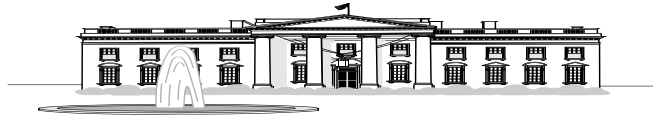


"The Aiguillette"

The Society of White House Military Aides

Summer 2015



May 29, 2015

Chairman's Report – Summer of 2015

Dear Society Members and fellow White House Military Aides,

1. New Structure

This last year has been the one which I will look back on someday as the most important of the twenty-five (25) years since our founding day. The importance is vested not in my actions or any momentous event of the Society but rather that we chose to strengthen our Society and build a succession of leaders for the future, ensuring that the Society remains strong and sought after in the year 2040, as it has for the last 25 years. Towards that end Nixon/Johnson Aide Mr. Andy Lawrence, and Johnson Aides AMB Abelardo Valdez and COL (Ret.) Roger McNamara are to be greatly thanked for their vision in putting this new Advisor structure together. They created both a statement of "Core Ethical Values" which follows, and the "Organization and Rules" which are the Society's Bylaws. This newsletter is about those eight (8) Advisors who now have equal votes and distinct responsibilities for the Society, in addition to mine. Their backgrounds and goals in addition to the accomplishments of our Honorary Chairman and Chairwoman begin on pg. 3.

A special tribute to ADM Chuck Larson (Nixon) is posted at pgs. 18–19.

2. Events

The Christmas event sold out in 2+ days, a record for us, and The Marine Parade in 3+ days with near 80 requesting attendance, as many as we have had for such an event with the exception of the three (3) Sequoia events. Thank you for that support.



Russian Chess: "White's Queen to c1, checkmate"

The Armenian Deputy Chief of the General Staff, American embassy Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) and COL Tony Sebo (Bush '43) at a briefing. That is a poker face if ever I've seen one.

3. Lifetime Members

We would like to welcome seventeen (17) new Lifetime members, bringing us to a total of 169, they are: **CAPT Joker L. Jenkins (Clinton)**, **Mr. G. Andrew Lawrence (Johnson, Nixon)**, **Dr. Jill A. Lindstrom (Clinton)**, **LT Andrew Lynch (Bush '43)**, **LT COL Anne K. Blas (Clinton, Bush '43)**, **CAPT Nelson Davis, (Reagan)**, **Ms. Laura Dogger (Obama)**, **MAJ Moe Liu (Obama)**, **CAPT Lionel "Parker" Perkins, III (Clinton)**, **CPT (Ret.) Gerald F. Richman (Johnson, Nixon)**, **CDR (JAG) Scott Suozzi (Clinton, Bush '43)**, **LCDR Shaun Vaccaro (Bush '43, Obama)**, **CAPT Sandra J. Wardwell (Bush '43)**, **CDR (Ret.) Jaymie Durnan (Reagan)**, **CAPT Matthew Broniec (Clinton)**, **AMB Abelardo Valdez (Johnson)** and **CAPT Wes Huey (Clinton Presidential Aide, son-in-law of ADM (Ret.) Larson)**. This is a record number for us other than the 1st year, our previous record was thirteen (13). We also welcome **Maj Gen (Ret.) Marcelite Harris as our Sr. Air Force Advisor**. Marcy is a Trustee Emeritus who served as senior female officer in the Air Force; later Florida, Site Director, Logistics, NASA; and is currently on the Board of Visitors USAFA. Welcome Marcy!

4. Founding of Society

Finally, I would like to thank my mother Bernardine who gave so unselfishly of her time for 20 years as she and I founded this Society in 1991, and **LTC (Ret.) Bill Sinnott (Carter/Reagan)**, **COL (Ret.) Veronica (Sandra to me) Richardson (Clinton)**, **CAPT (Ret.) Sid Rodgers (Reagan)** and **COL (Ret.) Roger McNamara (Johnson)** who have stood by this Society and me, never wavered or blinked as we withstood the challenges of two (2) wars, my mother's death, and then what I would like to call the "War Fever" environment of Washington DC. This type of character is extremely rare and to be admired, that they not only rode the bucking horse, but made a friend of that horse, which would be me!

I end with a few comments from members about our Society:

"It was an honor and privilege to be an Aide, and it is an honor and privilege to be a Lifetime member of the Society"
--Mr. Alan Merten (Johnson - AF) President Emeritus, George Mason University

"You are doing a fantastic job on keeping the society going. Your actions and those of others have helped make the position of social aide very relevant."
--Maj Gen (Ret.) Marcelite Harris (Carter - AF)

"I appreciate your comment and remain proud to be part of a unique family of military service members."
--Mr. Leroy Collins (Reagan/Bush '41 - CG)

"I'm sure I'm one of many emails in your in-box to express unconditional support for what you and the other Advisors have done! And thank you also for keeping us so well informed. This is a great society and I'm truly grateful for what all of you have put in for this!"
--LT COL Anne Blas (Clinton/Bush 43 - AF)



God Bless you, our soldiers at war, and the United States of America!

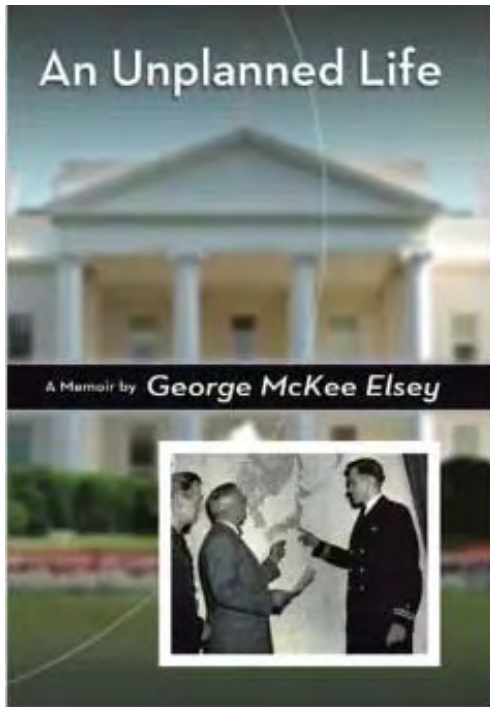
Kenn Riordan, Jr.

Kenn Riordan, Jr., MAJ USA (Ret.)
Founder and Chairman

"It pays to have big and important friends" -
Lonnie McAlister III, son of Avis (Clinton), a natural born leader, gathers his squad together in advance of return to the Marine Barracks in year 2030 as Marine Officer/ White House Social Aide.

Honorary Chairman and Chairwoman

Our Honorary Chairman and Chairwoman are people of great distinction and I want to introduce you to them so you understand their backgrounds better.



Ensign Elsey briefs President Truman

Mr. George McKee Elsey (Roosevelt and Truman)

At the age of 24 after graduating from Princeton, U. S. Naval Reserve Ensign George Elsey assumed duties in the White House Map Room, today we call this the Situation Room, where he briefed President Roosevelt and senior White House staff on the conduct of the War. He also served as Secretariat for exchanges with Winston Churchill (who Elsey later escorted in Canada during a meeting with war leaders), Joseph Stalin, and Chiang Kai-shek. Later he became a civilian aide to President Truman, decoded the message from Secretary of War Henry Stimson reporting the dropping of the Atomic bomb on Hiroshima, and authored the point paper for the formation of NATO. George went on to work for Clark Clifford during the Vietnam War and then served for 14 years as President of the American Red Cross. He is one of the earliest and strongest supporters of our Society, and perhaps the most impressive man I have met, with among other abilities, a photographic memory.

Mrs. Gahl Hodges Burt

Although many of our members know Gahl as Mrs. Reagan's Social secretary, she has an extraordinary and remarkable record of service to a number of America's greatest leaders during historic events. Never was that more true than now. She served as personal assistant to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as well as Cyrus Vance. Later she was present at the historic speech of President Reagan at the Berlin Wall when he said "Mr. Gorbachev, Tear down this wall", as wife to the American Ambassador to Germany. In 1997 she co-founded with AMB Richard Holbrook *The American Academy in Berlin*. She has been an

observer twice for the elections in the Ukraine and her husband AMB Martin Sean Indyk is the Vice President and Director for Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution, most recently serving as the U.S. Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations. Based on activities I was involved in while working in Russian and Ukraine, we have had some very interesting conversations. She is a very loyal and steadfast supporter of our humble Society. I have never called her to help and been turned away. Extraordinary and pretty woman!



L-R: AMB Indyk, Gahl Hodges Burt, Secretary of State Clinton, and son

I don't know how you would improve on these two as Honorary Chairpersons, but perhaps we don't need to!

Our New Advisors



L-R: Exec. Secretary: CAPT (Ret.) Rodgers, Advisors: Mr. Pitcher, Mr. Johnson, Chairman Riordan, COL (Ret.) Richardson, LTC Brown, LTC (Ret.) Sinnott, AMB Valdez, COL (Ret.) McNamara at the Congressional Country Club

Advisors 1st Meeting – The Congressional

2015 marks the 25th year that the Society of White House Military Aides has brought military aides together, growing from a mailing list of 40 aides to more than 600 today. One hundred sixty-nine (169) have paid for Lifetime Membership, more than 1/2 the paid membership, 43 within the last 2+ years, and over 500 individuals paying dues during that time. We have escorted 3000 members and guests on a private tour of the Christmas White House, with a total of over 5000 attending our various events.

In the Spring, a small group of senior aides met to consider what we should do to create an enduring structure for the next 25 more years, less dependent on 1 or 2 key individuals, increasing those involved with planning events and making decisions, and the number of younger aides involved, who are our future leaders. We decided that the current Trustees, 5 of 9 of whom are either very senior in years but also in their wisdom, 3 of whom now live in Florida, would be declared as Trustee's Emeritus and retained as part of the Society's family.

Johnson Aides COL (Ret.) Roger McNamara, AMB Abelardo Valdez, and Nixon/Johnson Aide Mr. Andy Lawrence met with me at the historic Hays Adams Hotel to develop this structure. From that has come a decision to choose 9 "Advisors" including myself, a statement of "Core Ethical Values", and "Organizational and Policies" which have been approved by all Advisors to "Guide us, thy sons (and daughters), aright". The Advisors were chosen in sequence by agreement of all the selected Advisors with COL McNamara, AMB Valdez and I in turn choosing LTC Kelly Brown (Clinton / Bush '43) and the four of us in turn LTC (Ret.) William Sinnott (Carter / Reagan), COL (Ret.) Veronica Richardson (Clinton), Mr. Dave Pitcher (Nixon), Mr. Rusty Johnson (Carter) and LTC (Ret.) Art Gorman. All five (5) services are represented, and the Sr. Service Directors remain in place. As I interviewed each of these impressive people, my first question was "Do you agree that the major purpose of the Society should be social, and not professional or political", and without hesitation, they responded "Yes, social". That is a critical component of our original mission statement and of our organization moving into the future.

My duties as Chairman and Founder will continue as I coordinate these various activities listed above, supervise administration, collect dues, and update the website, in addition to planning and executing our annual meeting in December. Assisting me is COL (Ret.) Gary Smith (Reagan) as Treasurer, a position held since 2001, and Ms. Nancy Chapman as Administrator since 2011, who are both in Colorado Springs, our mailing address. CAPT (Ret.) Sidney Rodgers (Reagan) has been appointed to the position of Executive Secretary, recording minutes of the meetings and assisting in execution of same. Gary was an Army Air Defender who commanded at the 05 level, and is currently with the Boeing Company. Sid was a Navy Medical Service Corps officer, commanding at the 05 level, and served as Executive Assistant to the Navy Surgeon General for 4 years in various capacities. Nancy is the best and most dedicated Administrator I have ever seen, period.

Advisor Resumes and Goals

Our first meeting was held courtesy of Rusty Johnson at the legendary Congressional Country Club in Bethesda. Veronica led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Kennedy Aide Don Kentopp related the James Bond like activities of OSS (predecessor of the CIA) agent Walter Mess, our Regimental Colonel, beginning with his night jump into Czechoslovakia in 1938, and then the meeting began as spouses/guests toured the club. Each Advisor summarized his background, highlights as White House Military Aide, and vision in their area of responsibility for the next 2 years. Chairman Riordan concluded with lessons learned (primarily that administration has to be done by a permanent professional staff, not volunteers), an update on interviews of members for a documentary, and a sincere thanks to those stepping forward to move this incorporated entity forward, an initiative which he and his mother created from "Ground 0" twenty-five (25) years ago.



AMB Abelardo Valdez (Honorary Advisor) - Strategic Vision, History of the White House Military Aide.

Ambassador Abelardo L. Valdez served as U. S. Ambassador and Chief of Protocol for the White House and as Assistant Administrator of the U. S. Agency for International Development under President Jimmy Carter. He served as a military social aide to President Lyndon Johnson from 1965 to 1967. He has been a partner in two international law firms and served as a director of several corporations and banks, as well as a trustee of The American University and several business, educational and professional organizations. Ambassador Valdez was elected President of the Council of American Ambassadors and served in that capacity from 2010 to 2012. He is currently President Emeritus and Founder of the Council's Fellowship Program, which trains undergraduates for careers in diplomacy and international affairs. Ambassador Valdez received his LL.M. degree from Harvard Law School,

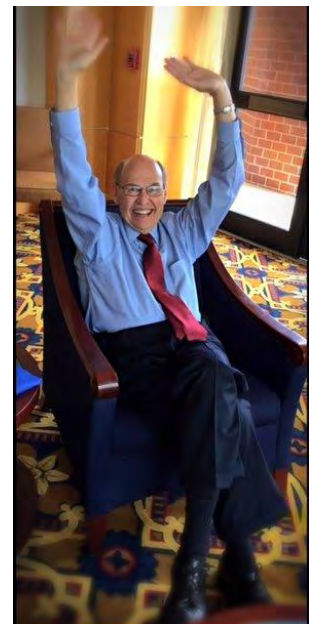
J.D. from Baylor Law School and pursued graduate studies at the Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands. He received a B. S. degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A and M, and was Cadet Lt. Colonel in the Corps of Cadets. He has received several awards and decorations for his public service, including the Order of Isabel La Catolica from King Juan Carlos of Spain, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Baylor University, and the Founder's Award from the American G. I. Forum and the Chairman's Award from the Council of American Ambassadors.

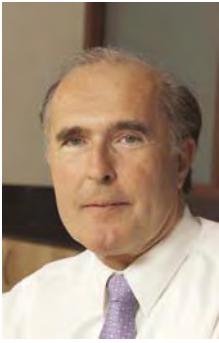
My goal as an advisor is to preserve and promote the history of the White House Military Aides by working closely with the White House Historical Association. The role of the aides is not well known or understood by the public or even by guests of the President, despite the fact that military aides have served every president since George Washington. An important element of the Society's mission is to enlighten the public about the role of military social aides to the President of the United States and preserve their history in the archives of the Association.

COL (Ret.) Roger McNamara - Ethics and Rules.

Roger is a USMA graduate and Johnson Social Aide. He joined the Air Force and flew air missions around Cuba. During two tours in Vietnam, he flew numerous "Moonshine" missions, dropping flares from C-47's to protect ground troops from night attacks, and O-2 "Covey" Forward Air Controller "tree-top" missions over N. Vietnam, locating enemy targets for fighter aircraft. Later, he graduated from law school and became an AF JAG, serving in Spain and the Pentagon, and later as Pentagon Assistant General Counsel (Ethics), Navy and as the Air Force and NASA top Ethics Counsel. His wife, Sally, is delightful and is a Healthcare Compliance Executive and Chair, Advisory Board of the Ohio University College of Communications, Sciences, Disorders, and Rehab.

My goals are to emphasize the absolute importance of Ethics to the Society; to monitor any legal activities involving our members; and, to ensure full compliance with any laws applicable to our organization.





Mr. Dave Pitcher and Mr. Walter "Rusty" Johnson - Spring Event and New Event Venues.

Dave was a Social Aide to President Nixon for three years and at the same time served as a military lawyer assigned to the Cost of Living Council with Donald Rumsfeld as Director. He graduated from the University of Michigan with an engineering degree and Syracuse University with a law degree, and then became a Navy JAG Officer. He currently specializes in intellectual property law (patents, trademarks, copyrights) as senior partner with the Washington law firm of Staas & Halsey LLP. He has hosted no less than 3 events for the Society the last two years which were really enjoyable like the Washington Nationals game. His wife Ainslie achieved the rank of CAPT in the USPHS, as deputy director of nutrition at NIH, and enjoys attending our events.

Rusty Johnson served as a Carter Social Aide. He is a Texan and 3/8ths Cherokee Indian, and graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1974. He served a tour on board an ocean going Buoy Tender in Alaska, and sailed on the USCGC Eagle on three separate occasions. He has been a Financial Advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors for 33 years, with 21 of those years as a Branch Manager. His wife Jennifer and Rusty are very loyal and longstanding members.



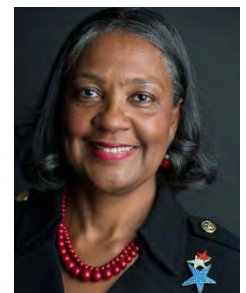
The Spring Event committee goals for this year are to identify out for a three-year period a list of possible society spring event venues that would be interesting for the broad range of society members and their families, subject to reasonable costs for the event. Among the venues on the preliminary list are a possible event either at the Lincoln Cottage and related conference center here in Washington or a guided tour of the Gettysburg U.S. military park with chartered bus from D.C. The possible spring venues will be submitted to the society board and advisors for consideration. Suggestions for possible Spring event venues are welcome from the society members in general. Preliminary investigation and final selection for 2016 will likely occur at the end of this year.



LTC (Ret.) William (Bill) Q. Sinnott and COL (Ret.) Veronica S. Richardson - White House Christmas Tour.

Bill served as a Social Aide to Presidents Carter and Reagan. He is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, was commissioned thru the OCS and had a distinguished career as a logistics officer, serving in the US, Vietnam, Germany, and Korea. He has held various defense related positions in private industry, and served for 2 1/2 years in the Green Zone in Baghdad, Iraq in a logistics capacity as a civilian. Bill has been with the Society since its second year and contributed significantly to the execution of many events. His wife Jude is an enthusiastic supporter of the Society.

Veronica served as a Clinton Social Aide. She graduated from Tuskegee University and served in the Army for 29 years and commanded at the O6 level after attending the Army War College. She held the position of Chief Financial Management Officer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She was appointed in 2009 as Deputy Under Secretary (Resource Issues) in the Office of Secretary of Defense for the current administration. Veronica has been one of our most loyal supporters and can be depended on to execute any assigned duty flawlessly with minimum instruction, which can also be said of Bill.



Planning is already underway for the 2015 and 2016 Christmas tours. An initial survey of adviser preferences for future Christmas Tours was conducted during our Annual Meeting on 20 Dec 2014 at the Congressional County Club. Due to time constraints and ongoing activities at that time, not all adviser preferences were received. Our survey will be re-sent to all advisers in mid-May allowing each adviser the opportunity to re-affirm earlier preferences and / or update their desired assembly venues for the Christmas tours. Primary venues currently under consideration for the upcoming 2015 Christmas tour currently include: the recently refurbished White House Visitor's Center (also used for the 2014 tour), the Decatur House (site for the 2013 tour assembly), the Occidental Bar & Grill (previous site on several occasions), the W Hotel (formerly the Hotel Washington and a previous site) and the Marriott Hotel (another prior assembly site). Primary considerations are location, cost and on-site refreshments if desired. Subsequent to assembly site selection,

availability confirmation, and a review of current capacity and services available, we will tentatively schedule the facility for our use and work with staff to ensure the necessary and suitable services are provided or arranged. Site selection for 2015 will influence the assembly site selected for 2016, ensuring sufficient variety to sustain interest and address other board member venue preferences.

LTC (Ret.) Arthur V. Gorman, Jr. - Professional Networks.

In 1981, at the age of 27, he was selected for duty at Marine Barracks 8th & I and later served as a military aide in the Reagan White House. Art Gorman is a Brooklyn native and the oldest of four children. Upon graduation from College, Art was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. From 1976 to 1980, he held various training and operational assignments in Quantico, Virginia; Camp LeJeune, North Carolina; and Okinawa, Japan. Command and staff assignments led him around the globe, including tours of duty in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Operation Desert Storm, and combat operations in Somalia, Africa in Operation Restore Hope. As Principal Advisor to the Secretary of Defense, he was the senior Department of Defense representative for government-to-government negotiations relating to the POW/MIA issue in Vietnam, Laos, Korea, and Iraq. In his final tour of duty, he was Assistant Secretary of the General Staff at Headquarters Marine Corps in the Pentagon.



In 1997, upon successful completion an active duty Marine Corps career spanning nearly 21 years, he began his Wall Street career and joined Merrill Lynch. He is currently the Chief Operating Officer for Public Finance at the Merrill Lynch World headquarters here in New York. He is a graduate of Brooklyn Prep High School, holds a bachelor's degree from Saint Francis College, a master's degree Georgetown University's Graduate School of Business, and is a graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. Art has also attended Executive Education at Harvard Business School. Art currently resides in New York City with his wife, Eileen McAleer MD and three children Frances, Maggie and Trip.

We are proposing the formation of a: "Linkedin Group" The Group will be titled "Society of White House Military Aides" The group will be made up of former WH Social Aides and the mission of the group will be to assist past and recent Aides to possibly offer assistance transitioning, changing jobs or relocating or for that matter just reconnecting. We will follow normal Linkedin procedures for establishing and joining our proposed group with the Board of the Society being decision makers for final membership approval. This is not a substitute for the Society but a venue for professional discussion and possibly regional get togethers. I propose initiating the group in July 2015 so we will have a small core of members by the Fall. My email address is ArtGorman@gmail.com if anyone has any specific input.



LTC Kelly Brown - Outreach to Younger Aides.

Kelly or "Blackhawk" as she is known to some, is a 1995 USMA graduate who served as a Clinton and George W. Bush Social Aide, while also serving in the President's Emergency Operations Center. She is a Blackhawk helicopter pilot with combat tours in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. A National War College graduate, Kelly is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Business Administration degree with a specialization in Homeland Security. Currently assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Kelly will begin a one year tour in July with the new Chief of Staff of the Army as a Strategic Studies Group Fellow. Kelly became a SWHMA life member during her time at the White House and knows first hand how rewarding participation in the Society can be for former or currently serving Aides.

Kelly's Outreach efforts will focus on "younger" aides - those currently serving in the White House to those who left the White House within the past five years. Those who join the SWHMA are afforded the opportunity to build and maintain an impressive social and professional network of our Services' finest officers. The Outreach Committee will host a number of events geared toward the interests of the Society's next generation of leaders. Be on the lookout for these exciting initiatives. If you would like to be a member of Kelly's team or would like to recommend a friend, don't hesitate to contact her at kcoppin@att.net or 202-904-8521.

SOCIETY OF WHITE HOUSE MILITARY AIDE (SWHMA)

CORE ETHICAL VALUES 2015

Thanks to COL (Ret.) Roger McNamara Trustee Emeritus and Current Advisor

1. Members make an ethical difference and always strive to do the right thing. If unsure or in doubt, seek information from others. A list of SWHMA members and their contact information is at the website: <http://swhma.org>.
2. Members will go above mere compliance with laws, rules and regulations and take the high road. Members avoid even the appearance of impropriety.
3. Members are held to the highest standards of ethical conduct to include:
 - Respect for others. Stand in their shoes to get their perspectives.
 - Do unto others as we would have them do unto us.
 - Integrity – having the fortitude to do what is right even when no one is watching.
 - We do not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those that do.

RELATED COMMENTS

1. The SWHMA is a social organization. It is not a professional, business or political organization.
2. As with anything, improvement can always be made. Members can contact another member of our group to discuss any changes to these Ethical Values. Do not be timid – speak up. Our society welcomes your views and recommendations for improvement.
3. If you believe any violation of the Core Ethical Values has occurred, discuss it with the involved individual or a member of our group.
4. Violations of Core Ethical Values by members shall be referred to the Board of Advisors for review, discussion and action as appropriate up to revocation of membership if warranted and supported by facts.

Advisors Meet at the Congressional CC



Rusty Johnson and Jennifer, our host



Mary Stuart Price recognized for her contributions as Trustee by Kenn



Rusty's lovely daughter



Roger and Sally McNamara recognized for their sterling support



Studie reacts to receiving a picture of the White House



Rusty receives Andy Warhol picture of the Statue of Liberty, original is in the Oval Office

December 20, 2014 White House Christmas Tour

On December 20th, 2014, one hundred and fifty society members and guests gathered at the recently renovated White House Visitors Center on Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC in preparation for this year's White House Christmas Tour. The weather was excellent, traffic cooperative, and smiles on the faces of participants revealed all were in the Christmas spirit. The Visitor's Center had just completed a \$12.5 million dollar make over that added a theatre, an expanded White House Historical Society Gift Shop, and many new interactive touch screen and artifact exhibits. After checking in and receiving name tags, military aides and guests enjoyed the movie, exhibits and gift shop and caught up with friends. The new 14 minute video provided an overview of life in the White House as seen through the eyes of former President's and First Ladies and an excellent introduction to the White House we would see during our tour. At 1430, all participants gathered for an official welcome by our Founding Chairman Kenn Riordan, Jr., some administrative announcements and several awards. Recognition awards were presented by Kenn to the "youngest" aide present, the "senior" aide present, and the aide who travelled the farthest to attend the function.

The youngest aide award went to CAPT Brooke A. Robinson (Obama), USAFR.

The senior aide award was presented to CAPT (Ret.) John Paul (Kennedy /Johnson).

The aide who travelled the furthest was LT COL Tony Haught (Bush '43), who travelled from Albuquerque, NM.

Upon completion of the awards, society members departed in three groups for our official entry into the White House at 1530 hours.

The Christmas theme for the White House for 2014 was "A Children's Winter Wonderland - Holiday's at the White House 2014" and the message encouraged all to view the White House and its storied rooms through the eyes of a child.

As we entered the White House, we were treated to the fresh fragrant scents of cedar and pine filling the air with the warmth of the season. The East Entrance landing honored America's troops, veterans, their families and our fallen, with those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation honored with a gold star ornament on the first tree within the White House. We were offered the opportunity and encouraged to write a note thanking our service members and sending holiday wishes to men and women serving overseas. Life-sized animated replicas of Bo and Sunny, the First Family's dogs, greeted visitors as we walked along the East Garden Room. The White House crèche adorned the East Room as it has for over 50 years during the Christmas Season. In the East Room, The Asbury String Quartet from Greencastle, Indiana brightened the holiday with their Christmas favorites. A highlight of the State Dining room was the traditional 300-pound gingerbread house with skating rink, marzipan sleigh and reindeer. A gingerbread house has graced the State Dining Room every Christmas season since the 1960's. As our tour was coming to an end and we began departing the White House through the Cross Hall and Grand Foyer, we were treated to gleaming icicles dripping from four topiary trees and lush garland trim spread throughout the area. The Cross Hall and Grand Foyer were absolutely beautiful and White House volunteers assisted all who desired a photo beneath the White House Crests prior to our departure. It was a very special day for all.

We would like to thank Bill Sinnott, Veronica Richardson, and Avis McAllister for coordinating this event.

December 20, 2014 White House Christmas Tour



Rusty, Jennifer, & Austin Johnson (Carter) along with Kathryn and Joseph Cottone



S. Veronica Richardson (Clinton)



Dave Pitcher (Nixon)



CAPT (Ret.) Jeff Greene (Reagan), wife Joan, and guests



The McAllister family (Clinton)



Very happy guest with lovely wife

December 20, 2014 White House Christmas Tour



LtCol (Ret.) Frank Hood (Bush '41, Clinton) and family



CAPT (Ret.) N.C. Davis (Reagan) and lovely guest



Nicole Fish (Bush '43, Obama) and guest
Wendy Driver (Bush '43)



Bill (Carter, Reagan) and Mary Sinnott along with guests Cynthia
and Eugene



MAJ/Dr. Robert Carter II (Obama) and family



Avis McAllister (Clinton), Kelly Brown (Clinton), and
Gabrielle Vorst

December 20, 2014 White House Christmas Tour



Gabrielle Vorst and guest



Bill Sinnott (Reagan) and Nicole Fish



William and Helga Epley, USMA
classmate of Kenn Riordan



Anne Blas (Clinton, Bush '43) and guests



Member with happy guests



Brooke Robinson (Obama) is presented WHHA
earrings as youngest aide present

December 20, 2014 White House Christmas Tour



Avis McAllister, Sara and Roger McNamara (Johnson), and Veronica



Winner of the trivia question about Lincoln's Cottage is given Mike Bohn's (Nixon) book



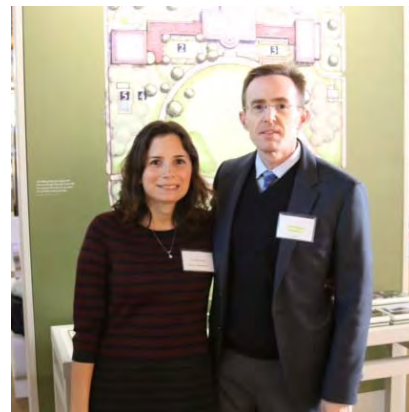
CAPT (Ret.) "Sid" Rogers (Reagan)
with million dollar smile



Sr. Aide present, Judge John Paul (Kennedy, Johnson)



LTC Tony Haught (Bush '43) travelled the furthest from Albuquerque, NM and receives WHHA cuff links



LTC (Ret.) Paul DiDomenico (Clinton)

Marine Parade



March On!

Perfect weather, perfect company, perfect parade is what I heard repeatedly from our 70+ members and guests! It was one of those magical evenings we have from time to time with our Society, the last being the Washington Nats game two Mays ago. It is my fourth time to this Parade, and I am still amazed by what those Marines do, not only no dropped weapons with M1 bayoneted rifles, but I did not see a single mistake in the over (1) hour plus show.

Our senior aides were Johnson aides AMB Lalo Valdez, COL (Ret.) Roger McNamara, and COL (Ret.) "Iron Mike" McGowan, who spoke at our event 10+ years ago about dancing with his future wife Rita in the Center House. Our recently installed Advisors Valdez, McNamara, Dave Pitcher, Bill Sinnott, and Kelly Brown were also in attendance, and our Jr. aide was Obama Aide Wyatt Yankus. Matt Broniec flew in with 3 guests from Atlanta and received a special award for his effort. McGowan, Will Rosser, and Matt have performed in over 200 parades, quite amazing!

We learned that the Marine Barracks built in 1801 was the oldest military building in Washington, that it was not burned to the ground after the British burned the White House as that is where the British Commanding General Ross would live, only to be killed two weeks later, according to the British Marine Corps Commandant, his descendent. It was also where John Philip Souza wrote many of his marches as he became the 1st Marine Corps Band Leader, born not 2 blocks away.

My hat is off to the Spring Committee Advisors of Dave Pitcher and Rusty Johnson, joined by Committee members Susie Swider (lead coordinator), Carol Hattrup, and Barbara Cross for putting this together. They executed flawlessly despite the security challenges and we are very fortunate to have them give so freely of their time.

Semper Fi!



The Marine Band



Kenn and Donna Hall, spouse of Francis (Nixon)



Carol Hattrup and Kelly Brown



Roger McNamara and Carol Hattrup's son



Avis and Lonnie II McAllister



What a show!



Great picture!



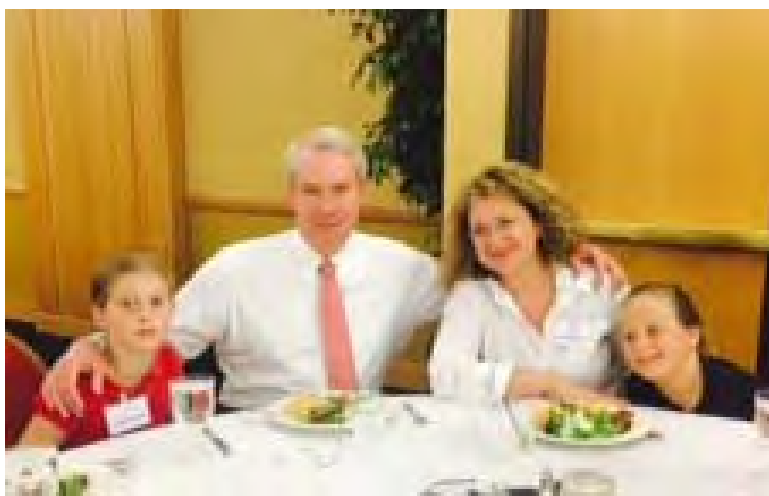
Myles B. Baggins II (Bush '43, Obama) and guest



Dave Pitcher and Kenn



L-R: Advisors Kelly Brown and Roger McNamara are beaming!



Matt Broniec with guests



Ainslie Pitcher

Former Naval Academy Superintendent Charles Larson dies after battle with leukemia

Admiral Larson was the model for all who came in contact with him of a true leader. He paid his annual Society dues until a month before his passing and when I would call him on occasion he would always say, "Call me Chuck", to which I would always refuse politely in deference to his 4 star rank.

He was a close friend of Kennedy/Johnson Aide Andy Lawrence. Andy remembers...

"Chuck was an officer who did not wear his rank as a badge of superiority. In our over 45 years of friendship, his rank always indicated his dedication to his fellow man, his Navy, and his country. One of the few officers to wear Navy Flight Wings and Twin Dolphins on his chest, he was truly one of a kind. His four stars never kept him from being an open, welcoming person.

Back in 1977, my son was attending an Army JROTC school in Richmond, Virginia. Ten cadets had an interest in attending the Naval Academy. I called the Sup's office and arranged a tour for the group. Chuck greeted them upon arrival and made time on his schedule to meet the group in his office following the tour and lunch with the "Mids". Those JROTC cadets raved about Chuck to their teachers and parents for weeks after the visit. Chuck was always approachable and friendly even with strangers.

On one White House occasion back in 1969, the Aides were left hanging for dinner during an evening event as the Navy Mess had failed to note the event on its schedule. Within minutes of Chuck's arrival at the mess, the stewards had meals coming out of the kitchen in very short order. That kind of oversight never happened during the remainder of my time at 1600. He took care of his people and I believe that characteristic made him an incredible Naval Officer and I'm proud to have been a friend and colleague."



Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) today released the following statement on the passing of Admiral Chuck Larson:

"Cindy and I are deeply saddened by the passing of my Naval Academy classmate and dear friend, Admiral Chuck Larson. I can think of no finer example of honorable service to our nation than the service Chuck Larson has provided so faithfully and so well for so many years. As the son and grandson of four star admirals, I have long been accustomed to living in the large shadows cast by great men. It has been a privilege and an honor, as a young man and an old one, to serve in Chuck's shadow. America owes this great man a deep debt of gratitude for his remarkable record of service, including as Naval Aide to the President of the United States, Commander-in-Chief of U.S. forces in the Pacific, and two tours of duty as Superintendent of our beloved Naval Academy. Our thoughts and prayers are with

Chuck's wife Sally and the entire Larson family at this difficult time. America has been blessed by Chuck's service, as I have been honored by his close friendship. Together we wish Admiral Chuck Larson, as we wish every good sailor, fair winds and following seas." " -- By permission of Senator McCain

Adm. Charles R. Larson, a former superintendent of the Naval Academy and one-time candidate for lieutenant governor in Maryland, died Saturday morning at his home in Annapolis. Cmdr. Wes Huey, Larson's son-in-law, confirmed Larson's death. He was 77. His death was due to pneumonia stemming from complications of his two-year battle with leukemia, Huey said.

Larson was a 1958 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, and served twice as the superintendent of the academy, first from 1983 to 1986 and again from 1994 to 1998.

He became the second-youngest admiral in history at the age of 43, and in 1968 was the first naval officer to be selected as a White House fellow. He served as a naval aide under President Richard Nixon, and worked with three other presidents during his career.

Having switched from aviation to submarines, he served on two ballistic missile submarines and three attack submarines. His most senior command position was as commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet.

Larson returned as the superintendent of the Naval Academy in the 1990s after a cheating scandal that involved more than 130 students. He instituted a four-year character development program and gave upper class midshipmen more responsibility in the training of plebes.

Capt. Hank Sanford, who worked with Larson during his first stint as superintendent, became Larson's executive assistant when he returned to the academy as superintendent in the 1990s. When he came back, he was more seasoned, but not arrogant, Sanford said. "It didn't make any difference if you were the custodian or the commandant of the midshipmen, he treated everybody the same," Sanford said.

The two, who both lived in Annapolis, spent years together after Larson's retirement. Sanford said that though Larson started as a boss, he became a friend. If Larson hadn't been willing to come back for his second stint as superintendent, Sanford said, "he could have gone off and made a lot of money and done a lot of different things as a retired four-star (admiral)."

Larson is survived by his wife of 52 years, Sally; three daughters; and seven grandchildren. Huey said that although Larson was buttoned-up in the public eye, his children and grandchildren brought out a more playful side of him. Having three daughters forced him to have a sense of humor, Huey said.

The current superintendent, Vice Adm. Walter E. "Ted" Carter Jr., said Larson's death is a great loss for the Naval Academy. "He was a great man who served his nation with distinction, honor and dignity," Carter said in a statement. Beyond the Naval Academy, Larson served on numerous corporate boards in areas of defense, aerospace, oil exploration and international service. He sat on the board for the National Academy of Sciences Committee on International Security and Arms Control, the White House Fellows Foundation, the University System of Maryland, the Anne Arundel Health System, the Atlantic Council, the Council on Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation.

Huey said that when Larson was diagnosed with leukemia in 2012, he took it as just another challenge to overcome. He continued to pursue treatments until the very end, consulting medical experts and complying with protocols. He was private about his illness, Sanford said. Although Sanford could tell Larson was ill, he waited until Larson told him on his own terms — which he did, eventually. Larson was a great American, Huey said. "He was a real role model for not just me ... but his influence on sailors and officers in the fleet. He was just a remarkable naval officer."

His son-in-law CDR Wes Huey was a Clinton White House Presidential Aid and we have extended a Lifetime membership to him in honor of ADM Larson. God Bless ADM Chuck Larson.



Andy Lawrence introducing VP Spiro Agnew to President Nixon and Prince Phillip with CAPT Chuck Larson (future CINCPAC) cautiously observing from the stairwell to the rear of Prince Phillip

Obama Aides are Social!



"Obama aides get together for the Kentucky Derby"



"The Young sisters, Paige (left) and Stephanie Young at Washington Nats game"



"Another one bites the dust!" Obama Aides at Olivia Volkoff's wedding

A Perfect Afternoon at the Pitcher Mansion May 2014



Board members at their best. It's luau time!

"It was a perfect afternoon" - perfect Hawaiian theme and music, perfect pool and pool house, perfect food, and perfect camaraderie. Added to that was the exciting running of the Belmont stakes, and everyone stayed until almost 7:30, coming together at 3:00 PM. Dave thought we would never leave!



The winner of the Hawaiian hats competition is Dave. Vote monitored and verified by AMB Lalo Valdez. Roger was runner up. June Sinnott won the female competition.



Dave and Ainslie were recognized for their efforts with a White House framed picture by Kenn.

“Real Bullets”

Tony Sebo (Bush ‘43)

Greetings from Yerevan, Armenia! My wife, Didi, and I arrived here in July last year and are doing great. As I wrote last time, I am the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché at the US Embassy. Its a very interesting region with lots of interesting, long-term issues. We will be here until Summer 2016.



Our embassy DCM and I observing Armenian military training.



Here I am explaining my uniform to a group of Armenian and international children at the U.K.'s Remembrance Day ceremony.



The U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, the Deputy Commander of the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade, and myself seeing a platoon of Armenian soldiers off to training in Germany via USAF C-130.

Jon Allen (Bush ‘41)

Greetings from upstate NY. It is great to hear that our society is still in good hands and is active. As an aide for almost 4 years, it is great to see that we are still valued. As for me, I am a director at Xerox corporation in Rochester, NY. I have also stayed very connected with the military serving for the past 15 years as a volunteer to help applicants for the U.S. Coast guard academy, serving for the past 5 years on a local congressman's congressional nomination committee for the other 4 academies, and have served as my CGA 1979 class stewardship committee chairman where we are hoping to raise \$750k endowment to help fund leadership activities during one of the summer programs at CGA. So, I am still quite connected with the services even though there are no real units anywhere close by. Please pass my regards onto the others, particularly those who served during Jan 1989 and Nov 1992.

Joe Mazur (Clinton, Bush ‘41)

I recently left DARPA where I was the SES Director of the Contracts Management Office and have started a job in industry. I'm working as an Executive Director, NRO Account Management for ManTech Corp. ManTech has over 300 employees working in a support role to the Government at the NRO. I'm looking forward to reconnecting to the Intelligence Community, I was an NRO Contracting Officer while a White House Social Aide. Donna Bartee was a roommate with my wife when they were both in the Navy together in San Diego. And before that, Donna was an AF nurse at Andrews AFB with a bunch of my AF acquisition friends. My wife & I made our first plans to go on a date at Donna's wedding – she put us at the same table.

Brooke Robinson (Obama) in Kandahar. A picture is worth 1,000 words.



CDR (Ret.) Steve Wolf (Reagan)

Steve is still working at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC as the Chief, Telecommunications Systems Management Division. He is fortunate to have a great staff and really enjoys his work. He is still the director of the Coast Guard Cutters (CGHQ Jazz Band) going on 21 years. In June the group performed an outdoor Concert on the Plaza and a Holiday Concert at HQ, and they performed at the DHS Secretary's Excellence Awards at DAR Constitution Hall, as well as for the DHS Secretary's Holiday Reception. He also performs with the Foghorns, a barbershop quartet at HQ.

Steve's "Band of Renown"



CGHQ Jazz Band with Secretary Jeh Johnson at his DHS Holiday Reception at CGHQ. Steve is 4th from the left.

Barbara Wolf Helps in the Capture of Dangerous Criminal

A suspect wanted for shooting another man in the head outside a Northern Virginia McDonald's restaurant is in custody following a 20-hour manhunt, authorities said. Police found 28-year-old DeWayne

A. Williams hiding behind the home of Dumfries resident Barbara Wolf around 4 p.m. Tuesday. "I thought it was a beaver," Wolf said. "I ran into the pantry and grabbed my broom so I could go get that beaver." She said she watched Williams run under her porch, at which point she called police.

MAJ Carol Hattrup (Clinton)



Then MAJ Carol Hattrup with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Powell



MAJ Hattrup touring Iraq with good friends, very good friends

Reverend Mike Blackwell (Johnson)

Blackwell was a Johnson aide and close friend of Andy Lawrence. Elsa Thompson (Reagan) alerted us of his passing. See letter which follows from the Archdiocese of Washington.



“Andy is a good dancer, so is now Father (priest) Mike Blackwell”



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

5001 EASTERN AVENUE
POST OFFICE BOX 29260
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017

June 16, 2014

Dear Brother Priest,

With sorrow, I announce the death of Reverend Michael J. Blackwell on June 14, 2014. He was 81 years old and was a resident of Carroll Manor in the District of Columbia.

Father Blackwell was born February 11, 1933 in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended grade school and high school in Cleveland and then entered the Society of Jesus, Chicago Province, where he remained until 1957. He then spent 13 years in the U.S. Navy during which time he served in the Vietnam War, earning 10 combat medals and citations, serving as Social Aide to the White House, and attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He studied at the Pope John XXIII Seminary, Weston, Massachusetts and was ordained a priest at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew on May 12, 1973.

His first assignment was as Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew Washington, DC. In 1975 he was named Parochial Vicar at Saint Catherine Labouré, Wheaton and in 1976, at Saint Philip the Apostle, Camp Springs. In 1978 he served as Parochial Vicar at Saint Aloysius, Leonardtown and again that same year at Saint Michael the Archangel, Silver Spring. He was appointed Parochial Vicar in 1980 to Saint Anthony of Padua, Washington, DC, in 1985 to Holy Redeemer, Kensington, and again that same year to Saint Mary of the Mills, Laurel, where he was named Parochial Administrator in 1991. In 1993 he was named Parochial Vicar at Saint Mary, Landover Hills and retired there as Senior Priest in 2003. He then served as Senior Priest at Resurrection Parish, Burtonsville.

Father Blackwell also served in prison ministry at the Detention Center in Upper Marlboro, as Chaplain to the Maryland Knights of Columbus, Chaplain to Divorced and Separated Catholics of the Archdiocese, and as Counselor at Saint Luke Institute.

The Vigil will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2014, 3:00-7:00 p.m. at Resurrection Parish, Burtonsville. The Vigil Mass will be at 7:30 p.m. I will celebrate the Funeral Mass at Resurrection Parish on Friday, June 20, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. A reception will follow in the parish hall. Interment will be at Gate of Heaven, Silver Spring.

As is our custom, I request that you offer or have offered three Masses for the repose of the soul of Reverend Michael J. Blackwell, or, if you are able, to concelebrate the Vigil or Funeral Mass.

With every good wish, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

Archbishop of Washington

Next of Kin:

Ms. Patricia Blackwell (sister)
4640 Porter Road
North Olmstead, Ohio 44070

“Kenn Knows People”



Kenn discusses Sarah Palin with Sarah Palin at an undisclosed location



Kenn discusses the Reagan legacy with Dinesh Souza in Phoenix. When informed him that I was a military aide to President Reagan, Dinesh said "How cool is that"



Kenn discusses Syrian and Iraqi WMD with Ron Paul in Canada

“You’re Remembering Reagan Wrong”

“Reagan reached most other people he encountered. He didn’t point fingers; he told jokes. He understood, from years on the lecture circuit, the disarming value of humor: that getting people to laugh with you is halfway getting them to agree with you. He used humor more effectively than any president since Abraham Lincoln. Reagan was not an especially warm person, but he appeared to be. Many people disliked his policies, but almost no one disliked him”

--Courtesy of Andy Lawrence as authored by H.W. Brands in his book *Reagan: The Life*

Attitude Tells a Lot About a Person

President George W. Bush at work

Submitted by John Garst

If a hug is needed, don't be shy!



No one appreciates a firm handshake more than a soldier.



If they prefer not to shake hands...



...then a chest bump will do.



Just make sure you do a duck face afterward so they can laugh at you.



What a guy and Commander-in-Chief

Always treat their families with great respect.



They have been through more than you could imagine.



Each soldier has an amazing story.

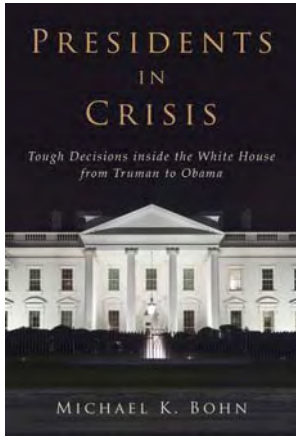


Listen.



Listening is often the best gift you can give someone.





Congratulations to Mike Bohn, a Nixon social aide and a West Wing staff member during the second Reagan administration, on the publication of his latest book. *Presidents in Crisis: Tough Decisions inside the White House from Truman to Obama* takes the reader inside the Oval Office during international crises during the period 1950-2014. In tension-filled narratives, Mike recreates dramatic meetings and decision points in seventeen crises that followed the “3:00 a.m. phone call.”

Take a seat in the Situation Room when Lyndon Johnson exchanged nineteen messages with the Soviets on the Hot Line during the 1967 Mideast war. Follow Jimmy Carter’s cautious attempt to free American hostages in Iran. Watch Ronald Reagan mishandle the 1983 Marine barracks bombing in Beirut, but cautiously negotiate the freedom of hostages aboard a US airliner two years later. Fly with George W. Bush aboard Air Force One on 9/11/2001, and follow Barack Obama’s struggle to find the least worst options in the Syrian civil war.

Mike is a retired naval intelligence officer and a former director of the White House Situation Room. On his website, www.bohnbooks.com, see his other books, including, *Nerve Center: Inside the White House Situation Room*. Mike also contributes sports and Washington-themed articles to multiple newspapers including *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Miami Herald*, *Kansas City Star*, and the *Baltimore Sun*. He also writes for the McClatchy-Tribune News Service and Tribune Content Agency, which distribute his stories to 1,200 newspapers and magazines.

Hours after Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941, the Secret Service found themselves in a bind. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was to give his Day of Infamy speech to Congress on Tuesday, and although the trip from the White House to Capitol Hill was short, agents weren’t sure how to transport him safely.



At the time, Federal Law prohibited buying any cars that cost more than \$750, so they would have to get clearance from Congress to do that, and nobody had time for that. One of the Secret Service members, however, discovered that the US Treasury had seized the bulletproof car that mobster Al Capone owned when he was sent to jail in 1931. They cleaned it, made sure it was running perfectly and had it ready for the President the next day.

Al Capone's 1928 Cadillac V-8 "Al Capone" Town Sedan became the President's Limo December 1941.

Mechanics are said to have cleaned and checked each feature of the Caddy well into the night of December 7th, to make sure that it would run properly the next day for the Commander in Chief. And run properly it did. It had been painted black and green to look identical to Chicago’s police cars at the time.



To top it off, the gangster’s 1928 Cadillac Town Sedan had 3,000 pounds of armor and inch-thick bulletproof windows.

It also had a specially installed siren and flashing lights hidden behind the grille, along with a police scanner radio.

Footnote: The car was sold at auction in 2012 for \$341,000.

Amazing Facts about WWII You Didn't Know

Submitted by Don Kentopp (Kennedy)

WW2 is often seen as one of the most world-changing, brutal wars in all of history. The lives of nearly every person around the world was changed in some substantive way during the 6 year period that the war was fought.

As time has gone on, many stunning facts are being uncovered and brought to light about the war. While some pieces of information were lost on accident, many were intentional. Coverups regarding the war are actually quite common and taken by nearly every side during the war (Yes, Virginia, the American government did plenty of lying).

#1 – Canada produced more trucks than Germany, Italy and Japan COMBINED.



The Ford F15 was a mainstay of Canadian truck production

#2 – Germany had total military casualties of 4,429,875 men during WW2. Nearly 80% of these casualties were lost to Russia.



The Battle of Prokhorovka was the largest tank engagement in history. Over 1,100 tanks, AFVs, and SPGs were destroyed in just a few hours.

#3 – For every aircraft shot down in battle, another aircraft was lost due to a accident.



US B-25 Mitchell bomber bent in half from rough landing approach near Australian desert.

#4 – The British were able to create artificial moonlight during night-time battles.

To do this, the British would fire air-bursting artillery shells as well as searchlights which would create dense clouds of smoke over a target. As a follow up, they would then fire tracer ammunition (primarily from 40mm bofors cannons) of varying colors. This created bright spots of light on the ground which helped direct troops. Additionally, they would use various colors of tracers (Red, Blue, Yellow) to indicate where armor, infantry and other groups would need to attack.

#5 – The Polish Army had broken the German Enigma code prior to being overrun. They were able to send a pre-war cipher (Stolen from the Germans) before being completely taken over.



Pictured: A German Enigma Machine

#6 – More Russians died in the siege of one city (Leningrad) than the entire armies of the US and Britain COMBINED.



Burying victims of the Leningrad siege, 1 yr into seige.

#7 – Stalin killed more people than Hitler during purges of undesirables. Stalin killed a estimated total of 25 million people versus Hitlers 12 million during ww2 (6 Million of which were Jews, during the Holocaust).



During the Holomodor, Stalin killed an estimated 4 million Ukranians through starvation and famine.

#8 – Up until 1940, there was a well established Nazi party operating in the United States. Among the supporters, Henry Ford, was one of the most notable members. He financially backed the party and Hitler himself with several million dollars. This of course ceased when the US become more involved in the war, especially after Pearl Harbor.



Henry Ford receiving the Grand Cross of the German Eagle from Nazi officials, 1938

#9 – When the US declared war on Japan in 1941, there were a total of 1,000 nurses in the Army Corps. By the end of the war there were a total of 60,000 – less than 1% of these nurses were black.



Group of Army Nurses of the 10th Field Hospital (400-bed capacity) posing in front of a 1/4-Ton Truck. The 10th Fld Hosp arrived in the MTO March 19, 1943, spending more than a year in Tunisia, Sicily, and Italy, finally being transferred to the ETO on November 1, 1944, where it saw action at the French Riviera and in the Moselle area

#10 – In 1939, Finland was attacked by the USSR, a nation with 41 times the population of Finland. During the war the USSR suffered well over half a million casualties (Khrushchev stated at one point his estimate was nearly 1 million casualties) compared to Finland's 70,000 casualties. This represents the most lop-sided casualties of any large scale conflict in history.



Simo Hayha was credited with 542 kills during the war, and was referred to by Russians "White Death".

#11 – There is only one known recording of Adolph Hitler talking personally to someone using a conversational tone (In a non-prepared speech). It is the Mannerheim Tapes, secretly recorded by the Finnish army during 1942. These tapes were kept secret until the 1950s when the threat of destruction had passed. Many historians refuse to accept the existence of the recordings as some believe it paints an alternative view of the war and Hitler.

#12 – Germany nearly won the war against the USSR. In late 1941, the USSR sent a feeler committee (Beria) to Germany. Stalin was willing to hand over Ukraine along with much of the won territory the German army was occupying in late 1941. The feeler committee stated that the Germans believed that the USSR was near collapse and did not want to negotiate terms of peace.



With no men able to build defenses, women worked around the clock in Moscow to prepare for the German onslaught. The Germans only made it 10 miles from the edge of the capital city.

A Good Lesson for Any War

Submitted by John Garst

1940's Camouflage Concealment & Deception

During World War II the Army Corps of Engineers needed to hide the Lockheed Burbank Aircraft Plant to protect it from a possible Japanese air attack. They covered it with camouflage netting to make it look like a rural subdivision from the air.

Before....



After...



The person that provided these pictures said she got an interesting story about someone's mother who worked at Lockheed, and she as a younger child, remembers all this. She says that to this day, these are the first pictures of it she's seen.



Another person who lived in the area talked about as being a boy, watching it all being set up like a movie studio production. They had fake houses, trees, etc. and moved parked cars around so it looked like a residential area from the skies overhead.



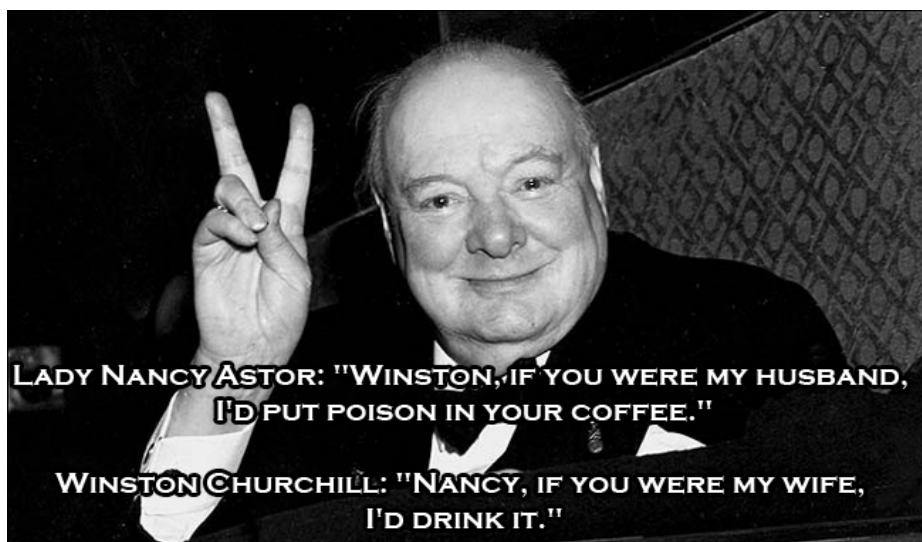
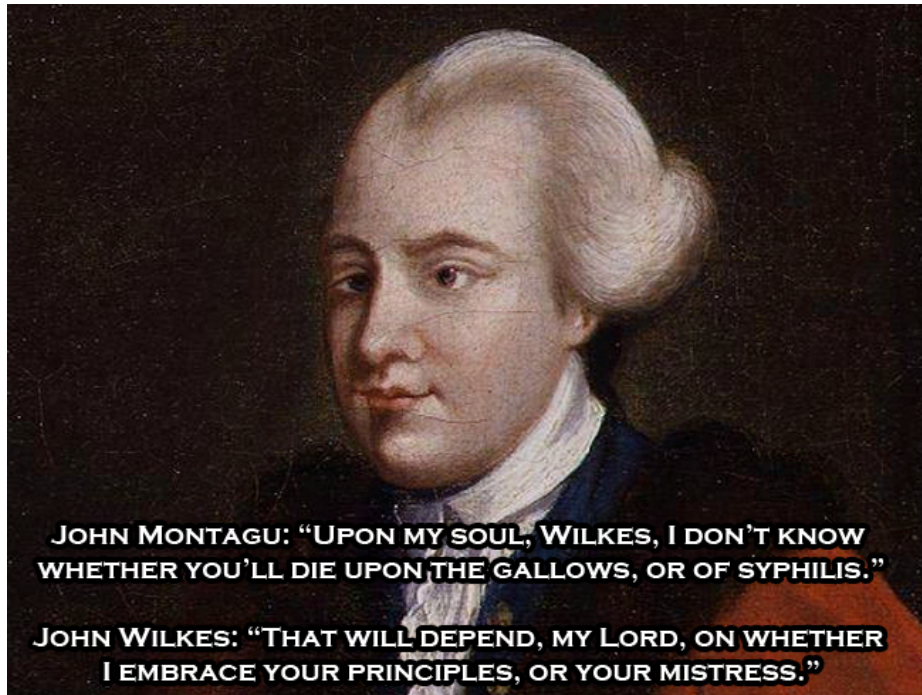
Famous Cheeky Rejoinders

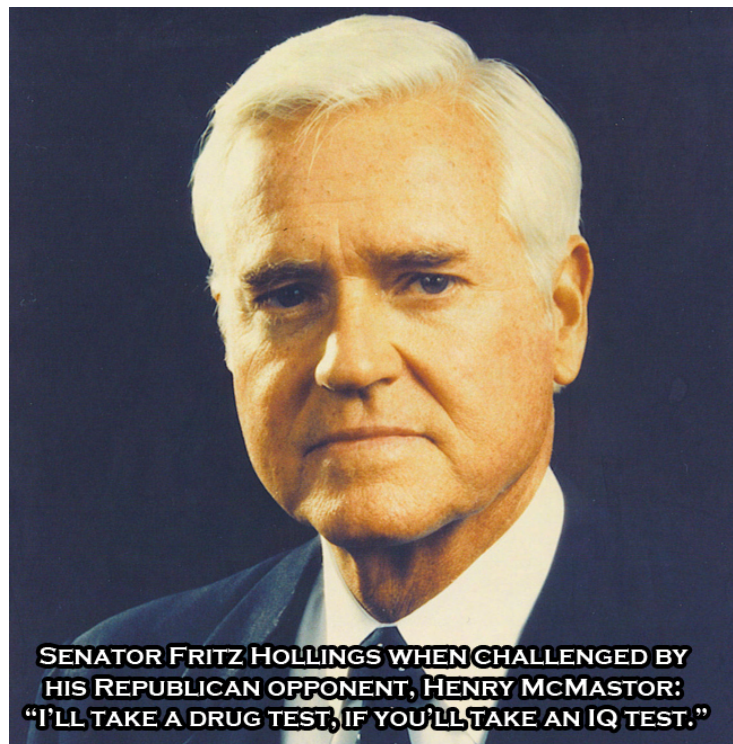
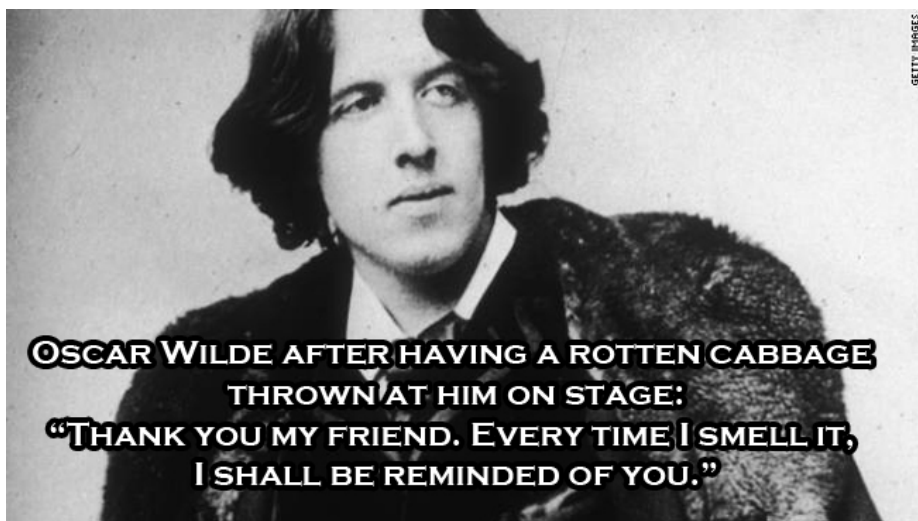
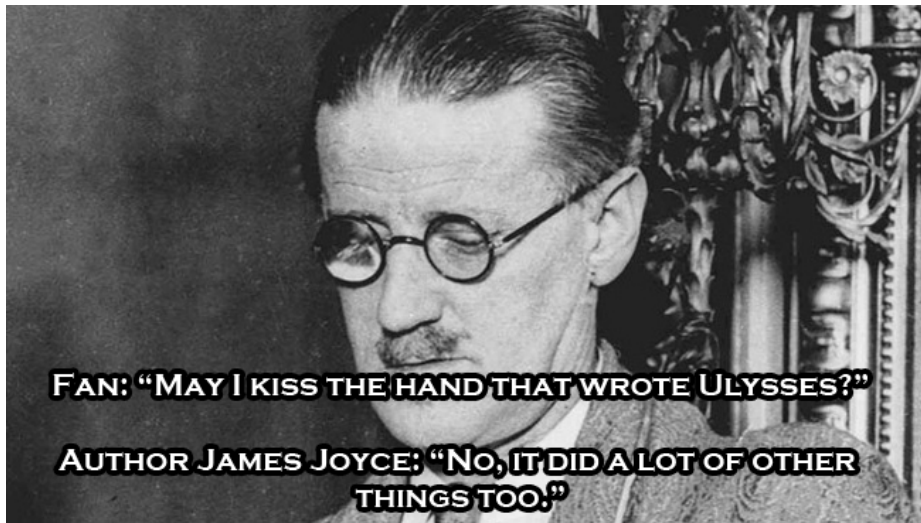
Submitted by Don Kentopp (Kennedy)

The beauty of the English language is such that even mean things can be said beautifully.

Some of the best rejoinders in the world have been shaped by some of the smartest, wittiest minds.

Here are some favorites:





5 “Star Spangled” Facts about the National Anthem



1. The “Star Spangled Banner” was written as a poem about a failed British attack on Fort McHenry in 1814.

In 1814 the United States and Great Britain were in the midst of fighting the “War of 1812.” In August of 1814, British forces captured Washington D.C. and burned a number of government buildings including the United States Capitol and the President’s Mansion, now known as the White House. The British next had plans to march north and capture the city of Baltimore. On September 13, 1814 British ships began a bombardment on Fort McHenry, an American Fort which defended access to the Baltimore Harbor. The attack on Fort McHenry lasted for 25 long hours. The bombardment was witnessed first hand by a 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet named Francis Scott Key. On the morning of September 14th, as the bombardment ended on Fort McHenry, Key saw a large American Flag flying over the fort, signaling that the Americans had withstood the British attack. He wrote a poem about these events called “The Defense of Fort McHenry.” Which has now come to be known as “The Star Spangled Banner.”

2. Francis Scott Key wrote “The Star Spangled Banner” while witnessing the attack on Fort McHenry from aboard a British ship.

After the British captured Washington D.C., they imprisoned an American civilian named Dr. William Beanes that they charged with aiding in the arrest of British troops. The U.S. sent a representative of the government to go to the British to try and secure the release of Dr. Beanes. The U.S. representative was accompanied by a young lawyer named Francis Scott Key. They negotiated for Dr. Beanes release aboard a British ship which would take part in the attack at Fort McHenry. Before the attack began, Key and his partner were able to negotiate the release of Dr. Beanes. However, the British feared that the Americans had learned too much about the British plans for attack on Fort McHenry while on the ship. Therefore, the British held them on the ship until after the battle took place leading to Francis Scott Key to having a unique view of the failed attack on Fort McHenry from a British ship.

3. The “Star Spangled Banner” was written to the tune of a popular drinking song.

When Francis Scott Key wrote his poem, he did so to the melody of a song called “To Anacreon in Heaven.” This song originated from a gentlemen’s club in England called the Anacreontic Society, a social club for amateur musicians. The club, and the song it produced, was in honor of a Greek poet named Anacreon who wrote extensively about the subjects of women and wine. So if you have too much to drink on the Fourth of July and decide to bust out your own drunken rendition of the national anthem, you’re kind of doing what Francis Scott Key would have wanted.

4. “The Star Spangled Banner” did not become the official national anthem of the U.S. until 1931.

“The Star Spangled Banner” gained popularity with Americans during the 19th Century. During the 1890’s the United States military had begun to use it as a ceremonial song, having it played when raising and lowering the U.S. flag. In the early 1900’s there was a push to have “The Star Spangled Banner” officially designated as the national anthem through congressional legislation. After several attempts, legislation was finally passed and with the signing of the bill by President Herbert Hoover, “The Star Spangled Banner” officially became the national anthem on March 3, 1931.

5. “The Star Spangled Banner” was a Top 10 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

On January 27, 1991, 10 days after the United States got involved in the Persian Gulf War, Whitney Houston gave a stirring rendition of the national anthem before the start of Super Bowl XXV. The public loved Houston’s rendition so much, the phones at Arista Records, her label at the time, were ringing off the hook asking for the performance to be officially released for purchase. A few weeks later, Houston’s version of “The Star Spangled Banner” was released as a single and reached the #20 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. Just over a decade later, after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, Whitney Houston re-released her 1991 single in an effort to contribute to the healing of the country. The re-release proved to be even more successful than the song’s first release, reaching the #6 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. This made a song that Francis Scott Key wrote in 1814 as a poem, a Top 10 hit some 200 years later.

For Our Soldiers on Freedom's Frontier

Protestant NIV Translation Zondervan; spacing altered.

Psalm 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you make the Most High your dwelling--
even the Lord, who is my refuge--
then no harm will befall you,
no disaster will come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

"Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
He will call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.
With long life will I satisfy him
and show him by salvation."