to the recipients of the Medal of Honor, it is time for the federal government to do the same," added a statement from Military Officers Association of America president and CEO Brian T. Kelly. "It is only fitting that we honor all our nation's 'bravest of the brave' veterans on the longest highway in our nation."

Fisher House Foundation: Providing Comfort Homes for Military and Veteran Families

Submitted By: Traveler



Your Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman has been on deployment and, expected home in one

month. Suddenly, there's a knock on your door and two uniformed military personnel, who just got out of a military staff car, are standing on your porch. Adrenaline rushes through your body and your heart rate nearly doubles.

You answer the door and are formally told that your loved one has been wounded and is being transported to Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio, TX. Your military contact, the Casualty Assistance Officer offers you his condolences, provides you with his contact information and encourages you to stay in touch with him. He will inform you of your loved one's date / time of arrival at BAMC when he receives it.

Immediately, you attempt to contact your loved one via cell, text, email to no avail. You contact the wife of his unit commander who leads the unit's wives group created to assist spouses in stressful times. She has heard nothing yet but will check.

What next? Inform the kids, notify his family, coordinate time off from work, find someone to care for your children, find out how to get to BAMC, do you fly or drive, try to find a place to stay in San Antonio, where do you find money to pay for it all, and....your head is swimming with grief and confusion. (This actually happened to one of our members)

Within 24 hours, the unit commander's wife calls to inform you that she has coordinated an airline flight to San Antonio and has a place for you to stay, indefinitely, all paid for by the Fisher House Foundation. WOW!!!!

Until recently, the Next of Kin of a wounded service person or sick veteran hospitalized in our area, had to live in a hotel and bear the costs of travel, food, child care, etc, all while taking off of work. Not any more

thanks to the Fisher House Foundation.

The Fisher House program was established in 1990 by Zachary Fisher and Elizabeth Fisher in response to the recognized need for housing for military families while their loved ones were hospitalized. In 1991, the first Fisher House was inaugurated at the National Naval Medical Center (now Walter Reed

Military Medical Center) in Bethesda, Maryland, with the presence of President George Bush Sr. and Mrs. Bush during the dedication ceremony



The North Chicago Fisher

House will be the 100th Fisher House operating in the United States and Europe. Once finished, up to 1,400 families will be able stay in a Fisher House across the country and overseas on any given night.

The North Chicago Fisher House will allow up to 16 Veteran and military families to stay free of charge, serving families traveling to the health care center for medical care. It will offer more than 5,800 nights of lodging each year, potentially saving families more than \$1.1 million annually.

Construction of the 100th Fisher House began in April 2024 at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center located in North Chicago, Illinois.

Unlike other Fisher Houses built for the VA or a particular military service, this will be the first-of-its-kind home built for the partnership between the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense (DoD), integrating all medical care into a federal healthcare facility with a single combined mission.

Fisher House Foundation, Inc. is an international non-profit that works alongside the Veterans Health Administration to provide complimentary quality of life services for active military members, veterans, and their families.

Other Quality of Life programs offered by the foundation include the Hero Miles and Hotels for Heroes programs, ongoing assistance to Fisher Houses, scholarships, support for continuing rehabilitation initiatives, and individual assistance to members of the military and their families during a crisis.

(Continued on 13)



Fisher House, Continued....

A Home Away from Home.

Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military and Veteran families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are strategically located at military and VA medical centers around the world, ensuring that families can be close to their loved ones during challenging times. With up to 21 suites in each Fisher House, families enjoy private bedrooms, baths and shared common spaces like kitchens, laundry facilities, dining rooms and living rooms.



Financial relief for families. Since its inception, the Fisher House program has saved military and Veterans' families an estimated \$610 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation. This significant financial relief allows families to focus on supporting their loved ones without the added burden of accommodation expenses.

Hero Miles Program. Fisher House Foundation operates the Hero Miles program, which uses donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members. This initiative ensures that families can be together during critical recovery periods, regardless of the distance.

Hotels for Heroes. Similarly, the Hotels for Heroes program uses donated hotel points to provide family members with free stays at hotels near medical centers. This program ensures that families have a comfortable place to stay close to their loved ones without any financial strain.

Grant and scholarship programs. Beyond housing, Fisher House Foundation manages the Fisher Service Award, a grant program that supports other charities and scholarship funds for military children, spouses, and children of fallen and disabled Veterans. To date, 15,000 students have received \$27,000,000 in scholarship awards, furthering the Foundation's commitment to supporting military families in various ways.

By the numbers.

- Daily capacity: 1,300 families.
- Families served: More than 500,000 since inception.
- Number of lodging days offered: 12 million+.
- Scholarship awards: 15,000 students receiving \$27,000,000.

- Hero Miles airline tickets provided: Over 70,000, worth nearly \$105 million.

Staying at a Fisher House.

If you or someone you love is receiving care at a VA or military medical center, check the list of current Fisher Houses to see if there is a location that can help. The criteria to stay are established locally by the hospital or installation command, so please contact the location with any questions. There is never a charge to stay at a Fisher House.

A community of support. Fisher Houses are designed to foster a sense of community while providing private respite for families. Families can prepare their favorite meals in the gourmet kitchen before enjoying a good night's sleep in their private suite. The common areas, such as the dining room, family room and outdoor patio, offer spaces for families to connect and support each other.

Private suite amenities

- Beds accommodating family needs (multiple twins, full, rollaway crib, etc.).
- Private, wheelchair-accessible bathroom with ample counter space.
- Towels and high-quality bedding provided.
- Large closet with hangers.
- TV and internet access.

Common areas

- Dining room.
- Gourmet kitchen with a coffee maker, pots, pans, utensils, pantry compartments, and state-of-the-art refrigerators.
- Family room with large TV and seating.
- Living room with seating and a library.
- Laundry room with multiple washers and dryers.
- Outdoor patio.

We have not, yet, received a completion date or a date of a grand opening but, once we do, be assured that Rolling Thunder, Chapter 2, Illinois will be in attendance.





Ex-administrator of POW/MIA advocate faces prison for theft!

By MATTHEW M. BURKE STARS AND STRIPES •

November 5, 2024

Submitted by: Traveler



The National POW/MIA flag flies over an Air Force base in 2014. (Defense Department)

A Virginia woman whose scheming almost liquidated a prominent advocacy organization for American prisoners of war now awaits punishment for embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars. Jennifer Giorffino, a former administrator for the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court in Alexandria to a single count of wire fraud, according to the Justice Department. She could receive a prison term of up to 20 years when she is sentenced next year, a DOJ statement said Thursday.

Between October 2022 and April this year, the 53-year-old Giorffino stole \$257,259 from the nonprofit, also known as the National League of POW/MIA Families, court records state. The organization was nearly out of money at the time of the embezzlement. It was slated to be dissolved after a Jan. 31, 2023, vote by its board of directors, according to a series of League statements between January and June 2023. But less than two weeks later, an anonymous benefactor stepped in and pledged \$400,000 annually over five years to fund the group, according to a February 2023 statement.

Ann Mills-Griffiths, who has led the organization since 1978, was listed as board chairwoman on League statements during the period in which the fraud took place. Mills-Griffiths did not reply Monday to an email seeking comment. Giorffino's job included processing donations. Instead, she used the money for personal retail purchases, according to the Justice Department. She also stole Mills-Griffiths' identity

and fraudulently applied for at least 30 credit cards and lines of credit for additional spending, authorities said. She made over \$36,000 worth of purchases on one card alone and paid off the cards every month until April using League funds, the Justice Department statement said. In February, Giorffino opened a checking account in the League's name and began diverting checks and online donations into the account, accumulating \$29,746, the Justice statement said.

The organization's funds were largely drained by March, but she forged bank statements and wrote checks she knew would bounce, according to prosecutors. The chairwoman's credit card was declined at a restaurant around the same time the theft was discovered, the statement said. Giorffino gave the board falsified bank statements at an April meeting and she stopped working at the League on April 27, according to court records.

It is unclear what Giorffino was charged with before the plea deal was negotiated. A spokesman for the Eastern District of Virginia on Monday declined to comment further. In 1971, the League created the iconic black-and-white POW/MIA flag that currently flies over government and military institutions.





Project Recover in Action!

Submitted By Traveler



Archaeologists working with Project Recover use measuring tapes and underwater cameras to record and document a WWII aircraft site in Papua New Guinea. Courtesy Project Recover

A nonprofit with five staff members and 80 volunteers around the world, Project Recover enlists scientists, historians, archaeologists, engineers, and divers to work with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. The DPAA is the military's office tasked with recovering and accounting for American service members still missing from overseas conflicts. Close to 80,000 service members remain missing from U.S. conflicts dating back to World War II.

Project Recover began working with the U.S. military after a 2015 restructuring of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command which became the current-day DPAA office.

The origins of Project Recover go back 30 years to search for a particular Japanese trawler sunk in World War II, which included a local scuba expert, Pat Scannon. In 1944, a Navy TBM Avenger spotted the trawler off the island of Ngurangel and sank it. Though a minor note in the greater Pacific war effort, the pilot was George H.W. Bush, who would be elected President 44 years later.

During Scannon's 1993 trip to the region he and a team located the sunken ship along with small-caliber munitions mixed in the wreckage. The bullets disproved a pending article at the time questioning

whether Bush had sunk an unarmed vessel, a possible war crime, Scannon wrote in a Project Recover post.

By 2001, Scannon put together a group of volunteers which became The BentProp Project. In 2018, the group officially became Project Recover and has since finished more than 100 missions in 24 countries, developed a database of more than 700 cases associated with nearly 3,000 lost service members, accounted for over 80 missing service members, and repatriated 19 Americans.

The proliferation of new radars, sensors and robot technology has allowed Project Recover to go deeper underwater and make MIA/POW discoveries faster and more safely, Abbey said.

The DPAA mission has remained the same, which is to recover and repatriate at least 200 remains every year of servicemembers missing in action or who were prisoners of war. DPAA has just over 700 staff members and two labs, one at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska and the other at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. With the help of Project Recover, the organization expects to help the Pentagon identify the remains of 26 missing troops by the end of 2025.

Beyond the Department of Defense, Project Recover also works with families who reach out to them about servicemembers who went missing or were unaccounted for during training accidents, like aviation crashes. The DPAA does not search for or recover service members classified as "non-combat losses."

One Navy estimate indicates thousands of missing service members fall under the non-combat loss category. Anthony J. Mireles, a historian who investigates WWII aircraft wrecks and wrote a book on aviation training accidents in the U.S. during WWII suggests the number may be as high as 15,500 missing service members.

There are no current efforts to update the charter to expand the scope of cases DPAA investigates, Staff Sgt. Austin Boucher, spokesperson for the agency told Task & Purpose.

Project Recovery, Continued....

The organization is working to improve search capabilities on land in places like Palau where thick jungle environments still pose problems for new technologies. Abbey said they're exploring multi-spectral analysis tools developed by the University of Georgia to look at vegetation to determine "what the plants in that area of the jungle might have been feeding on that might tell us if there's an aircraft crash site nearby" and ways of analyzing environmental DNA with soil samples "to determine if somebody was buried in that area."

Project Recover tries to maximize its efforts by focusing on locations "where there's a number of losses," such as Palau, a remote Pacific island which is part of Micronesia and about 2000 miles south of Japan, and which saw heavy fighting during the Pacific's "island hopping" campaign. The group will also sometimes take on cases involving missing-in-action service members from other nations with less formal efforts to recover and repatriate troops.

WWI Memorial in DC is complete

Submitted By: Traveler

Workers put the finishing touches on the area around sculptor Sabin Howard's "A Soldier's Journey" at the National World War I Memorial in Washington in preparation for its unveiling Friday, Sept. 13, 2024.

The 60-foot-long bronze sculpture consists of 38 figures depicting a battle scene from the Great War. Before its installation, a painting of the sculpture had temporarily adorned the wall.



After eight years in the making, acclaimed master sculptor Sabin Howard's "A Soldier's Journey", was unveiled with the First Illumination ceremony on 13 Sept 2024. It was the final piece to complete the National World War I Memorial in Washington D.C.

The 25-ton, 60-foot-long bronze monument depicts five scenes and 38 larger-than-life-size human figures and tells two narratives: the soldier's personal experience during WWI, and America's journey. The sculpture represents the parallel of each one's development through the conflict.

During the unveiling ceremony, the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" and bugle corps in WWI uniforms performed along with a candle-lighting to exemplify the memorial's permanent illumination.

The World War I Centennial Commission (WWICC) and the Doughboy Foundation continued to celebrate the monument's completion and unveiling with a World War I Living History Weekend, Friday through Sunday.

The general public attended in-person at the adjacent Freedom Plaza or joined virtually on the WWICC's website where the live event was streaming. Throughout the weekend, attendees and online viewers learned about the impact of WWI on the United States through historical presentations by WWI reenactors including the Hello Girls.

For those attending in person, there was a chance to view displays of authentic WWI vehicles by the National WWI Mobile Museum. In addition to the festivities, there was live performances by world-renowned musicians led by the American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Band as well as the Community Bands of Westmoreland County, Pa., and the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps.



20,440 Days and Counting

Submitted By: Traveler



Truck supply convoy heads toward the Mu Gia pass into Laos along Route 12 in the Ha Tinh province of Vietnam in 1968. (Hoang Van Sac/ AP Photo)

Tri-City Herald | By Annette Cary

There were no shovels in the ground over the past year to search for the body of Maj. San D. Francisco, a Kennewick, WA High graduate, who was shot down over Vietnam.

A counter on a website dedicated to bringing awareness to the campaign to recover his body ticks off the days since the F-4 Phantom jet he was co-piloting was shot down during a reconnaissance mission over the Ho Chi Minh Trail on Nov. 25, 1968.

The location where Francisco may have been buried in the Quanf Binh province in central Vietnam was identified in 2004.

Excavations of first one site and then another were done by 2020, without Francisco being found.

Then with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, excavations organized by the U.S. government were halted and a third planned excavation for Francisco was canceled.

Excavations in Vietnam were scheduled to resume in 2024, but Francisco was not on the list despite a third site for excavation being identified, said his younger sister Terri Francisco-Farrell of Kennewick, WA, last week. It is close to the first site.

When the F-4 that Francisco was co-piloting was shot down, the pilot survived, only to be killed resisting capture.

Co-pilot Francisco had two broken legs and was being taken into captivity when he was hit by shrapnel from American bombs, according to accounts from Vietnamese witnesses.

His sister suspects that he was dragged into an open area by his captors in their attempt to ambush the Americans looking for him. She believes he died during the ambush after he would not lift his hands to the ladder of a rescue helicopter and put its crew in danger.

Vietnamese witnesses were interviewed over the last decade by the U.S. Department of POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to identify where Francisco's body was buried.

Among them was one who was guarding a tunnel and said he saw Francisco's parachute land. The other helped bury him and later exhumed his body for Vietnamese Army propaganda on a claim that his was the 2,000th plane shot down during the war.

In 2019 two witnesses were re-interviewed by DPAA and escorted to the first site excavated in 2015. They indicated that he was buried "just meters" from that site, Francisco's sister said.

He is believed to have been reburied in the same area.



The weather was perfect for a day that was to mark remembrance of those who served our country with great valor!

Thank you for your Service!

After Action Report: Wreaths at Fort Sheridan!

What an Honor! - Pictures are worth 1000 words!



The Final Result is a sea of beautiful wreaths resting aside a Marker identifying a HERO!
Thank you all for your Service!





After Action Report: Banquet and Toys for Tots!

Pictures Submitted By Nick Bender



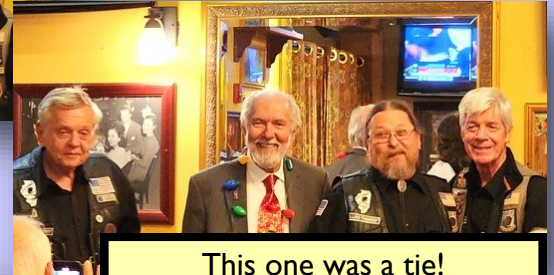
Most Active and Most
Helpful Member!!
Nick Bender!



Our Awards Guru!
Thank You, **John Cum-**



Guess This
Award! ~ Again!
Chuck Carlson!



This one was a tie!
A Bolero and a Christmas Tie!
**Andy Haszlkiewicz and
Chuck Carlson!**

Best Co-Rider and Organizer of
the Best NON-Riding Event!
Cindy DeLordo!



List of Awards!

Plaques

- Member of the Year. **Jim Lasak**
- Volunteer of the Year (The Mike Burghardt Award). **Scott Miller**
- Committee Person of the Year. **Mary Kirkpatrick**

Certificates

- Road Captain of the Year. **Paul Hebein**
- Most Helpful Member. **Nick Bender**
- Safest Rider. **Don DeLordo**
- Favorite Event of the Year. **Thunder Run**
- Most Dedicated Co Rider. **Cindy DeLordo**
- Sharpest Uniformed Member. **Greg Smith**
- Best non-riding event. **Holiday Awards Party**
- Most Raffle Tickets Sold. **Scott Miller- 110**
- Highest Meeting Attendance Award. **Paul Hebein-11**
- Most Active Member: Meetings and Activities: **Nick Bender – 33**
- Best Event Thunder Run (Presented to **Tony Yarbrough**)
- Best Non Riding Event. **Holiday Party (Presented to Cindy DeLordo)**

Fun Awards

- Most Often Late to Events. **Patricia Thies**
- Quietest Bike. **Becca Lenz**
- Most Accessorized Bike. **Scott Miller**
- Dirtiest Bike. **Chuck Carlson**
- Cleanest Bike. **Don DeLordo**



Committee Person!
Mary Kirkpatrick



His Bike is so clean,
He's got to wear
Sun Glasses!
Safest Rider too!
Don DeLordo!



Most Meetings Attended &
Road Captain of the Year!
Paul Hebein!

Fun times for a
good cause!
Toys for Tots!
It doesn't get any
better than being
together and giv-
ing to others!

An Honorable Mention to our New 2024 Patch Members!

Submitted by: Traveler



Talon Bender



Becca Lenz



Dave Baake



Reggie Rush



Scott Miller



Bob Pullman

US Frustrated Over North Korea Blocking MIA Recovery Efforts

Submitted By Traveler

The US expressed frustration Wednesday that North Korea is continuing to refuse to allow teams into the reclusive country to recover the remains of American casualties from the Korean War.

“The United States government reaches out often to North Korea on any number of issues, one of which is this particular mission. There has been no response at all, at all levels of the United States government, in their communications with North Korea ... We are at the mercy of geopolitics,” the director of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Kelly McKeague, said Wednesday.

Of the estimated 7,500 US service members still missing from the Korean War, 5,300 are believed to be in North Korea, McKeague said. Roughly 37,000 Americans were killed during the war and 8,000 were missing, according to the Pentagon. The war lasted from June 1950 to July 1953, when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed.

McKeague told reporters that North Korea has not responded to outreach by the US government since March 2019, roughly a year after it turned over 55 boxes of remains of US troops in July 2018. The rare move was a commitment resulting from a meeting between then-President Donald Trump and North Korea’s Kim Jong Un in Singapore. The DPAA is continuing to work through identification of remains it has received from North Korea, though McKeague acknowledged that it is far from providing answers to all the families whose loved one

(Continued on page w21)





Remains on GE Farm, continued

may still be there.

McKeague added that North Korea's refusal to cooperate stands in stark contrast to China, who since January has continued working with the US to recover remains in the country.

"It's remarkable that we have a DPAA team in China today, despite the bilateral tensions, working to look for answers for World War II families, as well as Korean War families, whose loved ones are missing from those wars that are in China," McKeague said.

The DPAA's mission in January 2024 was the first team the agency has been allowed in China since the Covid-19 pandemic began. McKeague said that since then, DPAA has done two surveys of World War II sites in the Hunan and Guangxi provinces, which were followed "by an archival exchange that occurred in May." Because of the success of those efforts, McKeague said a team is currently in China at an excavation site in Hunan, which will be followed up by another survey of four sites for four Air Force losses from the Korean War.

China's cooperation, he said, will "likely provide" answers to families "that they've been lacking."

Our President and Treasurer traveled to D.C. to meet with all chapters of Rolling Thunder and the National Board of Directors! Ted and Paul enjoyed the camaraderie and reported back to our chapter the direction that National is taking for 2025! Always a good gathering!



Happy New Year given in
Selfless Sacrifice to attain...
Peace on Earth!

Some of the Emergencies your VAC can help you with...

In all the situations below, you can always contact the County Veterans Assistance Commission directly for further assistance. If you are struggling with rent or mortgage payments with the elimination of pandemic forbearance programs, **Call the VAC immediately!**

- ♦ Rent or Mortgage payments or Emergency Housing
- ♦ Utility payments
- ♦ Food - Northern Illinois Food Bank - or
- ♦ Midwest Veterans Closet
- ♦ Medical Care - Contact VAC when civilian benefits lost - Do not go to VA if not registered with them. Contact the VAC to get you registered.
- ♦ Most VA visits are currently by Video Conference
- ♦ Family problems - In Lake County, contact 211 for referral to proper resource.

Happy Birthday to our
Newest Branch



The U. S.
Space Force
Dec 20, 2019



Doc's Corner...

By: Mark Mazurkiewicz

Holiday Challenges. Not all things are Merry and Bright...

*From the VA News, December 18, 2019
Tips for Managing Stress Around the Holidays*



My HealtheVet sign-in changes in 2025

From: VA News (veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov)

To: jviduya1947@sbcglobal.net

Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 09:04 AM CST



My HealtheVet sign-in changes in 2025

We want to make sure you're ready for upcoming sign-in changes for VA websites and apps.

After **January 31, 2025**, you'll no longer be able to use your **My HealtheVet** user ID and password to sign in. Our records show you already have an **ID.me** account. We encourage you to start using your **ID.me** account soon so you're ready for this change.

Here's what to know:

- Don't worry. **My HealtheVet** isn't going away. We're just changing the way you sign in. We're moving to just 2 sign-in options (**ID.me** and **Login.gov**). We'll also require multifactor authentication (MFA) as an added layer of protection for your account. We're doing this to reduce the number of sign-in options Veterans need to choose from—and to protect all Veterans' information and benefits.
- Never give your information to anyone who says they can help you with signing in to VA websites—unless you're sure they're a VA employee or an accredited representative of VA. And always make sure a link is taking you to the official va.gov website before selecting it from an email, text message, social media post, or online ad. You can always go to www.va.gov/sign-in-changes for trusted information.
- If you need to verify your identity or add MFA for your **ID.me** account, we encourage you to do that soon. This process often takes about 10 minutes. [Learn more about verifying your identity for your account](#)

PREPARE FOR SIGN-IN CHANGES



Military Celebrations for 4th Quarter

<https://veteran.com/military-calendar-holidays-events-observances/>

January

- 1 New Year's Day!
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
(Third Monday in January)
- 20 Presidential Inauguration Day
- 29 Chinese New Year

February

February is Black History Month

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 3 Four Chaplains day
- 4 USO Birthday
- 9-15 National Salute to Veteran Patients
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 President's Day
- 19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday



March

March is Women's History Month

- 1. Seabee Birthday
- 3 Navy Reserve Birthday
- 4 Hug a GI Day
- 4 Mardi Gras



March Continued...

- 9 Daylight Savings... Spring Ahead!
- 13 K-9 Veterans Day
- 15 American Legion Birthday
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 21 Rosie the Riveter Day
- 23—30 Military World Games
- 25 Medal of Honor Day
- 29 National Vietnam War Veteran's Day



So many days
To honor our
American
History and our
Heroes!



Hearts filled with the desire to give!

Happy Birthday to
Our Great
Americans!

1 January Wayne Kirkpatrick
17 February Becky Lenz
2 March Steve Johnson
6 March Reginald Rush

7 March Ron Carpenter
10 March Scott Seal
24 March Cindy DeLordo!



Happy Days to our Chapter Celebrities for January,
February and March

Let us know your special Dates so that we can celebrate with you!



Projects that need YOU!

Below, you will find a short description of our ongoing projects. These have been developed to support our mission to Honor and Remember our POW/MIA Heroes! Contact a member of the Board to see how you can add your hands to the working committees!

Honor Chair

You have seen the chairs in stadiums, city halls and the National Capitol? Help us to identify new settings for this Chair!

Street Signs

We have over 60 MIAs in Illinois due to the Vietnam War. This project includes contacting the hometowns and discussing how to remember these heroes by naming a street in their honor!

Table Ceremonies



The Honor Table that you see here on this page, is a very somber memorial to the 82,000+ still Missing. The Ceremony can be presented to any size group... large or small and teaches the importance of remembering!

School Presentations

Teaching the next generation about our Heroes allows them to appreciate the sacrifices made to maintain American Values! Ask your children/grandchildren for the information for their social studies teachers! We will do the rest...

ELECTED OFFICERS & DIRECTORS		COMMITTEE LEADERS		ROGER THAT	
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Vice President	Tony Yarbrough Anthony.Yarbrough@flex.com	Charity	Reggie Rush RRush993@gmail.com	Editor-in-Chief	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com
Treasurer	Paul Hebein Hebein6388@comcast.com	Member-ship	Cindy DeLoro Cindy324@att.net	Publisher	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com
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Chairman of the Board	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com	Website	Bill Fulton, whf5069@aol.com	Executive & Board	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com
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Director	Mary Kirkpatrick Mawalters57@gmail.com			Military Community	Wayne Kirkpatrick wkirkpa177@aol.com

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