

Volume 23, Number 03

Member Florida Press Association

## Army Staff Sergeant Clinton L Romesha Medal Of Honor Recipient



Former Army Staff Sgt. Clinton L. Romesha applauds as he points out surviving members of his unit to stand during a ceremony at the Pentagon, Feb. 12, 2013, recognizing him for receiving the Medal of Honor.

DOD photo by Glenn Fawcett

## Top It Off In French



A French air force Mirage 2000 aircraft prepares to refuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft during a mission to support French operations over Mali, Africa, Feb. 2, 2013. The aircraft crew is assigned to the 100th Air Refueling Wing.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Austin M. May

## Different Type of Neighborhood Watch



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Robert Wolfe provides rooftop security during a meeting in Farah City, Afghanistan, Feb. 25, 2013. Wolfe, a platoon leader, is assigned to Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah.

U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Matthew Stroup

**A VETERAN is someone who, at one point in his or her life, Wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of "up to and including their life"! tcc**



## Save The Last Dance For Me



Servicemen and their daughters hit the dance floor during "A Night in the Spotlight," the San Diego Armed Services YMCA Father and Daughter Dance in San Diego, Feb. 16, 2013. More than 450 military fathers attended the 7th annual event.

USN photo by Petty Officer 1st Class James R. Evans

## Not The Hair Of The Dog



Royal Thai Marine Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Pairroj Prasansai, right, feeds cobra blood, which can be a useful source of energy, to U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Jerry Clark during a jungle survival course in Ban Chan Krem, Chantaburi province, Kingdom of Thailand, Feb. 17, 2013. The class was to help teach U.S. Marines basic jungle survival techniques as part of Exercise Cobra Gold 2013.

USMC photo by Sgt. Matthew Troyer

## Who Needs A Road?



U.S. soldiers maneuver their Stryker vehicles through the snow during squad training at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, Feb. 13, 2013.

U.S. Army photo by Markus Rauchenberger



Veterans Post News **FIRST CLASS MAIL**  
1441 Dr MLK Jr Street South **U.S. Postage Paid**  
Saint Petersburg FL 33705 **VeteransPostNews.com**

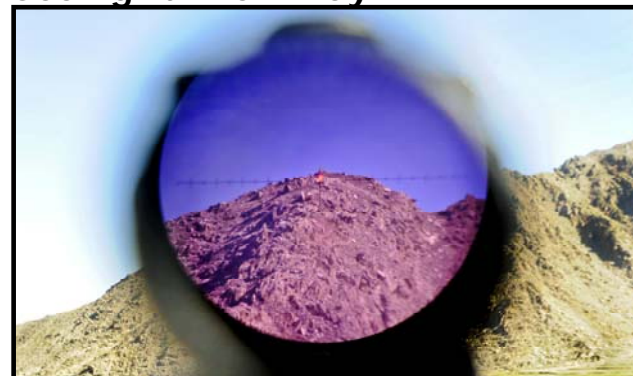
## Border Patrol - Elsewhere



Army SFC James L. Henderson, facing, informs his men to assist Afghan border police on a highway in the Spin Boldak district of Afghanistan's Kandahar province, Feb. 21, 2013. They're assigned to Blackfoot Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Hamann

## Seeing It Their Way



The optic lens on a U.S. soldier's weapon shows view of an old Russian observation point from the Marawara District Center in Kunar province, Afghanistan, Feb. 7, 2013.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jon Heinrich.



**They Dared To Fly**

Story and Photos by Diana Galvin, VPN Staff



**Macon Belle Flown by Lee Archer**

Fantasy of Flight hosted They Dared to Fly, an exhibit featuring three of the Tuskegee Airmen, February 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>.

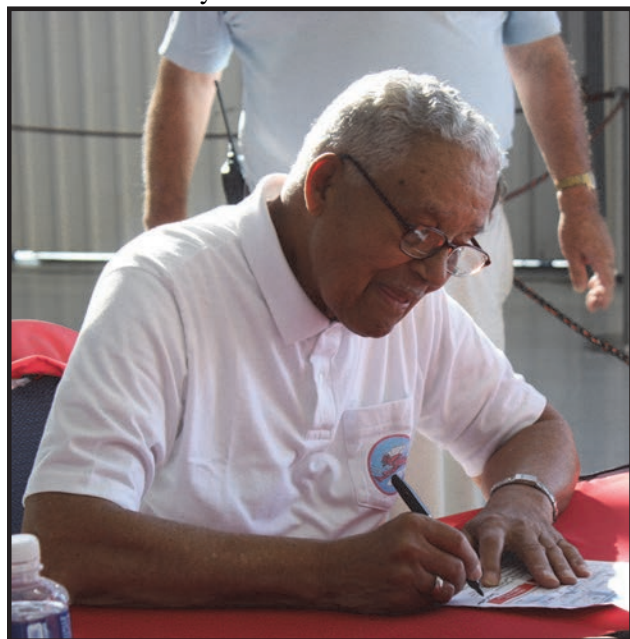
In honor of Black History Month, They Dared to Fly was featured as the first part of Legends & Legacies, a symposium series. The airmen spoke on their experiences with racism, integration and the movies meant to capture their part of history.



**Barrington A. Irving Jr.**

The youngest and first black person to pilot a plane solo around the world, Barrington A. Irving Jr., moderated the panels. Irving started out with a quote by Craig Wiesner, an historian.

"The Tuskegee airmen fought two enemies, those against whom we were waging war, and their own American compatriots, whose prejudice and discrimination provided a daily reminder that the land of the free and the home of the brave were still a land and home bitterly divided."



**Col. Charles McGee gives autograph**

Col. Charles McGee remembers one winter when 178 white pilots were forced to land on his base. Determined to maintain segregation, these men tried to sleep in their planes. Come 10 p.m., many of them came knocking on doors for more comfortable accommodations. This group had to stay for four nights to wait out the storm.

While integration was a positive result of these events, it was not the goal of the Tuskegee airmen. "We didn't go into it thinking, 'We're going to set the world on fire,'" McGee said.



**Kenneth Penman and Trent Johnson**

Kenneth Penman, a 62-year-old air force Veteran from the audience, asked "How did you fight for a country that wouldn't fight for you?"

The overall consensus was that America was their country, no matter how it treated them. The three men wanted to fight for America. Lt. Col. George Hardy said he had no doubts about going into service because, as McGee said, America was the only country they knew.



**Lt. Col. George Hardy**

"A lot of people thought because we were black, things were different," Lt. Col. Leo Gray said.



**Lt. Col. Leo Gray**

As Gray said, everyone had to be cream of the crop, white or black. Only above average people, mostly college graduates went into the Tuskegee Airmen program. A prerequisite for jet pilot training was to take a year of college courses. Many of the airmen did great things after retiring. Cliff Warden, one of the airmen, was the first black CEO of a Fortune 500 company.

On how these three men ended up flying planes, McGee and Gray said they had only seen planes in the movies. Gray compared pilots in those days to astronauts in modern times. Hardy built planes growing up and had not even driven a car before piloting a plane. Hardy passed the cadet exam at 17 and started flying planes at 18.

These men were 18 a long time ago, and since then, movies have been made in their honor. Gray had the most to say about these movies, especially "Red Tails," a 2012 Hollywood film. Gray recommended the HBO film "Double Victory" and the documentary "In their Own Words."

One of the audience members from a student group asked if these men felt going into WWII was the right decision. Gray felt it probably was.

Penman, who drove all the way from Miami to Polk City to see the airmen, called the men national treasures and wanted to thank them for their service.



**Entrance to Fantasy of Flight**

Trent Johnson, 48-year-old retired Air Force Major, brought his ROTC students from Andrew Jackson High School in Jacksonville so they could experience living history by meeting the men who paved the way for their service in the military.

"I wanted my students to see the sacrifices the Tuskegee airmen made so they can have the lifestyle they have today," Johnson said.

Despite the hardships of the time, McGee, Hardy and Gray agreed that they made the right choice by joining the Tuskegee airmen. McGee made a reference to the movies about the airmen when telling the audience how he felt.

"I couldn't have written a script for better opportunities."

**Support Grows For U.S. 'Drone Court' To Stop Lethal Strikes On U.S. Citizens**

During a fresh round of debate over Obama's claim that he can unilaterally order lethal strikes by unmanned aircraft against U.S. citizens, some lawmakers proposed a middle ground: a special federal "drone court" that would approve suspected militants for targeting.

While the idea of a judicial review of such operations may be gaining political currency, multiple U.S. officials said that imminent action by the U.S. Congress or the White House to create one is unlikely.

**CAIR-NJ Seeks Hate Crime Probe Of Graffiti At Muslim Student Group's Office**

The New Jersey Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NJ) called on state and federal law enforcement authorities to investigate anti-Muslim graffiti found on a Muslim student group's office door as a hate crime. CAIR-NJ said someone drew an image of planes hitting the World Trade Center on the door of the Muslim Student Association's office in the Montclair State University Student Center. The university's Bias Response Team is looking into the incident.

**Clerk's Note:** Hate crime? We don't think so. Was the drawing about your religion? Your Country of Origin? Your mosque? Your affection for farm animals? Your total disregard for treating females like human beings? Your lack of respect for any religion but your own? Was it about allah or mohammad? How about prayer rugs or the pillow cases you wear on your heads? Sorry guys, here in America we call it defacing property... Since it was also a drawing of an actual event and **YOU THINK** of it as a Hate Crime, are you feeling guilty about it? Are you taking responsibility for it? If you say yes to that, then the fine people in NJ will make the graffiti on your door the very least of your problems.

# VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION

*What the VA is not telling you*

- ★ *You are entitled to a 100% rating if you can't work due to your service connected disabilities.*
- ★ *The VA typically underrates PTSD and mental claims at 30% or below.*
- ★ *You are often entitled to additional compensation for various secondary conditions caused by your service connected disability.*

Call us for more information on these and other common VA mistakes

[www.lawyers4veterans.com](http://www.lawyers4veterans.com)

**800-953-6224**

**BOSLEY & BRATCH**

★ *Lawyers for Veterans* ★



# ATTENTION VETERANS WITH MEDICARE (PARTS A and B?)

**YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO  
RECEIVE UP TO**

**\$99.90**

**REIMBURSED INTO YOUR  
SOCIAL SECURITY OR  
SSD CHECK EACH MONTH  
(\$1198.80 PER YEAR)**

**GET THE FACTS!!!  
CALL  
DAVE SILVER  
813-417-2716**

#### **Military Kids Web Site Also Helps Parents, Educators**



The Defense Department's web site for military children has added new features to help parents and educators explain difficult topics of the military lifestyle to children.

Since its launch in January 2012, [www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org](http://www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org) has served more than 125,000 visitors and won five industry excellence awards. To mark the one-year anniversary, the web site added new content designed for children, parents and educators, officials said. The new features include:

- Military culture videos and lesson plans for teachers, school counselors, and educators to better understand the differences between military and civilian youth;
- Graphic novels and mini-documentaries by military kids sharing their experiences, and;
- New modules for children and parents on handling grief, loss and physical injury.

The web site, created by the Defense Department's National Center for Telehealth and Technology, known as T2, uses innovative ways to help military youth cope with the unique strains of military life. In addition to disruptions from parents deploying to assignments away from home,

military children are affected by moving frequently, changing schools and making new friends. They also have to live with readjustment issues when a parent returns from deployments. These issues may include post-traumatic stress and physical disabilities.

"After watching the interaction with kids on MilitaryKidsConnect this past year, we saw many conversations about trying to understand the issues they live with," said Dr. Kelly Blasko, a T2 psychologist. "We developed the added features to help parents and teachers answer the questions the kids were sharing with each other."

Blasko said the web site is continuing to add features and information to military children with the special challenges of living in a military family. Separations, moving and changing friends frequently may be unusual for civilian children, but it's a normal lifestyle for military children. The web site helps them live in that world and, hopefully, makes it more fun for them, Blasko added.

The National Center for Telehealth and Technology serves as the primary Defense Department office for cutting-edge approaches in applying technology to psychological health.

#### **Pentagon Cutting Jobs, Maintenance Due To Budget Fears**



The Pentagon has begun laying off many of its 46,000 temporary and contract workers and delaying maintenance on aircraft and ships to slow spending due to fears it may be hit by new budget cuts, Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said. The Pentagon also plans to formally notify Congress in the next few weeks that if further budget cuts take place on March 1, it will furlough most of its 800,000 full-time civilian employees, probably by asking them to take a day off per week for the last 22 weeks of the fiscal year, Carter said.

#### **Gerald R. Ford Reaches Key Milestone**

By Rear Adm. Tom Moore, Program Executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers



(U.S.N. photo courtesy Huntington Ingalls Industries)

Huntington Ingalls Industries celebrated significant progress yesterday as the 555-metric ton island was lowered onto the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier **Gerald R. Ford** (CVN 78) at the company's Newport News Shipbuilding Division, in Virginia.

The 60-foot long, 30-foot wide island was the 452nd lift of the nearly 500 total lifts needed to complete the aircraft carrier.

#### **UAVs Could Help Safeguard U.S. Highways OR Big Brother Is Watching**

A recent project to study the use of unmanned aerial vehicles to aid in the patrolling of the 4 million miles of U.S. highways has received a grant from the Federal Highway Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation. Javier Irizarry, director of the CONECTech Lab at the Georgia Institute of Technology, said that UAVs equipped with small cameras could inspect bridges or survey traffic conditions.

Meanwhile, flight training schools and community colleges have added courses on unmanned aerial vehicles. The FAA predicts that more than 10,000 UAVs will be operating in the U.S. in the next few years. While only three schools offer full degrees in UAV piloting, more than 350 other programs offer other training for UAVs.



**USS Thach Deploys To 4th Fleet In Support Of Operation Martillo**



The Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate **USS Thach** (FFG 43) arrived Jan. 20 to the 4th Fleet's Area of Responsibility (AOR) for a scheduled six-month deployment to conduct Operation Martillo.

**Thach's** crew of 220 sailors and its embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment Team (LEDET) will conduct Counter-transnational Organized Crime (C-TOC) operations designed to improve maritime stability within the region and protect free use of the sea lanes by thwarting the activities of drug traffickers and criminal organizations.

**Air Mobility Command Investigates Airman's Death At MacDill AFB**



The Air Mobility Command has convened a ground accident investigation board (GAIB) that will look into the death of Staff Sgt. Emily Elizabeth Clayburn earlier this month at MacDill AFB, Fla. Clayburn died on Jan. 14 in a mishap on the supply loading dock at the base. The 29-year-old airman from Palatine Bridge, N.Y., was a member of MacDill's 6th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

"There is not yet enough evidence gathered to draw any conclusions as to the cause of this accident. Additional information will be released as it becomes available," states the AMC's release.

Lt. Gen. Robert Allardice, the AMC's vice commander, convened a safety investigation board (SIB) immediately after the accident to determine the cause and recommend measures to prevent a recurrence. The SIB will not produce a publicly releasable report, according to the AMC. There will be a publicly released version of the GAIB report after Allardice approves it and AMC officials have personally presented its findings to the Clayburn family, states the release.

Staff Sgt. Clayburn was laid to rest on Jan. 21, at the Evergreen Cemetery, in Fonda, N.Y.

**Veterans Village Helps Veterans! Will YOU Help Veterans Village?**

**They Need Roofing Shingles. Have Some To Give? 727-822-8387**

**Are You Going To Help? Please Do Something Veterans, Friends & Folks That Don't Think To Highly Of Me, I have recently learned that Diabetes affects Veterans at more than Twice the Rate of the General Population.**

For that reason alone, I am asking you to assist me in raising funds to find a cure. If you know a family member or friend that has Diabetes, then you know how important this is.

I will be riding my bicycle in the 'Tour de Cure' on Sunday, April 7th, either in the 62 or 100 mile event, depending upon your support. The more money raised will have me riding farther and farther. If you truly want to see me bust my butt... Then donate a bunch!

<http://main.diabetes.org/goto/Clerk>

If you really want to see me 'Crash & Burn', then by all means necessary, forward this page on to others and let them know how they too can bring this event to Victory... OR me left on the side of the road in shame.

So I am asking very nicely to **Please** go to American Diabetes Association web link listed above and give what you can.

Minimum donation is only \$5.

Phillip Meskin  
Company Clerk  
Veterans Post News  
Veterans Village Project

*Selective Thoughts*  
**Inspirational Gifts for All Occasions**  
*Stop By And See Us At...*  
**Bay Pines VA - Mar 05-09**  
**Orlando VA - Mar 21-23**  
**Tampa VA - Mar 26-30**  
**863-668-9203**  
**We Now Carry & Order...**  
**Military Caps and Pins!**

**KWV Chapter 14 Elected Officer 2013-14**

The Korean War Veterans, Suncoast Chapter 14, has announced their newly elected Officers for the year serving 2013-14.

- Joe Slatton President
- Everett Dewitt First Vice President
- Conrad Gifford Second Vice President
- David Smith Treasurer
- Joan Arcand Secretary

They meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7PM, VFW 4364 Hall, 5773 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave North, Saint Petersburg, FL.

Korean War Veterans and Post Korean War Servicemen serving in Korea, are encouraged to join by attending a meeting.

Their year round activities include; An Honor Guard, Color Guard, R.O.T.C. High School Education Programs, Annual Dinner and Annual Picnic.

You can contact President Slatton at 727-345-4845.

**There Are Always Two Sides...**

Israeli soldiers shot dead a 21-year-old palestinian woman near the West Bank city of Hebron and wounded another local youth, Palestinian medics said.

Witnesses said Lubna Hanash and her companions were walking to the al-Arroub College when men in Israeli military uniforms traveling in a civilian car shot at the group.

And so the above was reported by the palestinian news team. What they did not say was that the other 'local Youth' was a 23 year old male.

When an Israeli army spokeswoman was asked about the incident, she said the video surveillance footage showed those two palestinians had thrown petrol bombs (Molotov Cocktails) at the soldiers, who then opened fire.

**It Must Be Israels Fault**

Syria's 22-month civil war has ravaged vital infrastructure and halved the output of staple crops, the United Nations said, under-scoring the lasting damage from which the country will take years to recover.

What began as a peaceful protest movement against President Bashar al-Assad has killed more than 60,000 people, devastated the economy and left 2.5 million people hungry.

**Clerk's Note:** That comes close to almost 3,000 a month dead. The article also leaves out the fact that another half million have been wounded and several million displaced. None of this actually makes the liberal news and they should be the ones jumping up and down with all these murders and maiming...

But no matter how busy a news day, if Israel kills just one ass-wipe even on a suicide mission, everyone freaks out.

**Social Security Disability**  
-Long & Short Term Disability  
-Veterans Disability Appeals  
-Personal Injury  
-VA and Non-VA Medical Malpractice  
**GIANNET LAW FIRM, P.A.**  
5326 GULF DRIVE, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA 34652  
Admitted to practice before:  
-Supreme Court of the United States of America  
-United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit  
-United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida  
-United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit  
-United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims  
-Former Assistant State Attorney/Prosecutor, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuits of FL  
-Former Judicial Law Clerk, U. S. Court of Appeals, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
-Former Substitute General Magistrate, 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of FL  
-Former Judicial Staff Attorney for the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of FL  
-Former Intern, U. S. Attorney's Office Middle District of FL  
-Former Member, The Florida Bar Committee of Professionalism  
-Former Member, The FL Bar Committee on Professional Ethics  
**Loula D. Giannet**  
Attorney & Counselor at Law Since 1996  
**727-844-LAWS (5297)**  
**866-781-HURT (4878)**  
www.giannet.com

Organization	Unit	Meeting Location	City/State	Meeting Times	Phone	Commander	E-Mail or Web
American Legion	111	6918 Florida Avenue	Tampa	1st Wed. - 7:00 PM	813-236-2281	Dennis Scruggs	
American Legion	119	130 1st Avenue Southwest	Largo	2nd Tue. - 8:00 PM	727-584-2038	Mark Bloomer	<a href="http://www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmlEq119.htm">www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmlEq119.htm</a>
American Legion	125	6440 5th Avenue South	Saint Petersburg	3rd Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-347-6085	John Sloat	<a href="http://Legion125@tampabay.rr.com">Legion125@tampabay.rr.com</a>
American Legion	147	17413 Gunn Highway	Odessa	1st Thur. - 7:30 PM	813-920-4512	Sal Poliandro	
American Legion	252	11433 Park Boulevard	Seminole	2nd & 4th Tue. - 7:00 PM	727-398-2463	Larry Burmaster	<a href="mailto:post252@tampabay.rr.com">post252@tampabay.rr.com</a>
American Legion	273	600 American Legion Drive	Madeira Beach	1st Tue. - 7:00 PM	727-391-3670	Bobby Blanco	
American Legion Auxiliary	111	6918 Florida Avenue	Tampa	1st Thur. - 7:00 PM	813-236-2281	Louise Wilt	
American Legion Auxiliary	119	130 1st Avenue Southwest	Largo	1st Tue. - 7:30 PM	727-584-2038	Sue Heisler	<a href="http://www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmlEq119a.htm">www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmlEq119a.htm</a>
American Legion Auxiliary	125	6440 5th Avenue South	Saint Petersburg	2nd Tues. - 7:00 PM	727-347-6085	Cricket Leonard	<a href="http://Legion125@tampabay.rr.com">Legion125@tampabay.rr.com</a>
American Legion Auxiliary	147	17413 Gunn Highway	Odessa	1st Thur. - 7:30 PM	813-920-4512	Dawn Poscich	
Sons of the American Legion	119	130 1st Avenue Southwest	Largo	4th Tue. - 7:00 PM	727-584-2038	Mike 'Doc' Bowen	<a href="http://www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmlEq119s.htm">www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmlEq119s.htm</a>
AmVets	26	221 South Dover Road	Dover, FL 33527	2nd Sat. - 10:00 AM	813-662-2626	Boats Johnson	<a href="http://www.amvets26.org">www.amvets26.org</a>
AmVets	98	4629 Bartelt Road	Holiday	2nd Sun. - 10:00 AM	727-943-5863	Rudy Drouin	<a href="http://www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmVets98.htm">www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmVets98.htm</a>
AmVets Auxiliary	98	4629 Bartelt Road	Holiday	2nd Sun. - 10:00 AM	727-271-1902	Joyce Chadwell	
Army Navy Union	3697	12850 Wallsingham Road	Largo FL 33774	1st Sun. - 10:30 AM	727-216-6172	Troy Lowe	
Army Navy Union Auxiliary	3697	12850 Wallsingham Road	Largo FL 33774	2nd Sun. - 10:30 AM	727-216-6172	Judi Payne	
Disabled American Veterans	004	2612 North Tampa Street	Tampa	2nd Tue. - 1:00 PM	813-223-4059	Angel Rivera	
Disabled American Veterans	078	6711 Jefferson Street	New Port Richey	1st Thur. - 7:00 PM	727-845-3886	Al Bedor	
Disabled American Veterans	083	115 West Clay	Brandon	1st Mon7pm-3rd Mon6:30Din	813-684-3387	Bennie Golson	
Disabled American Veterans	103	360 Douglas Avenue	Dunedin	2nd Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-733-5108	Carl Kingsley	
Disabled American Veterans Aux	078	6711 Jefferson Street	New Port Richey	1st Thur. - 7:00 PM	727-845-3886	Cheryl Gilliland	
Disabled American Veterans Aux	083	115 Clay Avenue	Brandon, FL	1st Mon7pm-3rd Mon6:30Din	813-684-3387	LuAnna Huddelston	<a href="mailto:glob4760@verizon.net">glob4760@verizon.net</a>
Jewish War Veterans	373	James A Haley VA Hospital	Tampa	3rd Sun. - 9:30 AM	813-767-2605	Leon Blumberg	<a href="mailto:fourhorns1@msn.com">fourhorns1@msn.com</a>
Korean War Veterans Assoc.	014	VFW 4364@ 5773 62nd Street North	Saint Petersburg	3rd Thur. - 7:00 PM	727-345-4845	Joe Slatton	
Korean War Veterans Assoc.	159	VFW 9272 @ 10997 72 Ave N	Seminole, FL	2nd Thur. - Noon	727-584-7143	Peter Palmer	<a href="http://www.VeteransPostNews.com/FrontPage.htm">www.VeteransPostNews.com/FrontPage.htm</a>
Korean War Veterans Assoc.	199	@AmLeg 24 - 2000 75th Street West	Bradenton	4th Thur. - 7:00 PM	941-795-5061	Thomas Hannon	<a href="mailto:skip-pat-han@hotmail.com">skip-pat-han@hotmail.com</a>
Marine Corps League	1002	@VFW 9236 - 3435 Shoal Line Blvd	Hernando Bch, FL	1st Mon. - 7:00 PM	352-686-2186	Les Homan	<a href="http://www.VeteransPostNews.com/MCL1002a.htm">www.VeteransPostNews.com/MCL1002a.htm</a>
Marine Corps League	1226	@AmLeg 148 7240 US-Hwy 301	Riverview, FL	1st Tue. - 7:00 PM	813-672-1778	Debra Steele	<a href="mailto:mclriverview@yahoo.com">mclriverview@yahoo.com</a>
Mental Health Advisory Council		Bay Pines Bldg 1, Rm A203	Bay Pines, FL	3rd Thur. - 2:30 PM	727-585-5332	Joe Burley	<a href="http://mhac-bp.com/">http://mhac-bp.com/</a>
Military Order of the Purple Heart	1980	@Paadise Post 79 5329 Legion Place	New Port Richey	2nd Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-255-4883	Greg Amira	<a href="mailto:Gregory.amira@us.army.mil">Gregory.amira@us.army.mil</a>
National Order of Trench Rats	446	4801 37th Street North	Saint Petersburg	4th Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-526-9870	John Golden	<a href="http://www.VeteransPostNews.com/NOTR446.htm">www.VeteransPostNews.com/NOTR446.htm</a>
Paralyzed Veterans of America	GCC	15435 North Florida Avenue	Tampa	3rd Thur. - 10:30 AM	813-264-1111	Wayne Webber	<a href="http://www.floridaqu Coastpa.org">www.floridaqu Coastpa.org</a>
The Retired Enlisted Association	58	Seascape Beach Club	MacDill AFB	3rd Tue. - 1:00 PM	813-684-5414	Louis Arana	<a href="http://www.VeteransPostNews.com/TREA58.htm">www.VeteransPostNews.com/TREA58.htm</a>
Veterans Memorial Park & Museum		3602 US Hwy. 301 North	Tampa	9:30 AM - 5:30 PM	813-744-5502	Leonard Black	
Veterans of Foreign Wars	39	2599 Central Avenue	Saint Petersburg	1st Wed. - 7:00 PM	727-327-8109	Janice 'JP' Pettit	<a href="http://vfwpost39.org/">http://vfwpost39.org/</a>
Veterans of Foreign Wars	2550	360 Douglas Avenue	Dunedin	3rd Tue. - 7:30 PM	727-733-6107	Dutch Grubbs	<a href="http://www.VFW2550.org">www.VFW2550.org</a>
Veterans of Foreign Wars	10167	4619 Bartlet Road	Holiday, FL	3rd Wed - 7:00 PM	727-938-5977	Bill Williams	<a href="http://www.VFW10167.com">www.VFW10167.com</a>
Veterans of Foreign Wars	10209	14736 Edward R. Noll Drive	Spring Hill	4th Wed. - 7:00 PM	352-796-0398	Louis Lessner	<a href="http://www.VFWpost10209.webs.com">www.VFWpost10209.webs.com</a>
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary	39	2599 Central Avenue	Saint Petersburg	2nd Sat. - 1:00 PM	727-327-8109	Jean Lee	<a href="http://vfwpost39.org/">http://vfwpost39.org/</a>
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary	10209	14736 Edward R. Noll Drive	Spring Hill	2nd Mon. - 7:00 PM	352-686-8657	Kathleen Alonzo	<a href="http://www.VFWpost10209.webs.com">www.VFWpost10209.webs.com</a>
Vietnam Veterans of America	787	4042 Park Oaks Boulevard	Tampa	4th Thur. - 7:00 PM	603-234-3363	Mike O'Dell	<a href="http://membership@vva787.com">membership@vva787.com</a>
Vietnam Veterans of America	1036	Lake Miona Rec Center	The Villages, FL	1st Tue. - 7:00 PM	352-633-1457	Pete Wagner	<a href="http://www.VVA1036.org">www.VVA1036.org</a>
WAVES	104		New Port Richey, FL	3rd Wed - 11:30 AM	727-943-0265	Gertrude Williams	<a href="mailto:Sanie@verizon.net">Sanie@verizon.net</a>



## The Good [Marine Corps] Wife Vs. The United States Of America



On July 31, 2008, Col. Michael Ross Stahlman, USMC, was found in his room at Camp Ramadi, Iraq with a gunshot wound to the left side of his head. The right-handed colonel died on . 5, 2008. Despite the fact that he never suffered from depression, within hours, investigators labeled the shooting a suicide attempt. They have stuck with that finding to this day, leaving his widow to bear the task of finding the truth.

As a Marine Corps wife, Kimberly Stahlman packed up and moved more times than most people could stomach. With each move, she immersed herself into her husband's lifestyle and kept the home fires burning all over the world. While the colonel was climbing the Marine Corps ladder, she put her master's degree in psychology to work by helping to develop the first victim's advocacy group in Okinawa, Japan. She also joined other officers' wives in organizing charity fund-raisers and attended endless social events to promote her husband's career. She even stepped forward to assume the role of president of the Parris Island Officers' Spouses Club when it was near collapse because nobody else wanted to assume leadership. She did all of this after enduring a difficult childbirth that left her with multiple health problems. In short, she was the epitome of a good Marine Corps wife.

Today, however, Kimberly is a Marine Corps widow and has come to believe that a widow's life is one the Marine Corps wants her to live in the shadows. In actuality, she would like to oblige them, but looming large is the ongoing investigation she has conducted into her husband's death. From the beginning, Kimberly didn't believe her husband shot himself and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) made it quite clear that she was on her own in pursuit of any other conclusion. Consequently, she joined forces with forensic experts and amassed considerable scientific evidence alleging that her husband was murdered. Despite this, the NCIS has stubbornly refused to consider the new evidence, and informed Kimberly "she could not change their minds no matter what kind of evidence she presents."

Left with no alternative, on Jan. 16, 2013, she filed an Administrative Procedures Action - or APA - with the U.S. District Court in Maryland. The APA is a law which allows a federal judge to review and reverse the decisions made by governmental agencies. Kimberly's lawsuit accuses the defendants, who include the NCIS and the Secretary of Defense with "acting in a manner that is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise, not in accordance with law."

Among the forensic issues are the number of shots fired in Col. Stahlman's room the morning of July 31, 2008. According to court documents, two bullets fired in the room. One went clear through the wall of his trailer and landed in pristine condition in the trailer next door, while another went through the colonel's head. On the other hand, the NCIS claims there was only one bullet fired that terrible morning, and it went through the colonel's head and several walls, before it landed unscathed in the trailer next door. We don't know, but it seems quite miraculous for a bullet to travel through so many obstacles without sustaining any damage.

The suit goes on to allege that investigators "conducted little or no investigation" into at least 20 different matters that would have accompanied a thorough investigation and followed DOD directives. Among them, the number of bullets remaining in the colonel's 9-mm. Apparently, the NCIS never counted them and subsequently did not examine his blood-soaked mattress for the presence of a second round. In addition, the suit claims that the blood spatter trajectory contradicts the NCIS' findings. It seems that Col. Stahlman's blood sprayed in a different direction from the bullet that the NCIS claims killed him. According to the forensic expert, Michael Maloney, this is an impossibility because blood always follows the same path as the bullet that causes the injury.

Whoever the judge deciding the APA turns out to be, he or she will be hard-pressed to not take Kimberly Stahlman seriously. After all, there is a certain irony to her steely determination. Life in the Marine Corps taught her to stand strong in the face of adversity even when the odds are stacked unfavorably. She lives the motto "Semper fi" and as a good Marine wife, has remained faithful. But unlike the Corps, she refuses to dishonor her husband by allowing a substandard investigation to go unchecked.

## Boy Scouts Of America Delays Vote On Lifting Gay Ban



The Boy Scouts of America delayed to May a vote on whether to end a long-standing controversial ban on gay participants, giving a membership deeply divided by the possible change more time to air their concerns. Board members for the private youth organization, which turns 103 years old tomorrow, had been expected to vote on the matter at a meeting Feb 6<sup>th</sup>. The Boy Scouts upheld the ban just last year amid sharp criticism from gay rights groups.

## Airmen Gear Up For B-1 Modification

By Airman 1st Class Charles V. Rivezzo, 7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs, Dyess AFB, Texas



Members of the 337th Test & Evaluation Sqdn are gearing up for the largest B-1 Lancer modification in program history, as part of the Integrated Battle Station and Sustainment-Block 16 upgrade.

Because of the magnitude of this upgrade, additional work is being done to make sure members of the 337th TES are ready to test and develop tactics needed to take full advantage of the new equipment and software.

Sustainment-Block 16, or SB-16, includes significant upgrades to the B-1, including the Fully Integrated Data Link and Central Integrated Test System in the aft station and the Vertical Situation Display Upgrade in the front station. Included under the umbrella of SB-16, the B-1 will also receive navigation, radar and diagnostic upgrades.

The VSDU upgrades the B-1's forward cockpit by replacing two un-supportable, monochrome pilot and co-pilot displays with four multi-functional color displays, giving the pilots more situational awareness data in a user-friendly format.

## Florida Airport Home To Working Propeller Planes

A dozen large propeller planes - including Douglas DC-3s and Convair 340s - are still in use at Opa-Locka Executive Airport in Dade County, Fla. The planes, which were the airlines' and military's workhorses of the 1940s and 1950s, fly cargo and sometimes respond to oil spills.

Opa-Locka's airport is steeped in aviation history; it was Amelia Earhart's starting point when attempting to fly around the world in 1937, and was home to a Naval Air Station during World War II. Today, it's the home of Coast Guard Air Station Miami, and the headquarters of the Florida Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

## Chief Of U.S. Navy Reserve Visits SEAL Team 17



Vice Adm. Robin Braun, the chief of the Navy Reserve, talked with the Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat Detachment's Oscar team after taking a San Diego bay harbor tour from Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, on Feb. 2. During her visit to Seal Team 17, she presented awards.

## Pentagon Delays Deployment Of Aircraft Carrier To The Middle East Over Budget Woes

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta delayed deployment of an aircraft carrier strike group to the Middle East due to budget uncertainty Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, hours after warning that financial concerns were a threat to U.S. security. The out-going Pentagon chief delayed the deployment of the USS **Harry S. Truman** aircraft carrier and the USS **Gettysburg** guided missile cruiser, which were due to leave Virginia later that week, because of uncertainty over the department's finances, Pentagon spokesman George Little said.

## Pentagon Will Extend (Some) Benefits To Same-Sex Couples



The Pentagon has decided to extend certain benefits to the spouses of gay and lesbian personnel, according to officials and people notified about the decision, responding to the increasingly vocal appeals of same-sex couples in the military. The military expects to announce the decision soon.

Officials at the Pentagon would not say which new benefits the department has determined it can extend to same-sex couples without violating the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), a 1996 law that bars the federal government from legally recognizing same-sex unions. Gay rights advocates have called for benefits including housing privileges, access to base recreational facilities and joint duty assignments for couples in the military. Legal experts say, however, that the Pentagon will be unable to extend more than 100 benefits while the Defense of Marriage Act remains in place.

## First Time Overseas For MacDill AFB's VIP Transport Unit



One of the C-37A executive jets assigned to the 310th Airlift Squadron, at MacDill AFB, Fla., along with 11 of the unit's airmen plus contractor support staff, deployed to Afghanistan, marking the squadron's first-ever overseas stint, said base officials. The contingent of all volunteers left MacDill AFB in late January and is expected to spend about three months in that theater shuttling senior U.S. military and government officials, states MacDill AFB's release.

"Since our squadron had never deployed with the C-37A, every process had to be built from scratch," said 310th AS commander Lt. Col. Derrick Hodges. "We had about five weeks' notice that we were tasked to fill this slot," he added.

The MacDill airmen relieved deployed crews from the 76th AS, at Ramstein AB, Germany, according to the release.

Experienced in Military Matters  
Bookkeeping & Notary Services

Tax Questions?  
Let Us Help!

Our Trouble Free  
Tax Services LLC

Call Or  
Stop By!

727.289.7261

4443 54th Avenue N

St. Petersburg, FL 33714

www.OurTroubleFreeTaxes.com

## ATTENTION ALL VETERANS And VA EMPLOYEES!



Bring in this AD and BAY PINES AUTO SALES  
will MATCH your downpayment up to \$500\*.

Bay Pines Auto Sales - 9565 Bay Pines Blvd St Pete FL 33708

727-851-9911

www.BAYPINESAUTO.com

Conveniently located across the street from the VA Hospital

\*on select vehicles/not redeemable for cash

## AVAST

Amputee Veterans of America Support Team

Are looking for a few good men and women  
amputees to try out for our COLOR GUARD.

"The only Amputee Color Guard in America"

Rudy Salas 813-928-1631 or

Doc Milligan 352-346-6194

TAMPA AND SURROUNDING. AREAS APPLY ONLY



The Small Print

**Caught In The Crosshairs!**

By Phillip Meskin

A story that hit the internet on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, about a photo that an Israeli sniper took of a possible target. The photo showed the back of a young man between the ages of 12 & 16 sitting on the ground not facing the shooter. Since it was a single photo that caught the eye of the liberal media (always taking things out of context) the headline read; *'Israeli Soldiers Target muslim Children'*. A few other photos (not published by the media) showed the young man working on a package in front of him between his legs.

Our very own Company Clerk responded to the *ABC News story* with the following;

"OMG... That poor child could be between the ages of 12 & 16.

That poor innocent child could have a weapon or bomb in front of it.

That poor innocent religious child could be one of tens of thousands of others of the muslim faith that have been indoctrinated into hatred of Everything Non muslim.

That poor child could be the next suicide bomber, since we already know that muslim's always adhere to human rights laws and have never beaten their women & children... Never maimed their women & children... Never raped & murdered their women & children...

These are peace loving people... And Israel has no right to look at their children carrying weapons, planting bombs...

muslims are honest people who have upon occasion (pointed out by the ultra-liberal NYT) taken bodies of children from a cold storage center (some of them several times) and placed them at scenes to show how Israel has murdered their children.

In one such incident, the 4 year old child died of a sickness/disease that could have been cured for free by an Israeli clinic, but the muslim mother was forced not to seek help from the Jews.

muslims don't use snipers... they just send rockets and suicide bombers into schools, market places, mosques, bus terminals, on bus's, on trains... Peace loving, human rights supporting my Asset!"

**Cell Phones... Not Protected By Privacy**

In a court ruling which has given a broad power to both the justice dept and criminals... The courts say that a cell phone is not like a 'Home' phone and thus not given the same privilege of privacy.

Where a court order is required for tapping a home phone line... Cell's are not as they are used in public surroundings and using public airways. The jury is still out if you have an expectation of privacy while using a cell phone in your car.

**Your car GPS works both ways...**

In a similar case where law enforcement kept track of someone's movement by using their car GPS system in real time... A vehicle travelling on public roadways being visible to everyone, including traffic cameras, etc., has no expectation of privacy.

Every piece of electronic equipment has a Unique MAC address (Media Access Control Address) that can be located, accessed and in some cases utilized or manipulated by someone with the correct equipment.

Big Brother is not only Watching, the Listen, Speak, Manipulate, Control and sometimes Mis-Use theirs and yours electronic equipment.

An example of lets say a good use... Someone using a late model vehicle robs a bank or kidnaps a small child. Instead of having those media loving car chases down the highway... The local law agency from either another vehicle or an aircraft, spots the getaway vehicle and 'Scans' it.

They read the MAC Address of the Vehicle, make a phone call or send it via computer to have the electronic systems of the vehicle shut down. They can even choose 'Where' they want the vehicle shut down. Vehicle sputters, stalls and rolls to a stop. Chase over before it began.

Further good use of this technology... Late model private aircraft. Plane's pilot becomes incapacitated and from a distant location, a remote pilot can override the controls and safely land the aircraft. This is something you might want to avoid if you are a smuggler of drugs or other items.

They can also put tracking chips in pets, bicycle's, luggage, and people. Now in case you are wondering if they will run out of these MAC Address's...

Here is your math education class for the month. A MAC address is 8 sets of two alpha/numeric digits. In other words a Letter and/OR a Number. Examples are; 1a, 2b, 9e, g2, k7, b3, p9, t0... Those are just potential future numbers/letters which is 36 choices (26 lessers and 10 numbers) per position or 1,296 possibilities for each set of two digits.

Then you multiply that by the next two positions or 1,296 and you get 1,679,616. Now taking that out to all 8 two set positions, you get a big number like; 7,958,661,109,946,400,884,391,936 different potential combinations for a MAC Address.

And now if you want to 'SAY' that number, here is what it will sound like; 7 Septillion, 958 Sextillion, 661 Quintillion, 109 Quadrillion, 946, Trillion, 400 Billion, 884 Million, 391 Thousand, 936.

Which comes to almost one quadrillion combinations, for every man, woman, child on the planet. So unless each of us owns more than 500 Trillion items each, everything we own, ever will own, will have a traceable number.

When you purchase a watch, radio, bike, drill, car, cell phone... The MAC address for that item will be transferred to your Name Account. Theft could actually be a thing of the past. If you report it stolen, they can 'Ping' the item, get it back, arrest who was in possession of it...

But remember, it works both ways... THEY know everything you have, what you do with it, where you take it, your privacy is will be something of the past and one day, No One Will Remember Ever Having Any Privacy. (1984 George Orwell)

The Small Print

**Obama; 'Scouts, Let Gays In'**

By Phillip Meskin

What if the Scouts say... Obama should dye his hair pink and only speak the truth? Might have a pink headed guy who never talks.

What if a white supremacists wants to teach at a public school? OR his daughters school?

**Fed's Help Pay SOME Transit Systems**

San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit has about 400,000 riders daily... The Metro in DC has 800,000 daily. They both receive federal funding to keep costs down... But NYC more than quadruples those two cities combined with about 5 million riders daily and they don't get financial assistance.

The NYC system also runs more efficiently than the other two, as it must to keep people moving and it costs less to operate so the passengers pay less.

Some people wanted to study how this is possible and the answer is simple. Since they don't get financial assistance, they strive to streamline, cut waste, and provide better maintenance on the equipment. They do this as they must depend upon themselves.

Like with anything else in this world, when you always have someone or some agency that will clean things up for you when you mess up, or bail you out every time you get behind... You no longer have to depend upon yourself. You get lazy, sloppy and then towards the end, really don't care.

**Another Comparison...**

Our government has been doing this for certain groups in our country that we must take care of because they cannot take care of themselves.

Hurricane Katrina hits the North end of the Gulf of Mexico. People in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama & Florida are given notice more than a week in advance... Hurricane coming!

Those folks who depend upon themselves to get things done prepare two plans. First to stock up on items they will need for as long as 2 weeks. Plan B is to Evacuate. Keep car filled with gas and have a 'To Go' Bag packed and ready.

Those folks waiting for the govt to do things for them, just sit and wait.

Hurricane now two days out and Everyone is warned that it will be Nasty. The planners are packing, the ones waiting for the govt to do things for them, just sit and wait.

Hurricane now one day out and National Guard Trucks ride the streets gathering up people to leave the area... Most don't leave because they did not yet pack... They need the govt to come in and pack for them so they just sit and wait.

Hurricane Hits... Roads and Highways are jammed with cars going North. Long lines at gas stations because folks forgot to fill their tanks up for the past ten days.

Those still left in their homes, just sit and wait for the govt to come and help them with food, water, electric, clothes, money, housing... Of course they are also crying and screaming to reporters how they were duped, cheated, lied to and felt hopeless that no one cared about them.

Each day, each hour they waited for the govt to send help before the hurricane hit. They needed help in getting food, water, money to buy gas for their cars, and if they didn't have that, they needed transportation out of there... But they were not going to ride in the back of some Ratty Old National Guard Truck! The govt failed them!

**Contrast:**

Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Dakota's, get a major snow storm. They began preparing for it last Summer. Extra food, water, generators, fuel, clothing... No news in the media where they waited for the govt to bring them emergency supplies. No one screaming for the govt to take care of them.

The stay behinds in the Hurricane aftermath lock their doors so their neighbors won't break in and steal from them, but they still just sit and wait for the govt. Snow storm folks are walking miles on snowshoes checking up on neighbors to see if they are alright.

**The Company Clerk would like to hear from you. Our address both physical and e-mail are printed right on this page, tell us what you think.**

**VETERANS POST NEWSPAPER**

Company Clerk - Phillip Meskin  
 Director of Advertising - Thomas C Leisse  
 Director of Special Events - Kim Justice  
 Director of Circulation - David Ribaric  
 Director of Social Networks - Roy R Tomasello

**Contributing Writers & Photographers**

Paul Branesky - Gus Bilirakus  
 Dan K. Cedusky - Rebecca Cohen  
 Diana Galvin  
 Ronnie L. Harris - Frank J. Iamarino  
 Dave Lawson - Frank V. Liberatore  
 Harold Macking - Donna Manning  
 Bill McCaskill - Curt Middlebrook  
 Skip Munger - Ronald V. Regan, Sr.  
 Ben Ritter - Herb Rosenthal  
 Robert F. Sawallesh - Deborah Winton  
 Richard G. Wishart - Bill Young

**Distribution:**

Norman Alexander - Steven Alexander  
 Steven Berry - Paul Branesky  
 David Lawson - Duane Reed  
 David Ribaric - Roy Tomasello

**Veterans Post News Objectives:**  
**Increase awareness of Veterans activities**  
**Educate and inform Veterans and citizens**  
**Increase membership of Veterans organizations**  
**Ensure that Veterans are not forgotten**

The Veterans Post Newspaper is published monthly.

We thank the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces for maintaining our rights and privileges to have freedom of the press.

All materials within this publication are copyrighted, and are the property of its respective owner. No article or photograph can be used without giving proper identification credit to this Newspaper and the writer and/or photographer. This publication displays advertising from commercial establishments, however, we are not responsible for its content, nor do we guarantee the veracity of its content.

Political advertisements are paid for by the politicians themselves, and are permitted within this publication with the understanding that the Veterans Post Newspaper is not endorsing any candidate who advertises within. Editorials, articles, and letters to the editor, are the opinions of the individual writers and are not researched by the Veterans Post Newspaper staff, and do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper. Deadline for articles is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. The Editor reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or article not appropriate for this publication. Unsolicited articles concerning Veterans can be E-mailed, photographs and art should be sent as a jpg or pdf to:

**New E-mail Address**

[Clerk@VeteransPostNews.com](mailto:Clerk@VeteransPostNews.com)

**Support Veterans AND Your Business**  
 Through Advertising **727-VA-2-VETS** or  
 Advertise@VeteransPostNews.com

**1441 Dr. MLK, Jr. Street South**  
**Saint Petersburg, FL 33705-2424**

**Office HQ: 727-VA-2-VETS (822-8387)**  
**Facsimile: 727-VA-2-NEWS (822-6397)**

**VeteransPost@aol.com**

**www.VeteransPostNews.com**

**Subscription \$18 Year, Visa/MC/Dis \$19**

**The Veterans Post News is sent as First Class Mail!**

**Electronic Edition Via Email \$6 Year or \$7 by CC.**

**FREE Electronic Edition to any Military Email address**

The Veterans Post News, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3, doing charitable work for Veterans to include housing, furnishings, transportation, assistance with claims and educational material to allow them to understand the workings of the VA.

Donations for our Veterans Post Village are tax deductible and appreciated.

**Quote:**

**"This year will go down in history. For the first time, a civilized nation has full gun registration. Our streets will be safer, our police more efficient, and the world will follow our lead into the future."**

-- Adolph Hitler, 1935

**Veterans Post News, brought to you by the Men and Women of the United States Armed Forces, without their Spirit and Patriotism, we could be just a third world nation. GOD BLESS The USA**



IN BRANSON, YOUR MILITARY REUNION GROUP WILL TAKE  
**CENTER STAGE**



9TH ANNUAL MILITARY REUNION PLANNERS CONFERENCE - AUGUST 19-22, 2013 | To Request the 2013 Reunion Planner Sales Kit, Contact:  
 Julie Peters, CTIS, Leisure Group Sales Manager • Branson/Lakes Area CVB • P.O. Box 1897 • Branson, MO 65615  
 800-214-3661 • 417-334-4084 • Fax 417-334-4139 • JPeters@BransonCVB.com • ExploreBranson.com



### Disability Claims Initiative Reduces Processing Times, Adds Convenience



The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new initiative that could eliminate the requirement for an in-person medical examination for some Veterans and shorten the time it takes to process Veteran's disability compensation claims. The initiative is called Acceptable Clinical Evidence (ACE). This initiative was developed by both the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) in a joint effort to provide a Veteran-centric approach for disability exams. Use of the ACE process opens the possibility of doing assessments without an in-person examination when there is sufficient information in the record. Under ACE practices, a VA medical provider completes a Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ) by reviewing existing medical evidence. This evidence can be supplemented with information obtained during a telephone interview with the Veteran alleviating the need for some Veterans to report for an in-person examination. "ACE is a process improvement that will help us meet our goal to eliminate the claims backlog and provide more timely benefits to our Veterans, their families and survivors," said Undersecretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey.

"The initiative also saves Veterans the inconvenience and costs associated with attending a medical examination." When a VA medical provider determines VA records already contain sufficient medical information to provide the needed documentation for disability rating purposes, the requirement for Veterans to travel to a medical facility for an examination may be eliminated. If VA can complete a DBQ by reviewing medical records already on file, it will use the ACE process. This would then expedite the determination of disability ratings in turn eliminating the wait time to schedule and conduct an exam from the claims process. During a 15-month pilot test at one VA regional claims processing office, 38 percent of claims submitted were eligible for ACE. The ACE initiative is a part of the VBA's agency-wide Transformation Plan a five-year, multifaceted organizational change that is based on more than 40 personnel, process and technology initiatives designed to improve claims processing. The goal of the Transformation Plan is to eliminate the claims backlog and process all claims within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy in 2015. To learn more about the VBA's Transformation Initiatives, visit <http://benefits.va.gov/transformation/>

**Clerk's Note:** Looking at this as half full, at least this way you can imagine that a 'real' doctor is going over your file as opposed to sitting across from someone with a stethoscope around their neck with one of the ear pieces missing, and you thinking all types of bad things while still trying to keep a positive attitude... Yeah, Right!!!

### Retirees' ID Cards Have Expiration Dates



Blue retiree identification cards issued prior to December 2012 had the word "INDEF" instead of an expiration date. Since December, retiree cards issued have an expiration date effective the day before the retiree's 65th birthday.

Although benefits will not automatically expire, some changes will take effect based on Medicare eligibility, Air Force Personnel Center officials said. "Retirees and their eligible spouses will still have access to benefits and they'll still be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), but the expiration date "which is one day before their 65th birthday" is a reminder to retirees that they must enroll in Medicare Part A and B to retain their TRICARE for Life eligibility," said Ed Yoder, of the Air Force DEERS project office.

Airmen who retired before the December card change took effect do not need to get a new ID card just because of the expiration date change, Yoder said. "If your ID card is worn out, unserviceable or your appearance has changed significantly enough that the picture is no longer a good likeness, you should get your card replaced. But there is no mandate to replace your card with the new expiration date card."

Retirees who have the new card showing the expiration date will get a replacement card showing the indefinite status once they turn 65, and spouses' cards will read "INDEF" once they turn 75, Yoder said.

Airmen who need or want to renew their retiree ID card can go to the nearest Real-time Automated Personnel Identification System office (military personnel section), or call their nearest RAPIDS facility for assistance and guidance.

For more information on new retiree card, DEERS eligibility programs and other personnel issues, visit the myPers web site at <https://mypers.af.mil>

### "Taxpayers... Good Sports!"

#### Ronald Reagan's Childhood Home To Become Parking Lot For Obama's Library



The University of Chicago Medical Center has announced plans to turn Ronald Reagan's childhood home in Chicago into a parking lot for President Barack Obama's library.

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks previously denied the Gipper's home landmark status in 2012, according to **The Washington Times**, and the university subsequently scheduled demolition to begin in January. Officials claim the home does not reach landmark status because it is not architecturally significant and the nation's 40th president did nothing notable while living there.

With the wrecking balls in place, it could be just a few days before the home is knocked down. In its place, a plaque would serve as the marker of the historic spot, according to university representatives.

Reagan was 4 when his family moved to the 832 E. 57th St. in the Hyde Park District of the Windy City.

#### Cause Of F-35B Fuel Issue Identified



Investigators determined that an "improperly crimped" fuel hydraulic line was the cause of the anomaly with a Marine Corps F-35B strike fighter prior to take-off at Eglin AFB, Fla., on Jan. 16, F-35 program office spokesman Joe DellaVedova said.

The incident led to the grounding of the 25 F-35Bs in use as test and training assets across the country. The stand-down is still in place, said DellaVedova.

F-35 engine supplier Pratt & Whitney and the subcontractor for the fuel hydraulic line have instituted corrective action to improve their "quality control process and ensure part integrity," he said yesterday.

Investigators ruled out any design issues with the airplane, but did find six non-compliant parts that maintainers have removed and returned to P&W for replacement, he said. F-35 officials are working on the return-to-flight plan for the F-35Bs, he said. It will require removal and inspection of parts on the 25 airplanes, noted DellaVedova, adding that there was no specific date set yet for their return to flight operations.

F-35A and F-35C models have continued to fly during this time.

**Read All About It!**

**Subscribe Today!**

**'Email Edition'**

**Only \$6 a year.\***

[Subscribe@VeteransPostNews.com](mailto:Subscribe@VeteransPostNews.com)

**Put Subscribe in the Subject Line.**

\*\$1 additional when paid by credit card

**You Must Have An Email Address**

**Include phone number so we can call for credit card info.**

**Or send a check to;**

**Veterans Post News**

**1441 Dr MLK Jr St South**

**Saint Petersburg FL 33705**



## VEHICLE PURCHASE PROGRAM FOR ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS

**Vetbuy is a dedicated buying program that allows members of the United States Military and their families to purchase new or pre-owned vehicles at the lowest possible price.**

#### Who qualifies:

- Active Duty
- Retired
- ALL Veterans & family members
- National Guard
- Reserves
- ROTC

- \* Most Vetbuy consultants are military veterans; many are volunteers.
- \* Buyer must show proof of affiliation (ID, DD214, in uniform, etc.)
- \* Up-front, no-hassle pricing on all vehicles.
- \* One-stop shopping; all makes & models available through our VetBuy Operations Center
- \* VetBuy's promise to our military and veterans is to offer new and pre-owned vehicles at the lowest possible price.

**Contact: Sam Martin - (727) 434-3718 - email: [Sam@Vetbuy.com](mailto:Sam@Vetbuy.com)**

**Operations Center: 2525 34th Street North, St. Petersburg**

**[www.Vetbuy.com](http://www.Vetbuy.com)**





**F-22 Pilot Flies Boy's Letter 'Closer To Heaven'**

By Capt. Ashley Conner, 477th Fighter Group PA



MacAidan "Mac" Gallegos was only 5 when his father, U.S. Army Sgt. Justin Gallegos, was killed in Afghanistan in 2009. Not a day goes by that he doesn't think about him.

On days like Jan. 24, his father's 31st birthday, he has found a special way to celebrate his birthday and honor his memory. "I wanted to write my dad a letter and get it as close to heaven as possible," said Mac.

Mac and his mother, Amanda Marr, discussed ways to get the letter to heaven but ultimately decided that having someone fly it would be the best. "I posted on Facebook that we were looking for a pilot who could fly the letter for Mac," said Marr. "Kyle Moxley from HAVE Alaska contacted me and said he would coordinate and try to make it happen."

Helping American Veterans Experience Alaska, or HAVE Alaska, was stood up in 2010 by Moxley and his wife, Carla, to provide opportunities for veterans to experience hunting and fishing excursions in Alaska.

A few e-mails and phone calls later Mac, his mother and his step-father, U.S. Army Master Sgt. Jeremy Marr, were meeting Senior Airman Jennifer Dunham, a 90th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief who gave them a tour of the Raptor.

Before stepping to fly, Lt. Col. Brian Baldwin, an Air Force Reserve F-22 pilot assigned to the 302nd Fighter Squadron, met Mac at his F-22 where the little boy handed over the letter to his father written on red construction paper, his dad's favorite color. "It is an honor to fly with Mac's letter," said Baldwin. "His father gave the greatest sacrifice to our country and I am humbled to be able to do something for him and his family."

Mac and his family have baked cupcakes and said they look forward to taking time out to remember Gallegos on his birthday.

"Over the years we would have a party for Justin on his birthday," said Marr, who grew up in Palmer, Alaska, but now resides in Anchorage. "As Mac has gotten older we have turned it into a day where we do 'Acts of Service' for others. It is important for us to remember Justin and celebrate his life."

**USS Curts Decommissioned After 29 Years Of Service**



The guided-missile frigate **USS Curts** (FFG 38) concluded 29 years of service to the Navy during a decommissioning ceremony on Jan. 25 at Naval Base San Diego.

The ceremony was attended by nine former **Curts** commanding officers, several former crew members as well as grandchildren of the ship's namesake, Adm. Maurice Curts.

"I have daily affirmation that **Curts** was the best command I could have ever dreamed of inheriting," said **Curts**' final commanding officer, Cmdr. Fermin Espinoza. "I'm proud to be able to say that this ship will leave the fleet the same way it came into the fleet - ready to fight." Espinoza recently returned with **Curts** from its final deployment, where the sailors seized contraband worth an estimated 26 million dollars.

**Curts** and other Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigates joined the fleet as replacements for World War II-era destroyers and 1960s-era frigates. "The ship was brought on to be an inexpensive replacement for ships that had served their useful life span," said **Curts**' commissioning commanding officer, retired Capt. James R. Tinsley, III. "I think if you look at the accomplishments of the ships and **Curts**, you can see that they went maybe over and above what their critics expected."

Over the years, **Curts** played integral roles during Operation Desert Storm, the Global War on Terror and Operation Iraqi Freedom. **Curts** also conducted anti-piracy and counter-narcotics operations, including a mission that led to the largest maritime seizure of cocaine (12 tons) in history.

"**Curts** will forever hold a special place in my heart," said Espinoza just prior to reading the decommissioning orders. "If my ship could speak today she would utter the words that now capture my thoughts; I suppose I must go, but I wish I could stay."

**Curts** was transferred to the inactive reserve on Feb. 27.

**Sex Equality... Maybe Not!**

A newly married South Florida man who opted to take his wife's last name is fighting the state's Department of Motor Vehicles after it suspended his driving license on grounds of fraud.

Real estate investor Lazaro Sopena offered to change his name following his 2011 marriage to Hanh Dinh in order to help his wife's Vietnamese family perpetuate their family surname.

Shortly after their marriage, Lazaro Dinh obtained a new passport and Social Security card, and changed his bank account and credit cards before applying to update his drivers license. "It was an act of love," he said.

**Outrage Growing Over Obama's Cuts To Border Security**



Outrage is growing over news that President Obama's military cuts are going to impact homeland security by forcing the U.S. Air Force to close a vital air defense system along the entire southern border of the United States, from Florida to California.

**Someone Is Always Counting**

As of Jan. 29, at least 2,045 members of the U.S. military had died in Afghanistan as a result of the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to an Associated Press count. The AP count is two less than the Defense Department's tally.

At least 1,706 military service members have died in Afghanistan as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

**News From The DHS**

Researchers at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are hoping to vastly improve explosive detection systems (EDS) to more quickly and accurately identify improvised explosive devices for carry-on and checked baggage at U.S. airports.

And scissors...that's some of the helpful defense advice in a new instructional video from the Department of Homeland Security that was posted on the agency's web site just a month after the massacre at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, in Connecticut.

**Clerk's Note:** What A great idea using scissors as a protective device... Problem is, our last 4 pairs were taken by the Department of Homeland Security when we got on a train to go to the airport. The plastic ones we were allowed to keep won't even cut through a soda straw. Hmm, maybe if we pull these shiny pink and green plastic scissors when being attacked, the thug will keel over dead from laughing?

**Relive the Legend!**

**Live Mermaids!**  
**New Cupcake Wars!**  
**New Fairy House Garden!**  
**Daily Pub Crawls!**  
**Live Armored Joust!**

2013 Bay Area  
**Renaissance Festival** at MOSI

**7 Themed Weekends!**  
 Buccaneer Beer Fest • Highland Fling  
 Wine, Chocolate & Romance  
 Shamrocks & Shenanigans • Wonders of the World  
 Fiesta Festival • High Seas Adventure

**FREE PARKING!**

Rain or Shine! • www.BayAreaRenFest.com • 813-983-0111 • Weekends • Feb. 23 - Apr. 7 • PLUS Friday, Mar. 22 • 10am - 6pm

Discount Tickets available at Participating:



Discount Coupons available at participating



©2013 Doctor's Associates, Inc. SLEARN® is a registered trademark of Doctor's Associates, Inc.



New Leader To Take Reins Of Largest Army Reserve Command In Southern California



They got a new headquarters in Los Alamitos, Calif., and now they're about to get a new commander. The 79th Sustainment Support Command - the largest Army Reserve Command in Southern California - will change hands Saturday as Brig. Gen. Megan P. Tatu takes charge and takes a promotion to major general, according to an Army Reserve spokesman. Tatu has served more than 30 years in active and reserve service in Germany, the United states and, in 2006, was deployed to Iraq as the commander of the 164th Corps Support Group.

Tatu's awards and decorations include two Legion of Merit medals, the Bronze Star Medal, five Meritorious Service medals, two Army Commendation medals, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, among others.

Tatu and her husband of 30 years, Mike, have three grown sons; Glendon, Colin and Shane. Their middle son, Colin, is a specialist in the Army, currently serving at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

Exiting U.S. General Says Afghan Womens' Rights Are Key

Advancing women's rights in Afghanistan is key to preventing the Taliban from re-imposing a radical form of Islam once most foreign troops leave by the end of 2014, the commander of U.S. / NATO forces there said.

Afghan women have won back basic rights in education, voting and employment since the Taliban were ousted in 2001, but fears are growing such gains could be traded away as Western forces prepare to leave and the Afghan government seeks peace talks with the group.

Former FBI Agent Says Obama's Pick For CIA Director, John O. Brennan Is A Converted Muslim



On Tom Trento's radio show, former FBI agent John Guandolo, who wrote the first Muslim Brotherhood training manual for the FBI, has ousted John O. Brennan, President Obama's nominee for CIA director, as having converted to Islam while working in Saudi Arabia.

Colt .45 is back in Marine Corps service



The United States Marine Corps has awarded Colt Defense a \$22.5 million contract for the .45 caliber pistols slated for elite special operations units.

Senator Says He'll Block CIA, Pentagon Nominees

Senator Lindsey Graham threatened to block votes on Obama's nominees for CIA director and defense secretary until the administration gives more information about the deadly attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Graham and other lawmakers have questioned Obama's response to the Sept. 11, 2012, incident in which the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans were killed.

Clerk's Note: First no news came from the white house for two weeks after the Sept 11th incident, that was followed by Hillary saying it was her fault, which was followed by her disappearance from the public view for a few weeks until it was stated that she was in poor health and was hospitalized. After the hospital stay (whichever one she was at) doctors discovered a tumor growing behind her right ear. While we all mourn for the loss of the living tumor, Hillary has still not made a formal statement about what happened, who was responsible and what about the incriminating multi sources of evidence that shows someone 'Stopped' US intervention and just allowed those four people to be murdered.

Drone Use List Grows



In response to a Freedom of Information (FOIA) request by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the FAA has released an updated list of public agencies that have applied for permission from the FAA to operate unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

There are now at least 81 agencies that want to fly drones. Most are universities or other research-oriented institutions, and law-enforcement agencies make up the next largest group.

Under current FAA rules, drones of all sizes can only be legally operated for non-hobby use through special authorization by the FAA. The list does not indicate which applications have been approved or rejected.

Clerk's Note: The part you may have missed in the story above is where it says; "can only be legally operated for non-hobby use" So what happens to all those hobbyists with remote control planes? Granted they may not have the distance that a drone can travel... but they are no different than a drone. They have mounted camera's... Some have sound producing capabilities, while yet others that are used in shows and demonstrations can drop small bombs and hit their target very accurately. If they begin to stop this group, will it become a felony to fly a paper plane in the classroom? Who knows how many deaths and disfigurements come from paper airplanes? Maybe we should file for a grant to research it... \$6 million should be enough.

Heavens Works Food Pantry

By Paul Branesky, VPN Staff

The food pantry has been in around for about 2 years. It was started by wonderful women with a military family background. Her name is Gail Valente.



Most of Gails family are in the military or are Veterans. A lot of the family helps her pass out the food. The Rex Moving Company is a family owned business that helps Gail fund sum of the food she buys. They donate there trucks to transport food and other stuff that is given away.



The food pantry is a 501c3 not for profit organization. Heavens Works Food Pantry is open every other Thursday from 5 to 8 pm. It is located at 7510 46th ave. N. St. Petersburg fl. 33709. Phone 727-547-4477.

It is good to call ahead to see if they are open on other dates. Any time the pantry is open there is signs next to the drive way that says free food.



Being from a military family Gail would love to see many more Veterans show up for the free food.

They have other products not just all food. They have stuff for infants all the way up senior citizens. They also except donations and help.



Advertisement for DIRECTV offering a \$120 bill credit for 12 months for veterans and active military. Includes details about HD included, free upgrades, and a call to action with phone number 888-439-1735.

Advertisement for Garrett's Lawn Care & Tree Service, a veteran-owned business. Features a photo of service trucks and a call to action with phone number 727-327-2120 or 727-560-4816 cell.



**CLASSIFIED RATES**

Private & Personal Ads \$8 for 18 words, personal items up to \$2,500 in value. Add words .50¢ each. Business Ads and items over \$2,500, 18 words, \$12, Add words .75¢ each.

**Books To Read**

**Some Great Books**  
Written By Local Author **Amy L. Jambor** are now available at Amazon.com. Excellent Reviews, Multi-topics. Buy Local! Or Call 727-230-1642

**Help Wanted**

**Earn Extra Money while helping our Veterans**  
Telemarketing work from home. Make your own hours. Warm leads provided. Contact R.Corsale @ 727-692-8336 Email: Rcorsale@tampabay.rr.com

**Villa For Rent**

1 bedroom 1 bath villa with front and back yard. Quiet community with pool and on site laundry. Le Club Villas, 4355 84th Ave N, Pinellas Park. We welcome pets! Special discounts for Veterans. \$665/mo incl w,s,g. Call 727-657-9881

**Why Should You Care?**

We were going to put a cute little cartoon here just to keep everybody entertained. But since we are aware that there are hundreds of Veterans ages 23 to 60 who are currently homeless in Tampa Bay, we decided that one page of humor. A month is enough. While we fight daily to raise funds to assist those Veterans truly in need.

We were kind of hoping that you would be more involved and take an interest in this type of activity, since that does not seem to be the case. We guess you can go back to your everyday lives, hoping soon that you will realize that **YOU ARE** the solution.

If someone could write us and tell us how to get our readers more involved in our mission to assist other Veterans... Well, we are all Ears & Eyes waiting for your response.

**For Those Hard to Please...**  
For those of you that have found a mistake in the past twelve months during the year 2012 on the pages of this publication... Rest Assured that they were put there on purpose!

Yes they were... Believe it or not, there are people in this world who do nothing more than look for other people's mistakes.

Since we try to please everyone, we added mistakes to just to please these people. It also kept them from annoying someone else! You are ALL Very Welcome.



**Barry M. Salzman**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

**DISABILITY LAW**

PERSONAL INJURY • SOCIAL SECURITY • STD/LTD  
WORKERS COMPENSATION • VETERANS

5332 Central Avenue • St. Petersburg, Florida 33707  
(727) 321-4993 • FAX: (727) 321-5843 • E-mail: salzman@tampabay.rr.com  
www.barrysalzman.com

**VETERANS BENEFITS APPEALS**

Appeals of Veterans' Benefits claims denied by the Board of Veterans' Appeals

**AT NO CHARGE TO THE VETERAN!**

We also assist Veterans with Medical Malpractice and Automobile Accidents

**Peter J. Meadows, P.A.**  
Attorney at Law

Mr. Meadows is a member of the Florida Bar and is licensed to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

**800-868-2813** 1314 E Las Olas Blvd Ste 1088  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

\*The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be made solely on the basis of advertising.



**NEWS OF THE FORCE**  
newssoftheforce.org

www.myspace.com/newssoftheforce

**Would You Miss Us If Print Died?**  
Subscribe Today  
12 issues sent to your computer  
one each month, for only \$6 a year!

MacDill Air Force Base

# AirFest 2013

Tampa, Florida

April 6-7

Featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels

For more information, email us at [macdillairfest@us.af.mil](mailto:macdillairfest@us.af.mil)  
Search for MacDill AirFest on Facebook!

LEGENDS LEADERS LEGACIES

**Sleepy, Sloppy, But Good**

The Air Mobility Command cited pilot error as the cause of the surprise landing of a C-17 at a small airstrip four miles shy of its intended touchdown at MacDill AFB, Fla., last July.

"The young pilot did a good job landing, albeit on the wrong strip," said U.S. Central Command boss Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis, who was one of the 23 passengers aboard the July 20 flight.

AMC officials said the pilot misjudged his position due to "fatigue, complacency, and a lack of flight discipline," states the report.

The Peter O. Knight Executive Airport is on Davis Islands, across Hillsborough Bay from MacDill AFB. Its runway roughly aligns on the same heading as MacDill's. The air crew managed to land the C-17 safely, causing minimal damage to the executive airport's runway.

MacDill officials are modifying the way they handle incoming air traffic to mitigate the chances of pilots confusing the two airfields.

**ATTENTION VETERANS**

**MUST HAVE MEDICARE A & B OR TURNING 65**

You could be receiving a monthly reimbursement of up to **\$99.90**, as well as many other insurance plan benefits.

Specializing in coordinating Medicare benefits with your V.A. benefits.

*For those Veterans that have Tri-Care for Life and/or Champus VA you have excellent insurance*

Call

**David Ribaric**

Veterans Benefits Specialist  
(A Former U.S. Marine Corps Veteran)

**727-545-0900**

**800-411-4470**



Since 1990 Member of Better Business Bureau

Insurance Services, Inc.  
7128 55th Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33709

This is 16<sup>th</sup> page size ad.

How many people do you think will read this?  
Not only in the Hard Copy... But On The Web?

727-VA-2-VETS

VeteransPostNews@gmail.com  
Tom@VeteransPostNews.com  
Clerk@VeteransPostNews.com

**3<sup>rd</sup> annual Lifestyles After 50 Fun Fest!**

March 28<sup>th</sup> Saint Pete Coliseum, downtown  
Presented by  
Lifestyles After 50 Magazine

10 am-till 3pm

Admission & Parking is FREE!

Great Live Entertainment ALL DAY!

Dancing! Free Coffee and Goodies!

Free Bingo!

Senior Friendly Exhibitors!

\$1,000's in prizes and giveaways  
Win a 2 night stay at the Beau Rivage, Biloxi

All new Senior Sports area!

GrandKids are the Greatest Photo contest!  
Plus an Easter Egg Hunt!

Free Health Screenings!

Call for more information  
1-888-670-0040

Now accepting  
TriCare Insurance

We Salute and Thank Our Military Veterans

Bayfront  
Convenient Care Clinics  
WALK IN MEDICAL CARE

www.BayfrontClinics.com

Tyrone Clinic	344-3627	Largo Clinic	531-2273
Northeast Clinic	526-3627	Gulf Beach Clinic	367-5666
Seminole Clinic	397-5666	Pasadena Clinic	381-3627

We have been serving Pinellas County for over 25 years!





USS Cole Returns From Maiden Missile Defense Deployment



The guided-missile destroyer USS Cole (DDG 67) returned to Naval Station Norfolk, VA, on January 6th, marking the successful conclusion of her maiden ballistic missile defense deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

The KC-46A's Nuclear Support Mission

When the U.S. Air Force's KC-46A tankers enter the fleet, they will be equipped with electromagnetic pulse protection that will allow their electronics to survive a nuclear blast, a service official has said.

The KC-46s, which will replace the service's oldest KC-135 tankers, will be tasked with "nuclear operations support" as one of their primary missions, states the Fiscal 2012 report to Congress from the Pentagon's director of test and evaluation. (The others are: global strike, air bridge support, aircraft deployment, theater support, and special operations support, according to the report.)

KC-46s will have another nuclear-related mission as a secondary responsibility: air sampling, Air Force spokesman Ed Gulick said on Jan. 25. This entails "equipment to collect air samples downwind from areas where nuclear explosions have occurred," said Gulick in a written response to questions. This ancillary role will support the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System, he said. It is a global network of monitoring for nuclear events.

VA/DOD Continue To Improve Online Access To Benefits Information



The VA and DoD just released improvements to the functionality of eBenefits, a joint self-service web portal that provides registered users with secure online information and access to a variety of military and Veterans benefits resources.

"eBenefits is clearly becoming the platform of choice for Veterans seeking access to the numerous benefits they have earned," said VA's Undersecretary for Benefits, Allison A. Hickey. "The increasing capabilities of eBenefits give Veterans and service members greater flexibility in securing the information they are looking for."

The latest release, eBenefits 4.3, allows for easy navigation of the online disability compensation claim submission process using interview-style questions and drop-down menus similar to tax-preparation software, instead of a traditional fill-in-the-blank form. The latest release also pre-populates the application with information from a Veteran's record in VA's secure database. Veterans can view processing times for each phase of their claim.

Other site improvements include a tool to help determine if a Veteran has eligibility for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits, a calculator for military reservists to determine retirement benefits, and a search function that identifies a claimant's appointed Veterans service representative, with links to Google Maps indicating the location of their nearest representative's office. Military and Veterans can also access records like Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollment status, VA payment history, and DOD TRICARE health insurance status.

The eBenefits application is a key component of VA's ongoing trans-formation to a digital environment for Veteran's benefits delivery and fully supports VA's Veterans Relationship Management initiative that provides Veterans with the ability to access information about their benefits anywhere, anytime, and empowers them to manage those benefits through self-service capabilities. Additional functionality and features will continue to be added to the site throughout the coming months.

To access eBenefits, Veterans and Military must obtain a DoD Self-Service Logon (DS Logon), which provides access to several Veterans and military benefits resources using a single username and password. The service is free and may be obtained in person at a VA Regional Office, DOD ID Card station or online at www.ebenefits.va.gov.

Air Force Reserve Intelligence Unit Coming To WPAFB



The 14th Intelligence Squadron will conduct intelligence analysis and assessments for the Air Force Materiel Command, headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, according to Chandra Brown, an Air Force Reserve spokeswoman at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Have you signed up for your E-dition of Veterans Post News? Haven't you heard? Print is Dead and the Postal Service...? Only \$6 a year.

Go to Website for Details www.VeteransPostNews.com

WE, The Veterans of The United States of America, Are ALL that stands between a Nation that Honors our Active Duty Military Or A Nation That Forgets! tcc



I'm one rider, inspired by one little boy with diabetes, to join thousands of other riders across the nation, supported by contributions from thousands more. I ride for the 26 million people living with diabetes, and the 79 million more Americans currently at risk. I ride for one little boy.

Who will you ride for?



START A CHAIN REACTION. STOP DIABETES.

American Diabetes Association. Tour de Cure

Lakewood Ranch, FL

Sunday, April 7, 2013 Lakewood Main Street 10, 35, 62, or 100 Mile Routes



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR NATIONAL FITNESS SPONSOR:



Find your local tour and register at http://diabetes.org/swfloridatour 1-888-DIABETES ext. 3358



## About Gun Control... From Experts!

Politicians, pundits and private citizens have been sounding off on Barack Obama's new push for gun bans, but what do the professionals whose job it is to use guns in the protection of their nation, their fellow countrymen and themselves say?

An open letter has been posted on the Soldiers blog that has been signed as of this writing by more than 1,800 current and former U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers, the Green Berets. The soldiers say first it's important to define the issue and set the record straight. "The terms 'assault weapon' and 'assault rifle' are often confused." According to Bruce H. Kobayashi and Joseph E. Olson, writing in the Stanford Law and Policy Review, 'Prior to 1989, the term 'assault weapon' did not exist in the lexicon of firearms. **It is a political term, developed by anti-gun publicists** to expand the category of assault rifles.' Green Berets, who use the weapons, point out the M4A1 carbine is a U.S. military service rifle – it is an assault rifle."

"**The AR-15 is not an assault rifle.** The 'AR' does not stand for 'Assault Rifle', it's the first two letters of the ARmaLite Corp. The AR-15 is designed so it looks like the M4A1, but it cannot be configured to be a fully automatic rifle. It is a single shot semi-automatic rifle that can fire 45-60 RPM depending on the skill of the shooter. The M4A1 can fire up to 950 RPM. In 1986, the govt banned ALL new automatic firearms for civilians. Therefore, the sale of assault rifles are already banned or heavily restricted!"

Likewise, a ban on "high-capacity" magazines would be irrelevant, case in point is Eric Harris at Columbine HS as proof. The first weapons ban was adopted in 1994, and one of those bans was to have a maximum ten-round magazines. In 1999, five years into the Federal Assault Weapons Ban, the Columbine HS massacre occurred. Harris, had a rifle with only a ten-round capacity, he simply had more of them: thirteen magazines in total. Harris fired 96 rounds before killing himself."

And, underlying the issue is the Constitution's assurance of protection for the "sacrosanct" right of self-defense. "Our Constitution established a system of governance that preserves, protects, and holds sacrosanct the individual rights and primacy of the governed as well as providing for the explicit protection of the governed from governmental tyranny and/or oppression." It is easy to blame guns, but weapons aren't really the problem. Civilized society already proves it, they cite the experience in Great Britain.

In 1987 was the Hungerford massacre that killed 18, and the government followed with a 1988 law banning semi-automatic guns. But eight years later, a "disturbed" man murdered 16 children and a teacher at the Dunblane school. Immediately the law was amended to ban "all private ownership of handguns." Somehow, criminals didn't get the memo.

"Despite having the toughest gun control laws in the world, gun crimes increased in 2003 by 35% over the previous year with firearms used in 9,974 recorded crimes. Gun related homicides were up 32% over the same period. Gun related crime had increased 65% since the Dunblane massacre and implementation of the toughest gun control laws in the developed world."

"In contrast, in the USA in 2009 (5 years after the Federal Assault Weapons Ban expired) total firearm related homicides in the U.S. declined by 9% from the 2005 high," the letter says, citing FBI statistics. Since gun bans don't really impact violence, what is the issue at hand?

"The purpose of the Second Amendment is to secure our ability to oppose enemies foreign and domestic, a guarantee against disorder and tyranny." Throughout history, disarming the populace has always preceded tyrants' accession of power. Hitler, Stalin, and Mao all disarmed their citizens prior to installing their murderous regimes.

At the beginning of our own nation's revolution, one of the first moves made by the British was an attempt to disarm our citizens. When our Founding Fathers ensured that the Second Amendment was made a part of our Constitution, they were not just wasting ink. They were acting to ensure our present security was never forcibly endangered by tyrants, foreign or domestic.

But school shootings are horrible and need to be addressed. "First, it is important that we recognize that this is not a gun control problem; it is a complex sociological problem. No single course of action will solve the problem." These military Veterans say local schools should make their own decisions and plans.

"Most recently A School District in North Texas will consider allowing some teachers to carry concealed guns. We do not opine as to the appropriateness of this decision, but we do support their right to make this decision for themselves." Further, those individuals with diagnosed conditions that impact their ability to make decisions can be addressed with programs of treatment.

In each of these mass shooting incidents the perpetrator was mentally unstable, the Green Berets says Firearms safety programs in schools could help, and a repeal of laws making them gun-free zones should be considered by local officials.

Also, the violence in video games needs to be addressed. War and war-like behavior should not be glorified. Hollywood and video game producers are exploiting something they know nothing about. General Sherman famously said, 'War is hell!' Leave war to the professionals.

"This is our country, these are our rights. We believe that it is time that we take personal responsibility for our choices and actions rather than abdicate that responsibility to someone else under the illusion that we have done something that will make us all safer. We have a responsibility to stand by our principles and act in accordance with them. Our children are watching and they will follow the example we set."

## What it Really Means!!!

B.H. Obama during his tenure in the white house is helping to change things of how American Citizens see their Veterans. Obama is trying very hard to put Veterans and the Military in a Very Positive Light.

Obama and the First Lady have promoted at Military bases around the country for people to assist our Military and Veterans In Need.

It is difficult in any speech made by anyone to say they are proud of Disabled Veterans... Are they proud of the disability itself? Or proud that the Veteran is disabled? It was confusing and did not make anyone feel better... So...

We get to wipe out any future bad speeches with those words and now use; "Wounded Warrior"!

Everyone can be proud of a Wounded Warrior, the speech giver giving 'Lip Service' to the Veterans, the people who listen to the speech think by just listening to the person giving the memorized words with emphasis on words his/her speech coach/writer practiced with them... That they too by applauding loudly help support Veterans and our Military.

The fact is, nothing changes for our Military and Veterans. During the first three years in office, there were no raises or COLA's, but all the speech writers getting \$100,000 + plus for their words of admiration for our Veterans with the catch phrase... "We are doing everything we can for our Military and Veterans!" Go ahead, go to the internet and You Tube and see hundreds, if not thousands of speeches made by almost everyone using those words.

Here is another great stride in Veteran Medical Care... There are almost NO NEW Cases of PTSD! That itself is another wonderful reason Obama was reelected. And Obama has done this with the movement of his Pen on Paper.

All new cases will be called; TBI, Traumatic Brain Injury. Remember that traumatic means that there might not be ANY physical injury, just psychological. Which is VERY different than PTSD.

Our commander in chief will accomplish his greatest effort by eliminating Veteran Homelessness by 2015. Our personal belief thinks he will accomplish this by 2014.

Those high paid word-smiths have provided a non-fail system to wipe out Veteran Homelessness, they will no longer use that term and now call it; 'Veterans In Need'. With NO Politician ever saying those words again... Everyone will believe that Veterans Homelessness is a thing of the past.

And rightly so, as three of our nations Billionaires have dumped a total of 34 Million Shares in American Owned Stocks in January 2013, including banks such as JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup & Goldman Sachs. These guys, Warren Buffet, George Soros & John Paulson, believe that the amount of paper money being printed by the U.S. govt, to match the Ceiling Debt and Fiscal Cliff problems, is the same as trying to put out a fire by throwing gasoline on it. And they are saying so with their money.

They believe that the economist author Robert Wiedemer and his bestselling book 'Aftershock' correctly foretells what is about to happen in this country... Veterans won't have to worry so much about homelessness, as millions of civilians will also become homeless.

The people that it will strike hardest are those who voted for Free Healthcare, Free Housing, Free Money... When their food stamp card is reduced by half or cut off, housing allowance, etc... The so called middle class will also face increases in utilities and taxes and will no longer worry about the new homeless problem, as they will just be getting by.

The govt now says that unemployment is now stable... Stable at almost 10%!!!

**"Taxpayers... Good Sports!"**

## Administration Stops Immigration Enforcement Program



The Obama Adminn effectively dismantled the 287(g) immigration enforcement program when it declared just before the holidays that it would not be renewing any task force model agreements with local law enforcement agencies in 2013.

**Clerk's Note:** What this basically means... Open the doors, let them all in... but remember to have them registered as Obama fans.

## Shorter Hospital Stays Better For Patients, VA Finds



A shorter stay in the hospital can actually be more beneficial than a longer stay, according to a recent VA study that appeared in the Dec. 18, 2012, issue of **The Annals of Internal Medicine**.

## Army Veteran 12 Years Active Duty, Charged with Possession of 5 Empty Ammo Mags – Could Serve 7 Years

Submitted by David Lawson

Nate Haddad who retired from Active Duty after 12 years due to a shoulder injury, is being charged with 'Felony' possession of 'Empty' Ammo mags and could serve 7 years in prison because in New York, a Magazine that holds more than 10 rounds is illegal since 1994.

That very same law was in effect in Connecticut when that crazy person shot 18 children... So what is a mass murderer to do? He carried 13 Ten-Round Magazines.

Haddad believed that the Magazines were manufactured prior to the Sept 1994 law which makes them legal... However, the police say they are not. They might have been made in 1995 or 96. And there was no way Haddad would have known as there is no manufactured date on them.

Since his discharge in 2010, Haddad has been working at Fort Drum in NY as a civilian employee. He has pleaded not guilty of this felony... And if he loses, he will lose his job, go to jail and lose all of his Military Benefits he has earned honorably.

**Clerk's Note:** What a horrific crime this is, with the sting operation to flush Haddad out, the officers involved in the arrest, the trip to jail, the arraignment, the court costs, the fees, the fines, lawyers... There are no weapons involved, no ammunition, the police report does not even say that Haddad even owns a gun or ammo. But we are sure if he did, it would really help their case. Well, at least the police have prioritized what they need to do to protect their community. Get the empty ammo mags, afterwards they can concentrate on murder, rapes, burglary, assaults, spousal abuse... Next year they will begin sting operations on schoolyard lunch trades.

## U.S. Sailors Cautioned After Legalization Of Marijuana

Although the state of Washington has recently updated the law on the use of marijuana, essentially decriminalizing its use for civilians, Zero Tolerance drug policy regulations remain unaffected for sailors.

The Zero Tolerance drug policy was implemented after a fatal crash of an EA-6B Prowler on board *USS Nimitz* in 1981, killing 14 crew members and injuring 45 others. Autopsies were performed and several members of the flight deck crew tested positive for marijuana. Following this discovery, then-President Ronald Reagan instituted a Zero Tolerance drug policy across all of the U.S. armed forces. As a result, regular, random urinalysis drug checks are conducted on all military personnel.

"Marijuana can stay in the system for up to 30 days depending on the person's metabolism, dosage and method of consumption," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class David Johnson. "Because it's lipid-based, it can stay in the fat cells for a long period of time, whereas water-based substances would flow through very quickly."

For more information about the misuse of controlled substances and its consequences, reference Milpersman 1910-146.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**Veterans Village  
Helps Veterans In Need  
Are YOU Helping?**

727-822-8387

VetVillage@VeteransPostNews.com

Donations are tax deductible.

## We mean MORE than business!



**Come have FUN with the  
Pinellas Park/Gateway  
Chamber of Commerce!**

**Saturday, March 16—Visit our Trade Show at**

**Country in the Park**

Live music all day

**Restless Heart at 8 pm**

**England Brothers Park**

**5010 – 81<sup>st</sup> Ave.**

**FREE!**



**Saturday, May 18—The Comedy Illusions**

**of Geoff Williams**

Pinellas Park

Performing Arts Center

4951 – 78<sup>th</sup> Ave., N.

\$20 (\$35 couples) advance



**Saturday, November 2—Shoot for Success**

**TRAP SHOOT**

**Skyway Trap & Skeet Club**

"Real guns, real shells, real fun!"

**St. Petersburg**

**\$50/shooter \$250/team**



**For a fun time, call!**

**727-544-4777**

**www.pinellasparkchamber.com**



**Experience** is something you don't get until just after you need it.

**Our forefathers** guaranteed us the right to the pursuit of happiness. They should have given us a few clues as to where to look.

**I joined** a health club last year and spent nearly \$400.00. Haven't lost a pound - apparently, you have to go there.

**No English** dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between these two words. So here is how you can explain the difference between **Complete** and **Finished** in a way that is easy to understand. Some people say there is no difference between **Complete** and **Finished**: When you marry the right woman, you are **Complete**. When you marry the wrong woman, you are **Finished**. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are **Completely Finished**.

"**I just** wanted to let you know - today I received my Fiscal Cliff Survival Pack from the White House." "It contained a parachute, an 'Obama Hope & Change' bumper sticker, a 'Bush's Fault' poster, a 'Blame Boehner' poster, a 'Tax the Rich' poster, an application for unemployment, an application for food stamps, a prayer rug, a letter of assignment of debt to my grandchildren and a machine to blow smoke up my ass. All directions were in Spanish. Keep an eye out. Yours should arrive soon."

**The best** thing about getting old is that all those things you couldn't have when you were young you no longer want.

**My luck** is so bad that even if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying.

**To get** something done, a committee should consist of no more than three, two of whom are absent.

**I wear** my wife's glasses because she wants me to see things her way.

**The first** rule of intelligent tinkering is to save all the parts.

**If a man** does his best, and fails... What else is there?

**Why is** it that everyone driving faster than you is considered an idiot, and everyone driving slower than you is a moron?

**The older** we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

**A new** survey has found that 77 percent of Americans think politicians do serious harm to the country. The politicians response was, "Cool, at least they think we do **something**."

**Thou Shalt Not Steal** - Mauricio Fierro gained instant fame in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as the reported victim of a car theft (captured on surveillance video) when he dashed into a pharmacy. He went to a police station to file a report but encountered the pharmacy owner making his own report - that Fierro was actually robbing him at the moment the car was taken. More surveillance video revealed that while Fierro was standing outside the pharmacy, wondering where his car was, a man ran by and stole the stolen cash. Fierro then immoderately complained to the police even more about Sao Paulo's crime rate and lack of security. Afterward, Fierro admitted to a local news web site that in fact he had stolen the very car that he was reporting stolen.

**I'm writing** a book about the recession. It begins with Chapter 11.

**These days** Men have a better lifetime than women. For one thing, they marry later. For another thing, they die earlier.

**The shortest** distance between two points is how far away they are.

**Christmas; Bah, Humbug!** The week before Christmas, a Nottingham, England, officer wrote parking tickets to drivers of two ambulances that were taking too long to board wheelchair-using schoolchildren who had just sung carols for an hour downtown to raise money for the homeless shelter Emmanuel House. Following an outpouring of complaints, the Nottingham City Council revoked the tickets.

**Nothing ruins** your Friday like realizing it's only Wednesday.

**So if** smoking takes five years off my life, how many cigarettes would I have to smoke to be 18 again?

**Experience** is something you don't get until just after you need it.

**Our forefathers** guaranteed us the right to the pursuit of happiness. They should have given us a few clues as to where to look.

**I joined** a health club last year and spent nearly \$400.00. Haven't lost a pound - apparently, you have to go there.

**Never take** a pill which has more side effects than your symptoms - which pretty much rules out all medications.

**A good** time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

**The only** time politicians tell the truth is when they call each other liars.

**The first** piece of baggage on the airport carousel never belongs to anyone.

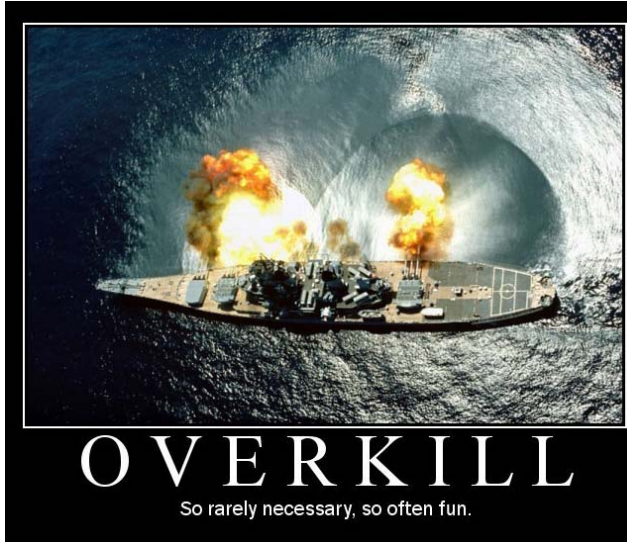
**WHY** do they put Braille on the drive-through bank machines?

**America is** the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real, but the moon landing was faked.

**God gave** you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.

**Never** buy a car that you can't push easily.

**Tom & Roy** entered a chocolate store. As they were busy looking, Tom stole 3 chocolate bars. As they left the store, Tom says to Roy, "Man I'm the best thief, I stole 3 chocolate bars and no one saw me. You can't beat that." Roy replied: "You want to see something better? Let's go back to the shop and I'll show you real stealing. "So they went to the counter and the Roy said to the shopkeeper, "Do you want to see magic?" The shopkeeper replied, "Yes." Then Roy said, "Give me one chocolate bar. From that stack" The shopkeeper gave him one, and he ate it. Roy asked for a second bar, and he ate that as well. He asked for the third, and finished that one too. The shopkeeper asked: "But where's the magic?" Roy replied: "Check in my friend's pocket, and you'll find all three bars of chocolate."



**After much** scientific study, I have concluded that for every 5 degrees colder it gets outside, my toilet seat gets 10 degrees colder.

**When you** go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

**When Hurricane** Sandy struck the U.S.' East Coast, even houses of worship were not spared. A local television station interviewed a black woman from New Jersey and asked how the loss of churches in the area would affect their lives. Without hesitation, the woman replied, "I don't know 'bout all those other people, but we ain't gone to Churches in years. We gets our chicken from Popeye's." The look on the interviewer's face was priceless.

**In dreams** and in love, there are no impossibilities.

**Always** read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

**Being** young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

**I'm not** afraid to die - I just don't want to be there when it happens.

**It may** be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.



#### Headlines From The Year 2059:

Ozone created by electric cars is now killing millions in the seventh-largest nation in the world, Mexifornia, formerly known as California;

White minorities are still trying to have English recognized as Mexifornia's third language;

A spotted owl plague is threatening crops and livestock in the U.S. Northwest;

A Couple petitions court to reinstate heterosexual marriages;

Iran still closed off, physicists estimate it will take at least 10 more years before radioactivity decreases to safe levels;

France pleads for global help after being taken over by Jamaica - No other country has come forward to help the beleaguered nation;

Castro finally dies at age 112, Cuban cigars can now be imported legally, but President Chelsea Clinton has banned smoking;

The U.S. Postal Service has raised the price of a first-class stamp to \$17.89, and has reduced mail deliveries to Wednesdays only;

An 85-year, \$75.8 billion study reveals that diet and exercise are the keys to weight loss; The average weight of Americans has dropped to 250 lbs.;

Global cooling blamed for citrus crop failures in Mexifornia and Floruba;

Abortion clinics now available in every U.S. high school;

The U.S. Senate is still blocking oil drilling in ANWR, even though gas is selling for 4,532 pesos per liter and gas stations are only open on Tuesdays and Fridays;

Massachusetts has executed its last conservative;

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that punishment of criminals violates their civil rights;

A couple has finally reached sexual harmony - they both had simultaneous headaches;

The average height of NBA players is now 9 feet, 7 inches;

New federal law requires all nail clippers, screwdrivers, fly swatters and rolled-up newspapers to be registered by January 2060;

The IRS has set its lowest income tax rate at 75 percent;

Floruba voters still having trouble with voting machines;

and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has been re-elected to his 44th term in office - however he has been declared bankrupt after purchasing the votes of all Americans and the City Council.

**An elderly** man was stopped by the police at around 2 a.m., and was asked where he was going at that time of night. The man replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effect it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late." The officer then asked, "Really? Who is giving that lecture at this time of night?" The man replied, "That would be my wife!"

**I asked** God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.

**The last** thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.

**My mother** never saw the irony in calling me a son-of-a-bitch.



#### Command Reduction of Army Personnel C.R.A.P.

As a result of DOD budget cutbacks, we are forced to reduce the size of the force. Under CRAP, older soldiers will go on early retirement, thus permitting the retention of lower paid soldiers who represent the Army's future.

A program to phase out older soldiers via retirement by the end of the current fiscal year will be placed in effect. The program will be known as Retire Active Personnel Early (RAPE).

Soldiers who are RAPEd will be given the opportunity to seek civilian employment within the Department of the Army. To that end, RAPEd soldiers will be required to fill out numerous DA Forms (currently in the development, test, and evaluation stage) detailing their education and experience. This phase does not guarantee retired soldiers a civil service position; it does, however, guarantee that the soldier's unique capabilities will be considered before being bypassed in the hiring process. This phase of CRAP is known as Survey of Capabilities of Retired Warriors (SCREW).

Soldiers who have been RAPEd and SCREWed may request review of their situation by higher authority. This is the Study by Higher Authority Following Termination (SHAFT) phase.

CRAP policy dictates that a soldier may be RAPEd once, SCREWed twice, but may be SHAFTed as many times as the Army leadership deems appropriate.

If a soldier follows the above procedures, he or she will be entitled to get Half Earnings for Retired Personnel Early Severance (HERPES). As HERPES is considered a benefit payment, any soldier who gets HERPES will no longer be RAPEd or SCREWed by the Army.

The Army leadership wishes to assure younger soldiers who remain on active duty that the Army will continue its policy of ensuring that soldiers are well trained through our Special High Intensity Training (S.H.I.T.) program. The Army takes pride in the amount of SH\*T our soldiers receive and can boast that it gives its soldiers more SH\*T than any other service.

If a soldier feels he or she does not get enough SH\*T, see your commander. Your commander is especially trained to make sure you receive all the SH\*T you can stand.



### One-Liner Business Listings

#### Advertising / Classifieds

Veterans Post News - 727-822-8387

#### Credit Unions

Grow Federal Credit Union 800-839-6328

#### Funeral Services

Gee & Sorensen Funeral Home 727-323-5111

#### Newspapers

Veterans Post News - 727-822-8387

Dog Groomers - Gardeners - Live Entertainment

#### Pizza / Italian

Westshore Pizza 4<sup>th</sup> St - 727-895-5506

Repairs - Services - Training - Veterans

**How Many People Read This Page?**

Want your business here? 727-822-8387

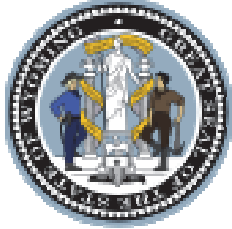


**USS Guardian To Be Dismantled**



After running aground on Tubtataha Reef, near the Philippines, the U.S. Navy has determined that the 23-year old **USS Guardian** (MCM 5) will be dismantled and safely removed from the reef in sections.

**Wyoming To Block Federal Gun Laws**



Wyoming's House of Representatives has passed legislation that attempts to exempt the state from proposed federal regulations restricting assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. The law would also charge federal officials who try to enforce the ban with a misdemeanor, reports CBS.

**U.S. State Dept. Recruiting jihadists For The Foreign Service, Web Site Says**



"In what can only be described as a mind-boggling policy move, the State Department recruited Muslim participants at a conference sponsored by groups with ties to radical Islamists to become members of its foreign service, the web site **Godfather Politics** says.

Foreign Service officers represent the United States at its embassies and consulates around the globe. The recruitment drive is part of the Obama administration's larger Muslim outreach policy, the web site says.

Mark Ward, the Deputy Special Coordinator in the Office of Middle East Transition, gave a 90-minute seminar on career opportunities for Muslim youths during a recent conference held in Chicago by the Muslim American Society and the Islamic Circle of North America. Other speakers at the conference included a fundraiser for the Holy Land Foundation convicted of funneling millions of dollars to Hamas, and a founder of the MAS who praised Palestinian terrorists in a presentation on jihad and "martyrdom." Joining Ward in presenting the jobs seminar was a man named Oussama Jammal, president of the Mosque Foundation, which raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Holy Land Foundation.

As part of its Muslim outreach efforts, the State Department has also reportedly been meeting in secret with Islamist groups, has sent a known anti-American cleric on a Mideast outreach tour, and has dumbed down federal anti-terrorism training to eliminate "negative references" to Muslims. Hillary Clinton even used her authority to allow two banned Islamic scholars to enter the United States, according to the web site.

Much has been written, outside the mainstream media, about the infiltration of the Obama administration by the Muslim Brotherhood, particularly at the State Department, where Clinton's top aide had undisputed family ties to the Muslim Brotherhood.

This administration's blind trust of radical Islamists has led to the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Libya and elsewhere. It is driving the war in Syria and blocking action against Iran's nuclear weapons program. With the White House delivering F-16s to the radicals in charge of Egypt even as it tries to disarm Americans, it's clear the wolves are in charge of the hen house, the web site says. Related site: [www.godfatherpolitics.com](http://www.godfatherpolitics.com)

**Panetta: Cuts Could Make The U.S.A. 'Second-Rate Power'**



Even Obama's Defense Secretary Leon Panetta warned that the United States would become a "second-rate power" if the White House fail to reach a budget deal that would avoid an extra \$500 billion in military budget cuts.

**Marines Can Become U.S. Citizens While In Boot Camp**

Ten young men became U.S. citizens on the same day they were presented to their families as Marines, as part of a new program that allows recruits to go through the naturalization process while still at boot camp.

**TRICARE For Life Fact Sheet Update**



TRICARE For Life (TFL) is TRICARE's Medicare wrap-around coverage available to all Medicare-eligible TRICARE beneficiaries. This fact sheet gives retirees the information they need ensure they are taking full advantage of their Medicare and TRICARE benefits. Read the fact sheet at: [www.tricare.mil/~media/Files/TRICARE/Publications/FactSheets/TFL\\_FS.ashx](http://www.tricare.mil/~media/Files/TRICARE/Publications/FactSheets/TFL_FS.ashx)

**'All Hands Magazine' Returning To The Fleet**



**All Hands Magazine** is returning to the fleet better than ever on Feb. 11. The online news magazine will include articles, information, imagery and videos that are important to sailors and their families. Readers can check out the magazine at [www.ah.mil](http://www.ah.mil)

**The One-Percenters**



The Pentagon will ask Congress for a one percent pay raise in Fiscal 2014 for uniformed members of the U.S. military, said Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

"No one is getting a pay cut, but we will provide a pay raise that's smaller than we've seen in past years," Panetta told reporters during a roundtable discussion.

**Germany Air Base Losing Its Warthogs**



A-10 from the 81st Fighter Sqdn, Spangdahlem AB, Germany.

The inactivation of the 81st Fighter Squadron, at Spangdahlem AB, Germany, will proceed this year, affecting about 500 personnel who operate and maintain the unit's A-10 ground-attack airplanes, announced base officials.

This move is part of the Air Force force structure changes in Fiscal 2013. While Air Force officials announced nearly one year ago the service's desire to stand down the 81st FS, they had to wait on the completion of the Fiscal 2013 defense authorization legislation to know what changes they could make across the force in the fiscal year. President Obama signed the legislation into law in early January.

Service officials have yet to finalize the specific plans to relocate the squadron's A-10s, states the base's Jan. 31 release. However, the squadron is currently moving some aircraft to Moody AFB, Ga., and Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., to support training requirements and to augment A-10 units at those locations. The squadron's remaining aircraft and personnel will withdraw from Spangdahlem by the year's end, states the release.

**Author Of 'American Sniper' Shot And Killed At Gun Range**



Chris Kyle, an ex-U.S. Navy SEAL who wrote the best-selling book **American Sniper** about his service in Iraq, was shot and killed at a gun range in Texas, multiple outlets reported. A second man was also killed.

According to local TV station KHOU, officials said that Kyle was shot at point-blank range "while helping another soldier who was recovering from post traumatic stress syndrome" at a range near the town of Glen Rose.

**The Dallas Morning News** reports that Lancaster, Texas, police arrested a suspect, 25-year-old Eddie Ray Routh, after a brief chase.

Kyle had become well-known for his exploits in Iraq, where he deployed four times, set the record for sniper kills at 150, received numerous commendations, and, according to the **Stephenville Empire Tribune**, was given the nickname "The Devil of Ramadi" by insurgents.

*Selective Thoughts*  
**Inspirational Gifts for All Occasions**  
*Stop By And See Us At...*  
**Bay Pines VA - Mar 05-09**  
**Orlando VA - Mar 21-23**  
**Tampa VA - Mar 26-30**  
**863-668-9203**  
**We Now Carry & Order...**  
**Military Caps and Pins!**

**HOW IS YOUR DENTAL PLAN WORKING FOR YOU?**

**No Charge**  
 2 Routine Cleanings per year  
 X-Rays - Fillings  
**Co-Pays**  
 \$5 Office Visits  
 \$5 Simple Extractions  
 \$245 Crowns + Labs  
 \$125 Whitening (per Arch)  
 \$396 Other Co-pays

**\$5 CO-PAY DENTAL PLAN**

We saved our members Over 15 million in dental cost last year!

Sign up online at [www.dental5copay.com](http://www.dental5copay.com) Or call Today!  
 National Association For Medical and Dental, Inc.  
 5211 US Hwy 19, Suite 200 New Port Richey, FL 34652  
**1-800-684-9908**

**Happy St. Patrick's Day**

*The Leading Leprechaun was busy, so we decided to find someone else to help us find the pot of gold. We found her in the Leprechauns R Us Phone Book.*



## DHS Training TSA Agents To Save Themselves During Shootings



## Transportation Security Administration

It is unclear whether the alleged training is simply a prudent attempt by the TSA to protect its own employees from every imaginable contingency. Fears are that the Department of Homeland Security has detected a threat and is already moving to deal with it.

Meanwhile, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is seeking to purchase up to 7,000 "personal defense weapons" (PDW) - the same rifles are called "assault weapons" when owned by civilians.

### So Why Is It...?

A federal judge will decide whether to approve an agreement for BP to plead guilty to manslaughter and other charges and pay a record \$4 billion in criminal penalties for the company's role in the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Clerk's Note:** Our federal govt holds corporations, like BP oil, Toyota, Mercedes, foreign banks, American Banks, etc. etc. responsible for their actions when something goes wrong... BUT The Citizens of These United States get nothing but silence when our govt screws up. Judges, senators, congressmen, governors, even at the state and county levels... Are NEVER Held responsible for the damage and wrong decisions they make. Judge sets someone free who 'Once Again' commits the same crime and the only ones responsible are the victims... They are responsible to pay their own bills, pay the repairs for damage, pay the doctors and shrinks... Yes their insurance companies cover a lot of it, but then the 'Victims' rates go up and once again they pay for it.

## Air Force Reserve Announces Revised Force Structure Actions



U.S. Air Force Reserve Command officials are moving forward with force structure changes authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2013.

Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard leaders collaborated to develop one Total Force proposal in response to concerns raised by state governors and Congress regarding the FY-13 president's budget submission and subsequent congressional marks that placed proposed force structure actions on hold.

As enacted into law, the NDAA included the entire "amended" Air Force Total Force proposal as well as the retention of additional intra-theater airlift aircraft, retention of the Global Hawk Block 30s and a delay of the retirement of 26 C-5A Galaxies until 45 days after delivery of a new Mobility Requirements and Capabilities Study. It also directed a National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force and limited retirement of B-1 Lancers.

"In a difficult economy, the Air Force has to make tough choices," said Maj. Gen. Craig Gourley, the AFRC's vice commander. "These force structure changes will take place over the next three years and are necessary to help meet Budget Control Act of 2011 resource levels."

New Air Force Reserve units authorized by the act are:

- The 14th Intelligence Squadron, a classic associate unit at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio;
- The 28th Intelligence Squadron, a classic associate unit at Hurlburt Field, Fla.;
- The 37th Intelligence Squadron, a classic associate unit at Fort Meade, Md.;
- The 41st Intelligence Squadron, a classic associate unit at Offut AFB, Neb.;
- The 655th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group, at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio;
- The 960th Cyber Operations Group, at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, and;
- The 960th Network Warfare Squadron, a classic associate unit at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

Other force structure actions authorized by the act include:

- Barksdale AFB, La., Inactivate the 917th Fighter Group and retire 24 A-10C Thunderbolt IIs and transfer three A-10Cs to Whiteman AFB, Mo.
- Beale AFB, Calif., Inactivate the 13th Reconnaissance Squadron.
- Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., Gain 24 A-10Cs from the Air Force in 2014.
- Lackland AFB, Texas, Retire 16 C-5As during the next three years and gain 8 C-5Ms from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., in 2016 (C-5 retirements are delayed until 45 days after delivery of a new Mobility Requirements and Capabilities Study).
- Westover ARB, Mass., Transfer eight C-5Ms to Lackland in 2016.
- Tinker AFB, Okla., Retire four KC-135 Stratotankers.
- Whiteman AFB, Mo., Gain three A-10Cs from Barksdale AFB, La.
- Robins AFB, Ga., Inactivate the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve.
- March ARB, Calif., Retire one KC-135 in 2013.

The Air Force has convened an intra-theater airlift working group and is using a deliberate approach to develop courses of action to determine the placement of additional intra-theater airlift assets. Additional changes to Air Force Reserve C-130 units will be made based upon decisions made by the working group.

## Obama Asks Military Leaders If They'll Fire On U.S. Citizens



2009 Nobel Peace Prize nominee Jim Garrow shockingly claims he was told by a top military Veteran that the Obama administration's "litmus test" for new military leaders is whether or not they will obey an order to fire on U.S. citizens.

Garrow was nominated three years ago for the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize and is the founder of The Pink Pagoda Girls, an organization dedicated to rescuing baby girls from genocide in China. Garrow has been personally involved in "helping rescue more than 36,000 Chinese baby girls from death."

He is a public figure, not an anonymous voice on the Internet, which makes his claim all the more disturbing. "I have just been informed by a former senior military leader that Obama is using a new "litmus test" in determining who will stay and who must go in his military leaders. Get ready to explode folks. "The new litmus test of leadership in the military is if they will fire on U.S. citizens or not. Those who will not are being removed," Garrow wrote on his Facebook page, later following up the post by adding the man who told him is, "one of America's foremost military heroes," whose goal in divulging the information was to "sound the alarm." Garrow's claim is even more explosive given that the country is in the throes of a national debate about gun control, with gun rights advocates keen to insist that the founders put the second amendment in the Constitution primarily as a defense against government tyranny. It also follows reports on Sunday that General James Mattis, head of the U.S. Central Command, "is being told to vacate his office several months earlier than planned."

Concerns over U.S. troops being given orders to fire on American citizens in the event of mass gun confiscation first arose in 1995 when hundreds of Marines at 29 Palms, Calif., were given a survey as part of an academic project by U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ernest Guy Cunningham, which asked the Marines if they would, "Fire upon U.S. citizens who refuse or resist confiscation of firearms banned by the United States Govt." The survey was subsequently leaked because many of the Marines who took the survey were shocked by the tone of the question.

The U.S. Military has clearly outlined innumerable civil emergency scenarios under which troops would be authorized to fire on U.S. citizens. In July 2012, the process by which this could take place was made clear in a leaked U.S. Army Military Police training manual, **Civil Disturbance Operations**, dating from 2006.

Similar plans were also outlined in an updated manual released in 2010 entitled FM 3-39.40, **Internment and Resettlement Operations**.

The 2006 document outlines how military assets will be used to "help local and state authorities to restore and maintain law and order" in the event of mass riots, civil unrest or a declaration of martial law. On page 20 of the manual, rules regarding the use of "deadly force" in confronting dissidents on American soil are made disturbingly clear with the directive that "a warning shot will not be fired."

Given that second amendment advocates are now being depicted as dangerous terrorists by the federal government and local law enforcement, Garrow's claim is sure to stoke controversy given that Americans are seeing their gun rights eviscerated while the federal government itself stockpiles billions of bullets.

Last week, Gloversville Mayor Dayton King warned that any federal gun confiscation program could lead to a "Waco-style stand-off" in rural areas of America.

**Clerk's Note:** Thirty-One Officers, Grade O-5 through O-8, have left the military earlier than expected since the November Election. Forced retirement or have been relieved of command.



## Obama Dealt Blow By Federal Court



Obama violated the Constitution when he bypassed the Senate last year to appoint three members of the National Labor Relations Board, a federal appeals court ruled Jan 25, in a far-reaching decision that could severely limit a chief executive's powers to make recess appointments.

The decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit marked a victory for Republicans and business groups critical of the labor board. If it stands, it could invalidate hundreds of board decisions over the past year, including some that make it easier for unions to organize.

When Obama filled the vacancies on Jan. 4, 2012, Congress was on an extended holiday break. But GOP lawmakers gavelled in for a few minutes every three days just to prevent Obama from making recess appointments. The White House argued that the pro forma sessions "some lasting less than a minute" were a sham. The court rejected that argument, but went even further, finding that under the Constitution, a recess occurs only during the breaks between formal year-long sessions of Congress, not just any informal break when lawmakers leave town.

White House Press Secretary said the administration strongly disagrees with the decision and that the labor board would continue to conduct business as usual, despite calls by some for the board members to resign. Under the court's decision, those recess appointments made by the president would be invalid. And those quarter million dollar salaries should be returned.

The White House hinted that they would ask the Supreme Court to overturn the decision, which was rendered by three judges. "We disagree with the court's ruling and believe that the appointments are sound."

"I think this is a very important decision about the separation of powers," said Carl Tobias, a constitutional law professor at Virginia's University of Richmond. The court's reading has limited the president's ability to counter the obstruction of appointments by the Senate that has disagreed with the Obama administration.

The ruling also threw into question the legitimacy of Obama's recess appointment of Richard Cordray to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The case challenging the recess appointments was brought by Noel Canning, a Washington state bottling company that claimed an NLRB decision against it was not valid because the board members were not properly appointed. The D.C. Circuit panel agreed.

Obama made the appointments after the Senate blocked his choices for an agency they contended was biased in favor of unions. Obama claims he acted properly because the Senate was away on a 20-day recess. But during that time, the Senate technically had stayed in session because it was gavelled in and out every few days for so-called pro forma sessions. Lawmakers used the tactic specifically to prevent the president from using his recess power to install members to the board. Democrats had also vigorously opposed the nomination of Cordray. Obama disagreed with the Senate and now the Court, he ignores the constitution when he sees fit.

The three-judge panel flatly rejected arguments from the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, which claimed that the president has discretion to decide when the Senate is unavailable. "Allowing the president to define the scope of his own appointment power would eviscerate the Constitution's separation of powers," Chief Judge David Sentelle wrote in the 46-page ruling.

"With this ruling, the D.C. Circuit has soundly rejected the Obama administration's flimsy interpretation of the law, and it will go a long way toward restoring the constitutional separation of powers," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.

Rep. Candice Miller (Mich.) released the following statement after the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit found that Obama violated his appointment power established in the Constitution by making recess appointments to these Boards when the Senate was not actually in recess. "The Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit sent a strong message that the president is not above the ultimate law of our land, the Constitution. Chief Judge David Sentelle said it very succinctly in the unanimous ruling, "Allowing the President to define the scope of his own appointment power would eviscerate the Constitution's separation of powers." Our Founding Fathers when drafting our Constitution required the president to secure the advice and consent of the Senate for certain appointments to the government for very important reasons; foremost among them to prevent the abuse of power by any president.

"This abusive over-reach by Obama has now thrown the important work of the board into uncertain territory. Obama must respect the limits on his power enshrined in the Constitution and work appropriately with the Congress on all matters required by the Constitution to conduct the business of our nation."





Special Introductory Rate  
as Low as **1.99%** APR\*

Take charge of your higher-interest credit card payments and other bills by taking advantage of this low, introductory rate for the Grow Visa® Platinum Credit Card.

- No annual renewal fee or cash advance fee
- Same, low rate for purchases and balance transfers
- Earn free rewards points on everyday purchases
- Transfer balances with no balance transfer fees

**Apply Today!**  
Call, click or visit our Main Base Office at 2418 Florida Keys Avenue.

**grow financial**  
federal credit union

Federally insured by NCUA

\*Annual Percentage Rate (APR). 1.99%-9.99% APR introductory rate for the first six (6) billing cycles for qualifying members on purchases and balance transfers. The rate you receive will be based on your credit worthiness. After that your APR will be 10.24%-16.99%; members not qualifying for the introductory rate will receive an APR of 17.99%. The rate you receive will be based on your credit worthiness. This rate is a variable rate and will vary with the market based on Prime Rate as published in the Wall Street Journal "Money Rates" table on the last day of each calendar month. The APR will not exceed 18.00%. If the minimum monthly payment is 60 days late twice in a twelve month period, the rate will revert to a default rate of 18.00% for six (6) months. Other APRs: Cash Advances 18.00%. Overdraft to Share Account 18.00%. A finance charge of 1.00% will be charged on foreign transactions. Rates are effective as of 01/01/2012 and could change without notice. You must close on your application by 12/31/12 to qualify for this offer. You must be a member of this Credit Union. For membership eligibility, please contact the Credit Union. Membership requires purchasing a share in the Credit Union for \$5.00 and paying a membership fee of \$5.00.

growfinancial.org

## Flamingo Bar

"WHERE FRIENDS MEET"  
'FROM BEEMERS TO BIKERS'  
'POOL PLAYERS WELCOME'  
'BE A SPORT OR WATCH ONE'



Indoor Outdoor

Present this Coupon for One BOGO Mixed Drink of Equal Value. Limit 1 per person.

1230 Ninth Street North

Saint Petersburg, Florida

A Vietnam Veteran Owned Business

727-821-9397

- \* Pizza
- \* Wings
- \* Salads
- \* Hoagies
- \* Calzones
- \* Stromboli
- \* Garlic Bread
- \* Cheese Steaks
- \* Drinks



3187 4<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Saint Petersburg, FL

CALL!

727-895-5506

Show Your  
VA or  
Military ID  
and Get  
20% OFF

**Veterans Helping Veterans**  
Please donate your **WORKING** autos to the Veterans Village Project So we can help provide transportation for needy Veterans.

You will receive a receipt at the current Blue Book price for your tax records.

Call Tom at 727-394-4904

Saint Petersburg's Finest  
**MARINER CAR WASH & DETAILING CENTER**  
10% Off w/Military or VA ID  
Richard A. Lane, President  
3338 4<sup>th</sup> Street North 727-895-9274  
Saint Petersburg FL 33704  
RLane@MarinerCarWash.com

**Curt Middlebrook**  
Computer / Business / IT Consulting

**SIT!**  
I teach you how to get the computer to work for you, not against you!

(727) 386-6010  
curt@thecomputerwhisperer.us  
www.TheComputerWhisperer.us

**The Computer Whisperer**

## Veterans Burial & Cremation Services

Veterans and Families



On Behalf of a Very Grateful Nation



Gee & Sorensen Funeral Home



- Basic / Simple Low Cost Cremation
- Rental Casket

Veterans discounted package pricing on all services & merchandise

3180 30th Ave. N., St. Petersburg

727-323-5111

Affordable Package Prices • Uncompromised Service Since 1971

Nothing beats *Live* music!



Raymond James Pops  
**A NIGHT AT THE COTTON CLUB**  
It's an all-star cast with trumpeter Byron Stripling, tap dancer Ted Louis Levy and Count Basie songstress Carmen Bradford in a swinging salute to Harlem's famed Cotton Club with *It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing*, *Dinah*, *Minnie the Moocher*, and more. Jeff Tyzik conducts.  
Mar 8 - 10

Tampa Bay Times Masterworks  
**Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde**

*The Song of the Earth* is a voyage through Mahler's extraordinary musical world of orchestra and song, as an expression of the desire to understand life's heart-wrenching melancholic beauty. The concert closes with Haydn's *Symphony No. 45, Farewell*. Stefan Sanderling conducts.  
Mar 15 - 17

Raymond James Pops  
**Tiempo Libre**  
A SYMPHONIC NIGHT IN HAVANA  
Tiempo Libre performs a dazzling array of their high-energy "timba" style music... mixing jazz, salsa, son, conga, cha-cha-chá and even Bach...in a night of hits from their three Grammy-nominated CDs as well as from their latest recording *My Secret Radio*. Sarah Hicks conducts.  
Apr 6 & 7

Tampa Bay Times Masterworks  
**Symphonic Dances & Rhapsodies**

It's a night of folk dance-inspired favorites from Brahms' *Hungarian Dances*, Dvorák's *Slavonic Dances*, Bartók's *Dance Suite* and Kodály's *Dances of Galanta*...along with John Adams' *The Chairman Dances* and Bernstein's *Three Dance Episodes from On The Town*. Penny So conducts.  
Apr 12 - 14

Pops & Masterworks Tickets: \$15, \$30 & \$45  
727.892.3337 or www.FloridaOrchestra.org