

USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION Spring 2012 Newsletter

Special Extra Earnings for Military

Since 1957, if you had military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training), you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit. Special extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings credits are not granted for inactive duty training.

If your active military service occurred

- From 1957 through 1967, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- From 1968 through 2001, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.
- After 2001, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service. How You Get Credit For Special Extra Earnings

The information that follows applies only to active duty military service earnings from 1957 through 2001. Here's how the special extra earnings are credited on your record:

Service in 1957 Through 1977

You are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

Service in 1978 through 2001

For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details. Contributed by William "Demo" Demakakos, LTC, USA, Retired via email. Please see url: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

HOLD THE DATES:

Savannah Reunion 2012, are Monday, Oct. 1st through Thursday, Oct. 4th. Hotel is the Hilton DeSoto in the Historic District.

Direct phone number is 912 232-9000. Rates are \$109.00 plus tax per night.

More information to follow.

Paul Ratcliffe/Doug Lipert

What's in this issue?

BRISTOL/Military Trivia.....	Page 2
Things you can find on the internet.....	Page 6
Junior Take the Con.....	Page 7
An actual Craig's List Add.....	Page 8
Bravo Zulu.....	Page 9
Heart Attack and Water.....	Page 12
Senior Discounts.....	Page 13
Juke Box Hits.....	Page 15
Marty Walsh's Airline Reservations.....	Page 15
Traveling by Train.....	Page 15
Vietnam handbook 1962.....	Page 16
Motivational Posters.....	Page 17
Tribute to Bill Mauldin.....	Page 20
Great Ship Handling.....	Page 23
TAPS.....	Page 24

USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

BRISTOL/MILITARY TRIVIA

Shopping in COSTCO recently, a lady asked me if I was in the navy. I was wearing my **BRISTOL** hat and jacket. After responding to her that I was, the lady, let's call her Mary, told me that her brother served in the navy. Her brother is an employee of Target stores. The other day a customer came into the store and asked her brother, Bill, where he could find an item. Target requires its employees to show the customer the way and the customer followed bill to the appropriate aisle. While the two men were walking, the customer asked Bill if he was in the navy. As it turns out both Bill and the customer were in boot camp together. After chatting for some time, both men hugged each other.

The two men were being observed by security. After the customer left, the store security supervisor, Bob, approached Bill to find out what had just transpired. Bill explained what took place to security. Then Bob told Bill that he served in the army in Vietnam. Bob asked Bill if Bill served on a ship and Bill answered that he served in USS POLK COUNTY LST 1084.

Bob told Bill that his unit was surrounded and their only means of escape was to evacuate to the beach where USS POLK COUNTY stood by to collect the soldiers. Bill remembers that event but didn't know Bob. What a coincidence! Or, as some of us say, "There are no coincidences."

Contributed by Ed Lynch



We Taipei Goldsmiths wish you health, happiness and success in 2012, and a great Year of the Dragon. Now our headlines.

In this part of the world, Dragon Years bring more babies than any other year in the Chinese cycle...but our "babies," Harrison and Jessica, are already 18 and nearly 14. Harrison worked his first job as a laborer in Denton Texas' hundred degree heat last summer He will graduate Taipei American School with best marks for EQ and an intimate understanding of the value of a college education. He loves psychology, but interest in finance has been limited to overspending the semester's allowance advanced last August. He made up for that with his own earnings and a wonderful performance as Borrachio in "Much Ado About Nothing."

Jessica plays bass guitar in a band, as well as classical guitar and piano. Much of her free time is devoted to music, art and helping friends with English. She is an independent 13 going on 23, but the high heels she bought early last year have been all but set aside in favor of more meaningful if less worldly pursuits.

Ann continues to translate in China and Bali for self-growth workshops, with six two week stints last year and more ahead. Syd attended the San Francisco Writers' Conference last year and met new writer friends who keep him posted on their ventures into the publishing maelstrom. Now on semester break as adjunct professor at the Central Police University, he will be off to the US next week to see his big children and grandchildren, and ski in Telluride with an old college buddy. Though children at home means we usually travel separately, the family travels together in summer, and has savored America's paradise in Chautauqua for thirteen years now. It is a place of profound renewal and discovery.

Our home has become an art gallery, music hall, and home to a kitten we have been calling Lady Caca in honor of the gifts she briefly left around the house just after we rescued her. That didn't stop Ann from creating mandalas, mosaics, and works of fusion glass. Meanwhile, Syd is deep into a recording project with another flutist that will survey the literature of flute duets from 1700 to the present. His second novel, "Two Musicians and the Wife Who

Isn't," is scheduled for publication in March.

We wish you all the blessings of life in abundance.

Ann, Syd, Harrison, and Jessica Goldsmith



Contributed by Gary Johnson

Jim, Eddie...

*You've probably seen this before but things are sure different than when we were on the **USS Bristol DD-857** ("Arriving in the Pacific, too late to see action.")*

But then, I'm sure the Hedgehogs and Depth Charges would have kept most subs at bay..... (Yah, sure.)

Always thought a nukie sub could blow our butts out of the water. They knew where the thermal layers were and would hide under them. If it wasn't for our Gertrude tests, we didn't know what direction they hid until they talked back to us.

Ahhh, the good old days.

You have never seen footage where a single torpedo does damage like this. It's a US made (non-nuclear) torpedo that is in use today by our submarines. Very precise, very accurate and very powerful. This is the Australian Submarine Navy doing a live torpedo practice shot on one of their decommissioned ships. They used a MK 48 torpedo developed in the USA ... It is not a contact weapon. It is designed to go off directly underneath the ship at about 50 feet under the keel. The effect is devastating as you can see from the video. This lethal weapon can break the back of ships much larger than the one shown in this video.

Editor's Note: Gary attached a video of the Australian Navy sub sinking the decommissioned destroyer. The torpedo blew the destroyer into two pieces. Gary was a Sonarman. Thanks for this piece Gary.

USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION



U.S. ship rescues stranded Iranians — again



An Iranian mariner greets a US Coast Guardsmen Jan 10, 2012. (Centcom/ Defense Department)

American sailors have come to the rescue of distressed Iranian mariners for the second time in less than a week, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

The United States Coast Guard cutter Monomoy "picked up six Iranian mariners after their vessel broke down" in the Persian Gulf Tuesday, the [BBC reported](#).

At about 3 a.m. local time, the Coast Guard vessel "was hailed by flares and flashlights from the Iranian cargo dhow, Ya-Hussayn," the U.S. Navy Central Command/Fifth Fleet [public affairs report said](#). The Iranian mariners asked for assistance from the Monomoy because the cargo dhow's engine room was flooding.

"Monomoy immediately launched their small boat and approached the Ya-Hussayn," the Pentagon report said. "Two persons were rescued from the vessel, and four from a life raft tied off to the dhow's stern."

The six Iranian mariners were taken aboard the Coast Guard ship and given water, blankets and halal meals, the Pentagon said. One Iranian mariner received medical treatment for minor burns. The Coast

Guard then turned the six mariners over to an Iranian Coast Guard vessel at approximately 4:30 p.m. local time, the Pentagon said.

The Captain of the Iranian Coast Guard vessel, the Naji 7, speaking through a translator, thanked the Monomoy captain and crew "for assisting and taking care of the Iranian sailors," the Pentagon said.

The latest American rescue comes just five days after a [U.S. Navy ship belonging to U.S.S. John C. Stennis aircraft carrier strike group freed 13 Iranian fishermen from Somali pirates](#) in the Arabian sea.

The American sailors gave clothes, food and water to the freed Iranian fishermen, who had been held hostage by their Somali captors for six weeks.

"It is like you were sent by God," one of the freed Iranian fisherman, Fazel ur Rehman, told the American sailors, the New York Times' [C.J. Chivers reported](#).

Iran's foreign ministry on Saturday praised that Navy rescue effort, calling it "a humanitarian gesture."



Just days after Iranian and American military officials traded warnings over a U.S. Navy vessel's departure from the Persian Gulf, the United States Navy has rescued 13 Iranian fishermen and their fishing dhow from Somali pirates in the north Arabian sea, the Pentagon said Friday. And in a side irony that punctuates the rare instance of Iranian-American co-operation, the rescue operation was carried out by a ship belonging to the very U.S. Navy aircraft carrier strike group that Iranian army officials had earlier boasted of evicting from Gulf waters.

"A boarding team from the guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd--part of the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group--detained 15 suspected pirates aboard the fishing dhow, the Al Molai, according to a statement today from the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs Office," [Bloomberg News' Tony Capaccio reported](#) Friday. "The pirates didn't resist and surrendered quickly in the rescue" operation, which occurred on Thursday.

The Iranian fishermen "were held hostage, with limited rations, and we believe were forced against their will to assist the pirates with other piracy operations," Josh

Schminky, a Navy Criminal Investigative Service agent aboard the Kidd, explained in the Navy statement, according to the Bloomberg report.

The Navy has posted an unclassified YouTube video of the rescue operation--seemingly eager to play up the good turn the American Navy has done for the Iranian fishermen. (You can watch the video in the clip above.) Defense Secretary Leon Panetta also called the commander of the USS John C. Stennis' Carrier Strike Group, Rear Adm. Craig Fuller, to congratulate him on the "well executed" rescue operation, Pentagon spokesman George Little said Friday.

Secretary Panetta "said, 'When we get a distress signal, we're going to respond,'" Little relayed in a statement sent to Yahoo News. "'That's the nature of what our country is all about.'"



Defense Secretary Leon Panetta called Navy Rear Adm. Craig S. Fuller to congratulate him for rescuing 13 Iranian ... Not to make too much of the opportunity to win Iranian hearts and minds, of course. Earlier this week, Iran's Army chief Ataolla Salehi asserted that Iranian military exercises had prompted a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier to vacate the Persian Gulf. And he warned the United States about any plans for the carrier's return.

"Iran will not repeat its warning ... the enemy's carrier has been moved to the Sea of Oman because of our drill," Salehi said on Tuesday, according to a Reuters [report](#). "I advise, recommend and warn them over the return of this carrier to the Persian Gulf because we are not in the habit of warning more than once."

Salehi didn't name the American naval vessel in question, "but the USS John C. Stennis leads a task force in the region, and the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet website pictured it in the Arabian Sea last week," Reuters reported. *Continued on next page.....*

USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Pentagon officials promptly pushed back against the Iranian army chief's warning, stressing that the United States simply wants to ensure open traffic in international waters."We are committed to protecting maritime freedoms that are the basis for global prosperity," the Pentagon's Little said Tuesday. "This is one of the main reasons our military forces operate in the region."

Tensions have been rising between the United States and Iran in recent weeks, with Iranian officials issuing a series of erratic threats about their military capacity to control the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy transport hub. On Sunday January 1, President Obama signed legislation that could penalize any institution that does business with Iran's Central Bank--a chief source of Iran's revenues for oil exports. European diplomats also said this week that they're preparing a ban throughout the EU on the import of Iranian oil that would go into place at the end of the month.

Iranian officials have given numerous statements the past week indicating they would like to return to international nuclear talks. But EU officials have told Yahoo News that Iran has not yet formally responded in writing to a proposal issued by European Union High Representative Catherine Ashton in October to resume negotiations.

engaged in their own action against US and allied forces.

As was our usual practice at dusk, our FDC team closely monitored maps of the area and plotted H&I, harassment and interdiction on suspected enemy locations and/or open clearings in the jungle. Those clearings would afford overhead air clearance for the enemy to set up their mortars and effectively rein death and destruction on their targets (us).

At approximately 1800 hours, I consulted with the Forward Observers that were going on night missions and supplied them with the grid coordinates of the locations I had selected for the H&I. I also supplied them with reference points on the maps which would be known to them and to me for future communication should they require high explosive, white phosphorus or illumination rounds while on the search mission.

Our three mortars are extremely efficient and mounted inside modified APC'S (armored personnel carriers)... The carrier operators can swing the tracks into a circle and are ready to supply indirect fire support just about 360 degrees on very short notice.



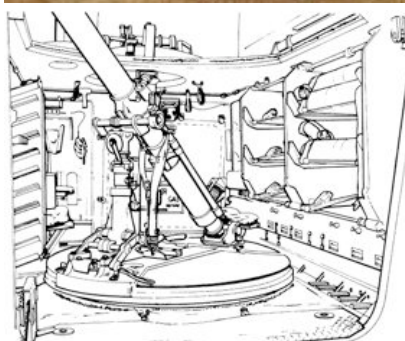
MK was the FDC RTO, and he and I generally slept either in the track or close by as it was essential that we be ready should a fire mission be called in by the FO or if need be the squad leader on patrol. The two words " fire mission" was pretty much engrained in the senses of a mortar or an artillery crew, and they move with rapid speed as the safety of the forces on patrol in many cases is dependent on how fast the FDC and gun crew can get supporting fire to besieged troops, and you may be the only help they have. One of my reference points selected was a church as it was prominently displayed on the map and easily identified by the FO in the field.

Continued on next page.....



Vietnam 1967 *Contributed by Jerry Walsh*

It was a hot and muggy night in 1967.I had the pleasure of serving Uncle Sam in the sweltering jungles of the Republic of South Vietnam. LBJ was the president of the United States. I was a Specialist five assigned as a Fire Direction Controller (FDC) for a Mortar Platoon assigned to the 9th Infantry Division. If I recall correctly, we were part of Operation Junction City. Company B was on a routine Search and Destroy mission. Unfortunately, our deadly enemy, the Viet Cong, was



USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

At approximately 0200 hrs., MK and I were immediately jolted from a fitful sleep by the ominous crackle of the P R C 2 5



and the words "Fire Mission." What was clearly troubling about this call was that Bravo Red (FO) was calling it in in a traumatized and trembling voice. He was able to say that his platoon was under attack and he needed high explosives on the ground immediately. As he keyed the mike, we could hear the automatic fire in the background. Part of my duties was to communicate immediately with the three mortar crews and they were up in a moment's notice and ready and standing by.

MK spoke to Red in a calm voice to calm him down (easy for us to say) as we were having difficulty hearing the grid coordinates. He was calling it in perilously close to the church per reference point on map. Red could not see the church so he was estimating his position, as he was digging himself into the ground. I was considering firing the high explosives at the grid given but I was not 100% sure of Red's position and feared rounds on his and comrade's position. There was little doubt that the church would be destroyed.

We fired illumination rounds in the air approx. 100 ft. high and immediately, Red saw the church and was able to guide a barrage of explosives by using distance from the reference point and forward, on to the enemy position. When those first high explosives left the tubes, MK and I made a sign of the cross and looked to the heavens because the distance between his position and where we were placing fire was not in a generally accepted

zone of safety. Red immediately came back and shouted that our rounds were effective. He then made slight corrections and called for fire for effect, meaning all three mortars with a constant barrage.

When the battle scarred squad returned and Red had a few shots of rotgut rice wine, he was able to tell us the details and the fact that an old PapaSan had approached them next morning and was effusively thanking them for not shelling the church. We all looked at each other agreed that somebody else was guiding those rounds that night as they left the tubes.



Gotta love History ! *Contributed*

by Doug Lipert



The U. S. S.. Constitution (Old Ironsides), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers).

However, let it be noted that accounted for in the ship's log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black

powder and 79,400 gallons of rum." Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping."

Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. (147,700 total or 310 gallons/crew member (not accounting for cooking and trade)

Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. (212,000 gallons at this point)

On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, salvaging only the rum aboard each. (estimated at only a few hundred gallons per ship; 236,000 gallons)

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home. (278,000 getting tired of counting)

The U. S. S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky, and 38,600 gallons of water.

GO NAVY!



Things you can find on the internet *Contributed by Tony Molnar*

Do you know who your neighbors are? Enter your address, and up comes a map of your area...and a list of all neighbors and their phone numbers!

Look up your neighbors address and phone number just by entering your address (You can run but you can't hide! Never heard of this one before)

Go to website: <http://neighbors.whitepages.com/>

USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Navy Seal Quote of the Week

Contributed by SSG Joe Zager, USA, Ret

Dana Perrino (Fox News) describing an interview she recently had with a Navy SEAL. After discussing all the countries he had been sent to, she asked if they had to learn several languages?

His reply:

"Oh no ma'am, we don't go there to talk."



Against The Odds



by Elgin Staples

It was the summer of 1942. I was nineteen years old and a signalman 3rd class on the USS Astoria stationed in the South Pacific.

One hot night in August, we found ourselves skirmishing with the Japanese for control of Guadalcanal, gearing up for the bloody battle that soon followed. At midnight, I finished my duty on watch. Still wearing my work detail uniform of dungarees and a tee shirt, and only pausing long enough to un-strap my standard-issue life belt and lay it beside me, I fell into an exhausted sleep.

Two hours later, I was awakened abruptly by the sound of an explosion. I jumped to my feet, my heart pounding. Without thinking, I grabbed my life belt and strapped it on. In the ensuing chaos, I focused on dodging the rain of enemy shells that were inflicting death and destruction all around me. I took some shrapnel in my right shoulder and leg, but by some miracle, I avoided being killed.

That first battle of Savo Island lasted for twenty minutes. After the enemy fire ceased, the men left standing helped with the wounded, while others manned the guns.

I was making my way towards a gun turret, when suddenly the deck disappeared. My legs windmilled beneath me as I realized that an explosion had blasted me off the deck. My shock was immediately replaced by a stomach-clenching fear as I fell like a stone - 30 feet into the dark, shark-infested water below.

I immediately inflated my life belt, weak with relief that I'd somehow remembered to put it on. I noticed between ten and thirty men bobbing in the water in the area, but we were too far away from each other to communicate.

I began treading water, trying to stay calm as I felt things brushing against my legs, knowing that if a shark attacked me, any moment could be my last. And the sharks weren't the only danger: the powerful current threatened to sweep me out to sea.

Four agonizing hours passed this way. It was getting light when I saw a ship - an American destroyer - approaching. The sailors on board threw me a line and hauled me aboard.

Once on the ship, my legs buckled and I slid to the deck, unable to stand. I was fed and allowed to rest briefly. Then I was transported back to the Astoria, which though disabled, was still afloat. The captain was attempting to beach the ship in order to make the necessary repairs.

Back onboard the Astoria, I spent the next six hours preparing the dead for burial at sea. As the hours passed, it became clear our vessel was damaged beyond help. The ship was taking on water and finally, around 1200 hours, the Astoria began to roll and go under.

The last thing I wanted to do was to go into that water again, but I knew I had to. Filled with dread, I jumped off the high side of the sinking ship and began swimming. Although I still had my life belt on, it couldn't be inflated a second time. Luckily, I was soon picked up by another destroyer and transferred to the USS Jackson.

Against all the odds, I had made it - one of only 500 men to survive the battle of Savo Island. We were issued Marine uniforms and I spent my time, in between visits to the ship's doctors for treatment of my wounds, sitting on the deck of the Jackson, waiting for our transport to San Francisco's Treasure Island and the leave that would follow.

Though it felt odd to wear the unfamiliar uniform, I wasn't sad to lose my old dungarees and tee shirt. The one thing I found I didn't want to give up was my life belt. I hung onto the khaaki cloth-covered rubber belt, studying it sometimes as I sat around on the Marine ship.

The label on the belt said it had been manufactured by Firestone Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio, which was my hometown.

Continued on next page

USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

I decided to keep the belt as a souvenir, a reminder of how lucky I'd been.

When I finally took my 30-day leave, I went home to my family in Ohio. After a quietly emotional welcome, I sat with my mother in our kitchen, telling her about my recent ordeal and hearing what had happened at home since I had gone away. My mother informed me that "to do her part," she had gotten a wartime job at the Firestone plant. Surprised, I jumped up and grabbing my life belt from my duffel bag, put it on the table in front of her.

"Take a look at that, Mom," I said, "It was made right here in Akron, at your plant."

She leaned forward and taking the rubber belt in her hands, she read the label. She had just heard the story and knew that in the darkness of that terrible night, it was this one piece of rubber that had saved my life. When she looked up at me, her mouth and her eyes were open wide with surprise. "Son, I'm an inspector at Firestone. This is my inspector number," she said, her voice hardly above a whisper.

We stared at each other, too stunned to speak. Then I stood up, walked around the table and pulled her up from her chair. We held each other in a tight embrace, saying nothing. My mother was not a demonstrative woman, but the significance of this amazing coincidence overcame her usual reserve.

We hugged each other for a long, long time, feeling the bond between us. My mother had put her arms halfway around the world to save me.



Po-Yang Destroyer

The historic USS MADDOX of the Gulf of Tonkin incident



History

DDG-910 was the ex-USS Maddox, the Sumner-class destroyer, DD-731, laid down by Bath Iron Works Corp., Bath ME. On October 28, 1943, launched on March 19, 1944 and commissioned on June 2, 1944. Stricken on July 2, 1972, and transferred to ROC Navy on July 6, 1972, USS Maddox was renamed Po-Yang with the hull number DD-10, later DD-928, then DD-910 in 1979.

The mission of DDG-910 was patrolling the cross-strait and surrounding waters to convoy offshore islands support and supply, midshipman training cruise, task flotilla and various missions. She played an important role on the Navy force built-up and fleet combat readiness, secure the safety of cross-strait and Maritime communications. Finally, the DDG-910, Po-Yang was decommissioned on June 30, 1984 due to the damaged main engines and aging ship structures.

Hwa-Yang Destroyer

Articles submitted by Don Tanner



History

DDG-903 was the ex-USS Bristol, the Sumner-class destroyer, DD-857, laid down by Bethlehem Steel, San Pedro, CA. May 5, 1944, launched on October 29, 1944 and commissioned on March 17, 1945. DD-857's service in USN was the end of World War II and had been sailed to Japan for Far Eastern Occupation Duty and participated in Korean War with splendid merits and great achievements. Ex-USS DD-857 was transferred to ROC Navy and commissioned on April 25, 1970 by Vice Admiral Sung, Chang-Chih, the deputy Commander-In-Chief of Navy then. She was renamed as Hwa-Yang with the hull number DD-903.

The mission of DDG-903 was patrolling the Cross-Strait and surrounding waters to convoy offshore-islands-support-and-supply, task flotilla and various missions. She played an important role on the Navy force built-up and fleet combat readiness, secure the safety of Cross-Strait and Maritime communications. Finally, the DDG-903 Hwa-Yang was decommissioned on April 25, 1994.



JUNIOR ... TAKE THE CON

Contributed by Dave "Guns" Lincoln

I am sure you remember my earlier submission of the pilot on Londonderry, who came aboard loaded to take us down the river for ASW games, and wrapped the starboard shaft with 30 feet of 3/4" cable.

Well here's an anecdote from a college classmate, which demonstrates that for junior officer there is only one way to learn ship handling !!

The vessel is the CVE 116, USS Badoeng Strait... the scene, the river channel going up to Bremerton from Puget Sound. The pilot is having trouble with the current, broaching is repeatedly near, so the skipper says to LtJg Kelly... "Mr Kelley, take the con".

Continued on next page

You need to be aware that Navy Regs say that the pilot should NEVER be relieved.. never mind by on a carrier, by a Jg !!

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PAUSE BACKGROUND ...

Jack Kelley joined the destroyer USS Brown, DD546, after NROTC commissioning at Tufts. His skipper there was a superb ship handler, and insisted that all of his "r- a Ensigns", be trained and OOD qualified as soon as possible. (Much like D K O'Connor on the Bristol). This was accomplished by the Operations Officer, ("Ops")

After promotion to "JG" and bomb school, former Ensign Kelley joined the Badoeng Strait. The bombs Jack was trained for, never came aboard, so to keep him out of trouble he was assigned as "a watch officer in training" And while the ship was on flight exercises, waiting for its planes to return , the Skipper had Kelly learning the traits of the carrier, by repeated approaches to a jettisoned bouy. The Captain, who knew the ship handling reputation of the Brown's skipper and Ops, realized that the not-so-old former destroyer lad, was eminently qualified to drive the carrier.

BACK TO BREMERTON ... So LtJg Kelley took the Con, brought the carrier almost alongside the assigned pier, when the Skipper said (softly) why don't you let the pilot save face, and tell him you would rather he bring along side ". And it was made so !!

SEQUEL ... The X O , and LtJg Kelley, then spent the afternoon , developing a story which would pass muster with BuShips, as to why a pilot was relieved in the Bremerton river. This they did ..no one went to the brig.. as a matter of fact the skipper made Admiral, as did the skipper of the Brown . Kelley served his 3 years , 6 in reserves and then went civilian .

MORAL ... Never doubt the seamanship abilities of a reservist who has been trained by a Tin Can Skipper!!

Dave Lincoln, "Guns", aboard Bristol .1952- 1955

AN ACTUAL CRAIG'S LIST PERSONALS AD

To the Guy Who Tried to Mug Me in Downtown Savannah night before last.

Date: 2010-09-27, 1:43 a.m. E.S.T.

I was the guy wearing the black Burberry jacket that you demanded that I hand over, shortly after you pulled the knife on me and my girlfriend, threatening our lives. You also asked for my girlfriend's purse and earrings. I can only hope that you somehow come across this rather important message.

First, I'd like to apologize for your embarrassment; I didn't expect you to actually crap in your pants when I drew my pistol after you took my jacket.. The evening was not that cold, and I was wearing the jacket for a reason.. my girlfriend was happy that I just returned safely from my 2nd tour as a Combat Marine in Afghanistan .. She had just bought me that Kimber Custom Model 1911 .45 ACP pistol for my birthday, and we had picked up a shoulder holster for it that very evening. Obviously you agree that it is a very intimidating weapon when pointed at your head ... isn't it?!

I know it probably wasn't fun walking back to wherever you'd come from with crap in your pants. I'm sure it was even worse walking bare-footed since I made you leave your shoes, cell phone, and wallet with me. [That prevented you from calling or running to your buddies to come help mug us again].

After I called your mother or "Momma" as you had her listed in your cell, I explained the entire episode of what you'd done. Then I went and filled up my gas tank as well as those of four other people in the gas station, -- on your credit card. The guy with the big motor home took 153 gallons and was extremely grateful!

I gave your shoes to a homeless guy outside Vinnie Van Go Go's, along with all the cash in your wallet. [That made his day!]

I then threw your wallet into the big pink "pimp mobile" that was parked at the curb after I broke the windshield and side window and keyed the entire driver's side of the car.

Earlier, I managed to get in two threatening phone calls to the DA's office and one to the FBI, while mentioning President Obama as my possible target.

The FBI guy seemed really intense and we had a nice long chat (I guess while he traced your number etc.).

In a way, perhaps I should apologize for not killing you ... but I feel this type of retribution is a far more appropriate punishment for your threatened crime. I wish you well as you try to sort through some of these rather immediate pressing issues, and can only hope that you have the opportunity to reflect upon, and perhaps reconsider, the career path you've chosen to pursue in life.. Remember, next time you might not be so lucky. Have a good day!

Thoughtfully yours, Semper Fi,

Alex

Contributed by Garv Hulst

USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION



The Passing of the Guard: World T.E.A.M. Sports Honors Corporal Seamus Garrahy

Arlington, Virginia, January 9, 2012: Perhaps Face of America rider Geoffrey Moulton said it best. "Cancer did not win," he said of this morning's unexpected passing of Corporal Jim "Seamus" Garrahy, "He simply ran out of time."



Corporal Jim "Seamus" Garrahy. Photograph courtesy Robert Monahan.

One of **World T.E.A.M. Sports** most dedicated supporters; Corporal Garrahy opened his Black Horse Tavern Road farm at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania each spring to participants of the annual **Face of America** ride. At first hosting the launch of the ride, beginning in 2008, he hosted the memorable post-ride "steaks and beers" lunch and celebration for the hundreds of participants and their families of the 110 mile ride from Washington to Gettysburg.

"All of us at **World T.E.A.M. Sports** send our deep condolences to Seamus' wife and family. For years, our organization has had no finer friend and steady supporter than Seamus," said **World T.E.A.M. Sports** President, Paul Bremer. "We will miss his happy face as he watched hundreds of riders work their way up that last hill to his house in Gettysburg on our annual Face of America ride honoring the nation's wounded warriors."

"It has been a privilege to have known Seamus Garrahy," said **World T.E.A.M. Sports** Chairman and founder James Benson. "Our organization is greatly indebted to him for his strong support of Face of America and the honored Americans who participated in the annual ride."

"We will all mourn the passing of Seamus as he was a great American," said Jeff and Kabao Messner, who directed **World T.E.A.M. Sports** in 2009 and 2010. "Many of hope us to earn 'our Wings' while on Earth but Seamus earned both many Stars & Stripes; plus his Wings. He was a dear friend to so many and a key person in the spirit of Face of America. We will miss him but never forget him! Our hearts and prayers go out to Linda Bell and to Seamus."

A Marine Corps veteran, Corporal Garrahy designated his beloved Gettysburg farm as "Marine Barracks, Gettysburg." Following his retirement from active duty in 1968, Corporal Garrahy turned to business, creating and marketing nationally well-liked fudge and other food products. More recently, he created and managed the popular and influential "All Hands" email newsletter, distributed weekly to more than

3,500 active and former duty Marines, friends and supporters worldwide.



Corporal Garrahy speaks at the 2009 Face of America ride. World T.E.A.M. Sports Chairman James Benson stands behind. World T.E.A.M. Sports archive photograph.

Corporal Garrahy and his wife Linda Bell also hosted annual Battlefield Professional Military Education camps for Marines at his farm. Each year, 2,000 to 4,000 active duty Marines and other active duty service professionals came for military training at the historic battlefields of Gettysburg and a camp out affectionately called "Steaks and Beer." Participants of these camps were encouraged to participate in the evening campfire and "telling bad jokes, swapping lies and trading Marine Corps lore," said Corporal Garrahy in a February 2011 email message. "A lot of salty Marines have told me that this was the best night they ever spent in the Marine Corps. This is what makes it worthwhile for Linda and me to continue opening our home to Marines year after year."

Well-connected in business and the military, Corporal Garrahy often called upon his colleagues to provide assistance to make a worthy event a success. They always responded without hesitation, as did everyone to the Corporal's call to action. *Continued on next page*

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In mid-September, 2011, over two dozen volunteers participated in “Operation Giving Back,” a weekend home makeover of Corporal Garrahy’s outdoor patio and landscaping. Volunteers constructed a new patio walkway, installed new grills and picnic tables, and completed other yard cleaning tasks.

Semper Fidelis, Corporal. Your contribution to America, and to World T.E.A.M. Sports, is well appreciated.

A memorial service and celebration of Corporal Garrahy’s life will be announced. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, 825 College Blvd., Ste. 102, Oceanside, CA 92057 or the Adams County SPCA, 11 Goldenville Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Online obituary and condolences may be made online at the Monahan Funeral Home in Gettysburg.



Face of America riders spread out on Corporal Garrahy’s lawn during the 2009 Face of America ride. World T.E.A.M. Sports archive photo.



FACE OF AMERICA 2012

On April 27-29, 2012, World T.E.A.M. Sports is hosting our tenth Face of America Bike Ride, a two-day bike ride from our nation’s capital to Gettysburg. The annual ride honors and assist our military — injured, veterans and active duty—and the American Spirit.



FACE OF AMERICA WASHINGTON DC TO GETTYSBURG

This inspiring ride, put on in cooperation with the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, is an opportunity to welcome disabled and able-bodied servicemen and women as teammates and show them how much we appreciate their efforts and sacrifices.

Funds raised through this event will pay for participating wounded warriors transportation, hotels, food and support. Any funds remaining after the conclusion of the ride will be dedicated to future World T.E.A.M. Sports events for the disabled.

Online participant and team registration is now open. Save on early bird registration through mid January, 2012 – use registration code FOA12EB.

SUPPORT FOR THE FACE OF AMERICA RIDES

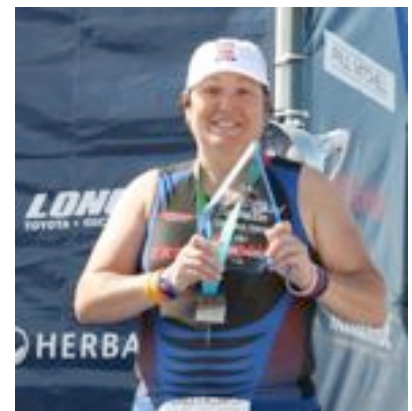
“For most people, the road to recovery starts when they enter a rehabilitation hospital. But for me, the recovery process started in March 2007 when I left my final rehabilitation hospital and joined a team called World T.E.A.M. Sports. That’s when I accepted the challenge of riding the Face of America Ride—my very first ride and a ride that changed my life! As I look back to the harsh reality five years ago knowing I would never walk again, I am extremely humble and grateful that the Lord put World T.E.A.M. Sports in my life to be able to give me challenges that would in the most positive way alter my quality of life.”



Eric Frazier on his hand cycle.

“Completing the ride meant a lot to me. First, I showed up. I had also become more comfortable with my disabled self, with my cancer survivor component. For two days, though, I was just a cyclist having fun, meeting people, talking, helping, achieving and finishing under those beautiful howitzers at Seamus Garrahy’s Gettysburg farm. That ride changed my life for the better and that is why we come back each year. I have made so many friends and connections to which I am grateful and lucky.”

- Gina Utegg, Face of America participant, Winner of the 2011 Nautica Malibu ParaTriathlon Women’s Division, and recipient of the 2011 Paul Mitchell Award.



Gina Utegg at the Malibu Triathlon.

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Continued

Pease Greeters Announcement of Victor "Vic" Lazkowski's Passing

Sadly, the Pease Greeters have been informed that Vic Lazkowski had passed away on Saturday.

He was in at the outset of the Pease Greeters and assumed the task and responsibility of supplying the rest rooms with appropriate toiletries for the troops.

He was always the same...enthusiastic, dependable and straight forward.

Vic was a prodigious writer. He always enjoyed humor and shared it with all.

He was a Marine and Greeter of whom we could all be very proud of.

There are no calling hours and request for any donations be made to the Wounded Warriors in Vic's name.

www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Although Vic Lazkowski was not one of our shipmates, his continuing dedication to our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines warrants inclusion in our newsletter. One of our shipmates, David "Guns" Lincoln is a Pease Greeter.



The Pease Greeters Mission:

- To welcome troops passing through Pease International Airport on their way to, or from, Afghanistan or Iraq, or any other areas of conflict in any part of the world.
- To create within the Pease Trade Port an environment that reflects the respect and high esteem in which we hold all veterans.
- To promote broad participation by the general public in this welcoming of heroes, paying special attention to the education of school children by instilling respect and admiration for the troops through formal ceremonies for each flight.

The Greeting

It does not matter whether it is 0400 (4AM) in the morning or 1600 (4PM) in the afternoon the greeters are there to welcome the troops. The Greeters' welcome has three phases; the initial greeting which includes hundreds of Greeters clapping and cheering while patriotic music plays in the background. Hospitality continues with Dunkin Donuts™, coffee, soda & water, cookies, Friendly's™ ice cream, and many more delicious goodies (too many to mention) along with use of the telephone banks installed by Whaleback™ Industries so that our brave men and women may place telephone calls free of charge to anywhere in the world. All of this is topped off by being able to spend time with a great group of Americans who are

appreciative of what they do for our country.

The Greeters' closing ceremony may come last, but it is far from least in the overall scheme of the greeting. This part of the greeting includes photographing the troops so that each flight may be added to Hero's Walk – a hallway at Pease dedicated solely to our brave men and women whom have passed through Pease International Airport. Next our Nations Colors are presented, we have the singing of our National Anthem, a blessing from the Greeters Chaplain, a brief presentation of who we are to the troops before us along with a reading of the Star poem – Stars from retired flags with a poem are given to every man and woman who come through Pease, and an offering of "the shirt off our back" – a signed Pease Greeter sweatshirt presented to the commanding officer. At the closing of our ceremony, just prior to the troops boarding the flight, the officer of the day will salute the troops with the following words, "We, the old Warriors, salute you, the young Warriors".

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Heart Attack and Water Contributed by Ray Storey



Correct time to drink water... very Important.
From A Cardiac Specialist!

Drinking water at a certain time maximizes its effectiveness on the body:

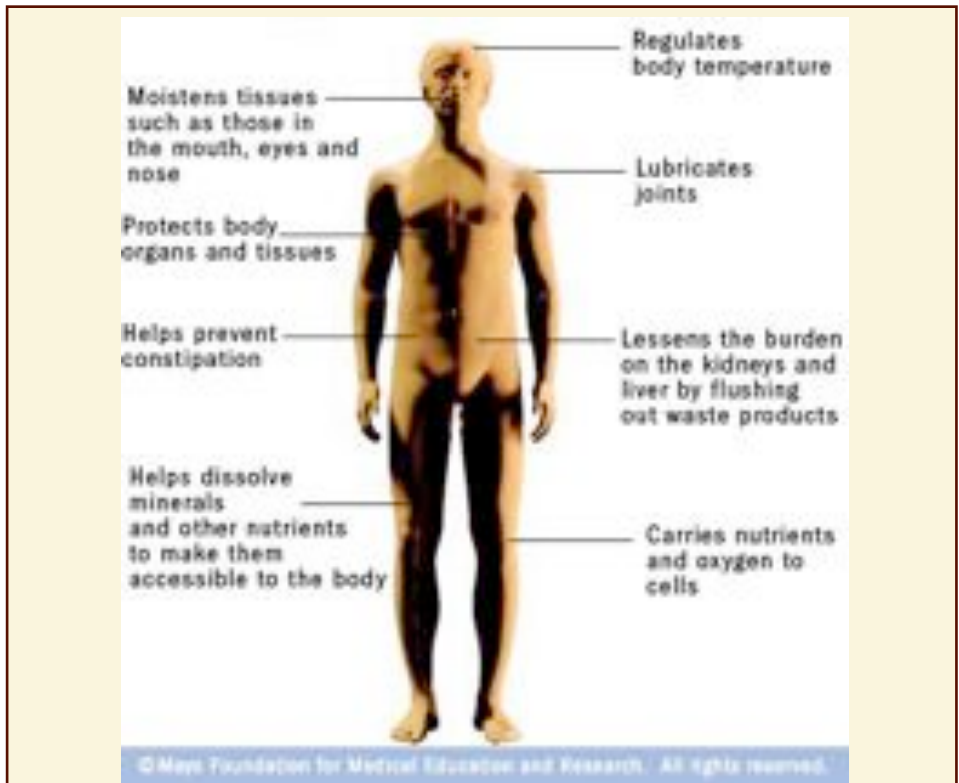
- 2 glasses of water after waking up** - helps activate internal organs
- 1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal** - helps digestion
- 1 glass of water before taking a bath** - helps lower blood pressure
- 1 glass of water before going to bed** - avoids stroke or heart attack

Water at bed time will also help prevent night time leg cramps. Your leg muscles are seeking hydration when they cramp and wake you up with a cramp.

Sidebar article

from Mayo Clinic website:

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/water/NU00283>



What about the advice to drink eight glasses a day?

Everyone has heard the advice. "Drink eight 8-ounce glasses of water a day." That's about 1.9 liters, which isn't that different from the Institute of Medicine recommendations. Although the "8 by 8" rule isn't supported by hard evidence, it remains popular because it's easy to remember. Just keep in mind that the rule should be reframed as: "Drink at least eight 8-ounce glasses of fluid a day," because all fluids count toward the daily total.

Staying safely hydrated

Generally if you drink enough fluid so that you rarely feel thirsty and produce 1.5 liters (6.3 cups) or more of colorless or light yellow urine a day, your fluid intake is probably adequate. If you're concerned about your fluid intake or have health issues, check with your doctor or a registered dietitian. He or she can help you determine the amount of water that's right for you.

To ward off dehydration and make sure your body has the fluids it needs, make water your beverage of choice. It's also a good idea to:

- 1 Drink a glass of water or other calorie-free or low-calorie beverage with each meal and between each meal.
- 2 Drink water before, during and after exercise.

Although uncommon, it is possible to drink too much water. When your kidneys are unable to excrete the excess water, the electrolyte (mineral) content of the blood is diluted, resulting in low sodium levels in the blood, a condition called hyponatremia. Endurance athletes, such as marathon runners, who drink large amounts of water, are at higher risk of hyponatremia. In general, though, drinking too much water is rare in healthy adults who eat an average American diet.

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Senior Discounts

Contributed by Joe Guchek and also verified by Joe.

I checked out the site, [giftcardgranny](http://giftcardgranny.com). Interesting. Another site I looked into, sciddy.com, also listed discounts for seniors. We might as well take advantage of our age.

Waiting in line behind an older gentleman at Wendy's recently, I heard him ask for his senior discount. The girl at the register apologized and charged him less.

When I asked the man what the discount was, he told me that seniors over 55 gets 10% off everything on the menu, every day.

This incident prompted me to do some research, and I came across a list of restaurants, supermarkets, department stores, travel deals and other types of offers giving various discounts with different age requirements.

This list may not only be useful for you, your friends and family, but it might also be appreciated by your clients.

Hmmmm, Dunkin Donuts gives free coffee to people over 55. If you're paying for a cup every day, you might want to start getting it for free.

I had to double check on some of these to make sure they were true.

Here is the link. <http://www.giftcardgranny.com/blog/senior-discounts/>

Restaurants

Applebee's:	15% off with Golden Apple Card (60+)
Arby's:	10% off (55+)
Ben & Jerry's:	10% off (60+)
Bennigan's:	discount varies by location
Bob's Big Boy:	discount varies by location (60+)
Boston Market:	10% off (65+)
Burger King:	10% off (60+)
Captain D's Seafood:	discount varies on location (62+)
Chick-Fil-A:	10% off or free small drink or coffee (55+)
Chili's:	10% off (55+)
CiCi's Pizza:	10% off (60+)
Culver's:	10% off (60+)
Dennys:	10% off, 20% off for AARP members (55+)
Dunkin Donuts:	10% off or free coffee (55+)
Einstein's Bagels:	10% off baker's dozen of bagels (60+)
Fuddrucker's:	10% off any senior platter (55+)
Gattis Pizza:	10% off (60+)
Golden Corral:	10% off (60+)
Hardees:	\$0.33 beverages everyday (65+)
IHOP:	10% off (55+)
Jack in the Box:	up to 20% off (55+)
KFC:	free small drink with any meal (55+)
Krispy Kreme:	10% off (50+)
Long John Silver's:	various discounts at participating locations (55+)
McDonalds:	discounts on coffee everyday (55+)
Mrs. Fields:	10% off at participating locations (60+)
Shoney's:	10% off
Sonic:	10% off or free beverage (60+)
Steak n Shake:	10% off every Monday & Tuesday (50+)
Subway:	10% off (60+)
Sweet Tomatoes:	10% off (62+)
Taco Bell:	5% off; free beverages for seniors (65+)
TCBY:	10% off (55+)
Tea Room Cafe:	10% off (50+)
Village Inn:	10% off (60+)
Waffle House:	10% off every Monday (60+)
Wendys:	10% off (55+)
White Castle:	10% off (62+)

Continued on next page

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Retail And Apparel

Banana Republic: 10% off (50+)
Bealls: 20% off first Tuesday of each month (50+)
Belks: 15% off first Tuesday of every month (55+)
Big Lots: 10% off
Bon-Ton Department Stores: ... 15% off on senior discount days (55+)
C.J. Banks: 10% off every Wednesday (60+)
Clarks : 10% off (62+)
Dress Barn: 10% off (55+)
Goodwill: 10% off one day a week (date varies by location)
Hallmark: 10% off one day a week (date varies by location)
Kmart: 20% off (50+) prescriptions, not clothes
Kohls: 15% off (60+)
Modells Sporting Goods: 10% off
Rite Aid: 10% off on Tuesdays & 10% off prescriptions
Ross Stores: 10% off every Tuesday (55+)
The Salvation Army Thrift Stores: up to 50% off (55+)
Stein Mart: 20% off red dot/clearance items first Monday of every month (55+)

Grocery

Albertsons: 10% off first Wednesday of each month (55+)
American Discount Stores: 10% off every Monday (50+)
Compare Foods Supermarket: .. 10% off every Wednesday (60+)
DeCicco Family Markets: 5% off every Wednesday (60+)
Food Lion: 6% off every Monday (60+)
Frys Supermarket: free Frys VIP Club Membership & 10% off every Monday (55+)
Great Valu Food Store: 5% off every Tuesday (60+)
Gristedes Supermarket: 10% off every Tuesday (60+)
Harris Teeter: 5% off every Tuesday (60+)
Hy-Vee: 5% off one day a week (date varies by location)
Kroger: 10% off (date varies by location)
Morton Williams Supermarket: ... 5% off every Tuesday (60+)
The Plant Shed: 10% off every Tuesday (50+)
Publix: 5% off every Wednesday (55+)
Rogers Marketplace: 5% off every Thursday (60+)
Uncle Guisepp's Marketplace: 5% off (62+)

Travel

Alaska Airlines: 10% off (65+)
Alamo: up to 25% off for AARP members
American Airlines: various discounts for 65 and up (call before booking for discount)
Amtrak: 15% off (62+)
Avis: up to 25% off for AARP members
Best Western: 10% off (55+)
Budget Rental Cars: 10% off; up to 20% off for AARP members (50+)
Cambria Suites: 20%-30% off (60+)
Clarion: 20%-30% off (60+)
Comfort Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)
Comfort Suites: 20%-30% off (60+)
Continental Airlines: no initiation fee for Continental Presidents Club & special fares for select destinations
Dollar Rent-A-Car: 10% off (50+)
Econo Lodge: 20%-30% off (60+)
Enterprise Rent-A-Car: 5% off for AARP members
Greyhound: 5% off (62+)
Hampton Inns & Suites: 10% off when booked 72 hours in advance
Hertz: up to 25% off for AARP members
Holiday Inn: 10%-30% off depending on location (62+)
Hyatt Hotels: 25%-50% off (62+)
InterContinental Hotels Group: various discounts at all hotels(65+)
Mainstay Suites: 10% off with Mature Traveler's Discount (50+); 20%-30% off (60+)
Marriott Hotels: 15% off (62+)

Continued on next page

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- Motel 6: 10% off (60+)
- Myrtle Beach Resort: 10% off (55+)
- National Rent-A-Car: up to 30% off for AARP members
- Quality Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)
- Rodeway Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)
- Sleep Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)
- Southwest Airlines: various discounts for ages 65 and up (call before booking for discount)
- Trailways Transportation System: various discounts for ages 50 and up
- United Airlines: various discounts for ages 65 and up (call before booking for discount)
- U.S. Airways: various discounts for ages 65 and up (call before booking for discount)

Activities And Entertainment

- AMC Theaters: up to 30% off (55+) Most are Tuesday only
- Bally Total Fitness: up to \$100 off memberships (62+)
- Busch Gardens Tampa : \$3 off one-day tickets (50+)
- Carmike Cinemas: 35% off (65+)
- Cinemark / Century Theaters: up to 35% off
- U.S. National Parks: \$10 lifetime pass; 50% off additional services including camping (62+)
- Regal Cinemas: 30% off
- Ripley's Believe it or Not: @ off one-day ticket (55+)
- SeaWorld Orlando: \$3 off one-day tickets (50+)

Cell Phone Discounts

- AT&T: Special Senior Nation 200 Plan \$29.99/month (65+)
- Jitterbug: \$10/month cell phone service (50+)
- Verizon Wireless: Verizon Nationwide 65 Plus Plan \$29.99/month (65+).

Miscellaneous

- Great Clips: \$3 off haircuts (60+)
- Super Cuts: \$2 off haircuts (60 +)

Juke Box Hits

Contributed by Earl "Charlie" Weaver

This is neat. It's sort of a "Jukebox Time Machine" of music. Each of the years below connects to the best 20 hits of that year via a Jukebox. Click on a year, wait a few seconds, and a Jukebox will appear showing you 20 hits from that year to select from. You can play all 20 hits, or.. click on just those that you like. Enjoy the ride!

[Ultimate 40's](#)

[Ultimate 50's](#)

[Ultimate 60's](#)

[Ultimate 70's](#)

[Ultimate 80's](#)

[Ultimate 90's](#)



I booked my flight to Savannah yesterday, got a great price. The plane has enough room for all my supplies.

Contributed by Marty Walsh



Traveling by train.

Contributed by Joe Kelsey



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This article contributed by SSG Joe Zager, USA (Ret)

Note: This article will continue in future newsletters.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT VIETNAM?

	Page
Why is it often difficult to tell a Viet Cong from a loyal South Vietnamese?	9
Is <i>áo dài</i> meant something to wear, something to eat, or the name of an organization?	41
Why would a South Vietnamese be puzzled or offended if you used the American gesture for beckoning him to come to you?	29
Who is Ho Chi Minh?	11

NINE RULES

For Personnel of U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam

The Vietnamese have paid a heavy price in suffering for their long fight against the Communists. We military men are in Vietnam now because their government has asked us to help its soldiers and people in winning their struggle. The Viet Cong will attempt to turn the Vietnamese people against you. You can defeat them at every turn by the strength, understanding, and generosity you display with the people. Here are the nine simple rules:

1. "Remember we are special guests here; we make no demands and seek no special treatment."
2. "Join with the people! Understand their life, use phrases from their language, and honor their customs and laws."
3. "Treat women with politeness and respect."
4. "Make personal friends among the soldiers and common people."
5. "Always give the Vietnamese the right of way."
6. "Be alert to security and ready to react with your military skill."
7. "Don't attract attention by loud, rude, or unusual behavior."
8. "Avoid separating yourself from the people by a display of wealth or privilege."
9. "Above all else you are members of the U.S. military forces on a difficult mission, responsible for all your official and personal actions. Reflect honor upon yourself and the United States of America."



CONTENTS

	Page
Opportunity to Serve	1
The Country	9
1,000 Years of History	9
The Republic of Vietnam	14
At Home with the Vietnamese	29
The Mountain Tribespeople	81
Getting Around	86
Service with Satisfaction	73
Appendix	75
Suggested Reading	74
Language Guide	77



OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

If you are bound for Vietnam, it is for the deeply serious business of helping a brave nation repel Communist aggression. This is your official job and it is a vital one, not only for the preservation of freedom in this one country but for the survival of freedom everywhere.

Vietnam is a major testing ground for the Communist's theories of "war of national liberation," and upon our success there depends peace in many other free countries of the world.

The growing American commitment in Vietnam makes it even more important for us to maintain the good relations that exist between Americans and the Vietnamese people. Wherever you go, remember that Vietnam is a land of dignity and reserve. Your good manners, thoughtfulness, and restrained behavior will be appreciated by the Vietnamese. You will benefit, as will the country you represent, in terms of the job you are there to do and in terms of friendship built on a solid foundation of mutual respect.

You can learn a great deal from the Vietnamese, who have been fighting for their country for many years, and you will find, as have many other Americans, that you will become greatly attached to them as individuals and as a people.

THE COUNTRY

When you reach South Vietnam you will be in a land with a civilization that predates the birth of Christ but which, since 1954, has been divided like Korea. North of the 17th parallel and Sea Nhai River lies Communist North Vietnam and south is the free Republic of Vietnam.

The Republic of Vietnam is less than half the size of California and long and narrow like that State. It occupies the eastern and southern part of the Indochinese Peninsula in Southeast Asia, and borders the South China Sea and the Gulf of Siam. Near neighbors to the west are Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand. Beyond Communist Vietnam to the north stretches the vast territory of Red China.

The southern portion of the rugged Annamite mountains forms a spine down to the Mekong Delta region around Saigon. In places, mountains stand just out to the sea, dividing the coastal plain into sections. Small dunes 10 to 60 feet high are common along the long coastline.

The country is narrow just near Hanoi (pronounced hay-noi)—so narrow that only a 25- to 30-mile strip lies between Laos and the South China Sea. Here the coastal rice fields very quickly give way to the undulating foothills of the mountains. In the past, isolated Vietnamese preferred to leave the mountains to tribespeople, wild animals, and evil spirits.

Southward from Hanoi toward the beach resort of Nha Trang, the country widens to make room for high plateaus, 1,000 to 2,000 feet above sea level. In the southern part of the country—around the Saigon-Cholon area—the many mouths of the Mekong River form a dense canal network to fan out across delta plains and surround the fertile paddies of a beautiful "rice basket."

South Vietnam has a typically tropical climate of two seasons: hot and dry and hot and rainy.

In the southern delta region, the rains usually begin in late May and continue through September. April and early May are the hottest and most humid months of the year.

Along the coastal coast, the rainy season begins in October, causes periodic floods through November and December, and continues with drizzle from January to March. July and August are the months when heat and humidity reach their peak. In places, however, the highlands are usually cool at night regardless of the season.

Like other tropical countries, Vietnam has the usual variety of bugs, flies, mosquitoes, and other insects. It's S.O.P. to sleep under a mosquito net.

Rice in the Deltas

This is an agricultural country with a soil-and-climate combination ideal for growing rice. With U.S. help, the South Vietnamese have greatly increased their rice production since 1954. You will find the paddies mainly in the Mekong River Delta and inland areas of central Vietnam.

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Farm family prepares tobacco for market.

Fisherman mends his gill net.



Man-powered sampans are typical of Mekong Delta.

Its abundant rice crop, locally-grown vegetables, and fish from the rickety-stocked seas at its door make the country largely self-sustaining in food.

A major export is rubber. Although the war ravaged the large rubber plantations and some of this acreage has not been retained, rubber is still a very important product.

Lacquer from Vietnam has always been highly prized on the foreign market. It is used for mixing with other lacquers to improve their quality. The trees cultivated for extraction of lacquer are called *oak* trees. Previously grown only in the north, the trees are being successfully experimented with in the southern highlands.

Relatively new as commercial products are palm oil from the plant formerly regarded by the Vietnamese as ornamental rather than useful, and peanuts which had been grown for home consumption but now are being exported in quantity both whole and as oil.

Tan, coffee, and quinine are grown in the high plateau, which also produce cinnamon, timber, raw silk, vegetables, and vegetable dyes. Other Vietnamese products are corn, sugar cane, copra, tobacco, and castor oil.

The country has some cattle but more pigs and poultry. Water buffaloes are used primarily as draft animals, especially in the rice paddies, and only occasionally for meat.

No scene is more typical of rural Vietnam than a farmer and his water buffalo at work in a rice paddy. Water buffaloes are the indispensable work animals of the country.

Mineral resources are few: a coal-bearing region near the city of Da Nang (Tourane), south of Hanoi; a small gold mine, and scattered deposits of molybdenum and phosphate.

Industry is steadily expanding, though its scope is limited at present. New enterprises such as textile mills, cement plants, electronics, fish processing, and pharmaceuticals and plastics manufacture have been added to the traditional rice milling, lumber production, and manufacture of salt, beverages, soap, matches, and cigarettes.

Many free-world nations besides the United States are contributing economic assistance to help South Vietnam's agriculture and industry grow.

Picture the People

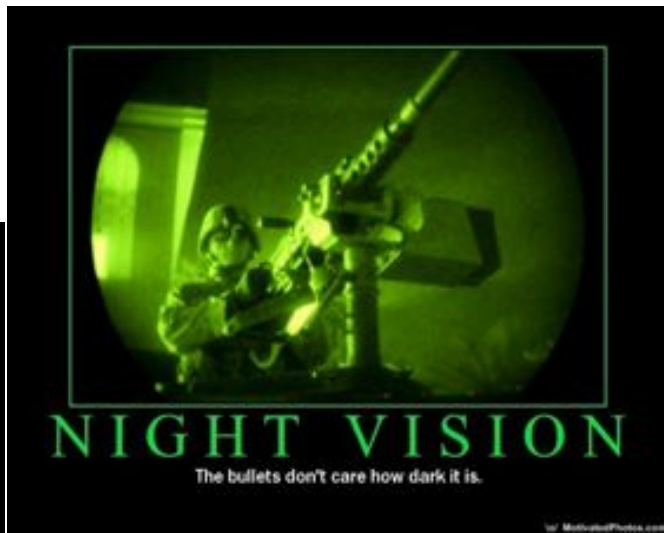
The population of the Republic of Vietnam is about 11.1 million, two-fifths of them farmers. (North Vietnam has an estimated 17 million people.) The majority of the people of South Vietnam are ethnic Vietnamese. There are almost 800,000 tribal people; close to one million Chinese (most of whom now hold Vietnamese citizenship); just under half a million ethnic Cambodians, and a few thousand each of French, Indians, and Pakistanis.

Compared with most Asian nations, South Vietnam is unswamped. The population density varies from 10 per square mile throughout the six high plateau provinces to 41,100 people per square mile in Saigon, the capital. Saigon-Cholon is the largest city, with about two million people. Da Nang runs a distant second with about 110,000.

The Vietnamese are small and well-proportioned people, with dark, almond-shaped eyes and black hair. The slender, small-boned women move gracefully in their national dress of long trousers under a long-sleeved tunic slit from knee to waist.

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Motivational Posters *Contributed by Don Reasor*



Continued on next page

USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION



AIR SUPERIORITY

Iran may be building a fortress, but they've forgot to put a roof on it.

Lu7 MotivatorPhotos.com



US MARINE LOGIC

If you don't understand this,
You've never met Marines...
Why mess with 233 years of success?



EFFICIENCY

When in doubt, Empty your Magazine

Lu7 MotivatorPhotos.com



RULES FOR A GUNFIGHT

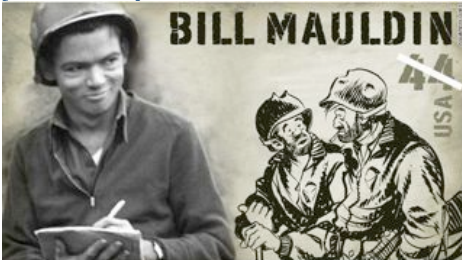
1. Bring a gun. Preferably, bring at least two guns. Bring all of your friends who have guns.

USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Get out your history books and open them to the chapter on World War II. Today's lesson will cover a little known but very important hero of whom very little was ever really known. Here is another important piece of lost US history, which is a true example of our American Spirit.



Makes ya proud to put this stamp on your envelopes.....



Bill Mauldin stamp honors grunt's hero. The post office gets a lot of criticism. Always has, always will. And with the renewed push to get rid of Saturday mail delivery, expect complaints to intensify. But the United States Postal Service deserves a standing ovation for something that happened last month: Bill Mauldin got his own postage stamp. Mauldin died at age 81 in the early days of 2003. The end of his life had been rugged. He had been scalded in a bathtub, which led to terrible injuries

and infections; Alzheimer's disease was inflicting its cruelties. Unable to care for himself after the scalding, he became a resident of a California nursing home, his health and spirits in rapid decline.

Willie & Joe, the cowboy part 2003



BILL MAULDIN, 1921-2003

He was not forgotten, though. Mauldin, and his work, meant so much to the millions of Americans who fought in World War II, and to those who had waited for them to come home. He was a kid cartoonist for Stars and Stripes, the military newspaper; Mauldin's drawings of his muddy, exhausted, whisker-stubble infantrymen Willie and Joe were the voice of truth about what it was like on the front lines.



Mauldin was an enlisted man just like the soldiers he drew for; his gripes were their gripes, his laughs their laughs, his heartaches their heartaches. He was one of them. They loved him.

He never held back. Sometimes, when his cartoons cut too close for

comfort, superior officers tried to tone him down. In one memorable incident, he enraged Gen. George S. Patton, who informed Mauldin he wanted the pointed cartoons celebrating the fighting men, lampooning the high-ranking officers to stop. Now!



"I need a couple guys what don't owe me no money for a little routine patrol."



"I'm beginning to feel like a fugitive from the 'law of averages."

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The news passed from soldier to soldier. How was Sgt. Bill Mauldin going to stand up to Gen. Patton? It seemed impossible.



"Ordnance? Ah'm havin' trouble with mah shootin' arn."

Not quite. Mauldin, it turned out, had an ardent fan: Five-star Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied forces in Europe. Ike put out the word: Mauldin draws what Mauldin wants. Mauldin won. Patton lost.



"I calls her Florence Nightingale."

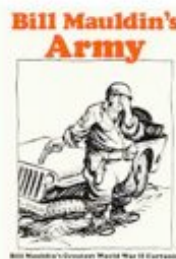
If, in your line of work, you've ever considered yourself a young hotshot, or if you've ever known anyone who has felt that way about him or herself, the story of Mauldin's young manhood will humble you. Here is what, by the time

he was 23 years old, Mauldin accomplished:



"By the way, wot wuz them changes you wuz Gonna make when you took over last month, sir?"

He won the Pulitzer Prize, was featured on the cover of Time magazine. His book "Up Front" was the No. 1 best-seller in the United States.



All of that at 23. Yet, when he returned to civilian life and grew older, he never lost that boyish Mauldin grin, never outgrew his excitement about doing his job, never big-shotted or high-hatted the people with whom he worked every day.



I was lucky enough to be one of them. Mauldin roamed the hallways of the Chicago Sun-Times in the late 1960s and early 1970s with no more officiousness or air of haughtiness than if he was a copy boy. That impish look on his face remained

He had achieved so much. He won a second Pulitzer Prize, and he should have won a third for what may be the single greatest editorial cartoon in the history of the craft: his deadline rendering, on the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, of the statue at the Lincoln Memorial slumped in grief, its head cradled in its hands. But he never acted as if he was better than the people he met. He was still Mauldin, the enlisted man.

Gordon Dillow, a columnist for the Orange County Register, put out the call in Southern California for people in the area to send their best wishes to Mauldin. I joined Dillow in the effort, helping to spread the appeal nationally, so Bill would not feel so alone. Soon, more than 10,000 cards and letters had arrived at Mauldin's bedside.

Better than that, old soldiers began to show up just to sit with Mauldin, to let him know that they were there for him, as he, so long ago, had been there for them. So many volunteered to visit Bill that there was a waiting list. Here is how
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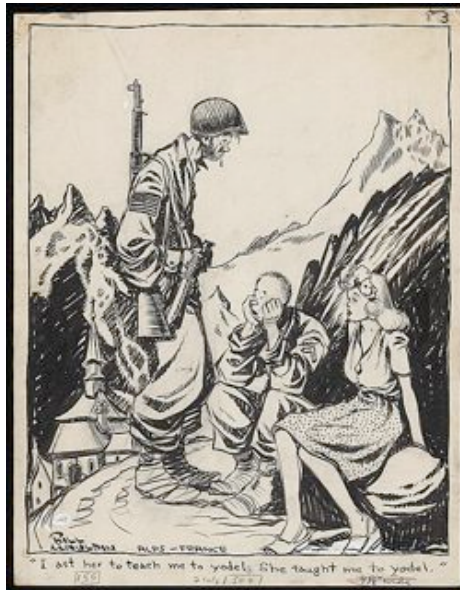
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Todd DePastino, in the first paragraph of his wonderful biography of Mauldin, described it:

"Almost every day in the summer and fall of 2002 they came to Park Superior nursing home in Newport Beach, California, to honor Army Sergeant, Technician Third Grade, Bill Mauldin. They came bearing relics of their youth: medals, insignia, photographs, and carefully folded newspaper clippings. Some wore old garrison caps. Others arrived resplendent in uniforms over a half century old. Almost all of them wept as they filed down the corridor like pilgrims fulfilling some long-neglected obligation."



"This is the ' town my pappy told me about."

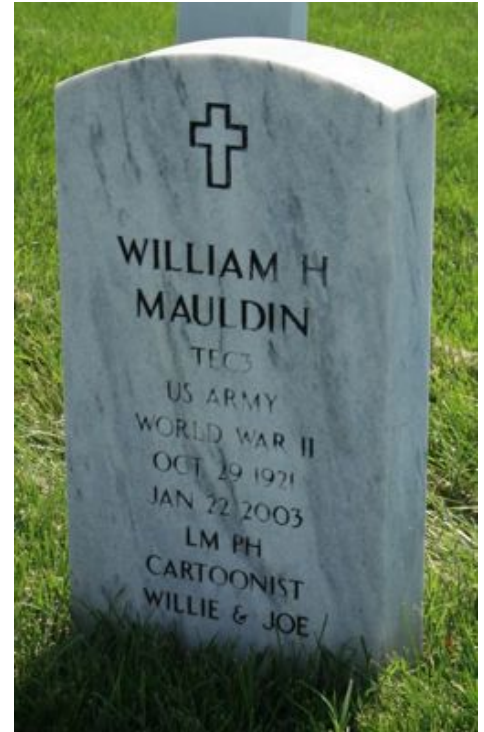


One of the veterans explained to me why it was so important: "You would have to be part of a combat infantry unit to appreciate what moments of relief Bill gave us. You had to be reading a soaking wet Stars and Stripes in a water-filled foxhole and then see one of his cartoons."



"Th' hell this ain't th' most important hole in the world. I'm in it."

Mauldin is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Last month, the kid cartoonist made it onto a first-class postage stamp. It's an honor that most generals and admirals never receive.



What Mauldin would have loved most, I believe, is the sight of the two guys who keep him company on that stamp. Take a look at it. There's Willie. There's Joe.



"Joe, yestiddy ya saved my life an' I swore I'd pay ya back. Here's my last pair of dry socks."

And there to the side, drawing them and smiling that shy, quietly observant smile is Mauldin himself. With his buddies, right where he belongs. Forever.

Contributed by Walter Marczak

USS BRISTOL DD 857 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Great Ship Handling *Contributed by John LeMay*



In Memoriam

Sue S. Lovell, age 83, of Floydada passed away Tuesday, April 19, 2011 in Lubbock. Services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, April 22, 2011 at the Trinity Assembly Church in Floydada with Pastor Henry Russell officiating. Interment will follow at Floyd County Memorial Park under the direction of Moore-Rose Funeral Home of Floydada.

Sue Ann (Stewart) Lovell was born September 19, 1927 in Vincennes, Indiana to Sherman and Helen (Roberts) Stewart.

She married James Lovell in Long Beach, California on March 22, 1946. The couple moved to Floydada in 1960.

Sue received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Texas Technological College in 1968. She also received her Master's Degree in Library Science and her Certification of Educational Diagnostician. Sue taught school for 18 years in Floydada and Motley County. Sue enjoyed genealogy and was a member of the 1950's Study Club and a member of the Trinity Assembly Church in Floydada.

She was preceded in death by her son, Lindsay Lovell on November 5, 2004; both of her parents and her sister, Lulu Alice Artz.

Sue is survived by her husband, James Edward Lovell of Floydada; her son, Thomas James Lovell and wife, Mary of Weatherford; her daughter, Lu Ann Lovell Collins and husband, John Michael of Lubbock; 5 grandchildren, John Steele Collins, James "Jim" Lindsay Collins, Adam Stewart Lovell, Abbye Lynn Lovell and Joshua David Lovell; and one great-grandchild, Ryan Lovell.

Memorials may be made in Sue Lovell's name to:

Floydada Senior Citizens
PO Box 573
Floydada, Texas 79235

In Loving Memory Of
Sue S. Lovell



Officiant

Pastor Henry Russell

Pallbearers

Adam Lovell ~ Jim Collins
John Collins ~ Buster Burns
Dan Nixon ~ O.B. Smith

Interment

Floyd County Memorial Park,
Floydada, Texas

Memorial Guestbook

www.moore-rose.com

TAPS

Raymond W. Scholl, Died 12/4/2011,
48-49