



C-5 Programmed Depot Maintenance Team earns DoD Mason Award

By **GREG COLLINS**
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In a momentous ceremony at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, the C-5 Programmed Depot Maintenance Team from the 559th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex was awarded the esteemed Department of Defense Robert T. Mason Award.

The award, according to a Department of Defense news release, “recognizes exceptional quality and achievement”

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Trustee Jeanette McElhaney shares vision for 2025

By **JEANETTE MCELHANEY**
Trustee, AFGE Local 987
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2025. The year of new ideas and changes. What’s your New Year’s resolution? AFGE has gone through some ups and downs at the National, District, Council and even at the Local levels. In 2025 we’re in the year of change. Changes for the betterment of the Federation.

Those changes can start with you. Local 0987 will be looking for ideas from the members. We want you to be a part of the new vision. We want you to be a part of the various committees, attend the meetings in person and a part of organizing, as well as bringing any other ideas you can bring



Jeanette McElhaney

to the table.

Members have asked: “When will we start our in-person meetings?” Well, the answer is January 2025. The monthly meetings will be held

on the third Thursday of each month starting 16 Jan 25. The meeting will start at 5 p.m. at 1764 Watson Blvd., in Warner Robins. Your union building.

This is the start of becoming one. We’ve talked about it. It’s time to put it into action. And I think there are enough people at Robins, BUEs and “potential” BUEs, that we can make it happen. All parties involved. As one.

We have the opportunity to build the membership, but we also have the opportunity to build a real partnership with the agencies. We’re not here just to help, “my” friend, “your” friend. We’re supposed to be out there to work for all the BUEs. We have met with

the different Commanders, and they have said they want to work together. That’s our goal: To see if we can make that happen.

As far as our leadership team, those elected and appointed full-time, are not going to be stuck at 1764 Watson Blvd. That means we must go to the base, because that’s where the people are.

We do have people in positions, and we do ask that you start at the lowest level and work your way up. We’ve got stewards at the various shops, the various areas. Group stewards. You’ve got people at the various levels and you’ve got a Vice President of each

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Local 987 Christmas party



More photos Page 4

Local holds steward training

By **DON MONCRIEF**
Editor, The Union Advocate
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AFGE Local 987 held a two-day training session for stewards in mid-December. While not having a “formal” agenda, said Law Attorney Tom Muther, Jr., who performed the training, it did cover a number of important topics. (Note: Muther is a representative of Minahan Muther Klingler, PC, out of Denver, Colo. They are contracted to provide legal assistance to the Local.)

Those included the duty of fair representation, grievance writing, Weingarten represen-

tation techniques (“also known as: ‘How to effectively represent bargaining unit employees during investigatory interviews’,” Muther said) and representing employees in the disciplinary process.

“In order for Local 987 to effectively represent its bargaining unit employees moving forward,” he said, “it is essential for its stewards to be fully trained in all facets of Union representation.

“The two-day training we conducted was geared at providing all attendees with the knowledge and tools necessary to protect the interests of all bargaining unit employees at Warner Robins.”

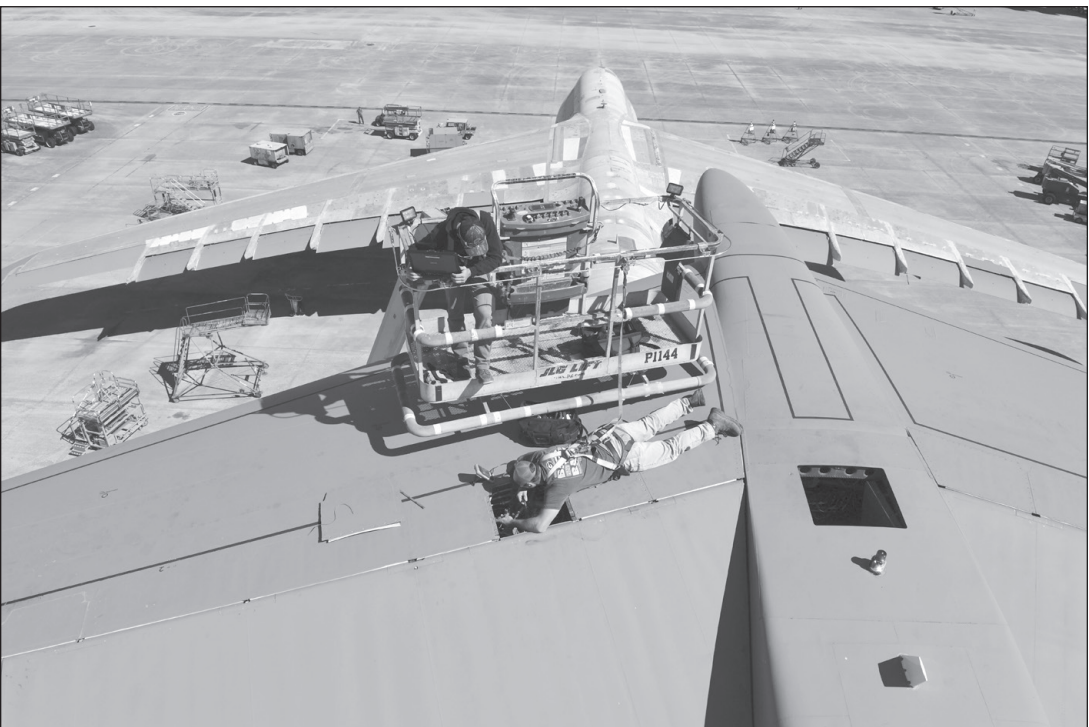


Law Attorney Tom Muther Jr., speaks to stewards during the two-day training held recently. More photos, page 3. (AFGE Local 987 photo/Don Moncrief)



Membership meeting

Local 987 will have a “in-person” membership meeting Jan. 16 at 5 p.m. It will be held at Union Hall, located at 1764 Watson Blvd. As always, membership will be verified before admittance into the meeting. You can make updates to your contact information - address, phone, email - by calling Union Hall at 478-922-5758 or by emailing Linda Baxter at linda@afgelocal987.org or Jeanette McElhaney at jmac@afgelocal987.org.



Rhett Meeks, left, and Alan Nobles, both 559th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron electrician mechanics, troubleshoot an elevator manifold issue on a C-5M Super Galaxy Aircraft at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex at Robins Air Force Base Oct 20, 2024. The 559th AMXS was one of several units across the WR-ALC, the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, and the Defense Logistics Agency that came together for the C-5 Drive to 55 campaign. (U.S. Air Force photo by Joseph Mather)

The C-5 ‘Drive to 55’: Collaboration, Innovation in Strategic Airlift

By PATRICK SULLIVAN
78th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

The C-5M Super Galaxy, one of the largest and most capable aircraft in the U.S. Air Force inventory, is a vital component of the nation’s strategic airlift capabilities. Supporting rapid and large-scale cargo transport, the C-5 plays a critical role in maintaining the Air Force’s operational readiness.

The recent ‘Drive to 55’ campaign, spearheaded by the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, aims to address a long-standing challenge: raising the C-5’s mission-capable rate to 55% and beyond, ensuring this key asset is always ready when needed.

To achieve this, the ‘Drive to 55’ team developed six lines of effort to attack different issues reducing C-5 availability: recover the supply chain; recover the programmed depot maintenance operations; drive down C-5 non-mission capable for maintenance times; data integrity; evaluate operations; and attack obsolescence and drive reliability.

One of the biggest challenges faced by the C-5 fleet has been prolonged maintenance periods; at one point, aircraft were stuck in the depot for up to 900 days.

“At our worst, we had 12 airplanes on station, 23% of

the fleet sitting right here at Robins, torn apart in some state or another,” described John Kieweg, 559th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron director. “We had to do something to get better.”

Since the start of the campaign, process adjustments and a shared commitment to quality have allowed the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex to reduce depot flow days to just 391—a significant milestone.

Kieweg attributed these improvements to better internal processes and tighter integration with other mission partners.

“It was more than just the 559th (AMXG),” said Keiweg. “It’s when all the mission partners came into play that we started getting better.”

Another area that has seen significant improvement is in the supply chain for parts.

For a fleet like the C-5, where parts demand is sporadic and the fleet is relatively small, traditional supply methods were leading to grounded aircraft and delayed maintenance.

“With a fleet of 52 aircraft, some of the demands that generate can come once every four years, once every eight years, based on where that part is and how it’s used on the aircraft,” explained Jay Harrington, the 448th Supply

Chain Management Wing’s lead for the campaign.

Furthermore, the supply chain stretches across the United States, and keeping this network aligned with the needs of the maintenance teams has required significant effort.

“We realized that we had shortcomings in that we weren’t synchronized in delivering a set of landing gear when (Kiewig) needed it the most,” said Harrington. “So we’re synchronizing the supply side to ensure we’ve got the funds in place, we’ve got the capacity at our repair facilities, and that are repair facilities are locked into his schedule.”

Synchronizing these schedules and ensuring that suppliers could meet accelerated demands was no easy feat, and the DLA has invested \$10 million to bolster the supply chain.

Additionally, the increase in communication has strengthened the interpersonal network and collaboration across the C-5 enterprise.

“The conversation now centers on ‘What are we doing to help John’s line?’ Our customers are no longer a number,” said Harrington “We have connective tissue, to the point where when something falls off the plate, we understand the impact it has to the other people upstream and downstream.”

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461st ACW strengthens C3 capabilities through interservice integration

By PATRICK SULLIVAN
78th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

Command, control and communications is inherently a joint and coalition effort, with the goal of connecting military assets across all warfighting domains - air, land, sea, space and cyber.

In pursuit of strengthening its interoperability, the 461st Air Control Wing is capitalizing a years-long effort to enhance joint integration not just when deployed, but within the unit.

Based at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, the wing has collaborated with the U.S. Marine Corps across several recent efforts, all aimed at sharing each branch’s strengths in the C3 environment.

“We’re trying to overhaul our mission sets for the C3 communities,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Luis Hidalgo, 461st ACW executive officer. “The more we work together jointly, the more we’re going to be able to operate when we actually do a future fight.”

The 461st ACW has already put several initiatives into motion, including standing up a Marine Liaison Officer program and a long-term exchange program with Marine Air Control Group 28 at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina.

U.S. Marine Capt. Robert Goettge, an air support control officer, arrived at Robins this October and entered Battlefield Control Center Initial Qualification Training.

“There’s a lot that’s gained just in familiarity and communication, as well as the experience and learning how to integrate with each other’s

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U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kristian Penafiel, center, 53rd Combat Airfield Operations Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of contingency airfield training, takes part in the Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Instructor course, led by the Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, in November 2024. Penafiel was the first Air Force air traffic controller to attend WTI, and now works in the 53rd CAOS Plans and Programs Section where he can apply lessons learned directly into the training and exercises of his unit. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

10 resolutions for a safe, scam-free year

The start of a new year is the perfect time to resolve to protect your personal and financial information. BBB presents the following 10 New Year’s resolutions to fight scammers, prevent identity theft and save money in 2025.

1. Check your credit report

You are now entitled to a free credit report each week from each of the three main Credit Reporting Agencies: Equifax, TransUnion and Experian. You can order the reports through annualcreditreport.com.

Once you receive your credit report, carefully review all the information. If you see any information that is inaccurate, then you should file a dispute with any bureau reporting the error. Checking your credit report helps you catch signs of identity theft early.

2. Sign up for the do not call registry

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls. To add your number to the Registry you can call 1-888-382-1222 or register online at ftc.gov/donotcall. Registration is free for your home and mobile phone.

You still may receive political, charitable, debt collection, informational and telephone survey calls. Also note that scammers don’t adhere to the Do Not Call Registry.

3. Always read the fine print

When shopping online, signing a contract and especially for “free” trial offers, be sure to take your time, and read the fine print before handing over your credit or debit card information. Find the terms and conditions for the offer. That includes offers online, on TV, in the newspaper or on the radio.

If you can’t find them or can’t understand exactly what you’re agreeing to, don’t sign up.

4. Keep your computer safe

Keep a clean machine by installing a fire-wall, anti-virus and anti-spyware software.



Kelvin Collins

Check for and install the latest updates and run virus scans regularly. Don’t open attachments or click on email links unless you can confirm the email came from someone you trust.

Choose passwords that incorporate a combination of numbers, capital letters and symbols. Avoid using the same password for all your accounts, and never share your passwords with anyone else.

5. Fight identity theft

Make sure you shred any documents that have your bank account information, Social Security number or other personal information. These include credit card applications, insurance forms, financial statements, health forms and billing statements from utility services.

Be suspicious of any unsolicited communication asking you for personal information. They may really be scammers looking to steal your identity.

6. Never wire money to someone you don’t know

Many scams require that the victim wire money back to the scammers. Scammers know that tracking money sent via MoneyGram or Western Union is extremely difficult. Even more troubling for victims is the fact that it’s nearly impossible to get your money back. The same goes for pre-paid debit cards or gift cards.

7. Get everything in writing

Don’t just take a company’s word for it. Get every verbal agreement in writing to limit miscommunication and misunderstandings between your expectations and what the business delivers.

Make sure that you read and thoroughly understand an agreement and don’t sign a contract with

See RESOLUTIONS, page 3

Medal of Honor spotlight

Navy Seaman 1st Class James Ward

By KATIE LANGE
DoD News

Navy Seaman 1st Class James Richard Ward only had moments to decide what to do on the sinking USS Oklahoma during the bombing of Pearl Harbor: save himself, or do what he could to save others? Ward chose the valiant option, giving his life so his fellow sailors could escape. He earned a posthumous Medal of Honor for his gallantry, and just recently, his remains were finally accounted for and buried.

Ward was born Sept. 10, 1921, in Springfield, Ohio, to parents Howard and Nancy Ward. He had a sister named Marjorie.

According a 2014 Dayton Daily News article, as a teen, Ward, who went by the nickname Dick, did odd jobs for his neighbors to earn some cash. He played football and the trumpet, but his real love was baseball. After graduating high school in 1939, the article said Ward took a factory job before landing a minor league baseball contract with the Shelby Colonels out of

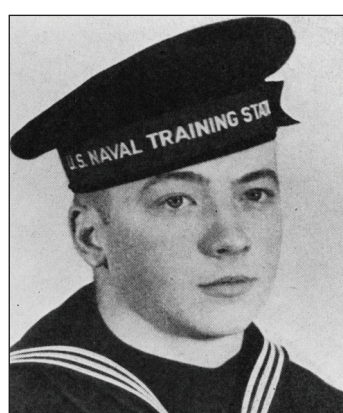


Photo courtesy defense.gov

Navy Seaman 1st Class James Ward

North Carolina.

However, the gig only lasted a month before he was replaced. Ward then worked at a steel mill for a time before enlisting in the Navy on Nov. 25, 1940.

After basic training, Ward was sent to serve on the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor on Oahu, Hawaii. Since baseball was a huge pastime for service members, he was able to join the ship’s team. Ward helped them win the Pacific Fleet championship, and he was even named top batter.

Unfortunately, Ward would not live to see beyond the

opening moments of the United States’ entry into World War II.

A pivotal decision

In the early morning hours of Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Oahu, surprising installations all over the island. The Pacific Fleet’s ships that were moored at Pearl Harbor’s Ford Island took the brunt of the assault, including the Oklahoma. In the first few minutes of the attack, the ship was hit by as many as nine aerial torpedoes, which ripped open more than 250 feet of hull on the ship’s port side.

The massive amount of damage caused the Oklahoma to roll over and sink in less than 20 minutes.

Ward was in one of the ship’s turrets, which lost electricity immediately, leaving him and his fellow sailors in darkness. According to the Dayton Daily News, Ward was the only one in that turret with a flashlight.

When the order was given to abandon ship, Ward stayed in his turret, using the flashlight to allow the remainder of the crew to see to escape. While many of them made it out of the turret, Ward did not. At 20 years old, he sacrificed his own life for the lives of his fellow sailors.

All told, the Oklahoma lost 429 men that day. Thirty-two men who had been trapped inside its upturned hull were rescued days later.

In the aftermath of the attacks, it took a while for official death notices to go out. According to the

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Don Moncrief

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Please submit articles, photos, etc to don.moncrief@afge-local987.org. For questions about story content, to pass on story ideas or to request coverage, please contact the aforementioned.

Stewards training



AFGE Local 987 photos/Don Moncrief

VISION

From page 1

of the areas, for example, Vice President of Maintenance, (James Watson) Vice President at Large (Michael Ferguson) and Vice President of DLA (Alexandria Williams) that’s out there. He or she should be able to tell you what’s going on within their area.

But that means they’re going to have to communicate with their stewards and have those stewards bringing information to them. And at the same

time, members should feel free to come to their building whenever they want to.

Here at the Local headquarters, I mean, you just can’t come up and say you want to see the books without an appointment, but if you make an appointment to see somebody, you should be able to see them. This also includes reviewing the books with an appointment.

In getting back to things we need to be doing again, we’ve just had our annual Christmas party which members said they enjoyed and can’t wait for us to do something else. Lunch

and Learns are one of the main things we’re going to be doing. As a matter of fact, we have a team that’ll be coming in Jan/Feb to work with us, to try and get some things established so that we can go out to the masses. We can have Lunch and Learns by meeting with the agency to schedule them in various area.

And we’ve already spoken to some of the Commanders and they are willing to work with us. They just want a heads up when we want it to happen and per work schedules. If you would like for one to be in your area please contact your Vice President.

Finally, I want to publicly thank the people up here working, because I know all of them, to include me, have been getting negative feedback from people saying we’re traitors or we turned our back on our people.

But like I said the first article. It’s not about “Team Marion” or “Team Ron”. It’s about AFGE BUEs. We’ve had some people say this about one person and another say this about another person, but that’s not what it’s about. It’s about getting the facts and doing what you’re supposed to be doing.

Anybody who has questions can

come by here, and they can pretty much see me at any time. You can also reach me by email jmac@afgelocal987.org or at 922-5758, Ext. 18. Here’s the contact for each of the sitting Vice Presidents. Michael Ferguson mike.ferguson@afgelocal987.org James Watson james.watson@afgelocal987.org and Alexandria Williams Alexandria.williams@afgelocal987.org.

Wishing each of you and your families the Best New Year ever. Also if you’re not a member of the AFGE Local 0987 family I ask that you consider joining.

DRIVE

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This deeper level of collaboration is at the core of the campaign and has driven many of the successes so far.

“We couldn’t have done it without everybody working together,” said Evelyn Ryberg, the ‘Drive to 55’ lead and AFLCMC’s C-5 product support manager. “It’s cross functional and cross organizational. We have our Air Force Sustainment Center, our Defense Logistics Agency partners. Really everybody working with us.”

While process improvement is a key pillar of the

‘Drive to 55’ campaign, the team is also driving innovation and adopting new technologies—embracing the use of artificial intelligence and additive manufacturing, exploring new methods to create and acquire parts more efficiently.

“We really focused on our mission and focused on the warfighter,” said Ryberg. “Putting all other things aside and figuring out how to get to yes.”

As the Air Force faces an increasingly complex global landscape, initiatives like the ‘Drive to 55’ campaign will ensure that critical assets like the C-5 remain ready to meet the demands of the force.

INTEGRATION

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systems,” explained Goettge. “I think there’s always an expectation that as a Joint Force, whether it be Army, Navy, Air, Force or Marine Corps, we can collaborate on a common mission when our priorities overlap.”

According to Hidalgo, the intent is for Capt. Goettge to become a qualified member of the weapons system to both enhance Marine training capabilities when he returns to the unit and allow joint integration on the operations floor with BCC crews.

In addition to bringing a Marine perspective into the wing, the 461st ACW has also sent Airmen to Marine programs to further strengthen their interservice operability.

Two Airmen recently attended the Marine Corps Weapons and Tactics Instructor course, led by the Marine Aviation Weapons

and Tactics Squadron One at MCAS Yuma, Arizona, which prepares graduates to support the Marine Air-Ground Task Force with mission planning, briefing and debriefing, threat systems and unit weapons system employment.

One of the attending Airmen was Tech. Sgt. Kristian Penafiel, the 53rd Combat Airfield Operations Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of contingency airfield training.

Penafiel was the first Air Force air traffic controller to attend WTI, and now works in the 53rd CAOS Plans and Programs Section where he can apply lessons learned directly into the training and exercises of the unit.

Several other Marine interservice initiatives have been stood up in various units across the wing, reflecting the 461st ACW’s commitment to building and fostering a stronger joint environment.

“It goes back to the strategic concept of

Great Power Competition,” said Hidalgo, on the benefits of Marine integration. “You hear that term all the time, but it’s making our C3 community more survivable by leveraging each other’s strengths; the Marines are very good at maneuver warfare, and we excel in training to operational and theater-level command constructs.”

As the wing moves forward, they intend to further develop their interservice C3 capabilities, with two key upcoming initiatives being continued – combat airfield operations integration in service-level exercises and the technology exchanges with the Marine’s sensor to shooter tactical grid design.

“We won’t fight alone in the next fight and success in a ground fight in Europe or a surface fight in the Pacific will rely on the training and equipment interoperability between the Marines and the Air Force,” said Hidalgo.

HONOR

From page 2

Dayton Daily News, Ward’s parents didn’t learn of his official death until Feb. 20, 1942.

Despite the chaos of that fateful day, Ward’s valor didn’t go unnoticed. He was quickly nominated for the Medal of Honor, which was mailed to his parents in Springfield in March 1942, along with a letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Navy Secretary Frank Knox.

A long journey home
In 1943, the capsized

Oklahoma was rolled upright and raised in one of the salvage profession’s greatest undertakings, naval historians said. Throughout the war, Navy personnel worked to recover the remains of the men who died inside the ship and bury them in temporary Hawaiian cemeteries.

After the war, the American Graves Registration Service was created to carry out a new mission -- to identify and recover our fallen service members from around the globe. AGRS members disinterred the remains of the men from the Oklahoma and transferred them to an Army laboratory,

which confirmed the identities of 35 men at that time. The rest of the remains were buried in plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. By 1949, a military board classified those who hadn’t been identified as “nonrecoverable,” including Ward.

Nearly a lifetime went by before that changed.

In 2015, investigators – now with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency – exhumed the comingled remains of the buried unknown men from the Oklahoma to run tests using dental, anthropological and mitochondrial DNA analysis in

the hope of finally identifying them. The agency compared those findings to DNA samples that had been provided years earlier by the 394 families of those who were never identified from the Oklahoma.

On Aug. 19, 2021, the DPAA announced it had finally accounted for Ward’s remains. He was buried last week in Arlington National Cemetery – a decision that was made by Richard Ward Hanna, his nephew and namesake. Hanna, who lives in Gainesville, Florida, said his family didn’t talk about Ward much while he grew up, but he knows how incredibly respected the fallen sailor is in

his hometown of Springfield.

“It’ll be very emotional,” Hanna said in early December. “I’ve been asked a lot, ‘Does this really give you a sense of closure?’ And for me personally, I wouldn’t so much say it’s closure. I think what’s meaningful is he’ll finally have a resting place that’s permanent that people will know about. And being a Medal of Honor recipient is an incredible thing.”

After the war, Ward’s name was recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with many others who were missing during World War II. A rosette will now be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Even when Ward was missing for all those years, he was not forgotten. The Edsall-class destroyer escort USS J. Richard Ward, which commissioned in 1943 and was used throughout World War II, was named in his honor. Camp Ward at Farragut Naval Training Station in Idaho was also named for him, and in 1953, a Pearl Harbor baseball field was christened Ward Field.

There’s an “in memory” marker for Ward at Ferncliff Cemetery in Springfield, Ohio, as well as an American Legion there that bears his name.

In memory ...
Kevin Crowder
Member since July 1, 2005
Passed away Nov. 26, 2024

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RESOLUTIONS

From page 2

blank spaces that could be altered or changed. Finally, once the contract is signed, keep a copy of it for your records.

8. Fight fake check fraud
Thanks to advances in printing technology, scammers can create very real-looking phony checks. Educate yourself on the common types of check fraud and be extremely wary of checks that come with claims that you’ve won the lottery, are eligible for a government grant or have landed a job as a secret shopper.

9. Be careful using public Wi-Fi
If you are in a place that offers free Wi-Fi, verify the name of the connection before joining. Scammers often set up fake hotspots next to

real ones. When using a hotspot to log into an account or make a purchase, be sure the site is fully encrypted. If you regularly access public Wi-Fi, use a virtual private network (VPN). VPNs encrypt traffic between your computer and the internet, even on unsecured networks.

10. Ask BBB for help
If you receive an offer or solicitation, research the company or charity for free with Better Business Bureau at bbb.org. You can also use BBB to file a complaint if you have a disagreement with a business, report scams online to BBB Scam Tracker and request expert advice or quotes with BBB’s Request A Quote service.

If you’ve spotted a scam, please report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim.

Know your WEINGARTEN RIGHTS

You have the right to have Union Representation at any meeting that you reasonably believe may lead to discipline. Invoke your Weingarten Rights by saying:

“If this discussion could in any way be related to me being disciplined or terminated or affect any of my working conditions, I hereby request that my union officer or steward be present. Without their presence, I choose not to participate in this discussion. Please do not request that I waive this right.”

Weingarten Rights have been invoked.

1975 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in NLRB v. J. Weingarten, Inc.



Local 987 Christmas party



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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

The bouncer said, "I'm going to have to ask you to leave." I asked, "Why?" He said because I don't know you and this is my trampoline.

Which word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Here's The Train.....

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CONDUCTOR

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HERITAGE

MINE

PORTERS

STATIONS

WHEELED

A little humor ...

There were two elderly people living in Trailer Estates, a Florida mobile home park. He was a widower, and she a widow. They had known one another for a number of years. One evening there was a community supper in the big activity center. The two were at the same table, across from one another. As the meal went on, he made a few admiring glances at her and finally gathered his courage to ask her, "Will you marry me?" After about six seconds of 'careful consideration,' she answered, "Yes. Yes, I will." The meal ended, and with a few more pleasant exchanges, they went to their respective places. Next morning, he was troubled. "Did she say 'yes'

or did she say 'no'?" He couldn't remember. Try as he would, he just could not recall. Not even a faint memory. With trepidation, he went to the telephone and called her. First, he explained that he didn't remember as well as he used to. Then he reviewed the lovely evening past. As he gained a little

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SNOW DAY

- ACROSS
- Larger-than-life
 - Capone's family
 - Wild swine
 - "You're not allowed," to a baby
 - Deal with it
 - Cunningly
 - Shower with affection
 - Allege
 - City in Belgium
 - *Snow Day exercise?
 - Poet Pound
 - Ovine sign of the zodiac
 - Tasseled hat
 - All together (2 words)
 - Military College of South Carolina, with The
 - For every
 - a.k.a. association football
 - *All-day Snow Day garb?
 - Delete
 - Crude fuel
 - Read-only disc
 - Good's counterpart
 - Popular flowering shrub
 - Female ancestor
 - Two heads are better than one, e.g.
 - Bering Strait state
 - Rudolph's Clarice, e.g.
 - Like thick smoke
 - Fountain option
 - *No two are alike, sing.
 - Surround (2 words)
 - Tangerine plus grapefruit
 - *Like a river, with over
 - #51 Down, pl.
 - Heidi's "Magic Wooden Shoe"

- Olufsen's partner
 - Sound of a bell
 - Not him
 - Surfer's stop
- DOWN
- Odds' partners
 - Tubby little cubby
 - "He's Just Not That You"
 - Of the same period
 - *Popular Snow Day pastime
 - Some tournaments
 - Zugspitze, e.g.
 - *Severe weather
 - Deed hearing
 - Algae, sing.
 - Marble bread
 - ____ Jack, English pirate
 - *As opposed to rain
 - Irregular
 - Type of conifer
 - Musketeers' swords
 - High-strung
 - Cerebellum location
 - Unit of life
 - Students' dwellings
 - *Snow Day reading choice
 - Helping theorem
 - *Like soft pj's
 - Intelligence org.
 - *Slope fun
 - Shorter than California
 - Number of years
 - No, it doesn't crawl in one's ear
 - Horse of certain color, pl.
 - Spontaneous additions
 - Obtuse one
 - Tom Cruise's "The ____ of Money"
 - Highway hauler
 - Bad sign
 - Of a particular kind
 - Smoothie berry
 - Superman's last name
 - Part of a seat
 - *Like chocolate on a Snow Day

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19					20			
			21					22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37			38			
39				40				41			42	
43				44				45		46		
			47				48	49				
	50	51				52				53	54	55
56						57				58		
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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E	T	I	S			R	E	H			G	N	I	T
G	N	V	B			G	O	T	C		S	N	E	W
D	E	C	I			I	T	G	U		N	I	W	E
E	K	E	L			A	F	W	O	N	S	A	D	A
			D			I	R	C	A		E	O		
A	K	S	A			V	A				Y	G	R	E
M	O	M				A	E	T	V	A	Z	A		L
M	O	R				C	D	I	L	O		E	S	A
E	B	O				R		R	E	C	C	O	S	
L	E	L				A	D	I	T	C		C	O	L
						Z	E	F			S	E	I	A
						A	R	Z	E		G	N	I	T
E	G	E				L	I	E	L					
Y	L	Y				S	L	Y			C	O	N	O
R	O	A				B					M	O	B	

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As he turned the corner, a chill went down his spine. And he felt — no, he knew — that he was in grave danger.

STR8TS

No. 706

Easy

				7				
						3	2	
7						1		5
			3					9
	5	6				7	9	
		9		3				
				5				
3	2		7			6	1	
			8		4	5		

Previous solution - Medium

6	7	8		3	4	2
8	9	7		5	2	3
9	8		3	4	5	6
7	3	2	4	6	5	1
4	3	5		6	7	8
2	1		6	9	4	8
3	2	4		8	7	5
5	6	8	7	9		3
4	6	5	7	3	2	1

How to beat **Str8ts** — Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

more courage, he inquired, "When I asked if you would marry me, did you say 'Yes' or did you say 'No'?" He was delighted to hear her say, "Why, I said, 'Yes, yes, I will,' and I meant it with all my heart." Then she continued, "I am so glad that you called, because I couldn't remember who had asked me."

Among other things, a first-grade teacher told her students that nowadays more twins are born than in past years.

One little boy asked, "Why is that?" Before the teacher could attempt an answer, another little boy spoke up: "Because these days little children are afraid to come into the world alone."

Manny was almost 29 years old. Most of his friends had already gotten married, and Manny just bounced from one relationship to the next.

Finally a friend asked him, "What's the matter, are you looking for the perfect woman? Are you 'that' particular? Can't you find anyone who suits you?" "No," Manny replied. "I

meet a lot of nice girls, but as soon as I bring them home to meet my parents, my mother doesn't like them. So I keep on looking!" "Listen," his friend suggested, "Why don't you find a girl who's just like your dear ole mother?" Many weeks past before Manny and his friend got together again.

"So Manny. Did you find the perfect girl yet. One that's just like your mother?" Manny shrugged his shoulders, "Yes I found one just like Mom. My mother loved her, they became great friends." "Excellent!!! So ... Are you and this girl engaged, yet?" "I'm afraid not. My father can't stand her!"

8	1	2	5	7	4	9	3	6
7	9	5	8	3	6	1	4	2
6	4	3	2	1	9	8	7	5
4	8	1	9	6	5	7	2	3
2	6	7	1	4	3	5	8	9
3	5	9	7	2	8	4	9	1
5	2	4	6	8	1	3	9	7
1	7	8	3	9	2	6	5	4
9	3	6	4	5	7	2	1	8

in Department of Defense depot-level maintenance programs. It is awarded for outstanding mission accomplishment, effective support to warfighters, and innovative logistics processes.”

Special recognition goes to all the mechanics who participate on a day-to-day basis, ensuring the

continued vitality of Robins Air Force Base and making a significant impact on our mission. Their commitment to excellence and reliability is vital for the future of the base.

One of the squadron’s most notable accomplishments has been their remarkable reduction in turnaround time for maintenance. Previously, it took more than 900 days to deliver a fully serviced aircraft; however, through innovative practices and a collaborative approach, they have reduced

that time to as low as 391 days. This improvement not only enhances the operational efficiency of the C-5 fleet but also increases the availability of these crucial aircraft for both U.S. operations and allied support missions.

The award serves as a testament to the remarkable dedication and teamwork of the entire C-5 PDM Squadron. Their collective efforts are essential in ensuring the U.S. Air Force remains ready and capable of defending the nation and supporting

allies when needed. The squadron members should express pride in their achievement as they reflect on the dedication and teamwork of all personnel involved. AFGE Local 987 gives a special thanks to Director John Kieweg for skillfully guiding the team in the right direction.

The accomplishments of the C-5 PDM Squadron underscore the importance of collaboration and innovation in maintaining the highest standards of

aircraft remain mission-ready for any challenges that may arise. As AFGE Local 987 prepares for their discussions with Congress, the squadron’s success story will serve as a compelling illustration of the value that dedicated federal employees bring to national security and the importance of fair compensation for their hard work.

The success of the 402 AMXG C-5 PDM team can be attributed to their strong collaborative spirit

and effective partnerships, particularly with the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 987. By addressing challenges collectively and fostering a culture of safety, quality and efficiency, the squadron has ensured they meet the demands of their mission while maintaining exceptional service standards.

As the squadron celebrates this prestigious award, their achievements also take on added significance in light of the upcoming AFGE Legislative

Conference in January. Representatives from AFGE Local 987 will meet with Congress to advocate for crucial pay raises for federal employees.

The efforts and successes of the 402 AMXG C-5 PDM Squadron serve as a powerful example of the dedication and effectiveness that lawmakers should consider when discussing compensation and support for our workforce as AFGE asks that Robins AFB be considered for the Atlanta pay scale bracket.



Congratulations C-5 Programmed Depot Maintenance Team! Department of Defense Robert T. Mason Award winners