



Mustang News



Vol. 27 No. 4

Quarterly Newsletter of the National Order of Battlefield Commissions

Winter 2006

Fellow Mustangs and ladies:

I have just returned from a sparsely attended, but very successful NOBC convention/reunion in San Antonio, Texas. The success of the convention/reunion can be attributed, in very large part, to a single individual. Mustang Pony Sharon Norlander took the reins and "single handedly" scoured downtown San Antonio for the "best" hotel to hold our convention/reunion. She found the Radisson at Market Square that proved to be just what the doctor ordered. The individual rooms, the meeting rooms, the service, and the food were first rate.

Sharon, in addition to having done all the "leg work," baked wonderful items for the Foxhole; I can say with authority it was difficult to pull myself away from Sharon's creations. Beyond baking, Sharon and her mother, Roz Burke essentially ran the Foxhole and, never resting on their laurels,

Commander's Message

by *Robert Evans*



whipped up a number of exceptional lunch treats with a southwestern flare. I admit to having spent an inordinate amount of time stuffing myself with their wonderful green chili and cream cheese pinwheels

The Foxhole was generally packed; as a consequence, we had to make a couple "rum runs" to restock. Thanks to Pete Armstrong with his truck, military identification, and willingness, we were able to stock up on supplies from two military bases in the San Antonio area. We were in possession of an old shopping

list, generated by June Bolton, which allowed us to whip through the Class VI store in record time and pick up those essential items for the Foxhole. This list will be bequeathed to the next national commander.

Inside of this edition of the Mustang News is a convention/reunion write up, so I do not want to spend too much more time on it. I do want to highlight the fact we have several Vietnam mustangs who have stepped up to fill much needed positions within our ranks. I do hope this is the beginning.



Of the twenty or so civilizations known to modern Western historians, all except our own appear to be dead or moribund, and, when we diagnose each case...we invariably find that the cause of death has been either War or Class or some combination of the two.

*Arnold J. Toynbee, English historian
(1889-1975)*

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Walter Duke, Jr. (1)
William T. Tibbitt (1)

God Doesn't Hold Makeup Classes!

This *Mustang News* should arrive as the Christmas Season is near. That and Easter are the periods when much of our nation becomes very aware of God. Unfortunately those are the only two times some people attend church all year! A recent report noted America has more unchurched people today than ever before—and Europe has far less attendance than we do.



Warren Schilling

In the sermon on the Mount, Jesus noted this same problem. Speaking of Heaven He said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life and only a few find it." (Matthew 7:13-14). Many in our society are on the wide road, even though they often say "follow the straight and narrow" unaware they are quoting the Bible! Tolstoy said "Everyone thinks of changing the world but no one thinks of changing himself." Jesus said, "Unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 18:3).

Low church attendance is bound to erode the foundational values of our society. With a clever partial quote from the Bible someone said, "The heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 191)—but the streets declare the sinfulness of man! Remember, sin blinds

you from knowing you are doing wrong.

But things are encouraging at many of our schools. While most don't allow prayer in class or lunch rooms, hundreds in the nation have students who started what they call "Meet Me at the Pole."

Before school starts large numbers gather around the flag pole and pray before going to class. Many come from unchurched homes and are building close relationships with wonderful Bible believing friends and growing in the knowledge of God.

Obviously our societies have changed but God hasn't. Don't let your concept of God be too small. He is almighty and constant. He is everywhere present and is our ultimate salvation. We can't save ourselves. God stands above time, free from all temporal distinctions. In His being there is no succession, no beginning, no ending, no past, no future—all is Present to Him. He sees it all at once. Time itself is of His creation. God existed in eternity before He created Time and continues to exist outside of Time, constantly taking action in complete sovereign control of all that takes place in the world.

But let's face the truth that time is running out for us. We must make our salvation decision before our time runs out. God doesn't hold any make-up classes after we die.

Fall, 2000

From the Hawaii Editor's Desk

by Bill "Scotty" Wynn



Mustang News

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TAPS

for Mustangs answering
their final muster:

422-Thomas L. Baker-OH
1071-Aaron J. Helms-SC
805-Charles M. McCurry-IL
1072-Stanley N. McLeod-FL
537-Rudolph W. Moffler-FL
1112-Reed W. Patchen-FL
996L-John R. Short, Jr.-OK
708-William W. Sullivan-WA
175-Antonio J. Tata-MA

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*

"Grandma, do all fairy tales start out 'Once upon a time?'"
"No sweetheart. There are a lot that begin with, 'If elected I promise...'"

"The amount of sleep required by the average person is just five minutes more."

Anonymous

Old age is the most unexpected of all the things that happen to a man.

Leon Trotsky (1879-1940)

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 Mrs. Pauline Dahlgren:

On behalf of myself, our children and grandchildren, we would like to thank you and the members of the NOBC for the beautiful plaque you sent in memory of Edward.

It is hanging in my living room wall next to his citation and pictures receiving the Medal of Honor from the late President Truman.

He is greatly missed, we were married for 58 years. Have four children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Once again, thanks to all.

From Mrs. Sarah Pepper and Family:

Thank you so much for the beautiful plaque for Reid. I know he would be very pleased. A very thoughtful thing to do. He had full military rites.

From Mrs. Velma Ross:

That is the most beautiful plaque and will always be treasured by me and know if Noel could see it he would be honored.

Thank you all very much.

I case we find ourselves starting to believe all the anti-American sentiment and negativity, we should remember England's Prime Minister Tony Blair's words during a recent interview.

When asked by one of his Parliament members why he believes so much in America, he said:
"A simple way to take the measure of a country is to look at now many want in...and how many want out."



Mustang Ponies Association, Inc.

"We Shall Never Forget"

October 3, 2006

Bob Evans,
Commander
National Order of Battlefield Commissions

Sir:

The Mustang Ponies scholarship committee has selected the granddaughter of Adolph "Bud" Warnecke, Mustang #285L. It is with pleasure that I present Stephanie Ann Chain, Mustang Pony #144, for the LTC John C. Angier, III Memorial Scholarship. She is the daughter of LTC (ret) Brad and Cathy Chain, Pony #001. I believe that this year's selection is a good choice because of her activities in her community.

Stephanie is a freshman at Midlands Technical College, Columbia, South Carolina. The program there will provide Stephanie an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education and a foundation to transfer to the University of South Carolina to major in Elementary Education.

While in high school, Stephanie competed with the school swim team. She was on the Junior Varsity soccer team until injuries sidelined her, and now she coaches youth soccer. She also has participated in Interact, a community service club. During her senior year, she was part of Junior Civitan, a national community service group. Since age 12, Stephanie has been a babysitter. She has continued to work part time and keep up her studies and community activity. Currently, she is a customer service representative at Home Depot.

Stephanie's selection is in keeping with the standards we have set in providing assistance to our scholars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald E. Dungey".

Ronald E. Dungey

Chair

Scholarship Committee

cc: Stanley W. Schmucker, Consultant /NOBC Admin & Finance
Adolph "Bud" Warnecke, Consultant
Cathy W. Chain, Secretary
MPA File

Stephanie Ann Chain

Mustang Pony #144

Receiving the
2006

LTC John C. Angier, III
Memorial Scholarship

Granddaughter of
Adolph "Bud" Warnecke,
Mustang # 285L

Daughter of
Brad and Cathy Chain, Pony #001

Granddaughter of
Sharon Chain, Pony #A001

Freshman at Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC
to earn an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education;
future plans to attend USC, to major in Elementary Education.

Activities:

- School swim team
- Junior Varsity soccer team
- Coaches youth soccer
- Interact, a community service club
- Junior Civitan, a national community service group
- Customer Service Representative, Home Depot.

"She has shown a love of children and an understanding of their developmental needs."
K. Dozier, teacher



The attendance was again light; however, our San Antonio Convention/Reunion was a success. 20 members, 5 ponies, 1 widow, wives and guests brought our banquet number to over 40. Walter (Walt) Duke, Jr. # 514-L (KY), and Virgil (Butch) Goewey # 829-L (OR) wore red, white and blue ribbons on their name tags to signify being "first timers" to an NOBC convention/reunion. The ribbons were signals to the "old timers" to make a special effort to welcome Walt and Butch, and they did. Ponies in attendance were Ron and Joan Dungey, Sharon and Cathy Chain, and Sharon Norlander. Roz Burke, mother of Sharon Norlander, was our only widow in attendance.

Monday, October 16

From noon to 1700, the Foxhole was open for registration and camaraderie. Participants, generally checked into the Radisson and came to the Foxhole, supported and maintained by Sharon Norlander and her mother Roz Burke, to register. Registration entailed picking up information packets and nametags. The information packets and the laminated name tags with the individual's name, NOBC number and home state were the handiwork of our long-time Administration and Finance Officer, Stan Schmucker. It should be noted that the nametags came with lanyards, but then what you expect from an artillery officer?

As in past years, the Foxhole was the central location for Mustangs to meet for the first time, renew old friendships from years gone by, and establish new ones. The Foxhole was generally packed, in large part because Sharon Norlander had spent many hours in her kitchen preparing absolutely wonderful sweets and during the course of the convention/reunion she and her mother prepared any number of additional items to tempt the palate of those in attendance.

In an adjoining room our PNC and PX Officer Gib Bolton (CA) held court with an array of PX items including NOBC pins, decals, license plate frames, Battlefield Commission certificates, key chains, pocket knives, NOBC brevet medals, and windbreakers, among other items of interest. The Radisson Hotel staff provided an evening welcome reception in a room overlooking the

courtyard and inviting pool. The one-hour reception (1700-1800) was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Tuesday, October 17

This day was generally open for individual tours of choice. Tours of interest included the riverboat cruise, touring the Riverwalk and, of course, the Alamo. The Foxhole opened at 0900 and stayed open until 1700, one hour before evening cocktail hour began, as the prelude to the traditional informal evening buffet.

At 0900, the Officers and Directors met for the annual Board of Directors meeting. The group moved smartly through a rather lengthy order of business and concluded shortly after 1100.

Tuesday Evening Buffet



Commander
Evans

The buffet theme was south of the border, and both the meal and entertainment did the theme proud. Sharon Norlander, among having secured the hotel, baked wonderful sweets, prepared lunches in the Foxhole and generally maintained the Foxhole, retained the musical services of the San Antonio All District

Mariachi Band. The Mariachi Band captivated the



San Antonio Mariachi Band

audience with a selection of numbers representing several different types of traditional Mariachi music. The eight-member band included both students and instructors from within the San Antonio school system.

After being regaled with excellent music, attendees stepped up to a long buffet line of traditional Mexican food. After everyone's appetite had been sated, Commander Evans presented Helmet Awards to those recipients present. Sharon



Bob Evans and Sharon Norlander

After the buffet, the majority of attendees repaired to the Foxhole to sample Sharon's handiwork and chat well into the evening.

Wednesday, October 18

At 1000 the traditional Memorial Service was begun with the call to order by National Commander Bob Evans. The colors were posted by the 32^d Medical Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. After the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem, Mustang Pony Ron Dungey the invocation. The Memorial Message followed.

Norlander (Pony #109) was presented with a Helmet Award for her excellent work as the 2006 Convention/Reunion Chairperson. Ron Dungey accepted the Helmet Award for Dan Hunt (Pony # 101) for his work in developing the Ponies web site that meshes with the NOBC web site. Steve Parisi (070-L) was presented with the Helmet Award for his service on the NOBC Board of Directors. Helmet Awards were mailed to Jim Davis (649-L) and Ralph Casperson (701-L) for service on the NOBC Board of Directors. Finally, a Helmet Award was mailed to Steve Shivers (141-L) for serving as Deputy Commander 2004-2006.

After the Helmet awards, Stan Schmucker stepped up to the podium and topped off the evening with the ever-popular 50/50 drawing. The winners were: \$500. Carl J. Patronis (520-L Wisconsin), \$300. Nancy DeMartinis (widow of Tony DeMartinis), \$200. Elaine Smith (widow of Charles E. Smith), and \$100. Peter Meindersma (250 Texas).



Chaplain (Col)
Gilley Richardson

(Colonel) Gilley G. Richardson, Installation Chaplain, Fort Sam Houston delivered a moving message citing scripture and experience. Chaplain Richardson's message was followed by Stan Schmucker's reading the names of the 31 Mustangs who departed our ranks this past year.



Two of our well fed buffet tables

672-L	William Abbotts (NC)	1072	Stanley N. McLeod (FL)
103-L	Woodrow W. Acord (IL)	537	Rudolph W. Moffler (FL)
590-L	Ira W. Austin (KS)	412-L	Lawrence A. Nuce (WV)
422	Thomas L. Baker (OH)	1112-L	Reed W. Patchen (FL)
1045-L	William L. Brandenburg (PA)	851	Reid E. Pepper (OK)
862	Sam L. Cochran (GA)	238	George P. Peroni (NY)
662	William H. Cunningham (KY)	961	Noel F. Ross (OH)
705	Edward C. Dahlgren	191-L	Donald E. Rudolph (MN)
774-L	Chester W. Forsythe (OK)	511-L	James J. Rye (TX)
1035	William Grey (CT)	996-L	John R. Short, Jr. (OK)
1071	Aaron J. Helms (KS)	047	Lee W. Somers (TX)
099	William L. Kline (KS)	708	Anthony J. Tata (MA)
073	Russel P. Leahy (NJ)	872	Willfred M. Thornton (IN)
691	Donald A. Maurer (OH)	593-L	Susumu Toyoda (CA)
805	Charles M. McCurry (IL)	406	Harry R. Zuehlke (WI)

Annual Business Meeting

Twenty Mustangs attended the annual business meeting following the Memorial Service and was called to order at 1100 by Bob Evans. After reports from Officers and Staff, Administration and Finance Officer Stan Schmucker presented the minutes of the 2005 meeting and the Consolidated Financial Statement for the period ending 30 September 2006. Both were approved by the membership.

Next, Pete Armstrong presented the slate of officers developed in the preceding day's Board of Directors meeting. For the Board of Directors, the slate included the following: 3 year term, Steve Parisi, and Butch Goewey, 2 year term (replacing Ralph Casperson who resigned due to health issues) David Sebright, and 1 year term Walt Duke (replacing Roy Bunders who chose to run for Deputy Commander). Rounding out the slate was Roy Bunders for Deputy Commander. It was moved and seconded the entire slate be accepted by acclamation; the membership so voted.



Our Leaders

Back Row l-r: **Pete Armstrong**, *Natl Adj*; **Virgil Goewey**, *Director*; **Robert Evans**, *Natl Commander*; **Stan Schmucker**, *Admin & Fin.*
Front Row l-r: **Roy Bunders**, *Dep Cmdr*; **Steve Parisi**, *Director*; **Gib Bolton**, *PX Officer*; **Walt Duke**, *Director*

Mustang Pony Ron Dungey presented a proposal to hold the 2007 NOBC Convention/Reunion in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The proposed dates were October 22-24 and the Ocean Dunes of the Sands Resorts would host the Convention/Reunion. Ron and Joan Dungey had developed a flyer for the members to review. The members unanimously voted to hold the 2007 Convention/Reunion in Myrtle Beach.

Mustang Pony Ron Dungey Announced the Selection of Stephanie Ann Chain, granddaughter

of Adolph "Bud" Warnecke (285-L), and daughter of LTC (ret) Brad and Cathy Chain (Pony #001) as the recipient of the \$1,000 John C. Angier III Memorial Scholarship.

Closing Night Banquet

The highlight of each convention/reunion is the closing night formal banquet that was attended by nearly 50 Mustangs, wives, ponies, widows, and guests. The color guard from U.S. Army ROTC Road Runner Bn, University of Texas, San Antonio posted the colors and National Commander Bob Evans led the Pledge of Allegiance.



Mustang Pony Ron Dungey delivered the invocation. A delightful dinner followed.

Since our normal Master of Ceremonies Jim Davis was unable to attend, Jim Thompson (108) from Lawton Oklahoma (Artillery School) regaled us with several very humorous stories. Jim did warm up the audience, making the transition to our keynote speaker that much smoother.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote speaker, our own PNC Colonel Neal G. Grimland (247-L). Neal was instrumental in providing support and guidance to Sharon Norlander in securing Chaplain Richardson and the Fort Sam Houston Color Guard, also kindly accepted our invitation to be our keynote speaker as a true member of "The Greatest Generation." Neal recounted his history related to his work before during and after WWII. In addition, he provide some excellent insights as to why, in his view, the "Greatest Generation" may have essentially been in the right place at the right time: A nation willing to do what ever had to be done to secure lasting freedom and peace.

**Keynote Speaker
Neal Grimland**



**Neal receives his
well deserved award**

recipient of the 2006 Commander's Trophy was Past National Commander William R. Healey (002) the founder of NOBC. Past National Commander Healey passed away in May of 2003. Accepting the Commander's Trophy were Nell Grover-Healey, his widow, Veronica Healey-Boone his daughter, Michael Healey his son, and William Boone his son-in-law. Both Veronica and Nell thanked NOBC for recognizing the efforts of our founder and how much the trophy meant to them.

Following the presentation of the Commander's Trophy, Mustang Pony Cathy Chain formally thanked NOBC for selecting her daughter as the 2006 recipient of the Colonel John C. Angier, III Memorial Scholarship.

Thus ended the formal banquet, and all proceeded to the Foxhole for extended camaraderie.

Thursday, October 19 Departure for Home Station

A getaway continental breakfast was provided in the meeting room where memories of our buffet, memorial service and business meeting lingered. Farewells were exchanged as all prepared to depart for respective "home stations," with wishes to each other for a safe trip home and a healthy year.



Neal's keynote was followed by the presentation of the Commander's Trophy, given in recognition of outstanding service and contribution to NOBC. The



The Old Warriors . . .



. . . and The Ladies

A Scot on Democracy

This memorable quotation is from Sir Alex Fraser Tytler (1742-1813). Scottish jurist and historian, he was widely known in his time and was professor of Universal History at Edinburgh University in the late 18th century. The quotation is from the 1801 collection of his lectures:

“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess from the public treasury. From that time on the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship.

The average age of the world’s great civilizations has been 200 years. These nations have progressed through this sequence:

from bondage to spiritual faith;
 from spiritual faith to great courage;
 from courage to liberty;
 from liberty to abundance;
 from abundance to selfishness;
 from selfishness to complacency;
 from complacency to apathy;
 from apathy to dependency;
 from dependency back to bondage.”



“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, on this crisis, shrink from the service of their country, but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”

1776 - Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis*



Then let us pray that come it may
 (As come it will for a’ that)
 That sense and worth o’er all the earth
 Shall bear the prize, an a’ that!
 For a’ that, and a’ that,
 It’s comin’ yet for a’ that
 That man to man the world o’er
 Shall brothers be for a’ that.

1795 - Robert Burns, Scotland’s poet

Editor: an excellent message I like to repeat.

Who Packs Your Parachute?

Sometimes in the daily challenges life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason.

CDR Charles Plumb, a US Naval Academy graduate, was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 missions, his plane was hit and destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. CDR Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He spent 6 years in a communist prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man from another table came up and said, “You’re Commander Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. And you were shot down!”

“How in the world did you know that?” he asked. “I packed your parachute,” the man replied. CDR Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man shook his hand and said, “I guess it worked!” with a smile. CDR Plumb assured him, “It sure did. If your chute hadn’t worked, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Plumb couldn’t sleep that night, thinking about the man. He said, “I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform and a Dixie cup hat, a bib in the back and bell bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said good morning, how are you or anything because, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.”

Plumb thought about the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the packing room of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hand each time the life of someone he didn’t know.

Now, CDR Plumb asks his audience, “Who’s packing your parachute?”

Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. His experience reminds us all to prepare ourselves to weather whatever storms lie ahead. As you walk through your life, recognize the people who pack your parachute.

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.

We Are All New Yorkers

By Davud Hackworth

Originally published September 18, 2001

For too many years I've been a voice in the wilderness trying to warn the American people and the military-industrial-congressional complex that we've entered a new era of war. Even after World Trade Center I, the embassy attacks and the savaging of the USS Cole, most people didn't want to know the truth. Nor, tragically, did our leaders in government — probably because it's hard to think out of the box, especially when there's all that pork out there for the easy picking.

Five years ago, my wife decided to take me seriously. We were walking in Central Park when a car backfired. Several seconds after I'd thrown her to the ground and rolled with her under a bush, she asked shakily, "What's going on?"

So I told her that New York was at the top of the terrorist hit list. As a student and survivor of many wars, I could see it all coming down as clearly as I saw and warned the top brass in 1966 that we'd lose in Vietnam unless we fought that war with the correct guerrilla tactics rather than refighting World War II.

My wife loves New York City more than anyone I know. But within the year, at her insistence, we'd left the vibrant Big Apple to live in Connecticut.

Today, of course, much as I wish my predictions had been off-target, nobody rolls their eyes any longer when I carry on about how terrorism has become this country's biggest threat.

But we can't all move to Connecticut — in fact, nowhere we go can ever be far enough from either the threat or the physical and emotional fallout. There's no longer any safe spot for Americans except what we mindfully make for ourselves.

We are all New Yorkers. We are all the target, all under a shared siege, all bonded in spirit and in blood. Each and every American was hit last week — and now we must take the hard steps necessary to protect our democratic way of life from an enemy with absolutely no respect for life, even his own.



Roger Charles

This means instituting a level of security we've never known and having the unwavering commitment to an unconditional frontless war against an enemy who strikes at unarmed civilians from the shadows with increasingly more unthinkable weapons.

Our very survival depends upon our no longer allowing the MICC to keep trying to fight today's battles with yesterday's war machine. We must instead quickly punch into the basics of counterterrorism and common sense and stop fantasizing about the supposedly miraculous, all-protective Missile Defense Shield.

We must set aside our unilateralism and not-infrequent national arrogance and forge the alliances necessary to close down any terrorist sanctuaries and cut off all support. We must make clear that the friend of our terrorist foe is our enemy and will be treated accordingly: Any state harboring terrorists will get what Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany got after Pearl Harbor. And then we must move in a global effort of civilized nations to bring these monsters to justice — either in the courtroom or by doing unto them as they've done unto us.

But in order to succeed, we need to act, not react. We must strike only when we are truly ready, only when we know where our enemies are and only at the times and places we select. And our weapons should not only be the sledgehammer we wielded in Serbia and Vietnam, but the pre-emptive scalpel the FBI used so effectively at the beginning of this millennium to prevent terrorist strikes in Times Square and Seattle.

We need to get smart as much as we need to get even — to put in the time and the bucks to do whatever it takes to make our anti-terrorism defense shield permanently proactive. Just as our New York cousins set a daily example with their courage as they clean up and carry on, so must we all come together as a nation to let the world know loudly and clearly, "Never again."

Terrorists such as Osama bin Laden and sponsors of terrorism like Iraq's Saddam Hussein will soon learn that a fine line separates fear from rage and rage from revenge.

Eilth England contributed to this article.



Bob Evans

The third quarter of any year is slow on Capital Hill and even slower given mid-term elections. With summer recess and a significant amount of stumping, there has been little time for legislation. Several items have come to the fore that may be of interest to our readers. The first is the

decision by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to provide eligible retirees with their "complete" DoD military retirement entitlement to Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and/or Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) and /or DVA disability compensation entitlement.

Potential retroactive pay is due for more than 100,000 retiree accounts. Individual amounts will vary based on differences in disability amount, and length of retroactive period. Retirees entitled to additional money from the DFAS will receive notification by mail of money due and a schedule of payment.

CRSC, which became effective in June 2003, provides non-taxable benefits to veterans disabled resulting from a combat injury. CRDP, effective in January 2004, provides taxable income to veterans disabled while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces (not necessarily in combat). Surviving spouses or deceased retirees' estates may also receive compensation.

DFAS began initial payments in September 2006 and the DVA plans to begin payments in October 2006. The basic criteria for a retroactive payment is for an individual currently in receipt of either CRSC or CRDP who received an increase in DVA compensation since June 2003 for CSRC or January 2004 for CRDP which was not offset from the retired pay entitlement on a current basis.

Completion of the majority of payments is

expected within six months, and it could take up to six more months to calculate and pay the most complex retroactive pay accounts. The majority of payments are being made utilizing a manual process. These involve multiple DVA rating adjustments since CRSC and CRDP began, shifts by retirees between these two types of payments, ex-spouse pay entitlements and any other issues that requires lengthy record searches. DFAS plans on paying the accounts with the oldest retroactive dates first. In some instances, recipients may be entitled to additional compensation from the DVA. In such instances, the DVA is responsible for the payments and will notify the affected retirees.

DFAS has established a toll free line that is operational from 8:00 to 4:30 (Eastern). Monday through Friday to address questions from CRSC and CRDP recipients who believe they might qualify. The toll free number is 1-877-327-4457.

QUICK FACTS

To be eligible, you must:

- 1 Be a military retiree (Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps).
- 2 Meet all the requirements for either CRSC or CRDP eligibility
- 3 Have received payment(s) of either CRSC on or after
- 4 June 1, 2003; and/or CRDP on or after January 1, 2004.
- 5 Awarded one or more increase in your percentage of disability by the VA on or after June 1, 2003.

What will happen?

- 1 Retirees need take no action to claim any funds.
- 2 DFAS and DVA will use existing records to identify recipients.
- 3 Recipients will be notified by letter of additional funds due.

- 4 Retirees may be eligible for payment from DFAS as a restoration of retired pay or from DVA as a part of disability compensation.
- 5 In cases where retirees are due money from DFAS and DVA, DFAS will provide information to DVA as needed. Retirees need take no action.

When things will happen:

- 1 The first DFAS retroactive payments were made in September 2006.
- 2 Due to the large number of cases, the payment process could take up to a year.
- 3 Once all eligible retirees have been identified, DFAS will publish a general schedule on this Web site.
- 4 All retirees who may be eligible for additional money are expected to be identified by November 1, 2006

The second item focuses on the Montgomery GI Bill (MGB). On 27 September, VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. USN (Ret.) the national president Military Officers Association of America on behalf of The Military Coalition's Partnership for Veterans' Education provided a formal statement to the House Armed Services and House Veterans' Affairs Committees requesting needed changes to the existing MGB to make it a Total Force Montgomery GI Bill. A synopsis of Admiral Ryan's comments are included below:

The active duty, National Guard and Reserve forces are operationally integrated under the Total Force policy but their educational benefits are not structured commensurate with types and duration of service performed.

The Partnership for Veterans Education strongly supports enactment of legislation that would consolidate military / veteran MGB programs in Title 38 and align benefit rates according to the length and type of service performed — a Total Force MGB.

Initial Entry Reserve MGIB Benefits

The Partnership for Veterans Education urges Congress to address the growing benefit gap between the Reserve MGIB (Chapter 1606) and the active duty program as soon as possible. The Partnership also recommends continuous in-service usage of Chapter 1606 benefits until exhausted.

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Mobilization) MGIB Benefits

The Partnership for Veterans Education recommends that Chapter 1607, 10 USC be transferred to Title 38 and that the rate formula for the program be adjusted to provide one month of active duty benefits under Chapter 30, 38 USC for every month mobilized.

Portability of Benefits

The Partnership for Veterans Education urges Congress to authorize use of reserve MGIB benefits earned during a mobilization under contingency operation orders for a period of 10 years after leaving service – the same portability active duty members enjoy. The Partnership for Veterans Education also recommends the elimination of the 14-year time constraint for in-service usage of REAP benefits.

Benchmarking MGIB Benefit Rates

The Partnership for Veterans Education urges Congress to benchmark MGIB benefit rates to keep pace with the average cost of education at a four-year public college or university.

Expect a much “juicier” Military Coalition Report next quarter.



Mangled English Signs

A laundry in Rome:

“Ladies leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.”

Coffee (n.), the person on whom one coughs

Financial Report

NATIONAL ORDER OF BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT
1 October 2005 - 30 September 2006

OPERATING ACCOUNT

Balance 1 October 2005 9940.01

RECEIPTS

Annual Dues (New, Current, Wid/NOK)	3410.00	
PX Sales	2962.00	
Donations	1069.05	
Convention 2005 and 2006	6459.71	
Transfer from Reserve Account (Gift Annuity)	10000.00	
Transfer from Life Account (5% of Principal)	198.50	
Transfer from Life Account (Interest)	88.36	
Transfer from Reserve Account (Interest)	46.36	
Miscellaneous (Rosters, Bank Charge Refunds)	30.30	
Total Receipts		<u>24264.28</u>
Total Income		<u>34204.29</u>

DISBURSEMENTS


Printing - Mustang News (4 Issues)	4180.35	
Other	795.00	
Postage	2474.00	
PX Purchases & Expense	1625.30	
Office Expense	2193.69	
Telephone	65.10	
Awards & Plaques	24.00	
Web Site Maintenance	179.40	
Convention 2005 and 2006	9485.55	
Convention 2005 and 2006 Refunds	760.00	
Donation (Soldiers For The Truth)	500.00	
Travel	367.38	
Corporate Report Filing Fee	5.00	
Bank Charges	51.30	
Total Disbursements		<u>22706.07</u>
Balance 30 September 2006		<u>11498.22</u>

LIFE ACCOUNT

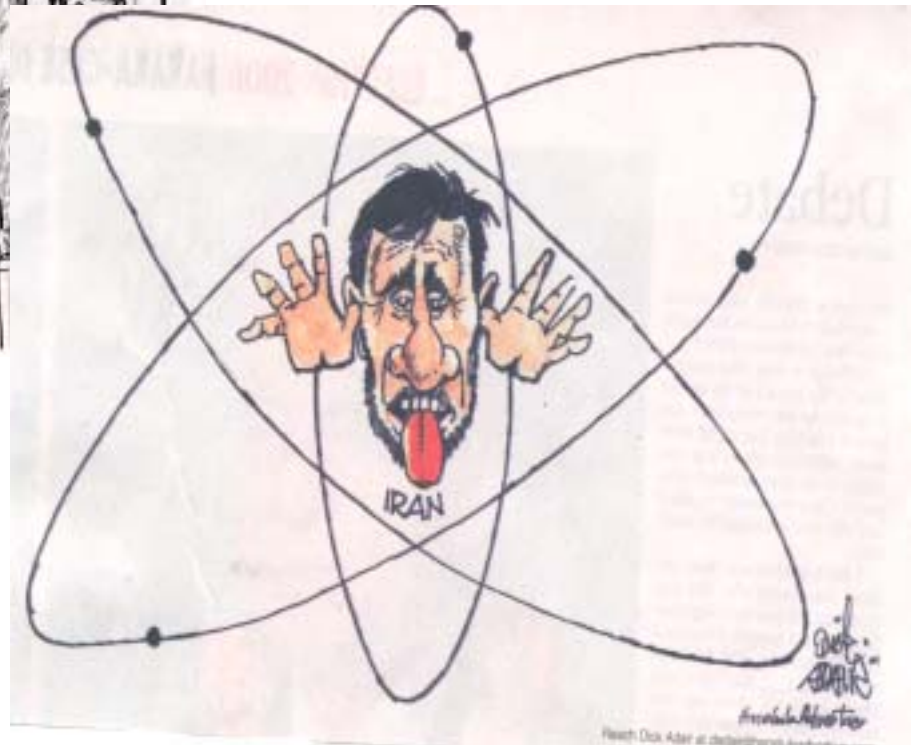
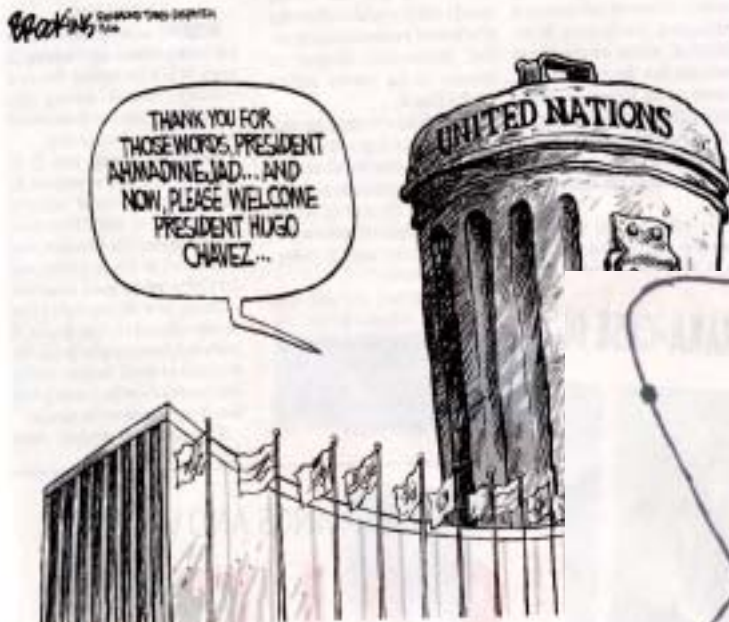
Balance 1 October 2005		3969.98
<u>Receipts & Disbursements</u>		
New Life Members (4)	450.00	
Bank Interest	137.38	
Mustang Pony Scholarship	(1000.00)	
Trfr to Operating Account (5% of Principal)	(198.50)	
Trfr to Operating Account (Interest)	(88.36)	
Total Receipts & Disbursements		<u>(699.48)</u>
Balance 30 September 2006		<u>3270.50</u>

RESERVE ACCOUNT

Balance 1 October 2005		2329.57
<u>Receipts & Disbursements</u>		
Gift Annuity & Insurance Proceeds	21892.85	
Bank Interest	720.38	
Convention 2005	(283.21)	
Transfer to Operating Account	(10000.00)	
Transfer to Operating Account (Interest)	(46.36)	
Total Receipts & Disbursements		<u>12283.66</u>
Balance 30 September 2006		<u>14613.23</u>


Stanley W. Schmucker, Administrative & Finance Officer

“nuff Said!!



**National Order of
Battlefield Commissions**

Stanley W. Schmucker
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Melbourne, FL 32940

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Thank you!

Please visit our web page at www.battlefieldcommissions.org

