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**“Official Journal”  
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**John T. Jenson**



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158th Field Artillery Battalion

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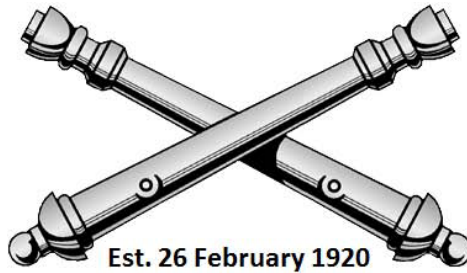
## **PREFACE**

I have decided to capture as much of the 158th Field Artillery's history as possible, so for this reason I have compiled U. S. Library of Congress PCN 2018957292 volumes:

- Volume No. 1 "Centennial Review"
- Volume No. 2 "Battle Campaigns and Honors"
- Volume No. 3 "World War II"
- Volume No. 4 "Korean War"
- Volume No. 5 "Persian Gulf War"
- Volume No. 6 "Global War on Terrorism"
- Volume No. 7 "Cold War"
- Volume No. 8 "Unit Photos and Official Rosters"
- Volume No. 9 "Official Journal" 1920 to 1945
- Volume No. 10 "Official Journal" 1946 to 1970
- Volume No. 11 "Official Journal" 1971 to 1995
- Volume No. 12 "Official Journal" 1996 to 2020

The last four volumes in this series are "official journals" which are composed of registries of data that are derived from newspapers, periodicals, journals, orders, rosters, and official correspondence with this volume concluding the series. At the end of this volume I have added an "erratum" for the complete series as well.

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## Registry of the 158th Field Artillery

**Jan 01, 1996:** Published in the "The On Guard Newsletter" entitled: 158th team demonstrates MLRS during exercise. A 10-man team from the Oklahoma Guard's 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery successfully demonstrated the use of the MLRS to participants of Keen Edge '96, a training exercise in Japan held in January this year. The Oklahoma detachment, commanded by Maj. Ricky Adams, provided general support to the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) during the exercise. The exercise encompassed the region of Hokkaido, Japan, the southern Japanese island of Okinawa, and Ft. Lewis, Wash. The exercise was a joint training effort for the Marines and the Japanese Self-Defense Force. While the Marines played the exercise on a computer-simulation, for the Japanese, it was an actual field exercise. "We executed a wide array of fire missions which allowed the 3rd MEF to see the firepower capabilities of the MLRS as well as work out the unfamiliar logistics channels," said Staff Sgt. John Jenson, Lawton, a member of the 10-man team. "Initially, the Marines were hesitant to use the MLRS in the delivery of their fires, but as the exercise progressed, they became zealous in their 'calls for fire'," Jenson said. "While the Marines respected the DPICMS (Dual Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions), they grew to love the ATACMS (Army Tactical Missile System) because of its deep strike capabilities," Jenson said. At the culmination of the exercise, the MLRS firing batteries literally wiped the "OPFOR" icons off the computer-display screens, the Oklahoma guardsman said. The Oklahomans were based on Okinawa during the exercise. After it concluded, they were allowed one day off to tour the island. One of the 10, Sgt. Homer Harden, a former Marine, had been stationed there more than 20 years earlier. As a guide, he was often heard exclaiming "I don't remember this...there used to be a jungle there." However, he did show the soldiers Kin Blue Beach, Agena Castle, Camp Hansen and the famous Kadena Gensa. As the Oklahomans packed up for their journey home, they were congratulated by the 3rd MEF Marines Commanding General Rollings. "They were impressed with the aggressive fire-power and extended range of the MLRS. But, more importantly, they loved the delivery of "steel on Target." Jenson said. "As we headed home, we had the personal satisfaction of knowing we represented the professional citizen-soldiers of the Oklahoma Guard," he said. Photo Caption: 158th's Keen Edge participants included, standing from left, Staff Sgt. Gholson, Staff Sgt. Recklein, Staff Sgt. McNeill, Sgt. Ruth, Sgt. Hardin, 1st Lt. Jernigan and Maj. Adams. Kneeling are Capt. Thompson and Staff Sgt. Reece.

**Feb 28, 1996:** Obituary: Billy Charles Elms. Born 28 Aug 1932 Anadarko, Caddo County, Oklahoma and died 28 Feb 1996 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. Buried at Memory Lane Cemetery Anadarko, OK. Billy grew up in the Anadarko area and graduated from Anadarko High School with the Class of 1951. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict earning the United Nations Medal, the Japanese Occupation Medal, the Korean Service Medal and the Bronze Star. He moved to El Reno, Canadian County, Oklahoma, in 1954 where he was employed by Altec Corp and later Prudential Insurance Co. where he worked as an insurance agent until his retirement. He was a member of the Amity Baptist Church and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 382 both of El Reno. He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Edward Elms. Survivors include his wife, his mother, and two sisters. Services were held in the Amity Baptist Church and his burial was conducted with military honors, under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home of El Reno. Private, and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**May 30, 1996:** Published in the "The Congressional Publications" entitled: The MacArthur Leadership Awards Honor 24 Fine Americans. 104th Congress, 2nd Session the Congressional Publications, Volume 142, Part 9 Pages 12758 dated May 30, 1996. Honorable Stephen Horn of California in the House of Representatives. Thursday, May 30, 1996. Mr. Horn. Mr. Speaker, at a Pentagon awards ceremony on May 17, I had the pleasure of seeing 24 fine officers in the U.S. Army receive the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. This is the 9th year in which these awards have been made. The General Douglas MacArthur Foundation, in cooperation with the Department of the Army, sponsors the annual presentation. I was present because one of my constituents, Capt. John K. Tien was one of the recipients, a West Point graduate who has served his country with distinction, Tien was nominated to the

U.S. Military Academy by my predecessor Representative Glenn Anderson. For over a decade, I have known Tien's mother, Debbie, who has worked for the California State University system in which I served before becoming a Member of this House. His step-father, Tom Hennessy, is the most widely read and quoted columnist in the South Bay area of Los Angeles County and Orange County as well. The MacArthur Leadership Award recognizes those company grade officers who demonstrate the ideals for which Gen. Douglas MacArthur stood. All of us who lived through the Second World War know those ideals: duty, honor, country. The purpose of this coveted award is to recognize junior officer leadership in the U.S. Army. The very able Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, presented the awardees with a 23-pound bust of General MacArthur. He was assisted by the former Secretary of State and General Alexander Haig. Over the years, representatives of the MacArthur Foundation, which is headed by Robert M. White II, its president, have faithfully attended. What is particularly impressive about the selection of the MacArthur awardees is that they represent the diversity of the modern Army: 12 awards are made to officers in the Active Army, 6 awards are made to officers in the Army National Guard, and 6 awards are made to officers in the Army Reserve. Those who receive the 12 awards from the Active Army are nominated by 23 major army commands and the headquarters of the Army and the various field operating agencies. It is a very competitive process, 22 of the 24 awardees were captains; 2 were first lieutenants. I think it is a sure thing that the latter two will make captain and beyond. Three of the recipients were women. The U.S. Army can be proud of the men and women of all races and of many national origins, who have had great opportunities in the Army to exercise leadership. And they have done just that. Mr. Speaker, I ask consent that the list of the 1995 General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award recipients be included at this point in the Record: Captain Paul A. Metcalfe. Captain Metcalfe represents the U.S. Army National Guard. He was assigned as Battalion Training Officer, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, Lawton, Oklahoma, when selected.

**Jun 25, 1996:** Obituary: Paul Gene McCarley, of Warner Robins, GA., died Tuesday, June 25, 1996, at a medical center in Warner Robins. He was 49. A graveside service was held at 10:00 am Saturday, June 29, at Rock Creek Cemetery with the Rev. Dan Palesano officiating. Burial was under the direction of the Callaway Smith Cobb Funeral home. He was born on September 3, 1946 in Lawton, to Walter B. and Mary (Cox) McCarley. He attended Lawton schools and was a member of the 1965 graduating class. McCarley was a United States Army veteran, having served in Vietnam. He was a retired orderly from a Veterans hospital in Florida. Survivors include two sons, Paul G. McCarley, both of Burleson, TX, a daughter, Mary Alicea Olson, also of Burleson; his parents of Central High; three grand children; six brothers, Roy McCarley of Marlow, Walter McCarley of Central High, Jerry McCarley of Rush Springs, Jimmy McCarley of Warner Robins, GA, Dennis McCarley of Yucaipn, CA, and Gary McCarley of Boston, MA; six sisters, Doreen Weeks of Sterling, Christina Ray of Perryton, TX, Debora Ervin of Lubbock, TX, Mary Kuntz of Fletcher, Sherry Underwood of Weatherford, TX and Typhena Winfree of Lawton. Serving as pall bearers were Greg Ray, Andrew Kuntz, Adam Ray, J. D. McCarley, Chuck Kuntz and Benjamin McCarley. Private First Class and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jul 25, 1996:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Completed training at Fort Chaffee, Ark. Several local soldiers of 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, successfully completed the first operational readiness test ever given to a National Guard battalion during their two weeks of annual training with the Oklahoma National Guard at Fort Chaffee, Ark. Capt. Jaime Franco, Staff Sgt. Cecil Sim, Sgt. Kim Earhart, Spec. Chris Polsgrove and Spec. Anthony Biggs, all of Lawton, were part of a group which also fired 87 live rounds from its multiple launch rocket system, marking the first time the weapon has ever been fired at Fort Chaffee, the sprawling U.S. military reservation located near Fort Smith, Ark.

**Aug 28, 1996:** Published in the "US Army Field Manual 71-100" entitled: Mobilization and demobilization planning. Worldwide missions demand an appropriate mix of forces. This mix includes active, National Guard (NG), and US Army Reserve (USAR) forces in combat, combat support (CS), and combat service support (CSS) units to meet the various mission requirements around the globe. In some cases, division commanders may execute plans for the reception and training of mobilized reserve component (RC) units. In Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the United States demonstrated its capability to assemble, deploy, and rapidly project military forces. The 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery (Multiple Launch Rocket System) of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, for example, was alerted for mobilization on 15 November 1990, and federalized on 21 November 1990. The 1-158th FA (MLRS) arrived at its mobilization station, Fort Sill, on 24 November 1990. The battalion's equipment was processed at the mobilization station and shipped to a seaport of embarkation (SPOE) within 24 days of federalization. The battalion, minus equipment, deployed to Southwest Asia on 31 January 1991. Once in country, the battalion awaited the arrival of its equipment. At the seaport of debarkation (SPOD), the battalion off-loaded its own equipment, moved to its VII corps assembly area, and fired in the initial preparation fires for the ground offensive on 22 February 1991. The 1-158th FA mobilized, deployed, and participated in combat fire missions within 82 days from call-up. In other examples, RC units were alerted, mobilized, and deployed into the area of operations in as little as two days.

**Nov 01, 1996:** Published in the "The Field Artillery Redbook" entitled: National Guard Units. 1st Bn, 158th FA: LTC Boyle, James L. and CSM Lynn, William R.

**Feb 18, 1997:** Published in the "The Cherokee Strip Museum Web Page" entitled: Cherokee Strip Museum From the North West Corner BY: Fred G. Beers. 158th Field Artillery National Guard Band is shown in this photo from the 1930s while the citizen soldiers from Perry were at Fort Sill for annual summer camp. Ivan Kennedy, standing at right in khaki uniform with breeches and boots, was the band director. His young son, Robert, is seated on the front row beside the bass drum. Only a few of the guardsmen are identified. Among them are Mickey Johnson and Warren V. Ryan, seated on ground at left in front row. The drum major standing at left is Bill Elliott Jr. Seated next to him is clarinetist. Henry Clark. Perhaps a reader can furnish other names. Pyramidal tents in background housed bunks for the guardsmen. Ivan Kennedy was a skilled artisan in several unrelated fields, but his real love was music and he excelled in that, also. His principal instrument was the violin, and the sensitive hands that coaxed beautiful music from that delicate medium also knew hard work. He was slender and not very tall, a sparse, frail-looking man whose frame belied a seemingly boundless reservoir of energy. As the father of seven young children during the Great Depression, he understood the necessity of applying one's self diligently to stay afloat in a whirlpool of economic distress. He made a living as a professional musician in his younger years, but later the very practical reality of paying the bills for a sizable family forced him to look elsewhere for a vocation. I always had the feeling he would rather be stroking his violin or leading an orchestra if he could afford it, but he was wise enough to know that a life like that was not to be for him. Instead, he found other ways of indulging his love of music, like directing the local National Guard band and playing in a community band led by Dr. W. C. Marshall. On occasion, he also was invited to direct the Oklahoma City orchestra. During the 1930s, Mr. Kennedy operated the Kennedy Tire Shop, a car, truck and bicycle tire repair business on the east side of Seventh street a half block north of the northwest corner of the square, about where the Dollar General Store now stands. It was a small wooden building with broad folding doors in front, providing an opening big enough for a car to be driven in for service. The interior was expectedly cluttered and disorderly with racks of tires in various stages of repair, empty rims, tire tools scattered everywhere, a tub of murky water where inner tubes could be submerged to disclose tiny leaks, Vulcanizing patches to seal punctures, and the pungent aroma of rubber, hot glue and red Oklahoma dust permeating every cranny. Right next door, where Boatmen's Bank is now located, was the OK Filling Station operated by Cleo Stout and his uncle, Ira Stout. The Kennedy shop was straight out of Gasoline Alley. Years later, tubeless and steel-belted nylon tires changed that entire aspect of automobile service. Hazel Eby Kennedy, Ivan's wife, provided a comfortable home for her husband and children in a neat frame bungalow at 815 Tenth street. Like Ivan, she was a musician at heart and found time to give piano lessons to youngsters of the community as a means of supplementing the family income. I for one remember the parlor where their upright piano stood, and the patient instructions Mrs. Kennedy gave to some of her less than gifted pupils. In my case the lessons were exchanged as barter for items purchased by the Kennedys at the Beers family's City Drug Store. Bartering was the accepted medium of trade in those days when cash was scarce. Private lessons of any kind were generally regarded as luxuries reserved for the well to do at that, time, but the barter arrangement helped both parties to proudly avoid acknowledging just how tough the times were. Our drug store also had the same trade-out plan with the nuns who taught piano at St. Joseph's Academy and with Mrs. Florence Crowder, who also taught. My sister Gloria became quite proficient on the keyboard, although I never did. In addition to fixing flat tires, Mr. Kennedy operated a locksmith shop and mattress factory at the Seventh street location. In 1938 he opened a roller rink on Elm street in a building which the Cooper Motor Co. Oldsmobile dealership later occupied. Safeway bought Mr. Kennedy's property on Seventh street in the early 1940s and built a spacious new supermarket there after closing the old store on the west side of the square at 317 Seventh street. (The "new" Safeway building has since been utilized by several businesses; it is now the home of Dollar General Store.) When the tire shop closed, Mr. Kennedy concentrated on the Elm street roller rink. Skating was immensely popular with youngsters and young adults and the roller rink did a thriving business during the week. Rollerblades and inline skates were introduced many years later. On Saturday nights the building was converted into a dance hall with music provided by country and Western bands led by such as Merl (Salathiel) Lindsay, Johnny Lee Wills or some other popular musician. There in the subdued lighting and happy atmosphere, liquor was not tolerated. City police maintained a presence in the vicinity to make sure folks did not become too zestful. The Saturday night dances brought couples here from a broad area for a wholesome good time. Still later, Mr. Kennedy moved the roller rink, dance hall and locksmith shop to a larger building almost directly across from his old tire shop location on Seventh street. The building had been the home of the Cramer Body Works, operated by Gerald Cramer, at 415 Seventh street, and in more recent years it has been used by the Ragsdale Hardware Store, which recently closed with the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ragsdale. The Kennedy Roller Rink continued to be a popular recreational spot for skaters until it was closed. With its demise, Mr. Kennedy focused his attention on a picture framing business and locksmith shop in the middle of the north side of the square for the last few years of his active life. His son, Robert, grew up in the Perry roller rink and began operating his own business in Shawnee. It also was enormously successful. Robert, a 1942 graduate of PHS, played drums in the high school band and for a time joined a local

dance band which played in this area. He and his wife were professional-caliber exhibition skaters. Hazel and Ivan Kennedy were soft spoken and gentle in dealings with their children, the rest of their family, and their friends. None of the family lives in Perry any longer, but it is safe to say they left an enduring imprint. Because of that and because they were interesting folks to know, we have more to relate about the Kennedys of Perry when the next Northwest Corner appears.

**Aug 10, 1997:** Obituary: Timothy Lee Tointigh, Apache, Funeral for Timothy Lee Tointigh, 50, Apache, will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday in Apache Tribal Complex Gym, Anadarko, with Bishop Tom Roughface and the Rev. Steve Chibitty officiating. Prayer service will be at 7 p.m. today at the complex. Mr. Tointigh died Sunday 10 Aust 1997, in an Oklahoma City hospital. Burial will be in Cache Creek Cemetery, Boone, southwest of Apache, under direction of Smith Funeral Chapel, Anadarko. He was born May 26, 1947, in Lawton. He graduated from Apache High School in 1965. He attended Oklahoma State Tech in Okmulgeen before entering the Army on May 10, 1967. He served in Vietnam with the 86th Combat Engineers, Ben Luc, South Vietnam. His military awards include: National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Republic of Vietnam Commendations Medal with 60 device, and Sharpshooter Qualified Badge. He was honorably discharged May 1, 1973. He also served in the Army National Guard as a Specialist Fifth Class with Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery in the 45th Division, until his discharge Aug. 6, 1978. He was a member of the Kiowa and Apache tribes of Oklahoma. He was a member of Apache Native American Church and was a Methodist. Survivors include a son, Paul Edward, Apache; his mother, Birdie M. Tointigh, Apache; two brothers: Jackie Dale, Oklahoma City, and Patrick Paul, Apache; three sisters: Phyllis Tate, Broken Arrow; Thomasine Tointigh, Chickasha; and Francine O'Brien, St. Joseph, Mo.; and three grandchildren. Published in The Lawton Constitution, 12 August 1997, page 4B.

**Oct 13, 1997:** Obituary: Funeral for Troy Boydston Masterson, 92, Cyril, will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Full Gospel Holiness Church with Don Ray Williams and Bill Patterson officiating. He died Monday, 13 October 1997, in a Chickasha hospital. Burial will be in Celestial Gardens Cemetery, Cyril, under direction of Binyon Cyril Funeral Homes. He was born June 3, 1905, in Anadarko. He married Della Dean Deason on April 6, 1929, in Anadarko. At the age of 22, he joined the National Guard and was a Corporal in Regimental Headquarters of the 158th Field Artillery. He was employed by APCO Refinery in Cyril from 1936 to 1942. He joined the Navy during WW II and served in the SEABEES in the Aleutian Islands. He was discharged in 1945, as a ship fitter, first class. In 1945, he returned to Cyril for a year then moved to Hawkins, Texas, where he owned and operated a grocery store for several years. He and his wife then moved to Maysville, where he was employed by Warren Petroleum Refinery until he retired in 1967. He moved back to Cyril in 1987. He was a member of First Christian Church, Cyril. Survivors include his wife of the home and a sister, Vesta Beall, Tyler, Texas.

**Feb 22, 1998:** Obituary: Franklin Edward Hartwick, 78, passed away at his home here on Sunday, Feb. 22, 1998, following an extended illness and funeral services will be held here this (Wednesday) afternoon. He was born in Pawnee on November 22, 1919 to Edward O. Hartwick and Donna (Livesay) Hartwick and graduated from Pawnee High School in 1937. During WWII he served in the 45th Division with the 158th Field Artillery and while serving in Massachusetts he met Edith C. Thomas who he married on November 3, 1942 at Hudson, Mass. They lived in Massachusetts for 10 years moving back to Pawnee in 1968 and remained here. Known by many of his schoolmates and friends as "Hank", he worked in oil fields when he was young, then in the open pit mines in Silverbell, Arizona and in the uranium mines in Fry Canyon, Utah. Later he operated a Gulf Service station and was toll gate attendant on the Cimarron Turnpike until he retired. He enjoyed tinkering with clocks, old guns and automobiles. He is survived by his wife Edith (Edie) Hartwick of the home in Pawnee and a son and daughter: Franklin T. Hartwick of Broken Arrow, Okla. And Susan Tanner of Shawnee, Okla. plus 7 grandchildren: Daren Alan Kitteridge of Marlboro, Mass.; Tommy Alan Hartwick and Lisa Hartwick, both of Broken Arrow; Philip Tanner, Julie Tanner, Stephen Tanner and Aaron Tanner, all of Cushing. Also surviving is a brother and 3 sisters: Dallas Hartwick and Mollie Spears, both of Pawnee, Doris Maltsberger of Oologah, Okla. and Nola McGee of Tucson, Arizona and a number of other relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents, 2 brothers; Donald and Darrell Hartwick; daughter Donna Leslie, son Alan Hartwick, Sr. and grandchildren Alan, Jr. and Barry and Scott Tanner. He was a member of the First Christian Church of Pawnee. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. today, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1998, at the Poteet Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Tom Scott officiating. Interment will follow at Pawnee's Highland Cemetery. Arrangements are being handled by the Poteet Funeral Home of Pawnee. Memorials may be made to the Pawnee First Christian Church Rebuilding Fund. Technician Fourth Grade, ASN: 20830903, and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Feb 27, 1998:** Obituary: Virgil M. Gallop; Source: Daily Ardmoreite. Duncan, OK. Services for Virgil M. Gallop, 60, will be 2 p.m. Monday at Bethesda Church of God with the Rev. Harold Metheny officiating. Interment will follow at Duncan Cemetery. Born Sept. 25, 1937, at Addington to Virgil E. and Mary Cassidy Gallop, he died Feb. 27, 1998, at an Oklahoma City hospital. He married Barbara Bridgman on June 5, 1960. A short time later he was inducted into

the United States Army and was stationed at Fort Riley Kan. From 1961 to 1963 he served in Berlin. Gallop later lived in Ratliff City, where he served as the chief of the volunteer fire department. He also served as a Ratliff City Councilman. He became employed as a firefighter with the Duncan Fire Department, after moving his family to that community in 1978. He retired in June 1992. Gallop was recently self-employed at Virgil's Barber Shop in Ratliff City. He was a long-time member of the Bethesda Church of God, where he faithfully served as Sunday School Superintendent and as a deacon for more than 25 years. Survivors include his wife, of the home; two sons, Jeff Gallop, Duncan and Randy Gallop, Ada; his mother, Duncan; three brothers, Gerald Gallop, Oklahoma City and Jimmy and Gary Gallop, Duncan; one sister, Elaine Winkler, Antioch; and three grandchildren. Bearers are Gary Criswell, Cecil Dearen, Darrell Meadows, Rick Samples, Bill Hamstead and Lonnie Troutman. Services are under the direction of Carter-Smart Funeral Home. Specialist Fourth Class and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 24, 1998:** Obituary: James Arthur Ferguson, Oklahoman, The (Oklahoma City, OK) Published as Daily Oklahoman, The (Oklahoma City, OK), March 26, 1998, Edition: City, Section: NEWS, Page: 27, Column: Deaths and funerals: Ferguson James A., of Oklahoma City, passed away Tuesday evening, March 24, 1998. He was born in Dallas, TX June 30, 1917 to W.J. Ferguson & Annie L. Franks Ferguson. He married Crystal Abel April 19, 1941 and they celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary. He was a member of The Church of Christ. James served in World War II as a Sergeant, ASN: 38017320 and served in Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery with the 45th Division. He was with Eskridge Oldsmobile where he retired in 1978. We wish to thank Good Sheppard Hospice for all their loving care. He was preceded in death by his parents and his 2 sisters, Myrtle and Mary. He is survived by his wife, Crystal of the home. Graveside services will be held 2:00 P.M. Thursday, March 26, 1998, at Fairview Cemetery in Shawnee.

**Jan 11, 1999:** Obituary: Newton Franklin Drinnon; Cheyenne Star, Thursday, January 14, 1999, pg 4. Funeral services for Buster Drinnon were conducted Wednesday, January 13th at 2:00 p.m. from the Martin Funeral Chapel of Elk City with Dolan Ivey officiating. Burial was followed in the Red Hill Cemetery under the direction of the Martin Funeral Home of Elk City. Buster Drinnon was born July 20, 1922 at Treadway, Tennessee to H. B. Harvey Brownlow and Laura Ester (Seals) Drinnon and passed away Monday at the age of 72. Buster and his 11 siblings moved with their parents from Tennessee to Oklahoma in 1928. In 1937 he returned to Tennessee on vacation with his mother and stayed for 2 years with his uncle Tyler and aunt Minnie. While there, Buster joined the Friendship Baptist Church in Treadway. He returned to western Oklahoma where he attended Hammon, Kiowa and Chapel Hill Schools. On September 18, 1940 he volunteered for 1 year in the National Guard and before the year ended his unit was mobilized into the Army, 45th Division with Headquarters Battery 1st Battalion 158 Field Artillery. He received an honorable discharge on October 25, 1941. Buster was married to Myrtle A. Hunter on November 4, 1941 at Rev. Rossís home. On December 14, 1942 he was drafted back in the Army and served until October 27, 1945 serving in the Headquarters Battery 183rd Field Artillery and the 3rd Army in Europe. He was in 4 major battles including the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Croix de Guerre Division #332 Pro France Government, American Defense Service Ribbon and 4 Bronze Service Stars. He received his second honorable discharge on October 27, 1945. He returned to Hammon where he and Myrtle raised their 6 children, Laura, Franklin, Bedford, Bobby, Belinda and Janice. Buster worked as an independent and custom farmer and retired from farming in 1987. He was also the City Marshall of Hammon from 1952 until 1963. Buster took great pride in his volunteer work at the Red Hill Cemetery which he began in 1950 and continued until his death. His volunteering did not end with his work at the cemetery. He spend hours delivering food from his home not just on the holidays but anytime someone was in need. His children can't remember a time when he could not manage to squeeze one ore(sic) person at the table for a meal or one more bed on the floor. Nothing made him happier than to have his nieces, nephews and grandchildren stay with he and his wife Myrtle in their home. He always left his door open for anyone that might stop by or need a place to live. Everyone knew there was never a bad time to stop by, Buster always welcomed them. Buster enjoyed fishing alone or with others. He treasured the hours he spent fishing with his sons, grandsons and great grandsons especially the older ones since they were able to participate. Buster's other hobbies included playing dominoes and cards with family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Bedford Lee, 1 brother, Oscar and sister, Flora. Survivors include his wife Myrtle Drinnon of Elk City home, 5 children, Laura and Lloyd Copenbarger of Villa Park, CA; Franklin and Peggy Drinnon of Elk City; Bobby and Gwen Drinnon of Sayre; Balinda and Barry Moskowitz of Norman and Janice and Tom Conway of Cheyenne; 17 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren; 2 brothers, Floyd Drinnon of Hammon and T. C. Drinnon of Pampa, TX and 7 sisters, Eula Burton of Ceres, CA; Willie Jones of Altus; Della Johnson of Dixon, CA; Virginia Creach of OKC; Minnie Ruth Hillman of Burns, Oregon; Juanita Dixon of Elk City and Laura Alice Brannon of Whitesboro, OK; several nieces, nephews and many friends. The family requests memorial in Buster's name be made to the Perpetual Care Fund of the Red Hill Cemetery of Hammon. Private First Class, ASN: 38393449 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jan 28, 1999:** Obituary: Edmund Walsh Crummey, The Daily Gazette, Schenectady, NY. January 29, 1998, Edition: Schenectady Albany; Final, Section: Obituaries, Page: B-11. Niskayuna - Edmund Walsh Crummey, 79, of Niskayuna, died Wednesday at home. Born in Albany, Mr. Crummey was a graduate of Vincenzian Institute and Siena College with a bachelor's degree in economics, where he was a member of the first graduating class in 1941. During college, he played on the basketball team. During World War II, he served as a Corporal, ASN: 32293446, with the Army's Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery. From 1948 to 1966, Mr. Crummey resided in the Boston area, and for 17 years in Norwalk, Conn. He lived in Niskayuna since 1983. For 40 years, he worked for Exxon Corp., retiring in 1982 as the northeastern regional manager in the marketing department. Mr. Crummey was a former volunteer for the American Red Cross. He was a communicant of St. Ambrose Church, Latham. Mr. Crummey was the widower of Rita Lortie Crummey. Survivors include two daughters, Ellen Sullivan of Kinderhook, and Marcia Vinci of Pound Ridge; a son, Edmund Crummey Jr. of Crown Point; a sister, Katherine Towle of Albany; and six grandchildren. Services will be at 10:15 a.m. Friday at the Dufresne & Cavanaugh Funeral Home, 149 Old Loudon Road, Latham, and at 11 a.m. at St. Ambrose Church, Old Loudon Road, where a Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated. Burial will be in Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery. Calling hours will be 6 to 8 tonight at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease Association, Northeastern Chapter, Albany; or the Siena College Alumni Association.

**Jan 29, 1999:** Obituary: Robert Thomas McClure, 69, of Ord died Friday, Jan. 29, 1999, at his home. Mr. McClure was cremated. Memorial services will be at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Ord Memorial Chapel followed by military rites by the Ord VFW and American Legion. Burial will be at a later date at the Memoryland Cemetery at Anadarko, Okla. Ord Memorial Chapel is in charge of arrangements. Memorials are suggested to the family. Mr. McClure was born Dec. 6, 1929, to Robert and Sylvia (Riley) McClure at Anadarko, Caddo County, Okla. He grew up in Anadarko and graduated from Anadarko High School in 1947. He attended Southwest Teachers College in Weatherford and graduated in June 1954 from Oklahoma A & M, now Oklahoma State, with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. He married Shirley Pauline Sullivan on Aug. 17, 1950, at Anadarko. During the Korean War he served with his brother in Japan and Korea with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery Battalion, 45th Division. He was a Master Sergeant, serving from 1950 to 1952. Following his military service and graduation from college, he was employed with the Oklahoma Highway Department from 1954 to 1956. He then went to work for an oil pipeline company in Tulsa and Drumright, Okla. He then went to work for the Bureau of Reclamation in 1958 working construction on the Ft. Cobb Dam in Oklahoma, the Canadian River Project and the Sanford Dam at Borger, Texas. From May 1968 to August 1972, he served as field engineer and resident engineer for the Garrison, North Dakota Construction Field Branch during construction of the Snake Creek Pumping Plant. In March 1974, he transferred to Pierre, S.D., where he was the resident engineer for the construction field branch during the construction of the Oahe Pumping Plant. From April 1978 until retirement in January 1987 he worked as the project construction engineer for the North Loup Division on the construction of the Calamus Dam and Irrigation project. He retired in Ord after a 30-year career. He was a registered professional engineer in both Oklahoma and Texas. He was a member of the VFW and past member of the Ord Rotary Club. His hobbies were building and flying radio controlled airplanes. He was also involved in several central Nebraska Clubs which involved model airplanes. Survivors include his wife; two sons, Randall of St. Paul, Minn., and John of Rapid City, S.D.; six grandchildren and one.

**Feb 11, 1999:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: National Guard names new commander. Maj. Robert Roshell has been named the new commander of the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery (MLRS) in Lawton, the Oklahoma Army National Guard announced. In a recent change of command ceremony, outgoing commander Lt. Col. James Doyle was honored with a Meritorious Service Award. He is a 21-year veteran of active service and service to the Guard. As commander of the 1st Bn 158th FA, he was in charge of an 8-inch howitzer battery and later a multiple launch rocket system battery. He has been named to serve as executive officer of the 45th FA Brigade. Roshell has been an artilleryman in the Oklahoma Army National Guard for 18 years. For the past two years, he has been battalion executive officer for the 1st Bn 158th FA. In his civilian occupation, he is the principal at MacArthur Junior High School. He said he is looking forward to meeting the challenge of leading the 1st Bn 158th FA into a new millennium.

**Mar 19, 1999:** Obituary: Bernard Henry Killer, 61, Garden City, KS, died, March 19, 1999, at the Aurora Regional Medical Center, in Aurora, CO. He was born March 11, 1938, in Weatherford, OK, the son of Henry V. and Ozella E. McCloskey Killer. He received his Master's Degree in elementary education from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He moved to Garden City in 1965, from Straight, OK. For 33 years he had served in the Garden City School District, with the last 23 years as the principal of the Georgia Mathews Elementary School. He was a member of the Church of Christ in Garden City. Other memberships included Kansas Principals' Association and KPERs. He married Elaine Lobaugh in Ron, OK, on December 22, 1961. She survives. Other survivors are son, Brad Killer, Parker, CO; daughter, Shawna R. Deters, Centralia, KS; mother, Ozella E. Killer, Weatherford, OK; brothers,



Lawrence Killer, Herington, KS; Joe Killer, Dallas, TX; sisters, Helen Ayres, Borger, TX; Kathy Dean, Clinton, OK; and three grandchildren. Funeral services were held March 23, 1999, at the Clifford Hope Auditorium at Garden City High School, Garden City, KS. Burial Services were March 24, 1999, at Greenwood Cemetery, Weatherford, OK. Courier Tribune Seneca, KS; March 24, 1999; pg 4. Sergeant, and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 26, 1999:** Obituary: Aubrey Arthur Williams; Born: 7 May 1917 Kingfisher, Kingfisher County, Oklahoma, Died: 26 Mar 1999, Buried at Kingfisher Cemetery, Kingfisher, Kingfisher County, Oklahoma, USA. Aubrey Arthur Williams is the son of Elmer Williams (1888-1946) and Clara Ethel Trindle (1891-1969). He married Grace Lucille Divine (1918- ) on 25 Jan 1938 in El Reno, Canadian County, Oklahoma. He served as a Private First Class in the U. S. Army during World War II. ASN: 20830956 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 01, 1999:** Orders # 091-003: Department of the Army and the Air Force. Oklahoma Army and Air National Guard. 3501 Military Circle, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73111-4398. Orders 091-003. Roshell, Robert W., MAJ, HHS, 1 Bn 158 FA OKARNG Lawton, OK 73507-5403 FA. You are reassigned as indicated below. Duty assigned: Bn Cdr (13A00) (P101 L01) ILO LTC) Duty relieved from: XO (13A00) (P101 L02) Effective date: 16 March 1999. Authority: NGR 600-100, Para 4-6; VOTAG OK date confirmed: 16 March 1999. Additional instructions: (a) Vice: Doyle, trf. (b) Active status program code: H. (c) Officer Evaluation Report (DA67-9) for period 1 June 1998-15 March 1999 will be forwarded this Department, ATTN: OKPA-PAB-O, NLT 1 May 1999. Format: 460. For the Director, Pers & Admin: Robbie L. Asher, LTC, GS, OKARNG, Chief, Plans & Actions Branch. Distribution: C.

**Apr 26, 1999:** Obituary: Lyndon Bruce Teafatiller, Marietta Monitor, April 30, 1999, page 4, Graveside services for Lyndon Bruce Teafatiller, 52, of Antlers were Wednesday in the Darwin Cemetery. Officiating was Andy Rogers. Born August 12, 1946, at Broken Bow, Mr. Teafatiller died April 26, 1999, at his residence in Antlers. He was the son of Melvin and Dixie Teafatiller, also of Antlers. Mr. Teafatiller was a rancher. He is survived by his parents; three sons, William Joel Teafatiller of Gainesville, Texas, Anthony Bruce Teafatiller of Milan, Italy, and Kevin Teafatiller of Healdton; a daughter, Tera Gale Teafatiller of Canyon City, Colorado; two brothers, Melvin Douglas Teafatiller and Charles David Teafatiller of Antlers; three sisters, Carla Katheryn Teafatiller, Judy Lee Teafatiller-Epps and Karen Raye Teafatiller of Antlers; and 11 grandchildren. Services were directed by Mills & Coffey Funeral Home, Antlers. Private First Class, and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Aug 24, 1999:** Obituary: Urshal Vestal Beets. Former Wanette resident Urshal V. Beets, Moore, died Tuesday in an Oklahoma City hospital. He was 81. Beets was born March 19, 1918, in Wanette to Sam and Anne (Vestal) Beets. He attended school in Wanette and was a fuel tank repairman at Tinker Air Force Base for 20 years. He lived most of his life in Wanette and Moore. He married Lois Whiting on Nov. 8, 1948, in Weleetka. A World War II veteran, he served from 1941-1945 with the U.S. Army as a Sergeant in Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Division, with a ASN: 38017328. He was preceded in death by his parents, Sam and Annie Beets; three brothers; and two sisters. Survivors include his wife, Lois Beets, of the home; two daughters, Allison Chipman, Midwest City; Mary Maddux, Del City; two sisters, LaVerne Conley, Purcell; Beatrice Laughlin, Oklahoma City; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins. Services will be 10 a.m. Saturday at Roesch-Walker Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Archie Beller officiating. Burial will be at Wanette Cemetery.

**Sep 06, 1999:** Obituary: Menson Senich: Born 19 Dec 1908 in Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona, USA and Died 6 Sep 1999 (aged 90). Burial is at Catholic Church Cemetery, Salt River, Maricopa County, Arizona, USA. Menson Senich was a police officer on the Salt River Reservation. He was born on the Salt River Reservation. In 1948, he went through a tragic time. His son died in an accident in June; and ten days later, his first wife, Cecilia James Senich, passed away from tuberculosis. One of his daughters was Mary Senich Ray. Based upon her date of birth, Mary was a daughter of Cecilia James. Menson married Elida Benson Pedro in 1950. An incident that occurred on July 3rd, 1966 is just one example of the challenges that police officers in maintaining officer safety. A 12 year old Indian girl took a knife and plunged it towards Menson's heart. The knife instead struck Menson's badge, which saved his life. The girl's attorney waived a preliminary hearing; and she was committed to the custody of the U. S. Marshal, after a hearing on July 5th. Private and served with Battery "E", 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 15, 1999:** Obituary: Morgan William Eddleman Jr.; Oklahoma City, Okla. Morgan William "Bud" Eddleman Jr., 72, died Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1999. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday in Christ the King Catholic Church by Smith & Kernke Funeral Directors. Mr. Eddleman was born in Ardmore. He graduated from Bartlesville High School in 1945 before entering Southwestern University as part of the Navy V5 pilot training program during World War II. He graduated with a degree in geological engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1950, where he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and the ROTC. He served as a First Lieutenant; OSN: O-967709 with the

Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Infantry Division, as a forward observer in Korea during the war. He worked in oil exploration with City Service Oil Co., at Bartlesville, Okla., Olney, Ill., and Great Bend, Kan. Mr. Eddleman also worked for Parker Petroleum at Ponca City. After working for El Paso Natural Gas Co. in Amarillo, he became a consulting geologist and formed his own exploration and production company. He was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Oklahoma City Geological Society, the Kansas Geological Society, and the Amarillo Geological Society. He was a member of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists. He married Thalia Welborn in 1958 at Ponca City. Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Anne Doll of New York City; three sisters, Ernestine Ruggiers and Ruth Loeffler, both of Norman, Okla., and Marianne Biddick of Ardmore; and a brother, Robert C. Eddleman of Houston, Texas. The family requests memorials be to Christ the King Catholic Church or a favorite charity.

**Jan 01, 2000:** Obituary: Henry Warner Seablom: Sioux City Journal, 3 January 2000. Pierson, Iowa. H.W. "Bud" Seablom, 73, of rural Pierson died unexpectedly Saturday, January 1, 2000, at his residence. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Meadow Star United Methodist Church in rural Pierson, with the Rev. Jay Amundson officiating. Burial will be in Grand Meadow Cemetery, rural Washta, Iowa. Visitation will be after 2 p.m. today, with the family present 7 to 8 p.m. at Earnest Michaelson Funeral Home in Pierson. Mr. Seablom was born August 15, 1926 in Santa Monica, California, the son of John G. and Ruth H. (Peterson) Seablom. He was raised in the Yankton, S.D. area. During his senior year at high school, his parents moved to the Grand Meadows area. He graduated from Yankton High School in 1944. He then began farming in the Grand Meadow area. He served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953, as a Sergeant with the 158th Field Artillery, Headquarters Battery, 45th Division, during the Korean War. Following his discharge, he returned to farming in the Grand Meadows area. He married Donna M. Harm on February 26, 1960, in Pierson. The couple continued farming. He was a member of American Legion Post 140 of Kingsley, Iowa and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2253 of Cherokee, Iowa. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time at his Minnesota cabin. Survivors include his wife; a daughter and her husband, Julie and Fred Lukins of Holstein, Iowa; two sons and their wives, Arlen and Julie and Norm and Leanne, all of Pierson; seven grandchildren, Kelly, Wendy, Luke and Tony Seablom, Cory Bendixen, Crystal and Chad Lukins; three step-grandchildren, Tim, Randi and Christine Morgan; two great-grandchildren; and his mother-in-law, Marjorie Harm of Pierson. He was preceded in death by his parents and father-in-law, Fritz Harm.

**Jan 05, 2000:** Obituary: Johnnie Dale Gouge, 68, who worked at Alcoa for 28 years, died in Vancouver on Wednesday, January 5, 2000. He was born October 1, 1931, in Jamestown, MO. Mr. Gouge lived in the Vancouver area since 1954. His daughter, Vickie, died in 1983. He is survived by one daughter, Shari Duling of Washougal; one brother, Layton of Vancouver; one sister, Faye Klug of Jefferson City, MO; and three grandchildren. Mr. Gouge retired in 1986 as a pot liner. He enjoyed bowling and playing pool and horse-shoes. He was a team pool player for The Spot Tavern. A graveside service will begin at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 11, at Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Memorial Gardens Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements. Sergeant, and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Feb 11, 2000:** Obituary: Billy Dean Galbreath. Born Feb 15, 1958 in Hugo, OK and died Feb 11, 2000 in Fort Smith, AR. Billy Dean Galbreath was the son of the late Billy James and Maggie Ra Galbreath of Hugo, Oklahoma. He was the third of nine children. He was a member of the St. James Baptist Church in Lawton, Oklahoma. Later he joined the National Guard. On October 4, 1979 the family moved back to Fort Smith, Arkansas. He was employed with Acme Brick Co. He married in 1982 and had one child. Burial will be at Washington Cemetery, Fort Smith, AR.

**Apr 05, 2000:** Obituary: Quanah Parker Shelton, 81, passed away April 5, 2000. He was born January 14, 1919 in Foss, OK. Quanah mustered into the Oklahoma National Guard in 1939; was a veteran of WWII, serving as Communications Chief for Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Infantry Division throughout campaigns in Sicily and Italy, receiving the Bronze Star. He also served in the Army Air Corps during the Korean Conflict, he was a Technical Sergeant, ASN: 20830465. He is survived by: his loving wife, Thresia; daughter and son-in-law, Jan and Bill Webb of Canyon Lake, CA; grandson, Greg Schneider; granddaughter, Jana McDowell and her husband, Bill; great-granddaughter, Jillian, all from Garden Grove, CA; brother, Judson of San Marcos, CA. Service will be held 11 a.m., Saturday at Floral Haven Chapel, 252-2518.

**Jul 16, 2000:** Obituary: Vernal Wesson Page. Born July 14, 1914 and died July 16, 2000. He is interred at the Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 8701 Expy, Oklahoma City, OK 73162. His parents are Charles Page and Flora Bell Mills Page. Vernal was married to Zelma Page. His siblings were Bessie Madeliene Page Jordan and Charles Jessie Page. Private First Class, ASN: 38023432, served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant after WW II.

**Oct 20, 2000:** Obituary: Thomas J. Phelps. Ringling, Oklahoma: Services for Thomas J. Phelps, 50, will be 10 a.m. Monday at First Baptist Church with Brother Mike Williams officiating. Interment will be at the Ringling Cemetery. Phelps was born Sept 4, 1950, in Long Beach, Calif, to Arthur Thomas and Wannell Wingham Phelps and died Oct 20, 2000 in Healdton. He married Sabrina Hamilton June 28, 1995, in Wichita Falls, Texas, Phelps was a member of First Baptist Church and worked at Uniroyal for approximately 30 years. The pleasures of his life were his children and working in his yard, garden and shop He was preceded in death by his father. He is survived by his wife of the home, mother, Wannell Phelps, Ringling; brother, Bill Phelps, Ringling; two sons and daughters in law, Scott and JoDe Phelps, Ringling and Michael and Joni Phelps, Zaneis; four daughters and three sons in law, Summer and Gregg Smith, Healdton, Shawna and Jerry Thorne, Lawton; Ashley and Tony Tupin, Lone Grove, and Kylie Gandy, Ringling; eight grand children Devin, Austin, Hunter, Presley, Kennedy, Kerrigan, Taylor and Morgan; one nephew, Steve, and his wife, Tifini Phelps, and their children from Ringling. Pall bearers are James Greer, Bill Black, Jack Edmonds, Tracy Hanson, Glen Allen, Barry Parish. Honorary bearers are Bobby Reed, Whitey Reed and Alan Roberts Services under the direction of Spivey'S Reser Funeral Home. Sergeant and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Nov 24, 2000:** Obituary: Stanley Thomas Aunchman, 76, died Friday, Nov. 24, 2000, at his home. He was born in Newark, N.J., on Sept. 26, 1924, the son of Leon and Catherine (Burke) Aunchman. He received his early education in Newark schools. He married Joan O'Boyle in 1970 in New York City. He was a veteran of World War II. He served in the United States Army in the invasions of North Africa and Italy. Following an honorable discharge, he worked for Century Exterminators in Brooklyn, N.Y. He worked in the extermination field for 42 years. Upon retirement in 1989, he moved from Regal Park, N.Y., to Vermont. Survivors include his wife of Castleton; two sons, Michael Clohessy of Regal Park and John Clohessy of New York City; two daughters, Joanne Fusco of Massapeque, N.Y., and Randy Valli of Calabasas, Calif.; two sisters, Rita Holden of Mesa, Ariz., and Barbara Carpenter of Spring Valley, Ark.; two brothers, Gerald Aunchman of Tuscon, Ariz., and Allen Aunchman of Albuquerque, N.M.; eight grandchildren, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by a sister, Helene Bullock. Friends may call at Mallory Funeral Home in Fair Haven today from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. and on Tuesday, Nov. 28, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. A funeral service will be held Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 10 a.m. at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Orwell with the Rev. Robert McKnight, pastor, officiating. Burial will follow in St. Genevieve Cemetery in Shoreham. Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to The Vermont Heart Association, 12 Hurricane Lane, Williston, 05495. Arrangements are under the direction of the Mallory Funeral Home in Fair Haven. Private, ASN: 32811061 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Jan 01, 2001:** Published by the "National Guard Bureau, Office of Public Affairs Historical Services Division" entitled: Mobilizing for the Storm. By Captain Les Melnyk. Photo: An Oklahoma Guardsman from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, aboard his MLRS launcher (NGB). Arkansas' 142d Field Artillery Brigade was ordered into federal service on November 21, 1990, and had packed and shipped its howitzers and rocket launchers by December 15. Exactly one month later the brigade was in Saudi Arabia picking up its equipment and moving forward to support the 1st Infantry Division. Later, during the ground offensive, the 142d supplied artillery support for the British 1st Armoured Division. Their contribution created a lasting impression on the commander of the British 4th Armoured Brigade: "By golly, they were good. ... For 45 minutes, there was what I can only describe as a running roar as MLRS sub munitions exploded in a carpet right the way across the full depth of the enemy position. Talking to the Iraqi artillery commander after the war, he told me that 90 percent of his crews on that position had been killed or wounded when this initial bombardment had gone in. He lost more than 70 guns in the space of an hour, which was a pretty major achievement. Oklahoma's 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, the first unit in the reserves to be equipped with the Multiple Launch Rocket System, fired over 900 rockets during the war, in the process achieving the highest fire rate of any artillery unit in the Third Army. The rapid deployment and devastating firepower delivered by the Guardsmen in these two artillery brigades was a significant example of what the Guard could do when entrusted with the combat mission.

**Jan 14, 2001:** Published in "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Walters soldier named state Guardsman of year. Meeting Jerry Wood Jr., it's no stretch to see what impressed successive boards at the battery, battalion, brigade and state levels until he was selected as Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldier of the Year. Patriotism. Pride. Military bearing. A mind like a steel trap, and a grip to match. Wood, a private first class, is a fire direction control specialist in A Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery in Walters. The MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) unit is part of the 45th Artillery Brigade, which together with the 45th Infantry Brigade and the 90th Troop Command comprise the OKARNG. He will represent Oklahoma in the Soldier of the Year competition for the 5th Army on April 9-13 in San Antonio. There he will go against the best soldiers from New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana and Kansas. The part-time soldier from Lawton is also a college student. Wood, a history major, is a junior at Cameron University, where he is enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He enlisted in the Guard two years

ago, making the decision out of "a sense of patriotism in my country," as well as a lifelong desire to serve in the military. He sees the Guard and ROTC as a means of "getting my feet wet" in what he hopes to make a career. While the Army is definitely in his future, field artillery isn't. Wood, who is scheduled to graduate from college in the spring of 2003, plans to pursue his commission in armored cavalry. If Wood was surprised at his selection, others weren't. "All of us in A Battery are extremely proud, but not surprised at how far he has gone," said Capt. Jason Henry, the battery commander. "Pfc. Wood is an outstanding soldier and person. He epitomizes the kind of soldiers we have in A Battery. He is intelligent, hard-working and exhibits a fantastic 'can-do' attitude. "I met him a year ago before I took command, and I was very impressed with his demeanor and his ability to express himself - both of which are crucial in the Soldier of the Year competition." The road to Soldier of the Year begins at the battery level, Henry explained. It was there that the first sergeant and platoon sergeants chose Wood. At the battalion level, Wood was in contention against three other soldiers. Then brigade. Then state. At each level, the testing is similar. "They ask you a bunch of demanding questions," Wood said of the oral interview. Henry said at every stage, contenders are evaluated on their military knowledge, appearance and demeanor. "Soldiers must learn and memorize a lot of information to successfully compete," the captain said. "It is not an easy competition." "They ask primary stuff about basic leadership, knowledge of the M-16, battle focus training, how to develop plans and how to lead people," Wood said. While most of the questions are military in nature, the raters also toss in a few that aren't as a means of breaking a soldier's concentration and gauging how fast the candidate can shift gears mentally. "What makes Pfc. Wood's accomplishment even more amazing is his age," Henry said. "He faced competitors who were several years older and (who) had several more years in the military." "I've pretty much been the green guy on all the awards," Wood agreed. The competition for Soldier of the Year is among privates first class and specialists. The raters at the state level were all command sergeants major. When it comes to giving credit and sharing the secret of his success, Wood is direct. "God," he says when asked his strongest point and inspiration. "Without a doubt, it was all for Him. He's my motivation not to quit. I was confident in the Lord; as far as in myself, I was unsure. God blessed me to win." His girlfriend, Kircia Cotter, also deserves some recognition. "She's the one who stayed up late with me calling all the questions out," he explained. "I'm kind of a crammer. Whenever I have free time, I hit the books." When he's not involved with the soldier of the year demands, Wood is content to do his job with A Battery. As a fire direction control specialist, it's his responsibility to "relay or tell the launchers where and when to fire - and make sure they keep in contact with higher echelons." "Pfc. Wood is the first from A Battery to progress as high as he has," Henry said. "His accomplishment demonstrates the high-caliber soldiers we have in our unit and the state of Oklahoma. Frankly, we know that we have the best soldiers in the state. "Lawton and Southwest Oklahoma can be very proud of these soldiers. Pfc. Wood has done an outstanding job preparing himself. He will win in San Antonio."

**Mar 09, 2001:** Obituary: Howard Kenneth Berry, Sr., a rookie Oklahoma City traffic police officer in 1931, who became one of Oklahoma's prominent courtroom lawyers without attending a law school, and patriarch of a three generation law family, died Friday in Oklahoma City where he had been a long-time resident. He was age 95. Mr. Berry was the son of James Wilson and Effie Tratchell Berry. He was born on a farm in Vandalia, Illinois in 1906, and the family moved to Oklahoma City in 1910. He was reared in Capitol Hill, graduating from Central High School in 1924. His father was elected Oklahoma County Clerk and served at the original three-story Oklahoma County courthouse at Main and Walker. Mr. Berry would often recount how he yearned for the law from hearing his father talk at the dinner table of courtroom cases. He learned his discipline from his mother, who strongly influenced him from her German heritage. Lacking a college degree, Mr. Berry was admitted to the Bar in 1932 after successfully "reading for the bar" and passing on the first examination. After admission he continued as a traffic cop until hanging out his shingle one year later. He was a prolific reader, lecturer and writer. During his career, he authored "Impartial Medical Testimony" and the book "Moman Pruiett, Criminal Lawyer" and became recognized as an expressive appellate brief writer who could well plead a case. But he was better known for his persuasive presentation of his client's cause before a jury where he would resourcefully draw on his own experiences. Mr. Berry served as a U.S. Army Military Policeman in World War II. In 1945 he re-established his private practice and founded the Law Firm of Berry and Berry which specialized in jury trials. That same year he was elected by his fellow lawyers President of the Oklahoma County Bar Association. Mr. Berry had a distinguished legal career. In 1968, he was selected by the Oklahoma Supreme Court to be the first prosecutor of a judge indicted by the Court of the Judiciary. The judge was removed. He was subsequently appointed in 1985 by the district judges of Oklahoma County to the Oklahoma Board of Equalization where he served for 8 years. He was a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and was elected by his peers to serve on the first Oklahoma Judicial Nominating Commission when it was constitutionally created in 1973. This shifted judicial selection from election of certain judgeships to appointment by the governor when a vacancy occurred. He served for six years. In 1987, Mr. Berry was recognized and awarded the Distinguished Service Lawyer Award by the Oklahoma Bar Association. In 1988 he received the Annual Journal Record Award for Outstanding Service to the legal profession. In 1993 he was honored by the Oklahoma Trial Lawyers Association and received the Founders Award as one of the 17 original members of this Plaintiffs bar organization. Mr. Berry was an honorary member of the Oklahoma City University Vaught Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta

Legal Fraternity and a teacher of a men's Bible class. Except for military service during World War II, he spent his entire career practicing law. He was a proven trial lawyer, and believed service to the bar was a vital part of his professional life. His younger brother, James W. "Bill" Berry, and nephew, Jim Berry, also became lawyers as did his son, Howard K. Berry, Jr., and grandson, Howard K. Berry, III. He is survived by his son. His beloved wife of over fifty years, Virginia Gochenour Berry, and daughter, Carol Berry Messmore, predeceased him. He is also survived by grandsons, Howard K. Berry, III, Jack Edward Berry, Russell Messmore, and granddaughters, Stephanie Floyd and Robin Rene Berry, as well as 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter. He is also survived by his brother, James W. "Bill" Berry, a sister, Dorothy Drane and nieces and nephews. Mr. Berry was proud of his independence. Only a few other attorneys like him personified the phrase "lawyer's lawyer." Classically a professional, marked by consummate preparation, he set the standards for integrity and honesty within his family and lawyer associates. He remained elegant and undaunted to the end, vigorous until his death, he personified the trial lawyer. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Oklahoma Bar Foundation, P.O. Box 53036, Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3036. Funeral service will be at 11:00 A.M. Wednesday at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church, 1212 Bedford Drive, near N.W. 63rd and N. Western. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery, Oklahoma City. Smith & Kernke 1401 NW 23rd St. Private, ASN: 38694695 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 28, 2001:** Obituary: Obituary Alan Wicks Bowman, (CPA and CMA), age 53, died March 28, 2001 in Colorado Springs. He leaves behind his devoted wife, Leslie; his parents, Col (Ret.) and Mrs. J. A. Bowman of San Antonio; a brother, Tom; a sister, Jo Anne and several nieces. His niece, Lauren loved his magic tricks. Published in the Express News on April 1, 2001. Miscellaneous El Paso County, Colorado Obituaries He was a financial manager for 25 years. He also served in the Army for two years, he was a First Lieutenant and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery Battalion. Mr. Bowman was born June 4, 1947, in Washington, D.C., to Ret. Col. Josephus and Mary Jo (Wicks) Bowman. He was married Feb. 15, 1990, to Leslie Olszewski. He is survived by his wife; his parents; a brother, Tom; and a sister, Jo Anne. Cremation is planned. Swan Law Funeral Directors, 501 N. Cascade Ave., 471-9900, is handling arrangements.

**Apr 01, 2001:** Obituary: Stephen Amador Terronez, 81, retired Coleman punch press operator and Army Sergeant First Class, died Sunday, April 1, 2001. Rosary 6 p.m. today, Lakeview Funeral Home; service 10 a.m. Thursday. St Anthony's Catholic Church. Born December 26, 1919. Preceded in death by sister, Patricia McAnulty. Mary Marcias. Survivors: wife, Isabel; sons, Stephen Terronez and wife, Jenny Crabb, Carlos A. Terronez, R.E. "Woody" Terronez and fiancée Rebecca Naylor all of Wichita; daughter and sons in law, Cynthia and Warren Clevenger, Linda D. and Raymundo Lucero all of Wichita; brother, V.E. of Gibson OK, Mack of Edmond, OK, Leonard of Oklahoma City, John of Wichita; sisters, Corina Piersol of Oklahoma City, Pauline Bruce of Tulsa; 13 grand children, 10 great grand children. Memorial established with Catholic Aging Services. Published in the Wichita Eagle on April 4. 2001. Private, ASN: 20830852, served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Aug 16, 2001:** Obituary: Lyman William Nichols, Sr.; died at his home on Aug. 16, 2001, after a long and courageous battle with an extended illness. He was born April 1, 1930 in Anadarko, OK. He attended school at Anadarko and was a gifted athlete in all sports earning a football scholarship to the University of Oklahoma. He served his country with active duty during the Korean Conflict as a Sergeant 1st Class with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Division. Returning from Korea he attended and graduated from OCU with a degree in Business Management. In 1960 he began a Career as a Petroleum Landman working on oil, gas and right of way projects all over the US making friends everywhere he went. Lyman, is survived by his wife of 48 years, Willie Mae (Novy) Nichols, and two children: Lyman, Jr. 'Nick' (son) and wife Dana, Leesa Nestell (dau.) and husband Jeff, three grandchildren, Will Nichols, Callie Nichols and Carter Nestell. Lyman also leaves surviving his brother Milton Nichols and wife Joyce and his sister Vera Stimson and husband Frank, along with a treasured group of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Lyman will be greatly missed; however, everyone should be comforted to know that through his faith in Jesus Christ, today Lyman is seeing by sight what he used to see by faith. Services will be held at 10:00 AM, August 20 at First Southern Baptist Church in Del City. Graveside services will be held at 1:00 PM at Memory Lane Cemetery in Anadarko, OK. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Diabetes Center of OK. Barnes & Johnson F. H. Midwest City 733-2991. Published in The Oklahoman from Aug. 19 to Aug. 20, 2001.

**Oct 06, 2001:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Guardsmen start pulling duty at regional airport. Saying he was privileged to serve, Capt. Pat Lynn of the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, of the Oklahoma Army National Guard was one of four guardsmen who volunteered to assist in helping the Lawton-Fort Sill Regional Airport with security measures. Beginning Friday, guardsmen were being deployed to Oklahoma airports under orders of the governor, said Airport Manager Barbara McNally. Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the FAA launched a series of new measures for airport security. One such measure includes having uniformed police officers to help enforce regulations. Acting on a call from President Bush, Sept. 27 Gov. Frank Keating announced the National

Guard will join existing law enforcement officials to provide security at airports in Lawton, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Enid and Ponca City. "The primary duty and responsibility is for them to be a visible armed deterrent at check points," McNally said. Lynn emphasized that point and explained the mission was not a military one, but rather a law enforcement mission. "We'll assist local airport authority, FAA and law enforcement," he said. "We can't arrest; we can only assist at checkpoints, with searches, with crowd control and we need to be observant of what's going on." He also said the guardsmen will carry side arms and ammo. "We have strict guidelines of when we can use them. All the soldiers here are trained with these weapons," he said. Lawton Police Department Master Officer Steve Handy, an officer on duty at the airport, said he felt the duty of being at the airport was an important one. He also said most passengers have been understanding of the security measures. "People have told me they're inconvenienced, but then they say, 'It's OK; inconvenience me'," he said. He can recall only one instance of an uncooperative person. Handy said the man was complaining about his bag being checked. Then when he was about to board the plane and he (as other passengers) were asked to show an ID, the man complained. But Handy said once the man saw the officer, he changed his attitude. "If they give us a hard time, they might not be able to fly. I think the guy knew that," he said. Handy, as well as other LPD officers, will continue to work at the airport, along with the guardsmen. The soldiers will be at the airport for at least six months and will be on two 10-hour-a-day shifts, seven days a week. The guardsmen at the Lawton airport were not ordered to go, but they volunteered, Lynn said. "In fact, we had more volunteers than we had openings," he said. Besides Lynn, Spec. Jimmy Sams, Sgt. Harold Hall and Sgt. David Heilman will be on duty at the airport. McNally has asked passengers to arrive at least an hour prior to boarding, to provide plenty of time for security measures. She also said passengers might want to consider that once a passenger has been screened at one airport, they may not have to be screened again unless they walk out of the airport. "That's the importance of Lawton - you can fly out of here and to the largest city in the United States and never be checked again," she said. Noting the need for safety, McNally said, "It's critical for people to understand that we (the Lawton airport) could be the only check point in the U.S." As for the guardsmen being at the airport, McNally said she believed their presence will help passengers feel better. "We are hoping these security measures help restore the public's confidence in flying," she said. Photo Caption: Oklahoma National Guardsman Sgt. David Heilman and Lawton Police Department Master Officer Steve Handy talk to passengers before the women board a flight Friday at the Lawton-Fort Sill Regional Airport. Four National Guardsmen will be on duty at the airport to assist with security measures. LPD will continue to patrol the grounds as well. Heilman, who is also a City of Lawton employee, volunteered for the duty as did the other three guardsmen.

**Oct 19, 2001:** Obituary: John Junior Leinweber, Born on Monday, Died on Friday, aged 72 years, 11 months, 14 days, of McGrann died Friday, Oct. 19, 2001 at his residence. He was born Nov. 5, 1928 in Kittanning to John Ellsworth and Charlotte (Hawley) Leinweber. Mr. Leinweber was a salesman for Kittanning Wholesale. He also worked for the Dandee Potato Chip Co. for 16 years. An Army veteran, he served during the Korean War. His memberships included the C.U. Club and Falcons, both of Ford City, and beneficial member of the American Legion. An avid swimmer, he enjoyed watching the Pittsburgh Steelers, playing pool and traveling to North Carolina. Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Kathryn (Harosky) Leinweber, whom he married June 21, 1953; one son, John Leinweber of Ford City; three daughters, Mrs. Brock (Charmayne) Ceders of Jasper, Texas, Mrs. Dave (Debbie) Bracken of Lexington, N.C. and Mrs. Dean "Rocky" (Kathyanne) Leinweber Crawford of Kittanning; eight grandchildren; one step grandchild; and one great grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents; and one granddaughter, Tiffany Leinweber Crawford Leinweber. Funeral services for John J. Leinweber, 72, of McGrann, who died Oct. 19, 2001, will be held at 1 p.m. Monday at the Welch Funeral Home, 1032 Fourth Ave., Ford City, with the Rev. Robert Lemon officiating. Interment will be in the Mateer Cemetery, Boggs Township. Arrangements by Welch. Obituary from Tribune-Review, Pittsburgh, PA. Private First Class, served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Oct 27, 2001:** Obituary: Vincent John Scalice, passed away October 27, 2001, at the age of 55. He was born in New York City, on September 2, 1946, to parents, Joseph and Sophie Scalice. He was preceded in death by his mother and brother, Louie. Vincent was drafted into the Army in 1966 and attended Officer Candidate School where he graduated in 1967. He served a tour in Korea from July 1968 to July 1969 and upon his return married. In 1970, he spent one year in Vietnam as a Military Advisor and earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal. From that marriage were born two children, Michelle in 1970 and Michael in 1973. In January 1974, Vincent left the Army and pursued his career with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals in Oklahoma City. His parents, Joseph and Sophie, moved from New York City in 1976 to Oklahoma City to be with Vincent and his family. Vincent continued his military career with the Army Reserves and retired as a Lt. Colonel where he resided in Texas from 1984 until he passed away last Saturday. He is survived by his father, Joseph; his son, Michael and wife, Dyanna and their son, Dylan of Oklahoma City; his daughter, Michelle also of Oklahoma City; and his cousin, Anna Utano, also of Oklahoma City. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, November 3, 2001, at the Bill Merritt Memorial Chapel. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery. Bill Merritt Bethany, 6201 NW 39th, 789-5622. Published in The Oklahoman on Nov. 1, 2001.

**Nov 28, 2001:** Obituary: Marshall Weldon Key. Services for Weldon Key, 71, of Minco, were held on Saturday, December 1, 2001 at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Minco, with Rev. Sam Scott officiating. The burial service, with full military honors, was in the Hazel Dell Cemetery, west of Minco. Key died on November 28, 2001 at his home. He was born on November 15, 1930 in Minco, and graduated from Minco High School, serving in the Korean War with the Minco Detachment, Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery, 45th National Guard. Key joined the Army reserve in California in 1960 and retired as a Captain, OSN: O-2292621, from the U.S. Army Reserve in 1990. For the past 28 years, he lived in Minco and was employed as a substitute postal carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, the V.F.W. and the American Legion. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, of the home; by two sons, G.W. Key and his wife Linda of Oklahoma City and Robert Key of Waco, Texas, by three daughters, Becky DeShields and husband Marty of Oklahoma City, Gail Key of Midwest City and Debra Kewy of the home; by a sister, Druesil Landes and husband Ken, and by nine grandchildren.

**Mar 23, 2002:** Obituary: Charles Vawter Wheeler, was born November 12, 1920, in Fay, OK, and was reared in Clinton, OK, graduating from Clinton High School in 1938. He attended Harding College in Arkansas and graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1943, earning an LLB in Law from The College of Law at The University of Oklahoma in 1948, and an LLM from New York University in 1973. He was an attorney for Southwestern Bell and in private practice before joining the legal department of Cities Service Gas Company. In 1968, Mr. Wheeler was appointed Vice-President and General Counsel of Cities Service in New York City, and with the company moved to Tulsa in 1974. After retiring from Cities Service, Mr. Wheeler served 'Of Counsel' with Gable and Gotwals and as Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Tulsa until 1992. Mr. Wheeler served in the U.S. Army both in the European Theater of Operations (1943-1947) of the Second World War and in the Korean Conflict (1950-1952) retiring 1968 as Brigadier General. He married Maryjo Meacham, his childhood sweetheart, on January 24, 1943, having two children and enjoying 59 years of life together. During their retirement, Charles and Maryjo shared extensive travels. They also spent great times with many wonderful friends and family members. They are (were) active members of All Souls Unitarian Church and Southern Hills Country Club. Mr. Wheeler was predeceased by his parents, Claude A. and Bertha Ann (Cooke) Wheeler, and by three of his brothers, P.L., Jim, and Joe. He is survived by his wife, Maryjo; his daughter, Allison Ann Wheeler of Oklahoma City; his son, Charles Meacham Wheeler of Taos, New Mexico; and one granddaughter, Katherine Hilary Wheeler of Texas. He is also survived by his two brothers, Gene Wheeler and Robert L. (Duke) Wheeler, both of Oklahoma City. Mr. Wheeler will be recognized on April 30th as one of the distinguished alumni at the dedication of the new facilities at The Oklahoma University College of Law. A Memorial Service will be held 1pm, Tuesday, March 26, 2002, at All Souls Unitarian Church. In lieu of flowers, friends may honor Mr. Wheeler's memory by contributing to a charity of their choice. Fitzgerald Ivy Chapel, 918-585-1151. Published in The Oklahoman on Mar. 26, 2002. Brigadier General, OSN: O-529878, ASN: 38401713 and served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**May 07, 2002:** Obituary: Herbert Joseph Tintle Jr. of Edison, retired elementary teacher, 74, Born Oct 21, 1927 and Died May 07, 2002, Star-Ledger, The (Newark, NJ) - May 10, 2002, Edition: Final, Section: News, Page: 43, A Mass for Herbert J. Tintle Jr., 74, of Edison will be at 10:30 a.m. today in St. Thomas More Church, Convent Station, after the funeral from the Doyle Funeral Home, 106 Maple Ave., Morristown. Mr. Tintle, who died Tuesday in Rahway Hospital, was a grammar school teacher in Dumont, Fair Lawn and Wanaque before retiring. He earned a bachelor's degree from Montclair State University and a primary school certificate at William Paterson University, Wayne. He also pursued graduate studies in education at the Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City. Mr. Tintle served as a Private and a Forward Observer in the Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery Battalion of the Army's 45th Division during the Korean War. While in the service, he wrote news and feature stories that appeared in the 45th Division News, and were also picked up by the Associated Press and United Press wire services, Stars and Stripes and several Oklahoma newspapers. Born in Paterson, he moved to Edison 26 years ago. Surviving are brothers, Carmel J. and Jerome A.

**May 19, 2002:** Obituary: John Jacob Filippo. Born 19 Nov 1917 and died 19 May 2002 (aged 84). Burial is at Arlington Memory Gardens, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, USA. Filippo, Johnie Jacob, 84, of Midwest City, passed away May 19, 2002. He was born November 19, 1917, to Joe and Josie (Palesano) Filippo, in Fort Cobb, OK. Johnie was a member of The St. Philip Neri Catholic Church. When Johnie was young he was a member of the CCC. He then joined the service in 1941 thru 1945 and retired from Tinker in 1974. Johnie married his wife, Jessie, December 23, 1949. He is survived by his wife, Jessie of the home; 1 daughter, Janelle Queen and husband, Tom of Choctaw; 2 grandchildren, Christopher Queen of Choctaw and Rebecca Denz of Pennsylvania; 2 step-grandchildren, Nicole Garner of Tennessee and James Queen of Michigan; 2 brothers, Annes of Midwest City and Joe of Prague; 6 sisters, Francis Scott, Mary Thacker, Jo Johnston, all of Oklahoma City, Virginia Wallings and husband, Pete, Jennie Filippo, and Rosie Smith and husband, Don. He was preceded in death by his parents, 3 brothers, Jack, Sam and Semone. In his later years, one of his favorite pastimes was to walk in the mall with his

closest friends, "The Mall Walkers." Services will be held 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, with interment at Arlington Memory Gardens. Bill Eisenhower Northeast 8805 N.E. 23 769-3362. Technician Fourth Class, ASN: 38018455 and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jul 07, 2002:** Obituary: Herral Vardell Mathis: Born on March 19, 1919, the son of John Augustus Mathis and Daisy Dean Chandler Mathis, he married 26 Feb 1944 in Montgomery, Alabama to Kay Lee. On 9 Feb 1958 in Idaho he married Alice Gaines (1911 – 2002). He passed away on July 7, 2002. Private First Class, ASN: 20847704 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Sep 09, 2002:** Published in the "The Duncan Banner" entitled: Field trip. National Guard annual outing gives soldiers taste of war. The 60-plus members of the Duncan National Guard unit were at Fort Sill Saturday and Sunday as their once-a-month duty to Uncle Sam. "It's like a big camping trip, a camping trip with a mission," said Duncan's Mark Cowan, who has been in the guard for six years. "We train hard, and we play hard." This weekend's mission was to train on the battalion's launchers, missile wielding machines that can decimate an area the size of a football field with pinpoint accuracy from 50 miles away. The machines do have a drawback, however. When firing, although no live rounds were used in the training, the entire cab and the three man \* See Guard, page 3.

**Sep 24, 2002:** Obituary: Henry Grady Marshall, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The (GA) - September 26, 2002, Henry Grady Marshall, of Hapeville, died September 24 after a stroke and heart attack. He was at South Fulton Medical Center and Healthfield Hospice. Grady was 84 years old. He used oxygen permanently after a lung embolism in 1996. Grady was born in Concord, Ga. A son of the late Ben Hill Marshall and Alma Oxford Marshall Scott. He was the youngest of six children and was the last one left in his family. He served with distinction in World War II with the 158th Field Artillery Battalion and Headquarters of the 157th Infantry Division (Thunderbird). They began action in southern Italy and eventually, after several campaigns, ended up in Germany, where the 157th participated in the liberation Dachau. In addition to many campaign ribbons he was also decorated with a Bronze Star. He retired as an Industrial Engineer from the Hapeville Ford Motor Co. in 1979 after working there for 31 years. He is survived by his wife, Betty Forrest Marshall, his sons; Grady, Greenville, SC, Greg (Donna), Marietta, GA, and Gary, Lawrenceville, GA. He has 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Grady was an avid gardener and photographer. He was a member of and an Elder in the Hapeville Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hapeville Presbyterian Church, 3368 N. Whitney Ave., Hapeville, GA 30354. The visitation will be Friday, September 27, from 6 until 8 p.m. A graveside service will be Saturday, September 28, at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Hebron Cemetery in Concord, GA. Reverend Fred Whitehurst and Reverend Tom Sizemore will officiate. Donehoo-Lewis (404) 761-2171. Staff Sergeant, ASN: 34082778 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Oct 03, 2002:** Obituary: Fred Jefferson Clubb., Col. Ret. USAF, 81, a resident of Equality, AL, died Thursday, October 3, 2002. A Memorial Service will be held Wednesday, October 9, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. from the Ellison Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. R. Bradley officiating. Ellison Funeral Home Directing. Col. Clubb is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lorene Clubb, Equality, AL; two sons and daughters-in-law, Dr. Fred, Jr. and Deborah Clubb, Houston, TX and Kevin J. and Susan Clubb, Loxahatchee, FL; two sisters and brother-in-law, Burnie Adams, Merced, CA and Doris and Ray Lemons, Phoenix, AZ; three grandchildren, Ross Clubb, Houston, TX, Jeremy Clubb, Republic of Panama and Austin Clubb of Loxahatchee, FL; two sister-in-laws, Pat Fox, Byars, OK and Ruth Clubb, Mesa, AZ and several nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Saturday evening and 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning at the Ellison Funeral Home. Col. Clubb retired from the United States Air Force after 30 years of service. He served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam Wars. Col. Clubb received a BA Degree from the Oklahoma University. He also received a MA Degree from the Louisiana State University and a EdS Degree from Troy State University. Col Clubb was a graduate and faculty member of the Air War College at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery. He was a Division Chairman of the School of Business at the Alexander City Junior College. Col. Clubb was also a Mason and a Shriner. Ellison Funeral Home Directing, Tim Ellison, Ken Hammock. Published in the Montgomery Advertiser on Oct. 5, 2002. ASN: 18059519 and served with Battery "E", 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 12, 2002:** Obituary: Hanns Carl Schwyzer. Published in the Albuquerque Journal on Friday December 20, 2002. Hanns Carl Schwyzer, M.D., F.A.C.S., born August 17, 1912. Hanns passed from this life on December 12, 2002. He is survived by his wife, Mary Bakula Schwyzer. Hanns is also survived by his four children, A.T."Chief" Schwyzer and his wife, Barbara, and their sons, Jason Carl and Hanns Robertson, Heidi Schwyzer McNeal and her husband, Dr. Steven McNeal, and their sons, Cody, Luke, Chad and Todd and his wife, Pam; and Hanns' great-grandchildren, Levi and Jesse, Colli Hissem and her husband, Ralph, their son, Zac and his wife, Laura, and Hanns' only granddaughter, Amanda; and Dr. Robert Norman Schwyzer. Friends are invited to attend the Full Military



Committal Service at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, Santa Fe, New Mexico on Friday, December 20, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the Southwest Indian Foundation, P.O. Box 86, Gallup, New Mexico, 87302-0001. Arrangements by Salazar & Sons Mortuary.

**Feb 03, 2003:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Oklahomans prepare for war. Meador Lawton-Constitution.com Duncan. During Operation Desert Storm, when 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery was called upon to lend its particular brand of brisance to the cause, Bravo Battery had no Family Support Group. "We never thought that day would come," recalled Staff Sgt. Mike Kaiser, training noncommissioned officer (NCO) for the unit. The small towns around them organized sendoffs for the troops who left for Saudi Arabia in 1990-91, but those based in Duncan were hustled off without fanfare, an oversight that still bothers Kaiser's wife, Cindy. A Family Support Group was slapped together, and after the soldiers came home in May 1991, members worked to make it better. Cindy Kaiser had two children to care for during Desert Storm, but she joined soon after her husband's return May 15, 1991. Today she's chairman, Shannon Baldwin of Comanche and Jan Dedert of Lawton are her co-chairs and Jessica Wheeler of Comanche is secretary-treasurer. As proof of their dedication, 13 members of the all-volunteer organization showed up at the National Guard Armory in Duncan, some as early as 5:30 a.m., to cook breakfast Sunday for 97 troops; 60 based in Duncan and 37 at the Marlow detachment. The \$3 a meal the support group charges goes into the kitty to help with other activities during the year. The fact that they didn't have such a group in 1990 is the reason they strive so hard to keep theirs running today, Mike Kaiser said. This time they're prepared. So far the commander in chief of the armed forces has not asked the 1st of the 158th the favor of a reply, but if the call does come, the Family Readiness Group is what its new name implies. "Family readiness is more of what it's all about than just support," explained Capt. Jeff Van Ness, assistant family readiness officer at the Oklahoma Military Department in Oklahoma City. Van Ness said support groups like the one in Duncan have always been around, but Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki has decided this is something that needs to be put in place Army-wide. "Basically because it is a good idea," Van Ness said. "They're taking on a lot larger role with the recent mobilization orders and deployments." Annette Strailey of Comanche has been involved in the Duncan group for eight years. About five years ago, when her husband had to be at annual training during her pregnancy, other members called all the time to make sure she was all right. "It's just a wonderful means of support if you need anything," she said. "I think it's great, outstanding. I've been to three out of the four batteries in the battalion. This is by far head and shoulders above the rest. The ladies genuinely care. They take time out of their schedule. They would have a crucial role if we're ever deployed," Capt. Thomas Gibson, battery commander, said. They're preparing for that critical role in lots of ways. In late September, members attended a three-day annual conference in Shawnee. There they got a refresher course on what steps they would follow should their spouses be deployed and what will be available to them in the form of medical and financial help. Last month they updated their "phone trees" and made sure all their numbers were correct. Debbie Burden of Lawton said phone trees are helpful whether the guys are here or not. If they need to get hold of family members, they need only call a few, and those will pass the word on to the various branches of the tree. The phone network is also a handy way of circulating information from the chain of command and scotching rumors. Sgt. 1st Class Paul Burden, the readiness NCO, and Staff Sgt. Kaiser send out drill letters to keep the unit informed of goings-on. In their absence, it would be up to the Family Readiness Group to decide whether to issue a newsletter or simply call the names on the "tree." Burden only recently switched to Bravo Battery from the Headquarters Battery in Lawton, which was to have its own Family Readiness Group meeting Sunday afternoon. A Judge Advocate General officer was to meet with everyone in that battery to make sure their wills and power of attorney forms were in order. Staff Sgt. Keith Wheeler, a recruiter, reported that the Stephens County Sheriff's Office is willing to increase patrols in their neighborhoods in the event of a deployment. He also assured members of Bravo Battery's group that if soldiers' paychecks run late while they're away, his office can help with their utility bills. For now, Wheeler has a stable of speakers on which to draw, and support group members can choose from an array of vital topics, including how to communicate by e-mail, how to check and change the oil or ways to keep the children under control. Of course it's not all deadly serious. Family Readiness Groups have a social aspect, too. There are Christmas dinners with visits from Santa Claus, Easter egg hunts, picnics and even a "Buzzard Ball" named for the Bravo Battery mascot. And as you might guess, old habits die hard when it comes to the name of their group. The order from on high might declare it a readiness group, but soldiers and spouses insistently refer to it as their family support group. The way Kaiser sees it, "the soldiers hold the readiness of the battery. The families do the support. When it's all hooked up, it's like this," he said, hooking two fingers together. The importance of having such a group, to this veteran, is this: "I can go over there focusing on one thing. I'm not going to worry about my family, 'cause they're taken care of." Photo Caption: The future and what it holds is a concern right now for this Family Readiness Group, which supports B Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery in Duncan. Photo Caption: Jody Brown listens during a Family Readiness Group meeting during the weekend drill of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery in Duncan.

**Feb 21, 2003:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Cole becomes Vice Chairman of House

Panel. By Mitch Meador; Staff Writer; mmeador@lawtonconstitution.com. Hunter and Cole met up in the motor pool of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 45th Field Artillery Brigade. The maintenance area for Multiple Launch Rocket Systems is shared by 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery headquartered in Lawton and 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery, which has been mobilized to provide homeland security at Fort Sill and Fort Carson, Colo. While visiting with some of his constituents who serve in the National Guard, Cole got to sit inside a Tactical Operations Center while Sgt. 1st Class James Crabtree explained its workings. Bill Johnson, Cole's legislative director in Washington who handles all military matters, also managed to squeeze in. Cole clambered aboard an M270 MLRS operated by Cpl. Bill Straily and Spec. J. P. Peacock of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. Col. Rick Adams of Cashion, 45th Field Artillery Brigade commander, came down from brigade headquarters in Enid to meet Cole, as did Lt. Col. Allen Bentley, commander of 1st of the 158th. Cole said he was impressed by the interaction of National Guard and regular military here. "it's a pretty humbling thing to see what they do...I wish a lot of other people could see this. It might be a safer world if they could see what the capabilities are," Cole said.

**Mar 05, 2003:** Published in the "Lawton Constitution" entitled: 1st- 158th to deploy. Oklahoma City; The Oklahoma Army National Guard announced Tuesday that it has received notification that the Headquarters Battery (HHB) of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade and the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, have been selected for call-up to active duty. The units were called to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. The 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, which is a subordinate unit of the 45th is a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) Battalion headquartered in Lawton with units in Anadarko, Chickasha, Duncan, Marlow and Walters. The 158th will deploy approximately 375 soldiers. The units' deployment location and mission have not been determined. The 45th's Headquarters Battery, headquartered in Enid, will deploy approximately 100 soldiers. The unit will provide Field Artillery Brigade level command and control of multiple Field Artillery units. The unit's exact deployment location and mission have not been determined. The operational names Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle refer to two separate and distinctly important anti-terrorism efforts currently being conducted by the United States and its allies. Operation Enduring Freedom encompasses all anti-terrorism military operation currently underway outside the borders of the United States. The United States currently has troops stationed in Afghanistan, Yemen, Kuwait, the Philippines and numerous other countries in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Operation Noble Eagle is a multi-agency effort within the borders of the United States to uncover terrorists and their plans to disrupt the American way of life. The Oklahoma Army National Guard has approximately 2,500 soldiers on active duty in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. These soldiers could remain on active duty for one to two years. In addition to the soldiers mobilized for Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, the Oklahoma Army National Guard has a total of 940 soldiers deployed to Bosnia, Egypt, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in support of pre-existing peacekeeping missions. All of the peace keeping deployments are scheduled to last no longer than six months.

**Apr 08, 2003:** Official Roster of the First Battalion (MLRS) 158th Field Artillery and Stations of Organization: Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, First Battalion (MLRS) 158th Field Artillery; Home Stationed at Lawton, OK; Lieutenant Colonel Allen J. Bentley, Majors Gregory L. Lankford and Paul A. Metcalfe, Captains Jay D. Croft, Freddie G. Crowson, Doye D. Jernigan, James D. Osborne, Christopher S. Reser, Bradley D. Rittenhouse, Craig M. Robinson and Marc R. Smith, First Lieutenants Westley A. Carter, Edward G. Collins and Jeramy R. Whitling, Second Lieutenants Norman W. Black, Arlington N. Tasi and Shawn R. Vergott, Warrant Officers Robert L. Downen Jr., Gary E. England and John H. Kuehny, and Chaplain Jeffery T. VanNess, Command Sergeant Major John T. Jenson, First Sergeant Fred W. Baker III, Master Sergeants Gustavo A. Gonzalez, Tony F. Riggs and Wayne E. Wilson, Sergeants First Class David M. Andrews, Andy L. Callihan, Pedro Cortez Jr., Roger J. Crabtree, Jack D. Powers, Richard A. Riggins and Gerard A. Wall, Staff Sergeants Jason W. Bingham, Terry D. Davis, John Fitzgerald, Christopher L. Gay, Michael D. Grannan, Curtis Holman Jr., Karl W. Keough, Matthew D. Lima, Lucien J. Matte, Jeremy M. Rae, Jose E. Saldana, Tracy T. Taylor and Darron P. Weeks, Sergeants John S. Andrews, John H. Blumhorst Jr., Douglas E. Bueoy, Kenneth A. Chesbrough Jr., Douglas W. Collins, Kenry A. Dinwiddie, Raymond D. Durham, Gilberto Garza Jr., Jim X. Griego, Roberto Herrera, Robert L. Ingwerson, John B. Miller III, Vincent L. Moscatello, Michael J. Mullica, Adolfo F. Munoz Jr., Willie C. Northington, Bryan M. Nye, Hershell F. Pollock, Jacob R. Prater, Stephen P. Reinlein, Gregg F. Soppet, Kelly L. Steinmeyer, Wallace J. Stroup, Darrell D. Taylor, Michael F. Tenequer, Robert M. Thomas, Anthony Townes and Jeffery S. Wilson, Specialists Fourth Class Jonathan S. Anderson, Jermy M. Beard, Keith R. Berry, Christopher S. Bussell, Oscar Castro, Robert K. Coble, Eric T. Colon, Stacey A. Cornelious, Gary B. Crumbley Jr., Michael J. Davis, Terry J. Davis, Bradley A. Edwards, Richard M. Folsom Jr., Landon K. Hardin, Christopher H. Heckathorne, Charles H. JeanPierre, Ryan D. Jernigan, Juan A. Juarez, Walter B. Musselman Jr., Kenneth E. Nagel, Jesse D. Neugebauer, Anthony J. Patrick, David L. Ramsey, Jamie D. Rhoads, Robert A. Schrock, Charles F. Souhrada Jr., John S. Starnes III, Daniel S. Stentz, Kevin N. Streeter and Christopher A. Terwilligar, Privates First Class Michael A. Aguilar, Mitchell L. Brooks, Kenneth J. Crites, Jared R. Foss, Christopher R. Himes, Jason L. Houston, Bradley S. Lambirth, Kevin A. McGrew, Edmund G. O'Neal,

Jason R. Reynolds, Jared A. Seigler, Joshua B. Smith and Ronnie Vaughn, and Privates Brandon G. Beaver, Evan D. Beck, James W. Blalock II, Demond A. Broadway, Kerry L. Brown, Shawn R. Earhart, Billie E. England II, Aaron M. Gray, Eric J. Hitchcock, Emmanuel M. Hutchinson, Gary F. Hynson, Donald H. Jones Jr., David D. Levere Jr., Mark E. McFarland Jr., Truman P. Navarro, Christopher A. Pettit, William C. Rice, Randy L. Rickert, Donnie O. Robinson and Clifton E. Sapcut. Battery "A", First Battalion (MLRS) 158th Field Artillery; Home Stationed at Walters, OK; Captain Jason A. Henry, First Lieutenants Christopher S. Cook, Steven C. Dare, Charles L. Neely and Kent A. Ray, and Second Lieutenant Mark A. Fitzgerald, First Sergeant Edward C. Lynde, Sergeants First Class Erasmo Barron, Marvin Grant, Kevin Henry, William M. Scott III, Thomas G. Tate and George L. Twyman, Staff Sergeants Errol B. Caldwell, Gilbert M. Castro, Gregory D. Davis, Michael J. Graham, Terry L. Hellickson, Kevin D. Hodge, Kurt L. Jarvis, Donald J. Mills, John P. Mull and John M. Weekley, Sergeants Edward D. Bayones, Jeremy J. Beckett, Michael D. Bone, Jeffery N. Burlinson, Andrew L. Champagne, Lonnie D. Climber, Daryn A. Coleman, Richard L. Dobbins, Felix M. Fisher, Raymond E. Fix, Nicholas R. Green, Thomas E. Hillier, William M. Johnson, James C. Johnston, Edgardo J. Ortiz-Perez, Michael R. Schmidt, Dennis O. Stewart and Stephen D. Wilkerson, Specialists Fourth Class Joseph D. Bajza, Joshua S. Calfy, Joshua C. Cargill, Robert W. File, Andre C. Ford, Donovan J. Frasure, Brian K. Hekia, David M. Herrera II, Houston K. Hood, Kenneth W. Horne Jr., Bradley E. Mifflin, Ronald D. Molina, Nicholas C. Reed, Allen W. Richey, Ryan G. Rickert, Joseph F. Savell, Scotty L. Shelton, Benjamin S. Sibley, John P. Sklaney III, Thomas D. Smith, Kevin A. Spicer, Troy L. Todd, Thomas J. Wheeler and William D. Whittington, Privates First Class Jason L. Bellar, Benjamin T. Bressman, Justin J. Burrows, Barry R. Dirickson, Tito Griffith Jr., Frederick T. Hughes, Sean D. Murray, MacNeil D. Passi, Blackmon J. Prince, Nathan L. Purdue and Fredrick K. St. John, and Privates Matthew A. Adamson, Kevin R. Dorman, Dustin J. Edwards, Chad A. Leonhardt, Thomas J. Painter, Raul Perez, Aaron L. Roland and Joshua A. Webb. Battery "B", First Battalion (MLRS) 158th Field Artillery; Home Stationed at Duncan, OK; Captain Thomas J. Gibson Jr., First Lieutenant Paul M. Simonich, and Second Lieutenants William E. Ponder and Kevin J. Shutt, First Sergeant Kenneth L. Reese, Sergeants First Class Ira P. Burden Jr., Randall Robert Dedert, Michael A. Hardsaw, Jimmy L. Venable and Emmanuel D. Williams, Staff Sergeants Darin B. Carman, Larry J. Harper, Earl S. Johnson, John M. Kaiser, David S. Kemp, James K. Morris, Daniel O. Pupek, James M. Stone and Rodney P. Velarde, Sergeants Nathaniel D. Barnes, Damon A. Boyd, Donald B. Brewer, Grant A. Brown, Bobby Carter, Don E. Chisum Jr., Mark E. Cowan, James F. Edwards, Harold E. Hall, David L. Heilman, Robert C. Johnson, Todd M. Johnson, Jamey D. Lindsey, Robert C. Muir, Robert L. Newman, Robert D. Petty and William J. Straily, Specialists Fourth Class James Y. Baldwin, Kristopher K. Bickerstaff, David A. Bowen, Stephen M. Brosh, Justin C. Cliburn, Nathaniel E. Cordes, Christopher L. Crenwelge, Randal E. Davenport, Luke D. Davis, Gordon T. Dunham, Justin B. Finch, Steven A. Fitzgerald, Matthew E. Gray, Lance C. Harper, Earle G. Hudson, Zachary J. Jessen, Matthew G. Leal, Joshua D. Lynn, William J. Martin III, David J. Mason, Nolan R. Mogg, Lyndal C. Morgan, Christopher k. Moss, James D. Peacock III, Jeremiah M. Phillips Jr., Daniel H. Pickett, Benjamin A. Porterfield, William P. Reid Jr., Jacob A. Smith, Thomas M. Tanner II, Bradley W. Tennant, Ian H. Wilsher and Heath A. Woods, Privates First Class Montrionne E. Allen, Michael C. Barham, Phillip W. Bertsch, George A. Crawford, Joshua D. Davis, Adam F. Duffy, Kevin A. File, Aaron J. Helton, Christopher A. Newman, Wesley M. Parra, Justin C. Riddles, Adam J. Schuster, Gilbert R. Wolford IV, and Privates Derek W. Baldwin, Kasey R. Bickerstaff, Dewey K. Briscoe, Billy S. Cooper, Jon P. Gomez, Burt A. Knapp, Joshua A. Ramirez, Anthony C. Sides and Vecent L. Vigus. Battery "C", First Battalion (MLRS) 158th Field Artillery; Home Stationed at Anadarko, OK; Captain Johnnie D. Moss, First Lieutenants Corbie N. Grimes II and Aaron K. Hinkle, and Second Lieutenant Chin U. Kim and Kenny D. Toms, First Sergeant William C. Blasengame, Sergeants First Class Vernon R. DeFoor, Marty L. Hendricks, Ralph L. Pennington Jr., Norman L. Winn and Glenn J. Zink II, Staff Sergeants George C. Baker, Mark R. Braley, Jackie R. Bruesch, Scott T. Buehre, Brent L. Dobry, Lance H. Grant, James N. Heston, Billy S. Jones, Erik E. Kruger, Dean Q. Lawson, Rodney A. Pedersen, Vincente H. Pierre, Ben Murrel Scott Jr., David A. Slezickey Jr., Carlton S. Speller, Gregory J. Stowe and Wade Williams, Sergeants Ivan J. Bradford, Brent T. Davis, David M. Farrow, Samuel D. Flaming, Wesley V. Freeman, Larry W. Nix, Roderick L. Poolaw, Carl H. Pyle Jr., Kyle A. Samuels, Joseph P. Shipley, Richard J. Sholar, Paul A. Tate Jr., Robert C. Walker, Kenneth E. Wall, Jeremy J. Woolver and Jonathan D. Zerger, and Specialists Fourth Class Jeremy J. Austin, Jeremiah C. Brenner, James B. Blake, Matthew R. Caldwell Jr., Obie B. Clements, Douglas J. Cowart, Cody W. Cranfill, Jeffery M. Delaney, Scott S. Dixon, Neil F. Dolder, Dustin R. Hames, Billy J. Holley, Arry D. Johnson, Eric S. Lasseter, Matthew P. Lewis, Robert P. Lutonsky, Michael S. McGee, Randy J. McKay, Danny McKillip, Brandon B. McNamar, Robert T. Mitchell, William T. Noland, Dale L. Owen, James C. Prince III, Russell D. Pruitt, Matthew A. Pulis, Kevin D. Pyle, Daniel E. Reynolds, Travis L. Rucker, Jimmy S. Sams, Matthew A. Schoolfield, Steven K. Stanley, Frederic J. Tabert, Curtis A. Vasquez, Billy J. Weathers II and Lance M. Zerger, Privates First Class Christopher B. Alexander, Jason M. Anderson, Eric W. Harlan, Larry W. James, Joseph C. Killman, Ryan M. King, Charles B. Pinnell, Jose A. Ramos and Lee C. Schrocktainpeah, and Privates Randy W. Allen, Zackary E. Brake, Christopher M. Durham, Devin M. East, Clint A. Hunter, Clifton R. McVay, Eric D. Sikes and Jeffery V. Vandorn.

**Mar 05, 2003:** Obituary: Charles Windell Wootten Sr. passed away Wednesday, March 5, 2003 at the age of 65.

Col. Wootten was born in Lindsay, Oklahoma to Doyle and Meedie (Malone) Wootten on June 13, 1937 and was an Okmulgee resident of 33 years. He married Alice Wilson on January 14, 1955 in Wichita Falls, Texas. Col. Wootten served as Battalion Commander of the 120th Engineers in Okmulgee before assuming command of the Camp Gruber Training Facility where he remained until retirement. He was an active member and past president of the Kiwanis Club. Both he and his wife Alice were active members of the Okmulgee Elks Lodge where he served as Exalted Ruler before assuming the office of Secretary and Ritual Coach. He is survived by his loving wife Alice Wootten of the home, his daughter Pam Wadsworth and her husband Louie of Tulsa, Oklahoma, his Lisa Bennett and her husband Todd of The Colony, Texas, his son Charles Wootten Jr. and his wife Becky of Owasso, Oklahoma, his youngest son Scott Wootten of Los Angeles, California, two brothers, Doyle Norman Wootten Jr. and Glenn Wootten and two sisters, Odessa King and Ann Williams as well as many loyal friends. Charlie was the proud grand father of Justin and Rachel Bennett and Lindsay Wadsworth. He was preceded in death by his parents, and a sister, Louise Smith. A memorial Service will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 8, 2003 at the First Baptist Church with Dr. Dennis Taylor officiating. The Family will receive friends in the church foyer following the service. Arrangements are under the direction of the McClendon Winters Funeral Home of Okmulgee. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. Colonel, OSN: O-2299261 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 09, 2003:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Change of command. Photo Caption: Command Sgt. Maj. James V. Jouret, right, hands a battalion medal to Command Sgt. Maj. John T. Jenson Saturday during the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery change of command ceremony Saturday at Fort Sill.

**Mar 15, 2003:** Obituary: Verle Wayne Byars. Services for Verle Wayne 'Fred' Byars, 80, Merkel, Texas, were held Tuesday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m. at North's Memorial Chapel with Karl King officiating. Interment was at the Stith Cemetery, under the direction of North's Funeral Home. He was born to James Edgar and Ethel Ivy Byars in Sulphur. He died Saturday, March 15 in Merkel, TX. In April, 1942 he married Lucille Clark. Mr. Byars was a graduate of Sulphur High School. He was in the Army and stationed at Camp Barkley with the 45th Division. He was the youngest master sergeant in the service at 19 years old. While waiting to go overseas, he joined the Army Air Force. He spent two and a half years as bombardier instructor at Carlsbad, N.M., followed by four months combat service on Tinian Island. He was a Captain when discharged January 14, 1946. Before entering the service, Mr. Byars was a proofreader and reporter on the Sulphur, Oklahoma Daily News. He attended Hardin-Simmons University and worked towards a Masters Degree in accounting. He was senior accountant for the Harte Hanks Newspapers for 22 years. He retired in 1984. He was a member of the Baker Heights Church of Christ and the Merkel Historical Society. He was in several public, civic and religious organizations. He is survived by his wife, Martha Lucille Byars, Merkel, Texas; one son, Dennis Michael Byars and his wife, Barbara, Dallas, Texas; one daughter, Sylvia Karen Davis and her husband, Hank, Abilene, Texas; four grandchildren, Darren Davis and his wife, Mandy, Damon Byars and his wife, Terrie, Marlee Davis White, and Dow Davis; 10 great-grandchildren, Joshua Byars, Kylie Byars, Garrett Byars, Devyn Byars, Drew Byars, Dayton and Daylee White, Rachel and Zoe Davis, Callie Peterson; one brother, James Edgar Byars, Mabank, Texas; one sister, Ruth Mildred Tabor, Dallas, Texas. Memorials may be made to the Stith Cemetery (Cannon) Memorial, Stith, Texas 79536 or Keys of the Kingdom (Merkel Church of Christ), Merkel, Texas 79536. Master Sergeant, ASN: 20830309 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 19, 2003:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Stephens county turns out to honor soldiers. Top and above left: Their banners waving, Stephens County residents line the highways Tuesday to show their support for B Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, as it convoys equipment for shipment to the global war on terrorism. Far right: Rachel Ensminger of Duncan does her part to boost the spirit of the troops of B Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery on Tuesday. Right: Kenneth Ganthun, a member of VFW Post 1192 in Duncan, joins in Tuesday's show of support for B Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. Ganthun served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

**Apr 11, 2003:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Farewell ceremony set Saturday for detachment. A farewell ceremony for the 1120th Detachment 2 will be at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Lawton High School auditorium, said Sgt. 1st Class Merle Fishgrab, the detachment enlisted commander. The public is invited to show its support. The 25 Oklahoma Army National Guardsmen in the unit were mobilized March 25 and are training on Fort Sill now. They will be attached to 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, for the purpose of providing maintenance in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. "We are a full support unit for an MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) battalion. Anything they've got, if they break it, we fix it," the sergeant explained. The 1120th Detachment 2 was formerly the 1045th Ordnance Detachment, which deployed to Operation Desert Storm with 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. It is a spin-off of the 1120th Maintenance Company, Ada, which is on duty in other locations.

**Apr 20, 2003:** Published in the "The Duncan Banner" entitled: National guard unit awaits deployment. Citizens lined the highways to show support when the National Guard unit in Duncan, Battery "B", First Battalion of the 158th Field Artillery, carried out their activation orders and convoyed out of town. Where did they go? They have spent the past few weeks in activation training and qualifying with their artillery weapons at Fort Sill. "Upon activation we have, what they call, gates to hit", said 1st Sgt. Paul Burden, the group's Readiness NCO. "We have to hit all of our 'gates' before we can actually deploy." The gates are tasks; or benchmarks; the unit has to meet before they're sent to fight. "Right now, we've certified crew training and are working on weapons qualifications," Burden said. How are they doing? "They're doing good," Burden said. The support we've had from the people in the surrounding community has got the morale real high. "We're hitting all the gates at the time we're suppose to hit them." The unit is processing through the "gates" on schedule, but their progress gives no indication of when or if the unit will be deployed. "There's always a chance of being deactivated," Burden said, adding that they have not received a mission or a time frame. "The destination wouldn't even be told to us until we were on the tarmac or in the air," he added. The Duncan national guard unit may only be 30 miles from home at Fort Sill, but in many ways it's just like they were in another country. "Even though the guys are just at Fort Sill, a crisis still comes up every day," said Staff Sgt. Keith Wheeler, Recruiting and Retention NCO. The battery tries to operate on a normal schedule, but with a much smaller staff. "It's business as usual," Wheeler said. "We still have drills one weekend a month. We have soldiers still in high school that coming in and training. We're working with guys coming back from basic training, trying to get them reintegrated back into the unit." The "business as usual" includes National Guard programs not related to combat training. "Trying to keep up or civic programs, school programs and recruiting," Wheeler said. "Even though the unit's gone, we still have a need for people and places to put them." Most importantly, the unit is maintaining its family assistance programs while the soldiers are activated. Noted Wheeler, the aim is, "Trying to keep the family assistance center running and assisting family members with all problems or questions they have." A large part of the unit's ability to perform so well as been the support it's received from the community. "We really appreciate all the support we've got from the community," Wheeler added. "Just knowing the people around here are thinking about them and wishing them well has boosted the morale." Photo Caption: Pine trees are tied with yellow ribbons along Bill and Linda Gilbert's property at Tenth and Jones. The ribbons are for their son, Army Staff Sgt. William Gilbert, who is serving in Kuwait. Holly Stewart/The Duncan Banner.

**May 07, 2003:** Published in the "Lawton Constitution" entitled: 1st- 158th to stand down Soldiers were ready for war. Two units of the Oklahoma Army National Guard mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom will be returning to their home stations later this month, according to a press release issued Tuesday by the Oklahoma National Guard. The Headquarters, Headquarters Battery of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade, headquartered in Enid, and the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, headquartered in Lawton, will leave Fort Sill in mid-May where the units were completing mobilization processing. The South Dakota National Guard announced on its Website April 28 that the 1st of the 158th's sister battalion, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery of Salem, Mitchell and Yankton, S.D., received orders to demobilize May 21. The two battalions were paired up at Fort Sill in March to make a complete brigade and did field training together. "Changing circumstances in Operation Iraqi Freedom no longer call for the mission of the 1st Battalion," according to the South Dakota release. No information was available at this time on Detachment 2, 1120th Maintenance Company, the 25-member unit that was called up in support of 1/158FA, said Col. Pat Scully, public affairs officer for the Oklahoma National Guard. Preparation at Fort Sill The two Oklahoma units were mobilized in March and sent to Fort Sill in preparation for further deployment by the U.S. Central Command. With the end of major hostilities in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the more than 475 soldiers in the two units will be demobilized by the end of this month. Maj. Gen. Harry Wyatt III, the Oklahoma National Guard adjutant general, said, "I am extremely proud of the response to the call to duty from the soldiers of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters and its subordinate unit, the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. "These soldiers can be proud of their call to arms even though they were not deployed by Central Command to take a direct part in the liberation of Iraq. They, along with their families and their employers, sacrificed as much as anyone else in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom." "Every soldier wants the opportunity to put their training into action to help when their country calls them to duty. I know soldiers of the 45th Field Artillery and the 1/158th Field Artillery are disappointed that they were not given an overseas assignment, but fortunately the war in Iraq came to a quick conclusion," Wyatt said. 52 percent called to duty, almost 3,800 soldiers, representing 52 percent of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, have been either alerted or mobilized as part of overseas operations or homeland security operations. More than 400 Oklahoma Air National Guardsmen are mobilized overseas and across the United States in ongoing operations. "Our Oklahoma Guardsmen responded every time they were called. We never had a soldier or airman not show up when called to serve. "The families of our Oklahoma Guardsmen and the employers of the Oklahoma Guardsmen are to be commended for supporting our troops. "Oklahomans will be proud to know that on a per capita basis, the Oklahoma National Guard was the third most-called Guard in all the 54 states and territories. We were ready. When Oklahoma Guard units arrived at mobilization sites at Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Riley, Kan., and Fort Sill, Okla., they had their equipment and personnel records in order. They were ready to serve." Remaining units at Sill Two other Oklahoma

units that are mobilized at Fort Sill have not been notified if they will be deployed or demobilized. Company B, 111th Area Support Battalion, a medical company from Broken Arrow, and the 1345th Transportation Company, a trucking company from Midwest City and Enid, will likely receive word soon on future orders. A number of Oklahoma Guard units were involved directly in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Air Guard's 137th Airlift Wing of Oklahoma City has been flying C-130s in the Central Command theater, including Baghdad International Airport. The Army Guard's Companies A and B, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry provided force protection for Patriot missile batteries throughout the theater and deep into Iraq. A Company is headquartered in Oklahoma City and B Company is headquartered in Alva. The 345th Support Battalion and the 1245th Transportation Company of Ardmore have been providing logistical support for Central Command. Members of a Chinook helicopter unit, Detachment 1, Company G, 149th Aviation of Lexington are also conducting aviation operations in Iraq and the Central Command area of operations. Unit in the Sinai The 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry, of Durant remains deployed as part of the Multinational Force in the Sinai. The 645th Personnel Services Company of Oklahoma City, Company E, 245th Air Traffic Services of Lexington, and Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation of Tulsa are participating in SFOR 13 in Bosnia. The 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery Battalion of Altus, the 1120th Maintenance Company of Ada and Company D, 245th Aviation of Lexington are stationed at numerous Army and Air Force installations throughout the United States as part of Operation Noble Eagle. "We are proud of each and every soldier and airman called. And there were thousands of other Guardsmen who helped our comrades get ready. We look forward to their safe and speedy return. We also realize that the Oklahoma Guard still stands ready to provide more service in the war against terrorism," Wyatt said.

**Jun 06, 2003:** Permanent Orders: Department of the Army, U. S. Total Army Personnel Command, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471. Permanent Orders 157-03 dated 6 June 2003. 1. This Permanent Order announces campaign participation credit for the following units that participated in the third campaign of the Persian Gulf War, Southwest Asia Cease-Fire. Award: Campaign Participation Credit. Date(s) or period of service: From 12 April 1991 to 30 November 1995. Authority: AR 600-8-22, Paragraph 7-18. Reason: For participation in third campaign of the Persian Gulf War, Southwest Asia Cease-Fire. Format: 320. 2. This Permanent Order may be cited as authority for updating individual personnel records. 3. This announcement will be confirmed in Department of the Army General Orders. By Order of the Secretary of the Army: Signed: Emmitt L. Barnes, CW#, for Robert L. White Jr., LTC, AG, Chief, Military Awards Branch. Distribution: U.S. Army Center of Military History (1), HQDA, Institute of Heraldry (1), U. S. Army Support Activity, Philadelphia (1), HQ, PERSCOM (TAPC-PDO-PA) (1), See attached list of units. 158th Field Artillery, 1st Battalion.

**Jul 21, 2003:** Obituary: Alvin Eugene Steverson, From the book, The Fighting Men of Oklahoma: ILT Alvin E. Steverson was born Sept. 18, 1918 at Oklahoma City. He graduated from Anadarko High School and attended Anadarko Business College. He was inducted into the service at Anadarko on Sept. 16, 1940 and trained at Ft. Sill OK with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery, 45th Div. He was transferred to the Air Corps and trained at Ellington Field TX and Tyndall Field, FL receiving his commission March 11, 1943. 1LT Steverson served 10 months in the Asiatic Pacific Theater as a navigator on a C-47 troop carrier, participating in the battles of the South Philippines and Luzon. He received his discharge March 6, 1945 and was awarded the Philippine Decoration WW II Battle Star, Philippine Liberation Medal WW II Battle Star, Asiatic Pacific Medal, American Theater Medal and the American Defense Medal. Birth: Oct. 4, 1919, Bedford County, Tennessee, USA. Death: July 21, 2003.

**Aug 09, 2003:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: 1st-158th to stand down. Soldiers were ready for war. Two units of the Oklahoma Army National Guard mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom will be returning to their home stations later this month, according to a press release issued Tuesday by the Oklahoma National Guard. The Headquarters, Headquarters Battery of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade, headquartered in Enid, and the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, headquartered in Lawton, will leave Fort Sill in mid-May where the units were completing mobilization processing. The South Dakota National Guard announced on its Web site April 28 that the 1st of the 158th's sister battalion, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery of Salem, Mitchell and Yankton, S.D., received orders to demobilize May 21. The two battalions were paired up at Fort Sill in March to make a complete brigade and did training together. Photo Caption: National Guard soldiers in the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery trained recently on Fort Sill's west range in anticipation of deploying for action in Operation Enduring Freedom. With the end of major hostilities in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the soldiers in the unit are scheduled to be demobilized by the end of this month. Randy Stotler/Staff.

**Aug 11, 2003:** Obituary: Milbur Leon Kincaid, Chambers-Wilcox Funeral Directors Cisco; Milbur Leon Kincaid, 85, passed from this life Monday afternoon, Aug. 11, 2003, in a local hospital. Service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, in the Chapel of Chambers-Wilcox with Bobby Lee officiating with burial in Oakwood Cemetery. Leon was born on May 24, 1918, in Florence, Texas, to Carl and Verdie (Dixon) Kincaid. He served in the Army as a Staff Sergeant during World War II with Battery "C", 158th Artillery Battalion, ASN: 38035036, in Central Europe. He was a sergeant

at his discharge in 1945. Leon married Helen Berg on April 10, 1949, in Ballinger, Texas. He worked as a welder, farmer and for WTU in McCamey until his retirement and moving to Cisco. Leon and Helen attended the First Christian Church and in his retirement Leon started to work at the Western Auto until a few years ago. Leon was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, in 1999. He is survived by his daughter, Sharon, and her husband, James L. Arnold, of Bryan, Texas; two grandsons, James Michael and Kevin Shawn Arnold; a host of friends; and other family members. Memorials may be made to West Texas Rehabilitation Center, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch or the First Christian Church of Cisco.

**Oct 02, 2003:** Memorandum for Record: Department of the Army, Headquarters 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery (MLRS), Oklahoma Army National Guard, 600 NW Cache Road, Lawton, Oklahoma 73507-5403 dated 2 October 2003. Memorandum for Record. Subject: 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery (MLRS) Unit Awards. 1. The following awards are for temporary wear on the Class A, B and Dress uniform for all members of the battalion. a. Presidential Unit Citation (Army). b. Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army). c. French Fourragere (WWII). 2. As per AR 670-1, AR 600-8-22, AR 672-1 and the Department of the Army Linage and Honors 158th Artillery. The personnel of this unit are authorized for temporary wear of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and the Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) on the right side of the Class A, B and Dress uniform while assigned to 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery (MLRS). Also the personnel of this unit are authorized the wear of the French Fourragere (WWII). 3. Proper wear and appearance of these items can be referenced in AR 670-1 and AR 600-8-22. For the Commander. Paul A. Metcalfe, Maj, FA, OKARNG, Battalion XO.

**Oct 05, 2003:** Obituary: Donald Keith Tice, born 25 April 1918 and died 5 October 2003 at age 85. Buried in Tahoma National Cemetery Kent, Washington at Plot Sec. 9 site 686. Donald K. Tice of Auburn died Oct. 5, 2003, at Canterbury House in Auburn. He was 85. Born Sept. 25, 1918, in Kingfisher, Okla., he served in the Army during World War II and married Sibyl Wheeler on Feb. 14, 1976, in Kent. He lived in the South County area for 30 years. Mr. Tice retired from Crown-Zellebach in Portland, Ore., as a warehouseman. He served on the Pierce County Fire District Board for 15 years and was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Elks Lodge. He is survived by his wife, Sibyl Tice of Auburn; sons, Robert of Vancouver, Kenneth, Gary, and Keith, all of St. Helens, Ore.; stepsons, Michael Briggs and Duane Briggs of Kent; and numerous grandchildren. Visitation will be 1-8 p.m. Thursday at Price-Helton Funeral Home in Auburn. A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Tahoma National Cemetery in Maple Valley. King County Journal, Bellevue, WA. Corporal, ASN: 20830402 and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery

**Oct 22, 2003:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Re-opening. National Guardsmen from the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, present the colors Tuesday during a grand re-opening ceremony for the Wal-Mart Supercenter, 1002 N. Sheridan. During the recent remodeling the store which opened in 1991 and was expanded in 1997 received new floor tiles, ceiling and paint, rest rooms and offices were remodeled, and new checkout lanes - including new self-service counters were installed. Participating in the color guard are, from left, Staff Sgt. Jose Saldana, Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima, Sgt. 1st Class David Andrews and Staff Sgt. Jason Bingham.

**Dec 03, 2003:** Obituary: Merle Jefferson Brandon was the first of six children and only son of Ruby Woodfin and Finis Miller 'Mike' Brandon in Lawton, Ok, born September 4, 1920. The extended Brandon family produced many early community builders in the Lawton area. That family commitment to community service exemplified Merle's life. Merle attended Lawton Public schools, graduating high school in 1938 before enlistment in the 45th Infantry Division. He served in the Army for 5 years in WW II, discharging in 1945 from the Air Transport Command in Goose Bay Labrador. While in Goose Bay he met and courted a young Vermont lady in the Women's Army Corp. Priscilla Dorothy Carr. Impressed with his descriptions of the beautiful mountains near his hometown of Lawton, she succumbed to his charms. They were married October 11, 1945. Despite his exaggerated comparison of the Wichita Mountains to those in Vermont, their common bonds of music, family, and community service were the foundation of their Oklahoma residency and marriage for 58 years. Merle was a professional musician and lead trumpeter in most of the big bands during and after WWII, He received an Associate Degree in Arts and Science at Cameron College; was awarded a B.A. from Central State College in Edmond, with post graduate work at OU, and played in the OU Alumni Band for years. He was a band director in Oklahoma public schools for a number of years, including head of music department at John Marshall High School in Oklahoma City in the early 1950's. Merle left public schools to work for Hardy Suggs Music Company in Lawton before he and Priscilla built their own retail music store in Duncan with Hardy's encouragement. In 1961 Merle and Priscilla were selected as the Music Merchant of the Year by the national association, with service to the community as the selection basis. Brandon Music Company was a fixture in Duncan for more than 35 years, closing on their retirement in 1994. Highlights of Merle's community activities include: A life member of Local 375 American Federation of Musicians and Musicians' Union Oklahoma City, past Secretary of Treasurer of Oklahoma Music Merchants Association, past President of Duncan Boxing Club, past President of

Duncan Civic Music Association, 40 year member of Kiwanis Club; was on Board of Directors of Civic Music Association, Duncan Chamber of Commerce, and Duncan Downtown Association; member of the literacy Council and a certified literary Instructor; member of the Southwest Pride Barbershop Chorus; and Dale Carnegie Graduate Assistant. He was a charter member in founding the Stephens County Humane Society; member of the All Saint's Episcopal Church, Duncan, Dobbs Adams American legion Post and The Red Red Rose Club. A private pilot for many years, he will also be remembered by his sense of humor and numerous practical jokes. Survivors include his wife, Priscilla D. Brandon, son Mark Stewart Brandon and wife Marcy of Dallas, daughter Patricia Brandon, Ph.D. and grandson Brandon Spivey of Oklahoma City, grandson Kerry Stewart Brandon and wife, Laurie, and great-grandson Collin Stewart Brandon of Baltimore; sisters JoAnn Ikard of Oklahoma City, Jean Hastings and her husband, G. W., and Betty Kephart of Lawton; Mary Richards of Harrah, and Marjorie Bayer and her husband, Roger, of Tulsa; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. Also surviving him are his students of music, some who were introduced to instruments through his puppet Rinky Dink in elementary school or as their classroom or private teacher, Merle requested no tears or flowers, only good stories and music at his funeral. Memorials to the Stephens County Humane Society, All Saints Episcopal Church, or Chisholm Trail Hospice, of Duncan, OK, would be appreciated. Visitation will be at Bailes Polk Funeral Home. Funeral Services will be at All Saints Episcopal 1000 AM Monday, Dec. 8, 2003 with interment at Resthaven Cemetery. Merle was one of the Greats of the Greatest Generation and if you hum a few bars, he can play it. Sergeant, ASN: 20830430, and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 12, 2003:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Photo. Photo Caption: Second Lt. Billy Strouth Jr. kisses his son, Benjamin, Thursday evening shortly after accepting a commission with the Army. Theresa Strouth, the lieutenant's wife, placed his shoulder boards on his uniform. A former member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery (MLRS), Strouth has branched with the Transportation Corps and will return to active duty service.

**Feb 08, 2004:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Oklahoma national guard unit tours Trident sub during training. By Journalist Mate 2nd Class Mary Popejoy, Bangor Submarine Base, Public Affairs Office, Soldiers with the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 1st Battalions, 158th and 171st Field Artilleries, took a break from their war fighter exercise at Fort Lewis, Wash., to visit the USS Pennsylvania (SSBN-735) at Naval Submarine Base Bangor on Jan. 30. The Pennsylvania is a Trident submarine capable of delivering intercontinental ballistic missiles. Like all Tridents, the Pennsylvania has two distinct crews, blue and gold, from the commanding officer down to the lowest seaman. Approximately every four months, the two crews swap custody of the boat, refit it, and while one crew takes it back to sea, the other remains in port for rest and relaxation time followed by job-specific training to maintain proficiency. The Oklahoma soldiers were treated to a below-decks tour of the active sub by the blue crew. The purpose of the visit was to give the artillerymen a better understanding of how the Navy operates, specifically the submarine force. The 158 and 171 were at nearby Fort Lewis for Yama Sakura 45. "Yama Sakura 45 is command post exercise that ties in sea, air and ground forces in a defense of the Japanese homeland. The purpose of the exercise is to train command and control and maneuver elements on the ground so they can learn how to interact with air and sea forces," said Lt. Col. Allen Bentley, commanding officer, 1st Bn, 158th FA. During their visit to the USS Pennsylvania, the soldiers toured the torpedo room, machinery rooms, command and control, missile control center, enlisted and officer dining and sleeping areas and the food storage areas. Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima said he enjoyed seeing just how different a submarine is in comparison to the systems employed by the Army, such as his unit's multiple launch rocket system. "It was very impressive to see all of the systems that keep the submarine up and running, how the ship is designed and built," Lima said. "You look like you've come home, lieutenant," Pvt. 2 John T. Simpson said to 2nd Lt. Kevin J. Shutt; who had spent six years in the Navy and was a submarine radioman before transferring to the Guard; as they listened to a Fire Control Technician explain how torpedoes are loaded onto the boat. Photo Caption: Oklahoma Army National Guardsmen with the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, and 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery, pose for a picture Jan. 30 at Naval Submarine Base Bangor's Deterrent Park before touring the USS Pennsylvania (SSBN-735), which was undergoing a refit with blue crew. Pictured from, kneeling, are Command Sgt. Maj. John T. Jenson, Staff Sgt. Michael Bray, Sgt. Jose M. Salcido Jr., Staff Sgt. Jose Saldana; and standing, from the left, are Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Henry, 1st Lt. Eddie Collins, Spec. Ryan Jernigan, Sgt. Paul A. Tate, Sgt. 1st Class Rodney J. Vincent, Maj. Paul A. Metcalfe, Chief Warrant Officer 1 Gary England, Lt. Col. Allen Bentley, Spec. Brian Hekia, Capt. Patrick F. Meek, Pvt. 2 John T. Simpson, Sgt. 1st Class Norman L. Winn, Staff Sgt. David Perky and 2nd Lt. Kevin J. Shutt; a former submariner.

**Feb 26, 2004:** Obituary: Lee William Nearhoof Sr. In loving memory on February 26, 2004 he left us at Montgomery General Hospital, Olney, MD. He was the husband of the late Margie Cornell, his wife of 55 years. He was born December 30, 1934. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Arlene Nearhoof. Surviving are his sons, Lee Nearhoof, Jr. of Frederick, MD and Timothy Nearhoof of Rockville, MD. Also surviving are sister, Irene Wagner



of Tyrone, PA, daughter in law Anita Nearhoof of Frederick, MD; grandchildren, Susan and Chris Nearhoof of Frederick, MD and Srika and Joey Nearhoof of Miairy, MD; niece, Kendra Daughenbaugh and nephew, John Wagner of Tyrone, PA. He worked for B&O Railroad for approximately 12 years, before taking a job with D.C. Transit driving a bus for 22 years before retiring. During WWII he served in the 45th Division, 158th Field Artillery, Battery "B", as a Private First Class, ASN: 33757647, seeing action in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. He was also a long time member of The Masonic Lodge, #188 Binningham, Beltsville, MD, as well the American Legion and Veterans of the Foreign; War (VFW).

**Mar 16, 2004:** Obituary: James Aubrey Young; Born on 5 Dec 1928 Abernathy, Lubbock County, Texas and died on 16 Mar 2004 Odessa, Ector County, Texas. Buried at Sunset Memorial Gardens Odessa, Ector County, Texas. James A. Young, 75, a longtime resident of Odessa, passed away Tuesday, March 16, 2004, at his residence after a lengthy illness. He was born December 5, 1928, in Abernathy, Texas, to Guyton and Bessie Young, moving to Odessa in 1936. James retired from Texaco after 15 years and was owner of Seale Furniture and Appliance for 13 years, retiring due to illness. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Guyton Young of San Antonio and Pat Neil of Green Bay, Wis.; sisters, Ruby Nell Matlock of Fort Worth and Louise Richardson of Odessa. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jo Clea Young of Odessa; daughter, Debra and husband, Michael Dale, of Baltimore, Md.; grandchildren, James Vick of Baltimore, Md., Laura and husband, Chris Long, of Odessa; great-grandchildren, Angeleah Long, Dustin Long of Odessa; sisters, Elizabeth Galyon of Dallas, Wanda and husband, Lonnie Wilkinson, of Springfield, Mo., Reba Perry of Odessa; and many nieces and nephews. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 19, 2004, at Sunset Memorial Gardens with David Kirby presiding. Pallbearers will be Michael Dale, Jim Vick, Kerry Brunken, Lee Perry, Tommy Ferrell and Herbert Martin. Arrangements entrusted to Sunset Memorial Funeral Home. Sergeant and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 10, 2004:** Obituary: Merle Joseph Lambert. Published in the Aberdeen News on 13 April 2004. Redfield; Merle J. Lambert, 78, of Redfield, S.D., died Saturday, April 10, 2004, at Community Memorial Hospital in Redfield, S.D. Mass of Christian burial will be Thursday, April 15, 2004, at 10:30 a .m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Frankfort, S.D. Father Christopher Hughes will celebrate the mass. Burial will be in St. Ann's Cemetery in Frankfort with full military rites. Visitation will be Wednesday from 1 to 8 p.m., with a rosary at 7 p.m., all at Thelen Funeral Home in Redfield. Merle was born July 11, 1925, at Frankfort to Mat and Lizzie (Rueschenberg) Lambert. He graduated from Frankfort High School in 1943 and served in the United States Army from October 1950 to September 1952, as a Sergeant and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery. He married Caroline Gauer, November 10, 1954, in Ipswich, S.D. They farmed near Frankfort until retiring in 1997 and moving to Redfield. He enjoyed welding, woodworking and hunting. He was a member of the Clay Kiser American Legion Post #92, Paul A. Schleher VFW Post #2755 serving as commander, Harmony Township Supervisor, St. Ann's Church Board and Cemetery Board. Merle is survived by his wife, Caroline Lambert, of Redfield, S.D.; three sons, Mike (Kelly) Lambert of Frankfort, S.D., Tom (Carol) Lambert of Frankfort, S.D., and Pat Lambert of Frankfort, S. D.; and one daughter, Mary (Gary) Muellenberg of Maple Grove, Minn. He is also survived by eight grand children, Ross and Thomas Muellenberg, Brandi, Erika, Mat, Maggie, Brady and Lauryn Lambert; one brother, Daryl (Kozette) Lambert of Aberdeen, S.D.; and Mat and Maggie's mother, Cindy Lambert, of Redfield, S.D. He was preceded in death by his parents. Casket bearers will be Tony, Bruce and Gordon Gauer, Dane Lambert, Dave Willis and Dave Swanson.

**Apr 13, 2004:** Obituary: Albert Elmo Huber; Idaho Press-Tribune (Nampa, ID) - April 18, 2004, Section: obituaries. Page: 24. Obituaries-Albert Elmo Huber, 96, of Meridian, passed away from natural causes on April 13, 2004. He was born Feb. 4, 1908, in the Mormon colony of Morelos, Sonora, Mexico, to John Jacob Huber and Etta Matilda Huish. When Albert was 7 years old, they were driven from their home by rebels led by Pancho Villa and took refuge across the border in Arizona. The shelter provided the refugee families by the U.S. Army made a deep impression on Albert, which grew into a great love for the United States of America. He and his three brothers served their country in the U.S. military during the two World Wars. The Huber family settled on a farm in Mesa, Ariz., and Albert learned at a young age the demanding nature of farm life. He joined the Arizona National Guard at age 16, then graduated from what is now Arizona State University, where he co-captained the football team and was president of his senior class. He married Emma Lapreel Davis on June 15, 1932, in the Mesa Arizona LDS Temple. He farmed, taught eighth grade at Alma School in Mesa, and had three sons, Leon, Don, and Jon. In 1940, the Arizona National Guard was federalized and became part of the 45th Infantry Division in Oklahoma. Although he wasn't required to, Albert felt it his duty and chose to serve in World War II. His young family moved with him to various military bases throughout the United States until he sailed overseas to the European theater of war in 1943. He fought in six of the seven major European campaigns of World War II and saw 428 days of combat including the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp. At the end of the war, Lt. Colonel Huber commanded the 158th Field Artillery Battalion assigned to guard a 34,000-man prisoner of war camp in Munich, Germany. After the war, Albert returned to farming and operated a dairy farm in Meridian, as well as taught vocational agriculture to war veterans.

Albert was a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was the first Bishop of the Meridian 2nd Ward. He and his wife served three full-time missions for the church in Quincy and Nauvoo, Ill., Guatemala, Central America, and pioneered the Spanish name extraction genealogical mission in Nampa. They also worked in the Boise Idaho Temple for many years. Albert was a kind, generous man who knew the value of hard work. He will be remembered for his integrity, courage and exceptional example. He loved his family, his God, and his country and will be sorely missed. He is survived by his three sons, Leon (Ann) Huber of Meridian, Don (Paula) Huber of West Point, Ind., Jon (Vi) Huber of Meridian; a sister, Nelda (Mrs. J.O. Anderson) of Mesa, Ariz.; 24 grandchildren; and 69 great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, April 19, at the Locust Grove and Amity L.D.S. Chapel, 1695 E. Amity, Meridian. Friends may call to visit with the family today, April 18, from 6-8 p.m. at the Relyea Funeral Chapel, and from 9 until 9:45 a.m. at the church on Monday before the services. Interment will follow at the Terrace Lawn Memorial Gardens, 4225 E. Fairview Ave., Meridian. Lieutenant Colonel, OSN: O-273895 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 23, 2004:** Obituary: Orla Elmer Hostetler; Wanatah, IN Orla E. Hostetler, 84, of Wanatah, IN, passed away on Friday, April 23, 2004 at his residence. He was born July 1, 1919 in Middlebury, IN, to Elmer and Osie (Kalb) Hostetler. Orla was a graduate of LaCrosse High School. He was a self employed Petroleum Transporter working with GNR for 26 years, retiring in 1976. He was a member of Countryside Christian Church of Michigan City and a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II. Orla loved spending time with his four granddaughters, and in his younger years he enjoyed flying airplanes. On December 31, 1948 in Wanatah, IN, he married Betty Goodwin, who survives; also survived by his daughter, Jacki (Bob) Fryer of LaPorte; four granddaughters, Jami, Kelli, Courtni and Abbi; and one sister, Mildred Spencer of Chesterton. He was preceded in death by his parents and three infant siblings. Funeral services will be held on Monday, April 26, 2004 at 10:30 A.M. at the Wanatah Funeral Chapel, 309 N. Main St., Wanatah, IN. Burial to follow at Graceland Cemetery in Valparaiso, IN. Visitation will be on Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Countryside Christian Church or VNA Hospice. Sergeant, ASN: 35169320 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**May 13, 2004:** Obituary: Gordon Eugene Moore; Miami News-Record (OK) - May 18, 2004; of Miami died Thursday, May 13, 2004, at Integris Baptist Regional Health Center in Miami after a short illness. He was 87. Moore was born Aug. 13, 1916, in Waynoka to Walter O. and Maude (Stone) Moore. He graduated from Capital Hill High School in Oklahoma City in 1935. During World War II, he served with the 158th Field Artillery Battalion of the Army from Feb. 13, 1941, until June 8, 1943, during which he earned a Silver Star and a Bronze Star. He was a reconditioning manager for various car dealerships in Wichita, Kan., and Tulsa. Before his retirement, he was the shop manager for Tulsa Vinyl Tops in Tulsa. He moved to Miami from Disney in 1990. He was a member of the American Legion Floyd L. Perry Post No. 147 and was active for many years on the veterans funeral detail. He was a member of the Commerce First Assembly of God Church. He married Genevieve Ring in Abilene, Texas, on March 7, 1942. She survives, of the home. Additional survivors include one son, Terry E. Moore and wife Judy of Roswell, Ga.; three daughters, Janet Barger and husband Wesley of Miami, Pam Keeling and husband Ron of Chandler and Anita Larkin of Tulsa; one sister, Betty Pierce of Wichita; 10 grandchildren, John Moore of Suwanee, Ga., Stephanie Dunn of Marietta, Ga., Candice Casse of El Paso, Ill., Aaron Keeling of Chandler, Amy Dyer of Chandler, Rebekah Gibson of Stillwater, Anna Wilcox of Tulsa, Sara Carney of Meeker, Micah Keeling of Davenport and Rachel Moehle of Chandler, and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Lucille Hagaman; one brother, Walter Pascal Moore, and one grandson, Brian Barger. Visitors will be received at the home. Services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday at the Commerce First Assembly of God Church with the Rev. Michael Bunch officiating and Viola Reddout assisting. Burial will follow at Osborn Memorial Cemetery in Joplin, Mo. Military honors will be provided by the American Legion post No. 147 veterans funeral detail. Pallbearers will be Aaron Keeling, Micah Keeling, Darin Carney, Clair Tromsness, George Montgomery and Marvin Griggs. Members of the American Legion Post No. 147 will serve as honorary pallbearers. The family suggests memorials be made to the American Legion Post No. 147 veterans funeral detail. Services will be under the direction of Cooper-Althouse Funeral Home of Miami. Technician Fourth Class, ASN: 38018811 and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**May 21, 2004:** Obituary: LeRoy Picard, 73, died at home in Buena Vista, Colo., of congestive heart failure on May 21, 2004. He was born Oct. 7, 1930, in Fort Kent, the son of Gilbert and Mary Picard. He graduated from Ricker Classical Institute and attended Ricker College in Houlton, before volunteering for the U.S. Army. He served in Korea with the 45th Division, 158th Field Artillery Battalion. After his discharge from the service, he received a degree in Public Management from the University of Maine. He was town manager in Warren, Old Town, and Williamstown, Mass. He then became director of physical plant for Rockford College and Colorado Mountain College. In 1990, he retired to Buena Vista. Over the years, he was a member and officer of many organizations. Among them president of the Central Maine Managers Association, director of the Maine Municipal Association, YMCA director, director of the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns, Association of Physical Plant Administrators, Lions Club, treasurer

of B.P.O.E. of Leadville, Colo. and chairman of the Lake County Planning Board. In recent years, he was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, AARP and Young at Heart. He is survived by his wife, Patricia (Cyr); son, Michael (Ellen) Picard of Colville, Wash.; daughters, Susan (Calbourne) Lathrop of Stuart, Fla., Kathleen (Brett) Cary of Orchard, Colo. and Laura (Don) Jones of Franktown, Colo.; sister, Marcella (Stanley) Burns of Burlington, Vt.; and brother, William Picard of Middletown, Ohio. He was the beloved grandfather of Steven and Jennifer Picard; Brittany, Nicole and Calbourne Lathrop; Caleb (Jessica), Emily and Rachel Payne; Leah and Ethan Cary; and Jillian and Levi Jones; and great-grandfather of Hailey and Morgan Payne. Services were held at St. Rosa of Lima Church and internment at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, in Buena Vista, Colo. on May 24, 2004. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mountain Medical Center, P.O. Box 3129, Buena Vista, CO 81211.

**Jul 09, 2004:** Obituary: Floyd Paddyaker. Faxon: Funeral for Floyd Paddyaker, 83, Faxon, will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Deyo Mission Church. Mr. Paddyaker died Wednesday, July 7, 2004, at a Lawton hospital. Burial will be at Deyo Mission Cemetery under direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home. He was born Dec. 8, 1920 to Benson and Libby Mihesuah. He served in the Army from Oct. 28, 1939, to June 16, 1945. He was a Military Occupational Specialty gun crewman, and a rifle marksman in Battery "C" 158th Field Artillery Battalion. He served in battles and campaigns in Sicily, southern France, Naples-Italy, Central Europe, Rome-Azmo and Rhinelands. Decorations and citations he received include Good Conduct Metal, American Defense Service Ribbon, Campaign Service Ribbon, one Silver Service Star, one Bronze Service Star, Purple Heart and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. Survivors include his wife, Lavena, of the home; two sons: Chad, Balch Springs, Texas; and John, of the home; two daughters: Joyce Shelton, Lawton; and Cheyl, Faxon; a grandson, Michael Floyd, Faxon, a great-grandson, Jeffrey Floyd, Faxon; four brothers: Deyo, Benton Jr., Carl and Victor Paddyaker; three sisters: Weakah Hoahwah, Annetta Mahsetky and Audrey Jones; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters: Eileen Paddyaker, Hattie and Matilda Topetchy. Friends may call from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

**Jul 16, 2004:** Obituary: Calvin Eugene Koonce passed away Friday, July 16, 2004. Calvin was born on December 31, 1937 in Sooner, OK. He was a member of the First Baptist Church. He loved golf, traveling, and landscaping. He is survived by his wife, Lenora Nadine Koonce, of Tuttle, OK; son, Daron Koonce, of Newcastle, OK; daughter, Patty Scott, of Oklahoma City, OK; seven grandchildren, one great grandson. He was preceded in death by his mother, Edith Mae Koonce, father, Guy Leonard Koonce, two sons, Donald Eugene Koonce, and Calvin Keith Koonce, and brother, Bob Koonce. Memorial donations to be sent to the American Cancer Society. Services will be held at the Assembly of God Church, in Tuttle, OK. Interment will be at Minco Cemetery of Minco, OK. Services are under the direction of John M. Ireland Funeral Home and Chapel. Published in The Oklahoman on July 19, 2004. Colonel and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Aug 06, 2004:** Obituary: John Michael Ruzycki; left this life August 6, 2004; at the age of 85 years and two months for his heavenly home where he will dwell with his Lord for eternity. He was born June 4, 1919. John leaves to celebrate his life, wife, Velda of 57 ½ years, 3 sons; Johnny and wife Jenny of Oklahoma City, Bobby and wife Jimmye of Jones, and Mike Ruzycki of Jones, 2 daughters Debbie and Greg Dilbeck of Harrah and Gina Ruzycki of the home, 10 grandchildren, Jeannie and Scott Evans, Midwest City, Stephen and Greg Butler, Jones, Rebekah and Blake Graham of Edmond, Bethany, Michael, Chris and Cassy Ruzycki, Jones, Zac Ruzycki, Oklahoma City, and Travis Dilbeck, Harrah, 3 great grandchildren; Trent and Kelsi Evans, Midwest City, Kailyn Savage, Choctaw, and was looking forward to welcoming a new great granddaughter, Sierra Graham of Edmond, this week. John was preceded in death by his father and mother, Walter and Nellie Ruzycki, father and mother in law Emmett and Bessie Howell, brother in law 'Dick' Phillips, sister in law Helen Howell, brother in law Gerald Mobley. He is also survived by one brother Tony and Laverne Ruzycki, Jones, one sister Ella Mobley, Edmond, brother in law 'Tuffy' Howell, Arapaho, sister in law Marva Lee Phillips, Oklahoma City, ten nieces and nephews and many friends. John was a member of Harmony Christian Church and a lifetime DAV member. John served 511 days active duty with the famous 45th Div. 'Thunderbirds', during WWII, from the beachhead at Anzio through Sicily, Italy, France and into Germany where his group helped liberate the prison camp at Dachau. He was Master Sgt., ASN: 38017387, Chief of section over his gun crew Battery 'A' 158th FA. He and his wife hosted the yearly reunion for his buddies many years. John loved his God, family and country and will be missed. Services will be conducted by Eisenhour Funeral Home 8805 N.E. 23rd, at Harmony Christian Church 7700 S. Choctaw Rd. at 2 p.m. Tuesday August 10th. Interment will follow at Choctaw Cemetery. Published in The Oklahoman on Aug. 9, 2004.

**Sep 26, 2004:** Obituary: Frank Garcia, CPL., 22, of Anadarko was with the 45th Division formerly of Camp Barkeley, Texas. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Garcia of Anadarko and joined the National Guard in Anadarko in 1938. He was born August 25, 1920. He was an outstanding athlete. He graduated from Anadarko High School along with the Anadarko, OK class of 1940: Abshere, Marvin Allen, Kenneth Anderson, Jane Baker, Mabel Bird, R.O.

Brock, James Bruce, Muriel Campbell, Augustine Carruth, Leon Carruth, Waldine Chebahtah, Clifford Cherry, R.E. Cherry, W.C. Clark, Betty Byrl Colclasure, Alice Lee Colclasure, E.B. Collier, Georgia Cooper, Sevilla Mae Dikeman, Tom Ellis, Margaret Falter, Eldeana Fitts, Bob Freelin, Phoebe Jane Garcia, Frank Gardner, Edna Faye Garrett, Margaret Gassaway, Charles Glass, Carl Golden, J.D. Goodwin, Charles Griffin, Cleta Griffin, Fleta Hedrick, Oneta Hensley, A.B. Hess, Stanley Hollowell, Kenneth Howard, Delmar Huff, Harrell Hummingbird, George Hutchins, Doreen Jacobs, Gerald Jones, Arthur Killian, Gene Koch, Sears Lacer, Louis Lacer, Ray Lara, Albert Larence, Bettis Lease, Bill McClure, Scerilda McKenzie, Bill Marquis, Marguerita Massad, Neda Orme, Vernon Peturf, Jean Peters, Evelyn Philips, Eli Phillips, Hartwell Pickard, Loa Ann Scott, Louis Shipman, Anna Lee Shipman, Robert Shipman, Ruby Lee Short, Sammie Sparkman, Edythe Stevens, Doris Tallent, Tranvil Tarpley, Marion Thompson, Virginia Utzman, Paul Wall, Ila Ware, Pressley Webb, Oscar Whitson, Pauline Wilkerson, Kenneth Williams, Geneva Yernipicut, Rudy Zadoka. Technician Fifth Class, ASN: 20836708 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Oct 30, 2004:** Obituary: Donald Ray Hathorn: Newspaper Obituary and Death Notice, Daily Ardmoreite, The (Ardmore, OK) - Thursday, November 4, 2004. Deceased Name: Donald R. Hathorn, Hobart: A memorial service for Donald R. Hathorn, 62, was held 2 p.m. Wednesday at the American Legion Building in Hobart. Born on Aug. 30, 1942, in Hobart to the late Clyde C. and Opal P. Dobbs Hathorn, he died on Oct. 30, 2004, at his home. He worked in the oil fields and became a major in the Army. Survivors include sons, Mitch, Atlanta, and Mike, Ardmore; a daughter, Pamela Branum, Healdton; brothers, David, Hobart, Cecil, Burneyville, and Tommy, Fort Worth, Texas; two sisters, Zelma Howell, Oklahoma City, and Patricia Page, Sentinel, and seven grandchildren. People's Funeral Home directed services. Peoples Cooperative Funeral Home, Lone Wolf, Okla., is in charge of arrangements. Major, OSN: O-2318586 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Nov 14, 2004:** Obituary: Jack Hoadley Dempsey, Colonel, U.S. Army, Ret., 92, of Sun City, AZ passed away November 14, 2004. A veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam Wars. Visitation will be 3 to 6 PM Tuesday November 16, at Menke Funeral Home. Funeral service will be 10 AM Wednesday, November 17, at Menke Funeral Home Chapel, 12420 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City, AZ. Interment with military honors will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Avondale, AZ. Published in The Arizona Republic on Nov. 16, 2004. Colonel, OSN: O-031766 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 05, 2004:** Obituary: Earl Willhoite, Dr., Bradenton, Freedom Village, 91, died 5 December 2004. Toale Brothers Funeral Home, Bradenton Chapel. He was born March 2, 1913, in Durant, Okla., and came to Manatee County from Stroudsburg, Pa. He was dean of Fred Waring Music Workshops and education director at Shawnee Press, and was a founding member of American Choral Directors Association and American Bandmasters Association. He conducted choral and band concerts and music festivals in 35 states. He earned a bachelor's degree from Southeastern State Teachers College, a master's from the University of Oklahoma and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. He was a Major in the Army in Field Artillery from 1940 to 1948, OSN: O-402801 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery and served in Panama, New Guinea, New Britain and the Philippines. He was a member of Braden River Presbyterian Church. Survivors include a daughter, Dr. Carol Willhoite Harmon of Bradenton; a son, retired Air Force Maj. John Anthony of Clifton, Texas; a sister, Wanda McCoy of Little Rock, Ark., and four grandchildren. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday at Toale Brothers Funeral Home, Bradenton Chapel. Memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Freedom Village Auditorium, Bradenton. Burial will be in Stroudsburg. Memorial donations may be made to Braden River Presbyterian Church, 3150 Peridia Blvd., Bradenton, FL., 34203. Published in Herald Tribune on December 10, 2004.

**Dec 08, 2004:** Obituary: Doris Lee Branch, 54, services of Killeen will be at 1 a.m. Tuesday at the Gethsemane Prayer Chapel in Copperas Cove with the Rev. James Crane Jr. and Rev. James E. Donald officiating. Burial will follow at Killeen City Cemetery. Ms. Branch died Dec. 8, 2004 at her residence. She was born on May 26, 1950 in Norfolk, Va. Ms. Branch was employed with Norfolk General Sentra Hospital for more than 10 years. She was a substitute teacher in the Killeen independent School District for 12 years. Born and raised in Norfolk. Ms. Branch graduated from George Washington Carver High School in Chesapeake, VA. She graduated from Central Texas College with an associates degree in computer programming. She was a volunteer for the United Way of Killeen and a member of the We Can Do It Club at Central Texas College. Ms. Branch has been a part of the community since August 1986. She is a past member of the 19th Street Chapel on Fort Hood and the Antioch Baptist Church in Norfolk. Survivors include a son, Kerry Neron Branch of Killeen; a daughter, Kimberly Nichole Branch of Richmond, VA; her mother, Doris Lee Davis of Killeen; two stepbrothers, Michael D. Davis of Greenville, MS and Gunnery Master Sergeant Gregory Davis of Atlanta, GA; and a sister, Dellma L. Bailey of Chesapeake. She was preceded in death by her father, Joseph Leroy Jones; her stepfather, Mayo Leon Davis; and a brother, James Leroy Jones. The family will receive visitors one hour prior to the service. Chisolm's Family Funeral Home & Florist in Copperas Cove is in charge of arrangements. Staff Sergeant and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 17, 2004:** Obituary: James Dale Spruill, Sr. Source: Daily Ardmoreite. Services for James "Dale" Spruill Sr. will be 2 p.m. Tuesday at First United Methodist Church under the direction of Harvey-Douglas Funeral Home. Dr. Robert Gorrell and the Rev. Dan Pattman will conduct services. Interment will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery. Dale was the son of James C. Spruill and Ruth Sanders Spruill, and was born Aug. 15, 1933 at Loco. Dale's earthly journey ended Dec. 17, 2004 at a local nursing home. He was 71 years old and preceded in death by his parents and older brother, Sonny Spruill. Dale graduated from Comanche High School in 1951 and joined the U.S. Army in 1953. That was the beginning of an illustrious career that spanned 40 years. He was a veteran of the Korean War and Desert Storm Gulf War. He received numerous medals and awards, including Korean Service Medal, Distinguished Rifle Badge (Gold), Rifle Sharpshooter, Army Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star while serving in the Desert Storm Gulf War. Dale moved to Ardmore in 1990. After retiring from military service in 1993 he was employed as a security guard at Mercy Memorial Hospital. He retired in 2001. He was a Veterans of Foreign Wars member and a member of the Fellowship Sunday School Class, Methodist Men, Cross Point Emmaus Community and Saturday Morning Men's Reunion Group. Dale loved God, his family and his country with great enthusiasm. He had many friends throughout the United States and other countries as well. His quick, warm smile will be missed by all who knew him and loved him. Dale and his wife, Janice, were married Nov. 20, 1990. Survivors include his wife, of the home; daughter, Kelly Earhart and her husband, Steve, Denton, Texas; son, James D. Spruill Jr. "Jimmy" and his wife, Staci, Ratliff City; step-son, Keith Wallis and his wife, Amy; step-daughter, Beth Vaillancourt and her husband, Jeff, all Ardmore; sister, Billie Ruth Crowley, Phoenix; 11 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Command Sergeant Major and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 21, 2004:** Obituary: Robert Paul Adkins, age 71, of Williamsburg, KY, passed away on Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at Jellico Community Hospital in Jellico, TN. He was a member of the Mt. Ash Baptist Church, a lifetime member of the NRA and a member of the Williamsburg Historical-Genealogy Society. He is survived by his wife, Nannie Smith Adkins of Williamsburg, KY, (4) sons; Robert Morgan Adkins of Utica, NY, David Paul Adkins and wife, Sherri of Corbin, KY, Richard Martin Adkins and wife, Teresa of Taylor, MI, and Michael Timothy Adkins of Newport, MI, (7) granddaughters, (2) brothers; James Adkins of Taylor, MI, and Edward Adkins of Pleasant View Community, Williamsburg, KY, several nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn his passing. Funeral services were held on Friday, December 24, 2004 at Croley Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Billy Carpenter and Mr. Kenneth Johnson officiating. Burial followed in the Rains Cemetery. Pallbearers were; Eddie Adkins, Danny Adkins, Arnie Smith, Pamela Good, Carl Good, Arthur McKiddy and George Leach. Croley Funeral Home of Williamsburg, KY was in charge of all arrangements. Corporal and served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**Jan 12, 2005:** Published in the "The Anadarko Daily News" entitled: Zerger named battalion soldier of the year. Lance Zerger of Anadarko has been selected as the Battalion Soldier of the Year. He competed against soldiers from Duncan, Walters, and Lawton to win the award. Specialist Lance Zerger was recently selected as the 2005 Soldier of the Year for the 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery. He was selected by the leadership of Battery "C" 1/158 FA to compete in the Battalion contest based on his positive attitude, ability to assist others, and his technical and tactical competence. He competed against four other soldiers to win the honor, based on weapon marksmanship, physical fitness, and answering questions before a board of Senior NCO's said SSG David A. Slezickey of Anadarko's Battery "C". CSM John Jenson, Command Sergeant Major of the 1/158 Battalion, commented, "All of the soldiers that competed performed very well, but SPC Zerger's hard work and dedication paid off. He did an outstanding job representing Battery "C", and will be commended for winning the 2005 T-Bird Warrior Challenge Soldier of the Year Competition. He will compete for the 45th Field Artillery Brigade Soldier of the Year in Enid on February 06, 2005. If selected, he will have the opportunity to compete for the Oklahoma Military Department Soldier of the Year in April 2005. SPC Zerger is a 2002 graduate of Anadarko High School. He is currently a junior at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, majoring in business. He is the son of Doug and Debi Zerger of Anadarko.

**Mar 10, 2005:** Obituary: Arthur Bentham Merchant; 14 Sep 1920 to 10 Mar 2005 (Age 84). Burial: Union Cemetery, North Smithfield, Providence County, Rhode Island. Son of Harry and Catherine Merchant. Silver Star; Awarded for actions during the World War II. Arthur B. Merchant, United States Army, is reported to have been awarded the Silver Star under the below listed General Orders for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with the 45th Infantry Division during World War II. General Orders: Headquarters, 45th Infantry Division, General Orders No. 61 (1944). Action Date: World War II. Service: Army. Extracted from the WWII magazine "Field Artillery Journal" December 1944 Issue: Bronze star. 1st. Lt. Arthur B. Merchant, 14 Warren Ave, Woonsocket, RI. First Lieutenant, OSN: O-1174958, ASN: 20156011 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 19, 2005:** Obituary: Clarence Siringo Adams, 84, of Roswell, died Saturday, March 19, 2005, at his home. He was born on Aug. 7, 1920, in Corona, to John C. and Alice M. Adams. He spent his years in southeastern New

Mexico as a teacher, educator, historian, author, writer, editor and outdoorsman. He grew up in the Roswell and Berrendo area and joined the New Mexico Army National Guard and the U.S. Army in 1942. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in 1950 and in 1957 his master of arts degree in education from Eastern New Mexico University. He taught in Dora, Cloudcroft, Weed, Artesia, Cottonwood and Roswell. He retired from teaching in 1979. Family members said he enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters; and two brothers. Survivors include his wife, Joan Adams; three sons, Larry Adams (and wife, Becky), Kenneth Adams (Jeannie) and Rodney Adams (Kellie); three daughters, Jenny Beasley (Dan), Laura Hignight (companion, Allen Ward) and Jolynn Willmon (Roger); 10 grandchildren, Brenda Ellis, Casie Sottosant, Cicily and Quentin Ward, Casey and Barrett Adams, Lindsey Winkler, Larissa Enoch and Kathryn and Kevin Cochran; a sister, Jeri Prince (Buddy) of Portales; and numerous nieces and nephews. Services: 10 a.m. Tuesday at Calvary Baptist Church in Roswell. The Rev. Eldridge "Butch" Neal will officiate the services with Marshall Fair assisting. Burial will be at South Park Cemetery, Roswell, Chaves County, New Mexico. Pallbearers are Ryan, Cliff and Jack Pirtle, Bernie Salaz, Verlon "Spec" Beckler and John Ortega. Honorary pallbearers are his closest friends and extended family at Peachtree Retirement Village. Arrangements are by La Grone Funeral Chapel of Roswell. Private First Class, served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 24, 2005:** Obituary: Harvey Edward Cook, Post Tribune Indiana. March 27, 2005, Section: Death Notice - Classified, IN. United States, Harvey E. Cook, Age 83 of Crown Point/Cedar Lake, passed away Thursday, March 24, 2005. Survived by wife of 37 years, Grace; children, Charlene Kozora of Anna, Illinois, Ross (Kathy) Kozora of Crown Point; 7 grandchildren, Charlie Wakefield of Anna, Illinois, Dan (Bridgett) Wakefield of Champaign, Illinois, Harvey O. (Barbara) Cook of Cedar Lake, Kimberly Turner of Crown Point, Adam (Michelle) Kozora of Mt. Zion, Illinois, Andrew Wakefield of Troy, Missouri, Mindy Kozora of Crown Point; 7 great grandchildren, Seth, Sherri, Alec, Emily, Natalie, Ethan and Jackson; 3 sisters, Pearl Lindsey of Crown Point, Bernice Badgley of Hammond and Hazel Cook of Hammond; brother, Murray Cook of California; niece, Claudia Natale and nephew, Albert Cook; 2 daughters-in-law, Carol Cook of Cedar Lake and Judy Cook of Kansas. Preceded in death by sons, Harvey G. Cook and Clint Cook; brothers, Ross Cook and Robert Cook. Mr. Cook was a World War II Army Veteran, serving as a Private and a member of Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery Battalion. He received the Bronze Star and was in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of American Legion Post 261, Cedar Lake Keenagers, and Pipefitters Local 210. He was a member of Hope Lutheran Church, Cedar Lake. He was a retired plumbing estimator and Vice President for J.W. Snook with 30 years of service. Friends may call at Pruzin & Little Funeral Service, 811 East Franciscan Drive (on State Road 55 south of State Road 231), Crown Point, Monday from 2 to 4 p.m and 6 to 8 p.m. Legion service at 7:15 p.m. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 29, 2005 from Trinity Lutheran Church (631 W. Commercial), Lowell, with Rev. Mark Pflughoeft officiating. At rest Maplewood Memorial Cemetery, Crown Point.

**Mar 29, 2005:** Obituary: Kenneth Wayne Barney, Jr., lost his battle with cancer on March 29, 2005. Ken is survived by his loving wife, Joyce Ann Barney of Frisco, Texas; his children, Ken Barney III of Bellevue, Washington, Todd Barney of Marietta Georgia, Paul Barney of Acworth, Georgia, and Crystal Barney 01 Frisco, Texas; his sisters, Shirley Trammell, Nancy Curley, and Penny Barney; three grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Ken was born in Inglewood, California on April 3, 1944 to Kenneth Wayne Barney and Vera All Barney, the youngest of four siblings. As a young man, Ken was an accomplished musician, playing trumpet with a show band during his high school years in southern California. He married Patricia Miller in 1963, with whom he fathered three sons. He later married Rhonda Claborn in 1977, with whom he fathered his only daughter. In December 2003, Ken married Joyce Ann Robertson. Ken Barney served his country with honor, enlisting in the U. S. Army in 1961. He graduated Officer Candidate School in 1969. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam in 1969 and 1972, and during his career earned two Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and National Defense Service Medal. After Vietnam, Ken transitioned to the Army Reserved where he continued his distinguished military career. He retired from the U. S. Army reserves as a Lt. Colonel in 1996. Throughout his career, Ken was stationed at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, Blanding, Utah and Korea. During his time in the Army Reserves, Ken also had a distinguished career with SBC in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Dallas, Texas, from which he retired in 1999. His telecom career led him through network: management, emergency systems management, and finally, training. After retirement, he continued his love of teaching telecommunications as an instructor until his battle with cancer prevented him from the demands of traveling and teaching. Ken was well regarded by his students for his ability to explain difficult concepts, and his trademark sense of humor. Ken was a member of the First Baptist church in Frisco, Texas. Visitation will be at Turrentine Jackson Morrow Funeral Home in Frisco, Texas on March 31, 2005 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The funeral service will be held at the First Baptist Church Frisco on April 1, 2005 at 11:00 AM with Dr. Chuck Martin officiating followed by a private ceremony at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery. Lieutenant Colonel and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 01, 2005:** Published in the "The Graybeards" entitled: 158th Field Artillery Battalion. It only takes two people to hold a mini-reunion. Marion Johnson, of Siler City, NC, and Elwood Varney, of Boyceville, WI, discovered that recently. Varney was Johnson's truck driver in Korea. After Korea, They lost track of one another for 52 years. Johnson's daughter, Marsha Ferguson, conducted a computer search and located Varney in April 2003. The two men talked on the phone off and on for a year. Then, Johnson and his wife Marie hopped aboard an Amtrak train and journeyed to Wisconsin so the two buddies could catch up on old times. Johnson remembered that when he got to Korea the temperature was 40 degrees below zero. Varney had been with the unit for some time prior to Johnson's arrival, so he took the newcomer under his wing. Johnson recalled that "The battalion fired in support of the static front line position from December of 1951 until May of 1952. The 45th Division held front line positions northwest of Chorwon." He added that, "By June and July of 1952, the battalion increased greatly during the battles for Old Baldy and Pork Chop Hill." In July 1952, the battalion joined Group B of X Corps Artillery in support of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Division on Korea's eastern front. Varney noted that "Both of us had hearing loss because of all night firing of the 105 Howitzers." The two men also fought on Heart Break Ridge, and at the Punch Bowl, Inchon, and Seoul. Varney also remembered that, "In eleven months, we made our way across Korea to the 38th Parallel down the Inje Pass into North Korea." He was sent home in 1952, leaving Johnson and a special friendship. Both attendees at the mini-reunion served with distinction in Korea. Johnson earned the Bronze Star and service medals. Varney was injured, and is totally disabled today.

**May 15, 2005:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Guardsman qualifies for big bonus. By Mitch Meadow; Staff Writer. Kenneth E. Nagel of Lawton has become the first person in 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery to qualify for the National Guard's \$15,000 enlistment bonus, according to Sgt. Maj. John Jenson. The incentive is offered to current Guard members up for re-enlistment and soldiers with prior active duty experience coming into the Guard. Guardsmen in those categories can get \$7,500 for a three-year enlistment and \$15,000 for a six-year commitment. The 32-year-old Nagel was on active duty from Sept. 11, 1991, until October 2002. He then joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard and served in Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 1st of the 158th, until April 2004, when he got out. Now he's returning to the same outfit. He was referred to the recruiters by Sgt. Wallace Stroup, who had worked with him before and said, "He's a good soldier." Nagel, a route driver for W & W Vending Co., said Stroup "swung by where I was working and left a note with my boss." On Saturday recruiters presented Nagel with a symbolic, oversized check for \$15,000, but what he actually gets is \$7,500 up front and \$7,500 on his four-year anniversary date. As a husband and father of three, every little bit helps. Was it the money that influenced him to rejoin the Guard? "A little bit. I mean, it doesn't hurt," he said. "I wouldn't complain, either," Stroup quipped. Both Stroup and Nagel are cooks 92 Golf, in the jargon of military occupational specialties but they're also soldiers. "Our motto is 'Soldiers first.' Everyone is a soldier first," said Nagel. Saturday was his first day back in the kitchen of Lawton's National Guard Armory, and he admitted it felt good to be there "I think I just needed a break is all it was." "Even when I got out of the Army the first time, I thought about going back and retiring. After this six-year enlistment, I'll have only a few years left till retirement," Nagel said. He added that he'll most likely finish out his 20 years. Nagel said both his parents were in the military, so he grew up all over. His father is medically retired, and his mother got out soon after Nagel was born. Steven and Laura Nagel make their home in Colorado today. Operation Desert Storm was under way when Nagel first enlisted, but as an only son, the Army wouldn't put him in a combat zone. At the time, he served in Egypt with the 101st Infantry. His assignments have taken him to Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Wainwright, Alaska; and of course, Fort Sill. After arriving here in January 2001, he worked in the Guns and Rockets dining facility and then helped open The Blockhouse dining hall. More information on the new Oklahoma Army National Guard recruiting and retention incentives can be found at [www.1-800-GOGUARD](http://www.1-800-GOGUARD). Photo Caption: Oklahoma Army National Guard recruiters Sgt. 1st Class James Crabtree, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Greg Morris, right, help Kenneth E. Nagel of Lawton get fitted for BDUs as Sgt. Wallace Stroup looks on. Nagel is the first person in the local National Guard unit to qualify for a \$15,000 enlistment bonus.

**May 16, 2005:** Published in the "The Federal Register" entitled: Page: 28036 of the Federal Register / Vol. 70, No. 93 / Monday, May 16, 2005 / Notices/Close the Keathley and Burris United States Army Reserve Centers located in Lawton and Chickasha, OK; close the Wichita Falls United States Army Reserve Center in Wichita Falls, TX; close the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 6th United States Army Reserve Centers and Equipment Concentration Site (ECS) located on Fort Sill and relocate units into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center on Fort Sill, OK and a new United States Army Reserve Equipment Concentration Site to be collocated with the Oklahoma Army National Guard Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site on Fort Sill. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate Oklahoma Army National Guard units from the following Oklahoma Army National Guard Readiness Centers: Lawton, Frederick, Anadarko, Chickasha, Marlow, Walters, and Healdton; realign B/1-158 Field Artillery (MLRS) from the Oklahoma Army National Guard Readiness Center located in Duncan if the State of Oklahoma decides to relocate those National Guard units.

**Jun 11, 2005:** Published in the "Freedom Salute Ceremony C Battery" entitled: Freedom Salute Campaign. The Oklahoma Army National Guard, Presents the, Freedom Salute Ceremony. For Operations: Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Battery C, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. Saturday 11 June 2005, 1400 (2pm). Anadarko High School Auditorium. Music, Entrance of Official Party-Master of Ceremony. Presentation of Colors and National Anthem. Invocation by Rev. Don Stewart. Opening Remarks and Introduction by Master of Ceremony. Guest Speaker is Mr. Robert Williamson, Anadarko City Manager and Mr. Joe W. McBride Jr., Publisher of Anadarko Daily News. Explanation of Presentation Items by Master of Ceremony. Presentation of Items by Official Party. Pinning Ceremony of Soldier and Spouse, Future Soldier Kit Presentation, Pinning Soldier Ceremony COI (Center of Influence), and Unit Center of Influence Presentation. Outstanding COI: Anadarko Public Schools is Mrs. Katy Dawes and Chickasha Lions Club is Mr. Ken Bohannan. Distinguished COI is Mrs. Marilyn Steavers, Chickasha Chamber of Commerce and 1SG Ret. Leslie Blalock. Closing Remarks by Master of Ceremony. Benediction by Pastor Billy Elkins. Exit of Official Party. Commander is CPT Corbie Grimes and First Sergeant is 1SG Norman Winn. Master of Ceremony is 1LT Chin Kim.

**Jun 13, 2005:** Published in the "The Anadarko Daily News" entitled: National Guard is Honored Saturday. By Paula McBride Savage; The Anadarko National Guard unit Battery C 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery hosted an impressive ceremony Saturday at Warrior Auditorium to recognize area Guardsmen and their families. Guest speakers were Anadarko City Manager Robert Williamson and Anadarko Daily News publisher Joe W. McBride Jr., Williamson served in the military during the Vietnam era and was also stationed in Germany during his 1968-1971 tour of duty. McBride served in the United States Army during the Korean Emergency and is qualified in all three areas of service; cavalry, infantry and artillery. He had earned the rank of major when he retired from the service in 1965. Williamson opened his address to the Guardsmen with appreciation and gratitude. "The first thing I want to say is thank you....thank you....thank you for your service to this country," Williamson said. "To the young people who are here today, this is more important than any sporting contest ever held. These men are much, much more than that, they are heroes." "The artillery is the most important part of our armed forces. President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "The artillery conquers and the infantry occupies. The first duty of artillery is to hit, the second duty is to hit and the third duty is to hit." "As a branch of the service, the artillery stands second to none and an infantryman's best friend is not his mother, but his artillery brother. Napoleon said, "It is the artillery of my guards that decided most of my battles." "Formed officially in 1775, the Field Artillery of the United States is the senior arm of the senior service. Its position is unchallenged and it is aptly merited by its continuous history of superiority, support, and excellence throughout the American military tradition," Williamson said. "In closing, again, I say thank you, thank you and God bless you." "The 158th served the most consecutive days in combat in the European Theatre of Operations in World war II," McBride said. "of the number who went to serve, only six returned. Among those was T. L. Stuart of Anadarko (former Caddo County Sheriff), who served every day on the line." "Korea, which was my war, was federalized in 1950 and one of every 13 American soldiers were Oklahomans. We have a strong representation, a strong presence." "This community, of which you are a part, goes with you wherever you go. If you need anything, call on us," McBride said. "In the meantime, I'll leave you with a few cliches; keep your ear to the ground, your eye on the ball and keep your head in the game. Look after yourselves, look after one another, look after business and good hunting." The Rev. Billy Elkins of Trinity Church in Chickasha gave the invocation and benediction, calling on God to help U. S. Soldiers preserve our freedom by shielding Americans from those who want to destroy this country and her people. Awards were presented to Guardsmen, their spouses, children and employers who supported the units during Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Katy Dawes received an award for the Anadarko Public Schools and Marilyn Feaver received the award for the Chickasha Chamber of Commerce. Ret. 1SG Leslie Blalock of Anadarko was also honored with a Distinguished Center of Influence award. 1Lt. Chin Kim served as master of ceremony for the event. The men received a Center of Influence award for outstanding service and their wives were presented with a lapel insignia for their support. Children of soldiers were presented with a Future Soldier Kit. Special honors were awarded to 1SG Norman Winn, SFC Marty Hendricks, SPC Arry Johnson, SPC Jeff Delaney, SGT Brent Davis, SPC Brandon McNamar, SPC William Noland, SPC Bradinnell, SPC James Prince, SPC Matthew Pulis, SGT Carl Pyle, SGT Kevin Pyle, SSG Dave Slezcicky, SSG Paul Tate, SGT Curtis Vasquez, SGT Jonathan Zerger and SPC Lance Zerger, all of Anadarko,; SGT Rob Lutonsky, SFC Scott Buehre and SPC Travis Rucker, all of Cyril, and SGT Ken Wall of Fort Cobb.

**Jun 14, 2005:** Obituary: Ted Elvan Lines, Sr., of Gilbert, Arizona passed away on Tuesday, June 14, 2005 in his Gilbert home. A lifelong resident of Arizona, he was the eldest son of Elvan Stanley Lines and Lula Lorena Rust. He was born in Mesa, Arizona, on May 4, 1921. He attended Gilbert schools until the middle of his sophomore year of high school, when his family moved to Mesa, Arizona. While in high school he joined the Arizona National Guard, and upon his graduation from Mesa Union High School his guard unit was called into federal service. He eventually trained as an Air Force pilot, flying the P-40 Flying Tiger, P-47 and P-51. He was one of the first American trained pilots to arrive in Debden, England, as a member of the 335th Squadron of the 4th Fighter Group . . . "The Eagle



Squadron". This group went on to become the most famous group in the history of the Air Force, destroying more planes than any group to this day. He was a double ACE, flying his P-51 "ThunderBird" and fourth in aerial victories among 335th squadron pilots. After his return to the states he married Elaine Openshaw. They raised four children, Ted, Patricia, Thomas and Timothy. He was a dairyman and a livestock inspector. He had many hobbies, which included oil painting and creating turquoise jewelry. Ted served in many callings for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He and Elaine served for eighteen months in the North Carolina Raleigh-Durham mission. He also served in the Mesa Arizona Temple. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elaine, his daughter, Patricia, his three sons, Ted (Marjean), Tom, and Tim (Lorilyn), seventeen grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, his sister Beverly Miller and his brother William Allen. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 17, 2005, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Catalina Ward Chapel, 1520 S. Catalina St., Gilbert, Arizona. Visitation will begin at 9:00 a.m. prior to the services. Meldrum Mortuary handled the arrangements. Published in The Arizona Republic on June 16, 2005. ASN: 20831184, served with Battery "E", 158th Field Artillery Battalion.

**Jul 05, 2005:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: 1st 158th FA readying for Iraq. Lawton-area Guard unit may serve 18 months as security force; The 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, headquartered in Lawton, has been put on alert for possible deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. About 200 soldiers from the battalion have been notified that they may deploy to Iraq late this year or early next year. Those soldiers will undergo Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) on Saturday at the Oklahoma Military Department in Oklahoma City. During the SRP, each soldier will participate in military record reviews, dental exams, legal briefs, a health screening and numerous other pre-deployment activities. Each soldier must successfully complete the SRP process to deploy with their unit. The Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalion received alert orders June 3 stating that they may be activated for as long as 18 months and they will likely deploy as a Security Force (SECFOR), not in their traditional field artillery capacity. As a SECFOR, the unit could perform patrols, provide secure escorts and guard main supply routes. The unit successfully completed its two-week annual training period at Camp Gruber, Okla., in early June. The soldiers trained on several weapons systems including the M-4 carbine, 9 mm pistol, M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), M-240B machine gun and the .50-caliber machine gun. They also trained on short-range marksmanship, convoy operations and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) skills. This type of training is intended to prepare the unit for close combat in an urban environment. The 158th has about 400 soldiers with armories in Chickasha, Duncan, Anadarko, Walters and Lawton. The battalion was deployed in November 1990 and saw combat in Operation Desert Storm, firing more than 900 rockets onto Iraqi artillery positions. The battalion was also activated March 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It successfully completed its combat validation at Fort Sill, but when main-force combat ended in April 2003 the unit was demobilized in May 2003.

**Jul 06, 2005:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Guard unit may serve 18 months as a Security Force. The 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, headquartered in Lawton, has been put on alert for possible deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. About 200 soldiers from the battalion have been notified that they may deploy to Iraq late this year or early next year. Those soldiers will undergo Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) on Saturday at the Oklahoma Military Department in Oklahoma City. During the SRP, each soldier will participate in military record reviews, dental exams, legal briefs, a health screening and numerous other pre-deployment activities. Each soldier must successfully complete the SRP process to deploy with their unit. The Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalion received alert orders June 3 stating that they may be activated for as long as 18 months and they will likely deploy as a Security Force (SECFOR), not in their traditional field artillery capacity. As a SECFOR, the unit could perform patrols, provide secure escorts and guard main supply routes. The unit successfully completed its two-week annual training period at Camp Gruber, Okla., in early June. The soldiers trained on several weapons systems including the M-4 carbine, 9 mm pistol, M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), M-240B machine gun and the .50-caliber machine gun. They also trained on short-range marksmanship, convoy operations and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) skills. This type of training is intended to prepare the unit for close combat in an urban environment. The 158th has about 400 soldiers with armories in Chickasha, Duncan, Anadarko, Walters and Lawton. The battalion was deployed in November 1990 and saw combat in Operation Desert Storm, firing more than 900 rockets onto Iraqi artillery positions. The battalion was also activated March 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It successfully completed its combat validation at Fort Sill, but when main-force combat ended in April 2003 the unit was demobilized in May 2003.

**Aug 14, 2005:** Obituary: Robert Herman Honeycutt: Aug 16, 2005, 84-year-old resident of Woodward, died Aug. 14, 2005 at the Woodward Regional Hospital. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2005 at the Elmwood Cemetery with Rev. James Steenbergen and Randy Wisniewsky officiating. Services are under the direction of the Zwanziger Funeral Home. Robert H. Honeycutt was born May 9, 1921 at Montier, Mo. to Joseph and Mamie (Pierce) Honeycutt. He attended high school at Sharon, Okla. Robert married Mazelle (Mazie) Hill on Dec. 12,

1941 at Anson, Texas, a marriage of 64 years. He was a World War II Army Veteran serving in Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Southern France, Rome-Arno Rhineland and in Central Europe with the 45th Army Division. Robert was proud of the fact that he marched with the company to Dachau Concentration Camp and was able to set free prisoners-of-war. He was a survivor of Woodward's 1947 Tornado, and member of Woodward American Legion Post #19. After his services to his country, he worked for Williams Chevrolet as a car salesman, and in 1951 moved to Dolores, Colo. and worked as a sales manager for Chevrolet garage. They moved back to Woodward in 1993 where he retired. He is survived by his wife Mazie (Hill) Honeycutt of 64 years, Woodward, by four brothers: Albert Honeycutt, Quaker, Ohio; Harold Honeycutt, Orient, Wash.; Sam Honeycutt, Oregon City, Ore.; and by Danny Honeycutt, Kennewick, Wash; two sisters: Faye L. Beuke, Woodward, and Fern Hohweiler, Guymon, Okla. Robert was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and two sisters. ASN: 20830616, served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery Battalion.

**Sep 06, 2005:** Published in the "The Oklahoman" entitled: Oklahoma General has top job. Myles Deering will command military effort in New Orleans. By Jay F. Marks, Staff Writer. An Oklahoma Army National Guard general is heading up the military's relief operations in New Orleans. Brig. Gen. Myles L. Deering has been given command of Joint Task Force New Orleans, a combined effort of active duty and National Guard troops working to restore order to the city in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the head of the Oklahoma National Guard said. "Basically, there's no utilities, there's no water, there's no sewer, there's no power," Deering said from New Orleans. "It just doesn't seem right looking at the city of New Orleans in the dark. The flooding is just devastating." Maj. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III said for a National Guard officer to be given command of active duty forces is unusual. He said Deering was chosen for the post because the Oklahoma National Guard contingent was the first to reach New Orleans after disaster struck last week. In addition, Deering had his personnel organized and well-supplied, Wyatt said. A mission to fulfill. Deering, an Ada native who joined the Army Reserve in 1971, commands a force of nearly 13,000 troops in New Orleans, including active-duty Army and Marine personnel and Guard units from Oregon and Ohio. The Oklahoma contingent under Deering has more than 2,200 soldiers, with the last group set to arrive in New Orleans this morning. Wyatt said the state task force is responsible for securing an area southwest of the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. About two thirds of that area is underwater. "We're here to protect the safety and the property of the citizens of New Orleans," Deering said. "Basically, we're doing a military operation out here." 150 soldiers sent to Iraq. About 150 members of the 158th Field Artillery are on their way to Iraq. While other National Guard personnel from Oklahoma are assisting in relief efforts in New Orleans, soldiers from the Lawton-based Army National Guard unit are heading to Washington state before continuing on to Iraq. "These soldiers are going in harm's way and they need to be recognized," said Maj. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, head of the Oklahoma National Guard. Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Oklahomas finest. Local, area Guard members deploy; By Mitch Meador/ Staff Writer; mmeador@lawton-constitution.com; They're off! A security force (SECFOR) made up of Oklahoma Army National Guardsmen from 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery flew out of Lawton-Fort Regional Airport on Monday. Their destination: Fort Lewis, Wash., where they will mobilize for a deployment in support of the war on terrorism. "They've undergone a lot of intensive training the past 8 1/2 months to prepare them for their nonstandard artillery mission," said Maj. Doug Brown, battalion commander. "One hundred fifty-two brave warriors, is what we call them," Lt. Col. Robert Roshell, commander of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade, said. "One hundred fifty-two volunteers," Brown chimed in. "When these guys get on the plane, we're going to send some of Oklahoma's finest. Oklahoma will be well represented in the theater of operations." The Lawton Armory was a beehive of activity Monday as family and friends converged on the complex for a few hours of quality time before the soldiers would have to board the buses for the airport. The SECFOR formation is made up of volunteers from all of 1-158 FA's four batteries, and in two cases, from outside the battalion. "We've had some replacements," said Capt. Charles Neely, commander of Bravo Battery and the SECFOR. Because some members of the original group could not deploy because of injuries or personal issues, one medic was drawn from an Oklahoma City medical detachment and one platoon member came from 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery headquartered in Altus. "We did have a guy break his leg the day we were mobilized (Aug. 28). That was awful," Neely said. That's why the battalion had a fourth platoon going through annual training at Camp Gruber in late May and early June to serve as standbys if needed. Neely said there were about 30 in that platoon, and he has drawn on a handful to serve as replacements. One of those was Spec. E-4 George Crawford of Meers. Replacements were summoned in alphabetical order, so he knew going in that the odds were in favor of his being called up. He got his notice July 15, after another soldier developed problems with a tendon. Though he's a cannon crew-member and this will be a nonstandard mission with duties similar to an MP, Crawford said he feels his training is equal to that of others in the SECFOR. Knowing he would be deployed did speed up some personal decisions for him, however. On Aug. 23, he married the former Chelsea Hall of Cache in a ceremony at the Holy City Chapel. Both bride and groom are alumni of Cache High School; he graduated in 2001 and his wife in 2003. "It was kind of a spur-of-the-moment thing. We were down in Alabama where my parents live. We had to come back home," Crawford said. His parents live in Gulf Shores, Ala., and had to evacuate because of Hurricane Katrina. Fortunately their house was spared, and they're back in it now. Crawford said Chelsea's mother, Laura Benson, and stepmother did all the planning of their wedding. The honeymoon will have to wait Chelsea was back in

class the day after the ceremony and had another to attend the night of the deployment ceremony. She was able to make it for the Labor Day get-together, though. She said she's studying pre-pharmacy at the University of Central Oklahoma. She hopes to be accepted into Southwestern Oklahoma State University's pharmacy program and be in it by the time George gets back. Elsewhere in the crowd were a father and son who will be deploying together. Staff Sgt. Terry Davis, a 26-year veteran of the National Guard, deployed in 1991 for Operation Desert Storm. His son, Sgt. Terry Davis, mobilized with the rest of the unit in 2003, but because of the speed with which major combat operations were concluded in Iraq, the battalion was not deployed at that time. The elder Davis said he volunteered for this mission because for him it's a career, and because "that's just the way I am throw my hand up and hopefully keep another young guy back home." For the past 18 years, he has worked full-time for the Oklahoma Military Department as a heavy wheel mechanic at the Guard's maintenance complex on Fort Sill. The younger Davis volunteered because he figured he would be going sooner or later anyway. One of three sons, he has been in the National Guard for 10 years and will be leaving behind three sons and a daughter of his own. Neely said 23 Guardsmen have already gone to Fort Lewis to get an overview of the training that the SECFOR will receive there. The purpose of the trip was to help them get the troops prepared for those classes, he said, adding that it will be more of the same type of training they had at Camp Gruber military operations in urban terrain, convoy live fire and basic skills at the rifle ranges. While they're at Fort Lewis and overseas at a place yet to be announced, their Rear Detachment will be operating out of the Lawton Armory alongside their Family Readiness Group and a Family Assistance Center that serves Guardsmen throughout Oklahoma. Photo Caption: Spec. Steven Stanley of Carnegie gets a warm embrace from family members before he flies out of Lawton on Monday. From left are his cousin, Erica Bointy; his mother, Joycette Stanley; and his aunt, Ann Bointy. Photo Caption: Left: Saying goodbye to daddy. Staff Sgt. Gregory Davis of Indianahoma lets his 5-year-old granddaughter, Kayla Adair, try on his beret before he boards the bus to take him to the Lawton-Fort Sill Regional Airport on Monday. Top right: Spec. Mathew Schoolfield of Chickasha kisses his 8-month-old daughter, Tinlee, before flying to Fort Lewis, Wash., Monday as part of a security force made up of National Guardsmen in 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. Bottom right: Sgt. Randy McKay of Shawnee hugs his son, Carson, 4, as he gets ready to fly to Fort Lewis, Wash., Monday with a security force made up of Oklahoma National Guardsmen from 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. Area guard members in New Orleans; The Oklahoma Army National Guard unit headquartered in Lawton has 95 Guardsmen helping with Hurricane Katrina relief operations, in addition to the 150-plus who are deploying as a security force in support of the global war on terrorism. "We started making phone calls the afternoon of (Aug. 31) and by 6 a.m. (Thursday) we had 95 on the ground," said Maj. Doug Brown, commander of 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. "We called some of them at work. They gave their employers notice, went home and packed their bags." Headquarters Battery for the Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion is based out of the Lawton Armory. The unit has additional armories in Walters, Duncan, Chickasha and Anadarko. Another 230 Guardsmen from Altus-based 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery have deployed to the area ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, according to Lt. Col. Robert Roshell, commander of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade. "We sent a convoy of 125 vehicles from 1st of the 171st," Roshell said. Brown said 1-158 FA supplemented that with a few vehicles, and some of the "T-Bird Warriors" were in the convoy, which had police escorts through Dallas and Fort Worth. "The vast majority of our folks went out on C-130s," Brown said. Roshell said the Oklahoma National Guard was one of the first Guard units to arrive on the scene. "They're all part of a group called Task Force Oklahoma made up of over 2,000 National Guardsmen. They've been on site since (Thursday), and they have been doing an excellent job to support the city of New Orleans," Roshell said. "The morale is good. The guys are tired because they're pulling pretty long hours in a stressful environment, but they're doing what they signed on to do. These guys are deployed stateside in a peacetime mission," Brown said. "It shows the American people get a big bang for the buck with National Guardsmen, either in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Task Force Oklahoma," Roshell said. Photo Caption: The yard signs go fast at Lawton's National Guard Armory as family members of the Guardsmen who will be serving in a security force hurry to show their support on Monday.

**Sep 16, 2005:** Obituary: Kenneth Daniel Morris. Funeral Services for Kenneth D. Morris, 53, of Ninnekah will be held Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. in the Ninnekah First Baptist Church with Joe Day officiating. Kenneth D. Morris was born August 28, 1952 in Ft. Polk, Louisiana, the son of James Kenneth Morris and Nadine Tyree Morris. He died Friday, September 16, 2005 in Oklahoma City. Kenneth was raised in the Ninnekah area, graduating from Ninnekah High School in 1970. After high school Kenneth enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served for 23 years. His service included being stationed in Panama from 1971 until 1973. On July 1, 1977 he married Peggy Smart in Ninnekah where they have lived for the past 28 years. In 1991 Kenneth served in Desert Storm. SFC Morris served as the unit administrator and NCOIC for "C" Battery 1/158 FA (MLRS), until his retirement in 1999. He was respected and admired by all his peers and subordinates. Kenneth was currently employed with the U.S. Department of Labor, Veteran's Employment and Training Service where he was the assistant state director. He continued to selflessly serve nations Military Veterans. He was a member of the Ninnekah First Baptist Church. Kenneth enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and working in his shop. He was preceded in death by his father, James Kenneth Morris and his grandparents, Jake and Willie Tyree and Bill and Ada Morris. Survivors include

his wife Peggy of Ninnekah; sons, Shawn and Crystal Morris of Lawton, Joseph Morris of Oklahoma City, Tyrel Morris of Ninnekah; daughter, LaTasha Morris of Chickasha; brother James Keith and Sue Morris of Ninnekah; and grandchildren Cheyenne Morris, Alex Morris and Van Morris. Interment will be in the Ninnekah Cemetery under the direction of Ferguson Funeral Home.

**Oct 02, 2005:** Obituary: Grady Havard married Sue Wisneski on August 4, 1945. He was a veteran of World War II having served two tours of duty in Europe. He was a retired Ironworker; a member of Local 84 in Houston; and a rancher for more than 25 years in Kosse. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Sue Havard, of Kosse; son, Joe Havard, of Tomball; daughters, Mary Brantner and husband, Ray and Frances Beseda and husband, Bobby, all of Kosse; grandchildren, Sheila Shields and husband, Warren and Kim Freeman and husband, Todd, all of Kosse, Whitney Howard, of Corpus Christi, Nathan Howard, Chad and Jared Smith, of Waco; five great-grandchildren; and longtime friend and partner, Jim Bailey, of Kosse; and many other friends. Grady Havard, 87, of Kosse, TX died Sunday, October 2, 2005. Mass will be held 10:30 A.M. Wednesday, October 5, 2005 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bremond. Burial will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery. Grady was a veteran of WWII having served two tours of duty in Europe. He was a retired ironworker and member of Local 84 in Houston and was a rancher for over 25 years in Kosse. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Sue Havard of Kosse, TX; daughters & sons-in-law, Mary Brantner & Ray of Kosse, TX and Frances Beseda & Bobby of Kosse, TX; son, Joe Havard of Tomball, TX; six grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and longtime friend & partner, Jim Bailey. Published in Houston Chronicle on Oct. 4, 2005. ASN: 06289555, served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery Battalion.

**Oct 13, 2005:** Obituary: David Lynn Kelley. Born 27 November 1935 in Weatherford, Ok. and died October 13, 2005 in Weatherford, Ok. Longtime Weatherford businessman David Lynn Kelley, 69, died Thursday, October 13, 2005, at his home. Funeral service is 10 a.m. Saturday at the First United Methodist Church with Linda Sharry officiating. Burial will follow in Greenwood Cemetery under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home. Mr. Kelley was the owner of Kelley Jewelers for more than 30 years. The jewelry store is one of the oldest family operated businesses in Weatherford and was started by his father, F. L. Kelley, in 1931. David was born November 27, 1935, in Weatherford to F. L. and Dona (Marshall) Kelley. He was raised and attended school in Weatherford, graduating from Weatherford High School in 1953. He attended engineering school at OU before returning to Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in 1957. David entered into business with his father and in 1961, he purchased Kelley Jewelers from his father with a handshake. He owned and operated Kelley Jewelers until his retirement in 1992. The family said his love for his work and his customers made him a great and successful businessman. He remained active in the store until his final days. He also enjoyed going to the lake and traveling, Mexican beaches were a favorite. His charitable donations were regular, but he never publicized them. He was a wonderful father to his children until the day he died. He taught them how to live and at the end, how to die. Survivors include a son, Kurt Kelley and his wife, Lynn, of Woodland, Texas; two daughters, Kristen Kelley Poisson and her husband, Brian, of Weatherford and Stephanie Kelley of Houston, Texas; a twin brother, Don Kelley and his wife, Glenda, of Weatherford; a sister, Pat and her husband L. V. Baker, Jr. of Elk City, two grandchildren, Erin Lynn and Eric David Kelley. He was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew, Michael Kelley. Obituary provided by Charlotte Stevens Schneider. Second Lieutenant, OSN: O-2299307 and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Oct 27, 2005:** Obituary: Burnice Leon Menasco, 90, Anadarko, will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at First United Methodist Church with Chuck Gilbert, pastor, officiating. Mr. Menasco died Thursday, Oct. 27, 2005, at his home. Burial with military honors will be at Memory Lane Cemetery under direction of Steverson Funeral Home, Anadarko. He was born July 22, 1915, near Wanette to Dovie Viola Huddleston and Eddie Madison Menasco. He attended the one-room Cross Roads School near Wanette when he was 4 years old. In 1921, he moved with his parents to a farm near Gracemont, where he attended grade and high school. He served with the National Guard, Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery. The unit was mobilized in 1940 and served until 1941. In 1942, he re-entered the Army and served in Hawaii and on the Kwajalein Atoll with the 125th QMC Air Service Group. He was discharged Oct. 21, 1945, with the rank of sergeant. He married Vera Schoonover from Fort Cobb in 1942. They lived on several farms starting with a farm southwest of Gracemont. They later lived near Verden and southwest of Fort Cobb. They moved to Anadarko in 1979 and she died in 1997. He married Wilma Leighton Jackson on Sept. 24, 2002, and they lived in Anadarko. Survivors include his wife, Anadarko; two sons and daughters-in-law: Gerald and Patricia Menasco, Odessa, Texas; and Keith and Jacqueline Menasco, Flagstaff, Ariz.; four grandchildren; a nephew; a niece; other relatives; and many close friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother, J.R. Menasco. Friends may call from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and from 1-9 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. The Lawton Constitution, October 29, 2005, Page: 11A.

**Nov 01, 2005:** Published in the "The Bulge Bugle" entitled: Bose Commentary Appreciated. Response to Kenneth Bose's article in February 2005 issue of The Bulge Bugle. This field artillery man of appreciated Bose's

commentary, and thought ETO veterans would be interested in knowing more about the 105mm field artillery guns used to directly support them so effectively. Most WWII infantry divisions had three battalions of 105mm gun/howitzers and one battalion of 155mm howitzers. Each battalion had three "firing batteries" of four guns each, a headquarters battery and a service battery. My comments and recollections cover the towed split trailed 105mm gun/howitzer that could be used to provide indirect and direct fires. Each gun was towed by a 6x6 open cab truck with a ring mount over the assistant driver's seat. This enabled us to mount a .50 caliber machine gun which could be swung in all directions. These trucks were equipped with a front-end mounted winch used on many occasions to move the guns into position. My "A" Battery, 160th Field Artillery Battalion, 45th Infantry "Thunderbird" Division was the first to land on the beach in the invasion of Sicily (10 July 1943) and was the first allied artillery unit to fire against the Germans in the Mediterranean area. "99-44/100" percent of our firing was indirectly controlled by forward observers attached to infantry units or air observation planes through a fire-direction center. My first recollection of direct fire against the Germans was during the battle at Salerno when German tanks approached us. At the end of this engagement we had three guns still working and only a few rounds of smoke shells and one or two armor piercing shells left in the battery. The second and last time we used direct fire was in our movement south of Nurnberg we fired on German trucks visible to us. We used semi-fixed ammunition. The brass powder shell case contained several powder charges packed in bags attached together with an easily breakable cord. We had high explosive (HE) shells, various color smoke shells, white phosphorus (WP) also known as willy peter, and a few armor piercing shells. The most frequently used fuze was an impact/delay (.15 second) that would be set causing the shell to explode on impact or after penetration. Time fuzes were set with a wrench to cause the shell to burst in the air over enemy troops, and proximity fuzes. This fuze was designed to burst about thirty [sec] above the ground. My recollection is that it was 80% effective-that is eight out of ten fuzes would cause the shell to burst at the proper height. Sometimes at night we would observe a shell burst at the apogee. I thought proximity fuzes were first used at Anzio but was mistaken. I learned from the Aberdeen Ordnance Museum proximity fuzes were not issued to field artillery units in the ETO until December of 1944 since SHAEF was concerned that the Germans might retrieve dud rounds and reverse-engineer the fuze. However, we didn't know it at the time. The Germans were already working on their own proximity fuze. However, once we had them they were frequently and effectively used against enemy troops in place of timed shell bursts. These fuzes were first available to the navy early because duds would land in the ocean. I learned from Dr. William F. Atwater, Ph.D., Director of the U.S. Army Ordnance Museum, that the first proximity fuzes were issued to the navy in the Pacific area and issued to army antiaircraft units during the Battle of the Bulge, and then to the field artillery after December 18, 1945; What a Christmas present they were! Dr. Atwater also revealed that the shells needed to fall fairly perpendicular to the ground for best effect, and this dictated special calculations by fire control centers. I later met two men involved in the development of the proximity fuze. Dr. Alan Astin, former director of the National Bureau of Standards, had a hand in developing a proximity fuze for non-rotating missiles, bombs and rockets. And, Colonel Alfred Reese, USA Ret., who as a sergeant ran the ammunition section of a detachment sent from Aberdeen Proving Ground to Fort Miles, Delaware, for one and a half years test firing of the proximity fuze. I wondered what the rated tube life was for a 105mm gun because when we left Anzio we thought our gun tubes looked like shot gun bores. Dr. Atwater told me the rated life was approximately 20,000 rounds. I doubt if we ever fired that many rounds through out guns (a lot had to do with powder charges used; the higher number of charges, the more wear on the tubes.) However, he did say many guns were replaced in the field because of cracks, blown seals, etc. When the Germans tried to push us off the Anzio beachhead a vast number of shells were fired. A sister battalion to my 160th Field Artillery was the 158th Field Artillery Battalion which expended nearly 27,000 rounds (2,200 per gun) supporting the 157th Infantry Regiment (later termed The Rock of Anzio) by Flint Whitlock, who wrote a book of the same name. We were able to fire more shells than ordnance people thought possible by using a short lanyard on the trigger and load and firing at least five times before we had to let the recoil system return the gun to "battery position." We had stacks of prepared shells with three, four and five charges. On numerous occasions throughout the war, we were part of Time-on-Target (TOT) fire missions when several battalions of artillery, 105mms, 155mms, and heavier guns were programmed to fire at predetermined times so that the first "load" of shells would fall on a target simultaneously. This was a very effective move against enemy personnel. When moving up through Southern France combat teams (infantry, artillery, armor and engineers) were established and provided with an air-OP observation plane. When a target was sighted we would be alerted, stop and set up two guns on each side of the road and proceed to fire as directed. When finished we hooked up again and moved further up the road. The battle of Nordwind launched on 31 December 1944 by the Germans was Hitler's last major offensive. It was designed to split the American Third and Seventh Armies. On 1 January 1945 we fired a mission that dropped shells on our own troops. We later learned the error was caused because the fire-direction center had not calculated for a sudden drop in temperature the night before. Information proved by Colonel Alfred Reese from *They Never Knew What Hit Them*, by Ralph B. Baldwin; Reynier Press, Naples, Florida, 1999. According to Baldwin, 22,000,000 proximity fuzes were produced through August 1945, 1,500,000 were fired against the enemy. In 1942 they cost \$742.00, but the cost was reduced to \$18.00 each in 1945. General Patton was quoted as saying, "The proximity fuze won the battle of the Bulge." I received my basic field artillery training at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. My first

training was on an old French 75mm fixed ammunition gun left over from WWI. Then when I joined the 141st Field Artillery Battalion (known as the Washington Artillery) Louisiana National Guard they had 155mm Schneider single trail units also used in WWI. Eventually, I was transferred to the 45th "Thunderbird" Infantry Division Artillery equipped with split trail 105mm gun/howitzers. I survived all eight campaigns with the 45th Division (more than 500 days of combat) and arrived back home with a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts. About ten years ago (1995), I visited Aberdeen Proving Grounds with a small group of marines who served in the Pacific during WWII. I had my picture taken next to a WWI French 75mm gun and Anzio Annie. Anzio Annie was one of two German 280mm smooth bore (the shells were manufactured with rifling) railway guns that were fired against us on the Anzio beachhead. I was privileged to talk to a small class of marines being trained as artillery mechanics. One of the things I said opened their eyes wide-that when "the manure hit the fan" during a battle like Anzio, the rule book vanished. Firing range safety rules were ignored. Ammunition trucks would back up to well dug in gun pits and off load 105mm ammunition like it was fire wood and get out of there in a hurry before being observed by the enemy. On April 27, 2005, two bus loads of Anzio Beachhead Veterans were hosted for lunch at the Aberdeen Ordnance Museum by the base commander, Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles. We went there to have our pictures taken next to Anzio Annie now sitting on a stretch of railroad tracks. I also met Col. Kone Brugh, (Ret) Chairman of the board of Directors of the Museum. In a letter, Dr. Wm. F. Atwater provided me with much needed information for this article. James R. Bird 45 Infantry Forward Observer 160 FA Bn "A" Btry. Published in the "The Field Artillery Magazine" entitled: Field Artillery azimuth 2005-2015. Photo Caption: First Sergeant William Blasengame leads his team through a military operations in urban terrain (MOU) site at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. Blasengame is with the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery (1-158 FA), Multiple-Launch Rocket System (MLRS), Oklahoma Army National Guard. About 150 Soldiers from the battalion are training as a security force company in preparation for a deployment to Iraq in December. Developing adaptive Soldiers and leaders is the third area of emphasis in the Field Artillery's azimuth.

**Nov 18, 2005:** The following is an official excerpt from General Orders No. 9 dated 18 November 2005: GENERAL ORDERS 9, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C., 18 November 2005. Individual and Unit Awards. Section: Distinguished Service Cross. I. Legion of Merit. II. Meritorious Service Medal. III. Presidential Unit Citation. IV. Valorous Unit Award. V. Joint Meritorious Unit Award. VI. Meritorious Unit Commendation. VII. Army Superior Unit Award. VIII. Southwest Asia Cease-Fire Campaign Participation Credit. IX. Distinguished Service Cross - Revoke. X. Distinguished Service Cross – Rescind. XI. Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) – Rescind. XII. Silver Star – Revoke. XIII. Distinguished Unit Citation – Amendment. XIV. Army Superior Unit Award – Amendment. XV. Units Credited with Assault Landings – Revoke. XVI. Units Credited with Assault Landings – Amendment. XVII. Defense of Saudi Arabia Campaign Participation Credit – Amendment. XVIII...IX. Southwest Asia Cease-Fire Campaign Participation Credit. Announcement is made confirming campaign participation credits for operations involving the Southwest Asia Cease-Fire under the provisions of paragraph 7-18, AR 600-8-22. When entering individual credit on Personnel Qualification Records, this general order may be cited as authority for such entries for personnel who were present for duty as a member of or attached to a unit listed at some time during the limited dates. 1. Combat zone: Southwest Asia. 2. Time limitation: 12 April 1991 through 30 November 1995...1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery...[AHRC-PDO-PA]. By Order of the Secretary of Army: Peter J. Schoomaker, General, United States Army, Chief of Staff. Official: Signed: Sandra R. Riley, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. Distribution: This publication is available in electronic media only and is intended for the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the U. S. Army Reserve.

**Jan 01, 2006:** Published in the "The Rolling Stones Magazine" entitled: The gang that didn't get hit. The 158th Field Artillery had been in country since January and had never been hit. They were never going to get hit. You could just feel it. They were a security detail of good-natured Oklahoma boys, guardsmen from Fort Sill back home, traveling all over the country as they ferried a hotshot California colonel around to inspect Iraqi police facilities. Back in Baghdad, they'd thrown me in the back of the third of four Humvees in the convoy, a truck code-named Juliet. "Juliet is like cock and ready to rock," said Sgt. Stephen Wilkerson as we roared out of the motor pool in Camp Victory to the exit of the base, headed on a six-day journey across northern Iraq, the first stage of my five week stay in the war zone. To understand the war in Iraq, you first have to understand the people who are fighting it. And the way to do that isn't to burst in with your head in a point, bitching about WMDs and croaking passages from Arab-history books. Jump in the truck and shut your mouth; get on board, literally and figuratively. In America, everyone has an opinion about Iraq, even me, but if you're going to take the step of actually going there, you've got to give it a chance. Our route was north 225 miles to the city of Mosul, site of numerous bomb attacks in recent months, then on to Tal Afar; same situation there; and then back to Mosul before veering east to Irbil in free and peaceful Kurdistan and then south toward Baghdad again. When I arrived, there was news about a new prime minister, and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was about a month from getting killed in an airstrike. And maybe some of al-Zarqawi's men were hiding behind car wrecks, watching us through the cross hairs, but nobody was worried about that here. We were never going to get hit. The real problem was lunch; rumor had it that it was to be meals

ready-to-eat, or MREs, on this first leg of the trip. Fuck al-Zarqawi: When do we get hot food? "Hey, look up ahead," said the driver, Spc. Kevin Spicer. Spicer isn't that tall, but his head is shaved shiny bald and he can bench press about 9,000 pounds. His physique suggests something out of The X-Men, but underneath it all he is a softy who has a weakness for schlock soaps like The O.C. He pointed at a kid on the side of the road with a dirt covered face. "There," he said. "Cute kid." The kid came into focus. Mud-streaked, in rags, standing in a trash pile. Roadside Iraqis were seemingly always doing two things: peeing and standing on trash piles. "Scrawny-ass little boy," muttered Wilkerson, the team commander, sitting behind a big navigational console in the passenger seat. Wilkerson has an outstanding tattoo on his foot, an arrow pointing to his big toe that reads TAG GOES HERE. Back home in Oklahoma, he'd been one half of the inspiration for an underground comic book called Split-Dick and Stretch-Nuts. Which half? Wilkerson could pull his nut sack so far out of his zipper that he could balance a sixteen-ounce can of Heineken on the outstretched membrane-tray. It was a trick the whole squad referred to, with reverent awe, as "The Grandmother's Tongue." "I just have stretchy skin, I guess," he said. Wilkerson has close-cropped dark hair and keeps his helmet shoved down just above his eye line; he speaks with a twang thick enough to scare the banjo guy from Deliverance. Taking a second look at the kid on the horizon, he lurched forward suddenly. "Oh, shit!" he said. "He just gave us the thumbs-down!" "Well, fuck him and his Tonka truck," Spicer shot back. Wilkerson shook his head in mock despair. "You know," he said, "we're over here doing who knows what, and he's giving us the thumbs-down." With great pathos he sighed into the vehicle-intercom system. "Shit," he said. "If we weren't in this country, his mommy and daddy wouldn't be getting paid to blow us up." "That's just ungrateful," said Spicer. "Sad, really." Above us, the team's truck gunner, a languid ex-cop, Sgt. Dustin Hames, who had been following the conversation on the VIC but apparently had not been sufficiently impressed to participate, ended the debate by tossing the kid a Beanie Baby from the gun bay in the Humvee ceiling. Somebody at home donated the Beanie Babies in massive numbers, and we donated the ones that we didn't give to female MPs ("Can I have your moose?" one had asked us) to kids on the side of the road. Thankfully, this one fell wide right. Earlier in the day Hames had thrown a blue furry animal at a little girl and bonked her square in the forehead. Since then we had been debating the need for Hames to draw silhouettes on the side of the Hummer for every kid he nailed with a Beanie Baby. "Damn," said Wilkerson. "Some guys are worried about how many insurgents they kill. We're worried about how many kids we hit with Beanie Babies. Shit, man. Wow." We rolled on. We were somewhere on a road headed north out of Baghdad, just beyond a notorious stretch of highway that was hit so frequently by improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, that most squads trembled at the thought of driving on it, most squads except this group from the 158th, which was never going to get hit. The highway was a flat road ringed with sun-cooked brush. As is always the case in Iraq, the road was littered everywhere with war-zone hazards: unsmiling young men tinkering with broken-down vehicles, animal carcasses, unnatural-looking piles of stones, potholes, mysterious trash formations. All the classic warning signs of IEDs. We roared right past them. "If we stopped to check out every last thing," said Wilkerson, "we'd ever get anywhere." Toward nightfall we reached the base at Mosul. Along with Tal Afar, it was a favorite stronghold of foreign fighters, particularly from Syria. A police training academy here had been blown up twice. Even the cafeteria at the FOB (forward operating base) we were visiting later that night had been blown to bits once. The place we were planning to eat dinner! "This looks like Ireland," said Wilkerson philosophically, surveying the fields just outside the city. "They even got sheep," noted Spicer. "That's what I mean," Wilkerson agreed. "You see Ireland in the movies, you always get motherfuckers herding sheep in this green-ass pasture and stuff." We stayed overnight at the FOB in Mosul. Like all FOBs, it was an otherworldly suburban expanse of mud, gravel, white-paneled trailers and ad hoc fast-food joints carved incongruously into the ancient landscape of Iraq like giant, teeming anthills of Americana. The FOB in Iraq is often absurdly luxurious, with an array of Middle American comforts like Popeyes, Burger King and Cinnabon at the soldiers' disposal, and most of the services (from food to laundry to shuttle buses to the rec-centers) maintained with peak capitalist efficiency by the Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown and Root, which goes so far as to leave customer-survey forms almost everywhere you go. These preposterous Tell Us How U Like Our War!-esque survey sheets ("Please give your overall level of satisfaction for services provided by KBR....") provided a stark contrast to the idea of customer service just beyond the FOB wall, where gangs of Islamic extremists might put a bullet in your brain for buying the wrong thing, bluejeans, cigarettes; there were parts of Baghdad, it was said, where Sunni insurgents were killing civilians for making ice, ice of course being unholy since it wasn't around in Mohammed's time. (There weren't Kalashnikovs, either, but who's counting?) In the morning, Wilkerson stood on the trunk of the Humvee and cleverly emptied the melted ice in the water cooler in such a way that it looked, from the side, like he was peeing first on the forehead of Spc. Matt Adamson and then on the scalp of the bespectacled medic, Spc. Aaron "Doc" Gray, who opened his mouth and let the "pee" run down his throat. The photos came out great. Adamson's girlfriend was about to have a baby back home, but Doc's wife was the more immediate concern in the squad because she had sent Doc a picture of herself naked except for a few strategically placed rose petals. The production values of the picture were tremendous, hence the concern. "Somebody, somebody took nekkid pictures of Doc's wife," said Steve. "And he claims it was her. He claims it was her." "How could it be her?" I asked, the investigative journalist in me taking over. "She's got rose petals all over her." "My wife finished third in her high school class," said Doc defiantly. "She's a very smart girl." "That's why you'll never find out who he is," snapped Spicer. We

rolled out of the FOB, our objective on the first day had been just to reach Mosul, but now we had actual business in the province, steamed through the city and roared forty-six miles to Tal Afar. During our brief stay in Mosul, an American soldier from another unit had been killed by a bomb just outside the wall of the FOB, and an Iraqi policewoman had also been shot to death, but that was never going to happen to us; it just wasn't possible. We had a better shot at action in Tal Afar, a place lately beset by IED bombings and foreign-fighter attacks after a period of relative quiet. Not long ago, President Bush himself had given a speech in Cleveland and declared Tal Afar, an ancient-looking city near the Syrian border where foreign fighters had been slipping into the country; safe ground. Bush said that Tal Afar was "today a free city that gives reason for hope for a free Iraq." Not surprisingly, the insurgents had responded by bombing the living fuck out of the place, so much so that by the time we got there, we found the mayor and most of the rest of the municipal government huddled up back-to-back in a heavily guarded castle on a hill like the last trembling teenagers in one of the Halloween movies. "I love the president, he's my commander in chief," said one of the sergeants in our convoy. "But sometimes I wish he'd keep his fucking mouth shut." Our cargo, Col. Donald Currier, a stately, silver-mustached officer who, dressed in anything but camouflage, would look very much like an English professor, was in charge of inspecting Iraqi police efforts around the country, and also helping administer and coordinate American aid to said stations. A former deputy Cabinet secretary to California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Currier was a soft-spoken intellectual who believed implicitly in the ultimate success of the American mission in Iraq. He worked tirelessly toward that end, seemingly visiting every police station in the country in search of weak links in the chain. In Tal Afar, a place where the police stations were under constant siege, the bureaucratic life preserver he represented was clearly needed. We met with the city's mayor, the lean, nervous-looking bureaucrat Najim Abdullah al-Jubori, who first asked for money and equipment and then presented Currier with the good news that "the people no longer call the insurgents mujahedin. They call them terrorists." That was enough good news to keep the ball rolling, so we moved out of the castle keep and inspected a few scattered police stations in town, including one where a small gang of miserable-looking American MPs were holed up on guard duty, four of them occupying a closet-size room on the second floor of the precinct house, where they lived seemingly round the clock, joylessly consuming MREs and playing Halo. Those MPs saw a lot of action: They not only had to fend off constant insurgent attacks against the police station, they occasionally had to break up violent struggles between local Iraqi army units (IAs, as we call them) and the Iraqi police (IPs). While the Iraqi army has traditionally had a closer relationship with U.S. forces, Iraqi police have often been more independent, and have been known to fall prey to infiltration by various extremist groups. "Our guys will go out and catch somebody who attacked us," said Spc. Dan Mulford. "Then the IAs will roll in and say, 'How come you took this guy? He's a good guy.' And we'll say, 'No, he's a bad guy.' " He shook his head. "Next thing you know, the IAs and the IPs are going at it. We'll fire a round in the air to disperse them." The 158th had better luck, it was nothing but blue sky, empty roads and happy children waving at us as we roared down Iraq's Third World streets in our monstrous Space Age machines, spitting Beanie Babies in all directions. We stormed out of the city back toward Mosul. A week later, Tal Afar would be the site of a horrific suicide bombing that would kill twenty four and wound dozens more, but of course we were long gone by then. As we pulled out of town, the sides of the road were lined for miles and miles with IPs loyal to Col. Wathiq Ali, chief of police for the province. The show of force by Wathiq was probably a means of heightening his prestige in Currier's eyes, but getting that many men to stand up in public with the United States in today's Iraq was no small achievement. The police saluted as we drove by, and the line went on seemingly forever, or at least for most of the whole road back to Mosul. It was an impressive show of force and, my eyes fixed on the passing desert behind cool wraparound sunglasses, I allowed myself to be seduced by it. That's right, motherfuckers, keep those hands up. America is driving by! The conventional wisdom about Iraq these days is that this war was and is a colossal blunder, a classic crime of hubris that has metastasized into a disaster rapidly spinning far beyond our control. And, well, who knows, that may be true, but only a goddamn Canadian can fail to appreciate the dream of omnipotence roaring along these Middle Eastern highways. At home we deride every American soldier as a potential war criminal, we label them committers of massacres, we call them dumb and when we're really being nice, we say they're just dupes, field hands for the rich frat boys who got high on punch and drove us into this mess. But there's something beautiful about the way you can pluck fifteen American kids from the parking lots of the Midwest, drop them anywhere in the world, and you'll get the same thing every time: dip, dick jokes and 50,000 pounds of finely tuned convoy rumbling at top speed. Our kids may not be the best educated, they may not read many books, but in a fair fight, they will kick your ass. Whether or not this is a fair fight is another question. But you can see why the Army is still convinced we can win this thing. The Army thinks it can do anything. The Army looks at Iraq like a drooling six-foot-six-inch bully would, staring in at home plate with an arm full of ninety-nine-mph heaters. To that kid, the game is never over. They almost all think like that over here. God forbid they should ever stop thinking like that. It was a drive of several hours back to the FOB in Mosul that night, and after we made it without incident, we sacked out for the night. While we were sleeping, another soldier got shot outside the wall, but he wasn't with us. Moreover, word filtered back the next day that the first police station we'd visited in Tal Afar the day before had been shot up with AK fire. When we gassed the vehicles before leaving the FOB, we ran into another squad that had been hit; I talked to a twenty-year-old Californian named Anthony Matthews who was just coming back from medical leave after taking an IED in the face.



Matthews looked just barely old enough to have a beard and reminded me of someone I'd see pumping Slurpees in a Georgia truck stop, but his face was already lightly scarred from the bomb fragments. Like most of the Iraq casualties of late, he was a gunner. "What happened? I got blown up," said Matthews, who told me right up front that he disliked the media. "I blew up at this one reporter," he snarled. "She was like, 'So you saw an IED?' And I was like, 'Motherfucker, I touched an IED.' I got six pieces of shrapnel in my face, so don't talk to me about seeing." The guys in the squad listened vaguely to the story, then jumped in their vehicles and drove off, past the spot where the sniper had picked off one of ours the night before, past the spot where the other MP had caught shrapnel in his chest two nights ago, and then finally out of town and due north. If the enemy was watching, we didn't know it; not even a cat crossed our path all day long. Eventually we made it to a Kurdish city called Irbil, where everybody loved us and we got to stay in a hotel and eat pizza and watch shitty American soap operas on a giant projection television in the hotel lobby, where we lolled around with our feet up on the furniture like cows sleeping in high grass. Kurdistan is paradise for American troops. "If only they were all Kurds" is something you'll hear said often by soldiers. Oppressed for centuries by Arabs of all stripes - Sunni, Shia, Syrian, Iraqi, the Kurds have been legitimately worshipful of American troops. This raw countryside with low, rolling mountains and smiling dark-haired men and women in Western dress provides a stark contrast to the rest of Iraq, covered in garbage and full of people who sneer in the best-case scenario. The rumor in Kurdistan is that the local Kurdish militia; the formerly anti-Saddam guerrillas, the Peshmerga; will kill ten civilians for every American killed, which means you can walk the streets here. So we walked the streets, with their old markets of hanging clothes and cheap gold chains and big baskets of nuts and fruits, bought ice cream, winked at girls and snapped pictures of ruins. Conquering heroes. We were Donald Rumsfeld's wet dream. But later that night, after we visited an Iraqi-police target-shooting range, a somber mood fell over the squad. Who knows what it was. Maybe it was because it didn't really feel right being here, if you weren't getting shot at. "I'd just like to feel like I was participating," said Cpl. Jimmy Shepard, an affable weightlifter. The lot of us were crammed into a pair of civilian SUVs run by the MPs up there; they have no need to drive in armor all the time in Kurdistan and on the way home from the range, everyone's head was hanging as the sun went down on another incident free day. The 158th is a wonder when it's loose and working; it doesn't do too well with silence. Just then something horrible befouled the air: One of the guys farted, breaking up the somber moment. It was the perfect response to the over serious "war is hell" vibe threatening the atmosphere. "That shit just ain't right," Spicer protested. "That's as wrong as two boys fucking," agreed Wilkerson. Then the group broke out singing a song called "Gay Factory Worker From the South" and the mood was restored. The trip ended a few days later without incident. The 158th was never going to get hit.

**Jan 22, 2006:** Obituary: Albert Doyle Weber, was welcomed into the loving arms of his Lord & Savior Jesus Christ on his 73rd birthday, Jan. 22, 2006. He was born Jan. 22, 1933 in Ft. Cobb, OK to Esmond Lee & Wave Lois (Washburn) Weber, Doyle grew up on the family farm in Anadarko, OK. After graduating from Anadarko H.S. in 1950 & eager to serve his country, Doyle entered the OK Army National Guard at the age of 17 and was mobilized later that year into active service. From 1950-52, he was stationed in Korea, serving as a Forward Observer with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery, in the 45th Infantry Division. He was given a battlefield commission of 2nd Lieutenant at the age of 19. After 45 years of combined patriotic & dedicated service in the US Army, Army Reserve & the OK National Guard, Doyle retired as Major in the 45th Infantry Division. A highly decorated soldier & recipient of numerous awards, Doyle was most proud of his Legion of Merit Award. On Dec. 28, 1978, he married Nora Flora (Hall) Brisco & together they shared more than 27 years of marriage. Having earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Southwestern University, Doyle worked alongside his wife at Weber & Weber Associates, in insurance sales & financial planning in Okla. & Texas, helping hundreds of people personally throughout his career. After retiring from insurance sales, Doyle worked 14 years in sales for Universal Manufactured Homes. At the early age of 9, Doyle accepted Christ into his heart & was baptized at Anadarko Baptist Church. He later attended Bethel Baptist Church, OKC, where he was active member, Sunday School teacher, & Bible study leader. Doyle was also an active member of the D.A.V. Chapter #85, American Legion Post #26 1, & the VFW. In his spare time, Doyle was also a quarter horse enthusiast. Being a man of extraordinary faith, honor, wisdom & integrity, Doyle dedicated his life to serving his God, country, family & friends with all the heartfelt love, compassion, & charity a man could offer. He will be deeply missed by all who knew & loved him. He was preceded in death by his parents & sister, Lois Wave Allen. His memory will be lovingly cherished by his beloved wife, Nora; Children: Mark Weber & wife, Jennifer, Mike Weber, Steve Brisco & wife, Nancy, Keith Brisco & wife, Brenda, Kevin Brisco & wife, Jill, Tonia L. Duncan, & Sharon Abbott & husband, Philip; Sister, Orlena Hurt & husband, E.L. 'Speedy'; Brother in law, Lewis Allen; 20 Grandchildren; 14 Great Grandchildren & a host of other loving family & friends. The family will receive friends for viewing and visitation from 6-8:00 PM Wednesday evening at the funeral home. Services to celebrate his life will be held 10:00 AM Thurs. Jan. 26, 2006 at the South Colonial Chapel of Vondel L. Smith & Son Mortuary, with interment & military honors to follow at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens.

**Mar 09, 2006:** Published in the "The Perkin Journal" entitled: Oklahomans on the front line. Our troops serving in

harm's way overseas have an awesome responsibility. They are true American heroes, and we pray for them every day. I recently had the opportunity to visit Iraq and Kuwait, and it was a great honor to meet with the Oklahoma troops who are serving on the frontlines of the war on terrorism. The U.S. Department of Defense and the State Department invited me to participate in a day-long tour of the Iraq region to get a firsthand look at conditions where Oklahomans are serving. Colorado Gov. Bill Owens also joined me on the tour. My trip began with classified briefings at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Before landing in Iraq, I had dinner with airmen at Camp Arifijhan in Kuwait. In Iraq, I met with about 200 Oklahoma troops, including members of the Oklahoma National Guard's 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery unit, which was stationed at Camp Victory in Baghdad. This is Oklahoma's only National Guard unit currently stationed in Iraq, where the 158th is helping train Iraqi security forces. In Ramadi, I witnessed a demonstration of equipment used to clear roadways of potential explosive devices as well as a "checkpoint" demonstration by Iraqi security forces. I was impressed to see so many Oklahomans playing key roles. Among the military officials I met Maj. Gen. Timothy Donovan, who is chief of staff to Gen. George Casey, commander of multinational forces in Iraq. I was proud to learn that he is a University of Oklahoma graduate; one of hundreds of troops with Oklahoma ties. I am pleased to report that the troops I visited with were in very good spirits. They appreciate the importance of their mission, and they're doing a great job. That's the Oklahoma way; we do things right, and we get things done. I am grateful for the dedicated service of these brave Oklahomans. We pray for their safe return and the success of their mission. If you have questions or comments, please write me at the Office of the Governor, Room 212, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 or visit the "Contact the Governor" section.

**Mar 28, 2006:** Obituary: Frank Dell Sebring. Published in the Oklahoman: March 30, 2006 12:00 AM CDT Updated: March 30, 2006 12:00 AM CDT. Obituaries/ Death Notices. Frank Sebring, beloved husband, father, grandfather passed away March 28, 2006 in Oklahoma City. He was born in Kingfisher, Oklahoma on August 15, 1918 to Willie and Lenora Sebring. He attended school in Crescent, Oklahoma. He served in the CCC Corps and returned home to marry Marian Grape on June 1, 1938. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Air Force. After the War, he received a Master Mechanic status from General Motors, working at Favor & Richards Chevrolet, Scott Chevrolet and Sebring Service Center. He was an avid fisherman and hunter but his family always came first in his life. Frank was preceded in death by his son, Gary. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Marian; two children, Darla Beaty and Linda Honn; six grandchildren, Penny Shrum, Jeannie Barbour, Troy Beaty, Jo Lynn Hall, Jamie Crosser and Gary Honn; twelve great-grandchildren Joshua, Christina, Rebekah, Brittany, Bethany, Brandon, Madison, Victoria, Geoffrey, Ali, Jaxon and Justin; one great grandchild Sydni. A public service is being held at Covenant Life Church, 3106, North Utah on Friday, March 31st at 1:00 P.M. Private and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 02, 2006:** Obituary: Edwin Lee Stroud; Duncan Banner, Wed., Apr. 5, 2006. Graveside service for Edwin Lee Stroud, 86, of Duncan, was to be held at 11 a.m. today in Greenwood Cemetery. Arrangements were under direction of Lockstone Funeral Home of Weatherford. Edwin passed away Sunday, April 2, 2006, in Country Club Care Nursing Home. He was born Dec. 20, 1919, in Weatherford, to Jesse Lee and Rose Buckholts Stroud. He was raised and attended school in Weatherford, and graduated from Weatherford High School in 1937. His parents were owners of the Blue Bird Diner, where he worked with his family. He made a career of serving his country in the U.S. Air Force. Edwin was involved in World War II in North Africa, Europe, Pacific and many U.S. bases. He retired from the military in 1960. After retiring, Edwin lived in Oklahoma City; Yukon, where he was a self-employed appliance installer; California in 1990; and Duncan in 2000. He enjoyed photography and fishing. Survivors include a son, Edwin Stroud and his wife Carol of Duncan; a sister, Berniece Davenport of Littleton, Colo.; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; two wives, Shallon and Ila; a daughter, Paula; and an infant sibling. ASN: 06292130, served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery Battalion.

**May 29, 2006:** Published in the "The Oklahoman" entitled: Oklahoma military hall of fame to honor state's ROTC graduates. By John Greiner for The Oklahoman. Salerno, Italy: ROTC was mandatory for most male students at OU, and after college, many ROTC cadets including Hal Muldrow and Russell Dwight Funk joined the 45th Infantry Division, a National Guard Division that was organized in 1923 and would be mobilized for World War II and again for the Korean War in 1950. Funk joined the division in 1923 and Muldrow joined it in 1928. Muldrow, who lived in Norman, eventually would command the 45th. Funk, of Oklahoma City, would be a colonel and would make the Army his career. At Salerno, the two officers and their men would keep the Germans from winning the battle. During fighting at Salerno, Germans found a gap in the Allied forces that led to the ocean. Intent on pushing the 45th and adjoining forces into the sea, the Germans launched a counterattack of tanks and infantry down that gap and toward the ocean. A volume of Time-Life Books World War II series said it best in crediting the 45th with saving the invasion. "Between the German spearhead and the water stood only a handful of American infantrymen and some 105 mm guns of the 189th Field Artillery Battalion under Lt. Col. Hal Muldrow Jr. and the 158th Field Artillery Battalion under

Lt. Col. Russell Funk, both of the 45th Division," Time-Life said. The two artillery battalions fired eight rounds per minute per gun, "a rate perhaps unsurpassed by any artillery in World War II," Time-Life said. Together, the two battalions fired 3,650 rounds, stopping the German attack and preserving the Allied beachhead.

**Jul 10, 2006:** Obituary: Troy Franklin Whisenhunt was born on 18 October 1932 in Forsyth Co., NC. He married Phyllis Ann Bowden on 14 July 1957 in Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co., NC. Troy Franklin Whisenhunt died on 10 July 2006 in Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co., NC. at age 73. He was buried in Oaklawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co., NC. Troy Franklin Whisenhunt appeared on the census of 1 April 1940 in Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co., NC, age 7, attending school. He began military service on 25 May 1953 U.S. Army enlistment. He served in the Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery Battalion, U.S. Army, during the Korean War. He ended military service on 29 April 1955. Winston-Salem Journal (NC); July 12, 2006, METRO, Section: B, Page: 4. Mr. Troy Franklin Whisenhunt, 73, of Winston-Salem passed away Monday, July 10, 2006, at Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home. He was born Oct. 18, 1932, in Forsyth County to John Robert and Nettie Logan Whisenhunt. Mr. Whisenhunt was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in the 158th Field Artillery Battalion during the Korean conflict. He retired from Stroh's Brewery in 1994. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, J.B. "Buck" Whisenhunt. Surviving are his wife, Phyllis B. Whisenhunt of the home; a son, Marcus Lee Whisenhunt and wife Judy H. of Winston-Salem; two grandsons, Aaron Lee Whisenhunt and wife Jennifer of Pinnacle and Matthew Franklin Whisenhunt of Winston-Salem; a great-granddaughter, Jessica Lee Whisenhunt; two brothers, R.J. "Shot" Whisenhunt and Edgar Whisenhunt and wife Betty of Winston-Salem; a sister, Evelyn Franklin and husband Oliver of Pfafftown; and a special friend, Brenda Evans. A graveside service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 13, at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens, with Mr. Bill Teague officiating. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. today, July 12, at Hayworth-Miller Silas Creek Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice & Palliative CareCenter, 101 Hospice Lane, Winston-Salem, NC 27103. The family would like to thank the doctors, staff and volunteers at Hospice for their kind and loving care they gave our dear Frank.

**Aug 03, 2006:** Obituary: Russell Engle Felix, 83, of Phoenix completed his long, sometimes arduous, but rewarding journey through life on August 3, 2006. Russell Felix was a strong man who endured great hardship and deprivation early in life without a complaint or regret. Russ was born on November 2, 1922 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the fourth of six children born to Ernest and Ethel Felix between 1916 and 1926. In the spring of 1928, at the age of five, Russ and his eight year old brother Stan were placed in an orphanage in Phoenix when their mother was confined to the Maricopa County Tuberculosis Sanitarium, where she later died. In the summer of 1928, Russ and Stan were taken in and raised by Fred H. "Pat" Patterson and his wife of Mesa. Pat was one of the kindest and most generous men of his time. Their mother had hopes that their father would someday be able to care for the boys, so at their mother's request, Pat never adopted Russ and Stan, but he was a father to them for the rest of his life. Russ and Stan became reacquainted with their siblings in the 1950's, and their families enjoyed a close relationship from then on. Russ was a 1939 graduate of Mesa High School and attended Phoenix College for a short time before his National Guard unit, Battery "E", 158th Field Artillery Regiment was called to active duty, early in 1941. Russ was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division in Europe during World War II, and the 187th Airborne Regiment during the Korean War. Russ commanded an artillery battalion of the 101st Airborne Division during extensive Army tests of combat operations under extreme arctic conditions in central Alaska during January and February of 1956, and in Russ's words, "This was not the sort of thing an Arizona boy was ever intended to do." But, Russ not only did it, he was commended for his efforts. Russ was a graduate and a faculty member of the U. S. Army's Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and later served on diplomatic missions to Thailand and Southeast Asia prior to the Vietnam War. Russ then commanded the First Battalion of the First Artillery in the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Russ's final assignment was as a staff officer on the U. S. Army General Staff at the Pentagon, where he served three years before retiring from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel, OSN: O-60475. Russ was a gifted student who graduated high school at the age of sixteen. He had ambitions to become a scientist, but his personal goals had to be put aside because of his country's call to duty in World War II. Although he never was able to finish his formal scientific education, Russ was fortunate enough to teach in the Nuclear Weapons Department of the Army's Command and General Staff College for three years, as one of only a handful on non college graduates to ever hold a teaching position at that institution. Russ's love of science was passed on to his son Larry, who was physics major at Arizona State University, until he saw the economic shortcomings of a career in science and, sadly, became a lawyer. Russ was preceded in death by his beloved wife Fayellen in 1982, as well as his brothers Cornelius, Warren, Stanley and Maurice, and his sister Christine. Russ is survived by his son Larry and granddaughter Stephanie both of Phoenix, and his half sister Annette Conrad and half brother Earl both of Kentucky. Visitation, Tuesday, August 8, 2006, 10:00 to 11:00 A.M., A. L. Moore Grimshaw Bethany Chapel, 710 West Bethany Home Road. Published in The Arizona Republic from Aug. 6 to Aug. 7, 2006.

**Aug 26, 2006:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Local Guardsmen will deploy to border.

Thirty-eight National Guard troops from 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery will deploy to New Mexico next week to help in a federal effort to improve security along the U.S. border with Mexico. They will be among 100 guardsmen from the 45th Field Artillery Brigade going on a three-week rotation, according to Maj. Freddie Crowson, executive officer for 1-158 FA. The 38 are volunteers from the battalion's Headquarters Battery in Lawton, "A" Battery in Walters, "B" Battery in Duncan and "C" Battery in Chickasha. Making up the balance will be guardsmen from the 45th's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery in Enid along with 50-plus soldiers from 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery headquartered in Altus. "It's a brigade effort," Lt. Col. Doug Brown, commander of 1-158 FA, said. This is the third mission the battalion will have had in the last 12 months, Brown noted. This time last year, more than 150 soldiers from the battalion left for Fort Lewis, Wash., to train as a security force. They deployed to Iraq in December and are serving now in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Simultaneously, 95 soldiers from 1-158 FA and 230 from 1-171 FA went down to help with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. On that occasion, they got the order one day and assembled for duty the next. "The feedback I got from the guys I talked to, 'Employers have been just super.' You have to have that employer support to serve in the National Guard," Brown said. This time the troops had a little advance notice. Oklahoma is one of several states complying with President Bush's request in May for 6,000 National Guard troops to slow the tide of illegal immigration across America's southern border. The intent is to use guardsmen to assist and support the Border Patrol for the one to two years it takes to train the additional Border Patrol agents needed to beef up its numbers, Crowson explained. Oklahoma has a mission from September through the middle of October, when other states will take on the mission. Initially, the 45th Field Artillery Brigade was to have sent 250 personnel for this rotation. Crowson said that figure was reduced after a half-dozen people from the brigade and state headquarters went down to do a site survey in New Mexico. Based on their assessment, it was determined that the brigade could accomplish the mission with 100 personnel. Crowson said the National Guardsmen will be there purely to provide assistance to the Border Patrol and the people who are on the ground now. "They don't have any arresting powers or anything like that. Our job is strictly to go down to observe and report," Brown said. In anticipation of the OIF mission, 1-158 FA's annual training at Camp Gruber in 2005 focused on soldier individual warrior skill tasks. Crowson said some of the way the soldiers communicated at Gruber will be employed on the New Mexico mission. "There are a few skills that we used at Gruber that we'll even train on," he added. "There's a training facility near where we'll be doing our mission, (where) the guys will participate in a day of training about one (in) every three or four days," he said. The facility is much like Camp Gruber, the Oklahoma Army National Guard's training grounds near Braggs. "If our soldiers have not completed an annual training for this year ... because they were gone to school or for whatever reason, then they will be in an annual training status" on this mission, Crowson said. That only applies to a couple of the personnel. The rest will be on Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW). While they are on any type of orders, they get a point per day. To retire from the Guard, they have to serve 20 "good years," and it takes a certain number of points to make a "good year." At the end of 20 years, their retirement pay will depend on the rank they've achieved and the number of points they've accumulated over the 20-year period.

**Sep 10, 2006:** Published in the "History of the 625th Field Artillery Battalion" entitled: The boys of fifty. 625th Field Artillery Battalion, 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard, 1946 - 1954. By MSgt R. L. Hanson. Page 109: Eastern front Punchbowl; Feb 53 - 24 April 53. On 3 Feb 1953, the 40th's Div artillery units changed places with those artillery units of the 45th Div. which were supporting the 12th ROK Div. The 45th Div Arty units returned to operational control of their parent unit while the 40th Div Arty units were placed under operational control of the X Corps. On 11 Feb, the 140th Tank Bn, 40th Div. replaced the 245th Tank Bn, 45th Div. on the MLR in support of the ROK 12th Div. The 245th Tank Bn returned to operational control of its parent unit. On 17 Feb, the 160th Inf moved to the SANDONG mines area providing security forces. On 17 Mar, the 224th Inf, 40th Div. was placed under operational control of 45th Div as 45th Div reserve. The 140th Tank Bn manned MLR positions in support of both the ROK 7th and ROK 12th divisions. On 14 Apr, the 224th relieved the 5th RCT on the MLR. 17 April saw Maj Gen Ridgely Gaither assume command of the 40th Div. from Maj Gen Joseph P. Cleland. On 19 Apr, the 160th Inf, 40th Div. came under 45th Div operational control as it relieved the 279th Inf, 45th Div. ROK 12th Div support started as January ended, the 45th Div. (- Div Arty and 245th Tank Bn) relieved the 40th Div. on Heartbreak Ridge. The 40th Div. (- Div Arty and the 140th Tank Bn) passed to X Corps Reserve. The Div Arty and 140th Tank Bn remained in position; attached to the 45th Div. On 1 Feb, nine Forward Observer parties and four Liaison teams of the 625th moved east from Heartbreak Ridge to the Punchbowl's north rim relieving their opposite numbers of the 158th FA Bn, 45th Div. The 158th had been in direct support of the 37th Inf, ROK 12 Div. As usual, the enemy tried to disrupt troop changes. The 2nd of Feb saw a reinforced enemy battalion (seven hundred men) penetrating the 37th MLR after a forty minute firefight. The 625th forward observers called for on-position fire from the 158th at the request of the ROK infantry. The fire caught the enemy in the open, inflicting many casualties. The ROKs counterattacked, restoring the MLR. The next day, the 625th relieved the 158th. Since the two battalions were just changing positions, the majority of like equipment items including howitzers, were just transferred on paper between the units rather than moved. The 625th FA assumed direct support of the 37th Inf, ROK 12th Div. in the vicinity of Su-Gong-ni (DT301289).

**Nov 21, 2006:** Published in the "The Anadarko Daily News" entitled: Area national guard are to return Sunday. After 14 months away from home, the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, will return home from Iraq on Sunday, Nov. 26. A welcome home ceremony will be conducted for the soldiers and their families at the Rhinehart Gym at Fort Sill on Nov. 26 at 9 a.m. About 200 soldiers from the Multiple Rocket Launch System Battalion received alert orders on 3 June 2005, and were mobilized for duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in August 2005. While in Iraq, they served as a Security Force (SECFOR), not in their traditional field artillery role. Before deploying overseas, the 158th spent more than two months at Fort Lewis, WA, training for the deployment. The 158th has approximately 400 soldiers with armories in Chickasha, Duncan, Anadarko, Walters, and Lawton. The battalion was last deployed in November 1990 and saw combat in Desert Storm firing more than 900 rockets onto Iraqi artillery positions. The press release was sent in by Col. Pat Scully, Oklahoma Military Department Office of Public Affairs.

**Nov 27, 2006:** Published in the "The Anadarko Daily News" entitled: Several Anadarko Guards Return. About 150 Soldiers Return to Fort Sill from Iraq Duty; Lawton, Okla. (AP)- Just as family and friends welcomed about 150 soldiers back home from Iraq on Sunday, another 50 or so prepared to leave for the Middle Eastern country. Members of the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery worked various security missions during their deployment overseas for the past year. Spc. Ulysses Henderson cradled his eight-month-old son, Jaedyn, whom he hadn't seen since the boy was six-weeks-old. Henderson said his son was his main source of inspiration. "All I could think about was, 'Do whatever it takes to get back,'" said Henderson, a Lawton police officer who worked at a tactical operations center. "I saw a lot of the carnage after-the-fact. These guys sacrificed so much." About 50 friends and relatives wore yellow T-shirts with Sgt. Stephen Brosh's name printed on the back. Brosh's mother, Pam Brosh, of Marlow, who broke into tears. "I think that tells you what the past year has been like for her," Brosh's father, Shay, said. "I'm just so proud. They encountered a lot of dangers. We're just overwhelmed to see him." As for the departing soldiers, they are being deployed at Fort Dix, N.J., with the 245th Engineer Company, said Oklahoma Army National Guard Col. Pat Scully. They will join more than 600 Oklahoma Army and Air National Guardsmen who already are overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq. "This is, without question, the busiest period for the Oklahoma Army and Air National Guard since the Korean War," Scully said. "The thing we're very proud of is not once have we had a guardsmen or airmen say they wouldn't serve. Everybody who has been called to duty in Oklahoma has answered that call." Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Front Page. Home is where the hero is; Lawton-area 1st-158th FA Guard members back from war duty; By Mitch Meador, Staff Writer, They may have eaten their Thanksgiving dinner in a mess hall in Kuwait, but now they're going to make up for it. The 152 National Guardsmen from 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery who signed on for more than two months of training at Fort Lewis, Wash., and a year-long deployment to Iraq returned home to a rousing welcome on Sunday. The house was packed, the parking lots were full, and the roar was deafening as families from Oklahoma and Texas converged on Rhinehart Physical Fitness Center to support their home-town Guard unit. The walls were plastered with welcome signs, and the stands were dotted with balloons bouquets. Families started putting up signs at 6:30 a. M. Sunday, according to Jane Engemann, chief of operations for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. "I want to say welcome home to these hero's in the truest sense of the word," Col. Ricky G. Adams, deputy commanding officer of the Army National Guard, told the troops clad in desert camouflage. "Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, welcome home to the United States of America!" Pointing out the 77th Army Band and the faithful group of veterans who always sit beside them, Adams said the veterans "have been places others would not dare to tread. Now you joined their ranks." "Fort Sill is proud of all its deploying soldiers. Active, Guard and Reserve, they come through this post. The proudest moment of all is the one right now: Mission complete. "You have accomplished every task that has come your way. You provided a 152-man security force mission for personal security details, for police transition team detachments, for the 49th MP Brigade and the 89th MP Brigade in Iraq. "They ensured continuity and effectiveness of the Iraq Police Transition Team in some of the most dangerous places on the planet. That's a testament to your leadership downrange and back home. "You took 152 of your soldiers with you, and you brought all 152 home here with us today. You only had three wounded in action, and all three are standing here in the ceremony with us today". "All made a serious sacrifice, volunteering to serve our Army during a time of war with professional courage and competence. The Iraqis are slowly getting back on their feet after 30 years of tyranny and oppression. They have spoken through the last year's elections that terror and threats will not stop democracy. You helped make this dream of freedom possible for them. They will forever be in your debt and are grateful for your service. "I can't say enough about the versatility of our artillery battery that deployed through here. Whatever mission we asked you to do, we asked you to jump and you always asked how high. You always delivered. You're utility players...Simply put, you left Iraq and the soldiers in better shape, than you found it," Adams said. Lawton Police Chief Ronnie Smith said the 1-158 security force included three police officers, Ulysses Henderson, Jimmy Shepard and Cliff Blasengame. "We brought about 20 or 30 (police officers) to greet them, support them and welcome them back," he said. Photo Caption: Tears form in Donna Fike's eyes as she gives her son, Stephen Fike, a hug upon his return home Sunday from Iraq. Fike was one of 152 volunteers from 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery who served in a security force

(SECFOR). Michael D. Pope/Staff. Photo Caption: Throngs' of well-wishers wave at their hometown National Guard unit, cheering them onward as buses take them from the Lawton-Fort Sill Regional Airport to a home coming ceremony at Fort Sill on Sunday. Michael D. Pope/Staff. Published in the "The Oklahoman" entitled: Home base. Soldiers show thanks they returned safely from Iraq. By Ron Jackson, Staff Writer. Spc. Jedediah May reached for the chain that has dangled from his neck for the past 14 months in Iraq and displayed his angel; a shiny, silver cross. May wore the cross as a reminder of his faith, and Sunday morning, he gave thanks to God for his safe return home. May was not alone. About 150 of May's Oklahoma Army National Guard comrades and their families joined in giving thanks during a raucous redeployment ceremony that hailed soldiers from the Duncan, Marlow, Lawton and Chickasha areas. The soldiers served in the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, working various types of security missions. "This is just a great relief," said Kimberly Stotts, May's mother and a U.S. Army veteran. "Before he left, he told me, 'Don't worry about me, Mom. I'm a Christian man. If it is my time to go, then I will go.'" "I'm just so thankful he made it home alive." May, a Lawton resident, said his journey did not come without sacrifices and narrow misses. "There was a lot of sand and dirt," mused May, whose father, Keith; a Desert Storm veteran; filmed his homecoming for posterity. "And a lot of long hours; sometimes, 24 or 38 hour missions, We also had a lot of close-calls. I brought home a chunk of shrapnel that hit us and nearly took me out." Spc. Ulysses Henderson of Lawton gave thanks as he cradled his eight-month old son, Jaedyn. Henderson last held his son when he was six weeks-old during a two-week retreat from Iraq. Jaedyn became Henderson's main source of inspiration. "All I could think about was, 'Do whatever it takes to get back,'" said Henderson, a Lawton police officer who worked at a tactical operations center. "I saw a lot of the carnage, after-the-fact. These guys sacrificed so much." While the homecoming celebration hit full swing at Fort Sill, Oklahoma Army National Guard spokesman Col. Pat Scully said about 50 Oklahoma soldiers were deploying for Iraq at Fort Dix, N.J., with the 245th Engineer Company. They will join more than 600 Oklahoma Army and Air National Guardsmen who already are overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq fighting in the war against terrorism. Combined, there are more than 9,600 Oklahoma reservists at home and abroad. "This is, without question, the busiest period for the Oklahoma Army and Air National Guard since the Korean War," Scully said. "The thing we're very proud of is not once have we had a guardsmen or airmen say they wouldn't serve. Everyone who has been called to duty in Oklahoma has answered that call." Shay and Pam Brosh of Marlow are proud to count their son, Sgt. Stephen Brosh, among those. Brosh returned Sunday to 50 friends and relatives who all donned yellow T-shirts with his name printed on the back. Pam Brosh broke into tears. "I think that tells you what the past year has been like for her," Shay Brosh said. "I'm just so proud. They encountered a lot of dangers.... We're just overwhelmed to see him." His son felt the same. "I don't want to talk right now," said Brosh, 23. "I just want to be with my family." Photo Caption: Sgt Randy McKay of Shawnee holds his son, Carson, during a ceremony Sunday at Fort Sill marking the homecoming of soldiers in the Oklahoma Army National Guard who were in Iraq with the U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. Photo Caption: Soldiers stand in formation Sunday during a ceremony at Fort Sill marking the homecoming of soldiers in the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

**Dec 31, 2006:** The Adjutant General of Oklahoma Governor's Report for 2006: 45th Field Artillery Brigade. Col Robert Roshell, Commander. Mission: The mission of the 45th Fires Brigade (FB) is to provide command, control, administrative, and logistical supervision of organic and attached Field Artillery units of Corps or Division Commanders. The Brigade is organized during peacetime with an organic Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (located in Enid), two Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) Battalions (1 - 158, Headquartered in Lawton and 1 - 171, Headquartered in Altus). Vision Statement: Now, as well as in the future, when people think of Field Artillery, the 45th Fires Brigade will come to mind because of its commitment to excellence and service not only to the communities in which we reside but also to our Nation. Significant Activities: 2006 was an excellent year for the 45th FB. A challenging Annual Training (AT-06) was conducted at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma which included Field Training Exercises as well as an MLRS Live Fire Exercise. The 1-158th FA Deployed 152 Soldiers as a company size unit to Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom / Enduring Freedom and this unit returned in November (Mission Accomplished). The 45th FB has deployed over 30 Soldiers as Individual Mobilization Augmentees in support of the Global War on Terror serving with distinction in both Afghanistan and Iraq. The HHB, 1-158 and 1-171 all conduct challenging and realistic Field Artillery Training throughout the year with a constant Battle Focus which included Life Fire Exercises during IDT Training. In July the 45th FB was called on to provide the Command and Control for Operation Jump Start (Southwest Border Mission) in New Mexico. Over 200 Soldiers deployed in two separate movements in support of this operation. The 45th FB provided critical support to the Border Patrol in areas such as Demming, and Piyas, New Mexico. In October the 45th FB began transformation and will continue this process through 2008. This new formation will change the 1-158th FA (MLRS) to the 1-158th FA (HIMARS) and the 1-171st FA (MLRS) will convert to the 271st Support Battalion (SB) with a Forward Support Company (120 FSC). In addition the 45th FB will add two other units, the 205th Signal Company and B-171 Target Acquisition Battery (TAB). As the Brigade continues to support the global war on terrorism and natural disasters, it also prepares for conversion to a Fires Brigade under the Army's transformation initiative. The 45th FB has clearly proved its ability to be a relevant force in support of the defense of our Nation and the safety and care of our citizenry. The citizen Soldier is alive and

well in the 45th Fires Brigade. We continue to stand ready to answer the call, now and in the future. On Time – On Target!

**Jan 15, 2007:** Obituary: Lloyd Dwayne Franklin, 74, died on Monday, Jan. 15, 2007, in Lawton, Okla. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007, at Cameron Baptist Church with Rev. Bob Jones, pastor and Rev. Travis Wollenberg, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ark., officiating. Burial was at Sunset Memorial Gardens with Rev. Mike Teel, associate pastor of Cameron Baptist Church, officiating. Services were under the direction of Lawton Ritter Gray Funeral Home. Lloyd was born on May 12, 1932, in Sayre, Oklahoma to John and Opal Bills Franklin. He grew up in Weatherford and attended school there. He married Isabelle Ann Lopez on Sept. 2, 1950, in Wheeler. He joined the United States Army on August 9, 1950 in Weatherford, Oklahoma. He served as a PFC in the "C" Battery, 158th Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Infantry Division in Japan during the Korean Conflict. He received the Army Occupation Medal Japan, United Nations Service Medal, and the Korean Service Medal with bronze star. After the military, he began working for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in the construction department and retired as a switchman in 1987 after 35 years of service. He was a member of CWA Local 6009 where he served as president. He was a member of Cameron Baptist Church, former member of Alfalfa Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and Adult Sunday School Teacher. He was the first Fire Chief of the Crow Roost Fire Department. He is survived by his wife, Isabelle, of the home; three daughters and sons in law, Debra and Ted Evans, of Lawton; Toni and Jimmy Garbutt, of Stephenville, and Susan and Russel Stoll, of Lawton; one son and daughter in law, Rev. Michael Franklin and his wife, Lori, of Ft. Smith, Ark.; his sister, Betty Jo Francis, of Ft. Cobb, Okla.; ten grandchildren, Jonathan Franklin, Ft. Smith Ark., Sara Jane Franklin, of Ft. Smith, Ark., Michael Evans and his wife, Carrie, of Lawton, Tommy Evans and his fiance, Heather Castrogiovanni, of Lawton Timothy Evans, of Lawton, Misty Warner and her husband, Chris, of Hollywood, Cali.; Lea Lea Bills-Garbutt, of Stephenville, and Chance (Bubba) Garbutt, of Stephenville, Rance Stoll and his wife, Erin, of Lawton and Phillip Stoll and his fiance, Jennifer Rupe, of Lawton; five great grandchildren, Celeste, Dillon, Tanner and Aiden Evans, and Briley Ann Stoll, all of Lawton. He is preceded in death by his parents.

**Feb 09, 2007:** Obituary: Raymond D. Wahkinney Sr.; Lawton Constitution, The (OK) - February 11, 2007; Cyril; Funeral for Raymond "Rusty" Wahkinney, 74, Cyril, will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Comanche Nation Complex Gym with the Rev. Ronnie Simmons officiating. Mr. Wahkinney died Friday, Feb. 9, 2007. Burial will be at Little Washita Cemetery, Fletcher, under direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home. A prayer service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday at Comanche Nation Funeral Home. He was born Aug. 9, 1932, five miles east of Cyril to Jacob and Mary Noyabad Wahkinney. He attended Southview School. In 1946, he went to Riverside Indian School, Anadarko, where he belonged to the 4-H and Indian clubs and was on the Student Council. He started war dancing at the age of 10 and won many contests. In 1947, he started boxing at 95 pounds at Chickasha, Concho Indian School, Fort Sill Indian School, Chilocco Indian School, Oklahoma City Club and the O.K.C. Golden Gloves. In 1948, he won the state A.A.U. tournament and qualified for the nationals in Kansas City. He enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard in May 1949 and served on active duty from Feb. 9, 1950, to Feb. 8, 1953, becoming a sergeant. He was a section chief of a 105mm towed howitzer gun section with "B" Battery, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Division, known as the Thunderbird Division. His awards include the Army occupation of Japan Medal, the United Nations Medal, the Korean Service Medal with Bronze Service Star. He qualified with the Browning automatic rifle, the M1 Rifle, the 30-30 Carbine, the 50 caliber Machine Gun and the 45 caliber pistol. He began singing at the drum in 1960 and has served as head singer at powwows throughout the United States. He was employed for 24 years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Riverside Indian School. Survivors include a son and daughter-in law Raymond Jr. and Elsie Tissychy Wahkinney, of the home; a granddaughter, Brya Ray Wahkinney; and a niece, Glenna Pekah. He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters: Leatrice Pewenofkit, Margaret Thomas and Tinsey Volker; and a brother, Joe Wahnee.

**Feb 16, 2007:** Obituary: James Hudson Edwards, age 78 of Oakdale, CA. Employed by Ampex Corporation and a Army Korean War Veteran. Survived by daughter, Jan Aquino (Tony) and granddaughter, Bryce. Preceded in death by his wife Gerry. Neptune Society Cremation, Modesto, CA. Captain, OSN: O-1292853, served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 27, 2007:** Obituary: Ora Alfred, Correll Jr.; Walters, Ok., Graveside service for retired Master Sgt. Ora Alfred Correll Jr., 73, Walters, will be at 11 a.m. at Walters Cemetery with the Rev. Paul Metcalfe officiating Master Sgt. Correll Jr. died Thursday, March 27, 2008, at his home. Arrangements are under direction of Hart-Wyatt Funeral Home, Walters. He was born Sept. 10, 1934, in Walters, to Ora Alfred Sr. and Harriett Amanda Pearson Correll. He grew up at Walters, after coming from Washington, Kan., when he was young. He served in the National Guard from 1953 to 1957 before serving two years with the U.S. Army from 1957 to 1959. In 1959 he joined the Oklahoma National Guard 158th Field Artillery. He finished his 37-year military career as a master sergeant in 1990. He married

Jean Watts in January 1957 in Walters. He later married Jynon Oliver on Sept. 10, 1983, at Lawton, where they made their home. In 1993 they moved to the Pine Mountain Community of Arkansas, on Bull Shoals Lake. She died in November 2005. He married Billie Ann McIlhane Tollett on Nov. 17, 2006, in the Chapel of Lights at Eureka Springs, Ark., and soon moved back to Walters. He was a member of Walters First Presbyterian Church and was a 32nd-degree Mason. Survivors include his wife, of the home; two daughters: DeLana Jo Johnsen, Lawton; and Lisa Jean McComas, Ardmore; a son, Ora Wayne Correll, Dallas; three stepsons: Mike Tollett, Walters; and Bobby and David Tollett, both of Lawton; a brother, Ralph Waldon Correll, Westminster, Calif.; a sister, Doris Correll Langford Roach, Lawton; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; other relatives; and many friends. Friends may call from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

**Apr 21, 2007:** Obituary: Albert Burnice Green; Major Albert "Al" Green, a soldier and a servant, was taken home to be with His Savior on April 21, 2007, in Sugar Land, TX. He died peacefully with loved ones by his side. Born on September 13, 1920, in Arkadelphia, AR, he enlisted in the Army at age 21 and served four tours before retiring. A decorated officer, he fought in World War II and Korea and helped liberate a German concentration camp. He loved traveling, gardening, and teaching Sunday School but his passion was feeding the homeless. He is preceded in death by his late wife, Aletha Green, with whom he shared 58 years. He is survived by their children Sandra Finley, Wayne Green, Gay Tuttle, Elizabeth Moore, and Tony Green; his brother Roy Green, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. He is survived by Madelyn Green, his wife of eight wonderful years, and her five children who he deeply loved. Visitation: Davis Greenlawn Funeral Home on April 23 from 6-8 p.m. - 3900 B F Terry Boulevard, Rosenberg, TX, 77471. Funeral: Williams Trace Baptist Church on April 24 at 10 a.m. - 16755 SW Fwy - Sugar Land, TX, 77479. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Fresno Baptist Church's fund for feeding the hungry, P.O. Box 705, Fresno, Texas 77545. Published in the Houston Chronicle on 4/23/2007. Major, OSN: O-1180194 and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 16, 2007:** Obituary: Russell Melvin Pierson, 83, of Coopersburg formerly of Conshohocken died Monday, April 16, 2007 in LifeQuest Nursing Center, Milford Twp. He was the husband of Dorothy (Baumgart) Pierson. Born in Conshohocken, PA he was the son of the late Elmer & Margaret (Allen) Pierson. Prior to his retirement he was a crane mechanic for the former McCarrick Brothers in Norristown. Russell was a member of the Local 542 Operating Engineers. He was a fireman for Harmonville Fire Co and later assumed the role of fire police chief for many years. He was a Free Mason of the Fritz Lodge in Norristown and past president of the Norristown Manor Chor. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and a member of the American Legion Post 242. In addition to his wife he is survived by two sons William A. and his wife Heather of Skippack, Robert R. of Trumbauersville. A daughter Diane Howard and her husband Douglas of Norristown, PA. A sister Elaine Denner of Norristown. He was predeceased by three brothers Donald, Robert, and William. Graveside Services will be held on Friday, April 20, 2007 at 12:00 P.M. at George Washington Memorial Park, 80 Stenton Ave., Plymouth Meeting, Pa. Please meet in the entrance parking lot at 12:00 P.M. The C. R. Strunk Funeral Home, Inc., 821 W. Broad St. Quakertown is in charge of the arrangements. Private First Class, ASN: 33491140 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Aug 04, 2007:** Obituary: Richard Walter Hutchins. Durant Daily Democrat, August 7, 2007: Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Coffey Murray Chapel for Richard W. Hutchins, 74, Durant, who died Saturday, August 4, 2007, at Texoma Medical Center, Denison, Texas. Reverend Marlin Brown will officiate. He was born Sunday, October 30, 1932 in Pasadena, California, to Walter and Mable (Perkins) Hutchins. He married Delphia Aplin October 20, 2005. He was a truck driver and had served in the United States Army, Private and served with Battery "F", 158th Field Artillery. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, of the home; sons Richard Hailey, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Richard Lynn Hutchins, Las Vegas, Nevada; daughters Carol Gigliello, Colorado Springs, Sandy Lewis, Terrell, Texas, Cindy Brown. Durant; grandsons Paul Hutchins, Las Vegas, Lee Miller, Colorado Springs, Damon Hailey, Colorado Springs, Danny Allan, Las Vegas; great grandson Zachary, step great granddaughter Chelsea Brown, Durant. Burial will be in Highland Cemetery with L.D. Littrell, Tommie Brown, Johnnie Aplin, Phillip Aplin, Charlie Aplin, Lee Lewis and Roger Aplin serving as pallbearers. Family hour will be from 7-8 PM Thursday at the funeral home. Coffey Murray Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Burial: Highland Cemetery Durant Bryan County Oklahoma, USA.

**Aug 20, 2007:** Obituary: William Edward Kaufman, 87, died at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 20, 2007, at his residence. He was born Feb. 10, 1920, in Springfield to Edward Luther and Dora Mae Parks, who preceded him in death. On Oct. 22, 1948, he married Clara "Jo Ann" Juan, who died April 22, 2004. Mr. Kaufman had been a delivery driver for Powers & Studer and a meat manager at Clyde Evans. He was a member of Market Street Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans. He was an Army veteran of World War II, ASN: 35040147 and serving with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery, 45th Division. He enjoyed traveling. His life was defined by his love as a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Survivors include five sons, W. Wayne (Cindy LaMantia)



Kaufman, of Lima, Merrill (Kim) Kaufman, of Kenton, Gale (Sheree) Kaufman, of Lima, Robert (Donna) Kaufman, of Gig Harbor, Wash., and Joseph (Sharon Sandoval) Kaufman, of Lima; 11 grandchildren, Latisha Rouse, Elizabeth Kaufman, Robert (Tara) Kaufman, Emily Kaufman, Michelle (Dennis) Musser, Chris Kaufman, Rachael Kaufman, Caryn Kaufman, Derek Kaufman, Brandyn Kaufman and Megan Kaufman; four great-grandchildren, Triston Rouse, Storm Rouse, Mia Musser and Logyn Kaufman; and a former daughter-in-law, Mary Beth Siferd. He was preceded in death by his foster mother, Clara Roush Baker; a sister, Nora Poland; and a daughter-in-law, Terri Hill Kaufman. Services will begin at 2:30 p.m. Friday at Market Street Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Tom Holmes will officiate. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery, with military rites by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1275. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Chiles-Laman Funeral Homes, Lewis Eastside Chapel, and one hour prior to services Friday at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to Market Street Presbyterian Church.

**Aug 24, 2007:** Obituary: Robert Henry Windle of Sayre, Okla. Robert "Bob" Windle, 78, died Friday, Aug. 24, 2007 in Amarillo, Texas. Services will be at 10 a.m. today in Sayre First Christian Church with Marvin Garrison officiating. Burial will be in Sayre-Doxey Cemetery by Rose Chapel Funeral Service. Robert Windle was born Sept. 12, 1928, in Sayre to Clyde Helen and Okie Nelson Windle. He passed away Aug. 24, 2007, in Amarillo at the age of 78 years, 11 months and 12 days. Bob attended Sayre school before graduating from the New Mexico Military Institute. Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army and served his country during the Korean conflict with the Thunderbirds, 45th Division, Battery "C" of the 158th Field Artillery. After his discharge in 1952, he continued his education at the University of Oklahoma and completed his education at Southwestern State College in Weatherford. He later sold pharmaceuticals for a brief period before beginning his career as a teacher. He taught in Pampa, Texas, and Springcreek School near Skellytown, Texas. Bob retired from teaching in the mid-1970s and then started his own independent oil and gas company, which he operated until his death. He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Eloise Dugger. Survivors include a daughter, Donna Needham and husband Danny of Amarillo; a son, Jay Windle and wife Angie of Sayre; three grandchildren, Dylan Dorsey, Delaney Needham and Courtney Jacks; a sister, Ann Ward of Oklahoma City; and other relatives and friends.

**Oct 30, 2007:** Permanent Orders NO# 083-01. Oklahoma Army National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters Oklahoma, 3501 Military Circle, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 731 11 -4398. Permanent Orders 083-01 dated 30 October 2007. See units listed at the enclosure (1st Bn 158 FA (HIMARS)). Following unit action directed. Action: Organize/Reorganize as indicated on Enclosure 1. Effective date: 1 October 2007. MTOE/TDA and date: MTOE 06465GNG65 CCUM NG0208 effective 2 September 2008. Additional instructions: (a) Units are reorganized under MTOE/TDA series indicated at enclosure 1. Reassignment / transfer actions for commissioned officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel will be effective 1 October 2007. (b) Files, records, and orders of unit reorganized will remain active. Military Records will be maintained in accordance with NGR (AR) 600-8-104, and other appropriate directives. Reorganization will be recorded on Unit Record of Reserve Training (DA Form 1379) Remarks Section in accordance with NGR (AR) 680-1 , Appendix L, Item 3, dated 31 August 1991. (c) Units will generally be manned at authorized strength for officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel, unless otherwise indicated. (d) Commanders will ensure that units maintain minimum strength of officers, warrant officers and enlisted personnel, as required by NGR 10-1, for retention of Federal Recognition. (e) Equipment will be transferred, disposed of, or reorganized as directed by USPFO for Oklahoma. (f) Officers and enlisted personnel assigned in an over-strength status as a result of this reorganization may be retained for one year or until absorbed, whichever occurs first, but not to exceed 1 October 2008. (g) Policy and procedures for assignment, reassignment, and transfer of enlisted personnel are contained in NGR(AR) 600-200, Chapter 5. Adherence to these procedures will be followed in all cases. Format: 740. For the Adjutant General: HQ, OKANG, Official, Gail A. Lusty, COL, GS, OKARNG, Director of Personnel/J1. Encl. ARNG MTOE/TDA. Organization / Reorganization. State of Oklahoma. Effective 1 October 2007. New Unit: HHB 1 Bn 158 FA (Himars) (subunit lines to include equipment) WYHOTO. Old Unit: HHB 1 Bn 158 FA (Himars) (subunit lines to include equipment) WYHOTO. Station & (Federal Recognition Date): 600 NW Cache Rd, Lawton, OK 73507-5403 (20 Sep 46). MTOE NO & Date: MTOE 06465GNG65 CCNUM NG0208 Effective Date 2 September 2008. ARNG MTOE/TDA Organization / Reorganization, State of Oklahoma, effective 1 October 2007. New Unit: Btry A 1 Bn 158 FA (Himars) (subunit lines to include equipment) WYHOAO. Old Unit: Btry A 1 Bn 158 FA (Himars) (subunit lines to include equipment) WYHOAO. Station & (Federal Recognition Date): 608 W. Missouri, Walters, OK 73572-1024 (29 Oct 46). MTOE NO & Date: MTOE 06465GNG65 CCNUM NG0208 Effective Date 2 September 2008. New Unit: Btry B 1 Bn 158 FA (Himars) (subunit lines to include equipment) WYHOB0. Old Unit: Btry B 1 Bn 158 FA (Himars) (subunit lines to include equipment) WYHOB0. Station & (Federal Recognition Date): 3000 S. 13th St. Duncan, OK 73533-9785 (20 Sep 46). MTOE NO & Date: MTOE 06465GNG65 CCNUM NG0208 Effective Date 2 September 2008. New Unit: None. Old Unit: Det 1 Btry B 1 Bn 158 FA (Himars) (Para 203; Para 204 subunit line to include equipment) WYHOB1. Station & (Federal Recognition Date): 702 W Main Marlow, OK 73055-2450 (28 Jan 47). MTOE NO & Date: MTOE 06465GNG65 CCNUM NG0208 Effective Date 2 September 2008. New Unit: Btry C 1 Bn 158 FA (Himars) (subunit lines to include equipment) WYHOCO. Old Unit: Btry C 1 Bn

158 FA (Himars) (subunit lines to include equipment) WYHOCO. Station & (Federal Recognition Date): 700 W. Oklahoma, Anadarko, OK 73005-3252 (27 Sep 46). MTOE NO & Date: MTOE 06465GNG65 CNUM NG0208 Effective Date 2 September 2008. Total Strength 1 Bn 158 FA Himars Fires Bde. Required: Officers 33, Warrant Officers 2, Enlisted 282, Total 317. Authorized: Officers 33, Warrant Officers 2, Enlisted 282, Total 317.

**Dec 26, 2007:** Published in the "Fremont Tribune" entitled: Fremont native takes command of Georgia unit. By Fremont Tribune Staff Dec 26, 2007. Col. Lee K. Durham, a 1979 graduate of Fremont High School and son of Charles and Dorothy Durham of Fremont, recently took command of Georgia's 4,500 member 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in Macon, Ga. Durham replaced Brigadier Gen. Lawrence E. Dudley Jr., who commanded the brigade for the past 12 months. The 48th Brigade consists of two infantry battalions, one Cavalry battalion, an artillery battalion, a special troops battalion and a support battalion with subordinate units in more than 30 communities throughout Georgia. Soldiers of Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team were deployed for a year to Iraq in May 2005 in the largest deployment of Georgia National Guard soldiers since World War II. Durham's military career began in "Charlie" Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery on Dec. 22, 1981. His first assignment was as forward observer and special weapons officer in the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery until being assessed as a Regular Army Officer upon graduation from Cameron University in June 1984. His active duty assignments include as a Platoon Leader, Assistant S-3 and Headquarters Detachment Commander in the 1st Infantry Division; Operations Officer in the 2nd Infantry Division; and Special Forces Detachment Alpha Commander in Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group. Durham transitioned to the Kansas National Guard in 1993 to attend Law School. He served as Plans Officer in POTO-KS, Deputy Provost Marshal, G-3 Plans Officer, XO of the 1996 Atlanta Georgia NGB-Olympic Task Force, and Headquarters Commandant for the 35th Infantry Division (Mech). He transitioned to Title 10 on Oct. 1, 2000 and served the operations officer, Leader Development Center before assuming command of the Battle Command Training Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., under the Battle Command Training Program. He gave up command to attend Senior Service College in July 2003. Durham's most recent assignments include as a staff officer at Special Operations Command, Northern Command, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and the past two years as the Special Assistant to the Commanding General, Fort Benning, Ga. Durham is a graduate of the National War College; Army Command and General Staff College School of the Americas; Special Forces Qualification Course; Ranger Course; Jump Master Course; SERE course; Master Fitness Course; and Combined Arms Service Staff School. He has a bachelor's degree from Cameron University, a master's degree in international relations from Troy State University, a master's degree in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University and a jurist doctor from Washburn University School of Law. Durham's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Senior Parachute Badge, Australian Parachute Badge, German Parachute Badge and Antigua Barbuda Comando Tab. He is married to the former Daina Moore of Manhattan, Kan. They have two children, Carson and Alexis.

**Jan 12, 2008:** Obituary: Leonard Walter Gielniak; "Lenny" died Saturday, January 12, 2008 at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Clinton Township, he was the son of the late Michael and Margaret (Matiesciak) Gielniak. Mr. Gielniak retired from Michigan Bell Telephone Company. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his service in the U.S. Army. Lenny is survived by his wife Lillian "Lilly". Loving father of Glenn (Louise) Gielniak, Linda M. Gielniak, Laura (William) Palazzolo and Ken (Renee) Gielniak. Devoted grandfather of Janeen, Renee, Jeffrey, Michael, Julie Chopra, Brian Mahoney, Scott (Lauren) Palazzolo, Nicholas Gielniak, Melanie Gielniak, Michael (Sue) Huck, and Mark Leger. Visitation for Mr. Gielniak will be Tuesday from 3-9 pm at the funeral home. Rosary services will be 7:00 pm. Tuesday evening. Mr. Gielniak will lie in state Wednesday 10:30 am. at St. Malachy Catholic Church until time of the Funeral Mass at 11:00 am. with Fr. Joseph Gembala officiating. Interment will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township, MI. Corporal, ASN: 36565738 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 13, 2008:** Obituary: Loyd Jordan Greenfield Jr.; Born July 16, 1929 and died March 13, 2008. Obituary for Loyd Jordan Greenfield, Jr., long-time, Chandler, Oklahoma, resident was born on July 16, 1929, in rural Lincoln County and departed this life on March 13, 2008, in Chandler at the age of 78 years. Memorial Service will be Sunday, March 16, 2008, 2:30 p.m. at the Agra Church of the First Born, Lynn Brown officiating. Loyd was the son of Loyd and Hazel Donnell Greenfield. He was the salutatorian of his graduating class at Shamrock High School and was a Lt. Colonel in the Army National Guard. In addition to being a Veteran of the Korean War, Loyd served as Battalion Commander of the 2/158 Field Artillery, the 2/180 TOW Battalion, and the 120 Medical Battalion. Loyd married Masako Miyata on October 15, 1951, in Tokyo, Japan. Masako preceded him in death. He married Evelyn Fay Vandevier on January 10, 1965, in Bristow, Oklahoma. Evelyn also preceded him in death. Loyd married Pauline

Peacock on August 8, 1995, in Agra, Oklahoma. Loyd retired from Tinker Field and from the Army National Guard. Until his death, he was a partner in B & G Enterprises in Chandler. Loyd was a former member of the Chandler Board of Education. He was also a 44 year continuous member of the American Legion. Loyd was a member of the Church of the First Born in Agra. Survivors include his wife, Pauline Greenfield of Chandler; four sons and daughters-in-law, Jun and Barbara Greenfield of Chandler, John and Patty Greenfield of Chandler, Jerry and Debbie Greenfield of Chandler, and Ray and Christy Greenfield of Chandler; two step-daughters and sons-in-law, Rita and Jack Weber of Chandler and JaVonna and Larry Gorbet of Moore; one step-son, Jeff Snyder of Chandler; one sister, Mary Stevens of Cushing, one sister-in-law, Asako Greenfield of Chandler; 15 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, other family members, and many friends. Loyd was preceded in death by wife Masako Miyata Greenfield, wife Evelyn Fay Greenfield, his parents, brother Gerald, and infant twin brothers Merle and Earl. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the American Cancer Society or any other charitable organization of your choice. Lieutenant Colonel, OSN: O-2288140 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**May 08, 2008:** Obituary: William Herman Powelson; (May 20, 1918 - May 8, 2008) William H. Powelson, resident of Ponca City, passed away Thursday, May 8, 2008, at Ponca City Medical Center. He was 89. The service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Monday, May 12, 2008 at the Trout Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Steve Harden, officiating. Burial will then follow at the Blackwell Cemetery in Blackwell, OK. Arrangements are under the direction of Trout Funeral Home & Crematory. William was born on May 20, 1918 to the late Lysle Powelson and Ida (Brown) Powelson in Blackwell, OK. He was raised in Blackwell and graduated from Blackwell High School in 1938. On Jan. 30, 1941 William was inducted in the Army in Ft. Sill, Okla. with the Service Battery 158th F.A. of the 45th division. He was stationed in Abilene, TX and then went to Ft. Downs, Mass. in May of 1943. The 45th Div. landed in Africa and went to Sicily and all the way through Europe. He returned to the U.S. Dept on Sept. 30, 1945. On Oct. 24, 1942 he married Velma (Harden) Powelson in Perry. He was involved in farming until his retirement in 1982. He was on the Tonkawa Farmer Coop Board and the Kay County Farm Bureau Board Director serving for 18 years. He was also a member of the American Legion Post #14 for 41 years. William was a member of the Prairie Chapel Methodist Church and the Round Grove and Finly Community Card Party. He loved traveling and fishing. He is survived by two sons, James Powelson and wife Joy of Ponca City, John Powelson of Ponca City and daughter, Joyce Conner and husband Don of Ponca City; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Wilma Jean Powelson, parents, Lysle and Ida Powelson, one brother, Johnny Powelson and two sisters, Pauline Small and Bernice Roberts. Casket bearers will be James Richard Powelson, Jon Powelson, Joe Powelson, Kamron Powelson, Richard Conner and Mathew Powelson. Honorary casket bearers will be Gary Goodno, Lori Sinderloe, Wyman Goodno, Jenna Conner, Jason Whitfield, Jesse Theiele and Jay Powelson. Memorial Contributions may be made to the Prairie Chapel United Methodist Church or to the charity of the donor's choice. Staff Sergeant, ASN: 38017319 and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**May 16, 2008:** Obituary: Thomas Lee Bearden; The Augusta Chronicle; Saturday, 17 May 2008. Mr. Thomas Lee Bearden, an Augusta resident, died on Friday, May 16, 2008 at Doctor's Hospital. He was 82 years old. Mr. Bearden is survived by his wife, Myrtle B. Bearden of Augusta; his son, James Bearden of Panama City, FL; and two sisters Ann Maile of Augusta, Doris Scoggins of Rutherfordton, NC; four grandchildren; one great grandchild; and several nieces and nephews. Mr. Bearden was born in Clinton, South Carolina, the son of the late Walter Lee Bearden and Ira Ammons Bearden. He was a veteran of the United States Army having served in WWII, the Korean War, and Vietnam. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Beard worked for the Civil Service in the finance department at Fort Gordon with twenty years of service. The Poteet Funeral Homes South Chapel, 3465 Peach Orchard Road, Augusta, Ga. 30906 706-798-8886. Master Sergeant, ASN: 34833517 and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jun 02, 2008:** Obituary: Harold Leymond Childers, 76, of Duncan, died Monday, June 2, 2008, in Duncan. Funeral will be at 10 a.m. Friday in McRay Funeral Home Chapel in Chickasha. Interment will be in Fairlawn Cemetery. Harold was born September 24, 1931, in Hector, Ark., the son of Jess Childers and Esther Voss Childers. He entered the U .S. Army and served during the Korean War, as a Private First Class and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery. After the war, he moved to Chickasha, where he met his wife, Anne Blacksher. They were married June 2, 1956, in Wichita Falls, Texas. While in Chickasha. Harold worked as an electrician for various contractors before starting his own electrician business. Harold lived in Chickasha for many years and moved to Duncan in 1998. Survivors include two sons and a daughter in law, Ronnie Childers and Regina of Blanchard, and Bruce Childers of Chickasha; two daughters and a son in law, Debbie Unwin and Alfred of Salem, Ore., and Donna Childers of Duncan; a stepson, Ricky Malone of Ringling; two brothers, Leon and Bob; two sisters, Maggie and Mabline; 13 grand children and 12 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, and a brother.

**Jul 09, 2008:** Obituary: Alfred Harold Mitchell passed away on July 9, 2008, he was of West Berlin, NJ and age 84yrs. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth (nee Winner). Loving father of Frank DeSilvio and his wife Joanne of Spring City, PA, Hal Mitchell, Sr. and his wife Carol of Cedar Brook, NJ and Betty Horne and her husband Keith of Blue Anchor, NJ. Proud grandfather of Hal Mitchell, Jr., David Mitchell, Lucas Mitchell, Megan Mitchell and Traci Patel. Great Grandfather of Jason DeSilvio, Siana Patel, Cecelia Mitchell and Dominic Negron. Great Great Grandfather of Noelle DeSilvio. Mr. Mitchell worked for the Hollingshead Corp in Camden for over 40 years. He proudly served his country in the US Army during WWII as a Sergeant, ASN: 32756546 with the Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery Battalion. He was also a life member of the West Berlin Fire Dept. Relatives and friends are invited to attend his viewing on Monday, July 14th. from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the LeRoy P. Wooster Funeral Home, 441 White Horse Pike, Atco (856) 767-0539. Funeral services will begin at 12:00pm. Interment, Berlin Cemetery, Berlin, NJ. Number 2: Press of Atlantic City, The (NJ) - July 11, 2008; Edition: All Section: Obituaries Page: C2; Mitchell, Alfred H. (AL) 84, of West Berlin, on July 9, 2008. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth (nee Winner); loving father of Frank DeSilvio and his wife Joanne of Spring City, PA, Hal Mitchell, Sr. and his wife Carol of Cedar Brook, NJ and Betty Horne and her husband Keith of Blue Anchor, NJ; proud grandfather, of Hal Mitchell, Jr., David Mitchell, Lucas Mitchell, Megan Mitchell, and Traci Patel; great grandfather of Jason DeSilvio, Siana Patel, Cecelia Mitchell, and Dominic Negron; great great grandfather of Noelle DeSilvio. Mr. Mitchell worked for the Hollingshead Corp. in Camden for over 40 years. He proudly served his country in the US Army during WWII as a Sergeant with the 158th Field Artillery Battalion. He was also a life member of the West Berlin Fire Dept. Relatives and friends are invited to attend his viewing on Monday, July 14th from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the LeRoy P. Wooster Funeral Home, 441 White Horse Pike, Atco (856) 767-0539. Funeral services and Interment, Berlin Cemetery, Berlin, NJ.

**Jul 19, 2008:** Obituary; George Lopez Cervantez; Amarillo Globe-News, July 24, 2008. George Cervante z, 90, of Amarillo, formerly of Bovina, died Saturday, July 19, 2008. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Friday in Blackwell Funeral Home in Friona with the Rev. Robert Guevara of Amarillo officiating. Mr. Cervantez was born Sept. 8, 1918, in Texico, N.M., to Abelino and Inez Lopez Cervantez. He married Pearl Hernandez on Nov. 6, 1940, in Bovina. Survivors include an adopted son, Daniel lee Brito of Amarillo; a sister, Mary Gonzales of Texico; four grandchildren; and six great grand children. Private First Class, ASN: 38351095 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Jul 20, 2008:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Apache Tribe plans pre-deployment send off. Anadarko: The Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, through its Silver Buffalo Casino, will honor its local warriors by having a pre-deployment send-off for Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. "Almost all tribes had, in times past, warrior societies as important parts of their traditions. At this critical time, we wish to send our warriors off with our blessings," event coordinator J.T. Goombi said. "We hope to make this sendoff historical, in that we plan to introduce each member of the unit. The management of the casino hopes to present a video to each family of those deployed for viewing as desired. Each presentation will be explained in detail. This will be beneficial for future generations. Each song will be recorded," Goombi said. Event planned for July 26. The send-off will be held Saturday, July 26. The day will begin at 6 a.m. with the raising of the colors by the Comanche Indian Veterans Association. The flag will be provided by the Guard unit. At 10 a.m., there will be a parade following the American Indian Exposition parade route, with assembly of participants at the Anadarko Christian Center railroad crossing. The Anadarko High School Marching Band will lead the parade. The Anadarko Police Department, Caddo County Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Indian Affairs police and other organizations will participate. The Apache Blackfeet Society will start the traditional part of the day at 1 p.m. A scalp dance will be performed at 3:30 p.m. The dance is exclusively for women who dance with staffs. A victory dance will be performed at 4:30 p.m. All women who have had or have family members in uniform are invited to come and dance for their loved ones. At 6 p.m., when the colors are retired, the National Guard unit's flag will be presented to the chairman of the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma for the Apache Tribe. Supper will be provided by the Silver Buffalo Casino. After supper, the Kiowa War Mothers will have songs sung and dances performed. Then "Veteran's Songs" will be heard, most of which were composed for individual service personnel. The audience will be informed to whom the song belongs. The drums will honor requests from the audience. The celebration will end with traveling or riding songs. The head staff will include Vietnam veteran Eddie Mahseet, master of ceremonies; Jim Anquoe, U.S. Marine Corps, and Daniel Cozad, head singers; Lois Swift, head lady; a son standing in for Vietnam veteran Virgil Swift as honorary head war dancer; William Nelson Jr., head boy dancer; Courtney, Lacie and Alexandria Unah, head little girl dancers, and arena directors Gary Nimsey and Johnnie Goombi. Concessions will be operated by the Charlie Battery Family Readiness Group. No other vendors will be permitted at this event. No drugs or alcohol will be tolerated. Participants and sponsors are not responsible for any loss or accidents. Security will be provided by the Silver Buffalo Casino.

**Aug 17, 2008:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Almost 900 guardsmen deploy. Author: Mitch Meador, Oklahoma City. Thousands of well wishers from across the state filled the stands at the Ford Center Saturday to show their support for the nearly 900 Oklahoma National Guardsmen in the 45th Fires Brigade who are

headed to Fort Hood, Texas, this week for mobilization training. The unit is deploying in its entirety for the first time since it became a brigade, according to Col. Glen Moore, brigade commander. It has a year-long force protection mission in Iraq, where the Guardsmen will be providing security for forward operating bases and convoys, he said. The brigade consists of a Headquarters based in Enid; 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, with units in Lawton, Walters, Duncan, Marlow, Chickasha and Anadarko, and 1st Battalion, 271st Brigade Support Battalion, with units in Altus, Hobart, Clinton, Elk City and Weatherford. Moore said Tuesday is the brigade's mobilization date, and it will be deploying there Wednesday through Friday. Once there, the Guardsmen will receive 60 to 65 days of mission specific training. "What we've done over the last 10 or 11 months is individual warrior task training, which is geared more toward the individual soldier. What we'll do at Fort Hood now is bring it together as a collective unit and concentrate more specifically on the missions that those soldiers will be doing as a team," Moore said. It will be a very busy two months, and then the soldiers will have a four-day pass at the conclusion of their training at Fort Hood. Moore said Veterans Affairs "and some other folks have worked out getting some buses for us from Fort Hood to bring the soldiers back to Oklahoma if they choose, during that time. So hopefully we'll have an opportunity to get back up here and visit with the families before we go again." The men and women of the 45th Fires Brigade were treated to a very different kind of deployment ceremony than what is customary at Fort Sill. Except for color guards representing the various units of the brigade, all the soldiers were seated throughout the ceremony while the proceedings were broadcast in four directions on giant TV monitors overhead. Also, the color guards were a bit more, colorful. All veterans of the 45th Infantry Division were represented by a special color guard made up of living history interpreters from the 45th Infantry Division Museum's G Company. The Kiowa Blackleggings Warrior Society and the Hasinai Society of the Caddo Nation added their warrior traditions to the mix. Both Gov. Brad Henry and Oklahoma Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Harry M. "Bud" Wyatt III showed their appreciation for Oklahoma's citizen soldiers by recalling the words of Gen. George S. Patton, who once said of the 45th Infantry Division that it was one of the best, if not the best, division in the history of American armies. "As I look out at this huge crowd, I can't help but feel really good about Oklahoma, about our people and about the mission of our soldiers," Henry said. "It is with a tremendous amount of emotion that I join all of you here today on this most important occasion. "First, I offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all members of the 45th Fires Brigade. Thank you for your dedication to duty, for your courage and your strength of character, for the deep and abiding commitment that you bring to Oklahoma and the United States. You truly represent the very best of our state and our nation, and I salute you." The governor said nearly 5,000 Oklahoma Guardsmen have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since the start of the war, a higher percentage than any other state in the union. "I can tell you from firsthand experience that expectations for our Oklahoma National Guardsmen are high," he said, recalling that on his two visits in country, he has been pleased to hear commanders from other states praise the Oklahoma troops for their dedication and professional ability. "Never have I been more proud to be governor of this great state," Henry said. Bona fide heroes' He hailed both soldiers and their families as "bona fide heroes," thanking them for the sacrifices they are making. Wyatt said some may be disappointed that the brigade will not be using its High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) or doing a standard field artillery mission, but he predicted the Oklahoma National Guard will perform its nonstandard mission with great success. Moore called this an opportunity to add to the proud heritage of the 45th, and he asked the soldiers to keep three tenets in mind during the deployment: "Do the best you can each day ... Second, when faced with a tough decision, do what is morally and legally correct, and this will guide you to make the right decision. Third, leave the (area of operations) better than when you found it." Moore also urged the families to reach out to each other through the Family Readiness Groups. Wyatt noted two programs for soldiers in which the governor has been involved, Operation Oklahoma Homefront and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program that will be awaiting the soldiers upon their return. One of those who will deploy is Cliff Blasengame, a 25-year veteran of the Guard and an 18-year veteran of the Lawton Police Department, where he is a lieutenant and one of the patrol supervisors. Blasengame went over to Iraq with the security force made up of 152 volunteers from 1-158 FA that was there from August 2005 to November 2006. While there, he was promoted to sergeant major and assigned to 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery in Altus. That unit was deactivated and reactivated as the 271st Brigade Support Battalion of which he is now command sergeant major. Before the ceremony, Blasengame passed the time with his wife, his mother, his sister and his five children, who had arrived early to make sure they got good seats. Blasengame said he is one of four or five Lawton police officers who will be going overseas this time. "We're going to provide the very best support to the troops and the cause. We're going to take all the troops over, and with God's help, we're going to bring every one of them back," he said.

**Aug 21, 2008:** Published in "The Duncan Banner" entitled: Mission Farewell. Stephens County population; around 43,000. But on Wednesday, not even 1 percent of that figure gathered for a send-off of 145 National Guard troops. Those who did show up at the National Guard armory south of Duncan didn't hold back their emotions. And most of those emotions reflected sadness. There were no dry eyes. For the men of Battery "B", 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery, all that mattered to them was the presence of their loved ones and knowing they would be apart from them for the next year. Replacing that void will be their brotherhood with whom they will live, eat, socialize and fight a

war against terrorism. There's Spc. Steven Lemons, 20, of Duncan, who isn't sure of what the next year holds. It's his first deployment to Iraq. Lemons' is the son of Susan Boyer of Duncan, and Rodney Lemons of Texas. A graduate of Duncan High School's Class of 2006, he hugged his fiancée, Cheryl Watts, also of Duncan. "It was overwhelming. There was all the love, and you're trying to be strong and then that last five minutes, your barrier goes down," she said. For many, the send-off is too emotional. Watts said Wednesday night, during a phone interview, that Lemons' parents were both present at the farewell ceremony held Saturday at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City. "There were about 800 soldiers plus family and friends at the center. We spent time Tuesday with his mom. That was really hard for her," Watts said. The unit has known since October 2007 that the time would come when deployment from its home state would occur. But it made it no less difficult. Many of the young men wore sunglasses to hide their tears. Like Brian Hekia, 26, of Duncan, who was leaving for his second tour of duty. Seeing him off were his wife, Kassie, their two children, Madison, 5, and Camden, 2 months, and his mother, Teresa Wylie. "It's an honor. It's what I joined up to do," Hekia said. His mother said they'd be praying that all of them would again return home safely. Aaron Helton's wife, Michelle, and her mother, Mattie Hunt, also all of Duncan, embraced and held each other for as long as they could. Wives, girlfriends, grandmothers and children didn't try to hide their tears. "It's sad that he has to go. He has four boys that he needs to be here for," Hunt said. Sgt. Andy Callihan, 44, of Rush Springs, is also facing his first tour to Iraq. His wife, Mary, and their daughter, Shelby, 16, tried to show a brave face Wednesday. Callihan, a full-time active-duty Guard member, said more than 30 percent of the group that left Wednesday, is from Stephens County. Twelve of the men are Rush Springs residents, Callihan said. The others are from throughout Oklahoma; Enid, Woodward, Chickasha, Lawton and elsewhere. And family members drove long distances to show their support. Like Luella Stacy, 68, of Lamont. She made the four hour drive to see off her grandson, Derek Bentley. The deployment ceremony lasted about 45 minutes, long enough for the men to assemble, disassemble, say their goodbyes and remuster and march to the three chartered buses waiting outside on old U.S. Highway 81. Many of the 158th are from Marlow, Duncan and Comanche. There's those who have been before, like Justin Wilkerson and his brother, Stephen. And buddies who they've grown up with, like Jonathan Ditch. On the buses, some of the men shouted out their names; Derrick Tadlock, Donald Brewer, Tony Grigsby, Scott Fitzhugh, James Baldwin, Darin Carman, Dustin Hames, Wilkersons, Ditch and Michael Andrews. Ralph Pennington, who retired from the military in June, watched his son, Staff Sgt. Billy Holley, 25, gather his gear and head off. For Pennington, Wednesday's event was just the beginning. His older son, TJ Holley, 26, will depart today from Anadarko. Pennington spends his days at the Duncan armory assisting privates who are heading to boot camp through the Recruit Sustainment Program. This was Billy Holley's first time for overseas deployment, but he and his father shared a round of mobilization that eventually fizzled, said Pennington. As the men boarded the buses, Billy's son, Alex, got a ride upon the shoulders of TJ, to wave goodbye to his father. "It's not easy. My first time was in 1990 to Desert Storm," Pennington said. "You really don't know who your enemies are (over there). We're over there fighting terrorism, not oil or any of that other. We just don't want them (terrorists) over here. People have forgotten or don't understand why we keep going over there." Cpl. Richard Ortiz of Ardmore was there for the send-off and said afterward that he, too, is ready to return to help in the fight against terrorism. "We're family. Those guys, they are your brothers. The bond is strong," he said. But for the families remaining behind, they hope more people will show support for the troops. "There didn't seem to be as many people to turn out to show their support for our boys. We can't go, the least we can do is turn out. Just send all your love, your support and love," Watts said. At 9 p.m. Wednesday, Watts got a call from Lemons. The unit arrived at Fort Hood around 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, she said. Now all she can do is begin marking the days on her calendar until their return; sometime in September 2009. Photo Caption: Kassie Hekia wipes away tears Wednesday, as her husband, Brian, hugs their daughter, Madison, 5, during the send-off ceremony at the National Guard armory for Battery "B", 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery. The Hekias' also have a son, Camden, who is almost 2 months old and was also present. The unit will deploy to Iraq for a year. Photo Caption: Members of Battery "B", 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery, from left, Sgt. Dustin Hames, Staff Sgt. Billy Holley, Staff Sgt. Darin Carman and Sgt. James Baldwin, all from Duncan, board a bus Wednesday afternoon, to make the long trip to Fort Hood, Texas. From there, they will deploy to Iraq.

**Aug 29, 2008:** Obituary: Jack Ray Ketchum, 78, of Edmond, Oklahoma, passed away August 29, 2008. Jack was born July 6, 1930, to Robert F. and Minnie (Reeves) Ketchum, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He married the love of his life, Reta (Harris) Ketchum, December, 18, 1958. Jack graduated from Capitol Hill High School and attended OCU and Hill's Business College. He served in the Korean War as a medic. He was an avid sports fan coaching softball for his daughters and granddaughters (Red Hots). Jack was an OU Sooner fan and was a season ticket holder for 48 years in football and 10 years in basketball. He followed the Sooners to many away games and bowl games, and missed only 3 OU/TX games. He loved playing bridge. Jack worked for Standard Register Company for 32 years selling business forms. He retired in 1991 to start his own business, Ketchum Business Forms and Advertising Specialties. Jack is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Minnie and his sister Billie Ketchum. He is survived by his wife Reta of the home his daughter Tresa Swiggart and son-in-law Kim his daughter Tamara Waggoner and son-in-law Doug, of Edmond, Oklahoma. The joys of his life, his six grandchildren, Linze Dyer of

Oklahoma City, Lerin Madden and husband Kevin Jennifer Bassler Adison and Parker Swiggart and Macy Waggoner, all of Edmond, Oklahoma. Jack has had a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's and Diabetes. The family wants to express their thanks to the staff of Oklahoma Veterans Center, Norman, Oklahoma and Good Shepherd Hospice. Their care and support is very much appreciated. Memorial service will be held at 3:00, Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at Smith & Kernke, 14624 N. May with interment following in Resurrection Memorial Cemetery, 7801 Northwest Expressway. Published in The Oklahoman on August 31, 2008.

**Sep 13, 2008:** Obituary: Harry Jacob McGinnis, "Mac", passed away peacefully September 13, 2008 in Sarasota, FL. He was born October 27, 1928 in Ford City, PA, the son of the late Harry Reynolds and Helen Sophie Beck McGinnis. He enlisted in the U.S. Army October 24, 1950, 45th Infantry Division, 158th F.A. BN. "A" Company and was in the Korean Conflict. After two tours in Africa during the Congo uprisings and a tour in Greenland he retired in 1968 he moved to Butler, PA worked in security at Pullman Standard in until its closing in 1985. Mac then moved to Kissimmee, FL and worked security at the former Palace at Disney Village until 1993. He met Lenora Swanton in March 1953, while he was stationed in Baltimore, MD, had their first date on St. Patrick's Day March 1953 and married in June 1953. They had been married 52 years when she passed away December 13, 2006. They were best friends their whole lives. Mac is survived by three daughters, Carol Ann and her husband Charles Corbett of Saxonburg, P., Kathleen and her husband Michael Ufner of Butler, PA and Karen and her husband Joseph Weeks of Sarasota, FL, with whom he made his home. Surviving also are three granddaughters, Lenore and her husband Paul Seifer, Baden, PA, Cassandra and Micah Ufner, Butler, PA, one grandson Craig McGinnis-Corbett, Saxonburg, PA and one great grandson Paul David Seifer of Baden, PA, two brothers-in-law, Dale and his wife Christy Swanton of Waynesville, NC, Jerry and his wife Diane Swanton of Largo, FL, six nieces and seven nephews. Mac was the last of his immediate family. Preceding him in death was his wife Lenora, three brothers and a sister. Mac attended the Methodist Church in Sarasota, FL, enjoyed cooking and loved chocolate. There will be a graveside service at 10:30AM Saturday, September 20, 2008 at the Palms Funeral Home in Sarasota, FL, with the Reverend officiating. Donations can be made to the Kittanning War Memorial, any Veterans Administrations, your local library or hospice service. He will be buried at the Palms Memorial Park, 170 Honore Avenue, in Sarasota, FL. Published in the Orlando Sentinel on Sept. 18, 2008.

**Sep 20, 2008:** Obituary: Vladimir Zorella: Burial will be in Saint Magdalen Cemetery, Delaware Township, NJ. Vladimir "Bob" Zorella, age 80 years, of Delaware Township, NJ, died on Saturday, September 20, 2008 in the Hunterdon Medical Center, Raritan Township, NJ. Born in Manville, NJ, March 28, 1928, he had resided in Delaware Township for the past fifty years. A United States Army Veteran of the Korean War, he was a longtime Sheet rocker for Frank Vishnesky Sheet Rocking, Manville, NJ. Surviving are his wife of forty-nine years, Stella Zentek Zorella; a brother, Paul Zorella of Manville, NJ; and a sister, Sonia Zorella of Manville, NJ. A brother, Nicky Zorella, died in 2007. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in the Holcombe Fisher Funeral Home, 147 Main Street, Flemington, NJ. Interment will follow in St. Magdalen Cemetery, Flemington, NJ. Calling hours will be Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. until time of service in the Funeral Home. Memorial Contributions may be made to St. Magdalen Church, 105 Mine Street, Flemington, NJ, 08822. Private and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Nov 18, 2008:** Obituary: Harlan Veatch Logsdon: Harlan (Bud) Logsdon died at the age of 93 on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 in San Antonio. Harlan was born in Evansville, Indiana on April 28, 1915 to Percy and Bertha Logsdon. At age 15 years, Harlan secretly enlisted in the Indiana National Guard. Though he exaggerated about his age, he found his calling, being quickly commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Artillery Reserves and served for 8 years. In 1935, Harlan enlisted in the Army. He was called to active duty as a 2nd Lieutenant in September 1940. During this time, he was promoted to the ranks of 1st Lieutenant, Captain, Major and Lt. Colonel serving in WWII and the Korean War. After his military career, Mr. Logsdon went on to open Logsdon & Son Insurance Agency. Harlan received his Bachelor of Science from Arkansas State College in 1951 and his Masters of Education from Trinity University in 1966. Mr. Logsdon is preceded in death by his wife Mary Jeanette and his sister Jeanie Whitworth. He is survived by sons and daughter-in-law, Eric & Terry Logsdon of Hideaway, Texas and Steve Logsdon of Dallas, Texas; grandchildren, Greg, Hal, Erika, and Elana and great grandchildren, Erin and Mason. He is also survived by his loving companion, Georgia Hamel, and his poker buddies at the Towers at Park Lane. Bud was a loving and caring husband to his wife Mary of 54 years. He shared his love and perpetual happiness with all of his family. He continued to give to his fellow countrymen as a mentor at Northwood Elementary and Garner Middle School where numerous children benefited from his ability to teach and guide. Visitation will be held from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 20 at Sunset Funeral Home. Funeral service will be held at 3:00 p.m. Friday, November 21 at Sunset Funeral Home with crypt side services following at Sunset Memorial Park with military honors and Masonic Services by Alamo Lodge # 1105 AF & AM. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Freedom Alliance Scholarship fund honoring American Armed Forces who scarified life or limb defending our country by providing educational scholarships to their children. Freedom Alliance: 22570 Markey court, Ste 240, Dulles, VA 20166.

Lieutenant Colonel, OSN: O-44347, and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery as S-2 and S-3 and as Battalion Commander during the Korean War.

**Dec 07, 2008:** Published in the "The Ramadi Star" entitled: Changing of the guard. The first wave of Soldiers from the 1-158th Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) Battalion arrived in Iraq to begin operations in the Ramadi area Nov. 16, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. The 1-158th FA, known as the T-birds, is part of the 45th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard, which was alerted in the fall of 2007 it would be deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 45th Fires Brigade is primarily providing support in Kuwait, while the 1-158th FA is replacing 1-125th Infantry, Michigan Army National Guard, who is preparing to redeploy back to the United States after completing their tour in Ramadi. The 1-125th Inf. Has conducted several missions in the Ramadi area for approximately the last seven months. The 1-158th FA will be continuing those missions in order to support the transition of security to the Iraqi People. This is not the first mobilization for the 1-158th FA. In 1991, they were deployed for Operation Desert Storm where they fired more rockets than any other Multiple Launch Rocket System unit in theater. Fires conducted by the 1-158th FA helped coin the nickname "steel rain" in describing the MLRS's devastating effects. In 2003, the unit was mobilized, validated and prepared to deploy as the second wave of the initial OIF push, but was stood down following the success of the Coalition Forces reaching the Bagdad objective. In 2005, a security forces company was formed from the Battalion and was deployed to Balad, Baghdad, Diwaniyah and Al Kut. The company conducted over 1,400 route security, personal security and police transition team missions, and logged over 200,000 Kilometers of travel during their fifteen-month deployment. During the 2005 SECFOR deployment, the 1-158th FA supported not only the Iraq mission, but at the same time was called to support missions in Louisiana to assist in relief effort following Hurricane Katrina and Operation Jump Start along the New Mexico border. Lt. Col. Greg Lankford, commander of the 1-158th FA, is looking for a smooth transition during the transfer of authority. "Myself and the T-Bird battalion are looking forward to picking up the ball from Lt. Col. Durkac and the 1-125th and continuing the mission. Our soldiers are well prepared and will hit the ground running upon completion of the RIP/TOA." The members of the Battalion began training long before the post mobilization training at Fort Hood. Training for this mission began following the alert order in 2007, and continued until their deployment in August 2008. The Soldiers are well trained and prepared to take over their role along with other service members and Coalition Forces, to provide the people of Iraq the sovereignty and security they have long deserved. Photo Caption: 1-158th FA Participate in a pre-deployment ceremony at Fort Hood, Texas just prior to their departure to Kuwait (Photo courtesy of 1-158th FA); 1st Annual Turkey Bowl; After four days and 20 scheduled games, 16 flag football teams from across base were whittled down to just two. With the crowds cheering and Monday night football music blaring, Regimental Combat Team 1 and the Oklahoma National Guard 1-158 Field Artillery Battalion T-birds faced off for the final Turkey Bowl game the night of Thanksgiving. The RCT-1 team beat the T-birds 32-18 and were awarded a trophy and bragging rights. Photo Caption: What is one of your favorite holiday traditions? Pfc. Dennis O. Green, 1-158th Field Artillery, from Lawton, Okla. "We sing a little song when we light the [menorah] candles. It's made up and we add a different verse to it every day".

**Dec 16, 2008:** Obituary: Michael Rico Garufalo: The Philadelphia Inquirer; Thursday, December 18, 2008: "Garofalo Michael Rico "Skee", on December 16, 2008; loving husband of the late Ellen (nee Pellizzeri); beloved father of Michael (Elizabeth) and Anthony Garofalo; dear brother of Frank, John, and the late Joseph, Tony and Sam Garofalo; loving grandfather of Garrett and Stefano. Relatives and friends are invited to attend his Viewing on Friday Evening from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M., and Saturday Morning from 8:15 to 9:15 A.M., at the Angel one Funeral Home, Inc., 501 N. Easton Road (Willow Grove, 215-659-0202). Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday Morning at 10:00 A.M., at Saint John Of the Cross Church, 2741 Woodland Road (Roslyn). Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Private First Class, ASN: 33580785 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 28, 2008:** Published in the "The Ramadi Star" entitled: Camp Ramadi celebrations. Photo Caption: Soldiers from 1-158th FA gather to decorate the battalion tree and socialize Dec. 6, 2008. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima); Photo Caption: Capt. David Peyok, from 1-158th FA, strings up some Christmas lights in the battalion common area Dec. 6, 2008. ( Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima); Ramadi enhances security through badge policy; By Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier, 81st BCT- The updated Camp Ramadi Access Control Policy went into effect Dec. 4, 2008. The intent of the new policy is to improve the security of the camp by maintaining full accountability of temporary workers. The most important change concerns the process of badging temporary, or day, workers. The Temporary Badging Policy now consists of a one-for-one exchange. These workers must turn in their Jentsia identification card in exchange for a no photo, red and yellow striped, temporary visitor badge. The new system has enabled the Base Defense Operations Center, run by 1-158th Field Artillery Battalion, 45th Fires Brigade, to have control and accountability of local nationals entering Camp Ramadi. The BDOC knows how many enter Camp Ramadi and how many leave on a daily basis. These numbers are provided to the Ramadi Operations Center each evening. "These are badges that are issued out for day use only. They are not to be used over night," said Lt. Col.



James North, the 81st Brigade Combat Team intelligence officer who headed up the revamping of the badging process. "There is complete control on them on a daily basis. Col. Kapral [The base commander] wanted us to create a system where on any given day he knew how many workers came onto the post and how many left at night. So if 55 temporary badges were issued out in the morning, then he wanted to know at night that 55 were returned. So we established a badge exchange program." "These are your temporary workers; typically they're not going to be working here for a long time. Usually it is a couple of weeks or so. If they are going to remain on Camp Ramadi for any length of time, they would have to apply for a permanent badge," said North. "Staff Sgt. Daniel Lostotter was instrumental in rewriting the new policy. He worked for Col. Kapral, with the 1-303rd Cav. In 2004 at Camp Victory, Iraq and knew exactly what he wanted." Part of the overall badging process involves the Human Intelligence Support Team-15, a group of civilian contractors that screen applicants and enroll them in BATS (Biometric Automated Toolset System). They provide recommendations to the badging office on whether workers should be badged. Contractors must ensure their workers with temporary badges are off Camp Ramadi by 6:00 p.m., every evening. If they have two occasions where their workers are not off by 6:00 p.m., their workers will no longer be issued temporary badges. If anyone has questions concerning the new policy they can contact Lt. Col. James North at DSN: 344- 0685 or SVoIP: 696-5046. Photo Caption: Army Spc. Brian Mason from 1-158th FA, performs an iris scan on a temporary worker Dec. 24, 2008 on Camp Ramadi, Iraq. The information is entered into the BATS before workers are issued badges. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier); What is your New Year's Resolution?; Photo Caption: Army Spc. Michael Smith, with 1-158th FA, from Sayre, Okla. " My new year's resolution is to beat the box on the 5K." (The "box" is Marine 1st Lt. Philip Vrska from 2/9 Marines who ran the Jingle 5K this month dressed as a giant Christmas package.); Sexual Assault Response Coordinator; By Army Master Sgt. CathyJo Wings 81stBCT, Camp Ramadi SARC- Camp Ramadi has thirteen new Unit Victim Advocates. 1-158th Field Artillery: Capt. Charles Betts, Capt. David Peyok, Capt. Mark Todd 2/9 Marines: Petty Officer 2nd Class Ayanfemi Ayanwale, Gunnery Sgt. Harry Taylor 81st BCT: Capt. Kevin Loberg CLB-5: Staff Sgt. Francisco Munoz, 2nd Lt. Julie Scott, Petty Officer 1st Class Claudine Vokart Dept. of State: Kelli Cook NMCB-7: Petty Officer 1st Class Jacqueline Gifford RCT-1: Staff Sgt. Lipato Masauko, Petty Officer 3rd Class Pawel Kulikowski. Petty Officer 1st Class Phillip Jean-Gilles and Master Sgt. CathyJo Wings facilitated the training. A special "thank you" goes out to our guest speakers: Lt. Cmdr. Dora Reid, Staff Sgt. Keeley Weeks and Capt. Brian Lanier. Stand up against sexual assault, make a difference; Photo Caption: Top row: Petty Officer 3rd Class Pawel Kulikowski, Petty Officer 1st Class Phillip Jean-Gilles, Staff Sgt. Keeley Weeks, Capt. Kevin Loberg, and Capt. Mark Todd. Bottom Row: 2nd Lt. Julie Scott, Kelli Cook, Petty Officer 1st Class Claudine Vokart, Capt. Charles Betts, Capt. David Peyok, and Master Sgt. Cathy Jo Wings. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier).

**Jan 04, 2009:** Obituary: Louis John Canzano, 79, of Vandergrift, PA died Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009, in the St. Clair Hospital, Mt. Lebanon. Born July 31, 1929, in Vandergrift, he was the son of the late Cesare "Chay" and Anna Rose Ross Grazetti Canzano, and had lived in the area all of his life. A veteran of the Korean War, he served in the Army. He was employed by Wean United in Vandergrift as a core maker for 24 years until the plant shut down. He also worked for Caldwell Security Company in Pittsburgh as a security guard. Mr. Canzano was a member of the St. Gertrude Catholic Church in Vandergrift. He was also a member of the Marconi Club and the Elks, both in Leechburg, Sons of Italy, Bari Club, VFW and the Vandergrift Golf Course, all in Vandergrift. He enjoyed shooting pool, bowling, hunting, fishing, playing cards, spending time with his family and friends and traveling to Florida. Survivors include his daughter, Claudia (John) Daley, of Mt. Lebanon. He was the loving pap-pap of his grandson, Colin Ross Daley; and his granddaughter, Caitlin MacKenzie Daley. He is also survived by his stepson, Chris Kwaitkowski, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; three sisters, Mary (John) Powlak, of Jacksonville, Fla., Gloria J. (Clyde "Bud") Long, of Greensburg, and Linda (Jeffery) Brinker, of Nokomis, Fla.; brother, Joseph J. (Eleanor) Canzano, of Allegheny Township; along with numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepfather, Joseph Grazetti. Friends may call from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday in the Dunmire-Kerr Funeral Home, Vandergrift. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday in St. Gertrude Roman Catholic Church, Vandergrift, with Father Chad Ficorilli, OSB, as celebrant. Burial will be in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Vandergrift. The Vandergrift Veterans Honor Guard will conduct military honors at the cemetery. (Obituary from The Valley News Dispatch, Tarentum, Pa.). Corporal, and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jan 08, 2009:** Obituary: Joseph Eugene Perry; Virginian-Pilot, The (Norfolk, VA) - January 10, 2009; Edition: VP - The Virginian-Pilot Section: Local Page: B5; Eedenton; Joseph Eugene "Gene" Perry, 88, of the 200 block of Albania St., died Jan. 8, 2009, in the Skilled Nursing Unit of Chowan Hospital. Mr. Perry, a native of Bertie County, was born March 20, 1920. He was the son of the late Lucy Virginia and George McCoy Perry and was the husband of the late Helen McMullan Swanner Perry. Mr. Perry served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II with the 158th Field Artillery Battalion, 45th Infantry. He also served his community as a member of the Edenton Lions Club for the past 45 years. During this time, he held numerous offices including vice district governor and chairman of the Camp Dogwood Project. He also received the Melvin Jones Fellow, which is the highest honor given to a Lion.

Gene was a member of Edenton Baptist Church and retired from Manning Motor Co. in Plymouth and then worked part time at Albermarle Ford in Edenton. Survivors include a son, Carroll McCoy Perry and wife Joan of Edenton; a daughter, Gloria Jean Perry of Atlanta; three grandchildren, Christopher M. Perry of Hobbsville, Angela P. Kotel and David M. Perry, both of Edenton; two great-grandsons; a great-granddaughter; and two step great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his four brothers, Murray Glenn Perry, George Gray Perry, Robert Elsworth Perry and Fredrick McCoy "Fred" Perry. A celebration of Mr. Perry's life will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday in Edenton Baptist Church, with the Rev. David Brooks officiating. Burial will follow in Beaver Hill Cemetery. The family will receive friends today from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Evans Funerals and Cremations and other times at the home. Memorials may be made to Edenton Baptist Church Building Fund, 200 S. Granville St., Edenton, NC 27932. Technician Fifth Class, ASN: 34300515 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Feb 03, 2009:** Obituary: Charles Joseph Venezia, 91; Staten Island Advance (NY) - February 5, 2009; Section: Obits Page: A12; Date of Death: 02/03/2009; Soldier volunteered in brother's place. Charles Joseph Venezia, a World War II veteran who worked for the city Department of Finance for three decades, died Tuesday in Jersey Shore Medical Center, Neptune. His age was 91. Mr. Venezia and his wife lived in Arden Heights for 20 years before relocating to Seabrook Village in Tinton Falls, N.J., in 2001. Born and reared in Brooklyn, Mr. Venezia worked in his father's real estate and insurance company after graduating from New Utrecht High School. It was then he first met the late Carolyn Tagliarini, the daughter of his father's business partner. In 1941, he joined the U.S. Army, volunteering to take the place of his married brother, who was drafted into service. Mr. Venezia served in Service Battery of the 158th Field Artillery Battalion, ASN: 32170640, seeing combat in France and Germany during World War II. He was discharged with the rank of corporal after the war ended in 1945. On his return to civilian life, he married Miss Tagliarini and took a job with the city Department of Finance. He worked as an investigator for the agency for 30 years, retiring in 1978. The couple moved to Staten Island in 1981. Mr. Venezia was an active volunteer at St. Thomas Aquinas R.C. Church in Brooklyn, where he was a member of the father-and-son guild. He became a loyal parishioner of Holy Child R.C. Church in Eltingville when he moved to the Island. An avid traveler, Mr. Venezia took many trips across the country and vacationed in Italy, Mexico and Hawaii. He also loved to swim and read, and to spend time with his grandchildren, Lisa, Diana and Robert. Carolyn, his wife of 38 years, died in 1985, and his son, Charles N. Venezia, died in 2005. Surviving Mr. Venezia are his daughter, Barbara Tozzi; his sister, Fay Barbera, and three grandchildren. The funeral will be Saturday from the Matthew Funeral Home, Willowbrook, with a mass at 9:45 a.m. in Holy Child Church. Entombment will follow in Resurrection Cemetery, Pleasant Plains.

**Mar 21, 2009:** Obituary: Jesse Gordon Pulliam, 77, of Norman, died on March 21, 2009 in Norman. Graveside services will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 2:00 PM at Carney Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Primrose Funeral Service. Gordon, a man known for his large heart and giving nature, was born on July 16, 1931 in Welston, Oklahoma to Jesse Hassell Pulliam and Nova Irena Gazaway Pulliam. He obtained a BS in Engineering from Oklahoma University after honorably serving his country with the Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery of the 45th Infantry during the Korean War, as a Corporal. He married A. Kay Blackburn Russell on April 14, 1978, and for 31 years they worked, traveled, and lived life to its fullest. Together they built and contributed to four orphanages in Mexico and Guatemala. He loved fishing, golfing, Nascar racing, and collecting classic cars. He served as President of the Central Oklahoma Chapter of the Studebaker's Drivers Club. He is survived by his wife Kay his two sisters, Dr. Lois Evans and Nancy Crosswell his children, Vickie Longan (Mike), Gena Kempf (Rick), Tim Russell (Glenette), Chris Russell, and Bob Russell (Shalana) his daughter-in-law, Karen Pulliam his grandchildren, Stanford (Sara), Jessica, Hollie (Zach), Rachel, Brent, Daniel, Tanner, Reed, Jaxsen his great-grandchildren, Jordan, Jakob, Roman and Baron. He was preceded in death by his son David Pulliam. Contributions are requested to be made to Good Shepherd Hospice or The American Cancer Society in his name. Published in The Oklahoman on 3/23/2009.

**Apr 13, 2009:** Obituary: Nicholas John Patte, 77, Avid Gardener and Bowler. Nicholas J. Patte, 77, passed away peacefully in his sleep Monday, 13 April 2009, at New Life Hospice in Lorain surrounded by family after a short illness. Nick was born Aug. 26, 1931 in DuPont, Pennsylvania. He moved to Cleveland in 1956 following service in the Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery during the Korean War. He later moved to Brookpark where he and his family lived for many years before moving to Lorain in 1985. Nick worked for LTV for 38 years until his retirement in 1994. He worked at the mill in Cleveland for many years before coming to Lorain to work at the Pellet Terminal until his retirement. Nick was an avid gardener and bowler, enjoying both activities into the final year of his life. He was also a member of the Italian American Veterans Post in Lorain actively volunteering for social events at the hall. He also served on the Executive Board and Color Guard. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Ann Patte (nee Kearney) of Lorain; sons, Nicholas (Judy) Patte of Parma and Joseph (Sue) Patte of Brookpark; daughters, Lisa (Don) Root and Jennifer (Tracy) Hicks both of North Ridgeville; 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by sisters, Lucy Gryzko of Wilkes Barre, PA, AnnaMae Renfer of Suscon, PA and Tina Gattuso of DuPont,

PA; and brothers, John Patte of Pittston, PA and Anthony Patte of NewHolland, PA. He was preceded in death by his mother, Clara (nee Pasquarello) and father, Moses. Visitation will be held at Reidy Scanlan Giovannazzo Funeral Home, 2150 Broadway, Lorain, (440) 244-1961 on Sunday, April, 19, 2009 from 2 to 6 p.m. Prayers will be held at the funeral home by the Italian American Veterans on Monday at 8:50 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, April 20, 2009 at St. Anthony of Padua, 1305 East Erie Ave., Lorain, Fr. Joseph West, O.F.M. Conv., Pastor, officiating. A reception will be held immediately after Mass at The Italian American Veterans Post #1 on Oberlin Ave. in Lorain to be followed by interment at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio. Memorial donations may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250.

**May 02, 2009:** Published in the "The Tulsa World" entitled: Guthrie soldier injured in Iraq. He was shot in the neck and jaw while on patrol. By Manny Gamallo, World Staff Writer, Oklahoma City. An Army National Guard soldier from Guthrie is recovering at the Walter Reed Medical Center after he was shot in the neck and jaw last week in Iraq. The Oklahoma National Guard said Cpl. Adam Schuster, 21, was in a dismounted patrol in Ramadi, Iraq, when he was shot with a small-caliber gun by an insurgent. The bullet damaged his jaw and some teeth. The Guard said Schuster underwent surgery Wednesday at Walter Reed, in Washington, D.C., and is expected to undergo several more operations before he fully recovers. Schuster is the first casualty among the Oklahoma Guard's Enid based 45th Fires Brigade, which deployed 800 troops to Iraq in August 2008. The soldiers are expected to return home in August. Schuster is a member of Battery "B", 1st Battalion of the 158th Field Artillery in Duncan. He has been with the Oklahoma Army National Guard for six years and was in his second deployment to Iraq. The Guard said the soldier's immediate family, including his father, Dan Schuster, and two sisters were flown to Washington this week to be at his bedside. The Guard, quoting his mother, Cheryl Lingerfelt of Guthrie, said Schuster "was with his buddies, and they had him to the hospital within minutes" of being shot. She went on to praise the training of her son's fellow soldiers and said they are calling Walter Reed to check his condition. "Adam had surgery, and they wired his jaws shut," Lingerfelt said, "but he's doing as well as can be expected. "He's going to have to have a couple more surgeries, but we want everyone back home to know he's going to be all right." Maj. Gen. Myles Deering, Oklahoma's adjutant general, said, "We are very pleased that he is doing well, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Cpl. Schuster and his family. "He's a part of the Guard family, and we will ensure his family receives all the support they need." Schuster has been nominated to receive a Purple Heart, which is awarded to service members who have been wounded or killed as a result of enemy action.

**May 10, 2009:** Obituary: Reginald Van Craddock, Carnegie. Memorial services for Reginald Van "Reggie" Craddock, 75 of Lookeba will be held at 2 PM Thursday, May 14 at the Church of God in Binger, with the Rev. Ron Nelson and Bro. Tom Clifton officiating. Viewing will be until 9 o'clock tonight, from 9 AM to 9 PM, Wednesday, and from 9 AM to noon Thursday, at the Hinton Turner Funeral Home in Hinton. Mr. Craddock was born on June 12, 1933 in Verden to Van Edwin and Lucille Marie Craddock and passed away Sunday, May 10, 2009 at Parkview Hospital in El Reno. He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Leonard Craddock; one son in law, Fred Robinson, and one brother in law, Carl Morris. Mr. Craddock was born and raised in Oklahoma. He served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict, where he was in a band and entertained troops, Sergeant, and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery. He was a master plumber, working in Tampa, FL, he also taught plumbing in the Bahamas. He moved to Florida in the 1960's and lived there until June of 1998. He lived in Binger and then onto Lookeba in 2000. He was a member of the Sickles Community Church and was attending the Church of God in Binger. Mr. Craddock enjoyed fishing, playing the guitar, playing dominoes, watching his horses, kids, and grand kids. Survivors include his wife, Martha Craddock of the home in Lookeba; nine children, Gayle Hicks and her husband, Clay of Weatherford, Sheri Robinson of Lake Mary, FL, Judy Smith and Max Honeycutt of Fort Cobb, Ronnie J. Craddock of Fort Cobb, Ronnie J. Craddock of Fort Cobb, Jennifer Smith of Tampa, FL, April Watson of Wimauma, FL, Regina Ammons and husband, Jason, of Washington, GA, Marly Craddock of Weatherford, and Jacquelin Craddock and Justin Weaver of the home; his daughter in law, Janet Craddock of Fort Cobb; many, many grandchildren, and great grandchildren; nine siblings, Lonnie Craddock and wife, Betty of Fort Cobb, Onis Craddock of Ohio, Paul Craddock and wife, Carolyn of Ohio, Ada Morris of Binger, David Craddock and his wife Gay of Florida, J. W. and wife, Viola of Oklahoma, Dan Craddock and wife B. J. of Fort Cobb, Larry Craddock and wife Sammie of Gracemont, and Joe Bob Craddock and wife, Debbie of Binger, as well as many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Military honors will be performed by the Fort Sill Honor guard. Services are under the direction of Hinton Turner Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the family.

**Jun 08, 2009:** Obituary: Orville Lee Lair; Birth: 13 Apr 1931 Death: 8 Jun 2009. Memorial Park Cemetery, Oklahoma City, OK. Orville Lee (Larry) Lair was born to Orville and Thelma Lair on April 13, 1931. Orville went to be with his Lord on June 8, 2009. He committed his life to Christ in his early adult years. He is survived by his mother, Thelma Swickey Sample of Yukon, OK, numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces and a host of friends. Orville was preceded in death by his wife, father, sister and two nephews. He was a Veteran of the Korean War and Honorably

Discharged from the United States Army. Orville was retired from Southwestern Bell after 33 years of devoted service. Services will be on June 11, 2009, at 12:00 noon at Memorial Park Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Memorial Park Cemetery. Published in The Oklahoman on 6/10/2009. Private and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Jun 11, 2009:** Obituary: Christian Vander Gaag, age 89 of Wyckoff, NJ, formerly of Prospect Park, at rest on Thursday, June 11, 2009. Beloved husband of Barbara Glover Vander Gaag, loving father of Judy Tott and husband Carl of Americus, GA, Janice De Patria and husband Jim of Montville and Joanne Tamaro and husband Frank of Wayne, dear grandfather of Glenn Tott and wife, Dr. Carolina Mateus of Munich, Germany, Dr. Kristin Tott Collier and husband Jamie of Macon, GA, Michael De Patria of Dover, Chris De Patria of New York City, Brittany Tamaro and Nicholas Tamaro, both of Wayne, great grandfather of Lainey Caroline Collier and Isabel Louise Tott. Born in Prospect Park, Mr. Vander Gaag resided there for 86 years before moving to Wyckoff three years ago. He was employed as a carpenter for Mahieu Construction, Prospect Park for 52 years. Christian served his country in the US Army 45th Division during World War II. He was a member of Abundant Life Reformed Church, Wyckoff, the American Legion Post, Prospect Park and Carpenters Union, Clifton, NJ. During his many years of residence in Prospect Park, his was a member of the Planning Board, Auxiliary Police and Emergency Management. Private First Class, ASN: 32158081 and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Aug 01, 2009:** Published in the "The Ramadi Star" entitled: Steel Rain. Transferring Authority; After a successful year for Oklahoma, Colorado assumes command: Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Liesl Marelli, Ramadi, Iraq; Oklahoma Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, handed over command to Colorado Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, in a transfer of authority ceremony July 31 here. As part of the ceremony, the outgoing unit commander and command sergeant major "case" their battalion colors and the incoming command unveils their colors. Lt. Col. Al Morris and Command and Sgt. Maj. Michael Koob approached the color guard, removed the casing on the 3-157th FA's battalion colors and unmasked the flag together. The 3-157th FA colors remain unveiled for the duration of the deployment. This ceremony symbolized the transfer of authority for 3-157th FA. From here on out, they are solely responsible for their missions. Leading to this moment was the right and left-seat ride with the 1-158th FA. The 158th helped prepare Soldiers at all levels of the battalion for their missions during the weeks leading up to the ceremony. Everything 3-157th FA has done from Fort Carson to Fort Hood to Camp Buehring and Camp Ramadi has prepared them for this moment.; Photo Caption: Lt. Col. Gregory Lankford, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery commander of the Oklahoma National Guard (left) prepares to turn over command to Lt. Col. Al Morris, 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery commander, Colorado National Guard, during the transfer of authority ceremony July 31 at Camp Ramadi.

**Aug 04, 2009:** Obituary: William R. Fisher, 87, Sebastian, Fl. died Tuesday, August 4, 2009. He was born in Montgomery County, Ohio on November 11, 1921. He was a WWII Army veteran who was decorated with a Purple Heart and a Cluster. He retired from General Motors, Dayton Ohio. He is survived by his beloved wife of 38 years, Dorothy E. Fisher; son, William R. Fisher Jr.; two daughters, husbands and families; Mae and Howard Littrell, and Alma and Mike Slayback. He was known affectionately as "Bill Bill" to all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Donna Teimouri and Rick Blackwood and children, Amir, Ramien, and Sheva; Ben and Katie Fisher; Joe and Bobbi Moccia and children, Vanessa, Anthony and Thomas Wildey, Dan Fisher, James Fisher and Kyle Koshinski; Jeff and Carolyn Slayback and children, Katie, Megan, Michael; Scott Slayback and children, Taylor, Briana, Shelton and Katelyn. Also survived by sisters, Norma Maus and children Judy, Cathy, Frank and Fred; Donna and Lester Lewis and children, Theresa and Brian, all of Ohio. A memorial service will be held Sunday, August 9, 5-7 p.m. and services will be Monday, August 10th, 11 a.m., at Brownlie- Maxwell Funeral Home, Melbourne. Published in Florida Today on 8/7/2009. Private First Class, ASN: 35040133 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Aug 13, 2009:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Welcome home guardsmen. Lawton family: We're going to Disney World; By Mitch Meador; Every soldier in the 45th Fires Brigade has now returned safely to American soil. In Lawton, families arrived early at the Great Plains Coliseum with posters, balloon bouquets and cameras. Some were impatiently phoning or texting their soldiers to find out how far away the buses were. "I can't wait. I want to jump up and down," LeAnn Terwilligar of Lawton said. Her husband, Spc. Chris Terwilligar, sometimes went on short deployments while he was an active duty soldier but this was his first extended deployment since going into the National Guard. She couldn't wait to get him back. "I'm so excited. He just texted me about 10 minutes ago. They were 30 miles out," she said. Then, a short while later, she announced, "They're at the toll booth." She said he's excited, too. "He's counting down the seconds to come home. He couldn't sleep last night because he was so excited," she said. Waiting with LeAnn were her parents, George and Vickie Miller of Lawton; her sister, Christi Miller, and three nieces, Jordyn, Brittany and Jami Lynn, who signed a poster welcoming their uncle home. The couple plans to celebrate his return by going to California to see the soldier's mother. The family of Spc. Trea Fulton

wore personalized T-shirts that his wife, Melissa, had ordered on line. They were brown with a big yellow ribbon and the following message: "Some Heroes Wear Capes, Mine Wears Combat Boots." "There's a bunch of them up there. I'd say at least 12." said the soldier's mother, Chris Fulton. She had one on, and so did her husband, Harold, and Trea's sister, Cassie. "I'm so glad he's back," she said, adding that her son was good about e-mailing and calling; especially his wife; while he was in Iraq. The couple has two sons, Trystan, 7, and Bryson, who will be 3 in October, and according to their mom, "they are so excited they are going nuts." They have an additional reason to be happy Dad's back; Mom and Dad are taking them to Disney World next week. Bryson, when asked what he wants to do there, said, "Ride roller coasters." At last the big blue curtains parted, and the troops marched into the Coliseum to the cheers of the crowd. The Lawton homecoming celebrated the return of 87 soldiers in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery and 47 in the 120th Forward Support Company, according to 45th Fires Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Venable. Not all of the brigade's Guardsmen participated in the six homecoming ceremonies held this week. The reasons for this were many; Walters based Alpha Battery 1-158 FA served as the rear detachment during deployment. Also, a number of soldiers are staying at Fort Hood, Texas, for now. Twenty-nine are having medical issues seen to at the Warrior Transition Unit there, and one is being seen at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Some non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and future NCOs are waiting for a 15-day Warrior Leader Course to start at Hood in two more weeks, and that course is a necessary step toward career advancement, Venable said. What's important is that the whole brigade made it back from the base defense mission at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, he noted. "Father, often when things go wrong, we shake an accusative hand toward you. But when things go right, we fail to give you thanks, Lord, we know that hundreds and even thousands of prayers were prayed for us daily. And in spite of the attempts of the enemy, you have brought each one of us back home, and for that we give you thanks," 1-158 FA Chaplain (Capt) Billy Elkins said. "Help us to move from a mindset of war to a mindset of peace." "What a great day in Southwest Oklahoma! Hooah!" said Col. Robert Roshell, the Army National Guard deputy assistant commandant of the Field Artillery School. Roshell expressed pride in the citizen soldiers for completing everything that came their way, including 3,000 plus missions covering more than 70,000 mission miles while keeping soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines safe in and around Camp Ramadi. He assured them they left Iraq in better shape than they found it and have been an integral part of history. Roshell urged the soldiers to take advantage of the Guard's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. Sherri Blasengame, family assistance specialist for the Family Programs Office, said soldiers and their families are encouraged to attend these programs. The first is a half-day program 30 days out, the second a full day 60 days from now and the third a weekend 90 days from the soldiers' return, held in conjunction with their Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA). She said her office has kept in contact with the families once a month while the soldiers were deployed, and will continue to do so for six to 12 months after they come home. The reason is to check with family members to see if any thing is going on, because post-traumatic stress disorder doesn't always show up right away. If there are other medical problems, her office makes sure the soldiers get the medical appointments and resources they need. Oklahoma Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Myles Deering praised the Guardsmen for their courage, professionalism and enthusiasm. Lt. Col. Greg Lankford, commander of 1-158 FA, said that for 12 months the soldiers did exactly what their battalion motto says: "Unusual efforts expended."

**Aug 18, 2009:** Published in the "The Duncan Banner" entitled: Welcome Home. Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Read all about the Homecoming in the Wednesday, August 19th issue of The Duncan Banner. The 45th Fires Brigade is composed of an organic High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battalion, the 1-158th Field Artillery (FA); a support battalion, the 271st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB); and three separate batteries/companies, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), Bravo Battery, 1-171st Target Acquisition Battery (TAB) and the 205th Signal Company. The Brigade began transformation from a Field Artillery Brigade to a Fires Brigade in 2007 with the conversion of the 1-158th from a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalion to a HIMARS battalion. The 271st BSB began to transform from a MLRS battalion to a BSB in 2007. However, this was not completed before the 45th Fires Brigade was alerted for deployment later that year. The 45th Fires Brigade mobilized and deployed to Kuwait and Iraq from August 2008 to August 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Brigade was task organized as a HHB performing duty at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, conducting base camp operations providing life support services to approximately 70,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and civilians. The 271st BSB was stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait conducting base camp operations and life support for approximately 100,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and civilians. The 1-158th FA moved into Camp Ramadi, Iraq where they conducted camp security, Personal Security Details (PSD) for the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT), secured the Provincial Government Center (PGC) and provided PSDs for the Provincial Police Training Team (P-PTT). Following the deployment, the Brigade conducted Yellow Ribbon reintegration activities and reorganized back into a Fires Brigade structure. Most recently, the Brigade completed annual training (AT) at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma in July, 2010 focusing on individual and crew served weapons training, individual, crew and section-level training, Army Battle Command Systems (ABCS) training, and conducted a HIMARS rocket live fire at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During March 2011, the Brigade conducted an out-of-state annual training event at Camp Shelby,

Mississippi to support pre-mobilization weapons training for the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, while also conducting their own year 2 ARFORGEN (Army Force Generation) tasks. The Brigade is also participating in Regional Response 11 in May 2011 as part of the Oklahoma State Partnership Program with Azerbaijan. Looking into the future toward 2012, the Brigade plans to conduct an annual training with its Alignment for Training (AFT) battalions who are located in Texas, Missouri and South Carolina. Currently, the 45th Fires Brigade is also realigning its units throughout southwest Oklahoma, moving to new Armed Forces Reserve Centers (AFRC) as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The first units to move into the new facility in Mustang were HHB, HHC 271st BSB, Company A, 271st BSB, and the 205th Signal Company. The move was completed in October of 2010 and culminated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with a delegation of local and state leaders, along with former brigade commanders and command sergeants major. In February 2011, the 1-158th FA and Company B 271st BSB moved from their old armories in Lawton, Walters, Duncan, Anadarko, and Hobart, OK, respectfully, into the new AFRC on Fort Sill, OK. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 45th Fires Brigade: 2010 was a very busy time for HHB 45th Fires Brigade and began with AT (Annual Training) at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. While there, HHB conducted individual weapons qualifications on the M9 and M16 ranges, and crew served weapons training on MK-19, M2, M249, and the M240B. There was also an opportunity for some High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) Egress Assistance Training (HEAT), which trained Soldiers to evacuate vehicle rollover situations, while other members attended the Combat Life Saver (CLS) course. The most significant accomplishment for this Brigades' AT was the setup of their Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH), which establishes a portable communication and technology center with 24/7 operations capability. This became a lesson learned for all members of HHB during setup and integration of its capabilities. HHB 45th Fires Brigade is now located in Mustang, OK in the new AFRC, as of October 2010, from its previous location of Enid, OK. Battery B, 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery Battery B, the Target Acquisition Battery (TAB), was organized in January of 2010 following the Brigade's mobilization for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Due to lack of equipment in today's War on Terror, the TAB coordinated with 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery from the Oklahoma Army National Guard to train its Soldiers using a Q-36 radar for training, since it does not presently have one. The TAB also trained using the Profiler system during AT 10 at Camp Gruber to provide the Metrological (MET) data in support of the 1-158th FA rocket system live fire. The MET section proved competent and proficient on the Profiler system while the survey section mastered the Improved Position and Azimuth Determining System (IPADS). The TAB is currently located in Weatherford, Oklahoma. 205th Signal Company: The signal company of the 45th Fires Brigade is new and its activation ceremony took place January 9, 2010. While it is full of Soldiers who have proudly served the 45th FiB overseas and at home; there are many faces in the unit who are training on equipment for the first time. Training within this first year has been focused on Computer Based Training (CBT) with programs such as A+, Network +, and Security +, which was conducted during AT 10 at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. These CBTs help the Signal Company focus on their mission of providing network support to the Brigade using the Warfighter Information Network – Tactical (WIN-T), which allow digital communication across any Area of Operations using satellite data. When not in the classroom at annual training, the 205th Signal Company sent five Soldiers through a high-speed CLS course, sent eight Soldiers through weapons training on the M249, and hosted a bus driver's course that issued out 50 licenses throughout the brigade. The unit also completed an extensive New Equipment Training and Fielding of WIN-T from October 2011 through February 2012. The 205th Signal Company looks forward to growing and becoming the communication backbone of the 45th Fires Brigade. The signal company is now located in the new AFRC in Mustang, OK as of October 2010. 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery: Following the unit's mobilization, the unit transitioned back to a field artillery HIMARS battalion, and after a rapid reorganization and train-up, the Battalion performed a live fire at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in July 2010 culminating in an 18 rocket ripple fire. The Battalion expended all 72 rockets used for training during these crew certifications at AT. The 1-158th FA is currently located in the new AFRC on Fort Sill, Oklahoma as of February 2011. 1st Battalion, 271st Brigade Support Battalion: Having just transformed into a BSB from an MLRS battalion, but not in time to receive orders to produce the 271st BSB colors, the battalion deployed with and proudly displayed the 1-171st FA colors while in Kuwait. One year after returning, the 271st BSB took the opportunity to honor the 60+ year legacy of the 1-171st FA by conducting the final Casing of the Colors ceremony. About 75 former and retired Soldiers of the Battalion gathered on a hot August day in Altus, OK to bid farewell to the Battalion. Some of the retirees included battalion commanders and command sergeants major from 1979 to present. The ceremony ended with a one gun salute from the unit's 75mm gun, and the playing of the Field Artillery Song. HHC and Company A, 271st BSB are now located in the new AFRC in Mustang, OK, with Company B 271st BSB at the Ft Sill AFRC, 120th Forward Support Company (FSC) (-) in Altus, and Det 1-120th FSC in Frederick, OK, as of October 2010. Conclusion: In 2011, the 45th Fires Brigade is poised and ready to perform its Field Artillery mission in support of current or future military operations and stands ready to serve the needs of the great State of Oklahoma. Obituary: Vernon Leo Leach, 95, of Aztec, passed away Tuesday August 18, 2009, at Four Corners Good Samaritan Center In Aztec. Vernon was born November 4, 1913, near Anadarko, Oklahoma the son of Wilbur Leo Leach and Mattie (McDaniel) Leach. He owned and operated a grocery store in Anadarko. He later served his country in the Army National Guard. After the death of his wife, Louise, Vernon

was known as the official greeter at Bloomfield Pawn, which was owned by his daughter, Beverly Higgins, and son in law, Terry Higgins. Vernon was preceded in death by his wife, his sister, three brothers. Vernon is survived by his daughter, Beverly Higgins and husband Terry, of Bloomfield; two sons, Jerry Leach and wife, Pat of Tampa, TX and Jud Leach and wife Susie of Yukon, OK. Seven grand children, 11 great grand children, 17 great great grand children and many dear friends. At Vernon's request, there will not be a service, but there will be a family memorial at a later date. The family wishes to thank all the people who visited with him at Bloomfield Pawn and also at Four Corners Good Samaritan Center in Aztec. Thanks also the staff who showed great compassion for Vernon and his family. Published in Farmington Daily Times on August 21, 2009. Private and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Sep 14, 2009:** Obituary: Earl Columbus Hertenstein, Jr.; Birth: Mar. 22, 1918, Franklin, Johnson County, Indiana. Death: Sep. 14, 2009, Arlington County, Virginia. Col. Earl C. Hertenstein, Jr. was a son of Earl Columbus Hertenstein, Sr. and Alice Rosetta Newman Hertenstein. Col. Earl C. Hertenstein, Jr. married Helen Neva Colby on June 1, 1941 in Hamilton, Indiana, United States. They had, at least, two daughters. NOTES: Marriage license date: May 19, 1941, Marriage date: June 1, 1941. Marriage place: Marion county, Indiana, Minister: C. A. McPheeters. Marriage license shows he was born in Napoleon, [Ripley], Indiana. Obituary shows he was born in Franklin, [Johnson], Indiana. Published in the Washington Post on October 7, 2009: Earl C. Hertenstein IRS Training Director. Earl C. Hertenstein, 91, former director of the Internal Revenue Service's national training center, died Sept. 14 of a cerebral hemorrhage at Virginia Hospital Center. He had lived in Northern Virginia since 1956 and was most recently an Arlington County resident. Mr. Hertenstein worked for the federal government for 32 years, mostly at the IRS, before retiring in 1974. Earl Columbus Hertenstein was born in Franklin, Ind., and graduated from Purdue University. He taught vocational agriculture before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served in Europe with a field artillery battalion. His awards included the Bronze Star. He retired from the Army Reserve as a colonel in 1973. He was a past director of the local chapter of the American Society for Training and Development, a volunteer at Virginia Hospital Center and a member of Walker Chapel United Methodist Church in Arlington. He enjoyed gardening, travel, bridge and dancing. His wife of 66 years, Helen N. Hertenstein, died in 2007. Survivors include two daughters, Sharon McGavin of New York and Janice Chika of Silver Spring; a brother; and two granddaughters. Parents: Earl Columbus Hertenstein (1893 - 1967). Alice Rosetta Newman Hertenstein (1897 - 1991). Spouse: Helen Neva Colby Hertenstein (1916 - 2007). Siblings: Earl Columbus Hertenstein (1918 - 2009), Paul Lawrence Hertenstein (1920 - 2010), Hoyt Rudolph Hertenstein (1925 - 1989). Note: COL US ARMY; WORLD WAR II. Burial: Arlington National Cemetery; Plot: Section 64, Grave 5261. Colonel, OSN: O-1171589, ASN: 15101703 and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Oct 10, 2009:** Obituary: John Maxwell Jacquin; "Buddy" of Dominique Lane, died Saturday, October 10, 2009, at a local hospital. A memorial mass will be said 2:00 pm, Tuesday, October 13, 2009, in the chapel of Bridges Funeral Home in Gray. Father McDonald will officiate. Mr. Jacquin was born January 11, 1928, in Staten Island, NY and had lived in Jones County for the past four years. He was the son of the late Maxwell Jacquin and Monica Whelihan Jacquin. Mr. Jacquin honorably served his country as a Private with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery of the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He worked as an Engineer for AT&T and was Catholic. Mr. Jacquin is survived by his wife of fifty-nine years: Edith Caffarra Jacquin of Macon; daughters and son-in-law: Lynda and Donald Bravo of Boston, MA and Jill Jacquin of Macon; sons and daughters-in-law: John and Patti Jacquin of Marietta, Donald Jacquin of Parsippany, NJ and Kenneth and Mary Jacquin of Park City, UT and by his grandchildren: David, Laura Beth, Michael, Maxwell, William, and Morgan. The family may be contacted at 137 Dominique Lane in Jones County. In lieu of flowers the family requests that contributions be made to the Friedreichs Ataxia, Research Alliance, 102 Pickering Way, Suite 200, Exton, Pennsylvania 19341. Bridges Funeral Home and Crematory in Gray has charge of arrangements. Published in the Orlando Sentinel on Oct. 13, 2009.

**Nov 18, 2009:** Obituary: Salvatore Trust Zavaglia, of Larchmont, died on November 18, 2009 at age 80. He was born February 14, 1929, in Gioiosa, Italy, to Cosimo Antonio and Maria Zavaglia. He came to America in 1948 and proudly served as a Private and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery, during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the VFW in Larchmont. Salvatore worked as landscaper. He is the beloved husband of Angela (Crupi). Cherished father of Anthony Zavaglia (Carolyn), Marisa Femia (Domenic) and Linda Commiso (Frank). Loving grandfather to Salvatore Femia, Domenic and Salvatore Commiso, Lauren and Alyssa Zavaglia. Dear brother of the late Atilio Zavaglia and Joe Zavaglia. Visitation Friday, November 20 from 2-4 & 7-9 PM at Coxe and Graziano Funeral Home, 767 E. Boston Post Rd, Mamaroneck. 914698-5968. Funeral Mass, Saturday, November 21 at 9:45 AM at St. John and Paul RC Church followed by entombment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

**Nov 19, 2009:** Obituary: Jack Ashcroft Mann, Jr., 73, died peacefully at Integris Baptist Medical Centet, on November 19, 2009. He was preceded in death by his parents, Willa Mai Mann and Jack Ashcroft Mann, Sr.;

paternal grandparents, Stephen Patterson and Floy Ashcroft Mann; maternal grandparents, Harry H. and Mae Palmer Kilgore; and his aunt, Elsie Mann Stone. Jack is survived by his wife, Lila Mae Mann; son, Michael Stephen Mann; and brother, Stephen P. Mann. He was born On September 8, 1936 in Texarkana, Arkansas, grew up in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and made Oklahoma City his home. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1959 and his Masters of Business Administration from Oklahoma City University in 1973. He served in the Oklahoma National Guard and was honorably discharged in 1963. He spent 40 years as an employee of the Oklahoma Publishing Company and retired as a National Advertising Executive. He loved his job, and his accounts missed him after his retirement. He was well loved and respected by all and no one ever heard him say anything negative. He was a company employee who was loyal and put his job first. He was involved with the Boy Scouts of America through Troop 146. One of his favorite accomplishments was working on a Boy Scout supplemental section for the Daily Oklahoman. He was an early member of the Church of the Servant. He was involved in his Edgewater Neighborhood Association. He participated in United Way, Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Wildlife Preservation and various other fund drives and was considered a reliable contributor. He constantly donated clothing and household items to Am Vets and Prevention of Blindness. As a son and a wife, it is truly amazing and heart warming for us to hear the stories from his acquaintances who also focused on what a genuinely nice person he was. Co-workers and friends always started off stories about him by mentioning "nobody ever said a bad thing about Jack and how if you lost a memo or needed more information you knew Jack always had a file for it". It seemed that everybody either respected or loved Jack. He was always a participant in any activity in which his son participated. He proved that he was a very supportive husband within 3 months of being married by supporting Lila's commute to Dallas to pursue her second masters degree and supporting her while she was a flight nurse in the Oklahoma Air National Guard. He continued to support her during his last few days by telling her that she was a good woman, nurse and wife, as she nurtured him at his bedside. Jack was a very loyal and faithful husband and would have celebrated his 40th Anniversary with Lila next July. The day of his death, Jack was asked how he wanted to be remembered, and he simply stated "honesty, sincere dedication" A Memorial Service will be held in the Chapel of the Cross at Church of the Servant, 14343 N. MacArthur, Oklahoma City On Friday, December 4, 2009, at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of, to: Jack Mann Memorial Fund Boy Scouts of America Troop 146, in care of Last Frontier Council, 3031 NW 64th, OKC, OK 73116. Published in The Oklahoman On December 1, 2009. Burial unknown. Sergeant and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Nov 29, 2009:** Obituary: Dennis Leverne Hickson: "Please take comfort in knowing that God knows and..." Jeanette & Erika Shivers. Dennis L. Hickson obit. Lawton, OK; Dennis L. Hickson was born on March 19, 1960 to Jesse J. and Julia E. (Jackson) Hickson in Timmons ville, South Carolina. He died on November 29, 2009 in Lawton, Oklahoma with his family at his side. A funeral celebration is planned for 12:00 Noon on Friday, December 4, 2009 at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Timmons ville, SC with Reverend Cain, officiating. Interment with Full Military Honors will be at 2:00 PM, Florence National Cemetery, Florence, SC. under the direction of Bacote-Eaddy Funeral Home. Mr. Hickson will lie in state from 9:00 AM-9:00 PM on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at Whinery-Huddleston Funeral Home in Lawton, OK and on Friday, December 4, 2009 from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Timmons ville, South Carolina. Dennis was raised and attended school in Timmons ville, SC. He enlisted in the US Army when he turned 18, and spent the next 23 years serving his country in Korea, at Ft Sill, OK, and Ft Bragg, NC. Dennis was a drill instructor at Ft Sill when he retired in 1991. He married Kathyeron on December 14, 1990 in Wichita Falls, TX, and worked as a youth counselor at Vision Quest, a juvenile "Boot Camp" and as a security guard in South Carolina. Health issues forced him to retire in April of this year. Through out Dennis' life, working with young people as a drill instructor, counselor or as a caring adult was always of utmost importance to him. His home was always a safe haven for anyone in need of a friend, guidance or direction. In his spare time he enjoyed fishing, working in his yard, cooking for family gatherings or just spending time with friends and being happy. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Diane Howard; sister-in-law Constance Williams; and step-mother Flossie Hickson. Survivors include his wife Kathyeron of the home; son, Demetris Hickson of NC; daughter, KaJuana Williams of Tulsa; sisters, Carolyn Lowery, Judy A. Hickson, Jessie Marie Hickson, Doretha Hickson, Patricia Reed, Jessie Mae Williams, Wanda Washington, Carriedder King and Linda Johnson; brothers, Roetha Johnson, John Johnson and Eddie Tumblin; his aunt, Dorothy Montgomery, and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

**Dec 10, 2009:** The following is an official excerpt from General Orders No. 2009-21 dated 10 December 2009: GENERAL ORDERS 2009-21, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D. C., 10 December 2009. Unit Awards. Section. Joint Meritorious Unit Award. I. Meritorious Unit Commendation. II. Army Superior Unit Award. III...II. Meritorious Unit Commendation. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-15, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated: Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Service, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment (7 January 2006 to 14 September 2006)...[AHRC-PDP-A]. By Order of the Secretary of the Army: George W. Casey, Jr. General,



United States Army, Chief of Staff. Official: Signed: Joyce E. Morrow, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. Distribution: This publication is available in electronic media only and is intended for the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the U.S. Army Reserve.

**Dec 16, 2009:** The following is an official excerpt from General Orders No. 2009-16 dated 16 December 2009: GENERAL ORDERS 2009-16, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D. C., 16 December 2009. Unit Awards. Section. Joint Meritorious Unit Award. I. Meritorious Unit Commendation. II. Army Superior Unit Award. III...II. Meritorious Unit Commendation. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-15, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated:...Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Service, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment (7 January 2006 to 14 September 2006)...[AHRC-PDP-A]. Official: Signed: Joyce E. Morrow, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. Distribution: This publication is available in electronic media only and is intended for the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the U.S. Army Reserve.

**Jan 01, 2010:** Published in the "The Fires Bulletin" entitled: 2009 Forging Sabre. Combined, joint exercise shakes up Fort Sill "This exercise is a culminating point for us, because it shows [what] the world-class Joint Fires center Fort Sill represents not only to our nation but also globally. For the Singaporeans to come here is a great testimony to the capabilities and the training ranges we have here." MG David D. Halverson, Commanding General of Fort Sill and the Fires Center of Excellence By LTC Charles D. Kirby, Chief, G-35 Future Operations, Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill Exercise Forging Sabre 2009, an integrated strike exercise, conducted by the Singapore Armed Forces was held at Fort Sill, Okla., from Oct. 12 through Nov. 24, 2009. This exercise was a historical first in that it boasted a wide range of assets deployed as compared to its predecessor in 2005, making it the biggest and most complex live firing and air-land integrated strike exercise to date, according to the Singapore Armed Forces. Forging Sabre is held bi-annually at locations throughout the world. Singapore, an island nation slightly smaller than New York City, because of urbanization doesn't have enough room to conduct an exercise of this magnitude on their home soil, so in recent years, Singapore has held the exercise in Australia, Africa and Twenty-nine Palms, Calif. It was an opportunity to execute a strategic combined arms operation from Oct. 12 through Nov. 30 culminating in a combined arms live fire exercise Nov. 15-17 and was designed to validate Singapore Armed Forces' provisional integration and tactical doctrine. Singapore's military might is made up of army, navy, and air force assets and personnel, and is collectively known as the Singapore Armed Forces. The Singapore Armed Forces recently purchased the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System (M142) for one of its artillery battalions. Because Fort Sill is the home of the Fires Center of Excellence and the Field Artillery School, a Singapore Armed Force contingent, made up of more than 540 soldiers and airmen from the Singapore Armed Forces, which included an AH-64D Apache helicopter detachment, an F-16C/D fighter detachment and a CH-47 Chinook helicopter detachment, traveled to Fort Sill to validate their training with a live-fire exercise which incorporated both U.S. and Singaporean forces. Support was provided by the Fires Center of Excellence, the 75th Fires Brigade, 214th Fires Brigade, 428th Field Artillery Brigade and 479th Field Artillery Brigade, all from Fort Sill, and the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery from the Oklahoma Army National Guard. In addition, other agencies of the Fort Sill Garrison provided support for the exercise, including the Henry Post Army Airfield, the Fort Sill Range Control Division, Fort Sill Directorate of Logistics and the Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization. The exercise gave U.S. Soldiers and members of the Singapore Armed Forces valuable experience in working together in a combined operation. Fort Sill also has 29,000 square miles of joint military controlled airspace and 47,000 acres of maneuver space to rehearse joint fight tactics, a luxury that Singapore doesn't have. It made sense for the new HIMARS soldiers to validate their training with the U.S. Army's fires experts because Fort Sill has the best Joint and Combined Fires training capabilities available. It also gives U.S. Soldiers valuable experience training in a combined environment. It was win-win for both countries. This was the Republic of Singapore's largest combined military strike which brought more than 600 Singaporean airmen and soldiers to Fort Sill. The exercise involved transport helicopters, F-16 fighters and unmanned aerial vehicles. Future wars will almost certainly involve joint and combined operations. We can see this in Afghanistan today where the U.S. Army is not fighting alone. The Fires Center of Excellence looks for opportunities to bring joint and combined training here because it exposes our Soldiers, and the leaders we are developing, to the operational environment they will be exposed to in the real fight. "This is a hallmark event for a great coalition partner to demonstrate the joint and combined capabilities that we see here," said Maj. Gen. David Halverson, Fort Sill and Fires Center of Excellence commander. "I believe this is a great venue to plan and rehearse Forging Sabre; it's important to do this because it really does forge this one team approach." Lessons learned. It took more than 1,000 pieces of equipment from radios, computers to unmanned aerial vehicles to make this exercise come to fruition. One of the biggest challenges of hosting an exercise of this caliber was making sure all the equipment, despite the myriads of frequencies used by the U.S. Army and Singapore Armed Forces were able to communicate with each

other. Despite preparing for this exercise for well over a year, equipment was still being certified by the Federal Communications Commission right up until the last minute. But now that we've gone through an exercise of this magnitude, standard operating procedures have been solidified and we now know what it takes to get all the different frequencies and equipment cleared by the FCC and synchronized. Successes sustained. After five days of live-firing there were no accidents, injuries or safety issues. It was an efficient joint operation between the Fires Force and Singapore Armed Forces which enabled the Singapore Armed Forces to walk away with solid doctrine and improved capabilities. Working with the Singaporeans will translate to future coalition training opportunities. "It's exactly what we want to see here in the future as we bring in more coalition partners," Halverson said. Discussions are underway with European and Asian countries to conduct more joint training exercises in the Fort Sill area.

**Jan 12, 2010:** Obituary: James S. Toscano, Sr., 91, of Bristol, husband of Rose (Maynard) Toscano, died Tuesday (January 12, 2010) at Bristol Hospital. Mr. Toscano was born in Bristol on November 11, 1918, and was a son of the late Alphonso and Mary (Coughlin) Toscano. A lifelong Bristol resident, he attended local schools and served in the United States Army during World War II. He served with the 6th Armored Division in Italy and Europe, where he participated in Anzio and the Battle of the Bulge, and was awarded a Silver Star and Bronze Star for his service. He worked for the City of Bristol Parks Department before retiring. He was a member of the American Legion Post 2, the Knights of Columbus Palos Council #35, and St. Anthony Church, Bristol, he enjoyed watching WWE wrestling on Monday nights, and he was an avid Red Sox fan. In addition to his wife of sixty-seven years, James is survived by a son and daughter in law, James S. Toscano Jr. and Jo Ann Toscano of Bristol; a daughter, Sharon Toscano of Bristol; a brother and sister in law, Edward and Catherine Toscano of Port St. Lucie, FL; a sister and brother in law, Rosemarie and Sam Lawson of Pleasant Valley, NY; six grandchildren, Kathleen and Christopher Toscano, Colleen Bishop, Heather Thibeault, Kelley Browning, and D.J. Cormier; and several great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by a grandson, Patrick Toscano. Funeral Services will be held on Friday (January 15, 2010) at 9:00 a.m. from Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Avenue, Bristol, to St. Anthony Church for a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. Burial with full military honors accorded will be in St. Joseph Cemetery, Bristol. Relatives and friends may call at the Funeral Home today (Thursday) between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. Published in the Hartford Courant on January 14, 2010.

**Apr 17, 2010:** Obituary: Raymond Leroy DuGuay, Beloved husband of the late Amelie (nee Rosen). Loving father of Raymond Jr. (Gloria). Also survived by his 2 grandchildren Danielle and Matthew. Relatives and Friends are invited to his viewing Thursday April 22, from 9:30-11 A.M. and Service 11 A.M. at Schobert Funeral Home, 1677 Harrison St., internment at North Cedar Hill Cemetery. First Lieutenant, OSN: O-6299530 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 25, 2010:** Obituary: Chester Lee Fisher was born 15 June 1946 in Frederick, Oklahoma and died 25 Apr 2010 in Indianahoma, Oklahoma and is buried in Chattanooga Cemetery in Chattanooga, Oklahoma. Funeral for Chester Lee Fisher, 63, Indianahoma, will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Becker Funeral Home Memorial Chapel with Billy Harmon, pastor, Arena Cowboy Church, officiating. Mr. Fisher died Sunday, April 25, 2010. Burial will be in Chattanooga Cemetery. He was born June 15, 1946, in Frederick, to Fred Fisher Jr. and Dovie Marie Bland Fisher. He was a 1964 graduate of Chattanooga High School, and attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He had worked for Dallas Aeromotive in Frederick prior to entering the National Guard, where served as a Private with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.. He became a carpenter and was a farmer and rancher. He married Linda Hight in Arkansas and they lived there a few years before returning to Oklahoma to farm. He served on the Comanche County Excise Board from 1995 until 2002 as well as serving on the Coop Services Board for several years. He would later sell insurance for Senior Benefits Medicare Supplements. He was a member of the Arena Cowboy Church north of Lawton. He is survived by his wife, of the home; a son, Tom Fisher, Cache; two grand children: Brad and Cody Fisher; his mother, Dovie Fisher, Chattanooga; a sister and brother in law, Peggy and John Badaracco, Corinth, Texas; two brothers and sisters in law: Clifford and Ivy Fisher, Cache; and John and Paula Fisher, Chattanooga; several nieces and nephews; and many special friends. He was preceded in death by his father. Memorial contributions may be made to the Arena Cowboy Church, 19008 NE Watts Rd., Fletcher 73541, to the Peace Congregational Church, care of Cliff Fisher, 5908 SW 197th St., Cache 73527 or to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 2680, North Canton Ohio 44720. Obituary: Charles Bennett Lane, 90, Logansport, died at 8:25 p.m. Sunday, April 25, 2010, in Miller's Merry Manor in Logansport. Born Feb. 18, 1920, in Montebello, Va., he was the son of Harry Clifford Lane and Julia Myra Cash. He was married Feb. 18, 1942, in Logansport, to Loris Jenell Scott, who preceded in death Jan. 27, 2004. Charles was a clerk and yard master for Penn Central Conrail. Mr. Lane was a veteran of the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a member of the Elks Lodge 66, where he served as a past Exalted Ruler, American Legion Post 60, VFW Post 3790 and MBA railroad employees. Charles was a member of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church. Surviving are son, Charles C. Lane and wife, Dot, Burke, Va.; daughter, Sherry Reynolds and husband, Jerry, Bonita Springs, Fla.; foster daughter, Bonnie Lee Rowe, Martinsville; nine

grandchildren; three great grand children; sister-in-law, Susie Pugh, Logansport; several nieces and nephews; and special loved ones, Don and Fran Craig and Pam Krysevig. He was preceded in death by one foster daughter, Ruth Moore. Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Gundrum Funeral Home with Dr. Horace Smith officiating. Burial, with full military graveside rites, will be in Mount Hope Cemetery in Logansport. Staff Sergeant, ASN: 35561111, and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**May 31, 2010:** Obituary: Jimmy Ray Daubert, 68, lost his battle with cancer on May 31, 2010. He was born Sept 26, 1941 in Carnegie to John and Mildred (Bigbie) Daubert. He was saved at the age of 8 during a revival at the First Baptist Church of Gotebo. He graduated from Lake Valley High School north of Gotebo and served 9 years served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery, in the National Guard. He married Charlene Thomas Oct 13, 1967, in Wichita Falls, Texas. He was a farmer in the Lake Valley community until the early 1980's. He served 18 years in law enforcement with the Washita County Sheriff's Department, the Hinton Police Department and the Caddo County Sheriff's Department, retiring in 1996. The last few years of his life, he was a dozer operator until his health forced him to retire. He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister, Mildred JoAnn Daubert. Survivors include Charlene Daubert; six children, Denisa Brooking of Edmond, Michael Brooking of Wichita Falls, Texas; Jana Branson of Weatherford, Scott Brooking of Livermore, Calif.; Michelle Boling of Corn; and Jennifer Cooper of Melissa, Texas; 11 grandchildren, and sister, Wanda Daubert of Hobart. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations to Cancer Center of Southwest Oklahoma, 3201 W. Gore Blvd, Lawton, OK 73505. Services were June 4 at Hinton First Baptist Church, with Rev. Raymond McPherson officiating. Burial was at Cordell Cemetery, Cordell, under direction of Turner Funeral Home, Hinton. The Hinton Record, June 9, 2010, Page 6, Col 5.

**Jul 10, 2010:** Obituary: John E. Gaudin. November 4, 1918 - July 10, 2010. Prayer vigil for John E. Gaudin, 91, of Hennessey, will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Mass of Christian burial will be 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Joseph's. The Rev. Joseph Arledge officiating. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery under the direction of Cordry-Gritz Funeral Home, Hennessey. John was born Nov. 4, 1918, in Hennessey to John B. and Cecilia Carney Gaudin and died Saturday, July 10, 2010, at United Methodist Care Center, Enid. He attended schools in Oklahoma City and Hennessey and graduated from Hennessey High School in 1938. He attended schools in Oklahoma City and Hennessey and graduated from Hennessey High School in 1938. John enlisted in the Army during WWII. He was a member of the 45th Division and Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery, Staff Sergeant, ASN: 38017357, where he served 420 combat days in Africa, Sicily, Anzio, Rome, southern France and Germany. He was awarded the Bronze Star. After the war, John returned to Hennessey and married Susann Dinkler on Oct. 3, 1947, in Hennessey. She died July 24, 2001. John and Susann made their home in Hennessey and he worked for B&J Appliance in Enid for several years, then was employed by the Kingfisher County assessor's office until his retirement. He served with the Hennessey Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years, Hennessey Town Board of Trustees, was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and St. Joseph's Men's Club. John is survived by sister-in-law, Elizabeth Dinkler of Hennessey; nephew, Frank Dinkler of Oklahoma City and Frank's friend Connie Cline of Hennessey; niece, Joan Hibbets and husband Barry; great-niece, Jill Hibbets; great-nephew, Brent Hibbets and wife Avadelle and their daughter Haley, all of Enid; and great-nephew, Scott Hibbets and wife Ashley of Coweta. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and one sister. Memorial donations may be made in John's name to Hospice Circle of Love or St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Hennessey, with the funeral home serving as custodian of the fund.

**Jul 29, 2010:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Local Guardsmen Certified Again on HIMARS System. Oklahoma City. Lt. Col. Greg Lankford, commander of the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, Oklahoma National Guard, stood on a hilltop at a firing range on Fort Sill. Downrange, three High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) M-149s from A, B and C batteries were prepared to fire "when ready", the third and final command for this year's recertification held in July. It's been nearly two years since the entire 158th underwent a live fire because the battalion deployed to Iraq in June 2007. Members of the battalion performed as personnel security detachment for the provincial reconstruction team pulled base security and quick reaction force duties and made administrative runs known as LOGPACs. Back in Oklahoma, the rear detachment held down the fort. Lankford, of Weatherford, said it felt good to be back in familiar territory. "This is a relief in some ways," said Lankford, adding all of his soldiers came back home safe and sound. "We are working extra hard to get back to core skills after training for and executing a non-standard mission. Six drills and one annual training later we are facing a bit of a challenge, but the soldiers looked forward to getting back into the lanes." Lankford said the battalion's "ace in the hole" was the rear detachment soldiers who did a live fire while the unit was deployed. "They helped the unit maintain artillery skills," said Lankford. "We redistributed those soldiers throughout the battalion and are using them as leverage to get back into business." According to Headquarters Battery commander Capt. Chin Kim of Lawton, crew certification takes place in a three-year cycle. This year is crew and section level training which also has three parts: "at my command," "time on target" and "fire when ready." "It's good being back into field tactics and not training for kicking in

doors and pulling convoy security," Kim said. Over the radio a voice gave the go ahead to fire and the rounds roared out of the Multiple Launch Rocket System six-packs with a sudden explosion of light and smoke. Lankford was satisfied. "It feels good to get back into what we know.

**Aug 31, 2010:** Obituary: Cuin Auvern England, (August 26, 1934 - August 31, 2010). Funeral Services for Cuin Auvern "Buddy" England, 76, will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 4, 2010 at the Fairview First Church of the Nazarene. The Reverend Charles McKinney will officiate. Burial will be at 4:00 p.m. at Bell Cemetery in Velma, Oklahoma. Arrangements are by Fairview Funeral Home, Inc. Viewing will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with the family visitation from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., on Friday, September 3, at Fairview Funeral Home, Inc. There will be viewing at the church prior to the service on Saturday. Buddy was born August 26, 1934, west of Duncan, to Cuin Arocus and Ethel Mae (Cook) England. He started school at Empire and graduated from Duncan High School in 1952. While in high school, he was active in music, football and track and was the 1952 recipient of the Crossman award. He attended Cameron College and Ark City Jr. College where he played football. Buddy served in the Oklahoma Army National Guard, Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery as a Sergeant First Class. While growing up in Duncan Buddy met Opal Fay (Robinson) England and they were married on December 23, 1959. They shared nearly 47 wonderful years of marriage until her untimely death on October 13, 2006. Buddy was employed with Koch Oil Company for 24 years until his retirement from the company in Lomoni, Iowa in 1994. Buddy and Fay moved back to Fairview, Oklahoma to be closer to his and Fay's family. They owned and operated Carpet Steam action until Buddy went to work for Fairview Fellowship Home. Buddy retired in 2008 from the Fairview Fellowship home and entered into his notable talent of stain glass making where he participated in numerous classes and enjoyed this immensely. Buddy was proud to be a member of the Masonic Brotherhood and carried this distinction and honor for 43 plus years. Buddy was a proud member of the Fairview and Ringwood Masonic Lodge's until his health kept him from attending meetings on a regular basis. He obtained the 32nd degree distinction in 2004 and was very proud of this. Buddy lived for the charity work of the Masonic brotherhood and could be counted on for numerous fund raisers and activities that the Masonic lodge participated in. Buddy enjoyed watching and listening to his families accomplishments over the years. He loved to talk about the academic awards and scholarships that his grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews had won. He enjoyed traveling to watch his family participate in sporting events and was very proud to have two state champions in the family. Survivors include, a daughter, Robin Leigh Gilbert, and two granddaughters, Shelby and Skylar of Norman; a son, Christopher Auvern England of Enid and two grandsons, Michael and Joshua of Fairview; a son, Robert E. "Eddy" England, his wife, Lori and grandsons Brock and Cale, of Bison; sister Joyce Marvel Cain of Duncan, nieces and nephews Mark and Diane Cain of Stamford, Connecticut, Charles and Candy Coulter of Duncan, Kent Cain of Houston, Texas, Kevin Cain of Duncan; nephews and nieces, Greg England of Duncan, Phillip England of Duncan, Lonnie and Vickie Foster of Duncan and Lori Beth England of Duncan; brother-in-law, Roy Robinson, of Velma Ok., nephew, Alex Robinson and Nachella Robinson, of Ada; sister-in-law, Mildred Work, and husband Joe and nieces, Traci and Steve McDaniel, Carla and Justin Walker, all of Norman; Sheri and Brad Carter of Seminole; sister-in-law Johnnie Grundy and husband Temple, nephew Temple Lee and Suzy Grundy, niece Misty and Mike Lewis, all of Velma; sister-in-law, Jennie Cox, of Marlow; sister-in-law, Audean Davis and husband Jimmie Dale of Velma, nieces, Tammy and Bobby Sagar of Loco, Melissa and Blake Crabtree of Ada; sister-in-law Pam and Larry Orum of Oologah; great nephews and nieces, Mitchell A. and Jeffery Cain, Nicholas and Michael Valentino, Sarah Beth Riley-Arms, Jonathan, James, Jennifer Claudio-Hart and Clay Cain, Rylan and Jessica England, Dustin England, Brian and Kirby Foster, Dylan Richey, Ryan and Madison McDaniel, Hailey and Tye Neubauer, Abby, Maya, and Nate Carter, Chelsey Grundy, Sidney and Erme Lewis, Jordon Roberts, Jessica Burris, Cole and Carter Crabtree. Special Friends; Margie, Masa, Siera, and Jacob Carter. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Opal Fay (Robinson) England; one brother, James Arocus England; one brother-in-law Fred J. Cain; nephew Wayne Lynn Collins; great niece Jennifer Cain and great nephew Jarid Letterman. Memorial contributions may be made to the Masonic Lodge of Fairview or OMRF Cancer division with Fairview Funeral Home, Inc action as custodian.

**Sep 07, 2010:** Obituary: Alva James Smith; (Died September 7, 2010). Alva James Smith Alva J. Smith, 90 of Kingwood died Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at Lewis A. Johnson VA. Center. He was born November 9, 1919, in Albright, a son of the late Fletcher Allen and Sarah Elizabeth Stanton Smith. Mr. Smith was a Truck Driver, and a security guard at Hopemont Hospital. He served in the United States Army during the World War II as a Gun Crewman, Light Artillery. He was a jokester and enjoyed gardening. He is survived by his wife Alda Kelley Smith, , two daughters, Deborah Sines of Bloomery, WV and Ladonna and husband Richard Ringer of Terra Alta; three step-daughters, Kay Cullers Meyers Warren OH, Connie Herrin of Metter, GA and Kimberly Kelley of Kingwood; four step-sons, Robert Kelley of Oakland, Roger and David Kelley both of Tunnelton and Timothy Kelley of Core; a brother and wife, Keele and Deloris Smith of Eightmile AL; a sister, Mary Metheny of Terra Alta; a sister-in-law, Kathryn Smith of Alvin TX, 5 grandchildren, Benjamin Sines of Bloomery, Clark Sines of Terra Alta, Jason and Travis Ringer of Fairmont and Starla Brandau of Terra Alta, 5 great-grandchildren, 18 Step- grandchildren, and sixteen step-

great grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by his three brothers, Ralph E. Smith, Robert G. Smith and Harold Shorty Smith; two sisters, Faye Hedrick and Genevieve Lewis; a step son, two step grandsons and a step great granddaughter. Private First Class, ASN: 35291984 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Sep 27, 2010:** Obituary: David Fulton Shrope. May 12, 1947 to Sept. 27, 2010 David Fulton Shrope, 63, of Duncan, Okla., died on Monday, September 27, 2010, in Oklahoma City, Okla. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, Oct. 1st, at Lakeside Baptist Church with the Rev. Lawrence Gresham officiating. Interment will follow at Duncan Cemetery under the direction of Don Grantham Funeral Home. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Thursday 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. He was born Monday, May 12, 1947 in San Diego, California, the son of Leslie Edward and Marjorie (Ethridge) Shrope. He married Deborah J. Womack on Sept. 9, 1967 in Duncan. David was a veteran of Vietnam and Desert Storm, serving in the United States Army. He was retired from the United States Army National Guard and was employed with Reynolds Army Hospital, Fort Sill, Okla. Survivors include his wife, Deborah of the home, two daughters, Dana Pruitt and husband Eddy of Marlow, Okla. and Danielle Shrope of Duncan, two brothers, Tom Shrope and wife Nancy of Oceanside, Calif. and Mike Shrope and wife Nancy of Rapid City, South Dakota, a sister, Madonna Fuori and husband Joe of Murrieta, Calif. and three grandchildren: Kathy Pruitt, Devin Shrope and Jakobe Shrope. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Buzz Shrope and an infant daughter, Diana Lyn Shrope. Pallbearers will be: SFC Paul Burden, SFC Andy Callihan, SSG Kerry Pemberton, SSG David Heilman, SSG Arry Johnson and Trooper SSG Darin Carmin. Staff Sergeant and served with Headquarters Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Nov 01, 2010:** Published in the "The Fires Bulletin Redbook" entitled: 45th Fires Brigade, U.S. Army Oklahoma National Guard. The 45th Fires Brigade, a national guard unit located in Oklahoma, is composed of an organic High Mobility Artillery Rocket System battalion which includes 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery; 1st Battalion, 271st Brigade Support Battalion; and three separate batteries / companies, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery; Bravo Battery; Target Acquisition Battery; a signal company from the 1st Battalion, 171st and the 205th Signal Company. The brigade began transformation from a field artillery brigade to a Fires brigade in 2007 with the conversion of the 1-158 from a Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion to a HIMARS battalion. The 1-271st BSB began to transform from a MLRS battalion to a brigade support battalion in 2007. The 45th Fires Brigade mobilized and deployed to Kuwait and Iraq from August 2008 to August 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The brigade was task organized as a HHB performing duty at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait conducting base camp operations providing life support services to approximately 70,000 Soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen and civilians. The 1-271 BSB was stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait conducting base camp operations and life support for approximately 100,000 service members and civilians. The 1-158 FA moved into Camp Ramadi, Iraq where they conducted camp security, secured the provincial government center and provided personal security details for the provincial police training team and provincial reconstruction teams. Following the deployment, the brigade conducted yellow-ribbon reintegration activities and reorganized back into a Fires brigade. Most recently, the brigade completed annual training at Camp Gruber, Okla., in July, focusing on individual and crew served weapons training, individual, crew and section-level training, Army Battle Command Systems training, and conducted a HIMARS live fire at Fort Sill, Okla. Currently, the brigade is planning for an out-of-state annual training in 2011 at Camp Shelby, Miss., to support pre-mobilization weapons training for the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from the Oklahoma National Guard to conduct Army Force Generation Model tasks. The brigade is also participating in Regional Response 11 scheduled for May 2011 as part of the Oklahoma State Partnership Program with Azerbaijan. Looking out to 2012, the brigade plans to conduct an annual training with its alignment for training battalions. The brigade is realigning its units throughout southwest Oklahoma and is moving to new Armed Forces Reserve Centers as part of the base realignment and closure process. The first units to move into the new facility located in Oklahoma City are HHB, HHC 1-271 BSB, Company A, 1-271 BSB and the 205th Signal Company. The move will be completed in October and will culminate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with a delegation of local and state leaders on hand along with former brigade commanders and command sergeants major. The 1-158 FA will be moving from an old armory in Lawton into the new AFRC on Fort Sill in the March 2011 timeframe.

**Nov 17, 2010:** Obituary: Gary Tyrone Robinson, 49, born in Baltimore, MD to Gilford and Patricia Suzanne Robinson, died Wednesday, November 17, 2010 in Norman, OK. Gary retired from the University of Oklahoma Police Department of 15 years as Sergeant and Norman Police Department for 1 year and retired from the Army National Guard of 21 years. Gary proudly served in Desert Storm in 1991. Gary is survived by his loving wife, Phibbie Ann of 21 years; daughter, Yolanda; sister, Cheryl Robinson-Hill of Colorado Springs; brother, Rodney Lavell Robinson and wife Sue of Noble, OK; nephews, Charles Robinson, Brian Hill of Colorado; great-nephew, Gadin; aunts, Lydia Jones and Shirley Robinson both of Baltimore, MD. Gary is survived by his loving wife, Phibbie Ann of 21 years; daughter, Yolanda; sister, Cheryl Robinson-Hill of Colorado Springs; brother, Rodney Lavell Robinson and wife Sue of Noble, OK; nephews, Charles Robinson, Brian Hill of Colorado; great-nephew, Gadin; aunts, Lydia Jones

and Shirley Robinson both of Baltimore, MD. Services will be held 10:00 AM, Friday, December 3, 2010 at John M. Ireland Funeral Home and Chapel, Moore, OK. Interment to be held at 2:00 PM, Friday, December 3, 2010 at Ft. Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, OK. Services are under the direction of John M. Ireland Funeral Home and Chapel, Moore, Oklahoma.

**Dec 07, 2010:** Obituary: Carey Nelson Wetherell, 93, of Ft. Myers, FL and formerly Of Hinsdale, IL died December 7, 2010. He was born April 21, 1917, in Fair Oaks, PA, the son of the late Dwight Nelson Wetherell and Ida Maude Smith Wetherell. He earned a bachelor and masters degrees in business from the University of Chicago. He served in the 182nd Forward Artillery Battalion in the United States Army during World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star. He served his entire professional career with Joseph T. Ryerson Steel, rising from the mailroom to Senior VP of Finance and Treasurer. He was an active member of his church and community throughout his life. He was preceded in death by his wife Margaret Foster Wetherell, his daughter Margaret Wetherell Perfetto, his brother James E. Wetherell and his sister Barbara Wetherell French. He is survived by his sister Mary Jane Webber of Colorado, daughters Barbara Wethrell Ogilvie of Texas and Mary Wetherell Curl of Indiana; grand children Andy, Heather, Matt, Heidi, Bob, Margie, Niki, Chrissy and Mike; 12 great grand children, son in law Ralph Perfetto, two brothers in law, as well as many nieces and nephews and cousins. He also leaves an extensive "second family" gained during retirement in the Cross Creek and Cypress Cove communities of Fort Myers, Florida. He is greatly missed. Private First Class, ASN: 36008769 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 17, 2010:** Obituary: Charles Alvin Baker, 92, of Jersey Shore, Pa., passed away Dec. 17, 2010, at Kline Hospice House in Mt. Airy, Md. Born Aug. 9, 1918, in Jersey Shore, Pa., he was the son of the late Harry R. Baker and Helen M. Werkheiser. He is survived by his daughter, Linda (Baker) Hrenko (Karl) of Damascus, Md. and his granddaughters, Nichole Hrenko Sumner (Michael) and Monica Hrenko. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, June (Feerrar) Baker. Charles attended Jersey Shore High School in Pa. He served honorably in the U.S. Army during World War II. After the war, he returned to work at the Williamsport Sun-Gazette as a pressman until he retired in 1980. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed spending time outdoors. He also enjoyed gardening and spending time with family. He will be missed by his loving daughter and family. A Remembrance Service will be held at the Chapel at Twin Hills Cemetery, Muncy, Pa., on Wednesday, Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. Rev. Becky Bower Cuddeback will officiate. Internment will follow. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Kline Hospice House, 7000 Kimmel Road, Frederick, MD 21702 or the American Heart Association. Technician Fourth Class, ASN: 20314010 and served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 24, 2010:** Obituary: Richard Robert Burroughs, CW5 Richard "Bob" R Burroughs was born 11 August 1944. Served in Vietnam with 71 AHC in 67-68, 17 CAG in 70-71 and his call sign in Vietnam was "Firebird 96" and he graduated Flight Class 67-20. "Bob" Burroughs, 66, peacefully passed away Christmas Eve surrounded by his loved ones in his Huntsville home. Mr. Burroughs proudly served in the Military for 32 years as a helicopter pilot. During his Army tenure, Bob was involved in two tours in Vietnam, the Gulf war, and numerous combat operations with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment of which he was a plank holder. Bob retired as a CW5 with numerous medals and accolades to include the Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Stars, and 30 Air Medals. Originally from Corpus Christi, Texas, Bob and his wife Karen settled in Huntsville after retiring from military service at Fort Campbell, Ky in 1997. In retirement, Bob was an avid golfer and grandpa. He loved nothing more than spending time with family and close friends, especially when he was in charge of the grill! Bob was preceded in death by his mother, Kathleen Burroughs, his father, James Burroughs, and his oldest brother, Jimmy Kay Burroughs. Bob is survived by his wife of 44 years, Karen Stewart Burroughs of Huntsville; a brother, George T. "Tommy" Burroughs of Houston; sister-in-law, Linda Lopez of California; his son, Richard P. Burroughs of Florida; daughters, Stephanie Raby of Washington, and Alicia Kelly of Tennessee; father and mother-in-law, Morton and Bonita Stewart of Huntsville, and six adoring grandchildren; Cameron, Blake and Johnna Raby, and Madelyn, Luke and Miles Kelly. While Bob's military career was highly decorated and his selfless service to country commendable, those who loved him and knew him best will most remember his sense of humor, his playful spirit, his abundant generosity, his sensitive soul, and most importantly, his caring and loving nature. Devoted son, brother, soldier, husband, father, grandfather and friend, Richard Robert Burroughs will be truly missed. Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Berryhill Funeral Home and at Crosspointe Church 719 Hughes Road in Madison from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday. Officiated by John Dees and assisted by Berryhill, Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Crosspointe Church. Burial will immediately follow at Huntsville Memorial Gardens Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Family Hospice Care at 3304 West Mill Drive, Huntsville, AL or [www.hospicefamilycare.org](http://www.hospicefamilycare.org) in memory of Bob. Published in The Huntsville Times on December 28, 2010.

**Dec 31, 2010:** Published in the "Annual Report to Governor of Oklahoma 2010" entitled: 45th Fires Brigade. Mission: With the advent of the U.S. Army's modular structure the mission of the Fires Brigade incorporates those

missions previously performed by Corp Artilleries, Division Artilleries and Field Artillery Brigades. The Fires Brigade gives the division, corps, joint task force or land component command a headquarters to plan, synchronize and execute lethal and non-lethal supporting fires in support of current and future operations throughout the command's Area of Operation (AO). The Fires Brigade is capable of employing Army and Joint Air, surface and subsurface fires, as well as Special Operations Forces, Information Operations, Civil Affairs and Airspace Command and Control elements. The Fires Brigade also has the necessary command and control structure to integrate attached ground and maneuver forces and function as a maneuver headquarters. Vision statement: The 45th Fires Brigade will continue to build upon its tradition of excellence and service by developing a professional military force that is fit and ready to serve. We will fulfill our solemn obligation to our nation and state by defending our nation against enemies both foreign and domestic and serving our State with dignity and respect. The 45th Fires Brigade will continue to be the embodiment of the Citizen Soldier. Significant Activities and Structure: The 45th Fires Brigade is composed of an organic High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battalion, the 1-158th Field Artillery (FA); a support battalion, the 271st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB); and three separate batteries/companies, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), Bravo Battery, 1-171st Target Acquisition Battery (TAB) and the 205th Signal Company. The Brigade began transformation from a Field Artillery Brigade to a Fires Brigade in 2007 with the conversion of the 1-158th from a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalion to a HIMARS battalion. The 271st BSB began to transform from a MLRS battalion to a BSB in 2007. However, this was not completed before the 45th Fires Brigade was alerted for deployment later that year. The 45th Fires Brigade mobilized and deployed to Kuwait and Iraq from August 2008 to August 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Brigade was task organized as a HHB performing duty at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, conducting base camp operations providing life support services to approximately 70,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and civilians. The 271st BSB was stationed at Camp Buehring, Kuwait conducting base camp operations and life support for approximately 100,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and civilians. The 1-158th FA moved into Camp Ramadi, Iraq where they conducted camp security, Personal Security Details (PSD) for the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT), secured the Provincial Government Center (PGC) and provided PSDs for the Provincial Police Training Team (P-PTT). Following the deployment, the Brigade conducted Yellow Ribbon reintegration activities and reorganized back into a Fires Brigade structure. Most recently, the Brigade completed annual training (AT) at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma in July, 2010 focusing on individual and crew served weapons training, individual, crew and section-level training, Army Battle Command Systems (ABCS) training, and conducted a HIMARS rocket live fire at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During March 2011, the Brigade conducted an out-of-state annual training event at Camp Shelby, Mississippi to support pre-mobilization weapons training for the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, while also conducting their own year2 ARFORGEN (Army Force Generation) tasks. The Brigade is also participating in Regional Response 11 in May 2011 as part of the Oklahoma State Partnership Program with Azerbaijan. Looking into the future toward 2012, the Brigade plans to conduct an annual training with its Alignment for Training (AFT) battalions who are located in Texas, Missouri and South Carolina. Currently, the 45th Fires Brigade is also realigning its units throughout southwest Oklahoma, moving to new Armed Forces Reserve Centers (AFRC) as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The first units to move into the new facility in Mustang were HHB, HHC 271st BSB, Company A, 271st BSB, and the 205th Signal Company. The move was completed in October of 2010 and culminated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with a delegation of local and state leaders, along with former brigade commanders and command sergeants major. In February 2011, the 1-158th FA and Company B 271st BSB moved from their old armories in Lawton, Walters, Duncan, Anadarko, and Hobart, OK, respectfully, into the new AFRC on Fort Sill, OK. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 45th Fires Brigade 2010 was a very busy time for HHB 45th Fires Brigade and began with AT (Annual Training) at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. While there, HHB conducted individual weapons qualifications on the M9 and M16 ranges, and crew served weapons training on MK-19, M2, M249, and the M240B. There was also an opportunity for some High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) Egress Assistance Training (HEAT), which trained Soldiers to evacuate vehicle rollover situations, while other members attended the Combat Life Saver (CLS) course. The most significant accomplishment for this Brigades' AT was the setup of their Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH), which establishes a portable communication and technology center with 24/7 operations capability. This became a lesson learned for all members of HHB during setup and integration of its capabilities. HHB 45th Fires Brigade is now located in Mustang, OK in the new AFRC, as of October 2010, from its previous location of Enid, OK. Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery. Battery "B", the Target Acquisition Battery (TAB), was organized in January of 2010 following the Brigade's mobilization for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Due to lack of equipment in today's War on Terror, the TAB coordinated with 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery from the Oklahoma Army National Guard to train its Soldiers using a Q-36 radar for training, since it does not presently have one. The TAB also trained using the Profiler system during AT 10 at Camp Gruber to provide the Metrological (MET) data in support of the 1-158th FA rocket system live fire. The MET section proved competent and proficient on the Profiler system while the survey section mastered the Improved Position and Azimuth Determining System (IPADS). The TAB is currently located in Weatherford, Oklahoma. 205th Signal Company: The signal company of the 45th Fires Brigade is new and its activation ceremony took place

January 9, 2010. While it is full of Soldiers who have proudly served the 45th FiB overseas and at home; there are many faces in the unit who are training on equipment for the first time. Training within this first year has been focused on Computer Based Training (CBT) with programs such as A+, Network +, and Security +, which was conducted during AT 10 at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. These CBTs help the Signal Company focus on their mission of providing network support to the Brigade using the Warfighter Information Network – Tactical (WIN-T), which allow digital communication across any Area of Operations using satellite data. When not in the classroom at annual training, the 205th Signal Company sent five Soldiers through a high-speed CLS course, sent eight Soldiers through weapons training on the M249, and hosted a bus driver's course that issued out 50 licenses throughout the brigade. The unit also completed an extensive New Equipment Training and Fielding of WIN-T from October 2011 through February 2012. The 205th Signal Company looks forward to growing and becoming the communication backbone of the 45th Fires Brigade. The signal company is now located in the new AFRC in Mustang, OK as of October 2010. 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. Following the unit's mobilization, the unit transitioned back to a field artillery HIMARS battalion, and after a rapid reorganization and train-up, the Battalion performed a live fire at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in July 2010 culminating in an 18 rocket ripple fire. The Battalion expended all 72 rockets used for training during these crew certifications at AT. The 1-158th FA is currently located in the new AFRC on Fort Sill, Oklahoma as of February 2011. 1st Battalion, 271st Brigade Support Battalion. Having just transformed into a BSB from an MLRS battalion, but not in time to receive orders to produce the 271st BSB colors, the battalion deployed with and proudly displayed the 1-171st FA colors while in Kuwait. One year after returning, the 271st BSB took the opportunity to honor the 60+ year legacy of the 1-171st FA by conducting the final Casing of the Colors ceremony. About 75 former and retired Soldiers of the Battalion gathered on a hot August day in Altus, OK to bid farewell to the Battalion. Some of the retirees included battalion commanders and command sergeants major from 1979 to present. The ceremony ended with a one gun salute from the unit's 75mm gun, and the playing of the Field Artillery Song. HHC and Company A, 271st BSB are now located in the new AFRC in Mustang, OK, with Company B 271st BSB at the Ft Sill AFRC, 120th Forward Support Company (FSC) (-) in Altus, and Det 1 120th FSC in Frederick, OK, as of October 2010. Conclusion: In 2011, the 45th Fires Brigade is poised and ready to perform its Field Artillery mission in support of current or future military operations and stands ready to serve the needs of the great State of Oklahoma.

**Jan 03, 2011:** Obituary: Junior Dale McLemore was born on Sep. 9, 1932, Colony, Washita County, Oklahoma, and died Jan. 3, 2011 in Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma. Funeral for Junior "J.D." McLemore, 78, Lawton, will be at 12:30 p.m. Friday at Western Hills Christian Church with the Rev. Jack Lee, Bakersfield, California, officiating. Mr. McLemore died Monday, Jan. 3, 2011, at his home. Burial with full military honors will be at Fort Sill National Cemetery under direction of Becker Funeral Home & Cremation Service. He was born Sept. 9, 1932, on a farm southeast of Colony, to Burl E. and Ella Heral McLemore, the youngest of eight children. He attended Colony School but chose not to finish in order to join the 45th Infantry Division. He served at Fort Polk, Japan and Korea, eventually attaining the rank of Major. He married Dorothy Kutz in Bessie on July 4, 1952. He graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1958. He then taught history and coached girls basketball at Sterling High before becoming principal at Apache. He also served in administrative positions at Cameron University for 15 years, helping students find their paths. He returned to Sterling, which held a special place in his heart, where he was a counselor before retiring. Throughout his years he spent his time on the court officiating basketball games and was honored to be inducted into the OSSAA Officials Hall of Fame in 2004. He organized and mentored the Southwest Officials Chapter meetings for high school basketball officials. He was awarded numerous honors throughout the years on and off the court. One of his proudest accomplishments was coaching the Sterling girls basketball team to many victories. He is survived by his wife of the home; a son, Mikel D. McLemore, of Lawton; a daughter, Susan B. McLemore, Fort Worth, Texas; three grandchildren: Amber McLemore, of Oklahoma City; Jenni and her husband, Donovan Grahn, of Elgin; and Cristina McLemore, of Oklahoma City; a great-grandson, Gunner Mac Grahn; a sister, Laveda "BD" Hooch, of Corn; his dog, Rosco; and many special friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; and six siblings: Floy Bond, Jenny Harlowe, Ina Little, Kenneth McLemore, Nova Dunn and Winfred "Mutt" McLemore. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kidney Foundation of Oklahoma, 3617 NW 58th St. Suite 101, Oklahoma City 73112. Major, OSN: O-22922733 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Jan 13, 2011:** Obituary: Bennett Howard Anderson: (January 21, 1926 - January 13, 2011), Bennett H. Anderson, 81, of rural Kendall, died Thursday, January 13, 2011 at the Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center in La Crosse. He was born January 21, 1929 to Ben J. and Helen (Blein) Anderson on the family farm in the Town of Clifton. Bennett was baptized and confirmed at Fountain Lutheran Church. He attended the Rock Run Country School, and was a member of the Kendall High School Graduating Class of 1946. He joined the U.S. Army. In 1952 he was stationed in Korea, with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery and served as a Sergeant, during the Korean War. He was united in marriage to Sara Bonnee Heuer on April 23, 1955 at St. John Ev. Lutheran Church in Kendall. They moved to Janesville where he worked for G.M. for several years before moving his family back to the



family farm in the Town of Clifton. He semi-retired from farming in 1997. He was a faithful member of the Fountain Lutheran Church, and a member of the William J. Schriver American Legion Post # 309 in Kendall. Bennett was a devoted husband, and a loving father, grandfather, and brother. Bennett loved to spend time on the farm, and enjoy conversations with his children, grandchildren, and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Sara Bonnee, two daughters: Shirley Anderson of Tomah and Becky (Mike) Egan of Stoughton; one son, Joseph (Kris) Anderson of Loyal, four grandchildren: Andrew Egan, Benjamin, Alec, and Rachel Anderson. He is further survived by one brother, Allan (Marcella) Anderson of St. Louis, and two sisters, Lorryne (Mahlon) Denter of Wilton, and Arlene Burch of Kendall, his mother-in-law Jasmine Zingler, many other nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Emil Anderson, and a brother-in-law, Harold "Lee" Burch. A Funeral Service will be held on Monday, January 17, 2011, 11:00 A.M. at the Fountain Lutheran Church, Town of Fountain. Pastor Russell T. Trachte will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery with military honors by the William J. Schriver American Legion Post #309. Relatives and friends are invited to call at the church on Monday from 9:30 A.M. until the time of the service. The Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

**Jan 24, 2011:** Obituary: Leroy Frank Bertrand was born on June 28th, 1920 to Frank Bertrand and Nita Mestayer. He was one of four children. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army and was involved in the European Theater. He has been married to his wife, Catherine, for sixty-three years. He began his career at the Gulf refinery and retired from Chevron as a supervisor after 41 years of service. He was a member of VFW Post #797 and a lifetime member of the Port Arthur Evening Sertoma Club. He was also a member of St. James Catholic Church of Port Arthur. Leroy was preceded in death by his parents, his son, Steven Bertrand and his daughter, Marion "Ginger" Worrell. He is survived by his wife, Catherine, sister, Cecile Cheramie (Thomas), son, Paul (Debra), daughters, Jean Rantz (Leroy) and Anita Marcos, cousin, Carmen Letulle (Tommy). He is also survived by twelve grandchildren, nineteen great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Leroy lived a happy, fulfilling life. Visitation will be on Wednesday, January 26th, 2011 from 4 PM to 8 PM with a Rosary to be prayed at 7:00 PM at Clayton Thompson Funeral Home in Groves. Funeral service will take place on Thursday, January 27th, 2011 at 10:00 AM in the Thompson Memorial Chapel at Clayton Thompson Funeral Home. Burial with Military Funeral Honors will follow at Greenlawn Memorial Park. Published in The Port Arthur News January 26, 2011. Technician Fourth Class, ASN: 38058674 and served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**Feb 08, 2011:** Obituary: Kenneth Richard Dudley Sr., passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 8, 2011, at home at the age of 80. Ken was born in Augusta on Dec. 2, 1930, to the late Albert and Mary (Brawn) Dudley. He attended school in Smithfield and Fairfield. He joined the Army in February of 1952 and served during the Korean War with the 45th Infantry, Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery, where he received the Bronze Star. He was honorably discharged in September 1953. He started a long career in construction with C.C. Church Construction in Benton in 1948. He then worked for several local companies until going to work for Cianchette Brothers Construction (Cianbro) in the early 1960s when he began a 25-plus year career working on bridges, dams and power plants from Maine to Florida as a heavy equipment operator mechanic. He continued to use his knowledge and road construction skills by serving as road commissioner for the town of Benton for the past 11 years. He was a member of Siloam Lodge 92, AF & AM, in Fairfield, where he was past master in 1968 and 1969. He was also a 33rd degree Mason. He was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6924 in Fairfield, where he served as commander and past commander for several years. He was instrumental in the reconstruction project of the new post home. He remained actively involved in the post's activities, most recently as a trustee. He was predeceased by a sister, Judy; his second wife, Joanne; and special companion Erma Hunt. Ken is survived by his first wife and the mother of his children, Almedia (Mitzi) Dudley, of Benton; a son, Kenneth Jr. and wife Jill of Mobile, Ala.; his daughter, Kathe Bolster, and husband Larry, and their children Angela of Benton, Larry II and his wife, Meridith, and their daughter, Madison, of Bangor; his daughter, Karen Robbins, and her husband, Chester (Chet), and their children Chad of Clinton and Lauren of East Hamstead, N.H.; a brother, Albion (Bob) Dudley, of Benton; and a sister, Joyce McElravy, of Fairfield. He is also survived by stepchildren Marjorie Bryant, Shelley, Allen and Jeff Monteith and their families. He will be missed by many special friends, including Arthur Thompson, Bob Morrisette, Dianne and Bob Libby and the extended family of Erma Hunt. The family wishes to invite friends to join them at a reception to celebrate his life on Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6924 in Fairfield. Graveside services will be held at a later date at the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Augusta. Arrangements are by Lawry Brothers Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 107 Main St., Fairfield; (800) 660-2111. Published in Central Maine on Feb. 12, 2011.

**Mar 16, 2011:** Obituary: Charles Rice Casebeer, Chula resident Charles Rice Casebeer, 82, died Wednesday, March 16, 2011; Constitution-Tribune (Chillicothe, MO) - March 21, 2011. Author/Byline: Constitution-Tribune. Charles R. Casebeer, 82, a resident of Chula, Mo., died Wednesday, March 16, 2011. Charles was born Sept. 29, 1928 in New Franklin, Mo., the son of Raymond Stanton and Harriet "Hattie" Lou (Hooker) Casebeer. He graduated

from Waverly High School and the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., with a degree in agriculture. He served in the United States Army as an advanced infantry instructor. During the Korean War he served as a Private First Class with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery Battalion as an artillery gunner. He worked as a farmer for most of his life and had also worked for Donaldson's in Chillicothe, Mo. He was an Eagle Scout and also served as a Boy Scout leader. He served on the Chula Co-Op Board of Directors, and was an avid conservationist. He enjoyed spending time with his dog, where they would take long walks in the woods. He is survived by a brother, Oran Taylor "O.T." Casebeer and wife Ruth, Ithaca, N.Y.; sister-in-law, Marsue Casebeer, Trenton, Mo.; first cousins, Charles Hooker, Cherokee Village, Ark., Taylor Hooker, Griggsville, Ill., Dixie Bohn, St. Louis, Mo., and Mary Thompson, Chillicothe, Mo., Mary Feit, Fla., Betty Anderson, Penn., Martha Hooker, Md., Coulter Hooker, Ore., and Michael Hooker, Penn. He is also survived by several more cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, David Hooker Casebeer, Lawrence Eugene Casebeer and John Stanton Casebeer; sister, Mary Ruth Casebeer; and niece, Cynthia Casebeer. Memorial services will be held at Lindley Funeral Home, Chillicothe, Mo., on Friday, March 25, 2011 at 10 a.m. A family visitation will be held on Friday one hour prior to the service from 9 a.m. until service time. Friends may call on Thursday, March 24, 2011 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be held in the May Cemetery, Chula, Mo., at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association and may be left at the funeral home or mailed to Lindley Funeral Home, P.O. Box 47, Chillicothe, MO 64601. Arrangements are under the direction of Lindley Funeral Home, Chillicothe, Mo.

**Mar 18, 2011:** Obituary: Robert Eugene Clark, Colonel (Ret.) Robert E. "Bob" Clark, 84, of Norman, was called to heaven on March 18, 2011 surrounded by his loving family after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Col. Clark retired as Chief of Staff of the Oklahoma Military Dept. and was a two-term State Representative for Grady County. Bob was born June 22, 1926 in Enid, OK to Ray and Nina (Johnson) Clark. His strong work ethic developed from the young age of 12 while shining shoes, later working before and after school as well as summers at the local cleaners from age 13, and working summers in the oil fields during high school. He graduated Crescent High School and later attended Central State College in Edmond until entering the armed services in January 1945. During WWII, Bob was deployed to the Philippine Islands as a Private, Expert Rifleman. In 1946, at age 20, he was promoted to Sergeant Major of the 3rd Battalion, 27 Infantry Regiment, 25th Division. After the war, he was among the first troops to arrive in Japan with the responsibility of repatriating Korean Prisoners of War. Upon discharge, he immediately joined the Reserves. In 1954, he joined the Oklahoma National Guard and by 1964, chose to make military his full-time career where he held positions of Director of Maintenance, Military Personnel Mgmt., Officer and Command Administrative Officer. While Chief of Staff, Col. Clark was credited with strengthening the posture of the OKARNG, for the first time in its history, to exceed 100% before retiring in 1985. His 40 years of continuous service and dedication earned him numerous awards and citations. Bob married Shirley Sallee of Edmond in 1946, and made their home in Minco where they had three daughters. There, he owned and operated City Cleaners until 1964. From 1958-1963, Mr. Clark was elected to the Oklahoma State House of Representatives for Grady County. He became a Boy Scout Leader and was active in the community, helping bring natural gas to the Minco and Tuttle area until his assignment to Altus. Later, he moved to Norman where his first wife lost her battle with cancer in 1975. In 1976, Col. Clark married his current wife of 35 years, Billie Stewart of Muskogee. They attended Bethel Baptist Church where he sang in the choir and taught Sunday school. He was a longtime OU Sooner fan. He continued his political interests after retirement by campaigning for State Senator, as well as writing letters to both Okla. and U.S. Congressional members and newspaper editors which were frequently published. He spent his later years enjoying vacations with the grandchildren, working in his yard and telling stories of his life. Bob was proud to be an American, but even more proud to be a Christian. He will be dearly missed by all who loved and knew him. He is preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Shirley; one daughter, Roberta Jean; brother, Donald; son-in-law, Doug Jones; and grandchild, Christian Scott. Survivors include his beloved wife, Billie of the home; three daughters, Jammie Scott and Jana Jones of Edmond, Ginger McCall and husband Rusty of Muskogee; son, Robert Stewart and wife Michelle of Muskogee; twelve grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren; sister, Delores Anthony and numerous extended family members. Memorials may be made to the OU Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research at Stephenson Oklahoma Cancer Center, PO Box 26901, BRC 14-17 W, Oklahoma City, OK 73126. Visitation will be held 8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at Havenbrook Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at Bethel Baptist Church, 1717 W. Lindsey, Norman. Honorary pallbearers will be Glen Johnson and Pericles (Servants of God) Sunday school class. Graveside services will be held 10:00 A.M., Thursday, March 24, 2011 in the Fort Gibson National Cemetery, Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. Arrangements are under the direction of Havenbrook Funeral Home.

**Mar 24, 2011:** Obituary: Ottist Magellan Murdock; July 16, 1911 - March 24, 2011 Ottist Murdock was born on July 16, 1911 to Grover Cleveland Murdock and Agnes Lee (Harkey) Murdock in Chickalah, Arkansas. He passed away on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at the age of 99 years 8 months and 8 days in Durant, Oklahoma. Ottist married Nora Irene Williams in Holbart, Oklahoma on September 10, 1939. Ottist graduated from Oklahoma A & M (OSU) in

1939. He taught school at Nine-Mile in Roger Mills County and then Breezy Meadow. Ottist came to Bryan County in 1942, taught Vocational Agriculture School at Caddo and Durant and in 1949 moved to Achille. He was a member of the First Christian Church of Durant. When he was younger he would go to a variety of churches that had building programs and he would help. Ottist enjoyed mowing his yard, cutting wood, and taking long walks. He was a member of the Masons for over 76 years and held every major office they had in the state of Oklahoma and was awarded the Medal of Honor. His favorite book was "The Purpose Driven Life" and he shared many copies of it with others. Ottist is survived by his son, Ottis Ray Murdock and wife Barbara of Benbrook, Texas; brother, Darrell Murdock of Devine, Texas. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, family members and a host of friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Grover Cleveland and wife Agnes Lee Murdock; wife, Nora Irene Murdock; brothers, Loyd, Floyd and Ted Murdock; and, Sister: Estelene Larimore. Family hour will be 3:00PM to 4:00 PM Sunday, March 27, 2011 at the Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home, 121 N. 5th Street, Durant, Oklahoma. Funeral services will be 12:00PM Monday, March 28, 2011 at the First Christian Church, Durant, Oklahoma. Rev. J. C. Mitchell and Rev. Jim Parrish will officiate. Pallbearers are James Gross, Paul Lambert, David Williams, Quinton Jones, Stanley Wells and Harold Anders. Honorary Pallbearers are Lloyd Murdock, Doug Murdock, Dennis Murdock and Kevin Tuttle. Interment will follow at Rosewood Cemetery in Achille, Oklahoma at 1:30PM. A Masonic graveside ceremony will be conducted by the Achille Masonic Lodge #454. Family and friends may send online condolences and view tributes at [www.coffeymurray.com](http://www.coffeymurray.com). Services are under the direction of Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home, Durant, Oklahoma. Served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 03, 2011:** Obituary: Earl DeWayne Alexander. He was born December 23, 1932 at Hope, Okla. to Rev. E.E. and Mina (Parker) Alexander. After graduating from Marlow High School, Earl served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He married Dorothy Virginia "Dottie" Roush on August 22, 1964 in Duncan. He was a Master Mechanical Technician in ERD at Halliburton for 36 years, retiring in 1986. Earl was a member of the First Baptist Church, Duncan Coin Club and US Bowling Congress. He enjoyed golf, gardening and bowling and had bowled two "300" game and one "299" game. Earl is survived by his wife Dottie of the home, a son, Gregory Scott Alexander of Grapevine, Texas, a daughter Shelby Brooke Alexander and Rob Hill of Corpus Christie, Texas, two sisters in law; Jennifer Roush of Duncan and Margrette Alexander of Marlow, Okla. , four grandchildren: Bailey Brooke Alexander, Maci Paige Alexander, Hayden Grant Hill and Hudson Brant Hill, one nephew and numerous nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents. Burial: Duncan Municipal Cemetery. Sergeant First Class and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**May 17, 2011:** Obituary: William Ralph Smith, 82, of Noblesville, passed away on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at Riverview Hospital in Noblesville. He was born on January 20, 1929 to James T. and Helena (Hartman) Smith in Crawfordsville, IN. Bill was raised in Crawfordsville where he met and married Barbara June Lisby. He was a 1946 graduate of Crawfordsville High School. While in Crawfordsville he was employed with RR Donnelly Publishing. He and Barbara spent 18 years in Mulberry, IN while he worked for Haywood Publishing in Lafayette. They then moved to Lafayette, where he became Assistant Director for Purdue University Printing Services. Later, after returning to Haywood Publishing, he and Don Benham bought the company and renamed it Haywood Printing, and also formed Twin City Typesetting, which Bill eventually become sole owner of. After retirement, he and Barbara spent 13 years in Green Valley, AZ, before returning to Noblesville in 2007. Bill's favorite activities were golfing and spending time with his family. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Noblesville; and proudly served his country with the U.S. Navy and National Guard. In addition to his wife, Barbara, he will be greatly missed by sons, Larry (Nancy) Smith of Plano, TX, Ron Smith of Otterbein, IN, Tom Smith of Noblesville; daughter, Linda Bevins of Westfield; son, Bruce Smith of Ft. Wayne; sister, Irene Beatty of San Diego, CA; brother, James Robert Smith of Salt Lake City, UT; nine grand children, Shellie Rider, Sean Smith, Micah Smith, Wm (Casey) Bevins, Whitney Bevins, Allyson Bevins, Alex Smith, Connor Smith & Logan Smith; and 12 great grand children. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 12:00 Noon at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, Noblesville, with calling beginning at 11:00 AM. Lay Pastor Phyllis Hunter will officiate. Randall & Roberts Funeral Home Obituary. First Lieutenant, OSN: O-998191 and served with HQ Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jun 05, 2011:** Obituary: Louis Dale Ridle died June 5, 2011, with family by his side., He was born Sept. 3, 1930, to Earl Ridle and Nellie Hawkins Ridle on their farm in Gracemont, Okla. He was one of six children., Louis received an industrial engineering degree from Oklahoma State University, a master's degree in special education and did postgraduate work toward a Ph.D. at Arizona State University and the University of Alaska., In 1949, Louis joined the National Guard and served with "B" Battery, 158th Field Artillery Battery in the, After his discharge in 1952, he met and married Beth Lucas in 1953., Louis taught school and was also an administrator. He was appointed by Gov. William A. Egan as director of vocational education for the State of Alaska; he worked as the director of labor relations for Alyeska Pipeline; served in labor relations for Sealand Services, and was the director of cooperative education at Redlands Community College in Oklahoma. After retirement, he was a full-time arbitrator for FMCS. In

1967, Louis and Beth moved their family to Juneau. Their journey was a week-long drive carrying all their belongings in a trailer, ending with a ride on the M/V Taku., Louis loved Alaska, where he loved to fish, hunt and travel. He had many friends in Alaska, After many years in Alaska, Louis and Beth moved back to Oklahoma, where they reestablished ties with old friends., He was very active in the U.S. Marshals Posse, a nonprofit group first formed to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Marshals Service. Louis was often the center of a good time, a good story or a good deed. He was loved by many all over the world for his quick wit and ability to fix or build anything. He was "Uncle" to many who needed his help or friendship., Louis was predeceased by two children, Dana and William; his parents; and brothers., He is survived by his wife, Beth of Yukon, Okla.; two sisters and one brother; sons, Lynn and wife Kim Ridle, and Tim and wife Teresa Ridle; daughter, Leslie Ridle; grandchildren, Tyler, Brandon and Chelsey, Jacob, Amy, Haley, Kaytie and Emma; and great-grandchildren, Krew, Aubrey, Ryder and Hajla. He loved his two horses, Tiger and Molly., A memorial service and burial were held in Oklahoma., Remembrances can be sent to the U.S. Marshals Posse, Western District of Oklahoma, Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 2246, Oklahoma City, OK 73101. Condolences can be sent to 1017 Walsh Lane, Yukon, OK 73099.

**Jul 01, 2011:** Published in the "The Griffon" entitled: New Armed Forces Reserve Center at Fort Sill, Okla., Bring all Components Together. By Jennifer K. Cotten 95th Training Division (IET) Public Affairs Officer, Lawton, Okla.: With the official dedication of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) at Fort Sill, Okla., the U.S. Army signaled its intent to "go far" as a cohesive Active Reserve component force. Soldiers and senior leaders from all components gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony April 16, 2011, to inaugurate the new state-of-the-art facility that co-locates 13 Army Reserve and Oklahoma National Guard units in a single complex on an active-duty installation. The new 45 million dollar facility spans 28 acres and includes four main buildings: a 125,000 square foot training center; a 25,000 square foot maintenance facility; a 48,000 square foot heated storage building; and a 4,600 square foot unheated storage building. The 95th Training Division served as host for the event, being the largest tenant organization and manager of the new facility. The division headquarters recently completed its move to AFRC Fort Sill, located near Lawton, Okla., after leaving the Twaddle Armed Forces Reserve Center in Oklahoma City. The move culminates a Base Realignment and Closure process that began in 2005 to better integrate the multi-component force. Key participants in the ribbon cutting ceremony included Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill Maj. Gen. David Halverson, the Adjutant General of the State of Oklahoma Maj. Gen. Myles Deering, Commander of the 95th Training Division (IET) Col. William Soderberg, and U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador for Oklahoma Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James Sholar. Speaking to over 150 Soldiers, civilians and Allied service members assembled for the event, Gov. Fallin observed, "Today more than ever we see Reserve and National Guard Soldiers come together to help us fight the War on Terror. This facility will go a long way toward helping us create the best trained Soldiers in our nation to fulfill their mission." Among the units slated to occupy the new AFRC are: 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery: Its mission is to provide field artillery rocket fires in support of maneuver forces. The unit was already located at Fort Sill/Lawton and its higher headquarters, 45th Fires Brigade, is located at the AFRC in Mustang, Okla.

**Jul 15, 2011:** The following is an official excerpt from HRC Permanent Orders No. 196-02 dated 15 July 2011: PERMANENT ORDERS 196-02, Department of the Army, U. S. Army Human Resources Command, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408. PERMANENT ORDERS 196-02. 15 July 2011. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery Regiment, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery Regiment, Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery Regiment, Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery Regiment, 1345th Transportation Company, Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 45th Fires Brigade, and Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment. Announcement is made of the following award: Award: Army Superior Unit Award. Period of service: 1 September 2005 to 3 October 2005. Authority: AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-16. Reason: For outstanding meritorious service. During the period 1 September 2005 to 3 October 2005, the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery Regiment and its subordinate units assigned as Task Force Red Thunder displayed superior performance under extraordinary circumstances in response to the devastation brought by Hurricane Katrina in the wake of the worst natural disaster in United States history. Responding as the Follow-On-Force from the state of Oklahoma with 123 organic vehicles and 255 Soldiers, the unit successfully executed multiple primary missions in an effort to rescue displaced civilians and assist in restoring order in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. Task Force Red Thunder Soldiers demonstrated superior professionalism, commitment, humanitarianism and compassion while conducting daily crowd control; ground and air evacuation, sites; and high water search, rescue and recovery operations. Every Soldier' played a vital role in establishing the Forward Operating Base in the lower 9th Ward of Saint Bernard's Parish while conducting traffic control check points and patrolling the streets in a combined' effort to control looting and minimize chaos. Upholding the highest traditions of military service, the Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery Regiment and its subordinate units used outstanding resourcefulness and aggressive actions under desperate

conditions. Their actions reflect great credit upon themselves, their units, the State of Oklahoma and the United States of America. Format: 320. Additional Instructions: This order serves as official notification that a unit award has been approved for the organization (s) listed above and will serve as authority for eligible Soldiers to update their records and wear the award. The award is still subject to final confirmation in Department of the Army General Orders. Official verification of a specific unit's entitlement to display the award in the form of an appropriate streamer on its flag or guidon rests with the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH), which is also responsible for determining official unit Lineage and Honors for MTOE organizations. CMH will use this permanent order to authorize the manufacture of an appropriate decoration streamer for any organization clearly entitled to display the award. The streamers will then be manufactured and sent to the U. S. Army Human Resources Command or automatic distribution to the units concerned. By Order of the Secretary of the Army: Signed: Roger D. Blackmon, CW2. For: Stewart L. Stephenson, Jr., LTC, AG, Chief, Awards and Decorations Branch.

**Aug 01, 2011:** Published in the "The Dispatch" entitled: Texas soldiers train on newest rocket launcher. Story and photo by Spc. Praxedis Pineda. 100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. Fort Hood, Texas. The horizon glistened and waned in the unyielding summer heat. As the countdown progresses to zero, uniformed artillerymen work their duty stations in preparation for the imminent explosion. With the call for "fire," the rocket launcher's monstrous boom leaves behind a towering cloud of smoke, followed by a distant impact seconds later as the weapon reaches its target. Soldiers with 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery, Texas Army National Guard field-tested the new M-142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System here for this year's annual training. July 17 marked their final day of launches, after which they continued their summer training until the 22nd and returned to their unit headquarters in New Braunfels, Texas. "This is the first time for us to launch in seven years," said Lt. Col. Steve Metze, the battalion commander. The unit is currently in the process of upgrading their equipment to a more easily deployed and versatile weapons system, said Metze. Previous to the HIMARS, the battalion operated the 155mm SP Howitzers, a much larger device that required mounting on a track vehicle, such as a tank. The bulky rocket launcher further required a large specialty plane to transport it overseas. Also, many of the 133rd's soldiers participating in the exercise came from 2-131 Field Artillery, where they fired the M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System. Both systems hold the same massive firepower, but unlike the M-270, the HIMARS can be transported in a smaller plane, such as the C-130 Hercules transport aircraft, which is more efficient and less expensive for the military. The new weapons system is mounted on a five-ton truck and can reach speeds of over 50 miles per hour in transit. These increased speeds, combined with a faster reload time, enhance the overall effectiveness of artillery in modern warfare. The M-142 uses the same controls, communications and crew as the old M-270 launcher, while speeding preparation time to an impressive 15 minutes for mission readiness from the moment it lands. The launcher's 227mm M-30 guided tactical rocket has a range of about 40 miles, offering top tier, long-range rocket artillery fire. Now that the battalion has turned in its outdated Howitzers, it anxiously awaits the time when it receives the newest field gear the Army has to offer. "I think it may be one or two years before we receive our own HIMARS," said Metze. "Thankfully, the Oklahoma National Guard was able to provide support. They didn't have to help us; they are letting us use their equipment. Without it, we wouldn't be having this training." The 158th Field Artillery Battalion, 45th Fires Brigade supplied the Texas troops with the much needed equipment for the unit's annual training this year. In addition to providing the HIMARS, the Oklahoma National Guard supported the training with a maintenance team to help the 133rd complete their mission. "We helped them with anything they need," said Lt. Col. Rodney Davison, 45th Fires Brigade deputy commander. "It is always a good thing when two states work together." "This is an outstanding unit," said Davison. "They are extremely well led, extremely well rounded and extremely competent." The unit began training on the weapon system in March. Soldiers attended three full days of training each month, leading to their 15-day annual training in July. "We began at 40 percent," said Sgt. 1st Class Edward Sean Reeder, the Battalion fire direction chief. "The unit steadily progressed until they reached maximum efficiency. Today we were at 100 percent." The unit would not have met the standard without the invaluable support of the local community. In addition to the interstate support provided by Oklahoma, the battalion enjoys remarkable encouragement from its home town. On the last training day, citizens of New Braunfels, including the mayor, attended the live-fire exercise. The mayor also had the distinction of leading the countdown for the first missile launch of the day. "This was such an experience," said Gale Pospisil, the mayor of New Braunfels. "This is my first time out here, and I couldn't believe how much power they had." Her husband Vladimir, a former field artilleryman, and her daughter, a former Guardsman, give Pospisil a great appreciation for the military forces. "It is my job to have the community show their support and help them keep doing what they're doing," said Pospisil. "It was pretty neat to have the mayor here," said Reeder. "It opens us up and gives people a better understanding." After the 133rd completed their training, the smoke dissipated and the teams prepared to depart. Prior to the return trip home, Metze hosted an informal ceremony recognizing local and regional dignitaries and support personnel for their role in the training. "I think it went real well," said Reeder. "Next year, we hope to let families participate in the countdown," he said. The battalion's unwavering dedication and solid relationship with the community ensures their effectiveness during overseas missions. "This couldn't have gone any better," said Metze.

**Aug 08, 2011:** Obituary: Robert Earl Gordon. Born on 7 January 1922 in Noble County, OK and died 8 August 2011 in Woodstock, IL. Preceded in death by parents, Earl and Marguerite (Neuerburg); brother, Harry; wife, Ruby (Allen); and daughter, Rose Marie Witt. Survived by son, Robert M. Gordon (Carrie); sisters, Ilene Wilde, Oklahoma City, Elizabeth (Betty) Johnson, Inola, OK; grandsons, Spencer, Jason and Kristopher Gordon and Aaron Witt (Laurie); great grand children Nod, Cora and John. Bob was a lifetime member of the VFW and American Legion. He was employed as a chief mechanical engineer for companies in Chicago and Elk Grove after leaving the Air Force. He served in many branches of the military service, starting with enlisting in the National Guard with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery at age 15. He served with honor lastly in the Air Force as a Captain and saw duty in WW II and as a pilot in the Korean War earning many medals including the Distinguished Flying Cross. Memorial service to be held on the 19 August at Memory Gardens in Arlington Heights at 1 p.m.

**Aug 30, 2011:** Obituary: Donald Dee Barrett, born Birth: November 9, 1946, in Lawton, Oklahoma and died on August 30, 2011, in Lawton, Oklahoma. Funeral Service for Donald D. "Don" Barrett, 64, of Lawton will be at 10:00 a.m. On Friday, September 2, 2011 at Lawton Ritter Gray Funeral Home with Billy Don Landers officiating. Mr. Barrett passed away On Tuesday, August 30, 2011 in Lawton. A private interment will follow. Viewing will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Don was born On November 9, 1946 in Lawton, Oklahoma to H.J. "Jack" and Lorene (Hinson) Barrett. He grew up in Lawton where he attended school. He graduated from Lawton High School in 1966. He married Brenda Williamson on September 22, 1967 in Lawton. He worked as a machinist before starting his own business, DOD Trucking Company which he owned and operated for several years. He served in the Army National Guard. He enjoyed spending time with his family and they loved camping, skeet shooting, boating and three wheeling. He adored his grandchildren. He liked sprint car racing and built a custom street rod. He is survived by his mother, Lorene Barrett, of Lawton; his wife, Brenda, of the home; two daughters and sons in law, Tammy and David Smith, of Lawton and Angie and Mark Moore, of Lawton; two brothers and a sister in law, Ronald Barrett, of Lawton and J.D. and Lois Barrett, of Lawton; four grandchildren, Nicholas Smith, Bailey Smith, Alex Moore and Ashley Moore, all of Lawton; and his nieces and nephews, Chris Barrett, Rauna Barrett, Jackie Barrett, Kari Schmitt, and Donna "Chrissy" Bolejack. He was preceded in death by his father. Served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Sep 11, 2011:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Fighting Poolaw Family Still Making History. By Mitch Meador; Staff Writer; The fighting Poolaw family is still making history at Fort Sill. Sgt. Roderick Poolaw of Apache is the section chief of the last Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery crew to live-fire a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) launcher. Poolaw is the grandson of the man for whom Poolaw Hall is named, Master Sgt. Pascal C. Poolaw Sr., who received two Silver Stars in World War II, earned more honors in the Korean War and received a third Silver Star posthumously after he died fighting in Vietnam. Roderick Poolaw is the son of the late Pascal C. Poolaw Jr., an airborne infantryman who lost a leg as a result of wounds suffered in Vietnam in February 1967. Roderick Poolaw is part Kiowa, but he belongs to the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma as his grandmother was Apache. His family's military heritage extends back to the cavalry days. He joined the National Guard on March 17, 1986, to become a cannon crewmember on the 8-inch gun with Alpha Battery, 1-158 FA. In those days Alpha Battery was based in Anadarko. The battalion converted to the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) in 1988, and the Anadarko unit became a detachment of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery. "In 1993 we came back to Charlie Battery, 1-158, as a Detachment No. One and we were attached to Chickasha," he explained. After living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for 20 years, Poolaw moved back to this area in 2007, the same year that 1-158 FA converted to HIMARS. He's seen a lot of changes in his 25 years and six months with the Guard, and now he's getting ready to see one more. As part of the Army's modular concept, each battalion in both the active and National Guard Fires Brigades is going from three firing batteries to two with eight launchers apiece, according to Capt. Chin Kim of Lawton, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 1-158 FA. That includes Paladin and MLRS as well as HIMARS battalions, he said. Charlie Battery, 1-158 FA, will fold its flag in mid-October, though its inactivation won't become official until October 2012. The change means fewer launchers, not personnel, as the Guardsmen assigned to Charlie Battery will be reassigned to HHB, Alpha or Bravo batteries, all of which meet at the Fort Sill Armed Forces Reserve Center for drill weekends. This weekend marked the culmination of the battalion's annual certification on its HIMARS equipment, so it was the last time the platoons of Charlie Battery would be on the firing line shooting into the impact area of Arbuckle Range. Poolaw, a section chief since 1995, was selected to be on the very last three-man crew to shoot. His job was to make sure the rounds went downrange safely. His crew was given six rounds to fire for the "when ready," "at my command" and "time on target" missions they performed in order to certify. Kind of exciting, sad Poolaw found it "kind of exciting and kind of sad to do, seeing Charlie Battery go away, but over time things are going to change." He said the new Armed Forces Reserve Center "is awesome. I like it. I live in Apache, so Anadarko or Fort Sill, either way I had to drive." Kim said approximately 100 soldiers from the four batteries of 1-158 FA were out firing this weekend. Each battery has six launchers, making 18 in all. "It's our certification for our line batteries, the firing batteries. This is a culminating event

for us for our individual and section-level training," Kim explained. The process of getting recertified started at the beginning of the fiscal year in October 2010. What tests the soldiers take depends on their specific job. The tables consist of safety, gunnery, the step-by-step procedures for start-up of launchers, loading and unloading the pods. The crews have to demonstrate that they're able to process a fire mission properly. A HIMARS crew consists of a driver, a gunner and a chief. The gunner controls the fire control panel, accepts and processes the mission, and pushes the button when it's time to fire. The chief carries overall responsibility for the launcher and seeing to it the launcher is laid safely and pointing in the right direction; he double-checks all the data to make sure the fire mission is good to go and falls within safety parameters. Each battery has a fire direction operations center housed in a rigid wall shelter on the back of a humvee. As for the live fire, "we started Friday, and we have the window (of 6 a.m. to noon) Friday, Saturday and Sunday to certify our crews. It's due to the dry weather and all the fires that have been going on in Southwest Oklahoma. We had to coordinate with the fire department and get a specific window that we could shoot so we don't start any fires out here," Kim said. Forward observers were watching to make sure the rounds landed safely, he said.

**Sep 16, 2011:** Assumption of Command: by authority of paragraph 2-3b, AR 600-20, SSG Eric S. Ray assumes command of Battery "C", 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery (HIMARS), UIC: WYH0C0, effective 1 October 2011.

**Oct 01, 2011:** Obituary: Carl R. Weiss, 76, of Crystal Lake and formerly of McHenry, died Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011, at his home. He was born May 1, 1935, in Chicago to Robert John and Antoinette (Foszcz) Weiss. On July 31, 1954, he married Irene Sell. Formerly of Chicago, he and his wife moved to Holiday Hills in 1956, where they lived for 12 years. They spent the majority of their life in McHenry. Carl had lived in Crystal Lake since 2007. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving in "A" Battery 158th Field Artillery as a S/Sgt. He enjoyed using his computer, keeping tabs on the stock market, visiting with fellow seniors, and taking them on outings to area restaurants. He helped promote his son-in-law's band, and arranged for his senior neighbors to attend engagements where the band played. He enjoyed playing cards and was a regular at Green Street Cafe in McHenry and Around the Clock Restaurant in Crystal Lake. He was a devoted husband and loving father and grandfather. He always put others first, and was a good friend to many. Survivors include two children, Diane (Gary) Mlekush of Crystal Lake and Lynn (Kevin) Grant of Crystal Lake; four grandchildren, Tracy (Shaun) Morey of Genoa City, and Renae Mlekush, Joseph Heinz and Breanna Grant, all of Crystal Lake; two great-grandchildren, Brooklyn Morey and Cameron Davis; and a brother, Arthur M. (Audrey) Weiss of Schaumburg. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Irene, on Aug. 3, 2007; and a son, John C. Weiss. The visitation will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at Justen Funeral Home and Crematory, 3700 W. Charles J. Miller Road, McHenry. The funeral service will be at 6 p.m. Inurnment will be at a later date at Randhill Park Cemetery, Arlington Heights. For those wishing to send an expression of condolence, his family suggests memorials to National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 218 W. Lawrence Ave., Springfield, IL 62704-2612.

**Oct 13, 2011:** Obituary; Vernon Tsoodle, born May 13, 1931 in Mountain View, OK and died October 13, 2011 in Webster, TX. Funeral for former Meers resident Vernon "Tubby" Tsoodle, 80, Webster, TX, will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church, Mountain View. Mr. Tsoodle died Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011, at his residence in Webster, Texas. A wake service will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Rainy Mountain Kiowa Indian Baptist Church, Mountain View. Burial will be at Rainy Mountain Tribal Cemetery, Mountain View, under direction of Ray & Martha's Funeral Home, Carnegie. Mr. Tsoodle was born May 13, 1931, to James and Mabel Aunkohau Tsoodle in Mountain View. Vernon was a member of the Kiowa Tribe. He was a student at Chilocco Indian Agricultural School in 1946. Most notably, he played football, was a member of the Letterman's Club, and choir. In 1947, he enlisted with the 45th Infantry Division of the Oklahoma National Guard. At the time of his discharge from the Oklahoma National Guard, Vernon had attained the rank of Corporal and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery. Jimmie Leah Reese and Vernon, Chilocco schoolmates, were married April 19, 1949, in Vernon, Texas. In September 1949, Vernon enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was sent to the Marine Corps Training Depot in San Diego, CA. In June 1950, he was deployed to Korea with the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade where he participated in the defense of Korea during the "Pusan Parameter" phase of the war. The division then advanced north to the Hungnam Hamhung, North Korea area and then to the "Chosin" Reservoir area where the famous battle of "Chosin" pitted 15,000 Marines against seven Chinese divisions consisting of 120,000 men. Vernon knows, from first-hand experience, that there is no truer statement as "The key to success in battle is communications." Master Gunnery Sgt. Tsoodle was in the field of communications during his time in the Marine Corps. He served as Cryptographer Clerk at various Marine Corps Bases including the American Embassy, Tokyo, in 1960. Remaining in the communication field, he was assigned to attend training to become an Operational Commo Chief. While stationed at Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, AZ, he was ordered to Vietnam where he served from 1966-1967 as Commo Chief for an Artillery Battery and was later transferred to the Third Marine Amphibious Force Headquarters in Danang, Vietnam. After returning to the states, he was again ordered back to Vietnam and served from 1969-1970. Master Gunnery Sgt. Tsoodle completed his service with the Inspector Instructor Staff at Houston. After his military

career, Vernon worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Anadarko Area Office, OK, until his retirement. One of the saddest duties of his career was in 1980 when he was tasked to close Chilocco Indian School, by disposing the personal, fixed property and completing the transfer of the school. Vernon and Jimmie Leah celebrated their 62th anniversary in April 2011. Truly a military family, many of their children and grandchildren serve or have served in the armed forces, Vernon Jr. and Rodney served in the Marine Corps; Linda Suzette retired from the Navy; Nancy Gail is a civilian employee for the Coast Guard, They also have numerous grandchildren and great children, four grandchildren who have served or are serving in the Marine Corps and Army. Their grandson Dakota serves In the Army as a Green Beret. Master Gunnery Sgt. Tsoodle was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in 2007. He is also featured in the National Geographic book, Warriors In Uniform, and his story can be found in the Korean war chapter. In 2009, Vernon was inducted into the Chilocco Indian Agricultural School Hall of Fame. Survivors Include his Wife of 62 years, Jimmie Leah Reese Tsoodle, Webster, TX; a son, Rodney Tsoodle and wife, Lori, Oklahoma City; three daughters: Candace Karan Barte and husband, Bill, Bethany; Linda Suzette Meyer and husband, Dave, Fallon, Nev.; Nancy Gail Tsoodle, League City, TX; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren; a sister, Alfreda Claus and husband, Thomas "Sonny," Phoenix, He was preceded in death by his parents: a son, Vernon Tsoodle Jr.; three sisters: Lorraine Moore, Mildred Hamilton and Carol Bear; and four brothers: Fred Tsoodle, Hawley, Tsoodle, Brennan Tsoodle and Leo Tsoodle.

**Nov 01, 2011:** Published in the "The Fires Bulletin Redbook" entitled: 45th Fires Brigade, US Army Oklahoma Army National Guard. The 45th Fires Brigade consists of the following artillery battalions: 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, Oklahoma Army National Guard, 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment, Missouri Army National Guard, 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery Regiment, Texas Army National Guard, and the 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, Texas Army National Guard. The 45th Fires Brigade made some location changes in conjunction with the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, as well as supporting with pre-deployment training in Task Force Red Thunder. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 271st Brigade Support Battalion headquarters and Alpha Company moved to the new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Mustang, Okla. The 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery moved from Lawton to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center on Fort Sill. In March, the 45th FiB conducted annual training supported the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Afghanistan pre-deployment training by convoying to Camp Shelby, Miss. To train their fellow guardsmen on crew-served and individual weapons as TF Red Thunder. The brigade also conducted section and crew-level training in accordance with Army Force Generation year 2 tasks. Soldiers with 205th Signal Company, fielded the Warrior Information Network-Tactical and attended WIN-T training courses. The 205th deployed to Camp Gruber, for annual training to configure, test, and operate the equipment, enabling the 45th FiB to operate digitally using the Voice Over Internet Protocol and conducting internet communications via satellite for the first time. The 271st BSB, Phoenix, provided logistic support to the 45th IBCT during their pre-mobilization training, providing range support, dining facility oversight, and ammunition and supply management. During annual training, the 1-158 FA trained on various proficiency exercises including Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter, Command Post of the Future, Artillery Skills Proficiency Test and WIN-T. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, deployed to Camp Shelby, to conduct digital systems training on all major digital systems required for tactical operations center operations. The 45th FiB assisted the 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery, Texas National Guard with M-142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System training and the 158th FA loaned the equipment and a maintenance team who field tested it. At completion of training, Soldiers reached 100 percent efficiency. The 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery, from Missouri, fielded the new M119A2, 105 mm howitzer and completed a live-fire at Fort Sill. A third alignment for training unit, 1st Battalion, 178th Field Artillery, from South Carolina, is preparing to shoot the Excalibur projectile in 2012. HHB set up the DRASH system at the Mustang AFRC, and it currently remains to facilitate digital systems sustainment training as a tactical operations center. The brigade is planning to assume the National Guard reaction force role and preparing for a domestic operations exercise and AT in 2012.

**Nov 10, 2011:** Obituary: Francis Everett McAnally. Birth: Sep. 3, 1919, Coyle, Logan County, Oklahoma, USA. Death: Nov. 10, 2011. F.E. McAnally was born on September 3, 1919, and went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on November 10, 2011, at the age of 92. F.E. was the son of Francis Everett and Bonnie (Clark) McAnally. He was born and raised in Coyle OK. He graduated from Coyle High School in 1936 and went on to earn a Doctorate of Law Degree from the University of Oklahoma. F.E. married Marsette McFarland in 1942 and had six children from this union: Joyce, Mary, Patricia, Tommy, Martha, and Maureen. He later married Rena Swinney and had one more child, Jacqueline. He served in the United States Army during World War II and Korea. He was a highly decorated veteran and reached the rank of Captain, OSN: O-1299600. He earned a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Silver Star while serving in Europe during the WW II. He practiced private and corporate law in Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Arkansas until his death. He had also served as the District Attorney of Logan County. F.E. was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife Marsette; sisters Rachael McAnally Gray and Mildred McAnally Majors; grandson Ricky Faiella; and nephews Sonny, Mervin, and Kelvin Majors. He is survived by his wife Rena



McAnally, of Pawhuska OK; children Joyce Crawford and husband Jim of Sacramento CA, Mary McLaughlin and husband Michael of New Orleans LA, Patricia Redwine of Charlotte NC, Tommy McAnally and wife Barbara of Hornlake MS, Marthe Thomas and Danny of Saltillo MS, Maureen Faiella and husband Louis of Tupelo MS, Jacqueline McCray and husband Matthew of Coyle OK, Tammi Shaw and husband David of Moore OK, and Ryan Bourlon and wife Angie of Perkins OK; brothers O.E. McAnally of Coyle, and D.K. McAnally and wife Juanita of Tulsa OK; and many, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. (obituary from Smith-Gallo Funeral Home, Guthrie OK).

**Dec 12, 2011:** The Secretary of the Navy: The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Unit Commendation to II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) for service as set forth in the following citation: For exceptionally meritorious achievement during assigned missions as Multinational Force-West from 9 February 2007 to 9 February 2008 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. II Marine Expeditionary Force Forward (II MEF Fwd) significantly improved the security of Al Anbar Province, thus denying its use as an insurgent stronghold and setting the conditions for Provincial Iraqi Control of this model province. II MEF Fwd executed a campaign that improved relations with the Sunni population, restored security throughout Al Anbar Province and initiated an economic and social recovery plan that resulted in a rejuvenated Anbari government. During this period, the Iraqi Security Forces continued their transformation into an effective fighting force. Close cooperation between II MEF Fwd, Anbari tribal leaders and the Government of Iraq doubled the strength of the 1st and 7th Iraqi Army Divisions, while Marine Corps Military Transition Teams improved Iraqi Army operational capability. Marine Corps Police Transition Teams oversaw the expansion of the Iraqi Police, with young Iraqi men signing up in record numbers resulting in a provincial police force of 23,000 officers and over 120 police stations. Through a series of engagements under Operation FARDH AL QANOON, Marines and partnered Iraqi Security Forces neutralized insurgent activity in Al Anbar Province while simultaneously supporting Multi-National Corps-Iraq's Baghdad Security Plan. The result of this extensive effort was an unprecedented calm that resulted in a ten-fold reduction in attacks, from a weekly high of 458 to a low of 45, with a corresponding reduction in friendly casualties. By their truly distinctive achievements, extensive enthusiasm, and unfailing devotion to duty, the officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees of II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Services. Signed: Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy. Obituary: Edward Rudolph Suchanek, "Eddie", 95, of Owatonna passed away peacefully on Dec. 12, 2011, at Cedarview Care Center, Owatonna. He was born to Joseph and Barbara (Kubista) Suchanek on Aug. 29, 1916, in Saco, Somerset Township. Eddie entered the U.S. Army in 1941 and served until he was honorably discharged in 1945. He was awarded a Purple Heart and served in Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. Eddie was a member of the forces which liberated the Dachau concentration camp. Following his military service he returned to farming with his father and then with his brother, Albert. When younger, he and his brothers built a tractor, a mower, and a cob crusher for their use. Farming was Eddie's joy along with raising chickens. He married Velma Green on Aug. 18, 1953 at the Associated Church. Eddie served on District No. 69 School Board. Memberships include being a life-member of the V.F.W., the farm union, and First Lutheran Church of Hope. He enjoyed playing horseshoes, hunting, fishing, gardening, pinochle, watching the Twins, and a bowl of strawberries. Eddie also enjoyed many trips to Alaska to visit his son and fish. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Velma; his sons, Paul of Juneau, Alaska, and Warren on the home farm. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Eddie was preceded in death by parents; sisters, Barbara Haberman; Mary Wanous; Adeline Lang; Josephine Nass; his brothers, Joseph; Charles; Albert; William and John. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at the Brick-Meger Funeral Home, 1603 Austin Rd., and one hour prior to the funeral on Friday at the church. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at First Lutheran Church, Hope, with the Rev. Sandy Miller officiating. Interment will be in Bohemian National Cemetery. Memorials to First Lutheran Church, Hope, or to the donor's choice. Arrangements completed with the Brick-Meger Funeral Home. Obituary and photo from Owatonna People's Press, Dec. 14, 2011.

**Dec 30, 2011:** Obituary: Royce Franklin Kolar, age 87, of Prairie du Chien, passed away peacefully on Friday, Dec. 30, 2011, at Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital. Born March 26, 1924, in Muscoda, Royce was the youngest child of Frank J. and Mary (Sale) Kolar. Royce grew up on the family farm, attended the local elementary school, and was a 1942 graduate of Muscoda High School. Royce played center for the high school football team and clarinet in the band. After graduation, Royce proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1943-1945 in the Rhineland, Central Europe campaign, Battery "A," 158th Field Artillery as a communications operator on the front line. Royce married Leora May Fry on Aug. 24, 1948. They spent their married life in Gays Mills, Boscobel and Platteville, and raised three children. Royce worked for Grant County Electric Company and Wisconsin Power and Light as a lineman and retired in 1986. Royce was an avid outdoorsman. He especially enjoyed hunting, fishing, bird watching, gardening and photography. He spent many hours ice fishing and looked forward to annual fishing outings on the Mississippi River that included his children and grandchildren. He was an avid collector and enjoyed displaying his many items from nature and recording and archiving his photo collections. He took the Northwest School of Taxidermy

correspondence course and mounted several of the animals he had hunted. He especially liked taking drives with his children returning to the Muscoda area and reminiscing about his youth. He is remembered for his military service at the Veteran's Memorial in Muscoda. Royce would always be ready with a camera to capture photos of his family, friends, nature, and moments of his life. In his later life, Royce moved to the skilled care facility of Prairie Maison in Prairie du Chien. A special note of gratitude to the staff at Prairie Maison for their loving and patient attention and support the many years Royce resided in their care.

**Jan 01, 2012:** Published in the "The Oklahoma Adjutant General's Report" entitled: Significant activities and structure. The 45th Fires Brigade is composed of an organic High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battalion, the 1-158th Field Artillery (FA); a support battalion, the 271st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB); and three separate batteries/companies, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), Bravo Battery, 1-171st Target Acquisition Battery (TAB) and the 205th Network Signal Company. The Brigade began transformation from a Field Artillery Brigade to a Fires Brigade in 2007 with the conversion of the 1-158th from a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalion to a HIMARS battalion. The 271st BSB transformed from a MLRS battalion to a support battalion.

**Jan 04, 2012:** Published in the "The Reflector" entitled: Getting to know. Curtis Szmania for The Reflector; Wallace "Wally" C. Barker, a long-time Battle Ground resident, will never forget the first day he was sent to the front after joining the US Army during World War II. "I remember the day I went to the front," he said. "I wasn't scared; it didn't bother me a bit. I thought the war would be over in nothin' flat. We started to go up through the mountains of Italy, and there come these weapons carriers down with boots sticking out the back. They're bringing down the dead. Right then I began to think, 'What in the heck am I getting into.'" Barker was drafted into the US Army in April of 1943 while attending the University of Washington. "I wasn't scared a bit," Barker said recently, recalling his entry into the Army. "I didn't think I needed to worry because I was under the impression that the British pushed the Germans out of Africa. I was kind of ambivalent about the whole thing." Barker was first sent to Fort Bragg, NC to the field artillery training school. After 13 weeks of training he was transported to Fort A.P. Hill, VA. From there, he was sent to a troop transport in Chesapeake Bay and crossed the Atlantic. After arriving in North Africa at the "Iron Mountain" replacement depot, he was shipped out to Naples, Italy. Barker was then packed into what he described as a cattle truck and sent to the front. Once he reached the front and was assigned to his unit, A Battery of the 158th Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Infantry Division, he remembered seeing a forward observer who had been hit by mortar fire and brought back down from the front. "He said, 'I know you guys are feeling sorry for me, but I'm the one who feels sorry for you,'" Barker remembered the soldier said. "I'm going home and you're going out to fight this stinking war.' We were then pulled back in order to go to Anzio, which was Churchill's baby. It was a big mistake in my opinion. "We would move forward a hundred yards and they'd push us back a hundred yards," Barker said. "They outnumbered us nine-to-one in our sector. It was just like World War I, just a miserable place to be. It seemed like we were being used as target practice. "It was here at Anzio where my hearing problem started," Barker said. "A German plane (probably Heinkel He 111) dropped a 500-pound bomb about 20 yards from where I was. I would have been sent home but a German counterattack had just started. I felt guilty so I started packing ammunition behind our lines." Barker talked about the dangerous task of transporting ammunition at Anzio, under German artillery fire. He feels the Germans had superior weapons and technology, mentioning the Krupp K5 railway gun. The Americans had nicknamed it "Anzio Annie." He also got a chance to hear "Axis Sally" on the radio trying to dishearten Allied soldiers. "The Germans had a railway gun called 'Anzio Annie,' along with 280mm mortars. 'Axis Sally' and the dropping of leaflets were German propaganda used during the war. They weren't very affective but they spoke very much the truth," Barker said. After Anzio he was part of the amphibious invasion of southern France, Operation Dragoon. "We brought these huge barges with thousands of rockets on them, firing onshore," Barker said. "The Germans had guns onshore big enough for me to stick my head inside, but they didn't fire a shot. They knew we were coming. Then later, we had quite a battle at Aschaffenburg, Germany. This was a training place for the Waffen SS." Once into Germany his division liberated Dachau concentration camp. "We were the first ones in the camp," Barker said. "There's been so much dang controversy over who liberated the camp. Every division in the Army has claimed they liberated the camp. But we were there and had it secured before anybody else came in." Barker is thankful he went through the war without being seriously wounded. He rarely slept in a bed for two years. He also didn't approve of the discrepancy between the officers and the enlisted men. "It bothered me," he said. "It was like being a blind follower." Barker is frustrated by the censorship of the terrible things he saw, and the terrible things about war; either in letters written home by soldiers, or in the books and movies about the war since. "I never felt proud of doing what I was doing, although I did feel proud of being a part of the 45th," Barker said. "It wasn't until I started reading literature on the conflict that I understood how insane war really was. It's not only insane, it is immoral and it promotes its own evil. The killing of so many innocent civilians; their only sin was that they were in the wrong place at the right time. "When I got home I had to register for Korea. I was so mad, I didn't want to go. I put in my time. So I threw my discharge on the floor and stomped on it. It seems to me we haven't learned much from war. Why haven't we been able to function without war?"

**Jan 16, 2012:** Obituary: John U. Hollingsworth, Born 18 Nov 1919 and Died 16 Jan 2012 at the age of 92. John Hollingsworth, 92, of Brownsburg, Indiana passed away peacefully Monday January 16th. He attended New Augusta High School (Pike) and proudly served his country in World War II in the 928th army artillery battalion. He and his wife Beryl (Cox) Hollingsworth recently celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary and were members of the Liberty Baptist Church. John was preceded in death by his parents Herman and Julia Hollingsworth, brothers Raymond, Alan, Harry and sisters Helen and Betty. He is survived by his wife Beryl, sister Anna (Hollingsworth) Little and many nieces and nephews who loved him. Technician Fifth Class, ASN: 35169196 and served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**Jan 28, 2012:** The Silver Star is Awarded for actions during the World War II to Hilston Thomas Kilcollins, Date of birth: October 15, 1916, Date of death: January 28, 2012, Burial location: Mapleton, Maine, Place of Birth: Maine, Westfield, Home of record: Mapleton Maine. 45th Infantry Division General Orders No. 22: Headquarters, 45th Infantry Division, General Orders No. 22 dated August 14, 1943. Action Date: July 1943. Service: Army. Rank: First Lieutenant Battalion: 158th Field Artillery Battalion. Division: 45th Infantry Division. Silver Star Citation: The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to First Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Hilston Thomas Kilcollins (ASN: 0-1165887), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with the 158th Field Artillery Battalion, 45th Infantry Division, in action on the 19th and 20th of July, 1943, near Santa Caterina, Sicily. Lieutenant Kilcollins obtained permission to, and conducted, a party of three volunteers that started on foot across extremely mountainous terrain at sundown on 19 July 1943 to an observation point ten miles within enemy territory. They captured six prisoners, and at dawn were approximately 300 yards from an enemy observation post. By relaying commands, effective fire was adjusted on enemy installations. When discovered and fired upon by small arms, the party returned fire, inflicted casualties upon the enemy, then continued to a more advanced observation post. When driven from there by automatic fire to covered positions, they remained in observation of enemy operations and communicated with their Command Post until dark. The rugged courage, initiative and devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant Kilcollins exemplify the highest traditions of the military service. General Orders: No. 48: Headquarters, 5th Army, General Orders No. 48 dated March 24, 1944. Action Date: September 25, 1943. Service: Army. Rank: First Lieutenant. Company: Battery "C". Battalion: 158th Field Artillery Battalion. Division: 5th Army. Citation: The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a Second Award of the Silver Star to First Lieutenant (Field Artillery) Hilston Thomas Kilcollins (ASN: 0-1165887), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery Battalion, Fifth Army, in action on 25 September 1943, near Castelmuro, Italy. First Lieutenant Kilcollins accompanied an infantry company as a forward artillery observer. The unit was advancing over a bare knoll when an intense concentration of hostile machine gun and mortar fire from a wooded hill halted the company and inflicted several casualties. First Lieutenant Kilcollins crawled to the top of the knoll and exposed himself to the fire of machine guns in order to observe and adjust artillery fire on the enemy positions. Machine gun bullets struck near him, spraying him with dirt and rocks; yet he continued to adjust fire on enemy weapons, silencing the two machine guns and mortars. Through First Lieutenant Kilcollins' heroic and effective actions, the company was able to advance and capture the hill.

**Feb 01, 2012:** The following is an official excerpt from MARADMIN 057/12 dated 1 February 2012: Announcement of Approved Navy Unit Commendation. Date Signed: 2/1/2012. MARADMIN. Active Number: 057/12 2012. R 010832Z Feb 12 "Unclassified". MARADMIN 057/12. Msgid. GENADMIN. CMC Washington DC MRA MM. Subj: Announcement of Approved Navy Unit Commendation. REF A. Msgid: Ltr. SECNAV. 12DEC2011. REF: B. Msgid: Doc. SECNAV. 22Aug2006. REF: C. Msgid: Doc. CMC MMMA. 17OCT2011. NARR: REF A is SECNAV Ltr Approving the NUC for II MEF (FORWARD) for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). REF B is SECNAVINST 1650.1H, Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual. REF C IS NAVMC 2922, Marine Corps Unit Awards Manual. POC/T. J. McCann, SSGT, HQMC MMMA, TEL:703.784.9206, Email:Theodore.McCann at USMC.mil.Gentext / Remarks. 1. The purpose of this MARADMIN is to publish the listing of units eligible to participate in the Navy Unit Commendation (NUC). The Secretary of the Navy approved the NUC IAW REF A; to recognize II Marine Expeditionary Force (FORWARD) for actions in OIF from 09 FEB 09 TO 23 JAN 10. 2. As outlined in Ref B; personnel permanently assigned or attached to II MEF (FORWARD) who were actually present in Iraq and participated in the actions for which the unit was cited are authorized to wear the award. Eligibility is determined by evidence in service records or other official records that support the service member's assignment to a participating unit cited in para 7 below and direct participation in the actions cited. Upon determination of service member's eligibility, commanders are authorized to make the appropriate unit diary entries. 3. Members of rear parties who did not deploy are specifically excluded from participation in this award. 4. Units that are not listed that believe they are eligible for participation in this NUC may submit a letter via the chain of command under which they operated during the period cited in this award. Upon receipt of a fully endorsed chain of command recommendation to add an additional unit(s), the issue will be referred to the CMC for endorsement. If appropriate, the package will be forwarded to the SECNAV for

decision. Any additional units authorized to participate in this award will be published in future award update messages. 5. Participating Units...1st BN, 158th FIELD ARTILLERY (USA) (09FEB09 - 15AUG09)...7. A by name listing of Army, Air Force, and Navy personnel will be maintained at this headquarters, and a copy has been provided to the respective Headquarters for the update of the individual records. 8. The participating units included in this MARADMIN will be incorporated into Reference C, which is maintained on the internet at [www.manpower.usmc.mil](http://www.manpower.usmc.mil) awards website. 9. Release authorized by MR. C. F. Swain, Director, Manpower Management Division. (Acting).

**Feb 20, 2012:** Obituary: William Edward Hawkins Jr., Birth: Dec. 24, 1915 in Maryland. Death: Feb. 20, 2012 in Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina. William was a resident of Raleigh, North Carolina at the time of his passing. A World War II veteran, he served as a forward artillery observer with the 45th Infantry Division from 1941-1945 earning two bronze stars in campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. He was preceded in death by his wife Clio. Funeral service will be conducted Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 12 Noon at Garner United Methodist Church with burial to follow at Montlawn Memorial Park Raleigh NC. Visitation will be held at 11:00 a.m. prior to the service at the church. First Sergeant, ASN: 34114459 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 02, 2012:** Obituary: George Lewis French, 92, passed away at his home in Mendenhall Friday, March 2, 2012. Born, June 1, 1919, in Maryville, Louisiana to the late Edgar F. and Lela Mae Schull French, he was married to Mary Elinor (Maynell) Teunisson on May 8th, 1942 until her death in April, 1997. Before retiring he was a central figure in the Mendenhall business community as owner and operator of both the Western Auto and the Star Theater. He was a lifelong member of the Mendenhall Methodist Church, serving the church, the ministers and members in various capacities. He proudly served his country in World War II, ASN: 34135707, as radio telephone fire control operator and staff photographer for the 158th Field Artillery Regiment of the US Army 45th Division (The Thunderbirds). After training in the States, he shipped out and served with other members of the 45th Division in North Africa, Sicily, Anzio, Naples, Southern France and Rhineland (Germany) for more than 541 days of continuous combat operations with an artillery regiment in support of the 45th Division infantry troops. He was with elements of the 45th at the liberation of Dachau Prison Camp. Many trips were made after the war to Oklahoma for reunions with his "band of brothers". He was one of the last remaining members of the Oklahoma based Thunderbirds serving in the European Theatre, as well as the last member of his graduating class from Mendenhall High School. A great generation is passing. Survived by his wife, Marge, brother, Carroll French (Elois) and sons, Jef French (Leena), George F. French (Susan), Richard French (Charlotte), and 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren along with many extended family and friends. He was preceded by sisters, Gracie French Myrick and Dorothy French; and Brother Edgar Drew French. Visitation will be at Colonial Chapel Funeral Home, 3077 Simpson Highway 13, Mendenhall, MS 39114 from 11 AM until 2 PM with a brief service at 2 PM on Friday, March 9, 2012 at Colonial Chapel Funeral Home. Pallbearers are Charles Parker, Stacy Broadhead, Stuart French, John Lewis French, Shean Patrick French, and Justin French. Honorary Pallbearer is Charlotte French. Interment will be private with family at the Mendenhall Cemetery In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make a donation in his name to the Mendenhall Methodist Church, Mendenhall, MS. Colonial Chapel of Mendenhall is in charge of the arrangements. 601-847-4401.

**Mar 07, 2012:** Obituary: Charles Natham Beecham passed away March 7, 2012, at his home in Mountain Meadows in Ashland, Ore. Charlie had recently celebrated his 90th birthday surrounded by friends and family who honored his accomplished and laughter-filled life. Born January 7, 1922, to Cecil Maude and Charlie F. Beecham, of Minco, Okla., Charlie was a graduate of Anadarko High School and attended Cameron University, where he was a member of the Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery Band, ASN: 18024942, 45th Division, Oklahoma National Guard. As a pilot with the 15th Air Force in World War II, Charlie flew 50 missions in his B-17 "Snafuperman," earning five air medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross. In 1949, Charlie received a sixth air medal when he completed 212 missions as an aircraft commander during the Russian blockade flying C-54s loaded with coal and food to the people of Berlin. In 1952, he married Norma Mae Griffin, in Denver, Colo., and continued his career as a pilot and B-52 instructor in the Air Force until his retirement in 1969, as a lieutenant colonel. In 1971, Charlie graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a master of fine arts degree and embarked on a second career as an artist, teacher and actor. Charlie appeared in "D.O.A.," and other movies and television shows, including "Dallas" and "Walker, Texas Ranger." His artistic works include the seagull fountain "High Flight" in Oklahoma City, the 2nd Bomb Group memorial at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, and the "Oklahoma History" mural and "Heroes Plaza" War Memorial in El Reno, Oklahoma, where he and Norma lived for 26 years. Charlie worked tirelessly to preserve the history of Fort Reno and the town of El Reno, Okla., and was twice named Citizen of the Year by the El Reno Chamber of Commerce. In 2000, he was commissioned by Governor and Mrs. Keating of Oklahoma to paint the governor's mansion for their official Christmas card. Charlie was honored by Cameron University as a Distinguished Alumni in 2001. One of his proudest achievements was his induction into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in 2007.

He and Norma moved to Ashland in 2003 where Charlie became an active member of the Ashland Kiwanis, he was named Kiwanian of the Year in 2010, and a devoted board member of the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum. He finished his last painting, "Ashland Depot 1910," two months before his death. It is now part of the museum's permanent collection. He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Norma; daughter, Jahna Beecham, of Ashland, Ore, her husband, Malcolm Hillgartner, and their children, Dash and Skye; and his son, Charlie Beecham, of Golden, Colo., his wife, Kathleen Beecham, their children, Jessie, Jamie and Josh Roberts, and their granddaughter, Elena. Donations can be made to the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum ([www.ashlandrrmuseum.org](http://www.ashlandrrmuseum.org)) or the Kiwanis Doernbacher Children's Cancer Program ([www.kdccc.org](http://www.kdccc.org)). A celebration of his life will be held March 18, 2012, 3:00 p.m., at the Ashland Community Center across from Lithia Park.

**Mar 18, 2012:** Obituary: James Calvin Yeargan, 90, of La Fayette died Sunday, March 18, 2012 at Cambridge Place in Opelika. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, March 20 at 10 a.m. CDT at First Baptist Church of La Fayette with the Rev. Bill Hand officiating. Burial will follow at the La Fayette City Cemetery with visitation following the graveside service. He is survived by his son, Ed (Ann) Yeargan of La Fayette; his daughter, Josephine (Keith) Hardison of Louisville, Ky.; and three granddaughters. Courtney (Bob) Johnson of Smiths Station, Caroline Yeargan of Auburn and Mary Catherine Runnels of Louisville. Mr. Yeargan was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Catherine Cutler Yeargan. He was a World War II veteran having served in the U. S. Army as a Private First Class, ASN: 34581865, with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery. He was the owner and operator of Cutler Furniture Inc. in La Fayette for more than 60 years. Mr. Yeargan was instrumental in starting the La Fayette Volunteer Fire Department in 1947, where he served as captain and deputy chief until his retirement in 1977, after completing 30 years of service. He was very active in Jaycees and served as Civil Defense Director in La Fayette in the 1960s. He was a life long member of First Baptist Church of La Fayette, where he served as a deacon and general secretary for the Sunday school for more than 30 years. Mr. Yeargan enjoyed farming and managing a cow/calf operation. Memorials may be made to the La Fayette First Baptist Church Building Fund. Jeff Jones Funeral of La Fayette is handling arrangements.

**Mar 25, 2012:** Obituary: Reuben Eugene Seay: burial will be in Duncan Municipal Cemetery, as he was called away to Heaven, Sunday, March 25th, 2012 to be reunited with his beloved wife, Irene. Gene was born July 27th, 1930 to Montie Duncan Seay and Reuben Albert Seay in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Funeral services will be 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28th at Don Grantham Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Randy Southerland officiating. Interment will follow in Duncan Cemetery under the direction of Don Grantham Funeral Home. He graduated from Anadarko High School and went on to become a member of Battery "B" Field Artillery Battalion of the 45th Infantry Division. He married the love of his life, Irene Bell Sparks on Dec. 26th, 1950, at the First Assembly of God Church in Chickasha. In April 1951, the 45th Division was shipped to Japan and soon thereafter to Korea. Mr. Seay served in the Korean War until April 1952. Gene began working at Halliburton Company on May 13, 1952. Known as "Doc" by his fellow workers, Mr. Seay was employed with Halliburton for 34 years. He began as a machinist, later became a supervisor, and then was a Methods Analyst in the Standards Department until his retirement in 1986. Gene and Irene were happily married 58 years. He was a member of New Hope Baptist Church West in Duncan. Gene was a devoted husband and loving father and grandfather. He was survived by his daughter Nikki J. Pilgrim and son-in-law Dwight of Edmond, OK.; grand daughters Christy Carpenter and husband Logan of Little Rock, AR; and Ashley Evans and husband Kyle of Little Rock, AR; great grandchildren, Eliana Carpenter and Levi Carpenter. He was preceded in death by his wife Irene B. Seay in 2009; his son Stephen Paul Seay in 2011; two brothers, Ralph Seay and W. B. Seay; and parents Reuben Albert and Montie Seay. Private and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Jun 09, 2012:** Published in the "The Chickasha Express Star" entitled: Oklahoma guardsman stirs up chow. By Sgt. 1st Class Claudia L. Burcham; Public Affairs NCO, 45th Fires Brigade, OKARNG. Sgt 1st Class Gregory Stowe, of Chickasha, kicked off his summer as the mess section's non-commissioned officer-in-charge for the 45th Fires Brigade's annual training in April. Stowe has served in the military since 1977 and deployed to Desert Storm as a gunner with the 158th Field Artillery. He also deployed to Kuwait for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Currently he is a member of Headquarters Company, 271st Brigade Support Battalion, Oklahoma Army National Guard. Stowe has seen a lot of changes for military cooks during his time in service. In the 1970s, Stowe said his unit outfitted a 2 ½ ton truck with a kitchen for use in the field. They also set up their kitchen in a tent at that time. Now kitchens fold up into a trailer for a quick and efficient set up in the field which Stowe said makes things much easier. "I still like the people the most though," said Stowe. "That's why I stay in the Guard." Stowe said he has been married for 34 years and does not do the cooking at home. Photo Caption: Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Stowe (front, center), of Chickasha, stands with his mess crew next to a field kitchen mounted on a trailer at Fort Chaffee, Ark., during annual training earlier this summer. Another mobile kitchen is set up behind them. Stowe, a member of Headquarters Company, 271st Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Fires Brigade, has been in the military since 1977.

**Jun 13, 2012:** Obituary: Kenneth O'Don Northcutt, published in The Oklahoman, June 17, 2012: Bethany, ok., Kenneth O'Don Northcutt, 77, of Bethany, OK, died June 13 at home. He was born March 6, 1935 to Opal and Grady Northcutt. He was raised in Wichita Falls, TX. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma where he played football under Bud Wilkinson, winning 47 straight. He was a member of Western Oaks Christian Church. Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, step-daughter, Cindy Page, and grandson, Derek Page. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Lois; daughter, Traci Northcutt and her children Chris, Ashley, Brad and Makenzie; step-daughter, Patty Thompson and her children Carly, Corby; and nephew, Dillon and his son (great-grandson) Bentlee; step-son, Jeff Adams and his children Zach, Amelia and Taylor. Services will be Monday, June 18, 1:00pm at Western Oaks Christian Church with interment in Resurrection Cemetery. Major, OSN: O-5402696 and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jul 09, 2012:** Obituary: Ivan Roy Norton. Services: 10 a.m. July 13, in Adams Funeral Home, Ozark, with Pastor Robert Long officiating. Burial will follow in Vaughn-Oddfellows Cemetery, Ozark. Visitation: No formal visitation is planned. Friends may visit from 9 to 10 a.m. July 13 in the funeral home. Ivan Roy Horton, 69, Ozark, died July 9, 2012. He was born January 16, 1943 in Indianahoma, Okla., the son of Ivan Dee and Madlene (Jenkins) Norton. On March 14, 1964 he was united in marriage to Veroque June Begley. Ivan was chairman of Deacons at Victory Baptist Church in Ozark and was a member there 15 years. Survivors include: his wife, Veroque Norton, Ozark; a daughter, Lorie June Norton, Ozark; a son, Ivan Dee Norton and Wife Amy, Ozark; a grand daughter, Sarah Norton, Ozark and a grandson, Jacob Norton, Ozark; two brothers, Raymond Norton and Samuel Lake, Lawton, Okla.; four sisters, Doris Fretos, Pamona, Calif., Carolyn Morris, Weatherford, Texas, Alverna Harrison, Marlow, Okla., and Robin Cole, Waco, Texas; and a host of extended family and friends. Private and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jul 23, 2012:** Obituary: Kenneth Paul Fricke; October 22, 1938 to July 23, 2012; Eddyville, Kentucky; Kenneth Paul Fricke, age 73 of Eddyville, died at 12:15 p.m. Monday at Princeton Health and Rehab. Center in Princeton. He was a retired veteran after serving two tours in Korea and two tours in Vietnam. He was preceded in death by one daughter Patricia Ramos in 2002 and one brother Richard Fricke. His parents were John and Ruth Carrico Fricke. Survivors include two sons Robert Fricke of Eddyville, Thomas Fricke of Syracuse, NY, one daughter Tammi Fricke-Day of Buffalo, NY, one step son David Bell of Eddyville, ten grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, two sisters Carolyn Carrico of Mt. Pleasant, SC and Judy Harpstrite of Augusta, GA. Funeral services will be held at 6:00 pm Friday at Dunn's Funeral Home in Eddyville with Rev. Bill Kline officiating. Friends may call from 4:00 pm Friday until time for the service at 6:00.

**Jul 31, 2012:** Obituary: Robert Joseph Karrenbauer, Birth: Jan. 24, 1929, Massillon, Stark County, Ohio, USA, Death: Jul. 31, 2012, Clearview, Stark County, Ohio, USA. From the Canton Repository: Robert was a Korean War veteran serving with the Army as a First Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery and received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Massillon Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree. Robert was very proud to his design for Obie the Tiger that he created in 1946 for the school newspaper that is still used today. Spouse: Fleeta Eldora Stuart Karrenbauer (1932 - 2016) Children: Glenn David Karrenbauer (1957 - 1964) Burial: Saint Barbaras Cemetery , Massillon, Stark County, Ohio, USA.

**Aug 07, 2012:** Obituary: Woodrow Leon Cooper ( March 14, 1922 - August 07, 2012 ) Memorial services to celebrate the life of Woody Cooper, 91, of Lufkin will be held Saturday, August 11, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the Carroway Funeral Home Chapel. Woody willed his body to Baylor School of Medicine for research, and his remains will be cremated. Woodrow ""Woody"" Cooper was born March 14, 1922 in Pocahontas, Arkansas to Edgar and Lottie Belle (Hibbard) Cooper, and died Tuesday, August 7, 2012 in a local hospital, after a brief illness. Woody was the fifth of seven children. Orphaned at age 5 he, along with three brothers and three sisters, moved to Anadarko, Oklahoma where they lived with other family members. Woody enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard upon graduating from high school, and trained K-9 dogs for the Army and Marines during World War II. He also saw sea duty on the Great Lakes. After the war, he returned to Weatherford, Oklahoma and attended Southwestern State College on a football and wrestling scholarship. In 1950, the 45th Division was activated and ordered to prepare for deployment to Korea. Woody was a 2nd Lieutenant, OSN: O-991574 in the 158th Field Artillery, and left the University of Oklahoma, where he was working on his Master's degree, to deploy with his unit. While at Fort Polk, Louisiana, he met and married his wife Patsy. His unit deployed to Korea shortly thereafter in 1951, where he saw front-line duty as a forward observer. When discharged in 1953, Woody began a long career of coaching and teaching. Beginning in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, he also coached at Tulsa Webster, Fairland, Hominy, and Duncan, Oklahoma. While at Hominy, he led them to the state finals in 1958. Taking a respite from coaching in 1962, Woody took a position with Southland Life Insurance in Dallas. Recruited by Field Scoville, the Executive VP, he became a field trainer working with new agents. He traveled Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana in this capacity. Induced to re-enter coaching, in 1968 Woody

returned to Hominy, Oklahoma and led that team to a state finals, and the next season to the state quarterfinals. In the three years at Hominy, Woody amassed an amazing 30-7-1 record. After his success there, Woody was hired by James Moffett in 1971 to come to Lufkin and help rebuild the program. When Lufkin established two Middle Schools, Woody coordinated the work of six young coaches in the program to prepare the student athletes for the varsity program. In 1973, Woody took the job of sports coordinator and director for the Lufkin State School. In 1975 he transferred to become the director of the Foster Grandparent Program at the State School. In 1977 he, along with Dr. Ben Dickerson of the Stephen F. Austin State University Sociology/Gerontology Department, established the Foster Grandparent Jamboree. The Jamboree hosted FGP groups from around the country for a three day meeting at locations across the nation. The Jamboree was such a success, and Woody worked so tirelessly at making everyone welcome, that in 1985 the members and attendees renamed the program the "Woody Cooper Memorial Foster Grandparent Jamboree", the name it goes by to this day. As busy as he was with full-time work, Woody always found time to indulge his passion: fishing! Combining pleasure with business, Woody wrote outdoor and fishing columns that ran for many years in The Lufkin Daily News and Diboll Free Press. He also authored articles that were submitted and published in regional and national fishing publications, such as The American Angler and Southwest Outdoors, and was one of the co-founders of the Bass Star magazine and fishing tournament and The Lake News, a monthly newspaper concerned with Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend lakes. At his most prolific, he was published in 27 different magazines and pamphlets. He went on to produce and participate in several short fishing videos with such personages as John Fox and Golden Richards. Not satisfied with this double life, Woody also engaged in another seasonal passion: teaching swimming lessons. Each spring would find him in a pool teaching youngsters as old as 2 the basics, as well as "children" as young as 68. After finally officially retiring, Woody loved to work in his yard. He could often be seen riding his beloved mower, not just in his yard, but in neighbors' yards and vacant lots in the neighborhood. On the Saturday before his death, he mowed his yard along with two neighbors' yards. Surviving him is his wife of 61 years, Patsy Cooper of Lufkin; sons, Jerry Cooper and wife Paula of Muskogee, Oklahoma, Mike Cooper of New York City, New York, and Steve Cooper of Lufkin; daughter, Melissa Cooper of Lufkin; granddaughters, Jody Cooper of Tyler, and Jennifer Seely and husband Matt of The Woodlands; and beloved and adored great-grandchildren, the twins Cooper and Caleb Seely, and their younger brother Campbell Seely of The Woodlands. Preceding Woody in death are his parents and six siblings, along with his youngest son, Duke Cooper. Based upon his love of growing things, in lieu of flowers, Woody hoped that friends would plant a tree or a flowering plant in his memory.

**Sep 09, 2012:** Change of Command Ceremony, 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery, LTC Jerald R. Gilbert replacing LTC Robert E. Sowards and assuming command.

**Sep 10, 2012:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: 1-158th FA gets new command in ceremony. Lt. Col. Robert E. Sowards was welcomed as the new commander of 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, at a change of command ceremony held here Sunday. The battalion said farewell to outgoing commander Lt. Col. Jerald R. Gilbert, who in civilian life is the chief financial officer for the City of Enid. He is married to Denise Gilbert. Gilbert began his military career on Aug. 8, 1985, enlisting as a combat medical specialist in Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 189th Field Artillery, 45th Fires Brigade. He enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at Oklahoma State University in August 1985 and contracted as a cadet in August 1987. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the field artillery branch in May 1989. He served as reconnaissance/survey officer, fire direction officer and Headquarters Battery commander in 1-189 FA before it was deactivated in September 1996. He then served as counterfire officer in Headquarters Battery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade before transferring to 1-158 FA for the first time in 1997. He was serving as the battalion operations officer in 2006 when it fielded the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The new commander is from Arlington, Texas. Sowards enlisted in Headquarters Squadron, 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery in Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1984. There he served as a fire support specialist. He attended officer candidate school and was commissioned in 1989. After attending field artillery officer basic course, he was assigned as a fire direction officer in B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery, Decatur, Texas. In 1991 he was assigned to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery and served in a variety of positions, including C Battery commander from 1996 to 1998. Sowards rose through the ranks of 1-171 FA's battalion staff until he was assigned as 45th Fires Brigade logistics officer in 2004. Going on to become brigade operations officer, he deployed in support of Task Force Orleans to bring order and humanitarian assistance to hurricane victims in New Orleans, La. Sowards also deployed with the brigade to Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving as force protection officer for the Area Support Group, Kuwait. Sowards' most recent assignment was with the Oklahoma Joint Force Headquarters G3-Training Branch.

**Sep 16, 2012:** Obituary: Lewis Pinkey Roberts. Services celebrating the life of Lewis, L.P., Roberts, 92, of Altus, will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Kincannon Memorial Chapel in Altus. Burial will follow at the Altus City

Cemetery under the direction of the Kincannon Funeral Home. Mr. Roberts went to be with our Lord Sunday, Sept. 16, at the home of his daughter and son-in-law in Lamesa, Texas. Lewis was born on March 23, 1920, in Mineral Springs, Ark., to William Richard Roberts and Mary Florence Arnold Roberts. He married the love of his life on July 5, 1943. He always said I grew up in Brinkman, graduated from Brinkman, and married a Brinkman girl, Germa Lee Brinkman (granddaughter to the founder of Brinkman, Oklahoma.). Germa Lee passed away on March 4, 1972 after being married for almost 49 years. Lewis became a hero to his family when he was only eight years old. The family left Arkansas to move to Oklahoma in the family car and a fully loaded trailer. His dad got out to check things, and the car started rolling backwards. Lewis, the family hero, also known as Tinker, pulled the hand brake and stopped the catastrophe waiting to happen. Lewis was known as Tinker because as a baby he was always so inquisitive and tinkering with everything. His heroic character remained consistent through his life. As a young teenager his dad had taught him how to plow, plant and take care of farm animals. He was the oldest son left at home, when his father's health declined and he died in 1938. While he was still in school, he worked as a janitor at school and church, did any farming jobs his neighbors had available, and did summer wheat harvests. Lewis also joined the National Guard while still in high school. In school Lewis enjoyed playing baseball and participated in all school activities, including dramas and Future Farmers of America. He always had projects including livestock judging, and showing pigs at the county fair and then on to the state fair. He graduated from Brinkman High School in 1939 and enrolled at Southwestern State Teachers College in Weatherford studying business and accounting. While attending college the Guard was nationalized, and he was inducted into the Army for one year on Sept. 16, 1940, Sergeant, ASN: 20831112 along with his 158th Field Artillery Unit (part of the 45th National Guard Division) at Southwestern. However, his active duty was extended for the duration of the war which for him was Sept. 21, 1945. His induction orders sent him to Ft. Sill. He was authorized leave in December 1941 and was home planning his wedding with his fiance, when he was ordered back to base due to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Thinking the next target of Japan would be the Panama Canal, he was reassigned to the 207th Field Artillery Battalion and placed on shipping alert. He served and trained for 18 months in the rugged Panama jungles. After coming back to the U.S., Lewis was deployed to Europe and served the remaining part of the war in the European theatre traveling thru France, Belgium and into Germany. Experiencing all the horrors of war, he fought in five major battles. Lewis was a communication specialist laying communication lines for orders from central command to the advance heavy artillery. At one point, a shelled out basement where he had set up communications was bombed, and he was buried for three days and nights. Lewis was truly part of the greatest generation. After the war he enjoyed farming, owned a cafe and later a laundry. In 1956, he went to work as a civil engineer at Altus Air Force Base. He worked as a fuel specialist and retired in 1980 as a USAF Certified Fuel Tank Cleaning Safety Supervisor. He retired at 62 from the air base, and continued an air conditioning business he had started years before. L.P. retired again at age 85. He was a member of Tabernacle Baptist Church and served as a deacon from 1980 until 2004. God was always the center and focus of Lewis's life. He loved hunting, reading, woodworking, building furniture, and sports, especially OU football. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; a daughter, Sharron; two brothers, John and Bill Roberts; and two sisters, Florence Berry and Betty Lou Spruce. Survivors include a daughter, Nancy Webb and husband David of Lamesa, Texas; a son-in-law, Gary Higgs of Oklahoma City; five grand children, Kevin Higgs and wife Jennifer of Oklahoma City, Kyle Higgs and wife Jacki of New York City, Chris Webb and wife Melissa of Denver, Marc Webb of Austin, Texas, and Somer Webb of Dallas; five great-grandchildren, Ethan, Boston, Calli, Camryn and Drake; a brother, Alvin Roberts and wife Margie of Oklahoma City; two sisters, Judy Tarnow of Oklahoma City, and Bertha Mae Britton of Palm Springs, Calif.; and many other nieces and nephews. Additional parking for the funeral Friday is available in Kincannons back parking lot, Best Western Hotel to the South and Western Sizzlin Steakhouse to the North.

**Sep 29, 2012:** Obituary: Robert Leroy Stringer January 13, 1928 - September 29, 2012 Robert "Bob" Stringer, 84, of Perry, Okla., formerly of Edmond, Okla., died Saturday, September 29, 2012 in Perry. He was born January 13, 1928, in El Reno, Okla., the son of Ray Newton and Vera (Teague) Stringer. On August 28, 1949 Bob married his sweetheart and best friend Velta Mae Allen at the First Christian Church in Edmond, Okla. Bob graduated from Central State University in 1950. He worked for the Department of Transportation until 1993 when he retired as a division engineer. He worked for the state for a total of 50 years. He was a past post commander of the American Legion Post 111 in Edmond, past president of the Perry Rotary and a former director of the Exchange Bank and Trust in Perry. He was a Mason and a member of the Perry Historical Society. Bob served his country for over 40 years and was honorably discharged from the Oklahoma National Guard after serving in the 45th Infantry Division, 179th Infantry Headquarters Company, as Command Sergeant Major of the 158th Field Artillery Company and completed a tour in the Korean War. Bob was an active member and served as an elder of the First Christian Church in Perry. Bob is survived by his wife, Velta of the home; two sons, Wes Stringer of Oklahoma City, Larry Stringer of Owasso, Okla., three grandchildren, Regina Howell and her husband, Davy of Spring, Texas, Dana Stringer and Ethan Stringer both of Owasso; two great grandchildren, Allison Howell and Dalton Howell of Spring, Texas; two great-great-grandchildren, Stephani Howell and Cody Howell of Spring, Texas; sister-in-law, Virginia O'Niel of Edmond; two nephews, Steve O'Niel of Cascade, Colo., Jay O'Niel of Pueblo West, Colo. He was preceded in death by his



daughter, Karon Byford; parents, Ray and Vera Stringer; one sister, LaVahn Childers; and two brothers-in-law, Bill O'Niel and Dave Childers. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday, October 4, 2012 at First Christian Church in Perry. Rev. Martin Foster will officiate. Interment will be 2:30 p.m. at Kingfisher Cemetery in Kingfisher, Okla. Services are under the direction of Brown-Dugger Funeral Home. Family will receive friends from 6 - 8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at Brown-Dugger Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to Companion Hospice, American Legion Post 111 or the First Christian Church in care of Brown-Dugger Funeral Home, 1010 N. 7th Street, Perry, OK 73077.

**Oct 01, 2012:** Published in the "The Comanche Nation News" entitled: Military recognition at CIVA meeting. Active members and Auxiliary of the Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) recognized a number of veterans at their monthly meeting held September 6 in the New Conference ceremony Room at the Comanche Nation Complex. 21 veterans, 14 Auxiliary and seven guest were present for the ceremony. A meal was provided by Sandra Gallegos prior to the Veteran gift bags containing a Comanche Veterans Tag (designed by USMC and Vietnam War veteran Raymond Nauni), two CIVA hand fans, two CIVA pens, "In the Tradition of the Warrior" A modern day history of Comanche Veterans DVD," CIVA Coffee Cup, Comanche Nation stick-on logo and Comanche Nation Veteran T-shirts were presented to SFC Dominic Pawlowski (US Marine Corps and OKARNG), SFC Paul Tate Jr (US Army and OKARNG), SFC John McClung (US Army and OKARNG), LTC (Retired) Clark Southard (US Army), Sgt Connie Southard (US Air Force), Cpl George Laurenzana (US Marine Corps), PO2 Clifford "Beaver" Takawana (US Navy) and SN Keith Red Elk (US Navy and CAARNG). CIVA Commander, George Red Elk and Vice Commander, Jack Codopony, also presented Honorable and Combat Service medallions and a CIVA "Challenge" Coin to Pawlowski, Tate, McClung, Clark, Southard and Takawana. Honorable Service medallions and a "Challenge" Coin were presented to Connie Southard, Laurenzana and Red Elk. SFC Tate Jr., served as a Squad Leader with the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery from 2008-09 in Iraq. His father, Paul Tate Sr., was a US Army Paratrooper who served with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. SFC Tate Jr., served in the active US Army from 1992-94, the US Army Reserve from 1994-96 and the OK Army National Guard from 1996 to present. He is currently an Active Guard Reserve serving as a Brigade Readiness NCO in Mustang. SFC Tate Jr., is a graduate of Fort Cobb High School and a junior with Phoenix University. He has completed the Reserve Component Primary Leadership Development Course, the Basic and Advanced NCO Courses, the MLRS Fire Direction Control and Crewman Courses, Air Assault School, Small Arms Master Gunner and Readiness NCO Courses. His awards include the Meritorious Service, Army Commendation (3), Army Achievement (6), Armed Forces Expeditionary, Armed Forces Service, Army Reserve Component Achievement, National Defense Service (2), Army Good Conduct, Humanitarian Service (3), Global War on Terrorism, Iraqi Campaign w/2 Bronze Service Stars, OK Commendation, OK Long Service, OK State Active Duty (4), OK Good Conduct and LA Emergency Relief Medals, the NCOPD w/Numeral 3 and Army Service Ribbons, the Excellence in Competition (Pistol) and Drivers and Mechanic Badges, the Army Superior Unit Award, the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Presidential Unit Citation. SFC Pawlowski served 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery as a Fire Direction Specialist based at Ramadi, Iraq in 2008-09. He served in US Marine Corps from 1995-99 and the OK Army National Guard since 1999. SFC Pawlowski is currently an Active Guard Reserve serving as an Assistant Quota Source Manager in Oklahoma City. He is a graduate of Indianola High School and Cameron University, the Reserve Component Primary Leadership Course, Basic and Advance NCO Courses, Fire Direction Specialist and Multiple Launch Rocket System (MRLS) Courses. His awards include the Meritorious Service, Army Commendation (4), Army Achievement (4), Army and Marine Corps Good Conduct, Army Reserve Component Achievement (2), National Defense Service (2), Iraqi Campaign w/2 Bronze Service Stars, Global War on Terrorism Service, Humanitarian Service, Armed Forces Reserve (2), OK Meritorious Service (2), OK Commendation, OK Active Duty, OK Long Service, OK Good Conduct (10) and LA Emergency Service Medals, the Overseas Service (2), NCOPD w/Numeral 3, and the Army Service Ribbons, the Army Superior Unit Award, the Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Driver and Mechanic Badges.

**Oct 24, 2012:** Obituary: Loyd Todd Jr.: August 9, 1935 - October 24, 2012 Moore, OK. Loyd Todd, Jr. "Pa," age 77, of Moore, passed away October 24, 2012. He was born August 9, 1935, in Marlow, OK, to Loyd & Ruby Todd. Loyd served 42 years in the Army Nat'l Guard, retiring as a CW4. He was very organized. Loyd had things labeled and in their place. He enjoyed fixing and building things. Loyd was always helping his neighbors fix things. He enjoyed going to garage sales. He enjoyed fishing with the boys. Loyd was a volunteer firefighter in Marlow. He always had candy in a drawer for the babies. Loyd is survived by his wife, Janice Todd; 2 children, Teresa Bond & husband, Steve & Jon Loyd Todd & wife, Shelly; 6 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; 1 brother; 3 sisters. He is preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Ruby Kathleen Todd. Services will be held at 10:00 AM, Friday, October 26, 2012, at John M. Ireland Funeral Home Chapel, Moore, OK. Interment to follow at Resthaven Memory Gardens. Services are under the direction of the John M. Ireland Funeral Home. Published in The Oklahoman on October 25, 2012.

**Nov 13, 2012:** Obituary: John Roy Sundvall, 93, of Mount Morris, died Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012, at Pinecrest Manor Nursing Home in Mount Morris. He was employed by Kable Printing Co. for 36 years, retiring in 1984. John was born April 6, 1919, in Seligman, Mo., the son of Gust A. and Anna W. (Wallin) Sundvall. He joined the military in November 1942. He was a forward observation radio operator with the 45th Thunderbird Division of the 7th Army in Eastern France and Germany, participating in the liberation of Dachau. He also served in South Carolina and Italy. He married Emma K. Haas on June 4, 1955, in Warren. John was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Mount Morris. Survivors include his son, Eric Sundvall of Oregon; daughters, Karen (Ron) Larson of Mount Morris and Joan Sundvall of Rockford; and two granddaughters. He was preceded in death by his wife; parents; and his half brother, Clarence Newman. Visitation will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at Finch Funeral Home, Mount Morris, with the Rev. Marilyn Hanson officiating. Burial will be at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon. Memorials have been established to the Mount Morris Public Library Fund and Pinecrest Community Good Samaritan Fund. Taken from: The Dixon Telegraph, Dixon, Lee Co., IL., Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 Page A4 - Col. 5-6. Sergeant, ASN: 36306841 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 11, 2012:** Permanent Orders 346-29: Department of the Army. U. S. Army Human Resources Command. 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Department 480, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408. Permanent Orders 346-29 dated 11 December 2012. 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment (WYHOAA), 3955 Cannoneer Field Road, Fort Sill, OK 73013. Announcement is made of the following award: Award: Campaign Participation Credit. Date(s) or period of service: 1 January 2009 to 8 August 2009. Authority: AR 600-8-22, Paragraph 7-18. Reason: For participation in the IRAQI SOVEREIGNTY campaign. Format: 320. Streamer Size: Flag. Earned Honor Device: No. Assault Landing Device: No. Additional Information: N/A.. By order of the Secretary of the Army: Signed: Elisa M. Robinson, CW4,AG, Deputy Chief, Awards and Decorations Branch. Chief, National Guard Bureau, Attn: HRH A Combat Awards, 111 South George Mason Dr., Arlington, VA 22204 (1) CMH (1) File (1) DAGO (1).

**Dec 27, 2012:** Obituary: Charles Donald Langston, May 25, 1945 - December 27, 2012, Mr. Charles "Don" Donald Langston, in his 67th Season of Life, surrendered his soul on Thursday morning, December 27, 2012 with his loving family by his side. Affectionately known as "Don" by all who knew him, Mr. Langston was born on May 25, 1945 in Atlanta, Texas, to Charles and Grace [Stone] Langston. Don was the owner and operator of Muskogee Regional Hearing Aid Lab in Muskogee since 1980. He raised beagles and loved riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycles. He enjoyed camping and fishing and loved spending time with his family. He married his wife, Cathy in 1998 and will be missed by all who loved him. He leaves to cherish his loving memory; his wife, Mary Catherine "Cathy", of the home in Muskogee; a daughter, Lori Dawn Paskvan and her husband, Damon, Jenks, Oklahoma; a step-daughter, Freddie Trussell and her boyfriend, Tommy Justice, Muskogee; two step-sons, Adam Hughes and wife, Jessica, of Montana and Charlie Hawkins, Muskogee; a brother, Ron Langston and wife, Sandy, Durant, Oklahoma; two grandsons, Zachary and Max Paskvan, both of Jenks, Oklahoma; five step-granddaughters, Harlee, Chloe, Peyton and Rial, all of Muskogee and Kenyee of Montana; a step-grandson, Bralin, of Muskogee; along with several nieces and nephews and a host of friends. Don was preceded in death by his parents. Keith D Biglow Funeral Directors, Inc. Cremated and ashes given to family. Served as a PFC in Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jan 01, 2013:** Published in the "The Fires Bulletin" entitled: 45th Fires Brigade Oklahoma U.S. Army National Guard. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 45th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma U.S. Army National Guard. During training year 2012, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 45th Fires Brigade pursued a training plan to aggressively prepare its staff and the brigade as it approaches the 'available year' in the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle. HHB assumed the joint task force (JTF) responsibilities for the Oklahoma Army National Guard's reaction force. This allowed the state of Oklahoma to maintain a Homeland Defense Headquarters capable of deploying up to 500 personnel within a short period of time. After assuming this responsibility, HHB participated as the JTF Headquarters in Operation Sooner Response, a simulated national disaster designed to test the state's emergency response capabilities. In addition to this training, HHB also conducted a thorough annual training plan in order to further develop its core competency as a force Field Artillery headquarters. HHB was successful in controlling Fires for both its organic and aligned for-training units and for the execution of more than 1,450 rounds by the 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery Regiment, and 72 rockets by 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery Regiment. The high-mobility artillery rocket system (HIMARS) is the newest member of the multiple-launch rocket system (MLRS) family. HIMARS is a highly-mobile artillery rocket system offering the firepower of MLRS on a wheeled chassis. HIMARS was developed by Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control under an advanced concept technology demonstration (ACTD) program, placed in 1996. The purpose of HIMARS is to engage and defeat artillery, air defense concentrations, trucks, light armor and personnel carriers, as well as support troop and supply concentrations. HIMARS launches its weapons and moves away from the area at high speed before enemy forces locate the launch site. HIMARS orders and deliveries. In January 2000, Lockheed Martin was awarded an EMD (engineering and manufacturing development) contract to provide six HIMARS launchers. A further two HIMARS

launchers were ordered under a two-year user evaluation programmed for the US Marines Corps. In March 2003, the US Army and Marine Corps signed a contract for the low-rate initial production (LRIP) of 89 launchers for the Army and four for the USMC. A second LRIP contract was awarded in January 2004 for 25 launchers for the army and one for the USMC. A third was awarded in January 2005 for 37 launchers for the army and one for the USMC. A total procurement of 900 launchers is planned. In November 2004, HIMARS successfully completed initial operational test & evaluation (IOT&E). Three prototype HIMARS launchers were successfully used in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom. "HIMARS is able to launch its weapons and move away at high speed." HIMARS entered service in June 2005 with the 27th Field Artillery, 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The first full-rate production contract was awarded in December 2005. HIMARS is also in service with 1st Battalion, 181st Field Artillery Tennessee National Guard, 158th Field Artillery Oklahoma National Guard (both since 2006) and 5th battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, Fort Lewis (since November 2007). The first US Marine Corps battalion equipped with HIMARS, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, was deployed to Iraq in July 2007. In September 2006, the United Arab Emirates requested the foreign military sale (FMS) of 20 HIMARS launchers plus munitions including 101 ATACMS block 1A, 101 ATACMS block 1A Unitary, 104 MLRS, 130 GMLRS and 130 GMLRS unitary rocket pods. The first unit was delivered in late 2009. As in 2011 the estimated cost of UAE's orders for HIMARS reached \$752m. In January 2007, Lockheed Martin was awarded a further contract for 44 HIMARS systems for the US Army and 16 for the USMC. In September 2007, the US Congress was notified of the proposed sale of 18 HIMARS launchers plus 32 Unitary GMLRS pods and 30 MLRS practice rocket pods to Singapore. The first HIMARS launcher was delivered in July 2010. It was commissioned in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) fleet in September 2011. A contract for 64 launchers (57 for the US Army and seven for the USMC) was placed in January 2009. HIMARS has been evaluated to be used as a common launch platform for GMLRS and ATACMS munitions. Two advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles (AMRAAM) were successfully fired by the HIMARS launchers in March 2009. In November 2010, BAE Systems signed a \$16.3m contract with US Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) to supply an additional 44 HIMARS vehicles. The contract is a follow-on to June 2010 award of \$24m for 63 HIMARS vehicles and appliqué kits. In January 2011, the US Army placed a \$139.6m contract with Lockheed Martin for 44 combat-proven HIMARS, bringing the total launchers to 375. Deliveries will conclude by early 2013. The US Army received the 400th HIMARS launcher in September 2011. "The HIMARS artillery rocket launcher can aim at a target in just 16 seconds." HIMARS rocket fire control system. HIMARS retains the same self-loading and autonomous features installed on the MLRS. The improved launcher mechanical system (ILMS) upgrade and electronics of the improved fire control system (IFCS), which upgraded MLRS M270 launchers are also fitted to HIMARS vehicles. Lockheed Martin's universal fire control system (UFCS), a further evolutionary upgrade of the fire control system, has completed development and qualification and from mid 2008 is being fitted to full-rate production HIMARS. Successful HIMARS test firings of the ATACMS missile (in March 2008) and GMLRS rockets (in May 2008) took place using the new GPS-guided UFCS. HIMARS is operated by a crew of three - driver, gunner and section chief - but the computer-based fire control system enables a crew of two or even a single soldier to load and unload the system. The fire control system includes video, keyboard control, a gigabyte of programmed storage and global positioning system. The fire control computer allows firing missions to be carried out in automatic or manual mode. In a typical mission, a command and control post would transmit the selected target data via a secure data link to the HIMARS on-board launch computer. The computer then aims the launcher and provides prompt signals to the crew to arm and fire a pre-selected number of rounds. The launcher can aim at a target in just 16 seconds. It is possible for the crew to select preprogrammed multiple mission sequences which have been stored in the computer. High mobility artillery rocket system munitions. In addition to the standard MLRS round, HIMARS is capable of launching the entire MLRS family of munitions, including the extended-range rocket, the reduced-range practice rocket and all future variants. HIMARS carries a single six-pack of MLRS rockets, or one army tactical missile system (ATACMS) missile. The extended-range MLRS rocket (ER-MLRS) improves the basic M26 range of 32km to more than 45km and the area of influence by 107%. "HIMARS has successfully test fired the new extended range guided rocket GMLRS, with a range of more than 70km." The extension of the rocket motor has resulted in a reduction in the payload to 518 M85 grenades, but the dispersion of the grenades is improved for better effectiveness with fewer grenades. In April 2004, HIMARS successfully test fired the new extended range guided rocket GMLRS, with a range of more than 70km. The Lockheed Martin GMLRS rocket has a GPS (global positioning system) and inertial guidance package and small canards on the rocket nose to enhance accuracy. GMLRS completed System Development and Demonstration (SDD) tests in December 2002 and entered low-rate initial production in April 2003. Initial operating capability (IOC) was achieved in 2006, but the system has been operationally deployed since September 2005 in Iraq. The GMLRS is an international program involving UK, Italy, France and Germany as well as the US. The industrial team includes Diehl, MBDA and Fiat-Avio. First deliveries of a unitary variant of GMLRS, with a single 81.6kg (180lb) warhead, developed by General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems, and a range of up to 70km were in May 2005. In October 2003, Lockheed Martin was awarded an SDD contract for 86 unitary variant rockets, delivered in June 2005. In June 2007, GMLRS Unitary entered low-rate initial production (LRIP). Army tactical missile system (ATACMS). HIMARS is capable of firing the long-range ATACMS (army tactical missile

system) guided missile. The ATACMS family includes the Block 1, Block 1A and Block 1A Unitary missiles. The block 1 missile delivers 950 anti-personnel anti-material (AP/AM) baseball-sized M74 sub-munitions to ranges exceeding 165km. The block 1A missile range exceeds 300km by reducing the submunition payload to 300 bomblets and adding GPS guidance. The Block 1A unitary missile, with a single-burst warhead, was first deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March/April 2003. "HIMARS is capable of launching the entire MLRS family of munitions, including the extended-range rocket." The program to develop the Block II missile, with GPS and 13 BAT (brilliant anti-tank) sub-missiles, and Block IIA missile, with six improved BAT sub-missiles, was cancelled in February 2003. Vehicle: HIMARS carries a single six-pack of rockets on the army's family of medium tactical vehicles (FMTV) 6x6 all-wheel drive 5t truck supplied by Armor Holdings Tactical Vehicle Systems Division (now BAE Systems Mobility & Protection Systems), Texas. The HIMARS vehicle weighs approximately 24,000lb (10,886kg) compared to more than 44,000lb (19,958kg) for the MLRS M270 launcher. HIMARS is transportable on the C-130 aircraft, allowing the system to be moved into areas previously inaccessible to the larger C-141 and C-5 aircraft required for the M270 launch vehicle. The Global Missiles and Missile Defense Systems Market 2011-2021.

**Jan 16, 2013:** Published in the "The Oklahoma Uniquely American History Text Book" entitled: Chapter 17. What happened after the U.S. Bicentennial Celebration in 1976?; Why did the first Persian Gulf War occur? Oil was at the center of the Persian Gulf War. By 1990, the dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, commanded the world's fourth-largest army. He invaded the tiny country of Kuwait because he wanted its oil fields. Saddam ignored warnings from the United Nations and all efforts to negotiate. By the end of 1990, American soldiers were gathering in Saudi Arabia with fighting units from twenty-seven other nations. To defend Kuwait's right of sovereignty (self-rule), this coalition of countries declared war. The Persian Gulf War, "Operation Desert Storm," began on January 17, 1991, with air attacks on strategic Iraqi military sites. Pilots flew thousands of sorties (missions) daily. They relied on planes from Tinker Air Force Base to lead them to their targets. Those planes were called AWACS, short for Sentry E-3 Airborne Warning and Control Systems. A Harrier jet with Marine Captain Craig Berryman of Cleveland was shot down early in the war. The Iraqis held Berryman prisoner thirty-seven days. When he returned home he received the Oklahoman Cross of Valor. Oklahoma sent regular military personnel, reservists, and its National Guard to fight. They included 1,750 members from the Army National Guard and 280 members from the Air National Guard. Many of those who went were women. Most of the guard units were support groups. The only combat battalion was the 158th Field Artillery, specializing in Multiple Launch Rocket Systems. General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the coalition combat troops, specifically chose the 158th. After five weeks of air attacks, the troops took to the ground. The 158th led the charge against Iraq on February 23. Sergeant David Clowers of Oklahoma City and Staff Sergeant Brad Rittenhouse of Lawton fired the first missile of the ground war. Just one hundred hours later, the war was over. Schwarzkopf hailed the 158th for its outstanding performance. It achieved the highest rate of fire in the Third Army. Before surrendering, Saddam ordered the Iraqi army to dump millions of gallons of oil into the Persian Gulf. He ordered them to set fire to the Kuwaiti oil fields. After the war, Cudd Pressure Control Inc. of Woodward, Oklahoma, sent skilled personnel to extinguish the fires in Kuwait.

**Jan 27, 2013:** Obituary: Larry Eugene Stephenson: November 1, 1922 - January 27, 2013 Wichita, KS; Larry Eugene Stephenson, the son of Floyd Earnest and Capitola (Jones) Stephenson, died Sunday, January 27 in Wichita, KS. He was born Nov. 1, 1922 in Headrick, OK and remained there during his first 12 years of school. He then attended college in Altus, OK and later in San Antonio, TX until the beginning of WW II when he joined the US Army serving on Iwo Jima and Okinawa and then with the Occupation Forces in Japan. Upon separation from the Army, Larry returned to college attending OU where he majored in Journalism. He was named Outstanding Senior Journalism Student & awarded a scholarship to study polls with Elmo Roper and George Gallup. He was editor of Sooner Magazine, the OU alumni publication. With the beginning of the Korean War, Larry once again entered the Army serving with NATO Forces in Europe. Later he rounded out 26 years in the Army with the 45th Infantry Division of the OKNG during the Vietnam War. He was commander of the 158th Artillery Battalion, retiring as a Lt. Colonel, OSN: O-954128. Larry married Virginia Bray in 1949 and they are parents of 3 children: Larry Kent (Sheryl), Patricia Allene (Craig) Weinbrenner and Randall Craig (Lisa). Additionally--10 grandchildren: Cullen, Reese, Bo, Jacob & Kyle Stephenson, Derek, Brandon & Hayden Weinbrenner, Lara Barrientes (Alex), & Greg Simpson. Also 9 great grandchildren. Larry was a Senior VP of Fidelity Bank, NA, of OKC & while there graduated from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking @ Rutgers University. In 1970 he moved to Ponca City, OK as CEO of Security Bank and Trust. In 1980 he accepted an appointment in the Reagan Administration as Oklahoma State Director of the Farmers' Home Administration where he served for the next 4 years. In Ponca Larry was Chmn. of the Board of Trustees of Westminster Village; Chmn. of the Bicentennial Committee; Chmn. of the Cherokee Strip Centennial Committee; President of the Ponca City Rotary Club; District Gov. of District 5750 of Rotary; Rotary Chmn. for raising funds for the Child Care Center in OKC following the bombing of the Murrah Building & named Rotarian of the Year for 1992-93. Larry was named Ponca City Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen in 1976 & DAR Outstanding Citizen. Larry supported the University of Oklahoma Serving as President of the OU Dads' Association in 1971 &

becoming a member of the Quarter Century Club in 2012. A 2 p.m. memorial service is planned for Sat. Feb. 9 @ Grace Episcopal Church-Ponca City. In lieu of flowers it is suggested that contributions be made either to the church in his memory or to: The Rotary Foundation, One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201, to help eradicate polio worldwide. Published in The Oklahoman on Feb. 3, 2013.

**Apr 07, 2013:** Obituary: Arthur Jack Hamilton, 91, passed into eternity on April 7, 2013, while at home with his loving family. Jack Hamilton was born to Ruby and Arthur Hamilton in Lawton, Okla., on 7 August 1921. After graduation from school in Elgin, Okla., he joined the National Guard and was attending college when World War II began. It was between maneuvers that he chose to visit a cousin living in Indiana and met the love of his life, Marjorie B. Hamilton. They were married on May 20, 1942, in Leominster, Mass. He was a member of the 45th Infantry Division of Oklahoma and served in North Africa and in Italy. He served for two years in the European Theater and fought in many battles, including the Sicily and Salerno landings and the Crossing of the Volturna, as well as the battles of Venafrò and the Anzio Beachhead Operation. After the war, Jack ran the family farm in Indiana. A few years later, his family, which now included a daughter and son, moved to California where he began a career in real estate. He was successful in his endeavors and the Conger and Hamilton Real Estate, and later, the Jack Hamilton Realty signs were seen all through the Napa Valley. Also a talented musician, Jack played his saxophone and clarinet while overseas as well as playing at the dances at Mare Island and Travis Air Force Base. Jack is survived by his beautiful bride of 71 years, Marjorie B. Hamilton; his brother, Tim Allred; his son, Larry Hamilton; his daughter, Jacqueline Hamilton Hazeltine; and his grandchildren, Keri Hazeltine Goo, Jennifer Hazeltine Ellison, Erika Hamilton Mines, Damion Hamilton, Julie Pierce Hamilton, as well as many great grandchildren. His parents, brother Wayne Hamilton, and sister Betty Lou Walker preceded him in death, and welcomed him with open arms into eternity. Jack leaves behind a legacy of family devotion, service to country, and a heart of loving kindness. He will be sorely missed by all who loved him. Burial: Cremated, Ashes scattered. Technician Fourth Class, ASN: 20234463 and served with Battery "F", 158th Field Artillery.

**May 31, 2013:** Obituary: William M. Penwright, of Yukon, OK, died May 31, 2013, in Yukon, OK. Born Sept. 8, 1928, in El Reno, OK to W.H. and Tress Penwright. Bill was the Postmaster in Calumet, OK from January 1954 to September 1983. He served with the Regular Army, the Air Force and retired as a Lt. Colonel from the National Guard. He was a member of the Masonic lodge and American legion, a past member of the Order of Eastern Star, and an Elder in the First Christian Church. He was an avid golfer, and a member of Golf Incorporated. He was preceded in death by a brother, Larry Penwright; daughter, Cathy Penwright Menz Reese; grandson, Joshua M. Penwright; and both parents. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Pat, of the home; daughter, Anne Penwright and husband Sam, of Yukon, OK; son, Marshall and Wife Marci, of Houston, TX; son, Les Penwright, of Yukon, OK; son in law, Bob Reese, of Calumet; brother, Jack Penwright and wife Sue, of Bethany, OK; brother, Charles Penwright and wife Lena, of Yukon, OK; seven grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and golf buddies everywhere. Memorial Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 8, 2013, at the First Christian Church in Calumet, OK. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the First Christian Church of Calumet, P.O. Box 8, Calumet, OK 73014. Lieutenant Colonel, OSN: O-2285463 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jul 17, 2013:** Obituary: Burton Carl Mead of Rogers died July 17, 2013. He was born Dec. 9, 1918, in Sharon, Okla., to Carl N. and Bertha Edna Coffland Mead. Burton graduated from Sharon High School in 1936. He joined the Oklahoma National Guard and transferred to active duty at the outset of World War II, where he served with the Army Field Artillery, 45th Division, 158th Field Artillery, A Battery, as a radio operator and forward observer in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. At the end of the war, he served as an instructor at Fort Sill, Okla. He remained a member of the Oklahoma National Guard Thunderbirds for an additional 22 years, when he retired as a first sergeant, E8. In western Oklahoma, Burton farmed, was an automotive parts salesman. He later worked for Franklin Electric in Siloam Springs, Ark. He was a farmer at heart and gardened extensively throughout his life; he was a passionate fisherman and loved fishing on Beaver Lake; he loved woodworking and created beautiful cradles for his grandchildren. He was a member of Grace United Methodist Church, Rogers, and in his late 80s participated in the woodcutting ministry of the church and was a member of Grace's mission team that went to help with repairs after Hurricane Katrina. Dec. 21, 1941, Burton married the love of his life, Betty Lu Costello. They were married for 54 years until her death in 1995. He was also preceded in death by his parents; a granddaughter, Amanda Jean Frey; a sister, Anna Morene; and his brothers, Leroy Warren, Lyman Dale, Edward Stanley and Thomas Newton Mead. Survivors include a daughter, Rebecca and her husband, Fred Hill, son, Eldon Mead and his wife, Mary Ann, and daughter, Elizabeth Mead, all of Rogers; eight grandchildren, Teresa Townsend, Michael Hill, Brent Mead, Dusten Mead, Adina Whitmer, Sean Herbig, Mayson Planck, Carl Cheadle; and eight great grand children. A celebration of Burton's life will be held in Woodward, Okla., at a later date. Memorials may be sent to Grace United Methodist Church, Rogers. First Sergeant, ASN: 20830598 and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Sep 02, 2013:** Obituary: Earl J. Smalley passed away in Converse, Texas, September 2, 2013. E.J. was born December 3, 1925, to Earl Weaver Smalley and Mary Woodward Smalley in Eakly, Oklahoma where he grew up and attended school. School was interrupted when E.J. enlisted in the Army, serving in the infantry during World War II. After combat in Germany, he separated service in June 1946. E.J. went back to Eakly where he farmed with his father until being hospitalized for a year with war injuries. During this time, E.J. met and later married Evelyn Faye Allums in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on December 14, 1950. E.J. again served his country during the Korean War in the Army artillery until May 1952. E.J. and Evelyn farmed peanuts in Eakly, Oklahoma until moving to Palisade, Colorado in 1959, where E.J. again farmed, this time growing fruit. Farming was to be replaced by work at the Hilltop Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado where he retired in 1984. After retirement, E.J. and Evelyn became winter Texans, living and fishing in Port Aransas, Texas from 1986 to 2004. It is a long trip from Colorado to Texas, and in 1996, E.J. moved back to his childhood home in Eakly, Oklahoma. E.J. and Evelyn lived there until 2007 when they moved to Converse, Texas to be closer to their daughter and son. Preceding E.J. in death was an infant daughter; his parents; six sisters and a brother. E.J. is survived by his wife of 62 years, Evelyn; his daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Roland Rowe of Converse, TX, and his son and daughter-in-law, Earl and Kelly Smalley, of Houston, TX; and two sisters, Pat Thompson, of Yukon, OK, and Willodean Bohahan of Shawnee, OK. Services for E.J. will be held at Eakly Cemetery on September 6, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to Eakly Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 322, Eakly, Oklahoma 73033. Sergeant, ASN: 38691530 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Sep 15, 2013:** Obituary: Rosario Michael Sapienza: 1925 - 2013. General Information: Full Name Rosario "Roy" Sapienza. Date of Birth: Friday, February 13th, 1925. Date of Death: Sunday, September 15th, 2013. Place of Death: Bronx, NY. Visitation: When: Monday, September 23rd, 2013 4:00pm - 7:00 pm. Location: Sisto Funeral Home, Inc., Address: 3489 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY, 10465. Service Information. When: Tuesday, September 24th, 2013 10:30am. Location: Saint Benedict's Church. Address: 2969 Otis Avenue, Bronx, NY, 10465. Interment Information; Location: Saint Raymond's Cemetery. Address: 2600 Lafayette Avenue, Bronx, NY, 10465. Corporal, ASN: 32898746 and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Sep 29, 2013:** Obituary: Robert Eugene Farmer, Sr. He was born July 24, 1931 and death was September 29, 2013. Robert "Gene" Farmer, of Dallas, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, September 29, 2013. He was 82. Gene was born on July 24, 1931 in Holdenville, OK. He is survived by his loving and dedicated wife, Rose Farmer. Gene is also survived by his four children, daughters, Debbie Bailey (Marc), Karan Matera (Hike) and Shelly Cornell (Daryl); son, Richard Farmer (Jan), three stepchildren, six grand children, Janet Farmer. Ryan Farmer, Johnny, Marty Wayne. Angela Bryant and Billy McCarn and several great grand children and nieces. Gene is preceded by mother Lillie Mae Farmer, son Robert Eugene Farmer, Jr. and brother Richard Farmer. Gene proudly served his country in the service of the Armed Forces. Gene will be missed greatly by his family and friends. A memorial celebration of life and scattering of ashes will be held at a later date. Burial: Cremated, ashes given to family or friend. Private and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Oct 03, 2013:** Published in the "The Fort Hood Sentinel" entitled: Professionalism embraced as core to Army values while training HiMARS. By Capt. John Brimley, 5th Arm. Bde., Div. West Public Affairs, Oro Grande, N.M. Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honesty, integrity and personal courage are the seven core Army values. Each soldier at every level is taught to embrace and endear themselves to these values. While professionalism isn't listed, it is one trait that embodies all of the Army Values, and the main theme constantly exchanged between 1st Battalion, 360th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Warhawg, 5th Armored Brigade and Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, as Task Force Warhawg facilitated training and validated the HiMARS unit during their weeklong training event Sept. 23-27 here. "Professionalism is the best word to describe Warhawg," said 1st Sgt. Lance Grant, first sergeant of the HiMARS battery, a National Guard unit out of Edmond, Okla. TF Warhawg wasn't short on compliments for what Grant and his unit added to the value of their own training. "All Soldiers from E-3 to commander knew their weapons systems proficiently," said Staff Sgt. Michael Stevens, senior trainer mentor with TF Warhawg. "They were the most squared-away unit we've had to deal with." Different from the hundreds of engineer, military police and field artillery units TF Warhawg typically trains, the HiMARS training mission carries a different set of training validations that Warhawg isn't institutionally trained to carry out. "Warhawg generally doesn't get missions like this, but we got tasked with this one because of the success of the previous missions we had," Stevens said. The training battalion is primarily comprised of infantrymen. Many of them have served with artillerymen, but validating a HiMARS unit for their mission is not one that many of them are very familiar with. "Viper team didn't have this experience," Stevens said. "A different team validated the HiMARS unit back in January." Warhawg knew the limitations they faced with such a unique mission, but they weren't short on resources. The 1-158 and Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 171st Target Acquisition Battery conducted home station training to prepare them for this mission, and understanding validation was the end goal, with master gunners on

hand. Prior planning between TF Warhawg and the 212th Fires Brigade at Fort Bliss was crucial to mission success. The willingness to succeed on all parts was evident from day one. "We had a meeting brief with the command team, and it set the tone for how it (training) would go," Stevens said. It wasn't a surprise to the HiMARS battery that the infantry battalion had little expertise for this mission, but the willingness to learn and grow increased the trust the Oklahoma unit had in Warhawg. "I've been to MOB (mobilization) sites, but these guys were great," Grant said. "With Warhawg, they found answers, if they didn't have it." Despite artillery limitations, the younger Soldiers in the battery experienced the knowledge and value Warhawg brought to the table. "One of the first things they told us was, 'we don't have one way to do it, we have a way to do it,'" said Spc. Fidencio Ramirez, HiMARS artillery specialist, 1-158 Field Artillery. "To me this made me feel like they were open-minded professionals and they trusted that we knew our jobs." For several of the artillery battery Soldiers, this is their first deployment, and the jitters that typically accompany Soldiers on their first deployment were missing. "I don't have a lot of fear. All of my leaders and chiefs have trained me fairly well for this mission," said Spc. Ben Sawatzky, driver of the HiMARS launcher. Monday's mission ended with a 32 to 34 round rocket launch, some simultaneous and others consecutive but the training ended with satisfaction and a sense of achievement. "For me, this is why I stay Army," Stevens said as he surveyed the land in search of pods expended from the rocket launcher. "I won't forget this. As an 11 Bravo (infantryman), you get to see a lot of things, but this was amazing." For Stevens, the experience of training and validating units like 1-158 is what drives him every day. He nursed himself back to health from a back injury that left him face to face with separation from the Army. "I worked hard to get back here, and this is why I do it," Stevens said HiMARS is a wheeled system providing ground forces with highly lethal, responsive and precise long-range rocket and missile fires that defeat point and area targets. It is rapidly deployable via C-130 aircraft and operable in all weather conditions, firing rockets with a range of nine to 186 miles. The guardsmen will soon make their journey to the Middle East and will return during 2014. Photo Caption: A High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems rocket is launched during a live-fire exercise Sept. 23 at Oro Grande, N.M. The 1st Battalion, 360th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Warhawg, 5th Armored Brigade, facilitated the training for Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery (HiMARS) and Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 171st Target Acquisition Battery, both Oklahoma National Guard units. Photo Caption: Artillerymen from Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery's High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, fired 32-34 rockets during a training event at Oro Grande, N.M. Sept. 23. Several of the Oklahoma National Guard Soldiers were certified on their weapon system during the event. Photo Caption: Staff Sgt. Michael Stevens, trainer/mentor with 1st Battalion, 360th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Warhawg, 5th Armored Brigade, surveys the land at Oro Grande, N.M. Sept. 23 in search of a rocket pod during a weeklong training for Battery A, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) of the Oklahoma national Guard. Published in the "The Fort Bliss Bugle" entitled: Army values, professionalism embraced while training. By Capt. John A. Brimley, 5th Armored Bde., Division West Public Affairs: Oro Grande, N.M. Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honesty, integrity and personal courage are the seven core Army Values. Each Soldier at every level is taught to embrace and endear themselves to these values. While professionalism is not listed, it is one trait that embodies all of the Army values, and the main theme exchanged between 1st Battalion, 360th Infantry Regiment, 5th Armored Brigade (Task Force Warhawg) and Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System). Task Force Warhawg facilitated training and validated the HiMARS unit during their week-long training event, Sept. 23 through 27, here. "Professionalism is the best word to describe Warhawg," said 1st Sgt. Lance Grant, first sergeant of the HiMARS battery, a National Guard unit out of Edmond, Okla. Task Force Warhawg was not short on compliments for what Grant and his unit added to the value of their own training. "All Soldiers from E-3 to commander knew their weapons systems proficiently," said Staff Sgt. Michael Stevens, senior trainer mentor with Task Force Warhawg. "They were the most squared away unit we've had to deal with." Different from the hundreds of engineer, military police and field artillery units Task Force Warhawg typically trains, the HiMARS training mission carries a different set of training validations that Warhawg is not institutionally trained to carry out. "Warhawg generally doesn't get missions like this, but we got tasked with this one because of the success of the previous missions we had," said Stevens. The training battalion is primarily comprised of infantrymen. Many of them have served with artillerymen, but validating a HiMARS unit for their mission is not familiar to all of them. "Viper team didn't have this experience," said Stevens. "A different team validated the HiMARS unit back in January." Warhawg knew the limitations they faced with such a unique mission, but they were not short on resources. The 1/158th and Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 171st Target Acquisition Battery, conducted home station training to prepare for this mission with master gunners on hand. HiMARS is a wheeled system providing ground forces with highly lethal, responsive and precise long-range rocket and missile fires that defeat point and area targets. It is rapidly deployable via aircraft and operable in all weather conditions, firing rockets with a range of nine to 186 miles. Prior planning between Task Force Warhawg and the 212th Fires Brigade, Fort Bliss, was crucial to mission success. "We had a meeting brief with the command team, and it set the tone for how training would go," said Stevens. It was not a surprise to the HiMARS Battery that the Infantry Battalion had little expertise for this mission, but the willingness to learn and grow increased the trust the Oklahoma unit had in Warhawg. "I've been to (mobilization) sites, but these guys were great," said Grant. "With Warhawg, they found the answers if they didn't have them." Despite artillery limitations, the younger Soldiers in the battery experienced the

knowledge and value Warhawg brought to the table. "One of the first things they told us was 'we don't have one way to do it, we have a way to do it,'" said Spc. Fidencio Ramirez, HiMARS artillery specialist, 1/158 Field Artillery. "This made me feel like they were open-minded professionals and they trusted that we knew our jobs." The guardsmen will soon make their journey to the Middle East and will return sometime in 2014. For several of the artillery battery Soldiers this is their first deployment. For many of them, the jitters that typically accompany a first deployment were missing. "I don't have a lot of fear. All of my leaders and chiefs have trained me fairly well for this mission," said Spc. Ben Sawatzky, driver of the HiMARS launcher. The first day's mission ended with a 32 to 34 round rocket launch; some simultaneous and others consecutive. The day also ended with satisfaction and a sense of achievement. "This is why I stay Army," said Stevens as he surveyed the land in search of pods expended from the rocket launcher. "I won't forget this. As an (infantryman) you get to see a lot of things, but this was amazing. For Stevens, the experience of training and validating units like 1/158th is what drives every day. He nursed himself back to health from a back injury that left him face-to-face with separation from the Army. "I worked hard to get back here, and this is why I do it," said Stevens. Photo Caption: The artillerymen from Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System), fired approximately 34 rockets during a training event at Oro Grande, N.M., Sept. 23. Several of the Soldiers were certified on their weapon system during the event. Photos by Capt. John A. Brimley, 5th Armored Bde., Division West Public Affairs. Photo Caption: Staff Sgt. Michael Stevens, trainer mentor with 1st Battalion, 360th Infantry Regiment, 5th Armored Brigade, (Task Force Warhawg), surveys the land at Oro Grande, N.M., Sept. 23 in search of a rocket pod during a week-long training event for Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System).

**Oct 31, 2013:** Published in the "The Norman Transcript" entitled: Korean War veteran kept his promise. Norman. Robert E. L. Richardson was born on a farm in western Oklahoma in 1932. He graduated from Weatherford High School in 1950. Bob promised his mother that he would go to college, but it took him a while to get there. He joined the National Guard while he was in high school. Shortly after he graduated, he was called up to active duty in the Army during the Korean War. After completing Basic Training at Ft. Riley, Kan., he was assigned to Leadership School. After Leadership School, he was assigned to train new recruits at Ft. Riley; he was a drill instructor at age 18. He realized after training two classes of recruits that he would essentially be doing basic training over and over because, after all, the Instructor still had to do all the exercises, the marches, the hikes and so forth with his trainees. So, he wrote a personal letter to the commanding general of the 45th Infantry Division asking if he could be transferred to the Guard. Within 10 days, orders came through transferring him to Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery. He took three days leave and reported to Camp Polk, La., just in time to move out to Japan for additional training and then to Korea. During his deployment, Bob shared a tent with two young men from Sayre who always thought he had been planted there as an Army Criminal Investigation Division "spy" because of the unexpected way he arrived. He said they probably still think that to this day. His unit eventually made it to Inchon, Korea, in November 1951 and was moved up to near the 38th parallel. Bob was placed in charge of defense of an artillery battery of six .50-caliber machine guns. The battery was 2,000 yards behind the front line. The protection included stringing barbed wire around the site and sometimes using flares. Most of the fighting with the Chinese soldiers took place at night. During his time at the front, he had three or five serious engagements with the enemy. He remembers his combat experience as mostly pretty routine. In April 1952, he was selected for Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Ft. Sill. He was reluctant to accept because he hadn't accumulated enough "points" to rotate home and he knew that, if he completed OCS, he would be obligated for a longer term of service. And he remembered his pledge to his mom to go to college. He decided, however, to try OCS. Eventually, Bob's promise to his mom to go to college began to wear on him. When he resigned from OCS, the Army tried to send him back to Korea. However, he had accumulated 32 "points" while deployed there and they couldn't send him back. He eventually enrolled at Southwestern State in Weatherford in summer 1953. He got back into the Guard at Southwestern and eventually received his commission. After graduating from Southwestern, he came to OU Law School. He was elected to one term in the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1958 while he was a law student. After receiving his OU law degree, Bob received a Fellowship at Georgetown University Law School and earned an advanced law degree. While he was in Washington, he became a staffer for a Congressional committee. Richardson was hired as a professor at OU Law School in 1964 and taught law for 40 years. He met his wife while they were both working on Gov. David Hall's staff. This year, the Norman Veterans Committee is sponsoring the Veterans Day Parade at 10 a.m. Nov. 9. The parade will proceed down Jenkins Street to the Cleveland County Veterans Memorial at Reaves Park, where a ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. Ret. Lt. Gen. Harry M. "Bud" Wyatt, a former adjutant general for Oklahoma and director of the Air National Guard in the Pentagon, will be the keynote speaker. The theme for the parade this year is "Red, White and Blue Veterans on the March." We would like to see honor guards, marching bands, floats, motorcycle groups and car clubs all with the same underlying desire: to honor our veterans. Groups or organizations wishing to participate in the parade may download an application from [normanfun.com](http://normanfun.com). Today is the deadline for parade entries.

**Dec 17, 2013:** Published in the "The Oklahoma Frontline" entitled: Lawton guardsmen lauded during annual



training. Sgt. 1st Class Darren Heusel. Story by Sgt. 1st Class Darren D. Heusel, Oklahoma National Guard. A Lawton Soldier recently set himself apart from the approximately 170 other members of the 45th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma National Guard, who are participating in a national warfighter exercise scheduled for June 2- 16 here. Sgt. Anthony Eckman, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, was named the brigade's "Red Thunder Hero of the Day" for June 5. The 45th FiB leadership decided early in the exercise to recognize one Soldier each day, who basically goes above and beyond the call of duty, or who stands out among his or her peers. According to Master Sgt. Michael Bray, a senior noncommissioned officer in the 45th FiB's Response Cell, Eckman easily fit the description. "When we first started bringing up our (artillery) systems, he was extremely helpful in ensuring all the various (units) were on line and communicating effectively," Bray said. "He may only be an E- 5, but he's done a great job of managing his people, a task normally assigned to someone above his pay grade." Eckman, a fire direction specialist who is scheduled to deploy with the 1/158th FA to Afghanistan later this year, has been in the Guard for seven years. He said he joined the Guard to learn as much as he could about the Army before he earned a commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at a local college. A commission was simply not in the cards for Eckman, however, as he soon discovered he enjoyed being an enlisted member way too much. "I attended a firefighter EMT school paid for by the Guard and I just decided I like being a " non commissioned officer," he said. As for the training he's received so far at this year's warfighter; a computer simulated exercise involving about 2,300 Soldiers representing 17 units from 14 states and three countries; the Iraq War veteran said it's been great preparation in the event of an actual battle. "I think it's really good training to simulate what could happen in an actual battle scenario, as far as an artillery brigade is concerned," he said.

**Dec 31, 2013:** Published in the "Oklahoma National Guard Adjutant Generals 2013 Annual Report" entitled: 45th Fires Brigade. Mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Soldiers from the 1-158th FA (HIMARS) and Bravo Battery 171 (TAB) are currently deployed to Afghanistan to support Operations Enduring Freedom. The units are stationed in the Kubal, Zabul and Herat provinces, providing artillery support, counter fire acquisition and security to the units in those areas. Later this year, those same units will deploy additional Soldiers to continue that mission. Fires Brigade Structure: The 45th Fires Brigade is composed of an organic High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) battalion, the 1-158th Field Artillery (FA); a support battalion, the 271st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB); and three separate batteries/companies, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), Bravo Battery, 1-171st Target Acquisition Battery (TAB) and the 205th Network Signal Company. The Brigade began transformation from a Field Artillery Brigade to a Fires Brigade in 2007 with the conversion of the 1-158th from a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) battalion to a HIMARS battalion. The 271st BSB transformed from a MLRS battalion to a support battalion. Obituary: Edward Elmer Winterscheid was born October 27, 1932 in Gridley, Kansas to Glenn and Rosa Olive Winterscheid on the original Winterscheid Homestead which remained in the family for 99 years. He attended Oil Glenn Elementary School in Gridley, Kansas. The school was named for his father Glenn Winterscheid. Edward then attended Yates Center High School in Yates Center, Kansas. Edward entered the United States armed forces in 1953, serving in the United States Army as a radio operator. He saw action in the Korean War and at one time drove the Jeep for a high-ranking officer. Edward was honorably discharged in 1955. Edward would work Building Bridges and rough necked in the oil fields near Eureka, Kansas where he met the love of his life and later married Janise A. Palmour on June 16th 1957 in Rogers County, Claremore, Oklahoma where they made their home for 56 and 1/2 years. Edward was an electrical journeyman for 43 years and spent the last 24 years of his electrical career at CityPlex Towers in Tulsa Oklahoma (formerly city of Faith at Oral Roberts University) where he retired in October of 2001 at age 70. He was a member of the American Legion and the Rogers County Appaloosa horse Club. Enjoyed roping and riding and training horses and was a avid team roper. Edward was preceded in death by his father Glenn Winterscheid and mother Rosa Olive of Richard Winterscheid of Yates Center, Kansas, his sister Evelyn L. Winterscheid of Tulsa Oklahoma. He is survived by his wife Janice A. Winterscheid of the home and 4 children, two sons, Terry Winterscheid and wife Le'Robbye of Seminole Oklahoma, Jerry Winterscheid and wife, Debbie of Claremore, Oklahoma, two daughters, Cindy Pendergraft and husband Gerald of Agra, Oklahoma, Sandra Motter and husband Rick of Pryor Oklahoma and 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren as well as a host of nieces and nephews. On January 31, 2013 Edward Winterscheid was received by his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you make a donation to The Claremore Veterans Center Post Office box 988 Claremore Oklahoma 74018.

**Jan 07, 2014:** Obituary: Thomas Lowell Volz. Born on 9 Oct 1932, Death 7 Jan 2014. Condolences to Thomas L. Volz "T.W.A.", 81, of Villa Parle, II, Army Korean War Veteranserved as a Corporal in Battery "C", 158 Field Artillery Battalion, beloved husband of Justine, loving father of Thomas J and Jeannie (Roman) Corsini, dear grandfather of Mark and Katie, fond brother of Russell (Susan), Barbara (Ken) Wolski, Judy (Larry) Frederick, the late Jack (Elaine), dear uncle and godfather of many. Visitation Monday Jan 13, 2014, 3 to 8 p.m. at Steuerle Funeral Home, 350 S. Ardmore Ave, Villa Park, IL where services will be held Tuesday January 14, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Interment Queen of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials to Ronald McDonald House. Published In a Chicago Tribune Media

Group Publication on Jan. 12, 2014.

**Jan 26, 2014:** Obituary: James Robert Garner. Birth: 24 Sep 1926, Watseka, Iroquois County, Illinois, USA. Death: 26 Jan 2014 (aged 87), Macomb, McDonough County, Illinois, USA. Burial: Saint Paul Catholic Cemetery Macomb, McDonough County, Illinois, USA. Son of Lee and Nellie Mathewson Garner. Married Elizabeth E. (Betty) Spurgeon 28 Aug 1947 (deceased). U.S. Army WWII Veteran serving as a Master Sergeant in the 3159th Signal Service Battalion in the Philippine Islands and Japan. During the Korean War served as a 1st LT, OSN: O-996400 with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery Battalion the 45th Infantry Division in Korea and was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds received 29 Jan 1953 as a Forward Observer.

**Feb 12, 2014:** Published in the "The Hinton Record" entitled: Oklahoman National Guard unit carries on family tradition. Battery "A", 1st Battalion; Lawton, Okla. More than 20 years ago their fathers left their civilian jobs and put on their military uniforms to help defeat Saddam Hussein's Iraqi Republican Guard. A couple weeks ago the young men of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, 45th Fires Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard, carried on the family tradition of taking the fight to the enemy by firing rockets in Afghanistan against insurgent positions. In late 1990, 429 Citizen-Soldiers left Oklahoma for the first Gulf War rather anonymously, but came home heroes. The 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment was so good that General Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr., wrote in an article published in May 1991 "They (Reserve Component Artillery Units) are part of the ground attack, with the Oklahomans achieving the highest rate of fire in Third Army." In all, they fired 903 rockets and traveled hundreds of kilometers in support of VII Corps in support of offensive operations that helped lead to an overwhelming U.S. victory. Since 9/11, the 158th has deployed thousands of Soldiers to Afghanistan and Iraq, but none of the deployments had the Artillerymen firing rockets, they were all security and convoy support missions. That changed on October 14, 2013, when Battery A deployed to Afghanistan to support Regional Command (South) with a field artillery mission. The Soldiers of Battery A were glad to be deploying with the mission they had trained to do, but for the first few months they found themselves, once again, conducting personal security details, route convoy clearance and entry control point operations. Even though their High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) launchers were set up and ready to fire they didn't receive a single fire mission for more than eight weeks. On January 16, that all changed when Battery A's, 1st Fire Platoon launched two rockets on enemy targets in support of Combined Task Force Duke. The rockets destroyed an enemy communications repeater sight used to support insurgent operations against coalition forces. The launcher crew included gunner Spc. Joshua Hale, of Chickasha, Okla., driver Staff Sgt. Steven Stanley, of Carnegie, Okla., and launcher chief Sgt. Matthew Schoolfield, of Ninnekah, Okla. For Hale and Schoolfield, this mission has special meaning as it carries on a tradition started by their fathers during Operation Desert Storm. Hale is the son of Spc. Chad Hale, formerly of Battery B. Schoolfield is the son of Sgt. Richard Schoolfield, formerly of Battery C. The elder Hale and Schoolfield both deployed with the 158th Field Artillery during Operation Desert Storm and fired rockets from their Multiple Launch Rocket Systems. "The fact that we have soldiers providing fire support in combat in the same battalion that their fathers served with in combat speaks volumes about who we are as the Guard," said Col. Mike Chase, commander of the 45th Fires Brigade headquartered in Mustang, Okla. "Many units can metaphorically claim to be 'family' or a 'Band of Brothers', but as in this case, it's factual," he said. For these men, their efforts in defense of our country will forever be linked through the history of the Oklahoma National Guard, the 45th Fires Brigade, and the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment. They are expected to return home later this year. Obituary: Willie Lee Salyer, passed away in Blanchard, Oklahoma, on February 12, 2014. Willie was born in Eakly, OK during a blizzard on January 6, 1930 to Orvie and Exa Bashem Salyer. The doctor was delayed when he wrecked his car on his way to the delivery. Willie's mother died shortly after his birth. Although his grandparents Bert and Nellie Salyer had 12 children of their own Willie became one of the "kids". Willie attended school in Binger. He played baseball, served as FFA president and held other offices graduating in 1948. He later served several years on the Binger School Board. After high school, he obtained a business degree from Oklahoma City University in 1952. Willie helped Bert with farming and raising Hereford cattle but is probably best known for managing Salyer Lake. It was a recreational area known for swimming, fishing, picnicking, hiking and camping. It was enjoyed by many from the 1930s through the 1970s. He was owner and operator of the Anadarko Farm Center, Elevator and John Deere Dealership. He served the community on the hospital board, Board of Directors for APEX and as a member of IOOF, Lions Club and former President of the Anadarko Chamber of Commerce. He also served as a member of the 45th Division of the Army National Guard. Willie loved people, life, and was always willing to serve in any way to help make the world a better place to live. Willie lived with his wife Jeanne (Polanski) until recently in the two-story house he was raised in located across from Salyer Lake. To quote him from an article he submitted in 2006 for a book "it was a great place to grow up and it is a great place to live out my golden years". Willie was preceded in death by his parents, Orvie and Exa, grandparents who raised him, Bert and Nellie, and "siblings," John R., Raymond, Zelda, B.M. Jr., Opal, Alfred, Atwell, Ines, Delbert, Melba, Dale and infant sister, Iris. He is survived by wife Jeanne and numerous cousins. Memorial Services will be Saturday, 2:00 PM, Cogar United Methodist Church, Cogar, OK, 2-15-2014. Officiating: Rev. George Rowe, Mr. John Paul Buzbee, Mr. John Garland.

Services entrusted to Turner Funeral Home, Hinton, Oklahoma. Published in The Oklahoman on Feb. 14, 2014.

**Feb 13, 2014:** Published in the "The Cannoneer" entitled: Guard unit a family of citizen soldiers. By Capt. Sean Bryant, A Btry 1-158 FA Commander; First Battalion, 158th Field Artillery has a long and proud tradition as part of the Oklahoma Army National Guard (OKARNG). Its roots date back to May 20, 1927, when it was organized and federally recognized with Headquarters in Kingfisher, Okla. Over the years, many Oklahomans have answered the call to serve and become part of something larger than one's own self. For many families in Oklahoma, this calling has become a family tradition passed from father to son and brother to brother as a fraternal order of citizen Soldiers. On Feb. 16, 1991, launchers of A Battery, 1-158th FA, fired rockets on enemy targets in support of Operation Desert Storm. B and C batteries would soon join A Battery hitting enemy targets in preparation for the ground offensive. The battalion fired more than 900 rockets and traveled hundreds of kilometers in support of VII Corps operations. The OKARNG has deployed multiple times in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom since the war on terrorism began. First-158th FA had its share of those deployments, but has always had a nonstandard mission from its usual FA duties. More than two decades have passed since the battalion had a field artillery mission during deployment. On Oct 14, A Battery deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to support Regional Command (South) in Afghanistan with a field artillery High Mobility Artillery Rocket System mission. This mission has been a long time coming for the Soldiers of A Battery who have served with the battalion as part of those prior deployments in support of the War of Terrorism. Sgt. 1st Class Vernon Defoor has been a part of the battalion in one way or another since 1984, and has deployed four times as in the Oklahoma Army National Guard. First Sgt. Lance Grant, Sgt. 1st Class James Brown, Staff Sgt. William Reid, and many other A Battery Soldiers grew up in 1-158th FA, and they have deployed up to three times as Oklahoma Guardsman. Sgt's. Ralph Tocco and Nathan Spencer answered the call to serve and deployed with both the 45th Fires Brigade and the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Spc. Jeremy Ploof, an A Battery supply specialist on his first deployment, is the son of retired Master Sgt. Fredrick Ploof III. The elder Ploof was a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-158th FA and an Operation Desert Storm veteran. A Battery had several obstacles to overcome to meet the mission requirements to support Combined Task Force (CTF) Duke, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in Zabul province, Afghanistan. The battery was immediately split into three locations: two in Regional Command South (RCS) and one in Regional Command West (RCW). With men and equipment spread across Afghanistan, meeting mission requirements was difficult. First Lt. Christopher Lanham and Master Sgt. Earl Johnson worked at Kandahar Airfield to run operations for the portion of the battery that would remain there to perform nonstandard artillery missions. These duties are not always filled with glory and recognition, but are essential to successful operations. A Battery completed every mission given by the command in RCS. Among those it completed were personnel security detail, rout convoy clearance and entry control point operations. Maj. Gen. Paul LaCamera, RCS commander, even recognized Spc. Joshua Tate as Hero of the Day for his professionalism. A Battery's equipment and launchers were originally located in RCW at Shindand Airfield. Defoor, who was also a Soldier in the battery during Desert Storm, moved all launchers and other battery equipment to multiple locations in RCS. First Lt. Bill McGill and Staff Sgts. Michael Gildow and Tommy Bryant led a team that setup operations in a building on a forward operating base (FOB) with limited resources available. Within 48 hours of having launchers on the ground at FOB Apache, A Battery provided HIMARS coverage in support of CTF Duke. On Jan. 16, Launcher 4-2, 1st Fires Platoon, A/1-158th FA fired two rockets at a target in support of CTF Duke. This was the first fire mission the battalion shot in support of a combat operation since Operation Desert Storm. The M142 HIMARS launcher crew included gunner Spc. Joshua Hale of Chickasha, driver Staff Sgt. Steven Stanley of Carnegie and launcher chief Sgt. Matthew Schoolfield of Ninnekah. The two Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System rockets destroyed an enemy repeater sight used to support communications by insurgents. However, for Hale and Schoolfield, the mission has special meaning above that of other battery Soldiers. Hale is the son of Spc. Chad Hale, formerly of B Battery, Richard Schoolfield, formerly of C Battery. The elder Hale and Schoolfield both deployed as part of an M270 MLRS Launcher Battery in the battalion during Operation Desert Storm. These two generations of men from small Oklahoma towns chose to serve in the Oklahoma National Guard as a family tradition. They fired rockets in support of combat operations more than two decades apart. For these men, those small moments in time will forever be linked through the history of the Oklahoma National Guard and 1-158th FA.

**Feb 16, 2014:** Published in the "The Kingfisher Times and Free Press" entitled: 75 years ago. 75 years ago; William O. Breedlove, Kingfisher County attorney, has been selected as a second lieutenant in Service Battery, 158th field artillery, local National Guard unit. Lieutenant Breedlove is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, where he was a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, and received his commission as a second lieutenant in the organization in field artillery.

**Feb 18, 2014:** Published in the "Oklahoma Frontline" entitled: Everybody knows Vernon. Zabul Province, Afghanistan: Vernon Defoor is a soft-spoken man, a laid back, relaxed, humble Oklahoman with no desire for the

spotlight. He embodies the terms, even-keeled, cool, calm and collected- just the way he always has been he claims. For as "normal," as he puts it, as a guy he is, Defoor sure has had his share of stories, as he is going on nearly 30 years of service in the Army. Three different war-zones, and three (currently on his fourth) combat tours in the making; everybody knows Sgt. 1st Class Vernon Defoor, who currently serves as the motor pool sergeant, overseeing the maintenance of artillery systems and vehicles for Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, Oklahoma National Guard. As much as he might want to, even he can't deny his "celebrity" status. "Well everyone knows me just cause I have been in for so long," Defoor, an Elgin, Okla. Native, said. "I've served with people who now have kids in the unit, and are just coming in. I know just about everybody." It all started back in 1984, when Defoor joined the Oklahoma National Guard at the age of 17, following in the path of his brother who was a Guardsman, and his father, who also was prior service. Defoor had not yet graduated high school, and was a steady farm hand near the Texas border. "I knew it was what I wanted to do," Defoor said. "I didn't have to give up farming completely- I signed up with the intention of just doing drill once a month, and living a normal civilian life still." Shortly after graduating advanced individual training the next summer, Defoor found a job working full time for the Oklahoma Guard as a floor mechanic. Before he knew it, Defoor deployed in 1990 with the 1-158th to Iraq, in support of Operation Desert Storm, his first of now four tours in the Middle East. Defoor would deploy again to Iraq in 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and then again for his first tour to Afghanistan in 2010- all of which he has deployed to with the 1-158th. While each deployment was "no doubt a different experience," Defoor's mindset and values as a citizen soldier never changed. "Being in the Guard, it's different from the regular Army," Defoor said. "We bring a different skill set to the table. We have different ways of doing things, because many of us have that civilian experience as mechanics." Defoor went on to talk about the family atmosphere of his unit and the National Guard as a whole. "We truly are a family," he said. "Like I've said before and told people, some of these younger soldiers in the unit, I deployed with their dads to Iraq in Desert Storm. They knew who I was before they even joined the Guard." He takes a lot of pride in the work his unit has been able to do, boasting about the capabilities and the history he has seen first hand over the years. "We are the only Guard unit to have fired the MLRS (multiple launch rocket system) in both Iraq and Afghanistan, no other unit can claim that," Defoor said. His humbleness and overall demeanor is something First Sgt. Lance Grant, Battery "A", 1-158th, says makes Defoor an outstanding soldier. "He will never want to talk about himself, but you ask him about one of his soldiers, he will tell you exactly how hard he works or what he has done," Grant said. "He is a true professional." Capt. Sean Bryant, commander of Battery "A", 1-158th, also agreed, adding, "everybody knows Vernon." "I have a lot of respect for that man," Bryant said. "You won't find anyone in the Oklahoma Guard that won't say the same thing. Everyone either knows or has heard of who Defoor is." Along with tremendous pride in his unit and the National Guard, Defoor prides himself on a simple set of rules he lives by. "I have three simple rules: don't lie to me, don't steal from me, and be on time," Defoor said. As a senior noncommissioned officer who oversees a lot of younger soldiers, those values have been put to the test. "I had a soldier in 2005, a young guy, who was always late," Defoor said. "Our duty day started at 8 a.m. and he was always late. So what did I do? I made him come to work with me every day at 6 a.m., when I showed up every day, and when the crews are getting ready to roll outside the wire, and showed him how important being on time was." Defoor went on to talk about the impact that corrective training had on the young soldier. "We did that for 45 days straight. After that, he started showing up on his own at 6 a.m.," Defoor said. "He now is out of the Army and has a great well-paying job. We talk occasionally and he tells me how much he appreciated what I did for him. It made me feel good." Another big motivator for Defoor is his family, who he says, "have been big supporters my entire career." Over the course of his deployments, he has had to miss his son's senior year of high school, and most recently, spending time with his newborn granddaughter, who he only got to see for four days before deploying this past year. Those hard times, as rough as they may be, are "worth it" however. "If I have to deploy so my son doesn't have to, then so be it," Defoor said. "If it keeps them safe, that's what I am going to do." Defoor's service has lasted nearly thirty years, and after four deployments and a distinguished career, common wisdom says it is time to retire. He thinks otherwise. "I am going to stay in, I love what I do, I belong here," Defoor said. "I wouldn't have it any other way. Just a little more time for people to get to know Vernon. Photo Caption: Sergeant 1st Class Vernon Defoor, motor pool sergeant for Battery A, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, Oklahoma National Guard, poses in front of his unit's insignia at Forward Operating Base Apache, Afghanistan, Feb. 18, 2014. Defoor is currently on his fourth combat deployment, previously serving in Iraq twice and once in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army Photo by Cpl. Clay Beyersdorfer). Feb 25, 2014 Obituary: Luther Aaron Riddle, born February 8, 1933 in Gracemont, OK and died February 25, 2014 in Woodward, OK. Luke Riddle, 81 year old Woodward resident died Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at his home. Funeral services will be at 10:00 am Thursday, February 27, 2014 in the First United Methodist Church with Reverend Shannon Davis officiating. Interment will follow in the Memory Lane Cemetery in Anadarko at 3:00 pm. with the Billings Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Luther Aaron "Luke" Riddle was born on February 8, 1933 in Gracemont, Oklahoma to Johnnie and Neda (Thornton) Riddle. Luke was reared in Anadarko, where he attended school. Luke's first job was bagging groceries at a local grocery store. Luke served his country during the Korean War in the United States Army. He was united in marriage to Lola Fay Blalock on June 25, 1955 in Anadarko. Luke worked for Coleman in Wichita, KS before he got his first experience in the oilfield with El Paso Natural Gas in

Farmington, NM as a production equipment repairman. He then worked in the trucking industry delivering goods for Fleming Foods and later bought his own dump truck. Luke then worked as a field service man for BS&B Oil Company before founding his own company that tied all of his previous experiences together in 1973. That company was called Riddle Oil and Gas Process Company and later the name was changed to Riddle Construction. Luke retired in 1997. Luke was an avid fisherman and square dancer enjoyed riding motorcycles, ATVs and camping. He was a member of the Woodward Wranglers and served as president from 2011 until 2013. Luke's greatest joy was his family and friends and he dearly loved every moment spent with them. He is survived by one daughter, Desiree Morgan and husband John; one son, Rick Riddle and wife Berylene all of Woodward; four grandchildren, Sara Matherly and husband Wade; Chad Riddle and wife Lindsey; Jacob Armstrong; Jessie Morgan; four great grandchildren, Rylan and Audrey Matherly; Presley and Payton Riddle; three sisters, Vera Branam of Little Rock; Thelma Saathoff of Anadarko; Petrovia Elrod of Cement; two brothers, Clint Riddle of Kingston; Johnnie Doyle Riddle of Maybank, TX; very special friend, Carmen Veal of Gage; several nieces, nephews other family and friends. Luke was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother, Walter Riddle. Private, and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Feb 27, 2014:** Obituary: Daniel Gonzales Beltran was born on April 3, 1947 in Round Rock, Texas to Sefarino and Angelita (Gonzales) Beltran. He died on February 27, 2014 in Lawton, OK at the age of 66. Mr. Beltran was raised and attended school in Round Rock, TX. He enlisted in the US Army after graduation and served more than 20 years both active duty and as a member of the National Guard. While on active duty, Daniel was stationed at several US locations, including Ft Sill where he retired in 1994. Other duty stations included Okinawa, Japan, Hawaii, Vietnam and the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Storm. His service decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal w/Silver Star, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, and Good Conduct Medals on three occasions. Daniel married Belinda Espinosa in 1968 at Austin, TX. She preceded him in death on March 18, 2013 after 45 years of marriage. Daniel's life has been dedicated for over 50 years to his family, his country, and his church. He was preceded in death by Belinda, his parents, his grandson Trinton, and a brother, Sefarino "Sonny" Beltran, Jr. Survivors include his son, John Beltran of Lawton; daughters, Monica Beltran-Crow and husband Terry of Lawton, Antoinette Beltran of Dallas, Valerie Beltran-Williams and husband Sherman of Lawton, and Christina Beltran, also of Lawton; grandchildren, Ricky, Danielle, Tory, Blake, Brent, Ty, Anyah, Trinton, Isabel, Julian, Tyler and Logan; great grandchild, Kalih; brother, Robert Beltran; and sisters, Ramona Perez and Josie Mendez. Staff Sergeant and served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 16, 2014:** Obituary: Samuel Jackson McGuire, 16 October 1928 to 16 March 2015. He passed on to the final ultimate fishing hole to see what he could catch on Sunday, March 16, 2014. Recently from Santa Clara, California, he spent most of his life in Rapid City. Jack was born in the summer of 1928 to Samuel and Eunice McGuire in Mexico, Missouri. He was preceded in death by his parents and loving wife Shirley (Hauff). Jack was a veteran of the Korean War leading an Oklahoma unit in the HQ Battery, 158th Battalion of the 45th Army Division. After the war, he ended up in Rapid City while working for Fairmont Foods and later the Douglas School District. It was here in "River City" that he met, fell in love with, and married Shirley on a cold day in January 1954. Anyone who knew Jack was aware of his gift of talking to people and his need for social interaction. These traits served him well as he built his life long career as a real estate professional. He spent over 35 years as an agent and a broker working for a variety of firms as well as operating his own agency for a time. He even provided advice after retirement for anyone who needed a second opinion. Jack is survived by his children and grandchildren, Stephanie (Jon) Nichols of Minneapolis, and Samuel (Elyse) McGuire, Jackson, Hayden, and Ainsley of Cupertino, California, and many, many close friends, business associates and neighbors he cherished over the years. A memorial fund has been set up at Storybook Island; please send to McGuire Fund, Storybook Island P.O. Box 9196 Rapid City SD 57709. A celebration of Jack's life will be held later this summer in Rapid City when the family gathers again in the hometown. If you would like a personal notification of the time and location of this event please send us an e-mail [stephjnichols@gmail.com](mailto:stephjnichols@gmail.com) or call 612-824-7711.

**Mar 24, 2014:** Published in the "The Oklahoman" entitled: Two soldiers walk in their fathers' footsteps. By Silas Allen, Staff writer. As a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, Chad Hale has a good idea of what his son is seeing during a deployment to Afghanistan. There are differences, of course. Kuwait was hot when Hale, of Chickasha, served there; much hotter than the area of Afghanistan where Spc. Joshua Hale is serving. But one of the most noticeable similarities is the sand. It's finer than the coarse sand found on beaches, Chad Hale said, and it gets everywhere. "It's like baby powder," he said. The younger Hale, an Oklahoma National Guard soldier, is serving as a rocket launcher crew member in Afghanistan with the Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, 45th Fires Brigade. It's the same unit his father served in during the Gulf War. The Hales aren't the only father-and-son pair from the unit. Sgt. Matthew Schoolfield, of Ninnekah, served as the crew's launcher chief. His father, Richard

Schoolfield, also served in the unit during Desert Storm. During the unit's deployment to Kuwait in late 1990, soldiers fired 903 rockets in support of coalition efforts to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Since 9/11, the 158th Field Artillery Regiment has deployed thousands of soldiers. Until recently, however, the regiment hadn't fired a single rocket on any of those deployments. Instead, soldiers from the regiment were given other tasks like security and convoy support. Then in October, the Lawton-based Battery "A" deployed to Afghanistan with its first artillery mission. In January, the crew fired two rockets, destroying an enemy repeater tower. It was the first time the unit had fired a rocket in a combat situation since 9/11. The deployment is Joshua Hale's first. In a telephone interview from Afghanistan, he said he had been training with the same crew for about three years, preparing for anything the deployment might require. Hale said it was no coincidence that he ended up in the same unit as his father. Chad Hale didn't talk much about what he did while he was in Kuwait, but Joshua Hale knew his father had fired rockets. "My dad raised me in a military household," he said. "When I found out what he did in Desert Storm, I wanted to do the same thing." Chad Hale said he was proud when he found out his son would be following in his footsteps. But as a parent, he was concerned, he said. The unit fired countless rockets during his deployment, and seeing the damage they wrought took an emotional toll. "I don't want him to have to go through that," he said. Matthew Schoolfield was 17 when he enlisted, meaning he needed his parents' permission. His mother had her concerns at first, he said. But his father, who couldn't be reached for an interview, supported him, and his mother has come around to the idea. "They've supported me 100 percent on it," Schoolfield said. Photo Caption: Soldiers from the Oklahoma National Guard's Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, 45th Fires Brigade, fire a rocket in January. Apr 12, 2014 Obituary: John Lawrence Treeman, a life-long resident of Perry, Oklahoma passed into his next life at the Oklahoma Veteran Center in Claremore on April 12, 2014. He was 92 years old. John was born in Perry to Ralph W. and Irene (McCune) Treeman on May 16, 1921. Both of his grandfathers were pioneers, "making the run" to Perry in 1893. He was one of four siblings. His oldest sister, Elizabeth Treeman Williams (deceased) was active in Perry. His older brother "Bill" spent a number of years in Sapulpa and now resides in the Claremore VA Center. His youngest sister, Frances Hoch, was a long time resident of Oklahoma City and now resides in Fort Worth, Texas. John attended school in Perry, graduating from Perry High School with the class of 1940. He was active in the FFA, where he developed a love for raising livestock. John joined the United States Army, serving stateside during World War II. His primary duties included protecting U.S. airfields. After his discharge from the Army, John returned to Perry to continue his farming activities. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon for a number of years. John lived modestly, never marrying. He was a kind hearted gentleman who loved family gatherings, often hosting family members at his farms for a wide range of outdoors activities. He spent most of his days raising cattle on his farm. He always enjoyed horse riding and helping his nieces and nephews engage in these activities. Burial will be at Grace Hill Cemetery at Perry, OK. Private, ASN: 18157833 served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 22, 2014:** Published in the "GX The Guard Experience Magazine" entitled: Resurgence in the sand. In Operation Desert Storm, when the United States and its allies mobilized an overwhelming force against Saddam Hussein and quickly trounced Iraq, the National Guard and two artillery units in particular, proved to everyone how dynamic its modern force was. By Jason Hall and Leslie Benson. The events of the 1960s and 70s had the undue effect of tainting the public opinion of the National Guard. It would take almost three decades, a whole new generation of Americans, and a war that required the greatest mobilization of forces in a half-century for the National Guard to regain its proud reputation. As the Cold War was rapidly coming to an end during the late 1980s, changes and improvements in Army policies helped reshape the role of the Guard. One of the most important of these initiatives was the Total Force Policy. Born out of the post-Vietnam era, from the early 1970s leading up to Operation Desert Storm, the concept of Total Force put ever more importance on sustaining a strong National Guard to provide combat units to augment the Active Duty Army at a moment's notice if necessary. Still, by early 1990, the Army National Guard (ARNG) faced the prospect of significant cutbacks. With the Soviet Union crumbling, Congress began envisioning a post-Cold War military budget with major cuts to the ARNG. Army Guard leaders were warned that the ensuing changes could result in a reduction of 76,000 Soldiers. However, preparedness for these cuts proved moot in August 1990, when the attention of the Army was directed to troubling military actions occurring in the Middle East, led by the dictatorial leader of Iraq, Saddam Hussein. During the 1980s, relations between Iraq and its neighbor, Kuwait, grew more tense. Hussein was eager to fill the power void left by the dissolution of the Soviet Union and help Iraq emerge as the new reigning force in the Persian Gulf. This created much fear in Iraq's neighboring countries, in particular the small oil-producing country of Kuwait. Hussein believed that Kuwait, once part of the Ottoman Empire, belonged to Iraq and should be restored within Iraq's borders. Matters were exacerbated by the fact that Kuwait's oil production consistently exceeded quotas set by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), thus decreasing the cost per barrel to the U.S. This meant that expected revenues for Iraqi oil sales fell drastically lower than projected. As a result, Iraq delivered an ultimatum to Kuwait in mid-1990, demanding \$10 billion to cover lost revenue. Kuwait replied by offering \$9 billion; Iraq's response was invasion. Following an airstrike on the capital, Kuwait City, the Iraqi army invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, with more

than 100,000 troops and 1,000 tanks. Within just two days, Iraqi forces had occupied the entire country and were poised on the border with Saudi Arabia. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia requested American military assistance in thwarting the Iraqi threat to his country. After consulting his military leaders and national security advisors, President George H.W. Bush on Aug. 7, 1990, publicly announced the execution of Operation Desert Shield. American air and ground forces were immediately deployed to Saudi Arabia. However, President Bush did not initially mobilize the entire National Guard. Instead, he took an incremental approach, first mobilizing 200,000 Reserve Component personnel for a period of 90 days, which could be extended for an additional 90 days. As the National Guard Bureau began determining which of its units would be deployed, it put into motion initiatives to prepare the rest of the Guard for the possibility of a much larger mobilization. Those Guard Soldiers not part of the initial deployment knew what the future might hold for them and their units. Brigadier General (Ret.) Larry Haub was the commander of the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery (Multiple Launch Rocket System, or MLRS for short), Oklahoma National Guard, at the time. In a report Haub wrote in 1993-94 while attending the U.S. Army War College, he recalls that as other units deployed and the 1/158th waited for the call during the fall of 1990, "I didn't want to alarm anyone, so I kept to myself the very deep feeling that this was just the beginning of a brilliant chapter in the history of the 1st Battalion." The call did come. On Nov. 15, 1990, the unit was ordered to mobilize for deployment and was federalized on Nov. 21, and Haub's prediction would soon become a reality. Tensions between Iraq and the American-led Coalition Forces in Saudi Arabia grew steadily. On Nov. 29, the United Nations Security Council authorized the use of "all necessary means" to remove Hussein's forces from Kuwait by Jan. 15, 1991, if Iraq didn't pull out and abide by other U.N. demands. The deadline came and went; the Iraqi forces in Kuwait remained. In the early morning hours of Jan. 17, 1991, Allied aircraft began bombarding targets in Iraq. Operation Desert Shield had now become Operation Desert Storm. The following day, President Bush authorized the call-up of 1 million National Guard Soldiers and Reservists. The first shots: With the ground portion of the war imminent, those units already in the process of deploying ramped up their efforts to breakneck speed. The 1/158th Artillery reported to Fort Sill, OK, where 39 ARNG volunteers and 54 Active Duty Soldiers were assigned to the unit, bringing it to near full strength of 463 Soldiers. They trained on artillery skills, first aid and defense against chemical attacks. The battalion covered its 235 vehicles and rocket launchers with the desert sand camouflage scheme during a 60-hour marathon of painting. Within two weeks, the unit was loading vehicles onto rail cars for the trip to the port of Galveston, TX. Looking back over more than two decades later in an interview with GX, Haub recalls the process of mobilizing as "pretty easy: Remove our civilian clothes and put on our military uniforms. The biggest challenge I can remember is having the right way to tie down vehicles on the rail cars. Everyone had a different way of doing it." But this was quickly resolved. "Guard Soldiers are very adaptive," Haub says. The unit was delayed in deploying because of complications with the ships assigned to carry the battalion's vehicles. Frustrated by the holdup, Central Command ordered that a battery from the 1/158th be airlifted immediately. The need for MLRS units in the war zone was critical, so on Jan. 21, Battery A, 1/158th, with its 122 Soldiers and equipment, was loaded onto five C-5A Galaxy airplanes and flown directly from Ellington Field near Houston, TX, to King Khalid Military City in Saudi Arabia. The arrival of Battery A marked the longest direct deployment of an ARNG unit from the U.S. to a war zone. This would be the first of many historic events for the unit during its deployment. To prepare for the coming ground campaign, Battery A moved to the Kuwait border to provide pre-invasion artillery barrages. The unit wrote itself into the history books again on Feb. 16, when Battery A, 1/158th, was the first ARNG unit to fire on Iraqi forces. That day, 98 rockets were fired from the unit's MLRS launchers, showering the enemy with 63,000 bomblets, with an additional 119 rockets launched over the next four days. By Feb. 22, the battalion's Batteries B and C, which deployed to Saudi Arabia by ship, had arrived and joined Battery A in firing on the enemy. The 1/158th was the only National Guard MLRS battalion to serve in Desert Storm; the rest belonged to the Regular Army. "The 1/158th Field Artillery accomplished every mission it was given, firing more rockets than any MLRS unit in Desert Storm," Haub says. Sergeant First Class Vernon Defoor, a motor sergeant with A Battery, 1/158th Field Artillery, Oklahoma Army National Guard, who today serves in the same unit (he's currently deployed to Afghanistan) that he served with in Operation Desert Storm, proudly recalls his comrades' bravery in combat. "We could outperform any MLRS unit in the military," Defoor says. Initially, Defoor says, there was hesitation from his Active Duty brothers about the Guard's presence on the battlefield. But that attitude would change before the war was over. When the unit's MLRS batteries fired in combat for the first time, Defoor and his comrades "were lined up for miles, shooting alongside the rest of the units in our area. We all stood together; 'all for one and one for all' through it all." "We went into the country with the finest bunch of soldiers ever assembled," Defoor continues. "We had young and old alike, and we fought hard and completed our mission. We knew we were very good at our jobs, and our job would keep others safe as well. Letting loose: The 158th was not the only ARNG unit to engage the enemy during Desert Storm. Arkansas' 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, was ordered into federal service on Nov. 21, 1990, and had packed and shipped its howitzers by Dec. 15. The 142nd arrived in Saudi Arabia on Jan. 15, 1991, to provide critical artillery support for American forces and Allied nations, but unfortunately it took a month for the 8-inch howitzers of its 1st and 2nd Battalions to arrive. Major General William D. Wofford, the current adjutant general of Arkansas, served as the commander of the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, Arkansas National Guard, during Operation Desert Storm. In recalling the battalion's arrival to the war front, Wofford says, "The personnel were

flown into Saudi Arabia, but our equipment arrived late by boat. From port, our howitzers were unloaded and transported over three hundred miles to our tactical assembly area, all within forty-eight hours. When people think back about the 142nd, they remember us as the unit that deployed and was ready for war within forty-eight hours. I'm extremely proud of our Soldiers." A week later, the entire brigade let loose with devastating artillery fire to soften up Iraqi positions. Elsewhere, Guard units performed a wide range of support duties. Crews piloting C-23 Sherpa aircraft transported critical aviation equipment and more than 700,000 pounds of supply items. Iowa's 1034th Quartermaster Company took on the task of water distribution and supplied 800,000 gallons per day. And Nevada's 72nd Military Police Company established a prisoner-of-war camp, to name a few examples. The ground campaign began on Feb. 24, 1991. Just prior to the U.S. 1st "Big Red One" Infantry Division's incursion, the 142nd delivered a punishing 30-minute barrage against the enemy. The fire support allowed the 1st Division to accomplish its mission. By the end of the fighting, the 142nd had fired over 1,000 rounds of 8-inch ordnance. One hundred hours after the start of the ground campaign, the war was over. Following an intense bombing of Baghdad, U.S. led Coalition ground forces marched into Kuwait and across the Iraq border, where regular Iraqi troops surrendered. After pushing Hussein's forces out of Kuwait, a cease-fire finally took effect on April 11, 1991. A new image: "The Guard was a big part of the total force in 1990 that rendered the world's fourth-largest army almost useless in one hundred hours, along with restoring the country of Kuwait to its original leadership," Haub says. Wofford concurs. "Our Soldiers answered the call with an unprecedented Warrior Ethos. During Desert Storm, the Guard broke the myth that we were 'weekend warriors.'" Lessons learned from the Guard's pivotal participation in Operation Desert Storm would result in many changes that would improve the Guard across a wide spectrum of issues. "The Guard as I had known it changed," Defoor says. "We became more deployment driven. We started to train with the mindset that this could happen again and more often." He could not have realized how correct he was. Twenty-three years later, Defoor is once again deployed, this time to Afghanistan. Though many things have changed for the Guard, one thing that hasn't and never will, Defoor says, is the caliber of Guard Soldiers. "I can say without a doubt this unit is made the same now as it was during Desert Storm, the Guard's finest." "The American Soldier has a will that cannot be broken," Haub adds. "And the Guard legacy continues today." Noteworthy Leaders General (Ret.) Colin Powell: At age 52, Powell became the youngest chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as the first African-American to hold that post. He oversaw 28 military crises, including the invasion of Panama and Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Although he preferred diplomacy to military intervention, when war did come to the Persian Gulf, Powell believed in a military approach that minimized casualties while succeeding in goals by relying on overwhelming force against the enemy, now known as the "Powell Doctrine." General H. Norman Schwarzkopf Jr.: A Vietnam Veteran, Schwarzkopf (recently deceased) was a master tactician. During Operation Desert Storm, as commander in chief of U.S. Central Command, he led an international Coalition army of 750,000 (500,000 U.S. troops). He began the ground attack on Feb. 24 with forces assaulting Iraqi positions in Kuwait City, while two U.S. Marine divisions moved into the burning oil fields. Schwarzkopf's "left hook" attack from the west, cutting off Iraqi forces, melted Iraqi resistance in less than 100 hours. Lieutenant General Calvin Waller: With Lieutenant General John J. Yeosock stepping aside due to illness, Waller (since deceased) became deputy commander in chief of U.S. CENTCOM under Schwarzkopf and took on a major role in the tactical command of the U.S. troops, shaping the battlefield and coordinating strategy between ground and air personnel. His even-tempered presence on the CENTCOM staff also served as an effective complement to the intense Schwarzkopf. EVENTS: Highlights of the conflict from mobilization to cease-fire. AUG. 2: Iraq invades Kuwait. AUG. 7: Operation Desert Shield begins with arrival of first U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia. AUG. 22: President George H.W. Bush authorizes the first call-up of selected Reservists. NOV. 15: 1/158th Field Artillery (MLRS), Oklahoma Army National Guard, ordered to mobilize for deployment. NOV. 21: 2/142nd Field Artillery, Arkansas Guard, ordered into federal service. NOV. 29: U.N. authorizes removal of Hussein's forces from Kuwait. 1991. JAN. 15: 2/142nd arrives in Saudi Arabia. JAN. 17: Allies bomb Baghdad. JAN. 18: President Bush announces the call-up of 1 million Guard Soldiers and Reservists, for up to two years. FEB. 16: Battery A, 1/158th, Oklahoma Army National Guard, is first Guard unit to fire on Iraqis. FEB. 23: Iraqi forces set fire to 700 oil wells in Kuwait. FEB. 24: Allied ground offensive begins. FEB. 25: Iraqi Scud missile destroys U.S. barracks in Dhahran, killing 28 U.S. Reserve Component Soldiers and wounding 99. FEB. 28: Cessation of combat operations declared. MARCH 1: Cease-fire terms negotiated in Iraq. APRIL 11: Official cease-fire takes effect. The buildup and the battle: The Allied Coalition totaled nearly 40 nations from Argentina to the United Arab Emirates. When U.S. troops began landing in Saudi Arabia in August, it was the hottest time of the year there, with temperatures regularly rising to more than 130 degrees. By January 1991, the total number of Coalition Forces stood at about Guard Soldiers were mobilized during Operation Desert Shield/Storm, the largest National Guard mobilization since the Korean War. 750,000 vs 300,000 Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait. The 500K troops from the U.S. made it the largest operation since Vietnam. 62,000 Guard Soldiers were mobilized during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. At the time, the Guard stood at an all-time high of 456,960 members. U.S. Casualties: 148 total battle deaths (98 Army), 235 non-battle deaths (126 Army). 8,000-10,000 Iraqi troops were killed, compared with 383 U.S. casualties. Gear & Equipment: M110A2 Self Propelled Howitzer: The M110's typical rate of fire was three rounds per two minutes when operated at maximum speed, and one round per two minutes with sustained fire. The range of the M110 varied from approximately 10 to 15



miles when firing standard projectiles, and up to approximately 20 miles when firing rocket-assisted projectiles. During Desert Storm, some of the howitzers of Arkansas' 142nd Field Artillery had slogans painted on the gun barrels that read "It's personal" and "hillbilly." Desert battle dress uniform: Though made famous during Desert Storm, the Desert Battle Dress Uniform (DBDU), more commonly called the "chocolate chip" uniform, actually came into existence decades earlier. During the 1960s, the U.S. military was fearful it might get embroiled in the Arab-Israeli conflicts of the time. In anticipation of this possibility, a pattern was developed based on the desert scheme of the American Southwest. In actual operational use in the Middle East, the design contrasted heavily with the terrain. M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS): Operation Desert Storm was the first time the MLRS was used in combat; previously, it had been fired only during training exercises. When firing ballistic missiles, it can hit targets as far away as 190 miles. One of the advantages of the M270 is that it can fire its rockets quickly, allowing it to be moved away rapidly to avoid counter-fire from the enemy, a tactic known as "shoot and scoot." Iraqi troops feared the highly effective incoming MLRS rocket fire, calling it "steel rain." Still in use by some states today, the modern MLRS, known as the M270A1, includes improved fire control and launcher systems, which provide significantly faster rates of fire than those used during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. The M270A1 is capable of firing both guided and unguided projectiles up to 26 miles. Night vision scopes: Devices that could let troops see in darkness date back as far as WWII, but these modern image intensification devices proved pivotal to ground troops in this conflict. General Barry McCaffrey, then commander of the 24th Infantry Division, said that night vision capability "provided the single greatest mismatch of the war." High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV): The Humvee replaced the iconic jeep as the primary light vehicle of the U.S. Army. It was not originally intended to be a frontline fighting vehicle. Instead, it was designed to move personnel and cargo behind the lines. However, the Humvee would evolve into an icon of its own over the decades. Its first use in combat deployment was in 1989 during the U.S. invasion of Panama. The widespread use of the Humvee during Desert Storm, viewed by millions of Americans on the nightly news, created a civilian demand for the vehicle. Photo Caption: Top: President Bush gives a press conference from the White House in 1990 regarding Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Above: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Lower left: Guard units like California's 1113th Transportation Company provided transportation, military police, medical and other support in the desert. Photo Caption: Arkansas' 2/142nd Field Artillery Brigade (below) provided critical artillery support for American forces and their Allies. The rapid deployment and devastating firepower delivered by Guard units such as the 2/142nd and 1/158th Field Artillery (opposite page) helped secure the Allies' victory in Operation Desert Storm. Photo Caption: An artilleryman with the 1/158th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard, performs routine maintenance on his MLRS during combat operations in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Photo Caption: This DBDU was worn by GX's SFC (Ret.) Bob Weaver, a former Guard Soldier who served in the Active Duty Army during Desert Storm. Using the AN/PVS-7 single tube night vision goggles, still in use by some U.S. Armed Forces units today, is similar to using regular binoculars.

**Apr 26, 2014:** Published in the "The KSWO News" entitled: Troop deployment ceremony sends off 80. Posted: Apr 26, 2014 5:07 PM CDT Updated: May 01, 2014 10:06 AM CDT; Fort Sill, Okla; Friends and family came together to say goodbye to around 80 Oklahoma National Guard Soldiers Saturday. The Battery B, First Battalion, 158th Field Artillery will be getting some final training at Fort Bliss in Texas before they deploy to Afghanistan. Once deployed they will be overseas for nine months. Just a couple months ago First Lieutenant, Jason Elbert, sat at a desk as Internet Content Director for KSWO. He had to take a leave to help train for his deployment, a deployment that he and his family have known about for a year. So they've taken that time to help prepare for him leaving. "They have to get it in their mind that it is going to be a long time until they see their soldier again. It's just one of those things where there is only so much you can prepare for until it happens. So you got to hit the ground running," Elbert said. He understands it won't be easy leaving his wife and 3-year-old behind though. "We have to leave our families at times unfortunately, but this is what the mission calls for and that is what we signed up to do," Elbert said. It's not just him though, he will be deployed with almost 80 other soldiers. Soldiers Jason says have been unwavering and eager for the chance to serve. "It takes a special kind of person to sign up and say, 'there's a possibility I deploy there's a possibility I fight, there's a possibility something happens to me or any of my brothers.' It takes a special person to sign the paper even knowing that could happen. So I am proud of these guys that they did that and stuck with it," Elbert said. Jason's brother, Jeff, was at the deployment ceremony as well. Jeff has already served in Afghanistan and so has his aunt, and Jeff says that will help their family while Jason is gone. "Me and my aunt have already gone over there and came back, we will be able to give our family that piece of mind that they need to know that there is hope," Jeff said. Jason has shown his eager to go and serve his country saying it is his first real sense of accomplishment, but no matter how eager he is to leave he is even more eager to get home. "You excited?" he asked his daughter, "I don't know 9 months is a long time to be with out dad. I know that I will be excited to see them, be back with them. That is an understatement, but I'll hopefully be able to talk to them every night. That should lessen the blow a little bit. Soften it," Elbert said.

**Apr 27, 2014:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Guardsmen deploy for Afghanistan. Sun,

04/27/2014; 2:30am Mitch Meador ; "I know that you will come back, and you will make us all proud." said Col. Amos W. Chase. Families of the approximately 80 Oklahoma Army National Guardsmen who volunteered to replace their sister unit in Afghanistan got an opportunity to say goodbye at a deployment ceremony here Saturday. The battery won't go to Afghanistan just yet, as it still has some live-fire training on the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) to do at Fort Bliss, Texas, but since they will depart directly from Bliss, this was the families' last opportunity to get together as a group for farewells. Oklahoma Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Myles Deering thanked Fort Sill for how it supports the deployment of these soldiers and said, "More than ever, we're truly one Army." Deering said only 1 percent of the nation's population serves in the military, probably one of the lowest numbers in history, and the soldiers in formation are part of that 1 percent. He noted that some members of the battery have deployed multiple times, and he urged the soldiers not to miss any opportunities to stay in contact with their families at home. Col. Amos W. Chase, commander of the 45th Fires Brigade, said the soldiers are the living embodiment of the motto on their unit crest, "Unusual efforts expended" in the eyes of the artillery. "I know that you will come back, and you will make us all proud," he said. The battery includes soldiers from three elements of the 45th Fires Brigade. Those from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery will execute suppression of enemy air defense missions and destroy command and control nodes and missile launch facilities in order to protect personnel recovery operations and protect Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan forces in the Western Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan. Photo Caption: Sgt. 1st Class Jay Fertig reaches for his 3-year-old son Devon as the soldier's mother, Nancey Fertig; wife, Riley; daughter, Isabella, 5; and daughter, Faith, 14, watch. Every member of the family hugged Fertig as he prepares to go for his last training at Fort Bliss, Texas, prior to deploying to Afghanistan.

**May 02, 2014:** Published in the "The Sapulpa Daily Herald" entitled: National Guard unit deploys. From the Oklahoma National Guard. Members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard stood center court in a deployment ceremony at the Rinehart Fitness Center on Fort Sill, Oklahoma, last Saturday for their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit deploying is Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Fires Brigade with some soldiers of the 171st Target Acquisition Battery (TAB) and the 120th Forward Support Company (FSC) deploying in a support role. Bravo Battery is scheduled to replace their sister unit, Alpha Battery, 158th Field Artillery. Alpha Battery has spent the previous nine months in Afghanistan providing indirect fire support to coalition forces using the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS). To prepare for their deployment, Bravo Battery has spent the last several months training in basic warrior tasks and drills, individual weapons qualifications and unit live fire exercises. "I believe our training has prepared us to continue the legacy that was established by all the soldiers that preceded us," said Captain Randall Wright, commander of Battery "B". "I think that we are going to continue the fine tradition of the 158th Battalion and I also think that we are going to turn a page. So I feel very blessed and fortunate to be part of that." The unit will attend pre mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas, before leaving for Afghanistan. Their total mobilization time will not exceed one year.

**May 12, 2014:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Guardsmen plan to reunite at Apache casino. Staff writer: mmeador@Lawton-constitution. A reunion of National Guardsmen who served in Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, when it deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm is being planned for Aug. 22-25, according to Jim Stuckey of Independence, Mo. The host hotel will be the Apache Casino Hotel, 2315 E. Gore. Anyone interested in attending may call Stuckey, (816) 305-7796 or (913) 253-5579. Stuckey said the outfit had one reunion last year at Quartz Mountain. "It was not a large turnout, but I was amazed to have the first sergeant and the three platoon sergeants. I was the only platoon leader," he said. Stuckey joined the active Army in 1977 and ended up being stationed at Fort Sill when he left active duty 1985. He then worked at Telos Federal Systems for a while at Fort Sill. His bosses were retired Army officers, and they encouraged him to join the Guard, which he did in July 1987. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in July 1988. The battalion deployed in December 1990 and participated in Operation Desert Storm in 1991. Stuckey was the platoon leader for the third of the battery's three platoons. The battalion had to be at full strength to deploy, so four soldiers came up from Fort Polk, La., to "plus up" the numbers. One of those, Chris Rice, came up for last year's reunion, Stuckey said. 1-158 FA was at that time a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS), and Alpha Battery had its drill weekends at the Walters Armory. Today 1-158 FA is fielded with the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), the wheeled version of the MLRS, and drill weekends are at the Armed Forces Reserve Center on Fort Sill. "We're trying to get the old gang," said Stuckey, but added that the reunion is open to anyone from Headquarters, Bravo or Charlie batteries whoever wants to come. "I did it for Alpha Battery, but I'm not going to shoo anybody away who served (alongside) Alpha Battery," he said. Published in the "Lineage and Honors Information Center of Military History" entitled: 158th Field Artillery Regiment. Constituted 26 February 1920 in the Oklahoma National Guard as the 158th Field Artillery. Organized 1921-1923 from new and existing units (less Battery A, allotted to the New Mexico National Guard and Battery E, allotted to the Arizona National Guard); Headquarters Federally recognized 15 May 1923 at Anadarko. Inducted into Federal service 16 September 1940 at home stations. Regiment broken up 11 February 1942 and its elements reorganized and redesignated as follows: Headquarters and Headquarters Battery disbanded. 1st Battalion as the 158th Field

Artillery Battalion and assigned to the 45th Infantry Division. (2d Battalion as the 207th Field Artillery Battalion hereafter separate lineage). 158th Field Artillery Battalion inactivated 24 November 1945 at Camp Bowie, Texas. Consolidated 27 September 1946 with Headquarters, 158th Field Artillery (reconstituted 25 August 1945 in the Oklahoma National Guard), reorganized, and Federally recognized as the 158th Field Artillery Battalion with Headquarters at Chickasha. Ordered into active Federal service 1 September 1950 at home stations. (158th Field Artillery Battalion [NGUS] organized and Federally recognized 3 November 1952 with Headquarters at Chickasha). Released 30 April 1954 from active Federal service and reverted to state control; Federal recognition concurrently withdrawn from the 158th Field Artillery Battalion (NGUS). Reorganized and redesignated 1 May 1959 as the 158th Artillery, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System, to consist of the 1st and 2d Howitzer Battalions, elements of the 45th Infantry Division. Reorganized 1 April 1963 to consist of the 1st Battalion, an element of the 45th Infantry Division. Reorganized 1 February 1968 to consist of the 1st Battalion. Reorganized 1 December 1971 to consist of the 1st Field Artillery Battalion. Redesignated 1 May 1972 as the 158th Field Artillery. Reorganized 1 May 1975 to consist of the 1st and 2d Battalions. Reorganized 1 April 1977 to consist of the 1st Battalion. Withdrawn 1 June 1989 from the Combat Arms Regimental System and reorganized under the United States Army Regimental System. (1st Battalion ordered into active Federal service 21 November 1990 at home stations; released 23 May 1991 from active Federal service and reverted to state control). (1st Battalion ordered into active Federal service 15 March 2003 at home stations; released from active Federal service 27 May 2003 and reverted to state control). Redesignated 1 October 2005 as the 158th Field Artillery Regiment. (1st Battalion, ordered into active Federal service 19 August 2008 at home stations). Reorganized 1 September 2008 to consist of the 1st Battalion, an element of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. (1st Battalion released from active Federal service 22 September 2009 and reverted to state control). Campaign Participation Credit: World War II: Sicily (with arrowhead), Naples-Foggia (with arrowhead), Anzio, Rome-Arno, Southern France (with arrowhead), Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe. Korean War: Second Korean Winter, Korea, Summer-Fall 1952, Third Korean Winter and Korea, Summer 1953. Southwest Asia: Liberation and Defense of Kuwait and Cease-Fire. War on Terrorism: Iraq: Iraqi Surge and Iraqi Sovereignty. Battery B (Lawton), 1st Battalion, additionally entitled to: World War II: Northern France. Decorations: French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War II, Streamer embroidered ACQUAFONDATA, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Streamer embroidered KOREA 1951-1953, Battery C (Lawton), 1st Battalion, additionally entitled to: Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered SALERNO. By order of the Secretary of the Army, Robert J. Dalessandro, Director, Center of Military History.

**May 14, 2014:** Published in the "CJTF-4 Twitter" entitled: What makes me strong. Sgt. David Ray of 1-158 Field Artillery Battalion talks about adapting and overcoming during his second deployment. Sgt. David Ray. "A" Battery, 1-158 Field Artillery Battalion, Oklahoma National Guard. This is my second deployment, the first being to Kuwait. Although the climate is different and a different atmosphere overall, I have tried to help the younger guys as much as I can. Being away from family is hard, but I learned from the first time being away that you have to keep busy. I remind the younger Soldiers of that as much as I can. I just try to stay positive as much as possible. I am currently the Mail Room NCOIC for HHBN, 4th ID, and although have never done this job before, I would do it again. It is an easy job, but the best part about it is meeting the interesting people everyday. It keeps my mind off everything, and I stay busy. Getting home is my biggest motivator, and although many of us are doing jobs outside of our MOS, we have adapted, and overcome and continue to do great things.

**May 15, 2014:** Published in the "The Fort Bliss Bugle" entitled: First female field artillery soldiers prepare for combat. Oklahoma Field Artillery arrives for training. By Tulara McCauley, DoMaD Public Affairs: Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and a detachment with 1st Bn., 171st FA MLRS, Oklahoma Army National Guard, arrived at Fort Bliss, May 6 to begin mobilization for an upcoming deployment. Capt. Randall "Randy" F. Wright, from Lawton, Oklahoma, Battery "B" commander, was confident of his troops' abilities. The unit is a fifty-fifty mix of combat veterans and new Soldiers. "My expectations are that we will exceed the standards," said Wright. "We are here to validate the training that we've already done to this point and I expect them to perform for me as they have done historically. It's a very talented group of Soldiers. As a National Guard unit, they don't get to practice as often, but their proficiencies are high." For the first time in 91 years, the 1st Bn., 158th FA, has integrated female Soldiers into its ranks. The introduction of two females into the all-male unit in November was successful. Both Soldiers volunteered to deploy with the unit. "We're turning a page in history," said Wright. "It's a great opportunity for women, the field artillery community and for the Oklahoma National Guard. Both of the young ladies are outstanding Soldiers. We can't send rockets downrange without fire direction specialists controlling the fires and that's what they do. They've been very active in our live-fire certifications. Their skill level and proficiency is not affected by their gender." Pfc. Makyla K. McKean, 18, from Elgin, Oklahoma, is a nursing student. While McKean was in Advanced Individual Training, she heard about the upcoming deployment. When she went to her first drill Nov. 2013, McKean asked to be transferred and was immediately moved to Battery "B". "I spoke to my recruiter and found out that not very many females have jumped into this Military Occupational Specialty," said

McKean. "They need to get their hands on it. It's kind of cool that you get to tell rockets where to go. No one thinks of girls shooting rockets. I think more females should go for it." Pfc. Jerra-Amie N. Hodges, 19, also from Lawton, agreed with McKean. "No other women have done this MOS, and this is my part of paving the way for females who want to serve in combat arms," said Hodges. "Initially, when we were briefed, we would hear them say 'Guys and females.' They didn't want to say the wrong thing, but now we are all comfortable with each other. I like that the unit doesn't baby us." Both Soldiers commended the command group for making the transition into the unit seamless. "I love my leadership," said McKean. "The commander and first sergeant really care about everybody in the unit." "Everybody is doing what they are supposed to be doing, and that's what we need from our leadership," said Hodges. "Thank you to everyone who helped us get where we are. It's pretty awesome that we get to deploy not even a year after we finished basic training." Photo Caption: From left, Pfc. John Gablemann, Jerra-Amie N. Hodges, Makyla K. McKean and Justin Harper, fire direction specialists with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Multiple Launch Rocket System, Oklahoma Army National Guard, pose for a photo May 9, at McGregor Range, New Mexico. Photo by Tulara McCauley, DoMaD Public Affairs.

**May 21, 2014:** Published in the "American Military Barrier War Paint, Camp Buehring, Kuwait: A Discovery of troop Identity, Values, and Warfighting Attributes as they Deployed into Combat for Operation Iraqi Freedom": Figure 101. Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, page 135. H15. Unit: Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment. Service: Oklahoma Army National Guard. Date of Deployment: 2008-2009. Upon their arrival to Camp Buehring, Soldiers from Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment paint a barrier advertising their moniker, unit identification, and deployment period. The dragon moniker rendering appears to be half dragon, half fang-bearing devil, and threatens certain destruction. Its circularly cloaking wings are raised as if to warn the onlooker that they will be enveloped. Smoke and fire are added as standard dragon fare. In sum, this Field Artillery unit presents itself as a dragon that has been provoked and is poised to unleash hell with destructive "fires" upon the enemy. Jun 10, 2014 The following is an official excerpt from AHRC-PDA-A MEMORANDUM FOR Commandant of the Marine Corps dated 10 June 2014: AHRC-PDP-A, Department of the Army, U. S. Army Human Resources Command, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5400. AHRC-PDP-A. MEMORANDUM FOR Commandant of the Marine Corps, Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps Awards Branch, 3280 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134-5103. SUBJECT: Army concurrence for the II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) Navy Unit Commendation. 1. The Department of the Army concurs with the recommendation of the Commandant of the Marine Corps to award the Navy Unit Commendation to the Army Unit(s) listed below that participated in operations with the II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward): Unit Name: 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment. Period of Award: 9 February 2009 to 15 August 2009. 2. In accordance with DoD and Army regulations, only one unit decoration will be awarded for the same act of heroism, achievement, or period of meritorious service. To conform to regulation, the correct periods of award, listed above, should be included in all award elements for the above Army units. 3. HRC Awards and Decorations Branch requests that the Marine Corps update their records to include these Army units and forward a copy of the orders to the Department of the Army, HRC, Awards and Decorations Branch. 4. This document shall serve as authority for eligible Soldiers to update their records and wear the award pending ultimate publication in the Department of the Army General Orders. Permanent wear of the NUC for Army personnel is governed by provisions of AR 670-1. 5. The Center of Military History (CMH) will verify entitlement of the above unit(s) to an appropriate streamer with the U. S. Army Tank Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), who will manufacture a decorative streamer with the inscription that the CMH determines. TACOM should provide and authorized streamer(s) to HRC's Awards and Decorations Branch, who will distribute award elements to the authorized units included in this decoration. Any additional award elements the Marine Corp wished to provide these units should be forwarded to the HRC Awards and Decorations Branch for distribution. 6. Please direct inquiries pertaining to this action the Awards and Decorations Branch at: Com'l (502) 613-9126, DSN 983- 9126, or usarmy.knox.hrc.tagd – awards@mail.mil. For the Commander: Signed: Elisa M. Robinson, CW4, AG, Chief, Awards and Decorations Branch.

**Jun 24, 2014:** Published in the "Heritage of the Weatherford Armory" entitled: Transfer of Weatherford Army National Guard armory. COL (Ret) David Brown, Executive Director, 45th. Infantry Division Museum, 2145 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111. From the fall of 1920 to the Spring of 1924, the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce and other patriotic citizen groups worked with the Adjutant General of Oklahoma to obtain an Oklahoma Army National Guard Field Artillery unit. In May 1924, the Oklahoma Army National Guard succeeded in obtaining Battery D of the 158th Field Artillery from the Arizona Army National Guard. Two weeks later, all of the unit's horse-drawn artillery and equipment, to include 32 horses, arrived by train from Arizona. The unit was officially established on 2 June 1924 became part of the new 45th Infantry Division which was comprised of National Guard units from Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. The Weatherford unit, like many other Oklahoma Army National Guard units, met in public schools and lodge halls. They rented the upper floors of downtown buildings for

the storage of their equipment and trained in the open fields outside of the community. Their horses were stabled in rented nearby barns. The Weatherford unit desperately needed a building dedicated to meet their training and equipment storage needs. However, during the Great Depression, local communities and the State of Oklahoma were unable to muster the necessary resources to build any armories. Construction of National Guard armories then became a priority for the Federal Government. The Works Projects Administration, or the WPA as it came to be known, was established in 1935 by President Roosevelt, as part of his New Deal, to create work for thousands of unemployed men. This armory was one of many proposed Oklahoma armories approved for construction by the WPA. The City of Weatherford deeded the land that we are standing to the State of Oklahoma on 10 September 1935 for the purpose of building a National Guard Armory. The Weatherford Armory was one of 51 armories in Oklahoma that were built by the WPA. All of them were designed to look like military castle battlements with the use of parapets, arched entryways, and false towers at the corners. Inside was a huge central drill hall with a spacious stage located one end. A state of the art modern rifle and pistol target range was built under the stage with bullet-proof side chambers provided for scorers and observers. Supply rooms, motor pools, and administrative offices completed the armory. In addition to its military use, the Armory was also open for all civic gatherings and almost every armory in Oklahoma became the town's community center complete with high school basketball, roller skating, and Saturday evening dances. Construction on the new Weatherford Armory was completed in 1938. It was a different world back then in 1938. Unemployment in the United States was averaging 19%. The minimum hourly wage for a 44 hour work week was only 40 cents. The very first Superman comic book came out that year. Walt Disney's "Snow White and Seven Dwarfs" and Spencer Tracy's "Boys Town" were showing in the movie theaters throughout the nation. Overseas, oil was discovered in Saudi Arabia. Howard Hughes set a new world's record for flying around the world in only three days and 19 hours. A gallon of gas cost only 10 cents. National Guard privates were paid twelve dollars every three months plus a dollar a day for the two week long summer camp. Sergeants and officers were paid a little more. In the United States Army, each soldier assigned to an Army division or brigade wears a unique shoulder patch that identifies the division or brigade to which the soldier is assigned. Since the creation of the 45th Infantry Division in 1923, the shoulder patch of the 45th Infantry Division was a yellow swastika worn on a square background of red. The swastika was a Native American good luck symbol that represented the strong Native American heritage of the 45th Infantry Division. Each side of the square patch represented one of the four states, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona whose units comprised the 45th Infantry Division. The colors of gold and red represented the Spanish heritage of the four states. Because of the large population of Native Americans in the four states that comprised the National Guard's 45th Infantry Division, a significant percentage of the Division's soldiers came from the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole, Apache, Sioux, Kiowa, Pawnee, Comanche, Osage, Creek, and Navajo tribes, to name but a few of the over fifty Native American tribes represented in the Division. No other Division, before or after the Second World War had more Native Americans in its ranks than the 45th Infantry Division. When Hitler proclaimed the swastika as the symbol of the Nazi Party in Germany, the 45th Infantry Division's shoulder patch was changed to a gold Thunderbird on a square red background. According to Native American lore, the Thunderbird was a gigantic creature with lightning emanating from its piercing eyes and thunder was caused by the flapping its wings. Soldiers assigned to the 45th Infantry Division became known as "Thunderbirds". The Weatherford unit was mobilized on 16 September 1940 along with the rest of the 45th Infantry Division for what was supposed to be one year of intensive training. As the war in Europe became a growing menace to American interests, diplomatic negotiations in the Pacific with the Government of Japan began to break down. As a result, the 45th Infantry Division's one year of active duty was extended in the fall of 1941. After the Japanese attack on December 7th, 1941 and Germany's declaration of war against the United States on December 11th, 1941, the 45th Infantry Division went to war and did not come home again until December of 1945. During World War II, the soldiers from Weatherford, Oklahoma, as part of the 158th Field Artillery Battalion, served in North Africa and then landed in Sicily as part of General Patton's Seventh Army. From Sicily, the 45th Infantry Division landed on the beaches in Italy at Salerno and then at Anzio. At Anzio, pinned down on a surrounded beachhead, the 45th Infantry Division became known as the Rock of Anzio, upon which German assaults were shattered. The unit based out of this armory faced its greatest challenge at Anzio. German panzers broke through the US lines on 13 September 1943 and were racing for the beaches when they ran head on into the 158th Field Artillery and its sister battalion, the 189th Field Artillery. These artillery men from Weatherford, Oklahoma, and their brothers from other Oklahoma communities were the only troops that stood between the Germans and the sea. Using their howitzers in rapid-fire, direct-fire mode against the German tanks, these two battalions of the 45th Division saved the day and quite possibly the war. General Mark Clark wrote that the fields and woods in which the enemy tanks took cover were pulverized. At the height of the battle, the two battalions were firing eight rounds per minute per gun. That's one round every 7.5 seconds. The howitzers became so hot that the paint on the gun barrels were burned off. When asked to explain why the 45th Infantry Division had succeeded at Anzio in the face of overwhelming odds, one soldier said, "There was heaven above us and hell below us and the sea behind us and the Germans in front of us. There wasn't but one way for us to move." After the war, Field Marshall Albert Kesselring, who led the German forces against the 45th Division at Anzio, asked his US captors to see the "automatic cannons of the 45th Infantry Division". Kesselring called the

45th Infantry Division the "Falcon Division" because of its shoulder patch and he declared it to be one of the two finest allied divisions that he had ever faced. From Anzio, the 45th Infantry Division landed on the beaches of Southern France in August 1944 as part of Operation Dragoon and once again joined General Patton as part of his Third Army as it raced across Europe and into Germany. The 45th Infantry Division crossed the Rhine River into Germany, breached the heavily defended Siegfried Line, captured Nuremberg, and liberated the Dachau Concentration Camp, freeing over 32,000 starving prisoners. From Dachau, the 45th Infantry Division crossed the Danube River and captured Munich just before the end of the war in Europe. General Patton identified the 45th Division as one of the best divisions, if not the best division in the history of the United States Army. The great news correspondent Ernie Pyle wrote about them as "Brave Men" in his articles and books. The 45th Infantry Division came home in December 1945, almost five full years after they were first mobilized in September 1940. After World War II, the 45th Infantry Division was reorganized into an all Oklahoma National Guard Division. Five years later, the soldiers of the Weatherford Armory went to the Korean War, again as part of the 45th Infantry Division, when the Division was ordered to Federal active duty on September 1, 1950. The Thunderbirds served in the Yonchon-Chowon area and in fierce battles against Chinese and North Korean troops, made the battlegrounds known as Old Baldy, Pork Chop Hill, Heartbreak Ridge, and Luke's Castle famous. In 1968, the Weatherford Armory became part of the new 45th Field Artillery Brigade when the 45th Division was reorganized into three separate brigades. Over the years, their primary artillery weapon has gone from the 105mm howitzer to the eight inch self-propelled howitzer, to the tracked Multiple Launch Rocket System, to the current High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, also known as the HIMARS system. Since 11 September 2001, the citizen-soldiers from Weatherford deployed multiple times for Homeland Security within the United States and overseas to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In September of 2005, the Oklahoma National Guard, including many from the Weatherford Armory, executed a rapid deployment to New Orleans following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina to provide disaster relief to the citizens of Louisiana and Mississippi. This Armory has supported the Oklahoma Army National Guard for over seventy-five years. Think about this. The legacy of the soldiers who walked in this Armory is now written in the history books of the United States and of the world. For over seventy-five years, the citizen soldiers of Weatherford have made a difference at home and throughout the entire world. It was highly appropriate that this Armory, with its history and heritage for service to the community, be returned to the community, so that it may continued that tradition and history of service.

**Jun 26, 2014:** Published in the "The Fort Bliss Bugle" entitled: Oklahoma guardsmen deploy to Operation Enduring Freedom. HIMARS Soldiers are Ready to Excel; By Amabilia Payen, DoMaD Public Affairs; Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment from the Oklahoma Army National Guard deployed June 16 from the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Air Control Group to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The battery is specialized in the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), which is light multiple rocket launchers mounted on a standard Army tactical truck. Capt. Randy Wright, Bravo Battery commander, is excited that his unit will be conducting their core military occupational specialty. "In the past, our battalion has done (personal security detachment) missions," said Wright. "I think it is going to be a first for a lot of the guys to do their original MOS task." Brig. Gen. Robbie Asher, director of the Joint Staff for the Oklahoma National Guard, has been on both sides of the fence when it comes to a deployment. His daughter recently deployed and returned from Afghanistan as well, and he can relate to the family members. "It is a lot easier there, than to be back here as family and friends," said Asher. "While these Soldiers are deployed, they need to stay in touch with their families, and that's what I tell Soldiers when I talk to them. My thoughts and prayers are always with the Soldiers and their families." As the war efforts in Afghanistan are now minimizing, Asher still reminds his troops that the risks are still the same. With the efforts of the Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment, the deployment process is the one thing Bravo doesn't have to stress over. "The DoMaD folks are incredibly good at what they do," said Wright. "They accommodated us well. As an incoming commander, to have all those resources already ready for you when you get here, it makes it a lot easier." Asher agreed. "They do everything they possibly can to make a painful process good," he said. Photo Caption: Brig. Gen. Robbie Asher, director of the Joint Staff for the Oklahoma National Guard, gray uniform, shakes the hands of Soldiers assigned to B Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, as they make their way onto the aircraft bound for Afghanistan, June 16 at the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Air Control Group on East Fort Bliss. Photos by Amabilia Payen, DoMaD Public Affairs.

**Jul 05, 2014:** Published in the "The Tulsa World" entitled: Local active duty guardsmen optimistic about serving on July fourth. A Muskogee soldier left for Afghanistan in June and a Tulsa soldier returned to Fort Bliss this week.; By Amanda Bland, World Staff Writer; Army National Guard Pfc. Nathan Frank and Spc. Grant Shriver would normally spend the Fourth of July with loved ones enjoying the fireworks and holiday festivities, but instead the Oklahoma soldiers will spend Independence Day away from home with the 158th Field Artillery's 1st Battalion. Frank, 31, of Muskogee, deployed with the unit's Bravo Battery to Afghanistan on June 16. The group replaced a sister battery, which recently returned to the United States. "I'm just glad I got a chance to actually come over here and do

my job," he said in a telephone interview from Afghanistan. Both batteries provide indirect artillery fire to support coalition forces and security detail in the country's southern and western regions near the capital, Kabul, and the city of Kandahar. Frank, a father of three young children, usually spends Independence Day "hanging out with family, shooting fireworks off." His family understands Frank's sense of duty to his country; his younger brother, also a soldier, inspired him to enlist but still worries about his nine months overseas, he said. "When I first got over here, it was a little rough" being away from family, particularly his 6-month-old girl, Frank said of his first tour in Afghanistan. Shriver, 20, of Tulsa is a member of the Alpha Battery, which deployed in October and returned to Fort Bliss earlier this week. He's closer to home; Fort Bliss is about 800 miles away in El Paso, Texas; but still wasn't able to watch the Boom Fest fireworks at the Jenks River Walk with his girlfriend, which is what he said he would have been doing Friday were he in Tulsa. "I'd like to be home for Fourth of July, but I have to take care of stuff here so it's not too bad. There'll be other Fourth of Julys," Shriver said Thursday. The aspiring firefighter found the Army National Guard was a good fit for helping him further his education while also serving his country. He worked personal security detail while in Afghanistan and expects to return to Oklahoma early next week. "I'm really looking forward to going fishing; catching up with friends and family (and) my girlfriend, of course; and then getting back into school is really my main focus," Shriver said. Photo Caption: Pfc. Nathan Frank, 31, of Muskogee, recently began his first tour of duty.

**Jul 08, 2014:** Published in the "Channel Six On The Scene" entitled: 80 Oklahoma National Guard soldiers return home. Tuesday, July 8th 2014, 5:48 PM CDT. By Lisa Monahan. "I never fail to get chills when I see those doors open and soldiers walk in front of me," said MG Myles L. Deering in a homecoming ceremony that was held in Mustang on Tuesday morning. The group distinguished itself in combat as the first Oklahoma soldiers to fire rockets in combat since Desert Storm. "To the soldiers standing in this formation congratulations on a mission well done. "Deering pointed out all of the soldier's accomplishments during their deployment including security and convoy escort in Afghanistan. The soldiers left Fort Sill last September and their families remember it to the day. When SFC. Monty Johnson asked his wife how long he was away from home, she quickly replied, "330 days." Johnson said it made the reunion with his family that much better. "Feels great, really great," he said. Eighty families in attendance at the welcome home ceremony were in agreement: All were happy to have their soldiers home. While the soldiers returned home Tuesday, their sister unit, the 158th Field Artillery Battery B is now standing in their place in Afghanistan.

**Jul 09, 2014:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Photo Captain. Photo Caption: Capt. Sean Bryant of Edmond, commander of Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard, leads his troops into the Mustang Armed Forces Reserve Center for a homecoming ceremony Tuesday. The unit returned to Oklahoma from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Published in the "The Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise" entitled: Ceremony held for soldiers returning to Oklahoma. By Mark Schlachtenhaufen. The Edmond Sun. MUSTANG-It was a huge day for about 65 soldiers returning to Oklahoma after spending nearly a year on an artillery focused mission in Afghanistan. Tuesday morning, family members welcomed about 65 members of Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard, as they returned from deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Among them were two Edmond Police officers; Sean Bryant and Jeff Morefield; a third Edmond police officer; James Teel; was returning via another route. Bryant, an Army captain, led his men into the auditorium. After receiving a warm welcome from loved ones, Bryant said the unit left Afghanistan on July 1 and the route home included stops in Romania, Ireland, Maine and Colorado. Then they spent eight days in Texas at Fort Bliss. An overnight bus trip took them from El Paso to the Mustang Armed Forces Reserve Center. In the auditorium, family members stood, cheered, snapped pictures, waved American flags and held signs. Among them was Bryant's wife Heather. "I was fine until I saw my wife," the soldier said as he fought to control his emotions. He described his reaction to the welcome home ceremony. "It means the world. It shows the support of our families." Bryant said the mission went great and the soldiers accomplished every objective. "And I couldn't have been prouder," Bryant said. Bryant said before rejoining the Edmond Police Department, he will be taking some leave so he can spend time with his family. How much is Bryant looking forward to being home in Edmond? "More than you can know," he said. Greg Bryant, the soldier's father, said the day and what it means have been really joyful for them. He said he believes he learned the soldiers were back home on July 2. "It's just good to see him back with his kids," he said. Before the ceremony, Heather Johnson Cooke, a University of Central Oklahoma graduate, said she came from her hometown of Austin to support her brother Sgt. William Johnson, who is also a police officer in Wichita Falls. Nearby were his two sons, Bradley, 10, and Benjamin, 8, as well as Paula Johnson, his mother, and his father, Lt. Col. Bill Johnson. "They haven't seen him in quite some time and we're just really anxious to see the look on his face when he sees them," Heather said. While their soldier was deployed, family members sent care packages and Heather tried to see her nephews as often as possible. At the back of the auditorium, 1st Sgt. Scott Buhre, with the 120th Forward Support Company, was standing near numerous uniformed soldiers. Buhre said some of his soldiers were mechanics for the group that was returning. Vehicle types they worked on included rocket launchers. "I need to be

here to support them,” Buhre said. “We’re just glad they’re back.” While deployed, they conducted a number of missions to include route security and convoy escort. Battery A also made history in January when they provided indirect artillery fire support to coalition forces using the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems. This fire mission marked the first time since Desert Storm that an Oklahoma Army National Guard unit fired rockets in support of combat operations. Battery “A”, based out of the Fort Sill Armed Forces Reserve Center, mobilized last September. They were replaced last month by their sister unit, Battery “B”, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jul 17, 2014:** Published in the “The Fort Bliss Bugle” entitled: HIMARS combat launch makes Oklahoma history. By Amabilia Payen, DoMaD Public Affairs; Battery “A”, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, from the Oklahoma Army National Guard redeployed July 1 at the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Air Control Group, and each Soldier appeared full of pride of the mission they completed in Afghanistan. Capt. Sean Bryant, Battery A commander, claimed his unit was the first in the Oklahoma National Guard to fire rockets of the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System platform in a combat situation. The last time the 1-158th fired rockets in a combat zone was in Desert Storm, using the Multiple Launch Rocket Systems. The rockets that were launched against Saddam Hussein’s Iraqi Republican Guard during that conflict in the ‘90s were initiated by Battery “A” then, and now, for Operation Enduring Freedom, the battery kept the tradition alive by being the first for the Oklahoma Army National Guard to fire rockets against insurgents in Afghanistan. Battery A commemorated the milestone by designing a coin that will forever depict this moment in history, and one of the coins was given to Brig. Gen. Robbie Asher, director of the Joint Staff for the Oklahoma Army National Guard. Asher came to Fort Bliss to welcome home the Soldiers of the Oklahoma Army National Guard. “It’s always a much better day when one of our units comes home,” said Asher. “They have done a great job and we are proud of them, both as Soldiers of the U.S. Army and as Oklahoma Guardsmen.” Sgt. Joshua Hale was congratulated by his brothers in arms, because as a gunner and HIMARS launcher in his unit, he was the one to fire the first rocket that marked the historic milestone. “It is very honorable for me to be able to do it because my dad did the same thing in Desert Storm,” said Hale. “To be one of the first people to do it since then makes me feel good to be able to carry on the family name.” Hale said he is now focused on returning to his wife Reva, and to his civilian job as an information technology security specialist with the Storage ‘R’ Us company. “Thank you to my family,” said Hale. “This is definitely the hardest nine months that I had to ever deal with; especially for my wife; she stayed with me throughout the entire thing (and) supported me 100 percent.” “Our focus now is (demobilization) and to get everything taken care of here at Fort Bliss and get home to our families,” said Bryant. “We went through this deployment without failure, and I want to end this deployment with honor.” Battery “A” will conduct demobilization with DoMaD for about a week. Once the battery is 100 percent complete, they will then be transported to their home base station at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. “DoMaD has done a good job when we came through the first time,” said Bryant. “Hopefully they’ll do just as good job or better sending us home.” DoMaD provides unity of command and unity of effort for all administrative, logistical support, and movement requirements for all units and individuals supported by the Fort Bliss Joint Mobilization Station. Simultaneously, DoMaD operates the Soldier Resilience and Readiness Center and coordinates all flight operations at the Silas L. Copeland A/DACG. Photo Caption: Brig. Gen. Robbie Asher, director of the Joint Staff for the Oklahoma Army National Guard, shakes the hands of Soldiers assigned to Battery “A”, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, who redeployed from a tour in Afghanistan July 1 at the Silas L. Copeland Arrival/Departure Air Control Group. Photo by Amabilia Payen, DoMaD Public Affairs.

**Jul 20, 2014:** Obituary: Roger S. VanDervort, 71. Lawton, will be 1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24, 2014, In the Becker Rabon Funeral Home Chapel with Billy Harmon, Pastor, Arena Cowboy Church, officiating. Roger passed away at home Sunday, July 20, 2014 with family at his side following a long decline in health. Burial will be in Sunset Memorial Gardens. Roger was born October 3, 1942 in Bristolville, Ohio. He grew up in Lawton and was a 1960 graduate of Lawton High School. He married the love of his life, Linda Buttram, on October 21, 1966 in Lawton. He served for a time in the Oklahoma National Guard serving with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery. He also attended Business College. He worked building mobile home trailers with his dad and also worked as a hired hand for Sullivan Dairy & Farms before beginning a longtime career with the Public Service Company of Oklahoma. Roger started his career at PSO reading meters in 1965, and at the time of his retirement he served as a dispatcher. Roger’s first love was his family, but he also enjoyed working with his tractor, attending rodeos, camping and telling jokes. He was always upbeat and loved to make people smile and laugh. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Linda VanDervort; two daughters and sons in law, Kim and Justin Myers; and Lori and Brian Brower, all of Anadarko; three grand daughters, Lacy Bolden and husband Bobby, Brilee Brower and Britnee Brower; a great grandson, Noah Bolden; two step grandchildren, Levi Myers and Josey Myers. His parents, James G. and Flossie VanDervort, and a son, Craig Lynn VanDervort, preceded him in death.

**Aug 01, 2014:** Published in the “The National Guard Magazine” entitled: Equipping the Guard/Army. Multiple Launch Rocket System/High-Mobility Rocket Artillery System. Description: Tactical, ground to ground rocket system. Primary Manufacturer: Lockheed Martin. Entered the Army Service: 1983. Basic Variants: M270 and M270A1 MLRS



are tracked systems. M142 HIMARS provides the same system on a wheeled platform that is 12 tons lighter and can be transported on a C-130 Hercules cargo plane. Guard Useage: Guard field artillery units have used MLRS since before the first Persian Gulf War. Conversions from MLRS to HIMARS began in fiscal 2006. Update: HIMARS is now the Guard's primary rocket system. Guard HIMARS units have deployed to Afghanistan in recent years. Wisconsin's Battery B, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery, conducted fire missions there last year and Battery A, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, did the same earlier this year.

**Aug 08, 2014:** Obituary: Elmer Franklin McDade; age: 89. (May 24, 1925 to August 08, 2014 ). Resident of Ukiah, California. Obituary: Elmer Franklin McDade "Mr. Mac" Elmer Franklin McDade, Beloved Patriarch and cherished friend was promoted to Glory early on Saturday, August 9th at Cloverdale Health Care Center while trying to recover from an emergency surgery. He was born May 24, 1925 in Des Moines, Iowa to Rachel and the Reverend Paul McDade. He grew up all over Iowa as his father moved from Parrish to Parrish. He graduated Ogden High in 1943 but was ranked 4-F for health reasons in World War II. He graduated Iowa State in 1949 and worked as a timber cruiser in the western states. It was while he was in southern Oregon that he met the love of his life Janice Houghton, who waited for him as he served in the HQ battery of the 158 field artillery battalion of the 45th Infantry Thunderbird Division of the US Army from 1951-1952 in the Korean War. They were married in Medford, Oregon on October 11, 1952, a week after he landed in San Francisco from Korea. Using the education opportunity of the GI bill he earned his Masters of Forest Products at Oregon State. They were blessed with 5 children who grew up in Santa Rosa and Ukiah. His first career was the lumber industry, but finding himself restless in retirement, he started working for Ukiah school district. First he was a Foster Grandparent at Hopland Elementary but rapidly applied for his substitute teacher credential. He substituted everything from Kindergarten to High School Calculus classes. However his real niche was in the Middle Schools and anyone who had Mr. Mac was taught about Respect, The Pledge of Allegiance, The Golden Rule (treating others as you would have them treat you), and of course the Korean War. He taught until this last January when he just could no longer get around the campuses. Some of his other joys and hobbies included volunteering as a docent at the Sun House, volunteering for meals on wheels, singing in the church choir and with Barber shop Quartets. He was a member of the VFW local post 1900, the lumbermen's Hoo Hoo Club (don't laugh 2 American Presidents were Hoo Hoo's) and the local fraternal luncheon Cannibals club. He is predeceased by his parents Paul and Rachel, sister and brother-in-law Dorothy (Bob) Johns, brother-in-law Alf Guldahl, and grandson Matthew Poor. He is survived by his wife Janny Lou. Children: Jennifer (Bill) Ballow, Susan (Johnny) Poor, Scott (Lisa) McDade, Marty (Doug) Daut, and Nancy (Rick) Thornton. Grandchildren: Sara (Ryan) Spencer, John Samuel Poor, Allison (Alex) Stone, Scott Ware, Steven (Heidi) Poor, Jesse (Lesli) McDade, Tanner McDade, Ryan Daut, Rachel Thornton, Tyler Thornton, and Reid Daut. Great Grandchildren: John, Nichole, Macaela, Kenzy, Leto, Jackson, and Broderick. Also his in-laws Harriett Guldahl, Marcia (Dick) Padgham, David (Debbie) Houghton and all their children. His service will be held on Saturday, August 16, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at The Holy Trinity Church in Ukiah. In lieu of flowers and in honor of his memory the family would like everyone to remember to be kind and respectful of others. Eversole Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

**Aug 10, 2014:** Obituary: Roger Oringdulph Gohrband; 84, Born on May 21, 1930 and Died on Aug. 10, 2014. Roger was born in Portland, to Ernest and Pauline Gohrband. He passed away peacefully at home with his family at his side. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; three children and their families; and sister, Ernestine Oringdulph (Robert "Bud") of Portland. He was predeceased by his grandson, Alex Murray. He attended Fernwood Elementary School and Grant High School (1947). A member of Theta Xi, he graduated from Oregon State University in chemical engineering (1951). He served in the U.S. Army for three years, including combat service in Korea, where he was awarded a Bronze Star and Air Medal for meritorious service. In 1956, he received his M.B.A from Harvard. He spent 30 years at Dow Chemical, where he was the director of corporate planning and development. After retiring he was elected to the Midland City Council. He also served as mayor. In Portland, he was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. For his lifetime service to the Boy Scouts of America (Portland Troup 64), he received the Silver Beaver Award. Roger loved water skiing, snow skiing, sailing and summers with his family at his lake house in Michigan. He and Virginia traveled extensively abroad. In 2009, they moved to Brentwood, Tenn. Memorial services were held in both Nashville and Midland. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Boy Scouts of America, Flint, Mich. or to the Midland Area Community Foundation, Midland, Mich. Published in The Oregonian from Oct 10 to Oct 12, 2014. First Lieutenant, OSN: O-64912 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Aug 20, 2014:** Permanent Orders 232-02: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122. Permanent Order: 232-03 dated 20 August 2014. Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment. Announcement is made of the following award: Award: Meritorious Unit Commendation. Period of service: 17 October 2013 to 18 June 2014. Authority: AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-15. Reason: For exceptionally meritorious service. During the period 17 October 2013 to 18 June 2014, Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 2013-2014. The Soldiers of the

unit demonstrated an unwavering commitment to support the 4th Infantry Division in conducting operations in Regional Command South on multiple Forward Operating Base locations by completing both standard and nonstandard artillery missions. The dedication and absolute devotion to mission accomplishment exhibited by Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment uphold the finest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon themselves, the 4th Infantry Division and the United States Army. Format: 320. Additional Instructions: This order serves as official notification that a unit award has been approved for the organization(s) listed above and will serve as authority for eligible Soldiers to update their records and wear the award. The award is still subject to final confirmation in Department of the Army General Orders. Official verification of a specific unit's entitlement to display the award in the form of an appropriate streamer on its flag or guidon rests with the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH), which is also responsible for determining official unit Lineage and Honors for MTOE organizations. CMH will use this permanent order to authorize the manufacture of an appropriate decoration streamer for any organization clearly entitled to display the award. The streamers will then be manufactured and sent to the U.S. Army Human Resources Command for automatic distribution to the units concerned. It is not the responsibility of HRC to replace streamers that are lost or damaged. Please refer to AR 840-10 for further guidance regarding the responsibilities of the unit concerning the display, care and disposition of the streamers. By order of the Secretary of the Army: Signed Stacy-Ann B. Simms, CW4, AG, Deputy Chief, Awards and Decorations Branch. Distribution: Commander, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, 3955 Cannoneer Field Road, Fort Sill, OK 73503 (1). CMH, 103 Third Ave., Fort McNair, Washington, DC 20319 (1). File (1).

**Sep 29 2014:** Obituary: William Howard Bannister of Lewisville, Texas was born January 6, 1929 and passed away on Monday, September 29, 2014. He was 85 years old. Visitation will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2014, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Brooks Family Chapel of the North Dallas Funeral Home, 2710 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, Texas 75234. Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, October 3, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. in the Brooks Family Chapel in the North Dallas Funeral Home. Interment will follow the service at 12:30 p.m. at Hilltop Memorial Park Cemetery, 1810 N. Perry Road, Carrollton, Texas. Corporal, ASN: 54020978 and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Oct 20, 2014:** Obituary: Verlin Wolfgang Danner; March 14, 1931 to October 20, 2014, age 83 , of Glidden passed away on Monday, October 20, 2014 at Carroll Health Center in Carroll. Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 AM. on Friday, October 24, 2014 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Glidden with Fr. Andrew Hoffman and Fr. Robert Gralapp concelebrating assisted by Deacons Gary Schon and Louis Meiners. Friends may call at the Dahn and Woodhouse Funeral Home in Glidden after 3:30 PM. on Thursday where there will be a Rosary at 4:00 PM. and a Christian Wake Service at 6:30 PM. Lectors for the Mass will be Kevin and Todd Danner. Gift bearers will be granddaughters: Nicole Stork, Erin Danner, Rachel Rasmussen, Amber Danner, Katie Speer, Paige Danner, Mady Danner, and Alexis Danner. Eucharistic Ministers will be Lori Danner and Janelle Danner. Mass servers will be Clayton Christian, Noah Borkowski, and Christopher Brown Casket bearers will be grandsons: Blair Danner, Jeremy Draves, Seth Danner, Mike Speer, Paul Danner, Jared Danner, Brady Danner, Jake Danner, and Loagan Danner. Honorary casket bears will be granddaughters: Nicole Stork, Erin Danner, Rachel Rasmussen, Amber Danner, Katie Speer, Paige Danner, Alexis Danner, Emilee Danner, Mady Danner, Drew Danner, Natalee Danner, and great grand children: Kylie, Jaslyn, Harper, Brynn, Aria, Aliya, and Kinnick. Burial will be in the Merle Hay Memorial Cemetery near Glidden with military honors by the Merle Hay Post of the American Legion. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Dahn and Woodhouse Funeral Home in Glidden and online condolences for Verlin's family may be left at [www.dahnnandwoodhouse.com](http://www.dahnnandwoodhouse.com). Born March 14, 1931 near Wiley, he was a son of George and Leona (Brincks) Danner. He attended country school and Saint Peter & Paul school in Carroll. He then farmed with his father until entering the Army and served in the Korean War from 1952-1954. In 2013 Verlin was honored as the Grand Marshall of Memorial Day Parade in Glidden and in 2014 he received recognition as a 60 year war veteran. He was a member of Merle Hay American Legion Post # 386 of Glidden, Iowa. Upon return from Korea, he farmed with his father. On January 26, 1955 he married Phyllis Ann Becker of Breda. They lived and farmed in the Glidden and Ralston area until his retirement in April 2003. Upon his "retirement" from farming, Verlin helped the Tom and Chris Soyer families with their farming operations. He also worked part time as a custodian for the Glidden Rural Electric Company. Verlin was a member of Holy Family Parrish in Lidderdale until the establishment of Saint Elizabeth Seton Parrish in Glidden in 1984 where he is currently a member. Verlin is survived by his wife Phyllis of Glidden, two daughters Sandy (Jim) Speer of Oakdale, NY and Sheryl Draves of Lidderdale, seven sons: Kevin (Lori) Danner of Glidden, Mark (Gretchen) Danner of Tripoli, IA, Todd (Amy) Danner of Westside, Joel (Janelle) Danner of West Des Moines, and Jason (Monica) Danner of Boone. Verlin is also survived by 20 grand children and 7 great grand children. He is preceeded in death by his parents and three brothers.; Kenneth, Ronald, and Allan Danner. Verlin will be greatly missed by his family and all those lives he touched throughout his lifetime. Farewell to our husband, father, grandpa, great grandpa and friend. ASN: 55326527 and served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**Nov 16, 2014:** Obituary: Joshua Winfred Tate was born on June 15, 1988 in Ft. Worth, TX to Jay Winfred Tate and Laura Ann Pryor. He passed away on November 16, 2014 in Sayre, OK at the age 26. Joshua graduated from Binger High School in 2006. He enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard as a fire directions specialist. He was in the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, Oklahoma Army National Guard serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009 and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2013. He was awarded posthumously to the rank of Sergeant and his award consisted of The Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal W/Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal W/2 Campaign Stars, Global war on terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal W/M Device, Non-Commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Oklahoma National Guard Long Service Medal, Oklahoma Good Conduct Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation. He has worked for B&K Equipment as an area service manager for 3 years. Josh loved singing, playing the guitar, noodling, snakes, outdoors, hog hunting, playing volley ball, swimming, and most of all, play, sing, and spending time with his family. He attended Binger Baptist Church. Josh had an unreal passion for life; he was a gentleman, had true character, knew how to trust people, and was a truly genuine one of a kind person. Survivors Include: his parents; Laura and Russell Daniel of Binger, OK, and Jay and Sharese Tate of Oklahoma City, OK, his fiancé, Ashley Lodermeier of Binger, OK, his grandparents; Jerry and Sue Tate of Carnegie, OK, Lewis Pryor of Ft. Worth, TX and Iona Pryor of Ft. Worth, TX, Patricia Alexander of Oklahoma City, OK, Jimmie and Sue Daniel of Binger, OK, great-grandparent; Christine Morgan of Ft. Worth, TX, ; Siblings: Jay Tate, Larissa Tate, Lacey Tate, Shelby Tate, Caleb Daniel, Stephanie Roper, and Sydney Whittaker, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandparent, Jim Alexander, his great grandparents, Rufus Morgan, Geneva Tate, Clemeth Fridel, Eula Mae Pryor, Ruth Elliott, Vernon Daniel, Alphonse Daniel, and Winfred Tate; his brother, Jody Tate, and Uncle, Kenny Daniel.

**Nov 21, 2014:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Veteran dies in accident. Binger. An Oklahoma Army National Guardsman died Sunday in a weather related vehicle accident in Sayre. Services for Sgt. Joshua Winfred Tate, 26, of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, will be at 1 p.m. Sunday in the Binger-Oney School Auditorium under the direction of Turner Funeral Home, Binger. Burial will be in Murray Cemetery, Binger. Tate's unit had returned July 8 from a 10-month deployment to Afghanistan. He had previously deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009. Tate was born on June 15, 1988, in Fort Worth, Texas, to Jay Winfred Tate and Laura Ann Pryor. He graduated from Binger High School in 2006. He enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard as a fire direction specialist. Tate had worked for B&K Equipment as an area service manager for three years. Tate was posthumously promoted to the rank of sergeant. His awards included the National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, Non-Commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Oklahoma National Guard Long Service Medal, Oklahoma Good Conduct Ribbon and a Navy Unit Commendation. Survivors include his parents: Laura and Russell Daniel, Binger, and Jay and Sharese Tate, Oklahoma City; his fiancé, Ashley Lodermeier, Binger; his grandparents: Jerry and Sue Tate, Carnegie; Lewis Pryor and Iona Pryor; both of Fort Worth; Patricia Alexander, Oklahoma City, and Jimmie and Sue Daniel, Binger; great-grandparent: Christine Morgan, Fort Worth, and siblings: Jay Tate, Larissa Tate, Lacey Tate, Shelby Tate, Caleb Daniel, Stephanie Roper and Sydney Whittaker.

**Dec 23, 2014:** Obituary: Francis Conrad Kretchmar: Posted: Saturday, December 27, 2014 12:01 am, Enid, OK. Funeral service for Francis Kretchmar, 97, of Okarche, will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Okarche. Burial will follow in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Okarche. Arrangements are by Sanders Funeral Service Inc., Kingfisher. Francis died Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2014, at St. Katharine Drexel Retirement Center. Francis Conrad Kretchmar was born Feb. 4, 1917 to George Edward Kretchmar and Anna Barbara (Schell) Kretchmar in Kingfisher, Ok. He married Elizabeth Ann "Betty" Wiewel Sept. 5, 1938, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in El Reno, OK. Francis was a farmer for many years and retired as a salesman for Travelers Motor Club, and had served in the National Guard. A resident of Okarche, OK., he died at the age of 97, Dec. 23, 2014, in El Reno. Survivors were four sons, John Kretchmar, Bill Kretchmar and wife Rhonda, Tom Kretchmar, and Danny Kretchmar and wife Christy; two daughters, Kathy Schroder and husband Gary, and Marilyn David and husband Terry; 11 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty; and one son, Jerry Kretchmar. A wake service was held Dec. 31, and Funeral services were Dec. 31, 2014 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Okarche with burial at Holy Trinity Cemetery under direction of Sanders Funeral Service in Kingfisher. Private and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 28 2014:** Obituary: Marx Lenin Calhoun, Graveside service for Marx L. Calhoun, 72, Lawton, will be 10:00

a.m. Friday, January 2, 2015, in Sunset Memorial Gardens with Dr. Patrick Latham officiating. Mr. Calhoun died Sunday, December 28, 2014, in Lawton. Burial will be under the direction of the Becker Rabon Funeral Home. He was born August 26, 1942 in Norton, Virginia, to William M. and Cora B. (Hamilton) Calhoun. He grew up in Virginia and moved to Lawton as a teenager. He married Georgia Moralez on February 22, 1964 in Lawton. She preceded him in death on July 23, 2012. Mr. Calhoun had worked for the City of Lawton and was retired from Civil Service at Fort Sill. He also was retired from the Army National Guard. He is survived by a daughter in law, Marianne Calhoun, Lawton; three grandchildren, Aaron Calhoun, Shae Lynn Calhoun and LeAnn Marie Calhoun; several nieces and nephews. His son, Kenneth Lee Calhoun, his parents, a brother, Richard L. Calhoun, and three sisters, Sarah Straton, Virginia Flanery and Ellen Godfrey, preceded him in death. Sergeant First Class and served with Headquarters Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Dec 30, 2014:** Obituary: Raymond G. Garner, 85, of Collinsville, died 1230 p.m. December 30, 2014, at Cedarhurst Assisted Living Retirement Village in Collinsville. He was born October 2, 1929, in Wayne City, the son of Omer and Lola (McKinney) Garner. He married Cordelia McDonald. He is survived by his wife, Cordelia Garner of Collinsville; son, Brent and wife Laura Garner of Glen Carbon; daughter, Glenda and husband Mark Stevens of San Andero, Texas; brothers, Joe and Herman Garner; sisters, Alice Jane and Cully Crook of Wayne City and Phyllis Clark of Mt. Vernon; and four grandchildren He was preceded in death by a brother, Norris Garner. Funeral service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Archie L. Sanders Chapel in Wayne City with the Rev. Richard McCormick officiating. Burial will be at Thomason Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday at Richardson Funeral Home in Wayne City. Published on January 1, 2015. Private First Class and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jan 09, 2015:** Published in the "Channel Seven News Blog" entitled: Oklahoma National Guard soldiers come home. Posted: Jan 09, 2015 4:54 PM CST. Updated: Jan 15, 2015 9:59 AM CST. By Kelsey Powell, Reporter Bio Email Connect Biography kpowell@kswo.com Follow @KelseyPowellTV. Mustang, Okla. The last Oklahoma National Guard soldiers to be in Afghanistan in support of combat operations as part of Operation Enduring Freedom are now home with their families after seven months. National Guard troops from the Lawton area were among the 72 soldiers from B Battery 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery who were greeted by family and friends at their brigade headquarters Friday in Mustang. The soldiers underwent training at Fort Bliss for three months before going overseas where they assisted with operations at the Air Force base in Kandahar for four months. While they were deployed, nine babies were born. National Guardsman Sean Eckrote shared a loving embrace with his wife, Sara, and five-month-old son, Easton. "It's mind blowing. It's absolutely amazing. Like nothing else I have ever felt," said Eckrote. Sara Eckrote says she has been counting down the days until Sean came home from deployment. "Oh gosh, it's overwhelming. I never thought I would see this day. It's pretty exciting to see his dad with him and him get to meet him finally," said Sara Eckrote. Battery Commander Captain Randy Wright says he is happy to bring all 72 soldiers under his command home safely to their families. "I had a soldiers that had children. Several of them had newborn children for the first time. Some of the guys got to participate in that through technology," said Capt. Wright. Fortunately, even though Eckrote was more than 7,000 miles away, he got to see the birth of his son via Skype. He says even though he is home holding Easton, it still hasn't hit him yet. "I have been a father for five months, but never really a father because I wasn't here," said Eckrote. The Eckrotes, along with all the other soldiers who returned, say they are just ready to start their lives back up again. Now that the soldiers are home, they will be given some time off to spend with their families. One of our own here at 7News is part of that National Guard unit. Jason Elbert is in charge of Internet content and social media. He talked about being reunited with his wife and young daughter. "I don't think it has sunken in yet. We are still in the mode of being gone and not seeing anybody, so it will take a while to get back into the groove of things, but we are ready for it. It is definitely time to be home," said Elbert. We're glad to have Jason back in the newsroom. Obituary: Michael McQuatters Davis, Colonel, US Army (Ret), died at his home January 9, 2014, after a long illness borne with great fortitude. He was born September 4, 1928 at Fort Monroe, Va. Col. Davis was the only child of General Michael Frank Davis and Gladys McQuatters Davis. General Davis served as a pilot with the American Expeditionary Force in WW I who latter went on to command the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center, which subsequently became Lackland AFB. Following in the steps of his father. Mike attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1951. After graduation from West Point Colonel Davis served in the Korean War, where he was an artillery forward observer and subsequently a battery commander in the 45th Division, receiving the Bronze Star Medal. Early in his career he became an Army Aviator and served in a number of progressively more responsible command and staff positions in that field. He was assigned as an aviation officer in Thailand from 1965-66 and then returned to Asia in 1969 to again serve in combat in Viet Nam closing out his career and his distinguished overall service to the country, and upon retiring was awarded the Legion of Merit, the highest non combat decoration in the Army. Upon retiring from the Army in 1975 Colonel Davis made his home in San Antonio where he raised his sons and had a second career in business. Having earned a Master's of Science degree from Troy State University and MBA from the University of Texas at San Antonio, he

became the President and owner of Excalibur Aviation Company until retiring in 1998. Col. Davis had a special place in his heart for his former classmates at West Point. He loved military history, scotch, physical fitness, cars, motorcycles and most of all, airplanes. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Lisa Munson Davis; two sons, by a previous marriage to Evangeline Leialoha Davis, Robert and Lee Davis; grand daughters, Stephanie and Melissa Davis; step daughters, Nicole Fagerberg and Olivia Chacon and daughter in law, Mary Anne Davis. He is preceded in death by his eldest son, Michael M.M. Davis. The family is grateful to the many people who helped Mike during his illness, especially, Dr. Christopher Mattson of SAMMC, hospice nurses and aides, and the loyal caregivers who made his care at home possible. A graveside service will be held February 5, 2015, at 1:30 pm, at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Colonel, OSN: O-64212 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Jan 20, 2015:** Obituary: Woodrow Wilson Avritt: Graveside services celebrating Woody's life will be held at 10:30 am on Tuesday, January 27, 2015, at Rose Hill Cemetery in Chickasha with Sue Winslow, Sam Avritt, and Esten Leonard officiating. Visitation with family will be from 5 pm to 7 pm on Monday, January 26th at Ferguson Funeral Home in Chickasha. "Woody", 96, of Tulsa, formerly of Chickasha, passed Tuesday, January 20, 2015, in Tulsa, after a short illness. Woody was born August 16, 1918, in Weatherford, Oklahoma, and was the eighth of ten children born to Paul and Mattie Avritt. Woody served in the U.S. Army and the Oklahoma National Guard. He retired in 1978 with the rank of Major. While serving he met an Army nurse, Rose Margaret Richards. They were married on April 18, 1944. In 1956, they moved to Chickasha, making it their home for over 50 years. Rose passed away on January 11, 2013. He worked for Roland Drilling Company, and Little Nick Oil Company. He also served on the school board for Chickasha Public Schools. Woody and Rose enjoyed serving others and took mission trips around the world to places including Russia, Israel, Mexico and Alaska. They also hosted Family Bible Study, a weekly television program airing on Chickasha television for ten years. As a longtime member of Epworth Methodist Church, Woody served on numerous boards. Woody was an avid sports fan and supported the Dallas Cowboys, New Orleans Saints, Texas Rangers, University of Oklahoma Sooners and the Oklahoma State Cowboys. He leaves behind two daughters: Paula Malcolm and husband, David, of Plano, Texas; Katie Stark and husband, Stephen, of Tulsa, Oklahoma; grand children, Heather Wry, Andy Wallace, Jennifer James and Stephen Stark; and seven great grand children, Samantha Stark, Sabrina Stark, Lauren James, Riley Collett James, Finlea Wallace, Amelia Stark and Ella Stark. Family and friends are asked to share their fondest memories of Woody, by writing them in the register book or sharing them online at Ferguson Funeral Home, in the obituaries under Woody's name. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the charity of your choice. Major, OSN: O-1823961 and ASN: 20831046 and served with Battery "D", 158th Field Artillery.

**Jan 31, 2015:** Obituary: James O'Donnell Maher, a retired Foreign Service officer and volunteer, died Jan. 31, 2015 at his home in Washington's Adams Morgan neighborhood of cancer. He was 93. The son of Thomas F. Maher, a Mountain Valley Water salesman, and Florence O'Donnell Maher, a homemaker, James O'Donnell Maher was born in Middletown, R.I., and spent his early years in Washington before moving with his family to Catonsville. He was a 1939 graduate of Loyola High School and earned a bachelor's degree in 1943 from what is now Loyola University Maryland. During World War II, he served as a squad leader Sergeant, ASN: 13102863 for the Army's 158th Field Artillery and at the end of the war was discharged with the rank of sergeant. In 1947, he earned a master's degree from Thunderbird School of Global Management, and began his banking career working for Citibank in New York City and later in Rio de Janeiro. Mr. Maher took a job in 1953 as a financial officer for Radio Free Europe in Lisbon, Portugal, and then returned to Rio de Janeiro in 1962 when he joined the Foreign Service and served with the U.S. Agency for International Development. During his years with the agency, he served in Brazil, Senegal, Tunisia and Mozambique, among other places. He retired in 1987 and moved to Franktown, Va. He was active with Habitat for Humanity in Franktown, on Virginia's Eastern Shore, where he also persuaded a local private school to offer scholarships to African-American students. Mr. Maher, who had also lived in Easton, was married twice to the former Diana Harvie. He married her for the first time in 1953 and divorced her in 1973. He remarried her in 1998. Mr. Maher was an animal lover and enjoyed traveling. A memorial Mass will be offered at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St. In addition to his wife, Mr. Maher is survived by two sons, James O'D. Maher II of Potomac and Kenneth Maher of Chevy Chase; three daughters, Coimbra Sirica of Northport, N.Y., Diana Deger of Palm Gardens, Fla., and Nathalie Acerra of Exmoor, Va.; three brothers, Dr. P. Kenerick Maher of Baltimore, Erney Maher of Chestertown and Raymond Maher of Cape May, N.J.; sisters Emma Gaines of Ruxton, Marydonna Anand of Mumbai and Florence Cromwell of Santa Fe, N.M.; and eight grandchildren.

**Mar 12, 2015:** Obituary: Robert Edward Sims. Funeral for COL (Retired) Robert E. "Bob" Sims, 85, Lawton will be at 12:30 PM Monday, March 16, 2015 at the Elgin First United Methodist Church with Rev. Coy J. Remer, pastor and Brother Gary Neighbors officiating. He passed away Thursday, March 12th at his home surrounded by his loving family. Burial will be at Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin under the direction of Becker Rabon Funeral Home, Lawton.

The family will greet friends from 3:00 PM until 4:00 PM Sunday, March 15, 2015 at the funeral home. Robert E. (Bob) Sims, Born January 11, 1930 in Lawton to James Calvin "Cal" and Edna Sims. Bob attended Lincoln Elementary School in Lawton and graduated from Lawton High School in 1948. He married Betty Jane Landers November 6, 1953, who passed away February 26, 1985. Bob later married Virginia Black September 15, 1986. He was a member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, OSN: O-2270754 and Active Army for 35 years and retired as Colonel. He served in the Korean conflict. He completed 32 years in The Federal Civil Service and retired on December 31, 1986. He worked in The Directorate of Logistics at Fort Sill, OK. Bob joined the Elgin First United Methodist Church after marrying Virginia in 1986. He served as Church Council Chairman, on the Board of Trustees, and operated the sound system for the church for many years. Bob was a member of the Lawton Recreation Committee for over 15 years; served 12 years on the Lawton School Board beginning in the 70's; Little League baseball coach in east Lawton during the 60's and 70's; and President of the Booster Club. He became an Amateur Radio operator in 1954 and was awarded the amateur Radio call sign W5KCB. He was an active member and officer of the Lawton/Fort Sill Amateur Radio club for several years and instrumental in obtaining the mobile van and equipment that supported emergency operations for Comanche County and surrounding areas. They supported annual bicycle events throughout the Wichita Mountain area such as "Spirit of Survival", and "Tour de' Meers". He actively participated as an Amateur Radio Operator following the Oklahoma City Murrah Building bombing. As Comanche County Emergency Coordinator for approximately 20 years, he coordinated Amateur Radio activities in Comanche County and was Director of Amateur Radio Emergency Service, ARES. Bob was survived by his wife Virginia of the home, and children: Mark Sims and wife Debbie of Lawton, Patti Neighbors and husband Gary of Elgin, Debra Hastings and husband Ron of Elgin, Denise Taylor and husband Rick of Mountain Park. Special nephews: Ralph, Les, Glenn, and James Sims. Grandchildren: Jill Johnson and husband Shawn, Lance Sims, Kadie Sims and fiancé Josh, Nathan Neighbors and fiancé Jessica, Zachary Neighbors and fiancé Kealey, Shane Neighbors and wife Samantha, David Hastings and wife Crystal, Connie Hastings, Kami Hodges and husband Josh. Great Grandchildren: Seth and Jake Johnson, Bexley Smith, Nashlyn Melvin, Lincoln and Nora Neighbors, Kash Neighbors, Jordan Hastings, and Braylen, Kylan and Makallen Hodges. Preceded in death by: parents Cal and Edna Sims; daughter Nancy Jane Lewellen; and Betty Jane Sims. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to Faith Hospice; 1925 W. Gore Blvd., #B; Lawton, OK 73501 or to Elgin First United Methodist Church; 619 G Street; Elgin, OK 73538.

**Mar 19, 2015:** Obituary: Estill Lawless. A week short of his 94th birthday, Estill Lawless lost a six month fight with cancer Thursday, March 19th. Estill saw nearly six years of active military duty, starting as a Sergeant, ASN: 20831302 with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery and eventually becoming a 21 year old 2nd lieutenant in the 603rd Tank Battalion in the European front in World War II. Following the war he received his BS in Electrical Engineering in 1948 from Oklahoma A&M in Stillwater. From 1961 to 1978, Estill was Chief Engineer for Grand River Dam Authority, overseeing the building on Markham Ferry Dam which opened 50 years ago. Subsequently he worked as a consulting engineer for Allgeier Martin & Associates in Joplin for another 35 years, retiring in 2011 and moving to Tulsa in 2014. He is survived by daughter Anna Lawless Ribordy and husband Clyde, sister Beth Masters and husband Bill, stepdaughters Lecki Graham and Shelley Dalrymple, grandchildren Sarah Shurfield, Courtney Graham and Kenneth Lawless, 3 nephews, 2 nieces, 2 step grand children and the loving families each brought to enrich his life. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Estill's honor to a favorite ministry of his, Watered Gardens, 531 Kentucky Ave, Joplin, MO. Service will be 1000 AM, Monday, March 23, 2015 at Moore's South Lawn Chapel, 9350 E. 51st, Tulsa, OK.

**Mar 22, 2015:** Obituary: Wesley Roscoe Alexander. Private Memorial Services for Mr. Wesley "Wes" Roscoe Alexander, 61, of Bacliff, TX are scheduled with Alexander Funeral Home & Crematory of Wilson. Wes was born October 21, 1953 at Ardmore to the late Mr. Lee Clinton Alexander and Mrs. Lois Estell (Kincheloe) Alexander. He passed away Sunday, March 22, 2015 at Texas City, TX. Wes was raised in Wilson graduating from Wilson High School in 1971. He was employed for Liberty Tower & Flare out of Bacliff, TX for many years as a Rigger and later as a steeple jack. Wes worked for as long as his health allowed, always residing at Bacliff, TX. He was a veteran of the Oklahoma National Guard serving honorably for four years. Wes had an extensive collection of baseball cards and enjoyed hunting. He always was a very kind and compassionate man with a giving heart and constantly had a positive outlook on life. Wes reaffirmed his faith in Christ prior to his passing. Preceding him in death were his Parents, Clint and Lois Alexander and brother, Clinton Alexander. Survivors include his four loving sisters, Pat Brawley and husband Ray, Linda Hunt and husband Marshall, all of Lone Grove, Shirley Coble and husband David of Randleman, N.C. and Virginia Southerland of Wilson; brother, A.L. Alexander and wife Pam of Livingston, TX; best friend, David Cannon and wife Judy of Davis; very special nieces and nephews, Gary, Margie, Eric, Robin, Nancy, Charlie, Joe, Clint, Tommy, Jason, Mike, Cheryl, Raymond, Jeff, Amy, Andy, Amanda, Julie and Maggie; numerous other relatives and friends. Honorary bearers are Co-Workers of Liberty Tower.

**Mar 23, 2015:** Obituary: Jerry Grant Davis, September 25, 1943 - March 23, 2015; Jerry Grant Davis, age 71, passed on to his heavenly home Monday, March 23, at home surrounded by love. Jerry G. Davis was born September 25, 1943, to Frederick and Minnie Davis in Miami, Oklahoma. Called "Jake" by his brothers, he was the youngest of four boys. During his adolescent years, Jake worked to help support family by assembling newspapers and unloading produce trucks at a local grocery. He was also a standout high school track star in the state of Oklahoma. After high school, Jerry enlisted in the Army. He excelled in the training regiment and earned a very rare opportunity to go to Officer Candidate School. Jerry liked to say that he took the position because "OCS candidates got to sleep an hour later." It was that self depreciating humor that carried him through a stellar Army career as an artillery officer. Through the years, he served as Battery commander and Battalion commander eventually reaching the rank of Colonel. Later, he was selected for the OCS Hall of Fame. While Jerry was stationed at Ft. Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma, providence led him to church where he met the love of his life, Linda Myers, while singing in the sanctuary choir. Soon, they were married in the same church where they met. Together, they made the decision for Jerry to leave active duty military service and continue his education. He remained active in the Army National Guard. Jerry and Linda soon became parents to two daughters, Erin and Emily. Jerry graduated from Central State University (Edmond, Oklahoma) with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (1972). After graduation, he was hired to be the first city manager for Spencer, Oklahoma. It was here that Jerry began honing his leadership and sales skills. As city manager, he increased the city's budget 10 fold through grants and proposals. He participated at every level of city governance, from state leadership meetings to working with the local sanitation crews. That's just how Jerry was, no job was too big or too small for him. Education was always important, so after a short stint as an investment banker, he decided to pursue his Masters degree. He earned his Masters of Science in Education from Central State University in 1976 and then taught distributive education to Carl Albert High School entrepreneurs in Del City, Oklahoma. From there, he was accepted into the post-graduate adult education program at The Ohio State University. In two short years, he earned his Doctorate Ph.D. in Higher Education and Research (1980). His girls welcomed him home by calling him "Doctor Daddy." Leaving one OSU for another OSU, now Dr. Davis took a position at Oklahoma State University. There he taught in the Department of Education, launched a prestigious Master's degree program for military officers, and served as a Professor of Military Science for the university's ROTC program. After eight years with OSU, LT. COL Davis was tapped by the Oklahoma National Guard to serve as the commander of the 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Brigade (1988-89) and Telecommunications Education Officer at state headquarters (1989-90). He was then selected to attend US Army War College with a dual enrollment at Harvard and Tufts Universities (1990-1991). After completing War College, Dr. Davis was able to combine his two passions, the US Army and education, into a single pursuit. While at the Center for Strategic Analysis at the University of Texas, he created the Senior Service College Fellowship (SSCF) for the Army. This year-long program provided senior level leadership training for Army officers and DA civilians and became the model for other programs within the Department of Defense. During this period, Jerry was promoted to full Colonel. In 2002, Jerry found his way to the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) South Region in Huntsville, Alabama. He served as the Associate Dean of Outreach, but his proudest accomplishment was to establish the Senior Service College Fellowship DAU. Retiring from full-time academia in 2008, Dr. Davis continued to serve DAU as a Professor Emeritus and mentor for the fellowship program. In 2013, he was selected to the DAU Hall of Fame. Although Jerry's early beginnings were of humble means, he is the personification of a self-made man. He worked hard for his family to provide every opportunity for his daughters. He extended enthusiastic, empathic support to many friends and family members throughout his life. Often, friends and associates sought him as a guide and mentor. Jerry was the kind of leader that built other people up. He let people stand on his strong shoulders to raise them up and praise them. This engendered extreme loyalty and trust in him. An active member at the First Baptist Church Huntsville for many years, Jerry embraced his role in ministry and witnessing by serving as deacon, Sunday school department director and teacher, choir member and numerous committees. Jerry and Linda are the parents of two daughters Erin Elizabeth and Emily Elaine. His children and grandchildren remained his passion throughout his life. A constant source of support and encouragement, Jerry loved his daughters and grandchildren cheering career, education and sport achievements. He loved to go fishing as often as he could, attend matinees with Linda, and just "hang out and do nothing" with family at home. He had a passion for dominoes, board games, John Wayne westerns, and Louis L'Amour books. Mr. Davis is survived by his wife of 45 years, Linda; daughter, Erin and Steve Blake, their children, Davis and Lena, of San Antonio Texas; daughter, Emily and John McConnell, their children Grant and Seth, of Stillwater, OK; and brother, Harold Davis of Anaheim, CA. Visitation will be from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday at Laughlin Service Funeral Home. The funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at First Baptist Church with Rev. Billy Orton and Rev. Mark Seanor officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Russel Hill Cancer Foundation, [www.russelhill.org](http://www.russelhill.org) (associated with Clearview Cancer Institute), or First Baptist Church Huntsville Music Ministry Sanctuary Choir, 600 Governors Dr., Huntsville, AL 35801.

**Apr 14, 2015:** Obituary: Carl LaVan Kelsay, Lawton, was born November 1, 1942 in Shelbyville, Tennessee to Fayette and Virginia (Reynolds) Kelsay. He died April 14, 2015 at his home at the age of 72. A visitation will be held

Sunday, April 19, 2015 from 2-4pm at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held Monday, April 20, 2015 at 1:00pm in the Whinery-Huddleston Chapel, officiated by Ken Lane. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Van was a member of the National Guard from 1961-1968. He attended school and graduated from the Oklahoma Board of Cosmetology and Barbering. He owned and operated Kelsay's Barber Shop in Lawton for over 50 years. Van was also a 32nd Degree Free Mason. He is preceded in death by his parents, Fayette and Virginia; and a nephew, Van Kelsay. Survivors include his wife, Kerry Wilson Kelsay, of the home; his daughter, Diedra Denise Kelsay of Lawton; brother, Bobby Kelsay of Lawton; sisters, Fayrene Russell and Linda Broom, both of Lawton; his step-children: Rebekah Ramsey and Cheri Roberts, both of Culpepper, VA, Barbara Wilson of Oklahoma City, James Wilson of Adrian, MI, and Michael Wilson of Conroe, TX; nieces, Kristy Johnson and Stacy White. Private First Class and served with Service Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 23, 2015:** Published in the "The Cannoneer" entitled: NCO near likeness of famous grandfather. Story, photo By Logan Ralston. Staff Sgt. Roderick Poolaw, an Oklahoma National Guard Soldier assigned to B Battery, 158th Field Artillery recently returned from a deployment to Afghanistan and is happy to be back home at Fort Sill. Roderick joined the National Guard in 1986 in Anadarko, where he grew up. He now resides in Apache. The Guardsman is the grandson of 1st Sgt. Pascal Cleatus Poolaw Sr., the highest decorated Kiowa Indian in Army history. The elder Poolaw served in World War II and was awarded the Silver Star and a Purple Heart for fighting German forces at the battle of Normandy. He continued to serve fighting in the Korean and Vietnam wars. During the Korean War, Pascal was wounded again and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, a second Purple Heart and two more Silver Stars. He retired as a first lieutenant from the Army in 1962 but re-enlisted to go to Vietnam in 1967, where he served as the first sergeant for C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment. Pascal made this decision to re-enlist in an effort to keep his four sons, who were all in the military service, from being in danger after seeing one of his sons Roderick's father injured while serving in Vietnam. Pascal was killed Nov. 7, 1967 in Binh Long province during the Battle of Loc Ninh. Even in death, Pascal's devotion to duty was evident. He was killed attempting to rescue his battalion commander and staff from an overwhelming enemy assault. As Pascal was carrying a wounded Soldier to safety, he was struck by a rocket propelled grenade. Poolaw Hall here is named in his honor. First Sgt Poolaw was also inducted into the Hall of Fame of Famous American Indians in Anadarko. During his military service, Pascal received 42 medals and citations. He is buried at the Fort Sill Post Cemetery. Roderick had just been born when his grandfather was killed. He was raised by his grandmother, Irene Poolaw, Pascal's wife, from whom he heard stories of his famous grandfather. "Everything I've known about my grandfather has either been from stories, my dad or my grandmother," said Roderick. "There's so many stories, it's hard to remember them all." March 17 marked the 29th year of service for Roderick. He hopes to continue to serve for another year before retiring after 30 years of service to the military. Photo Caption: Staff Sgt. Roderick Poolaw, a Kiowa Indian and Oklahoma National Guardsman, stands beside the plaque honoring his grandfather 1st Sgt. Pascal Cleatus Poolaw Sr., at Poolaw Hall here.

**May 20, 2015:** Obituary: Peter John DiStefano. Born June 23, 1932 and died May 20, 2015 Sgt Peter DiStefano, ASN: 51148096, age 84, of Toms River NJ , passed away on Wednesday May 20, 2015. Peter entered the army in January 1952 and received his basic training at Ft Sill Okla., after which he was sent to Korea in June 1952. He served with the Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery Battalion, of the 45th Infantry Division and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service. After Serving 14 Months at the front lines in Korea, Sgt. Peter J. Di Stefano was homeward bound. Peter J DiStefano was also former Fire Chief for the North Bergen Fire Dept. Peter was the beloved husband of the late Annabelle (Nee Dal Lago) Devoted father of the late Pamela Shane. Dear brother of Anthony DiStefano and Concetta DiPalma. Loving grand father of Michael, Krystal, John, Thomas. Great Grandfather of Michael, Shawn, Kristopher, Sundriana, Rabekkah, Peter, Paige, Kailey, Aodhán, Jessie, Zander., Predeceased by Annabell his loving wife, Pamela Shane his Daughter, Lukas and Kincaid his great grandchildren . He will be greatly missed. This Online Memorial has been created to commemorate the life of Peter J. DiStefano. You are invited to add a Tribute in his memory.

**Jun 03, 2015:** Obituary: Dillard H. Acton, 84, of Perryville died June 3, 2015 at his residence in Perryville, MO. He was born January 15, 1931 in Anadarko, OK, son of Curtis Clay and Amanda Elizabeth (Bast) Acton. He married Dorothy Mae Adams on May 10, 1974. She preceded him in death on January 27, 2008. Mr. Acton was a livestock farmer and worked at Container Corp. He was a US Army Air Corp Veteran of WW II and US Air Force Korean War Veteran. Survivors include three daughters; Barbara Bohler, Susan Whitney and Annette Acton all of St. Louis, MO., two sisters and one brother; Helen Flanary of Oklahoma, Juanita Pearce of Oklahoma City. OK, and Dalford Acton of Little Rock, AR, five grand children and three great grand children, He was preceded in death by his parents, wife and one son; Michael Acton. Visitation will be held on Monday, June 8 at Young & Sons Funeral Home from 5:00 to 8:00 pm and on Tuesday from 6:30 am until time of Service, Funeral Service will be held at Young & Sons Funeral Home on Tuesday at 10:00 am with Rev. Gerold McBride officiating. Burial in the Jefferson Barracks National



Cemetery on Tuesday at 1:00 pm. Corporal and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Jun 08, 2015:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Large Guard exercise here. By Mitch Meador; Staff writer; Section: "Adventures in Resilience" would be a fitting theme for the large-scale annual training Oklahoma Army National Guardsmen are now undergoing at Fort Sill. On Sunday, Guardsmen of Alpha and Bravo Batteries, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, conducted a live fire exercise at Observation Point "Red Thunder" for members of the local media. But they're only one part of the overall mix, which includes Guard members from all over Oklahoma as well as parts of Texas and Missouri. Col. Mike Chase, commander of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade, said the Guard can choose to have its annual training (AT) in any of various locations. Often it's on the state training grounds at Camp Gruber, but it's not possible to do live artillery missions there. Last year the Guard went to Fort Chaffee, Ark., for its AT, but because Alpha, 1-158 FA, was deployed to Afghanistan and Bravo was in the midst of pre-mobilization training for its own deployment to replace them, only their counterparts from Missouri fired any howitzers. This year they decided to come to Fort Sill with three large elements that, all told, number in the thousands. There are close to 2,000 here from the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1,098 with the 45th FA Brigade and an unknown number with aviation elements of the 90th Troop Command. These last are the ones flying the double rotor CH-47 Chinook helicopters which have been quite visible over Lawton in recent days. The figure given for the 45th FA Brigade includes Guardsmen of Texas and Missouri units who train in partnership with them."In the artillery community we have 'affiliates for training' or AFT relationships," Chase explained. These units include 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery from Texas and 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery from Missouri. The Texas outfit, like 1-158 FA of Lawton, is fielded with the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). The Missouri battalion, which retains a Delta Battery to honor the service of former President Harry S Truman when he commanded that unit, fires a 155-mm M777 howitzer. They were the ones doing all the firing at Fort Chaffee last year. This year the local Guard unit got to do some firing on its home turf, but they had to be very, very patient. As Chase explained, they arrived on the ground here after all the flooding on Memorial Day weekend. The rain had stopped, but the condition of the ranges was such that they could not set up in many of the areas where they had planned, or they had to set up troops in a different way. The challenges have been many, with trucks and launchers getting stuck in the mud, maintenance issues, Chinooks conducting sling load training in the vicinity of Sunday's live fire and even a contractor wandering into an extended range, which has to be cleared because if one of the fins on a rocket doesn't deploy the way it's supposed to, it could have an erratic trajectory. But at 12:45 p.m. everything was finally a go. Since this was a "time on target" mission, the launchers are trying to mass all of their firepower on one target at the same time. As Chase makes clear, "time on target" means the rockets all land at the same time, not that the launchers shoot at the same time. So the white hot bursts whoosh out of the HIMARS tubes at slightly different intervals, making it something of a guessing game for photographers wondering where to point their lens next. For the true artilleryman, it's a thrill that never stales."Oh, absolutely. Every time you hit that switch, you get a little piece of electricity in you," is the way Sgt. Nathan Spencer, 25, of Butler describes it. He has served nine years in the Guard. In civilian life, he farms with his father and his grandfather. They raise hard red winter wheat, cotton, alfalfa and black angus cattle. This served him in good stead when he deployed with 2nd of the 45th Agribusiness Development Team on its humanitarian mission to Afghanistan in 2010-11. He's also a seasonal park ranger at Foss State Park. He's now assigned to Bravo, 1-158 FA, but he actually deployed to Afghanistan with Alpha, 1-158 FA. Bravo got a change of mission shortly after arriving in theater and never used its HIMARS launchers, but Alpha did."Yes, sir. Alpha Battery actually shot two of the only fire missions that the Oklahoma Army National Guard got to shoot with a HIMARS in Operation Enduring Freedom," Spencer said. After years of practicing his craft on training ranges, Spencer found it "exhilarating" to finally shoot in a real-world setting."It's the only combat experience I've had with HIMARS," he said. The live fire missions going on now are to get new crews trained up: "Fresh guys coming out of basic and AIT (advanced individual training) that came into the units while we were gone, and we're getting those guys certified and everybody else is re-certifying." Mitch Meadow Photo Caption: After waiting for hours for a window of opportunity in which to conduct their live fire exercise Sunday, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) crew members get some much needed down time. Photo Courtesy SPC Elijah Morlett Photo Caption: Oklahoma Army National Guard cannoneers of Alpha and Bravo Batteries, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, use their High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) launchers to execute a "time on target" mission during their annual training at Fort Sill on Sunday. Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Guardsman looks back on 39 year career. As thousands of National Guardsmen undergo annual training at Fort Sill this week, one Lawtonian is savoring the short time he has left as a front-row observer to the sounds of freedom. First Sgt. Paul Francis is fast approaching his 60th birthday, which will put an end to his 39-year career with the Oklahoma Army National Guard. For him, it has become a way of life that he loves being part of, and a sad look crosses his face as he considers the upcoming separation. "I'm leaving my friends, and it's hard," he mused. "The Guard was good to me, and it's something that I'll take to my grave with me because of the people that I've been around all the commanders and different ones that I grew up with. There's something you can never forget." He had just returned from delivering a Red Cross service message to a young Guardsman when he sat down in the 45th Field Artillery Brigade's TOC to reflect upon his time in uniform. The TOC,

or tactical operations center, is a world unto itself, an air-conditioned office complex made of burlap where church services are scheduled and operations orders issued. Photo Caption: First Sgt. Paul Francis of Lawton thinks back on his 39 years of service in the Oklahoma Army National Guard and doing a job he loved.

**Jun 10, 2015:** Published in the "The Oklahoman" entitled: Guard to change Commander. The Oklahoma National Guard will hold a change of command ceremony at 10 a.m. Thursday at Fort Sill for the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade. The battalion will welcome the new commander, Lt. Col. Frank Horton, of Edmond, and bid farewell to the outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Jerald Gilbert, of Weatherford. Gilbert enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard in 1985 and was commissioned as an officer in 1989. During his time in command, Gilbert prepared for and oversaw the deployments to Afghanistan of Batteries A and B of the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Horton, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, assumes command with more than 25 years of service. For the past three years, he has served as the brigade training officer, overseeing operations for more than 1,000 soldiers. Published in the "The Journal Record" entitled: National guard battalion leadership changing. Lawton: A change-in-command ceremony for the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard, is scheduled at 10 a.m. Thursday on the Fort Sill polo field in Lawton. The new commander is Lt. Col. Frank Horton of Edmond. The outgoing commander is Lt. Col. Jerald Gilbert of Weatherford. Gilbert enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard in 1985 and commissioned as an officer in 1989. Gilbert oversaw deployments to Afghanistan of Batteries A and B of the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Horton, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, assumes command of the 158th Field Artillery Battalion with more than 25 years of service in the Oklahoma Army National Guard. For the past three years, he has served the 45th Field Artillery Brigade as the brigade training officer overseeing operations for more than 1,000 soldiers.

**Jun 11, 2015:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Guard re-enlist 70 at Fort Sill. More than 70 field artillery soldiers from the National Guard raised their right hands in a reenlistment ceremony at Fort Sill on Monday. The soldiers, who came from Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri Army National Guard units, are completing two weeks of annual training and opted to re-up at this historic field artillery post. The ceremony, which ended with a 10-rocket salute from High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) launchers, was a brilliant way to honor soldiers who rededicated themselves to the service of their country and state. Oklahoma Army National Guard HIMARS crewmen from the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, simultaneously fired 10 rockets following the final "so help me God" of the enlistment oath. Col. Mike Chase, commander of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade, gave the command to launch the rockets. "The exercise is twofold," said Chase. "One is that it is a culminating tactile training event that we conducted because command and control and coordinating fires are important tasks. Also, it is a unique way to recognize individual soldiers which is very important." For Chase, the division preparatory at-my-command live fire exercise marks the end of nearly four years of brigade command time and is a testament to his leadership. Maj. Gen. Robbie Asher, adjutant general for Oklahoma, attended the ceremony. Maj. Gen. William Ward, Army land component commander, and Brig. Gen. Keith Klemmer, the National Guard liaison at Fort Sill, attended as well, along with representatives of Sens. Jim Inhofe and James Lankford. U.S. Reps. Tom Cole, Markwayne Mullin and Frank Lucas also attended. Photo Caption: More than 70 soldiers from Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri Army National Guard units raise their right hands and recite the enlistment oath during a re-enlistment ceremony held Monday at Fort Sill.

**Jun 12, 2015:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Command changes for the 1st-158th. Mitch Meador; Staff writer. Lt. Col. Frank Horton of Lawton was greeted with cheers and applause when he got up to speak after taking command of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery on Thursday. In civilian life, Horton covers northwest Oklahoma for Takeda Pharmaceutical. He has a wife, Lainey; a daughter, London Wyatt, 19, and a stepson, Ky Kougl, 9. His father and stepmother, Frank and Joyce Horton, also live in Lawton. The new battalion commander earned his bachelor of arts degree in history from Cameron University in 1989. He's interested in military history, especially the Civil War, and past civilizations. He was commissioned in 1990 and assigned as an ammo and transportation platoon leader with Alpha Battery, 6th Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery. After the "Proud Americans" deactivated, he was reassigned in August 1990 as a fire direction officer for 1st Platoon, Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery. On Oct. 5, 1990, he deployed with the "Mission Ready" Battalion to Saudi Arabia in support of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. One member of the audience, 1st Sgt. Clifford Jackson, deployed with him, and another attendee who served with Horton in the past was Fort Sill Range Operations Officer Buddy Leavell. Two days shy of the eight year mark, Horton left the active force on Feb. 27, 1998. After a few months he started to miss being a part of the Army, so he enlisted in the National Guard and has been with the organization ever since. Horton said the esprit de corps really resonated with him, and he wanted to learn to lead fine soldiers. One of his claims to fame is that he was the first commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Joint Force Headquarters, Oklahoma National Guard. That was when the Guard went to the joint force

concept with the integration of the Army and the Air Force, and the position went from being a commandant to a true command position. He served as public affairs officer for the 45th Fires Brigade during its deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in 2008-09. Horton said he's excited about his new command. "We have a great organization right here, great soldiers and leaders. They want to do well, and I'm looking forward to leading them and moving on with our mission," he said. Col. Amos Chase, commander of 45th Field Artillery Brigade, thanked Denise Gilbert for the use of her husband, Lt. Col. Jerald R. Gilbert, over the past three years. The outgoing commander of 1-158 FA is, by day, Enid's city manager. "He has been an absolute pleasure to have as a part of this organization. Thank you for allowing him to be a part of this team. He's going to follow me and continue to be a part of my team, so I appreciate that," Chase said. Chase expressed his appreciation to the soldiers of 1-158 FA, saying he has family ties with the organization that date back to the Korean War. "It's been a great honor and privilege to command the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery for nearly three years now," Gilbert said. "The battalion has done a lot of great things in the last three years. We mobilized, we deployed and we demobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Alpha and Bravo, what you did will live on in the lineage of the battalion. What the rest of the battalion did, supporting them, providing soldiers, helping to train them, will also live on as part of that heritage. "We were also able to improve our individual soldier readiness, which is one of our key goals and tasks now. And we were able to improve our USR statistics while we did all this. We trained and improved on our core field artillery tasks, as evidenced by this annual training ... "With the two recent deployments in 2013-14, Alpha fired Guided MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) rockets from the HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) launcher for the first time, and Bravo actually deployed with female soldiers in field artillery (military occupational specialties) for the first time. "There are fathers and sons and grandsons who have served in this unit over the years and helped build that lineage. I know you'll continue to do that. We've done so much and added to this history and lineage of this battalion that was formed back in the 1920s and has seen campaigns in Italy, Germany and France. And this battalion has done great things because of each of you in this formation, officers, NCOs and enlisted soldiers. "Commanders, (command sergeants majors), first sergeants, soldiers, all of us come and go. But this battalion will continue to be here and continue to be ready when called upon to perform our mission," Gilbert said as he offered his congratulations to Horton. Stephen Robertson/Staff Photo Caption: Fort Sill Half Section Chief Gerald Stuck salutes as from left, Lt. Col. Jerald R. Gilbert, outgoing commander of 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, and Col. Amos Chase, commander of 45th Field Artillery Brigade, stand at attention during a change of command ceremony here Thursday.

**Jul 01, 2015:** Published in the "National Guard Magazine" entitled: Comeback of the king. By William Matthews. New systems, greater precision and the emergence of conventional adversaries have Guard field artillery on the rise moving forward. Sometimes the call would come in the middle of the night. Soldiers of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's Battery A would then scramble in the dark to make ready and aim their rockets at unseen enemies 10 kilometers or more away. Then with a blinding flash and a deafening roar, their precision-guided HIMARS missiles would streak into the black sky. For nine months, the battery from 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery, was based at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, to provide "24-hour HIMARS fire support to a joint special operations task force," according to a Wisconsin report. Bagram, a sprawling military complex 30 miles north of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, is nearly 5,000 feet above sea level and surrounded by mountains that reach much higher. It can be miserably hot in summer, freezing in winter, and is a frequent target of Taliban rockets, mortars and other weapons. During their 2014 deployment, Battery A's High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems "supported more than 200 combat missions," the Wisconsin Guard says. Battery A was the second Wisconsin HIMARS unit to fill that role. The first was its sister unit, Battery "B", which in 2012 became the first Guard HIMARS unit to perform an artillery mission in Afghanistan. Since then, HIMARS units from Oklahoma and Tennessee have also completed tours in Afghanistan, and a Wyoming HIMARS unit is set to go next month. The artillery assignments are a welcome sign for Guard artillery community, which provides 58 of the Army's 100 cannon or rocket battalions. For years, plenty of Guard artillery troops were called for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, but more often than not it was for non artillery assignments. Guard artillery troops have been tasked to provide security for provincial reconstruction teams, train Afghan troops and police, guard forward operating bases, staff checkpoints, and even manage contracts, plan construction and oversee billeting. When Wisconsin's Battery A deployed to Iraq, first in 2006 and again in 2009, the artillerymen were assigned such duties as port security, convoy escort and detainee operations. "It was very different from doing field artillery," recalls CPT Aaron Ammerman, who commanded the battery. For troops on convoy-escort duty, for example, "it was a year of riding in an up armored Humvee making sure semi-trucks got from point A to point B" without being attacked by insurgents or blown up by improvised explosive devices. At the time, that was what the Army needed. "My battalion ran a prison last time it deployed," says LTC Jeffrey Kurka, the commander of the Wisconsin Guard's 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery. "I don't know of one soldier who said he wished he hadn't gone and done that. Would they rather be firing [artillery] rounds? Sure." Long known as the King of Battle, artillery fell out of fashion the past two decades, writes MAJ Sherman Watson in a 2013 master's degree thesis for the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. "Since the 1990s, the U.S. military has been involved in a range of

operations around the world and has been able to successfully complete missions without large quantities of indirect fire," he says. Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s were airpower operations. Afghanistan in 2001 was largely a combination of airpower and Special Forces. Even the invasion of Iraq in 2003 offered the artillery only limited glory, he contends. During the first weeks of the war, "the Army's V Corps artillery fired only 414 [Army Tactical Missile System rockets]. In contrast, the coalition air forces flew 20,733 sorties between March 19 and April 18, 2003, using 735 fighters and 51 bombers, and struck more than 15,592 interdiction or deep operation type targets," Watson writes. Those statistics are misleading, argues COL Paul Caviness, the Guard chief of staff at the Army's Fires Center of Excellence at Fort Sill, Okla., who was with the 1st Cavalry Division during the opening of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They compare only ATACMS rockets to air strikes. "In '03, our battalion shot thousands of rounds" during the initial push into Iraq, he says. "Overall, there were significantly more [artillery] rounds fired than air strikes conducted." Artillery is used differently from air strikes, Caviness says. "Going in, artillery was used heavily to support maneuver troops." It is true, however, that as the Iraq mission transitioned from combat to stability operations, there was less demand for artillery. "As the conflict evolved, more [artillery] units were utilized for convoy, convoy escorts and security operations," Caviness says. But that wasn't just the fate of artillery troops. Lots of other troops were also tapped for nonstandard missions as well, he says. All About Precision Watson argues that an emphasis on precision munitions and the Air Force's dominance in precision has diminished artillery's appeal. Other factors contributed, too. For example, aircraft have a longer reach, and many planes are already forward deployed, so they can move faster to conflict zones than artillery can, he says. There's also the changing nature of the enemy. Insurgents who hide in residential areas among civilians do not make good targets for artillery, which "is usually a big and destructive thing," says Ammerman, the Wisconsin battery commander. "You can't just take a battery and aim at a house," when there is concern about collateral damage. "A lot of times you want to do less damage" than is typical with artillery, says 1SG Lance Grant of the Oklahoma Army Guard's Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. But in recent years, the artillery has developed a solution for that. Greater accuracy and substantially less collateral damage now are possible through increased use of precision and near-precision munitions. "We are in the middle of pretty significant changes in precision," says Paul Scharre, a former Army Ranger turned Pentagon official turned defense analyst at the Center for a New American Security, a defense think tank. "The old model of artillery; not precision guided, is certainly less useful in today's combat environment," particularly where insurgents seek sanctuary by mingling with civilians, Scharre says. So the Army and industry developed the M982 Excalibur, a precision artillery round that debuted in 2007 in Iraq. It's a 155mm extended-range artillery shell that is guided to its target by GPS. During its initial combat use in Iraq, Excalibur rounds were reported to land within 13 feet of their target 92 percent of the time, even when fired from a distance of 25 miles or more. Compare that to a standard 155mm artillery shell that is only expected to strike within 875 feet of its intended target at its maximum range. Raytheon, which produces Excalibur, calls it "a true precision weapon" that can reduce "the time, cost and logistical burden traditionally associated with using artillery munitions." Raytheon boasts that one Excalibur round can do what would take "at least 10 conventional munitions to accomplish." And Excalibur continues to improve. Newer versions include a laser-spot tracker that enables the round to hone in on targets that are illuminated by a laser spot. With that capability, Excalibur rounds can hit moving targets and maintain accuracy in areas where GPS is degraded or jammed. Excalibur can be used by several U.S. artillery weapons, including the new lightweight M777A2 howitzers, medium-size towed M198 howitzers and big Paladin self-propelled howitzers. Precision has become so attractive to the Army that some propose a plan "to be able to provide 80 percent precision fires, 10 percent near-precision and 10 percent conventional fires," says Caviness. But precision is pricey. Excalibur rounds cost about \$90,000 each, according to the Government Accountability Office. By contrast, most conventional 155mm rounds cost in the range of \$1,000 to \$4,000 apiece. But don't just look at the price tag, consider precision rounds from "a cost-benefit perspective," urges MAJ Dave Moser, the Army Guard's air defense artillery and space organizational integrator at the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. "Precision munitions are more expensive, but they drastically reduce the collateral damage estimate for a given target," he says. "From a tactical perspective, that translates to less risk of fratricide and civilian casualties. From a strategic perspective, that translates to fighting and winning our nation's wars with the least amount of force necessary to meet our objectives." And now there's a cheaper precision alternative to the costly Excalibur called "near precision." Thanks to precision-guidance kits; PGKs; that screw into the nose of 155mm artillery shells, ordinary artillery rounds can now be turned into remarkably precise projectiles. The kits feature small GPS-controlled fins that steer the shells in flight to hit their targets. With PGKs directing them, conventional artillery shells are supposed to be able to reliably strike within 160 feet of their intended targets. A number of companies make PGKs. The newest entrant in the field is the "Silver Bullet" introduced by BAE Systems this spring. It "leverages proven navigation and guidance software to quickly transform unguided projectiles into affordable precision weapons," BAE says. BAE officials would not say how much each guidance kit costs, but an Army official said they cost several thousand dollars apiece, a bit more than the cost of many of the 155mm artillery shells to which they can attach. For longer-range accuracy there may be no better artillery weapon than HIMARS. The system's GPS-guided rockets are able to strike within 26 feet of their target from more than 40 miles away, according to the Defense Department. "We're rocket artillery. We can hit pretty much on target," says Grant, whose

Oklahoma battery deployed to southern Afghanistan for most of 2014. But at \$110,000 per shot, HIMARS accuracy comes at a steep price. The Army began fielding HIMARS in 2005 and the Guard began receiving it in 2006. It's a lighter weight, wheeled version of its tracked predecessor, the Multiple Launch Rocket System, which dates to 1983. Despite their accuracy, it seems too often that "HIMARS and MLRS are the Army's best kept secret," says Ammerman, the Wisconsin battery commander. Until the recent spate of deployments to Afghanistan, many battlefield commanders appeared reluctant to use HIMARS. From a commander's perspective, "HIMARS and MLRS provide great capability to strike deep targets," says Moser of the Guard Bureau. But rocket artillery has its limitations, too. "They typically provide operational-level fires" against distant, high-value targets, often where avoiding collateral damage is important. But HIMARS and MLRS "are not organic at the tactical level," Moser says. They were "not designed to provide direct support, and as such their capabilities are not always available to the brigade combat team commander." Moreover, HIMARS, with its "six pack" of rockets, and MLRS with its 12, "can't be resupplied at a rate that would make them good direct-support assets," Moser says. Not Your Father's Howitzer. But now there's another way to provide greater precision. It's the newest artillery weapon, the M777A2 howitzer. "There are lots of amazing things" about the "triple seven," says Kurka, the Wisconsin artillery battalion commander, which received a battery's worth of the new guns at Wisconsin's Fort McCoy last month. Designed to be an ultra-light field howitzer, the M777A2 weighs less than 9,000 pounds. That's almost half the weight of its 16,000-pound predecessor, the M198 howitzer. The weight loss is achieved by using titanium and aluminum alloys instead of steel, says BAE, its manufacturer. Its lighter weight and somewhat smaller size makes the howitzer easier to move around by helicopter, V-22 Ospreys and trucks. And the M777A2 requires a crew of five instead of the M198's crew of nine. To Kurka, the "triple seven" is a marvel of engineering. "It's exceedingly well-balanced," he says. "With the brakes off, one soldier can actually wheel [the M777A2] around on a flat surface. It's amazing," he says. And the M777A2 is smart. It "always knows where it is" thanks to an internal GPS system, and it knows in what direction it is pointing thanks to a sophisticated compass system, Kurka says. It has a digital fire control system that "brings the towed-howitzer community up to some of the same capability of the self-propelled guns," Kurka says. "And we will be able to shoot farther." The M777A2 has a range of 15.3 miles compared to the M198's range of 11.2 miles with standard artillery rounds. Like the M198, the M777A2 can fire Excalibur rounds. "On today's battlefield, especially in counter insurgency operations, it is absolutely critical that we have the ability to hit where we want and not hit where we don't want," Kurka says. Without precision artillery rounds, if there are civilians present among enemy targets, "you couldn't use artillery," he says. For commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan, that often meant bypassing the artillery and calling in the Air Force. In recent wars, the Air Force, with its precision munitions, has "certainly put a dent in our business," Ammerman concedes. But it's a temporary setback. Artillery will rise again, Guard artillerymen insist. Upgrades are underway for the Army's biggest guns; the M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzers. The new Paladins will be faster and more maneuverable than their predecessors, say the Army and BAE, who are jointly managing the transformation. The M109A7s will use existing cab structures, 155mm guns and cannon assemblies from A6-model howitzers. Those will be overhauled and then mounted on new chassis copied from Bradley fighting vehicles, which is intended to simplify the parts supply chain and the maintenance procedures for armored brigade combat teams. Hydraulic gun systems will be replaced by electric systems that will speed up loading and aiming, increase accuracy and reduce maintenance. And with its Bradley chassis, the A7s will be "capable of keeping pace with the Abrams tank and Bradley fighting vehicles on the battlefield," the Army said in an announcement April 9 welcoming the first of 580 new Paladins. The Army Guard expects to begin receiving Paladin A7s in 2017, says Caviness, the Guard chief at Fort Sill. Even if conflicts from Bosnia to Bagram de-emphasized artillery, there are bound to be future conflicts where artillery will be in demand, say Guard artillery leaders. "Just look in the news today—Ukraine, Russia. You see use of massed artillery," said BG Keith Kl-emma, the deputy adjutant general of Arkansas and former commander of Arkansas' 142nd Fires Brigade. Others point to China, North Korea and Iran as flashpoints that could require Army Guard artillery. Today, the U.S. military "is in a cycle of executing security-centric operations," says Caviness. But what about tomorrow? "It would be ill-advised to redesign the entire Army around the last war," he warns. "We are already seeing the re-emergence of artillery in conflicts around the world today." Here's another harbinger that artillery is headed for a resurgence; shrinking defense budgets. The U.S. military can no longer afford unrestricted use of its most expensive weapons, says Kurka of Wisconsin. "We can't afford to spend \$1 million on every bomb we drop." So as long as the Army needs cost-effective fire support, the Army needs the artillery, he says. "It doesn't matter what battlefield, we will be the most cost-effective fire support." Consider, too, that artillery is an all-weather weapon, Caviness says. Planes can't fly during sand storms and other adverse weather, "but I can fire artillery in any weather in any environment." And artillery of the future will be a lot different and a lot better than it is today, says Klemmer. By 2050, artillery batteries are likely to be armed with laser weapons and rail guns in addition to improved canons and rockets. A new generation of precision munitions, advanced counter fire radars, sophisticated surveillance drones and an array of new sensors will make artillery more accurate and more deadly. And as new weapons and improved capabilities arrive, the differences between air defense artillery and field artillery will fade and the two will probably merge in a burst of "multifunctional convergence," Klemmer says. Artillery is certain to change, he says, but one thing artillery won't do is become irrelevant.

**Jul 07, 2015:** Obituary: Benjamin Bird Moore died Tuesday, July 7, 2015, at the Charleston, S.C., Manor. He was 93 years old. Born October 19, 1921 in Charleston, Mo, he was the son of Benjamin Bird Moore Sr. and Faye Smith Moore. After graduating from Charleston High School, Benjamin attended the University of Missouri, where he earned a BS in Agriculture. After graduation, he enlisted in the US Army and completed Officer Candidate School, and later served with the 45th Infantry Division, 158th Field Artillery, "C" Battery. With the 158th, he went to France as an artillery forward observer. He received the Purple Heart for battlefield injuries sustained in January of 1945, during the Battle of Reipertswiller in the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign. After recuperating in hospitals in France and Kansas, Benjamin returned to Charleston to work on his family's farm, and to serve in the US Army Reserves. He married Margaret Anthony Moore, on March 25, 1948 and they lived happily together for over sixty-one years until her passing on April 11, 2009. Shortly after their marriage, Benjamin received orders to return to active duty, and he and Margaret relocated to Ft. Bliss, TX where Benjamin served as a gunnery instructor training artillerymen for the Korean War. After his tour of duty, he and Margaret returned to Charleston and the family farm. Benjamin continued to serve in the US Army Reserves and attained the rank of Major before retiring in 1966. Besides farming, Benjamin was an active member of the Mississippi County Historical Society and the Charleston Kiwanis for many years. He was a life-long member of the Charleston Methodist Church, and all knew him for his dedication to ringing the church bell on Sunday mornings for over half a century, and for his sharing the joys of bell ringing with untold numbers of children. Benjamin is survived by his brother, Joseph Handy Moore of Charleston; Joseph's two children, Anne (Meyer) of St. Louis, MO, and John Pierceall Moore, of Cape Girardeau, MO; the four children of his sister, Faye Moore Ely, who predeceased Benjamin: Hunter Ely of Charleston, MO, Julia Ely of Shelburne VT, Jennifer Ely of Burlington, VT, and Susan Ely of Hyattsville, MD.; and four grand-nieces and three grand-nephews. Visitation will be from 12:30 p.m. until the funeral hour at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, July 12, 2015, at the United Methodist Church in Charleston. The Rev. David Collum, pastor, will officiate. Interment will follow in the Memorial Park Cemetery at Sikeston under the direction of the McMikle Funeral Home. Benjamin Bird Moore was born on October 19, 1921 and passed away on Tuesday, July 7, 2015. Benjamin was a resident of Charleston, Missouri at the time of passing. He graduated from Charleston High School. Benjamin continued to serve in the US Army Reserves as a Major, OSN: O-541383. Visitation will be from 12:30 p.m. until the funeral hour at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, July 12, 2015, at the United Methodist Church in Charleston. The Rev. David Collum, pastor, will officiate. Memorials may be made to: The Mississippi County Historical Society P.O. Box 312 Charleston, MO 63834.

**Aug 02, 2015:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Guardsmen sent to the rescue. Mitch Meador. This month marks the 25th anniversary of the start of the Persian Gulf War, when area communities emptied out as National Guardsmen were called up to rescue Kuwait from the clutches of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Col. Greg Lankford of Elgin, now commander of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade, graduated from his observation course the day before 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, was mobilized. He was assigned to its sister unit in Altus, 1st Battalion, 171st Field Artillery, and he and two other lieutenants who had just completed their officer training offered to go if the Lawton-based battalion had slots for them. "We went down to see how they were standing personnel-wise, and they told us that they actually had all the junior officers that they needed, but leave a number just in case," he said. He went home to Weatherford and got a phone call that night from the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Larry Hobbs, whose son had been on the wrestling team with Lankford. "He asked me if I wanted to go with their unit, and I was on the spot. I'd actually planned on going to graduate school at OU, and I had everything lined up, but you know, this was just one of those opportunities that calls to you. So I told him that I would," Lankford said. Hobbs directed Lankford to come to the Lawton armory after he finished up with his schooling on Tuesday and he would be assigned to a unit. All three 1-171 FA volunteers were accepted, and they reported to their new units the next morning. Each of them was assigned to a firing battery as an extra officer, as the Guard had been allowed some overage of personnel. Compared to mobilizations for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, theirs was quite brief. There was very little forewarning or training time, maybe a month at most. "Once mobilized, we spent all of three days in our respective armories," said Lankford, who was assigned to Duncan-based Bravo Battery. Guard members packed up and moved everything to Fort Sill. "We immediately had to repaint all of our vehicles, and there were a lot of them. It was a large unit. As soon as they were painted we were putting them on rail cars and sending them to port. So there really was no time to do any artillery-type training after the mobilization. We did some individual training, weapons qualifications, hand grenade range, first aid (and) lots of NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical defense) training. There was a huge expectation how Saddam's forces would use chemical weapons on us," he said. Then they waited until it was their turn to go. Military leaders had learned not to deploy troops too soon, because they would arrive before their equipment did, and they would be sitting out in the desert, unnecessarily exposed and a logistical drain on the system. The ship transporting 1-158 FA's equipment apparently had to return to port due to mechanical difficulties. Because that threw the timeline off, Alpha Battery's tracked vehicles were offloaded, and soldiers of the Walters-based battery ended up flying over with their equipment on C-5s, directly into Saudi Arabia. "I think the concern was that we wouldn't be able to make it there in time before the ground war actually started. In 1990 there were only five rocket battalions in the entire Army. Four of them were active-duty units, and 1-158 being the first

National Guard unit to field MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System). So the powers that be on the ground understood the combat value of that system and insisted that they get at least one more battery set on the ground before things kicked off. "Fortunately for us, things were delayed by weather and other events, which enabled our tracks to eventually show up. Of course, they had sent the rest of the battalion over in the meantime. We got there just about right on time, a week and a half if I remember it, prior to our tracked vehicles showing up. "As soon as our tracks showed up, they gave us 24 hours to be forward in our assault positions on the border. Most people would kind of cringe at that because all those vehicles are just packed full of equipment that we had just stuffed in there and banded, to transport it, and it takes some time to unpack everything and combat-load all your vehicles and then move 20-25 kilometers up to the border and be ready to fire. But for us it wasn't any big deal, because it was almost like a drill weekend in a way. We've always had to work under compressed timelines, and we had plenty of time to spare to offload, reload and move up to our assault positions. "We fired our first raid mission across the border (of Saudi Arabia into Iraq) on Feb. 22, 1991, just prior to the ground war starting," Lankford said. 1-158 FA was supporting VII Corps on the Iraqi border north of Kuwait. Alpha Battery had begun firing before the rest of the battalion's tracked vehicles showed up. It made history as the first Guard unit to fire in anger since the Vietnam War, and very few Guard units were mobilized for that conflict. It was also the first time an Oklahoma Guard unit had fired since the Korean War. Photo Caption: This snapshot shows part of "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, moving in a wedge formation across the desert during the Persian Gulf War, which began 25 years ago on Aug 2, 1990. Photo Caption: Col. Greg Lankford, now commander of 45th Field Artillery Brigade, was a young lieutenant when this picture was taken. This is the Battery Operations Section that controlled all of the firing for "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, during the Persian Gulf War. From left are, front: Pfc. John Allovio and Staff Sgt. Ernie Scroggins; and back: 2nd Lt. Greg Lankford, Spc. Brian Faulk, Sgt. Randall Cassady and Spc. Bill Scott. That's an expended Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) rocket in front of us.

**Aug 09, 2015:** Obituary: Sam Henry Tolth, Gallup. Funeral services for Sam Henry Tolth, 85, will be held Friday, August 14, at 10 a.m. at Rollie Mortuary in Gallup. Burial will follow at the Rehoboth community cemetery in Rehoboth, N.M. Sam was born Feb. 8, 1930, into the Weaver-Zia Clan, Towering House Clan. He died Aug. 9, 2015 in Albuquerque. Sam graduated from high school, served in the Army and worked for the Railroad Retirement Office in Gallup. He was a friendly and quiet person. He hired a lot of men for railroad employment, making him well known all over the reservation. Sam is survived by his brothers Donald Tolth, Lewis Tolth and Jones Tolth and grandson Matthew Tolth of Albuquerque. Pallbearers will be Lewis Tolth, Jones Tolth, Donald Tolth, Paddy Jameson, Andy Delgarito and Matthew Tolth. Rollie Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

**Aug 16, 2015:** Alexander Hamilton Award: Department of the Army, Headquarters United States Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503-9035. Office Symbol: ATZR-CSM dated 16 August 2015. Memorandum for: Commander, Battery "C", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, PO Box 725, Anadarko, Oklahoma, 73005-0725. Subject: Alexander Hamilton Award for Fiscal Year 2007 1. Congratulations to your unit for winning the prestigious Alexander Hamilton Award. 2. On behalf of the Field Artillery, I would like to congratulate you on winning the Alexander Hamilton Award. This Award is given each year to the outstanding Army National Guard Field Artillery Battery for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit success. You have proven that you display what the Field Artillery has to offer. I challenge you to continue to set the standard for all your peers to emulate. 3. Best wishes from Fort Sill and thank you for your continued service to our Soldiers and our Army. "King of Battle". Signed: Daniel S. Moriarty, CSM, USA, Command Sergeant Major, United States Army Field Artillery School. Distribution: Unit-I.

**Aug 24, 2015:** Obituary: Carl James Murphy; (September 27, 1919 - August 24, 2015) Carl James (Jim) Murphy, resident of Ponca City, Oklahoma, passed away Monday, August 24, 2015 in Shawnee, Oklahoma, at the age of 95. Graveside services will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, August 28, 2015 at Resthaven Memorial Park in Ponca City, Oklahoma, with Chaplin Darrell Witten officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Trout Funeral Home & Crematory. Jim was born on September 27, 1919 to John James Murphy and Jennie Olive Brummit in Hartman, Colorado. He moved to Perry, Oklahoma as a small child and attended Noble County Rural School District 33, Pleasant Hill, graduating in 1932. Jim went to CCC camp from 1935 to 1938, working primarily in Blackwell and Purcell, Oklahoma. He joined the National Guard in September 1940 and became regular Army the same month. He served in the 45th Division, 158th Field Artillery, Battery "C", ASN: 20830874. He was married to Laura L. (Polly) Hamblin on February 7, 1942 in Lawton, Oklahoma by a Presbyterian minister. Jim was sent overseas in June 1943. During WWII he made five landings: North Africa, Sicily (twice), Salerno/Anzio and South France. He came home in July 1945. Jim went to work for Cities Service Oil Refinery, in Ponca City in 1945 and retired from Conoco in September 1981. Jim and Polly were long-time members of Community Christian Church, in Ponca City and were active in the V.F.W. Jim was a member of the American Legion. Jim and Polly traveled extensively with a travel trailer, visiting 49 of 50 states. Jim said they would have made it to Hawaii, if anyone had ever built a bridge. He is survived by son, Carl Murphy, Jr. and his wife Barbara of Shawnee, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Karen Wellman, and her husband Bill of El Paso, Texas,

Chris Murphy and wife Heather of Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Terri Curtis and husband Christopher of Norman, Oklahoma. He is survived by 10 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters, Delma Young and her husband Haynes of Jenks, Oklahoma; Jane Tyler and her husband Bud, of Campbellsville, Kentucky and his brother Jack Trumbula and his wife Kay, of Plainwell, Michigan. He was preceded in death by his wife, Polly; daughter, Judy Williams; brother George Trumbula; sisters, Alta Morris, April Mae Dyches and Wilma Thomas; wife Johnnie Day Murphy and best friend, Fran Hill. Memorial contributions may be made to Heartland Hospice 2802 N Kickapoo Ave. Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804.

**Sep 10, 2015:** Obituary: William Carroll McCoy; Born 29 Jun 1930 in Enid, Garfield County, OK. And died 10 Sep 2015 (aged 85) in Duncan, Stephens County, OK. And buried in Duncan Municipal Cemetery, Duncan, Stephens County, OK. William Carroll "Bill" McCoy, longtime resident of Duncan, Oklahoma passed away Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015 at his home in Duncan. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 3:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, 2015 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church. Burial will follow in the Catholic Section of the Duncan Cemetery. Services are under the direction of the Don Grantham Funeral Home. Bill was born June 29, 1930 in Enid, Oklahoma to Lewis Frank and Margaret Helen (Ryan) McCoy. At the age of three Bill and the family moved to the family farm west of Edmond, Oklahoma. While there Bill attended grade school at Central State College Training School and at Deer Creek. In 1944 the family moved to town and Bill graduated from Edmond High School in 1948. In the fall of that same year he entered college at Central State, which is now University of Central Oklahoma, graduating in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in History and Economics. In 1948 Bill had enlisted in the 45th Infantry Division of the Oklahoma National Guard assigned to the Headquarters Company of the 179th Infantry Regiment in Edmond. Bill's college education was interrupted when the 45th Division was mobilized September 1, 1950 during the Korean Conflict. After training at Camp Polk Louisiana, Fort Benning Georgia and in Hokkaido, Japan, Bill and the rest of the 45th landed at Inchon, Korea in December 1951. They immediately went into combat facing the Chinese Army in the area of the Chorwon Valley. Bill was a Sgt. First Class squad leader in a reconnaissance platoon. He was returned to the United States and honorably discharged from the Army at Fort Sill, OK in May 1952. Bill received several awards of merit from the US Army and from the South Korean Government. The one he was most proud of was the Combat Infantryman's Badge from the US Army. He returned to college at Central State. Bill had known early in life that he wanted to pursue a career as an attorney. After finishing at Central State, he entered the University of Oklahoma College of Law in the Fall of 1953. He graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree (now designated a Juris doctor degree) in January of 1956 and immediately went to work as an attorney in the legal department of Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Company in Duncan. In early 1956 Bill met the love of his life, Shirley Jo Ann Murphy on a blind date in El Reno. They were married on April 27, 1957 in El Reno at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and to Bill's great sorrow she preceded him in death on April 18, 2013. They had three beloved children, James Michael born February 21, 1958, John Christopher born August 14, 1960 and Mary Melissa born October 26, 1964. While still in college, Bill re-enlisted in the 45th Division. When he moved to Duncan, he was assigned to Battery "B", First Battalion of the 158th Field Artillery, where he progressed to the rank of Captain, OSN: O-2276498 and as Battery Commander in the early 1960's. In 1963 he transferred to the Judge Advocate General Corp, the legal arm of the military. He was assigned to a reserve unit in Lawton, from which he resigned in 1966. While working for Halliburton, Bill rose steadily through the ranks of the Legal Dept. becoming Assistant General Counsel and Secretary of the Board of Halliburton Services and eventually General Counsel in January 1987. He retired in July 1993 as Vice President and General Counsel of Halliburton Services and Assistant Secretary of Halliburton Company. He served as an officer and director of numerous Halliburton subsidiaries and affiliates, both in the United States and internationally. He had over 37 years of services at the time of his retirement and traveled in all 50 states and 29 foreign countries. Bill was a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association and was past President of the Stephens County Bar Association. He was qualified to practice in all state courts in Oklahoma. In addition, in 1965 he was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Military Appeals, the United States Court of Claims, the United States Court of Customs and Patent Appeals and the Federal District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. Bill was active in Duncan community affairs. He served on the Board of Directors of the Duncan United Way and the Stephens County Community Concert Association. He was a member of the Elks Lodge in Duncan. He progressed through all of the seven chair offices, ultimately to the highest office of Exalted Ruler in 1976. Then he served on the Board of Control for an additional three years. All of his life, Bill was a devoted member of the Catholic Church, starting with Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Enid, Oklahoma, then Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Edmond. When he moved to Duncan in 1956, he became a member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church and remained so until his death. He served several years at Assumption on the Finance Committee and as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister. Bill is survived by his three children, Mike McCoy and wife Dr. Aleda Toma of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Chris McCoy of Eureka Springs, Arkansas and Melissa McCoy of Allen, Texas; three grandchildren, Mary Leigh McCoy, William Mark McCoy and Magda Anneliese McCoy. Bill was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; a brother, Lewis F. McCoy; a sister, Jeanne A. Peek; and his beloved dog Ripley. Pallbearers will be Mike McCoy, Chris McCoy, Mark McCoy, James Murphy, Reginald



Lasater, Henry Bonney and Dane Holland. Honorary bearers are Ronald Bechtel, Robert Rice and Ronald Scott. Bill was a loving husband, father and grandfather and we will miss him. We wish him Godspeed. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to Assumption Catholic Church with the request that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass be offered in memory of and for the eternal salvation of Bill. In alternative, contributions may be made to the Stephens County Humane Society.

**Sep 17, 2015:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: 1st 158th members get into mud, muck at Camp Gruber. Camp Gruber: Soldiers with the Oklahoma Army National Guard recently trained in tactical retention exercises to heighten proficiency. CH-47 Chinook helicopters bore more than 300 Guardsmen with 120th Forward Support Company and the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, to Camp Gruber for the start of tactical scenarios. The scenarios are designed to improve their ability to execute building clearing, react to fire, grenade proficiency and various battle drills. The unique training provided these soldiers with real world practical exercises, a focus on familiarization, retention and improving team cohesion and leadership. The Chinooks took soldiers to the training area to participate in a building clearing and POW extraction scenario. The Guardsmen donned personal protective equipment and were armed with paintball guns. In teams of five, their mission was to clear a three-story building of enemy personnel, suppress fire and safely recover a known POW. They then escorted the POW through an underground sewage tunnel to a designated rally point, where the soldiers maintained perimeter security until the extraction support teams arrived. "The intent of this training was twofold, to do something fun for the soldiers, while incorporating army warrior tasks and beneficial training," said Capt. Thomas Tucker of Oklahoma City, member of Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. Following the POW extraction scenario, soldiers were transported in a tactical vehicle convoy to a grenade range. The range consisted of seven different grenade obstacles. At one obstacle, Guardsmen low crawled through the mud to a bunker, where they deployed a grenade into the bunker via a gun port. In another scenario, Guardsmen staged behind a low wall used for concealment, then launched a grenade while lying on their backs. Other scenarios included challenges such as concealment of the target using smoke grenades, blocking the line of sight and various sandbag formations. "The first thing they teach you in basic training, is that we are marksmen first," said Pfc. James Pradier of Lawton, a fire direction specialist with the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. "All the skills we practiced today are definitely helpful in improving marksmanship." Another scenario consisted of Guardsmen being transported via Chinook helicopters to an objective ambush. The soldiers broke off into teams of five, where they were faced with direct and indirect fire from an unknown enemy. The intent of this scenario was for the teams to traverse the area safely, locate and then neutralize the enemy. Throughout this scenario the soldiers were faced with the challenge of working together as a team under pressure in adverse conditions. Some adverse conditions included operating in unknown terrain, with unknown enemies and low visibility, while suppressing fire. An integral part of this scenario was the OPFOR (opposing forces), which are played by fellow soldiers who take on the role of the enemy. Their goal is to challenge the teams by utilizing the terrain and various forms of concealment, while providing them the experience of being attacked by a real enemy. Soldiers acting as the OPFOR also had the opportunity to train on offensive tactics. "The OPFOR team's goal was to take the information from training, learn from it and improve on overall direct and indirect fire reaction," said Staff Sgt. Chris Polsgrove, of Durant. "My team consisted of soldiers that are brand-new, to soldiers with several years of experience, and because of that, the newer soldiers were able to learn from senior soldiers within the team." The soldiers participating in the training had very diverse levels of experience. The experience levels ranged from that of Sgt. Mathew Schoolfield of Ninnekah, who has been serving for 17 years, to soldiers like Pradier, who has been a member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard for less than a year. The intent of the training was to provide real-world scenarios for soldiers in a low-stress environment, with a focus on motivating them while building proficiency on a variety of battle tasks and strengthen team solidity. It provided these soldiers the opportunity to participate in tactical training scenarios that they would not otherwise conduct during their normal drill weekend operations. "It was a day to get everyone excited and motivated to remain in the National Guard," Schoolfield said. Photo Caption: Members of Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, Oklahoma Army National Guard, are loaded onto a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during training exercises at Camp Gruber. The training offered opportunities to participate in airborne insertions and extractions, room clearing and POW recovery exercises, hand grenade ranges and an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) vehicle-training lane. Photo Caption: Pfc. James Pradier of Lawton prepares to throw a grenade simulator during training exercises at Camp Gruber.

**Sep 21, 2015:** Obituary: Alfonso John Napoli Sr.; Published in Courier-Post on Sept. 23, 2015. Alfonso J. Napoli, Sr. Age: 87, Wenonah. Alfonso J. Napoli, Sr., on September 21, 2015, of Wenonah, formerly of Woodlynne. Age 87. Beloved husband of Audelia "Dale" (nee Perry). Devoted father of Denise Hamilton (Frank), Anthony Napoli (James), Alfonso, Jr. (John) and Diane Stepanski (Charles "Chuck"). Dear brother of Angelo Napoli (Katie), Marion Fazzie (Gene), and the late Philomena Johnson and Theresa Del Rossi. Loving grandfather of Matthew & Lindsay Hamilton and Shawn & Danny Stepanski. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Alfonso was a member of the Knights

of Columbus Camden Chapter and the Young Men's Catholic Club of Camden. He also proudly served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict. There will be a viewing from 7 to 9pm Thursday eve and 9:15 to 10:15am Friday morning at Gardner Funeral Home, Runnemedede. Funeral Mass 11am Friday at Holy Child Parish, St. Teresa RC Church, Runnemedede. Interment New St. Mary's Cemetery, Bellmawr. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Alfonso's name to the American Parkinson Disease Association, PO Box 910, New Brunswick, NJ 08903 or The Masonic Home of NJ (attn.: Development), 902 Jacksonville Rd., Burlington, NJ 08016.

**Sep 30, 2015:** Obituary: Doyce Ray Baugh Sr., CW4, February 16, 1932 - September 30, 2015, CW4, Doyce "Ray" Baugh, Sr. retired, age 83, passed away comforted by his wife on Sept. 30th. Born on Feb. 16, 1932 and raised in Anadarko, OK, he was the youngest of fourteen siblings, including a twin sister, of Areilius Craten "A. C." Baugh and Eddie Webb Baugh. His lifelong appreciation for reading and public libraries began in his hometown where he spent much time pursuing self education. He later departed from high school to join the Oklahoma Army National Guard 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team "Thunderbirds" which saw action during the Korean War. Upon his return from war he was awarded his diploma. Ray subsequently enlisted in the U.S. Army specializing in military intelligence. He valiantly served two tours in Vietnam and completed overseas assignments in Germany, Japan and Panama. After 31 years of dedicated service to our nation, Ray retired as the senior ranking Chief Warrant Officer in the Army. During his accomplished military career he earned the following commendations: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, United Nation Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Army Service Ribbon and Overseas Service Ribbon. He served our country an additional ten years working for the Department of Defense Investigative Service. His community involvement included membership in the Bryan Breakfast Lions Club and VFW, coaching girls city league softball and serving as President of the Allen Academy Booster Club. In his leisure time he enjoyed auditing courses at Texas A&M, fishing, gardening, softball and spending time with family and his grandchildren. As a retiree, he earned two associate degrees from Blinn College. Ray is survived by a wife, Sylvia Lopez-Baugh; four children, Doyce "Ray" Baugh, Jr., John C. Baugh and wife Melani B. Baugh, Michelle Baugh Thompson and husband Jerry Thompson, and Jennifer Baugh Radcliff. He also leaves behind five grandchildren; Juan C. Rangel, Aidan Rangel, Jaxon Ratcliff, Armel Abragon and Mico Jay Abragon. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by five brothers, eight sisters, a first wife Norma "Alice" Brookman Baugh, and a son Bruce O. Baugh. The viewing was held at St. Michael's Academy Chapel, 2400 S. College Ave., Bryan, TX on Tuesday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and at 10:00 am on Wednesday followed by a funeral service at 11:00 am. He is interred in a family plot at College Station City Cemetery. Chief Warrant Officer 4th Class and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Oct 20, 2015:** Published in the "Combat Studies Institute Press Fort Leavenworth, KS" entitled: Volume 2. The Arms: Cavalry, Field Artillery and Coast Artillery, 1919-41. U. S. Army Order of Battle 1919-1941 by Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Steven E. Clay; 158th Field Artillery Regiment (75-mm G-H) (45th Division) Oklahoma, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico National Guard. HQ: Not organized, 1921-23; Tulsa, OK, 1923-25; Anadarko, OK, 1925-40; Fort Sill, OK, 1940-41. HQ: Not organized, 1930-36; Camden, NJ, 1936-40; Fort Dix, NJ, 1940-41 Status: 1st and 2d Battalions assigned to the USARS as elements of the 112th F.A. Constituted in the N.G. 26 February 1920 and assigned to the 45th Div. Regimental HQ, HQ Battery, and service battery allotted to the state of Oklahoma; 1st Bn. allotted to the states of Colorado and New Mexico; 2d Bn. allotted to the states of Arizona and Oklahoma. Regimental HQ organized and federally recognized on 15 May 1923 at Tulsa, OK. Elements called up to perform flood relief duties in Oklahoma City, OK, 13 September-8 October 1923. Regimental HQ relocated on 23 September 1925 to Anadarko, OK. The 1st Bn. redesignated 168th F.A. Bn. on 1 July 1926. New 1st Bn. constituted and allotted to the state of Oklahoma. The HQ, 1st Bn. organized on 20 May 1927 with HQ at Kingfisher, OK. Converted from horse drawn to truck drawn on 2 August 1933. Conducted annual summer training 1923-39 as follows: Oklahoma elements at Fort Sill, OK; Colorado elements at Camp George West, CO; New Mexico elements at Fort Bliss, TX, or Camp Maximilliano Luna, Las Vegas, NM; Arizona elements at Fort Tuthill, AZ. Inducted into Federal service on 16 September 1940 at Anadarko as an element of the 45th Div., and moved to Fort Sill, OK, where it arrived on 24 September 1940. Location 7 December 1941: Fort Sill, OK. Status: Assigned to the USARS as the 158th F.A.; 1st Bn. active at Lawton, OK, as an element of the 45th F.A. Brig. Events: 258, 300, 317, 328: (258) Participated in Third Army Maneuver, Camp Bullis, San Antonio, TX 6-30 Aug 1938. Eighth Corps Area Concentration Units: (23,300 troops) HQ Eighth Corps Area, HQ VIII Corps (Prov) (as "Brown" Corps), HQ 2 Div, HQ 36 Div, HQ 45 Div, HHC 3 Inf Brig, HHC 71 Inf Brig, HHC 72 Inf Brig, HHC 90 Inf Brig, HHT 1 Cav Brig, HHT 56 Cav Brig, HHB 2 F.A. Brig, HHB 61 F.A. Brig, HHB 70 F.A. (300) Participated in Third Army Maneuver Kisatchie National Forest, LA, 3-23 Aug 1940. Units: (70,000 troops) HQ Third Army, HHC IV Corps, HQ VIII Corps (Prov), HQ 2 Div, 9 Inf, 23 Inf, 38 Inf, HHB 2 Div Arty, 12 F.A. Bn, 15 Bn, 37 F.A. Bn, 38 F.A. Bn, 2 Engr Bn, 2 Sig Co, 2 Med Bn, 2 Q.M. Bn, HQ 30 Div, HHC 59 Inf Brig, HHC 60 Inf Brig, HHB 55 F.A. Brig, 117 Inf, 118 Inf, 120 Inf, 121 Inf, 113 F.A., 115

F.A., 118 F.A., 105 Engr, 105 Med Regt, 105 Q.M. Regt, 30 Div Sp Tps, HQ 31 Div, HHC 61 Inf Brig, HHC 62 Inf Brig, HHB 56 F.A. Brig, 124 Inf, 155 Inf, 156 Inf, 167 Inf, 114 F.A., 116 F.A., 117 F.A., 106 Engr, 106 Med Regt, 106 Q.M. Regt, 31 Div Sp Tps, HQ 36 Div, HHC 71 Inf Brig, HHC 72 Inf Brig, HHB 61 F.A. Brig, 141 Inf, 142 Inf, 143 Inf, 144 Inf, 131 F.A., 132 F.A., 133 F.A., 111 Engr, 111 Med Regt, 111 Q.M. Regt, 36 Div Sp Tps, HQ 45 Div, HHC 89 Inf Brig, HHC 90 Inf Brig, HHB 70 F.A. Brig, 157 Inf, 158 Inf, 179 Inf, 180 Inf, 158 F.A., 160 F.A., 189 F.A., 120 Engr, 120 Med Regt, 120 Q.M. Regt, 45 Div Sp Tps, HHT 1 Cav Div, HHT 1 Cav Brig, HHT 2 Cav Brig, 5 Cav, 7 Cav, 8 Cav, 12 Cav, 1-82 F.A., 1 Cav Div Sp Tps, 8 Engr Sq, 16 Q.M. Sq, 1 Med Sq, HHT 23 Cav Div, HHT 55 Cav Brig, HHT 56 Cav Brig, 6 Cav, 108 Cav, 109 Cav, 112 Cav, 124 Cav, 141 F.A., 127 Engr Sq, 8 Inf, 22 Inf, 25 Inf, HHB 13 F.A. Brig, 17 F.A., 36 F.A., 77 F.A., 168 F.A., 178 F.A., 179 F.A., 1 F.A. Obsn Bn, 69 C.A., A/4 Engr, 2-20 Engr, 47 Engr Tp, 64 Engr Co (Topo), 101 Engr Co, 102 Engr Co, 16 Obsn Sq, 22 Obsn Sq, 105 Obsn Sq, 106 Obsn Sq, 111 Obsn Sq, 120 Obsn Sq, 153 Obsn Sq, 1 Bln Sq, 2 Bln Sq, 62 Sig Bn, 39 Q.M. Regt (-), H/47 Q.M. Regt, E,F,G,H,I/48 Q.M. Regt, 55 Q.M. Regt (-), B,C/67 Q.M. Bn, C/68 Q.M. Bn, 97 Q.M. Bn (-), 2 Ord Co, 15 Ord Co, 59 Ord Co, 73 Ord Co, reserve officers from XIV Corps 81 Div, 82 Div, 87 Div, 90 Div, 95 Div, 103 Div, and 63 Cav Div units. (317) Participated in VIII Corps Maneuver Brownwood Camp Bowie, TX, 1-18 Jun 1941. Units: (70,000 troops) HHC VIII Corps, HQ 2 Div, 9 Inf, 23 Inf, 38 Inf, HHB 2 Div Arty, 12 F.A. Bn, 15 F.A. Bn, 37 F.A. Bn, 38 F.A. Bn, 2 Engr Bn, 2 Sig Co, 2 Med Bn, 2 Q.M. Bn, HQ 36 Div, HHC 71 Inf Brig, HHC 72 Inf Brig, HHB 61 F.A. Brig, 141 Inf, 142 Inf, 143 Inf, 144 Inf, 131 F.A., 132 F.A., 133 F.A., 111 Engr, 111 Med Regt, 111 Q.M. Regt, 36 Div Sp Tps, HQ 45 Div, HHC 89 Inf Brig, HHC 90 Inf Brig, HHB 70 F.A. Brig, 157 Inf, 158 Inf, 179 Inf, 180 Inf, 158 F.A., 160 F.A., 189 F.A., 120 Engr, 120 Med Regt, 120 Q.M. Regt, 45 Div Sp Tps, 113 Cav, HHB 18 F.A. Brig, 77 F.A., 142 F.A., 349 F.A., 2 F.A. Obsn Bn, 52 Sig Bn. (328) Participated in Second Army-Third Army Louisiana Maneuver Area 15-28 Sept 1941. GHQ Maneuver Units: (342,000 troops) General Headquarters, HHC Second Army, HHC Third Army, HQ Sp Tps Third Army, HHC IV Corps, HHC V Corps, HHC VII Corps, HHC VIII Corps, HHC I Armd Corps, HQ 2 Div, 9 Inf, 23 Inf, 38 Inf, HHB 2 Div Arty, 12 F.A. Bn, 15 F.A. Bn, 37 F.A. Bn, 38 Bn, 2 Engr Bn, 2 Sig Co, 2 Med Bn, 2 Q.M. Bn, HQ 5 Div, 2 Inf, 10 Inf, 11 Inf, HHB 5 Div Arty, 19 F.A. Bn, 21 F.A. Bn, 46 F.A. Bn, 50 Bn, 7 Engr Bn, 5 Sig Co, 5 Med Bn, 5 Q.M. Bn, HQ 6 Div, 1 Inf, 20 Inf, HHB 6 Div Arty, 1 F.A. Bn, 51 F.A. Bn, 53 F.A. Bn, 80 F.A. Bn, 6 Engr Bn, 6 Sig Co, 6 Med Bn, 6 Q.M. Bn, HQ 27 Div, HHC 53 Inf Brig, HHC 54 Inf Brig, HHB 52 F.A. Brig, 105 Inf, 106 Inf, 108 Inf, 165 Inf, 104 F.A., 105 F.A., 106 F.A., 102 Engr, 102 Med Regt, 102 Q.M. Regt, 27 Div Sp Tps, HQ 31 Div, HHC 61 Inf Brig, HHC 62 Inf Brig, HHB 56 Brig, 124 Inf, 155 Inf, 156 Inf, 167 Inf, 114 F.A., 116 F.A., 117 F.A., 106 Engr, 106 Med Regt, 106 Q.M. Regt, 31 Div Sp Tps, HQ 32 Div, HHC 63 Inf Brig, HHC 64 Inf Brig, HHB 57 F.A. Brig, 125 Inf, 126 Inf, 127 Inf, 128 Inf, 120 F.A., 121 F.A., 126 F.A., 107 Engr, 107 Med Regt, 107 Q.M. Regt, 32 Div Sp Tps, HQ 33 Div, HHC 65 Inf Brig, HHC 66 Inf Brig, HHB 58 F.A. Brig, 129 Inf, 130 Inf, 131 Inf, 132 Inf, 122 F.A., 123 F.A., 124 F.A., 108 Engr, 108 Med Regt, 108 Q.M. Regt, 33 Div Sp Tps, HQ 34 Div, HHC 67 Inf Brig, HHC 68 Inf Brig, HHB 59 F.A. Brig, 133 Inf, 135 Inf, 164 Inf, 168 Inf, 125 F.A., 151 F.A., 185 F.A., 109 Engr, 136 Med Regt, 109 Q.M. Regt, 34 Div Sp Tps, HQ 35 Div, HHC 69 Inf Brig, HHC 70 Inf Brig, HHB 60 F.A. Brig, 134 Inf, 137 Inf, 138 Inf, 140 Inf, 127 F.A., 130 F.A., 161 F.A., 110 Engr, 110 Med Regt, 110 Q.M. Regt, 35 Div Sp Tps, HQ 36 Div, HHC 71 Inf Brig, HHC 72 Inf Brig, HHB 61 F.A. Brig, 141 Inf, 142 Inf, 143 Inf, 144 Inf, 131 F.A., 132 F.A., 133 F.A., 111 Engr, 111 Med Regt, 111 Q.M. Regt, 36 Div Sp Tps, HQ 37 Div, HHC 73 Inf Brig, HHC 74 Inf Brig, HHB 62 F.A. Brig, 145 Inf, 147 Inf, 148 Inf, 166 Inf, 134 F.A., 135 F.A., 136 F.A., 112 Engr, 112 Med Regt, 112 Q.M. Regt, 37 Div Sp Tps, HQ 38 Div, HHC 75 Inf Brig, HHC 76 Inf Brig, HHB 63 F.A. Brig, 149 Inf, 150 Inf, 151 Inf, 152 Inf, 138 F.A., 139 F.A., 150 F.A., 113 Engr, 113 Med Regt, 113 Q.M. Regt, 38 Div Sp Tps, HQ 43 Div, HHC 85 Inf Brig, HHC 86 Inf Brig, HHB 68 F.A. Brig, 102 Inf, 103 Inf, 169 Inf, 172 Inf, 103 F.A., 152 F.A., 192 F.A., 118 Engr, 118 Med Regt, 118 Q.M. Regt, 43 Div Sp Tps, HQ 45 Div, HHC 89 Inf Brig, HHC 90 Inf Brig, HHB 70 F.A. Brig, 157 Inf, 158 Inf, 179 Inf, 180 Inf, 158 F.A., 160 F.A., 189 F.A., 120 Engr, 120 Med Regt, 120 Q.M. Regt, 45 Div Sp Tps, HHC 1 Armd Div, HHC 1 Armd Brig, 1 Armd Regt (L), 13 Armd Regt (L), 69 Armd Regt (M), 6 Inf, 27 F.A. Bn, 13 Q.M. Bn, 47 Med Bn, HHC 2 Armd Div, HHC 2 Armd Brig, 66 Armd Regt (L), 67 Armd Regt (L), 68 Armd Regt (M), 41 Inf, 78 F.A. Bn, 14 Q.M. Bn, 48 Med Bn, HHT 1 Cav Div, HHT 1 Cav Brig, HHT 2 Cav Brig, 5 Cav, 7 Cav, 8 Cav, 12 Cav, 82 F.A., 1 Cav Div Sp Tps, 8 Engr Sq, 16 Q.M. Sq, 1 Med Sq, HHT 2 Cav Div, HHT 3 Cav Brig, HHT 4 Cav Brig, 2 Cav, 9 Cav, 10 Cav, 14 Cav, 3 F.A., 9 Engr Sq, 17 Q.M. Sq, 2 Med Sq, 24 Inf, HHT 56 Cav Brig, 4 Cav, 6 Cav, 106 Cav, 107 Cav, 112 Cav, 113 Cav, 124 Cav, HHB 18 F.A. Brig, 77 F.A., 142 F.A., 349 F.A., 2 F.A. Obsn Bn, HHB 76 F.A. Brig, 144 F.A., 183 F.A., 188 F.A., HHB 33 C.A. Brig, 14 C.A., 69 C.A., 197 C.A., 203 C.A., 204 C.A., 210 C.A., 211 C.A., 105 C.A. Bn, 106 C.A. Bn, 20 Engr Regt, 37 Engr Regt, 42 Engr Regt, 43 Engr Regt, 46 Engr Regt, 151 Engr Regt, 30 Engr Bn (Topo), 80 Engr Bn (WS), 85 Engr Bn (HP), 86 Engr Bn (HP), 87 Engr Bn (HP), 88 Engr Bn (HP), 91 Engr Bn (Sep), 94 Engr Bn (Sep), 95 Engr Bn (Sep), 67 Engr Co (Topo), 71 Engr Co (LP), 75 Engr Co (LP), 77 Engr Co (LP), 392 Engr Co (Depot), 52 Sig Bn, elmts/48 Q.M. Regt, 65 Med Regt, 68 Med Regt, 151 Med Bn, HHS 2 Bomb Wing, HHS 6 Purs Wing, HHS 10 Purs Wing, HHS 17 Bomb Wing, 1 Bln Sq. Commanders, 158th Field Artillery Regiment: Col. Charles A. Holden 15 May 1923–5 September 1925 Col. Grover C. Walmsley 23 September 1925–11 February 1942.

**Dec 28, 2015:** Obituary: Larry Don Lehrman: Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), 76, Granite, departed this life on Sunday, December 28th, 2015 at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in Elk City, Oklahoma. Larry Don Lehrman

was born to John and Estelle (Johnson) Lehrman in Lone Wolf and grew up in and around Granite. He enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard and later attended U. S. Army OCS at Fort Sill, he served in various locations including two tours in Vietnam as a field artillery officer and Logistics and maintenance officer. He completed Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1973 and retired in 1988 as a LTC, OSN: O-2235585 after 27 years of service. He married Clara Jean Bowen in June 1960 in Elk City. Normal life took them to Italy, Kansas, Maryland, Hawaii, and to Alabama, where they owned an auto repair shop in Enterprise. But the call for home was too strong and they built their final home and Granite. Clara preceded Larry in death and he married Nina Sue Felty in 2011. Larry was very active in his community; he served on a Granite City Council, the Greer County Business Development, was a member of the Lions Club and was a big supporter of the Granite Boy Scouts. He enjoyed rebuilding Toyota's, finding Bargains at auctions, and was always tending his garden and Orchard, survivors include his wife, of the home; two sons, L. Don Lehrman, jr., Lawton, and Gregory k. Lehrman, Altus; two granddaughters, Robyn K. Lehrman, Dallas and Hannah J. Lehrman, Atlanta; two brothers, Geary Lehrman, Granite and Ronald Lehrman, Mangum; other relatives and Friends. Initial Obituary: Larry D Lehrman was born 23 Aug 1939 in Oklahoma and died 20 Dec 2015 in Elk City, Oklahoma and is buried at Granite City Cemetery, Granite, Greer County, Oklahoma. Larry D. Lehrman, age 76, of Granite, passed away Sunday, December 20, 2015 at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in Elk City, Oklahoma. Services are pending at this time, Fails Funeral Home, Mangum, Oklahoma.

**Jan 01, 2016:** Published in the "The National Guard Association of Oklahoma" entitled: Oklahoma National Guard expects four deployments in 2016. By M. Scott Carter. Members of the Oklahoma National Guard will see at least four new deployments during 2016, the Guard's mobilization readiness officer, Col. Dedrick Hoskins, said. Hoskins said the Oklahoma Guard would deploy four missions to Kuwait, sending a total of about 330 soldiers overseas during the year. Oklahoma is among the top states in the country for deployment, a fact due to the Oklahoma National Guard's readiness and training. "When units are sourced they look at the readiness level of the unit, which reflects on training," Hoskins said. Timing also plays a critical component. "We certainly understand the mobilization process in Oklahoma," he said. "Our units are available when they are supposed to be available." It's that window, Hoskins said, that shows when the unit is eligible for deployment. "During that window you are at the highest level of readiness," he said. Because most units cannot maintain their peak readiness on a continual basis, the units are placed on a cycle that shows when the unit is at its peak. Of the four units going overseas, Hoskins said the Guard would send: An airfield operations unit of about 40 soldiers, a second aviation unit of about 115 soldiers, a transportation company of about 160 soldiers, a fixed-wing group of about five soldiers. Each unit can expect to be overseas for nine to 10 months. "From the time the soldiers get their orders until they come off, typically it's about a year," he said. Even when they return, members of the Guard train constantly, Hoskins said. In addition to work overseas, Hoskins said guardsmen also go on specialized training missions within the United States and assist civilian authorities in the case of a disaster. Army National Guardsmen, using helicopters to drop water, have been working with the Oklahoma Department of Forestry and fire officials to help fight wildfires in northeastern Oklahoma. Other units, Hoskins said, work with local law enforcement to fight drug trafficking. "They fly missions and use helicopters to help with eradication," he said. Still, even though the number of missions overseas has declined as troops have been drawn down, Hoskins said members of the Oklahoma Guard will stay prepared. "If we're called upon, we're going to be ready," he said. Photo Caption: Members of the Battery B, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery returned home from deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, in January 2015. Photo by Spc. Billie Jean Debruin. Photo Caption: Members of the Battery B, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Fires Brigade participate in a farewell ceremony in April 2014 in advance of their deployment to Afghanistan. Photo by Sgt. Eric McDonough.

**Jan 10, 2016:** Obituary: Clay Hoahwah; Indianhoma, OK. Graveside service with military honors for Clay Hoahwah, 94, Norman, will be 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, at Post Oak Cemetery in Indianhoma. Mr. Hoahwah went to his heavenly home on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016, at his home in Norman. Burial will be under direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home. Clay was born in Indianhoma on Jan. 22, 1921, to Sam and Emma (Coathy) Hoahwah. He graduated from Indianhoma High School. Clay enlisted in the Army on Oct. 1, 1940, in Oklahoma City, ASN: 18003544 and was discharged in Camp Chaffee, Ark., on May 17, 1945. He was in the 871st Engineer Aviation Battalion World War II, Asiatic-Pacific. Clay's battles include: New Guinea WD 43 GO 75 WD 43, Southern Philippines GO 80 WD 43. Decorations include: Philippine Liberation Medal GO 23 USAFFe 45 Asiatic Pacific Service Medal and three Bronze Stars and the American Defense Service Medal. Clay then attended Cameron University for two years and moved to Norman and attended Oklahoma University and received his Master's Degree in Education. He taught school at Knowles, Noble, Davis in Oklahoma. He also taught and was a boys counselor at Santa Fe Indian School, Navajo Indian Reservation at Toadlena. They moved back to Norman in 1968 and taught at Little Axe High School. He retired in 1970. He enjoyed working on cars, reading, going to Las Vegas to visit his family. Clay is survived by two children and spouses: Byron and Jay Hoahwah, Las Vegas, Nev., Kim Hoahwah-Taua and Gayland Taua, Norman;

grandson, Tyson Samuel Hoahwah and wife, Amy, Norman; two great-grandchildren Xandria Gracious Hoahwah and Tadan Clay Hoahwah of Norman, nieces, nephews other family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Wakeah Paddyaker Hoahwah; brothers: Abe and Edwin Hoahwah, and four sisters: Linn, Norene, Lena and Faye. Visitation will be from noon to 5 p.m. today at the funeral home.

**Mar 19, 2016:** Obituary: Francis Harold Ahrnsbrak. September 19, 1921 - March 19, 2016 Edmond; March 19, 2016 Papa Francis Harold Ahrnsbrak left this life on Earth in time for his beloved wife, Mary Ann McNally Ahrnsbrak, birthday. He was a remarkable husband, father, friend, mentor and one of the most honest, generous, wise and funny men of the Greatest Generation. He never knew he was poor during The Depression because he always had food, family and a 160 acre playground to hunt, fish and thrive from. Walking to school a couple of miles was just part of his day along with his sister Charlotte and his younger brother Johnny. After high school he joined the army; buying his bus ticket from Mary Ann in Guthrie before being shipped out for basic training and then service with the 104th Timberwolf Division of the United States Army in Germany. Despite serving half a world away, part his heart never left home. Thus when he returned to Oklahoma, he courted and married Mary Ann while pursuing a degree in petroleum engineering from OU. Jobs were hard to find in the US at that time but with Mary Ann's gentle encouragement he moved his family, including his young daughter Patricia, to Venezuela, for a couple of years and then to Colombia where his son Michael was born. After that came Saudi Arabia, where his family flourished with the privilege of living and traveling around the world during the best and most innocent of times for us. He loved the desert and spent much time playing golf or just roaming around with his pot picking friends. His uncanny sense of direction meant he successfully returned from many overnight deep desert trips. After his retirement he settled back in Guthrie, put away his suit and spent countless hours cutting trees and clearing brush from his homestead. He found another group of fellow wanderers and golfers to pal around with. He had a great life and shared his stories and memories with anyone who would listen. His last airline trip was on an Honors Flight to Washington DC to visit the WWII Memorial, a very special honor for him and our Veterans. He entertained many with his intelligence, wit and sense of humor. Many loved him and he will be missed but his death was "a good death" on his terms, and as he wished his body was donated to OU Medical Research to further scientific research and education. He is survived by his daughter, Patricia Ahrnsbrak, granddaughter Jessica Rogers and husband Harris, daughter-in-law Jody Ahrnsbrak and grandson Mic Ahrnsbrak and wife Amanda as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Since he was 94 at his death, many had predeceased him, including his beloved wife Mary Ann and son Michael Anthony, who for many years was his turtle hunting, desert and world traveling companion. His goodbye was always Fiaman Allah: go in God's protection. Memorial Mass arrangements have been made at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Guthrie, OK, Tuesday, March 29th, at 10 am. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Guthrie Food Bank or the Guthrie Animal Shelter. Published in The Oklahoman on Mar. 26, 2016. Corporal, ASN: 20830824 and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 16, 2016:** Obituary: Robert Lloyd Silver, 96, of Tulsa, passed away Friday, April 15th, 2016. He was born November 1, 1919 in Tulsa, OK to Charles A. and Katie Pearl Silver. Robert was a WWII Army Veteran, where he was a Technician Fourth Grade, ASN: 38023432, served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery, which made him part of the "Greatest Generation". On 23 February 1944, as a member of a forward observer party, trying to elude the Germans, he became separated in the darkness and in the confusion was captured and moved to a German POW camp, Stalag2A and held there 484 days. He was a retired electrician and a member of Ridge Crest Baptist Church where he was very active. Robert enjoyed gardening and was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He had the heart of a servant. Robert is survived by his wife of 68 years, Willene Silver; his children, David Silver of Santa Fe, NM; Danny Silver and his wife Mikke of Depew, OK; Rob Silver and his wife Sheri of Oklahoma City, OK; Nubbin Silver and his wife Lisa of Muskogee, OK; his grandchildren, Dusty, Travis, Laura, Kelli, Hannah, Jacob, Jessica, Jenny, Josh; 8 great grandchildren; his sisters, Pat, Sue and Myrtle; numerous other relatives and friends. Robert was preceded in death by his parents, his siblings, Katie, James, Albert, Jack, C. A. and Chuck. Service 10:00 A.M., Friday, April 22, 2016 at Ridge Crest Baptist Church, 304 S. 161st E. Ave., Tulsa, OK. Moore's Eastlawn Chapel.

**Apr 20, 2016:** Obituary: Kenneth William Etter. Funeral service for Kenneth "Butch" Etter, 69, of Fletcher, Oklahoma, will be held 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 22, 2016, at the First Christian Church in Cyril with Pastor Kip Ackley and Pastor Delbert McCurley, officiating. Burial will follow at the Fletcher Cemetery under the direction of the Fletcher Funeral Home. Visitation will be held Thursday from 1:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. at the funeral home in Fletcher. Mr. Etter passed away on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at his home in Fletcher at the age of 69. Kenneth William "Butch" Etter was born November 16, 1946 in Lawton, Oklahoma to Kenneth Elmo and Theresa (Nuzzo) Etter. Butch was raised in Fletcher and graduated from Fletcher High School in 1965. He joined the United States Army National Guard where he proudly served his country until being honorably discharged after 7 years and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery. He attended OSU Okmulgee for 1 year as a diesel mechanic before moving back home a working for a contract brick layer. Butch married Sheila

Moser on September 9, 1967 in Cyril, Oklahoma. The two were married for 48 years and were blessed with 3 children. The couple owned and operated the Phillips 66 Station in Cyril for a year before he went to work at the APCO Oil Refinery until its closing in 1984. After the refinery closed, Butch worked on the crew that built Fletcher Temple Inland and continued working there until medically retiring in 2010. Butch and Sheila attended the First Christian Church of Cyril since they were married. He was a member of the Senior Pro Rodeo Association and the US and Ultimate Calf Roping Association. He enjoyed rodeoing, hunting coyotes, and aggravating his children and grandchildren. Butch was a great man and will be dearly missed by all those who knew him. He is survived by his mother, Terry Etter, of Fletcher; his wife, Sheila Etter, of the home; 1 son, Robert Etter and his wife Sheri of Cache; 2 daughters: Michelle Seibold and her husband Dale of Cement and Amy McLemore and her husband Brock of Fletcher; 1 brother, Michael Etter and his wife Debbie, of Florida; 1 sister, Felicia Taylor and her husband Gene of Fletcher; 9 grandchildren: Brody Seibold and his wife Amanda, Callie Seibold, Saegen Ellis, Abbie and Wade Etter, Riley, Raycee, and Rance Morrow, and Kaden McLemore; 1 great grandchild, Baylee Seibold; his mother in law, Loretta Moser; special friends, Shelby Kinder and Gerard Dodson; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth Elmo Etter and his father in law, Robert Moser. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to your local FFA Chapter.

**Apr 28, 2016:** Obituary: Eugene Maurice Meacham, "Gene", who recorded Kingfisher history through Meacham (photography) Studio for 52 years, died Thursday, April 28, 2016. Graveside services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Kingfisher Memorial Cemetery under direction of Sanders Funeral Service of Kingfisher. He was born July 23, 1921, to Earle and Mildred Meacham in Kingfisher. He served during World War II in the U.S. Army Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, ASN: 20830972 and 492nd Bomb Squadron, 7th Bomb Gr (H), Army Air Force, as a photographer. He married Geraldine Thomas March 11, 1944, in Muskogee. Together, they owned and operated Meacham Studio in Kingfisher from 1958 to 1990. After his retirement, Meacham donated all the negatives from his Kingfisher photography career to the Chisholm Trail Museum. He was a member of the Kingfisher American Legion, Post 5 and Kingfisher Masonic Lodge No. 52. Survivors include one son, Gregory Meacham and wife Vicki of Oklahoma City; four daughters, Carol Cass and husband Jim of Piedmont, Claudia Francis and husband Harry of Edmond, Phyllis Kuehn and husband Frank of Okarche and Cynthia Eaton and husband Jim of Kingfisher; a brother, Ervin Meacham of Colorado Springs, Colo.; 12 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Geraldine; his parents; brother Kermit Meacham of Wichita, Kan., and sister-in-law, Rita Meacham of Colorado Springs.

**Jul 10, 2016:** Obituary: Ross Ellison Roberts, 93, passed peacefully from this life the afternoon of July 10, 2016 in Medford, Oregon. Ross is survived by his wife of 63 years, Suzanne Bisset Roberts; his four sons: Leslie, Paul (Blanca), David (Laura) and Jeffrey (Ruth Ann); 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father Melvin Parker Roberts Jr, his mother Olga Henrietta Nordquist Roberts, and his brother Melvin Parker Roberts III. His sister Beverly Roberts Hermann resides in Arcata, California. Ross was born on January 4, 1923 in Eureka, California to Mel and Olga Roberts, the youngest of three children. He attended Arcata High School and graduated in 1941. He received his undergraduate degree from Humboldt State University and went on to graduate in dentistry from The College of Physicians and Surgeons in San Francisco, California in 1953, which later became part of University of the Pacific. He practiced dentistry in Eureka, California from 1954 through 1984. His favorite place was Diamond Lake, Oregon where he enjoyed many years of fishing, rowing and long walks on the trails surrounding the lake. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Ross was drafted into the Army during World War II and served from January 1943 to November 1945. He served in Battery "B" of the 158th Field Artillery Battalion, ASN: 39121402 and fought in Austria, France, and Germany. Friends and family are invited to the memorial service on Thursday, July 28, 2016 at 4:30 p.m., at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 2900 Juanipero Way, Medford, Oregon. Interment will follow on Friday, July 29, 2016, 11:00 a.m., Eagle Point National Cemetery, 2763 Riley Road, Eagle Point, Oregon. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to The Humanitarian Fund of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. We extend our love and appreciation to all who have been a part of Ross' life. Published in Eureka Times-Standard from 24-26 July, 2016.

**Aug 19, 2016:** Obituary: James Floyd Ratliff, 88, passed away on Friday, August 19, 2016 in Oklahoma City, OK after an extended illness. He was born on May 26, 1928 in Fort Cobb, OK to Alice (Wilson) and Urban Elza Ratliff. He grew up in Fort Cobb, OK and graduated from Fort Cobb High School in 1946. He went on to receive his associate's degree. He married Patsy Ruth Smith on December 23, 1950. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during WWII and the Korean War. Floyd was proud to be an American and loved to show his patriotism towards the United States. He co- owned, with his family, Ratliff's Grocery in Fort Cobb for many years. He was very civic minded and active in the community and a proud supporter of Fort Cobb before his health forced him to slow down from the things he loved. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Fort Cobb, the VFW and Rotary. His hobbies included golfing and hunting quail. He is survived by: His son and daughter-in-law: Steve and Jana Ratliff,

Edmond, OK, His daughter: Susan Ratliff Sawyer, Edmond, OK, Two grandsons and their wives: Matt and Amy Sawyer, Josh and Michelle Sawyer, Two great-grandchildren: Bella and Lucy Sawyer, Two sisters: Lavada Parrish, Cordell, OK and Gladys Watkins, Hobart, OK. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Patsy Ruth, his brothers; Leonard Ratliff, Fred Ratliff, David Ratliff and his sister Irene Van Eaton. Funeral Services: 2:00 P.M., Fri, Aug 26, 2016, First Baptist Church, Fort Cobb, OK., Officiating: Rev. Charlie Blount, Interment: Oak Grove Cemetery, Fort Cobb, OK. First Sergeant, ASN: 18285383 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Sep 02, 2016:** Obituary: Richard Ralph Bell, a lifetime Anadarko resident, passed from this life on Friday, September 2, 2016 at Hospice Quality care in Del City. Richard was born June 3, 1930 to Jim and Ethel Bell. He joined the Oklahoma National Guard 1947. He served in the US Army with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery, in Germany from 1949 to 1950, enlisting with the 45th Division of the Oklahoma National Guard in July 1950. He was activated from September 1950 to May 1952 in Japan and Korea. Richard was active in National Guard service from July 1952 to November 1976 when he became an inactive member. He retired from Inactive National Guard June 3, 1990 with more than 40 years of creditable service having achieved the rank of Master Sergeant. His military awards included Army of occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with bronze service star, United Nations Service Medal, and Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar. After returning from active service overseas, Richard married Betty Reece March 26, 1953 and then graduated from Anadarko High School in May of the same year. He attended OSU Tech in Okmulgee in 1953-54. He worked for several years as an artillery mechanic for the Oklahoma National Guard. He later served as the Building Superintendent for the US Federal Building in Anadarko, retiring in June 1985. Richard was an avid fisherman and enjoyed hunting, assisting his brother, Don, coach little league baseball, attending yard sales and auctions, and picking and collecting a variety of objects. He was an active supporter of Anadarko High School sports including football, basketball, wrestling, baseball and softball. He and Betty were named "Fans of the Year" in 2010. Richard trusted Jesus as his Savior and Lord as an adult and was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Anadarko. He loved to tease and make people laugh and provided nicknames for many friends and relatives through the years, earning his own "Head Harasser" title from the Keenagers church group where he won the domino tournament nine times. Richard was also very civic-minded. He served several years on the Anadarko City Council and the Fort Cobb Master Conservancy District board and as an election polling place worker. Richard loved to travel and visited most states and many countries through the years. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Betty of the home; son, Cleve Bell and wife Lee Anne of Lander, WY; grand daughter, Artesia Bell of Casper, WY; grandson, Kelby Currier and wife Roxanne of Haslet, TX; great-grand daughters, Mariyah and Madison Currier of Haslet, TX; brother, Ted Bell and wife Louise of Anadarko; Sister, Marjorie Stokley and husband James of Anadarko, brother in law Herman Reece and wife Marlene of Oklahoma City, many loving nieces and nephews, a host of friends, and his very best buddy, his 12 year-old dachshund, Emmy. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Ethel Bell; son, Mark Bell; brothers, Don, Archie and Billy Bell; and sister in law, Joyce Milton. Services are under the direction of Ray and Martha's Funeral Home, Anadarko with visitation available after 4:00 pm on Sunday, September 4 and on Monday, September 5 from 1:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Burial will be in Anadarko's Memory Lane Cemetery in a private family service. Public memorial services will be Tuesday, September 6 at 1:30 pm at First Baptist Church, Anadarko, with the pastor, Lynn Bellamy, officiating.

**Sep 26, 2016:** Obituary: Pedro Jesus Limon; former Lawton resident, passed away Sept. 26, 2016. He was born June 29, 1940, in McAllen, Texas and later moved to San Antonio, Texas. He worked in food service for many years. He later moved to Lawton, where he worked for Underwood's as a cook and baker. He also worked for Cameron University food service for many years. He was a Staff Sergeant and a member of the Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, of the Oklahoma National Guard. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, Cruz and Jesse Limon, and brothers Jesse Limon Jr. and Tony Limon. He is survived by a sister, Manuela Garza, and brothers Richard, Roy and Joel Limon.

**Oct 26, 2016:** Obituary: Jonathan Latimer Collens, Sr. Birth: Oct. 21, 1915, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Death: 26 Oct., 2016, Ohio. ("Jock") was born on Oct. 21, 1915 in Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from Hawken School '31, Yale University '38 and Harvard Law School '41. He was affiliated with the law firm, Sullivan and Cromwell in New York City, when World War II broke out. He served in the Army Anti - aircraft Artillery and was a Forward Observer in Germany when he was wounded by a Sniper on Easter Sunday, 1945. After the war, he returned to Cleveland and worked at Reliance Electric and Engineering Company, from which he retired as Vice President of Manufacturing in 1900. He was always very active in the community leadership, having been the Board President of Vocational Guidance Services, the Arthritis Association, and the Cleveland Heights Board of Education. He is survived by his wife, five children and 13 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Jock was a man of many interests and talents throughout his life. In 1975, he and his family moved to their dairy farm in Mesopotamia Ohio, where among many other accomplishments he single handedly built a free standing stone wall over 1/3 mile long. In 1990 the Collens moved to Medina, Ohio, where he cut down trees to build a substantial log cabin by himself at the

age of 80. He knew what children liked, and made everything from toy boats and Kiddie Cars with wagons to an amazing playground with a tunnel in a stone fort, a swing set, slide, playhouse, and sandbox for his grandchildren. A Memorial Service will be held at the Hawken lower School Chapel, 5000 Clubside Drive, in Lyndhurst, Ohio, on November 12th at 11:00 A.M. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that something be done for another person, even if it is someone you do not know. Interment will be in the spring at Tioga Center, New York, in the Ransom/Latimer family burial vault built by Jock's great grandfather in the middle of the 19th century. Contributions in his memory may be made to Hawken School, P.O. Box. 8002, Gates Mills, Ohio, 44040. Published in the Plain Dealer from Nov. 2 to Nov. 4, 2016. Obituary edited per FAG guidelines to protect privacy of living family members. Clarence Lyman Collens (1875-1972), Clara Ransom Latimer Collens (1876-1969) Burial: Ransom Family Mausoleum, Tioga Center, Tioga County, New York, USA. Second Lieutenant, OSN: O-1045378 and ASN: 35135509 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Nov 26, 2016:** Obituary: Robert Eldridge Shipman: March 3, 1923 - Nov. 26, 2016 Edmond; Robert E. Shipman, beloved husband, father, grandfather, son and brother, was born March 3, 1923, in Binger, OK. He passed away on Nov. 26, 2016, in Edmond, OK. He was retired from Oklahoma State School Land Commission in 1983, having served twenty-eight years as Director of the Minerals Division. He served with the Oklahoma National Guard in the 158th Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Division, in World War II and the Korean Conflict. He remained in the Oklahoma National Guard until his retirement with the rank of major. The family wishes to express their deepest gratitude to each of his caregivers at Autumn Leaves Memory Care; Physician's Choice Hospice; and to his physician, Dr. Chris Martin. Interment was held at Memory Lane Cemetery, Anadarko, OK. Published in The Oklahoman on Nov. 29, 2016. Major, OSN: O-949720 and ASN: 20830758 and served with Battery "B", 158th Field Artillery.

**Nov 27, 2016:** Obituary: Andrew Unap Domebo Sr. Andrew, known as Andy, was born On Aug 31 , 1931, at Stecker, near Lawton, OK , on a farm where the family set up tepees all around a little farmhouse. Andy was born in one Of those tepees to Arthur Unap Sr. and Effie Domebo. Andy was a full-blooded Kiowa, and his Kiowa name was "Thaw kaw dah goon" (Bushy Eyebrows). Andy went to his Lord and Savior on Sunday, Nov 27, 2016, at life Care Center, surrounded by family. As a young boy, Andy helped on the family farm carrying water and food to his uncles working the fields. During cotton picking season, his uncles would have him jump in the cotton bags to stuff the bags tight. Andy was taken from his mother Effie when it was noticed he was old enough to attend school. Andy was sent to Riverside Boarding School in Anadarko, OK, With his older brother and sisters. Andy spoke fluent Kiowa but was only allowed to speak English at Riverside. Andy's older brother Asau (Jackie Yellowhair) taught Andy to box so he could protect himself growing up. At Riverside Boarding School, Andy joined the boxing club at age 7, where he honed his boxing skills, which took him to win many boxing matches and Golden Gloves in Oklahoma, New York, Texas, California and Chicago. On Sept. 1, 1950, Andy was drafted into the US Army in the 45th Division Thunderbirds out of Oklahoma. He was deployed to Korea during the Korean War, where he was a member of the Recon Unit No. 53 until he was honorably discharged on July 14, 1952. Andy was awarded the Army Occupation Medal, a Bronze Star and the United States Service Medal. Andy then attended Bacone Indian College in Muskogee, OK, where he attended a dance and met the love of his life, Frela (Torchy) Lois White, a beautiful Nez Perce student at Bacone from Lapwai, Id. Andy and Torchy were married at the Bacone Chapel in August 1955, and they had been married for 61 years. After being married, Andy and Torchy moved to San Jose, CA, where Andy continued with his boxing career, turning professional. The family later moved to Tacoma, where Andy worked for Boeing. One Christmas when they were traveling to Idaho to visit Torchy's family, Andy saw the beautiful Nez Perce country and Andy decided they would raise their family in Lapwai. Andy took up golf and became an avid golfer competing in many Indian golf tournaments throughout the Pacific Northwest. Andy was also an avid hunter and played baseball and he loved to dance. Andy was a devout member of the Assembly of God Church in Lapwai and held a very strong faith until his passing. Andy held a variety of jobs, including working in the mills at Spalding, Lewiston and Winchester, was director of the Pi Nee Waus Community Center in Lapwai, a counselor at the Nez Perce Tribal Alcohol Program and on occasion he would be deputized as a city of Lapwai police officer. Andy started a boxing club in Lapwai along with the late Tom Redheart, Monte Calkins and Harold (Skip) Williamson. They trained youth to box and traveled to many boxing events throughout the Northwest. Andy was best known as a dedicated Lapwai Wildcat fan as he attended every game, arriving early to get his favorite seat yelling at all the teams with his infamous, "Let's go, Blue" or "Hoya, Hoya" and his special yell to the referees, "Hey Rookie". Andy is survived by his siblings, Georgie Judy Necomle Tewes, Ronald Unap, Deborah Unap Trujillo, Terry Unap and Tem "Birdie" Domebo Templelon. Andy is also survived by his children, Andrew Domebo Jr., Constance Domebo, Angelo Domebo Sr. (Julita), Carol Edmonds Smith, Amlelo "Zeke" (Jamie), Antonio Domebo (Tonia), Carlo Domebo, Alexio Domebo (Christy) and Crescentia Domebo (Bobby), many cousins, nieces, nephews, 39 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. Andy was preceded in death by his wife, Freida Lois White, Domebo Unap, daughter, Carlotta Renee Unap, great-grandson JaVontie Domebo, and siblings Asau Jackie Yellowhair, Jerry Redbone, Arthur Unap Jr., Robert Unap Sr., and David Unap. Andy was known as Chief, Big Blue, Uncle Andy or Grandpa Andy and friend.



Andy never met a stranger he didn't like, was a great storyteller and a fun loving person who will be missed by many relatives and friends. A memorial service will be held at 6 p. m. today at Pi Nee Waus Community Center in Lapwai. A funeral will be held at 10:00 a. m. Friday at the Pi Nee Waus, followed by burial at Grants Cemetery near Lapwai.

**Dec 06, 2016:** The following is an official excerpt from General Orders No. 2016-14 dated 6 December 2016: GENERAL ORDERS 2016-14, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, DC, 6 December 2016. MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of AR 600-8-22, paragraph 7-15, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated: Battery "A", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment. 17 October 2013 to 18 June 2014 [AHRC-PDP-A]. By Order of the Secretary of the Army: Mark A. Milley, General, United States Army, Chief of Staff. Official: Signed: Gerald B. O'Keefe, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. DISTRIBUTION: This publication is available in electronic media only and is intended for the Active Army, the Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and the U.S. Army Reserve.

**Feb 01, 2017:** Obituary: Larry Lee Kendall: Born January 27, 1944 and died February 1, 2017. Graveside service for Larry Lee Kendall will be 2:00 P.M. Saturday, February 4, 2017 in the Fletcher Cemetery, Fletcher, Oklahoma. Burial will be under the direction of Becker-Rabon Funeral Home of Fletcher. Larry Lee Kendall, age 73, lifelong Fletcher resident, passed away Wednesday, February 1, 2017 in Fletcher. He was born January 27, 1944 in Fletcher to Howard Cleo and Mary Etta (Milton) Kendall. Mr. Kendall married Paula J. Osborne on November 13, 1981 in Fletcher. She died March 19, 2007. He was a truck driver for many years and was a farmer for most of his life. Survivors include four sons, Bobby Ford, Fletcher, Henry Ford, Elk City, Oklahoma, Mike Kendall, Fletcher and Greg Kendall, McCloud, Oklahoma, a sister, Martha Lee Wilson and her husband Mark, Fletcher and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, parents, daughter, Rainy Davis and brother, Donald Lee Kendall.

**Feb 14, 2017:** Obituary: Rondal Wilfred Metheny was born in Chickasha, Oklahoma on April 19, 1940 to Luther Haywood Metheny and Della Lena (Ivie) Metheny and was raised in Anadarko, OK. Ron was the youngest of seven children born of that marriage: Verna Mae, Emory Paul, Madeline Marie, Imogene Pearl, Delbert Joe, Albert Price and Rondal Wilfred. Always industrious, Ron began working at the age of 7, after his father's death, at Forbes Grocery in Anadarko. At the age of 14, Ron joined the Oklahoma National Guard as a way to supplement the family income. Ron graduated from Anadarko High School in 1959 and shortly thereafter, moved to Edmond, OK to attend Central State University (now UCO). While at CSU Ron was a member of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity. Settling down in Edmond, Ron bought a home and started a small shoe repair business which was located in downtown Edmond on Broadway. His business prospered and Ron busied himself with his Guard duty, hunting, and bowling. For a time in the late 1960s, Ron toured as a professional bowler. A few doors down from Ron's Shoe Shop was Citizens National bank where, in 1971, a young graduate of Oklahoma Christian College, Jean Hardin, worked as the secretary to the officers of the bank. Ron met Jean one day as he made his weekly deposit at the bank. Despite her annoyance that he helped himself to the cashew nuts she kept on her desk, she agreed to go on a date with Ron. They were engaged within a month after their first date and married within three months. Ron would say that his wedding day to Jean in December of 1971 was the happiest day of his life. He would also say that the other happiest days of his life were the days when his four children were born and the day he gave his life to Christ in baptism. Ron and Jean and their children attended the Wilshire Church of Christ in Oklahoma City and later the Edmond Church of Christ in Edmond. Ron loved the ministry for the deaf at the Edmond Church, having grown up with deaf parents and being a fluent signer. Ron also held morning prayer meetings and Bible studies at his shoe shop. It was important to Ron that everyone who came into his shop left with a smile. His personal ministry was to try to brighten everyone's day. It was rare for a customer to leave his shoe shop without being told that he loved them, that Jesus loved them, or to "Drag Those Heels." Ron was diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic renal cell carcinoma (kidney cancer) in 2005. He passed away from complications of that disease. Ron fought his battle with cancer with great courage and with a determination to use his situation to help other people. He participated in any drug study that was available to him as a way to help science find a cure for others if not for himself. He was loved by all of the clinic and hospital staff who came in contact with him because he made them smile and laugh. They called him "Ornery" and "Trouble" and they looked forward to seeing him and taking care of him. Ron is predeceased by his father and mother, siblings Emory, Verna, Madeline and Imogene. Ron is survived by his wife Jean, his son Ron and grandchildren Kylee and Robert, his daughters Elizabeth and Kathryn, his son Beau and daughter-in-law Rachelle and grandson Mason; his brother and sister-in-law Delbert and Norma Metheny of Ballwin, MO; brother and sister-in-law Albert and Lula Metheny of Payette, Idaho; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. Ron proudly served his state and his country as a member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, 45th Infantry Division and Corps of Engineers for 35 years and 10 months, retiring as a Lt. Colonel, OSN: O-2310085 in 1990. Ron raised and showed several breeds of chickens; a love which

he passed on to his children and grandchildren. Ron also became an avid apiarist (bee keeper) in later life. Ron would happily plant a pecan tree in any open spot of ground so that someday he might enjoy harvesting the pecans to give as gifts to friends and family. Ron loved to sing; sometimes getting carried away at work amidst the roar of his machinery and being startled by a customer arriving at his shoe shop. Ron is remembered as a Christian, a soldier, a craftsman, a perfectionist, a collector of all things, an animal lover, an ornery guy, a hard worker, a loving husband and father and PaPa, and most of all, a humble man. His family will remember his daily reminders to "be a part of the family," "if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all," "be a hand," "make somebody's day," "hurry, don't miss the bus," and "I love you too much in the whole wide world forever and ever, Amen." The funeral will be held on Monday, February 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Edmond Church of Christ. Graveside services will be held immediately following the funeral at the Memorial Park Cemetery in Oklahoma City, OK. Viewing will be from Noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday with the family greeting friends from 2-4 p.m. at Matthews Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to In Search of the Lord's Way at PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083.

**Mar 03, 2017:** Obituary: Carroll Dean Cone, Carroll was born to Leonard and Hulda (Grieme) Cone on April 5, 1932 at Swallum Hospital in Storm Lake. Carroll graduated in 1950 from Hayes Consolidated School, rural Storm Lake. After graduation, Carroll helped on the farm and worked for DeKalb Seed Company until he was drafted into the Army in 1952. He respectfully served his country in Korea in the Fire Directional Center during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged in 1954. August 26, 1954 Carroll married the love of his life, Patricia (Whalen) Cone and they started their farming career and married life in rural Alta. To this union was born four children. Carroll was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Carroll never missed an event his children or grandchildren were involved in. He especially enjoyed sporting events, but he was a faithful man-in-the-stands for music concerts, speech contests and church events. Carroll was a competitor starting with 4-H show calves, playing basketball, pitching horseshoe, tractor pulling, card games or being first in the field to plant. Besides his family, Carroll's passions in life were farming, selling seed corn and coaching little league baseball. Carroll loved all aspects of farming, from preparing the fields for planting, to the challenges of raising production seed corn, to the beauty and joy of harvesting the crops. Carroll was a successful seed salesman and he loved the challenge and interaction with fellow farmers. With an eye for every child's potential, Carroll always found a way to help each player gain confidence, skills and find success in little league baseball and life. Carroll made each person feel special and was a friend to everyone he met. In their 62 years of marriage Carroll and Pat had the opportunity to take many memorable trips all over the world along with being a key part of fun family events and celebrations (shindigs). Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Patricia, his daughters Brenda (Darwin) Nickolisen, Alta, Iowa, Laurie (Larry) Miller, Storm Lake, Iowa, and son Kevin (Cindy) Cone, Storm Lake, Iowa. His seven grandchildren, Joshua (Jaycie) Miller, Ankeny, Iowa, Justine Miller (Brian Heinsohn), Ida Grove, Iowa, Jerrica (Mark) Brenner, Ida Grove, Iowa, Nathan (Danielle) Nickolisen, Bath, North Carolina, Kayla Nickolisen (Yvan Mugabo), Hutchinson, Minnesota, Kylor (Hilary) Cone, Lincoln, Nebraska, Nolan (Katie) Cone, Alta, Iowa, four great grand children, Bryce, Brantly, Bree Brenner, Nora Miller. Carroll's sister, Pauline Alkire and many relatives and friends. Carroll is preceded in death by his infant daughter Deanna, his parents and parents-in-law Francis and Marie (Quirk) Whalen, Lois (Lundberg) Whalen and brother-in-law, Burrell Alkire, Jr. Corporal, ASN: 55277167, and served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**Mar 06, 2017:** Obituary: Richard Allen Schoolfield. Funeral services for Richard "Rick" Allen Schoolfield, 67, of Chickasha, will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 9, 2017 in the Ferguson Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Kevin Simpson officiating. Richard Allen Schoolfield, known as Rick, was born May 22, 1949 in Fort Meade, Maryland, the son of Arnett Home Schoolfield and Winnie Mural (McKee) Schoolfield. He passed away March 6, 2017 at his home in Chickasha, Oklahoma surrounded by his family. Rick grew up mostly in the Alex, Oklahoma area and graduated from Alex High School. He joined the military and served in Vietnam and Desert Storm. On August 26, 1977, he married Barbara Sue Sanders and they enjoyed almost 40 years together. Rick loved all his grandkids and loved his family with all his heart. He was preceded in death by both parents, daughter, Heather Forsythe, and sister, Arnetta Prince. Survivors include his wife, Barbara, of the home; son and daughter-in law, Matthew and Johnna Schoolfield of Ninnekah; son-in-law, Moque "Mook" Forsythe of Marlow; grandchildren, Colton, Tinlee, Jemma, Katey, Garret, and Baylee; brothers and sisters-in-law, Larry and Cleffie Schoolfield of Duncan, Jim and Melba Schoolfield of Bixby, Ronnie Schoolfield of Duncan, and Wesley Schoolfield of Chickasha; several nieces, nephews and other extended family and friends. Interment in Ninnekah Cemetery will be under the direction of Ferguson Funeral Home. Staff Sergeant and served with Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**Apr 21, 2017:** Obituary: Leonard Ray Chalepah; June 25, 1957 - April 21, 2017. U.S. Armed Forces Veteran. Leonard Ray Chalepah, 59, of Fort Cobb, Oklahoma passed away peacefully on April 21, 2017. Leonard was born on June 25th, 1957 to Raymond Jr, and Leta (Geionety) Chalepah in the Kiowa Indian Hospital. Leonard was raised by his Auntie Lela Yellowhair and grandparents Raymond Sr, and Ina Chalepah. He grew up and attended school in Fort Cobb after graduating high school Leonard joined the Army National Guard and served for twenty-three years,

He also worked in construction and security services. He was a faithful member of the Apache N.A.C, Apache Blackfoot Society, Apache Business Committee and the NRA. Survivors include: Mother; Leta Belle Flute. Brothers: Raymond Chalepah III, Richie Chalepah , Daryl Chalepah, Jimmy Flute, Sisters: Gwen Parker, Dawn Sawyer and numerous Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, and Friends. Preceded in death by: his Father: Raymond Chalepah Jr., Grandfather: Ase Chalepah Sr., Grandmother: Ina Chalepah: 2 Brothers, Jacob Chalepah, and George Chalepah. Service Information. Wake: Date: April 25, 2017. Time: 7:00 pm. Indian Capital Baptist Church , Anadarko , OK 73005. Funeral. Date: April 26, 2017. Time: 11:00 am. Indian Capital Baptist Church, Anadarko, OK 73005. Interment Date: April 26, 2017, Time: 1:00 pm, Cache Creek Cemetery , Apache, OK 73006.

**Apr 27, 2017:** Obituary: Oreluis Gilmore Hammond, 86, of Edmond, Oklahoma and longtime resident of Duncan, Oklahoma passed away Thursday morning, April 27, 2017 at the VA Hospice Care center in Oklahoma City, OK with his family by his side. Funeral services will be 2 p.m., Monday, May 1, 2017, at Don Grantham Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Randy Southerland officiating. Interment will follow at Duncan Cemetery. O.G. Hammond was born on Aug. 8, 1930, in McMann, Oklahoma, to Joseph Earl Hammond and Nora Myrtle Hammond (Coleman). O.G. was a graduate of Duncan High School in 1949. After high school he went on to marry the love of his life Bobbie June Lilies on Oct. 29, 1950, in Camp Polk, Louisiana. O.G. volunteered to join the National Guard in 1950 serving in the 45th Division when his unit was called up to go to Korea where he was stationed with the 158th Field Artillery. He was honorably discharged in June of 1952 at the rank of Corporal with the U.S. Army. O.G worked for Halliburton Field Services for over thirty years before his retirement in 1985. He enjoyed attending his class of 1949 reunions, watching Thunder Basketball and football; he enjoyed the Halliburton reunions, drinking coffee with his friends and coworkers, he loved caring for his horses and pets. O.G. was a devoted husband to the love of his life and a loving father to his family; he was a hard worker and a perfectionist. O.G. is preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Nora Hammond; sisters, Gertrude Creel, Esther Smith and Marguerite Doerr. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, June Hammond of the Home; his sons, Randy Hammond of Del Norte, CO; Ronald Hammond of Edmond, OK; daughter, Gayla Hunter of Duncan, OK; his sister, Patty Ann Lawrenz of Edmond, OK; and his grandchildren, Logan Leigh Hammond, Carson Ray Hammond, Emery Kay Hammond, Joshua Hammond, Spencer Bransletter, Travis Hunter, Branden Hunter, and Cimarron Hughes. The family asks that memorial donations be made to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation 825 N.E. 13th, Oklahoma City, OK 73104. Pallbearers for the service will be O. G.'s grandsons; Josh, Carson, Branden, Travis, Spencer, and Cimarron. Obituary: William Edward Carmack. Bristol, William "Bill" E. Carmack, age 89, of Bristol, TN, passed away on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at Bristol Regional Medical Center. He was born on January 20, 1928 in Kingsport, Tennessee, a son of the late Christopher Hugh Carmack and Sara Katherine Sensabaugh Carmack. Mr. Carmack was a veteran of the United States Army where he served his country in two tours as First Sergeant. During his time of service he received the following decorations and citations: Letter of Appreciation, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was a native of Church Hill, TN and moved to Bristol in 1967 and was a Toll Test Technician with the United Telephone Company where he retired in 1990. After retirement, he received his electrician's license and did electric work. Mr. Carmack attended Chinquapin Grove Baptist Church. He loved to hunt, fish, play his guitar, music, and was an avid sports fan, especially the University of Tennessee Volunteers. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Bud, Jim, and Garland Carmack; two sisters, Grace Williams and Ruth Parker. He is survived by his loving wife of sixty three years, Fay Ann Carmack, two daughters, Cathy Fleenor and husband Mark, of Bristol, TN and Connie Tate and husband Curt of Bluff City, TN; two sons, Chris Carmack and wife Cynthia and Cliff Carmack and wife Donna, both of Bristol, TN; twelve grand children; ten great grand children, one brother, Robert "Bob" Carmack and wife Betty of Bristol, TN and several nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM on Friday, April 28, 2017 at Oakley Cook Funeral Home in Bristol, TN. The funeral service for Mr. Carmack will follow at 7:00 PM with Pastor Jamie Ferguson officiating. Committal service and entombment will be held at 9:30 AM Saturday, April 29, 2017 in the Heritage Chapel of Memories at Glenwood Cemetery in Bristol, TN, with military honors to be rendered by the Bristol VFW Post #6975 Honor Guard. Pallbearers will be Barry Countis, Bob Chenier, Ricky Lyons, Curt Tate, Jarred Tate and Wes Fleenor. Those attending the committal service are asked to meet at Oakley Cook Funeral Home Saturday by 9:10 AM for a funeral procession. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Chinquapin Grove Baptist Church, 1727 Chinquapin Grove Road, Bluff City, TN 37618. First Sergeant, ASN: 44171613 served with Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**Jul 24, 2017:** Obituary: Bobby Derwin Stallworth. Bobby Derwin Stallworth was born Aug. 20, 1964, to Burl Stallworth Jr. and Emma P. (Wallace) Stallworth, in Fort Huachuca, Ariz. He departed this life peacefully on Monday, July 24, 2017, in Woodbridge, Va. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Monday Aug. 7, 2017, at New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 2101 SW N.H. Jones, Lawton, under direction of Howard-Harris Funeral Services, Lawton. Bobby graduated from Lawton High School in Lawton. After high school, he attended Cameron University and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and an associate's degree in Military Science in May 1985. After

graduation he received a commission into the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant eventually achieving the rank of major. While in the service he received the Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement (2nd award), Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon. After leaving the Army, Bobby was employed by Wal-Mart, Office Depot and DigiSource USA as an operation manager. As a child, Bobby attended New Zion Missionary Baptist Church and received the Lord at a very young age. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Bobby was a Master Mason, Lodge No. 635, and enjoyed sports. Bobby was preceded in death by his mother, Emma Stallworth; and brother, James C. Stallworth. Bobby is survived by his father, Burl Stallworth Jr.; two children; Roshunda Stallworth Williams and Bobby L. Stallworth, of Oklahoma City; his life partner for many years, Carla Williamson, of Woodbridge, Va.; his three grandchildren ; Jaylen, Ariyanna and Kaleb of Oklahoma City; his brother Kenny Stallworth of Lawton; his sister, Elaine J. Cato, of Enterprise, Ala.; a special friend, Eric Smith of Dallas; and other relatives and friends. Viewing will be from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday at church.

**Aug 13, 2017:** Published in "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Mr. and Mrs. Hinson celebrate anniversary. Mike and Diana Hinson of Lawton will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 19, 2017, with a reception from 2-4 p.m. at Boulevard Congregational and Christian Church, 5319 W. Gore, Lawton. Mike Hinson and the former Diana Marie Borrer exchanged wedding vows Aug. 19, 1967, at the Congregational Church, 307 South 7th, Lawton. The Hinsons have two children: Michael C. Hinson and wife Kim Hinson of Hudson Fla., and Matthew Hinson of Lawton. They have four grandchildren: Auston, Cassidy, Mikayla and Sydnee. The couple have resided in Bethany, and Durant during their married life and now reside in Lawton. Mr. Hinson worked at Jarrell's IGA while in high school. He joined the local Oklahoma Army National Guard unit in 1966 and went full time with the Guard on an active-duty tour; he retired in 1998. He is a 1991 Veteran of Operation Desert Storm. He was supply sergeant for the Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, a Multiple Launch Rocket System unit. During his 31 years of service he received numerous awards and citations. He then worked for Lawton Public Schools from 1998 until his retirement in 2013. He is an avid golfer and works part time at the Lawton Municipal Golf Course. Mrs. Hinson had a banking career in several different cities. She worked at Union Commerce Bank of Cleveland, Ohio; Security Bank of Lawton; First National Bank of Bethany; Durant Bank and Trust of Durant; Citizens Bank of Lawton; Data Processing of Chattanooga; and she retired from Fort Sill National Bank; and City National Bank Data Processing Inc. When she retired she was given an award for the "Fastest One-Fingered Proof Operator West of the Mississippi."

**Jan 01, 2018:** Published in the "The Fires Magazine, the Red Book" entitled: US Army Active Duty Field Artillery. 2nd Battalion, 305th Field Artillery Regiment, 1-77th Combined Arms Training Brigade, Red Team. During 2017, the 2nd Battalion, 305th Field Artillery Regiment, Red Team, supported the Army Total Force Policy objectives while conducting advise, assist and train operations across six states. Thirty Red Team members collectively traveled over 6,500 miles building readiness for our total Army. From March to June 2017, Red Team conducted the first Army Emergency Response Force evaluations by all First Army Units with 1st Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery from Arkansas, quickly followed by Army early response force missions with 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery and 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery. Concurrently, the other half of the battalion worked diligently at the eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) with 278th Field Artillery from Tenn., a force of about 400 Soldiers. Delta Team, 305th FAR further helped prepare 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation for deployment by conducting a staff exercise and injecting master scenario events list into their operations for recreating live events into their training plan. Following XCTC at Fort Hood the Red Team arrived back to Camp Shelby, Miss., to conduct a change of command. On July 10, Lt. Col. Kirk Junker assumed command of Red Team from Lt. Col. Frank Leija. Weeks later, Red Team drove to Camp Grayling Mich., to support Operation Northern Strike and collaborated with 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery from Ohio. Over the course of 13 days, Red Team and 1-134th FA built strong bonds through training and operations to include the first air assault raid in three years.

**Jan 26, 2018:** Obituary: Donald Phillip Schrad, Columbus, Nebraska. Feb 28, 1928 to Jan 26, 2018 (Age 89). Donald was born on February 28, 1928 and passed away on Friday, January 26, 2018. Donald was a resident of Nebraska at the time of passing. He graduated from St. Johns School in Petersburg in 1946. Don served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from October 1950 September 1952. Funeral services for Donald P. Schrad Age 89; Mass of Christian Burial 11:00 AM, Tuesday, January 30, 2018 St. Isidore Catholic Church 3921 20th Street Columbus, NE Vigil 6:00 PM, Monday, January 29, 2018 McKown Funeral Home Columbus, NE The family will receive friends from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Monday at the funeral home St. Bonaventure Cemetery Columbus, NE Military Honors by Hartman Post #84 American Legion Honor Guard Sign Condolence Donald P. Schrad died Friday, January 26, 2018 at his home in Columbus. He is survived by: Wife: Dorie Schrad of Columbus, NE Son: Kenneth J. (Dana) Schrad of Mechanicsville, VA Their Children: Erin Schrad and Jeff (Elizabeth) Schrad Daughter: Linda M. (Milan) Levos of Columbus, NE Their Children: Amanda Levos, Jennifer Levos, Barbara Levos, Stephanie (Tanner)

Johnson and Phillip Levos Daughter: Diane C. (Dave) Magill of West Union, SC Their Children: Chad (Kendall) Magill, Craig (Allie) Magill, Paige Magill and Jayne (Jared) Thomas 6 Great Grandchildren Brother: Walter Schrad of Columbus, NE Brother: Leonard Schrad of Colorado Springs, CO Sister-in-law: Joyce Schrad of Albion, NE Brother-in-law: Del (Avis) Heithoff of Elgin, NE Brother-in-law: JD Thomas of Aurora, CO He was preceded in death by: Parents: Bernard and Beatrice Schrad Sister: Myra Heithoff Brother: Robert Schrad Sister: Marilyn Thomas Brother-in-law: Emery Hinkle Sister-in-law: Kathleen Schrad Nephew: Paul Wirges Niece: Ann Hinkle Niece: Brenda Schrad In lieu of flowers memorials may be dire.

**Mar 13, 2018:** Published in the "The Muskogee Phoenix" entitled: Camp Gruber changes command. The Oklahoma Army National Guard hosted a change of command ceremony at the Camp Gruber Training Center near Braggs on March 3, according to a media release. The ceremony honored outgoing Camp Gruber commander, Lt. Col. David Parker, and welcomed incoming commander, Col. Jerald Gilbert. The Camp Gruber commander is a vital member of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's staff, as he commands the premier ground maneuver training center in Oklahoma and the prime training area for the Oklahoma National Guard. Parker took command of Camp Gruber in May 2016 and will move to his new assignment as the Counterdrug coordinator. He and his wife Kelly have been married for 25 years and live in Owasso. Gilbert began his military career Aug. 8, 1985, enlisting as a Combat Medical Specialist in Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 189th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade in Enid. He enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Oklahoma State University later that month and contracted as a cadet in August 1987. Gilbert commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Field Artillery in May 1989. Since receiving his commission, Gilbert held command and staff positions at the battery, battalion, brigade and state levels. While serving as commander of the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, Gilbert oversaw the deployment of the Alpha and Bravo batteries to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In his most recent assignment, Gilbert served as the Army Chief of Staff for the Oklahoma Army National Guard at the Joint Force Headquarters in Oklahoma City. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with majors in accounting and economics from Oklahoma State University. He also has a master's in Business Administration from Phillips University and a master's in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. Gilbert's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters and many more. He has also earned the Air Assault Badge. Gilbert, and his wife, Denise, reside in Enid, where he serves as the city manager. During comments about his new position, Gilbert said, "It is a tremendous privilege to have this opportunity to command Camp Gruber," Gilbert said. "I look forward to working with the fine soldiers, staff and contractors to continue the vital mission of Camp Gruber, which is to facilitate Army training. I acknowledge the impressive accomplishments of my predecessor, Lt. Col. Parker, and his team and will do my best to continue the progress." Photo Caption: Lt. Col. David Parker (right), outgoing commander for Camp Gruber Training Site, is handed the unit colors by Command Sgt. Maj. Gordon Carlin, command sergeant major for Camp Gruber, during a change of command ceremony.

**May 12, 2018:** Obituary: Chester Bishop. July 21, 1922 to May 12, 2018. Chester Bishop was born near Duncan, Oklahoma July 21, 1922 to Ollie Wilburn and Ruthie Ethel Horton Bishop. Chester died in Altus, Oklahoma May 12, 2018 at the age of 95 years, 9 months and 9 days. Chester was the 5th of 9 children and grew up on a farm near Sentinel, Oklahoma. He attended school at Port. After graduating Port High School, he started at Carnegie Junior College Carnegie, Oklahoma. It was in Carnegie that he met Mary Lou Brown Campbell. They were married July 10, 1941. He joined the Navy in 1943 and was assigned to the USS Wedderburn in San Francisco. They went to the South Pacific and escorted the USS Missouri into Yokusaka Harbor for the signing of the Japanese Peace Treaty, then returned to Bremerton, Washington. After his discharge from the Navy, he worked for TG&Y for a year before joining the Oklahoma National guard with the rank of Corporal in 1950. He went from Ft. Polk to Japan and then to Korea. He then spent the rest of his military career in Oklahoma in administrative positions, serving a total of 39 years, retiring as a Colonel. They retired in Duke, Oklahoma in 1994 and were members of the Duke United Methodist Church. Chester is survived by his wife of 75 years, Mary Lou, his son Gareth and wife Marcia of Duke, Oklahoma; grandsons Chris and wife Amy of Boise, Idaho, Erick and wife Heather of Colorado Springs, Colorado, great grandsons Noah of Boise, Idaho, Daniel of Ft. Collins, Colorado and Ben and Brett both of College Station, Texas, He is also survived by a sister, Linda Sargeant and husband Mike of West Columbia, Texas, sister-in-law Betty Wofford of Norman, Oklahoma, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. Chester was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Fane Gardner, Ruby Cluck and Lola Meek, brothers Wilburn, Lester, Pete, and RH and oldest grandson Michael Shawn Bishop. Funeral services for Chester are 2:00 P.M. Thursday May 17, 2018 at Lowell Tims Funeral Home Chapel in Altus, Oklahoma. Interment will follow the service at Altus City Cemetery with full military honors. Services have been entrusted to Lowell Tims Funeral Home. Colonel, OSN: O-963485, WSN: W-2002574 and served with Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery.

**Jun 03, 2018:** Command Sergeant Major David A. Slezickey replaces Command Sergeant Major Jimmie Wynne in a Change of Responsibility Ceremony at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

**Jun 05, 2018:** Published in the "Altus Air Force Base Digital Article Display Network" entitled: Oklahoma National Guard trains with Altus AFB loadmasters. Photo: Tech. Sgt Zack Steenhusen, a loadmaster assigned to the 56th Airlift Squadron, instructs members of the 58th Field Artillery Brigade how to chain down a vehicle on a C-17 Globemaster III on Altus Air Force Base, Okla, May 9, 2018. The 158th Field Artillery Brigade came from Fort Sill to learn how to load and unload vehicles off of a C-17. Altus Air Force Base, Okla. Air Force base has a long history of working together with other branches and bases to both train and accomplish the mission. That training happened once again on an Altus AFB C-17 Globemaster III, May 9, 2018. The Oklahoma Army National Guard 158th Field Artillery Brigade, who train at Fort Sill came to Altus AFB to practice loading and unloading vehicles into a C-17. The training caught the eye of U.S Army Major General Michael Thompson, the adjutant general for the Oklahoma National Guard. Thompson came out to see the training being accomplished on Altus AFB. "This is a wonderful opportunity," said Thompson. "The guard doesn't frequently get a chance to work with the active component and having the ability to work with the Air Force is just a plus. Being able to load into actual aircraft with some of the best loadmasters the Air Force has to offer is invaluable." For many of the soldiers, this is their first time on a military aircraft, working with the actual tools they would see in the field. "This helps us tremendously," said Thompson. "There's nothing that simulates how an aircraft looks, smells or feels. This is a great experience for us to get a head start when the time comes to do our job. The Soldiers worked with two Altus AFB loadmasters to learn the basics of loading vehicles and properly hooking them to the aircraft. One of the soldiers being instructed was Staff Sgt. Jack McComas, a launcher chief assigned to the 158th Field Artillery Brigade. "This is the first time we've been able to go through the whole process," said McComas. "We get to check suspension, weigh the vehicles and go through inspections. We had a lot of questions answered, so when we go through this next time, we'll be able to learn more advanced things." Altus AFB also benefits from teamwork between bases, Altus Airmen go to the Fort Sill shooting range in order to train with heavier weaponry. With the teamwork, there is a mutual benefit. When Airmen and Soldiers deploy downrange, they can perform better when they have more hands on experience. Giving Soldiers the opportunity to learn how to do their job more efficiently is just another way Altus AFB accomplishes its mission of deploying warriors; regardless of their branch of service.

**Dec 05, 2018:** Obituary: Ray Franklin Allen, born September 15, 1932 and died December 5, 2018. Ray Franklin Allen of Anadarko, OK. passed from this life December, 5th, 2018 at the age of 86 with his wife of 66 years at his bedside. Ray "Frankie" was born September 15th, 1932 in Anadarko, OK to Modelle Lillian and Otis Franklin Allen. He grew up in Anadarko and graduated from Anadarko High School. Following graduation he enlisted in the United States Army National Guard. Ray served in Korea as a Forward Observer with Battery "B" 158th Field Artillery. Following his return from Korea, he wed his high school sweetheart, Linda Lou Gibbons. They were married June 16th, 1952. Ray graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in 1959 as a Medical Doctor. In 1960 he was commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant, OSN: O-94565, General Medical Officer at Tripler Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. He did two tours of duty in Hawaii, two tours in Okinawa, Japan, one in Denver, Colorado, one in Los Angeles, California and one in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. While in the service he was awarded the Army Occupation Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Korean Service Medal (Bronze Star) and three Overseas Service Ribbons. He retired from the service in 1982 as a Lt. Colonel. During his medical career he specialized in Pediatrics, Pediatric Allergies, and Radiology. He continued his medical practice as a Radiologist in Dickinson, North Dakota where he was Chief of Staff at St. Joseph Hospital. He then moved to Jamestown, North Dakota where he was in private practice until he retired in 1992. Ray & Linda retired to a beautiful location in Camp Verde, Arizona where they enjoyed their favorite hobbies.

**Feb 02, 2019:** Change of Command: LTC Charles L. Neely assumes command of the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery and the out going commander is LTC Craig G. Robinson. Lt. Col. Charles L. Neely accepts the battalion colors as incoming commander from Col. Elmer Holt, outgoing commander of the 45th Field Artillery Brigade, during the change of command ceremony at Fort Sill, Feb. 2, 2019. Lt. Col. Craig M. Robinson (outgoing) and Lt. Col. Charles L. Neely (incoming) participate in the time honored tradition of the passing of the colors during the change of command ceremony held at Fort Sill, Saturday. Lt. Col. Craig M. Robinson hugs his daughter, Danielle, during his change of command. Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, gathered to honor their outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Craig M. Robinson, and welcome incoming commander, Lt. Col. Charles L. Neely with a ceremony at the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Fort Sill, February 2.

**Feb 23, 2019:** Obituary: Ira Duane Hart Jr., Born 22 June 1931 in Hammon, Okla., and died 23 February 2019 (aged 87) in North Richland Hills, Tarrant County, Texas, and was cremated. Ira D. Hart Jr. was born on June 22, 1931, to Ira D. and Wilma (McBride) Hart in Hammon, OK. Ira was called Home February 23rd, 2019. In childhood,

Ira lived in Hastings, Victory, Porter High and Cooperton, OK, before moving to Anadarko, OK, in 1939. Ira graduated from Anadarko High School in 1949 then attended Oklahoma City University for one year. On September 1, 1950, he enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard 45th Infantry Division after it was mobilized for active duty, serving in Fort Polk, LA, Hokkaido, Japan, and the Korean war zone. On returning from Korea in June of 1952, SFC Hart chose to remain in the National Guard until retirement with 23 years of service. In February 1955, he received a direct commission to immediately become commander of Anadarko's Battery "B", 158 Field Artillery Battalion, an assignment served in two stints, totaling over 8 years. Other duties included staff assignments as Battalion Communications Officer and Intelligence Officer in Lawton Ok; Division Artillery Liaison Officer in Enid, Ok; and Selective Service Officer in the Oklahoma Military Department Selective Services Unit in Oklahoma City, OK. He married Mary Louise Keathley in Lawton, OK, on March 13, 1951. Ira graduated from Oklahoma State University (formerly Oklahoma A&M) in January 1955, earning a degree in Business Administration. Following his graduation, he returned with his wife and first son to Anadarko and joined his father in the family business. Together they were parents of four sons, John Keathley Hart, David Howard Hart, Paul Joseph Hart, and Stephen Donald Hart. Mary Louise was his loving helpmate for almost 25 years, until her death on January 8, 1976. In 1964, due to his father's illness, Ira assumed the major management responsibilities for the company and full management on the death of his father in 1968. He continued operating the business, with locations in Anadarko, OK and Carnegie, OK until closing in 1992 after 48 years of operation by the family. Following dual careers as merchant and part-time soldier, Ira joined an international management consultant firm and traveled around the U.S. and Canada. After "retirement" from two careers, Ira soon found himself in a third. On April 1, 1996, he was named Assistant Director of Missions of Volunteers in Mission Ministry, Oklahoma Conference, of the United Methodist Church. Ira received the first VIM Warm Heart award at the 2005 Annual Conference. On March 31, 2008, he retired from Oklahoma Volunteers in Mission. Ira was the oldest of seven children. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Louise; parents, Ira D. and Wilma Hart; son, Paul Hart; daughter-in-law, Lisa Hart (wife of Stephen); sister, Pauletta Wilson Talkington; brother, Allen (Mac) Hart; brother, Gordon Hart; and brother-in-law, Leon Wilson. Ira is survived by three sons and their families: John Hart (Jeffery and Kathryn Hart, Carson, Camy and Jenna); David and Brenda Hart (Mary'glenda and Michael Lewis, Rocco and Lucca); Jennifer and Jeremy Edgar (Madison and McKenna); Paul's widow, Michele Hart Corley (Joshua); Stephen Hart (Riley and Jake); Surviving siblings and in-laws include; Carole Hart McCarthy, Joe and Earlene Hart, Julane and Micheal Taylor, Sue (Hazel) Hart, Mary Hart, and Dale Talkington along with seventeen nieces and nephews, twenty nine great nieces and nephews and 9 great-great nieces and nephews. Ira is also survived by his long-time, devoted friend and companion, Mary Alice Young. In honor of Ira's love for "OSU" the family is requesting to wear something Orange. Memorial Services will be held March 8th at 10:30 am at: Church Of The Servant, 14343 North MacArthur Blvd, Oklahoma City.

**Feb 26, 2019:** The FA Journal, Redbook: Oklahoma Army National Guard 45th Field Artillery Brigade, Red Thunder. This proved to be another busy and dynamic training year for the 45th Field Artillery Brigade. Soldiers at every level of the Red Thunder Brigade participated in multiple field and command post exercises that tested participated their individual Soldier skills and honed their field artillery craft, cumulating in a successful rotation at Warfighter Exercise 18 - 5 in July 2018. The brigade headquarters conducted two field exercises at Fort Sill, Okla. in March and April, honing their mission command skills for two subordinate battalions, the 158th Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) and the 271st Brigade Support Battalion. Later in the spring, brigade staff participated in a command post exercise (CPX) at Camp Ripley, Minn., as well as a Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) Course at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The CPX and MDMP Course were part of the robust train-up for WFX 18-5, a complex, continuous command and control exercise at Camp Atterbury Training Center, Ind. The WFX 18 - 5 Exercise served as the brigade's annual training and presented a unique training opportunity for the FA Brigade, allowing the Soldiers to execute the Minnesota National Guard's 34th Infantry Division's artillery mission. The guidance an interaction of working what's the 34th ID allowed the brigade to maximize its resources, prioritize capabilities, and apply field artillery training. In addition to the rigorous train-up for the WFX 18 - 5, Soldiers within the brigade participated in joint training with Air Force loadmasters out of Altus Air Force Base, Okla., to learn the basics of loading and securing High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and vehicles in a C-17 aircraft. As the year closed, Soldiers conducted one more field exercise at Fort Sill, and began training on newly fielded Q-50 and Q-53 radar systems to increase their proficiency for real-world missions. Looking to the future, the Red Thunder Brigade will continue to train vigorously and increase readiness in anticipation of any mission 2019 brings.

**Jun 14, 2019:** Published in "The US Army Facebook News" entitled: Oklahoma National Guard operates on unfamiliar terrain at Western Strike By Sgt. Jordan Sivayavirojna June 14, 2019. Fort Chaffee, Ark. - Soldiers of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's (OKARNG) 45th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB), with support from 90th Troop Command, worked through the muddy terrain and heavy rain of Fort Chaffee for exercise Western Strike, an annual training exercise, June 6-14 as part of the OKARNG's annual training. Western Strike helps prepare the FAB to assemble and deploy into a theater of operations and accomplish all fire support tasks that a maneuver division

would ask for from a FAB. To ensure mission success, exportable combat training capability, serving as the Western Strike opposition force, it provides a training opportunity near their unit's home station, similar to what Soldiers experience at the National Training Center. "Our training year has been built around this exercise," said Col. Scott Holt, commander of the 45th FAB. "In the lead up to this, during their field training exercises, the batteries have made sure to cover all of the tasks and requirements that will be executed during Western Strike. The exercise presented numerous challenges for the FAB, such as operating logistics on a larger scale in a new environment and maneuvering unpredictable weather conditions. The Oklahoma Army National Guard's mission at Western Strike is to train in a capacity that is not available in Oklahoma. Holt added that the FAB is incorporating all the force multipliers for this mission that are not organic to the FAB, including the OKARNG's 90th Troop Command, serving as a logistics hub to ensure the FAB is supplied with everything they need. "The logistic part of this is huge," Holt said. "We will have to plan and execute the logistics to keep those people in the field and execute the mission of the [Field Artillery Brigade]." Command Sgt. Maj. Robby Brite, brigade command sergeant major for the 45th FAB, said that their mission is to get down to platoon-level activities and troop leading procedures, so platoon leaders and platoon sergeants are able to understand the movement and control of their elements. "We came to Fort Chaffee for a reason," Brite said. "As a [Field Artillery Brigade], we're accustomed to going to Fort Sill [Oklahoma] and training. Being here, we are challenging each and every one of our Soldiers and taking them out of their norm to show them exactly what they're capable of. The 45th [Field Artillery Brigade] Soldiers are ready for anything that is handed to them." High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) crewmembers with 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, 45th FAB, executed live fire missions and other readiness drills during Western Strike. Every launch the HIMARS crews were able to accomplish was due to the efforts of the Alpha Forward Support Company (FSC), 120th Engineer Battalion. "This is a whole different environment than we are used to training in compared to Fort Sill," said 1st Lt. Christopher Meyer, executive officer with the FSC. "Coming to Fort Chaffee, we are not used to it, there is a whole different set of variables." Normally an FSC would support only a battalion, from the cooks that make sure every Soldier is fed to the distribution of ammunition to Soldiers in the field. However, here at Western Strike, they are faced with supporting an entire brigade. "We have transported supplies for training and hauled equipment with a higher threat level than usual," Meyer said. "Running supplies containing everything from fuel to ammunition, food and maintenance parts." In conjunction with the FSC, medics from the 120th Medical Company (Area Support) and engineers from the 3120th Engineer Company, both from 120th Engineer Battalion, 90th Troop Command, provided support to the FAB during the exercise. "I would encourage anybody to do an exercise like Western Strike on this level," Meyer said. "We have never had any training at this scale with this many elements and getting to see what they do and what the actual support looks like coming all the way up from a division level through the battalion." Holt added that he was impressed by the more than 800 Soldiers supporting the mission at Fort Chaffee during Western Strike. "I am super proud to be their commander," Holt said. "The effort here has been outstanding. They always come through. 'Red Thunder' Soldiers always lead the way." PhotoNumber1: Artillerymen with 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard, prepare their High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) for a live fire exercise at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army) PhotoNumber2: Artillerymen with the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard, fire their High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) during a live-fire exercise at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army). PhotoNumber3: Artillerymen with the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard, prepare their High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) for a live fire exercise at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. (Photo Credit: U.S. Army).

**Jul 29, 2019:** Published in the "The Herald Tribune" entitled: Retired Army Lt. Col. Elihu Braunstein, now 99, stormed across Nazi Germany, fought on the Korean Peninsula and caught Soviet spies. Sarasota by Dylan Hart. From the Soviet perspective, the plan seemed to be going smoothly. They had convinced an American military intelligence officer to switch sides. All they needed to do now was wait for information to roll in. But the trap was already sprung. Retired Lt. Col. Elihu Braunstein, now 99, still has a strong memory of what it was like to catch and flip a Soviet spy who had approached an American soldier in Paris in the early 1960s. The soldier did exactly as he was trained to do; play along and let Braunstein and his group handle the rest. Before leading a detachment of one of the military's first intelligence groups, however, Braunstein saw combat in the freezing cold of the Ardennes Forest and the winding mountains of Korea. He experienced some of the most significant points in contemporary history first hand. Turning 100 on December 5, Braunstein is one of a shrinking number of World War II veterans still alive. But even fewer can lay claim to his accomplishments beyond the war. Big city beginnings. Braunstein was born to a Jewish family at Women's Hospital in 1919 in Manhattan. He grew up there and attended Oceanside High School. He was by far the youngest among his five half-siblings and one full brother, the next sibling in line, his half-sister Helen, was 9 years older than he. Still a massive Yankees fan, Braunstein has followed the team since he was 9 years old. He remembers watching "all the greats"; players like Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio, play at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. He watches the Yankees on television today. He described his teenage years as "limbo," where he was unsure of what he wanted to do with his life. He worked in his brother's office for some time



before, during and after attending New York University in the Bronx as a pre-medical student, where he graduated in 1940. He had some plans of becoming a doctor, although he wasn't able to get into medical school and instead had been accepted to dental school. "I couldn't visualize looking in peoples' mouths for twenty or thirty years," he said. "Probably would have been lucrative, but in any event, my life was exciting." Just two days after his 22nd birthday, Japanese planes struck Pearl Harbor and cut all of Braunstein's plans short. Braunstein recalls being at a football game between the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers at the Polo Grounds in New York when swathes of military members suddenly left the stadium. Confused spectators left after the game, and a panicked rider on the subway told Braunstein that the Japanese had just bombed Pearl Harbor. Like many American men at the time, the attack on Pearl Harbor sounded as a call to action for Braunstein. "My friends and I decided that we would not wait to be drafted, we would enlist in the service," he said. His three friends all worked for his brother, but the busy streets of Manhattan were full to the brim with other young men looking to enlist in the first few weeks of January 1942. Some were sleeping on the streets in line for the recruiter's office. Local newspapers said there were around 15,000 of them. One of his friends devised a plan to go to New Jersey in a desperate bid to cut the line. They took a ferry to Jersey City and saw that there was "nobody, not a soul" at the recruiting station. It seemed like they had lucked out. The recruiter welcomed them with open arms, and they signed papers to put them in the Air Force. Braunstein returned home that weekend and said goodbye to his family in tears. But when they returned on Monday expecting to be shipped off to training, the recruiter told Braunstein and his friends that they needed permission from their draft board. So Braunstein went back and fought with the draft board over his enlistment. He succeeded. Sure that this would be the one, Braunstein said goodbye to his mother and father in tears all over again, only for the recruiter to tell him and his friends that all enlistments to the Air Force were canceled. Eventually, Braunstein told the recruiter to "take me as I am" and left for the last time, joining the Army. He went to Fort Dix, New Jersey, where he was selected as an artilleryman and sent to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for advanced training. "Well, it's better than the infantry," he thought upon his selection, breathing a sigh of relief. He thought back to the horror stories of his uncles who served as infantrymen in World War I, the one he still called "the Big War." At least he could dodge that. At Fort Sill, he was selected for Officer Candidate School, establishing himself as a "90-day wonder" as opposed to officers who had attended distinguished military schools like West Point. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in June 1942. Those officers could choose their unit. Braunstein picked the 10th Armored Division. "I picked it thinking, 'That oughta keep me around for a while,'" he said with a laugh. "And in any event, it did." During leave from OCS, Braunstein met Freda, the secretary at his brother's garment factory in New York, just across the street from Pennsylvania Station. By the end of 1943, only eight months after they had met, he and Freda were married. "I saw this gal, I said, 'My god, I couldn't get anything better than that if I tried,'" Braunstein said. "Our marriage has been very gratifying." They didn't have much time to honeymoon, though, as Braunstein had a war to prepare for. He continued training with his division and other artillery divisions at Fort Benning and Camp Gordon in Georgia. The days were long and arduous. But in 1944, "the war progressed," he said, and Braunstein was finally deployed. The Battle of the Bulge. Braunstein remembers arriving in Europe. He was a couple months too late for D-Day. All the beaches had already been stormed. Instead, Braunstein remembers a mess of military bureaucracy and some of the darkest nights he had ever seen. His fully trained and eager young artillery division arrived in France only to find out that all their artillery equipment had been accidentally sent to England. They spent weeks waiting for someone to untangle that logistical nightmare as the western Allies planned a push into Germany. Once their equipment arrived, the division headed east to prepare for the upcoming offensive. Braunstein remembers "the darkest night I have ever seen in my life" in the Ardennes, where he couldn't see his hand in front of his face, suddenly penetrated by the bright lights of Luxembourg. But then, German tanks started rolling across the front line. His battalion, the 419th Field Artillery, set up north of Luxembourg and started firing east. By the following morning, they were firing west. The German army was pushing hard, and colonels told his division that things weren't going well. Braunstein's division split in two. One half went north to the strategically vital town of Bastogne, where the 101st Airborne Division was encircled by German forces. The other half; Braunstein's half; went south toward Metz, where American generals had anticipated the German push. Heading south would lead to some unusual circumstances. While they were setting up artillery in a field near the city, a local industry tycoon offered them lodging in his countryside mansion. A couple dozen artillerymen packed into his dining hall, where servants brought pounds of food and plenty of alcohol. He gave them all beds and hot showers. They were used to sleeping in the field and eating cold rations. "We spent New Year's Eve in Metz getting drunk as skunks," Braunstein recalled with a laugh. "It was crazy." Once risk of a southern attack passed, the battalion went back to Luxembourg and fired north at the German line. The enemy was routed, and his battalion would later receive a citation for their actions. The risky Ardennes push would be the last time Germany would mount an assault against the Allies for the rest of the war. The next few months would consist of diminishing defensive efforts by Hitler as Soviet forces and the western Allies closed in on Berlin. Braunstein and the 10th Armored Division would aid this push into Germany, pushing south through Bavaria and capturing German towns. Before they could reach Berlin, the Red Army had already captured it and ended the war in Europe. The division ended up in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, a small town in the Alps that was previously the site of the 1936 Winter Olympics. It was picturesque. It was a vacation destination. The local hotels were full of wounded German soldiers,

so the division lived in the town's homes for the next few weeks. But there was a darker revelation waiting for the Allies as they marched through Germany. Some soldiers came across the death camps across central Europe. They saw starving prisoners, piles of bodies and ash-filled ovens. Braunstein was lucky to find an empty camp, but knowing what happened there still evoked feelings of intense anger. "We were yelling, 'SOBs! SOBs! How could they do that?' It was unbelievable." Braunstein said. Many of the towns he captured were also spots where other American soldiers made German civilians walk through the death camps and see the devastation caused by the SS. The 10th Armored Division pushed through Germany without meeting much resistance, capturing towns along the way. When Germany surrendered, they had established a base in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Life was still, almost idyllic. Calm before another storm. The war in Europe over, Braunstein boarded the "USS United States" on New Year's Day. It was a shaky, crowded ride home, which took weeks, but he arrived in one piece. Braunstein read about the atomic bomb in the Stars and Stripes military newspaper not long before it was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He had no idea what it was, but when it dropped, it was a lucky break because there was a chance he could have ended up in the Pacific Theater after his tour of Europe. Braunstein returned home to New York, where his wife and family were waiting for him. For a time, everything was normal. In that time, he and Freda had a son. But Braunstein didn't have long to enjoy the quiet life. He was still in the Army Reserve. He had 72 points in the military's Adjusted Service Rating Score, which helped soldiers work toward discharge for their service in World War II based on time served, medals and ranks. To avoid re-entering the draft, he needed 75. He got the telegram: "You're active duty again. Come to Korea." Now a captain, he packed his bags for Korea in 1951 to lead an artillery battery of the 158th Field Artillery Battalion of the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th Infantry, nicknamed the "Thunderbird" division after its Native American-inspired insignia. His memory of the Korean War is of riding in the backs of dirty trucks on winding mountains with no guardrails. The scenery in the border town of Yeoncheon was beautiful, but he was one jerk of a steering wheel away from plunging down the mountain. It was "damn cold in the winter, and very, very hot in the summer," he recalled. "If you happened to be on the outside lane, you were lucky if you didn't go over the mountain," he said. "I think I got ulcers on some of those trips back and forth." There wasn't much movement on either side of the war by the time Braunstein arrived onto the Korean Peninsula. They stayed in Yeoncheon and fired artillery north when it was needed, but the war was stalled. His most important moment in Korea, what he called his "epiphany"; was that the military is what he was meant for all along. "The light came on and said to me; 'You are not going to go back to what you were doing in the five years you were out of the service,'" he said. "I knew what I was doing in the Army, and I didn't know what I was doing as a civilian." Suddenly, one day, he got a message: "It's your turn to go," the telegram said. While he hopped in the back of the truck, a messenger came and threw an envelope at Braunstein. He caught it and tore it open. It was a commendation for his service in Korea; no ceremony, just a sheet of paper. But for now, he had to head home to fight in another war. Getting colder. This war was different. There weren't so many shells, bombs or guns. The battleground was on paper documents and over encoded radio transmissions. Braunstein didn't expect to end up on the front line of that war, but he did. Braunstein received orders to report to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, after leaving Korea. "I went into the orderly room and noticed they were in great need of Russian linguists," he said. "So, I said, 'What the hell, why not?'" Braunstein packed up his belongings and gathered his wife and two sons. He put his newborn son in a laundry basket in the back seat of the car and traveled eight days across the United States to California for an intensive Russian language program. Braunstein graduated Russian school first in his class, on a career path toward becoming an intelligence officer. Ironically, he would never use his Russian language skills again. He attended the Army Intelligence School, sometimes called the Army's first "spy school," at Fort Holabird in Baltimore, where he was promoted to major. From there, he would join the 66th Military Intelligence Group, which was headquartered in Giessen, Germany. The 66th was tasked with some of the most important intelligence operations that the Army had in Europe. He was appointed as the group's executive officer. When he was promoted to lieutenant colonel, he considered it the highest attainable rank a "90-day wonder" could achieve. "For a 90-day wonder to become a (full) colonel, you'd have to walk on water," he said. Germany would become Braunstein's home for a long time. Much of his work in Germany was just keeping the higher-ups informed with daily briefings of his unit's actions. They were constantly concerned about Soviet actions along the German border. When the Berlin Wall went up, Braunstein was there to see its construction. In Giessen, Braunstein debriefed East German defectors. There were a lot of them. Conditions were bad, and both civilians and soldiers hopped the porous border frequently. Sometimes, things would get more complicated. In the early 1960s, while Braunstein was in Nuremberg, a soldier in Paris was approached by a Soviet spy and asked to provide information on his unit. He did what he was trained to do; he told his commander and then played along, acting as a double agent. Braunstein was selected to lead a group of a dozen soldiers whose mission was not to catch the Soviet spy, but to turn him to their side. It took months waiting for the right opportunity. The soldier was "given bona fides to contact people in the United States." They caught the Soviet spy and convinced him to spy for the United States. Later, Braunstein would uncover two double agents in NATO who were stealing secret code sheets that were used for radio communications. They were promptly arrested and then returned to the United States and sentenced to 20 years in prison for selling secrets. His spy-catching efforts would often clash with the CIA. If an intelligence operation involved embassies, the CIA would step in. Once that happened, it was out of Braunstein's and the Army's

hands. In 1964, Braunstein returned to the United States to work in the Pentagon as a senior liaison officer for the U.S. Army Intelligence Command. Over the years, Braunstein would brush shoulders with prominent military figures. Braunstein recalls an encounter with Sidney "Tom" Weinstein, a lieutenant general who was sometimes called the "father of the modern military intelligence corps." Weinstein was a major while Braunstein was a lieutenant at Fort Holabird, and he was disappointed that he didn't make the first list for a promotion. "Don't worry about it," Braunstein told him. "You're going to be a general. There's no question in my mind." Weinstein, a West Point graduate, invited Braunstein to his promotional ceremony when he received his general's stars. "Everyone," Weinstein said, presenting Braunstein, "I want you to meet the Prophet Isaiah." A farewell to arms. In 1967, Braunstein retired from the military. He was recognized with the Legion of Merit, a prestigious award for exceptional military service. "They did right by me," he said of the award. However, his ties to the Army wouldn't end there. He took his military intelligence experience and became a counterintelligence and intelligence collection analyst. His responsibilities there were not "earth-shaking," but he oversaw the Army's intelligence collection and provided valuable analysis. Freda also joined the department as a secretary after spending much of Braunstein's service as a housewife. He would move to Heidelberg, Germany, in 1973 to continue his work there, living there until 1977. Braunstein retired from the Army, for good, in 1986. He received high honors for his service as a civilian and decided to travel in retirement. "In retirement, it's been trying to get used to the fact that it is what it is," he said. "I've been trying to keep myself busy." He and Freda traveled all across Europe, using Wellington, Florida, as their home base. Their favorite haunt was Florence, Italy, where Braunstein recalled seeing the one English speaking employee at the hotel go from bellhop to hotel manager in the span of a year. Braunstein described it as an "active retirement." He picked up golf in 1962 and enjoyed it while his body still could. He cruised through the Panama Canal and all over Europe. Since 2016, Braunstein has lived at a Jewish assisted living community in Sarasota, near his older son Robert. Freda, now 95, lives with him, but an "episode" with faulty medication ruined her memory some years ago. They have been married for 76 years. Although he's a few months away from officially turning 100, he says that he likes to follow the East Asian age system, where everyone is a year old when they're born; "I know I'm 100," he said. Nowadays, arthritis limits his mobility and his hands are in near-constant pain. He spends his days in an electric wheelchair. But he still plans to revisit Luxembourg for the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in December. "Serving changed my life," he said. "It was serendipitous. Life has been very rewarding."

**Sep 27, 2019:** Published in the "The Fort Sill Tribune" entitled: Marine receives Bronze Star 51 years later at Fort Sill. By Mitch Meador, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. If all the world's a stage, Dr. Richard T. Brittingham has had his share of plum roles: prominent Lawton internist, commander of an Army MP Detachment, a full colonel in the Army Medical Corps, battalion surgeon with 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, and state surgeon for the Oklahoma Army National Guard. But on Sept. 20, he was back to being a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, the rank he wore during his 13 months in Vietnam in 1967-68. Members of Fort Sill's Marine Artillery Detachment (MARDET) assembled on their parade ground to see Brittingham receive a Bronze Star with "V" for valor, for heroic actions on Jan. 31, 1968, during the opening stages of the Tet Offensive. Brittingham was then an MP serving voluntarily with the 282nd Combat Aviation Company, I Corps, U.S. Military Assistance Command. A determined North Vietnamese Army force attacked the district headquarters at Huong Hoa (Khe Sanh). Long story short, the lieutenant colonel won, Ford about-faced, and six aircraft went out. Cpl. Brittingham was in the tail end of Charlie, and he encountered an enormous amount of fire. "Every Vietnamese troop was killed in the landing zone within 10 minutes. Only because of (Brittingham's) action did that helicopter leave the landing zone. We get back, we're trying to assess everything that went on. They take Brittingham out of the helicopter on a stretcher, and honest to God, he comes by, looks up, and says, 'Sir, do you need me any more today?'" This was after he had taken a bullet to the head. "Honest to gosh, I don't know if I replied. All I do remember thinking: 'You brave son of a bitch.'" The crowd laughed. "I just want to let you know one more thing about taking risk," Ford said. "Cpl. Brittingham took that risk. And the best way that I can describe the risk that he took is what Winston Churchill said to the commanding generals during the Battle of the Bulge: 'Gentlemen, without risk there can be no honor, no glory, and no adventure.'" "Cpl. Brittingham served with honor. He went on one heck of an adventure. And the honor bestowed on him today, and the glory that he receives, is the glory and the honor for every Marine who's ever served." Brittingham modestly said that for every Marine who gets a Bronze Star with "V" there are another hundred Marines who deserve it. "You'd think I'd be thinking of something different, but all morning I've been thinking this mustache is out of regulation," he confessed to gales of laughter. "However, in my defense, I'm receiving this award as a lance corporal. And when I was a lance corporal, I couldn't even grow a mustache," Brittingham mused. The doctor admitted he doesn't remember a lot of what happened that day. "We basically did a combat air assault right into the middle of an ambush. There was no prep of the landing zone. So there we were, coming in, and we started getting fire even before we landed. The guy next to me got shot in the head. Next thing I know, I'm getting shot. "It wasn't a good day for Americans. We took a lot of loss that day." I know I should have thought that this is a dangerous mission because a guy just got shot. But there were troops that needed help, and I think anybody here would have done the same thing, really." Brittingham said he has mixed emotions about receiving the Bronze Star, as it brings back memories he would as soon not remember. It was the Army, not

the Marine Corps, that submitted the paperwork for this award. The MARDET commandant noted that Brittingham has a Purple Heart and a Combat Action Ribbon for this engagement. For the Marines in attendance, Tavuchis said "this is one of the more poignant meanings of today, is to have Dr. Brittingham stand before the Marines, and have the Marines observe Dr. Brittingham get recognized for his heroics 51 years ago This is not an insignificant event. We've already explained to them the significance and the meaning."

**Oct 26, 2019:** Obituary: Albert Vance Williams. Albert Vance Williams, 97 year old longtime Woodward businessman, died Saturday, October 26, 2019 at his home surrounded by his family. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, October 31, 2019 at the First United Methodist Church with Reverend Shannon Davis officiating. Burial will follow in the Elmwood Cemetery with the United States Army providing military graveside rites. Albert Vance Williams was born on May 26, 1922 in Marlow, Oklahoma; he was the seventh of nine children born to Albert Vance Sr. and Bertha Elizabeth (Gordon) Williams. Al grew up in Marlow before the family moved to Woodward, where he attended Tangier school. He was inducted into the United States Army at 18 years of age on 16 September of 1940. He served his country during World War II with the Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery, 45th Division. He was involved with the Italian Campaign with the invasion of Sicily and the attack on Salerno. Al was the last living member of his division. During his time he received the Good Conduct Medal, European Theater Service Ribbon, one Silver Service Star, one Bronze Service Star and the American Defense Service Ribbon. He was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant, ASN: 20830634, in 1952. After his discharge from the Army he was united in marriage to Jane Elizabeth Leach at the Methodist Church parsonage in Woodward, Oklahoma on February 10, 1951. They made their first home in Lawton before moving to Winchester, Virginia where Al and Jane owned the Tastee Freeze for two years. Al purchased the Polly Anna Cafe in 1953 and the family moved back to Woodward. He owned and operated the Polly Anna and Als Golden Chicken for 42 years. Al was a member of the First United Methodist Church. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 19, the Woodward Masonic Lodge, the Shriners and the VFW. He served as Woodward City Commissioner, was the Mayor of Woodward, and spearheaded the design, fund raising and construction of the Woodward County Veterans Memorial. He loved spending time with his family and always enjoyed watching any activity his grandchildren and great grandchildren were in. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jane Williams of the home; three sons: Ted Williams and wife Tammie of Midland, Texas, Lyndon Williams of Tulsa, Lance Williams of Woodward; two daughters: Donna White and husband Ronnie of Mooreland, Vicki Williams of Tulsa; 11 grandchildren: Troy White and wife Gina, Tiffany Schultz and husband Lance, Kristin Stinnett, Bridget Babione and husband RC, Andrea Roe and husband Bobby, Kara Williams, Trevor Williams, Tyler Williams and wife Breanna, Brittany Williams Hughes, Avery Williams, and Reid Williams; 15 great grandchildren: Hunter, Cooper and Tyson White, Gatlin and Allyn Goodson, Jackson and Addie Stinnett, Caleb, Josh, Isaac, and Micaiah Babione, Cade and Khyber Roe, Parker and Jaclynn Williams; one brother, Jimmy Ted Williams and wife Lilliana of Kemah, Texas; other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Ok Williams and Joe Gordon Williams and sisters, Doris Baransy, Donna Crane, Lahoma Grunewald, Dixie Williams, and Patsey Hendren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Woodward American Legion Post#19 with the funeral home accepting the contributions.

**Oct 29, 2019:** Obituary: Medgar Dean Beaver: Clark Funeral Service Obituary. Medgar Dean "Frog" Beaver was born on December 4, 1926 and passed away on Tuesday, October 29, 2019. A graduate of Tishomingo High School, Medgar spent the majority of his life calling Johnston County and Tishomingo home. He spent 37 years in the Army retiring as CSM in 1986. Here is Medgar Dean Beaver's obituary. Please accept everyone's sincere condolences. We are sad to announce that on October 29, 2019 we had to say goodbye to Medgar Dean Beaver (Tishomingo, Oklahoma). You can send your sympathy in the guestbook provided and share it with the family. You may also light a candle in honor of Medgar Dean Beaver or send a beautiful flower arrangement to the funeral service. He was predeceased by: his parents, Ennie May Beaver (Swindell) and John Beaver; his wife Mildred Beaver; his siblings, Douglas, John Beaver and Charity Stine; his grandson Chad Shodeen. He is survived by: his daughters, Deborah Marler, Diana Elmore and Denise Latshaw (Monte); his grandchildren, Pamela Lemmings, Sunny Dawn Galaway, Terry "Tad" Miller, Tyler Latshaw and Tobi Vick; his great grandchildren, Savannah Lemmings, Tori Meek, Ryan Looman, Kyla Miller, Gavin Miller, Chloe Miller, Logan Vick and Dace Vick. A funeral service will be held on Friday, November 1st 2019 at 2:00 PM at the Clark Funeral Home (305 E Main St, Tishomingo, OK).

**Dec 06, 2019:** Obituary: Preston Fletcher Willoughby. Preston F. Willoughby, born October 8, 1936, in Slaughterville, Oklahoma, passed from this earth December 6, 2019, at the Norman Veterans Center. He was a lifelong Oklahoman, attending Lexington public schools until his family moved to Norman, Oklahoma, where he graduated from University High School in 1955. Captain Willoughby joined the 45th Infantry Division, Oklahoma Army National Guard, in October 1953, signing before graduating high school. During his 43 years of service he served in various units including 2nd Battalion 158th Field Artillery, HHD 2nd Battalion 180th Artillery, 180th TOW Battalion and 90th Troop Command HQ STARC OKARNG. Preston earned recognition as an original member of the

2D Battalion TOW 180th Infantry Muster Roll in 1977 as well as a member of the final Muster Roll in 1992. He was very proud of his guard experience and proudly volunteered for the 45th Infantry Division Association where he held several offices including President and Vice President during his lifetime membership and was a long time board member. He also served as general board chairman for the Annual 45th Infantry Division Reunion. Throughout his adult life, Preston enjoyed sports and outdoor activities like bowling, golfing, boating and fishing. As a young father he enjoyed coaching his son's sports including Southside Chiefs Little League. Preston was an avid Oklahoma Sooner fan and came by it honestly. Preston's father, with Bud Wilkinson's blessing, was responsible for moving the chain allowing OU football players run onto the field. Most recent years you could find Preston enjoying time with his family and friends, tinkering in his garage, volunteering at the 45th Infantry Division Museum, and watching his grass grow while the bunnies played in the yard. Preston met Trela Jones on a blind date and they were married after dating for a couple of years. During their almost 60 years of marriage they were blessed with two children, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Preston is survived by his two children; son Preston Kent Willoughby and wife Susan; daughter Kristin Willoughby Pilcher; grandsons Houston Willoughby, Dustin Willoughby, and Evan Pilcher; granddaughter Katherine Pilcher and six great grandchildren, Kaden, Adrian, Gracie, Ella and Ezra Willoughby, and Isabel Willoughby as well as loved nieces and nephews. We would like to offer our deepest heartfelt appreciation to all of the medical staff, friends and family who have so graciously given their support and friendship during this last year. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Preston's honor to: General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn Purdue Assembly: 1501 N. Purdue, Oklahoma City, OK 73127. Newcastle Assembly: Church of the Firstborn C/O Gary Evans, 106 Redbud, Tuttle, OK 73089, or to the 45th Infantry Association Educational Fund, 2145 NE 36th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73111.

**Dec 07, 2019:** Published in the "History Army Force Structure" entitled: A little bit about Korea. I believe "The Forgotten War" deserves to be remembered, if for no other reason than that 48,891 U.S. soldiers died in action and 8,000 more remain missing. Most of them were killed in the first two years of the Korean War. It was on Sept. 1, 1950 that the Oklahoma National Guard was mobilized to fight the North Koreans. I had joined the Guard in 1950, when I was 19 or maybe even a little younger. I Joined the National Guard because I didn't want to get drafted, and the slogan was " go with the ones you know" we were mobilized before all of my buddies got drafted, The North Koreans had invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, and the Guardsmen were called into active service two months later. It surprised us all, in those days, the Guard didn't have drill on weekends once a month. Instead, they meet weekly on Monday nights. My unit met at the Chickasha National Guard armory. Then a corporal, I served in "C" Battery, 158 Field Artillery, 45th Infantry Division. The 158 FA Battalion was not at full strength when we were mobilized. We were sent to Camp Polk at Leesville, La., to train for their mission and wait for "fills" to arrive. Some of these were regular Army, but most were draftees from Illinois, Arkansas and other points north and east. Our first sergeant Gordon Spangler wanted the Guardsmen to have the rank and be able to train these draftees. So, after about four months at camp Polk, I was sent to Fort Gordon, GA communication school to learn Morse code and army radio communications equipment. I was there maybe three months. That was a good duty. I had no KP, no guard duty; I had a permanent off-duty pass. All we did was study the Morse code and about radios. Before the school was over, I learned through correspondence with a couple of my buddies back at Camp Polk that my unit was getting ready to ship out. They were going down to New Orleans to go on ships through the Panama Canal to Japan. As soon as the schooling was finished I took a Bus to Camp Stoneman, Calif., a port of embarkation in San Francisco. When I arrived in San Francisco my brother Hack meet me and I stayed there for 2 days before going to Camp Stoneman. I left on a Merchant Marine vessel called the Lt. Bygone. (Something like that) There were 4,000 troops on a World War II ship built to accommodate 2,000. It was crowded and smelly as they passed under the Golden Gate Bridge; I didn't like the food very much on ship, so I found a room down in the bottom of the ship that had C-rations. I ate a lot of them before I got to Japan. My Battery was already in Japan and set up when I arrived. We were living in tents. The Army had tents set up for two-thirds of the division at Camp Chitosi, on Hokkaido, Japan. We lived in tents about six months. The tents measured approximately 12 feet by 20 feet, and they had wood floors and two diesel heaters. Then the Army built Quonset huts for them." I arrived at Camp Chitosi in April 1951 and was there seven months, training on communications and maintenance and technical problems. We finally got to move out of the tents to regular barracks, that's all we did was train, the scuttlebutt going around said that, well, a National Guard division cannot be sent into combat because Congress hasn't declared war. And so we felt good. Meanwhile, the 1st Cavalry Division, a regular Army division, was getting wiped out in Korea. At last, the Army sent the 45th Infantry Division in to relieve them, and the remnants of the 1st Cavalry went to occupy the Quonset huts at Camp Chitosi. We got to Korea in December 1951. We were told that we were the best- equipped army that the world had ever known, that we were highly trained, and that we had the best equipment that the Army had ever had. We landed at Inchon, and the harbor was so shallow that the ship had to stop out in the gulf, and we went in on a barge. Then they put us on a Korean cattle train. Now this is where I began to wonder if we were the highly trained and best equipped army since World War II. During the time I was in Korea I was a radio operator with 2 other operators. We were to be a relay station between the Infantry and Artillery. We would be on top of a hill or mountain with our equipment. We would dig

out a bunker large enough to place a double bunk in it and placed sand bags around it. We would either go to base camp or an Infantry unit to eat lunch or dinner, and we would bring food supplies from Battery HQ to our bunker and cook our own meals or ate C-rations. I was rotated home in June 1952 and boarded a troop ship at Inchon, Korea. The ship was crowded; I got a job working in the bakery, so I ate pretty good coming home. We landed in San Francisco, and then went to Ft. Sill to be released. Memoirs by CSM Rudy N. Hightower. 580-704-6967. E-Mail: rnhigh1@tds.net.

**Jan 12, 2020:** Published in the "KSWO Channel Seven News Internet Edition" entitled: Loved ones celebrate their soldiers at National Guard deployment ceremony. By Hunter McEachern. January 12, 2020 at 9:06 PM CST. Updated January 12 at 9:06 PM, Lawton, Okla. (TNN). The Lawton High School's gymnasium was packed Sunday morning as family members and loved ones gathered together for a National Guard deployment ceremony. About 130 soldiers from A Battery, First Battalion, 158th Field Artillery will be going to Fort Bliss, Texas for a month of training before heading to Kuwait. Lt. Col. Charles Neely said he is proud of these soldiers who are more trained and better equipped than he was in 2005. "They've been training all year and they've been training constantly since the 16th of December," said Lt. Col. Charles Neely, Battalion Commander, 1-158th Field Artillery. "It means a lot, not only to me and the safety and security of Oklahoma, but it proves that we can lend an contributing hand to the United States Army. The thrill of being able to support their country is really what they're in for, every one of them is a patriot at heart." The soldiers are expected to spend one year in Kuwait.

**Jan 13, 2020:** Published in the "Fort Sill Tribune via the US Army INCOM WEB Page" entitled: Fort Sill community turns for National Guard deployment ceremony. Fort Sill, Oklahoma (Jan. 13, 2020). Hundreds of families packed the Lawton High School gym Jan. 12, to send off A Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Soldiers during a deployment ceremony. Lt. Col. Charles Neeley, 1-158th FA commander, said the Oklahoma Army National Guard High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Soldiers have been training for over a year for the mission. "I'm really proud of these guys," Neely said. The unit is better trained and equipped than it has been previously. A/1-158th FA holds its monthly battle assemblies at Fort Sill's Armed Forces Reserve Center, said Maj. Geoff Legler, Oklahoma Army National Guard public affairs officer. Virtually all of the deploying Soldiers are traditional National Guard Soldiers, serving one weekend a month, and two weeks active duty per year. The unit received its mobilization orders about one year ago, Legler said. "They've been doing pre mobilization training at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma." On its deployment the HIMARS unit will provide defensive and offensive capabilities to maneuver (ground) commanders, Legler said. From Lawton, A/1-158th FA will first go to Fort Bliss, Texas, where they will train for about a month before heading to the Middle East, Legler said. Maj. Gen. Michael Thompson, adjutant general for the State of Oklahoma, said his Soldiers are ready for the mission. "They are a great group of young men and women, and they've been training hard," Thompson said. "I fully expect them to go out and do a great job. "This is the first time (to deploy) for a number of them," the general said. "They joined the Oklahoma Guard to serve their communities, but also to serve the country. That's why we raised our right hand, that's why we take that oath. This is the third deployment for Sgt. 1st Class Steven Stanley, A/1-158th FA platoon sergeant. He said he and others who have been deployed before having been talking to their Soldiers who are deploying for the first time. "I tell them to take the training seriously, learn everything that you can, and to ask questions," said Stanley. Thompson thanked the Lawton-Fort Sill community for its support. "It's been remarkable," he said. "It lets our Soldiers and their families know that they are appreciated." Photo Caption: Hundreds of families packed the Lawton (Oklahoma) High School gym to send off National Guard Soldiers from A Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, Jan. 12. (Photo Credit: Fort Sill Tribune staff). Photo Caption: Staff Sgt. Bryan Hoffman, A/1-158th FA, hugs his wife, Jessica, after the deployment ceremony Jan. 12, 2020, at LHS gym. The unit will go to Fort Bliss, Texas, for one month before going into theater. (Photo Credit: Fort Sill Tribune staff). Photo Caption: The Stanley family is interviewed by Oklahoma National Guard public affairs after the deployment ceremony. It will be Sgt. 1st Class Steven Stanley's third deployment. (Photo Credit: Fort Sill Tribune staff). Photo Caption: Lt. Col. Charles Neeley, 1-158th FA commander, meets with the media after the deployment ceremony Jan. 12, 2020, at Lawton High School. He said his Soldiers have been preparing for one year for the deployment. (Photo Credit: Fort Sill Tribune staff). Published in the "Lawton Constitution" entitled: Hometown Guard unit gets huge sendoff. By Mitch Meador, Jan 13, 2020. Well wishers by the hundreds piled into Lawton High School's gymnasium Sunday morning to show support for Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. Approximately 130 members of this Oklahoma Army National Guard unit are going to Fort Bliss, Texas, for about a month's worth of post-mobilization training, according to Maj. Geoff Legler of the Guard's public affairs office. Once that's done they will deploy to Kuwait on a fire support mission. 1-158 FA is fieldfed with the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), the wheeled version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS). Approximately a year has been allotted for its total deployment time, but their return is anticipated for late fall. The battery's command team consists of Capt. Jeffrey Morefield and 1st. Sgt. Jackie Bruesch. The ceremony differed in small ways from similar send-offs conducted on post. Because of the narrow doorways the Guard unit had to march into the gym in single file. Instead of standing in formation they sat on folding chairs.

Oklahoma Army National Guard's own 145th Army Band played patriotic music to suit the mood. Inside, family and friends packed the stands. Outside, parking space was in high demand. Oklahoma's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Michael Thompson, traveled here to recognize the young men and women who will deploy; "some not so young but some not so old, that are going into a really contested area right now." Thompson said the Guard has gotten a lot better with deployment ceremonies over the nearly 20-year history of the Global War on Terror. "When I deployed on my first one in 2002-2003, a number of us met in an old abandoned Walmart," Thompson recalled. Thompson thanked the families for coming out to see their soldiers off. He admitted he gets a little emotional hearing the band play as the soldiers march in. "Think about how much we ask of our National Guard, month after month, year after year, literally almost decade after decade. The Guard has always been an integral part of who we are as Americans. Always, since 1636. It doesn't matter how often their call comes (or) how long that call lasts. They always faithfully answer," the general said. Thompson declared that the United States Army can't do what it does without the Army National Guard. The flip side is that the Oklahoma National Guard can't do what it does without the backing of those who sign up, he pointed out. "Where do we get people like that? We get them from college campuses and farms of Wewoka and power plants in Lawton, tire plants in Lawton and police departments. You come from all walks of life to put your personal feelings aside and put this uniform on and go and serve this nation," Thompson said. "You truly are America at its best, and we are fortunate to have you," he told the troops. Thompson promised to be in El Paso to see A/1-158 FA before it leaves and to be at the bottom of the plane ramp to shake hands with the Guard members when they come back to America. Col. Jason Henry, newly installed commander of 45th FA Brigade, echoed Thompson's remarks. "Hey, guys, thank you for what you do. Thank you for being that less than 1 percent willing to serve our nation and our state," Henry said. "Alpha Battery has always answered the call, has always performed the mission with excellence and professionalism," he added. "I don't think we could ask for a better venue to support our National Guard," said Henry as he thanked the families for sharing their loved ones. Lt. Col. Charles Neely, commander of 1-158 FA, added to that by saying the soldiers would not be able to do their mission without the families' unwavering support. "It is only knowing that you're back home taking care of everything while they're forward that gives them the peace of mind to do their job," Neely assured attendees. Neely said Alpha Battery has been training all year for this mission. They were already geared toward this mission when they did their two weeks of annual training at "Western Strike" on Fort Chaffee, Ark. "Absolutely. This was the first time a field artillery brigade from the Army National Guard had been put through an exercise of that type. So to come through that with relatively high marks is a first not only for the National Guard but for Oklahoma as well." Neely said. The colonel observed that Alpha Battery's training has been constant since Dec. 16, 2019. He praised the battery commander for putting in long days and nights: "There couldn't be a better man for the job." Neely was captain of Bravo Battery, 1-158 FA, when it deployed to Iraq as a security force in 2005. Asked how he feels watching a new generation of Guard members going out, he said, "You know, I'm really proud of these guys. It's a different mission now, but they're only more trained and better equipped than we were in 2005. It's amazing the technology and the advances that have taken place in the Army since then." Photo Caption: Spec. Skyler Ledesma of Altus carried the guidon of Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery, as he leads the unit's soldiers into the Lawton High School gym. The unit will be headed to Fort Bliss, Texas before being deployed to Kuwait. Photo by Stephen Robertson. Photo Caption: A standing-room-only crowd filled the Lawton High School Gym Sunday for a deployment ceremony for a local Oklahoma National Guard unit. Photo by Stephen Robertson. Photo Caption: Members of the National Guard's 145th Army Band play "The Army Song" Sunday at a deployment ceremony at Lawton High School for Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery. Photo by Stephen Robertson. Photo Caption: Friends and family members of National Guardsmen from Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery, stand for the national anthem during Sunday's sendoff at the Lawton High School gym. Photo by Stephen Robertson.

**Jan 25, 2020:** Obituary: Donald Wayne Brooks; was born on April 12, 1928 in Clarksville, Arkansas, the son of Tassie and Lester Brooks. He completed this life on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the age of 91 after a prolonged battle with cancer. Donald met the love of his life, Marilou Brodell, while working at OG&E in 1953, and they married on August 18, 1955. The two made their home in Oklahoma City where they raised their children in the Windsor Hills area. Don lost his beautiful bride four years ago, and not a day went by that he did not miss his MB with his whole heart. Don was a Korean War veteran who proudly served in the Army's 45th Infantry Division as Sergeant First Class in the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery Battalion. Following his service and after his employment with OG&E, he went on to find great success as a sales representative for Joslyn Manufacturing Company before becoming a partner at TF Sears and later starting his own company as a representative for electrical equipment manufacturing companies. Don was a born salesman and leader, gregarious and charismatic, and as the life of the party, he always had a funny story or joke to tell. People were drawn to Don because of his genuine warmth and humor as well as his kind heart and wisdom. His famous sayings will live on for generations to come, and his vacation motto is one of everyone's favorite, "We did not come here to save money or lose weight!" Don was a loving and wonderful provider to his wife and children and a fiercely loyal and generous friend. Don and Marilou were members of Crown Heights Methodist Church in their early married years, and they made many

lifelong friends. They were members of the Oklahoma City Ski Club, and Don served as President of the group for a time. There were countless overnight bus trips to ski resorts in Colorado, and many fond memories and friends were made. Don shared his love for golf with Marilou, and after moving to north Oklahoma City, they joined Quail Creek Country Club where they became very involved and made even more friends. The two traveled the world together and took their children and grandchildren on many wonderful vacations because keeping their family close was a priority to them. Don attended the University of Oklahoma and was an avid Sooner fan who had season football tickets for over 50 years. His love for OU inspired his children to become Sooners themselves. Don honestly considered himself to be young even at 90, and he often talked about the "old" people at the retirement community where he lived. He seemed to think that he would live forever, and it was only due to his sheer grit, determination and fighting spirit that he lived as long as he did. Don is survived by his son, David Wayne Brooks and his wife Jamie of Coppell, Texas; his daughter, Elizabeth Luecke of Oklahoma City; his grandchildren, Elaina Carr and her husband Steven, Dalton Brooks, Emma Luecke, Olivia Brooks and Maribeth Luecke; and his brother, Morris and wife Ann of Grove, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Marilou Brodell Brooks, and his father and stepmother, Lester and Beatrice Brooks and his mother, Tassie Jagers Brooks. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 4 in the chapel of Vondel Smith Mortuary North, 13125 N. MacArthur Blvd. Interment will follow in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Don's name to the 45th Infantry Division Museum, 2145 Northeast 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK, 73111-5396, (405) 424-5313.

**Feb 03, 2020:** Obituary: Millard Furman Reece. LTC (Ret) Millard F. Reece, husband of the late Marguerite D. Reece, and beloved father, grandfather, and great grandfather, was brought home to God on Monday, February 3, 2020, in El Paso, Texas, at the age of 98 years. "Frank", as he was called, was born 18 September 1921 in Haleyville, Alabama, to the late Willie Furman Reece and Myrtis Lilla Baker. Many did not know Frank Reece grew up in the most impoverished conditions one could image during The Great Depression. With his father passing when he was just an infant, the philosophy he lived by his entire life was that no one was coming to help you, were on your own. Your own hard work, faith in God, dedication, thriftiness and the desire to succeed, were the recipe for success. He imparted this philosophy on his family with tremendous success. LTC Reece served 28 years in the US Army, including as an Infantryman in World War II. Frank served in the 547th and the 183rd Engineers; notable as being one of the first units to liberate the Buchenwald Concentration Camp. During the Korean War, he served with the 158th Field Artillery Battalion, 45th Division and saw direct combat in support of the 179th Infantry Regiment, receiving a battlefield promotion to Captain, O-965990. As the Battery Commander for "B", 158th Field Artillery, he received the Bronze Star supporting Heartbreak Ridge. The astonishing rates of fire from the Battery he commanded in support of Heartbreak Ridge, are still frequently mentioned by historians. After retiring in 1968 at US Army Ft Bliss, Frank and his cherished, Maggie, made El Paso, TX, their home for 52 years. For 20 years, Frank worked as a science and English teacher at Terrace Hills Junior High School right alongside Maggie, the head librarian at the neighborhood feeder high school, Andress High School. He was a member of St Paul's United Methodist Church. He is survived by his three children, Col (Ret) Karen Carpenter, USAF, MC, a pediatrician from Fairfax, VA; Carol Schroeder, a pharmacist and rancher from Blackwell, TX; and LTC (Ret) Kevin Reece, USA, SF, a former Green Beret from Monument, CO. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren who loved their Grandpa Reece dearly. A Memorial Service is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 10:00 am at St Paul's United Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere Blvd, El Paso, TX 79925. A graveside service with Military Funeral Honors will be Monday, February 10, 2020, at 9:00 am at Ft Bliss National Cemetery. Services entrusted to Martin Funeral Home East.

**Feb 09, 2020:** Excerpt from "Centennial Celebration" of current leadership register. 1st Battalion 158th Field Artillery (HIMARS). LTC Charles L. Neely Battalion Commander, CSM Dave Siezickey Command Sergeant Major. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery: CPT Jeremy Martin Battery Commander, 1SG Kelly Smith First Sergeant. "A" Battery: CPT Jeffrey Morefield Battery Commander, 1SG Jackie Bruesch First Sergeant. "B" Battery: CPT Daniel Barthel Battery Commander, 1SG J. Blake Brown First Sergeant. 120th Forward Support Company: CPT Megan Hatter Company Commander, 1SG Paul Day First Sergeant.

**Feb 10, 2020:** Published in the "Lawton Constitution" entitled: 1-158 FA celebrates its 100-year history. By Mitch Meador. Lawton's hometown National Guard unit, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, took an hour out of its busy training schedule Sunday to celebrate its centennial. Its 100 years of writing history began with a letter to the War Department Militia Bureau in Washington, D.C., dated Feb. 26, 1920. The major general who drafted the letter called for an allotment of National Guard to the State of Oklahoma that would include a field artillery regiment equipped with 155-mm howitzers. One veteran who will be 102 next month traveled from Chickasha to be present for the occasion. Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Gordon Spangler fought in both World War II and the Korean War. He got a standing ovation when he was introduced and one of the new battalion coins from battalion commander Lt. Col. Charlie Neely at the conclusion of the ceremony. Spangler was accompanied by his daughter and son-in-law, Mandy and Richard



Keller, also of Chickasha. "It's a testament to the servitude and servant heart of soldiers who've been in 158 to show up for this. I've served virtually my whole career in the 158, so I know my heart is there and seeing all of you today just goes to show me that I'm not the only one here." Neely said in his opening remarks. Everyone in attendance received a bound 58-page volume by retired Command Sgt. Maj. John T. Jenson that provided a wealth of information about the battalion's exploits, its 45 fallen heroes and 23 prisoners of war, its deployments, changes in weapon systems over the years, and details about the symbolism on its unit crest, insignia and guidons as well as its motto, "Unusual Efforts Expended." 1-158 FA Command Sgt. Dave Siezickey provided a broad outline of the battalion's storied past, interspersed with remarks from: Retired Brig. Gen. Larry Haub, who commanded the battalion when it deployed in support of Operations Desert Shield/Storm in 1990-91; Retired Col. Greg Lankford, battalion commander when it deployed for a force protection mission based out of Camp Ramadi, Iraq, in 2008-09; Maj. Sean Bryant, commander of A Battery, 1-158 FA, when it deployed to Afghanistan in 2013-14 to become the first National Guard unit to fire the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) in combat and the first Guard unit to fire precision-guided rockets, and finally Jenson, with an entertaining anecdote about a commander who let the troops vote on whether to go on a 12 - mile ruck march in the rain at Camp Polk, La., or spend the day eating munchies at the PX. They unanimously voted for the latter, and he told them to get their weapons and get ready to march. "You're not here for a lesson in democracy, you're here to protect democracy: was the takeaway from this object lesson. Siezickey noted that 120 soldiers from "A" Battery, 1-158 FA, got on a plane Friday night and landed in theater about 3 p.m. Saturday. A 30-soldier mission from "B" Battery will be heading out the door later this spring. The battalion started off with a horse-drawn regiment and transitioned through various weapon systems to get to the HIMARS launchers it shoots today, Siezickey said. By World War II its howitzers were towed by "tractors" and self-propelled howitzers came to the unit during the Vietnam War. As he provided snap shots of the battalion at its many stages, Siezickey observed that the organization has gotten slimmer and leaner over the years. "There's no Charlie Battery any more. A few years ago we dropped the Charlie Battery:" he lamented. "We also got rid of the armories and moved into these big centers right here. One opportunity it's presented is we have a lot of soldiers that can transition between (Headquarters and Headquarters Battery), Battery "A", Battery "B" and 120th (Forward Support Company) all in the same building and still stay in the same unit." Siezickey said the battalion was activated from 1940-45 for World War II, when the 45th Infantry Division saw 511 days while fighting from Sicily to Munich, Germany. Spangler was one of those citizen soldiers. Photo Caption: Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Gordon Spangler, right, of Chickasha, a 101-year-old veteran who saw action in World War II and Korea, makes his way to the Fort Sill Armed Forces Reserve Center Sunday to attend the centennial review of 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery. Assisting him are Sgt. Maj. Gary Nix and Spangler's daughter, Mandy Keller. Photo Caption: 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Siezickey touches on the high points of the National Guard unit's century long commitment to service as today's Guard members pay close attention at Sunday's centennial review.

**Feb 25, 2020:** Obituary: Jack L. Ewer, 91, of Omaha, NE, died February 25, 2020 in Omaha, NE. Celebration of Life Reception will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Sunset Hills Baptist church, reception hall, 9416 Pacific Street, Omaha, NE. Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, March 6, 2020 at the United Methodist Church, 702 Sycamore St, Pleasanton, NE with Pastor Sueng Ho Park officiating. Interment will be in Pleasanton Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9:30 AM to 15 minutes prior to the service on March 6, 2020 at the United Methodist Church. In Lieu of Flowers, memorials are suggested to Pleasanton Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue or VFW Post #9481, Pleasanton, c/o James Renzelman, 77459 470th Ave, Hazard, NE 68844. Jack was born on March 28, 1928 in Pleasanton, NE to Cyril Lincoln and Ella Martha (Smith) Ewer. He grew up in Pleasanton and graduated from Pleasanton High School. Jack entered the Army on October 17, 1950 and served during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged on August 13, 1952. Jack was united in marriage to Alberta Ruth Bethke on June 29, 1957 in Onawa, IA. They returned to Azores Islands, Portugal where they met while he was employed by the United States Government as a Civil Servant instructing the Portuguese men on boiler maintenance. Throughout his adult life, he also lived in Rapid City, SD; Boise, ID; Chadron, NE; Anchorage, AK; Grand Forks, ND; Omaha and Loup City, NE. He retired from Royal Globe Insurance Company in Omaha, NE where he worked as a large mechanical equipment safety inspector. Survivors include: Spouse: Alberta R. (Bethke) Ewer, Omaha, NE. Sons: David (Karra) Ewer, Elkhorn, NE and Michael (Elizabeth) Ewer, Omaha, NE. Daughters: Carolyn (Robert) Ewer Killion, Laguna Niguel, CA and Christine Ewer, Omaha, NE Grandchildren: Ashley Amante, Loup City, NE, Keia (Dave) Jensen, Omaha, NE, Kenneth (Amanda) Ewer, Sterling, VA, Heather Ewer, Omaha, NE, & Kaylee Ewer, Omaha, NE. Great-Grandson: Soren Jensen, Omaha, NE. Great-Granddaughter: Eliana Leigh Ewer, Sterling, VA, Numerous Nieces, Nephews, Great-Nieces & Nephews, and Great-Great Nieces & Nephews. Preceded in death by: Parents: Cyril & Ella (Smith) Ewer. Brothers: Frederick (Marcella Sheckler) Ewer, Bruce (Helen Klein) Ewer, Russel (Doris Zimmer) Ewer, Bernard (Joan Walt) Ewer, Duane (Clara Mae Psota) Ewer. Sister: Maybelle (Graham) Coughtry (Mac) Beith.

**Mar 13, 2020:** Obituary: Charles Buxton Thompson: Memorial services with military honors for Charles Buxton

"Mickey" Thompson, 87, of Minco will be held on Friday, March 20, 2020, 2pm at the United Methodist Church in Minco, under the direction of Huber-Reynolds Funeral Home in Minco. Charles Buxton Thompson I "Mickey" was born October 5th, 1932 at the Indian Hospital in Lawton to Alma Jean (Parrish) and John Cave Thompson. He was a lifelong resident of Minco and ran the Minco Drycleaners for many years before going to work at Jamco Inc. in Oklahoma City then Page Industries as an aircraft mechanic. He joined the 45th Infantry Division at the age of 17 and was deployed to Korea with the Service Battery, 158 Field Artillery. He remained a member of the 45th Army National Guard for several years. He later transferred to the Air National Guard in Will Rogers where he retired in 1986. He was married to Judy C. Miller from Tuttle in 1962. He is survived by three sons, Charles of Cement, Scot and wife Christie of Kellyville, and Loren "Lyni" and wife April of Cement. Seven grandchildren, Cindy Locke and Carla Thompson of El Reno, Jessie, Abby, and Dustee Thompson of Kellyville, Maci Thompson and Dustin of Norman and Malcom Thompson and Fiancé Kristen of El Reno, Lloyd James Buchanan and Bree of Ninnekah and ten great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Alma Jean and Cave Thompson and his sister Alma Jean Little. His niece Terri Ann Canaday, two nephews, Phillip Wayne Little and John Paul Little.

Mar 23, 2020 Obituary: Michael Joseph Kidney, Jr., 90, of Glen Ellyn, passed away at home on Monday, March 23, 2020. Mike was the beloved husband of Gabrielle; loving father of Michael James (Jane) Kidney and Kathleen (John) Bode; cherished grandfather of Dana (Jim) Hall, Dr. Colleen Kidney, Alison Kidney (Andrew Pohlman), Patrick (Lindsey) Bode, Jonathan Bode and Isabelle Mages, Becca (Kyle) Penning; great-grandfather of Keller and Grady Hall, Aiden Kidney and Willow Pohlman and Baila Marie Penning. Michael was a life-long Illinois resident, born June 28, 1929 to Mary & Michael Kidney Sr., now deceased. He was a graduate of Mt. Carmel High School and Loyola University. He served in the US Army in Korea, as a Private First Class in Headquarters Battery, 158th Field Artillery Battalion, part of the 45th Infantry Division. He found this a rewarding experience and formed the basis for a life-long love of country and military. Mike worked for the Oldsmobile Division of General Motors, and had a successful sales career in wholesale and retail automobiles. Mike enjoyed a love of history, geography, swimming, and travel and had many friends. He was loving and kind, devoted to his wife and family, and a joy to everyone who knew him. In consideration of health concerns and restrictions due to the COVID-19 virus, funeral service will be private. A "Celebration of Life" will be held at a later date. Published in Chicago Tribune on Mar. 25, 2020.

**Apr 18, 2020:** Obituary: Charles Ray Anderson, 61, of Sterling, Oklahoma went to his Heavenly home on April 18th, 2020. He was born on July 27th, 1958 to Dixie Ray and Clota Marie (Cotter) Anderson in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Charles grew up and attended school in Anadarko graduating from Anadarko High School in 1976. He retired from the National Guard after 22 years. He worked for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co and also worked at the Grace Christian Church in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Charles loved camping with his family, playing golf & PlayStation. He was an avid OU Football Fan. He also loved spending time with his family. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. Survivors include: Children: Michael Anderson & wife Shelley of Fletcher, OK, Tania Huitt & husband Jason of Sterling, OK, Tamara Holmes & husband Cody of Marlow, OK, Tara Barker & husband Josh of Cement, OK, Christie Allen & husband Kris of Ninnekah, OK, Grandchildren: Taylor, Jordyn, Nate, Jason, Jayden, Jada, McKenzie, Blakley, Bentley, Bradley, Gage, Gavin, Grant, Courtney, McKenzie, Chase, Shelbee, Hailey, Aubree, Kolbee; Great Grandchild: Kyndal, Brothers: Jimmie Anderson of Oklahoma City, OK, Ricky Anderson of Anadarko, OK, Randy Anderson of Anadarko, OK, A host of nieces, nephews, other family members and friends. Preceded in death by his Mother: Clota Anderson, Father: Dixie Anderson, & Brother: Mikey Anderson. Visitation: 1pm -8pm, April 21, 2020. Ray and Martha's Funeral Home, Anadarko, OK. 9am -8pm, April 22, 2020. Ray and Martha's Funeral Home, Anadarko, OK. Celebration of Life: 2pm, April 23, 2020. Call the Funeral Home for directions. Graveside: 3pm, April 23, 2020. Sterling Cemetery, Sterling, OK. Sergeant First Class, Battery "C", 158th Field Artillery.

**May 04, 2020:** Published in the "The KTUL Tulsa Weather and News E-Edition" entitled: Soldiers participate in first virtual deployment ceremony. By Destiny Washington, Monday, May 4th 2020. Oklahoma City (KOKH)-Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldiers received a unique send off during a deployment ceremony on May 3. Soldiers from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, who are deploying in support of coalition operations in the Central Command area of operations, participated in the first virtual deployment ceremony conducted by the Oklahoma National Guard. "Now, we don't know how long we are going to have to hold our breath. We don't know how long it will be until we resume what we know as normal. I just want to tell you all to hang in there. As Americans, as Oklahomans, as Soldiers, we have to succeed. The Army does not take a day off and you are evidence of that." said Thompson. The "Live Stream" allowed for about 200 family members and friends of the Soldiers to virtually attend. The virtual ceremony was conducted as an alternative to an in person ceremony due to the threat of spreading COVID-19 to the deploying Soldiers. Maj. Gen. Michael Thompson, adjutant general for Oklahoma, said this atypical way of conducting a send-off ceremony is just one example of how we have adjusted to our environment as we move forward as a State and nation in responding to COVID-19. Battery B will train at Fort Bliss for a month before deploying overseas for 9 months. Photo Caption: Battery B, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery Regiment, 45th Field Artillery Brigade, who are deploying in support of

coalition operations in the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations, participated in the first ever virtual deployment ceremony conducted by the Oklahoma National Guard. The virtual ceremony, which took place at the Fort Sill Armed Forces Reserve Center on May 3, 2020, was conducted as an alternative to an in person ceremony due to the threat of spreading COVID-19 to the deploying Soldiers. (Oklahoma National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Schroeder).

**May 05, 2020:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: 1-158 FA gets virtual send-off. Oklahoma Army National Guard soldiers received a unique sendoff during a deployment ceremony here Sunday. Soldiers of "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery who are preparing to deploy to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations participated in the first virtual deployment ceremony conducted by the Oklahoma National Guard. Loud cheers and rounds of applause, the ringing of cow bells, waving of homemade signs, and children dressed in patriotic clothing yelling for their mom or dad standing in formation were replaced by thumbs up, tearful and smiling emojis, and streams of comments on the 45th Field Artillery Brigade and Oklahoma National Guard Facebook pages, where the ceremony was broadcast live. The live streamed ceremony allowed about 200 family members and friends of the soldiers to attend virtually. It was conducted as an alternative to an in-person ceremony due to the threat of spreading COVID-19 to the deploying soldiers. Maj. Gen. Michael Thompson, adjutant general for Oklahoma, said this atypical way of conducting a sendoff ceremony is just one example of how the Guard has adjusted to the current environment as the state and nation move forward in responding to COVID-19. Thompson recalled two times in the past when the uncertainty of the future was unknown until everything settled; the Alfred P. Murrah Building bombing in 1995 and the tragedy that hit the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001. "Now, we don't know how long we are going to have to hold our breath. We don't know how long it will be until we resume what we know as normal. I just want to tell you all to hang in there. As Americans, as Oklahomans, as soldiers, we have to succeed. The Army does not take a day off and you are evidence of that." Before flying overseas, the soldiers of "B" Battery will travel to Fort Bliss, Texas, to conduct mission-critical training. During the months leading up to their deployment, Cpt. Danny Barthel, battery commander, said training prior to their departure has gone better than he was expecting. "The unit is well prepared and excited for the opportunity to do their jobs overseas," Barthel said. "We were able to do a lot during our pre-mobilization training. I have great officers, non commissioned officers and enlisted, and they made the training seamless." Spc. Ashley Bruce-Sparrow, a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) gunner with "B" Battery, said she feels comfortable deploying with her unit and she is ready for the opportunity to do her job. Despite the battery deploying while many Oklahoma Guardsmen are working COVID-19 response, she said every person in the Guard has a unique role to play. "I don't think anything is more important than anything else," Bruce-Sparrow said. "Everything has to come together in the end. One thing cannot be labeled more important than the other if you have to cohesively work together." Barthel said regardless if the mission is focused on military operations overseas or COVID-19 response at home, soldiers from Battery B are always trained and ready. "The National Guard is unique in that we have both a civilian and military role," Barthel said. "As a field artillery unit, we are geared more toward the military role. In terms of mission sets, I think we are better postured towards the military side of it, but that does not mean we are not able to help where we can when we can on the civilian side." With a rich history and tradition dating back to 1920, B Battery has received many campaign streamers for its participation in World War II, the Korean War, the Persian Gulf War and the Global War on Terrorism. "You are an incredible organization," Thompson said. "What you do as you move forward, you will represent people who have worn that uniform before you, you represent the people who wear that uniform now and you will represent the people who will wear that uniform in the future. It's a heavy responsibility, but I know you are up for the task. "I hope by the time you come back we have solved a lot of these issues we are dealing with right now," Thompson said. "I know it is tough deploying under these circumstances, but I want to thank you for who you are, thank you for what you represent, and thank you for all the good things we are able to have in this country because of the sacrifices you all make." "B" Battery will train at Fort Bliss for a month before deploying overseas for nine months. Once in theater, they will support coalition operations in the CENTCOM area of operations. Photo Caption: Soldiers from "B" Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery (FA), 45th FA Brigade, who will soon deploy in support of coalition operations in the U.S. Central Command area of operations, participate Sunday in the Oklahoma National Guard's first-ever virtual deployment ceremony. Oklahoma National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Schroeder.

**Jul 09, 2020:** Obituary: William Gordon Spangler. Funeral service for William Gordon Spangler, age 102, of Chickasha, OK will be held at 10:30am, Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at Epworth United Methodist Church. Rev. Scott Keneda will officiate. The church encourages all attendees to wear a face mask. The funeral will be live-streamed on YouTube at Chickasha UMC. William Gordon Spangler was born to William Oliver and Margaret Anna Simpson Spangler on March 27, 1918 in Pocasset, OK. He left this life on July 9, 2020 in Chickasha, OK. William attended school at the Arcadia School through the 8th grade. He attended high school in Minco, where he graduated. After graduation he joined the National Guard unit he was in while in high school was mobilized for a year and he went to Ft. Sill and then to Abilene, TX. While there, he married Pauline Anderson. The war broke out when the Japanese

bombed Pearl Harbor and he was sent to Africa, Sicily, Anzio, Italy, France and then Germany, from which he came home. During his time abroad he had 511 combat days. He received the Presidential Unit Citation for action at Salerno, Italy, 13 September 1943; French Croix De Guerre Award 21 June 1945, for campaigns in Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Anzio, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe. After returning home he worked for the Rock Island Railroad for a time and then went to work for the National Guard which took him to the Korean Conflict. He had 429 combat days in the Korean Conflict and received a Presidential Citation for combat operations in Korea. He came home from the Korean Combat Operations on points. All this combat was with the 45th Division, which was from Oklahoma. He received the National Guardsman of the Year award from the Governor in 1972. He retired after 40 years and began raising cattle, finally settling on Longhorns, on his ranch southeast of Chickasha where he lived for many years. He and his wife were charter members of the Swinging Chicks Square Dance Club. He received a 50 year certificate and pin from the National Square Dance Association for his contribution and devotion to square dancing. He was preceded in death by his wife Pauline Spangler, his parents, son-in-law John Snow, granddaughter Stacy Keller. He is survived by his daughter Gordona Snow; daughter Mandy Keller and husband Richard; grandchildren Gordon Travis Snow and wife Brandy, Sarah Hoftman and husband Jay; and great-grandchildren Carson Snow, Lexi Snow, Nora Snow and John Ronald Hoftman. Memorial contributions may be made to the USAO Pauline Spangler Alumni Scholarship. Services are under the direction of McRay Funeral Home. Interment will be in the Friendship Cemetery.

**Aug 22, 2020:** Obituary: James Keith Morris was born in Oklahoma City, OK, on March 16th, 1955 to James Kenneth and Wanda Nadine (Tyree) Morris. He passed away on August 22nd, 2020 in his family home with family surrounding him. Keith attended school in Ninnekah, OK. Keith had many jobs prior to entering his military service. He worked as a mechanic and a welder. He also worked in the oilfield and built horse trailers with his brother and father. He entered the military in January 1985, and later retired in 2006 as an E6. He married Peggy Sue Kelley on June 14th, 1996. Keith loved his family and had a special bond with all of his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother, Kenneth Daniel Morris and his father, James Kenneth Morris. He is survived by his wife Peggy of the home, mother Nadine Morris of Ninnekah, son and daughter in law, Chantry and Trisha Morris of Norman, OK, son and daughter in law Christopher and Miya Morris of Norman, OK, son Jeremy James and his partner Kathlyn Stafford of Anadarko, OK, son Cody James and fiancée Tiffany Trotter of Ninnekah, OK, son and daughter in law Michael and Cassandra Morris of Ninnekah, OK. He also had 17 grandchildren. He also had numerous nieces and nephews to include Shawn Morris, Joseph and Krystal Morris, Tyrel and LeeAnn Morris, Latasha and Kevin Thornburg and several great nieces and nephews, cousins, and uncles. Graveside memorial services for Keith will be held by the family at Ninnekah Cemetery, on Saturday, September 5th, 2020, at 1:00 pm.

**Aug 26, 2020:** Obituary: James F. White passed away August 26, 2020 after an extended battle with Parkinson's disease and dementia. He met these challenges with the same determination he exhibited throughout his 101 years on this earth, including orphan hood where he was born 28 October 1918, the Great Depression, and the European theater of World War II. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. He had an abundant love for his wife, Vivian, two sons and extended family. His innate intelligence, love of a good challenge and overwhelming positive, resilient attitude served him well in life and his business career. Jim was preceded in death by his wife Vivian, Nee Adkins, son Dr. James R. White, and grandson Peter. He is survived by his son Ron (Sue), daughter in law Bobbie, grandchildren Brian(Katie), Cheryl (Don), Joe (Katherine), Shelly (Dave), Rob (Karen), Tami (Curt) as well as numerous great grandchildren and a great great grandchild. He graduated from Creston High School where he met the love of his life, Vivian Adkins, to whom he was married for over 73 years. When World War II began, Jim joined the US Army serving in the European theater with the 158th Field Artillery. He achieved the rank of First Sergeant and proudly served his country from Sept 9, 1942 to Dec 3, 1945. In 1968, his entrepreneurial spirit led him and his wife to start Auto Body Supply Company, which would become the present day Finishmaster, Inc., where he had roles as President, board member and Chairman. The company has grown to over 180 locations in 33 states, 1600 team members and five distribution centers. Jim was a member at Cascade Hills Country Club for over 30 years and enjoyed playing golf with his wife, family, and friends. He had two holes in one, won the President's Cup, and won a member guest tournament with his son Ron. Most of all, Jim will be remembered for his larger than life personality and "never give up, never give in" philosophy, which was an inspiration to his children, grandchildren, and co-workers. He was a true representative of the greatest generation. The family would like to thank the wonderful caregivers at Holland Home BEC and Faith Hospice for their kind and compassionate care. These are truly amazing people who make a difference every day.

**Sep 03, 2020:** Obituary: George Joseph Hanning. October 20, 1950 - September 3, 2020, 69, passed away Thursday, September 3, 2020 at his residence while surrounded by family. He was born October 20, 1950, in Houlton, Maine, the son of Percy Hanning and Donna (Michaud) Hanning MacDonald. George grew up in Houlton and attended local schools. He later earned his GED and attended college. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on May 13,

1968. He was assigned as a heavy equipment operator to Charlie Company, 76th Engineer Construction Battalion at Camp Eiler in South Korea from June Of 1969 to July of 1970. He received his honorable discharge as a SP4 on May 21, 1971. George then enlisted in the Army National Guard on July 15, 1973 in Lawton, OK, and was attached to Service Battery 1st BN 158th FA as a heavy equipment mechanic where he received an honorable discharge on July 15, 1977 as a Sergeant. George enjoyed going to his camp and riding his ATV with his friends. He was a member of the Houlton Band of Maliseets, as well as The American Legion Chester L. Briggs Post 47, and the Veterans Of Foreign Wars. George is survived by his two children Donna and Joseph Hanning and their families from Oklahoma. He is also survived by four brothers: Johnny and his wife Millie, Gerry, Fred , Rodney all of Houlton, four sisters: Gloria of Florida, Mary of Rhode Island, Sheila, Leslie, Dotti and her husband Gary all of Houlton. He also leaves behind several nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers: Gordon and Billy, and two sisters: Brenda and Sharon, an infant brother Gary as well as a nephew George "Bubba". A graveside service with military honors will be conducted 11 AM Thursday, September 10, 2020 at the Maliseet Tribal Cemetery, Veterans Section in Houlton, Maine. Arrangements in care of Dunn Funeral Home 11 Park St. Houlton, ME 04730.

**Sep 05, 2020:** Obituary: Jeremy Lee Green was born on June 13, 1990 in Graham, Texas to Howard and Elonda Green. He graduated Cameron University in May of 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. After moving to Edmond, OK with his wife and daughter, he worked as an auditor on Tinker Air Force Base alongside serving as a member of the Oklahoma National Guard until his passing. Jeremy remained steadfast in his love for Christ and will be remembered for his unprecedented strength and calm in the face of so many battles. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, and son and he will always be remembered as a King to his family. Jeremy is survived by his wife, Autumn Green and his daughter, Addison Green of Edmond, OK; his parents, Howard and Elonda Green of Altus, OK; his brother and sister in law, Landon and Misti Green of Moore, OK; his grandfather Houston Green of Weatherford, TX, his grandparents Boyd and Idella Armstrong of Mansfield, TX, his brother in law and wife Michael and Ashley Horton of Wichita Falls, TX, his brother in law and wife Bret and Amber Corn of Wichita Falls, TX, his brother in law and wife and Shane and Jazz Patman of Temple, OK, as well as multiple nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles. He was preceded in death by his grandmother Martha Green. Visitation will be held at Matthews Funeral Home on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 from 1:00 until 8:00 p.m., with family greeting friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held at North Church on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., with burial to follow at Gracelawn Cemetery, Edmond, OK. All are welcome to come and celebrate the outstanding life of Jeremy Green on this day. Specialist Fourth Class, Battery "A", 158th Field Artillery.

**Sep 09, 2020:** Published in "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Military Welcome Center reopens at airport. By Mitch Meador [mitch.meador@swoknews.com](mailto:mitch.meador@swoknews.com). The Armed Services YMCA of Oklahoma celebrated the reopening of its Military Welcome Center inside the main terminal of the Lawton-Fort Sill Regional Airport on Tuesday. The Southwest Oklahoma Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and its MOAA Auxiliary joined the Lawton-Fort Sill ASYMCA in opening the welcome center in 2010. Their original purpose was to provide military personnel a place to relax while awaiting a flight or other transportation. The scope of the welcome center was eventually expanded to include free books courtesy of the Things We Read program, computers, television, coffee and snacks, but those extras are on hold for now. The lounge itself will remain closed for now, and a table with drinks and snacks will be set up in the terminal lobby for airline passengers. Volunteers will be providing water, information and smiling faces. Becky Pazoureck, chairman of the ASYMCA's Military Welcome Center advisory committee, said the center will also have reduced hours for now. "We're only going to be open from 1-3 p.m., covering this mid-day flight, and see how many military or other passengers go through. We're passing out water and any information to anybody, so we're seeing what the need is. And then hopefully in time, depending on how COVID progresses, we will increase our hours," she said. Pazoureck said the lounge is closed "because there are so many things in there that have to be sanitized; chairs and the toys and the books and the computers. We just decided that was too much. So we're going to start off very soft." Sara Orellana-Paape, executive director of the Armed Services YMCA of Oklahoma, gave an additional reason for the closing of the lounge: "Our lounge is so small that with social distancing requirements, I'm not sure we'd be able to get more than two service members in there. And then with all the sanitation that would be required between each batch, it would just be impossible. "We wanted to be here to support the service members, so we're going to be greeting and handing out bottles of water, giving any directions or making phone calls as needed." Orellana-Paape said ASYMCA provides administrative oversight for the Military Welcome Center. "We do the bookkeeping and we help with some logistics, but because we've had such a reduction in staff, I've actually had to transfer a lot back to the committee. So right now, we're just providing bare administrative tasks and lots of cheer leading to help them reopen," Orellana-Paape said. The ASYMCA staff has been reduced to three for the entire state: Orellana-Paape; Annabel Valencia, her executive assistant in Lawton, and an executive assistant in Altus. Orellana-Paape said she was in Altus Tuesday morning, and officials at Altus Air Force Base were excited to learn that the Military Welcome Center was reopening. Pazoureck said MOAA and the MOAA Auxiliary continue to

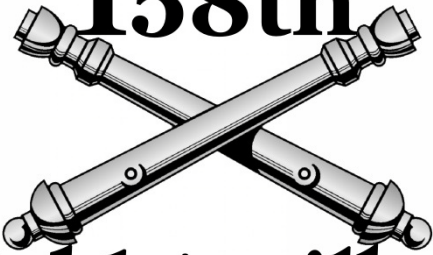
support the welcome center and do fundraising for this mission. "They were successful last year in writing a grant for us which allowed us to buy the new lounge chairs that are in the lounge today," she said. "Many of the MOAA members, as the MOAA Auxiliary, are volunteers here with us." In 2019 volunteers at the center served more than 10,000 service members, veterans and military families. The advisory committee is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer at the Military Welcome Center, the volunteer coordinators are Sheena Towsey and Bill Whisenant. Towsey can be reached at (832)-628-8528 or by email atstowsey@asymca.org. Army National Guard Spc. Dakota Norton of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, was one of three Guard members from his battalion who arrived back in time for the Military Welcome Center's reopening. He's a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System mechanic who's been at Fort Bliss, Texas, for the past month, and he stopped at the refreshment table to get something to drink. Norton said he had been through the welcome center back in January, before it closed down. "It looks good," he said.

**Sep 11, 2020:** Published in the "The Lawton Constitution" entitled: Guard mourns loss of 1-158 sergeant. By Mitch Meador mitch.meador@swoknews.com. Members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard mourn the loss of Sgt. Jeremy L. Green, who was a member of Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, after his passing Sept. 5, 2020. "We are heartbroken by the news of Jeremy's passing, a dedicated soldier gone far too soon," said Brig. Gen. Jon Harrison, director of the joint staff, Oklahoma National Guard. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the Green family and our Guardsmen during this incredibly difficult time." A soldier for nearly 13 years, Green began his military career in the Oklahoma Army National Guard in October 2007, where his most recent assignment was as a fire control sergeant with the 158th Field Artillery. His deployments overseas include Kuwait from 2011-2012 and Afghanistan from 2013-2014. Green was born on June 13, 1990 in Graham, Texas to Howard and Elonda Green. He graduated Cameron University in May of 2017 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. After moving to Edmond with his wife and daughter, he worked as an auditor on Tinker Air Force Base along with serving as a member of the Oklahoma National Guard until his passing. Green is survived by his wife, Autumn, and his daughter, Addison, of Edmond; his parents, Howard and Elonda Green of Altus; his brother and sister-in-law, Landon and Misti Green of Moore; his grandfather, Houston Green of Weatherford, Texas; his grandparents, Boyd and Idella Armstrong of Mansfield, Texas, his brother-in-law and wife, Michael and Ashley Horton of Wichita Falls, Texas, his brother-in-law and wife, Bret and Amber Corn of Wichita Falls, Texas; his brother-in-law and wife, Shane and Jazz Patman of Temple; as well as multiple nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Martha Green.

**Nov 02, 2020:** Obituary: Giovanni Salvatore Greco. February 14, 1952 - November 2, 2020. Giovanni Salvatore Greco returned to his eternal home in Heaven on the second of November, 2020 while at his residence in Chickasha, OK He was born on the fourteenth day of February, 1952 to Sam and Mary Greco in Anadarko, OK where he spent his childhood running, playing, and adventuring with his beloved sister and brothers, respectively, Melita, Sammy, Anthony, Marty, and Dana. Giovanni graduated from Anadarko High School in 1970. Shortly after graduation, Giovanni served in the Army National Guard and was later honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant from Battery "A" 1st Battalion 158th FA. On the fourteenth day of June in 1974, Brother Don Wright joined Giovanni with the love of his life, Debbie Edmondson, at Midway Baptist Church. Together they raised a family of three children, respectfully, Johnny Greco II, Sami Greco-Moore, and Jairus D. Greco. Giovanni devoted thirty-five years of service to Western Farmers Electric Co-op where he earned the title of Journeyman Station Technician before retiring. Giovanni loved physical activity and was known for his athletic stature from lifting heavy weights and riding his bicycle. He was an avid OU football fan, loved Texas blues and classic rock, but more than anything, Giovanni honored and loved our Father God and his family. Giovanni is survived by his children and grandchildren: Johnny Greco II and wife, Michelle, and daughter Caislee. Sami Greco-Moore and husband Jermaine. Jairus D. Greco and wife Holley, and daughters Hazel and Olivia. Giovanni is survived by his beloved brothers Marty and Dana Greco. Giovanni is preceded in death by his parents, Sam Salvatore Greco and Mary Eakle; brothers Pete Greco, Anthony Greco, and Sammy Greco; sister: Melita Heltzel; granddaughter Danielle Greco. Memorial Service: 11:00 am, November 7, 2020 Ray and Martha's Funeral Home Under the direction of Ray and Martha's Funeral Home, Anadarko, OK Memorial is NOV 7. 11:00 AM (CST) at Ray and Martha's Funeral Home Anadarko, 1115 S. Mission Rd , Anadarko, OK 73005.

#### **ERRATUM**

- I. "The Centennial Review" Volume # 1, Page No. 3. The seventh line of World War II lists Pfc. Melvin Marshall with a ASN of "35109156". This should read as follows: 35109137.
- II. "The Cold War" Volume # 7, Page No. 125. The second to the last sentence on the page reads: "On 3 December 1989at at the Malta Summit General Secretary Gorbachev and President George H. W. Bush declared the Cold War." This should read as follows: On 3 December 1989 at the Malta Summit, General Secretary Gorbachev and President George H. W. Bush declared the Cold War over.

**158th**  
  
**Field Artillery**

3955 Cannoneer Field Road

Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503



**Library of Congress PCN # 2018957292**