



Scuttlebutt

June 2008

A Newsletter for Doc's of all Services!

Patriot Guard Riders

Corpsman.com is proud to have two members of the Patriot Guard Riders onboard; they are Dennis (Puckmedic), a PGR Tennessee Ride Captain and Tony (8404) of the North Texas PGR. Furthermore, Corpsman.com welcomes aboard its newest member, 'Pappy' who also rides with the Queen Creek, Arizona PGR.

When asked why they do what they do, each and every member basically says the same thing, because "It's the right thing to do". Never again will a Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Airman, Coast Guardsman, National Guardsman come home, from war, un-escorted and un-welcomed.

Within the 'forums' of corpsman.com, we have dedicated a thread to postings of the Patriot Guard Riders events with our very own Puckmedic, as host and moderator. [Click to read more:](#)

[Click to visit the National PGR Website:](#)

Mission Statement:

The Patriot Guard Riders is a diverse amalgamation of riders from across the nation. We have one thing in common besides motorcycles. We have an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security. If you share this respect, please join us.

We don't care what you ride, what your political views are, or whether you're a "hawk" or a "dove". It is not a requirement that you be a veteran. It doesn't matter where you're from or what your income is. You don't even have to ride. The only prerequisite is Respect.

Our main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. Each mission we undertake has two basic objectives.

1. Show our sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families, and their communities.

2. Shield the mourning family and friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors.

The PGR accomplishes the latter through strictly legal and non-violent means.

PGR History:

It all started back in early August of 2005 with the American Legion Riders chapter 136 from Kansas. They were appalled to hear that a fallen hero's memory was being tarnished by misguided religious zealots who were protesting at funerals. They decided to do something about it. At the ALR 136 August meeting, Director: Chuck "Pappy" Barshney appointed members, Terry "Darkhorse" Houck, Cregg "Bronco 6" Hansen, Steve "McDaddy" McDonald, and Bill "Wild Bill" Logan to form a committee to strategize and form a battle plan to combat these religious zealots.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|-----|
| The Things They Carried | 2 |
| Rant from Da- | 3-4 |
| Cover Story Continues | 5 |
| New Program Offers "Care for Caregivers" | 6-7 |
| The Four Year Pain | 7 |
| Jack Lucas | 9 |
| The Morning After | 10 |
| From the Editor | 11 |
| Reunion Notice | 11 |
| Remembrances | 12 |
| NEW GI Bill | 13 |
| Bits & Pieces | 14 |
| Birth Announcement | 15 |

(Continued on page 5)

THE THINGS THEY CARRIED

They carried P-38 can openers and heat tabs, watches and dog tags, insect repellent, gum, cigarettes, Zippo lighters, salt tablets, compress bandages, ponchos, Kool-Aid, two or three canteens of water, iodine tablets, sterno, LRRP-rations, and C-rations stuffed in socks. They carried jungle utilities, jungle boots, bush hats, flak jackets, and steel pots. They carried the M-16 assault rifle. They carried trip flares and Claymore mines, M-60 machine guns, the M-70 grenade launcher, M-14's, CR-15s, Stoners, Swedish K's, 66 mm Laws, shotguns, 45 caliber pistols, 60 mortars, the sound of bullets, rockets, and choppers, and sometimes the sound of silence. They carried C-4 plastic explosives, an assortment of hand grenades, PRC-25 radios, knives and machetes.

Some carried napalm, CBU's, and large bombs; some risked their lives to rescue others. Some escaped the fear, but dealt with the death and damages. Some made very hard decisions, and some just tried to survive.

They carried malaria, dysentery, ringworms, and leaches. They carried the land itself as it hardened on their boots. They carried stationery, pencils, and pictures of their loved ones real and imagined. They carried love for people in the real world, and love for one another. And sometimes they disguised that love: "Don't mean nothin'!"

They carried memories!

For the most part, they carried themselves with poise and a kind of dignity. Now and then, there were times when panic set in, and people squealed, or wanted to, but couldn't; when they twitched and made moaning sounds and covered their heads and said, "Dear God," and hugged the earth and fired their weapons blindly, and cringed and begged for the noise to stop, and went wild and made stupid promises to themselves and God and their parents, hoping not to die. They carried the traditions of the United States Marine Corps, and memories and images of those who served before them. They carried grief, terror, longing, and their reputations.

They carried the Marine's greatest fear, the embarrassment of dishonor. They crawled into tunnels, walked point, and advanced or flew into fire, so as not to die of embarrassment.

They were afraid of dying, but too afraid to show it. They carried the emotional baggage of men who might die at any moment. They carried the weight of the world, and the weight of every free citizen of America.

THEY CARRIED EACH OTHER.

~AUTHOR UNKNOWN~
Submitted by psencik1950

Rant from Da-Chief by HMC Darrell Crone

Deployment “RUT” I feel for them..

June 9, 2008 ·

I have been there. I have been in their shoes. I wish there was something I could do to help my brother out who is winding down on his “4th” Deployment to Iraq.

Yeah it sounds like it should be happy time, bells and whistles etc, but in reality it is the worst of times. The newness of the deployment has worn off. Loved ones have learned to get along without you. Your focus is on the daily mission and nothing else. Little things that never ticked you off do at a moments notice.

I can relate. Gysgt Bermudez and myself, great friends, Would joke and coke all the time, I remember when we almost came to blows on a deployment due to stupid tensions. Crap that I didn’t understand (He did) and that was all brushed under the rug when we got back, but at the time, I would have killed over.

This is the Rut of Deployments, the most dangerous time for a Corpsman taking care of his charges.

Read HM1 Dustmans Post below from his site “Doc in the Box”

Sean is working on his 4th Deployment. I had been worrying about him for the last 2 weeks as we have not heard from him. HM1 is a writer plain and simple. He’s one of those unique folks that can put thoughts on paper and you just understand what he is going through. The Navytimes thinks so as well and have used his articles for their papers.

I started to worry from the silence, but today he popped up from under his rock. Here are his words from his site. For you young bucks out there.. this should be read and heeded.

From HM1 Dustmans “Doc In the Box” Blog.

Monday, June 02, 2008

My brain has stopped adding words together

I’ve hit the slump of the deployment along with many of the Marines and Sailors that I work the only difference is this is the first time that the slump has shut down my writing cold. I would put an idea on paper and try to expand on it and would end up having monosyllable conversations with myself. As painful as it is to have a conversation with one of those people, it’s worse to read it.

I did a two blog post a while back ago called Twilight of the Deployment (take one and take two) and I can’t really improve on either of them with this block filling up my head just to note that my unit is in that period of time.

The Dear John’s or Jane’s have started trickling in one party, here or there is shocked and can’t believe it’s happening to them. It’s that season of the deployment, between the middle till right before we get home. I’ve been here before and most of the Staff NCO’s I work with are on their second or third marriage, it’s the junior guys that worry me. Right now is where relationships crumble, one party realizes that they really don’t like being alone or that their significant other isn’t the “One” or meets someone

special who isn't far away and don't know how to break it off with someone on the other side of the world then waits till right before they get home. There is no easy way to break off a serious relationship.

Where one party is lonely and falls for someone they are interacting with daily and breaks the relationship off. The spouse that cleans out the bank account and max's out credit cards out of spite and disappears. Tired of the lack of email, phone calls, letters, etc. Tired of how the other party is spending their finances.

I see these stories every single day, the names and faces change and as a leader or a healer, you have to help these people make something constructive out of the crap that life took on them. For an air unit like mine, it's not the suicide bombers or the mortars that cause most of us to toss and turn at night or think it's not worth it anymore. It's the worry about the person we expected to spend the rest of our lives with on the other side of the world. The military is tough on family life any way you look at it and there isn't a cookie cutter solution that can fix all of the problems.

For me, this trip I'm just soul weary tired, 4 trips out here is beginning to add up and it's tough to keep that cheery grin on my face or to find the words to put words down on paper. The last year was a bit rough on my psyche and I haven't a chance to patch all of the holes that have been made. It all adds up in the end.

If I haven't proved it in the past, I do write when I'm depressed but that's not exactly what I'm feeling right now. I just a sense of numbness in my brain, I'm trying to talk some of them out, the heartache I'm feeling isn't for me, it's for the people whom I work with and care about. It sucks not having an answer to such big questions when they are so desperately. My head feels like I've stretched something too far and it broke away.

Speaking of away, while I wasn't typing on the keyboard I did get a chance to read everything by an author named Jim Butcher and Bane, I agree, thanks for the tip. One of the ingredients that probably added to my writers block was the lack of sleep I was getting because I couldn't stop reading. Seriously, he's good.

I'm sorry for not popping my head up for an entire month, every writer I know hits a low point in their writing and this has been mine. Some days they flow from my fingers but I just haven't found it lately and I'm not one of those people that like tossing up words.

This is stuff you can't learn in a book, this is why we have leaders like HM1 and Crazycajun who impart valuable knowledge to our juniors.

This is why we have Corpsman.com

(PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS Continued from Page 1)

When they heard that there was going to be a protest at the Funeral of Sgt. John Doles in Chelsea, Oklahoma, they established a Mission Statement, which included getting the families permission and contacting Law Enforcement and other Motorcycle Groups in Oklahoma. They agreed that their ultimate goal was to get veterans and motorcycle organizations involved in every state so that each state could handle the situation internally and not rely on other states to do the job. They were very successful in mustering riders to honor Sgt. Doles and limiting the intrusion by these religious zealots. After the Chelsea Mission the Kansas American Legion Riders wanted all Motorcycle Groups/ Organizations to be recognized. On the 18th of October 2005 the Patriot Guard name was established and was announced on the 27th of October 2005 to the 100 + motorcyclists present at the Tonganoxie Mission to Honor Spc Lucas Frantz.

Following the missions in South Haven, KS and a later ride in Edmond, OK, Jeff "Twister" Brown, from Broken Arrow, OK, decided to do more than just ride. He saw a need to get a strong nation-wide communications and recruiting program in place. He contacted the original AL riders in Kansas and told them of his plans. They openly shared their experiences, suggestions, and encouragement. Within a matter of days, Brown had formed the Patriot Guard Riders and began a nation-wide campaign to garner support.

Similarly, after a mission ride in Greeley, CO, Hugh Knaus and Jason "Waldo" Wallin answered the call of the newly formed Patriot Guard Riders, becoming the national webmaster and communications director, respectively. Within a matter of days, a mission statement was refined and a website was built, rebuilt, and launched. A call immediately went out to individual riders and groups across the nation to join and ride with the PGR. State Captains were recruited to work more closely with the members in their area.

The growth has been phenomenal. Within a week their membership included many riders from associations like the VFW, American Legion, Rolling Thunder, ABATE, Combat Vets Motorcycle Association, Intruder Alert, Leathernecks Motorcycle Club, and almost five hundred individual riders. To the credit of Hugh and "Waldo", the PGR website had received almost 566,000 hits in the first two weeks! Patriots from all over America and several foreign countries responded. Emails were pouring in from people wanting to support and join the newly formed PGR.

A great deal of credit goes to that small group of Kansas American Legion Riders, but none of this could have ever been accomplished without the patriot member who takes time out of their life to honor a fallen soldier and their family.

Current National PGR Membership is at 137,809, with over 100 new members registering daily.

The primary mission of the Patriot Guard Riders is to attend the funerals of our fallen American heroes. Additionally, the Patriot Guard Riders provide support to the veteran community and their families in conjunction with the other fine veteran's service organizations that already do so much for our veterans. Click the links below to find out more about the PGR programs.

[Honor Missions](#)
[Send Offs & Welcome Homes](#)
[Fallen Warrior Scholarship Fund](#)
[Help on the Homefront](#)

[Click here to see, who else rides with the Patriot Guard Riders](#)

New Program Offers ‘Care for Caregivers’

By Elaine Wilson

Special to American Forces Press Service

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas, May 22, 2008 – The U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research here has launched a program aimed at caring for a segment of the military population much more accustomed to administering care than receiving it.

The program, called Care for the Caregivers, is designed to identify and treat a syndrome called “compassion fatigue” in military health care providers.

Compassion fatigue, also known as secondary traumatic stress disorder, is the emotional residue or strain of exposure of working with patients recovering from traumatic events.

The relatively new term, coined by Dr. Charles Figley in the 1990s, is becoming increasingly popular as caregivers are faced with the long-term care of trauma patients surviving the battlefield in greater numbers than ever before.

“We’re starting to notice signs of compassion fatigue in caregivers of wounded warriors,” said Army Col. Kathryn Gaylord, director of the Army Institute of Surgical Research’s Care for the Caregivers program. “Caregivers are giving everything of themselves to care for patients, but there’s a price sometimes associated with that.”

Taxed by deployments of their own and the complicated care of severely wounded servicemembers, caregivers are beginning to exhibit signs of trauma normally reserved for patients. With symptoms such as heightened irritability, anxiety, depression and sleep disturbances, the syndrome bears a marked resemblance to post-traumatic stress disorder.

“Compassion fatigue is when caregivers have such deep empathy they develop symptoms of trauma similar to the patient,” Gaylord explained.

While similar in nature, Gaylord pointed out the difference between compassion fatigue and “burnout,” an emotional exhaustion many people experience due to increased workload and institutional stress. Unlike compassion fatigue, burnout does not contain a trauma element.

Over time, compassion fatigue can lead a caregiver to grow distant from patients or, on the flip side, too close. Both can be detrimental to the patients and families.

Caregivers at the burn center, for instance, treat the same patients for months or even years, which can lead to a strong connection, and a strong sense of failure, guilt and loss if a patient does not survive.

“We treat patients for many weeks to months, during which time they undergo many operations and procedures,” Gaylord said. “A strong relationship develops with the patient’s family; we get to know them very well.”

Army Spc. Antonio Cevallos, a physical therapy technician at the institute, is familiar with the ongoing intensity of day-to-day care. He went from transferring patients wounded in Iraq via ground ambulance in Kuwait to treating wounded warriors in the burn center.

“I see a lot more here [at the institute],” he said. “Compared to minutes or hours of one-on-one contact, it’s days and weeks. It has its ups and downs.”

Cevallos said he grew close to several patients and was pained to see two patients deteriorate, then pass away.

“It’s difficult at times,” he said. “But what keeps me going is the fact that I’m helping other people. As long as I keep my purpose, it keeps me above water.”

Caregivers are trained to be compassionate, but there is little training in the military on how to handle the stress of compassion, said Gaylord, who hopes to remedy the problem through the Care for the Caregivers program.

The doctor described the program as a combination of prevention training and treatment through the use of seminars and stress-management techniques.

“We have a series of world-renowned experts coming here to speak on topics such as grief, relaxation, nutrition and exercise,” said Gaylord, who said the key to prevention is to find ways to manage and alleviate stress.

The seminars include education on the latest relaxation techniques, including "Alpha Stim," which is cranial electrical stimulation and vibration sounds that trigger the brain to relax.

In addition, Gaylord and her staff are building a respite room at the institute, which will serve as a peaceful haven caregivers can retreat to and regenerate. Wanting a state-of-the-art area, Gaylord contracted an architect who designed relaxation rooms for Nike and Hilton.

"The room will be very relaxing with a waterfall, music, massage chair, special motion chair and a video with headsets," she said.

Gaylord also plans to integrate group sessions and questionnaires that will help identify issues and track the impact of the program.

Cevallos said having a support system at work is beneficial.

"Sometimes you need to talk to someone or relax with a group," he said. "I've sat down in a session, and it was soothing. There's a sense of comfort from being with other people who are going through similar experiences."

Army Chaplain (Maj.) Philip Kochenburger, Brooke Army Medical Center chaplain, attended a compassion fatigue seminar on loss, grief and trauma May 9 and used an air travel safety briefing analogy to describe the importance of caring for caregivers.

"The flight attendants always tell you to put on your own oxygen mask first before you help others," he said. "The same is true of caregivers. They have to make sure they take care of themselves along with the patients."

Gaylord said the focus will remain on resiliency and mental well-being.

"We'd like to eventually delve into the research aspects of this so we can determine what makes some people more innately resilient than others."

(Elaine Wilson works in the Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office)

Thanks to Doc Pardue for sending this in

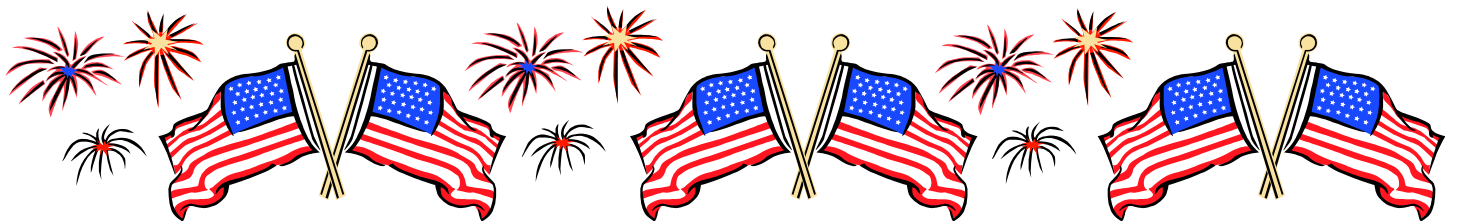
THE FOUR YEAR PAIN

From Stephen Higgins (baldheadedsquid)

Every four years we get buried by commercials, speeches, debates and empty promises. The country is subjected to serious mud slinging, back biting, and general all around "good" politics. It seems that everyone knows what to do with the tiger, except the one that has it by the tail. We are currently watching the Democratic party tear itself apart and not to leave the Republicans out they are throwing in their \$20.00 worth (inflation don't ya know). All in all it is enough to make a normal rational person sick.

We get bombarded by news that talks about popular vote vs electoral vote vs delegates and it sends your head to spinning. Because of the inundation of the media we soon start to feel that our vote doesn't mean anything. The truth of the matter is that every vote does count. In the small county that I live in we had a school levy that went in front of the voters. It was a hotly contested issue as one side saw the levy as wasteful spending by the school board while the other side saw it as needed funding to support our schools. After all the votes were counted the measure passed by 42 votes. For good or bad the measure passed. All 42 people had to do was not care and the schools don't get extra funding. What do my ramblings really mean?? Every vote counts. On election days I recommend that everyone get out and vote. You may not want to vote for whoever is running for president, vice president, dog catcher, whoever, but there may be vital decisions to be made on the ballot that will directly affect you.

Please continue to serve your country by getting out and VOTE.



Happy Birthday

America



Jack Lucas 1928 ~ 2008

Marine was 17 when he earned Medal of Honor for throwing himself at grenades to protect comrades

By Chris Talbott
Associated Press

June 6, 2008

JACKSON, Miss. — Jack Lucas, who at 14 lied his way into military service during World War II and became the youngest Marine to receive the Medal of Honor, died Thursday in a hospital in Hattiesburg, Miss. He was 80.

Mr. Lucas had been battling cancer and died shortly after midnight after he requested doctors remove a dialysis machine, his wife, Ruby, said.

Jacklyn "Jack" Lucas was six days past his 17th birthday in February 1945 when his heroism at Iwo Jima earned him the nation's highest military honor. He used his body to shield three fellow squad members from two grenades, and was nearly killed when one exploded.

"A couple of grenades rolled into the trench," Mr. Lucas said in an Associated Press interview shortly before he received the medal from President Harry Truman in October 1945. "I hollered to my pals to get out and did a Superman dive at the grenades. I wasn't a Superman after I got hit. I let out one hell of a scream when that thing went off."

Mr. Lucas was left with more than 250 pieces of shrapnel in his body and every major organ, including six pieces in his brain and two in his heart, and endured 26 surgeries in the following months.

Mr. Lucas became a symbol of patriotism in the decades after the war, meeting presidents and traveling the world to speak with frontline soldiers and veterans.

Mr. Lucas forged his mother's signature on an enlistment waiver and joined the Marines at 14. Military censors discovered his age through a letter to his 15-year-old girlfriend.

"They had him driving a truck in Hawaii because his age was discovered and they threatened to send him home," said D.K. Drum, who wrote Mr. Lucas' story in the 2006 book "Indestructible." "He said if they sent him home, he would just join the Army and give the Army the benefit of his good Marine training."

Mr. Lucas eventually stowed away aboard a Navy ship headed for combat in the Pacific Ocean. He turned himself in to avoid being listed as a deserter and volunteered to fight.

"They did not know his age. He didn't give it up and they didn't ask," Drum said.

After the war, Mr. Lucas earned a business degree from High Point University in North Carolina and raised, processed and sold beef in the Washington, D.C., area. In the 1960s, he joined the Army and became a paratrooper, Drum said, to conquer his fear of heights.

THE MORNING AFTER

Here it is! The day you have been working towards your entire career. It is the end of your tour. Whether it was 4 years ago or 20 plus years ago when you were standing on yellow or red footprints or in a stadium type setting starting the journey that you are soon completing. It may have been an IED along side the road, a bullet during a fire-fight, an end of tour or that event at the end of every long military career, a retirement ceremony. Whichever of these things happen there “Has to Be a Morning After” comes into sharp focus. For those warriors wounded in battle, requiring extend care and rehabilitation there comes physically and emotionally trying times trying to “heal”. For those too seriously injured to continue a military career, they face the long hard road of rehabilitation, medical boards, rehabilitation, prosthetics, and more rehabilitation as well as the simple but poignant aspect of dealing with the loss of a limb or physical capability. Whichever path you take to leave the military it all looks the same - you have your shadow box ready to go up on the wall, your uniforms are all folded and ready for permanent storage and you are free to do whatever you want. The stirring speeches have been heard, the sound of the band retreating to the tap of a drum and the pomp and circumstance is starting to fade into memory. The moving van pulls up to your house. You and your personal possessions are headed out the door! You now are FREE! The long open road beckons to you.

After a month or so the “freedom” has worn off, the open road has become boring, or worse full of twists and turns and you and your checkbook start to get that itchy feeling that you need to do something. That itchy feeling may be because your pay has suddenly been cut by 70%, the kids are getting ready to go to school or college and new “big” bills are looming ahead or you are just bored. The question that now comes to mind for a lot of us at this point is “Now what do I do”? So we hit the streets, virgins at job hunting, a newly created resumes in hand, hoping beyond hope to use our military expertise to land ourselves that dreamed of – super satisfying, high paying job.

Reality like a brick wall on a racetrack looms ahead of us, and a large portion of former military and retirees run into it at warp speed. Most of the job specialties that we have in the military just don’t convert to civilian jobs (There is not much call for a sniper, a gunners mate or nuclear weapons specialist) and if the job does convert it means going back to school to relearn what we know so that we have that vaunted piece of paper that says we know what we know. Of course the exceptions to the rule are those professions such as doctor, lawyer, or a civil engineer. The rest of us walk into the local employment office or hit the want ads and pound pavement to get a job. It is a humbling experience when a person who, 30, 60, or 90 days ago, was in charge of millions of dollars worth of equipment, dozens to hundreds of personnel, experience and position that allowed the Almighty to ask us for advice. We had security clearances that would allow you to know everything (including where Elvis is and who shot JFK) and we are informed that we are qualified to work at a fast food joint or to be a night watchman somewhere, but unless we want to get “retrained” we don’t have any jobs available. At this point don’t even think about pay. (your either not qualified enough or too qualified - “I’m sorry but with your qualifications we could not pay you a decent salary so we will not be able to hire you”, sound familiar?)

Military members getting ready for retirement or just getting out of the service need to think seriously about where they are going to live and what they are going to do when they grow up. This thinking should be taking place at the 15 to 16 year mark for retirees and at 12 months out from separation for those just getting out . Too many times in my career I saw individuals retire with 20 – 30 years of service and have no idea where they were going or what they would be doing. They also don’t have any equity in a home. (most lived on base). You have got to have some kind of plan before the moving van shows up. Sit down with your spouse and or family and think about where you want to live. Do I want to be near a base? East Coast VS West Coast?? Near a big city or as far away from the big city as I can get? What happens if I get sick or injured? Do my kids need schooling and what kind of schools will be near where I want to live? Will TRICARE cover me or do I need supplement insurance? The list can goes on and on and on for miles, and for every question you find an answer for three more pop up that demand immediate if not sooner attention.

Remember, unlike fairy tales where they lived happily ever after, here in the real world there always is a morning after.

Stephen Higgins (baldheadedsquid)
HMC(SW/FMF)
USN, Retired

From the desk of the Editor

June 28, 2008

First of all let me apologize for the lateness of this edition. Sometimes life comes at you and things get put on the back burner and it takes time for everything to get done. I do hope that you enjoy reading Scuttlebutt each month as it is one project that I truly enjoy working on. The time I have spent on the Corpsman.com website has meant so much to me as a veteran and as the parent of a Corpsman. I am online most of the time due to the nature of my job which means I am on and off the site A LOT! I get the chance to see many members as they pass through during the days and evenings. I enjoy reading the banter in the Chat Box and the many messages that are posted. (Yes, I do read them all) I don't always post replies because it isn't in my nature to post just for the sake of posting BUT believe me I do read each and EVERY post on the site.

I hope you enjoy Corpsman.com as much as I do. It isn't every site like this one that can offer all that it does at no cost to it's members. Which is why I am writing today, Corpsman.com is a FREE site, the maintenance and upkeep for this site is totally paid for through donations and clicks on the sponsored ads at the top of each page (the Yahoo! Ads). If every person took the time to click on 2-3 ads each time they came onto the site the bills for the site would be paid. All you have to do is click on one of the ads - let it completely load, then give the page a look over. Then Click your back button and head back to the Corpsman.com page you were perusing when you clicked on that ad. Do that a couple times a day and help us keep Corpsman.com the great site it is.

Thank you for all you do for Corpsman.com - without you, the members, this site wouldn't be the best place on the web for support and networking for past, present and future enlisted medical personnel.

Respectfully,
DeeDee Reno
Editor
Scuttlebutt

Reunion Notice

The American Association of Navy Hospital Corpsman (AAoNHC)

Annual Reunion

September 17-21, 2008

Corpus Christi, Texas

Contact Gene Pasahow (P) 361 852-8416

Email: epasahow@stx.rr.com or visit AAoNHC.org

All Corpsman (past & present) are welcome. Would love to have you join us.

Best wishes,
Awtrey Peace
HMC USN (Ret)



Photo courtesy of the family of Andrew Shields

Pvt. A. Shields



HN M. Retmier

Corpsman.com Salutes 4 Heroes



Who Gave Their All

HN D. Burnett



Sgt Connolly



Courtesy of Connolly family / Courtesy of Connolly family

From NavyTimes.com

Bush signs war funding, GI Bill overhaul

By Rick Maze - Staff writer

Posted : Monday Jun 30, 2008 10:17:41 EDT

A \$162 billion war funding bill that includes a \$63 billion overhaul of GI Bill education benefits was signed Monday by President Bush.

“The bill shows even in an election year, Republicans and Democrats can come together to stand behind our troops,” Bush said, predicting the GI Bill increases would be a boost to military recruiting and also a boon to families if educational benefits are transferred to family members.

The signing of HR 2642 brings an end to a Pentagon cash-flow crisis that threatened to disrupt military and civilian payroll, cancel or delay maintenance, and postpone nonessential training and travel.

And, for the first time since the Vietnam War, there will be a completely free veterans’ education benefit program that pays enough to fully cover the cost of getting a four-year college degree.

There was a lot of back-patting as the Senate gave final approval to the measure Thursday with a 92-6 vote, but the lawmaker getting and appearing to deserve the greatest praise for the GI Bill initiative was Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., a freshman senator and Vietnam veteran who said he was just trying to give combat veterans the benefits they deserve.

“Eighteen months ago, we began with the simple concept that those who have been serving since 9/11 should have the same opportunity for a first-class educational future as those who served during World War II,” Webb said before Thursday’s vote. “Today, we have accomplished that goal. I would like to emphasize that this is not simply an expansion of veterans’ educational benefits. This is a new program, a deserved program.”

Bush praised Webb and Republican senators John Warner of Virginia, Richard Burr of North Carolina, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and John McCain of Arizona for working out the GI Bill compromise.

After a lot of debate, lawmakers have decided the new GI Bill program will be called the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, the name Webb used when he first introduced the bill in January 2007, shortly after he took office. While the name is cumbersome and doesn’t appear suited for a spiffy acronym, congressional aides who worked on the bill said some veterans groups objected to calling it the 21st Century GI Bill of Rights, a name used by many supporters, because an education-only benefits plan is nothing like the original World War II GI Bill of Rights, which included education and unemployment benefits, loans to buy a home or start a business, and other readjustment benefits.

Bits and Pieces

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a dust-buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

Happy 110th Birthday Hospital Corpsman

Birth Announcement

WELCOME ABOARD

Noah Sebastian Gugino
May 26th 2008 @ 1804
6lb 13oz 20 inches

Parents:
EM2 Joseph Gugino (USS Enterprise)
and Victoria Gugino (Former HM3/USN)
(RedHeadedDoc)



Have something for sale? Barter? Giving away?
Looking for Something? Someone?
Have a job opening that someone here may be qualified for?
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Have an interesting story or information to share with EVERYONE?
Have kudos for someone you want to tell the world?

Email to editor@corpsman.com and read it here in the
next edition of Scuttlebutt

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