

Fellow Mustangs and Ladies:

I hope this Commander's Message finds every reader in good health and good spirits. I am freshly at my desk after an exhilarating bicycle ride into the office and the standard military 3-S's. Spring has sprung with a vengeance; everything is in bloom and is absolutely beautiful. If you have not had the opportunity to visit our nation's capital during the spring, you should definitely put it on your calendar.

Well, we are on for our convention/reunion at the Radisson on Market Square, in San Antonio, Texas. Please see the registration forms and information in this edition of the Mustang News. Our Administration and Finance Officer Stan Schmucker has reviewed the hotel contract information and has given us a thumbs up for the October festivities. We are back to a mid-week affair this year. Arrival on Monday, October 16, our meetings, memorial and planned dinners will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, and our get away breakfast will be held on Thursday morning. I sincerely hope you will

Commander's Message

by *Robert Evans*



consider attending this convention/reunion if your health and pocket book will allow.

I am very happy to announce our distinguished guest speaker for our Wednesday evening formal dinner will be Past National Commander, and long time NOBC stalwart Neal G. Grimland (247-L). Neal graciously accepted our request, and we look forward to the reminiscences of a member of "The Greatest Generation."

I hope our Vietnam-era members will put their collective shoulders to our NOBC wheel and help us maintain this one-of-a-kind organization in an active mode. The very strong NOBC foundation built by our WWII and Korean War

founding fathers is being taxed by time and attrition. If the Vietnam veterans do not step up, we may have to retire the NOBC colors in the very near future; something we would rather not do for at least another decade. Do try and make this October's convention/reunion and participate in the business meeting. We will be taking nominations for Deputy Commander (our present Deputy Commander, Steve Shivers will be taking the helm as National Commander at our formal banquet, October 18), and National Adjutant (Pete Armstrong, our long-time National Adjutant, has commitments that essentially preclude his being able to devote the necessary time to the position). These two, exceptionally important positions, must be filled at this convention/reunion. We need nominations and/or members willing to step forward and place their hats in the ring.

Until I see you in October, I hope each and every one of you has a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer.

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Perseverance



Warren Schilling

The dictionary defines perseverance as "a steady persistence in a course of action, or discouragement." It is required of all human beings to some extent, some people more than others. But God uses our setbacks to move us ahead.

Every frontline combat soldier like NOBC members learned to persevere under terrible circumstances as young men. But extremely trying circumstances can come at any time and last for years or a lifetime. Diseases or crippling accidents are an example.

Probably the greatest example of outstanding perseverance in written history is in the Bible Book of Job. Suddenly he lost this possessions, his 10 children, and his health. His wife said "Curse God and die (Job 2:9)." He said, "Shall we accept good from God and not trouble (Job 2:10)." He knew that God has a reason for and is sovereign over everything that happens in the world He created. J.B. Phillips wrote "Man's extremity is God's opportunity."

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Chris-

tians in Rome saying "We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us (Romans 5:3-5)" Many of Paul's

letters were written from prison. The Romans imprisoned him several times and he lived the perseverance he taught - a great example and encouragement to us.

From personal suffering let's move on to other areas that require perseverance. Our political leaders must demonstrate it for months, even years, to win elections and get laws passed. Military leaders continually show it as they are challenged by the enemy. The NATO confrontation in Yugoslavia continues as a classic example.

Let's be sure we relate strongly to God as Paul and Job did so we can succeed with our family, church, work, health and other situations that keep demanding perseverance. As someone noted "Perseverance is very important to success. How else would two snails have made it to Noah's Ark?!!"

Summer, 1999

From the Hawaii Editor's Desk

by Bill "Scotty" Wynn



Mustang News

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TAPS

for Mustangs answering
their final muster:

- 590L-Ira W. Austin-KS
- 1045L-William L. Bradenberg-PA
- 1035-William Grey-CT
- 073-Russell P. Leahy-NJ
- 691-Donald A. Maurer-OH
- 412L-Lawrence A. Nuce-WV
- 047-Lee W. Somers-TX
- 593L-Susumu Toyoda-CA

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 Next of Kin

NOBC widows or next of kin receive a plaque and citation honoring their late husbands from Gib Bolton

From Family of Lawrence A. Nuce:

Our family is very grateful to the members of NOBC for the beautiful memorial plaque in honor of our loved one.

Your kindness and caring at this time of loss is so very much appreciated.

Charles & Karen Hendershot

From Mrs. Vivian Cochran:

I received the beautiful plaque. I hung it in the den along with his numerous other awards. He loved his country and the contribution he gave towards it. He is greatly missed.

From Mrs. Mary Accord:

Our family wishes to thank you so much for the beautiful plaque and citation we received as a memorial to Woodie. It will be hung beside his army picture and the flag that was presented to us during the funeral services.

Woodie was proud to serve his country during WWII and the Korean War and proud to be a member of NOBC.

From Mrs. H. Toyoda:

I truly appreciate receiving your kind words accompanying the beautiful memorial plaque.

It was always a matter of special pride for my husband Sus to have earned the battlefield commission.

Thank you honoring Sus in this special way and you can be sure I will always have the plaque displayed prominently to honor him.

A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down.

Robert Benchley

My goal in life is to be as good a person as my dog thinks I am.

Life is one long process of getting tired.

Samuel Butler, British Author (1835-1902)

22 March 2006

Dear Editor:

There is a minority of old veterans like myself who has opposed the war in Iraq from the very beginning. We believe the evidence given by president Bush, Vice President Cheney, Sec. of Defense Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz and others were drummed up, exaggerated, rushed and spin doctored to death. We don't blame the media or anyone else for the invasion of Iraq or what is happening there today, three years later. We believe the Iraq war was unnecessary and the 2300 US soldiers killed in action, 17000 wounded and 30000 civilians killed in Iraq were also unnecessary. It seems to me that every third world country in the world learned hard lessons from the Vietnam war on how to fight a super power, but Washington DC learned nothing. In Col. David Hackworth's book About Face, North Vietnam Gen. Giap outlined the strategy for winning when he wrote: "The offensive will slowly turn into the defensive. The blitzkrieg will transform itself into a war of long duration. Thus, the enemy will be caught in a dilemma. He has to drag out the war in order to win it but does not possess on the other hand, the psychological or political means to fight a long drawn out war". Sadly, this is where we are today in Iraq, caught in a dilemma, with no end in sight. Yes, we believe our country should attack any terrorist group or country that threatens our security and way of life, but Iraq was not one of them and had nothing to do with 9-11 nor did they possess nuclear weapons. The USA simply cannot afford to keep borrowing money from the far East to finance a war in the middle east. We have already borrowed enough money from China and others to pay social security benefits for the next 50 years. I personally agree with those who advocate the use of a fast deployment military force to destroy terrorist threats, but also withdraw the force quickly and avoid military occupation and nation building by the military. Let the UN and politicians worry about freedom, democracy and regime changes. Iran and North Korea are threatening us with nuclear weapons and nuclear attack because they know our armed forces are mired down in Iraq for an indefinite period of time, maybe 10 more years or so. The military would be only responsible for eliminating the threat to our security. Today, since warfare consists of fighting small determined bands of terrorists in maybe 40 different countries it would break the US treasury to attack and occupy all these countries. The English empire and communist empire has already tried to expand their influence to many other countries and failed, not because their military was defeated necessarily, but because their people at home was suffering. Most of their taxes was being used to maintain people in other countries along with huge military occupation armies. I really think our forefathers was very wise when they admonished us to avoid foreign entanglements. I partially agree with the statement published in our NOBC Mustang News that quoted the great president Lincoln; " One fundamental principal of politics is to always be on the side of your country in a war. It kills any party to oppose a war". I believe this principle ended with WWII. The Korean War and the Vietnam War caused regime changes in the White House. The Iraq War may cause another in Nov 2006.

 Joe Marlett USA Ret.,
NOBC proud member

Living Wills

While I was watching the golf tournament one weekend, my wife and I got into a conversation about life and death, and the need for living wills. During the course of the conversation I told her that I never wanted to exist in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and taking fluids from a bottle. She got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all my beer. *Sometimes it's tough to be married to a smartaleck.*



The remarkable thing about my mother is that for 30 years she served us nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found.

Humorist Calvin Trillin



My wife hasn't spoken to me since the baby was born because of a little understanding. She called me at work and said her water had broken and I called the plumber.



The Wall Street Journal is read by the people who run the country.

The Washington Post is read by people who think they run the country.

The New York Times is read by people who think they should run the country and who are very good at crossword puzzles.

USA Today is read by people who think they ought to run the country but don't really understand *The New York Times*. They do, however, like their statistics in pie charts.

The Los Angeles Times is read by people who wouldn't mind running the country—if they could find the time—and if they didn't have to leave Southern California to do it.

The Boston Globe is read by people whose parents used to run the country and did a far superior job of it, thank you very much.

The New York Daily News is read by people who aren't too sure who's running the country and don't really care as long as they can get a seat on the train.

English Language Anomalies

The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.

The farm was used to **produce produce**.

The dump was so full that it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.

We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.

He could **lead** if he could get the **lead** out.

The soldier decided to **desert** his dissert in the **desert**.

Since there is no time like the **present**, he thought it was time to **present** the **present**.

A **bass** was painted on the head of the **bass** drum.

When he shot, the **dove dove** into the bushes.

I did not **object** to the **object**.

The insurance was **invalid** for the **invalid**.

There was a **row** among the oarsmen about how to **row**.

They were too **close** to the door to **close** it.

The buck **does** funny things when the **does** are present.

A seamstress and a **sewer** fell down into a **sewer** line.

To help with planting, the farmer taught his **sow** to **sow**.

The **wind** was too strong to **wind** the sail.

Upon seeing a **tear** in the painting I shed a **tear**.

I had to **subject** the **subject** to a series of tests.

How can I **intimate** this to my most **intimate** friend?

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

SADDLE UP!!

IT'S SAN ANTONIO

**BREAK OUT YOUR 10 GALLON HATS AND COWBOY BOOTS
AND GET READY TO HEAD FOR THE BIG SKY COUNTRY!**

**The Foxhole (or Corral) will be at
the Radisson Hotel next to Downtown Market Square**



Hotel information and NOBC registration form is contained on the enclosed insert.

**Schedule of events and other pertinent information will appear in the
Fall issue of the Mustang News..**

Our sincere thanks to Mustang Ponies Dan Hunt and Sharon Norlander for making the administrative arrangements for the Convention/Reunion.

American Airlines

A discount code for the NOBC convention with American Airlines. It is under National Order of Battlefield Commissions. We can renew this every year for each convention. The code gives a 10% discount off any ticket price on American Airlines for travel to/from the convention in San Antonio.

The discount is: **A80H6AJ**. It is valid for travel between **14 and 22 October** from anywhere in the U.S. The code is active now.

Use this online when booking your ticket on

www.aa.com or call **American 800-221-2255 prompt 3** - there will be a **\$15** charge for reservations handled by an agent.

Avis Car Rental

A discount with **Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD)** the code number is **J995519**. Use this code when calling Avis directly at **1-888-754-8878** to receive the best possible car rental rates available. The code gives anywhere from 5 to 25% discount depending on the class of car and how long you keep the car. The discount starts 1 week before the convention and goes for 1 week after it.

Surrounded by Texas Charm

Over the years, San Antonio has been described in many ways - "The Venice of the West," "The Cradle of Texas Independence." Will Rogers put his finger on the heart of San Antonio when he proclaimed it as "One of America's Four Unique Cities." What other city has a flowing network of canals; a wondrous trail of Spanish missions, including the Alamo; and El Mercado, Market Square?

As a major "don't miss it" tourist attraction, Market Square is also the side of the Radisson Hotel Downtown. Created with all the heritage of San Antonio as its guideline, the architecture, decor, detail and ambience perfectly capture its historic charm and elegance. The step-down lobby features an enchanting bar. Casual indoor or outdoor dining in the Cafe Chameleon features traditional and regional cuisine



by RickinDutch

The Alamo

As a symbol not only of San Antonio, but of the entire State of Texas, The Alamo stands as a sacred place to come and reflect upon being Texan and American. Not just confined to the old church building, which is certainly the most visual representation of The Alamo, this historic landmark is actually a complex of a little over four acres. A shrine, Long Barrack Museum, Gift Museum, the old church and various gardens are all located within the compound.

The Alamo is open to the public for nearly the entire year, only closing for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There is no fee to visit The Alamo, making it an informative and inexpensive visit that is sure to leave you with a number of memories. Whether you're from Texas or not, The Alamo is sure to inspire all with feelings of patriotism and pride.

Illegal Immigration Costs Us Much More Than Just Money

Shaky political arguments for going easy on illegal immigrants are sometimes backed up by equally shaky economic arguments.

There is, of course, the perennial favorite that we “need” immigrants to “do work that Americans won’t do.” But what is the basis for this claim?

What specific jobs in this country are performed exclusively by immigrants? Indeed, in what jobs are immigrants an absolute majority? Those who make this sweeping claim seldom offer a speck of evidence to support it.

In some particular places, such as California, agricultural jobs seem to be almost exclusively filled by immigrants. But, in a country with huge agricultural surpluses costing the taxpayers billions in subsidies and storage costs, why is there a “need” for more workers to increase the surpluses and the costs?

One editorial cartoon pictured consumers confronted with \$20 lettuce because immigrants no longer grew or picked it for low wages. But it is our agricultural subsidy laws that drive up the price of fruits and vegetables by taking vast amounts of this produce off the market, in order to keep prices artificially high.

If this surplus produce is not grown in the first place, that just saves subsidy and storage costs. The price of the fruits and vegetables sold in the market need be no higher than right now.

Even in fields like engineering or science, where particular immigrants bring particular skills much in demand, that is no argument for tolerating illegal immigration. Tolerating illegality means that the immigrants determine what kind of people enter our country and become part of the U.S. population, whether or not their skills, attitudes or behavior are wanted by Americans.

A broader economic claim is that immigrants add to the national output, benefiting us all as consumers. Plausible as this might sound, its logic will not stand up under scrutiny.

If more immigrants are a good thing, where do we stop — and why? Why not fling the doors open to all the people who want to immigrate here from Haiti or Cuba or anywhere else?

Even if every one of those immigrants added to the national output, that does not mean that today’s American population would be economically better off after

this unchecked influx from around the world.

After all, people not only produce, they consume — and some consume more than they produce, courtesy of the American taxpayers.

Nor are our schools or our neighborhoods improved by becoming a tower of babel or scenes of clashing standards of behavior, noise or violence. We need to count all costs, not just money costs.

Why is this a far more prosperous country than the countries from which most of our immigrants come? Many of those countries are well endowed with natural resources but are lacking an economic and political culture that would allow those resources to be used to produce better results than the poverty that drives their people to other countries.

When you import people, you import cultures. Those cultures no longer give way to the American culture when “multiculturalism” is a dogma and its apostles and activists make it necessary for American laws, language and culture to give way or at least accommodate growing alien enclaves in our midst.

A nation is more than a collection of whatever population happens to reside within its borders. Something has to unite those people if the country is not to degenerate into the kind of unending internal strife brought on by Balkanization in many countries around the world, not just in the Balkans.

It can be a matter of national life and death whether a country is united against its external enemies. Internal disunity contributed to the decline and fall of the Roman Empire over a period of centuries and to the much faster collapse of France, which surrendered after six weeks of fighting in 1940.

A generation earlier, a united France had fought on for four long years, despite far higher casualties than in 1940.

Unity and patriotism are not luxuries. Survival in an international jungle depends on them. What are dangerous luxuries are the open borders that erode national solidarity. The fact that we are already at each other’s throats over the immigration issue is an ominous sign.

Thomas Sowell is a senior fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution in Stanford, California.

Soldiers For The Truth

The organization was founded by Col. David Hackworth and is continuing under the capable auspices of Roger Charles, (LTC USMC Ret.), President. Roger has agreed to continue our access to the SFTT website to select articles for the Mustang News. We will continue to head this as Hack's Page in his honor.

Pinnacle Armor Counters Malicious Smear Campaign

SFTT has watched a small businessman fight valiantly against a corrupt DOD acquisition system in an attempt to do one thing — save the lives and limbs of America's Grunts. And for his efforts, Murray Neal and his company (Pinnacle Armor), have been the target of a smear campaign, the likes of which I have not seen in nearly 43 years of watching military affairs.



Roger Charles

Deceit”, and wish to respond to some of the allegations, assertions and innuendo that the US Army has put into this SOUM.

Your statement of yet another example of the Army's perfidy in this matter is certainly hitting the nail on the head. Despite all of the test data, actual testing of armor systems by their own personnel and that which was witnessed by numerous Federal, State, Local and other D.o.D. personnel, they still refuse to

After the Army issued its Safety Of Use Message on “Unauthorized Body Armor, Dragon Skin,” Defense Watch's Nat Helms exposed yet another example of the Perfumed Princes' mendacity. [US Army Officials Continue to Trap Themselves In a Web of Deceit.](#)

Now, after the Army's latest attack “Army Acquisition General's Mission — Damn the Lies, Kill Dragon Skin at All Costs” Murray Neal has decided it's time to quit being the passive target, and he's decided to counterattack the brigade of liars and spinmeisters that have sought to prevent his Dragon Skin from getting a complete, honest test.

Given the blatant dishonesty of the smear campaign against Pinnacle Armor that Defense Watch has confirmed, we are taking the extraordinary step of posting Murray Neal's rebuttal exactly as it was received.

A “final” point — SFTT believes it is high time for a bi-partisan, non-partisan group within the US Congress to step forward and demand that DOD conduct a transparent, complete and honest test of Dragon Skin, and all other available body armor systems. If there's a body armor out there better than Dragon Skin, “bring it on!”

But, it's clear that the US Army acquisition mafia cannot be allowed to conduct this testing. Some outside, independent body, such as the National Academy of Science, should be tasked to supervise the tests. Come November, incumbent members of Congress from both parties should be asked, “What have you done to insure our troops have had the best available body armor?” Let's hope that some few will be able to say, “I made sure that all alternative body armor systems were subjected to full, honest testing, and that all of our front-line troops are, or will be soon, wearing the best-available.” Lip service won't get it done — it's time for action by the US Congress!

Dear Roger: I have read the last article that SFTT put out on “US Army Officials Continue to Trap Themselves in a Web of

accept the facts proving that the Dragon Skin body armor is light years ahead of the currently issued system within 9 areas of performance capability excellence. These are: Flexibility with increased mobility, Lower system weights, durability, greater coverage, less trauma, better edge hit capability, increased multiple repeat hit capability, increased projectile diversity resistance, and ergonomic design capabilities. Some of these system performance capabilities of the Dragon Skin have been proven themselves to be from 120% to over 1,500% improvements over the SAPI program.

The currently offered level 3 Dragon Skin body armor system, (which equates to over 90% of the SAPI/Interceptor systems fielded today), has proven as such. The new level 4 Dragon Skin system that we have just started production on will provide comparably the same technology advancement over the ESAPI program. We even have the new emerging threat categories already defeated, which the Army cannot even defeat today.

This is just another attempt to keep the current programs and those personnel directly involved with them in place for as long as possible. The major problem I have, and which all mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, sisters and brothers should have, is that they are willing to put more soldiers in harms way by continuing to preclude a far superior system to be fielded. This is still continuing even when those in the field have sent in requests to use the Dragon Skin Body armor instead of the currently issued armor.

We have sold full torso coverage Dragon Skin to personnel who have been deployed numerous times. They went to the Dragon Skin armor after their first deployment. These soldiers have sent us e-mails testifying to the fact they are more comfortable, better covered even with the slightly increased weight for a full torso coverage over the currently issued system without the new side plates, and no longer have the lower back pains and are more maneuverable with greater coverage than before. Flexibility and proper design aid in having more coverage with flexibility that does not inhibit

(Continued on page 10)

their daily performance. The full torso coverage is no more than and in some instances less weight than the new side plated increased coverage add-on armor. There is already, field reports as can be seen in the AP wire that they are too heavy, too cumbersome, do not fit well and seriously restrict movement. They have not even been in theater for three months!

The army has continued to say that they look forward to testing some Dragon Skin body armor to validate the "claims" that Pinnacle Armor has made regarding its superior performance. The Army in this SOUM has said, "The Army has been unable to determine the veracity of these claims". I would like to know why over 9 years of ballistic data, both unclassified and classified, their actually witnessing several shoots at ARL and the testimonials from actual battlefield survivors, that such supporting evidence does not provide any validation. One only has to see the witnessed video shoots that were conducted showing the armor taking over 40 rounds of indigenous military ball ammunition from an AK-47 at 20^â™ and then another 150 rounds of 9mm from 10^â™ with a sub-machine gun on top of the first impacted points, WITHOUT ANY FAILURE, to see that it is light years ahead of the current system the Army has.

The Army says that they do not have enough information on the Dragon Skin. Then, they now say that they helped develop it. These statements are completely false. In 1996 the Dragon Skin was commercially being manufactured and sold, and was patent pending before we introduced it to Natick and ARL. We know Natick has tried to circumvent them, showing the validity of the system. Never has the army been involved in the development of the Dragon Skin body armor. I currently have 5 patents on this technology issued with numerous others still pending. The fact that Natick has tried to circumvent them does show the validity in the system. We were told in 1996, that Natick and ARL had concurrently but not collectively, spent 4-5 years and approximately 18 -20 million dollars to trying without avail, to develop a flexible body armor system that could meet the battlefield requirements.

The Army is pointing the SOUM at the Dragon Skin armor as it is creating too much heat on certain individuals within PEO Soldier and Natick, and they want to obfuscate the issues and create as much distaste for Pinnacle Armor as possible. That can be seen by how it is addressed. Only toward the end did they throw in other commercially available body armor (such as commercial police vests), which would not be designed for military threats in the first place. They cannot even get that correct.

Offers exist for assistance to pay up to \$1,100.00 for soldiers that buy body armor and yet when they do buy something that is proving to be superior to the current systems they are threatened with the removal of their death benefits, and now told to not wear it and turn it in to PEO who is creating all of this mess through the use of non legal strong arm tactics.

It is a travesty that men and women continue to protect the values and freedoms we have and all relish and enjoy, which unfortunately also allows for such treachery in precluding them the best body armor that technology has to offer. My opinion is that it is bordering on being criminal when you continue to place people directly in harms way by not providing the best solution for their needs. Knowing there are problems and knowingly precluding a solution to such problems is something that shows culpability. The pathology reports were correct with regard to lives lost due to inadequate coverage. Fortunately, it did not go through the typical Natick/PEO cleansing before being released. When is enough, enough?

Here are a few questions to consider: **1.** Why does our Government have to pay a 50% replacement cost to get damaged SAPI plates replaced under warranty? **2.** Why does government allow the plate manufacturers to resell out of the military the plates that fail the military ballistic tests? This would be one reason that I would agree with the SOUM. Those plates that fail to defeat those rounds should not be allowed to be resold under any conditions, especially when it was originally designed as a three shot plate in its best performance testing to date. **3.** One questions why the Army cannot decide what it knows. They say they cannot validate any claims, and then they say that they have been involved in the development. **4.** Col. Spoehr made the statement he doesn't recall any similar bans on personal armor? Why place a ban when the Army has had to recall over some 80,000 defective vests due to "various failure" not to mention the thousands of SAPI plates that were bad. **5.** If a body armor system is so well designed and manufactured as to be as Col. Spoehr said "We can categorically say that whatever your going to buy isn't as good as what your going to get from the military", then why has it had to be fixed with over 7 iterations within the last two years?

The US Army has recently stated that they are looking at their needs for a flexible, greater ballistic capability, light weight body armor for the replacement of the current system, and for future systems. The Dragon Skin armor has been providing what they are looking for now, for the last 9 years!

If the current system is that poor replace it! Stop paying good taxpayer money for plates that continually need to be replaced. Purchase what will work and last. PEO just wants to do everything that they can to try to find a "Chink" or weak link in the system, to justify the current system. There is not one. The system was designed to preclude such "childhood diseases", in body armor from the start. That is why its works with flexibility, and works as well as it does.

I have asked the Army several times for a Ballistic "proof test" and General Moran has told me it will not happen, however, if it is categorically the best, then put the best along side the Dragon Skin for a fair and unbiased shoot to let the evidence make that determination.

Sincerely, Murray Neal, CEO, Pinnacle Armor Co.

I'm Very Well, Thank You

There is nothing the matter with me
I'm as healthy as can be.
I have arthritis in both of my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin
BUT - I'm awfully well for th shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet
Or I wouldn't be able to be out on the street.
Sleep is denied me night after night
But every morning I find I'm all right.
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin
BUT - Im awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Old age is golden, so I've heard it said.
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed
With my ears in a drawer and my teeth in a cup,
And my specs on a table until I get up.
E're sleep overtakes me, I say to myself
Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?

When I was young my slippers were red,
I could kick my heels right over my head.
When I was older my slippers were blude,
But I could still dance the whole night through.
Now I am older and my slippers are black,
I walk to the shop, and puff my way back.

The moral is this, as my tale I unfold,
That for you and me, who are growing old,
It's better to say, "I'm just fine," with a grin.
Than to let folks know the real shape we're in!

So, I get up each morning and dust off my wits,
Pick up the paper and read the obits."
And if my name is till missing, I know I'm not
dead.
So I have my breakfast...and go back to bed!

Reporters interviewing a 104 year old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

from Jim Plate

Old Geezers

"Geezers" (slang for an old man) are easy to spot:
At sporting events, during the playing of the National Anthem, Old Geezers hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them. Old Geezers remembers World War I, the Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into an Old Geezer on the sidewalk, he will apologize. If you pass an Old Geezer on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Old Geezers trust strangers abd are courtly to women. Old Geezers hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.

Old Geezers get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like violence and filth on TV or movies. Old Geezers have moral courage. They seldom brag unless it's about their grandchildren.

It's the Old Geezers who know our great country is protected, not by politicians or police, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs Old Geezers with their decent values. We need them now more than ever.

Thank God for Old Geezers!



Success

The secret of success: Two words:

What are they? *Right decisions*
How are right decisions made?

One word: *Experience*

How do you get experience? Two words:

What are they? *Wrong decisions*



Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?" "98," she replied, "Two years older than me."

"So you're 96," the undertaker commented. She responded, "Hardly worth going home is it?"

Ephram Jamison

A Ralph Casperson Essay

Ephram Jamison was born on July 3, 1830 in Nestor Township, Burmax County, located in the mid-section of the United States. Ephram's entry into the world was recorded in the Jamison family Bible and on the records at the primitive Court house located on the bank of the Ripple River in the Village of Nestor, the Country Seat of Burmax County. These entries were the first record of the earthly existence of one, Ephram Jamison.

Ephram led the happy busy existence of a boy on a pioneer farm: milking the cow, cleaning the stable, spreading manure on the fields, harnessing, riding, and driving the horses, spading the garden, plowing, picking wild berries and nuts, fishing, and on and on. A very primitive one-room school provided the only formal book learnin' Ephram ever received. He read from the few McGuffey books that the school afforded. He wrote on a slate. Not a very good way to save his efforts for posterity.

Mrs. Jamison, Ephram's mother, got to spend what little money she earned from occasionally selling a few eggs from her flock of chickens. Over time she tucked away enough coins in her sugar bowl (the family bank) to buy her only child, Ephram, a poetry book. The book, dated 1838, was published by Tichnor and Fields in Boston, and was his Christmas present in 1840. Mother Jamison penciled the following inscription on the flyleaf of the book. "To Ephram Jamison from Mother, Christmas 1840." Mother Jamison, as did many mothers at that time, entertained fond hopes that her son would go into the ministry, but fate dictated otherwise.

When Ephram was fifteen years old, he carved his name on one of the beams of a new barn his father was building. This being the fourth place where Ephram Jamison's name appeared thus far in his young life.

Time passed. In spite of the brutally hard and endless physical labor on the farm, Ephram found time for church on Sunday, church social life, and romance. It did not happen in a hurry, in those days, but Ephram courted and at age twenty-five married Ethel Sandstrum, a church member and near neighbor. Their houses were only five miles apart. Another milestone, this event was recorded at the courthouse and on the church records.

Ethel's brother, Edwin and his wife Matilda emigrated

to California shortly after his sister's wedding. The exchange of letters between the two families was prodigious for those times; an exchange every three months or so. Ethel saved her brother's letters, as did Matilda on the California end of this exchange of news, sentiment, and expressed hopes. Now we have a goodly stack of envelopes upon which Ephram's name appears - the addresses on the letters to him and Ethel, and the return address on those sent to California.

A scourge in those days, a smallpox epidemic took the lives of Edwin and Matilda. In the panic to keep the malady from spreading, their neighbors burned all of Edwin and Matilda's clothes, bed coverings, and all other personal possessions, including their letters.

In 1856, Ephram and Ethel filed on a forty-acre homestead near the village of Nestor. The transaction was recorded at the Federal Land Office. The Jamison's copy was filed away with their keepsake letters.

Breaking out in 1861, the Civil War raged on until 1863 an event took place that effected Ephram's name. By that time the Federal Land Office at Nestor was largely out of business, so its records were boxed up and put on a train for Washington. They never arrived. Resting on a siding in the Shenandoa Valley, the train was attacked and burned by forces of the Confederacy. Ephram's name on the Homestead papers was extinguished.

Being thirty-one years old, Ephram didn't serve in the Civil War, thus preventing his name from being recorded in near perpetuity on Military Records in Washington.

Though an important part of his family and church, Ephram never did anything important enough, in the opinion of the scribes at the "Nester Chronicle" to warrant their including his name on the crowded pages of the local news organs.

Ole Lindquist owned the Nestor General Store, a large establishment on the main street of town, located between the creamery and the butcher shop. Ole carried most of his customers in his accounts receivable ledger. Several pages of the book were headed "Ephram Jamison." Ephram's credit was good because when his payments from the creamery for cream were as fat as the butter the cream produced, he paid his bills.

(Continued on page 13)

Soft red sandstone from a local quarry was used to mark the place in the Methodist Cemetery where Ephram and Ethel were laid to rest. The message carved into the stone was short and to the point, "Ephram Jamison July 3, 1830-June 14, 1893. Wife Ethel Feb. 20, 1832-July 12, 1895." Their death certificates were filed in the old courthouse down by the river.

During his life Ephram never traveled over fifty miles from his farmstead. After inhabiting this mortal realm for sixty-three years, his name could be found in less than a dozen places, plenty of evidence that Ephram Jamison had once been an important being in the small circle in which he existed.

A fire, starting in the creamery, and a strong west wind, brought disaster to the little town of Nestor in 1895. Most of the buildings on Main Street were burned to the ground including the butcher shop and Lundquist's General Store. Ole Lindquist no longer presided over his ledgers now. His son, Otis, did that. Be that as it may, all of the current and old books that told of bills acquired and bills paid were now ashes.

Christmas at the old Methodist Church was a highlight of the season. Gathering on Christmas Eve, the faithful sat in awe as they gazed at the big Fir tree lighted with real wax candles. Amazement quickly turned to terror when the huge tree itself burst into flame. What was once a Christmas tree became a ball of shooting flames, which destroyed the old church and everything in it, including the old church records. These lighted candles were a disaster waiting to happen and happen it did on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1900.

The summer of 1898 was exceptionally dry. The rains in the early fall seemed to make up for all the moisture missed during the summer. The problem was that the water all came in a short period of time. The Ripple River, after a week of steady downpour, had more than it could handle. Ol' Ripple overflowed its banks. Flood damage was light except that the courthouse and everything in it was engulfed, ruining everything it contained. The ancient ink inscriptions on the old records were all washed away. Some said, "Good! Time for a new Courthouse anyway."

Nestor prospered as a bedroom town for the larger industrial city nearby. Once rural property became urban as Nestor expanded. The old Jamison place was no exception.

Jack and Jennifer Frucci, a young couple, bought Ephram and Ethel's place in 1950. Having served in World War II, Jack took advantage of the loan provisions of the G.I. Bill to finance the purchase. Almost falling down now, the barn was completely taken apart. The old boards and sturdy beams were sold to people in the city to be used to create a rustic atmosphere in modern houses. The beam with Ephram Jamison's name on it, now 100 years old, was planed smooth thus doing away with Ephram's juvenile carving.

Before the Frucci's remodeled the old farmhouse they emptied the place. Antiques were sold in the big town. Lots of old magazines, newspaper, letters, and other papers were used to make a huge bonfire for Jack and Jennifer's 4th of July celebration in 1951. The fire was hot enough to completely consume an old dilapidated bible, along with bundles of letters and other paper tied with pink ribbon.

A group from the church, in 1960, banded together to clean up the old cemetery and install a new board fence around the place. The nationality of the church membership experienced a remarkable change in 100 years. Back then the church was all Scandinavian, with names like Johnson, Sandstrum, Lundquist, Oleson, Iverson and Jameson. Now added to these names were Nemechek, Smith, Darry, Premo, Leclair, Prentice and Lavinn. Times were changing. Time wreaked havoc with some of the tombstones in the cemetery as well. The handful of stones made from Sandstone, cut at the quarry during the latter part of the 19th century, were eroded badly. They were smooth - unreadable. Ephram and Ethel's grave marker was a smooth slab of red sandstone.

Now 1993, 100 years after Ephram's death, almost all physical evidence of his having inhabited the earth had been destroyed. All, that is, except one.

One morning in April, 1993, a bookseller in his shop in Chicago, was looking over a box of books he had recently bought. The last book he looked at was a pristine copy of a little poetry book date 1838. The book, in beautiful condition, almost like new, had but one blemish. Written in pencil on the flyleaf was the inscription, "To Ephram Jamison from mother, Christmas, 1940." Being a purist, the bookseller could not allow this scribbling to deface a book in otherwise fine condition. Taking out his eraser, the bookseller effectively rubbed out the offensive inscription.



Bob Evans

The Military Coalition has been busy since my last report. Last issue I spent the majority of the report in outlining the 2006 goals for The Military Coalition's Retired Affairs Committee. Of equal importance to our readership are the goals of the Health Care Committee. These committee goals are ranked from the most important to the least and are worked by the committee members in that order. It is important to note

that while all of the goals are important, only the top four or five are ever closed out, in large part because it does take time to mobilize the decision makers on Capitol Hill. Here are the 2006 goals for the Health Care Committee. As before, should you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me and I will provide your input to the committee chairman.

1. DHP Funding – Work with Congress and DoD to provide full funding of the Defense Health Program for the direct care and purchased care systems, providing access to the military health care system for ALL uniformed services beneficiaries, regardless of age, status or location.

1 Encourage lawmakers to resist DoD's efforts to shift costs to its active and retired beneficiaries in order to offset the cost of military healthcare

2 Monitor DoD efforts on managing overall healthcare costs to ensure all operational efficiencies are realized

TMC urges Congress and DoD to provide full funding of the DHP.

2. TRICARE Standard – Monitor implementation of the FY 2004 NDAA (PL 108-136, Sec. 725/726) provisions to address the continued viability of TRICARE Standard and provide beneficiaries with health coverage information. Support ongoing efforts to increase support to TRICARE Standard beneficiaries.

1 Increase provider participation in TRICARE Standard through the modification of the Medicare/TRICARE statutory payment schedule; the identification and elimination of impediments and administrative burdens to providers, including pre-authorizations for TRICARE Standard services; and improving DoD's efforts to educate providers with respect to the differences between TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Prime.

2 Encourage the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) to more fully utilize its authority to increase TRICARE Standard reimbursement levels where necessary to attract sufficient numbers of health care providers

3 Monitor TRICARE Standard Provider Availability and Adequacy measures and seek development of objective measures that indicate an actionable shortfall level in order

to ease access issues in geographic areas that may be experiencing provider shortages

4 Monitor TMA and TRICARE Regional Office efforts to support and educate TRICARE Standard beneficiaries and providers within their area of responsibility

TMC will closely monitor the continued viability of TRICARE Standard.

3. Guard and Reserve Healthcare – Work with Congress and DoD to ensure consistency of benefits and continuity of care for Guard and Reserve members and their families in an environment of increased length and frequency of deployments.

1 Seek permanent legislation to provide service members and their families in the National Guard and Reserve seamless healthcare coverage and offer full participation in TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) for members of the Selected Reserve on a cost-share basis regardless of deployment history

2 Allow the option of an equivalent offset to civilian plan premiums during activation – similar to the provision of up to 24 months of FEHBP premium coverage for mobilized federal workers

3 Seek permanent legislation to allow "Gray Area" reservists to purchase TRS health care coverage

4 Seek to provide Military Dental care to Reservists at 90 days prior and 180 days post mobilization to ensure service members meet dental readiness standards

5 Further strengthen rights under USERRA to permit Reserve Component members to retain employer-sponsored insurance if coverage is terminated due to TRICARE benefits provided 90 days prior to mobilization, and to re-enroll upon expiration of TAMP and TRS coverage

TMC will work with Congress and DoD to ensure consistency of benefits and continuity of care for Guard and Reserve members and their families in an environment of increased length and frequency of deployments.

4. Consistent Benefit – Seek legislation to ensure a more consistent benefit is provided to all categories of TRICARE beneficiaries.

1 Seek legislation to reinstate TRICARE benefits for remarried widows when the second marriage ends

2 Identify and monitor updates to the TRICARE Prime Remote program to reflect recent TRICARE Program changes to ensure beneficiary family members retain TPR eligibility when moving to another remote area, are relieved from the "resides with" clause, and survivors are included

3 Seek legislation to eliminate the 115% billing limit when TRICARE Standard is second payer to other health insurance (OHI): i.e. return to the policy where TRICARE

pays the fee it would have paid, had there been no OHI

4 Ensure provider network and capacity is available upon relocation of large numbers of troops and families from new as well as previous BRAC and global re-basing areas. Promote the coordination of efforts between Managed Care Support Contractors to ensure smooth beneficiary transition between geographic areas

5 Monitor quality measures, support quality oversight and accountability for MHS performance

6 Support all US Territories, Alaska, and Hawaii being designated as CONUS for TRICARE Travel Benefit purposes

7 Monitor efforts of newly formed Medical Transformation Office within DoD Health Affairs

TMC will seek legislation to ensure a more consistent benefit is provided to all categories of TRICARE beneficiaries.

5. Mental Health – Support access to the full range of mental health services regardless of the beneficiary’s location and status taking into consideration that the need for services to assist service members and families with deployment-related issues may be long-term.

TMC will support access to the full range of mental health services regardless of the beneficiary’s location and status taking into consideration that the need for services to assist service members and families with deployment-related issues may be long-term.

6. Pharmacy – Ensure the TRICARE Pharmacy benefit remains strong, affordable, and continues to meet the pharmaceutical needs of millions of eligible beneficiaries through proper education and trust. Ensure no degradation of current pharmacy benefits, through resisting co-pay increases, and preserving the no-cost option of using military treatment facilities.

TMC will ensure the TRICARE Pharmacy benefit remains strong, affordable, and continues to meet the pharmaceutical needs of millions of eligible beneficiaries through proper education and trust. Ensure no degradation of current pharmacy benefits, through resisting co-pay increases, and preserving the no-cost option of using military treatment facilities.

7. TRICARE for Life (TFL) – Seek to ensure provision of health care services to our elder retired military population realizing the unique requirements and needs caused by the aging process.

TMC will seek to ensure provision of health care services to our elder retired military population realizing the unique requirements and needs caused by the aging process.

8. Dental Issues – Work with Congress, DoD and the Dental program contractors to ensure consistent and affordable dental coverage for all the eligible beneficiaries.

TMC will work with Congress, DoD and the Dental program contractors to ensure consistent and affordable dental coverage for all the eligible beneficiaries.

9. TRICARE Prime and MCSC Issues – Monitor TRICARE contracts to ensure the program remains beneficiary-focused, and services are enhanced, not diminished to include: Beneficiary education, network stability, service level quality, uniformity of benefit between regions (as contractors implement best business practices), and access to care.

TMC will monitor TRICARE contracts to ensure the program remains beneficiary-focused, and services are enhanced, not diminished to include: Beneficiary education, network stability, service level quality, uniformity of benefit between regions (as contractors implement best business practices), and access to care.

10. DoD/VA Transition – Work with Congress, DoD, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure a seamless transition from active duty and provision of appropriate Veterans medical services to those qualified.

TMC will work with Congress, DoD, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure a seamless transition from active duty and provision of appropriate Veterans medical services to those qualified.

11. Tax Law Changes – Seek legislation to allow all beneficiaries to purchase health care benefits in pre-tax dollars to include TRICARE Prime premiums, TRICARE Standard supplements, long-term care insurance, and dental premiums.

TMC will seek legislation to allow all beneficiaries to purchase health care benefits in pre-tax dollars to include TRICARE Prime premiums, TRICARE Standard supplements, long-term care insurance, and dental premiums.



- The only things we do with greater frequency in middle age are urinate and attend funerals.
- Do you realize that in about 40 years, we’ll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?
- Living in a nudist colony takes all the fun out of Halloween.

from Jim Plate

Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them, the rest of us could not succeed.

Mark Twain

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