Chairman’s Report – Summer of 2017

“Polishing the Apple”

May 22, 2017

Dear Society Members,

We are very proud of what we have accomplished this year with the help of our Board of Advisors.

1. **Christmas Event** – It was “Spectacular” as LTC (P) Kelly Brown (Clinton / Bush ‘43) put it, both the Christmas event and venue. We also heard from Clinton Social Secretary, the Honorable Ann Stock as she spoke impromptu about finding common ground with others. See the next article about this special event.

2. **New Honorary Chairman** - The endorsement of our humble Society by not only our highest ranking former aide but the highest-ranking officer while serving, as Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, GEN (Ret) Peter Pace (Nixon) as our Honorary Chairman, a worthy successor to the great Mr. George Elsey (Roosevelt and Truman), is a notable second achievement for us. GEN (Ret) Pace’s bio follows. He is an accomplished and ethical man who COL (Ret) Larry Marousek, our former Marine Corps Service Director, was very proud of.

As a tribute to Mr. Elsey, his 1998 letter to me describing his White House duties for President Roosevelt and Truman follows as does the one page order describing the details for a reception for President Truman by his military aides held at the Anderson House in May 1951. Trustees Emeriti COL (Ret) Jack Koser and Ms. Mary-Stuart Price, both still active Society members in their 90’s, were in attendance. By happenstance, we just received a Sarasota newspaper article written about COL Koser, handsome devil he was, and it follows the Elsey letter and note.

“We wanted to cover all bases – it looks like Rusty Johnson (Carter) has this under control”

The Clintons invited to dine with the President and First Lady at the White House
3. **Lifetime Members, Facebook, and LinkedIn** - Seven (7) members became Lifetime members this year for a total of 196. There are 146 members on Facebook and 77 on LinkedIn.

4. **Spring 2018** – We hope that the *Sequoia* will be up and running again. If not, the *USCGC Eagle* is also a great option. CAPT (Ret) Alex Larzelere arranged for the Eagle to dock for us in Old Town Alexandria some years ago, and we truly enjoyed touring this elegant German made vessel which USCGA grads know so well, and Old Town.

**Accessing the SWHMA Facebook Page (146 current members):**
Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and either sign up for an account or log on. Once you are logged on go to [https://www.facebook.com/groups/SWHMA/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SWHMA/) or search “The Society of White House Military Aides” in the search box (select “More” and then “Groups” to find the group page). Go to the group page and select “Join Group”. Once you have been confirmed by other members of the group you will be added.

**Accessing the SWHMA Linked Page (77 current members):**
Go to [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) and either sign up for an account or log on. Once you are logged on, go to [www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-White-House-Military-Aides-8432756](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-White-House-Military-Aides-8432756) or search The Society of White House Military Aides. Once you access the group page, select “Ask to Join”. Once confirmed, you will be added to the group.

**Someone who claimed editing experience asked how I lead the reader in preparing the newsletter? Answer is that I don’t, just try to make it entertaining, mostly from your input. When it seizes to be so, we will stop producing it.**

“What Government’s view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.”

*President Ronald Reagan August 15, 1986*

“O God, you have rejected us and broken our defenses;
You have rocked the country and split it open;
Give us aide against the foe, for worthless is the help of men,
Under God we should do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.”

*Psalm 60, Prayer After Defeat in Battle*

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**The Society of White House Military Aides**

“AN ASSOCIATION OF WHITE HOUSE MILITARY AIDES
WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION’S PRESIDENTS”

Kenn Riordan, Jr., USA (Ret)
Founder and Chairman
(505) 450 4293

Kenn Riordan, Jr.
General Peter Pace

- CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF (2005-2007)
- 40 YEARS OF SERVICE IN MARINE CORPS
- 2008 PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

General Peter Pace, United States Marine Corps (Retired)

General Peter Pace retired from active duty on October 1, 2007, after more than 40 years of service in the United States Marine Corps.

General Pace was sworn in as sixteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Sep. 30, 2005. In this capacity, he served as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, and the Homeland Security Council. Prior to becoming Chairman, he served four years as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Pace holds the distinction of being the first Marine to have served in either of these positions.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Teaneck, NJ, General Pace was commissioned in June 1967, following graduation from the United States Naval Academy. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Administration from George Washington University, attended the Harvard University Senior Executives in National and International Security program, and graduated from the National War College.

During his distinguished career, General Pace has held command at virtually every level, beginning as a Rifle Platoon Leader in Vietnam. He also served as Commanding Officer of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment; Commanding Officer of the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C.; Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Somalia; Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force Somalia; Director of Operations for the Joint Staff; Commander, U.S., Marine Forces Atlantic/Europe/South; and Commander in Chief, US Southern Command.

In June, 2008, General Pace was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor a President can bestow.

General Pace is currently serving on the Board of Directors of several corporate entities involved in management consulting, private equity, and IT security. He has served on the President’s Intelligence Advisory Board, and the Secretary of Defense’s Defense Policy Board. From 2008 to 2010, he served as leader-in-residence and the Poling Chair of Business and Government for the Kelley School of Business, Indiana University. General Pace is a Distinguished Visiting Research Scholar for Fordham University. In addition, he donates his time to teach at numerous professional military education programs, to include the Marine Corps and other services’ war colleges, and every class of Marine second lieutenants at The Basic School.

General Pace is associated with a number of charities focused on supporting the troops and their families, to include: He is a long-standing member of the Board of Directors for the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation, a charity that provides scholarship bonds to children of Marines or Federal law enforcement personnel who were killed while serving our country. He is the senior military adviser to the President George W. Bush Institute’s Military Service Initiative, which works to empower communities, military service organizations, businesses, and universities to support veterans and their families. He serves on the Advisory Board for Snowball Express, a charity focused on providing positive activities for children of our fallen military members. He and his wife Lynne are longtime supporters of the Fisher House Foundation, which builds homes near VA and military medical centers, offering military families a place to stay while a loved one is receiving treatment; and they are both on the advisory board for Our Military Kids, an organization that supports children of deployed Guard and Reserve personnel with tutoring and enrichment activities.

General Pace and his wife, Lynne, have a son, Peter; a daughter, Tiffany; a daughter-in-law, Lynsey Olczak Pace; and three grandchildren, Linden, Hadley, and Holden Pace.
George M. Elsey  
5351 MacArthur Boulevard  
Washington, D.C. 20012-2599  

March 9, 1998

Dear Mr. Riordan,

Thank you for your letter of March 6. I was pleased to learn of the Military Aides Association and honored to be invited to become a member.

As for my status: I was assigned to the White House Map Room, President Roosevelt's intelligence and communications center, in April 1942. In February 1944, I was assigned additional duty as a White House Aide. Vice Admiral Wilson Brown, Naval Aide to the President at that time, informed me that I was the first Reserve officer ever to be an Aide, all previous Aides having been Annapolis graduates. (He was of course speaking only for the Navy, he could not vouch for the Army's practice.)

My first duty as an Aide was to lay President Roosevelt's wreath at the U.S.S. Maine memorial in Arlington Cemetery on February 15, 1944, the anniversary of the sinking of that ship. Soon thereafter I left for temporary duty with the Naval forces preparing for the invasion of Normandy, returning to the White House in August 1944. From then until I reverted to civilian status in July 1947 I participated in practically every event that required Aides to be on duty, including F.D.R.'s fourth inaugural which took place at the White House rather than the Capitol because of the war and his funeral service, also at the White House three months later.

In the first years of the Truman administration there were far fewer social events than now, initially because of the war and then because the President felt a full social schedule was inappropriate in the light of the grim economic circumstances prevailing in most of the world. He did not want to flaunt our prosperity. By the time a normal White House social schedule was resumed I was no longer an Aide. By then I was a civilian on the President's personal staff.

As for Robert Myers whose name was brought to your attention by the Roosevelt Library, he too was on duty in the Map Room but inasmuch as he was married, he was not eligible to be an Aide. He now lives In Chevy Chase.

I note that Colonel Jack Koser, your Honorary Chairman, is named as a Truman Aide. I regret that I do not recall him. It is likely that he served after I did and, although I met many of the later Truman Aides, their names have largely escaped me.

I look forward to hearing from you again,

Sincerely,

[Signature]

4
The Aides at the
WHITE HOUSE PARTY FOR THE PRESIDENT
21 May 1951

Colonel McHugh, Colonel Scott, and Colonel Banks will stand by to greet and escort The President, Mrs. Truman, and Miss Margaret Truman upon their arrival according to time obtained from the Secret Service.

Aides will assume the following duties at the appointed times:

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There will be an aide with the President and Mrs. Truman at all times and, if possible, will not let a receiving line form. It is better for individuals to just greet the President and Mrs. Truman informally. This is easier said than done, however, and a line will of course form. The Aide with the President will assist in any way possible according to the situation. Because there is no time to be with the President, Aides should not hesitate to relieve the Aide with the President so that he may mingle with the other guests. This is very important.

After Mrs. Woodrow Wilson arrives, an Aide should stay with her as much as possible out of courtesy because of her position, or see that some Aide is with her.

Aides should not congregate at the front door and should not allow any of the newspaper women to stand with him and welcome the guests. This will probably take a bit of "tact", however, must be done.

Aides not otherwise posted should be available at the entrance to the ballroom to assist the arriving guests. Personal guests will be directed to the Aide inviting them. Official guests will be escorted in as much as possible. All guests should be taken in, given a drink insofar as possible, and introduced to other people so that the Aide may excuse himself and be available to greet new guests. Remember that all Aides are the host; go up to people, introduce yourself, make yourself known, and express your pleasure because they were able to attend.
'I went through my pilot training and found out they needed pilots to fly the B-29 — an airplane that was so advanced, so modern. We were in pressurized, air-conditioned, beautiful airplanes and flew at 30,000 feet. I felt very happy, very lucky to be able to fly B-29s. I was sent to the Pacific, where we had to fly very long missions (some 15 hours). We would take off with 40,000 pounds of bombs and it was very hairy sometimes. I flew 23 missions.

On the day of the armistice, I flew a mission to China over a prisoner of war camp. We dropped supplies to the prisoners. We made two passes and dropped all kinds of food and medicines and bicycles and clothes and blankets and everything else you could think of. It was near the south end of the Great Wall of China. It was an experience for me to see those prisoners waving their crutches and canes in the air at us as we flew over.

There weren’t any guards there at the prisoner of war camp at the time because the war was over, so the prisoners were all milling around. They didn’t even have anything to eat. But we saved a lot of them, I think, by taking our B-29s and filling them with all kinds of things and helping them. The prisoners thanked us later on when they came to our squadron to tell us what they liked. You know what they liked the most that we gave them? Peaches, canned peaches. They hadn’t had anything like that for years.

Another one of my missions was over Japan and the flak was heavy that time. The flak hit one of our airplanes. No one was injured but it knocked out the propeller on the No. 4 engine. Then the engineer said we were losing pressure on the No. 3 engine. But I continued on, flying on two engines on a four-engine airplane (two engines on one side, too). We were flying along and had to drop down to 5,000 feet so that we were at a lower altitude for bailout.

We got to Iwo Jima and we couldn’t see anything, couldn’t bail anybody out, which was good because I didn’t want to bail out anyway. I was flying OK. I just stayed down at 5,000 feet, all the way back to the Marianas. We got there about 1½ hours late and the radio had been knocked out so I didn’t even know where we were. We landed slowly and then the third engine cut out due to lack of fuel. So we were down to one engine. But we made it. On that mission, I got one of my Distinguished Flying Crosses.'
Dear Society members, this is the word I heard most frequently yesterday, spectacular. Look at the three pictures included. In lieu of me describing what you did yesterday, let me relate what you and the attendees said:

“Dear Kenn, Thank you for putting together another successful White House Social Aides reception and tour. It's special group and I look forward to seeing them every year. Keep up the good work! Happy holidays, Ann Stock” Clinton Social Secretary; Asst. Secretary of State, Obama Administration

“Kenn, Thank you to you, Bill, Sandra, and everyone else who made our WH tour such a wonderful event! Spectacular day start to finish! Merry Christmas to all and Happy New Year!” Kelly Brown (Clinton / Bush ’43)

“Hi Kenn: The best ever! Thank you very much for the stunning gifts God Bless, Rog” R. McNamara (Johnson)

“Kenn,
Everything was PERFECT!
This was the BEST ever!! Many people said this.
Congratulations!!
ALL of your hard work resulted in a flawlessly executed event!
Wow! This hotel is amazing. The 9th floor especially. The photos of us on the balcony are priceless.
I hope your flight home is/was good. Hope too that you have some time for a well-deserved rest!
Merry Christmas, Friend!
Xo Sally” Wife of Roger

“Kenn- just wanted to take a moment on our trip back to Buffalo to tell you what a joy it was to finally meet you today. Ray has spoken so highly of you in the past. Today was such an amazing experience I am still smiling from ear to ear. Thank you for the opportunity to attend. Have a wonderful holiday! Personal Regards, Marilyn Ballard (Ray's Sister)” Ray Seebald (Reagan)

“Kenn: the mug is a wonderful gift and sits proudly in my office along with a lovely framed picture from you. The meeting went well and I am sure that the tour was successful as well. I am sure that David and I will be huddling in January to work on the spring event. Thanks Rusty” Rusty Johnson (Carter)

“Dear Kenn, Veronica, Art, & all,
Thank you for a wonderful day/event. … Look forward to our legacy digitization effort! v/r Dundas”   (Clinton / Bush ’43)

“Good morning Kenn,
Congratulations on another successful Christmas tour and board event in D.C. Your continued dedication to the Society is amazing and appreciated.
Thank you for the letter opener, it is beautiful. Your thoughtfulness is way over the top.
Take care and have a Merry Christmas and a rewarding New Year. Andy” Andy Lawrence (Nixon / Johnson, Chief of Staff Senator Bob Dole, Served Five (5) Presidents)

“Kenn, Thank you to you, Bill, and Veronica for a great WH tour this year. Everything was perfect (although I suspect you dealt with snags not apparent to us attendees). The Hay-Adams is, indeed, a GREAT place, too.

My daughter was (appropriately) impressed … not just by the tour, but also by all those who publicly spoke beforehand and we who randomly met during the walk over and on the tour. You saw me talking to VADM Forest Faison at the WH exit (the current Navy Surgeon General) … we had never before met but turns out have several mutual professional and personal contacts.” John D. White II (Nixon)

This is my favorite:

“Kenn: You outdid yourself again. What a wonderful reception at the Hay Adams Hotel, speeches, well organized tour, etc. You did all this even though you don't live here anymore. Thanks so much” Donna & Frank Hall (Nixon)

So the early dawn began with a spectacular view, something someone born in Washington would find breathtaking: the White House, the War Department (Old Exec), Washington Monument directly, Jefferson Memorial, with the Potomac as background for this painting, just as Pierre Charles L'Enfant; Born August 2, 1754 Paris, Île-de-France, France must have envisioned it. The rooms were surrounded by glass, bright and hopeful, the food delicious, the reception speakers and I hope gifts rewarding. The White House looked great, the First Lady always does an excellent job, and despite the delay for some, it just brings back so many positive memories as RADM Baucom and I recreated his catching of Justice Marshal as he fell backwards from the steps leading to the State Floor. My message, Ann Stock’s message, our message is let’s be positive, think great thoughts, find common ground, make the Society and America great again!

Sr. Aide Don Kentopp (Kennedy) told of standing next to the King and Queen of Afghanistan during a State Dinner and the first notice of the attack on President Kennedy, Danielle Mooney (Obama) was our youngest aide attending, while Wendy Cooper (Reagan) came the furthest, registering for the tour from W. Germany. In addition Bob Walters (Reagan) was recognized for putting together our first website, and both he and Brian Smith (Johnson) who attended from California, are the
only two aides to have served both as Social and Presidential Aides. COL Ann Kramarich and fellow aide and husband COL Jay Chapman (Clinton / Bush ‘43) joined us! We offer a special thanks to AL Chong (Reagan) for finding this unique location for us, good job Al!

If I was to rank 26 years of events, it would be first, the Presidential Yacht Sequoia (National Register of Historic Places) sailing from Annapolis with a tour of Old Town and the Naval Academy, and when Paul Crissy (Reagan) stood to thank us at the USNA Officer’s Club, the applause was thunderous and long. Second would be the 4th Sr. Aide’s Luncheon with PepsiCo Chairman Steve Reinemund (Nixon) as speaker, “Head, Heart, Hand” was the theme, a speech which RADM and Council of Foreign Relations member Melissa Bert (Clinton / Bush ‘43) has used on multiple occasions, at the classic Washington Club which has been used as an alternate White House by a past President. And this one for the reasons stated above.

Ronald Reagan spoke about the “The Dawn of a New America”, President Kennedy spoke of “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country”. None of this was possible without the incredible detail of a Bill Sinnott, the precise coordination of a Sid Rodgers, the presence and good judgement of a Veronica Richardson, and the enthusiasm of a Dave Pitcher. I gave a special gift to the “Three Caballeros”, COL McNamara who laid the legal and ethical groundwork for our Society two years ago; for AMB Valdez who drove home the interviews for the White House Historical Association capped by his superb speech at last year’s event; and this 3rd year the well-received suggestions of Mr. Andy Lawrence to look to these wonderful sites in Washington, which few even know of but offer great vistas for families, going back to our roots.

So thank you very much for your participation and contributions, a day which turned out to be perhaps our best, a strong Advisor board, and clear strategy for the future!

Have a merry, joyful Christmas and a Prosperous, exciting 2017. I love you guys and gals!

“But let all take refuge in you
Be glad and exult forever,
Protect them, that you may be the joy
Of those who love your name.
For you, O lord, blest the just man;
You surround him with the shield of your good will.”

Psalm 5
White House Christmas Tour 2016

Photos taken by: Stuart Hill Photography
Santa and the Clintons

Photos Courtesy of Frank Hood – (Bush ’41, Clinton)
Dale Jones appointed chancellor at Penn State Wilkes-Barre

January 10, 2017

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Vernon Dale Jones, vice president for strategy, administration and board affairs at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, has been named chancellor and chief academic officer at Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

Jones, whose appointment is effective Jan. 16, succeeds Charles Davis, who is retiring after leading the Wilkes-Barre campus since March 2006.

“We are pleased to have Dr. Jones joining the Penn State community as the chancellor and chief academic officer of the Wilkes-Barre campus,” said Madlyn Hanes, vice president for Commonwealth Campuses and executive chancellor at Penn State. “Penn State Wilkes-Barre has a rich history of community engagement and academic accomplishment. Dr. Jones brings particular strength in building community partnerships, faculty and curriculum development, strategic planning, and student life — all of which will serve both to honor the campus’s extraordinary history and realize its near- and longer-term goals. Penn State Wilkes-Barre, I am certain, will benefit from his breadth and depth of experience as an academic and organizational leader and strategist.”

Jones joined Hampden-Sydney College in 2011. As vice president for strategy, administration and board affairs, his responsibilities included leading the college’s strategic-planning process; serving as secretary of the board of trustees; supervising the Office of College Events, Department of Marketing and Communications, Department of Security and Police, and the Esther Thomas Atkinson Museum; and chairing the 35-member president’s council. Jones also spearheaded the establishment and implementation of the college’s Title IX sexual misconduct program, and he authored Hampden-Sydney’s first emergency operations plan.

Before joining Hampden-Sydney College, Jones was an associate professor of public administration at Virginia Commonwealth University from 2006 to 2011. While at VCU, Jones chaired the master of public administration program, served as president of the College of Humanities and Sciences Faculty Council, and was the director of the university’s National Homeland Security Initiative.

“I am honored to join the Penn State community as chancellor and chief academic officer of Penn State Wilkes-Barre, a special campus that celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2016,” Jones said. “I strongly believe in the campus’s student-centered mission and vision to be a premier educational institution of choice in northeast Pennsylvania. I am looking forward to working closely with students, faculty and staff, as well as alumni and community stakeholders, to build upon the progress made to elevate Penn State Wilkes-Barre’s profile within the region.”

“During my visit to campus and the local area, I was impressed by the high quality of the faculty and staff, strong sense of community, commitment to the success of students and the campus, and optimism about the campus’s trajectory of excellence. I am thrilled and eager to start with the Penn State Wilkes-Barre team, engage with local and regional communities, and serve Penn State University.”

Jones previously held faculty positions in public administration at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, where he served as director of research for the Center for Homeland Security; Syracuse University, where he directed the Government Performance Project, a $4.8 million research project funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts that assessed the management capacity of all 50 states and the nation’s 35 largest cities and 40 largest counties; and the United States Air Force Academy, where he served as deputy head of the Department of Political Science. He has taught courses in advanced public management, American government, emergency management, executive leadership, homeland security, organizational theory and behavior, public administration, and U.S. national security policy.

In 2003, Jones also served as legislative director for U.S. Rep. Bob Beauprez, who represented Colorado’s 7th Congressional District.

An honor graduate of the Air Force Academy, Jones enjoyed a 21-year career in the U.S. Air Force, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. In addition to holding a variety of academic leadership roles at the Air Force Academy, Jones’ military career included service as a strategic analyst for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, military social aide to President Ronald Reagan at the White House, and program manager for the Boeing Short Range Attack Missile Program.


Jones earned a bachelor of science in aeronautical engineering from the Air Force Academy, an MBA with a management focus from Wright State University, a master of arts in science, technology and public policy from George Washington University, and a doctor of philosophy in public administration from Syracuse University.

* Source: http://news.psu.edu/story/444167/2017/01/10/administration/dale-jones-appointed-chancellor-penn-state-wilkes-barre
The Passing of Zsa Zsa
Thanks to Robert McCarthy - CDR (RET)

My Liege,

My 34 year-old-crush on Zsa Zsa has now come to an end. My finest moment as a White House Military Social Aide was when Muffie's office (Reagan's Social Secretary) asked me if I would be Zsa Zsa's "date" for the Pakistan State Dinner.

In the East Room, she grabbed my arm and spun me around and said, "Look, Bob, there's Hank!"

I said, "did you date him?"

She said, "YES! And (with her copious cleavage showing) added, "I don't think she (pointing to Nancy, his new model wife) likes me very much."

At that, she went over to "Hank" Kissinger and said, "Hank, this is Bob."

I said, "It is a pleasure to meet you Dr. Kissinger."

The next day, she asked me to join her mother and the Hungarian Ambassador for her "Saint's and Sinner's" charity roast at the Shoreham Hotel.

I swear, I was ready to leave the Coast Guard if she had asked me...

Would you please pass this on to our beloved Bobby Chunn who was able to get the attached picture for me.

Warm Regards,

Robert "Bob" McCarthy, Reagan '81-'83
On the Saturday following Thanksgiving 2013, Ms. Karen, my 94-year-old father Bill Gressinger, and I were visiting Pima Air and Space Museum.

We were in Hanger #4 to view the beautifully restored B-29, when I happened to take notice of a P-51 Mustang near the big bomber. It's name? "Bad Angel".

I was admiring its aerodynamic lines and recalled enough history to know that until the Mustangs came into service, the skies over the Pacific Ocean were dominated by Japanese Zeros. Then something very strange caught my eye. Proudly displayed on the fuselage of "Bad Angel" were the markings of the pilot's kills: seven Nazis; one Italian; one Japanese AND ONE AMERICAN. Huh? "Bad Angel" shot down an American airplane?

Was it a terrible mistake? Couldn't be. If it had been an unfortunate misjudgement, certainly the pilot would not have displayed the American flag. I knew there had to be a good story here. Fortunately for us, one of the Museum's many fine docents was on hand to tell it.

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In 1942, the United States needed pilots for its war planes lots of war planes; lots of pilots. Lt. Louis Curdes was one. When he was 22 years old, he graduated flight training school and was shipped off to the Mediterranean to fight Nazis in the air over Southern Europe. He arrived at his 82nd Fighter Group, 95th Fighter Squadron in April 1943 and was assigned a P-38 Lightning. Ten days later he shot down three German Messerschmitt Bf-109 fighters.

A few weeks later, he downed two more German Bf -109's. In less than a month of combat, Louis was an Ace. During the next three months, Louis shot down an Italian Mc.202 fighter and two more Messerschmitts before his luck ran out. A German fighter shot down his plane on August 27, 1943 over Salerno, Italy.

Captured by the Italians, he was sent to a POW camp near Rome. No doubt this is where he thought he would spend the remaining years of the war. It wasn't to be. A few days later, the Italians surrendered. Louis and a few other pilots escaped before the Nazis could take control of the camp.
One might think that such harrowing experiences would have taken the fight out of Louis, yet he volunteered for another combat tour. This time, Uncle Sam sent him to the Philippines where he flew P-51 Mustangs. Soon after arriving in the Pacific Theater, Louis downed a Mitsubishi reconnaissance plane near Formosa. Now he was one of only three Americans to have kills against all three Axis Powers: Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Up until this point, young Lt. Curdes combat career had been stellar. His story was about to take a twist so bizarre that it seems like the fictional creation of a Hollywood screenwriter.

While attacking the Japanese-held island of Bataan one of Louis wingmen was shot down. The pilot ditched in the ocean. Circling overhead, Louis could see that his wingman had survived, so he stayed in the area to guide a rescue plane and protect the downed pilot. It wasn't long before he noticed another, larger airplane, wheels down, preparing to land at the Japanese-held airfield on Bataan. He moved in to investigate. Much to his surprise the approaching plane was a Douglas C-47 transport with American markings. He tried to make radio contact, but without success. He maneuvered his Mustang in front of the big transport several times trying to wave it off. The C-47 kept to its landing target.

Lt. Curdes read the daily newspaper accounts of the war, including the viciousness of the Japanese soldiers toward their captives. He knew that whoever was in that American C-47 would be, upon landing, either dead or wish they were. But what could he do? Audaciously, he lined up his P-51 directly behind the transport, carefully sighted one of his .50 caliber machine guns and knocked out one of its two engines. Still the C-47 continued on toward the Bataan airfield. Curdes shifted his aim slightly and knocked out the remaining engine, leaving the baffled pilot no choice but to ditch in the ocean.

The big plane came down in one piece about 50 yards from his bobbing wingman. At this point, nightfall and low fuel forced Louis to return to base.

The next morning, Louis flew cover for a rescuing PBY that picked up the downed Mustang pilot and 12 passengers and crew, including two female nurses, from the C-47. All survived.

For shooting down an unarmed American transport plane, Lt. Louis Curdes was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Thereafter, on the fuselage of his P-51 "Bad Angel", he proudly displayed the symbols of his kills: seven German, one Italian, one Japanese and one American flag.
Boy Creates A Flag For A Class Assignment But No One Expected THIS!!
Thanks to Don Kentopp – (Kennedy, Johnson)

The men and women who serve America in the Military deserve our full respect and support. They risk their lives around the world to keep us safe.

Soldiers are why America is free. And when we have the chance to take care of veterans, we MUST always do so.

Jacob, a young man from Indiana, designed an American flag for a school art project. What he did is going viral in a BIG WAY!

Can you see what the fuss is about?

There are 4,466 army soldiers on the flag, painted red, white, and blue. It took more than 52 hours

Here's a closer look:

What a great way to honor the troops! Jacob deserves an A+ for his art project.

In memory of Memorial Day.
Mad Dog Mattis (SECDEF Candidate): A Few Stories

Thanks to Don Kentopp (Kennedy, Johnson)

The letter he wrote to I MEF on the eve of the invasion gives me chills.

“[Dear, "Bill"]

The problem with being too busy to read is that you learn by experience (or by your men’s experience), i.e. the hard way. By reading, you learn through others’ experiences, generally a better way to do business, especially in our line of work where the consequences of incompetence are so final for young men.

Thanks to my reading, I have never been caught flat-footed by any situation, never at a loss for how any problem has been addressed (successfully or unsuccessfully) before. It doesn’t give me all the answers, but it lights what is often a dark path ahead.

With [Task Force] 58, I had w/ me Slim’s book, books about the Russian and British experiences in [Afghanistan], and a couple others. Going into Iraq, “The Siege” (about the Brits’ defeat at Al Kut in WW I) was req’d reading for field grade officers. I also had Slim’s book; reviewed T.E. Lawrence’s “Seven Pillars of Wisdom”; a good book about the life of Gertrude Bell (the Brit archaeologist who virtually founded the modern Iraqi state in the aftermath of WW I and the fall of the Ottoman empire); and “From Beirut to Jerusalem”. I also went deeply into Liddell Hart’s book on Sherman, and Fuller’s book on Alexander the Great got a lot of my attention (although I never imagined that my HQ would end up only 500 meters from where he lay in state in Babylon).

Ultimately, a real understanding of history means that we face NOTHING new under the sun.

For all the “4th Generation of War” intellectuals running around today saying that the nature of war has fundamentally changed, the tactics are wholly new, etc, I must respectfully say … “Not really”: Alex the Great would not be in the least bit perplexed by the enemy that we face right now in Iraq, and our leaders going into this fight do their troops a disservice by not studying (studying, vice just reading) the men who have gone before us. We have been fighting on this planet for 5000 years and we should take advantage of their experience. “Winging it” and filling body bags as we sort out what works reminds us of the moral dictates and the cost of incompetence in our profession. As commanders and staff officers, we are coaches and sentries for our units: how can we coach anything if we don’t know a hell of a lot more than just the [Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures]? What happens when you’re on a dynamic battlefield and things are changing faster than higher [Headquarters] can stay abreast? Do you not adapt because you cannot conceptualize faster than the enemy’s adaptation? (Darwin has a pretty good theory about the outcome for those who cannot adapt to changing circumstance — in the information age things can change rather abruptly and at warp speed, especially the moral high ground which our regimented thinkers cede far too quickly in our recent fights.) And how can you be a sentinel and not have your unit caught flat-footed if you don’t know what the warning signs are — that your unit’s preps are not sufficient for the specifics of a tasking that you have not anticipated?

Perhaps if you are in support functions waiting on the warfighters to spell out the specifics of what you are to do, you can avoid the consequences of not reading. Those who must adapt to overcoming an independent enemy’s will are not allowed that luxury.

This is not new to the USMC approach to warfighting — Going into Kuwait 12 years ago, I read (and reread) Rommel’s Papers (remember “Kampstaffel”?), Montgomery’s book (“Eyes Officers”…), “Grant Takes Command” (need for commanders to get along, “commanders’ relationships” being more important than “command relationships”), and some others.
As a result, the enemy has paid when I had the opportunity to go against them, and I believe that many of my young guys lived because I didn’t waste their lives because I didn’t have the vision in my mind of how to destroy the enemy at least cost to our guys and to the innocents on the battlefields.

Hope this answers your question…. I will cc my ADC in the event he can add to this. He is the only officer I know who has read more than I.

Semper Fi, Mattis”

One of thousands of Mad Dog stories ... what a great way to rebuilding our military.

A 2006 Story:

A couple of months ago, when I told General Krulak, the former Commandant of the Marine Corps, now the chair of the Naval Academy Board of Visitors, that we were having General Mattis speak this evening, he said, "Let me tell you a Jim Mattis story."

General Krulak said, when he was Commandant of the Marine Corps, every year, starting about a week before Christmas, he and his wife would bake hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of Christmas cookies. They would package them in small bundles.

Then on Christmas day, he would load his vehicle. At about 4 a.m., General Krulak would drive himself to every Marine guard post in the Washington-Annapolis-Baltimore area and deliver a small package of Christmas cookies to whatever Marines were pulling guard duty that day. He said that one year, he had gone down to Quantico as one of his stops to deliver Christmas cookies to the Marines on guard duty. He went to the command center and gave a package to the lance corporal who was on duty.

He asked, "Who's the officer of the day?" The lance corporal said, "Sir, its Brigadier General Mattis." And General Krulak said, "No, no, no. I know who General Mattis is. I mean, who's the officer of the day today, Christmas day?" The lance corporal, feeling a little anxious, said, "Sir, it is Brigadier General Mattis."

General Krulak said that, about that time, he spotted in the back room a cot, or a daybed. He said, "No, Lance Corporal. Who slept in that bed last night?" The lance corporal said, "Sir, it was Brigadier General Mattis."

About that time, General Krulak said that General Mattis came in, in a duty uniform with a sword, and General Krulak said, "Jim, what are you doing here on Christmas day? Why do you have duty?" General Mattis told him that the young officer who was scheduled to have duty on Christmas day had a family, and General Mattis decided it was better for the young officer to spend Christmas Day with his family, and so he chose to have duty on Christmas Day.

General Krulak said, "That's the kind of officer that Jim Mattis is."

~The story above was told by Dr. Albert C. Pierce, the Director of the Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics at The United States Naval Academy. He was introducing General James Mattis who gave a lecture on Ethical Challenges in Contemporary Conflict in the spring of 2006. This was taken from the transcript of that lecture.

In the run up to Marine Gen. James Mattis' deployment to Iraq in 2004, a colleague wrote to him asking about the "importance of reading and military history for officers," many of whom found themselves "too busy to read."

His response went viral over email.

Security Blog "Strife" out of Kings College in London recently published Mattis' words with a short description from the person who found it in her email.

Their title for the post:

With Rifle and Bibliography: General Mattis on Professional Reading
Mike Monsoor, Was Awarded "The Congressional Medal Of Honor" Last Week, For Giving His Life In Iraq, As He Jumped On, And Covered With His Body, A Live Hand Grenade, Saving The Lives Of A Large Group Of Navy Seals That Was Passing By!

During Mike Monsoor's Funeral, At Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery, In San Diego, California. The Six Pallbearers Removed The Rosewood Casket From The Hearse, And Lined Up On Each Side Of Mike Monsoor's Casket, Were His Family Members, Friends, Fellow Sailors, And Well-wishers. The Column Of People Continued From The Hearse, All The Way To The Grave Site.

What The Group Didn't Know At The Time Was, Every Navy Seal (45 To Be Exact) That Mike Monsoor Saved That Day Was Scattered Through-Out The Column! As The Pallbearers Carried The Rosewood Casket Down The Column Of People To The Grave Side. The Column Would Collapse, Which Formed A Group Of People That Followed Behind.

Every Time The Rosewood Casket Passed A Navy Seal, He Would Remove His Gold Trident Pin From His Uniform, And Slap It Down Hard, Causing The Gold Trident Pin To Embed Itself Into The Top Of The Wooden Casket! Then The Navy Seal Would Step Back From The Column, And Salute!

Now For Those, Who Don't Know What A Trident Pin Is, Here Is The Definition! After One Completes The Basic Navy Seals Program Which Lasts For Three Weeks, And Is Followed By Seal Qualification Training, Which Is 15 More Weeks Of Training, Necessary To Continue Improving Basic Skills And To Learn New Tactics And Techniques, Required For An Assignment To A Navy Seal Platoon. After successful completion, Trainees Are Given Their Naval Enlisted Code, And Are Awarded The Navy Seal Trident Pin. With This Gold Pin They Are Now Officially Navy Seals!

It Was Said, That You Could Hear Each Of The 45 Slaps From Across The Cemetery! By The Time The Rosewood Casket Reached The Grave Site, It Looked As Though It Had A Gold Inlay From The 45 Trident Pins That Lined The Top! This Was A Fitting End To An Eternal Send-Off For A Warrior Hero!
Fairy Tale Places

We may be familiar with the Eiffel Tower, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Taj Mahal, and other such famous landmarks. In fact, they are visited by hundreds of people every day. Their iconic photos are all across the internet, all depicting different angles, lighting, and visitors in them. There are over a hundred famous places across the globe that are deemed to be must-sees. But these are just the tip of the iceberg.

The world is full of wonderful, spectacular places to be seen and explored. If you’re looking for less-known destinations that are equally impressive as the famous landmarks, then this list is for you. Not only are these places absolutely incredible to see, but your friends and family probably have not been to these destinations, which makes your stories refreshing and all that much more impressive.

Mother nature takes over this abandoned fishing village in the Shengsi Islands, China - Source: Weibo

Beautiful flowers hanging off the balconies in Cagnes-sur-Mer, Provence, France. - Source: Hotelplan

A quaint little town called Rothenburg ob der Tauber, located in Germany - Source: Triposo

A magnificent waterfall in Gásadalur, Faroe Islands. - Source: Unknown

The breathtaking view in Hallstatt, Austria - Source: Herison Black

Waves crashing against the shore of the small fishing town of Hamnøy in Norway - Source: inigo cia
Clouds wrapping themselves around the towering mountain in Renndølsetra, Norway - Source: Reddit

Manarola, one of the five famous Cinque Terre towns in Italy - Source: Camping Bella Vista

One of the many beautiful mountain villages in China. - Source: Christian Ortiz

The impressive island that is Monemvasia, Greece - Source: Unknown

The small town of Bled stands proudly in front of the Julian Alps in Slovenia - Source: Unknown
Society of White House Military Aides
FY2017 (2016 - 2017) Membership Drive

Washington Area Membership. I wish to renew/initiate my membership, access the FY 2017 Directory, and receive one lapel pin for new members. Enclosed are my dues of $30.00. Annual __________ $30.00

Out - of - Area Membership. I wish to renew/initiate my membership, access the FY 2017 Directory, and receive one lapel pin for new members. Enclosed are my dues of $15.00. Annual __________ $15.00

FY 2010 Lifetime Membership Extended. I wish to become a Lifetime Member __________ $300.00

Memorabilia

1. SWHMA newsletter hard copy mailed _______ $5.00 each
2. Navy Blue Lapel Pin __________ $5.00 each.
3. Society engraved pen (black/gold or navy/gold) _______ $10.00 each ($8.00 for two or more)
4. George Elsey’s (Roosevelt/Truman Aide) Book, “An Unplanned Life” _______ $15.00 each
5. Michael K. Bohn’s (Nixon) Book, “Nerve Center: Inside the White House Situation Room” _______ $15.00 each
6. Alex R. Larzelere, CAPT USCG (Ret) (Nixon) Book, “Witness to History: White House Diary of a Military Aide to President Richard Nixon” _______ $15.00 each
7. David C. Henley, BGEN (NVARNG-Ret) (Nixon) Book, “From Moscow to Beirut” _______ $20.00 each

Directory Information

Rank/Name/Service_________________________________________ Spouse’s Name: ______________________
***(Please include abbreviated rank/title as you wish it to appear in the Directory)

Which President(s) Served? Presidential or Social Aide? ________________________________________________

Address_______________________________________________________________________________________

Home Telephone: ____________________ Work Telephone: ____________________ Cell: ____________________

E-Mail: ___________________________ Re -confirm E-Mail_____________________________

Do you agree to release this information for the FY 2017 Directory? Yes _______ No _______

Optional Information

Assignment / Business Position: _________________________________________________________________

Interesting current activities: __________________________________________________________________

Missing Aides: Please list names, address, phone, and email for any “Missing Aides.”

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________
FY 2017 Upcoming Events

1. Are you interested in attending the White House Christmas Tour?
   Yes_________  No_________

2. Are you interested in a Spring Sr. Aides’ luncheon featuring an accomplished member as speaker?
   Yes_________  No_________

3. Are you interested in playing golf with competitive awards?  Yes_____
   Would you be willing to help coordinate the event?  Yes_____

4. Are you interested in hosting or coordinating an event?
   Picnic  ________
   Wine Tasting ________
   Sports  ________
   Other  ________

5. What does the Society do especially well?  ________________________________
   What could be improved or added to Society events?  ____________________________
   Are you willing to help improve or initiate that event for 2 or more years?  _________________

****************************************************************

Please return this form to:

website:  http://swhma.org.  You must register at the website to gain a Username and password. You can use "temporary" and "Temp-2016" for Username and Password to access the database.

or

email:  “lordstrider@earthlink.net”

or

Society of White House Military Aides
ATTN:  Kenn Riordan, Jr.
8825 Liverpool Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
Tel:  (505) 450-4293
SOCIETY OF WHITE HOUSE MILITARY AIDE (SWHMA) 
CORE ETHICAL VALUES 2017

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.