



Camp Remembrance

New detainee compound dedicated to September 11 victims



Chief Warrant Officer Jose Soto and Staff Sgt. George Mauras from the 306th Military Police Battalion stand at attention during a dedication ceremony for a new detainee compound at Abu Ghraib prison July 31. The compound is dedicated to the memory of the N.Y. police officers and firefighters who perished on September 11, 2001 in the World Trade Center tragedy. (Photo by Sgt. Lynne Steely)

*Sgt. 1st Class Carolanne Diggs
Task Force 134 Public Affairs*

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq - A remembrance dedication ceremony was held July 31 at Forward Operating Base Abu Ghraib to unveil a wall of honor to be erected at one of the camps aptly named Camp Remembrance.

Camp Remembrance was named to honor the heroes of Sept. 11. A wall of plaques was revealed here to honor the firefighters, police officers and court officials who died that day. This wall is in addition to the 306th Military Police Battalion Wall of Remembrance the camp already had.

The 306th MP Bn. dedicates each day of service in Iraq to one New York law enforcement official who died Sept. 11, 2001.

Guest speakers spoke to a crowd of Abu Ghraib's law enforcement professionals as well as several others who gathered for the unveiling ceremony.

"Hard work, dedication and good values were instilled in these people. They never turned their backs on a friend," said Lt. Col. John Hussey, 306th MP Bn. commander. "The cop across the street, the fireman next door - that's who is taking care of my

wife and kids while I'm here."

"I didn't know anyone who died on Sept. 11, thank God, but in a way I know all of them," added Hussey. "I respect and understand all of them."

The battalion is made up mostly of New Yorkers, but that's almost a common denominator after Sept. 11.

"Everyone serving in the military is a New York City citizen when we see Camp Remembrance," said Col. James Brown, 18th Military Police Brigade commander.

He challenged those participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom to see Camp Remembrance and want to change the world and help create one without the hatred.

Maj. Gen. William Brandenburg, Task Force 134 Detainee Operations commander, noted how appropriate a name Camp Remembrance is.

"Several names were recommended for the camp. I can't think of a better name," Brandenburg said. "Your roots as a unit are in New York and New Jersey - police officers and firefighters from that area. You are one of the finest units in theater."

"Know you've made a difference," added Brandenburg. "A simple ceremony today will make a difference for those who follow."

FOB Abu Ghraib is currently run by the U.S. Army Reserve's 306th MP Bn., out of Uniondale, NY. Some of its leadership also serve as city officials in New York. Hussey is a chief clerk in the Rockland Supreme Court System and the battalion sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. (cont'd on page 4)

Brigade Briefs

• September Birthdays

- 06- SPC Daniel Bandeira
- 11- CPT Wayne Ludwig
- 16- SGT Jared Dutka
- 18- 1LT Shikith Russell
- 19- MSG Tim Gilmore
- 21- SFC Timothy French
- 23- SSG Emmanuel Lorenzo
- 24- PFC Lonnie Coleman

- There will be an M4/M9 qualification range held September 13-16.

- A MK19 qualification range will held September 21.

- There will be a record APFT test October 3 and 4 for all personnel.

- We have approximately six weeks left until we move. Plan ahead and start packing or throwing away your excess belongings.

Countdown

As of Sept. 1

64

more days until we transfer authority to the 43rd MP Brigade



Soldiers

*The life of a soldier
Is based on the soldier
No one made you join
You joined on your own
No one is going to promote you
You have to get yourself promoted
The military is not an automatic career
You have to make it a career
To be a soldier
You have to want to be one
The life of a soldier
Is based on the soldier*

Larry William Pompeo
B 2nd 111th FA
Camp Bucca, Iraq
March 9, 2005

War Time

*I am a soldier from the time of war
I look at the inside of my enemy's eyes
Bombs lighting the night sky
Out here if you choose fear
You will surely die
For I am an American soldier
In the line of duty in a far away land
Here I stand tall upon the dry land
With my rifle in my hand
Getting orders from everyone
I think about the ones I left behind
Not knowing if I will ever get back
I have a lot of pride and loyalty
Trying to free a country
To make a better land
My spirit is strong
My flesh is weak
God help us to stand
On our own two feet*

Larry William Pompeo
B 2nd 111th FA
Camp Bucca, Iraq
April 10, 2005



VIGILANT TIMES

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Maj. Rob Simmons.....S-1 OIC
Sgt. Lynne Steely.....Photojournalist

COMMANDERS CORNER

By Col. James B. Brown

Dear Families, Friends and Comrades of the 18th MP Brigade!



The hottest month of the year has come and gone for us in Iraq and the cool weather and replacements are on the way! Now more than ever is the time to be EVER VIGILANT with respect to safety, standards, leadership and discipline. Here in Iraq, we are stressing the Soldier and Combat Disciplines that have helped us so much throughout the year. The most dangerous drive we all take, is the one home when we are comfortable and fatigued. Please re-commit yourself to consider safety and proper risk assessment in all that you do. We are looking forward to our reunions with loved ones in a few months and we need to be safe here as well as our loved ones being safe where they are.

August was quite an eventful month for us. It opened with a great victory over a three man team of terrorists that the 617th MP company engaged and eliminated in Baghdad. Unfortunately, the day after this victory, we lost a dear friend and comrade—SSG James "Jimmy" McNaughton. The lead article in this month's newsletter is about our commemoration and dedication of Camp Remembrance at Abu Ghraib to our Fallen Law Enforcement Heroes from 9/11. SSG James

McNaughton was one of the Police Officers responding to 9/11 in New York City. He was also one of our heroes here and we miss him terribly. Jimmy was the first NYC Policeman to fall in battle here in Iraq and his death was declared a NYC Police Line of Duty Death. This is because New York City understands that every free citizen has a stake in this war and in defeating the forces of terror. Fortunately LTC John Hussey, the commander of the 306th MP Battalion, was able to attend the funeral in New York. Please join us in continuing to pray for Jimmy's parents and brother and his fiancé and fellow comrades who miss him so.

August has also been a month of transitions for the 18th MP Brigade, we have taken over all theater detainee operations in Iraq and the 503d MP Battalion is being re-missioned to another unit. We will miss our Enforcer brothers and sisters, and we have had such a wonderful run together. The Spartans of the 793d MP Battalion are back home in the 18th MP Brigade though and that is a wonderful development! Big kudos also go out to the entire S5 team for the completion of our project and work in getting the Iraqi Highway Patrol completely established and running out of its new national headquarters! MAJ Andy Johnson and his great team which includes CPT Taylor Lyle, LT Steve Lemelin, and included SSG Jimmy McNaughton, have much to be proud of. The IHP is going to be an

enduring law enforcement organization in Iraq and it is all thanks to the 16th and 18th MP Brigades!

August brought the arrival of the 785th MP Battalion from Fraser, MI under the command of LTC Rod Faulk. Much of the team has prior deployed experience at GITMO and they have done a fantastic job in settling in and taking over the reins at Camp Bucca! A warm thank-you and well done go out to all our comrades of the 105th MP Battalion as they complete their mission with us at Camp Bucca and head back home to the hills of North Carolina. Thank you both LTC Tim Houser and CSM Lonnie Webster for leading such an outstanding team through a challenging year at Camp Bucca!

We continue to receive tremendous support from a multitude of American teammates at home in the U.S. who send us gifts and packages to sustain us and that make it possible to keep working without having to run to the PX for a new toothbrush or soap etc. The support of the American people has been amazing and shows us that our work here is appreciated.

Finally, I'd like to thank the families and loved ones of our Soldiers who have served so selflessly and have raised and run our families. Your service to our country is not forgotten. Happy Labor Day to all and until we meet again, we shall remain...

EVER VIGILANT!
Col. Jim Brown, VIGILANT 6

Michael Donohue, is a New York City police sergeant.

“We’re fighting this global war based on what happened on 9-11. These were the first to die. Their memory should never be forgotten,” Hussey said.

Each day, Hussey mails a letter to the New York Fire Officers Union and dedicates that day of service to a particular firefighter who died on Sept. 11. The union forwards the letter to the family member.

A name is added to the wall of remembrance each day, displayed next to photos of hundreds of September 11 heroes.

July 31, the day of the ceremony, was dedicated to Firefighter Martin McWilliams, FDNY, Engine 22.



306th MP Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. John Hussey, speaks at the Camp Remembrance dedication ceremony July 31. (Photo by Sgt. Lynne Steely)

Hometown Heroes



**Chief Warrant Officer
Jose L. Soto**

The 306th Military Police Battalion’s Property Book Officer, Chief Warrant Officer Jose L. Soto, is currently at Forward Operating Base Abu Ghraib serving in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Soto, a reservist from Bronx, N.Y., has not only

served his country in the military for the past 17 years, he’s also a N.Y. police officer, keeping the streets safe back on the homefront. “Joining the military is one thing (of two) that I always wanted to do,” said Soto. “The other is police work.” Soto has been with the NYPD for eight years and has worked in several departments. His last assignment before his unit was mobilized in December, 2004 was working in Community Affairs. He attended community, civic and town hall meetings, keeping the department informed about what was going on in the local public.

He also ensured that activity permits were issued for parades, block parties and other public activities within his departments area. As all members of the NYPD did on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, he responded to the tragic scene at the World Trade Center. That morning Soto was off duty and on his way to instruct a CPR class. He heard the news as soon as he entered the building. “At first I thought it was a freak accident when the first plane hit,” said Soto. “After the second plane hit, I realized it was deliberate and that there was a real crisis.” He quickly flagged down a passing fire truck and raced

to the scene. Soto was sent to work at the top of the Verizon building approximately 20 to 30 blocks from ground zero, working security and observation. Coincidentally, Soto had met fire officer Ronald Bucca, whom the Camp Bucca detention facility was named for, approximately one month prior to the tragedy that took his life. He learned of Bucca’s death on the 11:00 news that evening. Soto said he’s happy that the camp is dedicated to the law enforcement that perished that day. “We’re remembering our own. The wall here, and the history of it will impact units that come after us.”

PROMOTIONS



Staff Sgt. Jamey Watson



Capt. Frank Sperl



Spc. Danelle Cavin



Sgt. Jared Dutka



Spc. Daniel Bandeira



Spc. John White

Iraqi Highway Patrol HQ opens in Baghdad

Sgt. Lynne Steely

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- The Iraqi Highway Patrol officially opened its new headquarters during a ribbon-cutting ceremony August 25 in Baghdad.

The location was chosen back in February by members of the 18th Military Police Brigade in coordination with the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq Civil Affairs and the IHP. The Iraqi government owned site was once a special police training compound under the former regime. Construction was underway by April and completed in late July.

The new headquarters is well received by the officers who officially moved in and began operations from it on July 30. The building previously occupied by the IHP consisted of four ramshackle rooms in a dilapidated building owned by the Baghdad Major Crimes Unit, located in an extremely dangerous neighborhood. The facility was a frequent target of insurgent attacks.

The new building has running water, flushing toilets and electricity; commonplace commodities for the average American but a luxury for many Iraqi's. It is also more spacious, enabling the officers to conduct maintenance and small-scale training.

The cost of the renovation totalled approximately \$2 million, part of the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund allocated by U.S. Congress for the rebuilding of Iraq. The project included the overhaul of eight buildings, 11 guard towers, a surrounding wall, new security gates, sewage system, water, and electricity.

The Iraqi police are not the only ones to benefit from this large-scale project, however. Outlying communities have

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This is the site for the new IHP headquarters back in March when several families were living on the government owned property illegally.



This is what the IHP headquarters looks like today after the renovation. Here the officers prepare for the dedication ceremony.

also gained many important, long-term advantages.

“There is now an increased police presence in a neighborhood that desperately needed it,” said Maj. Andy Johnson, Civil Affairs Officer for the 18th MP Brigade.

“The surrounding neighborhoods have also gained a working sewer system, running water and electricity.” The project has also provided employment to over 200 Iraqi workers for over five months said Johnson.

The site is large enough for future expansion as Iraq's security forces grow, and its location is ideal due to the ease of highway access and proximity to the local airport.



IHP officers celebrate the opening of their new headquarters. The occasion is a significant event towards the independence of Iraq's security forces.

The violence facing this group of Iraqi police officers on a daily basis has now decreased to a degree. The headquarters is no longer positioned on a main highway as was the previous one, where drive-by shootings and small arms attacks were almost a daily occurrence.

This is a major step towards consolidating Iraqi control over the security of the main highways and commercial arteries in Iraq said Johnson.

Johnson and his team monitored the construction process on a near daily basis and ensured there was adequate security at the site. Since December, the 18th has overseen the start of at least six other highway patrol stations which are currently under construction between the Kuwaiti border and Baghdad. Upon completion, there will be one station located every 50-60 kilometers.

Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, MNSTC-I Commander, gave a special thank you to Johnson and 18th Commander, Col. Jim Brown, for their tremendous efforts throughout the past year, helping to transform the IHP.

Petraeus also commended IHP Commissioner, Maj. Gen. Ali Al Khazali and the officers of the Highway Patrol for their spirit and dedication.

“The members of the IHP have demonstrated courage, initiative and determination. Under the command of Maj. Gen. Ali, they have come a long way in a short time.” Petraeus also stressed the importance of honesty, integrity and cooperation within the organization, with fair and impartial treatment to all Iraqi’s “to continue the already courageous path of the IHP.”

“The way ahead will be difficult,” Petraeus told them. “The enemies of democracy do not want to see Iraq improve. You have shown you are ready to meet the challenge. Let me say shukran (thank you) for your service to your country.”

Also in attendance were Maj. Gen. Ali Galeb, the Deputy Minister of Interior for Iraqi Police and Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, Commander of the Civilian Police Assistance Transition Team.

Following the ceremony, a traditional Iraqi feast was prepared both to commemorate the occasion as well as to bid farewell to the 18th MP Brigade who have handed over IHP operations to the 42nd Military Police Brigade.

For more information on other reconstruction projects throughout Iraq visit: www.rebuilding-iraq.net



Maj. Andy Johnson and several members of the 18th MP Brigade partake in a traditional Iraqi feast of mutton, rice and bread with IHP Commissioner Ali Al Khazali and IHP officers.

Around Camp Victory







James Dennis McNaughton

Staff Sgt. James "Jimmy" Dennis McNaughton was born in Centereach, N.Y. in 1978. He graduated from Centereach High School in 1996 and enlisted in the Regular Army. Jimmy attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. McClellan, Ala. He served as a Military Policeman in California and with the Headquarters & Headquarters Company of the 18th Military Police Brigade in Mannheim, Germany. He also served in Bosnia. Jimmy's professionalism was recognized early in his career when he was selected as the Brigade Commander's driver. He completed his active duty enlistment in 2000 and joined the Army Reserve. In 2001 he was appointed as a New York City Police Officer. As an Officer in Manhattan's Transit District 2, he patrolled the City's subways and responded to the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001. Jimmy's father William is a retired New York City police officer and his fiancée, Liliana Paredes, is currently an officer with the NYPD. Jimmy was mobilized in 2002 in support of Operation Noble Eagle and served a year-long stateside deployment. In October, 2004 Jimmy was mobilized again as a member of the 306th Military Police Battalion and deployed to Abu Ghraib, Iraq. There, he was designated the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the Level two compound containing over 300 detainees. Abu Ghraib receives many high level visitors; Jimmy was always at the forefront greeting the VIP's. He had the honor to brief the Secretary of the Army as well as the Multi-National Force Iraq and Multi-National Corps Iraq Commanding Generals about Level two. Because of his noticeable leadership skills, he was offered numerous opportunities of great responsibility. Jimmy was assigned briefly to the unit's convoy team. Additionally, he accepted a challenging position mentoring and training the Iraqi Highway Patrol and served in this role until his last day of service. Staff Sgt. McNaughton's service awards include: Bronze Star Medal (posthumous), Purple Heart (posthumous), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Combat Action Badge (posthumous), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Non-Commissioned Officers Development Ribbon, and the Army Service Ribbon. He is survived by his brother Ryan, his father William and fiancée Liliana Paredes.



In Memory of
SSG James D. McNaughton
April 13, 1978-August 2, 2005

Patriot Day

September 11

(Original proclamation by the President of the United States of America declaring September 11 as a national day of observance, Patriot Day.)

On this first observance of Patriot Day, we remember and honor those who perished in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. We will not forget the events of that terrible morning nor will we forget how Americans responded in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in the skies over Pennsylvania -- with heroism and selflessness; with compassion and courage; and with prayer and hope. We will always remember our collective obligation to ensure that justice is done, that freedom prevails, and that the principles upon which our Nation was founded endure.

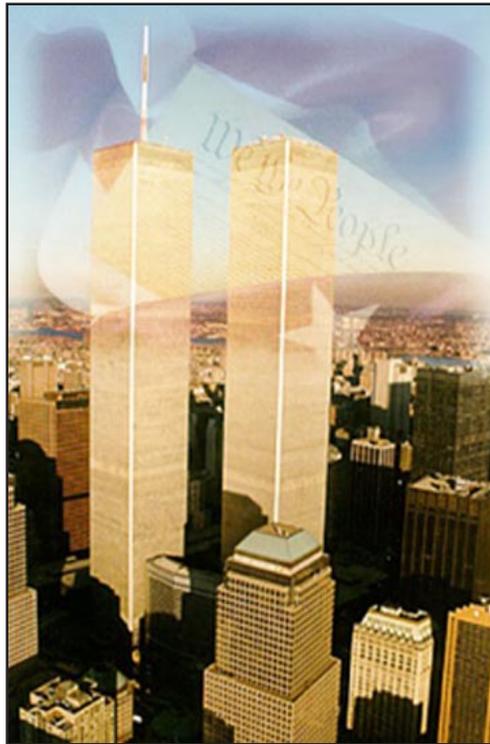
Inspired by the heroic sacrifices of our firefighters, rescue and law enforcement personnel, military service members, and other citizens, our Nation found unity, focus, and strength. We found healing in the national outpouring of compassion for those lost, as tens of millions of Americans participated in moments of silence, candlelight vigils, and religious services. From the tragedy of September 11 emerged a stronger Nation, renewed by a spirit of national pride and a true love of country.

We are a people dedicated to the triumph of freedom and democracy over evil and tyranny. The heroic stories of the first responders who gave their all to save others strengthened our resolve. And our Armed Forces have pursued the war against terrorism in Afghanistan and else-where with valor and skill. Together with our coalition partners, they have achieved success.

Americans also have fought back against terror by choosing to overcome evil with good. By loving their neighbors as they would like to be loved, countless citizens have answered

the call to help others. They have contributed to relief efforts, improved homeland security in their communities, and volunteered their time to aid those in need. This spirit of service continues to grow as thousands have joined the newly established USA Freedom Corps, committing themselves to changing America one heart at a time through the momentum of millions of acts of decency and kindness.

Those whom we lost last September 11 will forever hold a cherished place in our hearts and in the history of our Nation. As we mark the first anniversary of that tragic day, we remember their sacrifice; and we commit ourselves to honoring their memory by pursuing peace and justice in the world and security at home. By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day."



NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2002, as Patriot Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services and candlelight vigils. I also call upon the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Patriot Day. Further, I encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes

on that day and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. eastern daylight time, or another appropriate commemorative time, to honor the innocent victims who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Military Police lend helping hand to Iraqi families

During a recent trip to Hilla village in Iraq, Soldiers from the 18th Military Police Brigade passed out a variety of food, toys, toiletry and hygiene items to local Iraqi families.

The villagers welcomed the Soldiers and made short work of the donated items. The children enjoyed talking and shaking hands with the Soldiers and especially liked having their picture taken. Many of the children were barefoot and asked if we had shoes for them.



Spc. Brandon Beck passes out food and toiletries to Iraqi families during a recent goodwill mission.



Above: Spc. Matthew Vanderlugt shakes hands with a young Iraqi boy.

Top Left: Spc. Bradley Swope quickly passes out donated items from atop a humvee to a crowd of villagers.



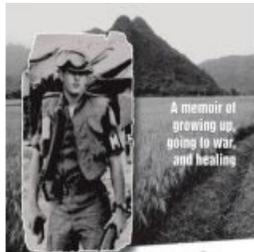
Bottom left: Company Commander, Capt. Wayne Ludwig passes out candy to some Iraqi children while Spc. Brandon Beck unloads boxes of donated supplies.

Read about it...

In *The Ghosts of Vietnam*, an American Soldier reminisces on life, love and loss during his four years in Vietnam.

Book Description

Raised in rural northeastern Maryland, Jim Stewart spends his childhood playing baseball, catching frogs in the woods, and learning to play guitar. A personal tragedy strikes the day he graduates from high school. Jim finds the need to leave home and joins the army in February of 1966.



The Ghosts of Vietnam
JIM STEWART

After a grueling stint in basic training, Jim is shipped off to Vietnam as a military policeman. He endures mortar shelling, takes part in Operation Cedar Falls, and makes lifelong friends along the way. While stationed at Saigon, he even meets a girl, falls in love, and has a child.

After his tour of duty ends, Jim returns to Vietnam determined to be with Mai. When he starts working at the Army Post Exchange in Saigon, Mai gives birth to their daughter. Jim insists they move to America, but Mai refuses. Jim then makes a decision that will haunt him the rest of his life.

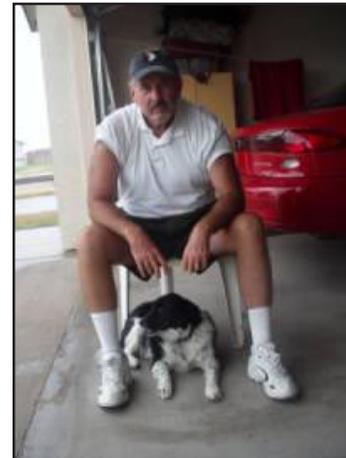
Rich with detail and brimming with emotion, Jim shares his extraordinary journey through a tumultuous time, revealing his internal struggles as he copes with *The Ghosts of Vietnam*.



The author, Jim Stewart, with the 18th MP Brigade in Vietnam during the late '60's.

About the author

Jim Stewart, author of *The Ghosts of Vietnam*, was born in Wilmington, Delaware in 1946 and was raised in the countryside north of Elkton, Maryland. He enlisted in the Army in 1966 at age 19 and served two years in Vietnam as a military policeman. He spent an additional two years there working as a civilian. He retired as a police officer in 2001. Jim's 208 page novel, *The Ghosts of Vietnam*, can be purchased at Amazon.com, Books-a-Million and Barnes and Noble. Check out Jim's website:



Military Police of Vietnam

www.geocities.com/militarypoliceofvietnam

Gym dedication

A dedication ceremony was held August 21 at the gymnasium at Forward Operating Base Abu Ghraib in remembrance of Staff Sgt. James D. McNaughton who was killed August 2 in Baghdad.



Surprise visitor

You never know who you'll run into when you're on Camp Victory. Sgt. 1st Class Chris Warner got to meet Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston while dining in the Coalition Dining Facility. *(photo courtesy of SFC Warner)*

Delicious Detour

Maj. Andy Johnson stopped on the roadside on return from a recent convoy to pick some fresh Iraqi pears. *(photo by 2nd Lt. Stephen Lemelin)*





Grandparents Day

September 11

Grandparents Day, the first Sunday after Labor Day, was first proclaimed by West Virginia Governor Arch Moore in 1973.

The idea behind it began in 1970 by West Virginia housewife Marian Lucille Herndon McQuade. She felt that a special day should be set aside just for Grandparents.

A native of Fayette County, McQuade's compassion for the elderly dates back to 1956 with the "Past Eighty Party", and her work with seniors continued throughout the years.

In 1971 McQuade was elected Vice-Chairman of the West Virginia Committee on Aging and appointed as delegated to the White House Conference on Aging by Governor Arch A. Moore. Her efforts persuaded President Richard Nixon to proclaim a National Shut-In Day in 1972.

In 1978 the United States Congress passed legislation proclaiming the

first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day. As President of the Vocational Rehabilitation Foundation, Vice-President of the West Virginia Health Systems Agency, appointed to the Nursing Home Licensing Board and having served as Co-chairman for the Bi-Centennial Centenarian Search for the West Virginia Commission on Aging, McQuade has dedicated her life to advocating for senior citizens. Please take time on this day to spend time with Grandparents, or elderly in a nursing home that may not have family. Ask them for stories about the past, look at old family photographs, work on your family tree; no matter what the activity, just the time spent together can make a world of difference in their lives.

Every time an elderly person passes away we lose a library.

Labor Day

Labor Day is the first Monday in September and is a creation of the labor movement, dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on September 5, 1882, in New York City in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union.

The Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and, in 1885, Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take were outlined in the first proposal of the holiday--a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership--the American Worker. (www.dol.gov)



"Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns."

-George Eliot

The first day of Autumn occurs when the hours of night and day are of equal length. This year it's September 22.

For more information about Autumn and some activities for children visit:

www.theholidayzone.com

www.calendar-updates.com/Holidays/US/autumn.htm

FAMOUS SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

07-1860- **Grandma Moses**
painter

09-1941- **Otis Redding**
Musical artist

11-1971- **Wayne Ludwig**
HHC Commander

15-1890- **Agatha Christie**
Writer

16-1983- **Jared Dutka**
Military policeman

18-1981- **Serena Williams**
Athlete

28-1901- **Ed Sullivan**
TV host



CONNECTIONS

By Brigade Chaplain, Lt. Col. Thomas Evans

Wonderful Reunion

It was a long year for the husband and wife. He had been in Vietnam for 12 months. A routine day included walking or crawling through the jungle, and when he slept, he usually just lay down wherever he was at the time. On a really luxurious night, he slept in a little pup tent. He dreamt of getting home to his living room, his shower, his kitchen and of course his wife. He dreamed of never leaving the comforts of his house for at least a month.

His wife had also had a long tedious year. She had recurring trouble with the car, and spent weeks cooped up in the house. She vowed that when he got home, she was going to be freed from what felt like house-arrest.

When the reunion finally happened, he threw open the front door and took a deep breath of "home air". She ran to him at the door, and joyfully announced, "Guess what I've done. I've made reservations and paid for everything in advance. We are going camping for a whole month. We will sleep under the stars, and I've found the campgrounds that are way out in the wilderness. They call it primitive camping. This is going to be great."

This couple missed one of the important details of reunion. They kept their needs and their dreams secret from each other.

Now that our own reunion is finally getting here,

please share with your spouse what you dream about for your time back together. Do you want to have lots of guests over and entertain every evening, or do you want quiet time alone with no visitors? Do you want to travel and see the sights, or go for long walks in the forests near your home, or do you want to fly away and visit family?

If neither spouse knows what the other one wants, then you will probably have tension; you won't be synchronized with each other.

The worst possible dynamic for reunion would be for either spouse to try to force their "dream" on their partner, and ignore their partner's "dream." Charles Swindoll says,



"Rigid love is not true love. It is veiled manipulation, a conditional time bomb that explodes when frustrated. Genuine love willingly waits! It isn't pushy or demanding. While it has its limits, its boundaries are far-reaching. It neither clutches nor clings. Real love is not short-sighted, selfish, or insensitive. It detects needs and does what is best for the other person without being told. (*Five Meaningful Minutes A Day, pg. 220.*)

Openly share what you would both like to see happen when you get back together again. Then when you find your differences, find ways to honor both "dreams". Remember that in marriage, nobody wins if somebody loses.

TIDBITS

Financial Insider

Base Realignment and Closure-

The restructuring of the Department of Defense through Base realignment and closure (BRAC) is intended to maximize the nation's military effectiveness while minimizing costs on excess installations and redundancy.

Should an installation be slated for closure or a unit selected for relocation, military members affected would experience changes in some aspects of their paychecks like any other permanent change of station. For instance, when a member moves from one base to another, variances in local housing costs could affect their basic allowance for housing (BAH).

DFAS military pay officials have urged all members of the military to keep themselves informed on the progress of the 2005 BRAC. Rather than trying to plan their future based on rumor and speculation, knowing the facts is a good way to reduce stress on themselves and their families.

Background information and the latest news on the 2005 BRAC is available online at the Department of Defense BRAC website at: <http://www.defenselink.mil/brac/>

Websites

Helping the children of Iraq

You can help the children of Iraq through your donations.

www.beaniesforbaghdad.com

www.operationiraqifriendship.org

www.icdworld.org

Make a difference

Find out how you can volunteer your time to make a difference in the world. Take a look! visit:

www.usafreedomcorps.gov



Legal Tips

Relocating-

With redeployment right around the corner, many servicemembers will be relocating after their return so it's best to start planning ahead. Here are a few tips to get started.

Will you be leasing, buying or selling a home?

Before signing a lease, check for a military termination clause in case you need to end the lease early.

Tax planning and moving expenses.

Some moving expenses are deductible from your federal taxes such as packing, renting a trailer and travel and lodging. Check the IRS pub. 3-The Armed Forces Tax Guide.

Driver Licensing/Vehicle Registration

Be sure to check for state-specific information. Go to www.driversmanuals.com for everything DMV related.

Spouse unemployment benefits

Military spouses may be eligible for benefits for loss of work due to relocation. Visit the Military Spouses' Career Network at: <http://mscn.org>

For a comprehensive guide to military moving, check out Army Pamphlet 55-2 go to: ftp://pubs.army.mil/pub/epubs/pdf/p55_2.pdf



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