

OCT-DEC 2010











Happy Kwanzaa

From the Staff of Corpsman.com

Thank you!

I wanted to get that out to all of our users of Corpsman.com. Thank you for your suggestions, donations, humor, etc. We could not be the site that we are today without your patronage to our site.

What does Corpsman.com offer to you the users?

- 1. Quarterly Newsletter (Your reading our 4th Quarter now!) of Scuttlebutt News!
- 2. Attack of Da-Chief (AOTC) a weekly Podcast, with news and commentary of all things Doc.
- 3. Corpsman.com front page itself. Updated daily with current news, advancement results etc.
- 4. Scuttlebutt Forums. We have 1465 registered users who communicate in our forums.
- 5. <u>Hospitalcorpsman.org</u>, our study portal for advancement, with "EASY" up to date information for advancement exams (NAVY).
- 6. We answer numerous emails, take phone calls, etc on a daily basis to assist our users.

None of this is free to us who produce this information, but it is to you, the users.

Our site is totally run on our dime and donations that you the users help with. The month of December is our fundraising month for our site. We will not solicit for donations all of 2011 until December of next year. That being said, we will leave the donate button on our site, so if someone wants to go out of their way to give a donation they can. We will also have different ad's up which help us pay the bills as well.

We are so close to meeting our goal for the year. To reach our goal we still need to raise, \$332.01. Can you help us out? We appreciate your support. Please click the link to donate to Corpsman.com. (This was typed on the 21'st of December)

PLEASE DONATE TO CORPSMAN.COM. (<--Click the Link)

We want to thank the following folks who have donated during the month of December. This is the only month we solicit for donations on our site for now on. We are \$332.01 from meeting our goal. Please think about donating to our site. We would love to add your name to this list. That being said, you will be recognized on our site as well as in our forums once the month is over.

Your names will be *prominently* displayed. Folks will know who supports Corpsman.com. (I would make you all statues if I could...):-)



Donate and Your Face Here!

Renee Meade Wes Emch

Caleb Meade DeeDee & Rob Reno HMC Rob Kloka Raymond Fuentez

Debra Cline Zosimo Gaborni (RADAR)

Amy Campbell Vicky Palma Ramey

Timothy Bates Bob Silverman Kyle Murphy (Kaymanism) Kerry Pardue Amy Ury Danny Morse

Paul Bohling John (Master Chief) Gobinski

James Davey
Danielle Destifino
Tamara Burgess
Miguel Acevedo (HMC!)
Michael Cassidy
Darwin Brooks
Douglass Simpson
Yik Wu
Laura Hedien (HMCS)

Tamra Sweezey

Ernest Augustine

Carol Dial

Douglas Whalen

James Walker

Bryan Fliegel

April Weisler

Stephen King

Sean Ramey (Corpsman.com Cups Auction)

Kenneth Brownson Lawrence McTernan

Jason Rodriguez (HMC, FMF)
Michael Harms
Michael LeBlanc
Christine Madrigal
Brian Schmock

Levi Hankins

2011 is looking to be a great year for our site.

I hope you will continue to use us as your site for all things "DOC".

Happy Holidays,

Da-Chief

Corpsman.com

I wanted to send a Happy holiday greeting to everyone at Corpsman.com and to the following individuals a special shout out.

A special shout out to my son, HM2 Chiaia J.M. Congratulations son on HM2 and BZ on all of your fantastic accomplishments. Were proud of you. A big hug to our new grand-son SR Jared Marlon and my loving daughter-in-law Sindy.

Happy holidays to all of the Radiology crew in the CT department of NMCP VA.

Semper Fi to HM3 Caleb Meade, Little Creek, VA

Also, to all of my adopted son's, a special shout out to each of you:

GSE3 Steve Conway Coronado CA LCAC crewman IC3 Bernard Calvin USS Enterprise CVN-65 Thank you for the tour, it was special to me.

HM2 Michael Atkins, NMCP VA Welcome Home (just returned from the 'stan'). HM2 Weiran Wang NMCP VA

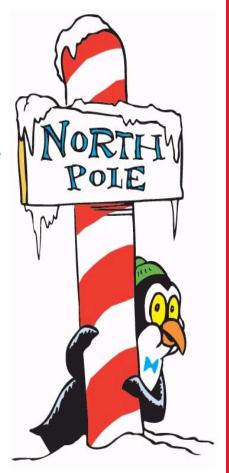
HM3 Joseph Lee NMCP VA

HN Juan Lara NMCP VA

Addressing all of the Corpsman community, please take a moment, each of you, to reflect upon all those families who have lost loved ones, while serving their country.

Stay safe, don't let shipmates drive drunk!

V/R 8404 Corpsman.com



Greetings & Salutations to the members of Corpsman.com

I don't often write for the newsletter, I put it together for your enjoyment but I don't actually write the articles that you enjoy each quarter.

This year I wanted to thank the members of Corpsman.com for their support.

Lots of changes around the homestead in 2010.

Dan (HM3) left on his 2nd deployment in January, this time with the 22nd MEU. They were immediately sent to Haiti for earthquake relief duties and spent a couple weeks there before heading East into the Mediterranean Ocean and Indian Ocean for the remainder of their time. He became a shellback while out to sea. They returned to Camp Lejeune on August 12. He proposed to his then girlfriend and she said yes. Kendall is a fabulous young lady from South Carolina. She is in her last year of nursing school, so we know she has her head on her shoulders and a plan for what she wants to do. We are very happy to have her in our family.

Dan got out of the Navy in early October and will be starting college in January (thanks to the new GI Bill).

John (EM3) finished his first year in the Navy in September (Time really flies). He graduated Naval Nuclear Power Training on December 17th and will begin prototype in January for 6 months actually running a reactor before heading out to the fleet sometime in Summer 2011. We couldn't be prouder of him and his accomplishments this past year.

Rob & I have adjusted to our "empty nest" and kept busy making trips to South Carolina to see the boys, camping with friends and just living life. We keep hoping to make the move to the Charleston, SC area to be closer to the kids. We are lucky this year, we have all three of the kids here (John, Dan & Kendall) here until January 1st. Our house is definitely full and it will be fun since there are 2 new puppies in the family this year too.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. Remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and their families as they go through this season without their loved one.

Much Love to everyone DeeDee Editor Corpsman.com

CHRISTMAS AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY

I wonder why the press hasn't enlightened the public about it???

Arlington National Cemetery



Rest easy, sleep well my brothers.

Know the line has held, your job is done.

Rest easy, sleep well.

Others have taken up where you fell, the line has held.

Peace, peace, and farewell...



Readers may be interested to know that these wreaths -- some 5,000 -- are donated by the Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine. The owner, Merrill Worcester, not only provides the wreaths, but covers the trucking expense as well. He's done this since 1992. A wonderful guy. Also, most years, groups of Maine school kids combine an educational trip to DC with this event to help out. Making this even more remarkable is the fact that Harrington is in one the poorest parts of the state.

Please share this with everyone on your address list. You hear too much about the bad things people do. Everyone should hear about this.

ARMY CHRISTMAS OPERATIONS ORDER: 12-24-10

Subject: Christmas

- 1. An official visit by MG Santa (NMI) Claus is expected at this headquarters 25 December 2010. The following instructions will be in effect and govern the activities of all personnel during the visit.
- a. Not a creature will stir without official permission. This will include indigenous mice. Special stirring permits for necessary administrative actions will be obtained through normal channels. Mice stirring permits will be obtained through the Office of the Surgeon General, Veterinary Services.
- b. Personnel will settle their brains for a long winter nap prior to 2200 hours, 24 December 2010. Uniform for the nap will be: Pajamas, cotton, light, drowsing, with kerchief, general purpose, camouflage; and Cap, camouflage w/ear flaps. Equipment will bedrawn from CIF prior to 1900 hours, 24 December 2010
- c. Personnel will utilize standard field ration sugar plums for visions to dance through their heads. Artificially sweetened plums are authorized for those in their unit weight control program. Specifications for this item will be provided by the servicing dining facility.
- d. Stockings, wool, cushion sole, will be hung by the chimney with care. Necessary safety precautions will be taken to avoid fire hazards caused by carelessly hung stockings. Unit safety Officers will submit stocking hanging plans to this headquarters prior to 0800 hours,24 December 2010, ATTN: DCSLOG, for approval.
- e. At the first sign of clatter from the lawn, all troops will spring from their beds to evaluate noise and cause. Immediate actionwill be taken to tear open the shutters and throw open the window sashes. DCSOPS Plan (Saint Nick), Reference LO No. 3, paragraph 6c, this head-quarters, 2 February 2010, will be in effect to facilitate shutter tearing and sash throwing. Division chiefs will familiarize all personnel with procedures and are responsible for ensuring that no shutters are tornopen nor window sashes thrown open prior to start of official clatter.
- f. Prior to 2400, 24 December 2010, all personnel will be assigned "Wondering Eye" stations. After shutters are thrown open and sashes are torn, these stations will be manned.

- g. The ODCSLOG will assign one each Sleigh, miniature, M-66, and eight (8) deer, rein, tiny, for use of MG Claus' driver who, IAW current directives and other applicable regulations, must have a valid SF 56 properly annotated by Driver Testing; be authorized rooftop parking and be able to shout "On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer and Vixen, up Comet, up Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen".
- 2. MG Claus will enter quarters through standard chimneys. All units without chimneys will draw Chimney Simulator, M-6, for use during ceremonies. Chimney simulator units will be requested on Engineer Job Order Request Form submitted to the Furniture Warehouse prior to 19 December 2005, and issued on DA Form 3161, Request for Issue or Turn-in.
- 3. Personnel will be rehearsed on shouting "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night." This shout will be given on termination of General Claus' visit. Uniformity of shouting is the responsibility of division chiefs.

CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" K. RINGLE Colonel, USA - OIC, Special Holiday Services

Distribution: Everybody Who Still Believes



AIR MEDICAL MEMORIAL

I was extremely happy to come upon your website during continued research for the Air Medical Memorial. You are doing a tremendous job of honoring the brave men and women of the Military MedEvac Corps who have given their lives, not only in service to their country, but in service to others. I applaud you for these valiant efforts.

My name is Mary Ann Melville. I was a Flight Paramedic in Washington, DC for a hospital based HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Services) program from 1988-1997. I also served on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Flight Paramedics (formerly, the National Association of Flight Paramedics) from 1993-1996. I am currently a founding member and serve as the Honoree Officer of the Air Medical Memorial.

The Air Medical Memorial is a 501c3 established in 2009 to honor the more than 342 civilian Air Medical Crew members who have been killed in the line of duty during air medical transports in the US. We have established the most comprehensive database of fatalities, going back to 1972. Our Honorees include 135 Pilots, 105 Flight Nurses, 75 Flight Paramedics, 13 Medical Doctors, as well as other crew identified as LODD's. We are working with, and currently have the support of the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS), the Air and Surface Transport Nurses' Association (ASTNA), the International Association of Flight Paramedics (IAFP), the National EMS Pilot's Association (NEMSPA), the Association of Professional Flight Chaplains (APFL), the Survivor's Network, the Air Medical Physician's Association (AMPA), and the National Association of Air Communication Specialists (NAACS).

As our role and mission expand, we have been asked about including MAST (Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic) deaths, Coast Guard MedEvac fatalities, as well as international losses, including, Canada, Australia, Asia, and Europe. We think we would be remiss if we were to not talk about losses in our Military MedEvac community. We are not sure in which direction to go or how to approach this, and would greatly appreciate your input and support.

The Air Medical Memorial has received a generous land donation of 6 acres of pristine property in the Colorado Rocky foothills outside of Denver, valuing more than \$1 million. We have a working budget of \$650,000 to complete the Memorial in 2012. Information about the Memorial can be found on our website at: www.airmedicalmemorial.com. We invite you to review our PDF and share your thoughts. If you feel that you are not the appropriate person or contact regarding potential collaboration on this project, we would greatly appreciate your steering us in the right direction. Regardless, again, we applaud your efforts for what you are doing to honor the brave men and women who have answered the call to duty, so others may live.

Thank you, I remain sincerely,

Mary Ann Melville Honoree Officer and AAMS Liaison

Air Medical Memorial P.O. Box 842 Castle Rock, CO 80104 (303) 332-6327 www.airmedicalmemorial.com

Question about locating the family of a possible WWII corpsman, probably KIA

My great great grandfather served in WWII. Earlier today, I was going through some boxes of his and found some old postcards, a lot of them addressed to an Erwin Schmitt. I did a Google search and the name popped up on your memorial list for WWII. I'm curious to know if there are resources available for people to try to locate veteran families. If he has any surviving family, I would love to offer them the opportunity to get some of these postcards. The postcards are all written in German and addressed to a German address, so I'm not sure if they are from a friend and he happened to know German (perhaps a German turned American citizen) or if it's just a coincidence that there was an American WWII soldier with the same name. It'd be interesting if I could find out if this man served in the same unit with my great great grandfather and perhaps that is how they came into his possession. I guess you could say my curiosity has certainly been sparked.

I just know that if someone had found something that once belonged to someone in my family that was gone, I would love for them to try to return those items to me.

I can be reached at jamie.anna.rose@gmail.com

Any suggestions? Thanks so much!

Jamie Rose Greenville, SC www.SpokenForPetSitting.com www.SpokenForPitRescue.com

"A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel." Proverbs 12:10

All dogs are therapy dogs! Give a shelter dog the chance to rescue you.

Spay and neuter! Don't contribute to the millions of pets who die every year in shelters.



Applebee's(R) Says 'Thank You' to More Than 1 Million Veterans and Active Duty Military With a Free Meal on Veterans Day



Samuel Sandoval, one of an estimated 70 surviving Navajo Code Talkers from WWII, visited Apple-



John Sprecher, left, and Griffin Middendorf enjoyed a moment of levity at Applebee's on

Military Members Gather at Applebee's to Unite With Friends, Swap Stories and Honor the Day

LENEXA, KS--(Marketwire - November 12, 2010) - <u>Applebee's Neighborhood Grill</u> <u>& Bar</u> ® gave a heartfelt thanks to the nation's military yesterday as **1,024,000** veterans and active duty troops enjoyed a free meal in honor of Veterans Day.

Across the country, members of the military gathered at their neighborhood Applebee's to connect with fellow soldiers, swap stories and remember the sacrifices they made on behalf of our country. Neighborhoods came together as lines formed at 1900 Applebee's restaurants from coast to coast. This marked the third year Applebee's honored veterans and active duty military with a free meal.

"We are proud to serve America's heroes on this day of respect and remembrance," said Mike Archer, president of Applebee's Services, Inc. "It's an absolute honor to meet our nation's military, hear their stories and serve them a great meal -- on the house. It's a small gesture of thanks for all the sacrifices they've made on our behalf." Military personnel could select from seven of Applebee's top menu items. The most popular item? Applebee's 7 oz. House Sirloin. More than 391,000 Veterans and Active Duty military enjoyed a steak on the house as thanks for their service. Additionally, Applebee's served 163,000 Bacon Cheeseburgers and 146,000 Double Crunch Shrimp meals.

Applebee's Facebook page included a virtual wall of honor where thousands of Americans posted messages of thanks to our military. Meanwhile, veterans and active duty military from World War II to Afghanistan posted messages of gratitude on the company's Facebook page, many sharing the sentiment that the day was not so much about free food, but about the opportunity to connect with fellow soldiers. "That's what this day is about for us," said Archer. "Saying thank you to our neighbors

who served and giving them a chance to connect."

About Applebee's

Applebee's (www.applebees.com) is the world's largest casual dining chain, with approximately 2,000 locations in 49 states, 16 countries and one U.S. territory. Based in Lenexa, Kan., Applebee's takes pride in providing a welcoming, neighborhood environment where everyone can enjoy the dining experience. Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar is a DineEquity, Inc. (NYSE: DIN) brand, and is franchised and operated by Applebee's Services, Inc. and its affiliates.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Applebee's Services, Inc. Nancy Mays: 866-546-9958 Melissa Racer: 913-529-9374

DFPR

Derek Farley: 704-941-7353

derek@dfpr.com



E. L. "CURLEY" LAMBEAU COACH & MANAGER NORTHERN BUILDING

August 1, 1944

Mr. Ed. J. McGroaraty 2800 S. 85th. St. West Allis 14, Wisconsin

Dear Ed:

Inclosed you will find regular League contracts for your signature. We will start you at \$150.00 per game, pay your transportation to Green Bay and \$35.00 per week living expenses until the first game. We will gladly increase the amount of this contract as soon as you are playing the kind of ball deserving more money. I take it for granted that you will have no trouble getting a leave of absence, therefore, am sending contracts to you.

Our first practice is August 20th. in Green Bay. Of course, you know we furnish all football equipment.

I am sure Moose would be happy about the fact that you will be with us, and I feel sure that you will enjoy a connection with us this year.

Please sign two copies of the contract and return immediately.

Best personal regards,

E. L. Lambeau

el/bs

Time Times Worlds Chambions

THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

UNIFORM PLAYER'S CONTRACT

Green Boy Poolsons		
The Green Bay Packers	herein is called the Club,	
and E. J. McGroraty , o herein is called the Player.	2800 S. 85th. f West Allis 14. Wisconsin	
The Club is a member of The National Football League the League, it is obligated to insure to the public wholeso the relations between Club and Player, and between Club a	me and high-class professional football by defining	
In view of the facts above recited the parties agree as follows:		
1. The Club will pay the Player a salary for his skilled	ed services during the playing season of 19.44, at	
shall be paid such salary as shall be agreed upon between the not played, the Player shall receive no compensation from	the Player and the Club. As to games scheduled but the Club other than actual expenses.	
Transportation to Green	Bay, plus \$35.00 per	
week living expenses unt	il the first game.	
2. The salary above provided for shall be paid by the	e Club as follows:	
Seventy-five per cent (75%), after each game and the higheseason on upon release of the Player by the Club. Pa	y in full after each game.	
 The Player agrees that during said season he will f American public to conform to high standards of fair play 	y and good sportsmanship.	
4. The Player will not play football during 19 44 oth by the League, except in case the Club shall have released the officials of The National Football League.	nerwise than for the Club, or in games contracted for said Player, and said release has been approved by	
5. The Player will not participate in an exhibition gas and prior to August 1 of the following season, without the	e permission of the Commissioner of the League.	
The player accepts as part of this contract such from time to time.		
7. This contract may be terminated at any time by the forty-eight, (48), hours after the day of the last game in v	which he has participated with his club.	
8. The Player submits himself to the discipline of Th decisions pursuant to its Constitution and By-Laws.		
9. Any time prior to August 1st, 19—3, by written notice to the Player, the Club may renew this contract for the term of that year, except that the salary rate shall be such as the parties may then agree upon, or in default of agreement, such as the Club may fix.		
10. The Player may be fined or suspended for violation have the right of appeal to the Commissioner of The Nat	on of this contract, but in all cases the Player shall ional Football League.	
11. In default of agreement, the Player will accept the said year otherwise than for the Club, unless the Club sha	e salary rate thus fixed or else will not play during all release the Player.	
12. The reservation of the Club of the valuable right the promise of the Player not to play during said year of consideration in determining the salary specified herein a is the consideration for both the reservation and the prom	therwise than with the Club, have been taken into	
13. In case of dispute between the Player and the Clu The National Football League, and his decision shall be ac	to the same shall be referred to the Commissioner of ecepted by all parties as final.	
14. Verbal contracts between Club and Player will no	ot be considered by this League, in the event of a	
dispute.	A. D. 19 ⁴⁴	
Witnesses:	Green Bay Packers	
	Ву Ду	
	(Player)	
Duplicate copy to be h	neld by Player	

Shalom Doc, I have published eight novels in six languages, several short stories and won a few literary prizes. This short story is about those who served and not specifically Corpsmen. Those who were at the USO show described in the story will remember it well. I dedicate this story, to Doc, who saved my hands and was an MIA in Korea, Hill 812. February 1952

I accept unconditionally any revisions you wish to make.

Thank You. Shalom, Dov

tennessee mountain music by Dov (Bob) Silverman 5th Marines

Mary Ellen hopped out of the car, ponytail bouncing, pink skirt whipping her bony knees. "Grandpa," she said. "I like rock music, not this hillbilly stuff."

"Yeah," Jeff said. He wriggled his hips, bent his knees and flailed the air with both hands. "Can we rent those water scooters tomorrow?" He twisted his wrists, pursed his lips and gave out with a loud, "Zoom! Zooooommm!"

The flashing lights of the Opry House reflected in the eyes of his two grandchildren. "Tomorrow," Bob Davis said. "That is if you're a lady and gentleman at tonight's show.

"You've got a deal, Grandpa," Mary Ellen said. She pointed to the old music hall. "Why is tonight's music so important?"

"It's in memory of a brave man." Bob Davis turned to his grandson. "Jeff, here's money for popcorn. We'll meet you at the ticket booth."

"Is the man going to be here?" Mary Ellen asked.

"No, he's been dead a long time." He patted his granddaughter's head.

Jeff hurried back. "Grandpa Bobby, I got the popcorn and the lady's telling everyone to go inside.

They settled into their seats and the theater lights dimmed. On stage, shadowy figures carrying musical instruments moved out from the wings, taking positions in front of mountain scenery. A fiddler played a haunting tune and the banjo followed. The old fiddler led the musicians through a medley of lively songs. Voices and instruments blended in full, rich harmony. The audience clapped, sang and stamped their feet in time to the music.

The lights came up and Mary Ellen looked at her grandfather and was frightened. "You're crying," She said.

"Have more popcorn." Bob Davis said and he knuckled his eyes dry.

Mary Ellen passed the popcorn to her brother who put it between his knees so he could clap in time to the music. Mary Ellen stole quick glances at her grandfather until the music overcame her concern and her feet began tapping out the tunes of the wild mountain music. She and Jeff rocked with laughter when Uncle Goofus appeared on stage in colorful mountain-man's costume. He made jokes, rolled his eyes under a floppy hat and skipped across the stage doing the Mountain-man's Clog Dance.

The two youngsters joined in singing hymns learned at home and in church.

Then the music stopped and the old fiddler moved to a bench at center stage. The theater darkened, the spotlight focused on him and the audience fell silent. He pointed with his old resin bow and the spotlight illuminated a torn and battered American flag hanging on the wall. His deep mellow voice recalled the history of the flag. He started at Tun's Tavern 1775, Bunker hill, reminisced about Valley Forge, talked of Andrew Jackson in New Orleans. He cleared his throat when speaking of Bull Run and Appomattox. Then he spoke of the Battle of the Argon and Belleau Woods during World War I; Guadalcanal, Anzio, Normandy and Iwo Jima during World War II. The smooth, eloquent voice dwelled on Korea and Vietnam an the Gulf Wars.

During the telling of the story of America, people began to stand and face the flag with their hands over their hearts. Someone started to sing GOD BLESS AMERICA and everyone joined in. Low and subdued at first, the voices rose in power and volume, swelling every heart and soul with pride.

At song's end, cheers rang out. The house lights came up, the performers bowed, and the audience showed it's appreciation with a sustained ovation.

Finally, reluctantly, in thoughtful silence, people began filing out of the theater. But Bob Davis remained in place with his hand over his heart.

"Grandpa Bobby, aren't we going back to the lake house?" Jeff asked.

Mary Ellen was concerned for her grandfather. She tugged his sleeve. "Everyone's leaving," she said.

"Sir," Bob Davis called out to the old man with the violin. "I have a request."

"Thank you kindly," the old man replied. "But the show's finished."

"Sir, this is most important to me."

The old fiddler shielded his eyes from the lights and looked out at Bob Davis. "What is it you want?"

"For you to play Old Rocky Top, that first tune you started the show with. Would you please play it all the way through?"

"That appeals to you, does it?"

In Korea, over 50 years ago today, a man gave his life for me and the men of Item Company Fifth Marines."

The old man clutched the violin closer to his body.

"Sir," Bob Davis continued, not noticing the musicians returning to the stage. "There was this truck driver, and he was brave. Three times he brought us ammunition in broad daylight up the Changdang Valley. Twice we were about to run out of ammunition and had fixed our bayonets to beat the enemy from our trenches. But that driver came through a minefield, machine-gun and mortar fire to bring the ammunition in time. If not for him, my entire outfit would have been wiped out. And then on the third trip, he was killed." Bob Davis drew his grandchildren close. "If not for him, Jeff and Mary Ellen wouldn't be here."

"What does my playing have to do with your story?" the old man asked.

"Sir, I never learned that truck driver's name. But he was special not only for his bravery. He was a talented, trick fiddler from somewhere in Tennessee."

"Did you hear him play?"

"At USO. shows. He would be introduced as a concert violinist to the movie stars and actors. We Marines knew he was one of us, a country boy. He'd begin by playing Mozart. The Hollywood people would look sophisticated and clap politely. Then he would rip that bow across the strings. We knew what was coming, Old Rocky Top He fiddled high and he fiddled low. We saw the green hills of home. We could hear the streams running wild over the rocks, birds singing where there were none. He played while dancing, he played on his back. He played behind his back, standing on his head, under his leg and hopping across the stage, never missing a beat."

Bob Davis caught his breath but the old man remained silent as if wanting to hear more. "The Last USO show was with Bob Hope. Mr. Hope shook that young fiddler's hand and told

him, 'Talent like yours must be encouraged. I make this solemn pledge before the men of the fifth Marines. If this bright young fiddler comes to Hollywood, I will personally see he gets a screen test and nightclub bookings. He'll stay at my home until his career takes shape. I am certain he will succeed.'

"Five day later that young Marine was dead. The tune you began with this evening was the same one he performed for us at the USO shows. I'd like you to play it all the way through in his memory."

"Grandpa Bobby," Mary Ellen said. "The old man is crying.

The musicians gathered around the old fiddler. He tucked the violin under his chin and ripped his bow over the strings, filling the theater with the haunting melody of Old Rocky Top.

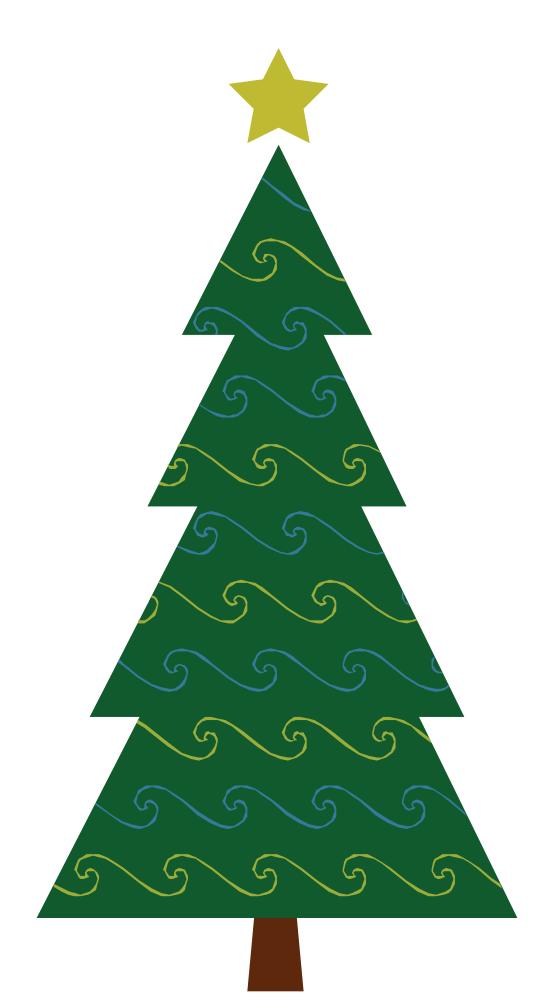
Tears ran down Bob Davis' cheeks. He bowed to the old man and said, "Thank you sir." The old fiddler stepped forward to the edge of the stage. He looked over the footlights at Bob Davis and his children then said, "I taught that truck driver to play the fiddle." He motioned to the musicians around him.. "These folks are his family, brothers, sisters, cousins. I'm his father." He pointed to the flag. "And that is the Fifth Marine battle flag you and he fought for in the Changdang Valley. I tell the story of the flag at every Opry. Just so folks won't forget what America is about. And what my son gave to keep it." SEMPER FIDELIS

CORPSMAN

by Wesley Emch

December 22, 2010

Just got an email from a Corpsman we sent a few things to. In his email he said, " I hope that one day I will be able to repay you for what you have done." Now think about what he said. He and the other Docs are fighting a war in a shitty place, killing the cocksuckers that want to kill Americans, and he says he wants to repay me. I don't think they actually know how honored and humbled we as Americans are (or should be) by what they are doing. I don't know about you-all but I'm sitting here crying as I think of this young man and the others like him and what they are doing. I can't think of a better time to take a few moments and send a package, write a note or make some gesture to let them know we do not forget and we are so very grateful for what they do. They make me proud of what we as a land can stand for



Top 10 Veterans Stories in Today's News

1. Veterans' Benefits Entangled In Red Tape. The Washington Times (12/21, 77K) says that while leading Democrats "like to hold up" the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) "as an example of how well government can provide" healthcare, veterans "who deal with the complex federal bureaucracy have invented an unhappy refrain to describe the VBA: 'Deny, deny until you die.'" According to the Times, the "simply overwhelmed" VBA, which is part of the US Department of Veterans Affairs, "reported on Monday that there are 481,751 pending claims." But the Department "did provide information to The Washington Times attributable to a 'VA spokesman,' saying it hired an additional 4,200 people over the past three years to help reduce claims -processing times and is testing a number of pilot programs to streamline the process."

VA Hopes Fast Track Will Improve Claims Processing. After noting that the VBA "has begun using a public online portal" called Fast Track to "accept and process new claims for Vietnam-era disabilities connected to the herbicide Agent Orange," Federal News Radio (12/21, Serbu) says VA "hopes this pilot can lead the way to improve how the agency processes claims across dozens of disability categories in the near future." Federal News Radio says VA developed Fast Track "in response to Secretary Eric Shinseki's decision to establish the presumption for Vietnam vets who were exposed to Agent Orange that certain types of leukemia," Parkinson's disease, and "heart disease are connected to their military service."

In a story analyzing what President Obama will face politically over the next two years, <u>Politico</u> (12/21, Harris, Hohmann, 25K) notes that while Obama "has been in office, there was a new Veterans Affairs initiative to expand benefits for people who had been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, coinciding with Memorial Day."

VA Has Decided More Than 28,000 New Agent Orange Claims. The Air Force News Service (12/21) also mentions the Fast Track portal, pointing out that VA "processors have decided more than 28,000 claims in the first six weeks of processing disability compensation applications from Vietnam veterans with diseases related to exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange." The Air Force News Service reports that in a press release, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said his agency is using "new technology and ongoing improvements" to "quickly" remove "roadblocks to processing benefits."

- 2. In Pilot Program, New Vets Get Personalized Handbook. The current edition of the <u>Army Times</u> (12/27, 104K) says veterans in Washington, DC, and Cleveland "will be the first to receive a new personalized health and benefits handbook under a pilot program to tailor information to individual needs." If the "handbooks work as planned in these locations," the Veterans Affairs Department will "provide tailored information to every new veteran starting next fall." In commenting on the handbooks, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said they will "give veterans everything they need to know."
- 3. Bill To Promote Locating Veterans' Health Care Facility In South Jersey Clear Senate. The Gloucester County (NJ) Times (12/21, Barna) reports, "Legislation to establish a task force to study and make recommendations on how best to build and operate a veterans' health care facility in southern New Jersey received final legislative approval on Monday." The bill, which "would create an 18-member task force to devise a plan for the veterans hospital," was "approved 79-0 by the Assembly in November and 37-0 by the Senate on Monday." According to the Times, Veterans Affairs has "small clinics in Ventnor, Cape May and Vineland, but they only perform some outpatient medical services."
- 4. Spending Bill Freezes Pay For Federal Workers. In continuing coverage, an AP (12/21, Ohlemacher) story carried by at least 48 publications reports, "Federal workers would face a two-year pay freeze under a spending bill Congress will take up this week to keep the government operating through March 4." Passing the "bill known as a 'continuing resolution' would prevent the government from running out of money for daily operations Tuesday night and forcing a shutdown of most federal agencies." According to the AP, one provision in the bill calls for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to "get a \$460 million increase in annual funding to prevent layoffs and help reduce processing times for disability claims." CQ (12/21, Young) points out that the bill would provide "\$2.1 billion" to the VBA.

- Another Extension Of Stop-Loss Payment Application Deadline Also In Bill. The Army Times (12/21, Maze, 104K) notes, "The deadline to apply for a \$500 allowance for being under stop-loss orders has been punted again, as Congress appears to be in no hurry to close eligibility for a benefit that so far has been paid to fewer than half of those who earned the payments." While midnight "Tuesday is the current deadline for those who were under stop-loss orders since the 2001 terrorist attacks to apply for the extra pay," Congress is "poised to extend the deadline again to at least March 18 as part of a short-term government funding bill."
- 5. One-Time \$250 Payments For Social Security Recipients Rejected. The current edition of the Army Times (12/27, 104K) says, "House and Senate Democrats" have "tried but failed to advance legislation to provide Social Security recipients and disabled veterans a one-time payment of \$250 to make up for the fact that there was no" cost-of-living adjustment in Social Security or veterans disability compensation Dec. 1. The legislation would only have applied to "military and federal civilian retirees...who also receive Social Security or disability pay."
- **6.** Coburn: VA Spending To Maintain Unused Buildings Most Wasteful In Government. CNN Newsroom (12/20, 4:38 p.m. ET) broadcast that US Sen. Tem Coburn (R-OK) has "released his list of most wasteful government spending for this whole year. Topping the list" is the Department of Veterans Affairs, which "spent a whopping \$175 million...to maintain hundreds of buildings it doesn't use," a point also made in a story aired by Fox News' Special Report (12/20, 6:29 p.m. ET). However, Fox did note that VA "says it spent only \$34 million last year on unused buildings."
- 7. Ceremony Held To Dedicate Expanding VA Cemetery. In continuing coverage, the KPIC-TV Roseburg, OR (12/20, Beeby) website reported, "Over the weekend, community members joined with high ranking officials" from the US Department of Veterans Affairs to dedicate an expansion of the Roseburg National Cemetery. Officials "say the expansion was necessary because they have outgrown the current four-acre site." KPIC added, "The expansion also includes upgrades that have already been finished at the current cemetery, including new fencing and walkways."
- **8.** Man Sentenced To 10 Months For Falsifying War Record To Collect Benefits. The Hartford (CT) Courant (12/21, Velsey) says 61-year-old John Golino, a former US Navy "mail clerk from Connecticut," has "been sentenced to 10 months in prison, followed by two years of supervised release, after admitting that he fabricated a story about a traumatic military record in Vietnam, where he never served, to collect some \$80,000 in...disability benefits" from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Golino will "also have to pay restitution to the government."
- 9. Veterans Get Boost Designing New Careers. <u>USA Today</u> (12/21, Zoroya, 1.83M) notes that spending "years in recovery" from a injuries suffered during a rocket-propelled grenade attack, Anthony Smith recently received assistance from "The Mission Continues, a St. Louis-based organization that is among several government and non-profit efforts fighting joblessness among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans." After pointing out that Smith says the help has given him a reason to get out of bed each day, USA Today says Smith has launched a "martial arts school for all ages."
- 10. Life And Death Decisions Weigh On Junior Officers. In a front page story, the New York Times (12/21, A1, Dao, 1.01M) reports, "America's front-line troops" in Afghanistan "entrust their lives to junior officers like" 33-year-old US Army Captain Adrian Bonenberger, who was in charge during a mission in which Petty Officer First Class John Kremer and Specialist Matthew Hayes were both badly injured. Kremer has "re-enlisted, saying he wants to rejoin his explosives disposal team after he finishes rehabilitation," while Hill "says he will probably leave the Army when his rehabilitation is over next year." Bonenberger, meanwhile, is not sure if will continue with the Army, partially because of the "bad things that have happened" that he tells the Times he ultimate takes responsibility for.

Jacksonville man represents at veterans park

November 22, 2010 3:28 AM

HOPE HODGE

Jacksonville veteran Joe Blick will have a hand in completing the N.C. Veterans Park set to open this summer that honors American troops.

Blick, a Navy Cross recipient and recent guest of honor at the Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade, was named Wednesday night as the representative for Onslow County to be honored within the planned N.C. Veterans Park in Fayetteville.

The \$14 million park, slated to open July 4, will contain trails, fountains, a 3,500-square-foot visitors center, exhibits honoring American troops and a special wall containing the bronze hand casts of veterans from each of North Carolina's 100 counties.

Onslow County officials solicited applications for nominees from the public, using the criteria of county residency, military service and general worthiness.

After applications were reviewed by a committee, 10 veterans were selected: Joe Blick, Adrian Gurganus, Sidney Haskins, Bill Hemmingway, Frederick Keegan, Anne Redo, William Reece Jr., Randy Reichler, Ray Smith and Joseph Traumer. Blick was selected at random to represent the group.

"(Blick) has been a long resident of Onslow County," Angela Cole, a spokeswoman for the county, said. "And he is just excited and tickled, I think, to leave a long legacy in the North Carolina Veterans Park to represent all the veterans in that community."

Blick had his hand cast Thursday at the Onslow County Farmer's Market in a ceremony including one of the artists for the planned display, Marcela Casals. As with each of the veterans selected, he was able to choose five others to participate in the hand-casting, symbolizing each community's support for their veterans.

Blick told The Daily News he would be joined by his two sons, wife, daughter-in-law and Reichler, his close friend and fellow nominee.

"It's quite an honor to represent the county," Blick said. "It's one of the greatest honors I've ever had, and I've had a few honors. This is right at the top."

Blick doesn't exaggerate. In addition to receiving the military's second-highest honor as a Marine private first class in 1950. He was later selected as a body bearer during the burial ceremonies of the Unknown Soldiers of World War II and Korea, and would retire honorably as a master sergeant.

But visitors to the park won't know his story: The handprints on the wall will be featured without labels or names apart from their county of origin, representing every veteran of that region. "It's very symbolic," Cole said.

Carteret County officials said the handprint of retired Maj. Robert Charles Johnson, a Navy and Marine Corps veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, would represent Carteret on the wall. Officials with Jones County said they were in the final stages of selecting their veteran nominee.

December PGR Angel Flight missions

by DvldocJoe

USA SPC Kenneth Necochea 12/19/10

I left Idyllwild heading for Kearney Mesa Road in San Diego which was supposed to be a ninety minute drive. I headed south through the rain until I got to the restaurant where there was between eight to fifteen bikes and ten to fifteen cages. There were a lot of first timers so the mission brief took longer. Due to corded tires on my Impala, I had transferred my amber lights to Jenna's Saturn. I listened in at the brief and met with the road guards before we left to go to Miramar to meet the flight.

I took the rear guard position and followed the guard group over to and then on the base. We lined up on the tarmac in front of the terminal for a flag line of two rows deep before the flight arrived. The flight arrived and the crew and the honor guard transferred our hero to his coach. The coach went through the flag line and we went to our vehicles to escort the coach to the funeral home. I again took the rear guard position and we ran into problems on the highway with people cutting through our line. The group got separated in Poway due to the police escort moving forward before the group was through the lights. We arrived safely and set up the flag line for the family. I headed home afterwards for a quiet ride in the rain. On this mission, there was a friend of the hero who he had gone to high school with that is an Active Duty Army medic. I was able to give him a card with our website with the invitation to join us. It was good to see so many honor a fallen soldier in this way in San Diego.

USMC SGT Jason Peto 12/21/10

This mission started out in Vancouver WA and was brought to SoCal PGR by an angel flight. We waited outside the gates at March ARB with two bikes and six cages since it had been raining for the past few days here. I had been to Loma Linda that afternoon and already run across mud and some rocks on the mountain roads on my way there.

The coach and family vehicles came out of the main gate of the base and I fell into the group as the rear escort followed by a California Highway Patrol who was our escort. The group was escorted until we had a van with family members get cut off in an intersection which resulted in an accident. Thanks to the low speeds of the group and all occupants wearing seatbelts, there were no injuries to treat. In this group were two Active Duty Marines who were friends of the hero who had been flown home. I continued rear guard on the escort to the funeral home in Riverside.

Upon completion of the run, I turned on my lights and returned to the accident scene. I parked my car in the lane behind the scene with the lights on to shield the area for safety. The van had the bumper rubbing on the left front tire so several of us worked with crow bars and a jack to push it out of the way for at least thirty minutes. It finally took a chain and hook from a tow truck to pull it forward enough for the van to be able to drive.

With the vehicle involved able to continue on, I left the scene last and headed through the rain towards home. I didn't see any mud on the roads but could see where a few partial slides had been pushed off of the highway. I am thankful there were no injuries in the accident and for the insight to install the amber lights on the car with velcro strips in such a way I could easily transfer them between the two cars. Even though we had a small group due to the rain and the accident, it shows how well the group worked together to fix the problem to help the family with their issues on the van.

A Reflection of Christmas in Viet Nam 1967 By HMCM John P Gobinski FMF, USNR-Ret

It's been 43 years and some memories are hazy while others are very vivid. Here are some of my recollections.

I was deployed to Battalion Landing Team, 1st Bn. 3rd Marine, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade in August, 1967. During August to December time-frame, the Battalion was operating off the coast of Viet Nam in the South China Sea aboard two amphibious ships, the USS Okinawa [LPH] and the USS Duluth [LPD]. Our mission was to provide rapid insertion and extract of combat assets in support of on-going combat operations. We used both helicopters and landing craft as our primary assault tools.

As a new HM3, I was assigned to Charlie Company as a platoon corpsman. We were constantly engaged in combat operations due to the nature of our mission. In November of 1967 we were flown in to Con Thien on the DMZ to support the 9th Marines [1/9 "The Walking Dead"] who were under heavy attack from NVA Regular Force just a few clicks from the DMZ. There was a period of time when the compound was taking 1000, 152mm artillery shells per day. This assault continued night and day for close to a month.

When I found my way underground to the forward BAS, I ran into my old Corps School buddy from San Diego, Doc McDonald. Just as an antidote, Doc McDonald always claimed to be an atheist. Upon seeing me there, he hugged me and said "Thank God You Are Here", thereby reinforcing the adage "there are no atheists in foxholes".

We relieved 1/9 and proceed to get the stuffing kicked out of us. When all the shouting was done, it was mid-December and right in the middle of monsoon season. So, with a temperature drop of nearly 40 degrees, we were not only wet but cold. In fact, they issued us cold weather gear to cope. We were cold, tired and hungry. When we pulled out of Con Thien, BLT 1/3 was at half strength of "TO" only 450 of us left.

In order to rebuild the battalion they off-loaded us from float to the airfield in Quang Tri. There, they tried to boost moral by giving us hot showers and our first hot meal in two months. Now, it's close to Christmas, so our Marines began to sing creative "Christmas Carols" such as:

Jingle bells, Mortar Shell VC In the Grass You Can Take Your Merry Christmas And Stove It Up Your Ass

Boy, do I miss that USMC creativity. Sort of brings a tear to your eye.

Oh, what a Christmas meal they served: Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Beans [of course], Hot Chocolate and What Else??? Red Kool Aid!!! Still to today, I can't drink Kool Aid.

Well, there weren't any mess kits, so they served all the food on paper plates and supplied plastic forks and spoons, no knives. So, I took 2 pieces of bread and put my steak, potatoes and beans between the slices and proceed to chow down. We did have some kind of desert maybe it was ice cream. But I was most appreciative of the beer ration we received. It was a long time in coming. Now the Corps back then, had a 2 can of beer per day policy, so I figure the Corps still owes me about 245 cans of beer [Lots of luck getting that back].

I don't remember if it was the USO or the Red Cross but we were all given "Benny Bags" consisting of cigarettes, soap, candy bars, gum, writing paper & pen as well as general well wishes from home. Since we were so mobile, we didn't get mail on a regular basis. But, we did have mail call for Christmas and lots of letters piled up.

My father wrote and said he sent a "Care Package" with items that I would really enjoy. Well, I didn't get my care package until mid January but it was well worth the wait. Now my father believed in the WWII adage, "send a salami to your boy in the army". So there it was when I opened the package, A Genoa Salami as well as a Pepperoni. Also included was a ball of provolone cheese that didn't quite make it... it was green molded. But the piece de resistance was the bottle of Scotch Whiskey he concealed in a plastic rubbing alcohol bottle [See photo below. Note the box and plastic bottle in hand]



We shared all we had because we only had each other to depend on. My running mate Doc Green [photo below - he's on the right] and I shared the Care Package. Everything tastes better that way. He was severally wounded and was Medi-Vac'd back home about a month after this photo was taken.

As for me, I was one of the lucky 5 Corpsman of 30 in my draft that finished the tour of duty.

Thanks for letting me reminisce and remember the theme to my story. Care Packages from home are great for moral. Please consider "Adopting a Doc".

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All Chiefski



In Memoriam 2010



Staff Sgt. Ronald J. Spino	Spec. Brian Bowman	HM2 Xin QI
1/2010	1/2010	1/2010
PFC Jonathan Hall 2/2010	Spc. Kyle J. Wright 4/2010	Pfc. Jonathan David Hall 4/2010
HM3 Zarian Wood	SrA Benjamin D. White	SSgt. Michael P. Flores
5/2010	6/2010	6/2010
SSgt. David C. Smith 6/2010	SrA Benjamin D. White 6/2010	1st Lt. Joel C. Gentz 6/2010
Capt. David A. Wisniewski	HN William Ortega	Spec.Nathan Cox
7/2010	6/2010	6/2010
Sgt. Jesse R. Tilton	Spc. Jerod H. Osborne	Pfc. David A. Jefferson
7/2010	7/2010	7/2010
Spc. Morganne McBeth 7/2010	Spc. Jonathan K. Peney 7/2010	SSGT Amy Seyboth Tirador 8/2010
Pfc Paul O. Cuzzupe	Spc Jamal Rhett	HM3 James M. Swink
8/2010	8/2010	8/2010
SO3(SEAL) Denis Miranda	HN Edwin Gonzalez	Pfc Jordan M Byrd
9/2010	10/2010	10/2010
Spc Shannon Chihuahua 11/2010	Sgt James A Ayube II 12/2010	

HOLIDAY EATING TIPS

- 1. Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Holiday spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately.. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.
- 2. Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly. It's rare. You cannot find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnog-alcoholic or something. It's a treat.. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It's later than you think. It's Christmas!
- 3. If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.
- 4. As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.
- 5. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Holiday party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it. Hello?
- 6. Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.
- 7. If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa, position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. They're like a beautiful pair of shoes. If you leave them behind, you're never going to see them again.
- 8. Same for pies. Apple, Pumpkin, Mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert? Labor Day?
- 9. Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted, it's loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories, but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some standards.
- 10. One final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Re-read tips; start over, but hurry, January is just around the corner.

Remember this motto to live by:

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate and wine in one hand, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Adopt-A-Doc

IF YOU ARE DEPLOYED OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS DEPLOYED

Please email me mailing addresses and a wish list that I can forward to a member who wants to send out packages.

<u>Senders</u> - please email me your name and mailing address <u>Recipients</u> - complete mailing address (including return date) & wish lists should be emailed to me at this address - <u>deedee@corspman.com</u>

Please use the subject <u>Adopt-A-Doc</u> and either *Sender* or *Recipient* so I know where your message belongs

Looking forward to an overflowing inbox DeeDee Editor Scuttlebutt

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Have a web site you would like to share? Have something/someone you are looking for? Have a special talent you would like to tell us about?

C'mon email me - editor@corpsman.com
I can make sure it gets into the next edition of Scuttlebutt