



MUSEUM MUSINGS

A PUBLICATION OF THE JOHN F. KENNEDY SPECIAL WARFARE / SPECIAL FORCES
BRANCH HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION
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VOLUME 14, ISSUE 1 (10-1)

FEBRUARY 2010



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

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Bill Palmer

The Museum Association has approved funding for **The JIMMY DEAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND** for the year 2010. The Museum Board appointed the following people to oversee

scholarship selection and funding: **Roy Hill** (Chairman), **Bart Brown**, **Bob Gilstrap**, **Joe Lupyak**, and **David "Bear" Martin**. Scholarship Information and Application are at our website: www.jfkwebstore.com

De Oppresso Liber

The 2010-2012 ADVISORY COUNCIL

The 296 members who returned ballots have selected the following members to represent them on the Advisory Council for 2010-2012.

J.B. III AMAKER	BOB GILSTRAP	***ROY HILL	COL JACK L. KAPLAN JR.	WES McKELVEY
**STEVE BERTI	JIM HARGRAVES	JAMES L. HOLLOWAY	JOSEPH W. LUPYAK	BG BENET S. SACOLICK
COL CURTIS BOYD	JOHN HAZLETT	"FRANK" HUDSON	DAVID "BEAR" MARTIN	**CLIFFORD SEAGO

* Bold print indicates active duty member. The Museum constitution requires that three of the 15 members must be active duty (Vacant position will be filled as soon as another required active duty member is recruited for this position.)

** Returning former Council member

*** New Members



President Bill Palmer (Left) swears in members of the Advisory Council: BG Benet Sacolick, Cliff Seago, and Frank Hudson.

THE SECRETARY'S SECTION

By George Heib

Mike Simpson has been kept busy putting all the plates on the IMO Boards. He is a long way from finishing, but we will eventually have plates recognizing our fallen comrades (78 from conflicts other than the GWOT and the 889 from RVN. At present there are 282 from the GWOT-see chart below) The only ones still to be recognized are the casualties from the GWOT, which changes as we receive information from our sources. That list will remain as part of the section until we finish our deployments to hostile areas.

For your information, we also attempt to recognize all SOF soldiers who died during training accidents or in line of duty. This is contingent upon receiving information on these cases. 

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROISM CASUALTIES (INCLUDING NON HOSTILE)

NUMBER KIA OR DNH	IMO PLATES ADOPTED	NUMBER LEFT
286	282	4

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 10-1			
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	\$ LEVEL	MUSINGS-09-01	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP
ANNUAL	\$ 10.00	25	17
DONOR	\$ 10.00	42	39
LIFE	\$ 100.00	447	434
CENTURY	\$ 100.00	194	168
CENTURY & LIFE	\$ 200.00	210	193
BENEFACTORS	\$ 1,000.00	46	39
PATRONS	\$ 2,000.00	9	13
LEADERSHIP MEMBERS	\$ 5,000.00	13	14
HONOR MEMBERS	\$ 10,000.00	1	2
DISTINGUISHED DONORS	\$ 20,000.00	2	4
PACESETTERS	\$ 50,000.00	0	0
SPECIAL DONORS	\$ 100,000.00	1	1
* HONORARY MEMBERS	-0-	79	72
SUB TOTAL (ACTIVE MEMBERS)		1069	996
LOST ADDRESSES		286	232
TOTAL		1355	1228

* Widows, SOF Organizations, MOH recipients, some SFA Chapters, SOF Commanders and CSM's.

De Oppresso Liber!

George D. Heib

THE TREASURER'S REPORT


By Bennie Pokemire

I would like to express our deep appreciation to all our contributors this past year, and especially those who were there on a steady and continuing basis. The amounts they contributed were very useful for all our programs; supporting the Museum, recognizing fallen comrades, and also the Jimmy Dean Scholarships. Some members contributed monthly by bank draft, others sent donations by mail several times each quarter.

Thanks to all but especially ---

JOHN D. BENJAMIN	DISTINGUISHED DONOR	JAMES W. LEWIS	LEADERSHIP MEMBER
JOHN BRISTOW	CENTURY AND LIFE	LARRY McMILLIN	DISTINGUISHED DONOR
BILL COOMBS	LEADERSHIP MEMBER	JOHN RILEY MORTON	HONOR MEMBER
DOT DEAN	CENTURY AND LIFE	CHARLES W. NORTON	CENTURY AND LIFE

ROGER & NORMA DONLON	PATRONS	JOHN R. OAKS	CENTURY AND LIFE
MILAN GLUMAC	CENTURY AND LIFE	CALVIN PARRISH	BENEFACTOR
JOHN A. GOMES	LEADERSHIP	ART & BETTY PHILLIPS	CENTURY AND LIFE
SFC (R) DAN & MAJ YVONNE HEIB	PATRONS	JOHN PLASTER	PATRON
LTC (R) DOLORES M. HEIB	PATRON	GILBERT RUBIO	CENTURY AND LIFE
WADE Y. ISHIMOTO	BENEFACTOR	KEN SARABIA	CENTURY AND LIFE
JAKE & SANDY JAKOVENKO	LEADERSHIP	MARGUERITE E.SAYRE	CENTURY AND LIFE
MIKE KARR	HONOR MEMBER	MIKE SIMPSON	BENEFACTOR
ROY KUNIMURA	CENTURY AND LIFE	DREW VARGO	CENTURY AND LIFE

Some of these never missed a month without a donation; others sent us royalties from book sales or their profits from sales of other products while others sent many IMO donations each year. 

De Oppresso Liber
Bennie

THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 30 NOVEMBER 2009	
TOTAL ENDING CASH ASSETS	\$ 68,932.13
A. G. EDWARDS ACCOUNTS	\$ 272,226.21
PLUS APPROXIMATELY IN STOCK/MERCHANDISE FOR GIFT SHOP/BOOK STORE	\$ 93,000.00
PLUS A CARGO VAN VALUED AT	\$ 9,100.00
TOTAL CASH, STOCK, AND OTHER ASSETS	\$ 438,258.34

CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIPS (SINCE LAST MUSINGS)

NEW HONOR MEMBER (\$20,000.00 PLUS)

MSG (R) LARRY S. McMILLIN # 8

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

SGT CARA ALLEN (NEW LIFE MEMBER) (DHG-CA SPECIALIST COURSE)
JB AND BETTY AMAKER (LIFE AND CENTURY MEMBERS)
MIKE BINGHAM (LIFE AND CENTURY MEMBER)
CAPT ARMIN, BLUEGGEL USAF (NEW LIFE MEMBER) DHG- PSYOP QUALIFICATION COURSE)
MAJ JOHN E. BRISTOW (NEW LIFE AND CENTURY MEMBER)
CPT JORDAN L. BURFIELD (NEW LIFE MEMBER) DHG-CA QUALIFICATION COURSE
SGT STEVEN CHRISTOPHER (NEW ANNUAL MEMBER) (HG-PSYOP SPECIALIST COURSE)
CPT CHRISTOPHER EVANS (NEW ANNUAL MEMBER) (HG-CA QUALIFICATION COURSE)
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CW4 (R) RICHARD DANIELS (NEW LIFE MEMBER)
COL (R) & MRS ROGER HC DONLON (PATRONS)
MSG (R) JOHN A. GOMES (LEADERSHIP MEMBER)
STEPHEN & BARBARA HARDY (NEW CENTURY MEMBERS)
SFC (R) DANIEL AND MAJ YVONNE HEIB (PATRONS)
LTC (R) GEORGE D. HEIB (TWO DONATIONS) (HONOR MEMBER)
CSM (R) RICHARD F. HENRICKSON (NEW LIFE MEMBER)
RITA HOSTLER (DONOR)
SGM (R) VLADIMIR (JAKE) JAKOVENKO (LEADERSHIP MEMBER)
SGT BRANDON KEIL (NEW LIFE MEMBER) (DHG-PSYOP SPECIALIST COURSE)
MR AND MRS DENNIS P. LEAHY (CENTURY MEMBERS)
MSG (R) HARVEY M. LEE, JR. (LIFE AND CENTURY MEMBER)
JAMES E. LESSLER (NEW DONOR)
SGM (R) JAMES W. LEWIS (TWO DONATIONS) (LEADERSHIP MEMBER)
LTC (R) JOHN RILEY MORTON (FIVE DONATIONS) (DISTINGUISHED DONOR)
JOHN OAKS (DONATIONS) (LIFE AND CENTURY MEMBER)
PAUL A. OOSTMEYER (NEW CENTURY MEMBER)
CALVIN PARRISH (THREE DONATIONS)(BENEFACTOR)
ART & BETTY PHILLIPS (CENTURY MEMBERS)
MAJ (R) JOHN PLASTER (PATRON)
GILBERT RUBIO (LIFE AND CENTURY MEMBER)
BG BENNET S. SACOLICK (NEW LIFE MEMBER)
MARGUERETTE E. SAYRE (LIFE AND CENTURY MEMBER)
SSG SCOTT E. SCOTT (NEW ANNUAL MEMBER) HG-CA SPECIALIST COURSE
JOHN STAFFORD (NEW LIFE AND CENTURY MEMBER)
LTC (R) DREW M. VARGO (LIFE AND CENTURY MEMBER)
FRANCIS E. WILDE (NEW LIFE AND CENTURY MEMBER)
CPT JOSHUA WINES (NEW ANNUAL MEMBER) HG PSYOP QUALIFICATION COURSE

The numbers of donations listed above 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/honor of departed comrades, friends, or relatives.

IN MEMORY OF	DONATION BY
SSG KEITH R. BISHOP 7TH SFG(A) KIA AFGHANISTAN 10-26-09	MSG (R) HARVEY M. LEE, JR.
CW2 (R) RONALD BUCCA 11 SFG (A) KILLED 9- 11-01 TWIN TOWERS	DAN & YVONNE HEIB
SGM REUBEN COLEMAN	PATRICIA COLEMAN
JIMMY DEAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND	MR. AND MRS. DENNIS P. LEAHY
JIMMY DEAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND	GILBERT RUBIO
JIMMY DEAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND	FRANCIS E. WILDE
CPT BOBBY G. EDNEY, USAF 552 ND AEW & CW WEAPONS CONTROLLER COLLEGE EYE EC-131T FROG-2	MR. AND MRS. ANONYMOUS
IHO LTC (R) GEORGE D. HEIB	DAN & YVONNE HEIB
IHO LTC (R) GEORGE D. HEIB	LTC (R) DOLORES M. HEIB
IHO MAJ YVONNE M. HEIB, WIA, AFGHANISTAN, 1-17-10	THE HEIB TRIBE
SGT JOSUE E HERNANDEZ-CHAVEZ 160 th SOAR KIA AFGHANISTAN 10-26-09	USARA-L-773
COL (R) ROBERT L. HOWARD	LTC (R) GEORGE D. HEIB
COL (R) ROBERT L. HOWARD 1939-2009 (SFC-COL-US ARMY SPECIAL FORCES)	USARA-L-773
SFC JAMES HUNT 20TH SFG (A) KIA IRAQ 4-20-05 (EDINBURG SECURITY)	ART & BETTY PHILLIPS
SGT THOMAS JAICHNER BLACKWATER KIA IRAQ- 5-10-05 SFA D-843-L	SFA D-843-L
MIKE KARR	JB AND BETTY AMAKER
MIKE KARR	RITA HOSTLER
MIKE KARR	JAMES E. LESSLER
MIKE KARR	PAUL A. OOSTMEYER
CW3 NIAL D. LYONS 160 th SOAR KIA AFGHANISTAN 10-26-09	USARA-L-773
SSG JACK M. MARTIN, III 1SFG (A) KIA PHILLIPINES 9-29-09 SFA D-843-L	SFA D-843-L
MSG (R) "LITTLE" EDWARD H. MACDOUGALL	MSG (R) JOHN A GOMES
SGT STEVEN MCGOVERN (BLACKWATER), KIA IRAQ 4-21-05	USARA-L-773
SSG SHAWN H. MCNABB 160 th SOAR KIA AFGHANISTAN 10-26-09	USARA-L-773
SFC DAVID E. METZGER 7TH SFG(A) KIA AFGHANISTAN 10-26-09	MSG (R) HARVEY M. LEE
SFC ERIC MINER, 19TH SFG (A) (DYN CORP) KIA IRAQ- 4-14-04	USARA-L-773
CW4 MICHAEL P. MONTGOMERY 160 th SOAR KIA AFGHANISTAN 10-26-09	USARA-L-773
SGT NICKOLAS A MUELLER 160 th SOAR KIA AFGHANISTAN 10-26-09	USARA-L-773
PFC ALAN H. NEWTON 422 ND CA BN KIA AFGHANISTAN 10-2-09	SFA D-843-L
SSG MATTHEW A. PUCINO 20 TH SFG(A) KIA AFGHANISTAN 11-23-09	USARA-L-773
SGT MIGUEL O. ROMAN-CANCEL ODA 313, A CO, 3 RD BN, 10 TH SFG(A) TRAINING ACCIDENT 2-4-81	JOHN STAFFORD
CPL NICHOLAS R. ROUSH 1 ST PSYOP BN (A) KIA AFGHANISTAN 8-16-09	DAN & YVONNE HEIB
MAJ (R) EDWARD C. SAYRE	MARGUERETTE E. SAYRE
IHO CPT JOHN RUSH VANN, III	STEPHEN & BARBARA HARDY

The IMO names listed below were all adopted through the generous efforts of SSG (R) John D. Benjamin, but were left out of the last Musings due to a printing error, (along with the complete Curator' input)

SGT EMMETT H. HORN KIA RVN 12-23-64	SSG DANNY G. TAYLOR MACV/SOG KIA RVN 9-28-66
SSG WILLIAM HORNER KIA RVN 7-10-65	SFC ROBERT L. TAYLOR MACV/SOG KIA RVN 4-4-68
SFC GOMER D. HOSKINS, JR KIA RVN 3-23-67	SSG ROGER L. TEETER MACV/SOG KIA RVN 12-28-70
CPT RICHARD A. HOSTIKKA KIA RVN 3-2-70	SGT RICHARD A. THOMAS MACV/SOG KIA RVN 1-9-70
SFC WILLIAM H. HUBBARD KIA RVN 3-16-66	SGT DENNIS R. THORPE MACV/SOG KIA RVN 4-15-68
SSG THOMAS G. HUDSON KIA RVN 8-5-68	MAJ SAMUEL K. TOOMEY, III MACV/SOG KIA RVN 11-30-68
CPT CHARLES F. HUGHES KIA RVN 7-4-69	SFC CHARLES N. TREDINNICK MACV/SOG KIA RVN 1-29-68
SSG MICHAEL V. KUROPAS MACV/SOG KIA RVN 4-15-70	SSG GLENN E. TUBBS MACV/SOG KIA RVN 1-13-70
SP5 STEVEN M. KUSTER MACV/SOG KIA RVN 2-7-70	SGT ROBERT J. UYESAKA MACV/SOG KIA RVN 8-23-68
SSG GARY R. LA BOHN MACV/SOG KIA RVN 11-30-68	SGT PETER M. VANDER WEG MACV/SOG KIA RVN 7-25-70
MSG BILLY R. LANEY MACV/SOG KIA RVN 6-3-67	SFC CHARLES R. VESSELS MACV/SOG KIA RVN 10-18-66
SFC DELMER L. LAWS MACV/SOG KIA RVN 7-29-65	SFC DAN WAGNER, JR. MACV/SOG KIA RVN 12-15-67
MSG WILLIAM E. LAWSON MACV/SOG KIA RVN 9-9-67	SSG GUNTHER H. WALD MACV/SOG KIA RVN 11-3-69
SSG WILLIAM F. LE GRAND KIA RVN 4-28-65	SSG TIM L. WALTERS MACV/SOG KIA RVN 2-14-69
CPT RICHARD E. LEGATE MACV/SOG KIA RVN 3-25-67	CPT RONALD L. WATSON MACV/SOG KIA RVN 2-18-71
ILT VYRL E. LEICHLITER, JR MACV/SOG KIA RVN 6-10-70	SSG JERRY M. WEAVER MACV/SOG KIA RVN 7-16-70
ILT DAVID A. LENCHNER MACV/SOG KIA RVN 12-15-68	SGM EDDIE LEE WILLIAMS KIA RVN 10-3-66

THE CURATOR'S CORNER

By Roxanne Merritt

Happy New Year!

Our visitation numbers continue to rise. Last year, we had over 39,400 visitors, about a 15% increase over the year before. This is wonderful considering we were closed the month of September due to the renovation of the air

conditioning and heating system. Our busiest month was in November. In November, we hosted the wives of the US Army Special Forces Command. They came after hours, toured the galleries, listened to a short presentation about the museum and put up our Christmas Tree of Heroes where we have the names of all the fallen SOF soldiers from Korea until

now encased in glass balls. The Christmas tree never looked better and the balls were never hung with more care.

Since the last Musing, we've had two new inductees to the Special Forces Regimental Hall of Fame – **COL Sully deFontaine (USA Ret)** and **MAJ George Petrie (USA Ret)**. **COL deFontaine's** illustrious career began in World War II with his service with the Office of Strategic Service and continued through the Vietnam War until his retirement in 1976. While with 10th SFG(A), he and his team which included **MSG "Snake" Hoskings** and **MSG Stefan Mazak** successfully rescued 239 from the Belgium Congo in 1960. **MAJ Petrie** is best known for his part in the Son Tay Raid as part of the Blue Boy element responsible to go into the prisoner of war cells. After he retired from the military, he has served with Chapter XXXI as president for 18 years.

Right before Christmas, we lost one of our Medal of Honor recipients, a true American hero from Alabama, **COL Robert Howard**. The most decorated soldier in the history of the US Army, **COL Howard** was nominated for the Medal of Honor three times. On Christmas Day, **Brian Williams** of NBC News did a nice tribute of him on the nightly newscast, reporting his passing. There is also a good video on his life on <http://rlhtribute.com>. His memorial services will be: 17 February at Fort Benning, GA with the Rangers; 19 February here at Fort Bragg, NC; and 22 February at Arlington National Cemetery where he will be laid to rest in section 7A below the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. If you are interested in attending any of these functions, please go to www.news.soc.mil, where the times will be posted.

We are now gearing up in the new year for the SF Convention in June. The week prior to the convention, we will be revisited by the certification inspection team from US Army Center of Military History. During the next six months, we will be working on renovating the museum galleries in anticipation of both events. We've always received good support from USAJFKSWCS; however, I would be remiss if I didn't note that **BG Bennie Sacolick**, Deputy Commanding General, USAJFKSWCS and **COL Curt Boyd**, Chief of Staff, USAJFKSWCS, both avid supporters of the museum in the past, are now attending the museum association meetings as representatives of the Command. The Archives, since the last

Musings, has now been moved under the supervision of the USASOC History Office.

We've had a lot of queries about donations. We are interested in items representative of all SOF, but especially the SF, CA, and PSYOP branches. If you have photographs or items of potential interest, please contact us. We are always on the lookout for items, and, what may not seem of any consequence to you, may provide us what we need to be able to better illustrate a part of our history. Photographs are also welcomed and can be scanned and returned if you so desire. We are very light in items from the early years of Special Forces (prior to 1963), 8th SFG(A) in Panama as well as 10th SFG(A) in Germany. Please contact me or my staff at 910-432-4272 or 432-1533 if you have any questions on items. I have often been asked why don't you show this or that and my answer is "I don't have anything from that ..." For example, we are hearing a lot of Haiti due to the earthquake, but I have very little from Operation Restore Democracy and the actions twenty years ago. I really have to rely on you of the Museum Association that are out and about to keep us in mind when you hear about materials that may be stored in attics, closets or homes of veterans. We may not be able to take the item if it does not pertain to our mission or if we have a large quantity of the artifact already, but we will try to direct you to where the best home for it may be. We are very blessed to have you, and as retired MG Bowra would say, "as our strategic reserves."

Soliciting Nominations for the Honorary Command positions for the SF Regiment

Nominations are being sought to fill the positions of Honorary Colonel, Honorary Sergeant Major and Honorary Warrant Officer of the Special Forces Regiment. Members nominated will be asked to represent the SF Regiment at official functions including Special Forces Regimental First Formations, graduations and formal functions. Nominations are due no later than the first week in February and must include a biography and photo of the nominee as well as a cover letter attesting to why the nominee would be the best representative of the regiment in the position they are for which they are being nominated

Roxanne

MESSAGE FROM THE GIFT SHOP

By Betty Amaker

Here we are again, with another year of many challenges and successes! In spite of the economies' pitfalls, the JFK Museum Gift Shop is doing well.

We are well aware that we have many competitors out there, as we do our best to make your visits and purchases a smooth experience. At the present time we are preparing for the 2010 SFA re-union/convention here in Fayetteville, NC. Please contact the Special Forces Association for further info on the re-union/convention (7-12 June). We are still selling the serial numbered Yarborough Knife to only those who qualify and have been vetted/authorized. The vetting process is done by Roxanne Merritt, the Museum Director Contact info for authorization - curator09@aol.com

For those who qualify, the Gift Shop is the last stop. (910-432-1533) Contact info for purchasing - store@jfkwebstore.com - (910-436-2366) Tuesday thru Sunday.

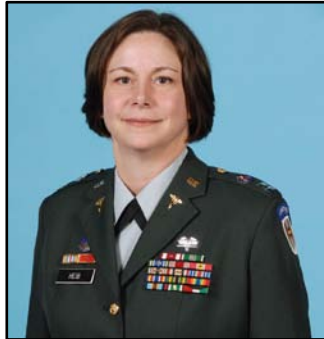
We thank you all for your continued support. Let's make 2010 another successful year!

Thanks for your support!

Betty, Lois, and Mary


PATRON MEMBER WOUNDED IN AFGHANISTAN

On 18 January we received the word that **Maj Yvonne M. Heib** (US Army Nurse of the Year in 2005), had been wounded in Afghanistan, during a rocket attack on their base. In addition to Desert Storm, where she served as a sergeant, she has served in Iraq three times and was finishing off the last Iraq trip in Afghanistan. She received several shrapnel wounds and a broken arm. The latest word is that she had been evacuated to Landstuhl, Germany, and will soon be transported to CONUS (Womack Army Medical Center). **Maj Heib** was serving as the Chief Operating Room Nurse with the 274th Forward Support Surgical Team, when their area was struck by rocket fire. A special thanks is extended to **SGM Samuel Suslik**, of the 82nd who made sure that she was well taken care of, and also presented her with the Purple Heart, along with the Combat Action Badge. The good news is that members of the 82nd Airborne Division were able to pinpoint the firing location and rapidly eliminated the enemy combatants.



On 29 December, while unloading medical supplies, in Bala Murghab district, Badghis province with members of her unit, she was also under fire, when one of her team: **SGT Ronald J. Spino**, of Waterbury, CT, and Fayetteville, NC, was shot and killed. Her unit was scheduled to return to Ft Bragg in late January, and she had been selected to be the Rear Detachment Commander of the 28th Combat Support Hospital until August when she was scheduled to attend the ILE (CGS Course) at Leavenworth, KS.

Maj Heib and her husband **SFC (R) Dan** have been steady donors to the Museum (including this quarter) and are now Patrons. Both of her sons **Ryan** (serving in the 5th SFG (A) as an Intelligence Analyst, and **Erik** a HS Sophomore, are Life Members of the Museum Association. **Ryan** has already served a short tour in Iraq and is scheduled to deploy again soon.




The Museum Staff, Gift Shop Staff, Executive Board, and Advisory Council wish her a full and speedy recovery. 

DISTINGUISHED AND HONOR GRADUATES


On 13 November 2009, a ceremony was held to honor graduates of the Civil Affairs and Psyops Qualification and Specialists Courses. The guest speaker for the ceremony was Colonel Michael J. Warmack. He is a Civil Affairs Specialist, who led the transformation redesign of Civil Affairs as USCAPOC G8

The distinguished honor graduates are the students with the highest academic standing in their respective class. Each distinguished honor graduate must achieve an academic average above ninety percent, successfully complete each task on the first test, and meet special operations forces standards for the army physical fitness test. The commander recognizes each distinguished honor graduate with a plaque, A Commander's Coin of Excellence, and the army achievement medal. The JFK Special Warfare Historical and Memorial Museum Association presents the graduate with a plaque and lifetime membership.

The honor graduates are the students with the second highest academic standing in their respective class. Honor graduates must meet the same criteria as the distinguished honor graduates. The commander recognizes each honor graduate with a plaque, a Commander's Coin of Excellence, and the Army Achievement Medal. The Museum Association presents them with an annual membership.

		
<p>CPT Jordan L. Burfield, Distinguished Honor Graduate, Civil Affairs Qualification Course, is presented a plaque by COL Warmack</p>	<p>SSG Cara Allen, Distinguished Honor Grad CA Specialist Course after receiving her awards.</p>	<p>SGT Brandon Kiel, Distinguished Honor Graduate, PSYOPS Specialist Course is presented a Life Membership Plaque by Bart Brown, Assistant Treasurer</p>

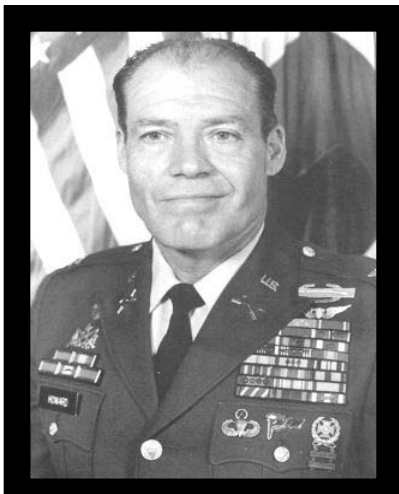
THE MAY MUSINGS MAILING (LICKER STICKER) SESSION

On Saturday, 7 November, 15 members of the Licker-Sticker Mailing Crew got your Musings ready for mailing. Mike Simpson provided the coffee and doughnuts for them. 



Seated L-R: Cliff Seago, Bob Folwell, Roy Hill, Walt Campbell. Standing: Bart Brown, Bear Martin, Bob Gilstrap, Wes McKelvey, Rick Nail, Mike Simpson, Joe Lupyak, and Bill Palmer. Not pictured, : Roy Bradford, George and Norman Heib

TAPS



Retired Army **COL Robert L. Howard**, a Medal of Honor recipient for combat action in Vietnam in 1968 and one of the America's most highly decorated Soldiers, died Dec. 23 in Waco, Texas.

The 70-year-old **Howard** died in a hospice in Waco, according to a report in the San Antonio Express News today. The paper, quoting a longtime friend of Howard's, retired **SGM Benito Guerrero**, said **Howard** had been suffering from pancreatic cancer.

Howard began his Army career as an enlisted man. During one 13-month tour in Vietnam he was nominated for the Medal of Honor three times, but in the first instance the award was downgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross. Several biographies say that downgrade, as well as another -- to the Silver Star -- was to avoid the problem of noting in the Medal of Honor citation specifics of the combat operations, which were covert.

But one nomination did result in the awarding of the Medal of Honor. It was presented to him by **President Richard Nixon** during a White House ceremony in 1971.

Howard was a sergeant first class assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group in December 1968 when his unit came under heavy enemy fire while on a mission to rescue a missing U.S. Soldier. **Howard** was wounded -- unable to walk -- and his own

weapon was destroyed by a grenade blast, according to his Medal of Honor citation, but seeing his platoon leader wounded and exposed to fire **Howard** crawled forward under fire to pull the lieutenant back. While administering first aid to the lieutenant an enemy round hit one of the officer's ammo pouches and detonated several magazines. **Howard** continued to drag the officer back to the rest of the platoon, which he rallied for an organized defense. He crawled from position to position, rendering first aid to the wounded and directing fire on the surrounding enemy force that was estimated to include two companies. For more than three hours, according to the citation, his platoon, aided by air support, repulsed enemy attacks until it was possible for helicopters to extract the Soldiers.

Howard was the last man to board the aircraft.

Howard was born on July 11, 1939 in Opelika, Ala. He entered the Army in 1956, still only 17, and retired as a Colonel in 1992.

He was wounded 14 times during a total of 54 months of combat duty in Vietnam and was awarded eight Purple Hearts.

Howard is survived by his children, **Denicia Howard** of Florida; **Melissa Gentsch** and husband, Asst. Chief of Police **Frank Gentsch** of Waco; **Rosslyn Howard** of California; **Robert Howard Jr.** and wife, **Tori**, of California; and his grandchildren, **Victoria Batey** and husband, **Luke**, of Denton, Texas, **Holley Gentsch** of Waco; **Trey Howard** of California; and **Isabella Gentsch** of Waco.

Howard was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

By George Heib

Again, we have had a real active quarter since the last Musings. We were kept busy putting together plaques for the Civilians of the Year, Instructors of the Year, Distinguished Graduates of multiple courses, and members who upgraded their membership to Benefactor or higher. We also processed and sent acknowledgments of 59 donations/memberships, typed up Annual membership cards, or ordered Life membership cards.

During this quarter I have received enquiries from several members asking what they could do to help us. My answer has been to go out and drum up new memberships. What with losing members when they move without a forwarding address, and taps notices, our membership has been steadily decreasing. To join, they don't need an application. All they need is to print their name, address, phone number, and if available e-mail address, and send it with a check made out to JFK Museum, to our address, on the first page of the Musings



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

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