



Cpl. William F. Reardon
MA. Chapter 57
Newsletter
P.O. BOX 57
Taunton, MA 02780

“The Can Do Chapter”

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Sr. Vice Cmndr	Francis Creney
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Adjutant	Denise Furtado
Treasurer	James Zahar
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Sergeant At Arms	Authur Brownell
Srvce Officer Dir	Mort Morin
Quartermaster	Norman Willoughby
Legislative Officer	Bill Blight
Armorer	Mort Morin

May / June 2011

Volume 7 Number 5

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The end of a term; the beginning of a new year. When I took office it was with the understanding that I'd have a lot of help. Thankfully my help came through. Chapter members stepped up to the plate and delivered. Key officers were able to get assistants, providing the Chapter with backup in case of emergencies.

As noted in earlier editions of the newsletter, our home has been revitalized by member labor. Our outside activities have grown to the point where they may turn around and take a bite out of a tender portion of our anatomy. Attendance at meetings has grown to the point where we had to remove tables and rearrange seating. These are solid, concrete happenings, the most important being the rise in attendance at meetings. However, we are not golden.

When Chapter 36 merged with us as of March 30, 2011 we picked up less than half-a-dozen active members. The Middleboro contingent has grown so that we now boast of almost a dozen active members; but these are new members. Realistically speaking, we ought to be getting about 20 additional former Middleboro members participating. Can we get some of you to participate?

Something is drastically wrong. Two chapters have gone down the tubes because their members did not participate in chapter activities. Probably the main reason for inactivity was the lack of communication - that two-way, up and down system of talking to one another. Chapter 57 is fully aware of this problem. A dozen years ago, Boston paid us a visit and said, in no uncertain words, get active or we're taking your charter away. We pulled ourselves up by our bootstraps. Six members turned this chapter around. With the tools we have going for us there is no reason why we can't get more former members actively participating.

We have a newsletter - you are reading it now. We have a monthly television program, “The 57 Show” that covers almost a dozen communities. Members in communities where it isn't showing can request the local station to contact us for a free disc of the program. We have a website, davtaunton.tripod.com that has a great deal of information for our members and the public. Like last year, we have nine Chapter Service Officers scheduled to be trained and manning our office every weekday morning and a couple of evenings. Most importantly - WE, you and me and the members near you, are here to exercise *comradeship*. We have a few new officers taking over vacant slots. Let them help you and help the Chapter. Join them in making Corporal William F. Reardon Chapter 57 an even more active chapter than it has been.

CHAPTER 57 CONTINUES TO GROW

Once again, Chapter 57 extends a hearty "Welcome" to our newest members, Mansfield Memorial Chapter 61. Today, it is part of Corp. William F. Reardon Chapter 57.

Some of you know that we have several nicknames. We are the "Greater Taunton Chapter" because we like to promote our services to a great many contiguous and neighboring towns. These include: Berkley, Dighton, Easton, Freetown, Lakeville, Middleboro, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth and of course, we *now* include Mansfield. We have members in other cities and towns spread across the Commonwealth and the nation like most other chapters.

Additionally, Chapter 57 carries a "Can Do" nickname given to us by other chapters and proudly acclaimed by our membership because we actually "Can Do". For example, you are now reading a copy of a newsletter that we publish six times a year and mail to all of our members no matter where they live. We have a monthly television program, “The 57 Show”. We have our own website, available at davtaunton.tripod.com. This site, which is currently being updated, lists officers, a calendar of events, general information, etc.

We also participate in veteran and community activities. Chapter 57 has adopted several wards in Building 2 of the Brockton VAMC that house patients with chronic psychological conditions on an extended basis. The “Can Do” Chapter has been funding a fuel assistance program for deceased members' spouses for several years. We have participated in ceremonies and parades in many of the surrounding towns for a number of years. Like other DAV chapters we support various shelters, community clinics, and individuals in need. We are damned proud of our contributions.

Chapter 57 owns its quarters located at 5-7 Taunton Green right in the center of Taunton. We have a Chapter Service Office manned every weekday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon with Wednesday evening hours from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The office is staffed by our nine certified Chapter Service Officers. No other chapter can match that.

We recognize chapter activity participation by awarding ribbons signifying offices held or specific activities participated in. Our most active members EARN a Chapter jacket. The Chapter, in an effort to promote Chapter 57 morale, has a chapter uniform consisting of the official DAV cap, a dark blue blazer, white shirt, DAV tie, gray slacks or skirt and black shoe. The uniform is worn at public events to promote DAV Chapter 57.

As you can see, YOU have a lot to be proud of as members of Corp. William F. Reardon DAV Chapter 57. *WELCOME to all of YOU from all of us.*

CH. 57 MEETINGS

Third Tuesdays of each month
 Except July & August
Meeting time - 6:30PM
5-7 Taunton Green
Taunton, MA.

MEETING DATES

June 21, 2011 Last Meeting until
 September.
 Summer Break
 September, 20, 2011
 October 18, 2011
 November 15, 2011
 December 20, 2011

PRIZE DRAWING

We have a \$25.00 door prize drawing at each meeting. Every member in attendance has a chance to win. You must be in attendance and present when the prize is drawn.

RECENTLY DEPARTED
COMRADES

Robert A. St Onge, 05/14/2011
 John R. Abbott, 06/12/2011
 Ayers Mendes, 06/17/2011

57'S CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The POW and MIA Table Ceremony:

Those who have served and those currently serving the uniformed services of the United States are ever mindful that the sweetness of enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. They are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, others have endured and may still be enduring the agonies of pain and internment. Before we begin our activities tonight, we pause to recognize our POW's and MIA's. We direct our attention to the small table, which occupies a place of dignity and honor near the head table. It is set for one, symbolizing the fact that members of our armed forces are missing from our ranks. They are referred to as POW's and MIA's but we call them comrades. They are unable to be with their loved ones and families tonight, so we join together to pay humble tribute to them, and bear witness to their continued absence. This table, set for one, is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his or her suppressors. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. The single red rose in the vase signifies the blood they may have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith while awaiting their return. The yellow ribbon on the vase represents the yellow ribbons worn on the lapels of the thousands who demand with unyielding determination a proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us tonight. A slice of lemon on the napkin reminds us of their bitter fate. The salt sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait. The glass is inverted - they cannot toast with us this night. The chair is empty-they are not here. The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation. Let us pray that all our comrades will be back within our ranks. Let us remember and never forget their sacrifices. May God forever watch over them and protect them and their families.



WALK WITH US

We are still looking for **Honor Guard** members. Please contact The Chapter Quarters at **508-823-0409** if you are willing to participate.

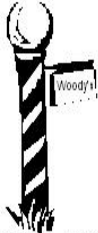
Our **Forget-Me-Not**, annual fund raiser is in need of volunteers to help us in various locations. This is our most important fund raising event of the year. 100% of the funds collected go to support disabled veterans in a variety of ways and, in particular, the donation of clothing, hygiene items and the pizza parties at the Brockton VAMC. We hope to see some new members involved in this heart of the DAV event. **Call 508-823-0409** to sign up for these volunteer efforts.

If you would like to assist Chapter 57 at **Homes For Our Troops**, Call Jr. Vice Cmdr., Steve Horton, for more info at **508-823-0409**.


We are in need of help in a variety of ways at our headquarters. Call Norm at 508- 823-0409.

You have given of yourselves in the past. You can still serve your fellow veterans and countrymen, just in a different way than before.

The Chapter is getting more and more active and even though we see new members we are finding that we just don't have enough people to cover all the events and activities in which we are asked to participate. We are terribly disappointed when we must turn down invitations to appear at various functions or are spread so thin that it seems that we are only represented by a few members at a community event. Sometimes we are covering two or three things, all at the same time! We need you to help. Please come out and show your support for your community, fellow veterans and the DAV!



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FORGET ME NOT – LEST WE FORGET

As a nation we are often callous with reference to our history. Probably 95% of the readers of this are veterans, Disabled American Veterans, and that same percentage are probably members of Chapter 57. As a major Taunton area veterans organization, Chapter 57 has adopted the World War II monument in front of the Superior Court House on Taunton Green.

At least twice a year we pay homage to those warriors of the Greatest Generation at this particular monument. Some of us are former soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen of that war. We post flags and wreaths; we even pontificate and pray at that monument. Do you know what the ball at the center represents? It's actually a globe of the Earth; with all of the continents shown in a darker marble than the oceans. Do you remember that we fought on the land and in the seas and in the air all over that globe? Do you know what is posted on each of the four sides of the monument? On the front is "WORLD WAR II". To the left is the word "HONOR" and to the right is the word "VALOR." The back side contains a simple phrase, "LEST WE FORGET". How many of us have visited the World War II monument without reading its inscriptions?

We fund our benevolent actions with monies raised in our Forget-Me-Not campaigns. Forget-Me-Not - Lest We Forget are two three-word phrases that are entwined for DAV members. We must not forget our dead comrades, our fallen heroes. We don't dare forget our wounded warriors of each and every conflict from WWII to the present. We should not forget the dependents of those no longer with us nor of those living who need aid and assistance. We cannot, should not, dare not forget. Lest-We-Forget, our mission is to aid and assist worthy wartime disabled veterans and their dependents. The final sentence in our purpose closes with, "to encourage in all people that spirit of understanding which will guard against future wars." Continued...

FORGET ME NOT – LEST WE FORGET

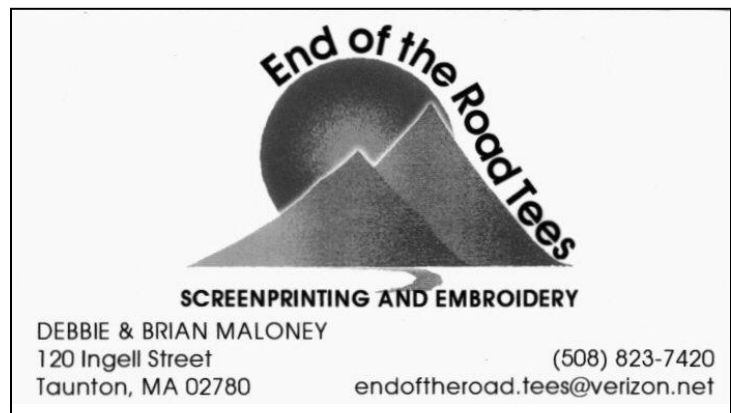
Continued from column on left: Have we forgotten? Whether we were drafted or volunteered, we went off to war. Our goal as members of the armed forces was to end that war and prevent further conflicts. Have we forgotten?

War is evil; war is a killer of the young who are the hope of our families and our nation. As veterans, as the family of veterans, as peace loving Americans we must not forget we have an obligation to guard against future wars. We must not forget.




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R.O.M.E.O. OH ROMEO

Almost 40 Chapter 57 members are part of an “elite” organization that gets together on a strictly social basis. They like each other, care less about chain of command, don't have officers and meet once a month for breakfast. They are ROMEO club members. Romeo is an acronym that means: R = real, O = old, M = men (although some act like little kids), E = eating, O = out. There are clubs all over the country; almost all unaffiliated with any other club. Past adjutant Paul Waldron was one of the original members along with past treasurer Dick LaVoie. Past commander Mort Morin was recruited when all three were "exercising" at the Holiday Inn pool.

Membership has not been limited to Chapter 57 members; as a matter of fact, there are a couple of non DAV members in the group. The club recruits at chapter meetings and, usually, Mort picks out the meeting date and Jim Gray contacts those members who weren't at the meeting.

Initially, breakfast was at a different restaurant each month, ranging from Seekonk, Mansfield, West Bridgewater, Middleboro and surrounding areas. Nowadays, they have been meeting at Good Days in West Bridgewater, as it is most accessible to all of the members. However, this could change as Quartermaster Norm Willoughby gets new ideas and Mort complains about the salsa.

The club had considered female members, but after failing to find a suitable name (likely excuse) for a combined membership it was decided to remain the ROMEO club.

Any male interested in becoming a member should broach the subject to any of the previously named individuals or ask any of our Service Officers. They'll line things up for you.

SGT. BRUCE RUSHFORTH JR. BRIDGE DEDICATED

On May 21, there was a ceremony designating the Sgt. Bruce A. Rushforth Jr. Bridge, which is the bridge on Rte. 44 spanning the Nemasket River in the town of Middleboro. The bridge will be a tribute to the late Bruce A. Rushforth Jr., a former Middleboro resident who served as a member of the U.S. Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. The event began at 11:00 a.m. at the Oliver Mills Park in Middleboro (just below the bridge off of Plymouth Street) and lasted approximately two hours. "I am so pleased that we were able to honor these two true American heroes", said Senator Pacheco, "I look forward to joining the Rushforth family while we celebrate the life of Bruce." The legislation authorizing the dedication was sponsored by Senator Pacheco and former state Rep. James Fagan and former state Rep. David Flynn.

There were eight DAV Chapter 57 members in attendance for the ceremony. Those members were: Commander Leroy Crossman; Sr. Vice Commander Fran Creney; Jr. Vice Commander Steve Horton; Treasurer Jim Zahar; QM Norm Willoughby; Don Triner; Walter Elliott and Ed Nunes.

TAUNTON JUNIOR ROTC AWARDS CEREMONY



John Fielding (L) and Norm Willoughby (R)

Chapter 57 was represented at the 11th Annual Awards Ceremony at Taunton High School on May 12, 2011 by John Fielding and Norm Willoughby in honor of the Air Force Junior ROTC.

Chapter 57 is one of the many sponsors of JROTC. For many years the JROTC has supported Chapter 57 in various endeavors including carrying our Colors in several parades.

"The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." ~Calvin Coolidge

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SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED
LET'S MAKE SURE WE SUSTAIN IT

As some of you know, the Disabled American Veterans has an auxiliary, the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary (DAVA). This was founded to let the wives of DAV members assist and participate in DAV functions. Several years ago, membership was expanded to allow DAV members to join the DAVA. This was an attempt to boost participation of both groups. Chapter 57 had a DAVA years ago but it faded away as DAV activity in Taunton slowed down. Chapter 36, in Middleboro, had a DAVA that faded away for basically the same reason. When the parent organization slows down its associate organizations do the same. If your spouses wish to help out the DAV by joining in to form a local DAVA they can do so, but remember, they will have to support its activities and its membership. The DAV and the DAVA are two separate and distinct organizations. What, apparently, few of you know, is that there is another DAV auxiliary. This is the National Order of Trench Rats (NOTR). The Rats are a secret, fraternal and honor organization that has limited its membership to a selection of those DAV members who show their devotion and meritorious service to the DAV and the welfare of the disabled veteran, his/her spouse and orphans. Membership is by invitation only. This, plus an initiation process, has been designed to obtain new members who are willing to work, rather than individuals who are just adding another organization's name to their resume. The Trench Rats is not a male only group. They recognize the service and dedication of female veterans on an equal footing. And shades of bureaucracy - the Rats have an auxiliary called the Alley Cats. (Not sure if males can join the Alley Cats.) A group of characters, called that because they are easily classified as such, already members of a NOTR dugout (chapter) in Brockton decided that they would be more at home if they had a Taunton base. Past commander, Mort Morin, put in an application to form such a Taunton based group. A former Golden Rodent (commander) of the Brockton group and past Sector (State) Golden Rodent, Mort is very familiar with working with the organization at the local, state and national level. He hopes that the local dugout will be able to form a serious alliance with Chapter 57. Let's hope he's right!

GREAT QUOTES

Allow the president to invade a neighboring nation, whenever he shall deem it necessary to repel an invasion, and you allow him to do so whenever he may choose to say he deems it necessary for such a purpose - and you allow him to make war at pleasure.
 - Abraham Lincoln

THE JEEP


- In 1940, the Army set up a competition for all automotive companies in an attempt to quickly find a suitable vehicle for the war. With a bid end date of 22 JUL 40, the companies had 49 days to prepare and present a suitable prototype, and then had another 75 days to finish the required 70 vehicles. Only three companies entered: Ford, Willys, and American Bantam Car Co. Although Willys offered the lowest price, American Bantam was the only entry that completed the prototypes in time. Unfortunately, it failed the torque test, and the competition was re-opened to Ford and Willys.
- The Army Jeep was first introduced in 1941. The first Jeep rendition, however, was the Bantam BRC. Afterwards, the Army allowed Willys-Overland and Ford to make the Army Jeeps that were to be used for combat.
- There were a total of 647,925 Jeeps made during World War II.
- According to Jeep4Ever.ca, "One Battered Jeep from WWII received a Purple Heart after successfully surviving two beach landings."
- Other anecdote about Army Jeeps: "During WWII Jeeps were coming out of the Willys and Ford Plants at rate of one Jeep per one and a half minutes and by the end of the war over 700,000 had been built. The Americans had so many Jeeps that some German soldiers believed each American GI got his own Jeep as standard issue. In France, three American soldiers walked up to a guard post and told the sentry that they were lost. The Frenchman immediately told them to surrender and found that they were German soldiers in disguise. When he was asked how he knew, he replied that Americans always travel in Jeeps. Another example happened in Belgium when a guard ordered three German soldiers to surrender after he saw that a colonel was riding in the back seat. He explained later that if they were American that the officer would be driving and the infantryman would be in the backseat."
- The first Civilian Jeep was produced in 1944 by Willys-Overland. Designated as a CJ (Civilian Jeep), they retained the basic form and design of the Army Jeep until 1986, when it was revamped and became the Jeep Wrangler.
- There have been more than 74 different models of Jeeps through the years, including Army Jeeps and Civilian Jeeps. There are currently 6 models of Jeep in production. They include: the Jeep Wrangler, the Jeep Grand Cherokee, the Jeep Liberty, the Jeep Commander, the Jeep Compass, and the Jeep Patriot. There are 37 different Jeep concept vehicles.
- Ford tried to sue Willys for the Jeep naming rights, and lost. When Willys was sold, the name Jeep went with it. Therefore, Chrysler is now in possession of the Jeep name.



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EXERCISE CAN HALT AND EVEN REVERSE COGNITIVE DECLINE

Exercise can not only help you lose weight, it may also offer mental health benefits. Two new studies have shown that moderate physical activity undertaken during midlife may even guard against mild mental impairment. Mild cognitive impairment is a transition stage in cognitive decline that occurs with age and dementia. It may affect normal thinking, learning, reasoning, judgment and may cause other memory changes such as impaired language and attention.

In one study, scientists looked at 33 adults (17 women), aged 70, with mild cognitive impairment. The participants were divided into two groups: 23 were assigned to undertake high-intensity aerobics for 45-60 minutes a day, while the remaining 10 formed the controls who were asked to do simple stretching exercises with low heart rate. After 6 months, analysis of the data revealed those who performed the high intensity exercised showed improved cognitive function compared to the controls. The results of this study suggest that exercise also provides a cognitive benefit for some adults with mild cognitive impairment," the authors said. "Six months of a behavioral intervention involving regular intervals of increased heart rate was sufficient to improve cognitive performance for an at-risk group without the cost and adverse effects associated with most pharmaceutical therapies," they added.

A second study involving 1,324 dementia-free individuals found that moderate physical activity not only improves mild cognitive decline, it may also prevent the condition. Researchers studied the work-out habits of these participants who were asked to complete a physical exercise questionnaire from 2006-2008. Average age of the participants was 80 years. After the study period, a total of 198 participants were found to have developed mild cognitive impairment while 1,126 had normal cognition. It was found that those who undertook mild physical activity such as swimming, brisk walking, yoga, aerobics during midlife had a 39 percent reduced risk of developing mild cognitive impairment. On the other hand, those who undertook moderate physical activity in their later lives were 32 percent less likely to develop the condition. Both the studies appear in the Journal Archives of Neurology.

COLA UPDATE

Inflation climbed 0.5% in May, marking the ninth consecutive month the Consumer Price Index has risen. With four months left in the fiscal year, cumulative inflation stands at 3.4%. If that trend continues, retirees will be in line for a fairly substantial 2012 COLA.

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CHAPTER 57 VAMC PARTY PROGRAM

The schedule for this program, which is held in Building #2 at the Brockton VA Hospital on Belmont Street in Brockton, MA (Just off Route 24), is as follows;

July and August we are on Summer Break.

Next meeting will be September 27th

We meet at 6:00 – 6:15pm at the entrance to Building #2, the night of the program. Please join us in helping other veterans.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHAPTER 57'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUILDING FUND

This fund is to be used to cover administrative and building needs. It is totally separate from the Forget-Me-Not funds. We will put this column in each newsletter to recognize those that have contributed to this important fund. This drive is on going and our members are responding. Please consider donating to this fund.

CONTRIBUTORS

\$1 - \$100

Robert Leavitt for Building and Admin.

Anonymous for Building and Admin.



Chapter 57 is very grateful for the support of the Administrative and Building Fund. These donations not only help us to provide a place where our Service Officers assist veterans with their disability claims, but also gives us a place to interact with the wives and widows of our members, as well.

Your donations are needed on an ongoing basis to ensure we have a properly maintained home for OUR Chapter.

A letter has gone out to all Chapter Members regarding the Administrative and Building Fund. There will be more on this in the next issue of the news letter.

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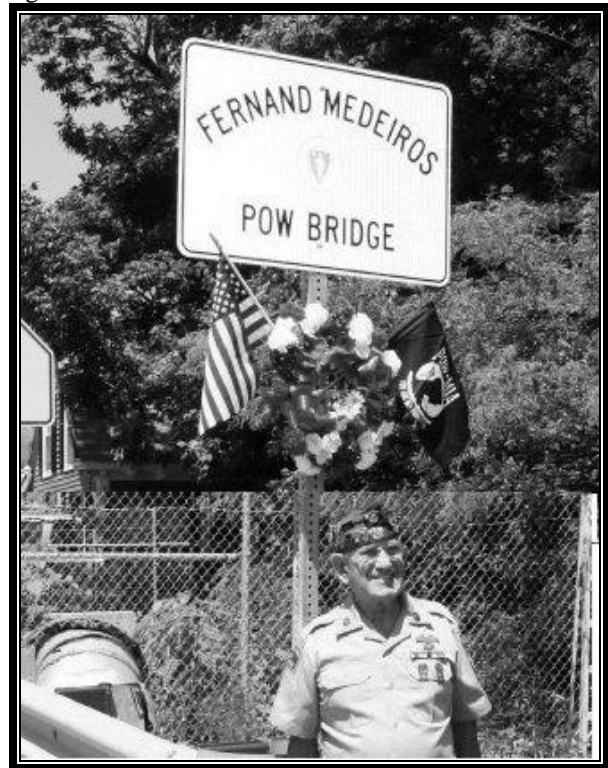
- * "A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul." ---George Bernard Shaw
- * "A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which debt he proposes to pay off with your money." ---G. Gordon Liddy
- * "No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session." ---Mark Twain
- * "If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free."---P.J. O'Rourke
- * "War is cruelty. There's no use trying to reform it, the crueler it is the sooner it will be over." ---William Tecumseh Sherman
- * "War is the remedy that our enemies have chosen, and I say let us give them all they want." --- General William T. Sherman
- * "Back in the thirties we were told we must collectivize the nation because the people were so poor. Now we are told we must collectivize the nation because the people are so rich." --- William F. Buckley, Jr.
- * "The income tax created more criminals than any other single act of government." --- Barry Goldwater.
- * "Give the American people a good cause, and there's nothing they can't lick."--- John Wayne
- * "Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."--- Billy Graham
- * "The framers of our Constitution meant we were to have freedom of religion, not freedom from religion." --- Billy Graham
- * "There is no such thing as a good tax." --- Winston Churchill
- * "When red-haired people are above a certain social grade their hair is auburn." --- Mark Twain
- * "About all I can say for the United States Senate is that it opens with a prayer and closes with an investigation." --- Will Rogers
- * "Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first." --- Mark Twain
- * "In the first place, God made idiots. That was for practice. Then he made school boards." --- Mark Twain
- * "It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt." --- Mark Twain
- * "Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate, now what's going to happen to us with both a House and a Senate?" --- Will Rogers
- * "We believe in the dignity of every life, the possibility of every mind, the divinity of every soul. This is our True North. --- Elizabeth Dole

CHAPTER 57 MEMBER FERNAND MEDEIROS HONORED WITH BRIDGE NAMED FOR HIM

One of Chapter 57's few active World War II members has a bridge named in his honor. Ferdie was an Army Ranger and assigned to Darby's Rangers. He was captured near Cisterna, Italy.

Two battalions began their infiltration on the night of 29-30 January. The enemy quickly detected them and by dawn had surrounded them with infantry and armor just outside Cisterna. In a desperate attempt to rescue the isolated units, the 4th Ranger Battalion repeatedly attacked the German lines throughout the morning but succeeded in losing half of its combat strength in the futile effort. About noon, the remnants of the 1st and 3rd surrendered. Only eight men escaped to American lines.

Ferdie's Bridge is the railroad bridge on Summer Street a short distance past the old Coyle High School. That is fitting since Ferdie graduated from there.



Fernand "Ferdie" Medeiros poses after unveiling the sign marking the bridge named in his honor.

He stressed in his speech that this bridge was dedicated to all the POW's. Congratulations Ferdie, you deserve this honor! We at Chapter 57 are all proud of you.

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Humorous Military Sayings

“We are not retreating—we are advancing in another direction.”

— General Douglas MacArthur

“Onward we stagger, and if the tanks come, may God help the tanks.”

— Col. William O. Darby, US Rangers

“Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake.”

— Napoleon Bonaparte

“The object of war is not to die for your country, but to make the other bastard die for his.”

— General George S. Patton

“When I lost my rifle, the Army charged me 85 dollars. That is why in the Navy the Captain goes down with the ship.”

— Dick Gregory

“Military justice is to justice what military music is to music.”

— Groucho Marx

Army food: The spoils of war.

— Unknown

“The military don't start wars. Politicians start wars.” — William Westmoreland

"It's awful hard to get people interested in corruption unless they can get some of it". - Will Rogers

“It's true hard work never killed anybody, but I figure, why take the chance?” – Ronald Reagan

MILITARY TRIVIA

- The American actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr. was given the British Distinguished Service Cross for commanding a flotilla of raiding craft for Admiral Louis Mountbatten's commandos during World War II.
- The great military leader Duke of Wellington, Napoleon's nemesis, was an accomplished yo-yo player. At the time, the yo-yo was known as a bandalore.
- Emil R. Goldfus of Brooklyn, New York was in reality Colonel Rudolf Abel, the Soviet intelligence agent convicted of spying on 1957, who was exchanged for downed American U-2 reconnaissance pilot Francis Gary Powers in 1962.
- The first war in which soldiers wore machine-made uniforms was the American Civil War.
- At the Battle of the Marne in 1914, French reinforcements rushed from Paris to the front in order to help fend off the advancing Germans in commandeered Renault taxis. Each cabbie was paid a 27% tip on top of his metered fare.
- The army of Persian king Xerxes I crossed the Hellespont--the strait between Europe and Asia--in 480 B.C. on two bridges of boats. Alexander the Great duplicated the feat 146 years later.
- 10,000 pounds (50 tons) of feed were consumed daily by the 5,000 horses that pulled the artillery for Napoleon's Army of the North in 1815. That comes to 20 pounds per horse.

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