



Sun Eagle News

"Rendezvous with Destiny"

January 2012 Issue

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Day at The Races

Our annual Day at the Races is scheduled for Saturday, the 17th of March at Tampa Bay Downs. Susan Mclean will be outside the entrance to the Club House at 12:00 with everyone's tickets. The first race begins at 12:25 and our buffet will start at 1 PM. Please RSVP by the deadline, a flyer with information is at the end of this newsletter.

CHAPTER NEWS

2011 Bastogne Luncheon

Our annual Bastogne get together was held on December 11th at the Clearwater Yacht Club. As usual, the service and food were superb. Many of you may not have known this, but we are allowed to use this great location because **Dennis and Susan Reardon** are club members. So thank you Dennis and Susan! As a very welcome addition, joining us this year were our newest Chapter members, **Marv and Sharon Vosberg**, who drove up from Ft Myers, we hope they will become regulars at our events. Our special guests were two young men from the 187th Infantry Regiment, "Rakassans", **SSG Mitchell Burns and CPL James Frost**. I'm sure everyone that had a chance to talk to these great 101st Troopers were as impressed with them as I was. Mitchell and James were the recipients of the SPC Joseph G. Lapointe awards, and received combat knives donated by **Randy and Sandy Stollmack**.

Our annual Chapter awards went to **Herb Hawkins** as Trooper of the Year, and **Lee Ball**, as Lady Trooper of the Year, with **Jack Nolan** receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. Jack also was awarded a memento for his outstanding service to the Chapter as Secretary-Treasurer for, as he put it, "twelve years or so" - we can only hope he was more accurate with the financial accounts :-). Our outgoing (or already gone) Chapter President, **Dick Pack**, also received an Eagle plaque for his great service to our Chapter during his two tours as President and **Lois Sewell** received an award from the Veterans Administration at Bay Pines for her support and hard work. We also recognized our two Corporate Sponsors of the R&R program, Chuck and Susan Jenkins from **CWU Inc.** and Alan and Joan Bunge from the **USAA Foundation** for their great support that allows us to keep the program going. Mr. **Jim Nolan** was presented a chapter shirt and cuff links in recognition of his support during the many years he printed the newsletters free of charge. During the luncheon, the election of the new board of officers was held and in an extremely close race, **Bill Ball** was voted in as President, **John Taylor** as Vice President, and **Bill Bennett** as Secretary-Treasurer. **Tom Sewell, Frank Grippe, Tom McIntyre, and Richard Wallace** were voted in as Governors.



SSG Mitchell Burns & BG (Ret) Paul Smith

attendance, **Paul Smith, Pat Macri, and Frank Boffa.** I would like to thank our Honor Guard, Rick Lencioni, Tom Sewell, Charlie Rubado and Herb Hawkins, also Peggy Taylor, Lan Bennett and lori Lencioni for helping with the ticket sales, Richard Wallace for the plaques, Dick Pack for the basket of cheer, Eddie Pissott for another great job with the 2012 Directory, and Bill Bennett and John Taylor for attempting to keep me on track during the event. A big thank you goes to Tom McIntyre who won the 50/50 and donated the proceeds to the R&R program.



Joan Priest, Norma & Frank Boffa, Pat & Patti Macri, Connie & Paul Smith



Tom Sewell & CPL James Frost

This event is a great time for us to get together and catch up, but it also an occasion when we remember the men that fought in WWII and at Bastogne some sixty-six years ago. They were the pioneers who set the standard that all of us coming later have tried to live up to. We were very fortunate to have three such men in



Jack Nolan, Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer & Bill Ball

Bill

William C. Ball
President, Florida Gulf Coast Chapter



Lois Sewell with VA Award

The pharmacist's eyes got big and he explained, "Lord have mercy! I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband, that's against the law. I'll lose my license! They'll throw both of us in jail! All kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any cyanide!"

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife.

The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, "You didn't tell me you had a prescription."



Dick Pack Outgoing Chapter President



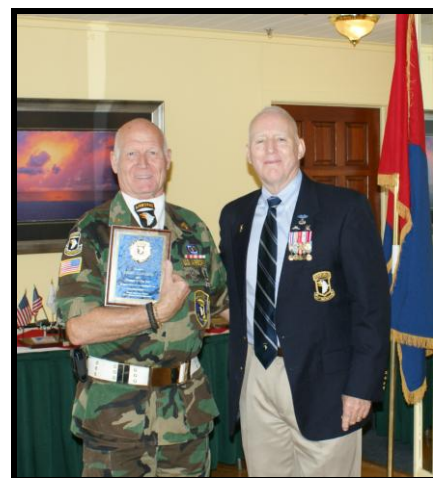
Lan Bennett, Lori Lencioni & Peggy Taylor

Divorce VS. Murder

A nice, calm and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said, "I would like to buy some cyanide."

The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

The lady replied, "I need it to poison my husband."



Herb Hawkins, Chapter Trooper of the Year

USO Update from Project Tampa

The USO HQ Staff informed Project Tampa that the USO Board of Governors meets on January 5th to vote on final approval of a new USO Center at Tampa International Airport. In anticipation of the USO approval of the charter, they are seeking volunteers to help with future fund raising events as well as hosting the USO facility once it is open. If you are interested in volunteering, please email them at support@projecttampa.org and provide your name, telephone number and address. A volunteer coordinator will be in contact with you in the near future.



101st Airborne Division in History

In the last newsletter, the Division had left Holland in the last weeks of November for rest and recuperation in Mourmelon, France. **On December 16th, 1944**, the Germans broke

through the American lines in the Ardennes region. The 101st and 82nd, the strategic reserve, were moved to stem the tide. The 101st departed on the 18th in open trucks, unit by unit, poorly clothed and equipped, as losses had not been replaced from the battles in Holland. The first unit into Bastogne, the 501st PIR, was immediately sent forward to develop the situation by BG McAuliffe in the area around Bizory and Neffe. I Company, in one of the earliest actions at Bastogne, was attacked by German tanks and a Battalion of armored infantry in the village of Warden. The company fought house-to-house, but were forced back until they had to break into small groups and attempt to escape. Eventually, 85 men out of the 140 managed to make it back. The Division was soon surrounded by the Germans becoming the "Hole in the Donut". The hospital and most of the medical supplies were captured and the 101st would fight on with little in the way of medicines, food or ammunition and with no way to evacuate the wounded. BG McAuliffe would give his famous "Nuts" reply to the German offer to surrender as the Division fought off attacks all around the perimeter. On the 23rd, the skies cleared and the Pathfinders and supplies dropped in. On the 26th, General Patton's 4th Armored Division reached the lines of the 326th Engineers and officially lifted the siege. However, the fighting did not stop and the 101st, rather than being relieved, went into the attack. E Company, 506th PIR captured the town of Foy for the last time and the Division pushed North East

to Noville and beyond. Many of the veterans who had survived to this point were lost. Finally, on January 19th, the 101st moved to Alsace-Lorraine. For their actions, the 101st would be the first Division sized unit to receive the Presidential Unit Citation.

In the Pacific, the 187th GIR, part of the 11th Airborne Division, finished operations in Leyte, the Philippines. It took 3 months of bitter fighting, often hand-to-hand, to drive the Japanese defenders from the pass and surrounding heights at the end of the island. In doing so, the 11th Airborne had killed almost 6,000 enemy soldiers. The 187th then conducted an amphibious landing at Nasgubu Beach, Luzon, 70 miles from the capital city of Manila. In just 5 days, the 187th and 188th GIR eliminated all enemy resistance along Highway 17 and pierced the main line of resistance at Tagayatay Ridge. The defenses consisted of trenches linked to bunkers and fortified caves, manned by several hundred infantrymen with numerous artillery pieces in support. The 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment then conducted a parachute drop on Tagayatay Ridge to reinforce the 11th Airborne.

On **January 31st, 1968**, Viet Cong and NVA forces broke the traditional ceasefire to begin the Tet Offensive. The enemy struck at military and civilian targets throughout South Vietnam. In the only mission of its kind, five UH-1H Huey helicopters, known as "slicks," carried the Charlie Co., 1st Battalion, 502nd Inf. Platoon Task Force into a combat assault onto the roof of the American Embassy in Saigon. The Embassy was under attack from a enemy Sapper unit and the 502nd were to sweep and secure the grounds. A night assault failed and the first two daylight attempts were driven off by heavy ground fire. Assisted by covering fire from ground units the third lift succeeded. It was 08:34 and the area was secured 45 minutes later.

On **December 12, 1985**, Arrow Air flight 1285, a DC-8-63 charter carrying 248 passengers and a crew of eight crashed upon takeoff at Gander International Airport killing everyone on board. Most of the dead were members of the 3d Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. It was the largest one day loss in the 101st Airborne Division's history. They were returning home to Fort Campbell, Kentucky from a six-month peacekeeping mission in the Sinai with the Multinational Force and Observers.

Our first annual Chapter picnic was held on **September 11th, 1982** at DeSoto Park where **Mal McHoul** signed on as a new member. The Bastogne Dinner that year cost \$7.95 with tax and tip included.

SNOWBIRD REUNION

Our reunion is only weeks away. The reservation cut-off date for the hotel reunion rate is the 24th of January, you may still be able to get the discounted rate after this date, but it will depend upon room availability. We can still use some more volunteers to help out with the hospitality room, the lunches, tours, registration and ticket sales. Chapter members have volunteered to take the lead in each of these areas, but they can use some more help. We will have a walk-through of the hotel on the 14th of January to check out the area and conduct some final coordination and planning. In early February, we will be creating work schedules for everyone who has volunteered to date. We can accommodate those who can only help out on certain days, at a certain time of day, or who have physical limitations, so don't let those concerns keep you from volunteering. We do need some additional help from the ladies for the lunches on Friday and Saturday. If you are able to help with this please let Lois Sewell or Lee Ball know.

Wings of Eagles



by

Bill Bennett

“Reinforce Success”

“He holds success in store for the upright; he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless.”

Proverbs 2:7

The phrase “Reinforce success” has been around the Army for a long time. It is a maxim of maneuver warfare. This maxim refers to how a commander should employ his reserve. An example illustrates the principle. The situation is thus: a battalion is attacking an objective with one company making the main attack, one company making a supporting attack, and one company as reserve. The commander believes the main attack will succeed and, so, he has his reserve behind it ready to exploit a break through. As the battalion attacks, the main attack runs into stiff resistance and seems to be stalled. The company making the supporting attack, however, makes better progress and appears ready to break through the enemy’s defensive line.

The commander faces a decision point. Does he commit his reserve company to the main attack or does he commit it to the supporting attack? This maxim advises him to “reinforce success” and commit his reserve to the

supporting attack. With the success so far, the company making the supporting attack has the best chance to penetrate the enemy’s defenses. Once he penetrates the defensive line, the commander can exploit his success. He should reinforce success, not failure.

It seems to me that this maxim applies to our personal lives as well as to the battlefield.

Michael Jordan did not become a great basketball player by swimming. Albert Einstein did not develop the theory of relativity by studying philosophy. Billy Graham did not become the greatest evangelist of the Twentieth century by studying Buddhism. Each of them became great in their field by concentrating on an area of their life in which they had an interest and showed some success. In their continued studies and practice sessions of their respective skills and abilities, they each reinforced their earlier successes.

Even the least of us – me, for example – can benefit by applying this principle to our personal spiritual lives. For example, I like to read. I can “reinforce success” by reading religious books, contemplating their messages, and writing reviews or synopses of my readings. This does not relieve me of the responsibility of going to our Lord in prayer, but my reinforcing actions give me another avenue by which I can grow in the Lord and strengthen my faith.

But, while we “reinforce” our skills and abilities with time and effort, we must keep in mind that we must truly do our best. Ecclesiastes 10:10 reminds us, *“If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.”* Colossians 3:23 also says, *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”*

In all that we do, we should work for the glory of God. Let us have the strength of character to “reinforce success” in His name.

De Oppresso Liber

Bill

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Postal Service

The Postal Service plans to largely eliminate next-day delivery for first-class mail as part of its push to cut costs and reduce its budget deficit. (Currently, more than 40 percent of first-class mail is delivered in one day.) The elimination is a result of its decision to shut half of its 487 mail processing centers nationwide. It will be the first reduction in delivery standards for first-class mail in 40

years. Current standards call for delivering first-class mail in one to three days, those delivery times will now increase by to two or three days.

OEF/OIF Long-Term Costs

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are winding down, but the long-term costs of caring for those wounded in battle are on a path to rival the costs of the Vietnam War. While Vietnam extracted a far higher death toll — 58,000 compared with 6,300 so far in the war on terror — the number of documented disabilities from recent veterans is approaching the size of that earlier conflict. Veterans are filing for and receiving compensation for more injuries than did their fathers and grandfathers. Given the nature of today's disabilities, it's difficult to calculate how much it all might ultimately cost. Recent 2010 estimates indicate that payments to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans could range from \$355 billion to \$534 billion over the next 40 years; and costs to the VA could range from \$201 billion to \$348 billion. 2.2 million service members have deployed to one of the wars since Sept. 11, 2001; 942,000 have deployed two or more times. Of those, 6,300 service members have died, and 46,000 have suffered nonfatal wounds in action. But more than 600,000 veterans have filed for VA disability benefits, and more than 700,000 have been treated in the VA's medical system.



The Donut Dollies

During World War II, female Red Cross volunteers in club mobiles equipped with stoves and donut machines, provided music, hot coffee and donuts for our troops. During the Korean War, they earned the nickname "Donut Dollies" as they turned out some 20,000 donuts a day for Soldiers disembarking ships in Pusan. Between 1962 and 1973 in Vietnam, they logged over 2,000,000 miles by jeep, truck, and helicopter visiting the troops at remote Fire Bases throughout the country. They brought smiles, songs, games, and a reminder of home to our combat troops in the bush. They established recreation centers and visited the wounded in the hospitals. Over

600 hundred volunteered to serve a year overseas in response to the job requirements of being 21, having a college education, the "girl next door look," and a "capacity for hard work under less than ideal conditions." They received all of two weeks training before they went over, yet they had the courage to brave mortar, sniper, and ground to air fire to visit the firebases. There were 2,710,000 men that served in uniform in Vietnam and only 600 Donut Dollies, yet I distinctly remember two of them in their bright blue uniforms flying into a remote 101st firebase in the Ashau Valley during the summer of 69'.

The Gulf Coast Chapter is privileged to able to count one of these courageous 600 among our members. Susan Mclean, our Lady Trooper of the Year for 2009, served her country and our soldiers in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971 . She supported the 4th infantry Division at An Khe and Pleiku until the Division returned home. Susan then was sent to Da Nang and Quang Tri in the north and served in Phu Cat and Quin Nhon before her year was up. I have neglected to do so in the past, and so I want to take this opportunity to publically thank her for her service to her country and to our troops.

Email Delivery/Request for Member Input

I would like to add input from our chapter members to our newsletters. If you have something that you think will be of interest to our chapter send it to me. (No items for sale please) Also, if you are willing to receive our newsletter via email please let me know, we are now posting it on our website. This will save us mailing costs and reduce the work load of the Secretary/Treasurer. We will continue to mail it to those who prefer that method of delivery.





Company Bulletin Board

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 4 February, 2012, 10:00, Board of Governors meeting at Bill Currie Ford.

Thursday, 16 February, 2012, The Snowbird Reunion, at the Doubletree Hotel Westshore Airport, Tampa.

Tuesday, 28 February, 2012 ROTC/JROTC Awards season starts with Seminole Ridge High School.

Saturday, 17 March, 2012, Day at the Races, 12:00HRS, Tampa Bay Downs Club House



Pre-Invasion, June 1944



Taps

*“Well Done,
Thou Good and
Faithful
Servant.”*

LTC James C. Joiner
U.S. Army (Retired)

I am sad to report the passing of a great Soldier and Trooper, LTC (Ret) Jim Joiner. Jim was a past National President and the Chairman Emeritus of our association. He fought his long battle against cancer with dignity and courage, even when the eventual outcome was all but certain. Jim was a highly decorated veteran and a graduate of Plant High School and the University of Tampa. "Jungle" Jim served with the 101st in Vietnam as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander with the 2/327th INF "No Slack." He continued to serve his country for twenty-six years, eventually retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Michelle and the family. We will miss him.



LTC James C. Joiner, U.S. Army (Retired)



**FLORIDA GULF COAST CHAPTER
101st Airborne Division Association**

Says...

**“Come and join us”
For a day at The Horse Races”**

**Saturday, March 17, 2012
Tampa Bay Downs Clubhouse
11225 Race Track Road
Tampa, Florida**



12:00 AM- Clubhouse Entry Opens
12:25 PM - Post Time
1:00PM - Lunch
\$20.00 per person

PRICE INCLUDES CLUBHOUSE ADMISSION, RESERVE SEATING, RACING PROGRAM, AND BUFFET LUNCH CONSISTING OF:

Fresh Fruit Salad, Chilled Pasta Salad, Caesar Salad,
California Blend Vegetables, Green Beans Almandine,
Homestyle Mac 'n' Cheese, Chef Carved Roast Beef & Turkey
Breast,
Cream Puffs & Cookies, Freshly Brewed Coffee & Iced Tea

RSVP WITH PAYMENT BY MARCH 10, 2012 TO:

Susan McLean
1204 Woodcrest Avenue
Safety Harbor, Florida 34695
727-725-0905

CHECKS PAYABLE TO FGCC 101ST ABN ASSN