



# SIMPSON-GALLO-FERRARO MEMORIAL POST 10556

## VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS

9400 West Palmetto Park Road

Boca Raton, Florida 33428

November 2017

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### Commander's Corner



I want to thank Mike Day, Nestor Torres, Bill Tydings, Dan Thomas, Bruce Gilpin, Sam Shoptaw, and Gary Rose for their work and efforts in making our recent picnic on October 21 a success. This was the second joint effort between VFW Post 10556 and Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 1125. We look forward to other cooperative efforts to benefit our members of both organizations and the greater veteran community.

Membership is a continuing need of any VFW post or any organization. We want to continue to reach out to veterans who are eligible, but don't belong to the VFW. We have to make these veterans aware of the many VFW programs and the assistance we can provide them. Our Service Officer, Sam Shoptaw, is now at the Post on Mondays and is available to meet any veterans with a need. If you or any veteran needs to see him on other than Mondays, please call him to make alternate arrangements. Sam is also working closely with the Vet Center in Broward County and is visiting local homeless shelters to assist needy veterans. Remember membership in the VFW is a mutual benefit to the veteran and the Post. Let's be sure we all inform every veteran we meet of the benefits of VFW membership and let's sign them up.

In November, we are conducting our semiannual Poppy Drive prior to Veterans Day to help veterans at the Medical Center and in the community. Please give us as much time as you can spare so we can make this a successful drive. The money collected all goes to help veterans.

On Saturday, November 11, we will be conducting our Veterans Day Program in Veterans Park. We will have marching units, patriotic songs, and speeches. Please plan to attend and invite your friends and family to join us as we recognize all our veterans.

Let's make this an exciting year for our members, our local veterans and the greater Boca Raton area.

In Comradeship,  
Barry Goldin  
Post Commander

## 2017-2018 Post 10556 Officers & Committee Chairs

Position	Name	Position	Name
Commander	Barry A. Goldin	Program Chairman	Gary Rose
Senior Vice Commander	William T. Tydings	Judge Advocate	Bruce Gilpin
Junior Vice Commander	Daniel Thomas	Service Officer	Samuel J. Shoptaw, Jr.
Quartermaster	Bruce Gilpin	Trustee-1 yr.	Richard S. Stransky
Chaplain	Richard P. Melohn	Trustee-2 yr.	William B. Doyle
Surgeon	Gertrudis Perez-Dusek	Trustee-3 yr.	Gary Rose
Adjutant	Warren J. Muench	Newsletter Editor	Warren J. Muench

### Important Post Information

**Post Phone Number:**

**561-477-2779**

**Post E-Mail**

[vfwpost10556@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost10556@gmail.com)

**Post Website**

We hope to announce the launch of our Post website soon. Watch for an update.

**Post Facebook Page**

Our Facebook page is up and running.

If you have a Facebook account, send a friend request to “**VFW Boca Raton.**” If you want to share your photos and thoughts, you’re welcome to use our Facebook page.

**Post Your News and Announcements Here**

Publish the important days in your life; let everyone share in your joy and successes!

To submit announcements or stories, please contact Warren Muench at

[wjmuench@gmail.com](mailto:wjmuench@gmail.com).

### Post 10556 Boosters

Become a **Post Booster** for \$10.00 or more a year and have your name listed in this newsletter.

To donate, please contact Mike Day or Bruce Gilpin.

Cash or a check made out to **VFW Post 10556** gladly accepted.

2017 Boosters			
Paul Mosera	Ralph Shear	Barry Goldin	Mike Day
Warren Muench	Arthur Pion	Melvin Panitz	John Schachleiter
John Landy	Martin Freidentag	Gertrudis Perez-Dusek	Madhupriya Metukuru
Melvin Sacherow	Gary Rose	Daniel Thomas	Alvin Lesser
Al Ingersoll	Bruce Gilpin	Brigid Kenney	Joe Cheffo
Agustin Barrull	Theo Dressler	Ronald Buckley	Ted Adams
William Tydings	Vardell Swett	Michael Bavetz	William (Bill) Murray
Leo Capsuto	Tami Cirinese	William Doyle	Marvin Foster
Nestor Torres	Charles Espisito	<i>Your name here!</i>	

## Events Calendar

### November 2017

#### *National Military Family Month*

- 2 Thu *Post Poppy Drive Begins*
- 5 Sun Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 7 Tue Election Day
- 8 Wed *Men's Night Out (Cancelled for Poppy Drive)*
- 10 Fri *Marine Corps Day/Birthday*
- 10 Fri *Post Poppy Drive Ends*
- 11 Sat *Veterans Day*
- 11 Sat *Remembrance Day*
- 14 Tue *Hospital Visit–WPB VAMC*
- 16 Thu *Post Agenda Meeting*
- 18 Sat *Post General Meeting–1000*
- 23 Thu *Thanksgiving Day*
- 24 Fri Black Friday
- 28 Tue *Hospital Visit–WPB VAMC*

### December 2017

#### *Universal Human Rights Month*

- 1 Fri *Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday*
- 3 Sun Advent Begins
- 7 Thu *Pearl Harbor Remembrance*
- 12 Tue Hanukkah Starts
- 12 Tue *Hospital Visit–WPB VAMC*
- 13 Wed *Men's Night Out, Miller's Ale House-W. Boca*
- 14 Thu *Post Agenda Meeting*
- 16 Sat *Post General Meeting–1000*
- 20 Wed Hanukkah Ends
- 21 Thu Winter Solstice
- 25 Mon *Christmas*
- 26 Tue *Hospital Visit–WPB VAMC*
- 26 Tue Kwanzaa (Start)

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### Hospital Report: VAMC–West Palm Beach for October 2017



Post 10556 has a team of dedicated members who regularly go to the VA Medical Center (VAMC) in West Palm Beach. These teams meet with our veterans who are residents and patients of the VA Medical Center. I want to thank all of our officers and members who have helped in the many activities for our hospitalized veterans, both inpatient and outpatient.

In October, VFW Post 10556 held Horse Racing with residents of the Community Living Center (CLC) on the second and fourth Tuesdays. The Post gave out \$200 in Canteen books to the residents on each visit. My thanks go to the participating members for helping to make Horse Racing a success. Members are welcome to join us for this enriching experience.

On October 10, we held a luncheon for the residents of the CLC, Blind Rehab, and Mental Health. Post 10556 provided fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and biscuits catered by the Canteen at the Medical Center. Nutrition and Food Services provided a salad and desserts, as well as special meals where required by patient needs. The Post provided sodas and servers. This luncheon was enjoyed by all the participants.

On October 16, I participated in the Quarterly VAVS meeting. As Chair of the VAVS Executive Committee, I presented a summary to the group of activities going on and planned for the rest of the year affecting the veterans and the Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), outlining veteran and hospital needs where the VSOs could help in meeting these needs. As the VAVS Representative of the VFW Department of Florida at the VAMC WPB, I presented a check for \$1000 from the VFW Department of Florida to the Director of the Medical Center with \$500 going to the General Purpose Fund to meet unmet veteran needs and \$500 going to Patient Centered Care, supporting special veteran needs as identified by hospital staff.

Thank you to all who volunteer to participate in our hospital visits and projects to help our veterans. Please help us by your participation in the November Poppy Drive, which is going on now. These Poppy Drives provide the funds for the many activities for our veterans at the Medical Center and in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Goldin

Commander, Post 10556

VFW VAVS Representative, VAMC WPB

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## Activities Committee Report—October 2017



### Activities du Jour

Did you miss us?

There's been a lot going on, so I'll try to summarize the last two months.

The Member's "Night on the Town" dinners continue to be successful, both for the members and for friends and family. The post members still meet the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wednesday of every month at Miller's Boca Ale House. As a result, they have become an advertiser in our newsletter. It just proves how successful these events can be, not only for the members, but also for the Post. The next meal is November 8 at 5 p.m., and we ask that you sign up at the Post or notify Leo that you will be attending so we can arrange seating.

We had a nice turnout at the friends and family meal. About 17 people joined us at the Hibachi Buffet on September 26. Going to a buffet was a nice touch and there was something to please everyone. I can assure you no one went home hungry, and I know Charlie Epstein went back for dessert 3 times (he loves the pistachio ice cream). It was nice having wives, family members, and guests join us, and it was a good opportunity to learn more about each other. The whole idea is fellowship and camaraderie. It works great.

Because of the holidays in November and December, we are not holding a friends and family event, but Leo and I are investigating potential restaurants for next year. High on the list is Hurricane Wings, and we are working with the new manager for a special event where we can receive a 35% discount. To receive the discount, each member needs to sign up for their new program called "Flavor Rewards." I can help anyone who wants to take advantage of the discount sign up in advance. There are also other benefits of membership.

Packy's promises to be another good location for a meal, and they are also a current advertiser. They have a special event called "Cruise Night," which is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. A 20% discount is available using the advertisement in the Post newsletter. Packy's also offers 50% off the price of the 2<sup>nd</sup> entrée, a free order of "Packy's Chips" with an entrée, or \$5 off a \$30 purchase. Coupons are available at the Post and are valid for the rest of 2017.

If you have any suggestions for any notable restaurants, please let us know.

Hopefully everyone saw the advertisement for Freedom Day and the email that was sent out. This is an annual event

sponsored by area dentists who give free services to veterans. They include free cleanings, free x-rays, and extractions to mention a few. The participating dentist in our area is Dr. Michael Pechan, DMD, of Elite Boca Dental. They gave free services to 15 veterans who scheduled appointments. As a courtesy, we will add them to our advertisers list for the next month. Michael and his staff are happy to welcome new patients.

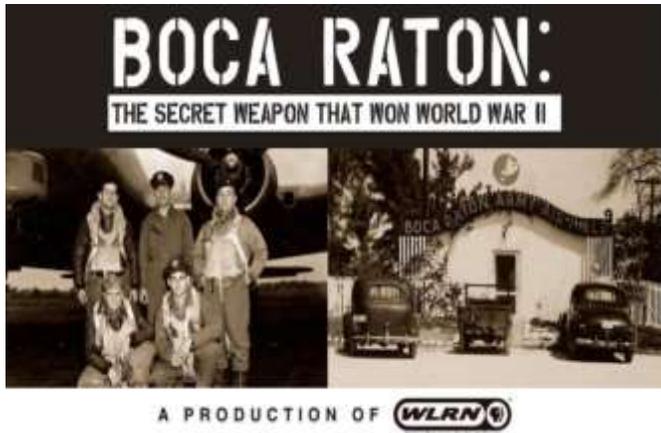
The big event for the month was our Picnic in the Park, a joint activity with the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1125. It was held immediately after the October 21 business meeting. We had approximately 70 attendees from both organizations. Nestor, our resident chef and his son, Nestor, a future member of our Post, prepared hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and frankfurters for a hungry crowd. We also served vegetarian baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, and chips. We were happy to see a lot of youngsters at the event. The VVA provided entertainment with a gentleman on keyboard and a talented lady doing vocals. There were still people at the post after 3 p.m. enjoying the food and the company. This was a fundraiser event with both organizations sharing the costs and profits equally. I estimate our profit was approximately \$150.

This is probably a good time to emphasize our ongoing need for income. Our key fundraising activity is the Poppy Drive that runs from November 2 through November 10. This is the main generator of revenue for the Post providing the money we need to continue our activities helping veterans in the community and especially at the VAMC with our semimonthly visits. Our Poppy Drive co-chairmen, Arthur Pion and Dan Thomas, still need more volunteers to collect donations. Please take the time to do your share. We would like to expand our appeal to local businesses, asking them to become sponsors or newsletter advertisers. Gary Rose is working on a joint project to develop a website for the Post. This would allow us to have visibility on the Internet for people searching for us. One of the benefits of our own website would be to have an advertiser's page that could link to their businesses. This is just another way of generating visibility and revenue for our advertisers who, in turn, are supporting us.

The atomic bomb may have ended World War II, but historians agree it was radar that won it. Exactly how has this been classified as top secret... until now? Did you know Boca Raton had a secret weapon that won World War II? Well, neither did I until I was notified of this documentary film being produced by Miami TV station WLRN in conjunction with the Boca Raton Historical Society. The premier was held at FAU on November 1, and the movie will be broadcast on television. You can watch it on WLRN TV, Channel 17 (check local listings) on

Monday, November 6, at 8p.m. from the comfort of your own home.

You can view a short video trailer of the movie online at:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8kQ4V797WsnUmVWTF9uemtmUGs/view>.



And talking about technology, our Post continues to explore new avenues of social media to reach each other and the public. Our Post Facebook page is now active. If you have a Facebook account, you can find us by searching for “VFW Boca Raton” on Facebook. Please sign on and ask for a friend request so you can follow us on Facebook and have another avenue of getting the news.

And while we haven’t made a final decision, Gary Rose is diligently working on a website for the Post hosted by GoDaddy. If you haven’t had a chance to preview it go to <https://vfwpost10556.godaddysites.com/>.

Thanks to Gary Rose, Nestor Torres (1 & 2), Dan Thomas, Arthur Pion, Leo Capsuto, Sam Shoptaw, and a host of others that keep the Post activities alive and fresh.  
 Yours in service,  
 Mike Day

**Post 10556 All–State Program Totals ► Current as of 31 Oct. 17**

Americanism	Community Service	Drug and Safety	Youth Activities	Buddy Poppy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Members: 181</li> <li>• Total Hours: 544.00</li> <li>• Total Miles: 874.00</li> <li>• Total Cost: 688.00</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Members: 14</li> <li>• Total Hours: 120.00</li> <li>• Total Miles: 160.00</li> <li>• Total Cost: 0.00</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Members: 2</li> <li>• Total Hours: 10.00</li> <li>• Total Miles: 0.00</li> <li>• Total Cost: 0.00</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Members: 10</li> <li>• Total Hours: 59.00</li> <li>• Total Miles: 118.00</li> <li>• Total Cost: 215.00</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Members: 35</li> <li>• Total Hours : 70.00</li> <li>• Total Miles: 480.00</li> <li>• Total Cost: 400.00</li> </ul>
Fireman/Police/EMT	Hospital	National Teacher Awd	Patriot’s Pen	Voice of Democracy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Members: 0</li> <li>• Total Hours: 0.00</li> <li>• Total Miles: 0.00</li> <li>• Total Cost: 0.00</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Members: 46</li> <li>• Total Hours: 264.00</li> <li>• Total Miles: 951.00</li> <li>• Total Cost: 3475.86</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Members: 0</li> <li>• Total Hours: 0.00</li> <li>• Total Miles: 0.00</li> <li>• Total Cost: 0.00</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Members: 0</li> <li>• Total Hours: 0.00</li> <li>• Total Miles: 0.00</li> <li>• Total Cost” 0.00</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Members: 28</li> <li>• Total Hours: 1.00</li> <li>• Total Miles: 0.00</li> <li>• Total Cost: 0.00</li> </ul>

Provided by Gary Rose, Post Program Chairman

**Service Officer’s Corner**



As your Service Officer, I had the opportunity to go to Orlando, Florida, for the advanced Service Officers’ Class. I learned that starting this month, there will be major changes that might affect you as a veteran.

In Fiscal Year 2017, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency accounted for 183 formerly missing persons from past conflicts. The agency also individually identified the remains of 18 additional personnel who were previously accounted for as part of group burials, reaching another

milestone of 201 total identifications for the fiscal year. DPAA works closely with the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, part of the Research and Development Directorate of the Military Health System.

**1. Congress Authorizes COLA Increase for Veterans:**  
 On Wednesday, the Senate passed H.R. 1329, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017. This legislation would increase the rates of VA disability compensation, dependency compensation for surviving children and spouses, as well as the clothing allowance for veterans. This increase is based on the yearly cost-of-living adjustment increase that Social Security recipients receive, which is determined by the

Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index. Earlier this year, the House passed H.R. 1329, which now awaits President Trump's signature. Once signed into law, the expected 2 % increase will become effective on Jan. 1, 2018.

- 2. Take the VFW Survey on TRICARE:** Last year's National Defense Authorization Act contained a number of changes to TRICARE, most of which take effect Jan. 1, 2018. The VFW believes service members, veterans and their families must be able to voice how these changes will impact them. To ensure your views and preferences are heard, the VFW has developed a survey to gauge our members' awareness of these changes and how they will affect beneficiaries. The data collected will be used to advocate for policy and legislative changes that are based on the needs of TRICARE beneficiaries. Go to the VFW website and take the survey.
- 3. VFW Testifies on VA Health Care, Choice Program:** On Tuesday, the VFW testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on pending health care legislation. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David Shulkin testified for VA. The VFW discussed the future of VA's Choice Program and consolidating community care programs. Other legislation included topics, such as organ transplants, nursing homes, sexual trauma, and suicide. Watch the hearing or read the testimony.
- 4. VFW Testifies on VA Overpayments and Debt Management:** The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing this week to discuss how VA can effectively prevent and manage overpayments. VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director John Towles offered the VFW's position on the issue and highlighted several common-sense steps that could be taken by VA to prevent and properly manage overpayments, including ensuring that the contact information VA is using to notify veterans of overpayments is up-to-date; clarifying the eligibility for a debt waiver; outlining in easy-to-understand terms the steps that should be taken to request a payment plan for legitimate overpayments; ensuring that VA suspends all recoupment efforts once a veteran appeals a debt recoupment decision; and ensuring that regional office and debt management staff are trained to conduct proper due diligence, and are better trained in VA's debt management and collections procedures and protocols. View the hearing and read the VFW testimony.

## **5. VFW Attends Blue Water Agent Orange**

**Roundtable:** On Wednesday, the VFW attended a roundtable with nearly a dozen veteran and military service organizations, congressional staffers, and veterans impacted by Agent Orange. The roundtable focused on the need to expand presumptive coverage for an estimated 90,000 veterans, as the needed legislation awaits congressional action. The VFW has testified in support of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017 several times and is working with the VA and Congress to ensure benefits are expanded to Blue Water Navy veterans without eroding other veteran benefits. Additionally, the VFW continues to reaffirm its support for these veterans through the annual adoption of a resolution at the VFW National Convention calling for expansion of Agent Orange presumptive benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans. Stay tuned to the VFW Action Corps Weekly for more updates on this vital topic.

No matter who or where you are, call your Representatives with your support.



The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association

HR 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act will be marked up at a hearing 10 a.m., Thursday. This is the last step before passage. Please call the following Members of Congress and tell them to "vote to pass HR 299 at all costs and regardless of how it is paid for." Use those words. Don't accept any excuses or blame shifting. Burn up those phone lines. This is it! This is our time. Embrace it!

- Tim Walz, Minnesota 202-225-2472
- Mark Takano, California 202-225-7018
- Julia Brownley, California 202-225-5811
- Ann McLane Kuster, New Hampshire 202-225-5206
- Beto O'Rourke, Texas 202-225-4831
- Kathleen Rice, New York 202-225-5516
- Lou Correa, California 202-225-2965
- Gregorio Sablan, Northern Marianas Islands 202-225-2646
- Elizabeth Esty, Connecticut 202-225-4476
- Scott Peters, California 202-225-0508

The hearing will be streamed live on the Committee web site.

<https://veterans.house.gov/calendar/?EventTypeID=566>.

At the drop down menu select full committee.

With respect,  
Samuel John Shoptaw  
Post 10556  
Service Officer  
Boca Raton, Florida

## Editor's Choice

### Medal of Honor Citations ► Fox, John R | WWII

#### *John R. Fox*

**Rank and organization:** First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 598th Field Artillery Battalion, 366th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division

**Place and date:** Sommocolonia, Italy, December 26, 1944

**Entered service:** 1940 in Cincinnati, Ohio

**Born:** May 18, 1915 Cincinnati, Ohio

#### *Citation*

For extraordinary heroism against an armed enemy in the vicinity of Sommocolonia, Italy, on 26 December 1944, while serving as a member of Cannon Company, 366th Infantry Regiment, 92d Infantry Division. During the preceding few weeks, Lieutenant Fox served with the 598th Field Artillery Battalion as a forward observer. On Christmas night, enemy soldiers gradually infiltrated the town of Sommocolonia in civilian clothes, and by early morning the town was largely in hostile hands. Commencing with a heavy barrage of enemy artillery at 0400 hours on 26 December 1944, an organized attack by uniformed German units began. Being greatly outnumbered, most of the United States Infantry forces were forced to withdraw from the town, but Lieutenant Fox and some other members of his observer party voluntarily remained on the second floor of a house to direct defensive artillery fire. At 0800 hours, Lieutenant Fox reported that the Germans were in the streets and attacking in strength. He then called for defensive artillery fire to slow the enemy advance. As the Germans continued to press the attack towards the area that Lieutenant Fox occupied, he adjusted the artillery fire closer to his position. Finally he was warned that the next adjustment would bring the deadly artillery right on top of his position. After acknowledging the danger, Lieutenant Fox insisted that the last adjustment be fired as this was the only way to defeat the attacking soldiers. Later, when a counterattack retook the position from the Germans, Lieutenant Fox's body was found with the bodies of approximately 100 German soldiers. Lieutenant Fox's gallant and courageous actions, at the supreme sacrifice of his own life, contributed greatly to delaying the enemy advance until other infantry and artillery units could reorganize to repel the attack. His extraordinary valorous actions were in keeping with the most cherished traditions of military service, and reflect the utmost credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.



**1Lt. John R. Fox**

Fox attended Wilberforce University, participating in ROTC under Aaron R. Fisher and graduating with a commission as a second lieutenant in 1940. He was assigned to the 92nd Infantry Division (colored), known as the Buffalo Soldiers, a segregated African-American division that fought in World War II. First Lieutenant John R. Fox was a member of the 366th Infantry Regiment when he sacrificed his life to defeat an enemy attack and save the lives of others. In December 1944, Fox was part of a small forward observer party that volunteered to stay behind in the Italian village of Sommocolonia, in the Serchio River Valley. American forces had been forced to withdraw from the village after it had been overrun by the Germans. From his position on the second floor of a house, Fox directed defensive artillery fire.

Wehrmacht soldiers were attacking in strength, greatly outnumbering the handful of Americans. Fox radioed the artillery to bring its fire closer to his position. As the attack continued, he ordered the fire directed onto his own position. The soldier who received the message was stunned, as there was little chance that Fox would survive it.

Fox simply replied, "Fire it." Fox's sacrifice gained time for the U.S. forces to organize a counterattack and retake the village. When they did so, they found Fox's body as well as about one hundred dead German soldiers.

Lt. Fox is buried in Colebrook Cemetery, Whitman, Massachusetts. After the war, the citizens of Sommocolonia, Italy erected a monument to nine men who were killed during the artillery barrage – eight Italian soldiers, and Lieutenant Fox. In 2005, the toy company Hasbro introduced a 12-inch action figure "commemorating Lt. John R. Fox as part of its G.I. Joe Medal-of-Honor series.

In the early 1990s it was determined that African-American soldiers had been denied consideration for the Medal of Honor because of their race. After a review, seven African-American soldiers, including 1st Lieutenant Fox, had their medals upgraded in January 1997 to the Medal of Honor.

[Source: <http://www.history.army.mil/moh/wwII-a-f.html> | September 2017]

## National Order of the Legion of Honor ► Awarded to 10 WWII Vets

Ten California men who fought overseas with U.S. forces have been awarded the French government's highest honor for their World War II service. The veterans were each presented the National Order of the Legion of Honor medal during a ceremony 20 September at Los Angeles National Cemetery. Among them was 94-year-old Sterling D. Ditchey, an Army Air Corps 1st lieutenant who flew 70 combat missions in Europe as a B-25 bombardier, and 95-year-old Ignacio Sanchez who was part of 35 combat missions as a B-17 turret gunner. Instituted by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Legion of Honor recognizes exceptional service to France.



[Source: Associated Press | 20 Sep 2017]

## Insanely Daring Air Raids ► The 1943 Mosquito Raid Of Berlin

Air raids were one of the military strategies that were used to attack enemies using fighter planes which would drop bombs and blow buildings apart. This task was perhaps the most dangerous and terrifying mission during the times of war. However, many brave aviators risked their lives and conducted daring raids against insane odds. The following covers one of the most daring raids to ever be conducted in history, the story behind the raids, and the crews who flew the military planes.

On Saturday, 30 January 1943, Nazi Germany was celebrating the tenth anniversary of Hitler's rise to power. As their tradition, the Germans gathered at the central broadcasting station to listen to the speeches of Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring and Joseph Goebbels, the Third Reich's Propaganda Minister. While this was supposed to be a special event, the Royal Air Force were inbound at low level in their de Havilland Mosquito's with other ideas about that. With German forces occupying virtually the whole of Europe, the British were determined to prevent the concentration of defenses in Berlin. The operation started in the morning when three Mosquito B Mk. IVs from 105 Squadron carried out a low-level attack on the Haus des Rundfunks, headquarters of the German State broadcasting company when Göring was due to address the public. Goering could not take the lectern for an

hour after the attack and was reported to have been "boiling with rage and humiliation."



### British Mosquito B Mk. IVs Fighter

The second attack followed five hours later when three Mosquitoes from 139 (Jamaica) Squadron flew to Berlin and interrupted a speech by Goebbels. Although not quite as disruptive as the earlier one, this attack also took place at the exact time Goebbels was to start speaking, 16.00. Only one aircraft was lost – Mosquito DZ367 GB-J, of 105 Sqn was shot down near Altengrabow leading to the death of the Squadron Leader D.F. Darling and his navigator, Flying Officer William Wright.

## Notes of Interest

- **Gasoline Spill.** Less than 20 percent of a 461,000-gallon (1.7-million-liter) gasoline spill in Texas during Hurricane Harvey was recovered by the company responsible, while the rest evaporated or soaked into the ground, a U.S. Coast Guard official said 14 SEP.
- **Cambodia MIAs.** Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said 14 SEP he will retaliate against a U.S. halt on the issuing of most visas to senior foreign ministry officials and their families by suspending missions by U.S. military-led teams searching for the remains of Americans missing in action from the Vietnam War.
- **Guantánamo.** They smile, they pose, they adorn their prison camp uniforms with familiar items from home. Since 2009, the Pentagon has permitted the International Committee of the Red Cross to photograph Guantánamo's captives — not for public consumption, but to connect with family after years apart. While the Red Cross, in keeping with its confidential work, does not release these images to the public, the prisoners' lawyers and families do. The Miami Herald has amassed this unusual collection at <http://media.miamiherald.com/static/media/projects/2014/portraits-of-guantanamo> to show portraits of these men posing on their own terms behind the razor wire at the U.S. Navy base prison in southeast Cuba.

- **Premium Gasoline.** The pricier petrol is almost certainly unnecessary. Even if your owner's manual recommends premium gas, "the car will typically run on regular without issue and won't damage the engine in any way," according to Jason Kavanaugh and Peter Gareffa of Edmunds.com. They note that drivers used to buy premium now and then to "clean" their engines. But every formulation of today's fuels has additives in place — no cleaning necessary.
- **Electromagnetic Railgun.** Military's most powerful cannon. shoots a projectile 100 miles at Mach 7. Check it out at <https://youtu.be/i737rM6FqxqE>.
- **College Rankings.** The 2018 US News & World Report rankings are in! West Point ranks as the #1 Public College and the #4 Undergraduate Engineering Program, and also "leapfrogs" Annapolis to rank as the #12 Best National Liberal Arts College in the annual rankings. Visit [www.usnews.com/colleges](http://www.usnews.com/colleges) for a complete list of rankings and ranking methodology.
- **Drones.** A drone crashed into a UH-60 Black Hawk over Staten Island 21 SEP, marking the first time a civilian drone has ever collided with a military aircraft, an Army official said.
- **Civil War Pensioner.** Irene Triplett, 87, still continues to receive a monthly check for \$73.13 from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Triplett is the sole surviving person to be receiving a Civil War pension from the VA.
- **DPRK.** China has ordered North Korean companies operating within its borders to shut down as Beijing tightens the screws on Pyongyang amid fresh UN sanctions.
- **VA Fraud.** VA investigators opened 111 health care cases during the first six months of this fiscal year and were able to obtain more than \$125 million in court-ordered fines and restitution, according to a Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General report.

## Briefing

### **VA Flu Shots ► No Cost Shots at Walgreens**

Flu Season is here! Veterans: Protect yourselves and get a NO-COST flu shot! The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally (and the Duane Reade pharmacies in the New York metropolitan area) to receive a vaccination at no cost.

Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2018. Veterans wishing to receive the no-cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination. The Group ID is: **VAFLU** In addition, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine, Walgreens will transmit that information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record. VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of flu. No matter where you live, visit your local VA clinic or Walgreens to get a no-cost flu shot.

To find your local VA, visit [www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp](http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp). To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENs (800-925-4733), or go to [www.com/findastore](http://www.com/findastore).

To learn more about the partnership visit <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp> or call 1-877-771-8537. To get more information on flu and flu vaccine, visit [www.publichealth.va.gov/flu](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/flu) or [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu). [Source: eBenefits Online Application | September 26, 2017]

### **VA Caregiver Program ► No Charge Online Course**

The Department of Veterans Affairs partnered with PsychArmor Institute to provide a free online course to break down VA's Caregiver Program. The course takes approximately 10 minutes and includes information about how VA is organized, who is eligible for the Caregiver Program, how to enroll in it, what documents are needed, and where to apply. The course also offers tips and guidance on what actions to take after enrollment is complete, and what resources are available to help veterans and their caregivers. To take the online course go to <https://psycharmor.org/courses/understanding-va-caregivers>. [Source: VFW Action Corps Weekly | September 22, 2017]

### **Words to Live By ► High Ethical Standards**

A code of ethics cannot be developed overnight by edict or official pronouncement. It is developed by years of practice and performance of duty according to high ethical standards. It must be self-policing. Without such a code, a professional soldier or a group soon loses identity and effectiveness. Once we know our job, have a genuine code of ethics, and maintain unquestioned personal integrity, we have met the first and most demanding challenge of leadership.

[Source: SMA Silas L. Copeland, USA Ret. Soldier Today | November 2, 2017]

## **Army's Radical Fitness Shift ▶ More Rigorous Test**

The U.S. Army's physical-fitness test could get more physical soon. A proposed overhaul of the Army's decades-old test (established in 1980) includes a barbell lift, a sprint with 40-pound kettlebells, and a brutal new style of push-up. The test would be a dramatic shift for the Army, a longtime bellwether of civilian health and fitness. The exercises in the proposed test are more challenging, but the Army hasn't yet set the passing standards.

The proposed six-event test known as the Army Combat Readiness Test (ACRT) aims to encourage more practical physical training and prevent injury in a force frequently deployed around the world. It also reflects a U.S. military where all combat jobs are now open to women. The proposed test would have one set of passing standards, with no adjustment for age or gender.

The proposed test is 80% predictive of whether a soldier can complete tasks necessary for combat. The existing test is only about 40% predictive. The new test includes:

1. Perform three dead lifts with barbells weighing between 125 and 425 pounds. Soldiers will be trained to do this safely.
2. Reverse throw a 10-pound ball, measured for distance. It mimics the move used to get soldiers into buildings.
3. The new push-up requires lowering oneself all the way to the ground and extending one's arms in a T between repetitions.
4. The 250-meter shuttle event requires alternately sprinting, dragging a 90-pound sled, and carrying two 40-pound kettlebells.
5. The leg tuck requires lifting knees or thighs to elbows while hanging from a pull-up bar.
6. The timed 2-mile run is the only event identical to the current test.

The proposed test is part of a move toward a more comprehensive approach to training and maintaining the Army's 1 million soldiers. It comes amid high demands on the Army world-wide, a shrinking pool of people eligible for military service, and a shift in the civilian fitness industry toward free-weights and functional training.

The Army is working on installing training centers stocked with relevant exercise equipment and staffed with experts in fitness, nutrition, and performance. The goal is to prepare and maintain soldiers' bodies as systematically as the Army does its Humvees and Helicopters. Recent research in health and fitness is leading to this improvement.

[Source: Condensed from The Wall Street Journal | October 31, 2017]

## **Robotic Vehicles ▶ Military Technology Advances**

Robotic vehicles are taking aim at the modern battlefield in armies around the world. The U.S. Army is working on trucks that can drive themselves in a convoy. Israel is working on patrol vehicles, and Russia is making machine-gun firing, self-driving mini tanks. Drones have transformed air wars, and now ground troops are starting to enjoy some of the same benefits.

Trucks are being modified to operate in eight-vehicle convoys in which only the lead vehicle is driven. The others are equipped with technology to allow automatic steering, braking and acceleration, and to monitor other safety systems. The Swedish Army would be happy if soldiers could rest instead of driving and be fresh to fight when they reach a target. Development of self-driving vehicles in the civilian sector is driving down the price of critical sensor technologies needed to maneuver vehicles across the battlefield.

Up next for the U.S. Army is a system it calls "Wingman." Within three years, the service plans to demonstrate an unmanned version of its Humvee, the commonly used four-wheel drive vehicle, armed with a weapon that could be fired remotely.

[Source: Condensed from The Wall Street Journal | Robert Wall | October 30, 2017]

## **Israel's First Permanent U.S. Base ▶ Army Site 883 Life Support Area**

U.S. and Israeli officers broke ground in Israel on 18 September for a permanent U.S. Army base that will house dozens of U.S. soldiers, operating under the American flag, and charged with the mission of defending against rocket and missile attack. The American base, officers in Israel say, will be an independent facility co-located at the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Air Defense School in southern Israel, near the desert capital of Beersheba. Once completed, the base will house U.S. operational systems to identify and intercept a spectrum of aerial threats, along with barracks, recreational, and other facilities required to support several dozen American air defenders. "A few dozens of soldiers of our American allies will be stationed here permanently. They are part of an American task force that will be stationed here," said Israeli Air Force Brig. Gen. Zvika Haimovich, the IDF's air defense commander.

According to Haimovich, the co-located, permanent U.S. presence will enhance Israel's ability to detect and defend against the growing rocket and missile threat. "The purpose of their presence is not for training or for exercises, but rather as part of a joint Israeli and American effort to sustain and enhance our defensive capabilities."

Maj. Gen. John Gronski, deputy commanding general of the Army National Guard in U.S. Army Europe, led the

U.S. delegation participating in 18 September ceremonies. Referring to the site as Site 883 Life Support Area, Gronski said the planned base “signifies the strong bond” that exists between the United States and Israel. “This life support area represents the first ever stationing of a U.S. Army unit on Israeli soil,” he said. “The U.S. and Israel have long planned together, exercised together, trained together. And now, with the opening of this site, these crucial interactions will occur every day. We’ll have Israeli airmen, U.S. soldiers living and working side by side.”

While the new U.S. base marks the first to be co-located within an Israeli base and the first in which active interceptors are to be deployed, the U.S. military has operated an independent facility for nearly a decade in the same general area of Israel’s Negev desert. That facility — which is operated only by Americans without an Israeli presence — houses the U.S. AN/TPY-2, an X-Band radar that is integrated with Israeli search and track radars to augment early warning in the event of ballistic missile attack from Iran. In his briefing to reporters, Haimovich said the IDF has been working with its U.S. counterparts for nearly two years to establish the new facility. He emphasized that the American presence “would not hamper the IDF’s ability to act independently against any threat to the security of the State of Israel.”

He also noted that in recent weeks, the IDF’s Air Defense Command stood up a new Iron Dome battalion to enable the Jewish state to more equitably deploy active defenses along its northern as well as southern borders, where Israel faces growing threats from Lebanon and Gaza, respectively. One of Israel’s operational Iron Dome systems is now in the U.S., where it is competing with U.S.-proposed systems for an interim — and possibly longer-term — solution to the medium- and short-range air defense requirement.

[Source: DefenseNews | Barbara Opall-Rome | September 18, 2017]

## Have You Heard? ☺

The teacher gave her third-grade class an assignment: have their parents tell them a story with a moral at the conclusion. The next day the kids came back and one by one began to tell their stories. Gabby said, "My father’s a farmer, and we have egg-laying hens. We took our eggs to the market in one basket, we hit a bump in the road and all the eggs went flying and broke. “What’s the moral of the story?” asked the teacher. “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket!” “Very good,” said the teacher. “Johnny, do you have a story to share?” “Yes, ma’am, my daddy told me this story about my uncle Bob. Uncle Bob was a Green Beret in Vietnam and his helicopter got hit. He had to crash land in enemy territory and all he had was a bottle of whiskey, a machine gun, and a machete. He drank the whiskey on the

way down so it wouldn't break, and then he landed right in the middle of 100 VC. He killed 70 of them with the machine gun until he ran out of bullets, then he killed 20 more with the machete till the blade broke, and then he killed the last 10 with his bare hands.” “Good heavens,” said the horrified teacher, “What kind of moral did your daddy tell you from that horrible story?” “Don't mess with Uncle Bob when he's been drinking.”

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Three friends married women from different parts of the world....

The first man married a Filipino. He told her that she was to do the dishes and house cleaning.

It took a couple of days, but on the third day, he came home to see a clean house and dishes washed and put away.

The second man married a Thai. He gave his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes and the cooking.

The first day he didn't see any results, but the next day he saw it was better. By the third day, he saw his house was clean, the dishes were done, and there was a huge dinner on the table.

The third man married an Italian girl. He ordered her to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed, and hot meals on the table for every meal.

He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything either, but by the third day, some of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye, and his arm was healed enough so he could fix himself a sandwich and load the dishwasher. He still has some difficulty when he urinates.



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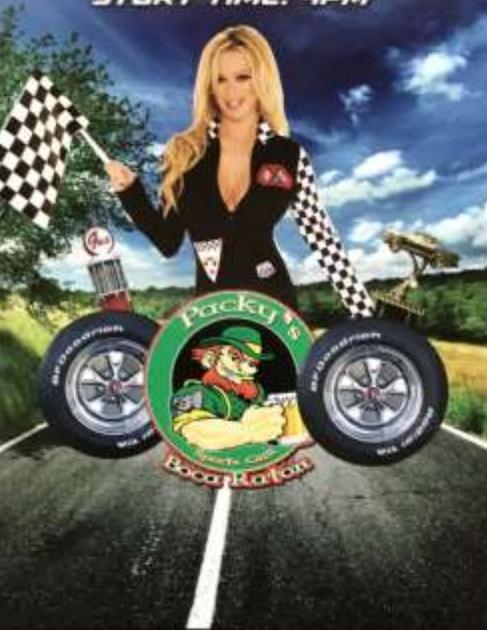
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