

Shotgun Blasts



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The Chaplain's Corner

We will celebrate our nation's 234th birthday.....

By The Faux Chaplain

In just a few days, on the 4th of July, we will celebrate our nation's 234th birthday. It was just a bit more than two and one third centuries ago that the United States of America was born. A nation based on the ideals of liberty, responsibility, Godliness, and the freedom to become what God intended us to become was a new and revolutionary idea.

The celebration of our nation's birthday is, in reality, a celebration of freedom. We celebrate the precious gift of freedom we have because of the price others paid. We must always remember that freedom isn't free. Freedom is very expensive. It has cost some people everything, including their lives. No, freedom isn't free but it is infinitely valuable.

continued on page 2

Reunion 2011

Thoughts for the event.....

By Don Smith, Shotgun 8A, '65 – '66

Not a lot of news to report regarding the reunion at the current time. We have contacted some hotels in San Antonio and they are in the process of putting together some quotations and special room pricing for us. Next step in the process will be to visit the hotels and determine if they can actually meet our needs.

A few of us from the "Texas Contingent" will be in San Antonio during July and we will do our best to select a facility appropriate to the needs and desires of participants. We will keep you posted on what we learn.

Please stay in touch with Reunion Committee members and let them know what you want.



I want YOU at Reunion 2011!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** The Chaplain's Corner
- 1** Reunion 2011
- 3** Calendar of Events
- 3** Announcements
- 4** Ramblings by Frank Allen

Shotgun Blasts

Assembled By Don Smith, Shotgun-8A

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The idea of freedom is an idea that our forefathers believed valuable enough to risk everything for. They risked their fortunes, their families, their reputations, and their honor. They risked their lives and many of them paid for our freedom with their blood and the blood of their children.

As we worship in security and comfort across this great nation, we do so because thousands of young men and women have shed their blood and given their lives on foreign soil. They died in forsaken places with names not remembered so that we could know the joy and responsibility of freedom. In fact, in the past few weeks several young Americans have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can taste the fruit of freedom that is borne by the tree of liberty. On November 13, 1787, Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to William Smith wrote, "the tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants" No, freedom is not free. The price is always paid in blood.

The blood that was shed by young Americans in the past few weeks and months is not the first time blood was shed for freedom. The blood spilled on battlefields called Concord, Charleston and York Town was not the first time blood was shed for freedom. Some 2,000 years ago a young man's blood spilled upon the ground so that we could all experience freedom.

Jesus came to bring us freedom. As Christians we believe He is the Son of God. In John 8:34-36 Jesus says:
³⁴Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

We will soon celebrate our independence from tyranny and bondage to an oppressive government, an independence won over 200 years ago. But should we not, on a daily basis celebrate our independence from the tyranny and bondage of guilt, sin, fear, and death; an independence that was won more than 2,000 years ago? Should we not celebrate and discover the depth of an independence that will last for all eternity?

For the vacationing Ned Moore

*Mankind has a perfect record in aviation;
we never left anyone up there!*

Letters to the Editor

Friday, June 4, 2010

By the way, has there been any interest in a "Letters to the Editor" section?

Fran McGraw

Yours was the first mention of said section, Fran, I think it is a great idea and I hope that some of the other folks that read the Blasts will participate.

Ed.

Send your "letters" or comments to shotgunblasts@live.com.

We are not limited by space, in fact, we need to fill these pages every month.

**Your
letter,
comment
or
event
could be right here.**

*"Flying an aeroplane with only a single
propeller to keep you in the air. Can you
imagine that?"*

Captain Picard from
'Star Trek: The Next Generation'
Episode 'Booby Trap'

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Independence Day

JULY 4

2010 AIRVENTURE

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

JULY 26 – AUGUST 1

The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration

ALL BIRD DOG UNIT REUNION

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

SEPTEMBER 9 - 12

For details contact john.fischer@worldnet.att.net

IBDA BIRD DOG 60TH BIRTHDAY ROUNDUP

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 15 - 19

ARMY OTTER-CARIBOU ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNION

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

OCTOBER 6 - 10

www.221st.org

I know that all of you are familiar with the address shown above for the 221st RAC (or Aviation Company as many of us knew it). This excellent site was and has been the work of only one person, our own Monte Caylor.

Not only did Monte do the research, compile the information and enter it in his computer but he did it all at no expense to the members of the 221st.

It has become increasingly more costly to maintain the site and Monte is no longer receiving some of the services that he initially received at no cost. He has been limited in his ability to do mass e-mail delivery and to continue to add to the site.

All this may be overcome by a few small contributions from members that want to see this site continue to be the best in its class. If you wish to help with this great project you can contact either Monte at mecal@chsi.com or me at shotgunblasts@live.com.

Don

I Want to be a Pilot

I want to be a pilot when I grow up because it's fun and easy to do. Pilots don't need much school, they just have to learn numbers so they can read instruments. I guess they should be able to read maps so they can find their way if they are lost. Pilots should be brave so they won't be scared if it's foggy and they can't see or if a wing or a motor falls off they should stay calm so they'll know what to do.

Pilots need to have good eyes so they can see through clouds and they can't be afraid of lightning or thunder because they are closer to them than we are. The salary pilots make is another thing I like; they make more money than they can spend; this is because most people think airplane flying is dangerous except pilots don't because they know how easy it is.

There isn't much I don't like, except girls like pilots and all the stewardesses want to marry them so they always have to chase them away so they won't bother them. I hope I don't get airsick because if I do I couldn't be a pilot and I would have to go to work for a living!

Anonymous 5th Grader

."I cannot imagine anyone looking at the sky and denying God."

Abraham Lincoln

Ramblings

A young man's moment dashed.....

By Frank Allen, Shotgun 3, March '66 – March '67

This has nothing to do with the few times I got to actually participate in the war because we "Headquarters Weenies" weren't let out of our cages very often. It is a rather funny remembrance of the foolishness of young men, even if they are in a war zone.

Every young man back in those days had a "fantasy dream girl". Mine was Ann Margaret! I saw every movie she made and had all sorts of fanciful thoughts about someday meeting her for real.

Boy was I excited. We were next up for a USO show visit from Ann Margaret!!!! She was going to do a show in the Soc Trang Tigers hangar and we had worked all morning moving the flatbed truck, that George Tracy had managed to get from someplace, into the hangar so the band and Miss Margaret would have a stage for the show.

I don't know who made the decision but I was informed that I was to have the honor of escorting Miss Margaret from the hooch she was to use as a dressing room to the hangar and stage. You would have thought I had been designated King for a Day. I could just hear the guys yelling cat calls as I took her arm and escorted her up on stage.

I took a cold shower, put on a fresh set of jungle fatigues, and even dabbed a little shoe polish on my jungle boots. I was going to make a real impression on the beautiful star.

See, I figured that if I was to be her official escort, I would get the chance to have a real conversation with her on the way to the site of the show.

Well, I took the jeep and cleaned it up a bit, then drove to the designated hooch to pick up and Margaret. I knocked politely on the door and waited with bated breath for her to appear. I could just see that gorgeous lady all decked out in that skimpy outfit she had been wearing in the advertisements for her show that had been in the Tiger's Den for days.

As the door opened I got the disappointment of my

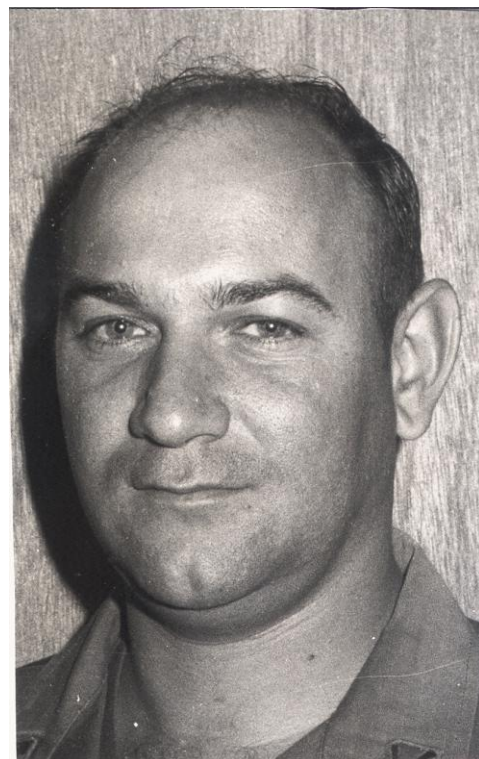
young life. No Ann Margaret, **BUT HER MANAGER**. This guy must have been six foot six and weighed about two hundred and fifty pounds. "Are you the driver Lieutenant?" He asked. Well, I must have had the most shocked look he had ever seen as he started laughing and said "Cheer up young man; I will make sure she doesn't bite you if you promise to drive carefully."

When Ann Margaret finally appeared, she was covered from shoulders to her feet in a silk robe to hide her costume; got in the back seat of the seep; didn't say a word and rode all the way to the hangar in silence. She exited the jeep, with the help of her manager and went to the stage, and I never got to say one word to her!

The years have healed my boyish ego. I am sure I expected some small token of acknowledgement like a hand shake or even a peck on the cheek as I walked her up on stage, but nothing – **JUST A CHAUFFER!**

It took a few scotches that night to drown my disappointment!!!!

Frank





4th of July

**Contributed By: Herb Phillips, Shotgun 10A
Sep '65 – 'Sep 66**

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

- Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists.
- Eleven were merchants.
- Nine were farmers and large plantation owners;

Men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. Nelson quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: **Freedom is never free!**

