



R.A.F.M.A.N Club Foundation, Inc.

Retired Air Force, Marine, Army & Navy

Issue 168

December 11, 2021

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*Special Thanks
to all of you who
continually
contribute to the
newsletter.

*Please submit
your Article &
Credit by the First
Sunday of each
month.

Rev. 05/30/2020...vvvf



Merry
CHRISTMAS

AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS

New Year



THE RAFMAN CLUB, INC.
(Retired Air Force, Marine, Army, Navy)
FOUNDED IN 1974



President's message

Greetings in the month of December, the last month of year 2021, and a wonderful time of the year. The year 2021 has been a year of ups and down, success and failures, laughter and sadness and the coronavirus still determine how we live, but through it all we can be thankful that we have made it this far. Hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and a great time with family and friends.

Now that we have gotten past Thanksgiving, Christmas is upon us, while it also gives us another opportunity to enjoy the company of family and friends, it also comes with additional expense at a time when many people are struggling financially and having a hard living in the most prosperous country in the world. Remember in this time of giving; It's good to be blessed, it's better to be a blessing, and there is no shortage of those that need a blessing and we all can be a blessing to someone in need.

A quick look back at the month of November and all the Veterans Day activities and recognition that we receive for being a veteran makes you feel good about your service in the Armed Forces of the United States, no matter what branch you served in. So be proud that you were able to serve and be thankful to those organization that recognize the contribution and sacrifice made our military personnel. One of those organization who honors and pay tribute to the veterans is the Golden Angels of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Winter Garden chaired by Mother Charlie Mae Wilder and her committee. We thank them for their dedication, hospitality and annual church service to honor veterans each year.

Due to the coronavirus and other logistical issues related to the virus we cancelled our scholarship banquet in 2020 and 2021. We feel that many of those issues related to the virus is still with us, and it would be best not to have our annual scholarship banquet in 2022. We still intend to solicit monetary donations from our sponsors and select a number of Valencia college students for a RAFMAN Club Foundation scholarship because access to a good education is the most important thing facing many of our young people today.

One thing has been made abundantly clear worldwide since the onset of the coronavirus, those who are less educated, lack access to good health care, jobs and finances are the one who sufferers the most during any local, national or international crisis. No one person has the answer on how to solve these problems, but we all can help.

Howard Zinn once said, "Small deeds done by millions of people can transform the world."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Arthur Jarvis, President
RAFMAN Club, Inc.

All Members Take Note: **Club Meeting**

Saturday, December 11, 2021

12:30 PM— Meet for Lunch

Host: RAFMAN Larry Colleton
Golden Corral
8032 International Dr. Orlando

3:00 PM — Club Meeting

L. Claudia Allen Senior Center
1840 Mable Butler Ave.
Orlando, FL 32805

Keep Safe!



80th National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration

Each year on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Survivors, veterans, and visitors from all over the world come together to honor and remember the 2,403 service members and civilians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. A further 1,178 people were injured in the attack, which permanently sank two U.S. Navy battleships (the USS *Arizona* and the USS *Utah*) and destroyed 188 aircraft.

On Aug. 23, 1994, the United States Congress designated Dec. 7 as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



<https://www.nps.gov/perl/learn/historyculture/national-pearl-harbor-remembrance-day.htm>



WWII and KOREAN WAR VET



KOREAN WAR VET
WILLIE BLACKMAN
&
FELIX HAYDEN



DECEMBER 7, 1941 REMEMBERING THE BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR

To all who died on that day, “Fair Winds and Following Seas.”

Pearl Harbor Casualties

US Army: 218 KIA, 364 WIA.
 US Navy: 2,008 KIA, 710 WIA.
 US Marine Corps: 109 KIA, 69 WIA.
 Civilians: 68 KIA, 35 WIA.
TOTAL: 2,403 KIA, 1,178 WIA.

“A common phrase heard in the United States Navy is: “Fair Winds and Following Seas.” It carries a lot of meaning in it. In one sense, it is a wish for good weather and safe travels. In another sense, it is a verbal gesture of good luck to those leaving port and heading out into the great and empty expanses of the seven seas. The phrase can be used as a toast or a salutation. Underneath it, though, is a healthy awareness of the inherent dangers that the sea, in all of its moods might bring to those going out into it.” —<https://blog.theveteranssite.greatergood.com/following-seas>

Battleships

USS Arizona (BB-39) - total loss when a bomb hit her magazine.
 USS Oklahoma (BB-37) - Total loss when she capsized and sunk in the harbor.
 USS California (BB-44) - Sunk at her berth. Later raised and repaired.
 USS West Virginia (BB-48) - Sunk at her berth. Later raised and repaired.
 USS Nevada - (BB-36) Beached to prevent sinking. Later repaired.
 USS Pennsylvania (BB-38) - Light damage.
 USS Maryland (BB-46) - Light damage.
 USS Tennessee (BB-43) Light damage.
 USS Utah (AG-16) - (former battleship used as a target) - Sunk.

Cruisers

USS New Orleans (CA-32) - Light Damage.
 USS San Francisco (CA38) - Light Damage.
 USS Detroit (CL-8) - Light Damage.
 USS Raleigh (CL-7) - Heavily damaged but repaired.
 USS Helena (CL-50) - Light Damage.
 USS Honolulu (CL-48) - Light Damage.

Destroyers

USS Downes (DD-375) - Destroyed. Parts salvaged.
 USS Cassin - (DD-372) Destroyed. Parts salvaged.
 USS Shaw (DD-373) - Very heavy damage.
 USS Helm (DD-388) - Light Damage.

Minelayer

USS Ogala (CM-4) - Sunk but later raised and repaired.

Seaplane Tender

USS Curtiss (AV-4) - Severely damaged but later repaired.

Repair Ship

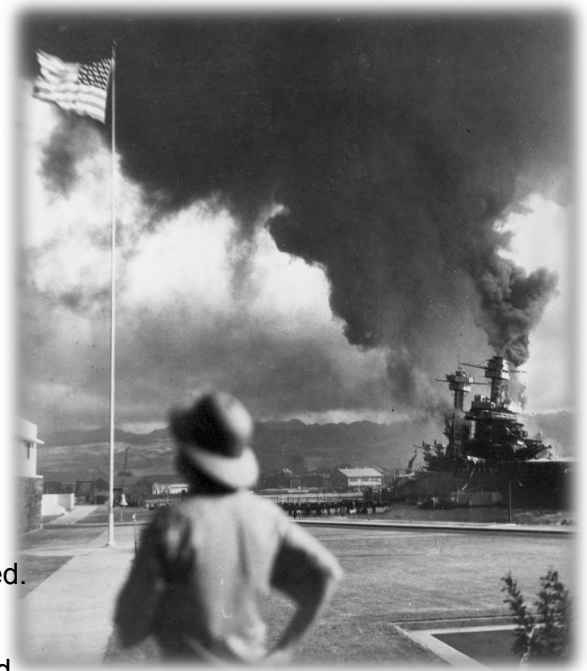
USS Vestal (AR-4) - Severely damaged but later repaired.

Harbor Tug

USS Sotoyomo (YT-9) - Sunk but later raised and repaired.

Aircraft

188 Aircraft destroyed (92 USN and 92 U.S. Army Air Corps.)



[HISTORY](https://www.npr.org/sections/history/) <https://www.npr.org/sections/history/>

U.S. Navy To Name Aircraft Carrier After WWII Hero Doris Miller

January 19, 2020 4:36 PM ET



LAUREL WAMSLEY
Twitter

In this photo taken May 27, 1942, Mess Attendant 2nd Class Doris Miller stands at attention after being awarded the Navy Cross for his actions aboard the USS West Virginia during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. *U.S. Navy*

The U.S. Navy says it will name an aircraft carrier after Doris "Dorie" Miller, the African American mess attendant who heroically leapt into combat during the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It marks the first time that an aircraft carrier has been named for an African American, and the first time a sailor has been so honored for actions taken as an enlisted man.

In 1941, Miller was a 22-year-old mess attendant on the USS West Virginia. At the time, black sailors were consigned to roles in the messman branch — work that entailed swabbing decks, cooking and shining officers' shoes.

He had awoken at 6 a.m. and was collecting laundry when the Japanese attack began and an alarm sounded on the ship, according to the Navy. Miller headed to the antiaircraft battery magazine, but it had already been destroyed by torpedo damage. He proceeded to the deck, where he was assigned to carry his wounded comrades, including the ship's captain. Miller was strong: a former high school football player in Waco, Texas, he was the ship's heavyweight boxing champion.

Article continues after sponsor message

"Miller went topside, carried wounded on his shoulders, made several trips up and down, wading through waist-deep water, oil-slicked decks, struggling uphill on slick decks," Navy Rear Adm. John Fuller said in 2016. The young sailor then took over a .50-caliber anti-aircraft machine gun and fired it until the ammunition ran out. No matter that he'd never been trained on the weapon.

"It wasn't hard," he remembered, according to a Navy history. "I just pulled the trigger and she worked fine. I had watched the others with these guns. I guess I fired her for about 15 minutes. I think I got one of those [Japanese] planes. They were diving pretty close to us."

The ship's communications officer, Lt. Cmdr. Doir C. Johnson, said that Miller was "blazing away as though he had fired one all his life," according to the Navy Times.

The West Virginia was heavily damaged in the attack. Japanese planes had dropped armored bombs and launched multiple torpedoes on the vessel. The ship slowly sank, and more than 100 of the men aboard the ship died that day.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, pins the Navy Cross on Miller at a ceremony on board a U.S. Navy warship in Pearl Harbor on May 27, 1942.

Library of Congress

For his bravery, Miller was presented with the Navy Cross in May 1942. He was the first black sailor to be awarded the medal, one of the Navy's highest honors.

"This marks the first time in this conflict that such high tribute has been made in the Pacific Fleet to a member of his race and I'm sure that the future will see others similarly honored for brave acts," Adm. Chester Nimitz, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said at the time.

Miller had won renown, and he was brought home in November 1942 for a two-month tour to promote war bonds. His image was used on a Navy recruiting poster.



He did not survive the war. Miller was aboard the USS Liscome Bay when it was struck by a Japanese torpedo in the Pacific in 1943. Nearly 650 of the more than 900 sailors on board died when the ship sank, and Miller's body was never recovered. He was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart, among other honors.

Shortly after Miller's death, the Navy began a small officer-training program for black sailors. In March 1944, the Navy commissioned its first black officers, known as the Golden Thirteen.

Miller's image was used in a 1943 U.S. Navy recruitment poster.

David Stone Martin/Library of Congress

By naming the aircraft carrier for Miller, says Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly, "we honor the contributions of all our enlisted ranks, past and present, men and women, of every race, religion and background. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observed, 'Everybody can be great — because anybody can serve'. No one understands the importance and true meaning of service than those who have volunteered to put the needs of others above themselves."

"Doris Miller stood for everything that is good about our nation," said Modly, "and his story deserves to be remembered and repeated wherever our people continue the watch today."



December 2021—Central FL list of veterans, military, and patriotic events!

Army vs Navy Football Game Viewing Event – Sat. Dec 11 – Join in some good times in this long time rivalry. American Social Bar & Kitchen. 3pm at 7335 W Sand Lake Rd. Ste 101, Orlando, 32819. Food service included between 3:30PM and 4:30 PM: Cheeseburger Sliders, Spinach & Artichoke Dip, Soft Baked Pretzels, Chicken Wings, Water, Tea, and Soft Drinks. Cash bar available. Admission: Door Purchase and Online \$25/adults & \$20/child 8 to 12 y/o. Children under 8 eat free. Pay online or via Check on day of the event – Bring a check made payable to: Orlando Chapter USNAAA. No cash please. Paying online: Log into your PayPal account and send funds to: treasurerUSNA@earthlink.net or through website link: [http:// orlando.usnachapters .com/donation.html](http://orlando.usnachapters.com/donation.html) Add the note: "Army/Navy Game Viewing Event" Coordinated by the local alumni of the Naval Academy.

Veteran Mobile Food Distribution - Fri. Dec 17 - Soldiers' Angels hosts a monthly Veteran Mobile Food Distribution on the 3rd Friday of each month. These events are held outside, regardless of weather, 10am to 1pm, now being held at the Elks Lodge #1079 which is at 12 N. Primrose Ave, Orlando 32803. Low-income, at-risk, and homeless veterans and their families will be provided with approx. 50 pounds of food assistance at no cost to the veteran. Vets interested in receiving support from this event **MUST** sign up ahead of time and bring proof of veteran status to the event. (However, occasionally there is a no-show; Walk-up registration available if you are lucky, with **NO** guarantee., supplies limited, especially during the holidays.)

Volunteers are also needed to assist with the food distribution – You and your organization can make a difference - this opportunity requires standing, lifting and bending. Please be sure to dress appropriately for variable weather. (FYI - There were abt 200 veterans and their families assisted recently- The need IS here; mil/vet personnel ARE going hungry here in Central Fl and it is NOW!) Info: Soldiers' Angels Orlando VA representative to request food assistance or to volunteer: Judy at 407-598-5784.

Wreaths Across America – Sat. Dec 18 – Many cemeteries in Central Florida will be participating in this nation wide event. Some may or may not have ceremonies – although the official policy is not to have one due to NCA guidelines. Observe Covid-19 precautions. Check with your local facility for official time of placing the wreaths... Some, but not all, of the participating Central Florida cemeteries (as of 7pm 11/18) Name, location, time # of wreaths

Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell at 10:30am. 20,500+
 Edgewood/Greenwood Cemetery, Apopka 12noon 100+
 Greenwood Cemetery, Orlando 12noon 800+
 Minneola Cemetery, Clermont unknown time 40+
 Mount Peace Cemetery, Saint Cloud, 12noon 450+
 Oak Hill Cemetery, Clermont 11:35am 600+
 Oakland Cemetery, Oakland, unknown time 30+
 Old Oakland-Tildenville Cemetery, Oakland, ceremony at Oak Hill, Clermont at 11:35am 40+
 Oviedo Cemetery, Oviedo 12noon 250+
 Palm Cemetery, Winter Park 12noon 150+
 Pineywood Cemetery, Winter Park 12noon 30+
 St Lukes Lutheran Church Cemetery, Oviedo unknown time 110+
 Woodlawn Memorial Park, Gotha (Southwest Orlando) unknown time 110+
 Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, Mims 11:45am 10,200+
 Melbourne Cemetery, Melbourne 12noon 60+
 Eau Gallie Cemetery, Melbourne 12noon 90+
 Grant Street Cemetery, Melbourne 12noon 70+
 Riverview Memorial Gardens, Cocoa 12noon 150+
 Titusville Brevard Co Veterans Cemetery, Titusville 12noon 230+
 Deltona Memorial Gardens, Orange City 12noon 900+
 DeLand Memorial Gardens, Deland unknown time 520+

“American Veteran” – If you didn’t catch the first run of “American Veteran” on your local PBS station (WUCF, etc.), it would be well worth your time and effort. The four-part documentary shares the veteran experience with a stunning range of voices from today and across the arc of American history. Features testimony from a diverse group of nearly 50 veterans – young and old, enlisted and officers, men and women, from all five branches of the military, and more – the programs offer powerful personal stories of service.

Amazon shopping – Remember – the holidays are approaching quickly! If you do your shopping online thru Amazon, why not consider using AmazonSmile. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Same products, same prices, same service. Central Florida charities on their list include: Camaraderie Foundation in Orlando, Pawsitive Action Foundation in Saint Cloud, Space Coast Honor Flight, Villages Honor Flight, Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park, and many others! (Search the database with “veterans/military” or similar words; or search using your city name or “Florida”)

UCF RESTORES - Active military, reservists, guardsmen, veterans, and First Responders who are experiencing PTS symptoms can participate in procedures that have proven VERY helpful. An intensive format is available AT NO COST which also provides housing, including out-of-state persons. The treatment of combat-related or trauma-event PTSD situations has been well provided. Call UCF RESTORES: 407-823-3910.

Veterans in crisis – For you or someone you know. Suicide is a medical emergency. If you are experiencing thoughts of suicide, know that you are not alone and care should be sought immediately by calling 911. Free, confidential resources are instantly available through the Military Crisis Line to aid you if you are in crisis.

Call 800-273-8255 and press 1,

OR chat online now for 24/7 access to trained counselors who understand what service members and military families are coping with. Website at [veteranscrisisline](http://veteranscrisisline.org)

OR: text 838255 for 24/7 confidential assistance.

They are there because they care....

Camaraderie Foundation in Central Florida provides resources for private and confidential Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) counseling for Post 9/11 veterans/warriors and their families. They also have connections in other areas, other states. **It works.** It **HAS** saved lives, saved marriages and saved families. camaraderiefoundation.org Contact 407-841-0071

Caring and sharing,

Cathy Haynes chaynes11629@yahoo.com (aka Ms. Liberty)

Member/volunteer/supporter of numerous veteran and military organizations

407-239-8468

Questions / Concerns: _____



Did you know that the contiguous United States ΔΙΕ ΛΟΝ ΚΥΟΜ ΕΡΣΕ was bombed in WWII?

On September 9, 1942, a floatplane launched from the Japanese submarine aircraft carrier, **I-25**, dropped two incendiary bombs near the city of Brookings, Oregon. This was called the Lookout Air Raids in southern Oregon. On June 21, 1942, the **I-25** shelled the U.S. base of Fort Stevens, near Astoria, Oregon.

The pilot who flew the mission on September 9, 1942 was on deck of the submarine aircraft carrier when it shelled Fort Stevens. This pilot, Nubuo Fujita, recommended that submarine-based seaplanes be used to bomb military targets, including ships at sea, and attacks on the U.S. mainland. His suggestion became part of the Japanese war plan.

At 06:00 on September 9, 1942, **I-25** surfaced west of the Oregon/California border where she launched the Yokosuka E14Y “Glen” seaplane. It was piloted by Fujita and Petty Officer Okuda Shoji. The aircraft contained two incendiary bombs having the combined weight of 340 pounds. One bomb was dropped on Wheeler Ridge on Mount Emily in Oregon. The second bomb was dropped but its location is unknown. The bomb dropped on Wheeler Ridge did start a fire, east of Brookings but the U.S. Forest Service was able to extinguish it. The bombing was essentially a failure because rain the night before made the forest very damp. The U.S. Forest Service recovered about 60 pounds of fragments from the bomb, including the nose of the bomb. The fragments were turned over to the U.S. Army.

Fujita visited Brookings, Oregon in 1962. During this visit, he gave the city his family’s 400 year-old katana (sword) as a sign of friendship. In 1985, he sponsored three female high school students from Brookings to visit Japan. He visited Brookings in 1990, 1992 and 1995. In 1992, he planted a tree at the bomb site as a gesture of peace. Fujita died on September 30, 1997. In October 1998, his daughter buried some of his ashes at the bomb site.

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/japanese-bomb-u-s-mainland>

National Guard Birthday December 13, 2021



They're not just weekend warriors.

In a move that would create the first militia on the North American continent, the Massachusetts General Court in Salem issued an order on Dec. 13, 1636, requiring all able-bodied men between 16 and 60 years old to create a standing Army for protection.

With that order, what we now know as America's National Guard was born. The idea was simple: Establish an Army of citizen-soldiers who could be called upon to fight when needed.

In 1636, that meant defending Massachusetts Bay. Today, it means answering the call of both state and nation, deploying overseas and responding to natural disasters in the assistance of friends and neighbors.

National Guard Birthday | General Interest

Started in 1636, December 13th marks the birthday of the National Guard. More than defense, we need to honor all that they do for our nation. Watch the video.

The men and women of the Army and Air National Guards train regularly, generally two days a month with a longer training annually.

That training means they are ready at any moment to join our active-duty forces overseas or to put their civilian lives on standby to do their state's bidding at home.

Service for the Guard may not a full-time job, but its demands require a lifestyle of commitment and sacrifice.

The National Guard today stands as a community cornerstone, just as it did in 1636.

Even though it's not a federal holiday, the birthday of the U.S. National Guard — celebrated on December 13 — is an important event to note. Established in 1636, the National Guard is the oldest military organization in America. Its members serve during times of war and emergency. Take time to honor those who have protected our country for centuries.

<https://nationaltoday.com/u-s-national-guard-birthday/>

Race in the ranks: An F-22 pilot on the sting of racial bias in the Air Force

MARCH 21, 2021 / 7:30 PM / CBS NEWS

This Sunday on 60 Minutes, CBS News national security correspondent David Martin reported on allegations of racial bias in the United States military. It has been more than 70 years since the integration of the American armed services, but African American members say they are not promoted as often as their White counterparts. From the rank and file to officers, some Black servicemembers find it difficult to succeed.

The U.S. Air Force Inspector General released a survey on racial disparity at the end of last year. It found that "2 out of every 5 [African Americans in the Air Force] do not trust their chain of command to address racism, bias and unequal opportunities." The study also reported that "3 out of every five [Black Air Force service members] ... believe they do not... receive the same benefit of the doubt as their White peers if they get in trouble."

Major Daniel Walker says he has always felt the sting of racial bias since he joined the Air Force. Walker is an F-22 pilot, and he told correspondent David Martin that he believes he has always been treated differently than White pilots.

"The way you stand, the way you walk, the way you sit, the way you speak. In what is supposed to be an objective field, [they] are subjectively rating you to others in the sort of unofficial grapevine of evaluation," Walker explained.



In July 2020, Walker appeared on "Real Talk," a military-issues webcast that streamed on Facebook. He shared his story and the stories of other Black pilots. Hosted by Lieutenant General Brad Webb, the session was a platform to discuss race, diversity, and inclusion in the Air Force.

Walker read comments made by other black pilots, including this one: "Be yourself and thrive in a fighter squadron as a black man is an oxymoron; either conform or fail."

Walker explained that he, and he believes other African Americans in the military, have had to learn to moderate their behavior to accommodate the biases of their White counterparts. Walker told Martin that the unspoken message he perceived is: "You're big, you're Black, with a deep voice. You're intimidating."

Daniel Walker grew up in Dallas, Texas. As a young boy, he heard his family tell stories of his great-uncle Norman Scales, a Tuskegee airman who earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for his service to the country during World War II. Walker's family hoped that he would follow in Scales' footsteps, and he did. Walker attended the United States Air Force academy in Colorado and from there went on to pilot training.

Daniel Walker's great-uncle Norman Scales Walker recalled that before he started flight school, Black veterans cautioned Walker that he would be treated differently because of his race.

"They're going to treat you poorly. When you wash out, they're probably not going to keep you in the Air Force," Walker recounted veterans warning him.



Despite the warning, Walker says he felt a determination to push forward. He excelled at flight school and earned a coveted assignment to fly the Air Force's top-of-the-line F-22 stealth fighter.

Initially, Walker said he hoped that at this level, his race would not change the way he was treated. But then the feedback started.

"I got feedback at the end of this course, however, that it was very evident that I was having a good time, and maybe I shouldn't have been. Or [that] I talked too much..."

After his training, Walker joined an F-22 squadron in Langley, Virginia. At first, Walker said he felt like he belonged. Then a familiar pattern crept in.

"He's too quiet. It seems like he thinks he's too good to be here or too good for this place," Walker remembered, voicing concerns he understood to be from his Air Force associates.

In flight school, Walker was admonished for being too loud. In the squadron, he was told he was too quiet, he told 60 Minutes.

After 11 years as an Air Force officer, Walker decided it was time to move on from what he referred to as an "uphill battle." His departure left the Air Force with fewer than 50 Black pilots.



"It's a loss for the Air Force. He was an incredible pilot, an incredible officer, outstanding officer for us," remarked Webb, who today leads the Air Education and Training Command.

Walker plans on attending law school next, hoping to use a law degree to affect change based on his experience. He has been accepted to Harvard Law School and is waiting to hear from additional law schools.

The video above was produced by Will Croxton and Jacquelyn DiNick. It was edited by Will Croxton.
CBS Village

U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II

Specially designed for close air support, the A-10 Thunderbolt II has excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitude as well as a highly accurate weapons-delivery system. The venerable Warthog, dubbed for its unglamorous appearance, came into the Air Force inventory in 1975 and no one guessed that it would still be a valuable asset in 2017. With several upgrades through the years, it's one tough fighter as the Warthog can survive direct hits from armor-piercing and high explosive projectiles up to 23mm and fly when hydraulic power is lost. Known as the "tank buster", the Thunderbolt has contributed in many military operations including Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.



A Tank killing Monster and Deadly Ground Attack Aircraft

DID YOU KNOW?

- The A-10 Thunderbolt is nicknamed the Warthog!
- The A-10 is the only U.S. Air Force production aircraft designed solely for close air support of ground forces!
- The Warthog's cockpit is surrounded by 1,200 pounds of titanium which is known as the "bathtub"!
- It was designed to fly with one engine, one tail, one elevator, and half of one wing missing!
- The A-10 carries the heaviest automatic cannon ever mounted on an aircraft. The 30 mm GAU-8/A Avenger takes up about 16 percent of the aircraft's weight!
- The 30 mm gun shoots depleted uranium shells at a rate of 3,900 rounds per minute!
- To allow room for the 30 mm gun, the front landing gear on the aircraft is offset!
- The Air Force was originally planning to retire the A-10 in 2018, but instead decided to keep the aircraft around until at least 2028!

A-10 THUNDERBOLT II FAST FACTS:

Engines: Two GE TF34-GE-100 turbofan engines
Thrust: 9,065 pounds per engine
Wingspan: 57 feet, 6 inches
Length: 53 feet, 4 inches
Height: 14 feet, 8 in
Speed: 515 MPH
Weight: 29,000 pounds
Maximum Takeoff Weight: 51,000 pounds
Range: 2,580 miles
Ceiling: 45,000 feet

Armament: One 30 mm GAU-8/A seven-barrel Gatling gun; up to 16,000 pounds (7,200 kilograms) of mixed ordnance on eight under-wing and three under-fuselage pylon stations, including 500 pound (225 kilograms) Mk-82 and 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) Mk-84 series low/high drag bombs, incendiary cluster bombs, combined effects munitions, mine dispensing munitions, AGM-65 Maverick missiles and laser-guided/electro-optically guided bombs; infrared countermeasure flares; electronic countermeasure chaff; jammer pods; 2.75-inch (6.99 centimeters) rockets; illumination flares and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles.

Crew: 1

Unit Cost: \$18.8 million

Website: <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/104490/a-10-thunderbolt-ii/>

The Bill of Rights Day is observed on December 15 in the United States.

<https://nationaltoday.com/bill-rights-day/>

It commemorates the ratification of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, with the National Archives documenting its many celebrations of the day. The Bill was introduced by James Madison, who later became the fourth President of the United States. Now, The Bill of Rights is displayed in The Rotunda of the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., as a reminder to all Americans of their constitutional freedoms.

HISTORY OF BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

The first amendments to the Constitution were ratified on December 15, 1791. The 10 amendments protect the most basic rights of Americans, known as the Bill of Rights. It consists of notions like freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, the right to protest, and equal protection under the law. Other amendments include the right to bear arms, protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, and so forth.

Former President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation that dedicated December 15 as Bill of Rights Day. This was made in honor of the Constitution and to celebrate the document's 150th anniversary. The first Bill of Rights Day took place just eight days after the Pearl Harbor attack and America's entry into World War II.

In a historic radio address, President Roosevelt made an opening for the first Bill of Rights Day in 1941. He stated, "No date in the long history of freedom means more to liberty-loving men in all liberty-loving countries than the 15th day of December 1791."

President Harry Truman issued another proclamation five years later in 1946 after Congress requested to observe Bill of Rights Day again. World War II had come to an end just a year before, in 1945. But it wasn't until 1962 that President Truman proclaimed the Bill of Rights Day to be observed every year. The proclamation is usually coupled with a proclamation on Human Rights Day and Week...



Precious Memories

By Joe Cockerl



August 28, 1963 was a special day for me. I was a young boy at the age of 15. My uncle and aunt arrived at our apartment in Brooklyn at about 4am, to take my older brother and myself to Washington D.C., to participate in THE March on Washington. The event was officially known as the "March on Washington for jobs and Freedom". We had a difficult time finding parking, finally a local resident allowed us to park on his lawn. I recall the March's volunteers were selling boxed lunches, each box sold for 50 cents. The lunch consisted of a cheese sandwich, an apple, and a slice of cake.

The March helped pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We did not realize that we were participating in the historical March on Washington.

I remember seeing people arriving on buses, trains and in personal vehicles. I saw young kids, middle aged, and older people. There were people of every race: black, white, Hispanic, Asian and many other ethnic groups. I recall seeing people carrying banners from just about every religious group imaginable. There were Catholics, Muslims, Protestants, Jewish and a host of other religious groups.

The 1963 March on Washington was truly a "People's March". 250,00 people participated without a single incident of violence. There were a host of speakers: A. Philip Randolph, John Lewis, Whitney M. Young, Jr., Dr. Martin Luther King and many more. I was thrilled to have been in the audience when Dr. Martin Luther King recited his famous speech, "I Have A Dream". I was fortunate to have been a part of such a momentous event. I will forever cherish that day.



Resources for Our Veterans

Dear Neighbor,

Earlier this week, thousands of our neighbors joined us for a telephone town hall on veterans' services here in Central Florida. Five expert panelists on veterans' services shared critical resources for veterans and their loved ones. If you missed some or all of this important discussion, we have compiled those resources below.

On our call, we heard from veterans, their spouses and children, caregivers and others. It is important to me as your representative to hear directly from you to understand the unique challenges you face. As a former law enforcement officer, the safety and success of every member of our community is my top priority.

In addition to the resources below, please remember that my office is ready and able to help you with any issue you may be having with a federal service, including the VA. If you are working with a federal agency and are not receiving an answer in a timely fashion, or you feel you've been treated unfairly, our office may be able to assist you resolve the problem or get more information.

Please reach out if you need help.

Resources for Veterans in Central Florida

St. Petersburg VA Regional Office—(800) 827-1000

Orlando VA Healthcare System

Orlando VA Health Services Website: <https://www.va.gov/orlando-health-care/health-services/>
Local: 407-631-1000 · Toll-free: 800-922-7521

Patient Advocates

Medical Records

Billing and Insurance

Pharmacy

Orlando VET CENTER

Website: <https://www.va.gov/orlando-vet-center/>
(407) 857-2800

Address: 5575 South Semoran Boulevard, Suite 30, Orlando, FL 32822

Open 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on weekdays

Orange County Veterans Services

Website: <https://www.orangecountyfl.net/FamiliesHealthSocialSvcs/VeteransServices.aspx#.YbPHodXMLmd>

(407) 836-8990

Email: ocvso@occr.ocgov.com

Address: 2100 E. Michigan Street, Orlando, FL. 32806

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Veterans Affairs

Contact Veterans Affairs Director Edgar Rodriguez at Ed.Rodriguez@FDACS.gov or (850) 766-8582.

Additional VA Services

Disability Benefits

GI Bill Benefits

Veteran Readiness and Employment (Chapter 31)

Veteran-Owned Small Business Support

Veterans Pensions

Home Loans

Life Insurance

Burial Services

Get VA Medical Records

Get Military Service Records

Active Service Benefits

Benefits for Spouses, Dependents, Survivors, and Family Caregivers

Additional VA Phone Numbers

MyVA411 24/7 main information line--800-698-2411

VA Benefits Hotline--800-827-1000

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

GI Bill Hotline--888-442-4551

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

VA health Benefits Hotline--877-222-8387

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

My HealtheVet Help Desk--877-327-0022

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

My staff and I are ready to assist you. If you need help, please let us know. You can contact us [here](#).

https://demingsforms.house.gov/services/casework/help-with-a-federal-agency.htm?utm_campaign=345-516

It is an honor and a privilege to serve and represent you. Stay safe.

Sincerely,



U.S. Rep. Val Demings



U.S. Representative
VAL DEMINGS
Serving Florida's 10th Congressional District

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2176

ORLANDO OFFICE

2295 S Hiawassee Rd, Suite 301
Orlando, FL 32835
Phone: 321-388-9808



From Simon.....

Entertainment News and More.....

Christmas is upon us. I looked around and read many Christmas stories to share with you about the wonders of Christmas, and found this one of which we all may be able to relate. It is the letter a brother wrote to his sister on Christmas Eve. Please enjoy.



Christmas Day, 1914

My dear sister Janet,

It is 2:00 in the morning and most of our men are asleep in their dugouts—yet I could not sleep myself before writing to you of the wonderful events of Christmas Eve. In truth, what happened seems almost like a fairy tale, and if I hadn't been through it myself, I would scarce believe it. Just imagine: While you and the family sang carols before the fire there in London, I did the same with enemy soldiers here on the battlefields of France!

As I wrote before, there has been little serious fighting of late. The first battles of the war left so many dead that both sides have held back until replacements could come from home. So, we have mostly stayed in our trenches and waited.

But what a terrible waiting it has been! Knowing that any moment an artillery shell might land and explode beside us in the trench, killing or maiming several men. And in daylight not daring to lift our heads above ground, for fear of a sniper's bullet.

And the rain—it has fallen almost daily. Of course, it collects right in our trenches, where we must bail it out with pots and pans. And with the rain has come mud—a good foot or deeper. It splatters and cakes everything, and constantly sucks at our boots. One new recruit got his feet stuck in it, and then his hands too when he tried to get out—just like in that American story of the tar baby!

Through all this, we couldn't help feeling curious about the German soldiers across the way. After all, they faced the same dangers we did, and slogged about in the same muck. What's more, their first trench was only 50 yards from ours. Between us lay No Man's Land, bordered on both sides by barbed wire—yet they were close enough we sometimes heard their voices.

Of course, we hated them when they killed our friends. But other times, we joked about them and almost felt we had something in common. And now it seems they felt the same.

Just yesterday morning—Christmas Eve Day—we had our first good freeze. Cold as we were, we welcomed it, because at least the mud froze solid. Everything was tinged white with frost, while a bright sun shone over all. Perfect Christmas weather.

During the day, there was little shelling or rifle fire from either side. And as darkness fell on our Christmas Eve, the shooting stopped entirely. Our first complete silence in months! We hoped it might promise a peaceful holiday, but we didn't count on it. We'd been told the Germans might attack and try to catch us off guard.

I went to the dugout to rest, and lying on my cot, I must have drifted asleep. All at once my friend John was shaking me awake, saying, "Come and see! See what the Germans are doing!" I grabbed my rifle, stumbled out into the trench, and stuck my head cautiously above the sandbags.

I never hope to see a stranger and more lovely sight. Clusters of tiny lights were shining all along the German line, left and right as far as the eye could see.

"What is it?" I asked in bewilderment, and John answered, "Christmas trees!"

And so it was. The Germans had placed Christmas trees in front of their trenches, lit by candle or lantern like beacons of good will.

And then we heard their voices raised in song.

Stille nacht, heilige nacht

This carol may not yet be familiar to us in Britain, but John knew it and translated: "Silent night, holy night." I've never heard one lovelier—or more meaningful, in that quiet, clear night, its dark softened by a first-quarter moon.

When the song finished, the men in our trenches applauded. Yes, British soldiers applauding Germans! Then one of our own men started singing, and we all joined in.

The first Nowell, the angel did say

In truth, we sounded not nearly as good as the Germans, with their fine harmonies. But they responded with enthusiastic applause of their own and then began another.

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum

Then we replied.

O come all ye faithful

But this time they joined in, singing the same words in Latin.

Adeste fideles

British and German harmonizing across No Man's Land! I would have thought nothing could be more amazing—but what came next was more so.

"English, come over!" we heard one of them shout. "You no shoot, we no shoot."

There in the trenches, we looked at each other in bewilderment. Then one of us shouted jokingly, "You come over here."

To our astonishment, we saw two figures rise from the trench, climb over their barbed wire, and advance unprotected across No Man's Land. One of them called, "Send officer to talk."

I saw one of our men lift his rifle to the ready, and no doubt others did the same—but our captain called out, "Hold your fire." Then he climbed out and went to meet the Germans halfway. We heard them talking, and a few minutes later, the captain came back with a German cigar in his mouth!

"We've agreed there will be no shooting before midnight tomorrow," he announced. "But sentries are to remain on duty, and the rest of you, stay alert."

Across the way, we could make out groups of two or three men starting out of trenches and coming toward us. Then some of us were climbing out too, and in minutes more, there we were in No Man's Land, over a hundred soldiers and officers of each side, shaking hands with men we'd been trying to kill just hours earlier!

Before long a bonfire was built, and around it we mingled—British khaki and German grey. I must say, the Germans were the better dressed, with fresh uniforms for the holiday.

Only a couple of our men knew German, but more of the Germans knew English. I asked one of them why that was.

"Because many have worked in England!" he said. "Before all this, I was a waiter at the Hotel Cecil. Perhaps I waited on your table!"

"Perhaps you did!" I said, laughing.

He told me he had a girlfriend in London and that the war had interrupted their plans for marriage. I told him, "Don't worry. We'll have you beat by Easter, then you can come back and marry the girl."

He laughed at that. Then he asked if I'd send her a postcard he'd give me later, and I promised I would.

Another German had been a porter at Victoria Station. He showed me a picture of his family back in Munich. His eldest sister was so lovely, I said I should like to meet her someday. He beamed and said he would like that very much and gave me his family's address.

Even those who could not converse could still exchange gifts—our cigarettes for their cigars, our tea for their coffee, our corned beef for their sausage. Badges and buttons from uniforms changed owners, and one of our lads walked off with the infamous spiked helmet! I myself traded a jackknife for a leather equipment belt—a fine souvenir to show when I get home.

Newspapers too changed hands, and the Germans howled with laughter at ours. They assured us that France was finished and Russia nearly beaten too. We told them that was nonsense, and one of them said, "Well, you believe your newspapers and we'll believe ours."

Clearly they are lied to—yet after meeting these men, I wonder how truthful our own newspapers have been. These are not the "savage barbarians" we've read so much about. They are men with homes and families, hopes and fears, principles and, yes, love of country. In other words, men like ourselves. Why are we led to believe otherwise?

As it grew late, a few more songs were traded around the fire, and then all joined in for—I am not lying to you—"Auld Lang Syne." Then we parted with promises to meet again tomorrow, and even some talk of a football match.

I was just starting back to the trenches when an older German clutched my arm. "My God," he said, "why cannot we have peace and all go home?"

I told him gently, "That you must ask your emperor."

He looked at me then, searchingly. "Perhaps, my friend. But also, we must ask our hearts."

And so, dear sister, tell me, has there ever been such a Christmas Eve in all history? And what does it all mean, this impossible befriending of enemies?

For the fighting here, of course, it means regrettably little. Decent fellows those soldiers may be, but they follow orders and we do the same. Besides, we are here to stop their army and send it home, and never could we shirk that duty.

Still, one cannot help imagine what would happen if the spirit shown here were caught by the nations of the world. Of course, disputes must always arise. But what if our leaders were to offer well wishes in place of warnings?

Songs in place of slurs? Presents in place of reprisals? Would not all war end at once? All nations say they want peace. Yet on this Christmas morning, I wonder if we want it quite enough.

Your loving brother,

Tom

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas as we continue to remember the reason for the season. May the blessings of peace, love, and joy encompass you and your family.

I'll see you soon.

Peace *Simon*

[https://worldbeyondwar.org/christmas-truce-letter/The Christmas Truce](https://worldbeyondwar.org/christmas-truce-letter/The%20Christmas%20Truce), By Aaron Shepard,
Printed in Australia's School Magazine, Apr.2001

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Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.

With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me—**Vince Gill**

Thank You



Evangelist Charlie Mae Wilder
and the
Bethlehem Golden Angels
for your
15th Annual Salute to Veterans and
Families of Veterans
in Orange County & Vicinity
held at
Bethlehem M. B. Church
Pastor C. R. Taylor
Winter Garden, FL

The 27th Annual Valencia College & RAFMAN CLUB Foundations' 2022 Scholarship Award

Theme: **TBA (To Be Announced)**

Sponsorship Deadline : April 5, 2022

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic the RAFMAN Club Foundation Annual Scholarship Banquet normally held in March each year has been cancelled.

We are still planning to select a number of Valencia College students for a RAFMAN Club Foundation scholarship. To pay for these scholarships we will be selling ads and asking our sponsors to help a student by purchasing:

Credit Hour(s):

- ☐ 3 Credit Hours (1 Class) - \$308.18
- ☐ 2 Credit Hours - \$206.12
- ☐ 1 Credit Hour - \$103.06

AD:

- ☐ Full Page Ad (\$200)
- ☐ Half Page Ad (\$100)
- ☐ Quarter Page Ad or Business Card (\$50)
- ☐ Other \$_____

RAFMAN CLUB FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 555883

ORLANDO, FL 32855-5883

Phone: (407) 734-5794 / Alt. (407) 492-1266

Email: RAFMANclub@bellsouth.net

Website: www.rafmanclubfoundation.org

The RAFMAN Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization.

RAFMAN Club Meeting

L. Claudia Allen Senior Center, 1840 Mable Butler Ave., Orlando, FL 32805

Date: _____ Notes: _____



Sick n' Shut-ins:

None.

Thanking God for His keeping power!

To Bereaved Families:

We extend our prayers and heart-felt sympathy to families everywhere!

Our Condolence goes to Simon McRae who niece passed in Dublin Ga. and was funeralized on Saturday December 4, 2021



President Biden and congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle gathered Dec. 10th at the U.S. Capitol to honor Bob Dole, the longtime senator, 1996 Republican presidential nominee and World War II hero, who died Sunday at age 98.

Senator Bob Dole also supported civil rights and helped secure a federal holiday named in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., despite then-strong opposition from some in both parties. President Biden said he hoped that the country could follow Dole's "wisdom."

"America has lost one of our greatest patriots," the president said. "As divided as we are, the only way forward for democracy is unity."

Rescued from Powerful Enemies

[God] rescued me from my powerful enemy.

—2 Samuel 22:18



Our Daily Bread
Ministries™

In 2010, at the age of ninety-four, George Vujnovich was awarded the bronze star for organizing what the New York Times called "one of the greatest rescue efforts of World War II." Vujnovich, son of Serbian immigrants to the US, had joined the US Army. When word arrived that downed American airmen were being protected by rebels in Yugoslavia, Vujnovich returned to his family's homeland, parachuting into the forest to locate the pilots. Dividing the soldiers into small groups, he taught them how to blend in with the Serbs (wearing Serbian clothes and eating Serbian food). Then, over months, he walked each small group out one at a time to C-47 transport

planes waiting at a landing strip they'd cut out of the woods. Vujnovich rescued 512 elated, joyful men.

David described the elation of being rescued by God from enemies who'd hemmed him in with no escape. God "reached down from on high and took hold of me," David said, "he drew me out of deep waters" (2 Samuel 22:17). King Saul, enraged with jealousy, hounded David, ruthlessly seeking blood. But God had other plans. "He rescued me from my powerful enemy," David recounted, "from my foes, who were too strong for me" (v. 18).

God rescued David from Saul. He rescued Israel from Egypt. And in Jesus, God came to rescue all of us. Jesus rescues us from sin, evil, and death. He's greater than every powerful enemy.—By Winn Collier

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 22:17-20 NIV

¹⁷ "He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters.

¹⁸ He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me.

¹⁹ They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support.

²⁰ He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.



REFLECT & PRAYS (2)

Where do you feel hemmed in, with no escape from lies you believe or sin that binds you? How do you see Jesus coming to rescue you?

(1) Thank you Lord for coming to our rescue when we were trapped in our sin and all hope was lost. Thank you for Jesus and the gift of salvation and the indwelling of your Spirit that put us back in right standing with You. And for leading us down the path of life. Give us the courage to speak to others who need You. And help us share your gift of love and restoration with them. Thank you Lord, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

(2) All-powerful God, I need to be rescued. If You don't help me, I'm finished. I have no escape. So I'm turning to You. Please help me. Thank you Lord, in Jesus name I pray. Amen.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/... NIV>

<https://odb.org/>

Posted Dec. 10, 2021 by Our Daily Bread Ministries

Their mission is to make the life-changing wisdom of the Bible understandable and accessible to all.

Our Daily Bread Ministries | PO Box 2222 |
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-2222

DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Rosa Parks Day</i>	2	3	4
5	6 <i>St Nicholas Day</i>	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10	11 RAFMAN Club Meeting
12	13 <i>National Guard Birthday</i>	14	15 <i>Bill of Rights Day</i>	16	17 <i>Pan American Aviation Day</i>	18 National Wreaths Across America Day
19	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 Merry Christmas!
26 Kwanzaa (first day)	27	28 MARY DAWSON	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 LYNN COLLETON	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 FREDDIE MOORE	15
16	17	18	19	20 SIMON MCRAE	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	https://www.hfotusa.org/important-military-holidays-and-observances-for-2021/ http://www.holidays-and-observances.com/military-holidays.html... https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/2021				

RETIRED...

R.A.F.M.A.N Club Foundation, Inc.



Motto:

**"Men Striving Together to Make This A Better
Community for All Concerned."**

The RAFMAN Club Foundation is a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization that consist of military veterans providing academic scholarships to students, social service for senior citizen, youth mentoring and civic outreach for those in need within the Central Florida Community.

R.A.F.M.A.N Club Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 555883

Orlando, FL 32855-5883

Club's Phone: (407) 734-5794

Email: RAFMANclub@bellsouth.net

Website: www.RAFMANclubfoundation.org

Alternate/ President Arthur Jarvis: (407) 426-1266



R.A.F.M.A.N Club Foundation, Inc.

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Place
Stamp
Here
