

Fellow Mustangs and Ladies:

I was indeed honored to have been asked by our own David Oglesby, President of the Anzio Beachhead Veterans of World War II, Inc., to provide an overview of The Military Coalition, to members and guests at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual reunion banquet on Sunday, April 24. The banquet was exceptionally well attended by over 100 members and guests, including Captain J.M. Carr, commanding officer of the USS Anzio and two of his senior non-commissioned officers. The Anzio veterans and the captain and crew of the USS Anzio are exceptionally close. On board the USS Anzio are pictures and citations of the 24 Anzio Medal of Honor winners (more than in any single engagement in our Nation's history).

Steve Shivers, our Deputy Commander, has recently spent several days in Las Vegas to firm up the logistics for our October convention/reunion. Steve and his wife Dee spent long days with the hotel staff exploring menus, room arrangements,

## Commander's Message

by Robert Evans



transportation within Las Vegas, potential day trips, and event schedules. Steve and his wife were exceptionally successful in arranging rooms for the Fox Hole, for our memorial service and business meeting, meal arrangements for Saturday night's buffet, Sunday morning's breakfast and the Sunday evening banquet, with entertainment. As an aside, I've seen the menus and they are excellent.

It has been suggested we focus on the family in attendance at this October's event. To this end, we encourage our members to bring their family not only to the convention/reunion, but also to all

the meals, the memorial service and the business meeting.

I ask all of you who are reading this edition of the Commander's Message and are in good health to try your best to attend the October convention/reunion. The pertinent information for you to make your October plans is contained in this edition of the *Mustang News*. We would very much like to see not only those who regularly attend the October festivities, but new faces as well. As a matter of fact, I issue a modest challenge. I will buy the first drink at the open bar on both Saturday and Sunday nights for any and all attendees who are first timers. Las Vegas has historically been a location that has drawn a large number of members and family, and we hope this October will be no exception.

I wish each and every one of you a warm and enjoyable summer, and sincerely hope to see a significant number of you in Las Vegas this October.



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## Our Minds Are Like Bank Accounts

Everyday as we watch the news on TV or read the headlines in the newspaper we are reminded that we live in a hurry. But God is never in a hurry. He never loses patience. Nothing ever surprises Him. He knows where we are and where we have been—and what we have said and done. This can be embarrassing and frightening at times!

Our minds are like bank accounts. We make deposits of thoughts often. Let us be sure they are valuable, positive, uplifting, and controlled daily by the Holy Spirit. Then when we withdraw such thoughts for a specific use we will find they are still the same level and can be used for important transactions with family, friends, and our professional duties that can bring about meaningful results in the place where God has assigned us. These same words withdrawn from the bank of our mind where we deposited them are now the interest we earned on them and are a real "joy" when the results are indeed meaningful.

Most people don't know there is only one way to God. When God cre-



Warren Schilling

ated the world, He established the course of this world and His plan for humanity. In Psalm 139:16 God says, "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." Each of us has a purpose in this world. It

is never too late for God to use you and never too soon to say "yes" to God. If you agree with what the Bible says, then say "yes", Jesus is the Son of God, my Savior. He indeed will use you. The way to live is to "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:18).

The Bible is clear in teaching that there is a Heaven and Hell, and that by following God's guidance in the Bible we can determine where we will spend eternity. Let's be sure we have done that. God constantly offers His loving help. The joy of living in Heaven forever with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and fellow Christians is beyond our present capability to understand. But let us not let that keep us from embracing that wonderful truth now.

**Combat will occur on the ground between two adjoining maps!**

## 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.

### Fall Issue Copy due August 1

Mail submissions to:  
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## TAPS

for Mustangs answering  
their final muster:

- 338L-John C. Angier III-FL
- 1001-Thomas F. Crabtree-MO
- 572L-Frank A. Drazkowski-IL
- 543L-David H. Hackworth-CT
- 434-Richard R. Hanna-IA
- 069L-J. Newell Henderson-IL
- 1051-Joe P. Rawls-FL
- 956-Cosmo R. Riviello-CA
- 316L-Joseph F. Tucker-UT
- 1028L-Richard F. Turner-MD

**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

### Letters from NOBC Widows

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

#### From Teresa Benziger:

Thank you for sending the "Memorial Plaque" in honor of my dearly departed husband "Jack" John Benziger.

I have proudly displayed same with the rest of his memoirs in his office here at home. I'm sure that his four (surviving) children will be equally proud of him when they see it next time they visit. He was a wonderful human being.

#### From Nancy Keyser:

Thank you so very much for the certificate and plaque honoring Jack.

We spent many years in the service and he did honor giving his duty and devotion to his country with a firm conviction. He was a fine man and a grand husband that I miss every day.

This thank you is a little late in coming as I have visited my sister in Oregon for most of February. It was lovely to come home and find this fine memoriam of WWII in Jack's honor.

#### From Helen M. Stoncipher:

Yesterday I received the corrected memoriam plaque sent to me in memory of my husband, Capt. Harry W. Stonecipher.

Thank you so much for having it corrected for me. It is a beautiful plaque and I will display it proudly.



**Grunt:** This slang term for an American soldier would have been well received in WWI or WWII, both characterized by the worst kind of bone-wrenching labor on the part of foot soldiers. It would also have been applied to the efforts of troops on the ground in the Korean War, but it actually didn't arise until the early days of the Vietnam War. Despite its obvious connection to the sweaty conditions on the ground, however, some sources believe that it was Marine Corps pilots who first adopted the term.

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

NOBC has lost a stalwart, loyal and devoted member in the untimely death of National Adjutant John C. Angier III on 25 March 2005.



Several months ago he entered a VA Hospital ostensibly with a circulation problem in both legs. He later suffered a bout with pneumonia. The VA could do no more for him so his daughter moved him to an assisted living facility. He was only there a few weeks when he died.

A memorial service was held by his family on 30 March in Richmond, VA where he will be buried. A memorial service was also held by his VFW Post 2391 in St. Augustine, FL on 1 April.

Director Roy Bunders attended the service in Richmond on behalf of NOBC. The service in St. Augustine was attended by Stan Schmucker and Frank Matzke.



1993 - Commander Don Van Roosen presents the Commanders Trophy to John Angier III

John joined NOBC in August, 1984 and became a Life Member in September, 1986. He was elected Deputy Commander in 1989 and 1990. In 1992 he was elected National Adjutant and served in that capacity until his death. The primary responsibility of the National Adjutant is to recruit new members. Membership at the time John was elected National Adjutant was approximately 800. Current numerical membership is 1147.

John co-chaired NOBC's annual convention/reunions in St. Augustine, FL in 1990, 2002 and 2003. He was also the recipient of the coveted Commanders Trophy in 1993.

He graduated from Fork Union Military Academy, Fork Union, VA in 1939. As the only Fork Union graduate to receive a Battlefield Commission, he was so honored in May, 2000 by the placing of a recognition plaque at the main gate.

John was also an active member of VFW Post 2391 in St. Augustine, FL. His cheery "Hello" will be missed.

He is survived by two sons, John IV and Chuck, and a daughter, Charlotte Walker.

Shortly after the outbreak of WWII, John attempted to join the Navy but was rejected because of color blindness, short sightedness, flat feet and other foot problems. Undaunted, he joined the Army (apparently the Army wasn't as particular as the Navy). He learned shortly after joining the Army and while in basic training that he had been classified 4F because of these problems. Had he known earlier, he could have remained a civilian and stayed home. John authored a monograph: "A 4F Goes To War."

*Frank Matzke, #869, St. Augustine, has made a contribution to NOBC as a memorial to John Angier.*



## Pete Armstrong Appointed National Adjutant

In accordance with Article VI, Section 6 of the Constitution and By-Laws, and with his concurrence, Council J. "Pete" Armstrong, a Past National Commander, has been appointed by the Board of Directors as National Adjutant to complete the term of John C. Angier III until the annual election of officers is conducted at the annual convention/reunion to be held in Las Vegas, NV 21-24 October 2005. Since the primary responsibility of the National Adjutant is recruiting, information regarding prospective new members should be sent to Pete at 27 Breezeway Drive, Asheville, NC 28803; (828) 654-9920 or e-mail: PeteBeret@aol.com.



## The Omission From the WWII Memorial

I went to visit the new WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. I got an unexpected history lesson. Since I'm a baby boomer, I was one of the youngest in the crowd. Most were the age of my parents, veterans of "the greatest war" with their families. It was a beautiful day, and people were smiling and happy to be there. Hundreds of us milled around the memorial reading the inspiring words of Ike and Truman that are engraved there.

On the Pacific side of the memorial, a group of us gathered to read the words of President Roosevelt used to announce the attack on Pearl Harbor. "Yesterday, December 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States was suddenly and deliberately attacked." One woman read the words aloud: "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph."

But she was suddenly angry: "Wait a minute," she said, "they left out the end of the most important part. Roosevelt said, 'so help us God.'"

"You're probably right," her husband said. "We're not supposed to say things like that now." The two shook their heads and walked away.

She was right. I went home and pulled out the book "Flags of Our Fathers" by James Bradley. There on page 58, Roosevelt's speech ended with "so help us God."

**Who gave them the right to change the words of history?**

People are trying to change the history of America by leaving God out of it, but the truth is, God has been a part of this nation since the beginning. He still wants to be.

Sent in by Robert Evans



## Veteran Returns for 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Luzon Beachhead

On January 9, 1995 I was overwhelmed by the massive celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Luzon, Philippines beachhead held in the small town of Lingayen. It was good to be there and see fellow combat veterans and enjoy Filipino hospitality. Many thousands attended. So I wanted to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration this year. I knew it wouldn't be as large as the 50<sup>th</sup>, but it would be held, since Filipinos love us as liberators and many still worship General Douglas MacArthur.

There was almost no publicity about the celebration, but on January 9<sup>th</sup> I was again at Lingayen with a couple of thousand Filipinos, hundreds of marching soldiers and a couple of bands. The American Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, former President Fidel Ramos and other dignitaries gave well received speeches commemorating this important event in Philippine history.

The Jan. 9, beachhead armada included 1,200 vessels and was the largest of the Pacific Theater invasions. Eight thousand Americans died in battle helping liberate Luzon from the Japanese. The Division with the most battle deaths, 900, was my own 43<sup>rd</sup> Division. Over 200,000 US servicemen and women participated in the campaign.

But this 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of an epic event provided an almost unbelievable new statistic. I was the only US Luzon combat veteran to attend the event. So memories fade. And we WWII vets are passing away at 1,500 per day. So thank you people of the Philippines, for your help to us during the war, and for the respect you show with these celebrations. Please hold one for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary too. But I doubt if I'll make it. I'm 80 now.

Jay Gruenfeld

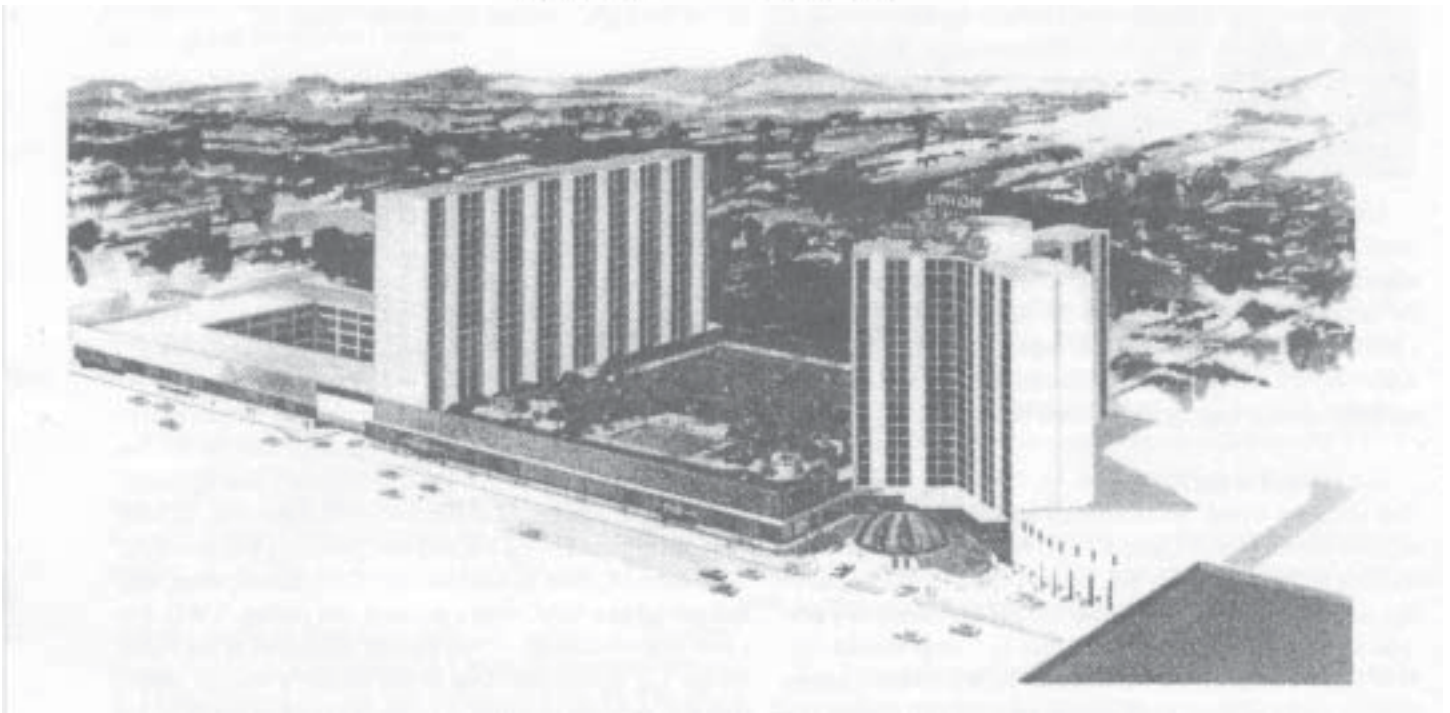
*Steve Shivers and wife Dee have worked diligently to craft an excellent convention/reunion for us. He notes some changes have taken place since our last gathering at the Plaza Hotel. Jackie Gaughan is no longer the owner so we have lost our "in." Thus the prices are higher and the use of the facilities has changed. We do not have the use of the two large rooms at the top of tower for our Foxhole. This swanky space is now set aside for the "high rollers." The Foxhole will be in a two-room suite.*

*A new event will be Sunday morning breakfast after which there will be a short break for the hotel staff to set up the room for the Memorial Service and Business*

*Meeting. By having Sunday breakfast in the same space negates the need to pay for a separate location. (Steve must be part Scot!!).*

*Steve has a block of 55 rooms for the NOBC but, as noted in the registration form, the cutoff date is critical - 21 September is the deadline and rooms will be on a-space-available basis after that date.*

*You are encouraged to take advantage of seeing the Fremont Street Experience - directly across from the hotel. Also, a trip to Hoover Dam is available and it is an outstanding site - worth a second visit for those who have been there.*



## Fremont Street Experience

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.

## A Sight Worth Seeing

Hoover Dam is just a short drive from Las Vegas and if you haven't seen it, it's well worth the drive. And if you have, it's still worth it!

Hoover Dam, rising 221 m (726 ft) above the bed of the Colorado River between Nevada and Arizona, was the world's tallest Dam at the time of its completion in 1936, and it still ranks among the largest.

Called Boulder Dam from 1933, it was renamed for the ex-president in 1947.

During its five-year construction, many significant innovations in large-dam-building techniques were first attempted. Hoover is a gravity-arch dam and a multipurpose structure that provides flood control, hydroelectric power, drinking and irrigation water to regions as far away as southern California. Its 185-km-long (115-m) reservoir, Lake Mead, is a popular recreation area, and the dam attracts many tourists.

**Downtown Man**



Col. David H. Hackworth, the US Army's legendary, highly decorated guerilla fighter and lifelong champion of the ground-pounder and grunt, died in Mexico. He was 74 years old. The cause of death was cancer now appearing with increasing frequency among Vietnam vets exposed to defoliant Agents Orange and Blue.

He spent more than half a century on the country's hottest battlefields, first as a soldier, then as a writer, was a correspondent and sharp-eyed critic of the Military-Industrial Complex and ticket-punching generals he dismissed as "Perfumed Princes."

He preferred the combat style of WWII and Korean War heroes like James Gavin and Matthew Ridgeway and, during Vietnam, of Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson. General Hal Moore, the co-author of *We Were Soldiers Once and Young*, called him "the Patton of Vietnam," and General Creighton Abrams, the last American commander in that disastrous war, described him as "the best battalion commander I ever saw in the US Army."

His battlefield exploits put him on the line of American military heroes squarely next to Sgt. Alvin York and Audie Murphy. The novelist Ward Just, who knew him for forty years, described him as "the genuine article, a soldier's soldier, a connoisseur of combat." At 14, as WWII was sputtering out, he lied about his age to join the Merchant Marine, and at 15 he enlisted in the US Army. Over the next 26 years he spent fully seven in combat. He was put in for the Medal of Honor three times, the last application is currently under review at the Pentagon. He was twice awarded the Army's second highest honor for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross, along with 10 Silver Stars and 8 Bronze Stars. When asked about his many awards, he always said he was proudest of his 8 Purple Hearts and his Combat Infantryman's Badge.



Eilhys England & David Hackworth

A reputation won on the battlefield made it impossible to dismiss him when he went on the attack later as a critic of careerism and incompetence in the military high command. In 1971, he appeared in the field on ABC's *Issues and Answers* to say Vietnam "is a bad war...it can't be won. We need to get out." He also predicted that Saigon would fall to the North Vietnamese within four years, a prediction that turned out to be far more accurate than anything the Joint Chiefs of Staff were telling President Nixon or that the President was telling the American people.

With almost five years in-country, he was the only senior officer to sound off about the Vietnam War. After the interview, he retired from the Army and moved to Australia.

"He was perhaps the finest soldier of his generation," observed the novelist and war correspondent Nicholas Proffit, who described Col. Hackworth's combat autobiography *About Face*, a national best-seller, as "a passionate cry from the heart of a man who never stopped loving the Army, even when it stopped loving him back."

Having risen from private by way of a battlefield commission in Korea, where he became the Army's youngest captain, to Vietnam where he served as its youngest bird colonel, he never stood on rank. From the beginning his life was a soldier's story. He was born on Armistice Day in 1930. His parents both died when he was a year old and the Army ultimately stood in for the family he never had. His grandmother, who rescued him from an orphanage, raised him on tales of the American Revolution and the Old West and the ethos of the Great Depression. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, he got his first military training shining shoes at a base in Santa Monica, where the soldiers, adopting him as a mascot, had a tailor cut him a pint-size uniform. "At age 10 I knew my destiny, nothing would be better than to be a

soldier.”

He always credited his success in battle to the training he received from the tough school of non-coms who won WWII, hard-bitten, hard-drinking, hard-fighting sergeants who drilled him into the basics of an infantryman’s life: sweat in training cut down on blood shed in battle; there was nothing wrong with being out all night so long as you were present for roll call at 5 am, on your feet and in shape to run five miles before breakfast in combat boots.

In Korea, where he won his first Silver Star and Purple Heart before he was old enough to vote, he started his combat career in what he later called a “kill a commie for mommie” frame of mind. He was among the first volunteers for Korea and later for Vietnam, where he perfected his skill. “He understood the atmosphere of violence,” Ward Just observed. “That meant he knew how to keep his head, to think in danger’s midst. In battle the worst thing is paralysis. He mastered his own fear and learned how to kill. He led by example, and his men followed.”

Just met him in the ruins of a base camp in the Central Highlands in 1966, where he was a major commanding a battalion of the 101st Airborne. “He was compact, with forearms the size of hams. His uniform was filthy and his use of obscenity was truly inventive.” What struck the journalist most forcefully was “his enthusiasm, his magnetism, his exuberance, his invincible cheerfulness.”

To young officers in Vietnam and long afterwards, he presented the unforgettable profile in courage. “Everyone called him Hack,” recalled Dennis Foley, a military historian and novelist who first saw him in action with the 1st Bn of the 327th Infantry in 1965. “He was referred to by his radio call sign of “Steel Six.” He was tough, demanding and boyish all at the same time, stocky with a slightly leathery complexion. His light hair and deep tan made it hard for us to tell how old he was. He wore jungle fatigue trousers, shower shoes, a green T-shirt and a Rolex watch. In the corner of his mouth was a large and

foul smelling cigar. As we entered the tent, he was bent over a field table looking at a map overlay and drinking a bottle of San Miguel beer.”

With Gen. S.L.A. “Slam” Marshall, he surveyed the war’s early mayhem and compiled the Army’s experience into “*The Vietnam Primer*,” a bible on a style of unconventional counter-guerilla tactics he called “out gee-ing the G.” His finest moment came when he applied these tactics, taking the hopeless 4/39 Infantry Battalion in the Mekong Delta, turning it into the legendary Hardcore Battalion. The men of the demoralized outfit saw him at first as a crazy “lifer” out to get them killed. For a time they even put a price on his head and waited for the first grunt to frag him.

Within 10 weeks, the fiery young combat leader had so transformed the 4/39 that it was routing main force enemy units. He led from the front, at one point getting out on the strut of a helicopter, landing on top of an enemy position and hauling to safety the point elements of a company pinned down and facing certain death. Thirty years later, the grateful enlisted men and young officers of the 4/39, now grown old, are still urging the Pentagon to award him the Medal of Honor for this action. So far, the Army has refused.

On leaving the Army, he retired to a farm on the Australian Gold Coast near Brisbane. He became a business entrepreneur, making a small fortune in real estate, then expanding a highly popular restaurant called Scaramouche. As a leading spokesman for Australia’s anti-nuclear movement he was presented the United Nations Medal for Peace.

As *About Face* was becoming a national best seller, he returned to the United States to marry Eilhy England, his one great love, who became his business and willing partner. He became a powerful voice for military reform. From 1990 to 1996, as Newsweek magazine’s contributing editor for defense, he covered the first Gulf War as well as peace-keeping battles in Somalia, the Balkans, Korea and

(Continued on page 11)



Bob Evans

I do hope you are not growing tired of reading the TMC report and seeing a repeat pattern of issues being addressed and seldom 100% solved to the satisfaction of everyone. After my brief five-year tenure as your TMC representative, I have come to the revelation that in the political arena where the preponderance of TMC issues are vetted, winning comes in degrees and then only after a protracted period of negotiations. All this is provided as an apology for what must seem like a never-ending string of very similar issues being the focal point of each TMC report.

During the past quarter, TMC has sent a significant number of letters to members of both the House and Senate (along with personal visits) addressing a number of the inequities that have arisen because of the increased employment of our Nation's Guard and Reserve forces in Iraq. One letter is in support of the Hope at Home Act, a critical enhancement to the retention and recruitment of the National Guard and Reserve forces. The body of the letter of support states that our Guard and Reserve members are asked to make many sacrifices; sometimes they make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom. Each Guardsman and Reservist leaves a family at home when making these sacrifices. Many family members suffer a loss of income. A significant number of Guard and Reserve members have lost income because of the pay gap between their civilian pay and military pay. The letter is emphatic in stating a pay gap is not a sacrifice our Guard and Reserve members should have to make.

The Hope at Home act, among other items, would create a tax credit for the thousands of employers that already make up the difference in pay for their Guard and Reserve members, encouraging even more employers to follow suit. The Act also makes it easier for employers to contribute to their activated employees' retirement plans while the employees are serving their country.

The Military Coalition supports a pending Bill that would ensure troops called up to serve in the reserves do not face an insurance premium hike when they seek to reinstate their policies upon returning to civilian life. Members of the Reserves and National Guard often discontinue their health insurance coverage once they are called to active duty because they and their families are covered under the Defense Department's health care system. The pending Bill ensures that a service member may reinstate his/her policy after returning to civilian life with no premium increase penalty for the individual service member.

The Military Coalition has endorsed Senator Larry Craig's (R-Idaho) Wounded Warrior legislation. In essence, the legislation is part of an \$82.04 billion package being sent to the President. Under the new legislation, those seriously injured while in the service of their country will receive anywhere from \$25,000 to \$100,000 for the injuries they sustain. The amount will depend on the severity of their injury.

Other items of recent interest include Senator Bill Nelson's (D-Florida) legislation addressing two significant problems with the military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). The first is the dollar-for-dollar deduction of VA benefits for service-connected deaths from the survivor's SBP annuities. The second is the delayed effective date of 30-year paid-up SBP coverage, which imposes undue financial penalties on the earliest SBP enrollees. The Military Coalition supports Senator Nelson's view that if military service caused a retired member's death, the Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) the VA pays the survivor should be added to the SBP benefits the retiree paid for, not substituted for them. In the case of a member killed on active duty, a surviving spouse with children can avoid the dollar-for-dollar offset only by assigning SBP to the children. That forces the spouse to give up any SBP claim after the children attain their majority—leaving the spouse with less than \$1,000 monthly annuity from the VA.

As for paid-up SBP, the 2008 effective date in existing law allows those who retired after 1978 to

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stop paying SBP premiums once they have paid for 30 years and attained the age of 70. Tens of thousands of “Greatest Generation” retirees who signed up for SBP as early as 1972, and who paid nearly two decades of higher premiums before the premium reduction in 1990, will have to pay premiums for up to 36 years. The Nelson legislation will advance the effective date to October 1, 2005, cutting 36 months off the existing effective date.

TRICARE continues to be in the forefront of each and every TMC meeting. TRICARE is dynamic, ever

changing, and it is incumbent on each and every individual in the TRICARE system to stay abreast of changes within the system. To this end, TRICARE has both web addresses and phone numbers. Should you have a TRICARE question, two web addresses are posted:

- (1) [TRICARE\\_help@AMEDD.ARMY.MIL](mailto:TRICARE_help@AMEDD.ARMY.MIL)
- (2) [Questions@tma.osd.mil](mailto:Questions@tma.osd.mil)

For Army personnel, call 1-800-464-8107, and for Marine Corps personnel, call 1-800-869-0278.

## *Taps for Hack (Continued from page 9)*

Haiti. He captured the experience in *Hazardous Duty*, a volume of war dispatches. Among his many awards as a journalist was the George Washington Honor Medal for excellence in communications. He also wrote a novel, *Price of Honor*, about the snares of Vietnam, Somalia and the Military-Industrial Complex. His last book, *Steel My Soldiers' Hearts*, was a tribute to the men of the Hardcore Bn.

He was a regular guest on national radio and TV shows and a regular contributor to magazines. His column, “*Defending America*,” has appeared weekly in newspapers across the country and on the website of *Soldiers For The Truth*, a rallying point for military reform. He and Ms. England have been the driving force behind the organization, which defends the interests of ordinary soldiers while upholding Hack’s conviction that “nuke-the-pukes” solutions no longer work in an age of terror and demands “a stream-lined, hard-hitting force for the 21st century.”

“Hack never lost his focus,” said Roger Charles,

president of *Soldiers For The Truth*. “That focus was on the young kids that our country sends to bleed and die on our behalf. Everything he did in his retirement was to try to give them a better chance to win and to come home. That’s one hell of a legacy.”

Over the final years of his life, Eilhys fought beside him during his battle against bladder cancer, which appears with sinister regularity among Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Blue. At one point he considered dropping their syndicated column, only to make an abrupt about face, saying “Writing with you is the only thing that keeps me alive.” The last words he said to his doctor were, “If I die, tell Eilhys I was grateful for every moment she bought for me, every extra moment I got to spend with her. Tell her my greatest achievement is the love the two of us shared.”

He is survived by Eilhys, 1 step-daughter, 2 step-children, 4 children and 4 grandchildren from two earlier marriages. He was to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

## Murphy’s Combat Laws

*Military intelligence is a contradiction.  
Fortify your front; you’ll get your rear shot up.  
Weather ain’t neutral.  
If you can’t remember, the claymore is pointed towards you.  
Napalm is an area support weapon.  
Mines are an equal opportunity weapon.  
B-52s are the ultimate close support weapon.*

*The one item you need is always in short supply.  
Interchangeable parts won’t work.  
If two things are required to make something work, they will never be shipped together.  
The most dangerous thing in combat is an officer with a map.  
The quartermaster has only two sizes, too large and too small.*

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