



Roger That!

The Official Publication of Rolling Thunder®, Illinois Ch 2

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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

Upcoming Events

APRIL

Month of the Military Child!
Military Saves Month

- 5 Gold Star Spouses Day
- 9 National Former POW Recognition Day
- 14 Air Force Reserve Birthday
- 15 Purple Up! Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Army Reserve Birthday
- 30 National Military Brats Day

MAY

- Month of the Military Care Giver
- National Military Appreciation Month
- Public Service Recognition (1st full week)
- National Correctional Officers Week (1st full week)
- 1 Silver Star Service Banner Day
- 1 Loyalty Day
- 6 National Nurses Week (ends May 12th)
- 8 Victory in Europe (VE) Day
- 12 Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 13 Armed Forces Week (Ends May 20th)
- 13 Children of the Fallen Patriots Day
- 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day
- 20 Armed Forces Day
- 22 Maritime Day
- 29 Memorial Day

SEE PAGE 19 FOR JUNE AND MORE!

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DPAA Updates

Remaining Numbers to Date

29 March, 2023

WWII
72,242

Korean War
7,508

Vietnam War
1,579

Cold War
126

Gulf Wars
5

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

In the Beginning!



I'm not sure that I saw a robin yet, but I did see the calendar stated that March 20th is the first day of spring. With the beginning of spring, we start to think about the riding season and getting our bikes ready for the road. The same thing holds true for our chapter. We are diligently preparing for our first major event of the year, Rolling Thunder XXXV Nationwide, Ride for Freedom on 28 May 2023. Again, this will be a joint effort with all three chapters working together to improve our efforts to make this event truly honor the sacrifices that our servicemen and women made for this country. Hopefully, this will be the start of our revived Honor Chair program with the placing of an Honor Chair at First Division Museum at Cantigny Park. I would like to thank Jim Lasak the Committee Chief of the newly formed Honor Chair Committee along with its members Paul Hebein, Tony Yarborough, Mary Kirkpatrick, Wayne Kirkpatrick and Scott Seal. It has been National's main objective this year to reinforce our POW-MIA message to the public by the placement of Honor Chairs throughout our country.

We continue to work to get our message out that since World War I there are more than 81,500 service members who are unaccounted for. The Honor Chairs, Remembrance Table, and donation of flags will keep that message fresh. But, we also have the responsibility to helping American veterans from all wars. COVID has really hampered our efforts during the last three years in helping our veteran community. Lovell Federal Health Care Center is where we have been active in the past, but those efforts have been hampered with COVID. We will continue to monitor the opportunities and let you all know when the Hospital is open again.

Our chapter donates \$200 per month to Veterans Pathway To Hope for the purchase of food items, but I believe our chapter needs to get a little more skin in the game on a personal level. Rolling Thunder National has an old fashion food drive where the members are requested to donate and bring items from their list to the monthly meeting. This would also include asking your friends, neighbors, co-workers and local food markets to help. This will take a lot more effort on our members' part, but I believe it would be personally more rewarding. The list of personal items is an easy one to develop and collect, so hopefully in the next year, things will get back to normal and we can spend some time developing that program and using it to assist with the veterans at Lovell in service to that community.

'In conclusion', be prepared for another year of repatriations, table ceremonies, local parades, our "Stand To" ceremony and of course our "Thunder Run" and raffle. And...

Remember, we will never forget!



Whenever we
Gather,
We will
Honor
and
Remember
Gratefully!



V.P.'s Vision

By: Andy Haszlakiewicz



The planning for "Thunder Run 21" has gotten into gear. Flyers, business card handouts and raffle tickets have been designed and printed. The flyers will be distributed to members starting in June/July, so as not to interfere with RTXXXV. However, the business cards and raffle tickets are available now and will be handed out at our April meeting on the 25th.



The raffle tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50. A "Challenge Coin" should be offered to anyone who buys 12 tickets for \$100. This means you should carry a coin if you feel you have generous friend. You can get a challenge coin from our quartermaster, Mark Mazurkiewicz, (or me) at any upcoming meeting. The prizes are: 1st place - \$2,000, 2nd place - \$1,000, 3rd place - \$500 and a \$250 gas card for 4th place. That's a total of \$3,750 in prizes which is pretty generous! We printed 2000 tickets and our goal is to get rid of EACH one of them. **EVERYONE** will need to step up and **sell** solicit donations for our worthy cause.

On a personal note: 25 years ago my dad wrote and self-published a book about how he survived two years in Nazis concentration camps. I am in the final stages of getting it officially published and will talk about his book at the April meeting. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Things to Get Ready for in 2023! And... what we can do for the VA!

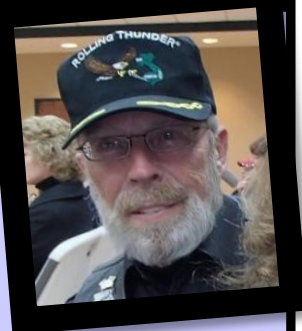
Be sure to check our calendar for the upcoming events! The spring is BUSY and we need to have all hands ready to work! We have our Memorial Day Rolling Thunder Ride with all 3 Chapters coming together! There are Chair dedications coming up, A Post office Dedication to Ryan Cummings and many requests for our presence in Community Celebrations! Get Ready and Enjoy the JOY of being a part of education the consciences of the American Public!

UPDATE FROM LOVELL VA: Submitted by Mark Mazurkewicz

Delia De Avila, Director of Mental Health, **Homeless Vet Program** Delia.Deavila@VA.Gov Building 131 has a WALK IN Homeless Veterans Program. M-F from 9am to 3pm on the first floor. They help homeless with immediate food. Some who are coming in have gone 3 days without food. Donations are welcome! Gift cards and anything that will help them provide immediate care as well as furnishings for shelters. Reports for how money is spent will be provided upon request.

Kenny List, Director of Community Affairs, **Volunteer program update** Kenneth.List@VA.Gov Ken has a new assistant, Kimberly Skorupa. The process in place to become a Volunteer includes: Fingerprint and blood test for TB; return for a picture when approved; and return to pick up badge. All who deal with patients must be vaccinated. Donations are accepted in this program too. No socks needed though at this time.

Chairman of the Board Wayne “Traveler” Kirkpatrick



We are right at the door to another successful season of Rolling Thunder events! Planning is continuing for our RTXXXV MidAmerica Rolling Thunder Parade on 28 May.

- ♦ First Infantry Division Museum
- ♦ Arlington Heights City Hall
- ♦ Lake County Sheriff's Office
- ♦ LBS Veterans Community Center
- ♦ James A. Lovell VA Hospital

We have also been approached by the Lake Barrington Shores Veterans Association to conduct a mounted parade thru their area, ending at their Community Center for a dedication of a POW/MIA Chair of Honor. This event is currently scheduled for the morning of 1 July 2023. Details will be in the forthcoming OPORD.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with the leadership of our Illinois Chapters of Rolling Thunder and, I would tell you that, Rolling Thunder, Illinois is in good hands. Our State is blessed with an awesome team of leaders in all three RT Chapters. We are absolutely fortunate to be able to work with, and learn from, our brothers and sisters in Chapters 1 and 3.

All three Chapters are leaning forward in the saddle in making this year's RTXXXV MidAmerica a success.

Our President, Ted Makarewicz, has directed that we place emphasis on dedicating POW/MIA Chairs of Honor this year. Our last dedication was in 2019. COVID really impacted on our Honor Chair program but....we are now in full attack mode.

The Honor Chair Committee was recently constituted with Jim Lasak, Paul Hebein, Tony Yarborough, Mary Kirkpatrick, and Scott Seal joining it. Jim Lasak is taking the reins of this committee and we're all excited to work under his direction.

We invite all members to recommend locations for our POW/MIA Chairs of Honor to any of the Committee members. To date, we have the following locations under consideration:

Perhaps one of our most important events this year will occur on Sunday, 4 June, 2023. This is the day that the main Crystal Lake Post Office will be named after USMC CPL Ryan Cummings. Ryan died on June 3, 2006 from wounds received while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California.

Ryan's father, our own John Cummings, has been pursuing this project for the last few years in order to memorialize, and provide lasting and deserving recognition to his son. Details will be included in the OPORD to follow.

Finally, for this quarter, I want to remind everyone that, there is no single individual that makes our Chapter successful. As you see at every event, it takes all of us, every time, all the time. If you are not leading a committee or not on a committee, or not holding a Board position, this year is the year to step up and get involved. There will be plenty of opportunities.



Veteran held captive in Vietnam for 7-plus years laid to rest in Virginia Beach

By Caitlyn Burchett
The Virginian-Pilot
Submitted by: Traveler



Jets flyover the funeral for James Mulligan at Church of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia on Feb. 8, 2023. Mulligan was a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War for seven years before returning to the United States in 1973. (Billy Schuerman/The Virginian-Pilot)

VIRGINIA BEACH — Former prisoners of war Cmdr. George Coker and Rear Adm. Bob Shumaker tapped a final “good night and God bless” to Capt.

James Mulligan Jr. But this time, they tapped the coded message to their cellmate of seven years on a church pew rather than the walls of a Vietnamese prison.

“I thank you, Dad, for your love, sage advice, your example, your encouragement, your friendship — and for making it home. But most of all, thank you for your steadfast service and sacrifice and for serving as an example to all to never quit and never waiver when defending the American creed,” said James “Jim” Mulligan III during his father’s service.

Mulligan, who was 96 when he died Jan. 18, was one of three of the remaining “Alcatraz 11” — American service members held captive for more than seven years by the North Vietnamese. Singled out as troublemakers, they were taken from the main prison complex in Hanoi and boarded in solitary confinement at a building the Americans dubbed Alcatraz.

Mulligan, a pilot, was shot down March 20, 1966, and held for 2,522 days. He was often starved and beaten, with his wrists bound with gasoline-



soaked ropes. He endured leg irons for 26 months and over 42 months of solitary confinement.

“Americans know Feb. 12 as Super Bowl Sunday, but I first and foremost will remember Feb. 12 as the day my father was once more a free man,” Jim Mulligan said.

Mulligan was among the first roughly 135 Americans released by North Vietnam on Feb. 12, 1973. Three days later, Mulligan and two other POWs — Jeremiah Denton and George Coker — would touch down in Norfolk.

“The word ‘hero’ is tossed around like candy on Halloween. But when I looked at (Mulligan), he was a real American hero — the epitome of the warrior patriot,” said Charles Hartig, a former reporter who covered the POWs’ return to Hampton Roads in February 1973 and filed subsequent stories for a number of years.

Following his release, Mulligan served in the Navy for another two years before retiring in July 1975. Having served on active duty throughout World War II, Korea and Vietnam, Mulligan accumulated over 5,000 single flying hours and made 650 arrested carrier landings. His career spanned six Mediterranean deployments, plus the Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missile crises prior to his West Pacific deployment on the USS Enterprise to Vietnam. It was there he was serving when, on his 80th mission, he was shot down and captured on March 20, 1966.

In the 1980s Mulligan penned “The Hanoi Commitment,” which detailed the horrors and heroism of Americans’ captivity in Vietnam. When it was released, he called Hartig, who did a series on the book, which he called “the most definitive description of a POW experience.”

“In talking to him, I wondered, ‘How did you do it? How did you survive?’ and I am convinced it was based on his unyielding faith, and his love of country and family. He simply wanted to come home, to return to Louise and his sons,” Hartig said.

When Hartig asked Mulligan if he would do it all over again, he said Mulligan answered without hesitation: “Absolutely.”

“This love of country and this deep faith is a reminder to all of us how lucky we are. They embodied what is best about this country — the best, the brightest and the most courageous. I am not sure how many are left, probably not a whole lot,” Hartig said.

Mulligan was preceded in death by his wife of over 73 years, Louise Kolce and sons, Kevin John and Terrance Adam

At the conclusion of Jim’s tribute, Coker and Shumaker’s coded message seemed to echo through the sanctuary of the church, eliciting soft sobs.



Rolling Thunder's Monument-Shaking Roar Starts with Aging Vets in a New Jersey Garage

(Reprinted from 2019)

By [THE MORNING CALL](#)

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UPDATED: March 30, 2019 at 11:12 a.m

Submitted by: Traveler

NESHANIC STATION, N.J. — One of the world's largest motorcycle rallies — a monument-shaking ritual called Rolling Thunder that takes over the National Mall each Memorial Day weekend — spends the rest of the year here, packed in the garage of a tidy colonial-style house in central New Jersey.

On Wednesday, jammed between a bag of grass seed and a toddler's bicycle, were stacks of POW banners, American flags, black T-shirts, biker patches, vest pins and the other accouterments of the annual Harley howl of patriotism and warrior brotherhood that will dominate Washington for the 29th year in a row.

These are the traffic cones, two-way radios and bales of toilet paper that will guide, aid and comfort hundreds of thousands of bikers from across the country on their annual four-hour, four-abreast roll from the Pentagon, across Arlington Memorial Bridge, around the Capitol and back to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"I haven't been able to get my car in here since January," said Elaine Muller, the grandmother (please don't ask her age) who runs the office side of Rolling Thunder Inc.

But not for long. It was packing time, four days before Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter will blow the boat horn that unleashes a few million horsepower of leather-vested POW-MIA advocacy onto the streets of D.C.

A 20-foot U-Haul truck was backing toward the garage, and most of the Rolling Thunder executive board was in the driveway waving directions at the side mirrors: the president, a high school building engineer; and the treasurer, who recently retired after 31 years in the meat department of the local Acme supermarket.

"This is when the f-bombs usually start flying," said Nancy Regg, the event's national spokeswoman, who takes calls from reporters between stops on her job delivering dry cleaning.

"We're not professional event planners, but we have been doing this so long we get it done somehow every year," Muller said, standing before stacks of neatly labeled plastic

crates: "Parking Staff Bandanas," "Pentagon Table 8," "Sunday Color Guard."

Behind the wheel of the truck is her husband of 48 years, Artie Muller, the longtime guiding force behind Rolling Thunder. He climbed down from the cab with the bent stiffness of a 71-year-old who jumped out of too many helicopters as an infantry sergeant in Vietnam.

A onetime mechanic at the nearby Exxon Mobil Corp. headquarters, he retired at 51 with severe peripheral neuropathy he attributes to Agent Orange exposure. His exquisitely maintained 1992 Harley-Davidson FXRS Low Rider (88,000 miles, original clutch) carries a handicapped license plate. His patch-covered riding vest bristles with sharp metal studs to keep grateful vets from slapping his painful shoulder.

"It was agony before I figured out about the studs," he said. Artie Muller helped load the tents, cases of juice, stacks of chairs, boxes of Rolling Thunder CDs by country singer Rockie Lynne. But periodically, he limped down to his basement office, a vet cave of POW posters, Vietnam maps and stacked paperwork.

On the wall are copies of legislation Rolling Thunder has pushed in Congress, including a signed copy of S. 528, the National POW/MIA Recognition Act of 1997: "To require the display of the POW/MIA flag on various occasions and in various locations." There are photos of Muller with former President George W. Bush on the White House driveway, with Bush in the Oval Office, a letter of appreciation from Bush.

"President Bush was very good to us," he said. Other White Houses, Muller said, not so much. President Barack Obama poked his head into a White House meeting, but nothing more, according to Muller.

Muller doesn't do email, or text, so all the last-minute fires he needed to put out were announced with another ring of his landline. The Pentagon wanted to bill him with an unexpected \$11,000 surcharge for Pentagon security related to Carter's participation. There was a snag closing some of the highway ramps in Virginia. (Continued on page 7)



RT History, Continued

The phone rang again. It was his 8-year-old grandson, Gavin, who will ride in his first Rolling Thunder on Sunday on the back of Muller's bike. Right next to the "Jane Fonda: American Traitor" patches is the huge Lionel train set Muller and Gavin are building together.

"OK, I love you, Butchie," Muller cooed into the phone. "I got your helmet in the truck."

The early days

Elaine Muller remembers when their own sons rode in their first Rolling Thunder and packing for the event meant little more than loading the children into her husband's Ford Bronco on the morning of the ride.

"We never expected it to last this long," she said.

It was in the mid-1980s that Artie Muller picked up a pamphlet at the Vietnam Veterans of America that accused the U.S. government of ignoring servicemen still living as captives in Southeast Asia.

"I couldn't believe what I was reading, but I did my own research," he said. "They were abandoned."

He began giving out POW flags. In 1987, when he was thinking of organizing a march in Washington, he met Ray Manzo, a like-minded Vietnam vet who thought a massing of motorcycles would have more impact.

"If we have 5,000 vans and pickups and cars come down to D.C., people are just going to say it's a traffic jam," Artie Muller said. "If we bring 5,000 motorcycles, they are there for a reason."

In the fall of 1987, a letter from Manzo appeared in the back of Outlaw Biker magazine, calling for riders to descend on Washington the Sunday before Memorial Day. He talked the Defense Department into letting them stage at the Pentagon parking lot and persuaded D.C. police and the National Park Service to let them rumble over the Memorial Bridge and around the National Mall.

Manzo knew it would be an awesome sight. If anyone showed up. "When the bikes started coming in, I couldn't believe it," said Manzo, 67, now retired in Jacksonville, Fla. "I couldn't give a speech, I couldn't talk to the press, I was crying my eyes out."

Some 3,000 riders came for that first ride. By Year 5, it had ballooned into a massive rally of tens of thousands, with country-music star Billy Ray Cyrus playing at the end. In 1992, Manzo handed the reins to Muller.

"It was starting to take over my life," Manzo said. "But I'm still more proud of it than anything I've ever done."

The Memorial Day ride continued to grow, and so did the mission. The group helped get a POW/MIA postage stamp approved. They lobbied for the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1993, which prohibits the Pentagon from declaring a service member killed in action without substantial evi-

dence.

"I think Rolling Thunder was really on the cutting edge of creating a better image for motorcycle riders," said Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a Rolling Thunder regular and a former U.S. senator from Colorado.

A full-year's prep

Artie Muller's year of prep begins 367 days in advance. On the Friday before Memorial Day, he hands in his permits to get dibs on the date for next year. "There are always people who would love to take our spot," he said.

Much of the planning has hardened into routine. A Rolling Thunder volunteer keeps the same set of rooms at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Virginia booked three years in advance. Ordering 120 portable toilets takes little more than a fax to Don's Johns.

"The folks who run this are extremely well-organized," Don's Johns Chief Operating Officer Rob Weghorst said. "Doing events on the Mall can be a little chaotic, but these guys know where they want their units."

For Muller, the calendar is packed all year, a to-do a day: IRS filings for two nonprofits organizations; meet with Arlington, Va., police, D.C. police, Park Service police, Pentagon police; medical trailers and bike mechanics; signing up police motorcycle groups to provide security.

"There's all kinds of terrorist stuff now that I'd rather not talk about," he said.

In September, Muller sketched out his idea for the annual pin, Rolling Thunder XXIX, ready to send it to his manufacturer in Illinois. Last year's featured dog tags dangling from a cross. This time, he returned to the iconic bowed head of a POW.

The pins, hats and shirts sell for \$5 apiece, a price unchanged for three decades, and generate most of the roughly \$120,000 it takes to produce the ride each year, Muller said. On Tuesday, there will be a raffle for a 2016 Harley-Davidson Electra Glide, and the proceeds from 15,000 tickets, expected to sell at \$10 each, go to Rolling Thunder Charities, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides about \$200,000 in cash aid to veterans' families a year, Muller said.

In his office, Muller flipped through a notebook with laminated documentation of the 76 veteran families who have been given \$72,000 so far this year. Mostly, the grants are a few hundred or few thousand dollars to make up missed rent payments or late utility bills. The charity pays directly to the landlords or utility companies, Elaine Muller said.

According to the philanthropy analyst Guidestar, the charity gave away more than 90 percent of its funds in 2014 and spent 3 percent on administrative costs.

The organization has one paid employee, the Mullers' daughter-in-law, who makes \$24,000 as an administrative assistant.

(Continue n page 8)



RT History, Continued

All of their own labor is volunteer. Artie works in the basement, and Elaine goes each day to a three-room suite in an office park, where she maintains tidy files on 92 Rolling Thunder chapters around the country.

“We want to have a nice setup so someone can take all this over,” Elaine Muller said.

Younger vets, including those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, have joined the chapters, she said, and make up many of the 1,000-or-so volunteers who help staff the ride each May. But an obvious successor to the Mullers’ full-time devotion to the organization hasn’t emerged. “We’re all getting pretty old,” she said.

Heading south

Early Thursday morning, Artie Muller parked his bike in the handicapped space in front of the Flemington Coffee Shop a few miles from his house. His son, Joe Muller, pulled up in the big U-Haul truck, and a half dozen Harleys followed. It was time to ride.

The group downed eggs and coffee, then gathered in a circle in the parking lot. A car waited, not daring to honk at the group of aging, leather-clad bikers holding hands and staring down. “Lord, please put your angels of protection around going down to D.C. for another year,” prayed Rich Cox, chairman of Rolling Thunder’s Florida chapter.

“See you at Maryland House,” Muller said, referring to a rest stop on the way, and fired his engine.

“Artie, your helmet,” someone called.

Muller donned the headgear, gave a curt nod and rolled out to take point. It was a small platoon, soon to swell in noise and number into an endless army.



MILTON LEE OLIVE III

The American Legion
FEB 27, 2023

Submitted by: Wayne ‘Traveler’ Kirkpatrick

American Legion Post 1932 was chartered in 1997 in far-west Chicago. The post’s namesake from its founding has been Milton Lee Olive III of Chicago, the first African American to be award-

ed the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War. It was a posthumous award. He was 18 when he died.

On Oct. 22, 1965, Olive was in Phu Cuong. His [listing](#) on the Congressional Medal of Honor Society website includes a description of what happened next from his citation:

“Pfc. Olive was a member of the 3d Platoon of Company B, as it moved through the jungle to find the Viet Cong operating in the area. Although the platoon was subjected to a heavy volume of enemy gunfire and pinned down temporarily, it retaliated by assaulting the Viet Cong positions, causing the enemy to flee. As the platoon pursued the insurgents, Pfc. Olive and four other soldiers were moving through the jungle together when a grenade was thrown into their midst. Pfc. Olive saw the grenade, and then saved the lives of his fellow soldiers at the sacrifice of his by grabbing the grenade in his hand and falling on it to absorb the blast with his body. Through his bravery, unhesitating actions, and complete disregard for his safety, he prevented additional loss of life or injury to the members of his platoon.”

President Lyndon B. Johnson presented the medal to Olive’s family at the White House in April 1966.

In Chicago, there has been a park named for Milton Lee Olive. It is located just north of Navy Pier and adjacent to the Ohio Street Beach. According to Harold Dillard, who has been adjutant of Post 1932 since 2002, no one at the post knew Olive personally. But they honor their namesake annually by placing wreaths at Milton L. Olive III Park, all the way across town on Lake Michigan.



A Pistol to Honor the Fallen

Submitted by: Wayne 'Traveler' Kirkpatrick

When the Army began fielding its new service pistol in November 2017, Capt. Travis Womack was on the job with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard).

He had just become commander of the 4th Battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company at Fort Myer, Virginia, and one of his units was the Tomb Guard Platoon, whose soldiers are the sentinels of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

During an equipment inventory, Womack said, he asked the platoon's sentinels if they had been issued the Army's new pistol, the M17 manufactured by Sig Sauer that replaced the Beretta M9 in use since the mid-1980s.

But the sentinels did not share the same excitement about the new pistol, he said, because they knew the pistol's color was a no-go with their high-polish uniform standard.

"It's brown," Womack said of the matte coyote brown standard-issue M17s. Responding to the soldiers who said, "We'll never carry that. Ever," he recalled telling them, "Well, I'll take care of it."

And so, he did.

On the "contact" section of the Sig Sauer website, Womack filled in the required fields, explained who he was and asked if the platoon could get a couple of the new pistols in black. It felt like a shot in the dark.

"That was on a Tuesday. The next day, I was at an officer lunch thing and my phone rang with a weird New Hampshire number," Womack said of the 603 area code for the state where Sig Sauer has its headquarters.

He stepped outside to take the call and found himself on the line with Sig Sauer's top officers.

"They were, like, 'Whatever y'all want to do, we'll do it. It's a gift,'" Womack said, reminding the Sig Sauer team that as a U.S. Army soldier, he could not legally ask for a free gun, but he could offer support if



a project got off the ground.

On Oct. 11, 2018, four bespoke pistols were delivered by Sig Sauer to the platoon. Its sentinels wore them on duty the very same day.

Among the pistols' distinguishing features are sights with a glass insert made with marble dust taken from the Tomb; custom wood grips made from part of the USS Olympia, the ship that in 1921 carried the first unknown to be buried in the Tomb; and sight plates engraved with the Greek figures featured on the Tomb.

For Womack, a former enlisted paratrooper who spent five years in the 82nd Airborne Division and racked up one deployment to Afghanistan and two to Iraq, seeing the ceremonial pistol become reality was more than business as usual.

He joined the Army about a year after 9/11, motivated by the same call to duty as his grandfathers who "dropped everything they were doing" to join the military in 1941 within a week of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



Womack

As he approaches the end of what was never meant to be a career, Womack is filled with pride for having served and fought with "a pretty good group of guys" who help each other get through the hard memories with an ongoing "massive group text."

Through halting tears, Womack recalled an especially hard memory from Sept. 10, 2007, while deployed to Baghdad. A truck filled with soldiers struck a pothole and fell off an overpass, killing seven. From his seat two vehicles back, he saw it happen.

On a date near the 15th anniversary of the tragedy, Womack thinks of one of those soldiers, Sgt. Nicholas Patterson, who had a 4-year-old son.

"There's this kid, he's 19 now and wondering, 'Does somebody remember my dad?' ... And it's the whole principle of the Tomb, to never forget. That's what it is to me," Womack said. —Gina Cavallaro ★

A sentinel wears his specially designed Sig Sauer M17 pistol while on duty at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery.

U.S. ARMY/SPC. GABRIEL SILVA



The Final Inspection

Author: Sgt Joshua Helterbran

Submitted by: By: Traveler



The soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, you soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other
cheek?
To my Church have you been
true?"

The soldier squared his shoulders
and said,

"No, Lord, I guess I ain't.
Because those of us who carry
guns,
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was
tough.

And sometimes I've been
violent,
Because the world is awfully
rough.

But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills just got too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand."

There was a silence all around the
throne,

Where the saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgement of his God.

"Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's
streets,
You've done your time in Hell."



India rolls out Mortar-Toting Camo Camels for Military Parade

Submitted by: By: Traveler

Mortar camels, anyone?

(An emerging escalation to the world's arms race?)

A Indian Border Security Force (BSF) Camel contingent march at Kartavya Path during the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2023.



The U.S. military had the Union Army Camel Corps in the 1860s. The British military launched an Imperial Camel Corps in World War I. Now, the Indian military is flaunting its own storied camel contingent — if you can see them, that is.



Indian Border Security Force (BSF) Camel contingent march at Kartavya Path during Republic Day parade on January 23, 2023. (Photo by Naveen Sharma/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images)

As part of India's Republic Day celebration, dozens of Dromedary camels from the military's Border Security Force marched through the streets of Delhi as part of the independence day's annual parade festivities.

Belated Promotion for Ulysses S. Grant

Submitted by: By: Traveler



More than 150 years after leading the Union Armies to victory in the Civil War, Ulysses Grant is about to be promoted to General of the Armies of the United States.

The move, authorized in the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, would make Grant just the third officer to receive the rank. The others are John Pershing, who was promoted to the rank in 1919, and George Washington, who received a posthumous promotion in 1976, according to the Arlington National Cemetery website.

The general of the armies rank is higher than the World War II five-star grade of general of the army, which was held by officers such as George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower and Omar Bradley.

Grant, who became the nation's first four-star general in 1866 and was elected in 1868 as the 18th president of the United States, attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and later fought in the Mexican War, according to his White House bio.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Grant was appointed to command an unruly volunteer regiment, which he whipped into shape before rising to the rank of brigadier general of volunteers.

He continued to distinguish himself in battle, fighting at Forts Henry and Donelson, Shiloh and Chattanooga in Tennessee, and Vicksburg, Mississippi, according to the White House.

In March 1864, President Abraham Lincoln appointed him General-in-Chief. Grant directed Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman to drive through the south while he and the Army of the Potomac pinned down Confederate Gen. Robert Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered, and Grant wrote "magnanimous" terms of surrender that would prevent treason trials, according to the White House.

Grant was president from 1869 to 1877. He died in 1885.

News Bites... Little Stories about Big Things!

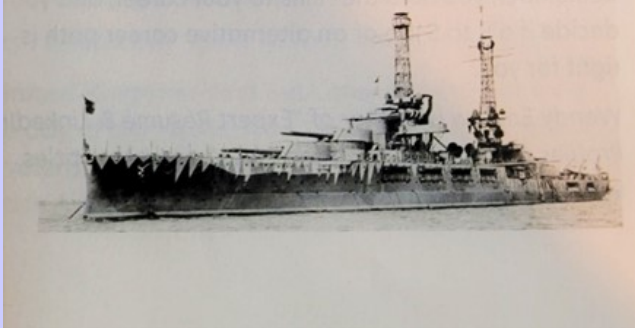
Submitted By Traveler and Patricia Thies

USS Oklahoma... Never Forget!

"It's been 80 years since the attack on Pearl Harbor Us being able to recover and identify the remains of the sailors and Marines aids in the closure for those families, but it's also important for the Navy and the Marine Corps to honor those who really did sacrifice their lives for our country."

Navy Casualty Director Robert McMahon

429	Casualties Oklahoma sustained
394	Casualties who remained unidentified after initial postwar efforts
361	Casualties individually identified during the project, 94% of the total
33	Casualties who could not be individually identified, 8% of the total



Hitler's Nephew fought with the USA in WWII



William Patrick Hitler, 34, left, as he receives his discharge from the US Navy. Bettmann/Contributor

Hitler's nephew fought in the US Navy in WWII but needed the president's and FBI's permission. In a letter to FDR, William Hitler asked for the chance to fight "against tyranny and oppression."

After the war, he changed his last name to Stuart-Houston and lived a quiet life in New York.

Kilroy

Submitted by:
Patricia Thies



Kilroy is a familiar "meme" from WWII. There are many speculations as to why it was a prominent cartoon figure during those turbulent times. One of the things we did to bring good cheer, just when we needed it most.

It was a doodle, it was a message, and it helped lonely soldiers unite and not feel alone. Much like we do today over Coffee or by sending notes of encouragement.

"At the height of his popularity, Kilroy could be found just about everywhere: in bathrooms and on bridges, in school cafeterias and on homework assignments, in the holds of Navy ships and painted on the shells of Air Force missiles. A classic Bugs Bunny cartoon from 1948, "Haredevil Hare," shows just how deeply Kilroy had penetrated into pop culture: thinking he's the first rabbit to land on the moon, Bugs is oblivious to the slogan "Kilroy was here" prominently etched on a rock behind him." (thoughtco.com)

And so, Kilroy lives on. A good memory, one that can bring a smile to your face.

(Continued on pg. 13)

Little Bites,
Continued...

B-17 Alliance Foundation Submitted by: Patricia Thies



In recognition of President's Day: On September 22nd 1942 a top secret train arrived at Fort Lewis—now known as Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Upon arrival, to retain secrecy, a 21-gun salute was not permitted. Dignitaries made their way from the train to a fleet of automobiles, which made its way to Boeing. Upon arrival at Boeing Plant No. 2 one car broke away from the fleet and pulled directly beneath the wing of a newly manufactured B-17 Flying Fortress. President Roosevelt looked up and viewed the aircraft with quiet contemplation and satisfaction. The War Powers Act had provided Boeing with the necessary cash to begin immediately mass producing this vital aircraft. On this President's Day we would like to recognize Franklin D. Roosevelt for helping to fund the production of the Boeing B-17, and all of the men and women who helped build it, fly it, and are now preserving it as a national treasure.

A Daily Dose of History Submitted by: Patricia Thies

Prior to the 1850s, it was very unusual for men the Great Britain or the United States to wear facial hair. But by the second half of the century, fashionable men were sporting copious and often outrageous beards and mustaches. When and how did the change in fashion occur?

Some British officers stationed abroad in the vast empire began to imitate Continental European officers, for whom mustaches were fashionable. Indeed, on the continent having a mustache tended to indicate that the mustachioed man was in the military, which is why pacifist anabaptist men wore (and continue to wear) beards without mustaches. But in the British army, with few exceptions, full beards were banned.

That regulation changed out of necessity during the Crimean War. Because of a shortage of shaving soap, and to protect the soldiers' faces from the extreme cold temperatures, the men were allowed and encouraged to grow beards. When the bearded soldiers returned to heroes' welcomes in Great Britain, Queen Victoria remarked that their beards made them "the picture of real fighting men." Suddenly beards were associated not with slovenliness or insanity, but with courage and manliness, and they began to sprout on the faces of civilians and soldiers alike. Magazines and newspapers carried the new style across the ocean, and it soon swept the male population of the United States as well, so that whereas facial hair had been very rarely seen before, by the time of the American Civil War most men were bearded.

In 1860 the British army enacted regulations preventing soldiers from shaving above their lips, essentially mandating mustaches for men who could grow them. In time beards were again prohibited, but the military mustaches remained, with regiments often adopting mustache styles unique to their regiment.

It all ended, however, during World War I with the advent of chemical warfare. The necessity of wearing gas masks, and the fact that the masks would not seal on a bearded or mustachioed face, caused the enactment of regulations requiring that soldiers be clean-shaven.

These days the British and U.S. armies again allow mustaches, but, with some limited exceptions, beards are prohibited unless worn for religious reasons. Beards have always been allowed in the British navy, by the way, but are allowed only with an approved waiver in the U.S. navy.

The photo is of three men of the 72nd Regiment of Foot (Highlanders), taken in 1856.



(Continued on pg. 13)



Little Bites,
Continued...

Ghosts of the Battlefield

Submitted by: Patricia Thies

Seaman A.L. Rosenkotter aboard the submarine V-5, later named USS Narwhal, demonstrates the use of the Momsen Lung and the after escape hatch aboard the sub in July 1930.

Work began on a personal breathing bag that a man could wear strapped to chest and then be used to ascend from a sunken sub. The device would contain breathable air that on the surface could be used as a flotation device. The inflatable bladder soon earned the nickname, the Momsen Lung.

Enlisting a civilian engineer, Momsen began work on a prototype. The finished product, made of discarded inner tube, looked for all the world like a water bottle. Tests were begun in diving tanks with volunteer divers. Mom-always dove first at each new depth. By late 1928, he decided to demonstrate his lung. He chose a spot in Chesapeake Bay that was 110 feet deep, same depth that the S-4 had sunk, and was lowered to the bottom in a modified bell. He rose to the surface by breathing the air in his Momsen Lung and proved the validity of his design.

All of this work had been done on a shoestring and outside of official Navy channels. The brass learned of Momsen's success the same way that the rest of the world did, in the newspapers. Embarrassed by his success (and yet anxious for it as well, the admirals now gave their blessing to his research on the lung and the rescue chamber.

Momsen next demonstrated that he could ascend from 200 feet down using the lung. The Momsen Lungs became standard equipment on submarines, and all personnel had to be qualified in their use before becoming submariners.



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Sergeant Reckless

Submitted by: Patricia Thies

The photograph (Wikipedia) on this post is of Reckless beside a 75mm recoilless rifle during the Korean War.

The 10th of the 10 most popular posts on this Facebook page. It's the 2nd time a story about Staff Sergeant Reckless made it into the top 10, with this post previously getting 64,000 shares in August last year. Probably the most shares for any one post in the history of this Facebook Page. The photograph is of a horse that was once named one of the 100 all time American heroes by Life Magazine. Staff Sergeant Reckless (c. 1948 – May 13, 1968), was a decorated war horse who held official rank in the United States military.

For her exemplary service to the Marine Corps, Reckless was awarded two Purple Hearts (for the wounds received during the Battle of Vegas), a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation with bronze star, the National Defense Service Medal, a Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Korea Medal, a Navy Unit Commendation, and a Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. She was officially promoted to Staff Sergeant in 1959 by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

An American Marine gun crew during the Korean War bought the Mongolian bred mare with their own money and trained her to carry shells for the recoilless rifle they called 'Reckless'. They also named the mare 'Reckless', and she became their mascot and an indispensable member of their gun crew. Reckless often, under heavy fire, made countless trips delivering ammunition from the supply point to the gun. She would often do this alone.

I have also read that Reckless completed 51 solo trips in a single day during the Battle for Outpost Vegas in 1953. The battle raged for 5 days and it is estimated that there were over 1,000 American casualties and twice that number of Chinese during the battle. It is regarded as one of the bloodiest battles in Marine Corps history. Reckless was also used to evacuate the wounded and was injured twice.

In recognition of her incredible war service, she was presented with a special citation for bravery by the Marines and promoted to Sergeant. The Marines personally paid for her travel to the United States, where she enjoyed a well-earned retirement pastured at Camp Pendleton. Reckless died in 1968. There are books about Sergeant Reckless.

Lest We Forget.

(Continued on pg 15)





Little Bites,
Continued...

U.S. Naval Institute

Submitted by: Patricia Thies

In 1945, two sailors who were angry about being ordered to scrape and paint USS LSM-51 decided to write "FOR SALE" on the side. It wasn't until another ship signaled "How much do you want for it?" that the confused captain discovered the unauthorized ad.



U.S. Naval Institute

Submitted by: Patricia Thies

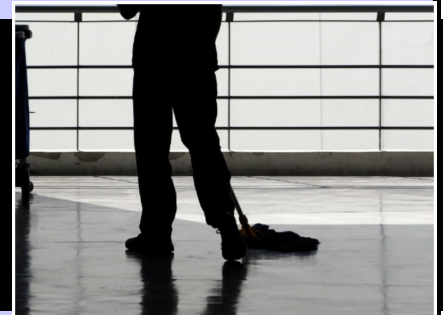


When USS Independence encountered a full-rigged ship in 1962, the carrier signaled to ask the vessel to identify itself. "Training ship Amerigo Vespucci, Italian Navy," was the response. "Independence replied "You are the most beautiful ship in the world."

Not What They All Thought: Janitor's True Story Shocks Everyone

World Traveling Adam W. - August 31, 2022

Submitted by: Patricia Thies



Many people have secrets from their pasts. Not everyone is eager to reminisce about the intricate details of their lives with others. William Crawford, also known as Bill, was an ordinary janitor at an American Air Force Academy. He kept his private life to himself until one day, everything changed when a cadet was reading about him and discovered that he was a trooper with a fascinating story.

The old man dutifully did his job without anyone raising an eyebrow. Crawford blended in so well with the background that he appeared inconspicuous, yet he was hiding a shocking fact about his past.



The diligent janitor went about his work respectfully. His ability to keep the premises in pristine conditions allowed him to fade into the background of the busy academy without drawing any attention to himself.

The cadets who paid little attention to him didn't know whose magnificent presence they were in. Mr. Crawford, as he was known by everyone else, kept his personal life private, but the secrets of his history weren't kept hidden for long.

(Continued on page 16)

An Enigmatic Presence



William Crawford was born in 1918 in Pueblo, Colorado, where he came back to retire after a lifelong career of traveling all over the world. He wanted to go back home and get a low-stress job he could do peacefully without attracting much attention. He happily took the janitor job at the military academy and decided to keep his identity to himself. Crawford was regarded as “an old man working in a young person’s world.”

James Moschgat is a retired Air Force Colonel who was a cadet at the time Crawford worked at the academy. He recalled him being kind of shy and solemn. Because of the big age disparity between them, Moschgat never got to know him on a more personal level.

Moschgat explained, “The Academy, one of our nation’s premier leadership laboratories, kept us busy from dawn till dusk. And Mr. Crawford ... he was just a janitor.” At first sight, Crawford seemed to be an ordinary elderly man doing an ordinary routine job that could give him a little extra money on top of his pension benefits. No one was really curious about his background, so no one really inquired about it. Everyone assumed he was another “retired military” hire working at a minimum wage job at the academy. Little did the oblivious cadets know about his extraordinary background in the Force.



Bill Crawford felt at home at the academy surrounded by his military family. He was comfortable in spending his time there and doing the most menial tasks as the young cadets studied for tests and trained hard for athletic events.

He rarely interacted with them, unless they ever spoke to him directly. Time passed on and it was in 1976 when everything would change. Until then, Crawford dutifully continued to sweep and empty trash cans.

An Incredible Discovery

One Saturday afternoon, then-cadet Moschgat was in the library reading a book about the Allied ground campaign in Italy during World War II when he came across an astonishing discovery that would change things instantly. He gasped in amazement and could not believe what he was reading. Moschgat unintentionally discovered an incredible truth about the aging janitor who walked around the Air Force Academy with a courtly smile. Soon enough everyone would know the truth. As Moschgat was turning the pages of the history book, a name in bold letters caught his full attention. He read a fascinating story about a trooper from Colorado named “Private William Crawford”. He asked himself whether this Crawford had any relation to his squadron’s reserved janitor. Soon enough, he and his entire class would discover the real connection between the brave trooper in the war history book and old “Mr. Crawford” from janitorial services.



A Tale of Bravery

Cadet Moschgat was having a hard time believing what he read. The book narrated a story 30 years in the past, about the encounter of the US Army’s 36 Infantry Division with enemy forces near Altavilla, Italy during World War II. He was captivated by the part where it said:

“in the face of intense and overwhelming hostile fire...with no regard for personal safety... on his own initiative, Private Crawford single-handedly attacked fortified enemy positions.”

Moschgat and his roommate were curious to know if the fearless soldier described in the history book was the same person as the inconspicuous janitor at the Air Force Academy.

(Continued on page 17)



Janitor, Continued

They planned to approach him and ask him about this to get to the bottom of it. As soon as they were able to, the two cadets chased down Mr Crawford with the book in hand. At first, Crawford was hesitant about answering their questions. The janitor stared at the page for a silent while while the two young cadets anxiously waited for an answer. They looked at each other back-and-forth with open mouths in anticipation of the old man's words.

"Yep, that's me," Crawford nonchalantly admitted. They inquired why he never spoke of it before, to which he calmly answered, "That was a long time ago and one day in my life." However, this incredible story doesn't end there.

Crawford enlisted in the United States Army in July 1942. He was serving as a soldier with the 142nd Infantry Regiment 36 Infantry Division on the frontlines in southern Italy just over a year after enlisting. He was serving as a simple squad scout when his company attacked an enemy position at Hill 424 in Altavilla Silentina on September 13, 1943. The American troops were quickly besieged by heavy enemy machine gun and mortar fire. Crawford stepped up in an act of pure courage, playing a crucial role in the battle against the Germans. He bravely located the aggressive enemy and amazingly hurled a grenade and, without formal instruction, eliminated one enemy firing point using his clean line of vision. Although Crawford's feat saved lives, he continued to march into the oncoming attack. He crept through the gunfire and managed to eliminate two more strongly entrenched German machine gun positions.

Crawford's valiant acts caused the remaining of the opposing forces to flee after losing three of their entrenched stations. To Crawford's dismay, his frontline position quickly became a source of great peril. He was captured by German troops after being caught in close proximity to the enemy. Crawford was reported MIA and considered dead due to his limited prospects of survival. The tragic assumptions only added to the surprise of what was to come. As all indicators pointed to Crawford's death as a German POW, the US administration made preparations to honor the private at the highest level. Crawford was awarded America's most prestigious military honor, the Medal of Honor, "posthumously" in 1944. US Major General Terry Allen proceeded to give the prestigious medal to Crawford's father George. It was a brief but impressive ceremony, as it was later recalled. Nonetheless, the future held an unexpected turn of events. Many months passed, and Crawford's family and closest friends kept trying to figure out what had happened to him. When a troop of soldiers was rescued from German captivity, Crawford was actually found alive and among the released troops. Crawford, hailed as a national hero and triumphant survivor of a German prisoner of war internment camp, returned home ignorant of the greatest medal he had received or the unexpected circumstances that lay ahead for him.



Following the war, Crawford returned to civilian life and married Eileen Bruce in 1946. He re-enlisted in the Army a year after his wedding, despite everything he'd been through. Crawford stayed in the army for another 20 years before retiring as a master sergeant in 1967. Crawford and his family relocated to Palmer Lake, Colorado, where he worked as the director of the Lucretia Vaile Museum and as a janitor at the adjacent Air Force Academy.

Crawford was greeted in awe and reverence as the truth about his history came to light. The Air Force recruits became more involved with him, and they made a conscious effort to avoid causing messes that he would clean up. This anonymous unsung hero deserved way more compensation than what he was getting. He shouldn't have had to struggle to work after retirement to help his pension income. Without ever expecting anything, he had mentioned to his friends that because he was presumed dead, he had never personally received the Medal of Honor from the president. That was his only unfulfilled wish.

Crawford was invited as a guest to the Air Force Academy's graduation ceremony in 1984, unaware that he would be in for a treat. The war hero-turned-armed forces janitor was 66 years old at the time. At the graduation ceremony, then-President Ronald Reagan was among the cadets, generals and family members. Crawford was the focus of the commander-in-chief's remarks which included praise for the veteran's leadership and modesty. The president hailed him as an example to follow since he had gone "above and above the call of duty." Crawford was about to have a significant experience. At the packed stadium of the Air Force Academy, Reagan proceeded to recount the heroic efforts of Crawford during World War II. The president voiced Crawford's valiant service in Europe and subsequent captivity in detail. Reagan then did something that would, without a doubt, irrevocably alter Crawford's life. He summoned him to the podium where he was finally publicly awarded with the Medal of Honor. "Courtesy makes a difference," Reagan said. "Be respectful to all around you, regardless of rank or position," Moschgat continued, referring to both military and customary courtesies. Then Reagan stressed the need of getting to know your people.





Doc's Corner...

By: Mark Mazurkiewicz

Holiday Challenges. The Risk of Too Much (or any) Alcohol! From the American Legion Magazine, February, 2023



It's well documented that heavy drinking and abusing alcohol can take a serious toll on a person's health. But new research is suggesting that no amount of alcohol consumption is safe for overall physical health.

These findings are especially troubling for military and veteran communities, which have a significantly higher representation than their civilian counterparts. Many gravitate toward alcohol as a way to deal with stress, boredom and loneliness. Even more problematic is its ritualization within military and veteran communities.

A 2013-2017 review of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data found that U.S. service-members spend more days a year drinking alcohol than people in any other industry. These are habits that follow veterans into post-service life.

In fact, a study examining data collected as part of the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that veterans, compared to their non-veteran counterparts, were more likely to use alcohol (56.6% vs 50.8%) and also reported heavier alcohol use (7.5% vs 6.5% in one month).

Binge-drinking outcomes are twice as likely to lead to negative consequences, including interpersonal, legal and professional issues. The study also found that higher levels of combat exposure correlate with an increased risk of troubling alcohol consumption.

Alcohol use can damage the body in several ways:

Brain: Alcohol disrupts brain communication pathways. These interferences can alter our mood and behaviors, making cognition and coordination more difficult.

Heart: Prolonged drinking or high consumption on a single occasion can harm the heart, which can include chronic heart disease, arrhythmia, stroke and hypertension.

Liver: Heavy alcohol use stresses the liver, leading to inflammation and issues such as stenosis (fatty liver), alcohol hepatitis, cirrhosis and fibrosis.

Pancreas: Alcohol causes the pancreas to release toxic substances that can lead to pancreatitis, which can be life-threatening. Pancreatitis is severe inflammation

and swelling of the blood vessels in the pancreas, impeding normal digestion.

Immune system: A weakened immune system can result in the body becoming easier prey for disease. Chronic drinking attracts diseases like pneumonia and tuberculosis, and harms the ability to fight infections. Alcohol can also disrupt sleep, which suppresses your body's ability to recover.

Cancer: According to the National Cancer Institute, there is a strong scientific consensus that alcohol consumption can cause several types of cancer. Even those who average no more than one drink per day have a modestly increased risk of some cancers. For more info about alcohol and cancer, go to [cancer.gov](https://www.cancer.gov).

If you have questions or concerns about your alcohol consumption, seek guidance from your doctor, other medical professionals or an organization like Alcoholics Anonymous.



"To care for them who have borne the battle"
Abe Lincoln.



Military Celebrations for 4th Quarter

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

April

Month of the Military Child!

Military Saves Month

- 5 Gold Star Spouses Day
- 7 Good Friday
- 9 Easter
- 10 National Former POW Recognition Day
- 14 Air Force Reserve Birthday
- 15 Purple Up! Day
- 22 Ramadan (Ends April 21)
- 23 Earth Day
- 23 Army Reserve Birthday
- 30 National Military Brats Day

May

Month of the Military Care Giver

National Military Appreciation Month

Public Service Recognition (1st full week)

National Correctional Officers Week (1st full week)

- 1 Silver Star Service Banner Day
- 1 Loyalty Day
- 6 National Nurses Week (ends May 12th)

- 8 Victory in Europe (VE) Day
- 12 Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 14 Mother's Day
- 13 Armed Forces Week (Ends May 20th)
- 13 Children of the Fallen Patriots Day
- 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day
- 20 Armed Forces Day
- 22 Maritime Day
- 29 Memorial Day

June

PTSD Awareness Month

Home Ownership Month

- 6 D-Day
- 11 National Flag Week (ends June 17th)
- 12 Women Veterans Day
- 14 Army Birthday
- 18 Father's Day
- 19 Juneteenth
- 20 Veterans Golden Age Games (ends May 25th)
- 23 Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- 24 PTSD Awareness Day

9 April Chuck Carlson
11 April Diana Lanute
23 April Oliver Lutz
26 April Frank Keuhne
13 May Patricia Thies

1 June Marl Mazurkiewicz
6 June Mary Scarlette
13 June Cindy Johnson
17 June Kevin Calder
21 June Andrea Keuhne
29 June Mark Anderson

Happy Birthday to
Our Great
Americans!



Happy Days to our Chapter Celebrities for April, May
and June

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...

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