

# **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



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"To Honor, Support, Protect, and Remember the Heritage"

MAY 2010

# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

# By Bill Palmer

A number of scholarship requests have been received, keep them coming, closing date is 15 April 2010. Scholarship Awards will be made at the 10 July 2010 meeting. The Museum Association voted to support the CA/PSYOPS Hall of Fame and Awards, details will follow later.

Thanks for your continuing support and suggestions.



De Oppresso Liber



# THE SECRETARY'S SECTION

By George Heib

If someone were to ask us what our largest problem is, I would answer. "Lost Souls" It never fails that right after mailing out the Musings that we start getting back issues that are not deliverable, due to address changes. Although we attempt to locate them by use of the internet, we only get less than 2 percent. This year we have lost 16 members so far. You can see the list on page 3. As we go to press, we have now have IMO plates sponsored all the SF casualties from RVN (889), SOF soldiers KIA, died not hostile, or training accidents from the Korean War, to the GWOT (78) and from the GWOT (297).

# GLOBAL WAR ON TERROISM CASUALTIES (INCLUDING NON HOSTILE)

NUMBER KIA OR DNH	IMO PLATES ADOPTED	NUMBER LEFT	
297	297	0	

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 10-1						
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	\$ LEVEL	MUSINGS-09-02	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP			
ANNUAL	\$ 10.00		17			
DONOR	\$ 10.00		39			
LIFE	\$ 100.00		434			
CENTURY	\$ 100.00		168			
CENTURY & LIFE	\$ 200.00		193			
BENEFACTORS	\$ 1,000.00		39			
PATRONS	\$ 2,000.00		13			
LEADERSHIP MEMBERS	\$ 5,000.00		14			
HONOR MEMBERS	\$ 10,000.00		2			
DISTINGUISHED DONORS	\$ 20,000.00		4			

PACESETTERS	\$ 50,000.00	0
SPECIAL DONORS	\$ 100,000.00	1
* HONORARY MEMBERS	-0-	72
SUB TOTAL (ACTIVE MEMBERS)		996
LOST ADDRESSES		232
TOTAL		1228

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

De Oppresso Liber!

# THE TREASURER'S REPORT

#### By Bennie Pokemire

At our last meeting Major Brian Yarborough showed the Board samples of the bronze, silver, and gold McClure Awards. The CA/PSYOPS folks have asked us to help with the costs to obtain initial number of these so they can get started with their program of recognizing supporters of their goals. At our last meeting this was unanimously approved.

# De Oppresso Liber

#### Bennie

THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 30 NOVEMBER 2009			
TOTAL ENDING CASH ASSETS	\$	45,209.05	
A. G. EDWARDS ACCOUNTS	\$	272,237.92	
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	\$	419,546.97	

# **CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIPS (SINCE LAST MUSINGS)**

# **NEW HONOR MEMBER (\$20,000.00 PLUS)**

# MSG (R) LARRY S. McMILLIN #8

# OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

CCC IOIIN D	DENILARINI	(THEE DOMATIONS)	(DICTINGUIGHED DONOD)	

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

# 1

# 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
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THE FALLEN	1SG WILLIAM P. GARDNER

# **NEW LOST SOULS**

After the last Musings went out we had some returned as not deliverable for the following members:



ROBERT E. BLANCHARD (LIFE) PEAKS ISLAND, ME	JASON K. MAGERS (LIFE) WITCHITA FALLS, TX
SSG CHRISTOPHER M. CHEECHOV (C&L) CAMERON, NC	BG RICHARD W. MILLS (LIFE) APO
SLAWOMIR Z. GRABIANOWSKI (LIFE) RENO, NV	SGT (R) RICHARD J. ROBB (LIFE) SPRING, TX
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NATHAN S. HOLMES (CENTURY) FERNDALE, WA	CW2 CHARLES W. SMITH, SR. (C&L() PHILLIPINES
ARTHUR J. HURTADO (PATRON) ALEXANDRIA, VA	MSG (R) JOHN M. TRANTANELLA (C&L) ARLINGTON, VA
GERARD M. "ZAK" KOZAK (CENTURY) REEK, OH	FRANKLIN S. STABLER (CENTURY) MERRITT, FL
PAUL M. LANDRY (C & L) PEABODY, MA	GEN (R) JAMES B. VAUGHT (C&L) MYRTLE BEACH, SC

Lost souls (still not found) for last year are:

KEN BERRY (C&L) KANEOHE, HI	JOYCE LUTZ (C&L) LUTZ, FL
LARRY BROWN, JR (C&L) RAEFORD, NC	JEFFREY S. PROUGH (C&L) VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
BILL FANARAS (C&L) DANVERS, MA	KEITH ROSE, (LIFE) DAYTON, OH
ARTHUR L. HENSLEY (C&L) TITUSVILLE, FL	LOUIS I. SCHECTMAN (C&L) TULSA, OK
KEN LANZALACO (LIFE) SULPHER, LA	

If anyone has info on these members, let us (or them) know

# THE CURATOR'S CORNER

#### By Roxanne Merritt

We are just coming off of the Special Forces Symposium which went quite well. The museum was not as involved as we were last year, but we still provided several panel boards which went around the meeting room area and later, the banquet area. The new honorary command of the Regiment was inducted. They are:

Honorary Colonel – **MG Sidney Shachnow** (USA Ret)

Honorary Sergeant Major – CSM Ernest "Ernie" Tabata (USA Ret)

Honorary Warrant Officer – **CW5 William McPherson** (USA Ret)

The former honorary command of COL Roger Donlon (MOH) (USA Ret), CSM Joe Dennison (USA Ret), and CW5 Thomas Edinger (USA Ret), did a fantastic job during their tenures and must be commended. They were outstanding representatives of the Regiment and we are better for their efforts.

We are currently working to prepare for the SF Convention in June and our recertification inspection the week before. In the June Musings, I'll provide photos of the reconfigured War on Terror gallery. As I noted in the last musings, in all our efforts, we are getting great support from the USAJFKSWCS Command, especially **MG Bennie Sacolick**, Deputy Commanding General, but soon to be Commanding General of USAJFKSWCS, and **COL Curt Boyd**. **COL Boyd** was even out the weekend before the SF Symposium ensuring our grass was cut and **Mike Simpson** had the personnel he needed to refill sandbags to rebuild our mortar pit exhibit so it would be at its best for our visitors. By 6 pm, the place looked wonderful.

Both the Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Regiments are working on getting a Hall of Fame similar to that of Special Forces. For all three, a policy, outlining procedures, exists for submittals of nominations. The key to the success of the Hall of Fames are the nominations which members can submit, and then, are boarded. Many of you know of Special Forces, Civil Affairs or Psychological Operations members who were not only outstanding while on active duty, but have also made significant contributions since. The nomination is a great way to recognize their accomplishments. The more information you provide, the better. We also need photographs of the nominee, but please, when sending them, please 1) scan at 300 dpi and save as a .jpg or .tiff; and, 2) send via CD or thumb drive.

For those of you who want a Yarborough Knife, or for those of you who know others who have said they are interested in purchasing a Yarborough Knife, and picking it up at the SF Convention, please be aware that you need to acquire an authorization first. With all that will be going on, I will not be able to do a quick turn around the week of the Convention, so please submit the paperwork early. In your request, please include phone number, address, e-mail address (if you have one), and proof of SF qualification. We are getting many requests with only their SFA number. This is really not adequate. We really need copies of a DD214 or a graduation certificate or an ORB/ERB, etc. The really important part of this paragraph is please submit the paperwork early.

On a final note, I would like to acknowledge the passing of **Mike Karr**. He was a curmudgeon of the nth degree and often drove us nuts, but, foremost, he loved Special Forces and was a great supporter of the museum. He demanded perfection of himself, and, of us. It is guys like him that make this job so special. He will be missed.

Hope this finds you all well and enjoying the upcoming late spring.

# Roxanne

# **MESSAGE FROM THE GIFT SHOP**

By Betty Amaker

The JFK Museum Gift Shop have been very busy this past three months. We continually prepare every month for new Special Forces graduates by re-stocking our merchandise. Our sales depend on the families of SF graduates to keep our small store operational. We thank you all for your continued support. Last we were busy with the SF graduation and the SF Symposium at the Crown. Both were very successful! I am currently involved in the Special Forces Convention in June (7-12) that is going to be here in Fayetteville, NC. Our website is doing well.

Thanks for your support!

Betty, Lois, and Mary

# PLAQUES AND MEMBERSHIPS AWARDED

We have taken part and presented plaques at several ceremonies since the last Musings went to press.

On 20 January 2010 we awarded plaques and Life memberships to:

# **CIVILIANS OF THE YEAR**

GS 1-6 CATEGORY GS 7-10 CATEGORY

**GS 11 -14 CATEGORY** 

Mrs. Karen Millay Mr. David Gray Mr. Michael Judge

# **INSTRUCTORS OF THE YEAR**

OFFICEER WARRANT OFFICER NCO CIVILIAN

MAJ David Foster WO1 Robert A. Davis SSG Jeremy J. Sewell Mr. Richard S. Wiegart

At these other ceremonies we presented awards to Distinguished and Honor Graduates.

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 JFK Special Warfare Historical and Memorial Museum Association presents them with a letter of congratulations and an annual membership.

# CIVIL AFFAIRS AND PSYOPS ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING COURSES-29 January 2010

# **CIVIL AFFAIRS**

DISTINGUISHED GARDUATE: SPC Paul Cordero HONOR GARDUATE: PV2 Jessica Brochu

# PSCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

DISTINGUISHED GARDUATE: SPC Gary Bostick HONOR GARDUATE: SPC Jams Faust

# CIVIL AFFAIRS AND PSCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS QUALIFICATION COURSES - 15 AND 16 April 2010

# **CIVIL AFFAIRS**

# PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS

MIKE SIMPSON

DISTINGUISHED GARDUATE: CPT MICHAEL V. CANN DISTINGUISHED GARDUATE: CPT CLAY CHASE

DISTINGUISHED GARDUATE: SSG WILLIAM P. HIGHSMITH DISTINGUISHED GARDUATE: SSG BRIAN CARLN

HONOR GARDUATE: CPT BRYAN P. DOUGHERTY HONOR GARDUATE: CPT ERIC SANSON

HONOR GARDUATE: SSG CHRISTOPHER M. SWARTZ HONOR GARDUATE: SGT RACHEL BOLGIANO

We are sorry that no pictures were made available as of press time.

The above awards and many others were presented by our faithful and dedicated Executive Board and Advisory Council members: **Bart Brown**, **John Hazlett**, and **Mike Simpson**.

# THE FEBRUARY MUSINGS MAILING (LICKER STICKER) SESSION

On Saturday, 2 February this stalwart band of Licker-Stickers came together at the Canopy Lounge to put together the Musings for mailing. Walt Campbell, Bob Folwell, and Wes McKelvey earned their Bronze Doughnut Award. This award requires 12 mailing sessions (which takes three years/ 12 mailing sessions). To date ten members of the 42+ mailing crew have been presented with the Bronze Doughnut Awards, and two have been awarded the Silver Doughnut Award (which takes six years/ 24 mailing sessions).

It is through their dedicated volunteer service that you reserve the Musings.

JB AMAKER **BOB FOLWELL ROY HILL** WES MCKELVEY ROY BRADFORD **BOB GILSTRAP** RALPH LOFF RICHMOND NAIL **BART BROWN GEORGE HEIB** JOE LUPYAK **BILL PALMER** WALT CAMPBELL **NORM HEIB BEAR MARTIN CLIFF SEAGO** 

5













The above pictures show the Licker-Sticker crew in action: Stuffing sealing and putting it all together for mailing, then taking a break for doughnuts, coffee (provided by Mike Simpson) and a group picture.







President Bill Palmer presents Bronze Doughnut Awards to L-R Walt Campbell, Wes McKelvey, and Bob Folwell.

SGM (R) JAMES C. "J.C." COOPER, 74, died in his home in Autryville on Tuesday, March 23, 2010. JC was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He received several awards and decorations, among them are the CIB, Bronze Star with V device with an oak leaf cluster, the Master Parachutist Badge, and Master HALO Parachutist Badge. JC is survived by his wife Beverly; three sons, James, Joe and Jerry Cooper of Winston-Salem; a daughter, Dawn Williams of Manns Harbor; three stepchildren; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held, March 27, 2010, in Stedman Baptist Church with Dr. Philip Spears officiating. Burial with full military honors followed in the Riley-Butler family cemetery in Autryville with Chaplain Frank Byrne officiating. The family received friends at the church an hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Stedman Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 190, Stedman, NC 28391. Services entrusted to Jernigan-Warren Funeral Home of Fayetteville. JC was a Life Member of the SFA (D-2975) and a Life Member of the Museum Association, and served faithfully on the Executive Board as the Assistant Secretary for over four years.

<u>SFC (R) HENRY E. CORVERA</u>, passed away at home on April 15, 2010. Burial was at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery, April 21, 2010 with full military honors. **Rev Roy Hill** presided.. Reception followed at the 82nd Abn Club on Johnson St. He is survived by his wife, **Takako T. Corvera** of the home; three brothers, **Angelo, Richard**, and **Gilbert Corvera**; and a sister, **Helene Barton**, all of Los Angeles Cards/letters may be sent to his wife at 1921 Manteo St. Fayetteville, NC 28303-4115. Tele: (910) 484-1603. Henry was a Life Member of SFA D-617L, and a former Annual Member of the Museum Association.

Lewis L. Millett, 88, who was court-martialed for desertion during World War II and went on to receive the Medal of Honor for leading a bayonet charge during the Korean War, died Nov. 14 at a veterans hospital in Loma Linda, Calif. He had congestive heart failure.

**Col. Millett**, who sported a red handlebar mustache, cut an audacious and unconventional path during his 35 years of military service. He led daring attacks in two wars and was instrumental in starting a reconnaissance commando school to train small units for covert operations in Vietnam.

He also was an Army deserter. He later said he had been so eager to "help fight fascism and Hitler" that he left an Air Corps gunnery school in mid-1941 -- months before the U.S. entry into World War II -- to enlist with the Canadian army and go overseas. He manned an antiaircraft gun during the London blitz before rejoining the U.S. Army, which had by that time declared war and apparently was not being overly meticulous in its background checks.

As an antitank gunner in Tunisia, he earned the Silver Star after he jumped into a burning ammunition-filled halftrack, drove it away from allied soldiers and leapt to safety just before the vehicle exploded. Not long after, he shot down a German Messerschmitt Me-109 fighter that was strafing Allied troops. Col. Millett, who was firing from machine guns mounted on a halftrack, hit the pilot through

the windshield.



He had fought his way through Italy, participating in the campaigns at Salerno and Anzio, when his paperwork caught up with him. A superior officer told him that he was being court-martialed for his desertion to Canada and that his punishment was \$52. He also received a battlefield promotion for fearlessness in combat. "Then a few weeks later they made me a second lieutenant! I must be the only Regular Army colonel who has ever been court-martialed and convicted of desertion."

During the Korean War, he received the military's highest awards for valor, including the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross, for two bayonet charges he led as a company commander in February 1951.

"We had acquired some Chinese documents stating that Americans were afraid of hand-to-hand fighting and cold steel," he told Military History. "When I read that, I thought, 'I'll show you, you sons of bitches!' "He was awarded the Medal of Honor for leading a charge up Hill 180 near Soam-Ni on Feb. 7. When one of his platoons was pinned down by heavy fire, he placed himself at the head of two other platoons and

ordered the men to charge up the hill. According to his Medal of Honor citation, he bayoneted several enemy soldiers and lobbed grenades in their direction while rallying his men to fight. Grenade fragments pierced **Col. Millett's** shin, but he refused medical evacuation. "Despite vicious opposing fire, the whirlwind hand-to-hand assault carried to the crest of the hill," the Medal of Honor citation read. "His dauntless leadership and personal courage so inspired his men that they stormed into the hostile position and used their bayonets with such lethal effect that the enemy fled in wild disorder."

Lewis Lee Millett was born Dec. 15, 1920, in Mechanic Falls, Maine, and grew up with his mother in South Dartmouth, Mass. After his Korean War service, he went through Ranger training at Fort Benning, Ga., and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division as an intelligence officer. He later was sent to Vietnam as a military adviser to a controversial intelligence program called Phoenix, which killed thousands of suspected Viet Cong and their sympathizers in an effort to destroy the Viet Cong infrastructure in towns and villages.

Survivors include, **L. Lee Millett Jr.** and **Timothy Millett**, both of Idyllwild, and **Elizabeth Millett** of Nevada; three sisters; a brother; and four grandchildren.

A son, Army **SSG John Millett**, died in the 1985 airplane crash in Gander, Newfoundland, that killed more than 240 U.S. service members returning from a peacekeeping mission in the Middle East.

Reflecting on his career, **Col. Millett** once told an interviewer: "I believe in freedom, I believe deeply in it. I've fought in three wars, and volunteered for all of them, because I believed as a free man, that it was my duty to help those under the attack of tyranny. Just as simple as that."

#### JIMMY DEAN SCHOLARSHIP

We awarded four scholarships in 2008 and 26 in 2009. As of this writing we have received 27 applications for this year. They are in the hands of the Scholarship Committee, headed by committee chairman, Roy Hill. His committee is meeting and we hope to announce the results NLT then mid-June, and then invite the participants to a formal presentation at our July meeting. Those who are not able to attend the meeting will have their certificates mailed to them.

# **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, plus Distinguished graduates of the CA and Psyops AIT, Qualification and Specialist Courses. One of our continuing problem is the short time frame between the finish of the course and the graduation ceremony. It means a lot of last minute hustling to get the plaques put together, typing the Annual Membership cards, ordering the Life Membership cards, preparing the letters of congratulations, and then getting a volunteer to do the rehearsals and presentation. It looks like we are also in for another big quarter, with all the scholarship certificates to prepare and get set up for the awards at our 10 July meeting.



# 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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