



RUN FOR THE WALL

Quarterly Newsletter

“We Ride For Those Who Can’t”

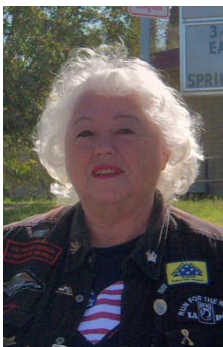
July 2012

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THE EDITOR’S NOTES



This year, due to medical problems, I was only able to accompany RFTW from Rancho back home to Lake Havasu, AZ. I was sad that I couldn’t go All The Way, but being able to see old friends and meet new ones in Rancho made it a little easier to say goodbye to the pack from the overpass near Havasu.

The program in Rancho was as great as always, but this year it had an especially meaningful addition: four Gold Star Parents were honored. I wish I had known beforehand, as I would have arranged for the friend who went to Rancho with me to be honored also.

Mona is a Gold Star Mother – three times. All six of her children served in the military, and two sons and a daughter were KIA. Mona herself is a retired Vietnam Veteran. She hopes to go with me next year for RFTW XXV. She is a most remarkable person. Last year she rode horseback across the U.S. with four others to raise

awareness of the Wounded Warrior Project. She is very involved, as I am, in Lake Havasu's Blue Star Mothers, and also attends every Patriot Guard Mission in our town.

It will be my pleasure to introduce you to Mona next May.

June was the 62nd Anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, often called "The Forgotten War."

While we usually seek out active duty and Vietnam vets to say "Thank you for your service," please be aware of the Korean vets, who, while not vilified as were the Vietnam vets, came home to an apathetic America. It was a short, three-year war, and many Americans barely noticed it. They likewise barely notice our veterans who served in that war.

The "KW60" committee was formed to thank and honor all the Veterans of the Korean War. All service members serving between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953 are eligible for a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta. If you are, or know of, a Korean War vet who has not received the certificate, you may request a certificate at <http://koreanwar.defense.gov/recognition.html>.

In this issue, be sure to read the excellent article about the Korean War, written by Josie Kakar-Delsi. She and her husband, Robert Delsi, are an extraordinary couple who dedicate their lives to honoring and helping veterans. Robert, an Apache veteran, served in the United States Marine Corps for six years. While on his tour of duty in Vietnam, He and others were ambushed, wounded, pinned down and eventually rescued after 3-4 days.

Robert and Josie's first visit to the Vietnam Wall was in 2003 with Run For The Wall. From 2004 to 2007, they assisted various organizations in motorcycle runs to D.C. which included Rolling Thunder Chapters. Since 2008, they have coordinated a ride every May under the name of Patriots-Warriors, an organization whose mission is to celebrate the lives of our heroes.

They both are life members of Marine Corps League Casa Grande Detachment. Robert holds the office of Commandant every other year and Josie has held the office of Adjutant since 2006. She is also Coordinator for Marine Corps Toys for Tots program in Pinal County. Robert is also a life member of Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, Third Marine Division. He currently serves as Sergeant at Arms with Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 located on the Gila River Indian Community. Josie is the Secretary with Ira H. Hayes American Legion Auxiliary Unit 84.

Robert has been honored as Legionnaire of the Year, and they both have earned Certificates of Commendation from the United States Marine Corps and awarded twice the Distinguished Citizenship Medal-Silver from the Southwest Division Marine Corps League to Marines and associates for outstanding support and meritorious service to the League, Marines, and families and community. This is all from doing what comes natural - honoring all who serve and continue to serve these United States but especially those who have given the ultimate for our freedom.

My respect and thanks, and I hope yours also, go to Josie and Robert for all they do for veterans.

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**

Ray "Too Tall" McDowell
President



Ray has had a death in the family. His message will be added around August 1. Watch here for it.

► **OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

To the Run For The Wall Family,

My term on the Board of Directors has come to an end. I have enjoyed meeting so many people this year at both route reunions and at the Tulsa RFTW reunion and of course during the run itself.

The Run For The Wall volunteers and leadership contribute so much of their time, work, and skills that our journey is celebrated by every community we pass through across America.

It has been the greatest honor for me to work with the fantastic ladies and gentlemen who put RFTW together each year. As I write this I must pause to think about all the names and faces of the people I saw doing all the hard work in tough climates and in conditions of enormous stress. The reward of seeing the riders' faces and emotions when confronted by a sea of America flags on an overpass is one impression I will always hold dear. Riding with the Ambassador team this year rather than with the Road Guards, I was able to experience again for myself that same emotion from seeing the folks on the overpasses and sidewalks.



In closing I would like to again sincerely express what an honor and privilege it has been to serve on the Board and to be President 2012 of this amazing organization.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ross Currie

► 2012-2013 RFTW BOARD

President – Ray “Too Tall” McDowell

Vice President/Chairman of the Board – John “Hardcharger” Barker

Secretary/Treasurer – Ken “Wish” Hargrove

Director of Operations and Training - Harry “Attitude” Steelman

Director of Merchandise – David “Trunks” Gladwill

Director of Public Relations/Communications – Daryl “Top” Neil

Director of Risk Management/Purchasing - John “Wicked” McKee

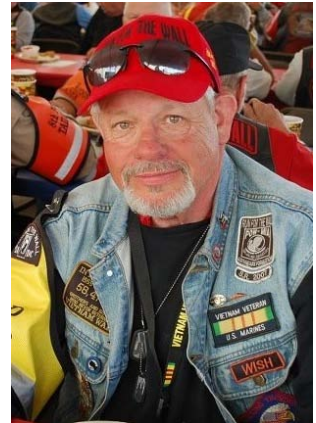
MEET THE NEW RFTW BOD MEMBERS

Congratulations to our three new board members: David Gladwill, Ken Hargrove, and John McKee

Ken “Wish” Hargrove —Secretary/Treasurer

Excited to be here! I'm located in Upland, CA, about a mile from where I was born. I was raised in Claremont, CA and joined the Marines on a delay entry program at 17, and went to boot camp right after graduation from high school in June of '68. Five months later I shipped out to Nam in December '68 for two tours at Red Beach north of DaNang. I returned to 'The World' on Aug 24, 1970, was Honorably Discharged as an E-5, and was a civilian on Aug. 28, 1970. I was on the street after two tours and couldn't even buy a drink in California for another year!

Moving the time-capsule forward: I still work unfortunately, 9/11/01, the Telecom down-turn and the current economic situation(s) ensure that my retirement is years away. I'm a Microwave Engineer (microwaves like the radio signal not the kitchen appliance!) and have been an executive at several high-tech companies, and currently have grabbed control of my own life and calendar by 'tapping-out' in the international engineering arena that had dragged me on airplanes for almost three million miles and now work as a manufacturer's representative and consultant to the Aerospace-Defense Industry in Southern California.



I got involved with RFTW in 2007 when I rode all the way with my high school mate that I joined the Marines with on the 'Buddy System' in 1968. We didn't know that the Buddy System really meant "say goodbye to your Buddy!" Anyway, we rode All The Way-on the southern route one time and I was hooked, so far I have been a participant on the Central Route in 2008 and ridden ATW on the Southern Route-2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. I would have gone All The Way in 2008 too, but my wife flipped her Harley at 70 mph on the freeway the week before the Run and was in a body cast for the next six months. She made me buy her a 2009 HD Tri-Glide as she was shedding the cast. Tough lady!

My wife and I have been married 40 years and have 12 grandkids (13 next month, 11 of them under 10 years old)—lots of future riders to help carry on the Mission! Two of them have already been on the Run, one of them ATW! I state this to show that I believe in our Mission!

I've been an FNG, Tailgunner, Platoon Leader, and Road Guard. Now I've committed to doing my best on the Board to ensure that our Run For The Wall is all about The Mission, while continuing my road guard duties to assist the Mission to be accomplished safely. This is such a vital and evolving Mission; there is always something that can be done differently or better. It just takes hard work, vigilance, and commitment.

We ride to raise awareness of our Mission, we fundraise to further the Mission's reach, we volunteer our time to make sure the Mission is carried out, and we communicate amongst ourselves to make sure our Mission is the best Mission possible ... each and every year. Make no mistake: everyone is a volunteer in this Mission! Every FNG, every rider, everyone is volunteering his/her time, money, and person to raise the awareness of our Mission. Keep up the good work!

David “Trunks” Gladwill - Director of Merchandise



Trunks' bio will be added around August 1. Watch here for it.

John “Wicked” McKee – Director of Risk Management/Purchasing

Odessa, TX

(432) 288-1958 (Cell)

wickedrftw@gmail.com

I was born in Philadelphia, PA, and graduated from LaSalle High in June 1964. After a year and a half at LaSalle College, it was evident that my attitude needed an adjustment, and having been granted a draft status of 4D due to enrollment in ROTC, that changed immediately to 1A as I walked out the door of education. Not one to wait for the inevitable, I enlisted in the Army 25APR66. As an aside, the day I boarded the train for Fort Gordon, GA for Basic Training, my draft notice arrived at my father's door.



On 17APR67, I was commissioned 2nd LT Infantry from OCS at Fort Benning, GA. I was assigned as a Basic Training Officer to CoA, 2dBn, 1stTngBde, USATC, Inf, FtBng, GA, and served there until 17OCT67 when I began my journey to Vietnam with a 30-day leave, a 2-week TDY to Fort William D. Davis, CZ for “Jungle Training,” and on 2DEC67, I was en route to Vietnam. I had orders to join 25th ID, but en route, the situation changed and I was reassigned to 4th ID, Pleiku. I was assigned as Platoon Leader of 3rd Platoon, Delta Company, 1st Bn, 22nd Inf Regiment, 2nd Bde, 4th ID 18DEC67. Tet '68 happened a month and a half later, and the reality show had begun. Three months later, the NVA were preparing a second run at their failed Tet Offensive, and we got into a very heated battle with two NVA regiments in the Tri-Border Area. 22APR68 was

the start of 13 days of a total blank spot in my memory. I only know some of what happened because of the testimony of others who were there and because of review of Duty Officer Logs at the National Archives.

We lost 30 men KIA and three times that many WIA during those 13 days. We were extracted under enemy fire, and the whole region was arc-lighted minutes after we left, which ended the NVA's Tet-2 offensive. During our refit at Base Camp in Pleiku, I was reassigned to HHC where I worked as Supply Officer at our Fire Support Base, S-3 Air, and Recon Platoon Leader before heading back to CONUS 15NOV68. I finished out my active duty once again at Fort Benning training new recruits and was REFRAD 16APR69.

Returning to the civilian world was difficult, because I was a man with no feelings among people with deep feelings about everything, and especially about where I'd just been. So, I buried where I'd been, and did my best to fit in. I earned a degree in Medical Technology from Temple University, and a degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University, and worked primarily in the Construction Management field, retiring in 2008.

Thirty-eight years after leaving VN, I received a call from one of my men who sent me a DVD called "Homecoming – A Vietnam Veteran's Journey," which intrigued me, and he also invited me to get back into motorcycling (I had given it up 28 years earlier) and come on Run For The Wall. Well, I signed up for CR 2006, and after being overwhelmed by the sense of *being welcomed* by and *belonging* to a group of people (Vets) I'd been avoiding for 38 years, I was blown away by the reception we received in Gallup, NM. I remember one of the subjects of the Homecoming documentary talking about calling his wife and telling her how difficult it was for him to ride with all the tears in his eyes, and here I was living that experience. Well, from an old English proverb, it's said that the eyes are the window to the soul, and my soul was finally releasing almost 40 years of pent-up angst about what I'd experienced in Vietnam. The change must have been evident to CR leadership, because I had the honor of being selected as one of four presenters of The Run's wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns a week later. Thanks to "Tanker" McDole who helped me on that first journey.

It's because of the release I found on that first Run that I've continued year after year to try to help others, who, like me, have been keeping all that "stuff" inside. I served as CR Photographer in 2007 where I had a chance to meet many of the supporters across the country who contribute in many ways to make our healing possible. In 2008, I joined SR where I've been ever since, married to "Mojo" and serving as Tailgunner (2008), Assistant Platoon Leader (2009), and Road Guard (2010 to present).

I am deeply honored to have been selected to be a member of the BOD, and will do my utmost best to help fulfill our mission.

MEET THE 2013 RFTW ROUTE COORDINATORS

Central Route: Stan "Ironfish" Handley

Run For The Wall XXV, Wow!!! 25 years, Our Silver Anniversary.

First and foremost I wish to say to all my fellow Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home and thank you for your service to this great country, and to all veterans I wish to say thank you for your service and the sacrifices you have made for our freedoms and our way of life here in America. To those families that were manning the home front while your warrior was deployed you are to be commended for the fantastic job you did supporting your Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine, providing encouragement to them as well as caring for the family at home. Thank you from the depths of my heart.



I am Stan “Ironfish” Handley and have been selected to be the Route Coordinator for the Central Route of RFTW 2013, our 25th Anniversary. This is truly an honor to lead you across America. I shall do all that is within my power to help this Run For The Wall XXV be the most memorable and moving experience for you and one that may very well change your life. Thank you BOD for your vote of confidence.

My military service time was spent in the Navy. Serving on Surface Ship, destroyers, and tankers, then on Submarines, both Fleet Ballistic Submarines (Boomers) and Fast Attacks. This is where the road name originated for me, “Ironfish.” Actually the Code Talkers used it during WWII and I adopted it. Long story made short. I served from 1962, The Cuban Crisis, to 1995. My last deployment was in support of Operation Desert Storm. I served in the waters off Vietnam from 1964 to 1967, and in the oceans of the world where submarines are not supposed to go.

My first introduction to Run For The Wall was at a Super Bowl party in 2006 when a fellow retired Master Chief challenged me “to make a ride like this,” then flipped me a RFTW Challenge Coin. I went home after the game and started researching Run For The Wall on the web and found there was an organization that might be able to truly help me to put some demons to rest. After talking with Mike “Tanker” Mc Dole, RC 2006, I made the decision to make the Run and I have been making the Run every year since. Every year I continue to find the healing that I had been struggling to find for years. There are people who truly understand and are there to help you through, non-judgmental, non-condemning, just honest open understanding and a lot of love. I found out what it meant when they said “We came as strangers and left as Brothers.” Thank you, Run For The Wall.

In keeping with the Run For The Wall philosophy, “We strive to maintain a safe, supportive and private atmosphere in which all participants can reflect and heal on their journey to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC in the hope that they can return home to a new beginning.” This is important as each of us is different, so please try to assist each other when you see the need arise. We are blessed to have a great Chaplains Corps standing at the ready to help with any emotional needs.

It is my sincerest wish that every person who participates in Run For The Wall will find that healing experience, as I did, and pass on to others, especially the younger veterans. What a great blessing awaits them when they participate in Run For The Wall.

Run For The Wall has but one Mission and we ride to support that Mission, doing it with two routes of travel—Southern and Central. Our mission is vital in getting the word out about our nation’s POW/MIA issue and to educate the masses. As we make our journey across America, the Greatest Nation on Earth, reflect on why we do what we are doing. Keep in mind the Run For The Wall mission Statement “To call for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA) and to Honor the memory of those killed in Action (KIA) from all wars, and to support our military personnel all over the world.” This Mission, our Mission, of Run For The Wall is so important and a message we as an organization can, need, and must put forth to the public. There are too many citizens who do not know that we still have POWs/MIAs from all eras of war, and that our government must be held accountable for their return.

As was stated by my counterpart from the Southern Route (Airborne), “Run For The Wall provides the camaraderie I once knew while in the military. I know someone is there whatever is needed—we are a family that understands what it’s like to be away from home and possibly placed in harms’ way. We are here to support one another and ensure we all successfully complete the Mission—together.” For 24 years we have completed our Mission and have helped many, many brothers and sisters heal the many emotional scars that they have carried for far too long.

The Run For The Wall Team is here for you, so please don’t be shy or hesitant to seek out their fellowship. They will be more than happy to help you. I look forward to RFTW 2013 and would ask that you keep in mind why we ride, and why we participate in RFTW—the Mission. Our Mission is far more important than any one

of us. The strongest and most prepared professional military this world has ever seen, past, present, and future, deserves all the support we can provide them—today and forever.

I'll see you in Rancho Cucamonga in May 2013. Until then Ride safe and Honor and Remember all those who have gone before, and those who have given so much for our freedom and way of life.

Respectfully;
Stan "Ironfish" Handley
Route Coordinator Central Route
Run For The Wall 2013

Southern Route: Laurie "Airborne" Clay (bio in April newsletter)

► **UPDATES/REPORTS ON RFTW 2012**

THANK YOU FROM SR ROAD GUARD CAPTAIN:

First I want to thank all of Southern Route's riders for joining our Mission this year; it was one of the best years I can remember. On the highway, riders improved their skills day by day, looking good and riding tight. It was a pleasure helping to lead them across the country in 2012. Leadership will have meetings in Tulsa, Oklahoma (2nd annual Reunion for Central and Southern Routes July 26 -29th) in August to start planning the big 25th Anniversary. At that time we will look over this past Run, possibly changing a few of our route highway transitions to make it safer by eliminating multi lane changes which always impacts our 7th, 8th, and 9th platoons.

To the BOD and leadership, thanks you for allowing me to serve as the Road Guard Captain for Southern Route this year. I live through the year looking forward to performing in this position. We all have a big challenge next year and I am ready to start working on the schedule.

Dwayne (Cajun) Guidry

THANK YOU FROM CR ROAD GUARD CAPTAIN:

It was an Honor to serve as Road Guard Caption for the Central Route 2012. My job was made easy by having a great bunch of Road Guards. They deserve a big Thank You!

I would like to encourage all riders to take an ERC motorcycle course. No matter how long you have been riding, it will make you a better rider.

Thanks to all the LEO's who helped this year. They were a big help I would also like to thank Ross Currie. He has been a Road Guard and a great example for a long time. We will miss you, Ross.

In closing, I would lift up a couple of Road Guards – Top Hat and Santa Claus. They are both having some health issues. We missed you both.

Thanks to all the pack riders, you did a great job. Looking forward to 2013!

Roger "Grizzly" Ingram

2012 GROUP PHOTO ORDER FORM

RFTW 2012 Group Photo by "KZ" Ric White

(One size only: 12"x 18")

\$15 each plus \$5 for S&H = \$20

Shipping to Canada, extra \$5; to Australia, extra \$7

(Up to 2 photos per shipping tube; for more than 2,
add an extra \$5 for shipping.)

Name of group: RUN FOR THE WALL Date:

How many photos? Shipping: \$ Total cost: \$

Mail photo to:

Name:

Address:

City, State: Zip:

Email: Phone:

Method of payment: Personal check or U.S. Postal Money Order

Payable to: Ric White and mail to: P.O. Box 180789, Dallas, TX 75218

Questions: pikzr@aol.com



PLEASE ALLOW 4 TO 6 WEEKS FOR
DELIVERY

God Bless America



► **OUR STORIES**

Following are excerpts from an FNG's story:

AN FNG'S PERSPECTIVE

Jeff Unger, Louisville, KY

Where the heck do you start, and how in the world do you document one of the most emotional and compelling experiences of your life? To attempt to say it in one sentence, it was the most rewarding and patriotic experience of my life. It caused me to reconfirm that we live in the finest country in the world, full of countless people who in different ways commit, sacrifice, and contribute to making the United States of America the beacon of civilization.

From the outset, Tuesday evening, May 22, I could tell this was special. Chuck, my friend and riding partner for the ride, arrived in Corydon, Indiana, to get ourselves settled for joining the ride the next day. We rode through town to get our bearings only to find the streets already lined with people of all ages gathered, flags in hand, to welcome the arrival of the column at around 6:30.

Due to some traffic delays, the column didn't get to Corydon until about 8:30. Not a person left during the delay, the air was full of excitement and patriotism. Children and adults were waving flags; many veterans from wars long ago sitting in chairs awaiting the arrival.

At about 8:30 there was a roar from over the hill, followed by a couple of police cars, and then a procession like no other. Over 300 motorcycles roared into town, most with some type of flag or other special marking commemorating the USA. The crowd got on their feet, cheered, saluted, and otherwise began what I was soon to learn, the constant welcoming and thanking of all who were lost in service to their country, represented by those riding in honor and respect in their behalf.

After the procession ended, Chuck and I rode slightly behind the column to join the group. That in itself was the beginning of what turned out to be four of the most meaningful days of my life. As we rode toward the registration area, people were still cheering, saluting, applauding, and welcoming, even Chuck and me, who had yet to officially become part of the group. It was a unique experience; I was wondering what the heck to do—wave back? Interact? Or just ride along?

The next morning came quickly and we arrived at the staging site. That in itself was quite an experience, but suffice it to say that RFTW knows how to organize 300 or so bikes in a way that works. There were seven platoons, each with about 50 bikes. We were guided to our platoon, thanks to the decals on our bikes, and we were promptly put into position. Then the morning briefing began (and the start of seeing this was special). The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. It surprised me, but then again shouldn't have, that 400 or so people instantly (and I mean instantly) got quiet, respectful, and joined in loudly proclaiming their allegiance to the United States of America. There was absolutely no question that everyone there respected and honored their country.

We left Corydon in procession; many people again lined the streets to say goodbye to the column. We rode into Louisville, escorted the entire way to the VA hospital.

We saddled up and headed for the Frankfort Vietnam Memorial. The ride was exciting, tooling through the closed interstates, riding two abreast at about 65 mph. It was a beautiful day, a million thoughts flying through my mind as we rode along. We stopped at a gas station in Waddy, KY, for fuel, and I experienced another display of phenomenal RFTW organization. As what I soon to learn was always, the staging crew had rolled ahead, worked with gas station personnel, and "commandeered" the entire station for our refueling. Three hundred or so bikes passed through the pumps in little time, stopping only to refuel. We left the gas stop and resumed our trek to the Memorial.

We arrived at the memorial again to find a hundred or so people gathering to welcome the arrival of the RFTW group. People were waving flags and saluting, and volunteers were manning food and water tables. I wandered around the memorial and began to think about all of these soldiers who gave it all in service to their country. More than once tears were welling up and I began to better understand the significance of this dedicated ride across the country. We were, at this stop, specifically honoring and respecting those who Kentucky who gave it all in support of our country. In my mind, I was thanking anyone who had ever served.

However, I was still wondering a little, "why am I here?" So I started talking with some different vets. At first my conversations and questions were limited; heck, I didn't know what the vets were thinking of this non-service FNG. Little by little, though, I heard "thank you for joining us. Not everyone has served in the military;

you being here is what is important.” So I was getting a little more comfortable and beginning to feel part of the group.

It was at lunch that I met one of the most interesting and positive people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. As I was sitting at a table eating a gentleman with two prosthetic legs came over to join me. At first I was speechless and not quite sure what to say. And then I met Dave Barr. Dave lost his legs when a land mine exploded. But to talk with, and watch Dave, he is one of the most inspirational people in the world. After his accident and recovery, Dave committed to having a full life and he relearned both how to walk, move around, and ride. He has ridden literally all over the world and rides RFTW every year. Dave is a testament to the power of positive thinking and an inspiration to all. I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet and get to know Dave a little. My life is changed forever. I have absolutely nothing to complain about and everything to be thankful for.

About eight miles before we reached Hurricane, we were greeted by the sight of a Huey helicopter flying toward us to escort us into the city. To me this was amazing; to those who served in Vietnam it must have brought back all kinds of memories—good and bad. The Huey flew down the column, turned around and flew along with us into the city. Along the way a C130 buzzed the procession twice.

It is so hard to put into words the collective feelings at these city gatherings. On one hand the activities were festive, thanking the RFTW for stopping by and honoring those who served in the area. On the other hand they were somber, recognizing the ride was about those who never returned. Somehow it always worked out, hugs and handshakes and reminiscing. As always the crowd instantly stopped, turned to the flags, and joined in unison for the Pledge of Allegiance and the other ceremonies.

The next morning ... we saddled up and headed for Rainelle, WV, with a stop in Charleston, the state Capitol. I had never heard of Rainelle, WV, but it is now a place I will never forget. We left Hurricane with the same fanfare as always. This time I caught the eye of many excited children and waved.

We arrived in Charleston, escorted the whole way and proceeded up to and around the walkways of the state capital. Just try to imagine 300 plus bikes circling what is normally a quite walkway around the main government buildings. Pretty much every state employee and others were out to greet the column. We gathered around the state war memorial; the governor declared May 24, 2012, a state Day of Honor to the Run For The Wall. The state war memorial is full of names for every citizen lost in national conflicts. I had tears thinking of all the individuals and their families impacted. The Vietnam memorial listed those from the Vietnamese war, names I now realized I would be seeing somewhere on the wall in DC.

We saddled up and headed to Rainelle, my curiosity seriously piqued based on the different things people alluded to about the city. The ride to Rainelle was the only stretch that brought some riding pleasure, although by now I almost fully realized I was on a mission. For the ride to Rainelle we left the interstate and took state highway 60 up, across, and over the mountains to Rainelle. Due to the nature of the road, we shifted to single file most of the way, regrouping to side-by-side around the few tiny towns along the way.

I didn't catch the names of the three or four tiny towns we passed through, but at each and every one the entire town was out to pay their respects and to encourage the procession on. These towns were so tiny that the local school was located right along the highway. In every town, the school children were out, waving their flags. Somewhere along this route I realized we had been passing through, since Corydon (and for those who rode the whole ride), pretty much the salt of the earth when it comes to people who love our county. I could feel my own heart growing inside similarly renewing my understanding, respect, and pride of the miracle called the United States of America.

The ride into Rainelle exceeded anything so far. We arrived from the west, passed the little school, circled the town and came back and stopped at the school. When we circled the town it was the first time I had the

opportunity to see the rest of the column (after all it was usually in front or behind me all the way). It was an amazing sight to see my fellow riders passing along as we snaked through the city. My best guess is that the entire procession was about three miles long. The arrival of RFTW is so special to Rainelle, for reasons I learned later, that we parked literally right in the street. For those few hours anyone who wanted to pass through Rainelle just had to find another way around or drive very slowly through the one open lane.

After dismounting, the riders proceeded to the school to the arms of hundreds of happy children and parents welcoming the RFTW on their annual stop. I then learned that somehow, on that very first stop 24 years ago, RFTW and Rainelle had mutually adopted each other. RFTW donates a portion of the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle and the money from the lyrics to the song to the school. The school children have the day off and the next day. Their “assignment” (for having the days off) was to interact with as many riders as possible and write an essay on their experience, due the following Monday.

We left Rainelle freestyle to rendezvous in Lewisburg for the night and our final ride to DC in the morning. I left Rainelle, but it will never leave my heart.

I was full of anxious anticipation on the final morning. We were nearing completion of the mission and my thoughts had evolved from “what am I doing here” to “thank God I have had this opportunity to pay my respects to all service personnel, those who served in, and returned from, Vietnam, those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, especially those lost in Vietnam. I was part of the column and I was going to do everything possible to complete the mission.”

In retrospect, completing the RFTW was one of the most moving experiences of my life. It was heartwarming and motivating to see all of the people across the country along the way. It strengthened my conviction that we live in the finest country in the world, with the finest patriotic people anywhere. We are blessed to live in such a place even though unfortunately sometimes too many people fail to recognize how good and fine our country is and how much work it takes to keep it that way. It is not an accident that we live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. It is the result of all those people in Arlington who paid the ultimate price so we have what we have.

To read Jeff's complete journal, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/saturdayrides2/rftw-2012>

BACK WITH MY FAMILY!

Sally “SizzMo” Down

I spent Tuesday in Rancho Cucamonga with Run For The Wall XXIV. What a fantastic day, with a fantastic bunch of people!

I felt a bit apprehensive about whether I'd be remembered and welcomed, as I missed RFTW entirely due to illness in 2011. But within seconds of my arrival in RC, Tanker and Girlfriend both ran up and threw enormous bear hugs on me, and in no time at all, I knew I was home—that RFTW is my forever family, and I am still loved.

It was a joy to see and hug so many precious old friends, including Velcro, Indian Scout, Rock, Two-Lane, Skeater, Preacher John, Big Dave and Claudia, Kenny Miller, Skipper and RedLite, Cap, TopSarge, HawgWash, Postmaster, Airborne, Cowboy, LittleBit II, Zee and George, Many Bikes, Walrus, Ice Scout and Ela King, JJ, Wrong Way, Stoney, Compass, Tigger (Navy), Attitude, Bones, Grizzly, Cruiser, and a number of others whose names have inadvertently slipped my mind due to the length and intensity of the day.

I'm still trying to wrap my mind around the day's awesome, humbling events, and am still struggling to believe that I actually met some of the awesome, humbling heroes who I now count among my new RFTW friends.

In addition to more than 150 FNGs, most of whom are Vietnam Vets, my new RFTW brothers and sisters include at least a dozen Marines from the Wounded Warrior Project, who are recovering from serious injuries suffered in the line of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past few years. Heroes, one and all.

They also include four Gold-Star Parents (three moms and one dad,) who are participating in RFTW this year in memory of their four precious sons who lost their lives in Iraq. It is gut-wrenching and beyond humbling to listen to the stories of these moms and this dad, and their sacrifice. Their losses are enormous, yet instead of being bitter, they are all very gracious. They are now members of the RFTW family, and neither I, nor anyone else on RFTW will ever forget them.

And then there's my new RFTW friend, John. Some friends pointed John out across the parking lot, where he was hanging out with his dog, told me that he's a Vietnam vet, and insisted that go I give him some of my Vietnam beads, right away. I did so, after which I realized that John is not only a combat veteran (which is more than enough to make him a hero in my book,) who earned the silver star, bronze star and purple heart, but that he also happens to be one of 82 living recipients of the Medal of Honor. Ummm...WOW! Needless to say, I was suddenly just a tiny bit tongue-tied and star-stricken. But far from being a snobby celebrity, John is a charming gentleman, and he quickly convinced me that despite being a bona fide hero, he's a regular guy, and he was very gracious (not to mention pretty darned good looking - don't tell him I said that!) and easy to chat with. It turns out that we live only a few miles away from one another, and as San Diego natives, we share a fondness not only for motorcycles and RFTW, but also for fish tacos and Julian apple pie. I've decided to take John up on his suggestion that we get together for some fish tacos real soon, and I'm thrilled to have another RFTW friend nearby in East County.

Above all else, yesterday was special because I had the honor and privilege of meeting more than 100 FNG Vietnam Vets, each of whom now owns a set of SizzMo's Vietnam beads. I feel so blessed to have gotten to know all of these guys and welcome them to what I know will be one of the greatest experiences of their lives.

I'm keeping RFTW in my prayers, asking the Lord to provide a safe trip and many blessings for all who participate. What an honor to be part of this family of wonderful people!

RANDOM THOUGHTS ON RFTW

Jim "Paladin" Lenz

I was sitting here this morning with a cup of coffee and looking at a few "Run For The Wall" videos. I had to stop for a few minutes in order to collect my thoughts and set them straight. As you know I've been on RFTW a few times and it's a ride unlike any other. Some of it really gets to me.

Rolling down the highway and seeing people, complete strangers, on overpasses cheering, waving flags at us and holding signs that say "thank you" and "welcome home.".....

More people standing on the side of the road saluting us as we roll by.....

Visiting with fellow vets at VA hospitals and listening to their stories as they shake our hands and smile..... A lot.....

Boy Scout troops washing our scooters so that they can earn another merit badge and perhaps learn a few things about the RFTW and the riders.....

Groups like the American Legion and the VFW opening up their respective Posts and inviting us in for a meal.....

An anonymous donor paying the entire gas bill for 400+ scooters at a fuel stop somewhere.....

Several bike clubs paying the tolls for us on the Kansas Turnpike.....

People coming out in droves and welcoming us into their flag-draped towns.....

Military units saluting us both from the ground and in the air.....

Numerous police departments escorting us safely from one point to another, often completely shutting down an entire road.....

Youngsters coming up and asking for our autographs.....

Or taking our picture.....

Having an Indian boy asking if we're a hero.....

And trying to find the right answer to that question.....

Starting the ride as strangers and finishing it as family....

Experiencing all of this and so much more while trying to ride the scooter with tears in my eyes.....

► **OTHER STORIES**

FAMILY RECEIVES WORLD WAR II DOG TAG

By Bob Beckstead, Johnson Newspapers, May 4, 2012

NORWOOD, ON — A casual walk along the shores of Lake Ontario unearthed a find that is being treasured by a family here.

A dog tag that belonged to World War II veteran Charles E. Sherman was one of several found by a person walking along Lake Ontario in Youngstown, 312 miles away from Norwood. The battered but legible dog tag, which is now in the possession of James and Bernadette Sherman, Norwood-Knapp Station Road, lists the military man's name, service number and name and address of his next of kin in Norwood.

The Shermans received the dog tag in their April 23 mail, along with a letter from Clyde L. Burmaster, vice chairman of the Niagara County Legislature, who was trying to track down the family after a person walking near Old Fort Niagara found seven or eight dog tags from both World War I and World War II. The site had been used as a training post and prisoner-of-war camp during World War II and is now a historical site, according to Mr. Burmaster, who also is a retired private investigator.

Mrs. Sherman said she first learned about the dog tag when she received a call from another Charles Sherman, no relation to the family, in Parishville. He had been contacted by Mr. Burmaster, who believed he might be a relative. Mr. Sherman, in turn, did his own research to find the correct family.

She called Mr. Burmaster and left a message. When he returned Mrs. Sherman's call, he told her how the dog tag had been found a few weeks ago.

"A friend does a daily walk along Lake Ontario on the grounds of Old Fort Niagara and a few weeks ago found the dog tags. Some were from World War I and two were from World War II, and only two were legible," Mrs. Sherman said she was told by Mr. Burmaster.

One of those belonged to Charles E. Sherman, listing as next of kin a G.W. (George Washington) Sherman, Route 2, Norwood.

"What are the chances of something that miniscule being found on a beach?" she said.

"That dog tag has been on a 70-year journey. There were over 10 million U.S. veterans during World War II. There were truly millions of dog tags," said Tony Nocerino, Mr. Sherman's son-in-law and village of Norwood historian.

Mrs. Sherman, sensing that the dog tag belonged to her brother-in-law based on the description, asked Mr. Burmaster to send it to her, along with a narrative about how it was found.

"It was so nice of him to do that," she said.

In his letter, Mr. Burman suggested Mr. Sherman might have lost his dog tags while swimming during training or by dropping them down a drain.

But family members say they're not sure of the connection between Mr. Sherman and Old Fort Niagara because he had never served there.

Mr. Nocerino said Mr. Sherman served in the Army Air Corps from 1944 to 1946, but was stationed at an Army Air Force training facility in Illinois.

"He joined as soon as he was able. He started in an airplane maintenance battalion and became an instructor in the battalion. He was due to be shipped to the European Theater of Operations, but the war ended," he said. "Old Niagara had World War I barracks, but I can't find a mention of World War II. It could have been a transportation depot or a railroad. We cannot come up with a concrete reason why the dog tag ended up in that spot," Mr. Nocerino said.

Mr. Sherman was later a bus driver for several years for the Potsdam Central School District. He died in January 1992 and his widow, Alice, died in March.

"I never had the pleasure of knowing his parents, but I did have the pleasure of getting to meet Charlie. He was a sweet man, a loving father, but it was difficult for him to open up (about the war)," Mrs. Sherman said. Mr. Nocerino said other veterans also have declined to talk about the war, but as they age, it is time for them to pass the information on to the next generation.

"Their generation is dying at a phenomenal rate. You don't know how many dog tags are sitting in dresser drawers," he said.

Mrs. Sherman said she believes that perhaps the dog tag is Mr. Sherman's way of talking to his family.

"Charlie is talking to his kids to let them know he's thinking about them. I believe in angels, and you never know what shape they come in," she said.

COINS ON HEADSTONES

While visiting some cemeteries, you may have noticed that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave. These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their lives while serving in America's military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin.



A coin left on a headstone or at the gravesite is meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect.

Leaving a penny at a grave, simply means, that you visited.

A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together.

A dime means you served with him in some capacity.

By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.

In the US, this practice became common during the Vietnam War, due to the political divide in the country over the war; leaving a coin was seen as a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave than contacting the soldier's family, which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war. Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a "down payment" to buy their fallen comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited.

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men and women can be traced back as far as to the Roman Empire.

► VA NEWS

VRAP BENEFITS FOR UNEMPLOYED VETERANS

In an effort to reduce Veteran unemployment, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 was passed and signed into law last November. Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) for unemployed 35 to 60 year old Veterans, which will begin on July 1, 2012 - we will begin accepting applications on May 15, 2012.

VRAP offers 12 months of training assistance to 99,000 unemployed Veterans who are at least 35 years old but no older than 60. Eligible participants will receive up to 12 months of training assistance at the full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty program (currently \$1,473 per month). DOL will offer employment assistance to every Veteran who participates or applies to the VRAP program. You can learn more about VRAP at <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>.

Please visit: http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/vrap_email_signup.html

You will be prompted to provide us your first name, last name, and email address. Once submitted you can expect to receive six to seven emails about VRAP, including notification on when applications open.

If you have any technical problems with the link or the image please email us at 225D.VBACO@VA.GOV for support. Detailed information on VOW and VRAP is also available at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW>.

Help us spread the word by sending this information on to the Veterans in your military community.

VA LOAN DEFAULT RELIEF FOR ACTIVE DUTY

Certain deployed military members are entitled to relief from VA loan default or foreclosure through the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). Military families make tremendous sacrifices when their loved ones are deployed overseas. A VA loan default or foreclosure shouldn't add to the stress. The SCRA may help a qualified military member to deal with debt problems that arise out of financial contracts entered into prior to active duty. By suspending civil claims against deployed servicemembers, it may also protect their spouses from having to deal with default or foreclosure while their loved one is away. Get more information on Military.com.

UPCOMING HIRING HEROES CAREER FAIRS

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is host 100 hiring fairs across the country in connection with the organization's Hiring Our Heroes Program. Hiring Our Heroes is a nationwide initiative to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment. The program works with the organization's 1,600 state and local chambers and other strategic partners from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. For more information, visit the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Hiring Fairs webpage at <http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/events> and the Hiring Our Heroes website at <http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes>.

DFAS WARNS OF SCAM EMAILS

Fraudulent emails are being sent to military members, military retirees, and civilian employees, which appear to be sent by Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS). Although the email appears to come from DFAS and displays a *.mil* email address it is actually from a non-government email account. The e-mails indicate that individuals who are receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may be able to obtain additional funds from the IRS. If you do receive a notice from the IRS, respond immediately. If you believe someone may have used your social security number (SSN) fraudulently, notify IRS immediately by responding to the name and number printed on the IRS notice or letter. You will need to fill out the IRS Identity Theft Affidavit, [Form 14039](#).

BRONZE STARS FOR WWII VETERANS

Did you know? WWII regulations did not formally prescribe a specific combat service period establishing an infantryman's eligibility for being awarded a Combat Infantryman Badge. As a result, in 1947, the U.S. Government implemented a policy authorizing the retroactive awarding of the Bronze Star Medal to World War II veteran soldiers who had been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge.

If you or someone you know is a WWII veteran who received the Combat Infantry Badge and has documentation attesting to the fact, contact your Congressman to obtain a Bronze Star.

► OTHER NEWS

PEREIRA AWARDED MEDAL OF HONOR

AP, by Kristin M. Hall, April 13, 2012

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – A Brazilian-born Army sergeant credited with saving two lives during an attack in Afghanistan while wounded has been presented with the nation's second highest military honor, the Distinguished Service Cross.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno presented the medal to Sgt. Felipe Pereira of the 101st Airborne Division during a ceremony Thursday at the installation on the Tennessee-Kentucky state line.

Pereira is the first soldier from the famed 101st Airborne Division since Vietnam to receive the honor. He is assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.



Born in Brasilia, he moved to America at the age of 17 to learn English at a Nebraska college. He earned a degree in biology and was working as a martial arts instructor when he decided to join the Army. In 2010, he became a dual citizen of Brazil and the United States.

He said he never expected his life to take the path it has—from an immigrant who knew only a few phrases of English to being decorated with such a medal. His parents flew from Brazil to see him receive the medal.

STOLEN VALOR ACT STRUCK DOWN

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the “Stolen Valor Act,” which sought to punish those who make false claims of military service and/or receipt of awards, such as the Medal of Honor.

The U.S. Supreme Court said the 1st Amendment "protects the speech we detest as well as the speech we embrace," according to Justice Anthony M. Kennedy. By a 6-3 decision, the high court said the right to lie about medals and military service, while "contemptible" and worthy of outrage and ridicule, is protected by the 1st Amendment. To allow the government to outlaw certain speech because it is based on false statements would invite a Ministry of Truth as written about by George Orwell in his novel "1984" about totalitarianism, Kennedy said.

The decision came in the case of Xavier Alvarez, a former member of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District governing board in eastern Los Angeles County. At his first meeting, Alvarez had claimed he was a former Marine and recipient of the Medal of Honor; in fact, he had never served in the military. After being charged, he resigned from the board.

Kennedy, speaking for the majority, said that Alvarez's lies "were but a pathetic attempt to gain respect that eluded him. The statements do not seem to have been made to secure employment or financial benefits or admission to privileges reserved for those who had earned the medal." Alvarez, a resident of Pomona, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years probation, a \$5,000 fine and community service. His attorneys appealed; the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld his appeal, and the Department of Justice appealed to the Supreme Court to reinstate the conviction.

Defending the law, government lawyers argued that lies about military medals are "false statements (that) have no value and hence no 1st Amendment protection." The majority disagreed, saying that there is no proof that lying about medals degrades the value and honor of those who have actually earned those medals.

The law was passed by Congress in 2005 and signed by President George W. Bush. It called for a possible one-year prison term.

Voting in favor of striking down the law were the Chief Justice John Roberts and associate justices Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. Dissenting were Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito.

NEW SIDE-BY-SIDE LAW IN VIRGINIA

Motorcyclists are eager to legally cruise side-by-side now that Governor Bob McDonnell has signed legislation permitting them to ride two abreast in a single driving lane in Virginia.

House Bill 97, sponsored by Delegate Tony Wilt (R-Harrisonburg), passed overwhelmingly 87-10 in the House and 38-2 in the Senate, and will now allow two-wheeled motorcycles to drive alongside each other in one lane. State law currently prohibits motorcyclists from riding next to one another, and violators can be charged with reckless driving.

"The bill allows riders to use their own judgment in determining when it is appropriate to ride beside someone, but does not require them to do so," said Del. Wilt. "One goal is to eliminate the harsh punishment placed on riders for doing something as innocent as pulling aside another rider while stopped or taking off together after being stopped."

Virginia will become the 49th state to accommodate two-abreast riding when the new law takes effect July 1. Vermont remains the only state to prohibit the practice.

HELMET FREEDOM IN MICHIGAN

Proving that persistence pays off, motorcyclists in Michigan shook off the sting of two previous gubernatorial vetoes of their helmet law repeal bills over the past few years and bounced back to win freedom of choice with the stroke of their new governor's pen.

"Michigan gained freedom today when Governor Rick Snyder signed the bill (SB 291) into law (Public Act #98) that repeals the 37-year old mandatory helmet law," announced Angel Richardson, Legislative Director for the Michigan Confederation of Clubs and a member of the National Coalition Of Motorcyclists (NCOM) Board of Directors. "The repeal is effective immediately!," she continued. "Thanks to everyone who made a phone call, sent a letter or a postcard, or sent an e-mail.....your efforts made a difference."

The Michigan legislature overwhelmingly approved the measure with broad bipartisan support, and with Gov. Snyder's signature on April 12 Michigan now joins 30 other states in amending their mandatory helmet law in

favor of adult choice. "The new law modernizes Michigan's outdated mandatory helmet law, which was a holdover from bygone days leaving Michigan in the minority as one of only 20 states left enforcing an empty federal mandate," said Vince Consiglio, President of ABATE of Michigan.

The proposal to update Michigan's mandatory helmet law was introduced in the Senate by Senator Phil Pavlov (R) St. Clair. "Every year, millions of dollars leave our state because of Michigan's outdated mandatory helmet law," Pavlov said. "This bipartisan plan will keep our dollars here, attract even more tourists to Michigan and help our state in these tough economic times."

Allowing motorcyclists to ride helmet-free could also generate more than \$1 billion in direct and indirect revenue, according to a recent Michigan Consultants study.

The new law gives Michigan the strictest requirements for riding helmet-free of any state that has modified mandatory helmet laws for adult choice. To ride helmet-free in Michigan, motorcyclists must:

- * Be at least 21 years old.
- * Have at least two years of riding experience or undergo special safety training.
- * Carry at least \$20,000 in additional medical insurance.

"On behalf of the NCOM Board of Directors we congratulate the State of Michigan on a job well done and to all who supported them," said James D. "Doc" Reichenbach II, Chairman of the NCOM Board.

62nd ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN WAR

By Josie Kakar-Delsie

June marks the 62nd anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, a three-year conflict that claimed 4 million lives, over 36,000 of them American. Their selflessness and sacrifices have gone unnoticed for too long.

No time between June of 1950 and July of 1953 was a "good" time to serve in the Korean War. Combat veterans who fought in the deadly outpost wars in 1953, who dug in to hold strategic hills in 1952, who chased the Communist enemy back north in 1951, and who held perimeters in the early days of the war in 1950 - each had to endure their own unique hardships, as well as fight overwhelming numbers of enemy troops. The entire Korean War was a series of cold, bloody and forgotten events and battles that claimed many lives. To this day, not all of our war dead and missing have been returned.

In February of this year, I travelled to the Marine Expo West held in Camp Pendleton and while there visited a booth hosted by the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee. Since last year, events have been held by "KW60" in many states to thank and honor all the Veterans of the Korean War. Also under this program, Korean War Veterans can register to receive a personalized Certificate of Appreciation signed by the United States Secretary of Defense. Locally, veterans registered and their service was honored at recent gatherings.

Please disseminate the "KW60" information so that those who served during this "Forgotten War" can be given honorable recognition for their service. The veteran is a relative, a friend, a neighbor or someone you meet at the grocery store. So when you meet them, be glad that you are privileged to live in this Country and proud to be an American. Our military is the reason we have this amazing Country in which we live. They will always be the reason.

KOREAN WAR

On June 25, 1950, North Korea launched a surprise attack as its troops crossed the 38th parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Security Council unanimously condemned this invasion. This action of aggression ignited an epic struggle between the forces of freedom and democracy and tyranny and despotism. On, June 27, 1950, the Security Council recommended member states provide military assistance to the Republic of Korea. The same day, President Harry S. Truman ordered U.S. air and sea forces to help the South Korean régime announcing that the U.S. would counter "unprovoked aggression" and "vigorously support the effort of the Security Council to terminate this serious breach of peace." In 1948, President Truman had already signed an Executive Order securing the full integration of America's Armed Services. Thus, America went to war in Korea for the first time in her history with a military that reflected her diversity.

The Korean War was the first test of the United Nations' resolve to stand against tyranny in all its forms. Many Nations banded together with the United States and South Korea in a remarkable display of solidarity to turn back naked aggression and stem the tide of communism.

The goal of the Chinese and North Koreans was to completely annihilate their enemy. They failed in their mission. Instead, allied troops displayed great tenacity and determination as they fought their way causing tremendous enemy casualties in the process. Amazing feats of accomplishment and endurance took place. Against overwhelming odds, including massive numbers of enemy and extreme cold temperatures, allied participants succeeded in avoiding annihilation by fighting their way out of deadly traps set by the Communist enemy. Meanwhile, thousands of U.S. Navy personnel miles away at sea were involved in close air support efforts for the ground forces. As one Navy veteran commented, "I did not have anyone shooting at me, but I assure you it was just as cold 25 miles out to sea as it was in the hills and valleys of Korea."

In the United States, the war was initially described by President Harry S. Truman as a "police action". It has been referred to in the United States as "The Forgotten War" or "The Unknown War" because the issues concerned were much less clear than in other conflicts, such as WWII and the Vietnam War.

The Korean War was a victory for the United States and the United Nations. The Armistice ending the war was signed on July 27, 1953, and remains in effect today to remind us that we must remain vigilant against the forces of tyranny and oppression.

We must never forget the selfless sacrifices of those who fight to ensure the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today. Our troops set aside their own comfort, safety and aspirations to answer the call to arms, and at a time when our Nation was still exhausted from the horrors of World War II. The Korean people know that their survival and subsequent prosperity is nothing shy of a miracle, and they have never forgotten that if American President Harry S. Truman had not made the decision to send American soldiers when the Korean War broke out, the Republic of Korea might not even exist today. Today the Republic of Korea stands as a modern, prosperous, vibrant democracy because of the courage and selfless sacrifices of our Military. Their spirit is alive and strong. They shall not be forgotten nor was their death in vain.

KOREAN WAR COMMEMORATION

In the 2011 Defense Authorization Bill, the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee was authorized. The goal of this Committee is to thank and honor Korean War Veterans for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States, including members of the Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, and to pay tribute to the sacrifices and contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States - their families and especially those who lost loved ones in that war. Another goal is to commemorate the key events of the war and educate Americans of all ages about the historical significance of the Korean War. Organizations all across the Nation can be part of this effort to pay tribute to these heroes. <http://koreanwar.defense.gov> View events that have been hosted and sponsored by KW60. <http://koreanwar.defense.gov/photos.html>

AN OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION IS AVAILABLE. First and last name, rank and branch of service is recognized on the form.

<http://koreanwar.defense.gov/recognition.html>

If you are on a timeline, order the certificate at least four weeks before it is needed. The earlier the certificate is requested, the better chance it arrives by needed date.

If you would like to share a story about Korean War service, please go to

<http://koreanwar.defense.gov/histories.html>

Visit other Korean War Websites http://koreanwar.defense.gov/other_sites.html

"Our military, regardless of their age, rank or race answer to an ideal fostered by the values which they interpret within themselves as American Citizens. Our military defend that which they love. They may not know to what extent but sense it is the right thing to do. They are volunteers to this cause like many before and after them who sacrifice for the cause of freedom not only within our Country's shores but on the shores of foreign lands."

Thank you to our military and God bless America.

Josie and her husband Robert, an Apache veteran with a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, rode with RFTW for many years. They were subsequently involved with Carry the Flame and presently with Patriot Warriors.

HORSE THERAPY HELPS VETERANS WITH PTSD

By Terri Moon Cronk, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 5, 2012 - A Pentagon Channel documentary sheds light on how military veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder are finding help through the power of horse therapy.

"Recon: Unbridled" highlights "Horses for Veterans," at Flag is Up Farms in California, an intensive three-day program designed to help veterans of all ages who have PTSD, free of charge.

"I think No. 1 is to work with veterans who have given up on life," said Monty Roberts, a renowned horse whisperer. Roberts uses his horse-friendly "Joining Up" techniques on abused and mistreated horses, and adapts it for self-isolating veterans who have post-traumatic stress.

Roberts' program is about learning to trust people by choosing to, rather than by force, he said. By using the language of the horse or the stress of the veteran to communicate, he added, his program engenders trust.

"When they trust you, they will migrate toward you, rather than going away [out of fear]," he said. "Horses are flight animals. They are frightened of everything they don't understand. If they don't trust it, they need to get away from it, and that's how a veteran feels, too."

The old style of "breaking" horses often involved using violence to force them into submission, but Roberts' style, which he calls "gentling" or "natural horsemanship," is nonviolent.

"They get nothing from the fight, so they literally give up," he pointed out.

Veteran Alejandra Sanchez is on her fourth visit to Flag is Up Farms, but remembers her first time like it was yesterday.

"I have never been so scared in my life," she said. "I wasn't even that scared when I was in Iraq. My anxiety was through the roof, because I had to face that I had post-traumatic stress.

"Every night you knew when the sun set, action was going to happen," she continued, recalling her service in Iraq. "I remember coming to the oddly weird term of 'I might not make it.'"

Sanchez faced her fears head-on in the "Horses for Veterans" program.

"You have to work with people you don't know, and you already have trust issues," she said. "It definitely brought out all of the symptoms I face, but at an intense level I normally haven't dealt with." Sanchez said she had to learn to calm herself down for the horses to learn to trust her. "The horses would not respond to me if I was anxious, angry or violent," she said.

Veteran Alicia Watkins isolated herself from friends and family and lost everything she had after she returned from tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. She was homeless, living in her car for a year, and said she'd lost her dignity.

"I know what it's like to get to the point where you no longer want to live," she said. "I remember going on convoys and not being able to handle it." By the time she returned home in 2007, she'd had many near-death experiences, she said.

When she accepted an invitation to attend Roberts' program, she showed up huddled in layers of jackets, a hoodie and sunglasses. Roberts worked with Watkins to help her earn the trust of a horse after he saw room for extreme change in her, he said.

"Hearing him talk about training the horses, I began to realize how horses and my PTSD were ... the same," Watkins said. She said she related to the horses' "flight mentality," because that's what she saw in herself.

"To reprogram the horses to be domesticated was something I could identify with," she said, noting they had been neglected or abused by former owners. "I found something that could almost immediately erase the pain and suffering of all those years. "Within an hour, I was a totally different person."

When her horse began to trust her and obey her commands, Roberts said, Watkins "became the most exuberant, outgoing participant."

"The change in her was like night and day," he said. He invited her back to train for three days with a new class of veterans.

Watkins said she saw herself in the new class of veterans. "To see that shell open up and see that person transform, it's so beautiful to watch yourself in someone else," she said. "'I feel like a victim' becomes 'I feel like a victor.'"

After working through her isolation and related issues with PTSD in "Horses for Veterans," Roberts said, he thinks Watkins is gaining the ability to think through her problems.

Today, more than 30 Veterans Affairs medical centers participate in horse therapy for service members and veterans with challenges ranging from mental and emotional to physical.

"The horses we see that were traumatized and abused never forget it," Roberts said. "But you can mask it over with good behavior, and that's the same with veterans. They're not going to forget the trauma they went through. Their positive behavior outweighs it."

"Horses for Veterans" has given veterans such as Sanchez and Watkins a new start.

"To see how horses can come back to a place of reconnection and bonding lets me know I can recover from this," Watkins said. "I can be the new old me."

BEWARE OF THIS CHARITY

A charity that claims to offer services to veterans with disabilities has squandered millions of dollars on marketing costs, instead of addressing the needs of its clients, CNN reported.

Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF), based in Washington, D.C., was slapped with an "F" rating by a charity watchdog group for failing to spend the nearly \$56 million its raised since 2007 on actual veteran services.

The organization says its mission is to help underserved veterans—those suffering from PTSD, brain injuries and battling homelessness—and to collaborate with likeminded nonprofits, but it appears to have been concentrating its efforts on paying for fundraising services and doling out cheap giveaways. But according to CNN, the nonprofit has used most of its donor dollars to pay Quadriga Art LLC, which helps the organization with its fundraising efforts.

"Up to \$2 billion is raised in the name of veterans in this country and it's so sad that a great deal of it's wasted," said Daniel Borochoff, president of Charity Watch, the group that rated the organization. "Hundreds of millions of dollars of our charitable dollars intended to help veterans are being squandered and wasted by opportunists and by individuals and companies who see it as a profit-making opportunity."

CNN has tried to contact the DVNF for more than a year, but hasn't received any specific replies.

But DVNF is hardly the exception. Nearly half of the 39 veterans charities rated by the American Institute of Philanthropy in its April/May 2011 report received F grades, The Huffington Post reported in June. These nonprofits failed mostly because of their exorbitant fundraising expenses and the fact that they spend a small ratio of their expenses on charitable services.

"[DVNF] sent us 2,600 bags of cough drops and 2,200 little bottles of sanitizer," J.D. Simpson of Alabama veterans charity St. Benedict's told CNN. His nonprofit was hit hard after last year's tornadoes." And the great thing was, they sent us 11,520 bags of coconut M&M's. And we didn't have a lot of use for 11,520 bags of coconut M&M's."

Feeling inspired to help a veteran in need? Consider donating to the charities below that are working to improve the quality of life of severely wounded vets.

The FisherHouse

The Fisher House provides free housing to wounded troops on the grounds of major military hospitals. "It's a terrific program because otherwise, to have my family with me it would have been a hotel or some other strange place," said Bobby Henline, who was badly burned in an IED explosion in 2007 and moved into The Fisher House with his family.

Hero Miles

Through its Hero Miles program, the Fisher House Foundation also provides free air transportation for the families of wounded warriors who must travel between home and hospital. The program uses donated frequent flyer miles from the public.

SemperFi Fund

The Semper Fi Fund brings specially adapted clothing to amputees.

Adaptive Adventures

Adaptive Adventures takes disabled veterans on ski trips. organize adaptive sports, enabling disabled warriors to go fishing, ride horses, mountain climb, even paraglide. Still others provide job counseling and training and help wounded veterans find jobs.

The Mission Continues, Project Healing Waters, the VA's community-based sports programs, and

Disabled Sports USA. These organizations organize adaptive sports, enabling disabled warriors to go fishing, ride horses, mountain climb, even paraglide. Still others provide job counseling and training and help wounded veterans find jobs. They also help finance handicapped-adapted cars and trucks, organize volunteers to run errands, buy groceries and mow the lawns of families struggling with a severely wounded and hospitalized loved one.

Wounded Warrior Wives

This nonprofit takes the wives of the severely wounded away from their 24/7 bedside caregiver role and flies them away for a weekend of fun and companionship.

Wounded WarriorProject

The Wounded Warrior Project aims to honor and empower warriors, who were injured on or after Sept. 11, 2001, through its athletic, employment and rehabilitative programs. Their Soldier Ride program is dedicated to getting the wounded up out of their wheelchairs or rehab clinics and out onto bicycles. Both organizations are looking for riders, volunteers and fundraisers across the United States.

United Service Organizations

United Service Organizations aims to boost our troops' morale through its entertainment and educational programming. From its language programs for those stationed in Afghanistan to its touring musical groups in the Persian Gulf, the USO works to provide "a home away from home" for military servicemen and servicewomen stationed in 27 states and 14 countries.

More on Charities:

From Fox News

The American Red Cross President and CEO Marsha J. Evans' salary for the year was \$951,957 plus expenses.

The United Way President Brian Gallagher receives a \$675,000 base salary along with numerous expense benefits.

UNICEF CEO Caryl M. Stern receives \$1,900,000 per year (158K) per month, plus all expenses including a ROLLS ROYCE. Less than 5 cents (4.4 cents) per donated dollar goes to the cause.

The Salvation Army's Commissioner Todd Bassett receives a salary of only \$13,000 per year (plus housing) for managing this \$2 billion dollar organization. 96 percent of donated dollars go to the cause.

The American Legion National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

The Vietnam Veterans Association National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

The Disabled American Veterans National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

The Military Order of Purple Hearts National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary. Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

► **BRINGING THEM HOME**

AIRMAN MISSING FROM VIETNAM WAR IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Air Force Capt. Clyde W. Campbell, 24, of Longview, Texas, will be buried June 21, at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. On March 1, 1969, Campbell was a pilot aboard an A-1J Skyraider aircraft that crashed while carrying out a close air-support mission in Houaphan Province, Laos. American forward air controllers, directing the mission nearby, reported hearing an explosion—they believed to be Campbell's bombs—later learned Campbell's aircraft had crashed. No parachutes were seen in the area.

In 1997, a joint U.S./Lao People's Democratic Republic (L.P.D.R.) team investigated a crash site in Houaphan Province, Laos, within 100 meters of the last known location of Campbell. In addition to human remains, the team located aircraft wreckage and military equipment, which correlated with Campbell's aircraft.

From 2009 to 2010, additional joint U.S./L.P.D.R. recovery teams investigated and excavated the crash site three times. Teams recovered additional human remains, military equipment—including an aircraft data plate—and a .38 caliber pistol matching the serial number issued to Campbell.

Scientists from the JPAC used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools in the identification of Campbell.

HANOI OPENS RESTRICTED SITES

HANOI, Vietnam, June 4, 2012 – The Vietnamese government has announced it will open three previously restricted sites for excavation by the U.S. to search for troop remains from the war. The announcement from Vietnam Minister of Defense Phung Quang Thanh comes as U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and his Vietnamese counterpart participated in a first-of-its-kind joint exchange of artifacts from the war in Hanoi.

A Department of Defense spokesman said in a statement the department believes Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC) research teams will greatly benefit from access to the new sites in their search for the approximately 1,200 U.S. service members still missing in Vietnam.

Ron Ward, U.S. casualty resolution specialist at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hanoi, said there are at least four U.S. troops believed to be lost in the three areas that were opened by the Vietnamese Monday. With those three areas now open, Ward said there are now just eight sites left that are still restricted by the Vietnamese.

Military officers briefing Panetta at the command's office said they had five to seven years to complete their excavation work. The acidic soil in Vietnam erodes bones quickly, in many cases leaving only teeth for the military teams to use to try and identify service members, one of the team members said.

In addition, many of the potential witnesses with information about remains are getting older and their memories are fading.

There are about nearly 1,300 cases that are still unaccounted for, and officers briefing Panetta said about 600 of those remains could be recoverable.

Ward said that opening the three new sites will enable the U.S. to try and find:

- Two Air Force members who were lost when their plane was shot down in Quang Binh Province in central Vietnam in 1967.
- An Army private first class who went missing when he was out with his unit on a search-and-destroy mission in 1968 in the tri-border area of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- A Marine who was on a surface-to-air combat mission and was lost when his plane went down in Quang Tri Province. Another Marine on the plane ejected and was rescued.

OFFUTT AFB NEW SITE FOR JPAC EXPANSION

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (May 17, 2012) – The Chief of Staff of the Air Force announced the approval of Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., as the site for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's (JPAC) newest expansion on May 9.

Located in Omaha, Neb., the new site will expand JPAC's search, recovery and identification mission and ultimately facilitate increased identifications for our missing service members and civilians that remain unaccounted-for from World War II through the Vietnam War.

In addition, JPAC broke ground on a new building on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in August, 2011, to accommodate JPAC's expanding mission, and this facility should be complete in 2014. The two projects support JPAC's requirement under the fiscal year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act mandate to reach 200 identifications annually by 2015.

With its headquarters on Oahu, Hawaii, and employing more than 450 joint military and civilian personnel, JPAC continues its search for the more than 83,000 Americans still missing from past conflicts.

The ultimate goal of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, and of the agencies involved in returning America's heroes home, is to conduct global search, recovery and laboratory operations in order to support the Department of Defense's personnel accounting efforts.

REMAINS OF GI WHO VANISHED I IDENTIFIED

What happened to a Philadelphia-born Army captain who disappeared in Vietnam in 1969 is a mystery no more.

The remains of Army Capt. Charles R. Barnes were recently identified, the Department of Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced Monday.

He was buried with full military honors May 3 at Arlington National Cemetery.

On March 16, 1969, Barnes and four other service members were flying toward Da Nang and Phu Bai when communications contact with their aircraft was lost. Hazardous weather made a thorough search difficult after their plane failed to land. All five were listed as missing in action, and Barnes is the last whose remains have been accounted for, said DPMO spokeswoman Jessica Pierno.

MISSING VIETNAM WAR SOLDIER IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced on April 30 that the remains of a serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Capt. Charles R. Barnes of Philadelphia, Pa., will be buried May 2, in Arlington National Cemetery. On March 16, 1969, Barnes and four other service members departed Qui Nhon Airfields bound for Da Nang and Phu Bai, in a U-21A Ute aircraft. As they approached Da Nang, they encountered low clouds and poor visibility. Communications with the aircraft were lost, and they did not land as scheduled. Immediate search efforts were limited due to hazardous weather conditions, and all five men were list as missing in action.

From 1986-1989, unidentified human remains were turned over to the United States from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) in several different instances. None of the remains were identified given the limits of the technology of the time.

In 1993, a joint U.S.-S.R.V. team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), conducted investigations in Quang Nam-Da Nang, and Thua Thien-Hue Provinces. They interviewed a local Vietnamese citizen who supplied remains and an identification tag bearing Barnes' name, which he claimed to have recovered from an aircraft crash site.

In 1999, another joint U.S.-S.R.V. team interviewed additional Vietnamese citizens about the crash and they were led to the crash site. In 2000, a joint U.S.-S.R.V. team excavated the site and recovered human remains and material evidence.

Scientists from the JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence, and forensic identification tools such as mitochondrial DNA -- which matched that of Barnes' sister -- in the identification of the remains.

HOMELESS VETS' REMAINS UNCLAIMED, UNBURIED

Mclatchy -Tribune News Service, by Andy Matarrese, April 19, 2012

WASHINGTON—On April 20, 15 veterans were buried with full honors in an Arizona cemetery. One served in Africa during World War II, another in Korea. A third earned an Army Commendation Medal for his service in Vietnam.

The men were homeless or indigent when they died, and their remains sat unclaimed in funeral homes for months, even years. In other states, volunteers have found the remains of veterans who fought in the Civil War.

A new bill from Sens. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Mark Begich, D-Alaska, would instruct the Department of Veterans Affairs to work with veterans' organizations to help find and identify the unclaimed remains of former service members, and, if they are eligible, to ensure their interment in national cemeteries.

Portman and Begich's office predict bipartisan support for the bill, which they expect to pass with little resistance. A similar bill sponsored by Rep. Pat Tiberi, R-Ohio, already has 38 co-sponsors. But a version that was introduced in the last Congress died in committee.

Fred Salanti, the executive director of the Missing in America Project, which looks for and identifies the unclaimed remains of veterans and their dependents, worries that this year's legislation will meet a similar fate.



"To me it's very frustrating, because anybody that hears what we're doing or sees what we're doing automatically is on board," he said.

Since Salanti's organization began in 2006, its work has led to the recovery, identification and burial of the remains of more than 1,600 veterans. He said the volunteers expected to reach 2,000 burials within the next couple of months.

Many of the veterans they find were homeless or indigent when they died, he explained, while others were lost in mix-ups after their spouses or other loved ones died. Steve Ebersole, an American Legion member who lobbied Tiberi about the House of Representatives bill, has been working with the Missing in America Project to find unclaimed remains in Ohio.

Volunteers have found 10 veterans' remains - among them the recipient of a Bronze Star with valor - and they'll be buried in Dayton National Cemetery on May 22.

A Bronze Star recipient "does not belong—I don't care what anybody says—does not belong in the basement of a funeral home," Ebersole said.

The legislation, Salanti hopes, would help streamline the process and encourage funeral homes - which are sometimes fearful of releasing information or burial rights due to liability issues - to work with veterans' organizations to identify unclaimed remains.

Neither the National Funeral Directors Association nor the Cremation Association of North America has records on the number of unclaimed remains at funeral homes.

Barbara Kemmis, the executive director of the Cremation Association of North America, said the issue of unclaimed remains came up at a recent trade conference. Her impression from funeral home directors was that it's an extensive problem.

Funeral home directors will, "to a one," she said, do everything they can to preserve cremated remains on the off chance that someone claims them. Some have even put up additions or new buildings to store them.

The Congressional Budget Office hasn't researched the cost of the Senate bill yet. A representative from Portman's office said the CBO suggested that the cost should be low, considering that the VA already sets aside money for burying eligible veterans in national cemeteries.

Another provision of both versions of the bill would instruct the VA to create a nationwide public database of missing remains to aid in their identification. Portman's office added that the VA already keeps a database of veterans' grave sites that could be adapted for accounting for missing remains, keeping costs down.

There's no CBO research into the House version of the bill, either, but an aide from Tiberi's office said the cost would be "negligible."

SOLDIER BURIED 62 YEARS LATER

Gus Nelson's uncle was among a number of prisoner-of-war remains returned by North Korea in 2006.

Gus Nelson, of Grantwood Village, was just 11 years old when his uncle, Jim Larkin Jr. went off to fight the Korean War nearly 62 years ago.

"He got on a plane in 1950, and we never saw him again," said Nelson, now 72.

So when the U.S. Army called in 2006 saying that North Korea had returned 208 boxes of U.S. Soldier remains, and that Cpl. James N. Larkin, of Kirkwood, might be among them, Nelson was stunned to say the least.

"They asked me if I would submit a DNA sample for a match to the remains and I agreed," Nelson said. "Then years went by and I didn't think anything would come of it in my lifetime."

That is until Nelson got another phone call in February with the news that his uncle's remains had been positively identified and would be sent back to St. Louis for repatriation.

"I just couldn't believe it," Nelson said, "but the facts all lined up and the forensic evidence was all there."

The remains of Cpl. Larkin were returned to St. Louis April 21. He was buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery on Tuesday with full military honors. Dozens of Patriot Guard riders participated, forming a line of motorcycles several blocks long.

"The ramp ceremony at Lambert Airport and the funeral at Jefferson Barracks were both very emotional for the Nelson Family, so it was very much an honor for me to preside," Missouri National Guard Chaplain Kevin McGhee said. "I knew this would bring closure for the family, and I made sure to mention that during the ceremony."

"It does bring closure," Nelson said. "There was no closure for all these years. We knew he was deceased, but having him back, well, it's just different now. It brings me a measure of peace."

After serving in combat in the South Pacific during all of World War II, Larkin was again called to serve in the Korean War. He was assigned to C Company of the 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division when he was wounded and captured by North Korean forces on February 12, 1951. According to Army documents, Larkin died April 30, 1951 while a prisoner of war. He was 34 years old. He never married or had children.

In the subsequent years, Larkin was posthumously promoted to corporal and awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and several other decorations.

While recently looking through family memorabilia, Nelson came across an aluminum plate used by his uncle during World War II. Badly beaten up, the plate had been crudely engraved with the names of each location

Larkin had served in during the war. For Nelson, that discovery and the events of the last week brought home the service and sacrifice of Larkin and other veterans.

“It was very emotional for me,” he said.

Equally emotional for Nelson was the number of people who participated in or attended his uncle’s repatriation services.

“To them I say, ‘thank you, thank you, thank you,’” Nelson said.

REMAINS OF MISSING AF PILOT IDENTIFIED

Federal authorities say the remains of a Phoenix man and another Air Force pilot missing in action during the Vietnam War have been identified.

The U.S. Department of Defense announced Thursday that both servicemen were buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Lt. Col. Charles M. Walling of Phoenix and Maj. Aado Kommendant of Lakewood, NJ were flying an F-4C aircraft that crashed while on an air support mission over Song Be Province on Aug. 8, 1966.

In 1994, a joint U.S.-Socialist Republic of Vietnam excavated the crash site and recovered a metal identification tag with Walling's name plus other military equipment. In 2010, the site was excavated again and human remains were recovered.

WWII MIA AIRMAN IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a serviceman, missing in action from World War II, were identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Emil T. Wasilewski of Chicago was buried on June 26 at Arlington National Cemetery.

On Sept. 13, 1944, Wasilewski and eight other crew members were on a B-17G Flying Fortress that crashed near Neustaedt-on-the-Werra, Germany. Only one of the crewmen is known to have successfully parachuted out of the aircraft before it crashed. The remaining eight crewmen were buried by German forces in a cemetery in Neustaedt.

Following the war, U.S. Army Graves Registration personnel attempted to recover the remains of the eight men, but were only able to move the remains of one man to a U.S. military cemetery in Holland. In 1953, with access to eastern Germany restricted by the Soviet Union, the remains of the seven remaining unaccounted-for crewmen—including Wasilewski—were declared non-recoverable.

In 1991, a German national who was digging a grave in the cemetery in Neustaedt discovered a metal U.S. military identification tag and notified officials. German burial law restricted further site investigation until 2007, when the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) surveyed the area. In 2008, the site was excavated and the team recovered human remains and military equipment.

Scientists from the JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, including dental comparisons and Y-chromosome DNA—which matched that of Wasilewski's nephew—in the identification of his remains.

At the end of the war, the U.S. government was unable to recover and identify approximately 79,000 Americans. Today, more than 73,000 are unaccounted for from the conflict.

AIRMAN MISSING FROM VIETNAM WAR IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced on June 20 that the remains of a serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Air Force Capt. Clyde W. Campbell of Longview, Texas, will be buried June 21 at Arlington National Cemetery. On March 1, 1969, Campbell was a pilot aboard an A-1J Skyraider aircraft that crashed while carrying out a close air-support mission in Houaphan Province, Laos. American forward air controllers directing the mission in the area reported hearing an explosion that they believed to be Campbell's bombs, but later learned Campbell's aircraft had crashed. No parachutes were seen in the area.

In 1997, a joint United States - Lao People's Democratic Republic (L.P.D.R.) team investigated a crash site in Houaphan Province, Laos, within 330 feet of the last known location of Campbell. In addition to human remains, the team located aircraft wreckage and military equipment, which correlated with Campbell's aircraft.

From 2009 to 2010, additional joint U.S.-L.P.D.R. recovery teams investigated and excavated the crash site three times. Teams recovered additional human remains, military equipment -- including an aircraft data plate - - and a .38-caliber pistol matching the serial number issued to Campbell.

Scientists from the JPAC used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools in the identification of Campbell.

► REUNIONS

2nd Annual Official Reunion for Both Central and Southern Routes

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

2nd Annual Reunion for Central and Southern Routes

Thursday, July 26 - Sunday, July 29, 2012

This is your chance to get acquainted with those you don't get to see on the "RUN." Also, attend the Rider's Meeting and *put your two cents worth in!* Ride some new roads, and have some great fun!

HOST HOTEL: The Park Inn by Radisson (\$79)

2201 North East 77th Ave., Tulsa, OK, 74115 (918) 835-9911

(Includes Breakfast Buffet; Rooms available Thursday when the BOD will be arriving)

Camping: Mingo RV Park

801 North Mingo Road, Tulsa, OK., 74115 (918) 832-8824

Friday (July 27) The BOD meeting 8-5

- A planned lunch ride around the lake
- This evening is free

Saturday (July 28) morning /afternoon

- Morning group ride
- Riders meeting 5 p.m. FNGs PLEASE PARTICIPATE.

Saturday evening

- Social Hour and Dinner (included in registration) is being served in a private room for the group.

Sunday (July 29) morning

- Time to head home.

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO ADDRESS BELOW. PRINT CLEARLY

REGISTRATION COST: Pre-Registration - \$40, Day of Arrival Sign-Up - \$45
(No Guarantee That You Will Be Fed Without Prepayment)

Name(s) _____

How Many Attending: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Refer to RFTW website (rftw.org) for complete details on rides, meetings, dinner, etc.

Mail Registration & Payment to: John Barker, 4261 Jerome Prairie, Grants Pass, OR 97527

Please make checks payable to RFTW

John Barker - hardchargerrftw@gmail.com

ANGEL FIRE, NEW MEXICO (unofficial reunion):

When: Friday, August 31 – Sunday, September 2

Where: Angel Fire/Eagle Nest, New Mexico

Friday, Aug. 31, noon

Help is needed to prepare the ground for the bricklaying at the Angel Fire Memorial. See details below.

Friday, Aug. 31, 4:30 p.m.:

Meet & Greet at Eagle Nest Senior/Community Center. Light refreshments.

Saturday, Sept 1, 8:30 a.m.:

Brick-laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire

Saturday, Sept 1, noon:

Lunch provided by the Westphall Foundation

Saturday, Sept 1, 4:30 p.m.:

Riders Meeting (Q&A with board members & Route Coordinators) at Eagle Nest Senior/Community Center

Saturday, Sept 1, 6 p.m.

Dinner at Eagle Nest Senior/Community Center. Lasagna (meat or meatless), veggies, salad, garlic bread, coffee, tea, lemonade, or water, and dessert. Cost is

\$20 for adults and includes gratuity and Ride Patch. If you don't want a Ride Patch, the cost is \$15. \$5 for children (no Ride Patch).

Sunday, Sept 2, 9 a.m.

Nondenominational service at the Memorial Chapel. We need a chaplain to lead the service. If you can volunteer, please call Barbara Montoya.

All other meals are on your own. Possible ride, depending on interest and weather.

The Angel Fire Reunion Coordinators are Barbara "Happy Feet" Montoya and Bill "Rocket" Rager. If you have questions about the brick-laying, contact Rocket at Bill4241@msn.com or 505-917-2021. All other questions about the Reunion, contact Barbara at leobjm@aol.com or 505-250-6495.

Reservations: **Reservations for dinner must be made by Aug. 20.** Contact Barbara Montoya. Give dinner preference (meat or meatless), also whether or not you will be attending the Meet & Greet on Friday (for head count for refreshments). Do not mail reservation fee; it will be collected at the door.

Ride Patch: This year, for the first time, we will have a Ride Patch for Angel Fire Reunion attendees. The patch is included in the dinner cost (except for children). To save space on your vest, there will be one patch for the Angel Fire Reunion, and each year you attend, a bar with that year's date can be added.

Brick Laying: We need people to help lay the bricks on Friday. If you have experience, especially with laying bricks in sand, and can help, call Rocket. He also needs a few people to help on Friday to prepare the ground for the bricklaying.

HOTELS/MOTELS (Be sure to request RFTW rate):

HOST HOTEL: LAGUNA VISTA LODGE—800-821-2093 or 575-377-6522; www.lagunavistalodge.com

Room with 2 queen beds	\$76.49
Room with king bed	\$76.49
Cabin (2 units share porch	\$76.49 (each has 1 queen bed & full-size futon, frig.)
King Cabin (king bed)	\$76.49
Sportsman Cabin (sleeps 4)	\$112.49 (Queen bed & full-size futon, frig, range, oven)
2-Bedroom Apartment	\$112.49 (queen bed in ea. room & queen sleeper sofa; kitchenette)
2-Room Suite (sleeps 6)	\$94.49 (3 queen beds, frig)
Historic Residence (sleeps 8)	\$179.99 & up for 4 people; \$20 ea. additional person. (2 bdrms w/queen beds & 2 full-size futons; full kitchen, washer & dryer)

OTHER HOTELS:

Econo Lodge: 575-377-6813

Cottonwood Lodge: 575-377-3382 www.cottonwoodlodges.com

D&D Motel: 575-377-2408

Gold Pan Motel: 575-377-2286

www.goldpanmotel.com

Horse Shoe Cabins: 575-377-6961

Great Escape Motel: 575-377-0586

Angel Fire Resort - 575-377-6401 or 800-633-7463

One North Angel Fire Road, Angel Fire, NM

Standard or King Room: \$78.00 per night plus tax

Deluxe: \$99.00 per night plus tax

CAMPGROUNDS: (Mention RFTW)

Golden Eagle RV Park and Country Store

540 Therma Drive, Eagle Nest, NM

575-377-6188

\$7.50 per person, plus tax; showers, Continental breakfast, 20% off RV camping with cash or check.

goldeneaglerv@msn.com, www.goldeneaglerv.com

Weathers' RV Park

1200 E. Therma Drive (Hwy 64), Eagle Nest, NM

575-377-2276

Free camping for RFTW, bathrooms, no showers.

weathersrvpark@qwestoffice.net www.weathersrvpark.qwestoffice.net

KERRVILLE, TX

Place: YO Ranch Resort Hotel, Kerrville TX

Dates: September 28-30, 2012

Room rates per night:

Single/double rate \$92.00

Triple/quad rate \$92.00

Online code for making reservations: **RFW0912**

Ask for the RFTW – Veterans group rate

Block of rooms will be held until 12 noon 8/28/12

Phone: 877-967-3767

Address: 2033 Sidney Baker

Kerrville, TX 78028

The YO Ranch Resort is located off Interstate 10; take exit 508. Hotel is south of I-10, approximately 1/2 mile on the left.

To check out the hotel amenities and accommodations go to www.yoresort.com

Group banquet and “special” awards on Saturday evening.

For additional information, Contact Janice Wentworth at 214-906-5357 or email: stitchnbitch1@earthlink.net

For those needing RV accommodations:

- Kerrville-Schreiner Park 830-257-5392 (closest to the hotel, city park, call for reservations)
- Buckhorn off I-10 800-568-6458

Friday – Arrival day is open for those interested in the Friday rides or catching up with friends.

Saturday morning /afternoon -Various rides and meetings are being planned. More details later.

Saturday evening - A buffet dinner is being served in a private room for the group. The dinner will include coffee and tea service. Adult beverages will be available from the lounge.

Sunday morning is open for breakfast and coffee with friends before heading home.

Saturday’s dinner and a RFTW 2012 Reunion rocker are included in the non-refundable registration fee. For first-timers to YO RFTW Reunion, a reunion patch is included.

Registration cost: Now until September 7 - \$30.00

Registration cost: September 8 – September 19 - \$45.00

Deadline for the registration is September 19th paid in advance. The deadline is required by the hotel to confirm head count for Saturday’s dinner. Prior registration and payment is required.

(Please print clearly)

Name(s) _____

Road name(s) _____

Number of Attendees: _____

Full Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Send checks payable to: Janice Wentworth (paypal payment is available – call or email

PO Box 192 for details. \$1 extra for paypal registrations), Gorham, KS 67640

For more info, contact Janice at: stitchnbitch1@earthlink.net; cell: 214-906-5357

An email receipt will be set upon payment. The email receipt will be your dinner ticket/confirmation.

► **SICK CALL**

Charles “Buck” Bettis

Buck, of New Mexico, was involved in a serious motorcycle accident in or near Charleston, WV as he was returning home from RFTW. He was taken to Charleston Area Medical Center, and his family from Maryland was with him.

RFTW Chaplain Duane “Roadthing” Guidry and Krispy visited Buck on June 6. He was in ICU at CAMC General in Charleston. He spoke with his wife and son and learned that he was in an accident on a back road near Charleston on his way to visit a relative in Columbus. He suffered six broken ribs, a broken collar bone, and had to have his spleen removed and the tip of his pancreas. He was moved out of ICU June 14 and had another surgery June 20. The initial prognosis from the doctors was that they think he will heal up ok. His breathing tube was removed June 10. He was monitored to be sure he had no more internal bleeding and no blood clots forming. He was released from the hospital June 21.

Five Injured in RFTW Accident

At about 9:45 a.m. Sunday, May 20, an accident occurred on the Central Route near I-70 milepost 33.8 eastbound approximately 17 miles east of Goodland. Kansas. Someone hit their brakes and four motorcycles could not slow in time and lost control, creating a chain reaction.

Injured were 52-year-old Dale Queenan of Maryland Australia, and his passenger, 48-year-old Marcia Bourk, also of Maryland Australia. Both were taken by air ambulance to St. Anthony's Hospital in Denver.

Another driver, 65-year-old Larry Kosnik of Laporte, Indiana was taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby, Kansas. A third motorcycle was driven by 67-year-old Michael Graham Kenyon of Mesa, Arizona. He was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center. A passenger on his cycle, Karen Williams of Sun Lakes, Arizona, was injured and taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby, Kansas. A fourth motorcycle involved in the crash was driven by 63-year-old Arnold Michael Wayne Robertson of California. He was not injured.

Dale had a cracked shoulder blade and cracked knee joint and had three surgeries. Marcia was in a coma for several weeks, and on a respirator. Karen had 14 broken ribs, a broken neck, ruptured spleen and ruptured lung. She was transferred to rehab in Denver and was doing well. Larry was treated and released; he had slight road rash and a cracked rib.

Marcia left for Australia June 26 and Dale followed shortly after. Marcia's recovery will be slow, as her brain heals.

Ann Staub

John "Fahrdawg" Staub's wife is recovering from a stroke. Ann had the stroke at the hotel in Angel Fire and was airlifted to Santa Fe and then to Denver. As of June 20 she was not yet fully cognizant but had some spontaneous movement in all extremities.

► TAPS

Wayne "Big Grumpy" McVeigh

This is Monsoon's tribute to Wayne "Big Grumpy" McVeigh, who passed away April 25. Grumpy was buried with full honors at Gardens Memorial in Brea, CA.

Chapter 785 has lost a "brother," the PGR a rider, "Run For The Wall" a participant, and "Snowball Express" a staunch supporter. This morning "Big Grumpy," a Vietnam Veteran, stood his last formation and is now cradled in the Lord's arms. "Big Grumpy" was a Veterans Advocate and did much for the veteran community and their families in need. He "walked the talk" and spoke his piece when it came to taking care of our own. A big man with a big heart who will be missed by so many, "Big Grumpy" led the PGR Escort for the three years that Snowball Express was in California. He was instrumental in having a commemorative Snowball Express patch designed and made for the families of Snowball Express and the riders who escorted them. He will be missed but his legacy will live on with all those that he reached out and touched. "Fair winds and following seas my brother." Love you, God speed and Semper Fi.

Yvonne Elaine Nolen, the wife of Pete "Baron" Nolen of Maurice, Louisiana, died on 4 June 2012. We send our condolences to Baron and his family at this tragic time.

Frank Chee Willetto, 87, a Navajo Code Talker who served in the Pacific Theatre in Saipan and Okinawa during World War II, died on June 23 morning in his home in Pueblo Pintado, New Mexico. He was born on June 6, 1925 in Crownpoint, New Mexico.



Willetto enlisted in the U.S. Marines 6th Division in 1944. After training he joined the Code Talkers, a secret mission that implemented radio signals to Allied forces and remained undecipherable by Japanese soldiers. He served in the Pacific Theater in Saipan and Okinawa.

After World War II, Willetto returned to the Navajo Nation and began working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs roads department from 1946 to 1974. In his lifetime he was appointed as a judge to the Navajo Supreme Judicial Council and the vice president of the Navajo Nation. He recently served as the Pueblo Pintado Chapter President. He was vice president of the Navajo Nation under the Milton Bluehouse administration.

In 1974, Code Talker Willetto was elected as a Tribal Councilman and served his people in that role until 1986 when he was elected president of Pueblo Pintado Chapter.

Willeto also served on many boards throughout his career and was also a Navajo Nation Supreme Court Justice. For his service as a Navajo Code Talker, Willeto received the Congressional Silver Medal in 2001.

Yvonne Elaine Nolen, the wife of RFTW rider Pete "Baron" Nolen of Maurice, LA, died on 4 June 2012.

James Douglas Johnson II, 65, of Apple Valley, CA, passed away due to a heart attack on June 8 in Daytona Beach, FL on his way back from RFTW. Jim was also a member of the Blue Knights, California Chapter XIII in Hesperia.

Jim served in the United States Marine Corps 1966-1968. He received a Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnamese Campaign Medal, and National Defense Service Medal. He retired from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Dept. where he served as a Deputy Sheriff II from 1980 to 1990. He was self-employed as a General Contractor from 1975-1980. He also was a part time tour bus driver from 1990 to present.

► CLOSING THOUGHTS

- "Thank you for your service" – This video reminds all of us never to forget past heroes
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2L3skZ7FEw&feature=youtu.be>
- Clifton, Arizona is a little mining town that had more soldiers per capita killed in Vietnam than any other town in the United States.
- Cuba, New Mexico is a town where 80 percent of the citizens are veterans.
- In World War II, 11.2% of the nation served in four years. In Vietnam, 4.3% served in 12 years. Since 2001, only 0.45% of our population has served in the Global War on Terror.

"To Dylan from Daddy"

*My arms will never hold you close
Or throw a ball your way
I cannot see you laugh or run
Or see you grow each day*

*But still my blood runs through your veins
And mirrors shall reflect
A little bit of me in you
Although we've never met*

*You see my son, I'm a Marine
Who saw my duty through
A man who loved his country so
The old red white and blue*

*It was my dream to serve and fight
Preserving freedoms dream
Protecting those oppressed and torn
Where hope may barely gleam*

*The way of man is not so sweet
Revenge is bitter fruit
Hatred taints the soul so deep
Destroying from the root*

*But still there's hope for us each day
Who dare to take a stand
Believing God will conquer all
Despite the will of man*

*You see my son, I've shed my blood
To keep you free today
As men and women in the past
Have done so 'til this day*

*But Dylan, son, know this is true
Though we have never touched
Through love of country and of God
I love you just as much*

*Protecting from a far off place
To keep the USA
From terrorists and horrors that
I've met along the way*

*Take care of Mommy every day
My precious little man
And don't be scared to trust in truth
Nor fear to take a stand*

*Today you have not met me son
Nor yesterday before
But tomorrow I will hold you close
At heaven's golden doors...*

*In Memory of
Lance Corporal Travis Layfield*

*Written by Thomas A. McAlister
Memorial Day, May 29, 2006*

You Are Not Forgotten



TO SUBSCRIBE TO A MAILED COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER:

APPLICATION FOR NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

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.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ 2012

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ FOR 1 YEAR _____ 2 YEARS _____

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.

