

The Press and Standard

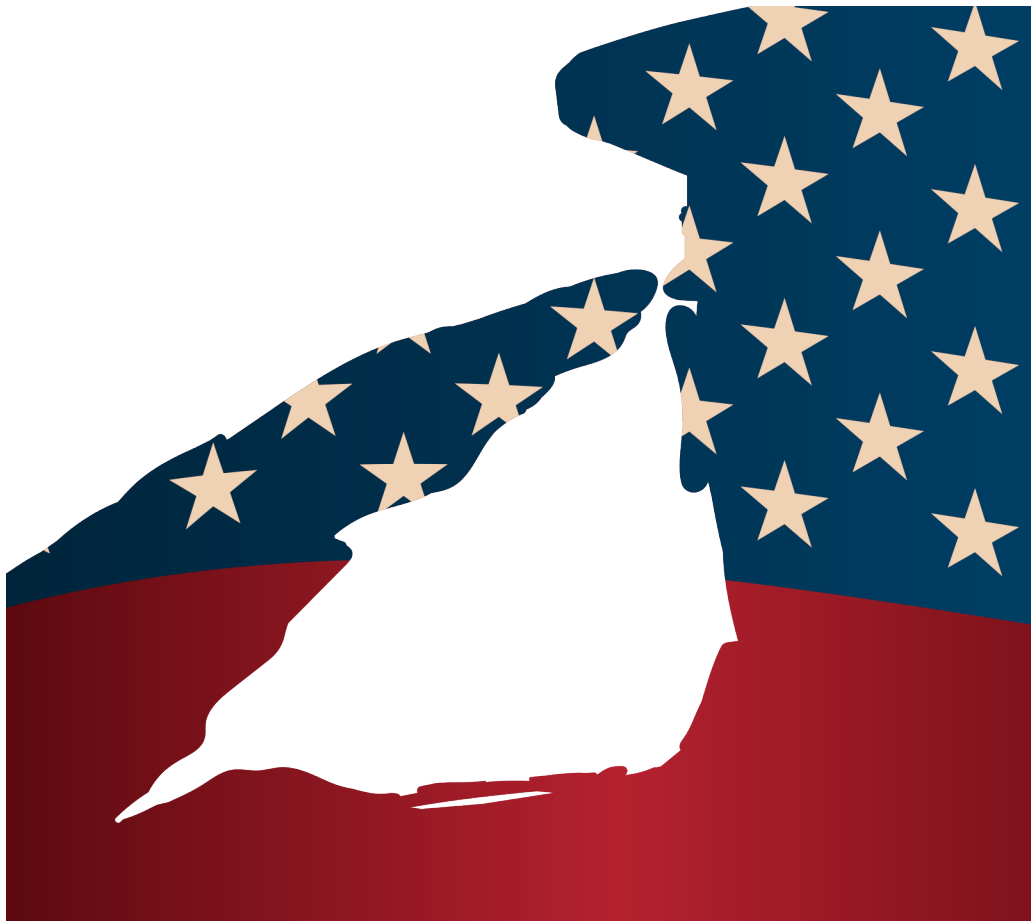


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2021

TALES OF VALOR





The Press
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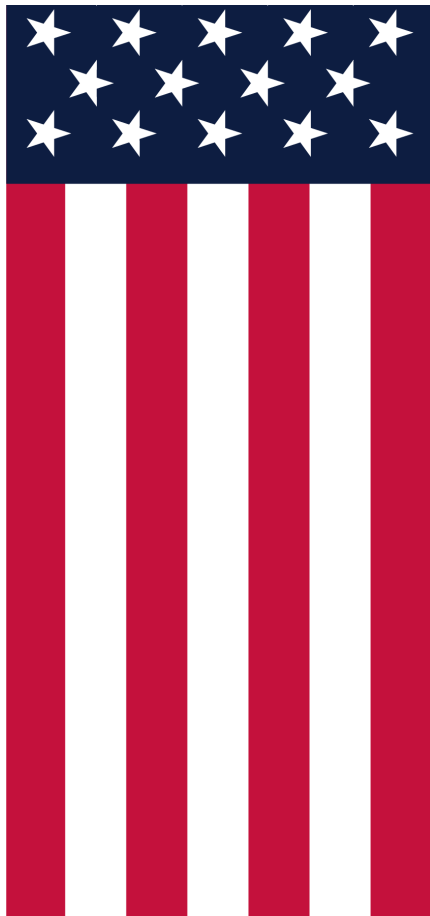
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5 WAYS TO GO BEYOND SAYING 'THANK YOU'



Press Release

1. Offer Skills or Services. Many service members face difficulties translating the skills and experience they acquired in the military to civilian jobs. Others struggle to adjust to the norms of the civilian workforce. Meanwhile, military spouses face professional obstacles throughout their service member's career due to constant moves and deployments. Consider offering career advice or volunteering to guest lecture via military transition programs, such as the USO Pathfinder Transition Program, which equips service members and military spouses with tools needed to tackle the civilian job market. If you own a business or are a leader in a company, advocate for hiring qualified veterans. By offering practical support, you're not only thanking service members, you're helping build an inclusive community that bridges the civilian-military divide.

2. Send a Care Package. Care packages filled with treats and reminders of home let troops know that friends, family and the American people are thinking of them, even from thousands of miles away. However, the process of sending military care packages can be complicated. One easy way to do so is through USO Wishbook, where you can select a symbolic gift from a

catalog to be sent to service members.

3. Support Military Spouses. Deployments are challenging for both service members and their spouses. Reach out to a military spouse whose service member is deployed and offer to cook their family dinner, or to pick up groceries. Simply reaching out to see how they are doing can also make all the difference.

4. Volunteer. Put your gratitude into action. Many USO locations across the country need volunteers who can facilitate programs and events – virtually or safely in person – that provide the military community with the support needed to carry out their missions.

5. Donate. The USO has been expressing its thanks to service members by supporting the troops since World War II. Today, that gratitude is shown in USO locations around the globe; these brick-and-mortar centers serve as a home away from home for deployed service members, and a place of respite for the larger military community. USO programming keeps deployed troops connected to loved ones, provides resources for service members and their families and boosts the morale of the entire military community through entertainment and other supportive events. Charitable donations to the USO help make that mission possible.



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COUNTY GROUPS WORK TO HELP VETERANS



By HEATHER RUPPE

Colleton County has two groups of people who are working to honor veterans and to help veterans live their best lives.

In Colleton, there is the Colleton County Veterans Council and the Colleton County Veterans Affairs Office. The county's Veterans Council consists of DVA, VFW, and the Tuskegee Airmen. They also work with the Colleton County Veterans Affairs Council. The council acts as a group who organizes communitywide events to honor and recognize veterans. They have also been working on creating additional public monuments in the community to honor veterans.

Additionally, they try to assist veterans on a case-by-case basis.

Johnny Holmes is chairman of the Colleton County Veterans Day Parade and is the chairman of the Colleton County Veterans Council. Holmes is a veteran of the Vietnam Era.

"We prepare and put our programs in motion for our Memorial Day services, and we organize the Veterans Day Parade," he said.

According to Holmes, there are currently about 3,000 veterans in Colleton County.

The second county organization that helps veterans is the Colleton County Veterans Affairs Office. This group advocates for veterans needs and works to help determine a veteran and their dependents' entitlement to federal and state benefits, as administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

These benefits include compensation, pension, survivor's benefits, burial and memorial benefits, home loans and educational assistance.

This office helps veterans get copies of their military service records and replace medals.

Anyone with questions should contact the local office at 843-549-1412 or email cvao@colletoncounty.org.



Photo by Vicki Brown

SERVING VETERANS. Colleton County veterans are served by veteran Bob Tiegs (left); Veterans Affairs Officer Janet Smith (center); and local veteran and leader Johnny Holmes. These individuals work hard to bring attention to the veterans in the county who served this nation with courage and determination.



Honoring
A VETERAN

ANDREW 'JOE' BARWICK

BRANCH: AIR FORCE RANK: AIRMAN FIRST CLASS
YEARS SERVED: 4 BIRTH: MARCH 13, 1937 DEATH: SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

WARS SERVED IN:

MEDALS/AWARDS:

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HARRY E. POLK

BRANCH: ARMY RANK: SGM
YEARS SERVED: 40 BIRTH: JANUARY 11, 1935 DEATH: APRIL 20, 2019

WARS SERVED IN: TWO TOURS IN VIETNAM

MEDALS/ AWARDS:

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE
VIETNAM TRAINING SERVICE MEDAL 2ND CLASS
VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL - DEVICE 60
VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY WITH PALM UNIT
CITATION
VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL WITH FOUR STARS
ARMY SERVICE RIBBON
VIETNAM HONOR MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL
ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
ARMY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (9TH AWD)
ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL
PURPLE HEART MEDAL
BRONZE STAR MEDAL

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Honoring A VETERAN

LORENZA AMERSON

BRANCH: ARMY RANK: PFC
YEARS SERVED: 3 BIRTH: JUNE 9, 1927 DEATH: FEBRUARY 21, 1951

WARS SERVED IN: KOREAN WAR - 17TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION, KILLED IN ACTION SOL-CHAE, SOUTH KOREA

MEDALS/ AWARDS:

PURPLE HEART
COMBAT INFANTRYMAN'S BADGE
KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL
UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL, NATIONAL
DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION
REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL



A DECORATED MILITARY SERGEANT RETURNS HOME



By VICKI BROWN

For Sgt. Michael Lane, now is a time to relax.

Growing up in Green Pond, the highly-decorated U.S. Military veteran was raised in a military family. His father, who is now deceased, and his older brother, both served their country faithfully, and Lane was determined to do the same. “I wanted to do my part, receive the training and discipline to become a better man and serve my country,” said Lane who was born in 1970, and enlisted in 1988 at 18 years of age.

Lane found himself serving in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan. From 2005 thru 2021, Lane served as part of the National Guard Full Time Staff in the Active Guard Reserve. It’s now been 20 years since U.S. troops entered Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of a peacekeeping mission, marching over a massive pontoon bridge across the flooded Sava River on the border with Croatia.

In 2004, NATO handed over responsibility for security in Bosnia to a much smaller European Union force, which remains in place to this day.

Lane was a part of this mission. He has also been deployed to Afghanistan while serving in the U.S. Army National Guard as an Infantryman.

“Afghanistan was very hot, dry and dusty during summer months, very cold with lots of snow during winter months. My primary mission was convoy security, where threat levels remained extremely high because attacks were likely,” he said. “My most fearful moment ever was engaging in a fire-fight with the Taliban.”

Despite the turmoil around him, Lane said he valued seeing how grateful most Afghans were to American soldiers. They

were “extremely grateful,” he said, and “felt safe having US Soldiers present, especially the children.”

Lane has a long military career. He enlisted in August of 1988 and served through September 2021, giving to his country for more than 33 years. For his service, Lane received the Army Commendation Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster, Army Superior Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal with silver clasp, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces reserve Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve components Overseas Training Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Driver and Mechanic Badge, Marksmanship Qualification Badge, NATO Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, SC Meritorious Service Medal, SC Active State Service Medal, SC Palmetto Service Ribbon, SC Governor Unit Citation, and the SC Mobilization Ribbon

Now, the retired military serviceman is trying to rest and relax and “enjoy time with my family,” he said.

“I am much sharper than I was prior to serving and extremely proud of my accomplishments,” said Lane.

When asked if he could advice to someone who is about to enter the military, Lane said he would tell that future soldier to “Put God first in everything you do,” and to be kind and respectful of others.

“Don’t be afraid to fail,” he added, “and always have a plan.”



Photo Submitted

BOSNIA SERVICE. In Bosnia, Sgt. Michael Lane (center with glasses on helmet) listens during a meeting with fellow peacekeepers.



Photo Submitted

HELPING OTHERS. Michael Lane, second row center, poses with fellow soldiers and a grateful Kosovo family during a recent deployment.



Photo Submitted

SECURITY. Colleton resident Sgt. Michael Lane is on security detail, while walking in front of a Humvee while in Afghanistan.



Photo Submitted

AFGHANISTAN MISSION. Sgt. Michael Lane is pictured far right working with a team in Afghanistan.



Photo Submitted

BEING THANKED. Sgt. Michael Lane is congratulated for his service in 2007 in Afghanistan.



Photo Submitted

STANDING TALL. Michael Lane poses at the Sergeants Major Academy in 2018.



Honoring A VETERAN

THOMAS M. ROWE

BRANCH: U.S. NAVY RANK: LT
YEARS SERVED: 6 BIRTH: AUGUST 28, 1943 DEATH: N/A

WARS SERVED IN: VIETNAM ERA

MEDALS/ AWARDS:
NATIONAL DEFENSE



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SPIRIT OF FREEDOM: A SAD ENDING, BUT A NEW BEGINNING



By VICKI BROWN

“The Spirit of Freedom” is more than just an airplane. As a flying museum, it is the only one of its kind in the world. It is also a symbol of unity, ingenuity, and overcoming adversity.

More specifically, it is about the Berlin Airlift.

After World War II, the Allies cut the defeated Germany into four pieces: a Soviet-occupied zone, an American-occupied zone, a British-occupied zone and a French-occupied zone. Berlin, the German capital city, was also divided into four sections. But the Russians wanted Berlin all for themselves.

On June 24, 1948, the Soviets barred all road, boat, and train traffic from entering West Berlin so the people could not get food or supplies and would allies out of the city. Instead, the U.S. and its allies decided to drop supplies for city from the air.

Allied cargo planes delivered food, fuel, coal, medical supplies and other goods to the people of the city. This project, code-named “Operation Vittles” by the American military, was known as the “Berlin airlift” and lasted for more than a year, carrying more than 2.3 million tons of cargo into West Berlin. On May 11, 1949, Moscow gave up and lifted the blockade.

“The Spirit of Freedom” is a plane that commemorates that event in history with artifacts and museum pieces. It is maintained and preserved by the Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation, whose volunteers are dedicated to preserving the legacy of that historical event. The plane has traveled the world and represented the United States throughout Europe and America. But on April 13, 2020, all of that came to an end.

The plane that has been touring the world for 27 years was

destroyed in the tornadoes that passed through Walterboro.

How the flying museum was damaged in Walterboro

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, airshows were cancelled and the flying museum had nowhere to go. A local pilot at Lowcountry Regional Airport LRA had met the flying museum’s pilot and mechanic Tim Chopp, founder of the Berlin Historical Foundation, and suggested that the plane come to rest in Walterboro until the pandemic was over.

Lowcountry Regional Airport Manager Tommy Rowe agreed, but while the historic plane was waiting out the pandemic, the tornadoes struck.

During the storm, the F1 tornado hit the airport and the “Spirit of Freedom” became airborne for a moment, causing the plane to slam into the metal façade of a hangar, impaling a wing and engine, and causing permanent damage. The most successfully operated transport plane in history was a total loss.

Inside the plane was a mural that had been hand painted, plexiglass cases that lined the inner walls, and easels that held displays, portraits and stories of the Berlin airlift.

An old antique radio played music from the 1940s next to original ground control radar screens.

The story of Hal Halvorsen was also told there. Retired senior Air Force officer Gail “Hal” Halvorsen is still alive at 100 years old, and was once known as the “Berlin Candy Bomber” or “Uncle Wiggly Wings”. He gained fame for wagging his plane’s wings before dropping his own chocolate bar rations and those donated by other soldiers and pilots to German children during the Berlin Airlift from 1948 to 1949.

He called it “Operation Little Vittles.”

Making history again

While volunteers were able to save most of the museum pieces, according to officials, repairs to the plane would cost the non-profit \$300,000.

Another plane had to be found to take its place, but the odds were against finding one.

Vietnam veteran Tim Chopp, who flew The Spirit of Freedom for 27 years all around the world and worked on it as the mechanic, took a chance, left his home in New Jersey, and discovered that the newer plane would be sufficient for the museum.

After making 15 trips from his home in New Jersey to Florida to work on it during the pandemic year, he made stops in Walterboro, removing plane parts from the damaged plane and then continuing on to Florida to put the parts on the newer plane. “It was hard to believe that in one year I would be standing in another plane that replaces the damaged one, and continuing to fly the museum. Finding a substitute plane was unbelievable. Do you know what the odds are that we would have been able to find a replacement plane?” said Chopp.

The floor was painted and display cases moved to new plane. Then the exterior was painted in Arkansas. The plane is now ready to resume travelling the world to go on display at over 30 airshows a year.

The 501C non-profit depends on sponsors and donations. “We survive by people donating to the museum. They want to keep history alive and help,” said Chopp. If you want to donate or visit the plane, contact spiritoffreedom.org.



Photo by Vicki Brown

CANDY DROP DOOR. Pilot Tim Chopp points out the door on the new “Spirit of Freedom” flying museum that he says will be perfect for dropping candy to children, just like Hal Halvorsen did in the Berlin Airlift. “The candy bomber” used his own provisions along with donations to drop chocolate bars to German children. The Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation volunteers reenacts the candy drop at airshows.



Photo by Vicki Brown

OLD MEETS NEW. Beyond repair, the old “Spirit of Freedom” flying museum faces the new plane ready to take its place in memory of the Berlin Airlift after WWII. It was painted right after this picture was made.



Photo by Vicki Brown

FRIENDS IN A TIME OF NEED. Spirit of Freedom pilot and mechanic Tim Chopp (left) takes a moment to thank Lowcountry Regional Airport manager Tommy Rowe for allowing the plane to stay at the airport during the pandemic even though the original plane was damaged by a tornado while there. The new Berlin Airlift commemorative plane is already making its rounds as the only flying museum in the world.



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CREATING A LEGACY IN PICTURES



By VICKI BROWN

Charles Wall entered the military in June of 1956, serving at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and began his training in base security. Later, he would serve as a photographer for the U.S. Air Force, a role he would keep for 24 years.

Wall was stationed at various Air Force Bases throughout Europe and the United States. His first assignment was at the Etain AFB, in France, where he served from 1956 until 1959.

Subsequent assignments took him all over the world, until he returned to the Charleston Air Force Base, where he retired in August of 1979.

Wall has received medals and decorations for his service, including the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force

Commendation Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Upon retirement as a Master Sergeant from the USAF in 1979, Wall was employed as a civilian photographer at the Charleston Air Force Base, retiring for the second time in April 2000 with 21 years of service. After he retired for a second time, Wall took up playing the banjo and he now participates in playing Bluegrass music. "I am proud to have served my country, but I was glad to come home," he said.



Honoring
A VETERAN

LEROY COOK, SR.

BRANCH: ARMY RANK: SERGEANT
YEARS SERVED: 4 BIRTH: JUNE 12, 1946 DEATH: OCTOBER 25, 2019

WARS SERVED IN: VIETNAM

MEDALS/AWARDS:



Honoring
A VETERAN

JIMMY V. RAMSEY, SR.

BRANCH: AIR FORCE RANK: MASTER SERGEANT
YEARS SERVED: 22 BIRTH: FEBRUARY 22, 1936 DEATH: N/A

WARS SERVED IN: KOREAN, VIETNAM

MEDALS/AWARDS:
GOOD CONDUCT W/ 2 DEVICES
MARKSMANSHIP



Photo Submitted
READY TO GO. A Type F-100 fighter Wall is shown preparing to fly in the Etain' Air Force Base in France in 1958.



Photo Submitted
A YOUNG SOLDIER. Colleton County resident Charles Wall entered the military in June of 1956, serving at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and later serving as a U.S. Air Force Photographer for 24 years.



Photo Submitted
POSING WITH A FRIEND. Veteran Charles Wall, right, poses with a friend in front of one of the AFB planes in the 50s.

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Honoring A VETERAN

JAMES R. EUSTACE JR.

BRANCH: MARINE CORPS RANK: SERGEANT
YEARS SERVED: 9 BIRTH: NOVEMBER '82 DEATH: N/A

WARS SERVED IN: OPERATIONS IRAQI FREEDOM

MEDALS/ AWARDS:

AIR MEDALS: COMBAT AIRCREW
INSIGNIA WITH THREE SILVER STARS



Honoring A VETERAN

TERVEN AMERSON

BRANCH: ARMY & AIR FORCE RANK: ARMY-PFC & AIR FORCE-SGT
YEARS SERVED: 20 BIRTH: MAY 9, 1928 DEATH: N/A

WARS SERVED IN: -

MEDALS/ AWARDS:

FLIGHT ENGINEER BADGE
AIRCREW BADGE
4 AIR FORCE LONGEVITY SERVICE AWARD
ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL
4 AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

AIR FORCE TRAINING RIBBON
4 AIR RESERVE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
ARMY SERVICE RIBBON



Honoring A VETERAN

MARCUS A. PERRY

BRANCH: ARMY RANK: PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
YEARS SERVED: 1 BIRTH: JULY 16, 1896 DEATH: APRIL 10, 1984

WARS SERVED IN: WORLD WAR I

MEDALS/ AWARDS:

BRONZE VICTORY BUTTON



Honoring A VETERAN

JAMEY BALLEW

BRANCH: ARMY/ AIR FORCE RANK: STAFF SERGEANT
YEARS SERVED: 7 BIRTH: JUNE 28, 1976 DEATH: N/A

WARS SERVED IN: BOSNIA

MEDALS/ AWARDS:

GOOD CONDUCT
NATO MEDAL
ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL
ARMY SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY ACHIEVMENT MEDAL
ARMED FORCES SERVICES MEDAL
MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL



DECORATED LT. COLONEL PRAISES AMERICAN LIFESTYLE



By VICKI BROWN

Retired from the U.S. Army at 59 years old, Lt. Col. Andrew Green moves with military-like precision. As he removes business cards from his wallet, he carefully lines them up on a desk and speaks with a booming baritone voice that shows he was once in a position of authority.

He commands a room when he walks in.

"I got the job done," he said. "Even though I am not a big guy, I demanded that the boys did their work every day and did it right."

Green grew up in nearby St. George, and said he always knew he wanted to be a soldier. He went to college and enrolled in ROTC while pursuing a teaching degree.

In 1985 he was commissioned, but spent 10 years teaching before he was called up for active duty. He taught self-contained, fourth grade children in Bowman and eventually made his way to Cottageville Elementary School, where he taught for the Headstart program. Then, his dream of becoming a soldier became a reality.

"I became a Transportation and Supply Officer. I dealt with supplies, equipment and personnel," said Green. He eventually became the commander of the 285th Transportation Detachment at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, N.C.

In 2004, Green served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom under the 49th Transportation Battalion at Camp Anaconda.

"It rained one time for five minutes, and I was so excited I called my mom about it," he said. "With 131-degree days and 99 degree steaming nights, a little rain was a welcome relief."

While in Iraq, his work consisted of transporting blood to battalions, and delivering mortar rounds and shells to stock at the airfields. His convoys were constantly under the threat of attack by militants trying to cut off those supply lines.

There were some close calls, and for those efforts, Green was awarded the Bronze Star.

"The worst time I had was having to go out one night to recover casualties. My skin is still crawling today. But I took an oath of office, and when my commander in chief said 'Go,'

I went. For some reason we have become the world's police. We have been needed to help other countries and show them what freedom is like," he said. "I constantly prayed for my family, my soldiers, and myself. I worked hard to keep my soldiers motivated. I used the LCM method: leadership, communication and motivation," said Green. "I loved my men, and they loved and supported me."

After spending almost a year in Iraq, he found himself being transferred to Kuwait City at Camp Spearhead. There, the threats were worse, especially from improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. "Kuwait was rough," said Green. "You never knew where the threats were. We also knew that maybe 30 percent of the people wanted us there, but the rest didn't. We had nationals who came to the compound and helped us. We got along fine with them. They all wanted to come to America."

He returned home to serve as the Hurricane Relief Officer on the Crisis Action Team for the Department of Homeland Security at the Pentagon, where he received the Army commendation for meritorious Service and a keepsake fragment from September 11, 2001 terrorist attack there.

Eventually, Green served as commander of the U.S. Southeast Region and then began recruiting for the Army. He retired after 25 years and now assists in recruitment and speaking to groups about his service.

"Our forefathers based this country on life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And this America we love so much, we will defend. When they came on 9/11, we all came together no matter what branch of service. We worked together to get the job done. We took care of Mr. Ben Laden and did our job...to seek find and destroy. But no one ever leaves military service without wounds, whether visible or invisible."

... "There is no better place in the world than the United States. This is the greatest country in the world, and we are so fortunate. We fight, live, and die for our country. I love it when people stop me and say 'thank you for your service'. It means a lot. And if asked, I would go to serve again."

"The worst time I had was having to go out one night to recover casualties. My skin is still crawling today. But I took an oath of office, and when my commander in chief said 'Go', I went. For some reason we have become the world's police. We have been needed to help other countries and show them what freedom is like," said Lt. Col. Andrew Green.



Photo by Martha Rose Brown

PROUD TO SERVE. Lt. Col. Andrew Dallas Green stands proudly wearing his uniform, saying he would return to duty if needed.



PTSD AFFLICTED VETERANS CAN GET HELP



By VICKI BROWN

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is one of the biggest casualties of any war. It affects many veterans rendering them unable to function in daily life.

According to the Veterans Administration, the statistics speak for themselves as to the impact of PTSD and its effects on veterans. The numbers are alarming.

The Defense Department believes that more than 12 percent of Gulf War (Desert Storm) veterans experience PTSD each year. About 15 percent of Vietnam Veterans suffer from it, and 11 to 20 percent of Veterans of Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD issues.

Almost 25 percent of individuals who served in combat zones in Iraq or Afghanistan may suffer from PTSD, marked by uncontrolled anxiety,

confusion or anger.

The Army accounts for over half of the suicides reported from among all of the military branches.

In 2013, the VA studied suicides from 1999 to 2010, which showed that roughly 22 veterans were dying by suicide per day, or one every 65 minutes. Some doctors believe that this is underestimating the actual numbers.

Not only do many of these veterans take their own lives, but they exhibit such symptoms that they cannot function in a relationship, job, or family.

One the biggest issues that veterans face is being diagnosed with PTSD so they can get help. Now, however, there is a new blood test can help identify those with PTSD: this is because some scientists believe that it affects the entire body, not just the brain. According to researcher Leo Shane, hopefully, one day doctors can identify veterans

with post-traumatic stress disorder through a quick blood test thanks to studies made by the Army and scientists.

The study appeared in the journal Molecular Psychiatry last year. It found a set of 27 blood markers which helped identify patients suffering from PTSD. Researchers hope that the blood tests can lead to an early, accurate diagnoses even before PTSD has fully developed in a person.

"A blood test could indicate signs of PTSD that veterans are unaware of or are deliberately hiding out of fear surrounding the stigma of the diagnosis," said Dr. Charles Marmar, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the New York School of Medicine.

It is hopeful that this blood test can alleviate anxiety caused by PTSD and the fear associated with the disorder.



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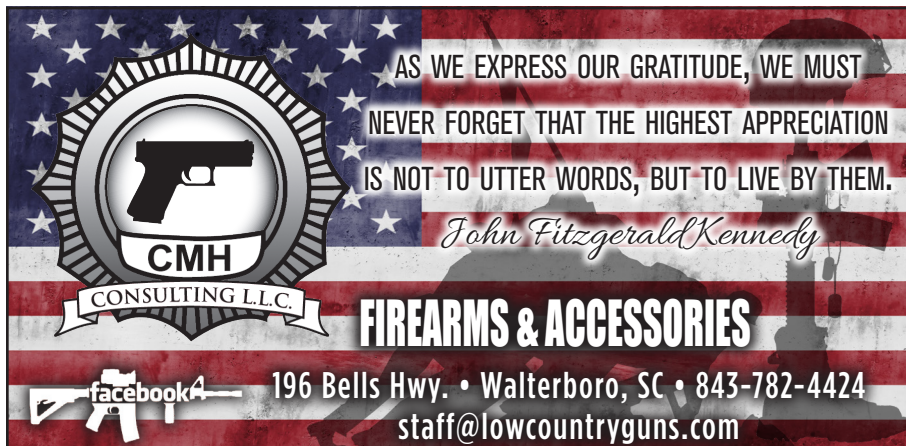
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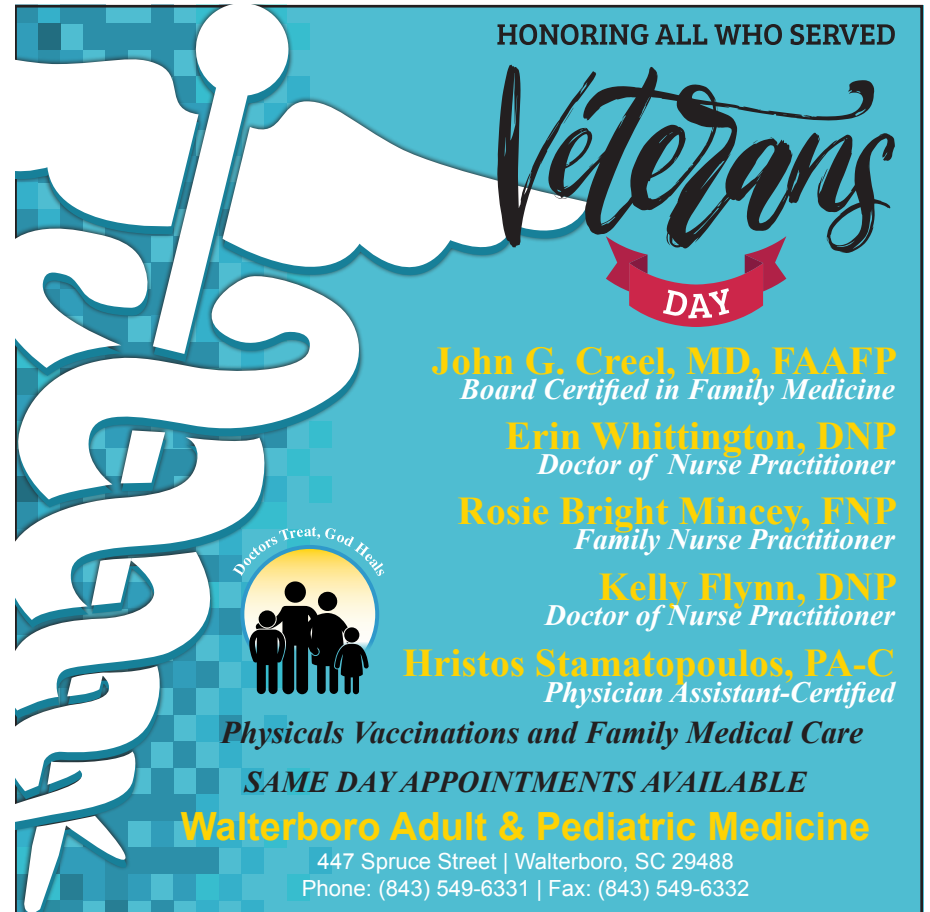


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THOMAS YOUNG, JR.

BRANCH: U.S. ARMY & AIR FORCE RANK: S/SGT
YEARS SERVED: 13.5 BIRTH: AUGUST 16, 1928 DEATH: OCTOBER 20, 2021

WARS SERVED IN:

MEDALS/ AWARDS:
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SERVING IS PART OF THE FAMILY



By VICKI BROWN

The military is a unique community. It's a huge family made up of people who believe in serving. No matter what branch of service, military personnel take care of their own. They speak the same language, have the same goals, and because they are used to working in teams, they take that responsibility further and remain lifelong friends with those who served with them.

Many soldiers have families at home as well, parents, children and wives who also serve their country by sending their loved one overseas to protect the nation. Their sacrifice is just as important and necessary for the well-being of American citizens.

One such example is Beth Carpenter, she and her dad both served in the Navy.

Beth was born in 1958 in Fort Smith, VA, on a military base. Military was all she knew when growing up with her six brothers and sisters. In the family, she was number five and the baby girl, so she always had a special relationship with her dad.

"I knew my dad had to be gone, and sometimes we didn't know where he was or for how long he would be gone," said Beth. "Wives and moms were in charge and had a fellowship of working together to help each other out. They could call each other at any time; wives stuck together. The men would

come home and then go back out again. Dad did well when he came home and got back into the routine quickly."

For six months or more, her dad was gone. "Mom tried to keep things calm and cool during those months. Then we would have to move to another base. We followed him everywhere from California to Virginia. We got used to it. We did what mom said. If she threatened to tell dad when he got home, we knew we were really in trouble," said Beth, laughing.

"When he came home, my six brothers and sisters would stand together to greet him...according to height and age," she said. "It was like stairs."

"I admired my dad so much. He was always kind, never said anything bad about anyone and would give the shirt off his back. I followed him into the Navy to be like dad," Beth said.

While her father, Ken Johnston, was on submarines, Beth served on shore patrol, similar to the military police which are on all of the bases. She found herself stationed in Cuba. "It was an interesting place...if you committed a crime, there was really nowhere to run," she said. Beth's father had also served near Cuba so she and her dad shared stories back and forth about their times there.

Beth's dad retired before she entered the military, and when she enlisted, bootcamp was a little more than she bargained for.

"Bootcamp was rough. The running and workouts are really tough. You either gain weight or lose weight. The food is designed to give energy, and it's not that great," said Beth. "At your bunk, you have to keep everything in order and folded just right. Officers would often come in and wreck it all, throwing things on the floor. You would have to refold everything and put it back. Repetition is important and primarily what we did in bootcamp. That repetition helps save your life. Everything has to be in order and has to be in place, especially when serving on a submarine like my dad did."

Beth served 15 years in the Navy but had to leave when her mom got sick and she was needed.

"I loved serving in the military. I knew what it was like from my childhood, but I had a deep love for my county. My dad and mom taught us the right way to have respect for the country and love for it. People today don't have that. It's sad."

Beth says that if she could go back in time, she would do it all again. "You have the ability to save someone's life by serving. I loved meeting all the people in the military and in other countries. It doesn't matter what color your skin is or where you are from. In the military, you are all in it together. It is an honor to serve."



Honoring
A VETERAN

ARCHIE S. PERRY

BRANCH: ARMY RANK: PRIVATE
YEARS SERVED: 1 BIRTH: AUGUST 26, 1893 DEATH: APRIL 26, 1926

WARS SERVED IN: WORLD WAR I

MEDALS/AWARDS:
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KEN JOHNSTON: DECORATED VETERAN AND FATHER



By VICKI BROWN

On January 15, 1930, after The Great Depression of '29, Ken Johnston was born in a small town in southwestern Pennsylvania. Loving the small-town lifestyle in which he grew up, Johnson later moved to Walterboro in the 1960s and became resident of Colleton County. He often remembers those old days as a child when the world was trying to recover from the economic disaster of the Depression.

"I worked on my uncle's farm. It was a tough time. No one was employed," said Johnston. But my little town was like Walterboro, same size. That's why I like it here."

As time went by, World War II began. The war was nearing its end when Johnston joined the U.S. Military. "My mother wanted me to be a Methodist minister, but at 17 years old, I wasn't ready for that!" he laughed. "It was right at the end of World War II. All of my friends were going to sign up for the military, and even though I was the youngest one, I jumped in thinking I would figure everything out later.

"After four years in the Navy, I was considering getting out when enlistment was up, but the military froze all those leaving, so I found myself in Korea. I decided to go ahead and

enlist for six more years to give me 10. Then, I thought that I was halfway home, so I might as well stay in the military."

It became his career.

Johnston served on ships and submarines. He served at the end of World War II as part of the Occupational Forces both in Europe and Asia, which was very unusual. "I was on a ship with the Sixth fleet and carried a flag ship. We saw Egypt, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Cypress and a host of other countries

"When I went in, Europe was devastated; it had been bombarded and bombed out. People there were starving to death. Post-war Europe was in dire straits. People had been killed or seriously wounded in WWII as well as in the Holocaust. So, we were there to assist with the Marshall plan. We were support for those delivering supplies," said Ken Johnston, a highly-decorated retired soldier who lives in Walterboro.

while I was on a battle cruiser," he said.

"When I went in, Europe was devastated; it had been bombarded and bombed out. People there were starving to death. Post-war Europe was in dire straits. People had been killed or seriously wounded in WWII as well as in the Holocaust. So, we were there to assist with the Marshall plan. We were support for those delivering supplies," said Johnston reminiscing.

The U.S. was barely over WWII which ended in 1945, when

the Korean War began in 1950. Johnston was sent to Korea.

"I was 21 and left for Korea three weeks after my first child was born. I was a year there and missed my family so much," he said. Married and with a child, he found himself in Korea on a high-speed destroyer doing shore bombardment to protect U.S. soldiers. "We were directed where to shoot. I was in operations, so I knew where we were going and what we were going to do before anyone else. My destroyer was hit one time with shrapnel, but we were alright. I was blessed," he said. "Even though we were hit one time with shells, our biggest worry was mines. They were everywhere in the water. We had a gunner whose job it was to lookout for them. He would blow them up with his M1 rifle before the ship would hit them," said Johnston.

After Korea, Johnston served mostly on a submerged submarine. "You had to get up to turn over in the bunk because everything is so compact," he said. "But I learned to cook while on the submarine and came to love cooking. At 92 years old, I still love it!" During the Vietnam era, Johnston was active duty on a missile sub during cold war near Russia. "I feel like I was appreciated for my service, but I felt so bad for the Vietnam soldiers. They came back and nothing was right. Many still suffer from Agent Orange. Those guys have



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GREGORY J. ROSSO

BRANCH: AIR FORCE RANK: TECHNICAL SERGEANT
YEARS SERVED: 21 1/2 BIRTH: OCTOBER 10, 1954 DEATH: N/A

WARS SERVED IN: -

MEDALS/AWARDS:

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL W/1 OAK LEAF CLUSTER
AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL W/1 OAK LEAF CLUSTER
AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
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suffered a lot,” he said. “I hope we don’t have another Vietnam.”

Johnston served his country from June 1947 to August 1976 in the U.S. Navy on two battle cruisers, one destroyer, one mine sweeper, two diesel submarines, and two nuclear missile submarines. He received the U.S. Navy Commendation Medal, U.S. Navy Achievement Medal, the United Nations Medal, the U.S. Navy Good conduct Medal with five award stars for combat and meritorious actions, the China Service Medal, the Armed Forces Exceptional Service Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal awarded for duty during and following WWII, the National Defense Service medal with one star, the Korean Battle Medal, Korean Service Medal with two Battle Stars. He also had two years working with nuclear power.

Eventually, Johnston retired from the military, his two sons also serve in the U.S. Military, and his daughter, Beth, also served in the U.S. Navy.

Johnston said he missed the camaraderie after the military, and that’s why he eventually served 20 years as an EMS First Responder, serving with Colleton County Fire-Rescue as a firefighter.

“I love the close friends I have been able to make throughout the years,” he said.

“If I were to talk to anyone considering going into the military, I would tell them to have fun, but be safe. We have the greatest country in the world. I pray for our leaders daily and worry about our leadership and national debt. It is scary, now. But I am proud to have served and would do it again.”



Photo Provided

FAMILY TRADITION. Ken Johnston has proudly served in the U.S. Military for most of his life. All of his children, including his daughter, Beth, also now serve in the U.S. Military.





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1933 Anderson Field
1942 Walterboro Army Airfield
1945 LowCountry Regional Airport

Anderson Field, 60 acres about 1 and ¼ miles from the town hall on Cottageville Highway, was leased by the Town of Walterboro in October of 1932, through the efforts of Harold Fripp and Mayor H.F. Starr. Mr. Fripp cleared, grubbed, disc harrowed and smoothed the property of all obstructions with the aid of a loaned tractor and road machine from the County.

Mr. Fripp constructed three runways, roughly in the shape of three sides of a triangle, the longest runway 2,000 feet long in an east and west direction and the other two, one at each end of this main runway, some 1,500 feet long.

Once the work was progressed far enough for a plane to land safely, the department of Airways and Commerce placed Walterboro on their air maps. At this time, Mr. Fripp brought his plane from the Charleston airport and proceeded to build a hangar for it.

Anderson Field was dedicated in 1933, and by 1937 the town was able to purchase the airfield outright. Then began the process by local, state and federal agencies to fund the enlargement of the existing hangar and to pave the three runways.

In February of 1942, the airfield was leased from the town by the United States Army Air Corps. An additional surrounding 3,712 acres were also purchased and combined to become the Walterboro Army Airfield, which opened in August of 1942. The base housed a many as 6,000 United States military troops as well as hundreds of German prisoners.

This airfield was the largest sub-base in the 3rd Air Force and served as the last training base for pilots headed overseas for duty. Among these pilots were the famous "Red Tails" Tuskegee Airmen. Many of the "Doolittle Raiders" pilots were handpicked to come to the Walterboro Army Airfield to become instructors and role models for the new B-25 trainees.

The Walterboro Army Airfield closed after the war in October, 1945, and the United States Army deeded the base back to the town and the county jointly, renamed as Lowcountry Regional Airport.



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