

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of an American flag with its stars and stripes. In the bottom right corner, a portion of a green military helmet with a netting cover is visible. At the top, a solid red horizontal band contains the main title in white, bold, serif font.

VETERAN'S SALUTE

**THE CLINTON
CHRONICLE**

May 22, 2019

James Fuller — Air Force

By Vic MacDonald

Editor

Forty-four years - two jobs.

That's the remarkable work legacy of James Fuller, of Clinton, who served his nation in the Air Force and served his community at the veterans-friendly Torrington Plant.

Now retired, he's been a little under the weather lately, which is unusual. One of his Air Force posts was in Alaska.

"I've always had good health. In Alaska, we'd be out there patrolling, 40 below zero, never even had a cold."

Fuller raised two daughters in Alaska and they became "snow-birds" - ice skating and riding snowmobiles. He came back to the home-base of Clinton to raise a son. They're all grown now, and Fuller lives at Woodbridge Senior Living Clinton.

When he's up to par, he's "the talker".

"We have to set some people straight, sometimes."

The former Bailey Manor Christian Retirement Community, in the former Bailey Hospital, Woodbridge has 7 veterans in its community now, so when he's feeling up to it, Fuller does have some military-experienced men he can talk to. That includes former Clinton City Council member John Dowdle.

Born in Enoree and raised in Clinton, Fuller said he had the choice of all young men at 17 - join the National Guard or be drafted (U.S. military draft ended on Jan. 27, 1973). He said his dad tried to steer him and his brother toward the military, "but we wouldn't listen."

Fuller became a policeman in the Air Force and took his basics at Lackland AFB. He was shipped to Korea, post WWII - "I landed, and all the fighting stopped, and I was glad of that."

He spent 20 years "policing" his fellow airmen, "meeting the best people in the world" and some maybe not quite at their best.

"My dad worked all his life in the cotton mill, and at 30 he had nothing to show for it. I did not want to go that route, my brother either. He said 'military' - most boys had that choice."

His post-military career was 24 years at Torrington.

He worked with his brother in the machine shop. He had no training as a machinist and learned on the job. Fuller said Torrington wanted veterans because of their work ethic and dependability. Fuller retired from Torrington, taking his pension when the business closed. The factory, between Laurens and Clinton, has since been torn down.

"My brother worked there. I had good friends that worked there. It made it easy for me. (Torrington) appreciated veterans, they wanted to help you. Veterans were reliable and dependable."

Fuller got that job when he came back to Clinton after 4 years in Alaska and Air Force retirement. "I knew one thing - I did not want to be a cop. I'd had enough of that. I had an offer from the Highway Patrol and some others."

Growing up, Fuller said he lived beside a honky-tonk. Serving in the military, he saw soldiers and airmen at bars. He never took up drinking.

"I don't know where they get (police officers) today. It is troublesome (what officers face on the job). Alcohol has ruined a lot of lives. They get off the plane, young and stupid; they get drunk and before you know it, they're in trouble. If there's a problem, alcohol is involved."

This was the time between the end of WWII and the start of the Korean Conflict. By the time Korea came around, Fuller was at Torrington. The ravages of WWII that he saw in Korea "would make any grown man cry - the people had nothing, it was terrible and it was bitter cold. They would steal the blankets right off of us."

Fuller served a year in Korea.

In his 20-year Air Force career, he was overseas and in remote posts like Alaska a lot. One that he remembers most is Turkey.

"The Turks did not like us. And we did not like them."

Turkish soldiers fought with knives. "You'd feel them get in the fox hole and they would feel your helmet. If it had bumps, they knew you were American. If not, you were the enemy, dead."

American soldiers were assigned to protect United States interests in Turkey, cross-roads of the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Russia to the north. What became Israel to the south. "We got off the plane. They sounded off and we sounded off. I think it mostly had to do with religious faith. We almost had World War III when we got off the plane. We were saying, 'We flew 10,000 miles to help you out, and this is what we get?'"

But, "everything I've read says they were the best fighters in the Korean War."



Woodbridge Veterans: Standing: Allen Headrick, John Dowdle; Sitting: Jerry Carter, James Fuller; Standing: Bob Cason, Boh Kramm and Bob Herlong

Turkey and the U.S. are "best friends - now," Fuller said.

After Turkey, Fuller said he was raising a son, "and that was a full-time job." They, two daughters and a teenage son, eventually made it back to Clinton. One of his children served 30 years with Disabilities and Special Needs.

Now, in retirement and fighting off his ailment, Fuller observes, "Most people here have no military experience. We have hot debates every once in a while. (In the military) you never forget the people. Some of the nicest, some of the worst."

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Standing: Allen Headrick, John Dowdle; Sitting: Jerry Carter, James Fuller
Standing: Bob Cason, Boh Kramm and Bob Herlong

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Clinton City Council

Editor's note: Portions of this article were previously published in Salute to Veterans.

By Vic MacDonald and Larry Franklin

For The Chronicle

At one point in the 2010s, Clinton City Council had 3 members with military service. Mayor Bob McLean, current council member Ronnie Roth and former council member Jimmy Young all served together, remarkable for a council (seven members) governing a town with no military installation (ie Columbia-Fort Jackson, Greenville-Donaldson AFB, Beaufort-Marines and Parris Island, Charleston-Naval Base). Certainly, having 3 very active National Guard units nearby - Clinton, Laurens, Newberry - was significant, and the ROTC connection here is strong - Presbyterian College's Highlander Battalion observes its 100th anniversary this year.

Here is a look at 3 veterans of Clinton City Council:



Ronnie Roth - Veteran

A captain's question in his last year in PC's ROTC program gave Clinton businessman Ronnie Roth the chance to soar.

The captain asked if anyone was interested in the flight program to see him after class, and they would be flying Cessnas. Roth was interested and ended up taking instruction at the Greenwood Airport.

"Great people over there," he said. That introduction to the flight program later became Roth's route to flying Cobra helicopters, as the Vietnam War was ending and the all-volunteer army was beginning.

He was in armor in Kentucky when the chance to fly helicopters came his way. "ROTC Flight gave me the chance to go to flight school," Roth said. "I had no idea it would work out so great. I was in armor, flying Cobra gunships with the cavalry."

At one point, excited that he had completed flight school, he went back to see his instructors at the Greenwood Airport. They spent about two hours doing touch-and-goes. "I figured we would be flying all around, seeing Lake Greenwood and it never happened. I asked my instructor and he said, 'You need to give up flying Cessnas.'

"Why?"

"You've been trying to make it hover. They don't hover. I've never flown a Cessna since then."

As a Second Lieutenant, Roth's first assignment was the DMZ in Korea. "It could not have been a better assignment," he said. He was based with the 7th Cavalry.

Later, he went to Fort Lewis, Washington, with the 5th Cavalry. "I had a friend from Montana and all he did was complain about the roads Down South. It gave me a way to see another part of the country - see the differences - and it is gorgeous." Roth drove out to Washington, then had the chance to drive back with his dad.

"I think every eligible person should serve a couple years in the military," Roth said. "It teaches discipline and leadership."

The training in Korea, Roth said, "was real, we had officers and soldiers killed while we were there. For six weeks the temperature was just above 15 degrees - the coldest it had been since the Korean War. We wanted it to snow - we knew it would have to warm up (in order) to snow. We had an exercise at the command level that we had to cancel because there were so many frost bite cases."

Once, a commander requested a Cobra gunship for a training exercise. Roth volunteered, got his co-pilot, and went to see the colonel. "Which one of you is in charge?" the colonel growled. "That would be me. He wanted us to take the gunship up and dive on his men, just like we used to do in Vietnam. The CO said, 'Colonel, I think we can do something like that,' then to us, the CO said, 'I don't think he knows, you guys never were in Vietnam.'"

Roth saw first-hand the conversion to the all-volunteer army in 1975, and the downsizing after Vietnam. "Our personnel strength, we probably never were at full strength personnel-wise. But the training all along was top-notch."

Later transitioning into the National Guard, Roth knew that former SC Adjutant General T. Eston Marchant offered South Carolina as a state that would fill Guard quotas that other states failed to meet. Walking into McEntire AFB, Roth introduced himself a "all-cavalry all the time and a Cobra pilot." They were thrilled to have an experienced pilot; Roth transitioned out of the National Guard when Apaches came in. The Guard wanted 16 weeks of "Regular Army" training at Fort Rucker, and "I wasn't ready to do that."

The Guard has developed into "a deployable force," Roth said, and that became evident in Bosnia and Serbia. He said he admires the young people who volunteered to be soldiers after 9/11, and fought the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. "They really stepped up to serve their country."

South Carolina's F-16 fighter jets are "one of the best units there is," Roth said.

He spent 5 years active and 6 years in the Guard, then decided to "get out of the way and let them put somebody in there to replace me."

Of his experience, Roth says, "I wouldn't change anything. That was a great adventure for me."

He was a junior officer leaving the military, and interviewing with Fortune 500 companies. He had no commitments, no limits to his future in the business world. He decided on the family business.

Printers Associates Inc. in Clinton began in 1973, and got a business boost buying out Truluck Printing Co. "Mr. Truluck stayed with us for a while. He took some time off and went into the mission field. The business has transitioned from letter presses to off-set presses, and Roth said the pre-press technological advances have exploded in the last 10 years. Digital copies now rival, in quality, printing-press copies. The cost to make the copies is much less, and customers expect to share in that savings. "The good thing is, cost is down; the bad thing is, you have to sell so much more (to make the same money)," Roth said.

"The technology has been unbelievable, in computers and graphic arts. We have computers but, I believe, we have lost some of the fundamentals.

"Young people today, they don't need the fundamentals - they don't know how to make a four-color process - the computer does it all."

Even in a community where industries have come and gone, and caused his business to seek "outside" customers, Ronnie Roth sees constants every day. "I took The Chronicle when I was in Korea, it took a week to 10 days to get it. Laurens County is blessed to have two award-winning newspapers, and it's been like that forever."

Also constant are "the two books" - in a printing world that runs on spell-check and an outside world sometimes spinning fast, the little print shop keeps two books in the front office.

"The dictionary, and The Bible."



Bob McLean - Veteran

For Bob McLean, the money was too good to pass up. It was \$50 a month when he joined the ROTC at Presby-

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terian College. He took his sophomore year off from ROTC, but when the stipend became \$100 a month, he was hooked again.

It only looked like a sweet deal. The government reduced his National Student Defense Loan \$100 a month, because now he was making \$100 a month. At the time, his Presbyterian College education was costing \$2,700 a year.

In the long run, it worked out. The defense loan reduction meant it got paid off more quickly.

In the short run, it looked more like "in one hand, and out the other."

Still, McLean stuck with it. Because of that lost sophomore year, he was not eligible for commissioning as a second lieutenant with his PC ROTC class. He got his commission at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"In college, I looked at it like, 'I've got a job when I get out,'" McLean said.

After he was commissioned, McLean was sent home. He waited for an assignment - waited and waited some more. "It was 10 months before the orders came. They were waiting to make up a class of people who had maxed out their officer training class. It was an attempt to give more time in the field and less time in class. You had to pass a PT test every morning - that's five miles every morning running in formation with those black leather boots. It was five miles again in the afternoon if you fell out of formation."

After all that running, McLean gained weight. He was consuming mass quantities of food just so his body wouldn't quit.

By this time, it was 1976, and a change was coming.

Post-Vietnam, "they were not looking for officers any more, or active duty (personnel), they were weeding people out," McLean said.

He left active duty and went to the 108th Training Division in Greenville. "The first time we fell out, I looked around and couldn't find anybody. People told me, 'They just come back for the final march.'"

Things changed again when Ronald Reagan became president. There was no more falling out and going home. "It was a big difference," McLean said. "You were there for the weekend."

He spent 13 years with the 108th, working in Greenville, Clemson, Charlotte and Columbia. "My class was all drill sergeants," McLean said. "By then, there was a major change in what they could do and say."

For the first time, there were females trainees. Still, the Army followed the same basic pattern in physical training - break down the trainee and build him/her back up again.

"I think that is good for young people," McLean said. "It shows, you're no longer in charge. It builds confidence and maturity. It's probably the greatest thing for every 18 year old to experience."

"It's one of the best things I ever did."

McLean's brother, Don, went into ROTC the same day Bob did. Don's Selective Service number was 13, so "he was going to be drafted," Bob McLean said. "Our dad told us, 'It's better to go in as an officer than a private.'"

Don McLean spent 30 years in the Army and retired as a Colonel. He was a finance officer, and worked for a while in the chemical corps, and then spent 16 years with the Reserve



in Puerto Rico.

Bob McLean says he might have stayed in the Reserve, but after 13 years, "I was self-employed, traveling eight months out of the year. The higher you rose in rank the more they expected of you. If I had a job where I could do that (instead of being self-employed), I would have stayed in. I'd be gone Sunday through Friday."

"But, it paid for my house, my Reserve check."

Being in the Army and Reserve taught McLean a lesson. "You learn leadership. You learn you can't ask others to do a job you can't do yourself. You lead from the front. What the military does, schools need to do - you learn from repetition. There were times when we said, 'Nobody will learn this' and everybody did."

Every young person should go into the military, McLean said, "at least through basic training. It will give you a confidence boost, (but) you'll hate every minute of it."

Despite now being "the face of Clinton" as mayor, McLean grew up in Orlando, Florida, attending high school with a graduating class of 1,000. When he first came to Clinton, "I walked downtown and they had rolled up the sidewalks." These were the days before cell phones - so it was a little more complication to call the parents with some "bring me home" whining.

By then, McLean said "I was focused on summer school, taking two classes, and I met my future wife."

Emmie An Gault is the daughter of legendary Presbyterian College football head coach Cally Gault. Bob and Emmie An have three children and a grandson.

Elected mayor in October, 2013, McLean served on City Council since 2009 and was re-elected mayor in March 2015. He has lived in Clinton for more than 40 years.

He is a former employee of Whitten Center and Clinton Mills, and the founder of McLean Sales Company, a supplier to textile industries. He is the owner of Carolina Auto Sales of Clinton and Clinton Financial Services. He has served as a deacon and elder at First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, where he chaired the property, fellowship, and cemetery

committees. He is a former board member of the Clinton YMCA and served as a youth coach for more than 20 years.

McLean serves as vice chairman of the Clinton-Newberry Natural Gas Authority board and is a board member of the Upstate Alliance. He is a graduate of the S.C. Department of Commerce Economic Development Institute. In his spare time, he enjoys gardening, fishing, hunting and following the Red Devils and Blue Hose.

His city-related activities are as varied as the June 6 welcome to 700 delegates and staff of Palmetto Girls State in PC's Belk Auditorium, to his June 20 turn in the dunk tank at Alzheimer's research fund-raiser The Longest Day.

As Mayor, he said, "You've always got to be ready. Everywhere you go, they're likely to ask you to say (or do) something."



Jimmy Young - Veteran

"My whole military career I've been training for this. It just came when I was 56 instead of 26, but that's the way it is."

That was Jimmy Young's reaction when he learned in 2007 that he was being called to active duty in the Army as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was a lieutenant colonel at the time and spent 13 months in Afghanistan.

But the road that led to a combat zone eight time zones away from Clinton was long and winding (See accompanying story).

Young was serving in the mobilization division at the adjutant general's building at the S.C. National Guard headquarters in Columbia, where he'd been since 1997. His job was getting the troops ready to be sent to either Afghanistan or Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom).

South Carolina National Guard units had been called for active duty in the two combat zones for years. The state's procedures for getting the troops ready for combat was better

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than many, Young said. But it was just a matter of time before the pendulum swung to him.

His brigade had been told they were on the bubble – either Iraq or Afghanistan.

“I would have preferred Iraq,” Young said. “There was a greater need for more troops in Iraq at that time.”

As a true soldier, he didn’t want to go to the zone that was necessarily safer. He wanted to be sent to where the greater need was.

He was called to active duty on Jan. 30, 2007. He was going to Afghanistan.

But first, the 1,700 soldiers in the brigade combat team were sent to Camp Shelby, Miss., for training. The training lasted about three months.

The brigade was given seven days leave but the Army wasn’t paying to get them home to South Carolina. “The families rallied and came up with ideas to raise money to pay for buses,” Young said. Eventually, the money was raised and the 1,700 soldiers came home on buses for the last time before being sent overseas.

During the training, the company commander made sure the troops were trained in things they would be doing every day in Afghanistan. Young was assigned to the training assistance group which would mentor officers and drill sergeants at Kabul Military Training Center (KMTTC), a basic training facility (like Fort Jackson) for Afghan soldiers.

Young arrived in Kuwait the third week of April, 2007. They had to stay in Kuwait a week waiting for sandstorms to clear so planes could take off.

The next stop was Afghanistan. The first impression was the horrible smell, caused by centuries of no plumbing.

“The soil and the dust is filled with feces particles,” Young said. “You never get used to the smell.”

Young was assigned to Camp Phoenix, a NATO military installation in Kabul. The brigade commander was Major General Robert Livingston, who is the adjutant general of the South Carolina National Guard.

As he got off the plane in Kabul, Young saw a man riding a donkey in the distance. The man was wearing a traditional Afghan outfit and a woman was walking behind him. “I’ve stepped back in time,” Young remembers thinking.

The KMTTC was fairly secure. There were ONLY an average of two RPG (rocket propelled grenade) attacks a month. “Their aim wasn’t very good,” Young said.

On his first night at Camp Alamo, inside the KMTTC, Young didn’t sleep much. Maybe it was because of the sleeping bags inside the large tents. Maybe it was the time difference. Maybe it was the realization of where he was.

He heard wailing at 3:30 a.m. It was the mullah – Islamic clergy – calling the faithful to the first of three daily prayer sessions. Each session lasted about 30 minutes.

As he stayed longer in Afghanistan, Young was given more responsibilities, which meant he left the relative safety of KMTTC more often. He went out on a lot of convoys, where the danger was more imminent because of RPG attacks and IEDs (improvised explosive devices), which were often set off by either cell phones or garage door openers.

Young ran the logistical mentoring program at KMTTC. He had 15 Army personnel and 18 U.S. Navy personnel with him. One group handled the supply operations for the U.S.



Army in Afghanistan, making sure troops had what they needed when they needed supplies. A second larger group handled supplies for the Afghan Army.

The Afghan Army is all volunteer. Very few of them – maybe 2% -- can read or write. The training is done in their native language, so the American mentors and trainers all had interpreters. Young was assigned three, all of whom were in their early 20s and attended night classes at a local university.

The soldiers Young commanded mentored the senior staff at KMTTC, including the deputy commander and the senior logistics officer.

When he learned that one of them, a general in his 60s, had married a 12-year-old girl (his third wife), Young said he took out the 9MM handgun he always carried and told the man, “Where I come from, we shoot old men who marry young girls.”

“He got mad for some reason,” Young said.

While in Afghanistan, Young was able to Skype almost daily with his wife Susan. “Some days I wouldn’t call her because I didn’t want her to know where I was,” Young said.

When the cold weather arrived in Afghanistan, all the soldiers (8,000-10,000 training at one time) at KMTTC and throughout Afghanistan stopped fighting and went home. “They’d come back when it got warm,” Young said.

Oftentimes, the soldiers would sell at bazaars the military equipment they had been issued. “Then they would come back and want more equipment and want to know why they weren’t getting paid while they were gone,” Young said.

The decision was made to keep the military bases open in the winter, which created other logistical problems to overcome, he said.

Young said all three of his interpreters – two of whom have since become American citizens – want Afghanistan to be like the United States.

“I don’t know if those countries can ever change,” he said. “Their train of thought is so steeped in tradition, I don’t know if they will ever be modern.”

As part of his increasing responsibilities, Young was assigned as the 15-6 investigating officer for the Judge Advocate General. Anytime equipment was destroyed or lost that cost more than one month’s enlisted man’s salary, Young had to determine whether it was because of negligence or through collateral damage.

After 13 months in the combat zone, Young was sent back to the U.S. as part of the 218th forward group. As the soldiers come back from Afghanistan, everything they were issued has to be turned in and sent back to the Army. “It wasn’t state issued,” Young said.

Young said there was a lieutenant colonel slot open in Iraq for five months and he was asked if he would go. “I wanted to, but the toll it took on Susan while I was in Afghanistan – she had worried herself almost to death – I didn’t think it was worth it.”

He retired from the national guard on Aug. 31, 2010. Had he been promoted to full colonel, he could have received a waiver from the age requirement that all guardsmen retire at age 60.

He had been told prior to going to Afghanistan he would be promoted to colonel while on active duty, but it didn’t happen.

Looking back on his 37-year military career, Young says he doesn’t regret anything and wouldn’t do anything differently.

His proudest moment came in 1982 when he graduated from Officer Candidate School and Susan pinned his commission on him. Both his sons – Jim and Jeffrey – were there. “That meant a lot to me,” Young said.

Another point of pride is that “I didn’t lose any soldiers in Afghanistan.

“Some of them have told me they didn’t like me over there,” he said. “But they said they understand now why I was so hard of them.

“I told them the fact that we were talking about it meant it worked out,” he said.

Young received a Bronze Star “for meritorious service while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.”

The commendation says Young’s “performance in a combat zone reflects great credit upon himself, the combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan, the United States Central Command and the United States Army.”

Young received a medal of commendation from the French Army for his service in Afghanistan. He also received the U.S. Army’s Legion of Merit upon his retirement.



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Col. John T. Gentry Jr., PC Class of '91

Col. John T. Gentry Jr. '91 was honored as the 2019 Presbyterian College ROTC Hall of Fame inductee, and spoke to the officers being commissioned May 10 from the New Highlander Battalion.

Gentry earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from PC, where he was also commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Field Artillery.

During the ceremony's Commissioning Address, Col. Gentry said he remembers sitting where the second lieutenants were sitting.

"Twenty-eight years later, I find myself standing in front of you hoping to impart a few nuggets of wisdom that may help you answer a few of those unanswered questions you have as you prepare to swear to an oath that less than half of a percentage of our nation's population will take today," Col. Gentry said. "I welcome our newest brothers and sisters in arms to the most noble of professions in America."

Col. Gentry spoke about what it takes to make a successful leader in the Army. He encouraged the new second lieutenants to "be strong and courageous" and discussed what made Medal of Honor recipients display the acts of heroism that made them worthy of the medal.

"I submit to you each of these Medal of Honor recipients learned a set of values from the very same people



Col. John T. Gentry Jr. (left) is honored at PC.

that influenced their lives," Col. Gentry said. "For those of us who serve in the Army, we have a common set of

values that are easy to remember by the acronym LDR-SHIP: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

"The same values you learned over the past four years are the same values I learned, Col. Zeigler learned, Maj. Gen. Mabry learned and the many Army Medal of Honor recipients learned."

Col. Gentry earned a master's degree in strategic studies from the Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Penn. He is also a graduate of the Joint and Combined Warfighting School, Command and General Staff College and the Combined Arms Service Staff School.

Col. Gentry's deployed assignments include those to Iraq and Afghanistan. His numerous awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal 2nd award, Army Achievement Medal 2nd award, among many more.

Col. Gentry currently serves as Chief of Joint Staff with the Georgia National Guard. He previously served as the Gwinnett County Director of Parks and Recreation in Lawrenceville, Ga.

Col. Gentry is married to the former Katherine Pope '91 of Washington, Ga. They have two children, Anna, 19, and Caroline, 17.

Army veteran shares wise words from PC, military greats

Retired Brigadier General Rick Porter shared lessons he learned playing football at PC to serving more than 30 years in the military during the annual Vance Lecture on Business Ethics, in Edmunds Hall April 4.

Wise Words from

a legendary football coach and professor

Porter shared famous quips from legendary football coach, the late Cally Gault, including, "Ninety percent of football is half mental." He shared serious lessons too, like Gault's one training rule.

"We're all standing there," Porter said, "expecting to be told we can't drink, we can't do drugs, we have to attend a hundred percent of our classes, can't miss classes, can't smoke. You can't wear mustaches, can't wear beards, all those things."

But Coach Gault's rule was one the players weren't expecting.

Porter said, "Coach Gault told us, 'I have but one training rule, and it's this: Don't do anything your mama wouldn't want you to do.'"

Porter said the rule was so genuine the football players remembered it every weekend and long after the season ended. One of Porter's college roommates, Chuck Jordan, went on to become the head football coach at Conway High School. Jordan passes on the advice to his team.

Porter said that Dr. Dean Thompson, the Mary Henry and de Saussure Davis Edmunds Professor of English, has offered the same advice to students over the years. Porter's son, Cam '15, was in Thompson's class a few years ago and serves in the Army now.

"My son, Cam, was going to Afghanistan, and his troops asked him, 'Lieutenant, do you have any advice for us?'"

"He said, 'Always be kind. Do your laundry. And call your mama.'"

Porter said it's a simple bit of advice for anyone, whether a serviceman or woman or a civilian.

Wise Words from military leaders



Retired Brigadier General Rick Porter

Porter also shared lessons he has learned from some of the greatest leaders who have ever served in the Army. The principles apply as much to the civilian world as the military world.

"Let me be perfectly clear"

Porter learned the importance of clear communication from General Robert B. Abrams.

"He always said, 'Let me be perfectly clear,' Porter said. "He was the master communicator."

Porter said that in any organization, you must have a clear vision and clear communication and that all too often leaders sometimes make the mistake of not being clear about their intentions. When they're not clear, others are left to interpret what the leader wants.

"General Abrams was just the opposite," Porter added. "You knew exactly what he was talking about."

Abrams was a good listener too, according to Porter. If subordinates had questions about what he meant, he would ask them to "brief back" his intent.

"Abrams was a masterful leader," Porter said. "You were never confused about his intent. You were never confused about his guidance."

"Focus on character, and competence will follow"

General Daniel B. Allyn taught him that "leadership is about competence and character."

"Focus on character, and competence will follow," Porter said.

In his role as G1, US Army Forces Command, Porter says he essentially serves as the HR director for 210,000 Soldiers.

"Every time a commander is relieved, or suspended, it comes across my desk," Porter said.

Porter noted the brigade-level colonel commander and lieutenant colonel battalion commander are two of the most cherished positions in the Army. Seventy-five brigade-level colonel commanders and 400 lieutenant colonel battalion commanders serve in the US Army Forces Command today.

There is always a handful of commanders that are suspended or relieved out of command, according to Porter.

"And it's never about competence. It's always about character," he said.

"Don't confuse enthusiasm with capability"

Porter served with General Peter J. Schoomaker three times in his career. In 2003, Porter served with Schoomaker when he was the Chief of Staff of the Army.

"General Schoomaker would say, 'Don't confuse enthusiasm with capability,'" Porter said.

He then told the story of Operation Eagle Claw, a failed

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Porter

From 11

mission in 1980. Many officers knew they weren't prepared for the mission, but no one had the moral courage to tell the national leadership.

"We weren't ready. We weren't trained. There was a lot of political pressure on, and the enthusiasm overcame the correct decision," he said. "Somebody didn't have the moral courage to say, 'Hey, we need more time....we can't do it.'"

Schoemaker kept a picture near on his desk to remind him daily not to confuse enthusiasm with capability.

"The higher you climb up the flagpole, the more your butt shows"

General Henry H. Shelton, retired chairman of the Chief Joints of Staff, had an amusing, but sincere mantra: "The higher you climb up the flagpole, the more your butt shows."

Shelton was referring to how much others watch and scrutinize those who climb the ladder in any organization, Porter said.

"When they see you do something wrong, and they're watching a lot closer than ever before, they will report it," he said. "And it will be somebody in your organization who didn't get promoted, or who didn't get hired, or you rendered an evaluation that was less than desirable."

Whether you're in the military or the corporate world, you should maintain a high level of ethics at all times throughout your career.

Do good for others

Porter called General Charles C. Campbell a "man of deep faith and the most inspirational leader I've ever worked for."

Porter said that Campbell often recited a scripture in Galatians which says, "Do not tire of doing good, you will reap the harvest if you do not become faint of heart." Campbell believed in the verse so much he included it in his retirement speech.

"Our soldiers are deployed around the world doing good, helping other people, helping people abroad, and doing good protecting our freedoms," he said.

Whether serving in the military or working a 9 to 5 job, you should strive to help others.

Build trust

Porter said General Colin L. Powell taught him that leadership is about building trust.

"If you build trust in an organization, if you build a team that you have trust going up, down, and laterally, that team will do anything for you," Porter said.

He recalled a time when a sergeant approached then Lieutenant Powell early in his career about being a good leader.

"The sergeant said, 'Lieutenant, you'll know when you're a good leader when people follow you...if only out of curiosity,'" Porter said. "What he was saying is, 'They trust you.'"

And, according to Porter, you can earn others' trust by giving them a pure purpose and

mission and by giving them the resources to accomplish it.

"You build trust by demonstrating you're going to be selfless and not selfish in your service," he said.

Rick Porter: Born in Columbus, Ga., and raised in Columbia, Porter retired as a brigadier general in the United States Army in April 2011 with more than 32 years of active duty service. He graduated from Presbyterian College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and was commissioned in the Adjutant General's Corps. He is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and the Naval War College. He earned a Master of National Security and Strategic Studies degree from the Naval War College.

While on active duty, Porter served three years in Germany and two years in Korea. He spent 14 years serving in airborne units to include the U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa Fla., XVIII Airborne Corps, 82d Airborne Division, and a Special Mission Unit at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Porter commanded at every level to include Company, Battalion, Brigade, and General Officer level command. He deployed on three combat tours including Operation Urgent Fury, Grenada, Operation Just Cause, Panama, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He served as the 62d Adjutant General of the U.S. Army.


Immediately following retirement, Porter was appointed as a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES) in the U.S. Army and currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 (HR Director), U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., the largest command in the U.S. Army. It is comprised of 219,000 soldiers and 12,000 Department of the Army civilians, serving across the United States.

Porter was inducted into the Presbyterian College ROTC Hall of Fame in 2009. In 2014, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Adjutant General's Corps Hall of Fame. He was the 2017 recipient of the Presbyterian College Alumni Gold P award.

His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Master Parachutist Badge.

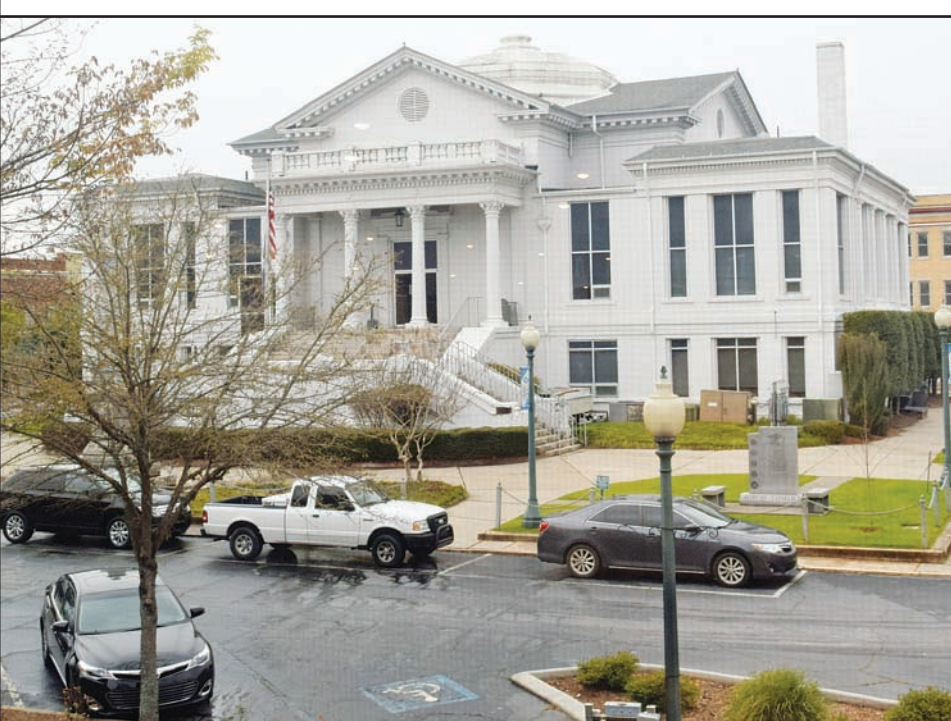
Porter served as the chair of the PC ROTC Alumni Council from 2011 to 2016. He currently serves on the Army Emergency Relief Board of Directors.





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We take this opportunity to thank those who contributed to the greatness of our country



Ernie Pyle - War Correspondent

By Ernie Pyle

(The son of a tenant farming parents in west-central Indiana, Ernie Pyle became history's greatest war correspondent. When Pyle was killed by a Japanese machine gun bullet on the tiny Pacific island of Ie Shima in 1945, his columns were being delivered to more than 14 million homes, according to his New York Times obituary. During the war, Pyle wrote about the hardships and bravery of the common soldier, not grand strategy. His description of the G.I.'s life was more important to families on the home front than battlefield tactics of Gens. Dwight Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, George Patton or Omar Bradley. Prior to the United States' entry into World War II, Pyle traveled to England and wrote about the Nazi's continual bombing of London. His columns helped move the mood of America from isolationism to sympathy for the stubborn refusal of Great Britain to succumb to the will of Adolf Hitler. The Pulitzer Prize winning journalist's legacy rests in his words and the impact they had on Americans before and during a war that threatened to take the world behind a curtain of fascism. His columns open a window to the hardships endured by the common U.S. soldier during World War II and serve today to honor what has been called "The Greatest Generation.")



NORMANDY BEACHHEAD, June 12, 1944 – Due to a last-minute alteration in the arrangements, I didn't arrive on the beachhead until the morning after D-day, after our first wave of assault troops had hit the shore.

By the time we got here the beaches had been taken and the fighting had moved a couple of miles inland. All that remained on the beach was some sniping and artillery fire, and the occasional startling blast of a mine geysering brown sand into the air. That plus a gigantic and pitiful litter of wreckage along miles of shoreline.

Submerged tanks and overturned boats and burned trucks and shell-shattered jeeps and sad little personal belongings were strewn all over these bitter sands. That plus the bodies of soldiers lying in rows covered with blankets, the toes of their shoes sticking up in a line as though on drill. And other bodies, uncollected, still sprawling grotesquely in the sand or half hidden by the high grass beyond the beach.

That plus an intense, grim determination of work-weary men to get this chaotic beach organized and get all the vital supplies and the reinforcements moving more rapidly over it from the stacked-up ships standing in droves out to sea.

Now that it is over it seems to me a pure miracle that we ever took the beach at all. For some of our units it was easy, but in this special sector where I am now our troops faced such odds that our getting ashore was like my whipping Joe Louis down to a pulp.

In this column I want to tell you what the opening of the second front in this one sector entailed, so that you can know and appreciate and forever be humbly grateful to those both dead and alive who did it for you.

Ashore, facing us, were more enemy troops than we had in our assault waves. The advantages were all theirs, the disadvantages all ours. The Germans were dug into positions that they had been working on for months, although these were not yet all complete. A one-hundred-foot bluff a couple of hundred yards back from the beach had great concrete gun emplacements built right into the hilltop. These opened to the sides instead of to the front, thus making it very hard for naval fire from the sea to reach them. They could shoot parallel with the beach and cover every foot of it for miles with artillery fire.

Then they had hidden machine-gun nests on the forward slopes, with crossfire taking in every inch of the beach. These nests were connected by networks of trenches, so that the German gunners could move about without exposing themselves.

Throughout the length of the beach, running zigzag a couple of hundred yards back from the shoreline, was an immense V-shaped ditch fifteen feet deep. Nothing could cross it, not even men on foot, until fills had been made. And in other places at the far end of the beach, where the ground is flatter, they had great concrete walls. These were blasted by our naval gunfire or by explosives set by hand after we got ashore.

Our only exits from the beach were several swales or valleys, each about one hundred yards wide. The Germans made the most of these funnel-like traps, sowing them with buried mines. They contained, also, barbed-wire entanglements with mines attached, hidden ditches, and machine guns firing from the slopes.

This is what was on the shore. But our men had to go through a maze nearly as deadly as this before they even got ashore. Underwater obstacles were terrific. The Germans had whole fields of evil devices under the water to catch our boats. Even now, several days after the landing, we have cleared only channels through them and cannot yet approach the whole length of the beach with our ships. Even now some ship or boat hits one of these mines every day and is knocked out of commission.

The Germans had masses of those great six-pronged spiders, made of railroad iron and standing shoulder-high, just beneath the surface of the water for our landing craft to run into. They also had huge logs buried in the sand, pointing upward and outward, their tops just below the water. Attached to these logs were mines.

In addition to these obstacles they had floating mines offshore, land mines buried in the sand of the beach, and more mines in checkerboard rows in the tall grass beyond the sand. And the enemy had four men on shore for every three men we had approaching the shore.

And yet we got on.

Beach landings are planned to a schedule that is set far ahead of time. They all have to be timed, in order for everything to mesh and for the following waves of troops to be standing off the beach and ready to land at the right moment.

As the landings are planned, some elements of the assault force are to break through quickly, push on inland, and attack the most obvious enemy strong points. It is usually the plan for units to be inland, attacking gun positions from behind, within a matter of minutes after the first men hit the beach.

I have always been amazed at the speed called for in these

plans. You'll have schedules calling for engineers to land at H-hour plus two minutes, and service troops at H-hour plus thirty minutes, and even for press censors to land at H-hour plus seventy-five minutes. But in the attack on this special portion of the beach where I am – the worst we had, incidentally – the schedule didn't hold.

Our men simply could not get past the beach. They were pinned down right on the water's edge by an inhuman wall of fire from the bluff. Our first waves were on that beach for hours, instead of a few minutes, before they could begin working inland.

You can still see the foxholes they dug at the very edge of the water, in the sand and the small, jumbled rocks that form parts of the beach.

Medical corpsmen attended the wounded as best they could. Men were killed as they stepped out of landing craft. An officer whom I knew got a bullet through the head just as the door of his landing craft was let down. Some men were drowned.

The first crack in the beach defenses was finally accomplished by terrific and wonderful naval gunfire, which knocked out the big emplacements. They tell epic stories of destroyers that ran right up into shallow water and had it out point-blank with the big guns in those concrete emplacements ashore.

When the heavy fire stopped, our men were organized by their officers and pushed on inland, circling machine-gun nests and taking them from the rear.

As one officer said, the only way to take a beach is to face it and keep going. It is costly at first, but it's the only way. If the men are pinned down on the beach, dug in and out of action, they might as well not be there at all. They hold up the waves behind them, and nothing is being gained.

Our men were pinned down for a while, but finally they stood up and went through, and so we took that beach and accomplished our landing. We did it with every advantage on the enemy's side and every disadvantage on ours. In the light of a couple of days of retrospection, we sit and talk and call it a miracle that our men ever got on at all or were able to stay on.

Before long it will be permitted to name the units that did it. Then you will know to whom this glory should go. They suffered casualties. And yet if you take the entire beachhead assault, including other units that had a much easier time, our total casualties in driving this wedge into the continent of Europe were remarkably low – only a fraction, in fact, of what our commanders had been prepared to accept.

And these units that were so battered and went through such hell are still, right at this moment, pushing on inland without rest, their spirits high, their egotism in victory almost reaching the smart-alecky stage.

Their tails are up. "We've done it again," they say. They figure that the rest of the army isn't needed at all. Which proves that, while their judgment in this regard is bad, they certainly have the spirit that wins battles and eventually wars.

Permission to distribute and re-publish Ernie Pyle's columns was given by the Scripps Howard Foundation.

Information on the Ernie Pyle World War II Museum

The Ernie Pyle World War II Museum features the famous journalist's birthplace and a museum dedicated to Pyle's life and writings as a war correspondent. It is owned by the Friends of Ernie Pyle, who are dedicated to preserving and expanding the legacy of the writer whose columns linked the soldiers on the front line to worried families on the home front. To preserve Ernie Pyle's memory is to preserve the sacrifices made by what has been dubbed "The Greatest Generation."

To learn more about the Ernie Pyle World War II Museum located in Dana, Indiana, or make a donation to assist the efforts of the Friends of Ernie Pyle to honor him and that generation, go to www.erniepyle.org.



Campus, community celebrate ROTC with Highlander Havoc

For three days this spring, campus and community members joined for the Highlander Havoc fitness event to honor the 100 years of PC's ROTC program.

The ROTC Highlander Battalion, Student Involvement and CrossFit864 partnered to sponsor the free military-style strength and conditioning event April 10-12.

Highlander Havoc combined the centennial celebration and a new Army combat fitness test for cadets, said Capt. Brian Casey, assistant professor of Military Science.

Participants tested their fitness in everything from push-ups, pull-ups, and a "sprint, drag, carry" on the lawn near Greenville Dining Hall. Each event was in an increment

of 100 — either 100 seconds or 100 meters.

CrossFit864 co-owner Janice Long and Director of Student Involvement Daniel Adams both called Highlander Havoc a great partnership. They also noted the fun and importance of wellness.

"We were very excited to be involved, and it was really good to be there and to be asked to come," Long said. "A lot of student-athletes got involved, and it was pretty cool to see them together along with the people walking by who decided to participate."

Jonathan Hill, of Simpsonville, won the competition with a time of 2:31. Hill won a grand prize claymore sword.



Thank You Veterans!

Thank you and your families for your service and sacrifice. Your selfless service has continued to provide the freedom this nation so graciously enjoys.

Your love for our country is second to none. The sacrifices that our Soldiers and families make are the reason we live in the greatest nation in the world. Freedom does not come free. You have paid that price with your selfless service, loyalty and love for this country. As a combat veteran, I am very thankful to all who have served.

I firmly believe the quote "To maintain peace, we must prepare for War." Our veterans maintain peace!

Our military families serve alongside our Soldiers and each family has made tremendous sacrifices for our nations freedom. Thanks to the families of our Veterans!

CSM (R) Doug Gilliam

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

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Long May It Wave

In honor of the brave men and women who have so valiantly served our country. Thank you for our freedoms.

Danny Verdin
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 9
Chairman
Senate Agriculture And Natural
Resources Committee



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Department of Veterans Affairs

Laurens County Office

200 Public Square, Laurens, SC 29360
(Historical Courthouse, bottom floor)
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Greenwood County Office

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Carey D. Bolt
Veterans Affairs Service Officer
Laurens/Greenwood Counties



On April 26 at Laurens County 2019 Relay for Life, veterans awarded a Quilt of Valor, the highest award bestowed by a civilian, were Barbara L. Boyd, Douglas Dean Dilleshaw, Maritza M.Ellis, David E. Ellis, William E. McMahan, James Curtis Peterson. Jeffery Boyd was unable to attend and will be awarded at a later date. Photos provided

Thank You, Veterans!

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Lander University and the S.C. National Guard signed a memorandum acknowledging Lander's new special tuition rates for National Guard and active duty military personnel, and members of military families. Pictured at the signing, seated from left, are: Lander University President Richard Cosentino, and the Adjutant General of South Carolina, Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston Jr. Standing, from left, are: Chris Giles, Director of Lander's Military and Veterans Services; Adam Taylor, Lander Vice President for Governmental Relations and Chief of Staff; Lander freshmen Austin Johnson, Hayden Bulwinkle and Chandler Bulwinkle, all members of the S.C. National Guard; Lt. Col. Marion Bulwinkle, with the S.C. National Guard; Barbara Livingston, wife of MG Robert Livingston; Maj. Gen. R. Van McCarty, Assistant Adjutant General with the S.C. National Guard; Andy Benoit, Lander Vice President for Enrollment and Access Management; Jennifer Mathis, Lander Executive Director of Admissions; Kelly Proctor, Lander Registrar; and Michelle Lodato, Lander Director of Student Financial Aid. Photo provided

Lander and S.C. National Guard announce special tuition rates for military personnel

GREENWOOD – Lander University and the South Carolina National Guard have announced new special tuition rates for Guardsmen and their families who choose to enroll at Lander.

Effective for incoming new students beginning Spring 2019, the military rates are unique among South Carolina's public higher education institutions.

During a brief ceremony held on the university campus, Lander President Dr. Richard Cosentino and Robert E. Livingston Jr., the Adjutant General for South Carolina, signed a memorandum acknowledging the special savings, which were approved by Lander's Board of Trustees at their June 2018 meeting.

"When you have great people in an organization like the South Carolina National Guard, we as leaders want to make them individually successful. For their civilian and military careers, higher education is a much-needed commodity. Many times, they cannot afford that education, so special tuition rates at universities like Lander are a key element to that process," said Gen. Livingston.

"We have had the privilege of witnessing many of our students serve the needs of our state and nation. This program helps us ensure access to an exceptional and affordable education for National Guard and active duty personnel and members of military families," said Dr. Cosentino.

The military tuition rates will provide:

--\$2,100 in savings per semester for those who are currently serving in the S.C. National Guard;

--\$2,000 in savings per semester for military personnel serving with all other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, active duty or reserve component; and

--\$1,000 in savings per semester for family members (spouse, children or legal dependents) of someone who has served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. This rate also includes

veterans who are honorably discharged from the armed forces.

Chris Giles, director of Lander's Military and Veteran Services, said that members of the S.C. National Guard may also qualify for the Guard's College Assistance Program (CAP), which provides an additional savings of \$2,250 per semester on top of Lander's new military tuition rate. "Lander's tuition is already among the lowest for four-year colleges and universities in the state," he said. "When you factor in these new military rates – especially for Guardsmen who also qualify for CAP – it translates into significant savings for our military personnel and their families."

The military tuition rates become effective Jan. 1, 2019, and Lander will begin accepting applications on Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018. To qualify for the rate, applicants must be incoming new students who have applied and been accepted to Lander University, and they must be able to provide documentation of their status as active duty or honorably discharged from the S.C. National Guard or U.S. Armed Forces. For the military family rate, applicants must be able to provide documentation of their relationship to a service member (active duty or honorably discharged).

To submit applications for the special rate, interested personnel should contact Lander's Office of Military and Veteran Services at (864) 388-8331 or cgiles@lander.edu

Additional details on qualifications and the types of documentation accepted is available on Lander's website at www.lander.edu/veterans

The special military tuition rates come on the heels of Lander being named among the top 10 best regional colleges for veterans in the South by U.S. News and World Report, as well as ranking 15th in College Consensus' best colleges for veterans nationwide.

"Lander is a school of choice not just because of their tuition costs and their acceptance of veterans," explained Gen. Livingston. "It's a great institution with very high standards, and helps people be successful with what they're trying to do with their lives."

Honoring all who served.



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Lander students called into active duty receive deployment flags. Lander University honors students who have been called into active duty with the South Carolina National Guard by presenting them with deployment flags. The tradition was first announced at Lander's Veterans Day program in November. "We have a number of students, faculty and staff who serve our country in the National Guard and reserves," Director of Military and Veteran Services Chris Giles explained at the time. "The idea is for the service member to carry these flags as they travel around the world in service to their country, hopefully taking pictures and sending them back to us so we can show our support of our amazing Lander family." Photos provided



A survivor's story will be remembered with visit to Omaha Beach on 75th anniversary of D-Day

Jim Trippon has an amazing story to share. To commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, he is heading to France to spend time at the famous castle that his father helped liberate from the Nazis during the allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

This pivotal event in history is remembered as the day the allies pushed ashore and began the invasion that ultimately led to the defeat of the Nazis in World War II.

His father, John Trippon, was a combat engineer and a Technical Sergeant in the US First Army's Technical Corps, 6th Engineers Special Brigade assigned to the 11 Port of Embarkation.

On June 6, 1944 he was sent ashore with 550 men, after the first wave was decimated by the Nazis at Omaha Beach. In the first 90 minutes over half of the men in the unit were killed.

To get the troops secured on the beach, his father was ordered to throw his body across the barbed wire fences so his fellow soldiers could run across his back to get off the beach inland. He kept the events of that day a secret that he finally shared about how he got the scars across his abdomen, 70 years later.

On the second day of the invasion, Trippon and a group his fellow soldiers pushed out the Germans and captured the Chateau Vierville, just a ¼ mile from the beach. The Chateau was the German command headquarters for that part of Omaha Beach.

Only 125 of them survived the assault.

In the process, they rescued the Hausermann's, the family who owned the Chateau. As a result, they became lifelong friends of the and invited Trippon to visit with his family and stay at the Chateau many times over the next 70 years.

Jean Paul, the current owner of the Chateau was a 14-year-old during the invasion. Now almost at 90, he once again invited the Trippon family to stay at the Chateau, this time to commemorate the 75th.

Plans for the Week at the Chateau Vierville

Jim and his sister and their children will be guests of Jean-Paul and Odette Hausermann, the current Chateau owners, and decedents of the Vierville family.

The grounds of the castle is being utilized to stage a very large encampment and a reenactment of the D-Day invasion, with men in vintage US Army uniforms and with over 100 original US Army jeeps, tanks and equipment.

To relive the experience, Jim Trippon plans on spending one night on a WW2 style cot in the same barn, his father had slept in during the invasion.

He plans on taking a walk across the same field where his father and another soldier had successfully foraged for food, finding a dead cow and bringing back beef for the soldiers, not realizing until the next day they had traveled right through a heavily mined emplace-



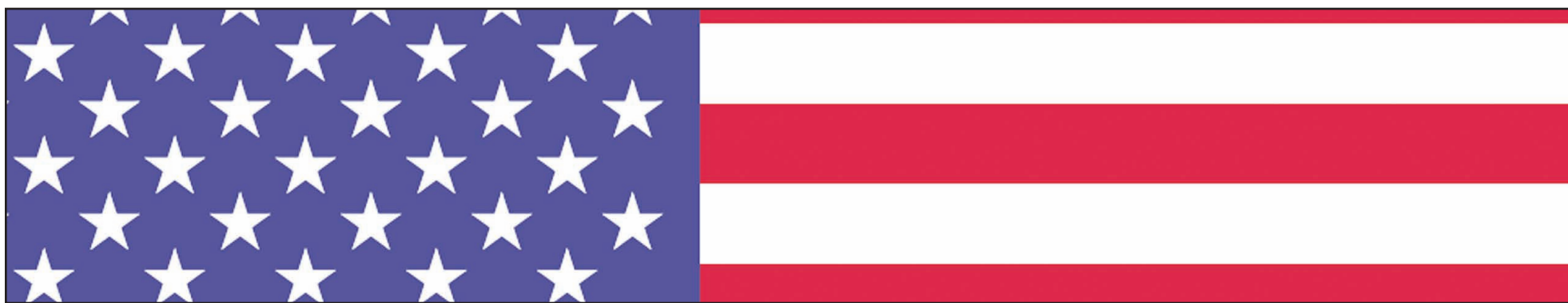
John Trippon (lower left) the night before D-Day.

ment.

There will be a remembrance program on Omaha Beach, parades, a family visit with the Mayor of Vierville, and a church service.

Jim will also be conducting interviews with any family that was alive during the war to record their stories. He will add these to the audio recording he made of his Dad during the 70th anniversary.

Jim Trippon is a Texas based Tax & Forensic CPA, bestselling financial author, and Oil & Gas investor. Trippon's business commentary and opinions have featured in top media both in the US and abroad, including Bloomberg, CNBC, CNN, Fox News, Fox Business, Investor's Business Daily, Oil & Gas Financial Journal, Journal of Accountancy, and The International Herald Tribune. Jim resides in Houston, Texas.



History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in military service for the United States.

Many cities have laid claim to have begun Memorial Day, though President Lyndon Johnson officially declared Waterloo N.Y. as the birthplace of Memorial Day in May 1966.

While there is some dispute as to the origin of the day, the first was observed on May 30, 1868, under proclamation by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. The first official observation involved placing flowers on

the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

By 1890, it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

Memorial Day was celebrated on May 30 up to 1971 when the National Holiday Act of 1971, designated the last Monday in May to be Memorial Day.

Since the late 1950's, on the Thursday before Memorial Day, the 1,200 soldiers of the 3d U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing.

Red poppy flowers are also often placed on crosses near the graves of fallen war heroes. The tradition of the poppy comes from the poem, 'In Flanders Field', written in May 1915 by John McCrae after the Second Battle of Ypres. The poppy, which bloomed in battlefields during the first world war in

Belgium and France, has become a symbol of remembrance and is a key element of the Remembrance Day observations in the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Since 1998, on the Saturday before the observed day for Memorial Day, the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts place a candle at each of approximately 15,300 grave sites of soldiers buried at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

Since 2001, the 'National Moment of Remembrance Act' has defined 3pm local time on Memorial Day as the National Moment of Remembrance.



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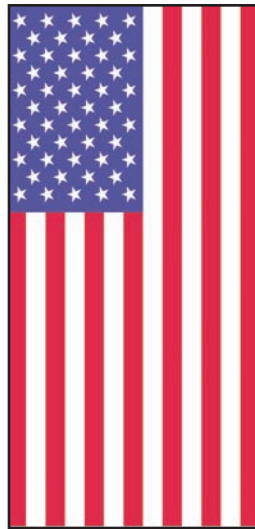
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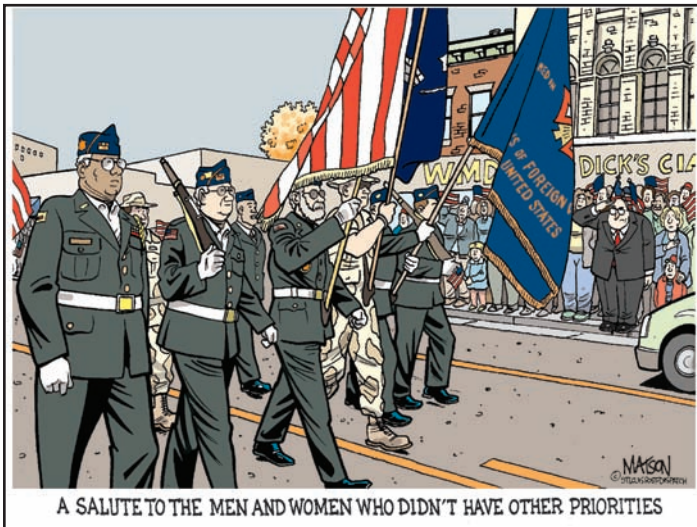
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| John Chris Ward, E3 Lance Corporal, Marines | Ryan Mercer, Corporal, Marines |
| Stephen Brown, E-2 Private, Navy | Jim Watkins, Staff Sergeant, Army NG |
| Boyd Dink Johnson, Cpl., E4, Army Airborne | Charlie Campbell, Sergeant, Air Force, Army NG, State Guard |
| Justin Stroud, Sergeant., Army | Will Sickles, Specialist, Army NG |
| Michael Addison, Sergeant Army NG | Mayor Bob McLean, Captain, Army Reserve |
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Laurens County can assist in honoring those in 'the forgotten war'

By Lewis Vaughn
For The Chronicle

In October 2016, 59 years after the truce with North Korea was signed, Congress finally passed, and President Obama signed a resolution allowing a WALL OF REMEMBRANCE to be erected at the site of the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Wall will have the names of the 37K+ Americans that were Killed-in-Action (KIA), Missing-in-Action (MIA), or Prisoners-of-War during the Korean War engraved in it, much like the Vietnam Wall. No federal funding was provided for the Wall. Private money must pay for it.

In February 2017, Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) Foothills Chapter #301 appointed a committee to raise funds for the 551+ South Carolinians who lost their lives in that "FORGOTTEN WAR." I was asked to Chair that committee. I enthusiastically accepted. It is way past time that America paid tribute to, and honored the heroes that paid the ultimate sacrifice in that long ago and "FORGOTTEN WAR."

We are trying hard to make sure the "FORGOTTEN WAR" will become known and remembered for what it really is/was; the "FORGOTTEN VICTORY." The men and women who fought in that war stopped the spread of communism in Southeast Asia and kept South Korea free. They should also not be "FORGOTTEN", but "REMEMBERED." The WALL OF REMEMBRANCE will do that.

When you do the math it comes to about \$350.00 per name, or about \$193K for SC. We set a goal of \$200K for SC. We have raised more than \$98k to date. We have broken it down by county and keep account of funds raised by county. Greenville had 55+. We have exceeded our \$20K

goal for Greenville County, but our members are continuing to raise funds in Greenville and elsewhere. We have reached out to community leaders in other counties, but have met with limited success.

Laurens County had 10 KIA's. Many of Laurens County KIA's remains have not been recovered. We are hoping that with the talks currently going on, we will be allowed to go back in to North Korea to search for our MIA's. The goal for Laurens is \$3,500. To date we have raised only \$70.00 in Laurens.

I know few people in Laurens County, thus I have little fundraising capabilities in Laurens. I reached out via E-Mail to state and local leaders several times, but as yet I have not received a response from any of them. One would think county/state leaders would be interested, or at least sympathetic, and would want to support veterans in general, and especially this most worthy of causes, honoring Laurens County's Korean War KIA's and their families in this manner, but it certainly appears that is not the case. That's hurtful to all veterans, and their families, but especially so for Korean War Veterans. That makes us feel that we're still being ignored and "FORGOTTEN", and unworthy of being recognized in this manner.

THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP. Laurens County's goal is \$3,500. If we can spread the word throughout Laurens and surrounding counties, I believe the patriotic people of Laurens County would agree the eleven (11) young men Killed-in-Action during the Korean War deserve to be honored in this manner and would overwhelmingly support the fundraising efforts to have their names etched on the WALL OF REMEMBRANCE in Washington, D.C.

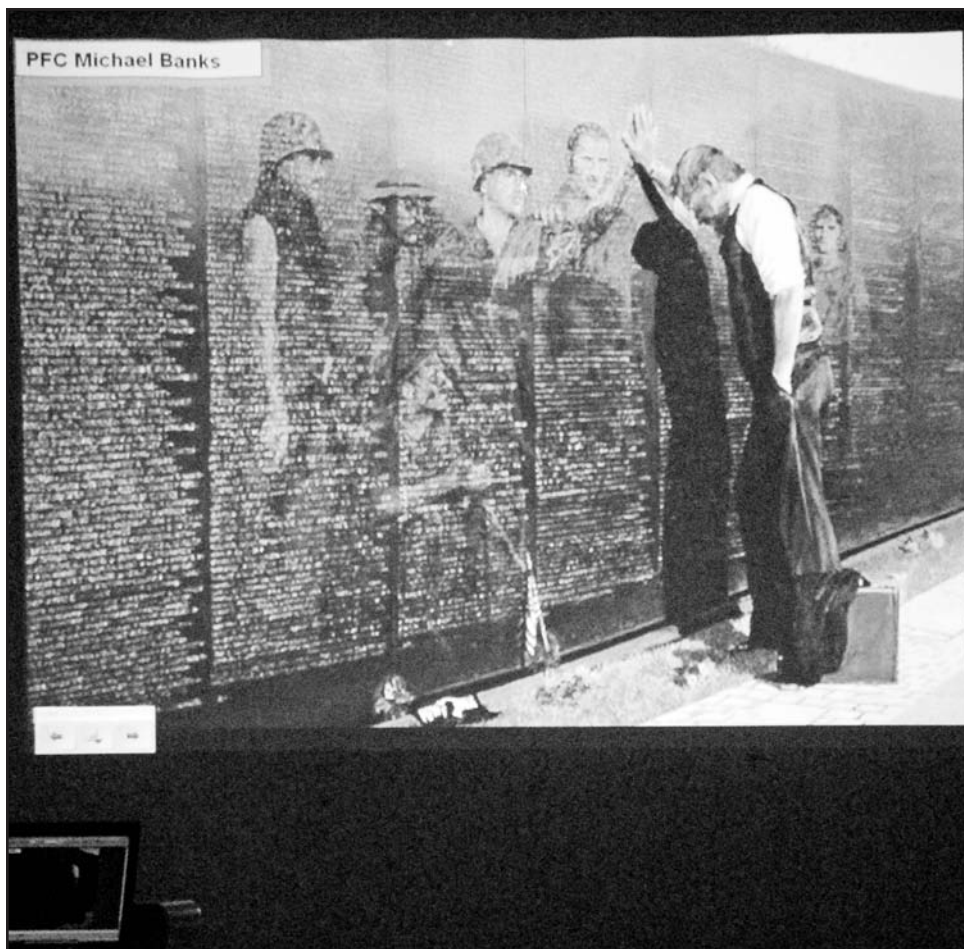
We'd love for those that can afford it to sponsor one

name, but donations of any amount are welcomed and appreciated. We are a 501 (c) (19) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Checks should be made payable to: KWVA Foothills Chapter #301. In the "FOR" area of the check BE SURE TO WRITE: WALL OF REMEMBRANCE or WOR. We want to make sure all donations are properly accounted for. Contributors information will absolutely not be shared with anyone.

Mail checks to: KWVA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER #301, FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE, P. O. BOX 6903, GREENVILLE, SC 29606-6903. Each donor will get a personal thank you note from me acknowledging their contribution.

Lewis Vaughn is a life member of the Korean War Veterans Association the KWVA (LR44320), a member of KWVA Foothills Chapter #301 in Greenville, and he served a term as National Director of th KWVA (2015 - 2018). He served as the KWVA's National Legislative Director, and with others was successful in getting Congress to enact legislation to allow a Korean War WALL OF REMEMBRANCE to be constructed at the site of the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D. C. That legislation was signed into law in October 2016. His chapter, Foothills #301, appointed him chairman of a Fundraising Committee to raise the funds for the 551 South Carolinians that were KIA's/MIA's/POW's in Korea to have their names engraved into the WALL OF REMEMBRANCE. He also served as the chair of a committee that got the SC General Assembly to enact legislation to establish a "VETERANS CORRIDOR OF HONOR" on I-385 in Greenville. SC is the only state in the nation to do this, thus far.



A Soldier's Tribute. This is the story behind the image: "Several years ago we discovered the CHS connection to this very well-known painting of the Vietnam Wall. PFC Michael Banks: Graduated from Clinton High, enlisted in the Marines and was killed in Vietnam. Years later a friend of his, while living in Maryland found out that a special painting was being commissioned in conjunction with the Vietnam Wall. He asked the artist if his boyhood friend Michael Banks, from Joanna, could be in the painting. The artist agreed and the young man reaching out from the wall is a depiction of PFC Michael Banks, United States Marine Corps, from Joanna, South Carolina." The picture hangs in the guidance office at Clinton High School.





LTC Cesar Rodriguez-Ortiz, professor of military science, presented welcoming remarks, conducted the awards presentation, and presented closing remarks. Col. (Ret) Jack Zeigler, '79, presented the Hall of Fame Induction, and Col. Gentry administered the Commissioning Oath. Dr. Jeri Parris Perkins, '81, pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Clinton and PC Board of Trustees, presented the invocation and the benediction. Photos by Vic MacDonald



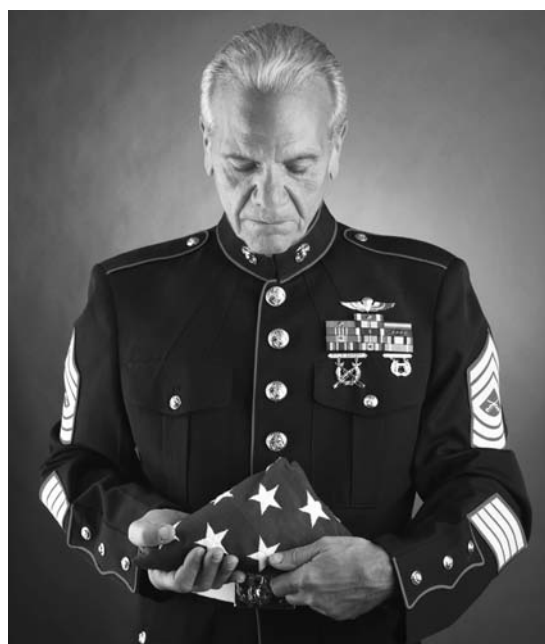
The Presbyterian College Army ROTC Commission and Hall of Fame Ceremony May 10 in Edmunds Hall commissioned 10 new Second Lieutenants in the United States Army, part of PC's 100th year of the officers' training program on campus.

The New Highlander Battalion - Presbyterian College, Newberry College, Lander University - presented the 2019 Hall of Fame honor to Colonel John T. Gentry Jr., PC '91, who also presented the Commissioning Address. Commission from PC was Brendon P. Mitchell, Ordnance Active Duty. Several awards also were presented from the New Highlander Battalion as part of the Commissioning Ceremony. Those commissioned received the Silver Dollar Salute, and took the Commissioning Oath of Office.





Thanks, Veterans!



We salute the brave men and women whose courage, determination and dedication to freedom make us so proud to be Americans.



Laurens County Sheriff's Office
Don Reynolds, Sheriff

Old Glory: Forever may she wave





Honoring our servicemen and women - then and now

The Clinton High School Army JROTC is active in remembrances for the nation's veterans. At left is the CHS Auditorium stage set for the Laurens County Hall of Heroes, a program of the Laurens County Veterans' Affairs Office (which also serves Greenwood County). The JROTC serves as ushers and assistants with the program. Below, JROTC is represented at a scholarship signing, also in the auditorium. Red Devil JROTC plans and executes the Veterans' Day program, including a Table of Remembrance, below left. This is the poem that explains the remembrance:

This Table set for one is small — Symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his oppressors. Remember!

The Tablecloth is white — Symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. Remember!

The single Red Rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms who keep the faith awaiting their return. Remember!

The Red Ribbon tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the lapel and breasts of thou-

sands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing. Remember!

The Candle, the candle is lit — Symbolizing the upward reach of their unconquerable spirit. Remember!

A Slice of Lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate. Remember!

There is Salt upon the bread plate — Symbolic of the families tears as they wait. Remember!

The Glass is inverted — They cannot toast with us this night. Remember!

The Chair — The chair is empty. They are not here. Remember!

Remember! — All of you who served with them and called them comrades, who depended upon their might and aid, and relied upon them, for surely, they have not forsaken you. Remember!

Remember! — Until the day they come home, Remember!

Photos: Vic MacDonald, Editor, *The Clinton Chronicle* (his father, William Thomas MacDonald, was a WWII Navy veteran; his brother, William Hayes MacDonald, is retired from the United States Army.)



City of Laurens South Carolina

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VE Day

May 8, we celebrate VE Day, Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945 — 74 years ago. The interim Nazi government that had taken over when Hitler had committed suicide formally announced their surrender to the Allies May 8, and the Second World War ended in Europe. It did not end in the Pacific for three more months, until Japan surrendered after Hiroshima and Nagasaki were attacked with the world's first nuclear weapons.

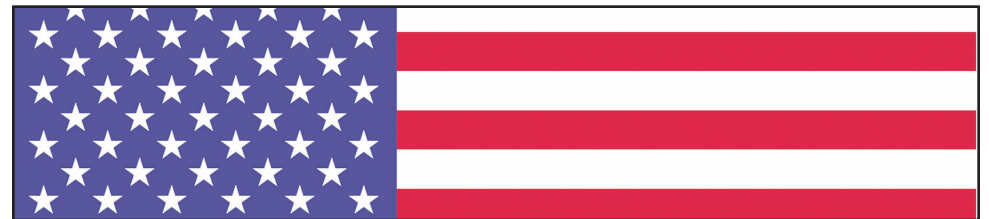
Celebration in Europe on May 8 was massive and jubilant. London and Paris and even Moscow were ecstatic. The long war against the desperate evil that was Nazism was over. While the war in the Pacific was savage and brutish, three-quarters of the more than 400,000 Americans that were killed in World War II perished in the European theater.

Fewer and fewer of that greatest generation who fought that war are with us. Every day more and more of them are dying. Express your gratitude to them and to their fam-

ilies for their enormous sacrifice. If ever there was a war that was just, it was the war against Nazism and Japanese Imperialism. Imagine the global nightmare for humanity if the Axis powers had won. I am thankful to God that He allowed the Allies to prevail in this desperate struggle with such monstrous evil.

I am grateful that my dad survived World War II, having earned 13 battle stars in the Pacific, from the first and second Battle of the Coral Sea to Midway to Guadalcanal, to the liberation of the Philippines, and right on through the surrender in Tokyo Bay. I know he was always very grateful when people told him how much they appreciated his service in the United States Navy. Tell a veteran, whatever the war, thank you for keeping us free.

— Dr. Richard Land, President of Southern Evangelical Seminary



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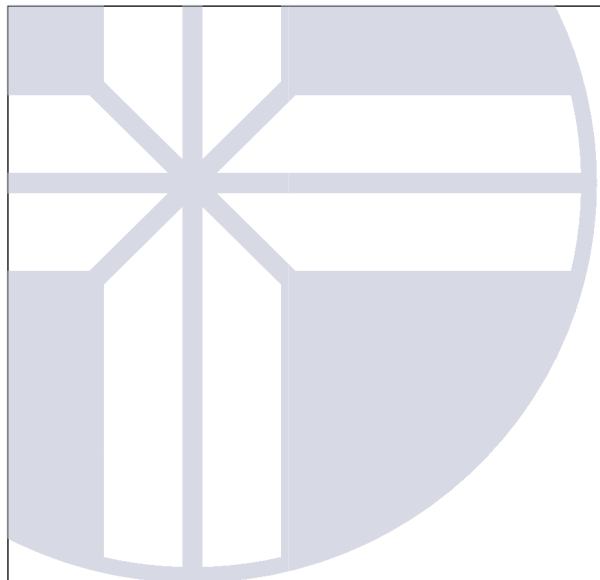


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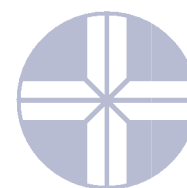
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