



RUN FOR THE WALL

Quarterly Newsletter

“We Ride For Those Who Can’t”

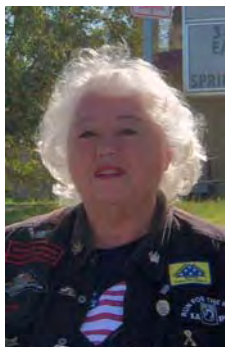
January 2012

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THE EDITOR’S NOTES



I have a friend in England who has been researching WWII veterans for a few years now. Her father served in WWII in Italy, and it prompted her to locate other veterans who had seen action in Italy. She listened to their stories, hoping to gain a deeper understanding of what her father had been through during the war.

Now my friend Ann is writing a book of memories of those veterans, and she has located and interviewed veterans all over England, and in Australia, Canada, South Africa, and New Zealand. She is very disappointed that she has not been able to locate any vets from the U.S.

I have contacted the national VFW and American Legion, but haven’t gotten a response. If you know of any WWII vets who served in Italy, Ann would love to be able to contact them and include them in her book.

Please contact me (judylacey@aol.com) if you know someone who served in Italy, and I will pass the information on to Ann.

Good news to read about this month. Last year a Vietnam veteran, Ron Zalesky, walked across the U.S.—barefooted—to make a change in military policy regarding Agent Orange. Ron spoke at a RFTW lunch at the Camel Rock Casino in Albuquerque last year. In Washington, D.C. he found support from senators for his cause.

Read the article under “Other News.”

In a little more than three months, RFTW 2012 will be on the road. In this issue you’ll find some useful info, although the next issue is the one that will have ALL the info you, and especially FNGs, will need.

Judy “Velcro” Lacey

*Freedom is never free. It is paid for with the blood of the brave.
It is paid for with the tears of their loved ones. It is up to us to
preserve and defend that which they have paid so dearly for.*

► PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Well everyone, the countdown as of now is 97 days before we set out on our 24th year of Run For The Wall.

We have gotten really good at organizing and executing the longest and largest motorcycle run across America. I know that our staging, fueling, road guards, ambassadors, chase crews, chaplains, platoon leaders, and all the leadership volunteers are busy getting ready. They are having meetings and phone conferences with state coordinators, who in turn are organizing thousands of other volunteers for our mission across the United States. Wow. It’s all done by volunteers. I am so proud of this organization and inspired by the riders and the FNGs.



I was thinking about my first years and how far we’ve come. In 2001 it rained for 6 ½ days. The run was about 200 riders in one long, long line. Riders would push their bikes up to the staging area before dawn, sometimes in their undies, to be near the front of the pack. The “rubber band effect” was crazy, 0 to 70 to 0 all day. The road guards, Cookie, JR Franklin, Peaches, Walrus, just to name a few, had to race ahead and guide the bikes in, fuel them up, and park them. Then they would race ahead and do it again at the next stop. We didn’t have fuel crews and staging crew then. We’ve come a long way but we’ve kept the good stuff, like the catfish in Indiana.☺

Everything looks great for another run this year. Your route coordinators are finalizing itineraries and getting ready to submit them to the Board of Directors; soon they will be out for print.

Next year is our 25th year and we are working on some very special things. I had a look at our 25th year coin—they are so nice, but they are top secret for now!! I will let you know when you might see one.

So everyone—get ready. The clock is ticking. Spring will be here soon; get yourself and your bike ready. Don’t forget your local motorcycle safety programs are fun and informative.

Thank You,
Till the Day,

Ross Currie
President 2012
Run For The Wall

► FINANCIAL REPORT

From John "Hardcharger" Barker, RFTW BOD Treasurer

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As of August 31, 2011

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash - Bank of America Checking	\$	67,142.25
Cash – Savings		31,528.88
Inventory		<u>13,859.62</u>
Total Current Assets	\$	<u>112,530.75</u>

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Trailers		21,500
Less Accumulated Depreciation		(21,400.00)
Net Property and Equipment		100.00
Total Assets	\$	<u>112,630.75</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

FUND BALANCE

Unrestricted	\$	112,052.02
Revenue in Excess of Expenses		<u>577.83</u>
Total Fund Balance	\$	<u>112,630.75</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

\$ 112,630.75

RUN FOR THE WALL STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the Twelve Months Ended August 31, 2011

Revenue			%
Merchandise Sales	\$	126,079.58	75.13
Donations		21,117.50	12.58
Registration Fees		20,588.42	12.28
Newsletter		45.00	0.03

Total Revenue	<u>167,810.50</u>	100.00
Expenses		
Program Services – COGS	\$ 69,910.58	41.66
Program Service – Operating	49,854.88	41.66
Management & General	<u>47,491.85</u>	29.71
Total Expenses	<u>167,257.29</u>	99.67
Other Income (Expense)		
Interest Income	<u>24.62</u>	(0.29)
Total Other Income (Expense)	<u>24.62</u>	0.29
Revenue in Excess of Expenses	\$ <u>577.83</u>	6.72

**RUN FOR THE WALL
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
PROGRAM SERVICES – COST OF GOODS SOLD
For the Twelve Months Ended August 31, 2011**

Expenses		
Purchases	\$ <u>69,910.56</u>	
Total Expenses	\$ <u>69,910.56</u>	

**RUN FOR THE WALL
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
PROGRAM SERVICES – OPERATING EXPENSES
For the Twelve Months Ended August 31, 2011**

Expenses		
Advertising	\$ 218.72	
Business Promotions	9,149.92	
Donations	14,434.07	
Supplies	9,606.36	
Route Coordinator	6,550.00	
Printing & Reproduction	2,981.70	
Professional Fees	527.75	
Repairs & Maintenance	4,393.87	
Telephone	1,992.49	
Total Expenses	\$ <u>49,854.88</u>	

**RUN FOR THE WALL
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
PROGRAM SERVICES – MANAGEMENT & GENERAL
For the Twelve Months Ended August 31, 2011**

Expenses		
Bank Charges	\$	282.45
Depreciation		2,950.00
Dues & Subscriptions		26.46
Equipment Rental		500.00
Insurance - General		9,981.00
Meals & Entertainment		61.87
Office Supplies		842.38
Postage		3,627.31
Training & Education		260.00
Travel		21,290.85
Truck & Auto Expense		6,960.53
Web Services		709.00
Total Expenses		<u>\$47,491.85m...m</u>

► **RFTW 2012 NEWS**

RFTW SPONSORING MARINES

By John “Hardcharger” Barker

Not long ago, a young Marine, who happens to be a RFTW rider, asked if RFTW would sponsor his Marine Corp unit that was about to be shipped off to Afghanistan. His request was passed to the Board of Directors for RFTW and the vote was a solid yes. So the BOD appointed a member to make it happen. Well, he was informed that there were going to be 50 Marines in the unit, that they should all receive a package each month, and the BOD came up with a coin for the commanding officer to hand out as he saw fit to these Marines. They are to be deployed in February.

The coins have been made and are ready for shipping. Then the word was put out on the RFTW forum for volunteers to step up to put the packages together. The response was overwhelming—soon there were 50 volunteers. RFTW had set up a system to pay for all of the shipping costs. Then just recently the liaison Director found out that the number of Marines had been cut back due to our President cutting back on the amount of troops being sent to Afghanistan. So now we had 50 volunteers and only 36 Marine. So the director sent out the word that he wanted to know if anyone would step up and pay for the shipping on their own. The volunteers again responded fast and within one day, 15 volunteers had stepped up. Now what this means is that not only will RFTW thru its 36 volunteers send packages , but another 15 will be sent to those troops at the bottom of the rank structure at the senders expense. Now that is awesome, however it got better, it seems that the nice ladies of the Blue Star Mothers in LA were also on the list, they immediately sent an email that they would also, at their own expense send all 50 Marines packages and cards. So now 36 Marines will get double

packages and at least 15 will get three each month for the six months that they are deployed. The generosity of our riders and friends never disappoints. The Board of Directors wants to thank all that have stepped up. RFTW donates every year to several Veterans organizations, this is but one that will go directly to the troops on the front line. Semper Fi

CENTRAL ROUTE LEADERSHIP:

Just to let you know about what is going on during the planning stage of the Central Route, Harlan Olson, and the Staging Platoon will be having a series of meetings to discuss each stop and to plan for the proper set up to best move the bikes. Those meeting will also include the Road Guards whose input is vital for the proper ways to get into and out of the various staging areas, fuel stops and lunch stops. As always, the Road guards have the ultimate say when we are moving the Pack. Do what they say, smile and everyone will get along just fine. Remember, their job is to get us to Wash. D.C. safely, and soundly. Bob Hatcher, Fuel Team Leader is also planning each gas stop to optimize fueling for the Pack. Duane Maxey, our Senior Chaplain is getting his crew together, so if you need to talk, or maybe need help with a prayer, they are there for you. Tom Pogue, Missing Man coordinator, is preparing his list of who will ride in each leg of our trip across this great land. Chase trucks are getting ready, and I am putting out the word that we may be short a driver, if you know of anyone interested, have them contact Jim Sloan "Sweeper" at 909-262-4989, sloan.ron@gmail.com. Jim is also filling the role of Last Man Vehicle and chase truck crew leader.

- Central Route Coordinator, Dave "Trunks" Gladwill, 209-329-9367, gladwills@sbcglobal.net
- Assistant Route Coordinator Stan "Ironfish" Handley, 509-685-9395, shandley@hughes.net
- Road Guard Capt Roger "Grizz" Ingram, 573-470-4994, rlisdi@sbcglobal.net
- Asst' Road Guard Capt. Jim "JJ" Jones, 303-249-9304, jim-jones@comcast.net
- Chaplain; Duane "Roadthing" Maxey, 304-638-5521, bfcmaxey@gmail.com
- Staging Crew Leader' Harlan"WhiteBirch" Olson, 303-717-4514, holson@oldspooksandspies.org
- Fuel Crew Leader" Bob "Tripwire" Hatcher, 951-264-7784, usmccapgrunt@sbcglobal.net
- Missing Man Coordinator: Tom "Bones" Poque, 970-227-5261, tomwpoque@comcast.net
- Platoon Coordinator: Kevin Riley, 561-339-8761, gruntmm@gmail.com
- Registration: Candy Negrete, 925-890-3478, cpnegrete@yahoo.com
- Finance Coordinator: Dick "Hardtack" Dahl, 970-290-5146, pddahl0873@aol.com
- Ambassador Leader, Harry "Attitude" Steelman, 949-493-4327, rftwattitude@gmail.com
- Chase 1, Ron "Capn Ron" Covey, 951-312-6666, roncov@tstonramp.com
- Chase 2, Cliff "Stoney" Crossten, 618-570-8692, stoney.trust.jesus@gmail.com
- Special Advisor, Bill "Rocket" Rager, 505-917-2021, bill4241@msn.com
- Reserve Platoon Leader, Nace "Nacho" Benveniste, 310-961-1697
- Reserve Platoon Leader, Daniel "Wrong Way" Lopresto, 310-345-4319, dlopresto@raytheon.com

The platoons have not as yet been issued numbers except 7th and 8th, bikes with trailers and trikes, trike with trailers.

- Terri "Grumpy" Slider, bikes with trailers, 7th platoon, grumpy1129@gmail.com, 623-393-0830
- Cliff "Recon" Garcia trikes, 8th platoon, cgarcia@dbneoc.com, 505-280-5456

Platoon Leaders, not yet assigned numbers:

Mike "Tanker" McDole, rftwtanker@gmail.com, 281-785-3702

Mike "Speedo" Taylor, happy3dad@comcast.net, 425-785-5862

Jim Hickey, h71trkginc@verizon.net, 909-228-4172

Eamon Tansey, ekt1916@aol.com, 310-350-4785

Ed "Big Ed" Hocking, biged@wavetable.com, 916-769-8482
Tom "Kid" Schultz, tntsch01@hotmail.com, 724-840-0151

SOUTHERN ROUTE LEADERSHIP:

- RC - Laurie Clay - Airborne, 540-330-8399, rftwsrac2012@hotmail.com
- Mentor - Greg Smith - Pied Piper, 512-694-3335, piedpiperrftw@gmail.com
- Ambassador - Ray McDowell - Too Tall, 432-413-6666, rayequip@aol.com
- Platoon Leader/APL/TG POC - John Barker - Hardcharger, 541-450-2894, hardchargerrftw@gmail.com
- Road Guard Captain - Dwayne Guidry - Cajun, 337-344-9415, djguidry48@cox.net
- Adv Team Ldr - David Hampton - Wahoo, 918-441-3935, lewi5445@hotmail.com
- Adv Tm Fuel - JR Grubb - Squeekie, 276-620-2855, bootsietmg@yahoo.com
- Adv Tm Staging - Robert Fernandez - Ref, 469-235-7255, ref.ump@verizon.net
- Adv Tm Chase Driver - Wayne Edwards - 806-679-1500, wedwards7@att.net
- Merchandise Team Coordinator - Carol Olmstead, 805-368-7586, carollolmstead@ymail.com
- Asst. Merchandise Tm - Michelle Phelan - Stonewall, 318-218-2621, coffeegirl@hughes.net
- Registration Team - Shirley Scott - Top Sarge, 805-443-4373, angelluvers@att.net
- Public Infor Coordinator - Kay McDowell - Too Small, 434-413-7678, kaymc1234@aol.com
- Missing Man Coordinator - Della Morris - Pockets, 623-512-5450, pocket2004@gmail.com
- Honor Guard Coordinator - Dan Smith - Okie Dan, 541-619-3899, danandvaletta@aol.com
- Chase Team Ldr - Wes Alvarez - Hailstone, 850-322-5740, 1Cor1231@mfvtoday.com
- Senior Chaplain - Gary Burd - Shephard, 806-670-9669, gburd@arn.net
- Route/FNG Photographer - Cheryl Norman - Raven, 830-688-6326, 2cnormans@gmail.com
- 4Wheeler Coordinator - Steve Hill - Hawgwash, 480-688-2343, hawgwash@bigplanet.com
- 50-50 - Lynn Fouraker - First Nav, ferretfarm56@yahoo.com
- Camping Coordinator - Tom Cameron - Sidewalk, 619-507-1714, tomcameron@cox.net

If you have questions about these positions, please contact the lead for these positions - John Barker - Hardcharger - 541-450-2894, jndbarker@g.com.

Platoon Leaders, Asst Platoon Leaders and Tailgunners:

Plt 1 - Phil Sloan - First Gear
Asst - Dennis Joynt - Casper
TG - Monica Sloan - Hugs
Plt 2 - Jennifer Connors - Flame
Asst - Claude Norman - Sapper TG - Jerry Delaughter - Bandid
TG - Allen James - Slick
Plt 3 - John Barker - Hardcharger
Asst - Gina Oliver - Sparky
TG - Jerry Delaughter - Wahoo1Feather
TG - Spence Chapin - Ride Plt
4 - J.C. White - JC
Asst - Vic Killion - Big Vic
TG - Pat Devin - Irish
TG - Walt Thrasher - Skyman
Plt 5 - Lisa Russell - Chrome
Asst - Jim Humphrey - Hump
TG - Dave Debarge - Spyder
TG - Lenny Hodson
Plt 6 - James Gibbs - Tin Man
Asst - Jayce Elliston

TG - Dennis Freie - Okie D
TG - Brian Floyd - Bald Eagle
Plt 7 - Rick McDowell - Hawk
Asst - Brian Brehm - Deer Slayer
TG - Eldon Jackson
TG - Hellen Skibike - Scubapiggy
Plt 8 - Lois Ashby Asst - Vickie Meyer
TG - Ken Brown - Papa
TG - Pam Dier
Plt 9 - Ken Jones - Casper
Asst - Frank Hidlebaugh - Wide Load
TG - Wane Conques
TG - Jere Bice - Le Chaffeur

State Coordinators are listed on the website. Please contact them if you feel you can provide some assistance—maybe donations of merchandise or funds or possibly assisting with a route recon, etc.

RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY

A Run to RNC will take place on Tuesday morning, May 15th from the host hotel area in Rancho Cucamonga. Rider's meeting at 0900, and KSU at 0930 for the half hour ride. Details to follow in the April newsletter and on the RFTW forums.

The RNC Run was the brainchild of former California Coordinator Mil Thornton to introduce riders to the National Cemetery, and to his good friend the late Colonel Lewis Lee Millett, Sr., Medal of Honor recipient and veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. In later years, the Colonel was joined by MoH recipients Richard Pittman and John Baca.

Riverside National cemetery is home of the Medal of Honor Memorial and one of four sites recognized as a National Medal of Honor Memorial Site. Its walls feature the names of all MoH recipients. (You'll be amazed by the number of individuals who received multiple awards!) It was dedicated in 1999. The Fallen Soldier/Veterans' Memorial, erected in 2000, is dedicated to all service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The Prisoner of War/Missing in Action National Memorial was dedicated in September 2005. Vietnam veteran Lewis Lee Millett, Jr. sculpted the bronze statue which depicts an American serviceman on his knees with hands bound by his captors. The statue is surrounded by black marble pillars that evoke imprisonment. In past years, Lee Millett has also been available to describe his sculpture to our riders.

“Welcome Home” to many of you... “Welcome back” to those we’ve met before... and to our FNGs:
“Welcome to your new family!”

Jim “The Mayor” Frost

CENTRAL ROUTE FUEL:

The Central Route will no longer have dedicated gas pumps for charge cards. We will no longer provide for credit card access to the gas pumps to both speed the fueling process, and make it easier on the gas crew. Riders who must use credit cards will need to wait for the pumps to become available, or seek out other nearby stations.

Also, please put up all hiway pegs as you enter the station.

David "Trunks" Gladwill

HOTEL INFORMATION

Availability for May 18th on Central Route

Eagle Nest:

- Mountain Dawn Lodge: 575-595-4860

Red River:

- Best Western Rivers Edge (Red River): 575-754-1766

Cimarron:

- St. James Hotel: 575-376-2664
- Canyon Inn: 575-363-2336
- Cimarron Inn: 575-376-2268
 - o The Parish Hall is providing free spaghetti dinner on Friday night
 - o The Chamber of Commerce is providing free breakfast on Saturday morning.

Availability for May 24 Lewisburg, WV, Central Route

Info from "Roadthing"

All of the listed hotels for Lewisburg, WV for RFTW 2012 on Thursday, May 24 are booked. The usual hotels that have been used for overflow have recently closed. In addition, two of the three hotels in White Sulphur Springs (next interstate exit past Lewisburg) are closed. The other hotel is booked according to what I was told. If riders have not made Lewisburg reservations, here are the following options:

General Lewis Inn 301 East Washington St. Lewisburg, WV 24901 800-628-4454 www.generallewisinn.com --

NOTE: This is an excellent inn located in downtown Lewisburg at the same exit as our Friday morning staging area about 10-15 minutes south of our staging area (about halfway between our staging area and the overnight camping at the State Fairground). This is a very nice inn and the rooms are a little more expensive ranging from \$115 - \$155 per night.

The Greenbrier 300 W. Main Street, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986 855-453-4848 www.greenbrier.com --

NOTE: Without a doubt, The Greenbrier, America's Resort, is in a class by itself. This is an excellent opportunity for any rider who has always wanted to do so to stay at The Greenbrier. However, the standard room rate is \$364 per night. The Greenbrier is located at the next I-64 exit east of Lewisburg and is about 25 minutes from our Friday morning staging area.

Relax Inn 635 North Jefferson Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901 304-645-2345 -- NOTE: Very poor reviews. They are charging \$120 per room for the night we're there and the normal charge for that room is \$65 per night. I DO NOT recommend this hotel, but it is an option. This hotel is at the same exit as our Friday morning staging area about 5-10 minutes north of our staging area.

SOUTHERN ROUTE HOTELS IN TOLLESON, AZ

The Host Hotel **Premier Inn** is sold out.

The 2nd alternative:

Victory Inn (*has rooms available*)

1520 N. 84th Dr.

Tolleson, AZ 85353

623-936-4667 "Ask for Candi

www.avictoryhotels.com

Rate \$49.99 + 13.27% tax

Approx:

37 Rooms Non-Smoking (20 of which are double queen)

27 Rooms Smoking (27 are double queen)

Thanks to BankerChuck for the above info.

CAUTION USING EXPEDIA.COM

It's come to the attention of RFTW that some people booking hotel rooms for Angel Fire and Eagle Nest have been charged rates much higher than RFTW received. One hotel learned that they were charging \$300 a night instead of \$109; other hotels in the area were experiencing the same problem. Further, Expedia.com was booking rooms at one hotel at \$300 even though the hotel was full.

Please be careful when booking hotels. RFTW has several hotels at each overnight city that give a discount off their regular rate. In the past there have been problems with a few motels charging higher than the RFTW rate, and even higher than their own regular rate, but they are gradually being weeded out. When you call, first ask their regular rate, then ask what the RFTW rate is. Remember that hotels block only a certain number of rooms for RFTW; when they fill up, you'll have to pay the regular rates.

This problem probably extends across the country with online hotel booking. It would be wise to do your homework as far as the going rates, whether on RFTW or your personal travel. You often can get a better rate when you call the hotel/motel directly. And you won't have to worry about the online travel company overbooking when the hotel is full.

EVENING PARADE AT MARINE BARRACKS

Evening Parade, Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets, Friday, May 25, 7:15 p.m. (1915)—Marine Band, Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, Marine Silent Drill Team. Specific times still being finalized, but Doug Lyvere has tickets for the event. There will be a flyer and info at all registration locations starting with Rancho Cucamonga along with a signup sheet. Tickets will be distributed at the Host Hotel in DC (Arlington). Email Doug with any additional questions: Doug@Lyvere.com.

The tickets always go fast. To request tickets for the Evening Parade, send Doug an email with the first and last names of each attendee. He will respond with a very short email acknowledging receipt.

The tentative plan is for the groups to ride over individually to the parking area on the corner from 8th and I. If riders go over individually or by cage, they still need to come to that parking area to be met by their Marine escort (the parking area is ONLY for motorcycles). We will leave from the hotel at 6:30 (1830).

[Tour of the Commandant of the Marine Corps House](#)

CMC House is about 200 years old and has been the home of almost all Marine Commandants. It has 15,000 sq feet of history and everyone who has visited it has been pleased. For more info, please "Google" it. We have a limited number of invitations (50) for the tour, so it will be first-come, first-served. The CMC House is at the end of the parade deck at Marine Barracks where the Evening Parade is held. The tour will be prior to the Evening Parade on the 25th. At this time I'm not sure of the time, but it should be approximately 1800. For the tour I only need numbers, not names, and please respond in an email separately from the Evening Parade tickets.

ALSO, if interested, save the date of Monday, May 28. That day is the National Memorial Day Parade in DC, and an application has been submitted for RFTW to participate IN the Parade. Details will be posted later, including number of spaces available. If you're interested in riding in this parade, please consider flying your state flag and organizational flag to show our "diversity." Remember please, at this point, it's not definite. Please do not send questions at this point. I have NO OTHER info about the parade, yet.

Doug Lyvere
SgtMaj, Marine, Ret.
415-309-2510

► OUR STORIES

A GHOST RETURNS FROM WAR

The Story Behind The 2nd Annual Roy Daniel Bailey Memorial Run

John Nanney's stepfather was a combat soldier in WWII. Nanney tells the following story about the man to whom he has dedicated the second annual ride to the Iwo Jima commemoration in Sacaton, AZ.

Four or five years ago while I was on a PGR mission I was introduced to two very dynamic individuals, Robert and Josie Delsi, people I have been honored to now call friends. Robert, a Native American, was honoring many combat veterans with Native American Warrior feather/bead emblems. I felt compelled to tell Robert about my stepfather.

My step-father, Roy Daniel Bailey, was a strategic part of my young years of life. He was a combat soldier during WWII, serving as a Private with the 71st Div., 5th Regiment, Company E.

He was at the very tip of the spear headed straight into Germany out of Nancy, France during the winter of 1945. At one point his unit was ambushed and at the end of the fierce fight he was the only survivor of his unit. He was listed as missing in action and presumed dead. His parents were notified, and until the day he returned home, they thought he was dead. His father in fact thought he was a ghost when he first saw him.

Dad had found his way back to his unit and continued fighting until on February 14th just after crossing the Rhine River. He was wounded and taken out of combat. He had earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart in less than 14 days of non-stop forward advancing combat. A true hero.

As a Native American, when he reached Seattle, Washington and final discharge, the officers there (who most likely were jealous in the fact that this "Scum Native" had been so brave), discharged him without his medals,

awards, and proper recognition. This injustice went unchallenged, quite frankly because Dad was a Tlingits Indian, a descendent of a deeply proud people. He simply walked away, not needing “their” recognition.

On March 3, 1999 the United States apologized to him personally in front of thousands of active duty military in Anchorage, Alaska. It was a proud moment in his life as they finally pinned all the medals on his lapel. Yes, his lapel, because he still refused to put on the uniform even when offered.

Robert and Josie both then told me about the Iwo Jima event. I got them in contact with my parents and they invited them personally, Native to Native, Brother to Brother. Much like Vietnam Veterans who finally found a moment of reconciliation among brothers on the yearly Run For The Wall, my dad came alive after his first Iwo Jima Memorial Run! He met native tribes from across this great Nation. He heard their stories, he felt the brotherhood, and he felt welcome . . . and it felt good! And from that day forward he finally, after 64 or 65 years, found peace in his heart, and was proud of his service, and proud that he had served his country. He started talking about his time in action even though it was very painful, and through time it helped him heal.

Making the “Run” from Sitka, Alaska to Arizona became a tradition for him because he finally found his connection and pride for his service.

My dad made two additional runs from Sitka Alaska to AZ. As Mom said in 2009, “Well I just have to know that from now on every year we will be going to the Iwo Jima Memorial.” Essentially Mom knew she would be spending her birthday EVERY YEAR in Arizona—simply because she loved and respected her husband and she knew how much this whole experience meant to him. So in her mind, it was not even something to debate, they were going!

Last year as we prepared for our trip, my Dad lay sick with Stage 4 cancer. The weekend of the event in Arizona, as tribes from around the nation gathered to honor and remember warriors, in a quiet little town in Southeast Alaska, we laid Roy Daniel Bailey to eternal rest in the Sitka National Cemetery. He received full military honors. The American Legion Post 13 provided full Colors, a full Bagpipe Drum Corp from Seattle, Washington played Amazing Grace, the Coast Guard provided a gun salute, and a lone Tlinget Indian on a snow-covered hill to our north played taps—all in true dignity and honor for a fallen Tlingit Warrior.

Roy’s SoCal friends did not wavier. The ride from California to Arizona went forward, the men and women that had joined Nettie and I, and Dad and Mom in years past, rode. They rode in honor of Roy Daniel Bailey—the first memorial ride was born and we wept in his honor.

To know and be raised by Roy was an honor to tell his story and understand the depth of his life is life changing. He made me who I am and he changed the lives of more people then could be counted. A man that had more reasons to fail who instead built an incredible and giving life.

So, in honor of Roy Daniel Bailey—my mentor, my friend, we ride.

(Editor’s note: Roy Bailey’s wife, Doris, wrote his biography, “A Divided Forest.” It is still in print and available.)

“MINI-REUNION” IN RANCHO

On January 21 about 80 RFTW oldsters and FNGs met for a pre-run reunion at BJ’s, next to the Hilton Garden Inn. Thanks to Papa Mike for setting it up and MC-ing. Also, thanks to BJ’s for treating us so good—they had a great pizza and salad buffet just for our group.

It was nice seeing so many familiar faces from both Southern and Central Routes, and meeting a lot of FNGs.



► OTHER STORIES

RECKLESS THE WAR HORSE

The recoilless rifle was introduced in World War II. An antitank weapon, it could be carried by three or four men and project a 75-mm. shell several thousand yards with precision. One drawback of the weapon was its terrific back blast, which made it impossible to conceal its firing position. This allowed for a quick counterbattery fire by the enemy. Rounds for the recoilless rifle weighed 24 pounds each. A Marine ammunition carrier could usually carry three to four rounds.



Reckless with a recoilless rifle

Reckless, a small Mongolian mare, was recruited into the Marine Corps in October of 1952 by Lieutenant Eric Pedersen. Pedersen was the commanding officer of the Recoilless Rifle Platoon, Antitank Company, Fifth Marine Regiment.

With the threat from the enemy as well as the long distance the ammunition carriers had to take their precious cargo, Lt Pedersen recognized the value of having a horse to help carry ammunition for his platoon's recoilless rifles.

After receiving permission from regimental commander Colonel Eustace P. Smoak, Pedersen and two other Marines set off for the Seoul racetrack. It was there that Pedersen first laid his eyes on the little red racehorse that would later distinguish herself in battle and become a decorated combat veteran.

Lt Pedersen used his own \$250 to buy Reckless from a young Korean. Though the Korean loved the horse very much, he was desperate for some money to buy his wounded sister an artificial leg. So he sold his beloved "Flame" to the Marines. (The horse's Korean name Ah-Chim-Hai translated to "Flame of the Morning.")

The three Marines drove back to camp with Flame riding in a jeep trailer. Even though it was dark when the foursome arrived at the camp near Changdan, members of the RR Pit. gathered to meet the new recruit. That night she became "Reckless," after the reckless rifle nickname Marines had given the weapon. Lt Pedersen chose Private First Class Monroe Coleman to take care of her and to be her companion. Pedersen then gave Platoon Sergeant Joseph Latham the responsibility of putting her through boot or rather hoof camp. Both Marines as well as their platoon commander had prior experience with horses.



Reckless and Joe Latham

Her antics, and her insatiable appetite for such surprising tidbits as poker chips, coca cola, shredded wheat, scrambled eggs, vitamin pills, a hat or two, and her specially made blanket of red silk trimmed with gold, brought welcome amusement and relief amid the strains of combat.

Her first real test under battle conditions comes when she is led beside the thunderous rifle to which she has packed ammunition

over rugged hilly terrain. There were some who doubted that a horse could withstand the tremendous blast of the Recoilless Rifle and remain calm. Will she hold? Will she bolt? The gun is fired:

Wham-whoosh! The hills bellowed and rocketed with the roar. Behind the weapon spurted a flame of dust. Though weighted down with six shells, *Reckless* left the ground with all four feet ... her eyes went white. 'Take it easy, *Reckless*,' Coleman, a Marine, soothed. *Wham-whoosh!* *Reckless* went into the air again, but not quite so far. She snorted and shook her head to stop the ringing in her ears. *Wham-whoosh!* She shook as the concussive blast of air struck her, but she did not rear. She stood closer to Coleman, trembling slightly, but the white was gone from her eyes."

She had held, and from that day *Reckless* was an indispensable member of the gun crew, making trip after trip, often alone, from the ammunition supply point to the gun, laden with heavy shells under the most devastating enemy fire, never faltering, never failing.

The horse was trained to step over communication lines, ignore battle sounds and get down when incoming fire arrived. The little Mongolian mare weighed only 900 pounds and was used to transport ammunition for the company. She ended up providing much more than that when she transported injured soldiers back to base camp and provided cover for soldiers during battle. And amazingly, she did this all on her own.

In one particularly bloody battle — Outpost Vegas in March, 1953 — Reckless made 51 trips up steep hills and through rice paddies carrying ammo and saving soldiers. She carried over 9,000 pounds of ammunition that day and covered more than 35 miles. Artillery was exploding at the rate of over 500 rounds per minute. This battle took place mostly at night so Reckless was given the nickname of “Nightmare,” affectionately intended.

She was injured twice in this battle; once in her left flank, and once above an eye. Her ears were also hurt from barbed wire, but the injury was not a serious one. She was awarded two purple hearts for her troubles. Reckless fought so bravely, she was officially promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps while in Korea.

So completely did *Reckless* capture the hearts of her Marine comrades with her beguiling shenanigans and her fearlessness, that they presented her with a special citation for bravery, promoted her to the rank of sergeant, and personally paid her way to the United States where, having been promoted to Staff Sergeant, she enjoyed well-earned retirement pastured in the rolling hills of Camp Pendleton, in California.

“Because she was a war horse from Korea, and carried ammo across no man’s land to the troops on the front line, when she returned to the States there were written orders that nothing would ever be placed on her back other than her blankets, I remember asking how I was to exercise her if I could not get on her; that’s when I learned that I was to run alongside until she got tired and wanted to go back to the stall. Lucky for me she knew the word oats and I could usually get her to cut her runs short.

“I remember that when she retired as a S/Sgt, I was not permitted to lead her in the parade because she out-ranked me and I could not give her orders, so they found a ranking NCO for that duty.” Cpl (E-4) Jesse J. Winters, USMC 1958/1962

Watch a video about Reckless: http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=YIo3ZfA9da0

This is strong medicine. It brings home just some of the unimaginable sacrifices that have been made since the birth of our nation to keep us free and to preserve the America that we all grew up in and love so much

BOSNIANS TENDED GRAVE FOR 67 YEARS

By Judy Lacey

Staff Sgt. Meceslaus T. Miaskiewicz served with the 347th Bombardment Squadron, 99th Bombardment Group, in World War II. On May 18, 1944, the B-17, on which he served as engineer, crashed in the part of Yugoslavia known today as Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Shortly after the war ended, the American Graves Registration Service recovered remains believed to be Miaskiewicz, and he was interred in a group burial with one other crew member in Farmingdale, N.Y. In 2011, it was discovered that Miaskiewicz’s remains had not been recovered in 1944. In fact, he had been buried by the villagers of Stubica, a small village near the crash site, immediately after the crash. The villagers carefully wrapped Miaskiewicz’s body in his parachute and buried him on a hillside outside the village. Those same villagers tended the grave of this mysterious American soldier for 67 years until authorities notified the American government in 2011. The Armed Forces Regional Medical Examiner’s Office for Europe used dental analysis and mitochondrial DNA — which matched that of Miaskiewicz’s sisters in the identification of his remains. (This technology had not been available in 1944.) After notifying Miaskiewicz’s family of the



discovery of his remains, he was returned home and buried with full military honors on Nov. 12, in his hometown of Salem, Mass.

► VA NEWS

VA OFFERS NEW MEDALLION FOR HEADSTONE

The Department of Veterans Affairs is now providing a medallion, by request, to be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a Veteran. This new product can replace the traditional Government headstone or marker for those Veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches and 1½ inches. Each medallion is inscribed with "VETERAN" across the top and the branch of service at the bottom.



Once a claim for a medallion is received, approved and processed, VA will mail the medallion along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the device to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum, or columbarium niche cover.

This benefit is only applicable if the grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. In these instances, eligible Veterans are entitled to either a traditional Government-provided headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both.

For family members of eligible Veterans interested in submitting a claim for the new medallion, instructions on how to apply for a medallion will be updated on NCA's website, <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmtype.asp>. Until a new form specifically for ordering the medallion is available, use VA Form 40-1330—Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker. Fill the form out completely with the exception of blocks 11 (Type of Headstone or Marker Requested) and 27 (Remarks). Leave block 11 blank. In block 27 put the word Medallion followed by the size requested. For example; use "Medallion 5 inch" to request a 5 inch medallion.

PTSD SETTLEMENT

In December The VA announced that 2,100 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who were medically discharged between 2003 and 2008 with PTSD will receive lifetime health care and post exchange privileges. A federal judge approved the settlement in the class action lawsuit *Sabo v. United States*. The affected vets had been discharged with disability ratings that were too low to receive such benefits.

Those veterans also will be eligible to apply for Combat-Related Special Compensation (which may increase the veteran's monthly disability payments further); lifetime military healthcare (TriCare) for his or her spouse, as well as their children until at least age 18; lifetime commissary and military post exchange privileges; to purchase life insurance coverage through the Survivor Benefit Plan; and reimbursement for expenses paid for

the medical treatment of the veteran, the veteran's spouse, and the veteran's minor children, from the date of the veteran's separation from military service.

The military also agreed to increase the PTSD disability rating of another 1,066 OIF/OEF veterans. These veterans were given disability retirement benefits upon discharge, but were wrongfully denied a 50% disability rating for PTSD.

It's sad that it takes a lawsuit to force the VA to give benefits to vets who deserve them. What I wonder is when will the thousands of vets from Vietnam, Korea, and all the wars before 2002 get the benefits they deserve? We have so many vets suffering from PTSD who are unable to get the help they need.

▶ **OTHER NEWS**

FAKE VET GETS PRISON

Although enforcement of the "Stolen Valor Act" is suspended pending Supreme Court review, a Pennsylvania court may charge a man with perjury for telling the court he was a Marine.

On November 5, Matthew A. Williamson, 20, of Easton, PA admitted that he lied in court when he said he was a Marine who had gone to Iraq. He claimed he had "pre-enlisted" at 17 and spent 18 months in Iraq. He also claimed he suffered from PTSD.

Williamson had been arrested for forgery and theft. The judge gave him a local prison sentence that allowed him to be released—but revoked it when Williamson admitted he had lied, and sent him to state prison. The court also forwarded the perjury allegation to the district attorney's office.

Northampton County Judge Paula Roscioli noted that the charges Williamson was in front of her for were minor and usually wouldn't have captured much notice. By claiming he was a suffering war veteran, "you through your comments made it newsworthy," Roscioli told Williamson.

BAREFOOT WALKER REACHES HIS GOAL FOR VETERANS

By Judy Lacey, for AZ Independent

A veteran's barefoot walk across America was worth it. Ron Zalesky has found a Congressperson who agrees with his vision for veterans.

In February of this year, you may have read my story about a Vietnam-era veteran who was walking across the U.S.—barefooted. I met Ron Zalesky one day while I was driving to Oatman. He was walking along the deserted road wearing a sandwich board that said "18 veterans commit suicide every day." I turned around and stopped to talk to him, learning that he was walking across America to raise awareness of the need to provide counseling to all veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Zalesky called me yesterday morning with the good news: Congress is listening to him. A bill will be introduced in the near future to implement mandatory PTSD counseling.

Zalesky has his own problems as a result of his service. He served during the Vietnam War 1970-72. He was called up to go to Vietnam, but his orders were changed. Years later he ran into one of the men in his platoon, who was limping. When he asked what happened, his buddy told him when they got to Vietnam the platoon was ambushed and every man was shot; two were killed.

After years of having no direction in his life, Zalesky finally realized that the only thing that would put his life in order was to do something to help our current soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), anger, depression, and the inability to adjust back into civilian life. He would need a plan. He developed a three-point plan, and in 2006 he formed a non-profit called “The Long Walk Home.” He decided he must convince Congress to provide three things for veterans: (1) grief counseling as part of boot camp; (2) civilian re-entry group counseling prior to discharge; and (3) a 12-step support group programs for discharged vets.

“We have to make counseling mandatory for veterans before they are discharged,” Zaleski said in a previous interview. “As it is now, few veterans are willing to ask for help because of the stigma of having had counseling. They are turned down for federal jobs—and other jobs as well—when employers learn they had counseling. They’re afraid they’ll have a loose cannon on their hands.”

“We have to make counseling mandatory, so that the stigma is removed,” Zaleski said. “If ALL veterans have to have counseling, then it can’t be held against them.”

On his walk across America last year, he stopped to talk to every organization that would listen to him: we must do more to help our veterans returning from war. And he asked people to sign his petition to the Department of Veteran Affairs, asking them to implement his three-point plan.

Zalesky began his walk June 1, 2010 in Concord, Massachusetts, and reached Santa Monica, California on March 19, 2011. From there he planned to drive to each state capitol on his way back east, planning to arrive at the U.S. capitol in November. But he had to cut his trip short when he ran out of funds. At the same time his mother took ill and he had to return to Florida to care for her. Thereafter he flew out to speaking engagements to continue spreading the word on his three-point plan.

In November he sought advice on how best to proceed, and was told to go to the House of Representatives and walk from office to office, giving every Representative a copy of his three-point plan.

On his rounds he met Grace Napolitano, U.S. Representative for California’s 38th congressional district. Napolitano was instantly intrigued with Zalesky’s plan, recognizing it as something that needed to be done for veterans. Her staff introduced him to about 20 Congressmen and helped him to gather support for a potential bill.

Zalesky returned home and on November 28th he got a call from Congressman Phil Roe, U.S. Representative of Tennessee’s. 1st Congressional District, who invited him to a meeting of the Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health on December 2nd.

Having spent most of his savings on his mission across the U.S., Zalesky didn’t know how he could possibly purchase a last-minute plane ticket and rent a hotel room in D.C. He called an airline pilot friend who had promised to help him however he could; the friend gave him a “buddy pass” to fly to D.C. free. Then he called a friend in Homeland Security who had once told him if he ever needed help to call him. The friend invited him to stay at his home in D.C. He was ready to go.

At the subcommittee meeting, Zalesky gave Napolitano the 20,000 signatures on the petition. She proved to be a staunch ally. In January she will start writing the bill implementing Zalesky’s three-point plan.

Not content to sit back now that his plan is in motion, Zalesky is already working on his next project. He used to own a gym, and plans to turn a building he still owns near his hometown of Flanders, Long Island, NY into a gym for veterans. He hopes to also provide support groups and free programs to veterans.

“We all make an impact,” Zalesky told me. ”We just don’t always see it.”

ADDITIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

DD FORM 214 -- Extra Social Security Benefit for those with active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001 (UNCLASSIFIED) See the web site & notes below to possibly increase your Social Security Benefits.

DD FORM 214 -- Social Security Benefit Please share this with anyone who had active duty service between January 1957 to December 31, 2001, and planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this:

You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your Military service, for active duty any time from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with 1 January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application - which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it!

Soc Sec website: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road.. It is NOT just for retirees, BUT anyone who has served on active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001. FYI - this benefit is not automatic, you must ask for it! We've all been on active duty between 1957 and 2001 or know someone who has.

Thanks to Gunny (RFTW founder Jim Gregory) for sending the following CCP and helmet info:

HELMET LAWS

While you're on RFTW, you must wear a helmet at all times. But it's good to know each state's law if you're traveling on your own.

There are only four states that have **no helmet laws**: Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, and New Hampshire.

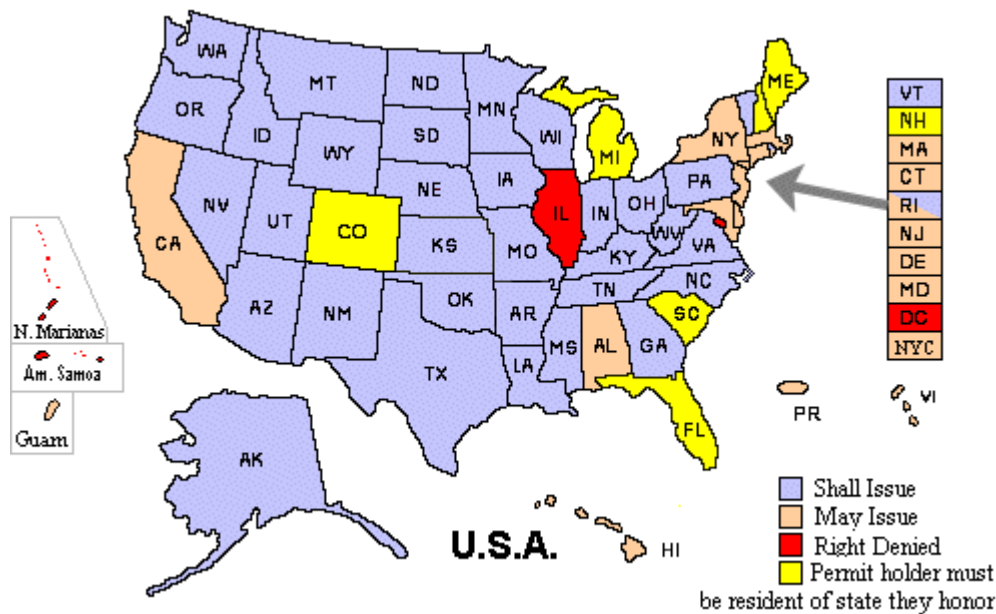
Of the other 46, 20 have **full helmet laws** for all motorcycle riders: Alabama, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.

19 states have helmet laws that **exempt adult riders**, riders over the *age of majority* -- 18 years old and over: Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Go to <http://usff.com/hldl/frames/framesnolist.html> for links to complete statutes for all states.

CCP STATE LAWS

Many RFTW riders have a Concealed Carry Permit. You should be aware of the various CCP laws in the states you travel through. Here's some useful information from <http://www.handgunlaw.us/>, a website owned by Steve Aikens and Gary Slider. "We firmly believe in the Second Amendment, Concealed Carry and the fact that we have both a right and responsibility to take a pro-active position in our personal defense. Unfortunately, we recognize there are so many variances in our state to state laws, the average individual may have difficulty keeping up with those laws well enough to prevent them from breaking the law, especially as they travel. Since we have the ability to research those laws and create an informative Concealed Carry specific site, we have done so."



below.

US State Pages

This US Map is [hot-linked to the state Information](#) for each of the states in the United States and its possessions (you may have to go to <http://www.handgunlaw.us/> for links). Simply click on the states abbreviation on the map to view that state's information page *in a new browser window*. To view the **All U.S. Page**, click on **U.S.A.** at the bottom of the map to the left. Where we have made every possible effort to ensure these maps and information are accurate as of the last update found in the top left corner of this page, it is your responsibility to verify the data offered.

Important CCP Update:

In December, the Interior Department amended its rules and will henceforth allow licensed concealed carry in national parks. It was hailed as a victory for the Second Amendment by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Under the rule change, individuals may carry concealed handguns in national parks and wildlife refuges only if they are licensed to carry under the laws of the state in which the park or refuge is located. This new rule does not allow the illegal carrying of any firearm, nor will it allow hunting, target practice or poaching.

► BRINGING THEM HOME

VIETNAM WAR AIRCREW FINALLY COME HOME

By Judy Lacey, for AZ Independent

The remains of two U.S. servicemen missing in action from the Vietnam War have been identified and were returned to their families for burial.

Army Lt. Col. Glenn McElroy, 35, of Sidney, Ill., and Capt. John M. Nash, 28, of Tipton, Ind., were buried as a group, in a single casket representing the crew, on Nov. 30, in Arlington National Cemetery.

According to the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), on March 15, 1966 the men were flying an OV-1A Mohawk aircraft that failed to return from a reconnaissance mission over southern Laos in Savannakhet Province. An American forward air controller, operating in the area, reported witnessing the OV-1A aircraft crash after encountering heavy enemy anti-aircraft artillery. He saw one parachute deploy shortly before the crash but he believed the crewman descended into the ensuing fireball. Immediate search-and-rescue teams flew over the crash site but were unable to locate any survivors.

Twice in 1988, teams led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) surveyed the crash site and found OV-1 aircraft wreckage and crew-related equipment—including an identification tag bearing Nash's name. Records indicate there was only one OV-1 loss within 18 miles of Savannakhet Province.

Between 2005 and 2009, JPAC interviewed witnesses, investigated, surveyed, and excavated the crash site several times. They recovered human remains, more aircraft wreckage, and crew-related equipment.

OTHERS RECOVERED FROM VIETNAM:

Captain Charles R. Barnes, USAR, listed as MIA in SVN on 3/10/65. Captain Barnes' remains were recovered 6/27/00, and identified 8/8/11.

1st Lt. Robert E. Bennett III, U.S. Air Force, was lost on Dec. 13, 1967, after ejecting from his F-4C during a close-air support mission in Tra Vinh Province, South Vietnam. His remains were identified on Nov. 15, 2011.

Lt. Cmdr. Edward J. Broms Jr., U.S. Navy, 7th Fleet aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid, was lost on Aug. 1, 1968, when his A-4C Skyhawk aircraft crashed in North Vietnam. His remains were recovered 8/4/11 and identified on 9/12/11.

Sgt. David E. Lemcke, U.S. Army, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery, 108th Artillery Group, was lost on May 21, 1968, in a military bunker explosion and fire in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. His remains were recovered 6/24/10 and identified on 7/29/11.

Sgt. 1st Class Marvin F. Phillips, USA, listed as KIA/BNR in SVN on 9/26/66. His remains were recovered on 6/24/10 and identified on 7/29/11.

There are now 1,679 Americans listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

The number of Americans returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 904; another 63 US personnel, recovered post-incident and identified before the end of the war, bring the total to 967. Of the 1,679 unreturned American veterans from the Vietnam War, our POW/MIAs, 90% were lost in

Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam—1,288 (VN-472, VS-816); Laos— 326; Cambodia—58; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters—7; over 450 were over-water losses.

RECOVERED FROM KOREAN WAR:

Pfc. George A. Porter, U.S. Army, Battery B, 15th FA Battalion, was lost on Feb. 13, 1951, in the Hoengsong Massacre and died in North Korean captivity. His remains were identified on Nov. 15, 2011.

Sgt. 1st Class Charles A. Roy, U.S. Army, Battery A, 61st Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division was lost on Nov. 5, 1950, when he was captured by Chinese forces and died in 1951, in a POW Camp in North Korea. His remains were identified on Nov. 7, 2011.

Sgt. Joseph A. Bowen, U.S. Army, Medical Company K, 31st Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, was lost on Nov. 30, 1950, during a battle near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. His remains were identified on Nov. 7, 2011.

Pfc. Maximo A. Troche, U.S. Army, I Company, 3rd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, was lost on Feb. 4, 1951, during a battle near Yangpyeong, South Korea, and died as a POW in 1951. His remains were identified on Oct. 21, 2011.

Sgt. 1st Class Benny D. Rogers and **Sgt. William Eugene Brashear**, U.S. Army, 8th Cavalry Regiment, were lost on Nov. 2, 1950, during a battle south of Unsan, North Korea. Their remains were identified on Sept. 26, 2011.

Pvt. Richard Erwin Clapp, U.S. Army, C Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th ID, was lost on Sept. 2, 1950, near Yulchon, South Korea. His remains were identified on Sept. 23, 2011.

Pfc. Casimir F. Walczak, U.S. Army, B Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, was lost on Aug. 17, 1950, during a battle to take Hill 303, south of Waegwan, South Korea. His remains were identified on Sept. 23, 2011.

Pfc. Jimmie J. Gaitan, U.S. Army, Clearing Company, 2nd Medical Battalion, attached to the 17th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was lost on Feb. 13, 1951, and died in POW Camp 1 near Changsong, North Korea. His remains were identified on Sep. 13, 2011.

RECOVERED FROM WWII:

1st Lt. Harry W. Eck, Staff Sgt. John J. Bono and **Staff Sgt. John E. Hogan**, U.S. Army Air Forces, 327th Bomb Squadron, 92nd Bomb Group, were lost on Sep. 13, 1944, when their B-17G aircraft was shot down near Neustaedt, Germany. Their remains were identified on Sept. 27, 2011.

2nd Lt. Hilding R. Johnson, U.S. Army Air Forces, 9th Air Force, 366th Fighter Group, 391st Fighter Squadron, was lost on Dec. 25, 1944, when his P-47D Thunderbolt crashed while he was attacking enemy targets near St. Vith, Belgium. His remains were identified on Sep. 15, 2011.

Staff Sgt. Meceslaus T. Miaskiewicz, U.S. Army Air Forces, 347th Bombardment Squadron, 99th Bombardment Group, was lost on May 18, 1944, when the B-17G he was aboard crashed in Yugoslavia. His remains were identified on Sep. 15, 2011

STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR:

There are 83,582 U.S. Servicemembers still unaccounted for according to the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office: http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/summary_statistics/:

WWII - 73,787
Korean War 7- ,987
Cold War - 125
Vietnam War - 1,683
Desert Storm - 0
Total Unaccounted For MIA - 83,582

Of the 2.9 million who served “in country” only about 850,000 are alive today

► **EVENTS**

IWO JIMA 67TH ANNIVERSARY AND 2ND ANNUAL ROY DANIEL BAILEY MEMORIAL RUN

Date: February 25, 2012

Time: 8:30 a.m. ceremony

Place: Matthew B. Juan and Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park, Phoenix, AZ

Contact: John Nanney 951-288-5004 / jnanney@roadrunner.com

Event sponsored by American Legion Ira Hayes Post 84

The Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 in Sacaton, located on the Gila River Indian Community, Arizona, is once again commemorating the anniversary of the taking of Iwo Jima. Attend the ceremony, military flyover, banquet, and parade.

Veterans in California riding to the event are leaving from Rialto on February 24.

Ride Info:

February 24, 2012

0800: Meet at Chevron Station at 1712 S Riverside Ave Rialto, CA 92376.

0830: Pre Ride Meeting and Safety Brief

0845: KSU!

First Stop 79 miles: 47220 Dillon Rd Coachella, CA 92236

Second Stop 93 miles: Lovekin Liquor & Deli 310 South Lovekin Boulevard Blythe, CA 92225-2710

Third Stop 110 miles: 1024 Hassayampa Rd Tonopah, AZ 85354

Final Stop 58 miles: 15241 S 50th St, Phoenix, AZ 85044

Total Distance one way: 340 miles.

Returning: Sunday 26 February 2012

Reverse course of above.

KSU... TBD by group.

Cages are welcome

Raingear advised

Make hotel reservations ASAP

Hotels:

I-10 Exit 194

<p>Holiday Inn 777 North Pinal Avenue/Florence Blvd. Casa Grande - 520-426-3500 2-beds - \$89/night w/breakfast @ 0600 mention "Iwo Jima" event are holding 10 rooms until February 1</p> <p>Comfort Inn 3125 E. Florence Blvd., Casa Grande - 520-421-9878 \$71.40+tax - mention "Iwo Jima" event Complimentary buffet breakfast</p> <p>Legacy Suites of Casa Grande 540 North Cacheris Ct. - 520-509-1700 \$39+tax=\$50.78 with \$50 deposit</p> <p>MainStay Suites 851 N. Henness Rd., Casa Grande - 520-426-1177 \$79.99 + tax - mention "Iwo Jima" event continental breakfast</p>	<p>Best Western 665 ViaDelCielo (E.FlorenceBlvd.), Casa Grande 520-836-1600 or 800-528-1234 bestwestern.com - from \$86.99 Complimentary breakfast</p> <p>Super 8 2066 E. Florence Blvd., Casa Grande 520-836-8800 or 800-800-8800 \$79.89+tax - mention "Iwo Jima" event free continental breakfast</p> <p>Casa Grande Hotel fka Holiday Inn 777 N. Pinal Ave./Florence Blvd., Casa Grande 520-426-3500 \$89+tax - includes breakfast @ 0600 mention "Iwo Jima" event holding ten rooms until February 1</p>
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See "Our Stories" to read the story of Roy Daniel Bailey.

2012 RFTW BBQ FUNDRAISER
April 14, 2012 – 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
El Segundo, CA

We are grateful for Raytheon's support of RFTW; they put on a fantastic barbecue every year to raise money for our ride. The 6th annual RFTW barbecue fundraiser has been verified for April 14, 2012 at Raytheon in El Segundo, CA. Times are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a great event for FNGs to attend.

They will need a headcount for the food. RSVP to Danny Lopresto at 310 345-4319 or dlopresto@raytheon.com.

MID-AMERICA BIKE WEEK
May 27 – June 2, 2012
Hot Springs, Arkansas

If you'll be anywhere near Arkansas on your ride home from DC, be sure to plan on stopping in Hot Springs for the Mid-America Bike Week.

Bike Week is a major fundraiser for disabled veterans and their families. The \$10,000 State-Wide Poker Run starts at various points around the State on May 27th and ends in Hot Springs on June 2nd. Riders may join the Poker Run anytime during the week. All of the Hot Springs activities are from May 31st through June 2nd.

Jack Elder said Bike Week schedules their annual programs to follow RFTW because RFTW veterans appreciate what they do and always show up. More info is online at www.Mid-AmericaBikeWeek.org. Please spread the word to everyone you know with a motorcycle. They have invited over 500,000. Pre-registration is

now open. If you have questions, contact Jack Elder, BOD President Mid-America Bike Week, Inc. at (501)463-8841 or mabikeweek@yahoo.com.

► TAPS

Keith Little, Navajo Code Talker

Keith Little, one of the most recognizable of the remaining Navajo Code Talkers and a vocal proponent for a museum to tell their story, has died. He died Tuesday night at a Fort Defiance hospital, according to the Navajo Code Talkers Association. He was 87.



Little joined the Marines at 17. He was among hundreds of Navajos recruited by the U.S. Marine Corps and trained as Code Talkers, who used a code that was developed by 29 Navajos and based on the Navajo language. Code Talkers used the code to confound the Japanese and help win World War II.

"My motivation was to fight the enemy with a gun or whatever," Little told the Associated Press in a July 2009 interview. "When I went into the Marine Corps ... I knew nothing about the Navajo code. It was really astonishing to me to get to Camp Pendleton and there were a bunch of Navajos there, and they were working with a Navajo code."

Little's health had been deteriorating over the past year, as he went in and out of hospitals between speaking engagements and appearances in parades -- the last time in New York in November for Veterans Day, the association said. He was the longtime president of the Navajo Code Talker Association until his death. Little was among the most vocal of the remaining Code Talkers, always preaching about the preservation of the Navajo traditions, culture and the language that the federal government tried to eradicate before he and others were called on to use it during the war. Little traveled the country advocating for a museum near Window Rock that would house World War II memorabilia, tell the stories of his colleagues, and serve as a haven for vets.

It was a story he never tired of telling, association secretary Yvonne Murphy said.

"That was his life," Murphy said Wednesday. "That was the drive behind him. It didn't matter where he was. If there were people who came and wanted to sit and talk with him, he would share with them."

A video on the association's website features Little speaking about the importance of the unbreakable code. Fellow platoon members referred to the Navajos as "walking secret codes," with each written message having to be memorized and destroyed after it was sent or received, Little says.

"That is something that in itself was marvelous," Little said in the AP interview. "It was so proficient and safe." A public memorial was held in Window Rock, with funeral services in nearby Fort Defiance. Navajo President Ben Shelly has ordered flags lowered across the reservation in Little's honor.

Jimmie Begay, Navajo Code Talker

Sgt. Jimmie Begay of Sawmill, died February 1 at the Tsehootsoi Medical Center in Fort Defiance, Arizona after a fall. He was 86.

Begay was one of about 420 Navajos trained to transmit messages in a code based on the then-unwritten Navajo language.

“I am deeply saddened by the loss of Sgt. Begay. His efforts to defend this country and his people make me proud. My prayers, and the prayers of the First Lady, the Vice President and the Navajo Nation are with the family,” Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said.



Begay grew up in Sawmill, Arizona. He enlisted in 1942 at age 17 and served in the 1st Marine Division, 2nd Battalion. From Fort Wingate, N.M., he boarded a bus for Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he completed boot camp before transferring to Camp Elliot to train as a code talker. He served at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, Saipan, and Tinian in the midst of World War II.

After completing his service in the Marines in 1945, Begay received an honorable discharge. He then finished his schooling at Santa Fe Indian High School.

He worked as a guard at the Army Depot-Japanese Internment Camp in Leupp, Ariz. He competed in boxing before starting work at Navajo Forest Products Industry in Navajo, N.M., and retired from NFPI in 1985.

Begay was preceded in death by his wife, Sophie Begay; parents, Carl Begay and Nazbah Blackgoat; brothers, Kenneth M. Begay and Kee Begay; sisters, Ruth Stewart and Lottie Randall; son, Perry Begay.

Funeral services were held in Fort Defiance, with burial at a family plot in Red Lake, New Mexico.

► CLOSING THOUGHTS

A tribute to our WWII and Korean War veterans: http://www.beforeyougo.us/play_byg

Double amputee Iraq vet rides again: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUG5Gi6wYnA>

Glenn Beck – “Thanks for Remembering.” The words to this moving presentation were written by Patrick Camunes, a Vietnam Veteran. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GOH3xnUNOc>

You Are Not Forgotten



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The RFTW newsletter is published in January, April, July, and October. If you would like to have printed copies of the newsletter mailed to you, a one-year subscription is \$10, which covers the cost of printing and mailing. If you subscribe or renew by October 31 you will receive all four issues for that year. If you renew between October 31 and January 1, your subscription will begin with the January issue of the next year.

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Please mail this form with your check or money order (made payable to Run For The Wall) to Judy Lacey, 4249 Comstock Drive, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406.