

American Legion



Post 13 Cumberland MD



Yearbook 2020 – 2021

By

Historian

Michael Hayes

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Introduction

The American Legion Post 13 Fort Cumberland located in downtown Cumberland Maryland, has been service the community and supporting active and veteran military personnel for 101 years. This Yearbook covers post activity from June 2020 until May 2021. Early in 2020 the world has been working hard to mitigate the effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic and by June Post 13 and many other businesses in the community has been forced close their doors to the public to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Post 13 worked hard to clean and prepare the post in accordance with all Federal, state and local guidelines and recommendations for reopening July 1st. While Post 13 is working under reduced operations, it will still do it's best to support it's members and community.

Preamble

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER
FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and
democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual
helpfulness.

Post Officers



Commander Post 13

John McCaffrey

John was born January 8th 1958 in Bamberg Germany. He graduated from Buffalo Senior High School, Buffalo Minnesota in 1977 and joined the U.S. Army as an infantryman and assigned to the 82nd airborne division, Fort Brag. He has been deployed to Granada Island in 1983, Bosnia in 1999-2001, Iraq in 2007. He Retired from active duty at Fort Drum, New York in 2009 and worked for the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Cumberland Maryland until his retirement on March 31st 2019



Vice Commander
Richard Holder



Adjutant
Peter Kelly



Finance Officer
George (Mo) Beal



House Manager
Robert L. Athey



Judge Advocate
William (Boomer) Mulligan



Chaplain
Jeff Robbinette



SGT-At-Arms
James (Jay) Anderson



Historian
Michael Hayes

Executive Committee



Lisa Anderson



Michael W. Beeman



Robert (Mike) Miller



Jack Yarnall

Post 13 Honor Guard

2020 - 2021



Left to right: Pete Kelly, Frank Pirolozzi, Jack Yarnall, Bob Smith, Ron Welsh, Birnie Lechman, Cliff Rhodes, Pete Handley, James King, Tim Nelson, Jim Beckwith, Bill Squires, James Anderson, Charles Fisher

July Events 2020

As 2020 continues to deal with COVID-19 Maryland went to phase 2 of the state reopening plan in June and Poste 13 decided reopen the doors for business on July 1st with reduced operations and reduced hours to follow all guidelines prescribed. By the end of July the post increased their hours for the post to be open all week

Notable Articles for July

<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/display-news/Article/2296877/us-navys-first-black-female-tactical-air-pilot-earns-wings-of-gold-in-texas/>

US Navy's First Black Female Tactical Air Pilot Earns Wings of Gold in Texas

31 July 2020

From Lt. Michelle Tucker, Chief of Naval Air Training Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy's first Black female tactical air (TACAIR) pilot received her Wings of Gold July 31, marking a significant milestone for Naval Aviation. Virginia native Lt. j.g. Madeline G. Swegle was designated a naval aviator and received her Wings of Gold with 25 classmates during a small ceremony at Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville, Texas.



The U.S. Navy's first Black female tactical air (TACAIR) pilot received her Wings of Gold July 31, marking a significant milestone for Naval Aviation.

Virginia native Lt. j.g. Madeline G. Swegle was designated a naval aviator and received her Wings of Gold with 25 classmates during a small ceremony at Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville, Texas.

Swegle is assigned to the “Redhawks” of [Training Squadron \(VT\) 21](#) under [Training Air Wing 2](#) at NAS Kingsville and completed her final undergraduate TACAIR training flight in a T-45C Goshawk jet trainer aircraft July 7. VT-21 Commanding Officer [Cmdr. Matthew Maher](#) presented Wings of Gold to each of his graduates during the ceremony.

Amidst the Navy’s response to the global pandemic, instructors and students adjusted to COVID-19 spread mitigation measures including sterilizing surfaces, wearing masks, and social distancing when practical. Despite these challenges, this is the largest graduating class of strike aviators in almost a decade.

Chief of Naval Air Training [Rear Adm. Robert Westendorff](#) oversees all undergraduate flight training from the command headquarters at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas. “We are all incredibly proud of Lt. j.g. Swegle and the entire class,” Westendorff said. “This is a wonderful personal achievement but also a testament to their dedication and drive to succeed in the tactical air training pipeline. I wish them all every success at the next level learning to fly our fleet aircraft.” [

A 2017 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Swegle reported to [Naval Aviation Schools Command](#) at NAS Pensacola, Florida, where she completed Initial Flight Screening and Aviation Preflight Indoctrination. She completed Primary flight training with the “[Boomers](#)” of [VT-27](#) at NAS Corpus Christi, and after selecting the TACAIR, or Strike, pipeline, Swegle progressed to Intermediate and Advanced training with VT-21. Swegle is part of a new generation of TACAIR pilots to qualify on state-of-the art Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) unique to aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78): the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) and Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG). She completed carrier qualifications in the Atlantic Ocean off the Florida coast, May 20.

“I’m excited to have this opportunity to work harder and fly high performance jet aircraft in the fleet,” Swegle said. “It would’ve been nice to see someone who looked like me in this role; I never intended to be the first. I hope it’s encouraging to other people.”

Chief of Legislative Affairs [Rear Adm. Sara Joyner](#), a career naval aviator, served as guest speaker for the ceremony via teleconference. “I’m incredibly proud of Lt. j.g. Swegle and her classmates and am excited to welcome them all to the fleet,” Joyner said. “There’s more work to do to make sure that we recruit,

train and retain a diverse force that represents the best and brightest of this nation. Everything in Naval Aviation requires teamwork, and you will be judged by your professionalism, demonstrated capability, and leadership.”

Swegle and her classmates will advance to graduate-level flight training at their respective fleet replacement squadrons. Specific platform selection for the TACAIR training pipeline (F/A-18 Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler, or F-35C Lightning II) typically occurs shortly before the winging ceremony. Swegle will report to the “Vikings” of [Electronic Attack Squadron \(VAQ\) 129](#) at NAS Whidbey Island in Washington to begin training as an EA-18G Growler pilot. VAQ-129 trains new naval aviators, naval flight officers, and naval aircrewmen in electronic warfare tactics, techniques, and procedures in preparation for their fleet assignments.

Swegle follows in the footsteps of Brenda E. Robinson, the Navy’s first African American female naval aviator. Robinson earned her Wings of Gold June 6, 1980 and was the 42nd woman to be designated a naval aviator.

“Lt. j.g. Swegle has proven to be a courageous trailblazer,” Commander, Naval Air Forces [Vice Adm. DeWolfe “Bullet” Miller III](#) said. “She has joined a select group of people who earned Wings of Gold and answered the call to defend our nation from the air. The diversity of that group—with differences in background, skill and thought—makes us a stronger fighting force.”

Chief of Naval Air Training trains the world's finest combat quality aviation professionals, delivering them at the right time, in the right numbers, and at the right cost to a naval force that is where it matters, when it matters.

August Events 2020

By August Post 13 was able to finalize the Standing Operating Procedures to establish post specific guidelines in accordance with the new Standing operating procedures

Due to the post closure because of COVID-19 the post had to delay the election for new officers until August 20th. Due to a tie for House Manager a run-off election was held on August 27th.

Notable Articles for August

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/08/v-j-day-foreign-policy-america-must-not-abandon-global-role/>

After V-J Day, Americans Wanted to Withdraw from the World Stage

By MIKE WATSON

August 18, 2020 6:30 AM



General Douglas MacArthur signs the Instrument of Surrender of Japan onboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, Japan, September 2, 1945. (U.S. Army Signal Corps/National Archives/Handout via Reuters)

Then, as now, even with a suffering economy, we can't abandon our global role.

SEVENTY-FIVE years ago, the greatest conflagration in world history was finally snuffed out. After seeing two of his cities destroyed by atomic bombs, Emperor Hirohito announced over the radio to his people that Japan would surrender. A wave of nearly riotous celebration broke out across the United States and other Allied nations. In London and New York, office workers threw ticker tape and papers out their windows to shower passersby with impromptu confetti, and *Life* magazine's Alfred Eisenstaedt took an iconic — and now controversial — picture of a sailor kissing a nurse amid the revelry in Times Square.

That image is often seen as an emblem of how Americans felt at the end of the war. The traditional narrative holds that the United States was invigorated and confident, the master of the world after vanquishing the Nazis and nuking imperial Japan into submission. After the Japanese surrendered and ended the most destructive war in history, Americans wisely stepped into the global leadership role that they had shirked after World War I.

Most of that narrative is untrue, and understanding the war's aftermath can give Americans valuable insights into the crisis brought by coronavirus. Although most Americans were happy that the war was over, many felt acute anxiety about how the economy would respond to the war's end. Nearly 10 million Americans had been drafted into the armed forces, and they were desperate to get home and scoop up any jobs that were available before they disappeared: They all remembered the Great Depression, and unemployment rates were in the double digits in 1941 before the draft began in earnest. No one could say with confidence whether the private economy would pick up the slack as military spending nosedived, and the GIs wanted to find work before the jobs ran out. GIs overseas began lobbying their congressmen and protesting how slowly they were being discharged, and the secretary of war was burned in effigy in Guam.

They were not the only ones eager to bring the boys back. Harold Ickes, one of the major architects of the New Deal, warned that the nation's coal mines were short of manpower. Unless the Army discharged 30,000 miners, he said, so they could return to work, the U.S. economy would freeze up and Europe's recovery would grind to a halt. The Army, which did not want to set off a lobbying frenzy for favored constituencies to be discharged, dug in its heels and infuriated Congress and the executive branch.

Meanwhile, at home, industrial workers wanted wage increases after they had avoided strikes for years to help the war effort. In November 1945, the UAW launched a [nationwide strike](#) of hundreds of thousands of workers against GM and kicked off a wave of national strikes that continued throughout 1946. Over that year, more than 5 million workers went on strike for wage increases they felt were due after years without labor agitation. They had a point: As wartime price controls and rationing were relaxed, inflation jumped into double digits. It is no wonder that the stock market lost nearly a quarter of its value in a bear market that lasted from May to October 1946. Unsurprisingly, the Republicans swept the Democrats out of the House and Senate in the 1946 midterm elections.

Amid this domestic turmoil, the last thing most Americans wanted was to take on additional global responsibilities. Some hoped that the Soviet Union and United States would maintain the wartime alliance and thus avoid conflict, others that the United Kingdom would balance against the Soviets in Europe, still others that all countries would work out their disputes peacefully in the new United Nations. It was only with great difficulty that the Truman administration accepted the new American role in the world and then persuaded the American people to support an anti-Soviet foreign policy.

In part because of political pressure, the U.S. military shrank rapidly and nearly fell apart during the drawdown. The Truman administration had estimated that it needed a

2.5-million-man Army after the war but was down to less than half of that by June 1947, and American soldiers would pay in blood a few years later in Korea for the military's chaotic decline. George Marshall later **recalled**, "When I was secretary of state, I was being pressed constantly, particularly when in Moscow, by radio message after radio message to give the Russians hell. . . . That is quite a proposition when you deal with somebody with over 260 [effective combat divisions] and you have one and a third."

Although the coronavirus is not nearly as devastating as the World War II, the United States is currently facing economic problems that surpass the ones of 1945 and 1946, and the voting public today is just as weary of foreign entanglements as people were then. But just as there was no international body or group of allies able to manage international affairs without the U.S. after World War II, there is no better option for the U.S. than to remain engaged abroad.

In this crisis, it is natural to prefer to focus on America's domestic problems and inevitable that many will want the rest of the world to take care of itself when the U.S. faces hard times at home. But they should take care: If we turn our back on the outside world to get our house in order, we're not going to like what we see when we're ready again to look out the window.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/04/hiroshima-atomic-bomb-us-japan-history>

Hiroshima at 75: bitter row persists over US decision to drop the bomb

This article is more than 1 month old



The Enola Gay lands at the Tinian airbase in the Mariana Islands after the bombing of Hiroshima. Did the B-29 Superfortress bomber herald a new age of nuclear terror? Photograph: US air force/Reuters

Historians and military differ on whether 1945 bombing ended the war and saved countless lives – or was an unconscionable act of brutality

Julian Borger in Washington

Wed 5 Aug 2020 01.45 EDT

Seventy-five years after it **dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima**, the Enola Gay stands, restored and gleaming, as a museum exhibit close to Washington's Dulles airport.

It was not always so well looked after. For decades after the war, the B-29 Superfortress bomber was left to rot. It was disassembled, its pieces were scattered, birds nested in its engines, and someone smashed its gun turret.



The man who survived Hiroshima: 'I had entered a living hell on earth'

Behind the neglect lay a deep national ambivalence about what it represented, a quandary which endures today: was this the aircraft that finally ended the second world war, saving hundreds of thousands of lives – or the instrument of the mass killing of civilians, which heralded a new age of nuclear terror?

When the Enola Gay was part restored and plans were made to put in on display at the National Air and Space Museum in 1995, historians agonised over how the exhibit might look at its legacy from all sides. It did not go well.

In the face of **an outcry** from air force veterans, who said the exhibition would put Japanese and US responsibility on the same moral plane, the curators scaled back or eliminated the elements focused on the **140,000 people killed in Hiroshima**, and the ensuing nuclear arms race. For the critics, even that was not enough. The museum's director, Martin Harwit, was forced to resign.

When the plane was fully restored and moved to the museum's spectacular new building near Dulles in 2003, there were [protests from Japanese survivors and others](#). Red paint was hurled, denting the airframe. In the wake of those battles, the inscription below the Enola Gay today is minimal and bland.

“Although designed to fight in the European theater, the B-29 found its niche on the other side of the globe. In the Pacific, B-29s delivered a variety of aerial weapons: conventional bombs, incendiary bombs, mines, and two nuclear weapons,” it reads.

All reference to the moral, political and historical debate over the bombing of Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 – and then Nagasaki three days later – has been left off the public display, but that has not stopped the row from surfacing in the days leading up to the 75th anniversary on Thursday.

The disagreements are not limited to historians. While the air force view – which reflects US orthodoxy – is that the use of atomic weapons stopped the war and prevented much worse bloodshed, the National Museum of the US Navy has a different take.

“The vast destruction wreaked by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the loss of 135,000 people made little impact on the Japanese military,” it says on a plaque beside a replica of Little Boy, the bomb Enola Gay dropped on Hiroshima.

“However, the Soviet invasion of Manchuria on 9 August – fulfilling a promise of the Yalta conference in February – changed their minds.”

The plaque reflects the views of US navy leadership at the time.



Peace activists arrange ribbons near the Hiroshima memorial museum. About 140,000 people were killed in the bombing. Photograph: Carl Court/Getty Images

“[T]he use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender,” [wrote Adm William Leahy](#), who presided over the combined US-UK chiefs of staff.

The general who had won the war in Europe months earlier, Dwight Eisenhower, recalled his reaction to being told by the secretary of war, Henry Stimson, that the atomic bomb would be used.

“I voiced to him my grave misgivings, first on the basis of my belief that Japan was already defeated and that dropping the bomb was completely unnecessary, and secondly because I thought that our country should avoid shocking world opinion by the use of a weapon,” Eisenhower told his biographer, Stephen Ambrose.

One of the most contentious issues remains the role of the US secretary of state, James Byrnes, in influencing the decisions of the new president, [Harry Truman](#), who was inexperienced in foreign policy.

At the Potsdam conference in mid-July 1945, which brought together Truman, Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill (replaced during the summit by Clement Attlee), an ultimatum was issued to Japan to surrender. Byrnes was instrumental in removing a paragraph offering to allow Emperor Hirohito to retain his title, the primary Japanese condition.

I'd say Soviet entry into the war had a more decisive impact on the decision to surrender

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa

“The proclamation was issued without any assurances, knowing that it could not be accepted, and then the bombs went forward,” said the historian Gar Alperovitz, a professor of political economy at the University of Maryland and the author of two books on the diplomacy surrounding the decision to use atomic weapons.

Michael Kort, a social sciences professor at Boston University, who wrote *The Columbia Guide to Hiroshima and the Bomb*, argues the inclusion of the offer in the Potsdam declaration would not have shortened the war on its own.

“The Japanese military had a whole bunch of other other conditions as well,” Kort said. “Also, what we meant was the Emperor stays on the throne as a constitutional monarch. What the Japanese meant was their demand that the Emperor remain with all his powers.”

When the Enola Gay dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August, the Japanese ambassador in Moscow was sounding out the Soviets on terms for a negotiated end to the war.

The destruction of Hiroshima did not change the Japanese negotiating position. That came with a double blow starting two days later. On the evening of 8 August, the Soviets announced they would be entering the war against Japan, as Stalin had promised Franklin Roosevelt and Churchill at Yalta. Hours after that, the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.

Historians are divided over whether the bombs or the Soviet declaration alone might have ended the war.

“Despite the Hiroshima bomb, the Japanese government still continued to seek the termination of the war through Moscow’s mediation,” said Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, former research professor at the University of California in Santa Barbara, and an expert on Soviet-Japanese diplomacy at the time.

“I would say that the Soviet entry into the war had a more decisive impact on the decision to surrender than the atomic bombs.”

That view is disputed by the Rev Wilson Miscamble, a history professor at the University of Notre Dame.

“Even after the Soviet entry into the war, certain elements of the Japanese military wanted to continue fighting. But it was Hirohito’s motivation, brought on by his recognition of the damage of the bombs, that brought him to engage directly with his government, and to order the surrender,” Miscamble said.



'He felt he had to do it': Truman's grandson on bombing Hiroshima

“So, if the bomb was most decisive on Hirohito, and if Hirohito was the most decisive figure in ordering surrender, I think we can conclude that the bombs were the decisive element in bringing about Japan’s surrender.”

The US invasion of the Japanese home islands was not due until November, so some have argued Truman could have put off the decision to use atomic weapons for some time to see what effect the Russian intervention would have. Alperovitz argues that the timing of the bombs was aimed at stopping the war before the Red Army moved too deep into Manchuria.

“It is not an accident the bombs were dropped on 6 August and 9 August, just around the time we had expected the Russians to enter the war,” he said.

Miscamble argues that takes too narrow a view of the scope of the war and the number of lives at stake.

“The object was to end the war as quickly as possible, because lives were being lost all over Asia,” he said. “Would it really have been moral to stand aside so as to maintain one’s supposed moral purity, while a vast slaughter occurred at the rate of over 200,000 deaths a month? Is there not a tragic dilemma here – which innocent lives to save?”

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2020/08/05/hiroshima-bombing-75th-anniversary-what-damage-looked-like-japan/3292406001/>

This is what it looked like after the US dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima 75 years ago

Jay Cannon

USA TODAY

The most powerful weapon to ever be used against other humans was detonated by the United States in Japan 75 years ago.

On August 6, 1945, a B-29 bomber famously known as the Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, marking the first of two times the bomb has ever been used in warfare.

The death toll itself was mind-boggling. As many as 140,000 people ultimately died from the blast, but not all perished immediately. The residual health issues caused by intense radioactive fallout claimed thousands of lives in the months and years afterwards as well.

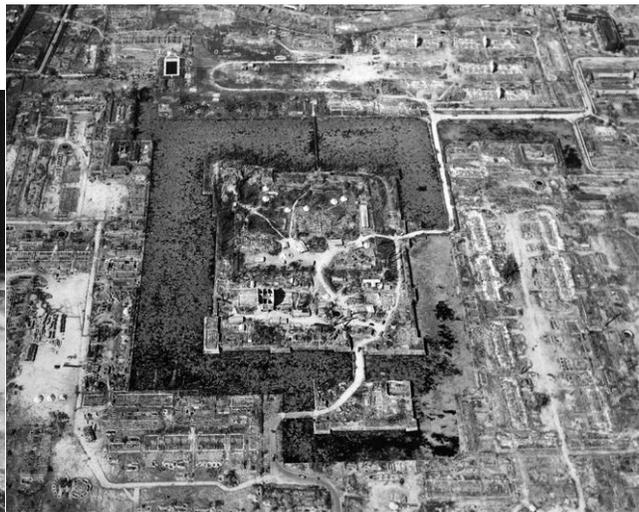
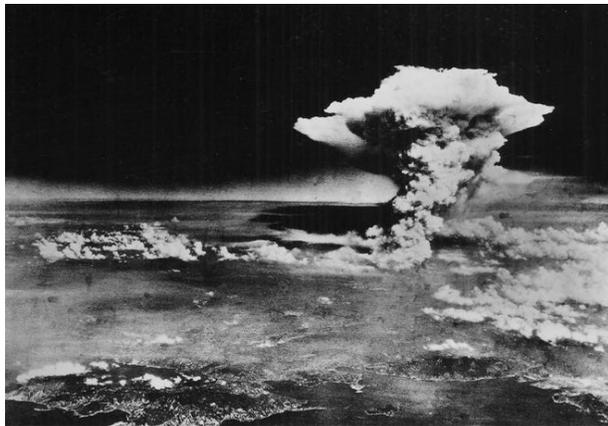
The city was leveled – less than 10 percent of the buildings in Hiroshima were left undamaged by the bomb, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Days later, on August 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped another atomic bomb on Nagasaki, putting Japan on the brink of surrender.

The atomic bombings effectively ended WWII, but they have since served as a brutal lesson about the dangers of nuclear warfare. Three-quarters of a century later, tensions over nuclear weapons and how to ensure they are not used again are still very much with us.

Hiroshima bombing turns 75: A look at 6 changes to nuclear arms under Trump

Here's what the bombing looked like.

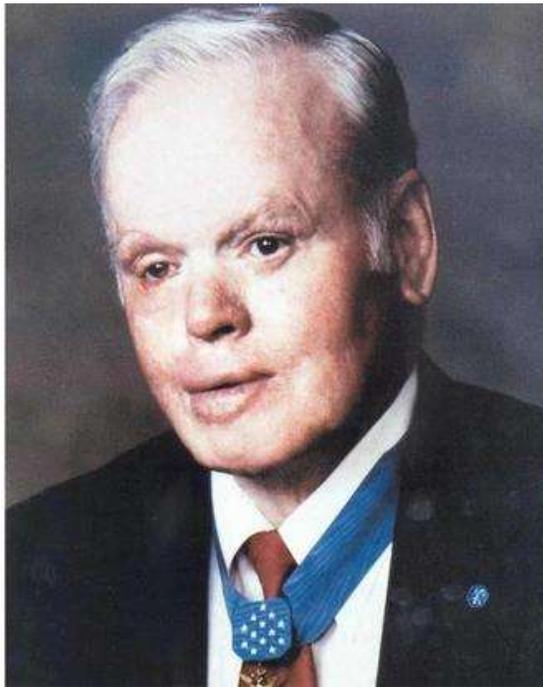






<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/08/17/wwii-heros-incredible-medal-of-honor-story-now-be-movie.html>

WWII Hero's Incredible Medal of Honor Story Now to Be a Movie



United States Army Air Forces airman Henry Eugene "Red" Erwin, Sr., who was presented the Medal of Honor for his actions in World War II. (Courtesy of Erwin family)

17 Aug 2020 Military.com | By [Richard Sisk](#)

Red Erwin was in such bad shape, suffering from burns all the way to the bone, that then-Maj. Gen. Curtis LeMay put one of his legendary bull rushes on the regulations to get him the [Medal of Honor](#) before he died.

The medal was awarded and presented to Erwin within a week of his near-fatal injuries; it's still believed to be the fastest approval on record of the nation's highest award for valor.

Read Next: [Army Street Gang Activity Is Increasing, Internal Report Shows](#)

Staff Sgt. Henry E. "Red" Erwin, the radio operator on a B-29 Superfortress over Japan in April 1945, beat long odds to survive and go home to Alabama, where he was welcomed at the hospital with a kiss from his wife Betty on the only part of his face that wasn't scalded.

The doctors didn't think he would see again, but he did. They thought he would lose his right arm, but he didn't. Following more than 40 surgeries, Erwin would work for 37 years counseling burn patients and advising on benefits for the then-Veterans Administration in Birmingham, Alabama.

He and Betty would have four children. Following his death in 2002, son Henry Erwin Jr., who had become a state senator in Alabama, said his father "embodied all the ideals of the Medal of Honor. He wore them like a well-pressed suit."

"He was honest, thrifty and patriotic," the son told the Pentagon, "[and] treated everyone with courtesy and respect."

There was never any doubt that what Erwin did on April 12, 1945, deserved the Medal of Honor -- not among the other 11 crew members whose lives he saved and definitely not for LeMay, then-commander of the bombing campaign against Japan.

As the radio operator, Erwin was also in charge of dropping white phosphorus charges down a chute to signal rallying points for other bombers in the formation to proceed to targets.

On that day, something went terribly wrong with the "willy peter" charge. It either jammed in the chute or went off prematurely, bouncing back up and hitting Erwin in the face. He was blinded, part of his nose was burned off and his clothes were on fire. Flames were spreading through the aircraft.

Despite his injuries, Erwin picked up the white phosphorus charge, still burning at more than 1,300 degrees Celsius, or 2,372 degrees Fahrenheit. He groped and crawled his way to the cockpit, where he somehow unhinged a small desk blocking his way to a window. He heaved the charge out the window and then collapsed.

On Guam on April 19, 1945, Erwin's entire body was covered in bandages when Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, commander of [Army](#) Air Forces Pacific Area, presented him with the Medal of Honor. It had been approved by the newly sworn-in President Harry Truman.

LeMay would later tell him: "Your effort to save the lives of your fellow Airmen is the most extraordinary kind of heroism I know."

Erwin's story has become part of [Air Force](#) lore, but the effort to honor his legacy and preserve it for new generations has taken on a new form to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

His grandson, Jon Erwin, in collaboration with author William Doyle, has written a book, to be published Tuesday, on Red Erwin's astonishing sacrifice, his life after the war, and the strong Christian faith that saw him through hardship: "Beyond Valor: A World War II Story of Extraordinary Heroism, Sacrificial Love, and a Race against Time."

In a 1999 History Channel documentary with other Medal of Honor recipients, Erwin said, "I called on the Lord to help me, and He has never let me down."

Jon Erwin and his brother, Andrew, the director-producer team in a string of successful inspirational movies such as "Woodlawn" and "I Can Only Imagine," also are at work on a movie about their grandfather.

For Jon Erwin, the book and movie are a way of coming to grips with the meaning of his grandfather's legacy, which he may not have fully appreciated in his youth.

In a phone interview, he recalled being about six years old when his grandfather took him to the basement and retrieved the Medal of Honor from its display case.

"He let me hold the Medal of Honor in the basement," but initially said nothing as the young boy tried to grasp what his grandfather was telling him, Jon Erwin said.

Then, Erwin leaned over his shoulder and said only, "Freedom isn't free."

The message was lost on him as a boy, Jon Erwin said, and he feels that he never truly comprehended through his teenage years his grandfather's passion for duty and service.

"I think my generation doesn't look back enough on the heroism that built this country," typified by the World War II generation, he said. "I didn't either. That's my one lasting regret -- that I didn't take the time to listen."

Jon Erwin said there is new material in the book, including a stash of letters that his grandparents wrote to each other during the war, interviews with Erwin's crew members, and a quote from LeMay on his determination to get the Medal of Honor to Erwin quickly.

"I want to pin the Medal of Honor on that kid's neck before he dies," LeMay said.

Jon Erwin said his grandmother shared her husband's general reluctance to dwell on what had happened during the war.

"He didn't talk about it; that was my husband," he recalled Betty saying.

'He Cradled It Like a Football'

Red Erwin was born in Docena, Alabama, on May 8, 1921. His father, a coal miner, died when he was 10. He quit school to join the Civilian Conservation Corps, one of President Franklin Roosevelt's "alphabet soup" agencies meant to ease the devastating effects of the Depression.

Erwin joined the Army Reserve in July 1942 and was called to active duty as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Forces in February 1943, training as a pilot in Ocala, Florida. He didn't make it through flight school and later was trained as a radio operator and radio mechanic.

He was assigned to the 52nd Bombardment Squadron, 29th Bombardment Group, 20th Air Force, which left for the Pacific in early 1945.

From Feb. 25 to April 1 of that year, his unit participated in 10 missions against Japanese cities. On April 12, his B-29, called the "City of Los Angeles," was the lead bomber in a formation on a low-level mission to attack a chemical plant at Koriyama, 120 miles north of Tokyo.

The following account of the mission is based on Air Force historical records, which included interviews with other crew members, Erwin's medal citation and the interview with his grandson Jon.

Erwin's job dropping the white phosphorus charge down the chute on the signal of Capt. George Simeral, the B-29's flight commander, was crucial to the success of the mission. The bombers flew individually to Japan and would await the phosphorus signal to form up on Simeral's aircraft.

Over the Japanese volcanic island of Aogashima, Simeral barked the order to Erwin, "Now."

Erwin pulled the pin on the charge, which contained 20 pounds of white phosphorus, and dropped it down the chute.

There was supposed to be an eight-second delay on the charge, giving it ample time to clear the aircraft, but it either went off prematurely or caught in the chute. Erwin was kneeling over the chute when the charge shot back up and hit him in the face.

Erwin said later that he immediately sensed something was wrong as he lit the charge. "I knew that sucker was coming back. I was completely aflame."

Thick white smoke spread through the aircraft. The charge, burning at 1,300 degrees Celsius, was eating its way through the metal bulkhead.

The navigator's table blocked Erwin's path to a window. He clutched the white-hot charge between his right arm and his chest -- "he cradled it like a football," other crew members said -- and reached out with his left hand to unlock the table.

Erwin "stumbled into the cockpit, threw the bomb out the window, and collapsed between the pilots' seats," an Air Force report said.

"After Red threw that bomb out the co-pilot's window, the smoke cleared out, and I could see the instruments. And, at that point, we were at 300 feet," Simeral said. "If he hadn't gotten it out of there, well then, why we probably would have gone on in."

Simeral aborted the mission and headed back to Iwo Jima, the closest place where Erwin could be treated. The crew used a fire extinguisher to put out the flames on Erwin's clothes, but the white phosphorus embedded in him continued to smolder.

Erwin was in agony but never lost consciousness. He kept asking, "Is everybody else all right?"

On Guam on May 7, LeMay asked Erwin what else could be done for him. He asked for his brother Howard, who was on Saipan with the 7th Marine Division.

Screen idol Tyrone Power, star of swashbuckler hits and a [Marine Corps](#) cargo pilot in the Pacific during World War II, flew Howard to visit him in the hospital on Guam.

"And so my brother was there the next morning," Erwin said. "He stayed with me for 24 hours. I couldn't see him, but I knew he was there and that was a great comfort."

Erwin received a disability discharge from the Army in October 1947 as a master sergeant.

In a 1986 oral history for the Air Force, he said, "I love the military. Even though I was severely burned, if they had retained me, I would have stayed in."

Reflecting on World War II, Erwin said, "We had the leaders, we had the logistics, and we had the brave men at the right place at the right time."

In the business of movie-making, Jon Erwin said that he and his brother try to tell stories that "have the power to uplift and inspire people," adding that their grandfather's story is the best example.

"The lessons of Red Erwin inspire us with the ideals of endurance and perseverance," which can mean the difference between success and failure, he said. "And I've found that the people who are successful are the people who can go above and beyond. I learned that from my grandfather."

September Events 2020

9/11 Remembrance



Large turnout for 9/11 Remembrance despite COVID-19 restrictions



Post 13 along with Post 208 attended the 9/11 remembrance ceremony hosted by American Legion Post 24 Frostburg, MD in Frostburg



Post 24 Honor Guard



National Anthem sung by Kayden Livengood



Pledge of Allegiance recited by Boy Scouts Troop 24 and Cub Scouts Pac 24



Opening prayer given by Reverend George Harpold



Lighting of the candles



Placing of the Wreath American Legion Auxiliary 24



Gun Salute was given by Post 24 Honor Guard followed by the playing of taps

Department Convention 2020

Due to COVID-19 the Department convention was delayed until September 19th. To allow for social distancing the convention was divided into five sites, this was the first teleconferenced Department Convention.



First Tele-Conference Department Convention Western site at Francis Scott Key Post 11



James Marchinke from Post 189 directs the western site



Displays are set up to see the other sites



J Anderson receives award on behalf of the post



Pete Kelly receives award on behalf of the post



Discussion was made on resolutions being proposed



A role call vote was requested on proposed resolution



DEPARTMENT Executive Committee (DEC) Sworn in



Mountain District in attendance at the Department convention



Post 13 Delegates attending the Department Convention

Notable Articles for September

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/09/03/nation-ready-fight-any-foe-it-marks-75th-anniversary-of-wwiis-end-esper-says.html>

Nation Ready to 'Fight Any Foe' as It Marks 75th Anniversary of WWII's End, Esper Says



Army veteran Paul Newman stands next to Defense Secretary Mark Esper during the Pass and Review of the USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112), part of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II commemoration ceremony on Sept. 2, 2020 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Gilbert Bolibol)

3 Sep 2020 Military.com | By [Richard Sisk](#)

The Defense Department marked the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II on Wednesday where it began for the U.S. -- at [Pearl Harbor](#), with a ceremony aboard the "Mighty Mo" battleship that served as the stage for the unconditional surrender of the Japanese empire.

In paying tribute to the WWII generation, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said that the lesson learned from history's bloodiest conflict is to remain ever vigilant and prepared to fight against present and emerging threats.

Read Next: [More Than 60 Fort Benning Soldiers Have Been Punished for Violating COVID-19 Rules](#)

The end of the war "created new expectations regarding the use of force and the way countries should treat each other" that often have not been realized, he told a socially-distanced audience of about 50 aboard the battleship Missouri, now a memorial in Honolulu.

"It is your legacy that inspires us to uphold the freedom and values for which you so nobly fought," Esper said to the audience, which included at least 12 WWII veterans.

"To protect the hard-fought gains of generations past and present, [the U.S.] will remain ready to fight any foe and defend any friend ... [and] will safeguard our values and all we hold dear at every turn in every place," he said. "We will not back down, and we will not yield. Freedom is far too precious to do otherwise, and the sacrifice of those who came before us is far too great."

In similar remarks, Adm. Phil Davidson, head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, warned that the U.S. now faces challenges from China and others and called on today's service members to take inspiration from "the memories of our greatest generation."

"We pay tribute to them by continuing to defend the values of a free and open Indo-Pacific," Davidson said.

Esper also cited in part the message sent out at the end of the war by Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz, who was aboard the Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945, for the signing of surrender documents. But the SecDef's call for readiness to fight appeared to contrast with the fervent plea for lasting peace made 75 years ago from the decks of the battleship.

Nimitz said the nation had an enduring obligation to those who died in the war -- "the obligation to ensure their sacrifice will help make this a better and safer world in which to live. Now, we turn to the great tasks of reconstruction and restoration."

[Army](#) Gen. Douglas MacArthur had just presided at the signing of the instrument of surrender by Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu, representing Emperor Hirohito.

"It is my earnest hope and, indeed, the hope of all mankind that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past," MacArthur said in his closing remarks.

He said he hoped for "a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish -- for freedom, tolerance and justice."

In the early planning for the anniversary ceremony, about 200 World War II veterans had been expected to attend, but the organizers limited the gathering to about 12 vets living in Hawaii because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Other ceremonies across the nation to mark the end of World War II were mostly virtual because of the pandemic, but President Donald Trump went to the port city of Wilmington, North Carolina, on a combination campaign swing and tribute to the World War II generation.

With the battleship North Carolina, now a memorial in the city, as a backdrop, Trump declared Wilmington "the first American World War II Heritage City."

"With this designation, we proudly declare that in America, we don't tear down the past. We celebrate our heroes. We cherish our heritage," he said.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/remains-sailor-killed-pearl-harbor-163409950.html>

Remains of sailor killed in Pearl Harbor returned home

September 3, 2020 · 2 mins read

The remains of one of the U.S. sailors killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 returned home Wednesday, landing at Tulsa International Airport, CBS affiliate KOTV [reports](#). Navy Fireman First Class Hadley Heavin, 23, was on the USS West Virginia when torpedoes and bombs destroyed the battleship.

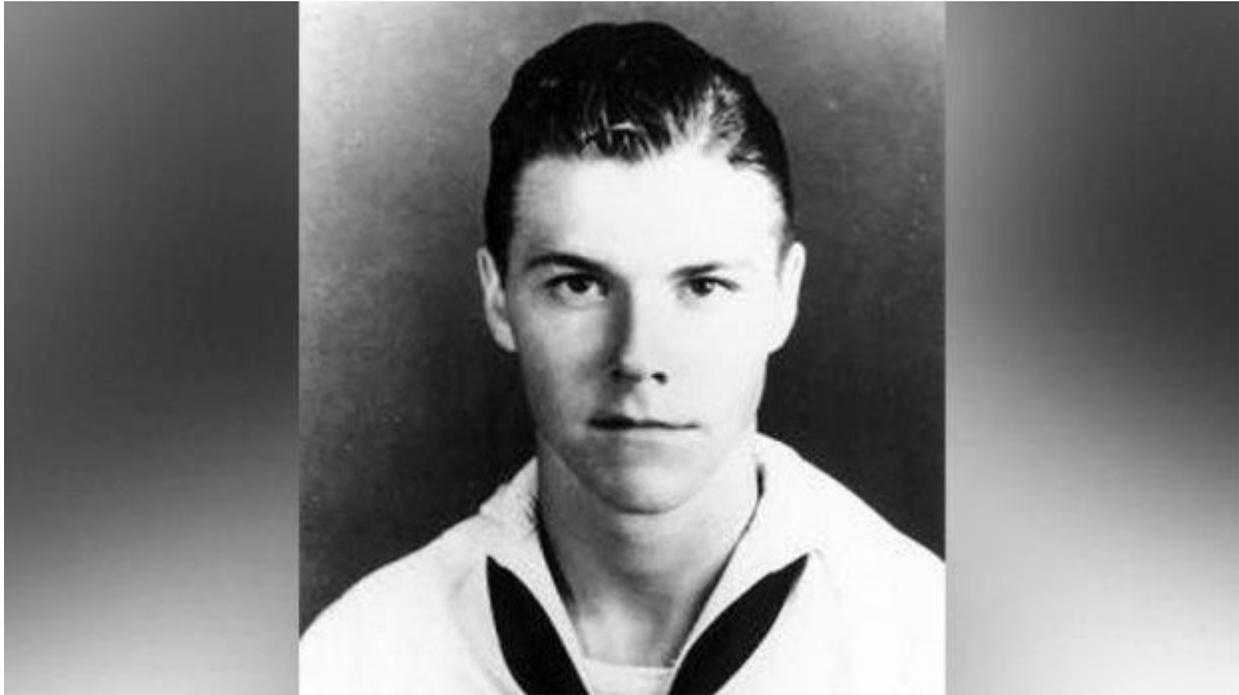
Sailors at the airport saluted Heavin, one of the more than 2,400 who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor. Navy personnel recovered the remains of at least 66 crewmen, including Hadley, from the USS West Virginia.

According to an obituary in the [Joplin Globe](#), Hadley's remains were identified last year after his two remaining brothers provided DNA samples to aid in a match. A memorial service is set for this weekend in his hometown of Baxter Springs, Kansas.

Last week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that the remains of another Pearl Harbor sailor was identified. Navy Coxswain Layton T. Banks, 20, of Dallas, was officially accounted for on October 8, 2019, the agency announced in a [news release](#).

On December 7, 1941, Banks was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, moored at Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese

aircraft, the agency said. The battleship was hit by multiple torpedoes and Banks was one of 429 crewmen who died.



Navy Coxswain Layton T. Banks / Credit: Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

From 1941 to 1944, the Navy recovered the remains of the dead, but scientists were only able to identify 35 victims, DPAA said. The unidentified remains were buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu.

In 2015, those remains were exhumed and scientists were able to use anthropological and DNA analyses to identify Banks, DPAA said.

Banks will be buried on October 24 in Plano, Texas.

This Day In Market History: Japan Bombs Oregon

Wayne Duggan

September 9, 2020 · 2 mins read

Each day, Benzinga takes a look back at a notable market-related moment that occurred on this date.

What Happened? On this day in 1942, Japan firebombed Oregon.

Where The Market Was: The Dow Jones Industrial Average traded at around 107 and the S&P 500 traded at around 9.

What Else Was Going On In The World? In 1942, the United States began selling War Bonds to raise \$13 billion to fund World War II efforts. Twenty-six countries signed the Declaration of the United Nations, a group that would form the foundation of the post-war United Nations. The average price of a new house was \$3,770.

Mainland U.S. Attack: On [Sept. 9, 1942](#), a Japanese floatplane firebombed Mount Emily in the Blue Mountains in eastern Oregon. The attack stands as the only mainland attack on the U.S. during World War II.

Japanese pilot Nobui Fujita's plane was launched from the Japanese submarine I-25. The pilot then steered his aircraft above an Oregon state forest and dropped incendiary bombs on the area. Japan's strategy was to create large forest fires to draw the U.S. military out of the Pacific Theater.

Many Americans were unaware of the attack at the time due to President Franklin Roosevelt calling for a news blackout to preserve U.S. morale. Fujita survived the raid and returned home to Japan, and the bombing produced no long-term damage to the area. However, Fujita remains the only pilot to have successfully bombed the continental United States.

Despite the news blackout, the market was rattled. From Sept. 8 to Sept. 10, the Dow dropped 1.1%.

<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/display-news/Article/2364390/uss-stout-breaks-record-as-it-departs-us-5th-fleet/>

USS Stout Breaks Record As It Departs US 5th Fleet

29 September 2020

From U.S. 5th Fleet Public Affairs

The guided-missile destroyer USS Stout (DDG 55) breaks a Navy record as it completes a nearly seven month deployment in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations (AOO), Sept. 28.

U.S. FIFTH FLEET AREA OF OPERATIONS – The guided-missile destroyer USS Stout (DDG 55) breaks a Navy record as it completes a nearly seven month deployment in the U.S.5th Fleet area of operations (AOO), Sept. 28.

As part of Destroyer Squadron Two Six under the Dwight D. Eisenhower (Ike) Carrier Strike Group, Stout remained in theater when the rest of the strike group returned home earlier this summer.



On Sept. 26, Stout reached 208 days consecutively at sea, surpassing the Navy's known record previously held by Ike and USS San Jacinto (CG 56) as a result of the coronavirus and operational requirements.

Stout's high operational tempo was in support of operations under Task Force (TF) 50, TF 51/5, and Coalition Task Force (CTF) Sentinel, the operational arm of the International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC).

"USS Stout has been instrumental in maintaining freedom of navigation in the region. Its regular presence has helped to deter potential threats and provide reassurance to the global merchant community," said Cdre. Rob Bellfield, commander of CTF Sentinel. "I wish to thank the crew for their efforts and wish them all the best during the rest of their deployment."

As a Sentinel ship, Stout spent 139 days in direct or associated support of the task force to ensure the free flow of commerce. Stout provided overwatch for more than 550 vessels as they transited critical chokepoints and delivered 1,500 maritime awareness calls to regional commercial shipping.

Under TF 50, Stout supported both the Ike and Nimitz Carrier Strike Groups, taking part in maritime security operations such as patrolling the Bab el Mandeb and Strait of Hormuz, and escorting U.S. Army logistics support vessels through the AOO.

Under TF 51/5, the ship supported the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group as it conducted operations including island amphibious assault training and joint air and surface integration exercises.

Stout also conducted the first-ever Mid-Deployment Voyage Repair period at sea and executed significant repairs, preservation and preventative maintenance.

Not once during deployment did the crew fail to execute its assigned tasking to support continuous operations.

"We are extremely proud of Stout's accomplishments in theater as they've been operating to ensure freedom of navigation," said Vice Adm. Samuel Paparo, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. 5th Fleet, Combined Maritime Forces. "Under the challenges of COVID-19 and the uncertainty of regional tensions, Stout embodied their motto and prevailed with 'Courage, Valor and Integrity.'"

October Events 2020

SAL Roast Beef Sandwich sale

SAL Squadron 13 held Roast Beef Sandwich sale on October 3rd



Pete Kelly assists with change



Sandwich \$5.00, full meal \$8.00

Notable Articles for November

<https://krctv.com/news/local/community-welcomes-home-fallen-world-war-ii-hero-in-red-bluff>

Community welcomes home fallen World War II hero in Red Bluff

by Colton Chavez

Friday, November 20th 2020



KRCR

TEHAMA COUNTY, Calif. — After 77 years, Marine Private First Class, Thomas Frank Johnson's remains were returned to his family in Red Bluff.

Kathleen Vanatta, Niece of Johnson spoke with KRCR on Thursday after Johnson's remains were flown into Sacramento and then transported to the Northstate.

"All across the freeways with banners welcome home marine with flags waving. It was amazing," said Vanatta.

On November 22, 1943, Private Johnson lost his life, fighting in the battle of [Tarawa](#) during World War II.

Johnson's remains had been missing since 1943, but after being discovered were returned to Red Bluff on Thursday.

The nonprofit, [Honoring Our Fallen](#) assisted Johnson's family during this process.

Community members and first responders lined the streets of downtown red bluff, many never knowing more than the marine's name but honoring the sacrifices that he made.

"Regardless of where you are at or what your beliefs are, honoring the fallen veterans who have allowed us to live the wonderful lives that we do," said one person.

"I feel like crying," said another person in attendance.

"77 years this guy has been lost and finally he gets laid to rest properly. It's a beautiful moment man," said one man.



For family members, it's bringing stories they heard as children, full circle.

"My father wanted to fight in the war but he was the youngest and all he did was talk about his brothers and his other brother is still in Tarawa. I wish my father was here because this is for him," said Vanatta.

Johnson's brother Hugh also lost his life during the Battle of Tarawa and his remains are still missing.

After being welcomed home in Red Bluff, Marine Private First Class Thomas Frank Johnson will be laid to rest in the Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo.

Placed right next to his youngest brother who would always tell Vanatta stories about her Uncle Thomas Frank Johnson.

"I think he wanted to fight too or be there instead of him," she said.



Marine Private First Class, Thomas Frank Johnson

<https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2020-11-30/navy-will-decommission-warship-damaged-in-suspected-arson>

Navy Will Decommission Warship Damaged in Suspected Arson

The Navy says it will decommission a warship docked off San Diego after suspected arson caused extensive damage, making it too expensive to restore.

By [Associated Press](#), Wire Service Content Nov. 30, 2020, at 6:05 p.m.

Navy Will Decommission Warship Damaged in Suspected Arson



FILE - In this July 12, 2020, file photo, smoke rises from the USS Bonhomme Richard at Naval Base San Diego in San Diego, after an explosion and fire onboard the ship at Naval Base San Diego. The Navy on Monday, Nov. 30, 2020, said that it will decommission the warship docked off San Diego after suspected arson caused extensive damage, making it too expensive to restore. (AP Photo/Denis Poroy, File) The Associated Press

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Navy said Monday that it will decommission a warship docked off San Diego after suspected arson this summer caused extensive damage, making it too expensive to restore.

Fully repairing the USS Bonhomme Richard to warfighting capabilities would cost \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion and take five to seven years, said Rear Adm. Eric H. Ver Hage of the Navy Regional Maintenance Center.

The amphibious assault ship burned for more than four days in July and was the Navy's worst U.S. warship fire outside of combat in recent memory. The ship was left with extensive structural, electrical and mechanical damage.

Restoring the 22-year-old ship for another use, perhaps as a hospital, would take almost as long as full restoration and cost \$1 billion. Decommissioning the ship will take nine months to a year and cost \$30 million, Ver Hage said.

"We did not come to this decision lightly," Navy Secretary Kenneth J. Braithwaite said. "Following an extensive material assessment in which various courses of action were considered and evaluated, we came to the conclusion that it is not fiscally responsible to restore her."

Navy officials and industry experts studied the cost and schedule with an eye toward "the art of the possible," Ver Hage told reporters. They considered the impact that restoration would have on other spending priorities.

"The dollars definitely would disrupt our strategy for investment," Ver Hage said.

Arson is suspected in the July 12 fire, and a U.S. Navy sailor was questioned as a potential suspect, a senior defense official said in late August.

The sailor was questioned as part of the investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, an official with knowledge of the investigation said in August. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to provide details not yet made public. The sailor was not detained.

Ver Hage declined to comment Monday on the status of several investigations and he didn't give a timeline for their completion, saying they "will conclude when the time is right."

Ver Hage said about 60% of the ship would likely need to be replaced to have it fully restored, including the flight deck, mast and many levels directly below the flight deck.

The ship will likely be decommissioned in San Diego. Crew members will be notified of reassignment.

The Bonhomme Richard was nearing the end of a two-year upgrade estimated to cost \$250 million when the fire started.

About 160 sailors and officers were on board when the flames sent up a huge plume of dark smoke from the 840-foot (256-meter) amphibious assault vessel, which had been docked at Naval Base San Diego while undergoing the upgrade.

Firefighters attacked the flames inside the ship while firefighting vessels with water cannons directed streams of seawater into the ship and helicopters made water drops.

More than 60 sailors and civilians were treated for minor injuries, heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation.

Lawrence B. Brennan, a retired Navy captain and adjunct professor of law at Fordham Law School, said the decision to decommission was “inevitable and correct.”

Aside from the ship's extensive damage and advanced age, evidence would have to be preserved for any prosecution, delaying repair work, he said. Defense attorneys would be entitled to examine the wreck for expert witnesses to testify at trial.

December Events 2020

Even though COVID-19 was going on Post-13 followed recommended guidelines to hold the annual Eggnog Party



Mike Beeman Serving Eggnog



Members enjoying eggnog and socializing

Notable Articles for December

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/03/world/asia/japan-kamikaze.html>

He Escaped Death as a Kamikaze Pilot. 70 Years Later, He Told His Story.

Kazuo Odachi is one of the last living members of a group never meant to survive. He wants to remind Japan that before its modern success came the sacrifices of the young pilots who gave their lives.



Kazuo Odachi at his home in Tokyo. He has written a book about his time as a Japanese Navy pilot, “Memoirs of a Kamikaze.” Credit...Noriko Hayashi for The New York Times

By [Ben Dooley](#)

Published Dec. 3, 2020 Updated Dec. 15, 2020

[阅读简体中文版](#) [閱讀繁體中文版](#)

TOKYO — For more than six decades, Kazuo Odachi had a secret: At the age of 17, he became a kamikaze pilot, one of thousands of young [Japanese](#) men tasked to give their lives in last-ditch suicide missions near the end of World War II.

As he built a family and a career as a Tokyo police officer, he kept his secret from virtually everyone, even his wife, who knew only that he had served as a Japanese Navy pilot. The experience, he felt, would be too hard to explain to a society that mostly viewed the kamikaze as maniacal zealots who volunteered for an unthinkable sacrifice.

But over the years, as Japan's complex relationship with the war changed, Mr. Odachi gradually began to share his story with a small group of friends. In 2016, he published a memoir, recounting how he had fallen asleep each night wondering if tomorrow it would be his turn to die for a lost cause. The book was released in English translation in September, the 75th anniversary of the conflict's end.

Mr. Odachi, 93, one of the last living members of a group never meant to survive, said he hoped to memorialize the pilots as young men whose valor and patriotism were exploited. "I don't want anyone to forget that the wonderful country that Japan has become today was built on the foundation of their deaths," he said in a recent interview at his home.

The kamikaze are the most potent symbol of the war in Japan, a vivid example of the dangers of fervent nationalism and martial fanaticism. But as the generation who lived through the war fades away, Japan's opposing political sides are vying to reinterpret the kamikaze for a public still divided over the conflict's legacy.

For the right, the kamikaze are a symbol of traditional virtues and a spirit of self-sacrifice that they believe is woefully absent from modern Japan. For the left, they are part of a generation destroyed by Japanese militarism, and a powerful reminder of the importance of maintaining the country's postwar pacifism.

"The kamikaze as a historical fact, and as a symbol, have a very powerful potential to be used on either side of that argument," said M.G. Sheftall, a professor at Shizuoka University and the author of "Blossoms in the Wind," a collection of interviews with the pilots.

Mr. Odachi himself has little interest in politics. Nowadays, he welcomes visitors into his home in the Tokyo suburbs, where he vividly re-enacts old war scenes, stomping on imaginary airplane pedals and fiercely pulling a pretend flight stick.

His story defies the simple stereotypes often evoked by Japan's conservatives and liberals.

He volunteered to fight in a war he believed his country would not win. He was prepared to die to protect those he loved, but not to throw his life away.

Today, he is staunchly antiwar and thinks Japan's pacifist constitution is fine just the way it is, but he remains a strong advocate for the country's right to self-defense. He has no regrets about his decision to enlist, and he visits Yasukuni Shrine — where generations of Japan's fallen soldiers are enshrined alongside some of its most notorious war criminals — several times a year to console the souls of his friends who died in combat.

Growing up in a village near an air base, Mr. Odachi had long been fascinated by planes, and when the war began, he decided that he would one day fly one. He enlisted in Japan's armed forces in 1943 and joined the Yokaren, an elite group of teenagers who were trained as Navy pilots.



Mr. Odachi at age 18, in his pilot uniform. Credit...Noriko Hayashi for The New York Times

The Yokaren, Mr. Odachi pointed out, were different from other kamikaze students who had been yanked out of their schools and consigned to death with little preparation or training. Still, the young men in Mr. Odachi's program were groomed to die in aerial combat even before Japan's desperate turn to suicide missions.

Cadets were celebrated as cherry blossoms, a flower whose vivid beauty is accentuated by its brief existence. Even the buttons on their uniforms, embossed with the flower, served as a reminder of their imminent death in battle.

"We all knew that 'happily ever after' was an unlikely outcome," Mr. Odachi wrote in his book, "[Memoirs of a Kamikaze](#)." "We weren't destined to live long."

When he arrived in Japanese-occupied Taiwan in August of 1944, the war was entering its end stage.

Japanese forces had been ground down by American technological superiority and the overwhelming production capacity of the U.S. war machine. An allied victory appeared increasingly inevitable, and Japanese tactics began to demand even greater human sacrifice.

In dogfights, pilots were instructed to “aim to carve the enemy with our own propellers,” Mr. Odachi wrote. “Of course, death was a certainty if this happened, but at least we would take the enemy with us.”

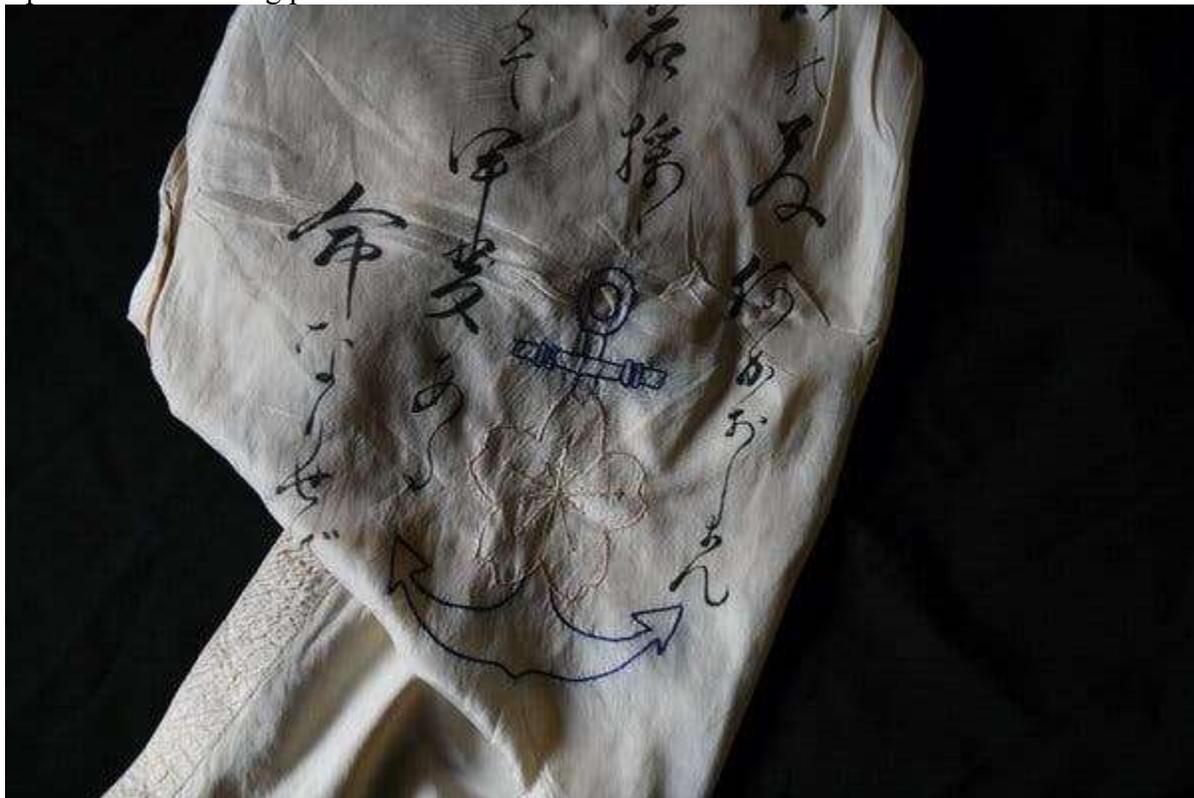
The tactics hinged on the belief that Japanese airmen were more willing to die than their enemies.

The force of that conviction was put to the test in October 1944, when Japan’s Navy decided to gamble everything to stop an American attack on its forces in the Philippines, during what would become known as the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

Japanese officers explained to Mr. Odachi and his cohort the plan to use suicide missions and asked for volunteers. They were met with stunned silence.

Only when the officers began to harangue them did the first few men reticently volunteer, he wrote. “We were essentially cajoled into committing suicide,” he recalled.

On Oct. 25, Mr. Odachi witnessed the first successful sortie of suicide fighters take off from a bombed-out runway in the Philippines. But Mr. Odachi and his fellow troops soon found themselves pinned down in the island nation, as American bombers destroyed many of his squadron’s remaining planes.



A silk scarf Mr. Odachi wore on missions during the war. It is made of parachute cloth and embroidered with cherry blossoms and a blue anchor, the symbol of his unit. Credit...Noriko Hayashi for The New York Times

Months later, he and others escaped to Taiwan, where, on April 4, 1945, he was ordered on the first mission of his 10-month stint as a suicide pilot.

Mr. Odachi's Zero — the agile Japanese fighter plane that dominated the Pacific skies in the war's early years — was loaded with an 1,100-pound bomb, weighing it down so much that it would be impossible to outmaneuver the enemy. When American fighters spotted him, he jettisoned his bomb into the ocean and managed to escape.

On his next sortie, his group failed to find a target. The next six missions also ended in failure.

After each attempt, he would wait for weeks for new orders. Every night, the officers announced who would fly into battle the next day. It “felt like the conferral of the death penalty, and it was stomach-turning,” he wrote.

But by the end, he said, “we had become indifferent to matters of life and death. Our only concern was making the final moment count.”

That moment, however, never came. On his final mission, his plane was preparing to take off when a member of the ground crew ran onto the runway, shouting and waving for the squadron to stop. The emperor, Mr. Odachi learned, had just announced Japan's surrender. He was going home.

On his return, as a train took him through the bombed-out remains of Hiroshima, he truly understood that the war was over. At his home in Tokyo, he took the ceremonial short sword commemorating his status as a kamikaze and threw it into the hearth fire, where it melted into a lump of steel.

His only souvenirs from the war are a handful of photos and a present from a young woman he met in Taiwan: a silk scarf, made from a parachute, that is embroidered with cherry blossoms and a blue anchor, the symbol of the Yokaren.

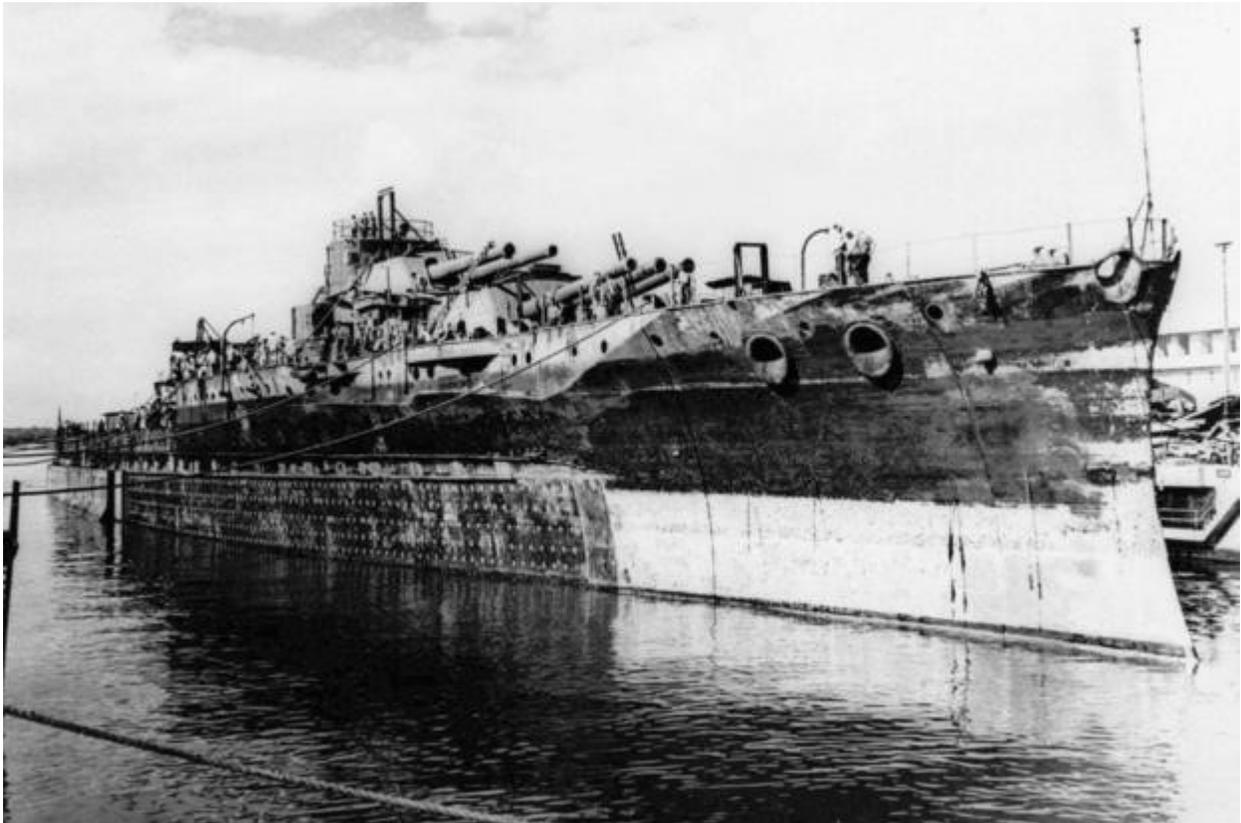
Mr. Odachi has never revealed the woman's identity. It is one of the few things about the war he still refuses to talk about.

People, he said, have often remarked that the kamikaze “didn't value their own lives.” He hopes that his memoir will remind them not just of the conflict's costs, but also of the humanity of the young men whose lives were sacrificed for it.

“We were the same age as today's high school students and college freshmen,” he said. “There wasn't a single person among us who would have decided on their own to die.”

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/12/07/remains-of-four-pearl-harbor-sailors-identified-nation-marks-79th-anniversary-of-attacks.html>

Remains Of Four Pearl Harbor Sailors ID'd as Nation Marks 79th Anniversary of Attacks



In this Nov. 27, 1944 file photo, the wreckage of the USS Oklahoma leaves Pearl Harbor drydock in Hawaii. It was sunk in the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack. (AP Photo)

7 Dec 2020

Military.com | By [Richard Sisk](#)

Officially, the U.S. death toll in the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor is 2,403. But the books have yet to be closed on identifying the available remains of more than 150 of those killed on what President Franklin D. Roosevelt called a "day that will live in infamy."

Ahead of remembrance ceremonies in Hawaii on the 79th anniversary of the attacks, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced Dec. 1 that the remains of four more sailors from that day had been identified, including two brothers.

Read Next: [Tank Marines Get the Chance to Leave the Corps Early as Units Shut Down](#)

[Navy](#) Fire Controlman 2nd Class Harold F. Trapp, 24, and his brother, Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class William H. Trapp, 23, both of La Porte, Indiana, were killed aboard the battleship Oklahoma.

Navy Chief Carpenter's Mate Tedd M. Furr, 39, of Mobile, Alabama, also served on the Oklahoma, while Navy Seaman 1st Class Carl S. Johnson, 20, of Phoenix, Arizona, served on the battleship West Virginia, DPAA said.

The Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits from Japanese aircraft, quickly capsized and sank in the harbor, resulting in the deaths of 429 crew members.

The West Virginia also took multiple torpedo hits, but counter-flooding measures by the crew kept it from capsizing as it sank to the harbor floor. A total of 106 crew members were killed.

The West Virginia was refloated and rebuilt, and saw service later in World War II, in the Philippines campaign. The Oklahoma was deemed beyond repair and designated to be sold for scrap, but sank in a storm while being towed to San Francisco.

The Trapp brothers, Furr and Johnson were among those whose remains could not be identified with the forensic means available during the war.

They were buried with hundreds of others as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the "Punchbowl," in Honolulu, according to DPAA.

More than 900 of the 1,177 crew members of the battleship Arizona killed in the attacks remain entombed permanently aboard the ship, now a national shrine and considered a war grave.

In recent years, DPAA scientists have begun the task of disinterring remains from the Punchbowl and methodically identifying them using DNA analysis.

The unknowns from the total of 429 who died aboard the Oklahoma initially numbered more than 380. More than 20 from the West Virginia were also listed as unknowns.

In March 2019, DPAA announced that the 200th of the 388 from the Oklahoma had been identified -- Navy Fireman 1st Class Billy James Johnson, 22, of Caney, Kentucky.

All of the fallen from the Pearl Harbor attacks and the dwindling number of survivors will be honored Monday at the 79th National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremonies. Adm. John Aquilino, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, will make remarks aboard the battleship Missouri memorial and museum.

However, attendance by survivors will be limited to those now living in Hawaii due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The closed event will feature a moment of silence and a flyover in the missing man formation, according to the Defense Department.

<https://apnews.com/article/chuck-yeager-dies-at-97-air-force-f027e8960916cbd8094ab9f05ec2cbf2>

Chuck Yeager, 1st to break sound barrier, dies at 97

By TRACIE CONE December 8, 2020



GRASS VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles “Chuck” Yeager, the World War II fighter pilot ace and quintessential test pilot who showed he had the “right stuff” when in 1947 he became the first person to fly faster than sound, has died. He was 97.

Yeager died Monday, his wife, Victoria Yeager, said on his [Twitter account](#).

“It is w/ profound sorrow, I must tell you that my life love General Chuck Yeager passed just before 9pm ET. An incredible life well lived, America’s greatest Pilot, & a legacy of strength, adventure, & patriotism will be remembered forever.”

Yeager’s death is “a tremendous loss to our nation,” NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said in a statement.

“Gen. Yeager’s pioneering and innovative spirit advanced America’s abilities in the sky and set our nation’s dreams soaring into the jet age and the space age. He said, ‘You don’t concentrate on risks. You concentrate on results. No risk is too great to prevent the necessary job from getting done,’” Bridenstine said.

“In an age of media-made heroes, he is the real deal,” Edwards Air Force Base historian Jim Young said in August 2006 at the unveiling of a bronze statue of Yeager.

He was “the most righteous of all those with the right stuff,” said Maj. Gen. Curtis Bedke, commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards.

Yeager, from a small town in the hills of West Virginia, flew for more than 60 years, including piloting an F-15 to near 1,000 mph (1,609 kph) at Edwards in October 2002 at age 79.

“Living to a ripe old age is not an end in itself. The trick is to enjoy the years remaining,” he said in “Yeager: An Autobiography.”

“I haven’t yet done everything, but by the time I’m finished, I won’t have missed much,” he wrote. “If I auger in (crash) tomorrow, it won’t be with a frown on my face. I’ve had a ball.”

On Oct. 14, 1947, Yeager, then a 24-year-old captain, pushed an orange, bullet-shaped Bell X-1 rocket plane past 660 mph (1,062 kph) to break the sound barrier, at the time a daunting aviation milestone.

“Sure, I was apprehensive,” he said in 1968. “When you’re fooling around with something you don’t know much about, there has to be apprehension. But you don’t let that affect your job.”

The modest Yeager said in 1947 he could have gone even faster if the plane had carried more fuel. He said the ride “was nice, just like riding fast in a car.”

Yeager nicknamed the rocket plane, and all his other aircraft, “Glamorous Glennis” for his first wife, who died in 1990.

Yeager’s feat was kept top secret for about a year when the world thought the British had broken the sound barrier first.

“It wasn’t a matter of not having airplanes that would fly at speeds like this. It was a matter of keeping them from falling apart,” Yeager said.

Sixty-five years later to the minute, on Oct. 14, 2012, Yeager commemorated the feat, flying in the back seat of an F-15 Eagle as it broke the sound barrier at more than 30,000 feet (9,144 meters) above California’s Mojave Desert.

His exploits were told in Tom Wolfe’s book “The Right Stuff,” and in the 1983 film it inspired.

Yeager was born Feb. 23, 1923, in Myra, a tiny community on the Mud River deep in an Appalachian hollow about 40 miles (64 kilometers) southwest of Charleston. The family later moved to Hamlin, the county seat. His father was an oil and gas driller and a farmer.

“What really strikes me looking over all those years is how lucky I was, how lucky, for example, to have been born in 1923 and not 1963 so that I came of age just as aviation itself was entering the modern era,” Yeager said in a December 1985 speech at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

“I was just a lucky kid who caught the right ride,” he said.

Yeager enlisted in the Army Air Corps after graduating from high school in 1941. He later regretted that his lack of a college education prevented him from becoming an astronaut.

He started off as an aircraft mechanic and, despite becoming severely airsick during his first airplane ride, signed up for a program that allowed enlisted men to become pilots.

Yeager shot down 13 German planes on 64 missions during World War II, including five on a single mission. He was shot down over German-held France but escaped with the help of French partisans.

After World War II, he became a test pilot at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

Among the flights he made after breaking the sound barrier was one on Dec. 12, 1953, when he flew an X-1A to a record of more than 1,600 mph (2,575 kph).

He said he had gotten up at dawn that day and went hunting, bagging a goose before his flight. That night his family ate the goose for dinner, Yeager said.

He returned to combat during the Vietnam War, flying several missions a month in twin-engine B-57 Canberras, making bombing and strafing runs over South Vietnam.

Yeager also commanded Air Force fighter squadrons and wings and the Aerospace Research Pilot School for military astronauts.

“I’ve flown 341 types of military planes in every country in the world and logged about 18,000 hours,” he said in an interview in the January 2009 issue of *Men’s Journal*. “It might sound funny, but I’ve never owned an airplane in my life. If you’re willing to bleed, Uncle Sam will give you all the planes you want.”

When Yeager left Hamlin, he was already known as a daredevil. On later visits, he often buzzed the town.

“I live just down the street from his mother,” said Gene Brewer, retired publisher of the weekly *Lincoln Journal*. “One day I climbed up on my roof with my 8 mm camera when he flew

overhead. I thought he was going to take me off the roof. You can see the treetops in the bottom of the pictures.”

Yeager flew an F-80 under a Charleston bridge at 450 mph (724 kph) on Oct. 10, 1948, according to newspaper accounts.

When he was asked to repeat the feat for photographers, Yeager replied: “You should never strafe the same place twice ’cause the gunners will be waiting for you.”

Yeager never forgot his roots and West Virginia named bridges, schools and Charleston’s airport after him.

“My beginnings back in West Virginia tell who I am to this day,” Yeager wrote. “My accomplishments as a test pilot tell more about luck, happenstance and a person’s destiny. But the guy who broke the sound barrier was the kid who swam the Mud River with a swiped watermelon or shot the head off a squirrel before going to school.”

Yeager was awarded the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal and the Purple Heart.

President Harry S. Truman awarded him the Collier air trophy in December 1948 for his breaking the sound barrier. He also received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1985.

Yeager retired from the Air Force in 1975 and moved to a ranch in Cedar Ridge in Northern California where he continued working as a consultant to the Air Force and Northrop Corp. and became well known to younger generations as a television pitchman for automotive parts and heat pumps.

He married Glennis Dickhouse of Oroville, California, on Feb. 26, 1945. She died of ovarian cancer in December 1990. They had four children: Donald, Michael, Sharon and Susan.

Yeager married 45-year-old Victoria Scott D’Angelo in 2003.

<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/Press-Releases/display-pressreleases/Article/2456178/female-co-will-command-aircraft-carrier-for-first-time/>

Female CO Will Command Aircraft Carrier for First Time

23 December 2020

The Navy announced Friday that Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt will assume command of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), marking the first time a female commanding officer will lead the crew of one of the Navy's 11 nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

SAN DIEGO – The Navy announced Friday that Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt will assume command of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) marking the first time a female commanding officer will lead the crew of one of the Navy's 11 nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

Bauernschmidt will take command of Lincoln this summer, upon completion of the nuclear power, aviation, and leadership training required of aircraft carrier COs.



Capt. Bauernschmidt poses for a roster photo. U.S. Navy

Courtesy Photo (Released)

"I am incredibly honored and humbled to be selected," said Bauernschmidt. "I love leading Sailors and I take that responsibility extremely seriously."

Bauernschmidt was also the first woman to serve as the executive officer aboard an aircraft carrier, a position she held from September 2016 to January 2019, also on the Lincoln.

Bauernschmidt is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in May 1994, the first graduating class in which women were allowed to serve aboard combatant ships and aircraft. She was designated as a Naval Aviator in 1996 and served with several helicopter squadrons throughout her career. She has previously commanded the “Spartans” of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 70 and amphibious transport dock USS San Diego (LPD-22).

Notable Articles for January

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/last-surviving-widow-civil-war-veteran-dies-101-180976702/>

The Last Surviving Widow of a Civil War Veteran Dies at 101

Helen Viola Jackson married James Bolin in 1936, when she was 17 and he was 93

Helen Viola Jackson, who wed U.S. Army veteran James Bolin in 1936, died on December 16 at age 101. ([Missouri Cherry Blossom Festival via Facebook](#))

By [Meilan Solly](#) smithsonianmag.com January 7, 2021



When Missouri teenager [Helen Viola Jackson](#) agreed to marry her much-older neighbor, 93-year-old [James Bolin](#), in September 1936, she did so on her own terms. As Jackson, who [died](#) on December 16 at age 101, [later pointed out](#), she kept her last name, continued to live on her family's farm and shared few details of the nuptials outside of her immediate circle.

The union wasn't exactly a love match, though Jackson did [say](#) she had "great respect" for her husband, who "really cared for me [and] wanted me to have a future." According to a [statement](#) from the Missouri Cherry Blossom Festival, which Jackson [helped launch](#) in the mid 2000s, the then-17-year-old's father had volunteered his daughter's help with Bolin's household chores. Unwilling to accept charity, Bolin, a widower who'd served in the U.S. Army's 14th Missouri

Cavalry, proposed a marriage of convenience with an unexpected result: At the time of his bride's death last month, she was the last documented surviving widow of a Civil War veteran.

“He said that he would leave me his Union pension,” Jackson recalled in an interview with historian Hamilton C. Clark, per the festival's statement. “It was during the [Great] Depression and times were hard. He said that it might be my only way of leaving the farm.”

Following her husband's death in June 1939, Jackson kept their marriage a secret for decades. She never remarried or had children and, in an ironic twist of fate, declined to apply for the pension that had precipitated the marriage in the first place.

Speaking with Clark, Jackson said that one of Bolin's daughters threatened to ruin her reputation if she went through with the pension application.

“All a woman had in 1939 was her reputation,” she explained. “I didn't want them all to think that I was a young woman who had married an old man to take advantage of him.”

Jackson, who was an [active member](#) of her local historical society, the state cherry blossom festival planning committee and a gardening club, among other organizations, only revealed her marriage in 2017, when she began planning the details of her funeral, according to [Our America magazine](#). The [Daughters of Union Veterans](#) subsequently verified the relationship through a signed affidavit from a witness who'd attended the wedding. Bolin, a Missouri farmer who'd enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 18, according to records posted on [Twitter](#) by historian Adam H. Dombey, also recorded the ceremony in his personal Bible, which now features in a traveling exhibition on Jackson.

Prior to Jackson's disclosure, [Maudie White Hopkins](#), who wed Confederate veteran William M. Cantrell in 1934, when she was 19 and he was 86, was thought to be the last confirmed Civil War widow. As Peggy Harris reported for the [Associated Press](#) following Hopkins' death in 2008 at age 93, other Confederate widows were alive at the time but did not want to be publicly named.

This week, in the aftermath of far-right extremists' [storming of the United States Capitol](#), some with [Confederate flags in hand](#), Jackson's passing underscores just how recent the Civil War and other seemingly distant events really were. It's a reminder in line with the deaths last year of [Lyon Gardiner Tyler Jr.](#), grandson of tenth president John Tyler, who left office in 1845, and [Irene Triplett](#), the last person to receive a Civil War pension. Her father, Mose, had served as a private in the Confederate Army before deserting and shifting his allegiances to the United States.

“Just like the Confederate monuments issue, which is blowing up right now, I think [Triplett's death] is a reminder of the long reach of slavery, secession and the Civil War,” [Stephanie McCurry](#), a historian at Columbia University, told the [Washington Post](#)'s Ian Shapira last June. “It reminds you of the battle over slavery and its legitimacy in the United States.”

March Events 2020

On March 8th Robert L. Athey was removed from the office of House Manager due to incipency.

On March 9th Vice Commander Richard Holder passed away from COVID-19.

During the Membership meeting on March 9th Jay Anderson stepped down from Sgt-at-Arms and was confirmed by the membership to fill the vacancy of Vice Commander. During then Membership Meeting an election was held for House Manager and Mike Miller was selected by the membership. Mike Miller stepped down from the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy of House manager. Charles Fisher was confirmed by the membership to fill the vacancy of Sgt-at-Arms. By the end of the meeting Post 13 is still looking for someone to fill the vacancy of Executive Committee Member



Vice Commander

James (Jay) Anderson

House manager

Robert (Mike) Miller

Sgt-At-Arms

Charles (Chuck) Fisher

Notable Articles for March

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/world-war-ii-veteran-receives-medals-77-years-76342272>

World War II veteran receives medals 77 years after heroism

Nearly 80 years have passed since Marvin Cornett was wounded by a German mortar during a battle in World War II

By SARAH BLAKE MORGAN Associated Press

March 9, 2021, 11:23 AM



In this Feb. 22, 2021 photo, Sgt. 1st Class Marvin D. Cornett poses for a photo, in in Auburn, Calif...

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- Nearly 80 years after a German mortar wounded him as he fought along the Mussolini Canal in Italy, U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Marvin Cornett stood proudly in a pristine uniform, this time adorned with a Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

Cornett's daughter, Jan Mendoza, proudly watched as two uniformed men a quarter of Cornett's age pinned the medals on his chest during a small ceremony in California earlier this month.

She also breathed a sigh of relief. Her father is 99, going on 100, and obtaining this long overdue honor for him felt like a race against time. Hundreds of members of the Greatest Generation die each day, along with their stories of unimaginable heroism.

Cornett himself never believed his actions during World War II warranted any credit.

“He still outwardly doesn’t think he deserves it,” Mendoza said. “He really thinks the guys that didn’t come back are the guys that really deserved it.”

One of those guys was next to him when the mortar hit. While Cornett, then an Army private, survived, his injuries erased his taste and smell and left behind a constant ringing that would never let him forget the terrors he witnessed on the battlefield.

“Thank you for the incredible example you’ve given all of us,” Maj. General Chris Donahue told Cornett on a video chat during the ceremony. “We can never thank you enough.”

Donahue serves as the commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the storied Army unit to which Cornett belonged when he jumped out of airplanes and engaged in combat.

The 82nd, which played a pivotal role in the Normandy invasion and retains a proud focus on its history, wanted to make things right as soon as it learned about Cornett and his missing medals.

Bill Linn had been working to do just that for months. His company, Heritage Arsenal, which specializes in military museum and memorabilia consulting, was contacted by Cornett’s two daughters last year. They were determined to get their father the awards he deserved.

The group gathered the needed paperwork and submitted it to the Army, hoping Cornett’s Purple Heart and Bronze Star would follow. Instead, they received a denial letter.

But Linn, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, had one more hand to play. On Nov. 17, he reached out to a former West Point classmate now serving in the command staff of the 82nd. Eight days later, Cornett’s medals were approved by then-Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy.

“According to his enlistment records, he was 5’3”, 110 pounds, and of particular note, he hasn’t lost an inch or gained a pound since 1941,” Linn joked during the medals ceremony outside the American Legion Post in Auburn, California. “I’m of the opinion that if I could still wear the uniform at 99, a lot of things have gone right in my life.”

In the small audience sat Marvin Cornett, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The uniform he wore, seemingly frozen in time, was impeccably assembled by his daughters. He’d held on to much of it throughout the years but Mendoza had to hunt down some of the missing pieces. His shining jump boots were purchased on eBay.

Growing up, Mendoza didn’t hear her dad say much about his experiences in the second World War, even though his Army career continued long after. After he was injured, he was stationed at

Fort Benning, Georgia, where he served as a parachute instructor. He later became an Army recruiter and retired as a sergeant first class.

When she'd ask her dad what he did in the war, he'd reply, "Jumped out of airplanes" and quickly move on.

But in 2007, Mendoza gave him a voice recorder and his battle stories began to flow into it. He only told them while he was alone.

"It was almost like he just unloaded," she said. "And I heard all of the stories, the nitty-gritty details of his combat in World War II, the circumstances surrounding his injury and all of these things that I never, ever heard before."

After receiving his medals, Cornett turned toward the small crowd and rendered an unassuming salute as local television cameras captured the moment.

Mendoza says even though her dad was grateful, the day was a bit overwhelming for him. He will turn 100 in July and has spent much of the last year quarantined alone inside his assisted-living facility.

Linn believes the quiet humility that Cornett displayed at the ceremony is inherent to his generation: Those who helped liberate the free world from Nazi tyranny tucked their heroic stories away and returned home, seeking quiet American lives, not fanfare and attention.

"They don't believe they are entitled to really anything," Linn said. "You have a lot of people who are preoccupied with what the world owes them. ... I see an absence of that in the Greatest Generation."

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/03/07/uss-nimitz-returns-to-us-bremerton-washington-99000-miles/4620329001/>

USS Nimitz completes a 99,000-mile journey likely not done since WWII

[Josh Farley](#)

Kitsap Sun

BREMERTON, Wash. – At long last, the [USS Nimitz returned home](#) Sunday, close to a year after the aircraft carrier left Sinclair Inlet in Washington state.

The 100,000-ton warship, in completing a deployment that included flying sorties against the Islamic State in the Middle East to navigating the disputed waters of the South China Sea,

returns to Bremerton, Washington, having logged 99,000 miles. Navy leaders have called it a [record-long journey for a carrier in the years after World War II](#).

Most of its 3,000-plus sailors, roughly half of which were serving in their first-ever deployment, boarded the warship April 1, 2020 to quarantine for COVID-19. With its crew manning the rails, Nimitz squeezed through Rich Passage to Sinclair Inlet Sunday, just 25 days shy of a full year away from families.

“Every facet of America is here,” Rick Mengel, the Nimitz’s command master chief, [told the Kitsap Sun, part of the USA TODAY Network, in January 2020](#). “Some grew up on farms, some grew up in the city. Every walk of life is here, from every state. We have America onboard Nimitz.”

The average age of a sailor on the Nimitz is about 24. And, thanks to social distancing, mask-wearing and the creation of a COVID-19 bubble, the first aircraft carrier strike group to deploy during the pandemic endured not a single case of novel coronavirus out at sea, the ship said. Its sailors have yet to be vaccinated because of the logistic challenges of getting the ultra-cold inoculations to sea.

"We've gone to great lengths to guard that bubble," said Capt. Max Clark, Nimitz's commanding officer.

The crew knew the stakes, Clark said. America's fleet of Nimitz-class carriers have been overtaxed, including the rapid spread of COVID-19 cases aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt last spring that took a sailor's life.

"For a while there, we said, 'if it's not Nimitz, it's nobody,'" Clark said.

Nimitz had turned for home several times throughout this deployment, [only to turned back for another mission](#).

More from the Kitsap Sun: [Loved ones of Nimitz sailors making final preparations for their return home](#)

Once in Bremerton, the aircraft carrier, the ship, named for the legendary fleet admiral who helped the U.S. defeat the Japanese Navy in World War II, is due for what's known as a "planned incremental availability" of maintenance at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. It will be moored at Pier Bravo at Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton and not require work in dry dock.

The 1975-commissioned Nimitz is [due to be decommissioned in 2025](#), though there has been talk of temporarily [extending its service life](#).



Nimitz deployment: a timeline

April 1, 2020: Many Nimitz sailors board the ship at Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton for quarantine.

Late April: After testing more than 8,000 sailors and civilians for the novel coronavirus, the USS Nimitz departs Bremerton to [complete its training and get ready for deployment](#).

Mid-May: Rear Adm. James A. Kirk, a Hershey, Pennsylvania, native who made headlines a few years ago as the first captain of the next generation USS Zumwalt destroyer, [becomes commander of Nimitz's Carrier Strike Group 11](#).



Early June: The Nimitz, packed with more than 6,000 sailors, [officially sets sail for deployment](#), the Navy's first such launch of a carrier strike group in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Early July: A rare show of force in the disputed waters of the South China Sea, [USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan hold joint exercises](#) to "strengthen warfighting readiness and proficiency," including simulations to strike enemy territory while in waters claimed by China and neighboring nations.

Mid-July: Nimitz and its strike group [trains with the Indian navy](#).

Early September: A search ensues for Ian McKnight, an information systems technician [who apparently went overboard](#). McKnight has not been found.



Mid-September: Nimitz [cruises through the Strait of Hormuz](#) and into the waters of the Persian Gulf, the first aircraft carrier and strike group in the gulf since USS Abraham Lincoln sailed there in November 2019. Iran's Revolutionary Guard force [flew a surveillance drone over the ship while there](#) with tensions high in the region. Its time in the gulf includes stops at Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain and in Oman.

October: Nimitz [takes a call from Navy Capt. Christopher Cassidy](#), commander of the International Space Station.

Mid-November: The Nimitz [joins vessels from the navies of Australia, India and Japan](#) – the "Quadrilateral" nations – in a scheduled exercise named Malabar, which has been ongoing since 1992.

Nov. 27: The Pentagon [orders Nimitz back to the Persian Gulf region](#) to help provide deterrence as troop withdrawals come in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Dec. 21: The USS Nimitz [reaches the Horn of Africa in support of troop movements](#) in Somalia and surrounding countries and to help maintain pressure on terrorist groups in the region.

Dec. 25: Nimitz [takes a call from Vice President Mike Pence](#) on Christmas.

Dec. 31: The Pentagon announces [Nimitz can head home](#) to Bremerton.

Jan. 3: Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller [announces the aircraft carrier and its strike group will stay in the region](#) because of what he said were provocations by Iran.

Feb. 2: Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin makes the [order to send Nimitz home](#).

Feb. 9: On its route home to Bremerton, the USS Nimitz sails into the [disputed waters of the South China Sea](#) to meet up and [train with a fellow aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and its strike group](#).

Late-February: Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Adm. Michael Gilday, the Chief of Naval Operations, [fly to the USS Nimitz as the warship neared San Diego](#). The warship soon after arrives at Naval Air Station North Island to offload its air wing.

March 4: The Nimitz arrives at [Naval Magazine Indian Island to offload ordnance](#); some crew members disembark there.

March 8 and beyond: The aircraft carrier is due for what's known as a "planned incremental availability" of maintenance at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. It will be [moored at Pier Bravo at Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton](#).

April Events 2020

Post Everlasting



Post Adjutant Pete Kelly places a cover on the rifles and presents a salute.



Post Honor Guard presents the colors to honor those that transferred to Post Everlasting



The names of those who transferred to Post Everlasting are read as a bell is rung



Post members give their respects during the Post Everlasting Ceremony



Post Chaplain lights the brazier as a final send off to those transferring to Post Everlasting

Notable Articles for April

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2021/04/15/us-navy-decommissions-bonhomme-richard-after-fire-destroyed-amphibious-assault-ship-in-july/>

US Navy decommissions Bonhomme Richard after fire destroyed amphibious assault ship in July

The Associated Press

April 15



Rear Adm. Philip Sobeck, commander of Expeditionary Strike Group Three, and Capt. G. S. Thoroman, commanding officer of the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard, salute the ensign for colors during a decommissioning ceremony at Naval Base San Diego April 14, 2021. (MC2 Alex Millar/U.S. Navy via AP)

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Navy on Wednesday decommissioned [the USS Bonhomme Richard](#) docked off San Diego nine months after flames engulfed it in one of the worst U.S. warship fires outside of combat in recent memory.

The ceremony at Naval Base San Diego was not open to the public, with the Navy citing concerns over the spread of the coronavirus.



[Here's what the damage inside the Bonhomme Richard looks like](#)

Photos from above and inside the charred amphib have emerged online this week.

Geoff Ziezulewicz

The amphibious assault ship is expected to be [towed to a ship yard in Texas for dismantling](#).

The ship that ignited July 12 burned for four days and was left with extensive structural, electrical and mechanical damage. A Navy official said arson was believed to be the cause.



Sailors combat a fire aboard the amphibious assault ship Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) on July 13 in San Diego. (MC3 Hector Carrera/Navy)

The Navy estimated that repairing the ship would run more than \$2.5 billion. [Dismantling the ship](#) is expected to cost about \$30 million.

May Events 2020

Mother's Day



Pete Kelly prepares coffee for breakfast



Serving Mother's Day Breakfast



Members enjoying a cool Sunday morning



Legion Family enjoying a Sunday morning breakfast



Bernie Lechman standing by to serve breakfast



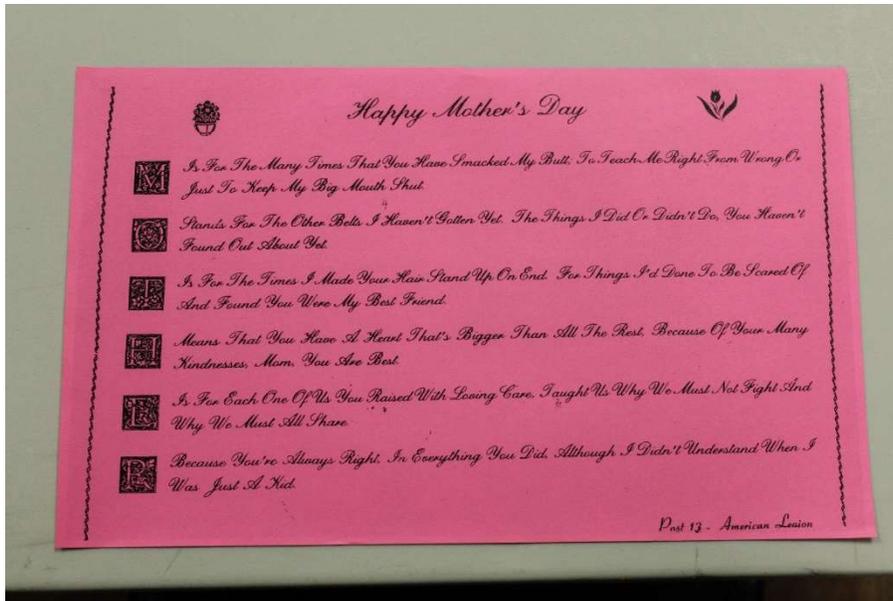
Legionnaires ready to serve breakfast



SAL assists with cooking



Making sure everything is clean



James Anderson cooks scrambled eggs for the Mother's Day Breakfast



Charles Fisher serves drinks

Memorial Day

Again our nation has assembled to honor it's heroic dead. Battles of land, sea, and air echo glory of their valiant deeds. Under the quiet sod, or beneath the murmuring waves, the bodies sleep in peace. But in the destinies of veterans their souls go marching on. Our nation lives. When peril threatened and their country called, they left their path of peace to fight for us. They fought for us, for us they fell. Now with one accord in the deepest reverence, we do them honor. Let us not remember them in anguish, they would not want our pity. For their sake let us not forget the loved ones left behind. Comrades on this Memorial Day let us pledge ourselves anew to patriotic service. Consecrate yourselves all, to emulate their sacred service that those resting in hero's graves had not died in vain. Let us stand with bowed heads in solemn memory of our heroic dead.

Recognition of Attendees:

Civil Air Patrol

American Legion Post 13

American Legion Post 13 Veteran Honor Guard

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 13

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13

Vietnam Veterans of America Honor Guard Members

Gulf War Memorial



Top: Memorial Day Ceremony starts



Left: Vice Commander James Anderson directs the Memorial Day Ceremony

Bottom: Guests pay their respects and observes the Memorial Day Ceremony





Top: Commander John McCaffery opens the Ceremony and welcomes the guests



Right: Chaplain Jeff Robinette gives Invocation

Bottom: Laurel Plitnik from Allegany High School Sings the National Anthem





Top: Honor Guard salutes



Left: Christopher Wolfe recites the pledge of allegiance

Bottom: Gulf War Memorial President Randy Golden gives memorial tribute for the Memorial Day Ceremony





Placing of the wreaths was done by Legion 13: John McCaffery, SAL 13 Brian Neff, Auxiliary: Patai Middleton, Gulf War Memorial: Jeff Davis



Sgt-at-Arms Charles Fisher give a gun salute



Taps is played



Top: honor Guard give salutes to those remembered



Left: Food is served to those who attended the Memorial Day Ceremony

Bottom: enjoying a meal as they reminisce of those remembered



Correspondence

Dear Comander,
I greatly appreciate this
generous scholarship.
I will be entering my
second semester in the
nursing program. This
scholarship will help me
continue my education

American Legion Post #13.
Thomas B. Finnan Memorial
Scholarship

From
EGrace
McGrath

Dear donor,

I would like to thank you for selecting me for the American Legion Post #13 Robert W. Hartstock scholarship. I am beyond grateful for this scholarship. I greatly appreciate the time and consideration put into creating this scholarship, and selecting me for it. Without this contribution to furthering my education it would not be possible for me to do so. Again, thank you very much!

My sincerest regards,
Lexis Zalewski

To the Members of Post #15

Thank you so much for
your monetary gift. It was
used to help defray the cost
of Richard's funeral. He was so
proud to be a member.

Thank you!
Paula



March 24, 2021

American Legion Post 13
PO Box 1740
Cumberland, MD 21502

Dear Friends,

Thank you for recent donation to the UPMC Western Maryland Hospice Program in memory of Walter Phillips Sr.

Your gift will support over 200 patients—and the families who journey with them—as they receive UPMC Western Maryland's hospice care this year. We are honored to provide this 'round the clock, vital, compassionate service to our community, and we are especially proud of our extraordinary staff. Your gift will help us continue that compassionate comfort and care.

We are honored and grateful to receive this gift. We will notify Cathy Phillips of your kind gesture.

Sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Johnson".

Karen Johnson
Chief Development Officer
& Executive Director
WMHS Foundation

Donation of \$25 made by check #22714 on 03/18/2021. No goods or services were exchanged for this financial contribution.

Western Maryland Health System Foundation
P.O. Box 539 * 12400 Willowbrook Road * Cumberland, MD 21501-0539 * 240-964-8003



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
FOUNDATION, INC.

February 3, 2021

Commander
American Legion Ft Cumberland Post #13
P.O. Box 1740
Cumberland, MD 21501-1740

Dear Commander and Friends:

The Allegany College of Maryland Foundation gratefully acknowledges receipt, on Monday, February 8, 2021, of a check in the amount of \$1,605.00. Of your gift, \$550.00 will be placed into the American Legion Post #13 Robert W. Hartsock Memorial Scholarship Fund, \$550.00 will be placed in the American Legion Post #13 Robert W. Hartsock Scholarship Fund, and \$550.00 will be placed into the American Legion Post #13 Thomas B. Finan Scholarship Fund. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, which will help to make the dream of a college education a reality for those who otherwise would not have this opportunity.

The Foundation is very grateful to those who understand the importance of providing scholarship support. Your generosity provides academic scholarship awards to students who make their dreams and goals a reality. Scholarship awards at Allegany College of Maryland are given based on need and merit and are applied directly to the student's bill to ensure that the funds are used solely for educational purposes.

The College continues to receive many recognitions and awards for the quality of our programs, including national accreditation and student pass rates on licensure exams that traditionally well exceed the state and national averages. We will continue to develop and enhance our academic and career programs and instructional delivery systems to meet the needs of the region and the nation.

A simple thank you does not seem adequate, but please accept our gratitude and be assured that our institution could not exist as it does today without your help. Your generous support will greatly enhance our efforts to provide students with the assistance and encouragement necessary to attain their educational and career goals. The students, faculty, and staff of Allegany College of Maryland join the Allegany College of Maryland Foundation in expressing gratitude for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,

David R. Jones
Vice President of Advancement and
Community Relations & Executive
Director of the ACM Foundation

*Thank you for
your investment in
our community.*

NOTE: No goods or services were provided in consideration of this contribution.



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
FOUNDATION, INC.
June 15, 2020

Ms. Grace L. McGraw
600 Wellington Lane
Cumberland, MD 21502

Dear Grace:

CONGRATULATIONS! It is my pleasure to inform you that you are eligible to continue as a recipient of the American Legion Post #13, Thomas B. Finan Memorial Scholarship. This award will be for \$1,100 (\$550 to be applied to the Fall 2020 semester, and \$550 to be applied to the Spring 2021 semester.) Enclosed you will find your scholarship certificate.

Upon receiving this award, the attached **Recipient's Statement of Acceptance must be signed and returned**. Because this is College policy, failure to sign this will result in forfeiture of this scholarship.

Upon accepting this award, you assume the responsibility of demonstrating that a wise choice has been made in selecting you as a recipient. By assisting you with your academic career at Allegany College of Maryland, the scholarship donor is making an investment in you and your future.

This letter is evidence of your award. As you are aware, in order to continue receiving this scholarship for the Spring 2021 semester, you must remain eligible according to the criteria. Please be aware that the Foundation will be checking on your current grades to make sure that you are still eligible to continue the award.

I wish you much success in your educational pursuit at Allegany College of Maryland.

Yours truly,

David R. Jones
Executive Director

DJ/sf

Enclosures

Cc: ✓ Commander, The American Legion, Ft. Cumberland Post #13

Cumberland Campus | 12401 Willowbrook Road, SE | Cumberland, MD 21502-2596 | www.allegany.edu



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
FOUNDATION, INC.

December 3, 2020

Commander
Fort Cumberland Post #13
The American Legion
P.O. Box 1740
Cumberland, MD 21501-1740

Dear Commander:

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the press release that we are sending to the media about the recipient of the American Legion Post #13 Robert W. Hartsock Memorial Scholarship for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 academic year. Your support of this Foundation and our students is most appreciated.

On behalf of all of us who work in higher education, thank you.

Sincerely,

David R. Jones
Executive Director

DJ/sf

Enclosure



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kristin Kehrwald
301-784-5152
kkehrwald@allegany.edu

**SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND
FOUNDATION**

CUMBERLAND, Md. (Nov. 12, 2020) – The Allegany College of Maryland Foundation announces that the following students have received scholarships to attend Allegany College of Maryland: **Austin Blank**, Mount Savage, William V. Collins Memorial Scholarship, Dr. W. Ardell Haines and Wilma G. Haines Scholarship; **Salee Blank**, Frostburg, ACT 1st Federal Credit Union Scholarship, Paul L. Footen Memorial Scholarship; **Ashley Comire**, Cumberland, Genevieve Magruder Memorial Scholarship; **Ashley Cutter**, Frostburg, Elizabeth Flake Scholarship; **Matthew Farris**, Westernport, American Legion Post #13 Scholarship, Robert W. Hartsock Memorial Scholarship; **Juliana Gdula**, Sidman, R.H. Lapp Mechanical Contractors Scholarship; **Brady Herndon**, Cumberland, Cumberland Lions Club Memorial Scholarship; **Cora Keefer**, Little Orleans, Dr. W. Ardell Haines and Wilma G. Haines Scholarship; and **Courtney Landis**, Ellerslie, Clayton C. Oster Memorial Scholarship, Kelco Credit Union Scholarship.

The Allegany College of Maryland Foundation helps students achieve their educational goals by offering more than 2,500 scholarships annually. The college offers a simple online scholarship application. Scholarships are awarded based on criteria determined by the scholarship benefactor. More information is available by calling 301-784-5200.

-30-

KRISTIN KEHRWALD, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
301-784-5152 | 301-784-5038 (Fax) | kkehrwald@allegany.edu



Cumberland Campus | 12401 Willowbrook Road, SE | Cumberland, MD 21502-2596 | www.allegany.edu



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
FOUNDATION, INC.

September 17, 2020

Ms. Chelsea A. Daniels
13417 Black Valley Road, NE
Flintstone, MD 21530

Dear Chelsea:

CONGRATULATIONS! It is my pleasure to inform you that some changes have occurred which now make it possible to award to you the American Legion Post #13, Robert W. Hartsock Scholarship. This award will be for \$1,100 (\$550 to be applied to the Fall 2020 semester, and \$550 to be applied to the Spring 2021 semester.) Enclosed you will find your scholarship certificate.

Upon receiving this award, the attached Recipient's Statement of Acceptance must be signed and returned. Because this is College policy, failure to sign this will result in forfeiture of this scholarship.

Upon accepting this award, you assume the responsibility of demonstrating that a wise choice has been made in selecting you as a recipient. By assisting you with your academic career at Allegany College of Maryland, the scholarship donor is making an investment in you and your future.

This letter is evidence of your award. As you are aware, in order to continue receiving this scholarship for the Spring 2021 semester, you must remain eligible according to the criteria. Please be aware that the Foundation will be checking on your current grades to make sure that you are still eligible to continue the award.

I wish you much success in your educational pursuit at Allegany College of Maryland.

Yours truly,

David R. Jones
Executive Director

DJ/sf

Enclosures

Cc: ✓ Commander, American Legion Post #13

Cumberland Campus | 12401 Willowbrook Road, SE | Cumberland, MD 21502-2596 | www.allegany.edu



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
FOUNDATION, INC.

March 22, 2021

Ms. Sarah L. Myers
13215 Dry Ridge Road, NE
Flintstone, MD 21530

Dear Sarah:

CONGRATULATIONS! It is my pleasure to inform you that you have been selected as a recipient of the American Legion Post #13, Robert W. Hartsock Scholarship. This award will be for \$1,100 (\$550 to be applied to the Fall 2021 semester, and \$550 to be applied to the Spring 2022 semester.) Enclosed you will find your scholarship certificate.

Upon receiving this award, the attached **Recipient's Statement of Acceptance must be signed and returned**. Because this is College policy, failure to sign this will result in forfeiture of this scholarship.

Upon accepting this award, you assume the responsibility of demonstrating that a wise choice has been made in selecting you as a recipient. By assisting you with your academic career at Allegany College of Maryland, the scholarship donor is making an investment in you and your future.

This letter is evidence of your award. As you are aware, in order to continue receiving this scholarship for the Spring 2022 semester, you must remain eligible according to the criteria. Please be aware that the Foundation will be checking on your current grades to make sure that you are still eligible to continue the award.

I wish you much success in your educational pursuit at Allegany College of Maryland.

Yours truly,

David R. Jones
Executive Director

DJ/sf

Enclosures

Cc: ✓ Commander, American Legion Post #13

Cumberland Campus | 12401 Willowbrook Road, SE | Cumberland, MD 21502-2596 | www.allegany.edu

To the generous men and women at the American Legion Post #13: A letter of gratitude.

Hello, my name is Sarah Myers. I have been chosen for the American Legion Post #13 Robert W. Hartsock Scholarship. I would like to take a moment to express my immense gratitude to the American Legion Post #13 veterans for their generosity and support along my academic journey. It is not only an honor, but a privilege to be selected.

The generous donation of \$1100 will significantly ease my financial burdens so that I am able to dedicate all of my efforts to my studies without worrying constantly about my education expenses. The money will be used wisely to fund my academic career and I am grateful for every penny. Words cannot accurately express how appreciative I am for this opportunity! I am honestly astonished. This is the happiest moment of 2021 so far and I will not take this lightly. I see the value in this opportunity, and I take my academic journey very seriously. I feel so blessed to live in a country where I am free to go to college and work towards goals and higher education. I honestly get teary-eyed every time I think about the sacrifices men and women make overseas each day just to ensure that Americans maintain that freedom. Freedom isn't free and so I am very passionate about utilizing this freedom to the best of my ability. There are countries where women are not allowed to go to school, and as an American woman, because of the sacrifices of our brave men and women in uniform, I am able to continue my education. That knowledge alone is so humbling. I feel it is my duty to do my absolute best so that I can advance my skills and contribute to society after graduation. I will continue to work toward excellence, and I will use the skills I attain throughout my college journey to help others in the future just as you all have helped me today.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, your support means everything to me. I will carry the memory and bravery of the US Medal of Honor Recipient Robert W. Hartsock with me always, and I will tell my future children about not only his bravery, selflessness, and generosity in sacrifice, but also the generosity of his brothers and sisters at the American Legion Post #13 and their kind donation towards my educational journey in his honor.

Thank you again for your service and support, I will make you proud.

Sarah L. Myers





ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
FOUNDATION, INC.

March 12, 2021

Ms. Lexis B. Zalewski
16 McKenzie Road
LaVale, MD 21502

Dear Lexis:

CONGRATULATIONS! It is my pleasure to inform you that you have been selected as a recipient of the American Legion Post #13, Robert W. Hartsock Memorial Scholarship. This award will be for \$1,100 (\$550 to be applied to the Fall 2021 semester, and \$550 to be applied to the Spring 2022 semester.) Enclosed you will find your scholarship certificate.

Upon receiving this award, the attached **Recipient's Statement of Acceptance must be signed and returned**. Because this is College policy, failure to sign this will result in forfeiture of this scholarship.

Upon accepting this award, you assume the responsibility of demonstrating that a wise choice has been made in selecting you as a recipient. By assisting you with your academic career at Allegany College of Maryland, the scholarship donor is making an investment in you and your future.

This letter is evidence of your award. As you are aware, in order to continue receiving this scholarship for the Spring 2022 semester, you must remain eligible according to the criteria. Please be aware that the Foundation will be checking on your current grades to make sure that you are still eligible to continue the award.

I wish you much success in your educational pursuit at Allegany College of Maryland.

Yours truly,

David R. Jones
Executive Director

DJ/sf

Enclosures

Cc: ✓ Commander, American Legion Post #13

Cumberland Campus | 12401 Willowbrook Road, SE | Cumberland, MD 21502-2596 | www.allegany.edu

September 22, 2020

Dear Commander,

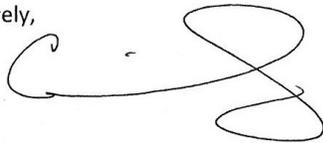
Thank you! I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the American Legion Post #13 Robert W. Hartsock Scholarship. It is a very generous gift that will tremendously aid in achieving my academic goals this year.

Upon graduation, I desire to obtain a BSN either through Frostburg State or through an online platform. I have goals to dive into travel assignments as quickly as possible without compromising proper education and experience.

I grew up volunteering through my church organization cleaning up local communities, feeding and clothing the homeless, and offering education and entertainment for children in deprived counties. I was fortunate enough to participate in mission trips that allowed me to travel out of country and within to churches in need of remodeling. I grew attached to the people and being of service in any way possible. Years later I found myself saddened I wasn't doing more. Thus, nursing school. I hope to take the knowledge and education offered to me and do the best I can to aid those in need and where nurses are in demand. I pray I serve well.

Changing careers later in life comes with expected struggles. The financial burden has been the most challenging. This award will allow me to spend more time focusing on my studies as I work toward attaining my RN. I am very thankful for the many opportunities this will allow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chelsea Daniels', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Chelsea Daniels



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
FOUNDATION, INC.

April 23, 2021

Commander
Ft. Cumberland Post #13
The American Legion
P.O. Box 1740
Cumberland, MD 21501-1740

Dear Commander:

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the press release that we are sending to the media about the recipient of the American Legion Post #13, Thomas B. Finan Memorial Scholarship for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 academic year. Your support of this Foundation and our students is most appreciated.

On behalf of all of us who work in higher education, thank you.

Sincerely,

David R. Jones
Executive Director

DJ/sf

Enclosure



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kristin Kehrwald

O: 301-784-5152

kkehrwald@allegany.edu

**FOUNDATION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO
ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND STUDENTS**

CUMBERLAND, Md. (Apr. 22, 2021) – The Allegany College of Maryland Foundation announces that the following students received scholarships to attend Allegany College of Maryland during the 2020-2021 academic year: Emily Maistros, Oldtown, Cynthia and William Harbel, Jr. Scholarship; Grace McGraw, Cumberland, American Legion Post #13 Thomas B. Finan Memorial Scholarship, Rachel Mickle, Woodbury, Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship; Brianna Montelongo, Cumberland, Lillian Taylor Walker Memorial Scholarship; Grace Muller, Myersville, Bartlett Tree Foundation Scholarship, Cumberland Outdoor Club Scholarship, Jamie Lee Hall Memorial Scholarship, Robert D. Kirk, II Memorial Scholarship; Leigh Oates, Cumberland, Helen Middleton Memorial Accounting Scholarship; Zachary Pheasant, Cumberland, Roy Durrett Scholarship; Katrina Powers, Keyser, James E. Mellon Scholarship, Hilda M. R. Peterson Memorial and Instructional Equipment Scholarship; Jessica Riggelman, Greenspring, Joe Paul Dental Hygiene Equipment Scholarship; Bethany Robertson, Cumberland, Belt Construction Group Scholarship; Ashley Robinson, Frostburg, Durocher-Woodworth Nursing Scholarship, David G. Martin, II Memorial Scholarship; Hallie Sisk, Hyndman, Belt Construction Group Scholarship; Makenna Smith, Cumberland, Hilda M.R. Peterson Memorial and Instructional Equipment; Mikayia Speir, Frostburg, Gloria and Buford Saville Scholarship; Sophia Spittal, Confluence, Cary Deffenbaugh Forestry Alumni Association Scholarship; Christian Steele, Martinsburg, ACM Retirees Association Scholarship; Regina Stonestreet, Cumberland, Hilda M.R. Peterson Memorial and Instructional Equipment Scholarship; Paige Sturtz, Hyndman, Belt Construction Group Scholarship, Alice S. and Richard R. Leonard Memorial Scholarship; Tysen Todd, Frostburg, The Hiester Scholarship, Mount Savage Freemasons Kemp Lodge #154 Scholarship; Trinity Washington, LaVale, Nagaratnam Memorial Scholarship; and Sondra Wine, Frostburg, Darlene Jones Integrative Health Memorial Scholarship, Kim and Marion Leonard Scholarship for Integrative Health and Authentic

KRISTIN KEHRWALD, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
301-784-5152 | 301-784-5038 (Fax) | kkehrwald@allegany.edu

Cumberland Campus | 12401 Willowbrook Road, SE | Cumberland, MD 21502-2596 | www.allegany.edu



Order of Alhambra Wamba Caravan #89 Cumberland, Maryland



13515 Atkins Lane
Cumberland, MD
March 4, 2021

Fort Cumberland Post American Post 13
The American Legion
P.O. Box 1740
Cumberland, MD. 21501-1740

Dear Members of American Legion Post 13,

With gratitude we acknowledge your generous monetary gift of \$50.00 to Alhambra, Wamba Caravan #89 in memory of Dr. Sean McCagh. On behalf of Terri, Mike, Cory, Casey, the extended McCagh family, and the members of Alhambra we thank you for your donation.

Since 2007, when Sean first brought the idea of the Hooley Plunge to the Alhambra, where he was a member, we've been able to give back more than one million dollars to organizations like the Special Olympics of Allegany County and Boy Scout Troop #89. Additional programs benefiting individuals with a physical, mental, developmental, or intellectual disability have also received donations during the 14 years Sean led the Hooley Plunge. His guidance, direction, dedication, and commitment to our community is a loss each of us will feel for some time.

As this is a tax-deductible donation, this letter confirms that no goods or services were exchanged in full or partial consideration for your contribution to Alhambra, Wamba Caravan #89.

Thank you again for your gift in memory of Dr. Sean McCagh. Sean would be pleased that you've chosen to honor him by helping the above recipients and allowing Wamba Caravan #89 to carry on his mission to raise funds for our community through the Hooley Plunge.

Sincerely,

Kathy & Jim Stafford
Hooley Plunge Committee Members

Dear Legion Members

Thank you so much for the generous donation and for supporting our disabled athletes of Allegany County. We are preparing for our Winter Games this coming week. Thank you again for thinking of us -

Sincerely,
Dottie Turner
Area Director -
Alleg. Co Special Olympics



Thank you for a
wonderful service
and eulogy.

The family of

Joe Riggler

thanks you for your
kind expression of
sympathy

Jeanne

On behalf of Allegany - Mineral
Counties Crime Solvers, please
accept our deep gratitude for
your donation to our fund drive.
Your support of our efforts
is greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Linda Zlomek
Act. Sec.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Voluntary Service

Martinsburg
510 Butler Avenue
Martinsburg, WV 25405-9990

November 05, 2020

In Reply Refer To: 613/135

American Legion - MD Post 13
PO Box 1740
Cumberland, MD 21501

Dear Members:

I wish to extend my personal thanks to you on behalf of the Martinsburg VAMC patients and staff for your recent donation of \$100.00, check number 22253. A receipt is enclosed.

As requested, this donation has been deposited in the following General Post Fund account(s):

8180 Voluntary Service	\$100.00
Canteen Books	

100% of your donation will be used to supplement the excellent care and services provided to our Veteran patients and their families. We are very grateful for your generosity and support of our Nation's Veterans.

Sincerely,


Terry L. C. Stotler
Chief, Voluntary Service

In accordance with VHA Directive 4721, we are required to state "The Department of Veterans Affairs did not provide you, the donor, any goods or services in consideration in whole or part for your contribution."



January 27, 2021

American Legion Post 13
PO Box 1740
Cumberland, MD 21501-1740

Dear Friends,

The letter in front of me reads, "What a great organization to have covering your back!"

I can't tell you how gratifying it is to know that we took such good care of this man's family – actually several members – at UPMC Western Maryland this year. We are proud to be able to care for our friends and family members, and to be the hospital that "has your back."

This year, perhaps more than ever, our community looked to us for strength and hope. Amidst so many new and unknown challenges – and fear of the coronavirus – our staff has remained steadfast in combining courage, compassion, and clinical excellence.

Please know that you helped us find thousands of tangible ways to encourage our amazing Healthcare Heroes. Through meals from area restaurants, handmade cards from children, grocery store gift cards and surprise treats, and ultimately the light of a thousand luminaries, they felt your love and support. *Thank you.* Your support for our ongoing funds – for cancer treatment and hospice, cardiac care or patient assistance – also continues to meet very real needs for our patients here at UPMC Western Maryland. *Your partnership makes the difference – thank you for your faithfulness.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Johnson".

Karen Johnson
Chief Development Officer
& Executive Director, WMHS Foundation

For your records, in the calendar year ended December 31, 2020, your tax-deductible contribution to the Western Maryland Health System Foundation was \$75. No goods or services were exchanged for this financial contribution.

Western Maryland Health System Foundation

P.O. Box 539 ■ 12400 Willowbrook Road ■ Cumberland, MD 21501-0539 ■ 240-964-8003



March 24, 2021

American Legion Post 13
PO Box 1740
Cumberland, MD 21502

Dear Friends,

Thank you for recent donation to the UPMC Western Maryland Hospice Program in memory of Walter Phillips Sr.

Your gift will support over 200 patients—and the families who journey with them—as they receive UPMC Western Maryland’s hospice care this year. We are honored to provide this ‘round the clock, vital, compassionate service to our community, and we are especially proud of our extraordinary staff. Your gift will help us continue that compassionate comfort and care.

We are honored and grateful to receive this gift. We will notify Cathy Phillips of your kind gesture.

Sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Johnson".

Karen Johnson
Chief Development Officer
& Executive Director
WMHS Foundation

Donation of \$25 made by check #22714 on 03/18/2021. No goods or services were exchanged for this financial contribution.

Western Maryland Health System Foundation
P.O. Box 539 * 12400 Willowbrook Road * Cumberland, MD 21501-0539 * 240-964-8003



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
FOUNDATION, INC.

February 3, 2021

Commander
American Legion Ft Cumberland Post #13
P.O. Box 1740
Cumberland, MD 21501-1740

Dear Commander and Friends:

The Allegany College of Maryland Foundation gratefully acknowledges receipt, on Monday, February 8, 2021, of a check in the amount of \$1,605.00. Of your gift, \$550.00 will be placed into the American Legion Post #13 Robert W. Hartsock Memorial Scholarship Fund, \$550.00 will be placed in the American Legion Post #13 Robert W. Hartsock Scholarship Fund, and \$505.00 will be placed into the American Legion Post #13 Thomas B. Finan Scholarship Fund. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, which will help to make the dream of a college education a reality for those who otherwise would not have this opportunity.

The Foundation is very grateful to those who understand the importance of providing scholarship support. Your generosity provides academic scholarship awards to students who make their dreams and goals a reality. Scholarship awards at Allegany College of Maryland are given based on need and merit and are applied directly to the student's bill to ensure that the funds are used solely for educational purposes.

The College continues to receive many recognitions and awards for the quality of our programs, including national accreditation and student pass rates on licensure exams that traditionally well exceed the state and national averages. We will continue to develop and enhance our academic and career programs and instructional delivery systems to meet the needs of the region and the nation.

A simple thank you does not seem adequate, but please accept our gratitude and be assured that our institution could not exist as it does today without your help. Your generous support will greatly enhance our efforts to provide students with the assistance and encouragement necessary to attain their educational and career goals. The students, faculty, and staff of Allegany College of Maryland join the Allegany College of Maryland Foundation in expressing gratitude for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,

David R. Jones
Vice President of Advancement and
Community Relations & Executive
Director of the ACM Foundation

*Thank you for
your investment in
our community*

NOTE: No goods or services were provided in consideration of this contribution.



Order of Alhambra Wamba Caravan #89 Cumberland, Maryland



13515 Atkins Lane
Cumberland, MD
March 4, 2021

Fort Cumberland Post American Post 13
The American Legion
P.O. Box 1740
Cumberland, MD. 21501-1740

Dear Members of American Legion Post 13,

With gratitude we acknowledge your generous monetary gift of \$50.00 to Alhambra, Wamba Caravan #89 in memory of Dr. Sean McCagh. On behalf of Terri, Mike, Cory, Casey, the extended McCagh family, and the members of Alhambra we thank you for your donation.

Since 2007, when Sean first brought the idea of the Hooley Plunge to the Alhambra, where he was a member, we've been able to give back more than one million dollars to organizations like the Special Olympics of Allegany County and Boy Scout Troop #89. Additional programs benefiting individuals with a physical, mental, developmental, or intellectual disability have also received donations during the 14 years Sean led the Hooley Plunge. His guidance, direction, dedication, and commitment to our community is a loss each of us will feel for some time.

As this is a tax-deductible donation, this letter confirms that no goods or services were exchanged in full or partial consideration for your contribution to Alhambra, Wamba Caravan #89.

Thank you again for your gift in memory of Dr. Sean McCagh. Sean would be pleased that you've chosen to honor him by helping the above recipients and allowing Wamba Caravan #89 to carry on his mission to raise funds for our community through the Hooley Plunge.

Sincerely,

Kathy & Jim Stafford
Hooley Plunge Committee Members

To all concerned,
On behalf of all of us
here at Our Lady of the Mountains
Parish please accept our sincere
thanks for the \$25⁰⁰ memorial
donation you sent in memory
of Mr. James H. Ashby Sr. We
will notify June Ashby of
your kindness. Sincerely,
Teresa Files
Exec. Asst to Pastor

my beloved husband,
Bill Kegg.

Sincerely,
Bev

2014
Dear members of the
American Legion Post #13,
Cumberland Post #13,
your thoughtfulness
at this difficult
time is greatly
appreciated.
Thank you for the
generous contribution
to the Wilcox/Kegg
Memorial Scholarship.
I will be forever
grateful for your
kindness in honoring
the memory of

The family of Nels E.
"Bob" Chaney would like
to extend our thank you
for your generous donation
to Living Word Lutheran
Church, in memory of
Bob! It was so very kind
of you!

Kay Chaney
↓
Family

Club Members of Post 13,

During a time
like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives
really mean
to us
Your expression
of sympathy will always
be remembered

American Legion
Member of Ex. Com. Post 13,

I thank you for the touching
& beautiful military honors
at my husband, & our children's
father, Nels E. "Bob" Chaney.

You touched our hearts
deeply & we appreciate
all of your services!

During a time
like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives
really mean
to us
Your expression
of sympathy will always
be remembered

Kay Chaney & family
↓
of Bob Chaney

*Afterglow
I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one
I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done
I'd like to leave an echo whispering
softly down the ways
Of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days
I'd like the tears of those who
grieve,
to dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave,
when life is done.*



IN MEMORY OF

Nile Eugene 'Bob' Chaney

DATE OF BIRTH
November 21, 1951

ENTERED INTO REST
February 25, 2020

FUNERAL SERVICES

*11:00 AM, Thursday, February 27, 2020
Living Word Lutheran Church
Cumberland, Maryland*

OFFICIATING

Pastor Mark Dill

INTERMENT

Fort Ashby Cemetery



SERVICES IN CARE OF

*Adams Family Funeral Home, P.A.
Cumberland, MD*

*On behalf of Allegany/Mineral Counties
Crime Solvers, please accept our
deep gratitude for your donation to our
Annual fund drive.
We thank you and appreciate your
support of our efforts.*

*Sincerely,
Linda Zomek, Treasurer*