

Fellow Mustangs and Ladies:

This is the Commander's Message for the spring edition of our *Mustang News*, but it is anything but Spring here in our Nation's Capital. I was honored and somewhat excited to receive a ticket to the inaugural for our President's second term. I chose, however, not to brave the very cold and snowy conditions and viewed the inaugural from the comfort of home, as I am sure many of you did.

We have essentially two vehicles whereby we, the members of NOBC, our wives, children and the Mustang Ponies, can keep track of each other. These vehicles are the *Mustang News* and the annual conventions/reunions. The *Mustang News* has been and will continue to be published four times a year, so we can depend on it as a primary source of information. Our annual conventions/reunions are

## Commander's Message

by Robert Evans



the second vehicle for keeping abreast of NOBC activities and personnel. For compelling reasons, the attendance at the annual affairs has been on a steady decline, significantly reducing their value to our overall membership.

At our most recent Board of Directors meeting, we discussed ways to increase attendance at the 2005 convention/reunion and

beyond. For those "old timers" on the Board, one solution was clear—return to the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada where the attendance has been historically very high. In addition to site selection, the Board members asked a number of active NOBC members and Mustang Ponies what they thought might increase attendance. At the top of the list was: conduct the convention/reunion over the weekend. The second most voiced suggestion was a location where non-stop flights were abundant.

Good news on several fronts. The site selection committee, headed by our vice commander, Steve Shivers has reserved the Plaza Hotel for 21, 22 and 23 October (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) 2005. The particulars in reference to costs, meeting and banquet schedules, and trips will be in the summer edition of the *Mustang News*. Please mark your calendars and urge your fellow Mustangs to attend the October convention/reunion.

Patricia and I hope this issue of the *Mustang News* finds all of you well. In addition, we hope everyone is in top health come October and will plan to attend the Las Vegas convention/reunion.

### Taps for Our Founder

## William R. Healey #002

We recently learned that Bill passed away May 9, 2003. He is best known and remembered as the founder of the National Order of Battlefield Commissions. He served as the first National Commander 1979-1980. He is survived by his wife, Nell, and six children.



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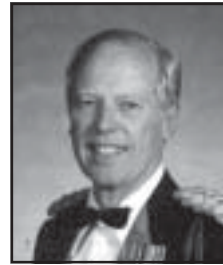
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James Davis (2)  
Stephen "Steve" Parisi (2)  
Thomas Andrews (1)  
Arthur T. Fields (1)

## Where is God In All This?

We live in a world that can have astounding instantaneous catastrophies. Tsunami is an example. But we can have extremely smaller ones anytime in our own body. Examples are heart attack, stroke, broken bones from a sudden fall, etc. And the cry is often "where



Warren Schilling

was God in all this?" The answer is "He was in the middle of each one." The God of the Bible is Infinite and knows about everything in the universe before it takes place and how it will come out. That's difficult for our finite minds to grasp but when something wonderful for us happens in our life we seldom ask "Where was God in all this?" The great Christian author and speaker J. B. Phillips wrote a famous book titled *Your God Is Too Small*. I bought a copy at a Christian book store in El Paso near Ft. Bliss, Texas during my tour there in 1963. I still own it and read parts of it at times. It is very helpful and has guided me in understanding the loving greatness of God. The universe minus God equals nothing, but God minus the universe equals God. Don't just tip your hat to God - bend your knees to Him.

The world will continue to bring confusion to us unless we draw closer to

God. And a deeper study of the Bible will show us God's direction for us to go. A clever thought I read recently was "If you are interested in the idea of being an organ donor consider giving your heart to Jesus." To draw closer to Him the Bible teaches the Spirit of God is our

guide and we must keep in step with the Spirit to learn the "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-24). These are precious words with deep meanings. As we begin to apply them to the way we live our living will greatly change. We have found God's direction for us to go. God's place will expand in your life. Make no mistake the Christian life is not a measure of your acting ability. When this is real, we are living a new spiritual life before God. The world will continue to have these catastrophes, but the joy of living so much closer to Him will be a great comfort. "Cast all your care upon Him for He cares for you." (Peter 5:7).

February 3, 1690 - The first paper money in America was issued by the colony of Massachusetts. (Used to pay soldiers fighting a war against Quebec).

## From the Hawaii Editor's Desk

by Bill "Scotty" Wynn



## Mustang News

*Mustang News* is the official newsletter of the National Order of Battlefield Commissions. It is edited in Kapolei, HI & printed and mailed in Anadarko, OK. Four issues per year: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

### Summer Issue Copy due May 1

Mail submissions to:  
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## TAPS

for Mustangs answering  
their final muster:

- 041L-John Benziger-AZ
- 315-Arthur V. Detmers-FL
- 002-William R. Healey-TX
- 915-John M. Keyser-KY
- 1095-Federico Pagani-PR
- 564-Edward J. Rutkowski-IL
- 753-Robert M. Snodgrass-OR
- 342L-Harry W. Stonecipher-IL
- 133L-Dean C. Swem-MI
- 803L-James L. White-VA
- 129L-Henry P. Wojtanowski-OH

**Note:** We depend on family members, friends and members to inform us of the deaths of our members. Please provide Stan Schmucker, Admin. & Fin. Officer with pertinent information and details as soon as possible. Thank you.

## Taps

There will be a great encampment  
In the land of clouds today.  
A mingling and a merging  
Of our boys who've gone away.  
Though on earth they are disbanding,  
They are very close and near,  
For those brave and honored heroes  
Show no sorrow, shed no tear.  
They have lived a life of glory,  
History pins their medals high,  
Listen to the thunder rolling,  
They are marching in the sky!

--Artus Nottingham Chappus

## New Life Member

1146L James E. Mulloy

## New Members

1146L

**James E. Mulloy**  
3891 Shenandoah Drive  
Oceanside, CA 92056  
Combat Command, 3d Bn  
3d Marines, 3d Marine Div  
(Vietnam)

1147

**James P. Miller**  
3402 Beechwood St.  
Hope Mills, NC 28348  
7th Special Forces Grp  
(Airborne)  
1st Special Forces (Vietnam)

## Letters from NOBC Widows

*NOBC widows receive a plaque and citation honoring their late husbands from Gib Bolton*

### From Mrs. Margaret Hancock:

I received the really nice plaque from the NOBC honoring Lindle and I thank you so much. It was beautiful and I appreciate it.

### From Mrs. Antonia Pagani:

I would like to express our gratitude and thanks to NOBC for the beautiful "In Memoriam" plaque in memory of my husband Federico Pagani. He would be very proud of it.

We have a very special place for the plaque. It will hang among his pictures and medals.

We miss him greatly but we are also thankful because we had 63 years together, 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

We know that he is on another mission now.

## Increase in Annual Dues

At the Board of Directors meeting held on 20 October 2004 at the Annual Convention/Reunion in Fayetteville, NC, the Board voted to increase the annual dues from \$10.00 to \$15.00. This increase was unanimously approved at the Annual Business Meeting on 21 October. This increase was determined to be necessary due to increased expenses and declining membership. The increase will be reflected in the annual dues notices effective 1 July 2005.

Stanley W. Schmucker  
Administrative & Financial Officer

*Copies of the 25th NOBC Anniversary booklet are available at \$4.00 per copy. See Item #14 on the NOBC PX Order Form.*

## It's Time for Muslims to Admit Problem

One more 9/11 anniversary has passed. I took the day off and just reflected on how my life has been affected by this tragedy. As I watched the news, I cried over and over every time I saw the scenes of planes hitting the towers and the people running down below, of the firemen, police and ambulance crews trying to organize the unspeakable.

On Sept. 11, 2004, I reflected: How could Muslims let things get so out of hand? Terrorism has not slowed down since. The majority of the Muslim community seems to feel that there is no need to apologize for terrorist acts perpetrated by other Muslims.

But I do; I feel sorry for all the victims of every terrorist act done in the name of Islam. After these three years, when a Muslim emphasizes that Islam is a religion of peace, even I feel these are empty words. Action speaks volumes, and so far, I have not seen a considerable and consistent outcry from the Muslim community against suicide bombers and other crimes committed with the face of Islam stamped on it.

Muslim organizations can do only so much. It is time to admit that we Muslims have a serious problem. And we do.

When I was a little girl, my father indoctrinated me and my siblings to not like or associate with people of other faiths. When I was 5, my father drew on a piece of paper three symbols: the cross, the star of David and the crescent moon. He put an X on top of the cross and star of David and said: This is the Christian symbol, this is the Jewish symbol and they are not like us. They are bad. They are wrong. This is us. We are different."

Years went by, and I became more aware of the hate between Arabs and Jews. The fact is the more a Muslim becomes an extremist, the more voice and respect fellow Muslims will give to that person.

And that happened to my home. My father became more extremist against non-Muslims. He was a mechanical engineer, never formally educated in Islam. Yet Arab Muslims called on him to break up disagreements between husband and wife or to give sermons at our local mosque. My father traveled to Pakistan various times at the madrasas there during the late 1980s. Every time he returned, he would

come with more restrictions. My mother and I had to cover our face, and we were not allowed to talk to men. Our place was in the kitchen, and women must obey men, as he often said.

The word "Jew" was, for my father, synonymous with an insult, so he called me that all the time, especially if I forgot to pray. He even told me many times I was not a Muslim when I did not meet his expectations of a good daughter. The problem was that nobody ever stood against him. This seems to be common in the Muslim community today.

Currently, religious leaders are allowed to make a Muslim congregation feel good by attacking or degrading another faith or its followers. We need to stop this feeling good at the expense of others.

Muslims give excuses for why there are so many Muslim terrorists, while we allow our children to listen to extremist leaders teaching, just like our parents did, that it is permissible to kill non-Muslims.

We are the only ones to blame. When will Muslims walk out of our mosques when a religious leader asks in his supplications that the enemies of Islam be killed? When will Muslims demonstrate outrage whenever the Jews are blamed for our problems?

It is so much easier for Muslims to believe in conspiracy theories because the blame will fall on someone else's shoulders. It is harder but braver to admit that we do have a serious problem and that we need to do something about it.

Education for tolerance starts at home. It is time to ensure that teachers who teach Islam to young children go through a more rigorous hiring process and that they do not teach arrogance and intolerance. It is time to ensure that our religious leaders do not put down women and non-Muslims and elevate suicide bombers and terrorists.

I am sorry for that, and I promise that my son will be taught to respect others as we want to be respected. In my family the chain of fate, arrogance and intolerance stops here.

*Mona Darwich-Gatto is president of the Free Muslim Coalition Against Terrorism, Hawaii chapter, wife of a Marine deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and mother of a one-year-old boy. ([www.freemuslims.org](http://www.freemuslims.org))*

## George Carlin's Views on Aging

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions.

"How old are you?" "I'm four and a half!" You're never thirty-six and a half. You're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead. "How old are you?" "I'm gonna be 16!" You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life ...you become 21.

Even the words sound like a ceremony,,**YOU BECOME 21. YESSSS!!!**

But then you turn 30. Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk! . He **TURNED**; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're just a sour-dumpling. What's wrong? What's changed?

You **BECOME 21**, you **TURN 30**, then you're **PUSHING 40**.

Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you know it, you **REACH 50** and your dreams are gone.

But wait!!! You **MAKE** it to 60. You didn't think you would! So you **BECOME 21**, **TURN 30**, **PUSH 40**, **REACH 50** and **MAKE** it to 60.

You've built up so much speed that you **HIT 70!** After that it's a day-by-day thing; you **HIT Wednesday!**

You get into your 80s and every day is a complete cycle; you **HIT** lunch; you **TURN 4:30**; you **REACH** bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90s, you start going backwards; "I Was **JUST 92.**"

Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. "I'm 100 and a half!" May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!!

## HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay " them."

2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.

3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." And the devil's name is Alzheimer's.

4. Enjoy the simple things.

5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.

6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be **ALIVE** while you are alive.

7. Surround yourself with what you love, Whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.

8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county; to a foreign country but **NOT** to where the guilt is.

10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

## AND ALWAYS REMEMBER:

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.



"There are two days in the week about which and upon which I never worry. Two carefree days, kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is Yesterday...and the other...is Tomorrow."

*Robert Jones Burdette, American clergyman and author (1844-1914)*



The reason why worry kills more people than work is that more people worry than work.

*Robert Frost, American Poet (1873-1963)*

## ***Yep!! It's Vegas Again!!***

*Convention/Reunion Chairman Steve Shivers  
has reserved the Plaza Hotel  
for Friday-Sunday, 21-23 October  
with departure on the 24th.*

*Per the desires of the members it is a weekend.*

*Schedule of events and a reservation form  
will be in the Summer Mustang News.*

*Several convention/reunions have been held at the Plaza Hotel  
so it will be easy for the old warriors (and not so old warriors and  
Ponies) to be on familiar ground.*

*Jackie Gaughan's*  
**Plaza**  
Hotel/Casino  
DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS



## ***Fremont Street Experience***

*Fremont Street between Main St. and Las Vegas Boulevard.*

*This pedestrian promenade in the heart of downtown Las Vegas turns up the wattage on a city already crackling with electric entertainment.*

*Surrounded by 10 hotels and spanning a four-block stretch, Fremont Street Experience employs more than 2.1 million lights and 540,000 watts of audio in a state-of-the-art canopy constructed 90 feet over street level.*

*The sky truly is the limit when it comes to the one-of-a-kind light and sound shows produced here nightly.*

*Fremont Street Experience is a can't miss attraction in Las Vegas, and it's free!*

**Hours of Operation:** Shows each hour on the hour from dusk to midnight daily.

### ***Downtown Map***



***NOBC Convention/Reunion Hotel***

## Project to rekindle singing of the National Anthem

Well over half of all Americans are completely in the dark when it comes to the words of the National Anthem, according to a Harris Interactivity Survey of 2,204 Americans.

An ABC news poll also showed that roughly 38% of American teens didn't know the actual name of the nation's song. It's "The Star-Spangled Banner," if you weren't sure.

In 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a bill officially making the poem - written by Francis Scott Key in 1814 and set to music by John Stafford Smith - the United States' National Anthem. But it seems that, for various reasons, America has lost its voice, said John J. Mahlmann, executive director of the National Association for Music Education.

The project was to launch March 10, in conjunction with the PBS airing of "The 21st World's largest Concert (WLC)." The WLC, performed by 8 to 10 million children, was to end with "The Star-Spangled Banner." Organizers hoped to get service members in Iraq to participate by singing the anthem.

The project is set to culminate in 2007 with a "record-setting" performance of the National Anthem in Washington.

Between the project's launch and its conclusion, a grassroots effort will try to reach students, teachers and communities. The movement is being fostered by partnerships of American organizations that should be concerned about this program, he said. Those organizations include the Defense Department, Disney, the Girl Scouts, the American Legion, A&E and the History Channel.

One effort to promote the re-endearament of "The Star-Spangled Banner" is already complete. "Liberty For All: A Musical Journey" is a compact disk of patriotic music and American history. Introduced by

### The Star Spangled Banner

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
 What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight'  
 O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming.  
 And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
 Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
 Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Written by [Francis Scott Key](#) on September 14th, 1814.

retired Army General Tommy Franks, the music is performed by "The President's Own" Marine Corps Band.

Mahlmann said the band was chosen in part because it is the oldest of the service bands, dating back to the 1700s. Proceeds from the sale of the

CD will benefit The National Anthem Project and the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation.

Some claim the National Anthem is not known because it's difficult to sing. "I think it's difficult to sing, but on the other hand, that's why we have music teachers," Mahlmann said. "And our campaign is going to help Americans overcome that and be able to sing the national anthem, as they should."

"When America is under crisis, as we were in 9/11, we saw what Congress did immediately: they went on the steps of the Capitol and sang," he said. Song is a unifying force that encourages appreciation of what people have, he added.

"It's something that brings our emotions and our values together through song and through spirit and America's soul," Mahlmann said. "And so our goal and our mission through that activity of singing seemed to be an appropriate time to focus on our national anthem, which again, because of people not knowing the words, we should encourage."

*American Forces Press Service*



## A Guerilla War, Not a Picnic

Like every vet I've talked to, I was anguished and angered when nearly 100 Americans were blown up – 18 of them dying in the blast – by an infiltrated suicide bomber at lunch recently in a large mess tent in Mosul, Iraq.

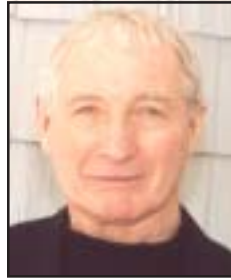
Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson, a great combat leader and top guerrilla-warfare tactician who rose from a two-fisted West Point cadet to three-star general, almost melted my phone when he roared: "Why were those soldiers packed in a mess hall on a guerrilla battlefield? Did their leaders think they were on a kind of gourmet picnic?"

Emerson wrote the book on prevailing against hit-and-run insurgents who were masters at ambush, indirect fire attacks and nasty devices such as mines, booby traps and improvised explosives. One of the most successful guerrilla fighters we had in Vietnam, he skippered the legendary 2/502nd Parachute Battalion in 1965 and '66 and then ramrodded the 9th Division's 1st Recondo Brigade in 1968. His units' war records for combating insurgents remain unequalled. On every op – from the hellhole of Tuy Hoa to the hard city fighting in Saigon during Tet of 1968 to the bloody Mekong Delta – they cleaned the guerrillas' clocks and sent them scurrying.

But somewhere between Vietnam and the present insurgency war in Iraq, the golden guerrilla-fighting lessons we learned the hard way in Southeast Asia have disappeared.

"A guerrilla war is frontless," Emerson said. "There are no safe areas. You must always have your guard up and expect the unexpected. When you are fighting in a guerrilla environment, you can't operate like you're back at Fort Comfort, eating in spacious dining rooms and everything is just neat and sweet," this four-times-wounded, 30-year, two-war vet railed. "Field rations were designed in part to keep the troops spread out so one round wouldn't take out a group of soldiers. Mess lines and mess halls don't work where the G (guerrilla) can come at you with indirect fire and suicide attacks."

Mosul has been hit with dozens of mortar and rocket attacks during the past year, and for several weeks intelligence was warning of a possible inside-the-camp terrorist attacks similar to what went down in the so-



David Hackworth

called secured Green Zone months ago.

According to Emerson: "If our leadership in today's Army had bothered to learn anything from Lebanon in '83 and Saudi Arabia in '96 when – in both cases – terrorist bombers killed scores of Americans who were in creature-comfort billets rather than hardened positions, they would know the welfare of the troops isn't about providing comfy billets, coffee bars and classy chow. It's making sure your soldiers survive."

Emerson was and remains a great believer in taking the fight to the enemy, keeping him off-balance and on the run. "To that end, security was another pet baby of mine, and it was never-ending," he said. "For example, I never allowed a civilian in my base camps. I figured they were all spies. They'd recon your camp, pace off installations, cut your throat if they could and report their findings to the local guerrilla CO."

Was he ever right. I had a civilian barber at one of my firebases in Vietnam. Following "The Gunfighter's" S.O.P., I made him set up shop outside our front gate – even though the hair on my head always stood on end whenever he shaved the back of my neck with his straight razor. And sure enough, he was zapped in one of our ambushes about a month after we hired him, with a sketch of our base in his pocket!

Immediately after the attack in Mosul, the ground commander, Gen. Thomas Metz, proclaimed, "We are not going to be intimidated by this attack."

At Metz's order, armored vehicles and heavy U.S. patrols saturated the Mosul area. A perfect example of too little too late – and all wrong.

Our brass better get real and figure out the nature of this guerrilla war and our enemy before another such explosion kills and maims more good soldiers with the misfortune to be serving under incompetent leadership. One smart solution comes to mind: Invite "The Gunfighter" over to Iraq to teach Insurgency 101 to all those senior leaders who've been too busy collecting MBA degrees in careerism to study the critical lessons of past insurgency campaigns.



Bob Evans

The Military Coalition's committees comprised of Awards, Guard & Reserve, Health Care, Membership/Nomination, Morale/Welfare/Recreation, Military Construction, Retirement, Personnel/Compensation/Commissaries, Survivors Programs, Taxes and Social Security, and Veterans Issues, have completed their

individual goals and priorities for 2005. The goals, developed by committee members, were provided to the entire Military Coalition for review, comment and revision. The goals are the foundation for testimony by Military Coalition members to the Armed Services Authorization Committee, and Subcommittee (House and Senate) generally during the first quarter of each year. The testimony becomes a statement for record and is referred to during the decision-making phase for the following year's appropriations.

A first-round comprehensive list of committee goals and priorities for 2005 was provided to The Military Coalition Membership early in February for review, comment and revision. Below is a sample list of select goal statements that may receive slight revision before they are used for testimony.

**Personnel Strengths and Operations Tempo.** The Military Coalition continues to strongly recommend increased Service end strengths to sustain the long-term global war on terrorism and fulfillment of national military strategy. The Coalition supports increases in recruiting resources as necessary to meet this requirement. The Coalition urges the Subcommittee to consider all possible manpower options to ease operational stresses on active, Guard and Reserve personnel.

**Pay Raise Comparability and Pay Table Reform.** The Military Coalition urges the Subcommittee to restore full pay comparability as soon as possible and to reject any request from the Administration to cap pay raises or provide smaller increases to service members in any of the uniformed services, including the US Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Coalition believes all members of the uniformed services need and

deserve annual raises at least equal to private sector wage growth. The Coalition supports "targeted" raises to align the pay of career service members with earnings in the private sector for civilians with comparable experience and education. However, to the extent that "targeted" raises are needed, the Department of Defense should define the ultimate objective pay table toward which these targeted raises are aimed.

**Commissaries.** The Military Coalition opposes initiatives that would reduce benefits or savings for members and strongly supports full funding of the commissary benefit to sustain the current level of service for all beneficiaries including retirees, Guard and Reserve personnel, and their families.

**Stress on Guard and Reserve Forces.** The Military Coalition urges additional resources for reserve recruitment, retention, and family support to relieve enormous pressure on overstressed Guard and Reserve forces.

**Guard/Reserve Retirement Upgrade.** The Military Coalition urges lowering the reserve retirement age from 60 to 55 to partially offset loss of civilian retirement benefits resulting from greatly increased military service requirements.

**Financial Relief for Activated Reservists and Their Employers.** The Military Coalition urges reintroduction of legislation to relieve financial strains on Guard and Reserve members and to recognize their employers in a tangible way: tax credits for employers who pay wage differentials to activated employees, similar tax credits for hiring temporary workers, and authority for penalty free withdrawals and reinvestment into civilian retirement plans due to economic pressures associated with mobilization.

**Concurrent Receipt of Military Retired Pay and Veterans Disability Compensation.** The Military Coalition greatly appreciates Congress' action to date, but urges Subcommittee leaders and members to be sensitive to the thousands of disabled retirees who are not yet included in concurrent receipt legislation enacted over the past several years. Specifically, as a priority, the Coalition urges the Subcommittee to expand combat-related special compensation to disabled retirees who were not allowed to serve 20

years solely because of combat-related disabilities. Additionally, the Coalition urges the Subcommittee to ensure the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission protects the principles guiding the DoD disability retirement program and VA disability compensation system.

**Former Spouse Issues.** The Military Coalition recommends corrective legislation, including the recommendations made by the Department of Defense in their 2001 USFSPA report, be enacted to eliminate inequities in the administration of the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act.

## **Tax Relief for Uniformed Services Beneficiaries.**

The Coalition urges the Subcommittee to support legislation to provide active duty and uniformed services beneficiaries a tax exemption for premiums or enrollment fees paid for TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard supplements, the active duty dental plan, TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan, FEHBP and Long Term Care.

Future Military Coalition updates will focus, in part, on progress being made with House and Senate Armed Services Authorization Committee.

## On The Lighter Side

A belated Scottish Valentine's  
tribute to our lasses

### A Red, Red Rose

O my luve is like a red, red rose.  
That's newly sprung in June.  
My luve is like a melody,  
That's softly played in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,  
So deep in luve am I;  
And I will luve thee still, my dear  
Till a the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,  
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;  
And I will luve thee still, my dear,  
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare-thee-weel, my only luve!  
And fare-thee-weel a while!  
And I will come again, my luve,  
Tho' it were ten thousand mile.

*Robert Burns (1759-1796)*

### **Upper Peninsula Humor from Jim Plate**

The owner of a golf course in the Upper Peninsula was confused about paying an invoice, so he decided to ask his secretary for some mathematical help. He called her into his office and said, "You graduated from NMU and I need some help. If I were to give you \$20,000, minus 14%, how much would you take off?" The secretary thought a moment, then replied, "Everything but my earrings."

**News Flash!** - Munising, Michigan's worst air disaster occurred when a small two-seater Cessna 150 plane, piloted by two Michigan Tech University students, crashed into a cemetery earlier today in Munising. Munising search and rescue workers have recovered 300 bodies so far and expect the number to climb as digging continues into the evening. The pilot and co-pilot survived and are helping in the recovery.

A group of UP friends went deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day. That night, one of the hunters returned alone, staggering under the weight of an eight-point buck. "Where's Ole?" the others asked. "Ole had a stroke or something. He's a couple of miles back up the trail," the successful hunter replied. "You left Ole laying out there and carried the deer back?" they inquired. "A tough call," nodded the hunter. "But I figured ain't nobody gonna steal Ole!"

A Michigan State trooper pulled over a pickup on M-28. The trooper asked, "Got any ID?" The driver replied, "'Bout whut?"

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