

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA WAR VETERANS HOME

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THE FLEUR DE LIS

JUNE 2008

EDITOR'S CORNER: This month's newsletter includes two of our cherished volunteers and two exciting events held this month at our new and growing war veterans home. Hope you enjoy it!

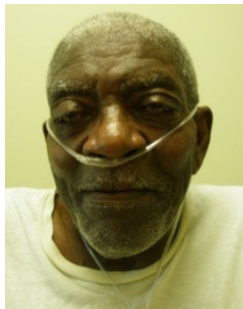
*Ms. Kerry Ermon, MSW, LCSW
Director of Admissions/Social Services
Newsletter Creator & Editor*



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: June's Veteran of the Month, chosen by the veterans themselves, is A.J. Macaluso, a Marine WW II veteran. Please congratulate Mr. Macaluso on this special honor.

*Our present census count, as of June 30, 2008 was at 101.
WooHoo!!*

MEET OUR VETERANS:



VETERAN # 124: MURPHY HARGROVE, AN ARMY WWII VETERAN, was a military airport police while stationed in Korea but fortunately, never experienced combat. Prior to and after the military, Mr. Hargrove worked a variety of jobs at a sawmill, the Dwy Lumber Co. in St. Francisville. Around 1947, Hargrove moved to New Orleans and began a 35-year career working for the Globe Construction Company. Born in St. Francisville, Mr. Hargrove has five children (Geraldine, Terry, Jacqueline, Murphy and Marcel) and countless grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mr. Murphy belonged to the Masons.



VETERAN #125: HARRY MATHERNE, was a photographer with the **U.S. NAVY** during **WW II** but fortunately, never saw combat. Pre- and post-military, Mr. Matherne worked a total of 40 years as a photographer for Kodak. After retiring with Kodak, Mr. Matherne worked for Winn Dixie doing various jobs.

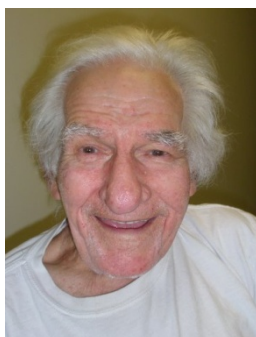
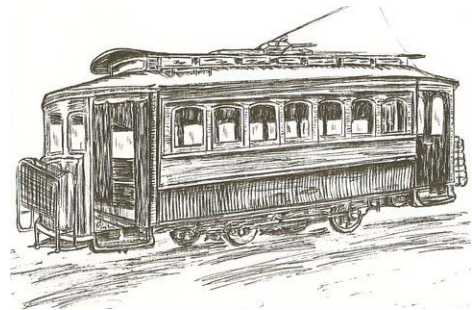


Born in Bourg, Louisiana and raised in Des Allemandes, Mr. Matherne had three brothers and six sisters. He was married for over 50 years to Bernadine Picard and for the last 14 years to Ethel Thigpen. He had five children: Harry, Jr., Richard, Thomas (deceased), Irma and Phillip (deceased). For approximately 18 years, Matherne was Commander for the American Legion Post 131 (Luling) and was also a member of the VFW. His hobbies included duck hunting, fishing (mostly fresh water), tending to his vegetable garden of green beans and okra and socializing at every opportunity. “My uncle’s a social butterfly”, his niece, Melanie, says.



VETERAN #126, DAN NELSON, AN ARMY WW II VETERAN, was an expert rifleman (carbine, 45 automatic and M-1 Garand) and trainer and also made military dog tags while in the Army. Fortunately, he remained stationed in the States and never saw combat. While standing guard at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, Mr. Nelson was trapped in a snow storm and developed pneumonia which affected his health ever since. Post military, Mr. Nelson took night courses at LSU, Loyola and Tulane working toward a degree in Bookkeeping. With a large family to feed, Mr. Nelson was unable

to complete his studies but did take on Bookkeeping jobs as a result. He actually worked a variety of jobs including salesman for Gulf Furniture on Tulane Ave., Maison Blanche (top furniture salesman), car sales for Mossy Motors on Broad St., and a used car dealer at Dabdou’s on Canal and Galvez (for all you New Orleans’ folks.) Born in New Orleans (Hotel Dieu) and an only child, Mr. Nelson was married twice. The first time was for 18 years to Lorraine Meyn in which he had six children (Leslie, Dan, David, Linda, Donald and Douglas) and then for 41 years to Lynn Robertson. In addition to his six children, he has a step-daughter, Lisa, countless grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His hobbies include scuba diving (Nelson caught what was considered a world-record-sized shark in 1963 weighing 272 pounds), drawing (see trolley car on right), writing (has 25 published short stories), hunting, fishing and golf. Mr. Nelson knew Jacques Cousteau and was invited to accompany him on one of his historical expeditions on the Calipso. “ He’s a true outdoorsman ”, says his wife, Lynn. Mr. Nelson was a member of the American Legion Post 142 (Luling). He was also a personal friend of Jefferson Parish’s famed Sheriff, Harry Lee and went hunting with him on numerous occasions. A note of interest: On New Year’s Eve of 1972, Mr. Nelson was asked by the New Orleans Sheriff’s Department to accompany them in a helicopter with the purpose of shooting the Downtown Howard Johnson’s sniper, Mark Essex, who had already killed six people from atop the Howard Johnson’s. He declined leaving another expert shooter to end the senseless Essex killing spree.



127 AUSTIN COLEMAN, AN AIR FORCE WW II VETERAN, was a gunner and airplane mechanic while in the military. He was in combat in Foggia, Italy (located south of Naples) and assisted in the bombing of Linz, Austria. “It got flattened,” states Coleman. “We bombed the daylight out of that place. It wasn’t



worth even picking up the scrap metal,” he adds. Fortunately, Coleman was never injured. Mr. Coleman deservedly earned the American Campaign Victory medal, the Good Conduct medal and the EAMETO medal. Post military, Mr. Coleman was a night manager for A&P Grocery (1946-1951), a back tender and artist for Kimberly Clark Corp..”the Kleenex people” (1951-1980) and provided artwork for publicity as well as prepared ads for the L’Observateur newspaper (1980-1981). Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Mr. Coleman has been married for 62 years to Betty Bilson and has one child, Claudia, two grandchildren (Renee and Robert) and four great grandchildren. His hobbies include art, painting, illustrations, woodworking and crossword puzzles. He was also an avid golfer and bowler. (Ya know that big andouille sausage man in front of Bailey’s Andouille on Airline Highway in LaPlace?..Yup!! Mr. Coleman did that!!) “My father’s very creative,” states his daughter, Claudia, proudly. Oh, by the way, Mr. Coleman goes by the name of “Muggs”. “Forget the ‘Mr.’ ”, he says. “I cringe at the title!” His wife says that she is fondly referred to as “Mrs. Muggs”. “But **please**, don’t call me ‘Little Muggs’,” pleads his daughter, Claudia. “How did he get that name?”, you might wonder. “I used to box in amateur fights in Rochester, New York,” begins Coleman...I mean “Muggs”. “The very first fight I had, a spectator said, ‘He didn’t beat him....he MUGGED him’ ...and the name stuck!” (Confidential to Muggs.....”Oy, Vey!)

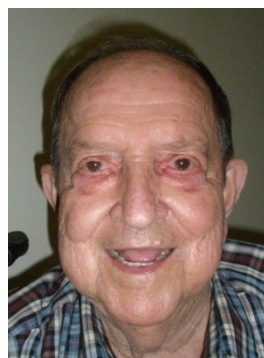


VETERAN # 128: RICHARD DENSON, A NAVY WW II

VETERAN, was a Gunner’s Mate 3rd Class on board the USS Denali and the Lucious Fairchild. His duties included firing and maintaining the ship’s 350 caliber anti-aircraft guns. He was also part of the Armed Guards. In 1943, Denson’s convoy, en route to Italy, was attacked by an enemy submarine in the Straits of Gibraltar. The sub made the fatal error of surfacing in between his ship and another...and was sunk! Denson participated in the invasion of the Aleutian Islands which came



under severe air attack. He was also in Port Moresby, New Guinea and sailed around the famous boot of Italy. Post military, Denson attended Delgado Trade School to learn the plumbing and pipe-fitting business. For the next 38 years, he did just that...worked for a variety of companies as a plumber and pipe-fitter. Denson also participated in the construction of the TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority). Born on Signal Mountain in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Mr. Denson has six children: Sandra (now deceased), Rick, Nedra, Stephen, Andrew and Suzie, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His hobbies included golfing (has trophies and has even placed some course records) which seems to be his #1 passion. He was an excellent bowler, according to his son, a “fantastic pool player” earning multiple trophies and an excellent card player (watch out, fellows!). “My dad was just an excellent athlete all around,” boasts his proud son, Rick. Welcome aboard, Mate!

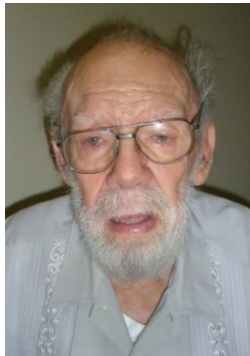


VETERAN # 129: MURPHY LAURENT, A NAVY, WWII VETERAN,

was a Navy corpsmen and medic with the 5th Marine Division at Iwo Jima. Like our veteran, Albert Patin, Mr. Laurent actually viewed the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima. In addition, he



knew Mr. Joe Rosenthal, the photographer, who took that now famous photo. Post military, Mr. Laurent owned a full service ESSO gas station (you youngins won't recognize that name, probably) for approximately 7 years. Then he took a job loading and unloading commodities with NOSSA, the New Orleans Steamship Association, until his retirement. Born in Plaquemine, Louisiana, Mr. Laurent is one of seven children. He has been married for 64 years to Jeanette Saia and has one child, Pamela, two grandsons (Brant and Drew) and three great-grandchildren. His hobbies included working in the yard and garden and participating in a variety of different organizations including the VFW Post #3785 (Lifetime Member), the LSU Traveling Tigers and the Catholic High Men's Club. Mr. Laurent went on the Manresa Retreat for 27 years. He also served as the West Baton Rouge Parish Democratic Executive Chairman. We're happy to have you join us, Mr. Laurent!



VETERAN #130: JOSEPH "JOE" FORBES, AN ARMY WW II VETERAN, was a radio operator during the invasion of Normandy (France) as well as the Battle of the Bulge (Ardennes), Czechoslovakia, the Rhineland and Central Europe. Forbes earned several war medals including the WWII Victory medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the EAMETO medal, the Bronze Star and a Bronze Arrowhead. What prompted



the Bronze Star, which was considered a heroic achievement, began when Forbes helped direct Howitzer gun fire against the enemy. The Germans began firing back injuring several of our soldiers. Forbes assisted in digging these men out of the rubble and getting them to the medics. I'm sure there are a lot of soldiers, mothers and wives grateful for Mr. Forbes' bravery. Forbes is a Lifetime Member of the American Legion Post 16 (Covington) and was their commander for two years as well as a Lifetime Member of the VFW Post 8720 (Abita). Post military, Mr. Forbes worked for the New Orleans Fire Department (Central Fire Station, Firehouse #35 and the Robert E. Lee station-Hook & Ladder Truck #14) for 21 years until his retirement. Born in New Orleans, Mr. Forbes' hobbies include building model airplanes and golf. We're happy to have you, Mr. Forbes. (Confidential to Mr. Forbes-no red toes or fingers so far, Mr. Forbes! You're doin' good!)

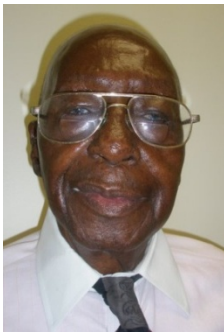


#131: HERMAN ABADIE, AN ARMY WW II VETERAN, was a med tech while in the military. His hospital was bombed once while in Essex County, England...a most frightening experience. In addition, there was bombing in the surrounding areas almost nightly. Mr. Abadie worked in the military hospital caring for the wounded. This included the French soldiers (our allies). You see, Mr. Abadie's a Cajun boy which, when it came to speaking French, came in handy. He helped to interpret for the wounded French soldiers. Post military, Abadie



attended a government trade school and learned the sheet metal business. He and a buddy opened their own sheet metal business called... "Abadie and Chauvin," of course. In addition to sheet metal, they took on plumbing, heating and air conditioning and construction until 2004. Born in Edgard, Louisiana, Mr. Abadie was one of ten children. Perhaps he had

enough of family life and kids as a child because he never married or had children. His hobbies include fishing (mostly at Cocodrie...which is south of Houma), watching sports on T. V. (mainly baseball and football) and reading. One reason he says he wants to come to our facility is that he has already read all the books in the library of his prior nursing facility. Well, I guess we'll have this veteran for a long time with all our books here! No chance of him reading all of them!! (Note to Mr. Abadie: If, by some chance, you really *DO* read all our books, Mr. Abadie, just let me know. I'll get some more for ya'!) By the way, Herman goes by the name of "Tom". GO FIGURE~! Welcome to our war veterans' home, Tom!



VETERAN # 132: CHARLES BROWN, AN ARMY WW II VETERAN, was in the infantry and as his company's Payroll clerk, was responsible for the payroll of 199 men. Fortunately, he was never overseas or in combat. An emergency appendectomy kept him from going overseas with the rest of his company. Mr. Brown was part of the only Black company in a white regiment. "We were connected to the 29th Infantry, Service Detachment, TIS (the Infantry School Service Command). We used to take care of the horses. We had about 85-90 horses, most of them polo ponies. We had to exercise those ponies. When it came to those horses, we did everything," Charlie adds, proudly. Mr. Brown is a Lifetime Member of Disabled American Veterans, the Boston Chapter. Post military, Brown was a Real Estate Broker (had his own company) and, at the same time, worked as an Oil Burner Technician for the Massachusetts

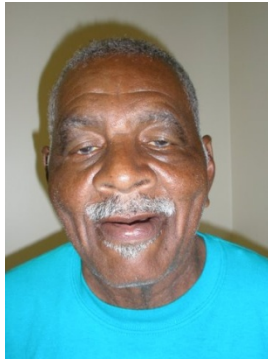


Department of Safety. The military also sent him to a special training for one year at Fort Benning, Georgia, to become a scrub nurse. Mr. Brown spent 3 and one-half years of college at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was a scrub tech for the VA in Boston for close to 32 years. He also assisted in the operating room. (Yuk!) Born in Lutcher, Louisiana, Mr. Brown is one of seven children. In 1942, he was married by an Army Chaplain at Fort Benning to Cecile Pierre and has two step-daughters, Carrie (now deceased) and Gloria, eight

grandchildren and countless great-grandchildren. In his spare time, Brown enjoys photography and even learned to develop his own film. In his younger days, Brown fished on Cape Cod. "We used to pass right by the Kennedy home. It was beautiful," he remembers. Brown also enjoys playing cards. "I'm a poker man!", he boasts, proudly before breaking out into Kenny Rogers's famous "You've got to know when to hold them" lyrics. Mr. Brown has a faithful canine companion, "Louise Jacob Brown" (see photo-right) that he sadly had to send to relatives in order to come here. Mr. Brown, feel free to have Louise come and visit here.



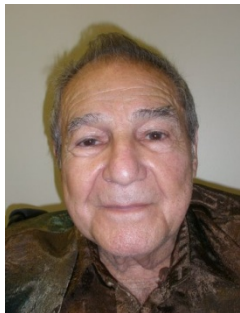
Please welcome our new veteran, Mr. Charlie Brown....(he's such a clown....that Charlie Brown!) (Photo: Bottom left: Charlie Brown gets a warm welcome with a song and dance all to the song, "That Charlie Brown". You youngins won't know it!)



VETERAN # 133: EARL "BUDDY" MARTIN, AN ARMY KOREAN WAR VETERAN, earned the National Defense Service Medal for his time in service to our country. Post military, Mr. Martin was a carpenter and laborer for a variety of different companies including Lobell's Construction and Victory Pipe Company in St. Amant. Born in White Hall (that's near Maurepas, folks! in Livingston Parish, close to French Settlement) and raised in Head of Island



(Yup! That's the name of a little town close by), Martin was the eldest of nine children. He was forced to quit school at an early age to help provide for his large family. Although Mr. Martin has no children of his own, he helped raise his nieces and nephews. "He helped everybody," says his niece, Shera. In his spare time, "Uncle Buddy" enjoyed tending to his garden of flowers, fruit (oranges, lemons and pears) and vegetables (tomatoes and cucumbers). He also built and remodeled residential homes. This is a talkative and friendly veteran or, as his niece, Shera puts it, he's simply "a great little guy!" We're happy to have you as part of our family here, Uncle Buddy. And guess what? Good News! Not too many kids here! Just sit back, relax and let the fun begin! Let *us* take care of "*you*"!



VETERAN # 134 : SALVADORE "SAL" GULINO, A MARINE WW II VETERAN, fought for our freedom with the 3rd Army battalion, 24th Marine regiment, while in Saipan, Tinian, Okinawa, and the Marshall Islands. Fortunately, he was never injured. Gulino remembers the days of hiding in caves from the Japanese and, as a result, being infested with fleas. We're grateful to you, Mr. Gulino, for your service to our country. Post military, Gulino worked in his father's neighborhood



grocery store as a butcher. He then changed careers and started his own trucking business called, well..."Sal's Trucking", of course! Eventually, he changed the name to Kenner Industries. His company hauled dirt from the sand pits and shells from a company on Louisa St. (New Orleans East), as well. Gulino continued in this capacity until his retirement. Born in Kenner, Louisiana, Mr. Gulino has two daughters, Elaine and Sally, seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. He has been married for 28 years to his second wife, Sharon. His hobbies included fishing and, when he was a young buck (as they say), racing automobiles on the spillway. (They've got cameras on the streets now, sir, for speeders, so watch it!) Welcome to our war veterans home, Mr. Sal!



VETERAN #135 : THOMAS MORVANT, AN ARMY WW II VETERAN, had to quit school in the 5th grade to assist his father on their farm to help provide for their family. In the military, Mr. Morvant was a Rifle M1 sharpshooter. He engaged in combat several times including Normandy, the Rhineland, Ardennes and throughout Central Europe and has a piece of shrapnel still lodged in his neck to prove it! Morvant deservedly earned the Distinguished Unit Badge, the Good Conduct



Medal, the WW II Victory Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Service medal and the Bronze Arrowhead for Normandy. Post military, Morvant worked as a switchman for the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad for close to 40 years. Wow! Born in Patterson, Louisiana, Mr. Morvant was married for 58 years to Milda “Millie” Broussard (now deceased) and has three children: Jenny, Tommy and Debbie; seven grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Morvant loves to play Dominoes and Gin Rummy, loves old T.V. Westerns (I’m with you on that, Mr. Morvant) and enjoys calling Bingo. He is a member of the American Legion Post 397 (Harahan/River Ridge) and a Lifetime Member of the VFW Post 3267 (Harahan/River Ridge).

MEMORIALS FOR JUNE 2008

“Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved with mankind. And therefore, never send to know for whom the bell tolls... it tolls for thee” By: John Donne (Poet)

The staff & veterans of the Southeast Louisiana War Veterans home would like to acknowledge the passing of the following veterans who once shared our home & family:

LAWRENCE PELTIER, NAVY WWII (JUNE 2, 2008)
LEMMIE “EDWARD” GRIFFIN, NAVY, WW II (JUNE 29, 2008)

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

For the staff and veterans of the Southeast Louisiana War Veterans Home, **EMILE HOTARD** and **RONALD CASSAGNE** are two very special volunteers. Mr. Hotard was briefly a resident himself here (see March 2008 Newsletter or below). Both persistently searched for a volunteer priest to do mass on Fridays for us, which we greatly appreciate. Together, they bring Holy Communion to our war veterans each week. We thank them for their contribution and concern for us all.

(from the March 2008 newsletter)



VETERAN #101: EMILE HOTARD, JR. is a Navy W W II, Korean and Vietnam War veteran. Mr. Hotard has had an incredibly busy life. For starters, he has 41 years with the





Reserves but served on active duty during WW II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Cuban Crisis, as well. He states that he was “running patrol” during WW II and was with a Navy torpedo squadron (the aviation branch of the Navy) during that war. Mr. Hotard served as a Naval Recruiter during the Korean War. As for the Vietnam era, Hotard’s squadron was sent to Cuba on surveyors’ patrol for 8-9 months and then, upon his return to the U.S., ran a civilian’s patrol from the U.S. to Key West. During those years, sandwiched between active duty, Mr. Hotard was employed with the St. John Parish School System as: an Athletics Coach, a teacher, as principal and administrator. Each was interrupted to go on active duty, of course. After he retired from the St. John School System, Mr. Hotard then worked for four years as Principal for the St. Peter’s Parochial School in Reserve. As if all this wasn’t enough, his father, Emile Hotard, Sr., ran a soft drink distribution business for 61 years. Mr. Hotard assisted his father in the business and eventually took over the company, Emile Hotard Distributors, Inc., as President. Born in LaPlace, Mr. Hotard has been married for almost 39 years to his lovely bride, Geraldine Landry. They have two children (Maria and Alison); three grandchildren (Dominic, Gabrielle and Anthony) and three step-grandchildren (Meagan, Ryan and Kaitlyn). Mr. Hotard is a member of : the American Legion (Post 0159 in Reserve) for over 50 years; the VFW Post 5004 (over 50 years and is a “Lifetime Member”), the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Branch 092 since 1985 and the U.S.S. Cabot Association (CVL 28).



RONALD CASSAGNE is a lifelong resident of Reserve “since the day I was born,” he says. His parents, Elmer and Jeanne Cassagne, were also from Reserve. Ronnie attended St. Peter School in Reserve as a child and then, Leon Godcheaux High School. In 1960, he joined the Navy and was assigned to the aircraft carrier, the USS Constellation-CVA64. After active duty, Ronnie returned to Reserve and met his “lifelong” partner, Sharon Falgoust. They have four children: Melissa, Amy, Danielle and Casey and four grandchildren as well. Upon his return home, Ronald got involved with the Reserve Volunteer Fire Department, the Knights of Columbus, Jaycee’s and the Boy Scouts of America. During this time, he worked in general construction for about three years and then transferred to LP&L (that’s La. Power and Light, folks!). Ronnie retired from LP&L in 1995. But his retirement was short-lived. He began working for the St. John the Baptist School Board and continued until 2007. NOW, he says he’s REALLY retired. Yea, Right! Ronnie can be seen here almost daily helping out in some way or another. He says that he also enjoys riding around “in my little gold truck” carrying on conversations with anyone willing to stop and talk to him. “I enjoy my work at the veterans’ home,” he says. “I hope to continue helping out for years to come.” We do, too, Ronnie.

Thanks Ronnie and Mr. Hotard for all you do. Thanks for caring!

MOTORCYCLE VETERANS FROM VIETNAM AND DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM ERA
PAY A VISIT TO OUR WAR VETERANS



They look like a gang of bad a___ Hell's Angels wearing leather jackets or vests, multiple tattoos, long hair (some with graying ponytails) and creased faces sporting that Charles Bronson ruggedness all riding every possible color and style Harley but these bad boys have three unique things in common. One...a love of country that only those who have actually placed their lives on the line for it can truly appreciate. (In this case, they are all Vietnam or Desert Shield/Desert Storm veterans.) Two...they have hearts the size of the superdome and I mean each one and not collectively, and Three...they care about our war-time veterans in that special "brotherly" way that even the most genuine and caring staff can't compete with. As much as I love and respect our veterans, I see it! They have a different look in their eyes when they gaze upon a fellow veteran. Their touch or handshake carries an extra element that mine lacks from never being in war as they know it!

As I waited in my office that memorable Saturday morning, June 14, 2008, I heard the roar of their magnificent motorcycles approaching. They're a tight-knit group of men and their "women" from organizations such as the Vietnam Veterans' Motorcycle Club, Legacy Veterans M/C, Black Sheep (Tangi) M/C and Gypsy M/C. They share a common cause: to touch the lives of older, fellow veterans and let them know they care. ABATE member James Moore helped to coordinate the event. It was just a few weeks ago that he called me wanting his group to adopt a soldier, airman or Marine...someone that needed a family. "How could I pick just one", I pondered. That's like telling a parent that he's got five children all who need kidneys but only one donated kidney to give. Which one do you save? So I gave him a choice of almost 100 of our veterans from the Southeast Louisiana War Veterans Home and gave *him* the brutal task of selecting the lucky winner. Well, as I hoped, the group couldn't select just one or two. They would join forces with other groups and adopt all of our retired veterans of war.

I was astonished to learn just how many of our own veterans owned motorcycles themselves in their earlier years, long ago. Excitement and interest in the "bikes" and bikers was evident as one by one, our veterans headed out the doors, most in wheelchairs, heading toward the parking lot to see the younger veterans' "cool" motorcycles.

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On every wing of our facility, members of the biking groups along with their supportive and just as caring female companions mixed and mingled with their older, respected counterparts. They insisted on meeting each one, especially our POWs and our more needy veterans. It was a touching, tender sight to see the blend. Throw in some patriotic music in the background such as Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" that Sonya Aucoin, our Activities Director, piped in over the facility intercom and well...folks, I had to grab a Kleenex now and then!

After all the veterans were visited but before the group left, James Moore, who worked with us to coordinate the event, took up a collection to buy raffle tickets (see photo). As if their mere presence and affecting touch were not enough, they emptied their pockets and handed me \$50 in bills.



As they rode off, I couldn't help but hear faintly yet powerfully in the background, Steppenwolf's "Born to be Wild" playing in my head.

Thanks guys...for everything! *KE*

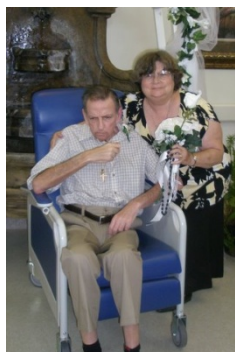
**OOPS! I DID IT AGAIN! NINE VETERANS RENEW THEIR VOWS
AT SELWVH**

Still Madly in Love

*(Mr. & Mrs.
Dumart
Parker)*



Yup. That was the theme on the groom's cake when Sonya Aucoin, our Activities Director, organized a great "renewal of vows" for the following veterans and their wives:



Mr. and Mrs. Gene Vicknair (Our very first veteran and his wife, Marlene)

Mr. and Mrs. Dumart Parker (photo above)



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Mr. & Mrs. Lionel (General) Troxler (left)

Mr. and Mrs. Lou Robein (right)



Mr. and Mrs. Jay Drury (left)

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Teijelo



Mr. and Mrs. Leo Luent (left)

Mr. & Mrs. Salvadore Spano (right)



A Touching Moment
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Pitre



Everyone got into the act. I played the wedding march on my flute. Jawanza Hathorn (Fiscal Department-photo on right) sang two beautiful songs and Cathy Sullivan (photo left) provided some much-needed bubbles following the renewal of vows. Ronnie Cassagne (featured above as volunteer) performed the rituals (below).



SOLDIERS ANGELS HELP WITH OUR ADMISSIONS HOSPITALITY BAGS:

Months ago, I asked for organizations to help supply goodies to the Hospitality Bags I give to each veteran upon admission. One incredible group that has, three times and from three states sent us “Care” packages is *Soldier’s Angels*. And “angels” they are. Thank you so much for thinking about our veterans and for all you do for our soldiers overseas, as well.



Everyone should know Iris Michelle Franklin, our Warehouse Supervisor (featured in my March 2008 newsletter). On Saturday, June 14th, Iris and her group, “Sistas’ Inc.” showered our veterans with gifts and attention, in honor of Father’s Day. They are, from left to right: Dianthe West, Alisha Claiborne, Delacy Lewis, Leslie Fluence, Taza Scott and Iris Michelle. The club actually has 14 members from the Tri-Parish area that assists in helping the community any way they can. They also provide school supplies to needy children and Thanksgiving baskets to needy families. Each Christmas, Sistas adopts a family, providing them with food and gifts. The organization has been together for two years. Thank you, Ladies...I mean “Sistas”!

ANOTHER MUCH-DESERVED THANKS:

Thank you, Senior Citizens of Lutcher, for your Father’s Day gifts to our veterans!

NINE WORDS WOMEN USE AND THEIR “REAL” MEANING:

1. “**Fine**”: This is the word women use to end an argument when they are right and you need to shut up.
2. “**Five Minutes**”: If she is getting dressed, this means a half an hour. Five minutes is only five minutes if you have just been given five more minutes to watch the game before helping around the house.
3. “**Nothing**”: This is the calm before the storm. This means “something” and you should be on your toes. Arguments that begin with “nothing” usually end in “fine”!
4. “**Go Ahead**”: This is a dare, not permission. ***DON'T DO IT!***
5. a **Loud Sigh**: This is not actually a word, but is a non-verbal statement often misunderstood by men. A loud sigh means she thinks you are an idiot and wonders why she is wasting her time standing here and arguing with you about nothing. (Refer back to #3 for the meaning of “nothing”.)
6. “**That’s Okay**”: This is one of the most dangerous statements a woman can make to a man. “That’s okay” REALLY means she wants to think long and hard before deciding how and when you will pay for your mistake.
7. “**Thanks**”: A woman is thanking you. Do not question or faint. Just say “You’re welcome” and leave it there!
8. “**Don’t worry about it; I got it**”: Another dangerous statement meaning this is something that a woman has told a man to do several times but is now doing it herself. This will later result in a asking, “What’s wrong?” For the woman’s response, refer to #3.

QUOTABLE QUOTES: *from God’s Little Devotional Book*

“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.”

“Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with excellence.”

“Choose to put your full energy into your performance. Your extra effort will turn an average performance into something outstanding.”

When one door of happiness closes, another opens. But often, we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.” Helen Keller Page 13

WHY DO WE SAY IT?:

Why are the elite referred to as “**the upper crust**”? In the Middle Ages, bread was dispensed by diners tearing off chunks of bread from a large loaf. It would be totally unacceptable for the bread of an aristocrat to be touched by the hands of a commoner. So it became the custom to slice off the upper crust of the loaf and then, present it to royalty both as a way of honoring the elite and to keep potential germs away.

Where did the expression, “**You can’t have your cake and eat it, too**”. The theory is that one can’t use something up and still have it to enjoy. In other words, once you eat it, it’s gone. This proverb was recorded in the book of proverbs by John Heywood in 1546.



GUESS WHO! THIS IS GENE VICKNAIR, OUR VERY FIRST VETERAN TO BE ADMITTED HERE (ON JUNE 11, 2007) AT THE AGE OF ONE! THANKS, MARLENE, FOR PROVIDING THIS ADORABLE PHOTO.

EMPLOYER’S LINGO

“COMPETITIVE SALARY” (which really means) We remain competitive by paying less than our competition.

“JOIN OUR FAST-PACED TEAM”(which really means) We have no time to train you.

“CASUAL WORK ATMOSPHERE” (which really means) We don’t pay enough to expect that you’ll dress up; well, a couple of the real daring guys wear earrings.

“MUST BE DEADLINE ORIENTED”(which really means) You’ll be six months behind schedule on your first day.

“SOME OVERTIME REQUIRED” (which really means) Some time each night an some time each weekend for as long as you are employed here.

“DUTIES WILL VARY” (which really means) Anyone in the office can boss you around.

“MUST HAVE AN EYE FOR DETAIL” (which really means) We have no quality control.

“CAREER-MINDED” (which really means) females applicants must be childless (and remain that way)

“APPLY IN PERSON” (which really means) If you’re old or ugly, you will be told that the position is filled.

“SEEKING CANDIDATES WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF EXPERIENCE (which really means) you will need to replace three people who just left.

“ PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS A MUST” (which really means) You are walking into a company in perpetual chaos.

“REQUIRES TEAM LEADERSHIP SKILLS” (which really means) You’ll have the responsibilities of a manager without the pay or respect.

“GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS” (which really means) Management communicates, you listen.

SOME GOOD BILLBOARD ADVICE: (St. Matthew the Apostle Church in River Ridge)

“ For a healthy heart, exercise your faith.”

HUMOROUS TRUE STORIES:

1. *My mother works in a laboratory and is responsible for keeping tissue cultures alive. So that she won;t forget, she writes “feed cells”, on her calendar. One day, she noticed that someone had scribbled in “take cells for a walk”. By the end of the month, a number of anonymous reminders had been added: “take cells to Disneyland”; “cells on vacation” and on Yom Kippur was scribbled, “Jewish cells get the day off”. By: Kim Uyehara*

2. *One morning as I was getting dressed, my husband lovingly patted my posterior. “That’s my bottom, you know!”, I announced, teasingly. “Well, I want you to know,” he replied arrogantly, “I’ve got stock in that bottom!” “Well, then, you’ve invested wisely”, I responded, explaining, “Your investment is growing and growing.” (True story by: Kerry Ermon-happened 01/13/07)*

3. On admission to the nursing home where I worked, each new resident was interviewed by a social worker. During one session, an alert, twinkling-eyed 96-year-old man was asked, “Did you have a happy childhood? ”

“So far, so good!” , he replied.

By: Ann Antoci

4. I was summoned for jury duty recently. The clerk of court addressed the large group of potential jurors and stated that those of us who parked in the court parking lots needed to go up to receive a free parking permit by forming a single line up the middle aisle. Over one hundred people filed in the crowded line to do so. Just then, I heard one person in line remark, “It’s sort of like taking communion, isn’t it?” “Yes”, replied another. “Just don’t put it in your mouth!”
By: Kerry Ermon

WHY DO WE SAY IT?

Bazooka: How did the bazooka get its name?

When Bob Burns, the vaudeville performer, devised a form of kazoo that had a very long-sounding horn, he named it a bazooka from the Dutch word bazu meaning trumpet. The kazoo, a horn into which you sing and vibrate a little strip of paper, gets its name from the same word. The two-man rocket gun devised by the American Army during WW II was named for Burns' quasi-musical instrument because of its similarity in appearance. (Betcha you veterans didn't know that!)

Bigwig: Why do we call an important person "a bigwig"?

It was the custom in Great Britain for all men of importance to wear special wigs. To date, British lawyers still wear them. So a person of importance had a big wig and that's how the phrase began.

Black Sheep: What is the reason "black sheep" are considered worthless?

The wool of black sheep cannot be dyed and therefore, does not bring as high a price as regular wool. Yet, a black sheep, though its wool has less value, eats as much and takes as much time as all other sheep making it hardly worth its keep.

Waves: How did the Waves get their name?

The name was selected arbitrarily by the Navy Department and only then was a phrase developed to embody the letters. W A V E S--: Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service.

Raining Cats and Dogs: When it comes to "April showers", where did the expression "raining cats and dogs" come from? It is believed to have come from Norse legend which contended that animals had specific magical powers. Cats were reputed to have the ability to conjure up storms and dogs, the wind. To Scandinavians, then, raining cats and dogs meant a violent storm with wind and rain, like it does today.

CELEBRITY QUOTABLE QUOTES:

"America is not perfect, but it's much better than anywhere else in the world. "

Catherine Zeta-Jones

"I think the most un-American thing you can say is "You can't say that." Garrison Keillor

"My father gave me the best advice of my life. He said, "Whatever you do, don't wake up at 65 years old and think about what you should have done with your life." George Clooney

"I know it's summer if I hear the tinkle of bells of an ice cream truck. Mentally, my feet start running and I'm hollering, 'Mama, I need a nickel!' " Linda Ellerbee

ARLINGTON CEMETERY : Fascinating facts about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why? 21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.
2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?
21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1
3. Why are his gloves wet? His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.
4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and if not, why not?
He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.
5. How often are the guards changed?
Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.
6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?
For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30." Other requirements of the Guard: They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform {fighting} or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin. The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for Duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off-duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery .. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis {the boxer} and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy (the most decorated soldier of WWII) who became a famous Hollywood movie star.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

In 2003, as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, D.C., our US Senate/House took two days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, 'No way, Sir!' Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

“The most important ingredient of success is failure.”

By: Thomas Edison

Yes, even failure is good. It teaches us what “not” to do again. So don’t let past failures or mistakes in judgment get you down. Try again or continue on with your new information of what didn’t work or where you went wrong before. You’ve learned from the experience, which is really...a “good” thing! KE

Administrative Staff and Directors:

Jon Salter, Administrator

Dr. Karl Pinter, Medical Director

Paul R. Hiestand, Assistant Administrator

Kerry Ermon, Admissions and Social Services

Patty Cortez, Director of Nursing

Penny Kennedy, Asst. Director of Nursing

Sonya Aucoin, Activities and Recreation

Edward Dunigan, Housekeeping

Starlette Gordon, Fiscal

Cathy Sullivan, Human Resources

Roger Chatelain, Maintenance

Robert Becnel, Pharmacist

Angela Montgomery, Dietary

Veronica Cambre, Administrative Assistant IV

“Each of us should recognize that every time a veteran walks through those doors, a chapter of history as unique as a Rembrandt painting or a Mozart composition is entering our lives.” Kerry Ermon

THE END