

R.A.F.M.A.N Club Foundation, Inc. Retired Air Force, Marine, Army & Navy

Issue 199

August 10, 2024

National Purple Heart Day Is a Time to Honor Our Military



AUGUST 7 IS NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY

Some military awards stand out more than others for a number of reasons, including popular media, their meaning, and how often they are given. Purple Heart Day honors the incredible bravery and sacrifice the heroes of our nation provide through service.

What Is Purple Heart Day?

National Purple Heart Day remembers the history of the Purple Heart award along with the sacrifice those who have earned the award have made for our freedoms.

Purple Heart Day is on August 7th. This is the date in 1782, when the precursor to the award was first awarded by George Washington.

There are almost 1.8 million people who can lay claim to being a part of the <u>Military</u> <u>Order of the Purple Heart</u>.

This military holiday is important not only for remembering the history of the award but also for advocating for those who have been wounded along with their families.

History and Origins

George Washington awarded the first Purple Heart, the Badge of Merit, to Soldiers in the Continental Army.

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Thanks to all of you who continually contribute to the newsletter. *All Articles and credits are due by the <u>First Saturday of</u> <u>each month</u>. —President Jarvis



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Washington only provided three awards during his time. Back then, it was a piece of silk featuring a thin edge of silver bound through the material.

However, Washington understood its importance and authorized others to provide awards when necessary.

The Badge of Merit faded in its use over time but was revived in 1932 as the Purple Heart we know today, honoring those wounded in combat and for commendable actions.

In 1944, it was to specifically honor those wounded or killed in action.

General Douglas MacArthur was the first to receive the modern Purple Heart during World War II and since, around 1.8 million have been awarded throughout the military.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), formed in 1932, consists only of Purple Heart recipients and is the only Veteran's Service Organization of its kind, exclusively made up of combat wounded Vets.

Since 1957, the <u>Purple Heart Foundation</u> has been in place as an advocate, funding services and programs for Veterans with a particular focus on those who were wounded.

Purple Heart Day is a part of Purple Heart Month. It was first observed in 2014, to honor the bravery of troops while raising awareness of the impacts of war on Veterans and their families.

Now, the day is a time for emphasizing the need for support and resources for Veterans and their families in life after service. It's also a reminder of the sacrifices necessary for our freedoms.

How to Celebrate Purple Heart Day

If you're looking to observe Purple Heart Day, there are plenty of ways to do so. It's important to "celebrate" holidays like this because the sacrifice of those who receive such awards.

Whether it's your first time learning about the holiday or you've been observing it for years, here are a few ideas of what you can do to commemorate our wounded warfighters on August 7th: Say Thank You: If you know someone who has earned a Purple Heart, reach out and thank them for their service. You can also cook Veterans and/or their families a meal. Or, you can provide them with any other act of kindness to let them know they're appreciated.

Workout: Going for a run, doing a MURPH, hitting the gym, or simply exercising can be a great way to honor those who have served.

Volunteer: If there are Veteran organizations, particularly those involving Purple Heart Vets, this is a great time to give back. If you don't have enough time, donations are also a great way to help the military community.

Hold a Moment of Silence: Maybe you pray. Perhaps you meditate. You might simply sit back and reflect on your freedoms. Whatever you do, take some time to be thankful that people are willing to sacrifice their lives for all of our freedoms.

Purple Heart Day is an annual military holiday everyone should observe as we remember the brave military personnel it honors. <u>https://veteranlife.com</u>





President's Message

Things to be grateful for in the troubled world we live in:

- Freedom of expression
- New scientific discoveries
- Women's rights movements
- The rehabilitation of polluted rivers and lakes
- Youth leaders inspiring social change
- The de-stigmatization of mental illness
- Hybrid work arrangements and flexible work schedules being more widely practiced
- Marriage equality
- The prioritization of physical and mental well-being in the workplace
- More inclusivity in public spaces
- New parents working hard to break generational trauma
- Farmers and craftsmen
- Climate activists
- Increasing availability of eco-friendly alternatives
- Animal rights movements
- More cultural diversity in TV shows and movies around the globe
- Technological advancements
- The modernization of educational institutions
- The increase of women in elective office
- Some semblance of normalcy since COVID-19 first arrived
- The embrace of alternative medicines
- Movements against racial discrimination
- Human rights movements
- Anti-bullying campaigns
- Economies slowly rising from the effects of the pandemic

Submitted by:

Arthur Jarvis, President

All Members Take Note: Club Meeting

Saturday, August 10, 2024 Host: RAFMAN Jerald Mark

12:30 PM— Meet for Lunch 8032 International Dr. Orlando
3:00 PM — Club Meeting

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

Keep Safe!

New Jackie Robinson Statue to replace the stolen one at the Kansas youth baseball field



Nate Ford, left, and Jeff Herndon apply finishing touches July 24 to a statue of baseball Hall of Famer and civil rights pioneer Jackie Robinson in Loveland, Colorado.© Travis Heying/The Wichita Eagle/AP

Former big leaguers and current youth baseball players were on hand Monday in Kansas as officials unveiled a new statue memorializing Jackie Robinson to <u>replace one stolen and damaged beyond repair</u> this year.

The League 42 youth baseball league revealed the statue of Robinson, who broke baseball's color barrier in 1947, at a night ceremony before hundreds of people, including dozens of youngsters, at the spot in the Wichita park from which the old statue was taken.

League youth player Marcus Jones paid tribute to the MLB Hall of Famer, telling the crowd Robinson "put a spark in all of us."

The dignitaries included former American League Cy Young Award winner CC Sabathia, who in 2022 was named as a special assistant to the commissioner in part to "promote equity in baseball," and I3-year MLB player Jeremy Guthrie, who played for four seasons with the Kansas City Royals.

"Someone asked me earlier today what made me come here today. And just thinking about it, it was me wanting to show up. Jackie showed up every single day of his life in baseball and in his personal life, every single day for us," said Sabathia, who also is on the board of the Players Alliance of pro baseball and softball players who advocate for equity in the game. "I thought it was important for me to show up here today." The original Robinson statue was stolen shortly after midnight January 25, police have said. Firefighters responded days later to a call about a trash can blaze at another park where they found pieces of the statue after extinguishing the fire, according to authorities.

Monday's unveiling of the new statue marked a moment of healing and resilience, said Tony Reagins, MLB's chief baseball development officer.

"Jackie's legacy through all of these young people is alive and well. <u>Jackie's nine values</u> are alive and well, and we (in MLB) are thrilled to be a part of this," he said.

A man who pleaded guilty to stealing the statue and other crimes <u>was sentenced Friday to 18</u> <u>months in prison</u> and \$41,500 in restitution for the theft, according to the Associated Press. His actions stemmed from <u>a fentanyl addiction</u>, he told a Kansas court.

Only bronze shoes remained after theft.

The new statue depicts Robinson, who also played one season in the Negro Leagues in Kansas City, Missouri, with a bat on his right shoulder. The first statue was cut at the ankles, and all that remained were two bronze shoes.

A GoFundMe campaign raised money for the replacement statue. The original mold was still viable, and a duplicate was made, the AP reported.

Donations helped fund the new statue, as well as improvements to the plaza where it stands, the nonprofit's facilities and its programming, League 42 Executive Director Bob Lutz, said, according to the AP.

"I'm just simply amazed by the support we've gotten from so many since this heinous act happened back in January," Lutz said at Monday's ceremony.

About 600 children play in the urban youth baseball league that takes its name for Robinson's number with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson – who was the National League Rookie of the Year in 1947 and its Most Valuable Player in 1949 – died in 1972.

CNN's Andy Rose contributed to this report.



Submitted by RAFMAN Donald Durant

Brigadier General Travolis A. Simmons

August 2024 US Military Officer and His Accomplishments

Brig. Gen. Travolis A. Simmons is the Director of Training and Readiness, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. The directorate, encompassing eight divisions and the Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation, is responsible for policy, guidance and oversight of Air Force operational training infrastructure, officer and enlisted operations career field management, operational readiness and reporting, and aircrew management.

Brig. Gen. Simmons holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alabama and received his commission through ROTC as a Distinguished Graduate in 1997. He earned his pilot wings at Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. Brig. Gen. Simmons has commanded at the squadron, group, and wing levels. Additionally, he also held multiple joint, combined and Air Force staff positions.



Prior to his current assignment, Brig. Gen. Simmons served as Deputy Director of Training and Readiness, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia.

Brig. Gen. Simmons is a command pilot with more than 2,100 flying hours and qualifications in the F-16C/D, F -117A, and F-22A.

EDUCATION

1997 Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

2004 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2007 Master of Aeronautical Science, Embry Riddle University, Fla.

2010 Distinguished Graduate, Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2011 Master of Science, Military Strategy, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala. 2016 Master of Science, National Resource Strategy, The Eisenhower School, National Defense University, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

2019 Executive Education - Driving Government Performance, Harvard Business School, Harvard University, Boston, Mass.

ASSIGNMENTS

I. January 1998–June 1998, Special Assistant to the Commander, Samford University ROTC, Birmingham, AL

2. June 1998–December 1999, Student, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

- 3. January 2000–August 2000, Student, F-16C Initial Qualification Training, Luke AFB, Ariz.
- 4. September 2000–September 2001, F-16CG Pilot and Squadron Scheduler, Osan Air Base, South Korea
- 5. September 2001–May 2004, F-16C Instructor Pilot and Chief of Training, Dannelly Field, Ala.
- 6. May 2004–August 2004, Student, F-117A Initial Qualification Training, Holloman AFB, N.M.

7. August 2004–May 2007, F-117A Flight Examiner, T- FLIGHT INFORMATION 38A Pilot, Flight Commander, Chief of Weapons and Tactics, Holloman AFB, N.M.

8. May 2007–September 2007, Student, F-22A Initial Qualification Training, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

9. September 2007-July 2009, F-22A Mission Commander, Chief of Wing Training, Assistant Director of MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Operations, Langley AFB, Va. 10. August 2009–June 2010, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

11. July 2010-June 2011, Student, School of Advanced Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clus-Air and Space Studies, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

12. August 2011–November 2012, Chief, Commander's Action Group, U.S. Air Forces Central, Al Udeid AB, Qatar

13. November 2012–February 2014, Chief of Safety, 3rd Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska 14. February 2014–May 2015, Commander, 3rd Operations Support Squadron, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

15. July 2015–June 2016, Student, The Eisenhower School, National Defense University, Washington, D.C.

16. June 2016–July 2018, Executive Officer to the Deputy Commander United Nations Command / U.S. Forces Korea, Yongsan Army Garrison, South Korea 17. August 2018-July 2019, Commander, 57th Adversary Tactics Group, Nellis AFB, Nev.

18. July 2019–July 2020, Vice Commander, 57th Wing, Nellis AFB, Nev.

19. July 2020–July 2022, Commander, 3rd Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

20. August 2022–September 2023, Inspector General, Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

21. September 2023–December 2023, Deputy Director of Training and Readiness, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.

22. December 2023-present, Director of Training and Readiness, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

I. June 2016–July 2018, Executive Officer to the Deputy Commander United Nations Command / U.S. Forces Korea, Yongsan Army Garrison, South Korea, as a colonel

Rating: command pilot Flight hours: more than 2,100 Primary aircraft flown: T/AT-38, F-16C/D, F-117A, F-22A

Defense Superior Service Medal Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster Bronze Star Medal ters

Air Medal

L

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air and Space Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster

(Current as of January 2024)

The U.S. Department of Defense 75TH Birthday!

Veteran.com

The DoD was established Aug. 10th, 1949. Although, the federal government has overseen the U.S. Armed forces since our nation's inception, the Department of Defense name and centralized defense department was not established until the late 1940s. The "official" anniversary of the creation of the Department of Defense as we know it in modern times is Aug. 10. Established in 1949 thanks to an amended National Security Act (more on that below) the agency is run by the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) with the joint Chiefs of Staff for the various military services operating subordinately to the SECDEF.

The United States Department of Defense (DoD) is a federal agency described as an Executive Branch department. The DoD is described as being among the largest employers in the world; there are more than one million active duty service members, more than 800 thousand members of the Guard and Reserve, and more than 700 thousand civilian employees.



Brief History Of The Coast Guard

The United States Coast Guard is much older than many Americans realize. It was founded on Aug. 4, 1790, by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton and was known back then as the Revenue Marine. Hamilton authorized the construction of ten vessels known as Revenue Service cutters, which were intended to enforce the earliest United States tariff laws.

The Coast Guard would go through a variety of changes along the way to becoming what we know today; President Woodrow Wilson signed an act of Congress into law that combined the Revenue Marine with another agency known as the United States Guard City USA, the city of Grand Haven, Life-Saving Service with the intent of having a single entity responsible for maritime law enforcement and life-saving.

Mergers And Consolidation: The Coast **Guard Grows Larger**

The merger was accompanied by a change of name to the United States Coast Guard. This occurred in 1915, long before the advent of computers, GPS systems, or other electronic navigation aids, and one of the Coast Guard's many duties was the maintenance of America's navigation aids such as the operation of lighthouses along the coasts.



In 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt and Congress approved the transfer of operations of the United States Lighthouse Service to Coast Guard authority in 1939. A few years later, the Department of Commerce Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation was also transferred to the auspices of the Coast Guard, giving them the authority of merchant marine operations.

Big Changes For The Coast Guard Nearly Two Centuries Into Service

The United States Coast Guard operated for 177 years as a function of the U.S. Treasury Department, but in 1967 the Coast Guard was placed under the Department of Transportation, where it would remain until it was transferred yet again to the then newly -created Department of Homeland Security in 2003.

Celebrating Coast Guard Day

Coast Guard Day is primarily an internal activity, so any activities held to commemorate the holiday are primarily organized and hosted by the individual commands or units.

One area of the country known as Coast Michigan, presents a Coast Guard Festival annually during the week of Aug. 4. There is actually more than one Coast Guard City; 21 exist all around the country

Grand Haven, MI Mobile, AL Newport, OR Kodiak, AK Portsmouth, VA Astoria, OR Clearwater, FL Sturgeon Bay, WI Camden County, GA Ketchikan, AK New London, CT Carteret County, NC Florence, OR

Eureka, CA Wilmington, NC Alameda. CA Rockland, ME Traverse City, MI Sitka, AK Newburyport, MA Hull, MA Cape May, NJ Elizabeth City, NC

San Diego, CA New York, NY

The new Miss USA is a US Army officer from Michigan and graduated

from West Point

https://www.businessinsider.com Anneta Konstantinides Aug 4, 2024, 10:38 PM EDT

Miss Michigan Alma Cooper has been crowned Miss USA 2024. Gilbert Flores/Variety via Getty Images

A new Miss USA has been crowned.

Miss Michigan Alma Cooper was named the winner of the 73rd Miss USA pageant, which was held at Peacock Theater in Los Angeles on Sunday night. She was crowned by <u>Savannah Gankiewicz</u>, who assumed the title of Miss USA 2023 after <u>Noelia Voigt re-</u> <u>signed</u> in May.

Cooper, 22, is a second lieutenant and military intelligence officer in the US Army.

Cooper, 22, was crowned Miss USA 2024 in Los Angeles on Sunday night. Gilbert Flores/Getty Images

According to her Miss USA bio, Cooper graduated in the top 5% of her class from West Point Military Academy and is a Knight-Hennessy Scholar at Stanford University, where she's pursuing a master's in data science.

Before taking the crown, Cooper competed in the evening gown, swimsuit, and interview



rounds. The top five contestants all had to answer the same question: "How can we bridge the gap between different cultures and foster understanding and respect?"

"As the daughter of a migrant worker, a proud Afro-Latina woman, and an officer of the United States Army, I'm living the American dream," Cooper responded. "If there's anything that my life and my mother have taught me, it's that your circumstances never define your destiny."

Cooper at the 2024 Miss USA pageant on Sunday night. Alberto E. Rodriguez/Getty Images

During a video that played during her final walk, Cooper also shared what winning the Miss USA title would mean to her.

"I would have the opportunity to show that if you can see me, you can be me," she said. "I want to show that through demanding excellence, success is accessible."

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Orlando/ Parks & Nature https://hoodline.com

Winter Garden Names New Park After Beloved Community Leader Charlie Mae Wilder

By Michael Thompson

Published on July 08, 2024 Source: City of Winter Garden



In an age where tribute is often paid with hashtags and fleeting social media stories, Winter Garden has opted for something a bit more evergreen. The city has put a name to its newest green oasis, Charlie Mae Wilder Park, a dedication to the nonagenarian community pillar. Nestled at 1203 E. Plant Street, the park unfurls its amenities—a lighted walking trail, picnic areas, and a water station, among others—to the public, according to the <u>City of Winter Garden</u>.

Seeing her name etched into the community's landscape is fitting for a woman whose roots sink deeply into Winter Garden soil. With a dedication ceremony timed to the city's Juneteenth Community Celebration on June 15, Ms. Wilder, having served as former City of Winter Garden Commissioner and a champion for Historic East Winter Garden Neighborhood, bore witness to her namesake park's inauguration. The gathered attendees and city officials, including Mayor John Rees and several city commissioners.

Charlie Mae Wilder Park's offerings are a small testament to Wilder's enduring legacy—the lighted walking trail cuts through the evening's gloom for nightly strollers, while water stations with bottle refill dispensers quench the thirst of walkers and cyclists alike. Even four-legged residents aren't forgotten, thanks to the inclusion of a pet waste station. It's a slice of Florida-friendly landscape that's built for utility as much as it is for homage.

Winter Garden Names New Park ...

The park's opening at the Juneteenth celebration rings particularly resonant, as Wilder played a noteworthy role in planning the annual event. The occasion, steeped in as much history as Wilder's storied lifetime of community service, provided a backdrop for a celebration that blended cultural reverence with personal honor. Standing alongside dignitaries like District 4's Commissioner Colin Sharman and Winter Garden Police Officer James McLeod, Wilder was traditionally involved in a planning capacity, as mentioned in the city's <u>statement</u>.



RAFMAN CLUB SUMMER RAFFLE CLUB DRAWING Saturday, August 24, 2024 1st Prize\$150.00 2nd Prize\$100.00 3rd Prize\$50.00 Winner need not be present to win. Donation \$2.00 each or (3) for \$5.00

Robert Saunders (407) 222-0387 Arthur Jarvis (407) 492-1266 www.rafmanclubfoundation.org



May you be blessed with many more birthdays. Enjoy your special day!



Tyrell Carter August 14th



Larry Colleton August 17th



Melvin Henry August 18th

Saturday, August 24, 2024 COCOA BEACH North Picnic Area Across From Patrick Air Force Base Contact Tyrrell Carter For More Information At (301) 520-7595

RAFMAN ANNUAL

Sick n' Shut-ins:

Thanking God for His keeping power.



Our Prayers and Condolences to Families Everywhere: loved ones who have passed away due to natural death, sickness, hurricanes, tornados, wars, hate crimes, and mass shootings around the world.



Our Daily Bread

Love In Action Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16

The single mother lived next door to the older gentleman for more than five years. One day, concerned for her welfare, he rang her doorbell. "I haven't seen you for about a week," he said. "I was just checking to see if you're all right." His "wellness check" encouraged her. Having lost her father at a young age, she appreciated having the kind man watching out for her and her family.

When the free-to-give and priceless-to-receive gift of kindness goes beyond just being nice, we're serving others by sharing the love of Christ with them. The writer of Hebrews said believers in Jesus should "continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name" (Hebrews 13:15). Then, the writer commissioned them to live out their faith, saying, "Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (v. 16).

Worshiping Jesus by professing His name is a pleasure and privilege. But we express true love for God when we love like Jesus. We can ask the Holy Spirit to make us aware of opportunities and empower us to love others well within our own families and beyond. Through those ministry moments, we will be sharing Jesus through the powerful message of love in action.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 13:15-21 NIV

15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

18 Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. 19 I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

Benediction and Final Greetings

20 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

REFLECT: How can you share Jesus' love in a simple and practical way with someone? How can you be more intentional about consistently putting your kind thoughts into actions?

PRAY: Dear Jesus, please help me worship You by expressing love for others through the things I say and do each day.

Scripture-https://www.biblegateway.com...NIV

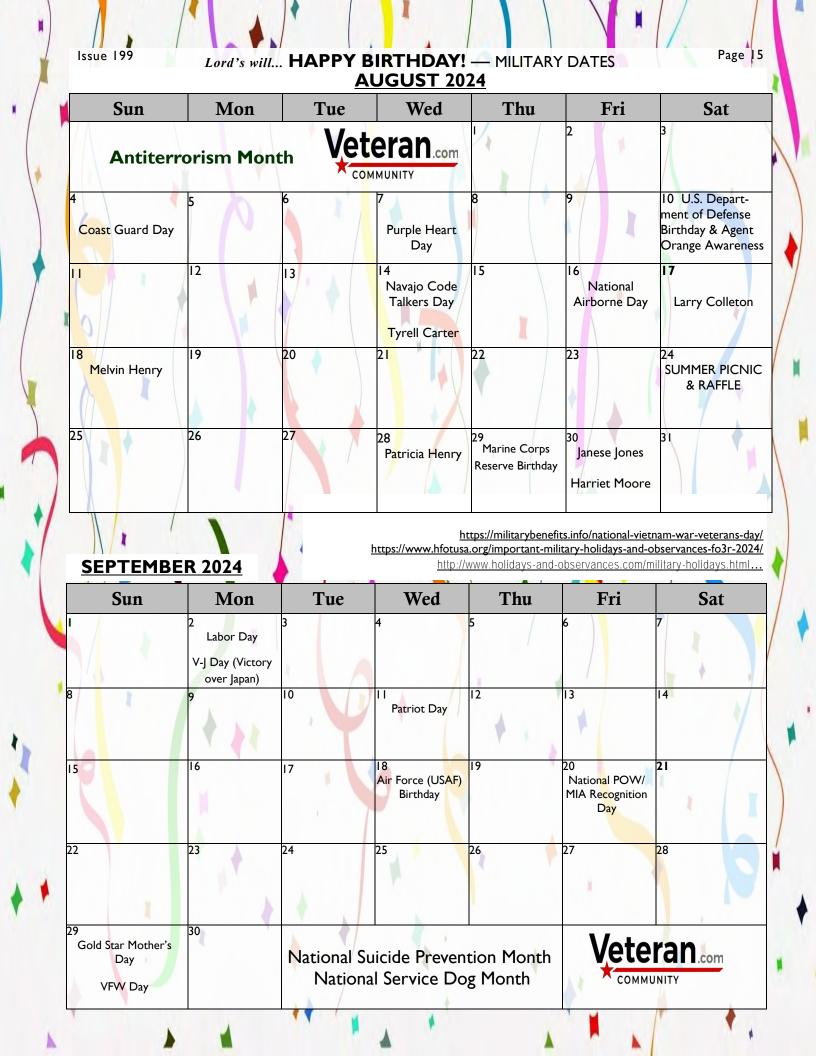
https://odb.org/

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

Our Daily Bread Ministries

—**Posted August 09, 2024.** 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



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.

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