



# MUSEUM MUSINGS



A PUBLICATION OF THE JOHN F. KENNEDY SPECIAL WARFARE / SPECIAL FORCES  
BRANCH HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 70060, FT BRAGG, NC 28310-5000  
store@jfkwebstore.com or sfeditor@nc.rr.com  
website: www.jfkwebstore.com

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25 OCTOBER 2006

“To Honor, Support, Protect, and Remember the Heritage”

## WHERE EXCELLENCE BEGINS

On 26 September 2006, at 1400 hrs, in Room 275 of Bank Hall, we were pleased to present Life membership plaques to our 2006 USAJFKCSW Instructors of the year. **MSG (R) Mike Simpson**, Assistant Secretary, did the honors. It was particularly appropriate for him to do this as **Mike** was twice selected as Instructor of the year and was also selected Soldier of the year. At the same ceremony, **SFC Keith Gates**, 2005 TRADOC Instructor of the Year, was recognized and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. **Mr. Andrew K. Borsz** was presented the Commanders Award for Civilian Service while: **Major Thomas A. Stamp, Jr.**, **CW3 Patrick C Mitchell**, and **SFC Eric J. Strumski**, were presented Army Commendation medals. **Major Stamp** was honored for his work as a Psychological Operations Instructor. He is now a company commander for all entry level Psyops training. **CWO Mitchell** teaches advanced special operations techniques, **SFC Strumski** teaches at the NCO Academy, and **Mr. Borsz** teaches negotiation and mediation. To illustrate how great our instructors are: **SFC Gates** was selected as the top Army instructor by Training and Doctrine Command for 2005. **SFC Gates** was the SWCS 2005 NCO of the year, and had to compete with thirty other nominees from across the Army to win the top instructor title. We really agree with **Dr. Rebecca Campbell**, Director of the Department of Education, who said, “Our Instructors are some of the best in the business.”




L-R SFC Keith Gates, 2005 TRADOC Instructor of the Year; Mr. Andrew K. Borsz, Civilian Instructor of the Year; Mike Simpson, Assistant Secretary, SFC Eric J. Strumski, NCO Instructor of the Year; CW3 Patrick C. Mitchell, Warrant Officer Instructor of the Year; and Major Thomas A. Stamp, Jr., Officer Instructor of the Year.

These gentlemen were the first instructors to be recognized with our Life Membership awards, and it is long overdue. The outstanding product which SWC produces is a direct result of the outstanding instructional staff of all the departments. We in the Museum Association are proud of you and salute you for your superior performance



## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Bill Palmer

I would like to welcome **CSM (R) Frank R. Adkins** and **Col (R) Joe E. Kilgore** to the JFKSWC Museum Advisory Council. The visitation to the Museum has increased by 30% during the last quarter, we hope this will continue. During the past year we have recognized the USASOC NCO and Soldier of the year with a plaque and a Life membership. As noted above we have also done the same for our instructors. One large group that is so essential to the operations of SWC, are our civilian employees. We will recognize three of them with a plaque and Life memberships, as soon as the selection process is complete. The Association has agreed to support Roxanne Merritt, the Museum Curator on new projects at Camp Mackall and other training sites. We have also provided an advertising budget this past year of up to \$10,000.00. The Museum Association feels it is important to ensure that history and heritage are taught and displayed to soldiers taking Special Warfare training. 

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND SUGGESTIONS!!

**De Oppresso Liber**



## THE SECRETARY'S SECTION

By George Heib


Since the last Musings we have processed 38 membership/donations, and have had 11 address changes. We have also unfortunately had six more lost souls. The good news is that we found five lost souls.

**Mike Simpson** is still busy trying to stay ahead with the continual adding of plates to the display boards. Your goal is to keep him busy.

The status of memorialization plates for those Special Operations soldiers who have died in the Global War on Terrorism is as follows:

BRANCH	NUMBER KIA	IMO PLATES ADOPTED	NUMBER LEFT
<b>CIVIL AFFAIRS</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PSYOPS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>RANGER</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SF</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SOAR</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>◆ 5</b>

This roster is of all those KIA in the GWOT, We also have a list of 35 names who have been killed on duty starting with the first SF soldiers KIA in Korea (two names-both have IMO Plates) , and includes Desert Storm, as well as a list of 856 SF KIA's in Vietnam (64 IMO Plates subscribed). So if you want to sponsor an IMO, let us know.

- ◆ Just as we went to press, we received a phone call pledging to send a check to adopt these remaining names. That will appear in our next issue. 

**De Oppresso Liber!**



MEMBERSHIP REPORT			
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	\$ LEVEL	MUSINGS-05-4	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP
ANNUAL	\$ 10.00	122	30
DONOR	\$ 10.00	30	17
LIFE	\$ 100.00	436	432
CENTURY	\$ 100.00	181	179
CENTURY & LIFE	\$ 200.00	190	199
BENEFACTORS	\$ 1,000.00	44	40
PATRONS	\$ 2,000.00	19	18
LEADERSHIP MEMBERS	\$ 5,000.00	7	9
HONOR MEMBERS	\$ 10,000.00	3	3
DISTINGUISHED DONORS	\$ 20,000.00	1	1

PACESETTERS	\$ 50,000.00	0	0
SPECIAL DONORS	\$ 100,000.00	1	1
HONORARY MEMBERS	-0-	69	76
<b>SUB TOTAL (ACTIVE MEMBERS)</b>		1103	1005
LOST ADDRESSES		247	254
<b>TOTAL</b>		1350	1259

## THE TREASURER'S REPORT

Bennie Pokemire

Of the 25 donors listed below, we would like to point out that fifteen of them are members who are repeat contributors. One member sends in \$10.00 a month, and another \$25.00 a month.



**THANKS - YOU ARE SPECIAL !!**

**De Oppresso Liber**

*Bennie*

THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 30 JUNE 2006		
FIRST CITIZENS BANK (GIFT SHOP)	\$	13,415.96
FIRST CITIZENS BANK (GENERAL FUND)	\$	31,483.98
<b>TOTAL ENDING CASH ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>44,899.94</b>
A. G. EDWARDS BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT	\$	46,839.19
A. G. EDWARDS RENOVATION FUND ACCOUNT	\$	264,699.77
<b>CONSOLIDATION OF A. G. EDWARDS ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>311,538.96</b>
PLUS APPROXIMATELY IN STOCK/MERCHANDISE FOR GIFT SHOP/BOOK STORE	\$	93,000.00
PLUS A CARGO VAN VALUED AT	\$	14,475.00
<b>TOTAL CASH, STOCK, AND OTHER ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>463,913.90</b>

## RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE LAST MUSINGS

### ( 5,000.00) NEW LEADERSHIP MEMBER

MSG (R) JOHN A. GOMES (FIVE DONATIONS) (# 18)

### (\$1,000.00) NEW BENEFACTOR

WADE Y. ISHIMOTO (TWO DONATIONS) (# 84)

### (\$100.00 PLUS) DONATIONS AND NEW LIFE OR CENTURY MEMBERS

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CSM (R) ARTHUR E GOLDEN (CENTURY & LIFE) (TWO DONATIONS)

SGM (R) "JAKE" JAKOVENKO (PATRON) (FOUR DONATIONS) (IMO DONATION)

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MSG (R) R MICHAEL KARR (PATRON) (TWO DONATIONS)

SGM (R) JAMES W. LEWIS (BENEFACTOR) (IMO DONATION)

LTC (R) JOHN RILEY MORTON (PATRON) (SIX DONATIONS) (IMO DONATION)

MAJOR THOMAS A. STAMP, JR. (NEW LIFE MEMBER) -SWC OFFICER INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

### CONTRIBUTIONS (\$20.00 TO \$99.00) (ALSO ANNUAL RENEWALS FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR)

CAROL BINGHAM (IMO DONATION)

CO B. 3<sup>RD</sup> BN. 5<sup>TH</sup> SFG(A) (IMO DONATION)

STEVEN & LINDA ECKHOFF (IMO DONATION)

ROBERT G. GILSTRAP (LIFE MEMBER)

LTC (R) GEORGE D. HEIB (LEADERSHIP MEMBER) (IMO DONATION)

JOHN R. OAKS (LIFE MEMBER) (THREE DONATIONS)

CALVIN PARRISH (CENTURY & LIFE) (THREE DONATIONS)


MSG (R) MILFORD J. ROGERS (CENTURY & LIFE) (TWO DONATIONS)

COL (R) CHARLES W. NORTON, JR. (CENTURY & LIFE)

JAMES & ELLEN TATE (IMO DONATION)

WILBUR TOLLESON FAMILY (IMO DONATION)

CW3 (R) ROBERT A. WALLACE (LIFE MEMBER)

The numbers of donations listed are those that have been received since the last Musings. 

## CONTRIBUTIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF

These contributions were made in the memory of departed comrades, friends, or loved ones or in honor of living friends or loved ones whom we wish to recognize.

PERSON MEMORIALIZED (OR HONORED)	NAME OF DONOR
MSG (R) GENE BELL	MSG (R) AUBREY E GADDIS
SPC MARK A. BIBBY 422 <sup>nd</sup> CA BN, KIA IRAQ 7-21-03	SFA D-843-L
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SGT CHEYENNE C WILLEY 448 <sup>th</sup> CA BN, KIA IRAQ 12-23-05	LTC (R) JOHN RILEY MORTON

## NEWS FROM THE GIFT SHOP MANAGER

By Betty Amaker

Hello members,

In August 2006, during the Fourth Friday event, hosted by the Art Council of Fayetteville, **Roxanne** and I were passing out information pamphlets about the JFK Museum and the Gift Shop. The Arts Council host these events every Friday of the month to bring residents downtown to share in the new development of Hay Street. It was a very successful venture and we hope to repeat it again next year. In September 2006, I drove to Hopkinsville, Kentucky for the 5th Group Re-union with some of our merchandise. In the two days that the Gift Shop set up shop, we sold about



From left to right Curator, Roxanne Merritt, and Betty at the Art Council's Fourth Friday in downtown Fayetteville.

\$3,400.00. The only money that was spent was gas and some food. Chapter 38 always provide the Gift Shop with a room to operate from at the hosting hotel. As always thank you, our customers and members, for your continued support! Without you, there is no Gift Shop. Our website is up and running. We have only put items that sell the most in the online Gift Shop store. I am keeping a track of movement for future additions. As we announced before, our website address is: [www.jfkwebstore.com!](http://www.jfkwebstore.com!) Have a wonderful holiday and see you folks next year!

Thanks for your support! *Betty*

## A LITTLE HUMOR

### THE TRUE BIBLICAL ORIGIN OF THE INTERNET

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she had been called 'Amazon Dot Com.' And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel far from town to town with thy goods when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?" And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?" And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)." Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever moving from his tent. But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secrete himself inside Abraham's drum and was accused of insider trading. And the young man did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Siderites, or NERDS for short. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land. And indeed did insist on making drums that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks. And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And as Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known "eBay" he said, "We need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And that is how it all began. It wasn't Al Gore after all.

## BOOK REVIEWS

We had a slow quarter and only had to review the following book:

**Gauntlet**, by **Author Barbara Masin**, a resident of Santa Barbara, California, who is the daughter of **Joseph Masin**, one of the five young men featured in this book. She is fluent in English, German, French, and Spanish, and conversant in Czech.

This book covers the October 1953 story of five young Czechoslovakian men who in their quest for freedom spent 31 days traveling from their home to Berlin. On the way they were completely surround several times by a massive force of over 20,000 East German and Soviet troops. Living with only a sparse amount of food and with inadequate clothing, three of them managed to persevere and reach their goal. They later became members of SF under the Lodge Bill.

The hardships and suffering faced by the people of Czechoslovakia under the Nazi yolk and later under the Soviet yolk is also well told. As one reviewer wrote, "This is non-fiction that reads like fiction." It was a good read and I would recommend it to anyone, who wants to know more about this era, as well as the typical background of some of our early SF members.

## MEMBER TAPS

**MSG (R) Gene NMI Bell** (D-662) **Gene** was found deceased inside his apartment in Fayetteville, NC October 11, 2006. Gene was a veteran of the Korean War and Vietnam War with more than 20 years of service and a recipient of the Bronze Star. He served two tours with the 1st SFG (A), three tours with the 5th SFG (A) in Vietnam, and the 7th SFG (A). A niece survives **Gene**. was cremated, and his ashes were put into the pond located inside the SFA compound with military honors at 13:00 hrs. October 20, 2006. **Gene** is a former Annual Member of the Museum Association.

**MSG (Retired) Michael McGillicuddy** (D-315) died on the 18th of June 2003 in St Anthony's Hospital in Tampa, FL. Mike served with the 77th, 1st, 5th, and 7th SFG(A). He was a Veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars Mike was a long time Life member of the Museum Association.

**LTC (R) James V. Pritchett** (A-1159) Suffered a massive heart attack and passed away Wednesday, August 16, 2006. On his Special Forces Association application, he listed his Special Forces assignment as A Co., 1st Bn, 1st, SWTG (A), May 21, 1990. Interment was in Crownsville Veterans Cemetery, Wednesday, August 16, 2006. No other information available. He was a Former Annual Member of the Museum Association.

**SGM (R) Norval Eugene Riggs**, (D-53) 88, of Fuquay-Varina, passed away Monday, Oct. 9, 2006, in his home with his family at his side. He was a World War II and Vietnam War veteran with more than 31 years of service prior to retiring. He was a member of the 1st Special Service Force, which was an American-Canadian Commando Unit of World War II from July 9, 1942 to January 6, 1945. In 1952, he joined the 19th Detachment, 10th SFG (A), and later served in the 77th SFG (A), 1st SFG (A), 5th SFG (A), 7th SFG (A), and the 110th Recon Co, in Italy. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. He is survived by his wife, Iris Riggs of the home; and a son, retired Army Lt. Col. Richard Riggs of Fuquay-Varina. He is also survived by a granddaughter, Jessica Teodorski and husband Christopher of Pittsburgh, Pa. Funeral services were Oct. 13, 2006, in the chapel of Rogers and Breece Funeral Home in Fayetteville with Special Forces Chaplain Terrell Jones officiating. He was laid to rest in Lafayette Memorial Park with the rendering of full military honors. **Norval** was an early member of the SFA and a former annual member of the museum Association.

**Gerald K. Sharp** (D-5353) AKA, Jerry passed away July 25, 2006 in Cartersville, GA. Jerry was a life member of Special Forces Association, Chapter 40. He served in the 5th SFG (A), 7th SFG (A), 46th Co., Thailand, and the USASWS, UW Department. Funeral was held on Sunday, July 30, 2006, and burial followed at Oak Hill Cemetery, Cartersville, GA. Gerald was a Century member of the Museum Association

**MSG (R) Donald NMI Snowhite** (D-964) Chapter 43 Tacoma, WA passed away, September 7, 2006. When Don joined the Special Forces Association he list Special Forces Training. Group, 1961-1962, Co. "C", 1st SFG (A), and Co. "B", 1st SFG (A) as his Special Forces assignments. Mrs. Snowhite is accepting calls and/or cards. Her address is 41 Lakeside Dr, Bridgeton, NJ 08302-3914, Tel: 856-451-0828. Request that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), 1244 N. Delsea Drive, Vineland, NJ 08360. Don was cremated, and Interment was tentatively scheduled for 14 September. He was a Former Annual Member of the Museum Association.

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

By George Heib

We welcome back to the fold, Joe Kilgore with the following from the Fayetteville Observer: "InovaTech Institute of Applied Technology, a nationally accredited college on Cliffdale Road specializing in information technology and business, has made personnel appointments: **Col (R) Joe Kilgore** has been named vice president of academic affairs. **Col Kilgore** retired from the U.S. Army in July after 30 years of service. His military experience includes director of Special Operations at the U.S. Army War College and deputy commander and director of training and doctrine at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School."

We would also like to note that since we started this newsletter ten years ago at the suggestion of the Curator, Roxanne Merritt, this is the 44<sup>th</sup> issue. The first issue (2 January 1997) was only two pages. We have learned a lot since then, and have always tried to use more photos, occasional poetry, and appropriate humor. We are always open to suggestions for improvement. Drop us a line if you think that we should add any other areas .



The Editor

Museum Musings is the official publication of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare / Special Forces Branch Historical and Museum Association. The opinions expressed by the writers and editor are entirely their own and are not to be considered as official expression of the JFK Special Warfare/Special Forces Branch Museum or the Department of the Army. It is normally published four times a year. Submissions may be sent to the Editor prior to 20 January, 20 April, 20 August, and 20 October.

**Annual Memberships are \$10.00 per year and expire on 31 December. Life or Century Memberships are \$100.00.**

TITLE	NAME	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
PRESIDENT	BILL PALMER		910-436-9499	store@jfkwebstore.com.
VICE-PRESIDENT	PETE MORAKON		910-436-9499	store@jfkwebstore.com.
SECRETARY & MUSINGS EDITOR	GEORGE HEIB	910-867-2431	910-487-2431	sfeditor@nc.rr.com
TREASURER	BENNIE POLEMIRE		910-436-9499	store@jfkwebstore.com.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	MIKE SIMPSON		910-436-9499	store@jfkwebstore.com.
GIFT SHOP MANAGER (OFFICE)	BETTY AMAKER	910-436-1724	910-436-9499	store@jfkwebstore.com.
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CURATOR	ROXANNE MERRITT	910-432-1533/3301	910-432-4062	merrittr@.soc.mil