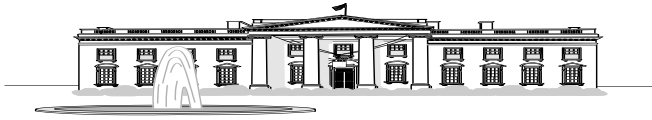


**“The Aiguillette”**  
**The Society of White House Military Aides**  
**Summer 2018**



**Chairman’s Report – Summer of 2018**

**June 13, 2018**

Dear Society Members,

We had a different kind of year this year but a good one!

**Christmas Tour – December 19, 2017**

We received notice of the date of the Christmas Tour 10 days in advance of the event in December. Typically, we have 4- 5 weeks’ notice and feel pushed as we have to confirm a venue with most of the good ones reserved beginning in September, long gone by December, modify the website to allow payment by PayPal, decide on a sequence of events, notify the membership, review 1000 data points of info and also secure proper payment. Finally all that info has to be submitted to the White House for approval. Somehow Veronica Richardson and Bill Sinnott, as assisted by Kelly Brown, did that in 10 days and still brought 100 very happy members and families into the White House, which was spectacular. Thank you so much to those three for a superlative, incredible effort! This was further complicated by a new registration process where guests register directly with the White House, something we have no control over but hope to next year. Wow!

A very special thanks to the Social Secretary Rickie Niceta and Reagan Social Secretary Gahl Hodges Burt for making this happen now and for the duration of the Trump Presidency!

**USCGC Eagle – April 13, 2018**

See picture below and article to follow. Fantastic work! Thank you Rusty Johnson, Dave Pitcher and Kelly Brown!

What a glorious day Rusty Johnson and Dave Pitcher brought for our 75+ members (there were 90 requests when we cut it off). Although it required people to be at Annapolis at 6 AM on a workday, the reaction of membership was

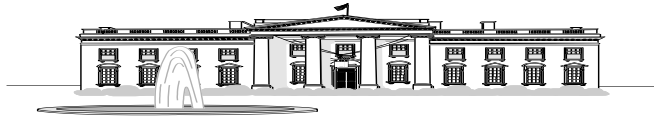


The “Eagle” at dawn – Annapolis, MD

# **"The Aiguillette"**

## **The Society of White House Military Aides**

### **Summer 2018**



tremendous with members travelling from 3 states and Canada to attend. The sail aboard America's tallest tall ship and German WWI war reparation lasted for 3 hours and brought back great memories for the many USCGA grads who attended, as they train on this vessel as cadets. Upon arrival at Curtis Bay in Baltimore, there was a tour and lunch, well received. Finally, for those who participated, a tour of the Naval Academy with bonus parade ended the day. Our members were very happy with the day and we would also like to thank Kelly Brown for locking this down thru her superior RADM Jones, after Rusty and Dave had done extensive coordination and handled the execution of the event, which was complicated. Great job!

#### **The "Butler", a "History Lesson" and H. Carl Quitmeyer**

The real "Butler" as in the movie, Lifetime Member Brian Buzzell relates a fascinating story of his time with LBJ. Clinton Presidential Aide Michael Mudd talks about the importance of our history. We note the passing of that extraordinary Johnson Aide, H. Carl Quitmeyer.

Be sure to read about our 16 Afghan and Iraqi Medal of Honor winners plus why Civility is important by Lea Berman.

**LinkedIn and Facebook** - Well, these alternative media continue to grow and we are on our way to approaching 300 participants, a great way to keep in touch or find a job.

That's all for now, God Bless!

**"It is always great to be able to hear about the amazing events and activities of the SWHMA! Kenn, although you may not hear it often enough, I'm confident that most of our Association members recognize and appreciate your personal efforts, passion, and ability to achieve outstanding results on behalf of our Association—THANK YOU!"**

**As this Christmas season approaches, Pam and I continue to reflect on and give Thanks for the many, many blessing we have and enjoy in our lives... As I reflect on the 30 plus years I wore the Air Force uniform, I realize how truly blessed I was to have had the opportunity to serve as a Military Aide and to serve with the men and women like yourself who have and who continue "to make a difference" in the military and in our society!"**

**- Frank Hood (Bush '41/Clinton)**

**"I want you to know how much I enjoyed reading your newsletter and the accompanying articles. You obviously gave it a lot of thought and spent countless hours putting it together. Your efforts are much appreciated."**

**- Lee Stenehjem (Nixon/Ford)**

## **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.*

## **White House Christmas Tour 2017**



*Al Chong (Reagan) and daughter beneath silver Christmas trees*

## **Time Honored Traditions**

*By Kelly Brown (Clinton/Bush '43)*

Time-Honored Traditions, the theme for this year's White House Christmas Celebration, served as the backdrop for the SWHMA's time-honored tradition of organizing WH Christmas tours for members and their guests. From the amazingly warm and sunny weather, to the gathering of old friends, and the sheer beauty and elegance of the understated decorations – everything about the 2017 tour was spectacular!

Immediately upon entering the East Wing, we were greeted by a tribute to service members and their families with the Gold Star Family Tree. The experience of walking through the breathtaking decorations in the East Colonnade was only surpassed by the rare opportunity to stop and admire the White House Theater and Christmas movie playing on the big screen.

The snow covered decorations in the Grand Foyer and Cross Hall of the State Floor honored the White House's first ever Christmas theme – the Nutcracker Suite (1961). Throughout the tour, staff members were available to assist with photos – what a great touch! Most unique to this year's tour was the private, personal feel each guest experienced. The tour was relaxed, spacious, and felt as though we had the White House to ourselves!

This time-honored SWHMA event could not have occurred without the selfless dedication and support of a number of volunteers. Most significantly, Kenn Riordan, Veronica Richardson, Bill Sinnott, and Nancy Chapman pulled off a Christmas miracle – Thank you!

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Looking forward to an equally spectacular 2018!

## **A Summary of the Event**

*By LTC (Ret) Bill Sinnott (Carter/Reagan)*

This year's tour was one of our very best and the White House looked spectacular. Simply splendid, and in the understated but exceptionally elegant Trump style. We even were able to look into the WH movie theatre for the first time. I had not seen the theatre since I served an aide in early 80's. ...and they had a Christmas movie playing on the screen as we passed by.

I do not know who you ultimately spoke with, but the White House staff and Visitor Center staff members could not have been more gracious nor accommodating.

The weather was 5 stars. Would you believe low 60's, virtually no humidity with sunshine. In-check at the Visitors Center was flawless and our schedule was relaxed and comfortable. People really enjoyed the new Visitor Center 13 minute video, and virtually all who desired managed to see it.

At the Visitor's Center, the Park Service staff members were exceptionally accommodating, while we maintained a very comfortable low profile. I believe they actually enjoyed our group. Veronica and I arrived downtown around 0845 and enjoyed a relaxed breakfast in the W Hotel dining room prior to heading over to the Visitor's Center. When we arrived at the center around 1100, we discovered Roger entertaining the Park Service information desk staff who were enjoying Roger's company and repartee. Sally looked good although also pushing a 3 wheeled walking aid. Both had appointments at Walter Reed on Wednesday or Thursday for checkups or some other purpose to which I am not privy nor have a need to know.

The check-in team and hostesses over at the house were especially gracious and we were invited into the house a little early to the surprise of all. Our party was in line outside the gate about 20 minutes before our gate time. Only a couple bubbles when checking the list due to a couple of birthdays transposed and I believe one name miss-spelling, and they cleared them up within 15 minutes.

I personally received only compliments from our guests; not a single complaint, nor even a question on the registration items, process, etc. Our people were happy campers.

It was the first time I saw Coast Guard Aide Paul Crissy since we worked together at the house, and only the 2nd time I had seen Dave Sanasack. Dave asked about Art Gorman, but Veronica informed me that Art was unable to take his children out of school so I passed that on to Dave. Mary Ann Cochran (USAF) also showed up and looked good, along with Marilyn Kendall, Hank Canciglia and a few other old timers who had not been to the house in some time.

Your good friend Mrs. Sharron Schandler was effusive in her appreciation for all that you and Veronica did for her for this tour so ..... until next year. Mrs Schandler and her party really enjoyed the tour and visitor's center

The above is just one attendee's observations, along with a sincere thank you for your very thoughtful picture and very kind words provided by Veronica at the Visitor's Center presentation. It is always a pleasure to support you, our team and our Society and when I believe that the tour could not possibly get better, it always seems to surpass my prior expectations. This year's tour was stellar. Be sure to go next year as I am sure it will even be better, although I do not know how. Guess we will just have to wait and see. Your spirit was with us on this one.

With best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and the best of health, happiness, continued success and prosperity in New Year 2018 to come. Thank you for the opportunity to attend and support the team.



**White House Christmas Tour 2017**













## USCGC Eagle Cruise at the USNA, Annapolis, MD













## The “Butler”

*By Brian Buzzell (Ford/Carter)*



Attached is a picture of me in 1968 (I am 21 years old) taken in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor family dining room. The walls are painted with all the Revolutionary War battles (don't know who did it & when it was done nor do I know if it is still painted that way).

As a personal butler to the President (and 1<sup>st</sup> Family) you did everything you were asked to do. Because I was single (and a full-time student at GWU) I was assigned a lot of weekend duty. As such, I cooked many a meal for the 1<sup>st</sup> Family as Mrs Wright would take the weekend off as well as Chef Henry Haller. When it was just LBJ and myself we managed to get into a lot of trouble with Mrs J. & Mrs Wright by not adhering to his very strict diet. But how could I refuse the President!

Bess Abel had two goals in 1967: integrate the Butler Staff with a white person and integrate the Military Social aides with a Black Officer (during Nixon the 1<sup>st</sup> female social aides showed up). I was the White Butler and CDR Bill Norman, USN was the Black Social Aide. I recently had lunch with Bill Norman after not seeing him for 49 years! He is a life member of your organization. Bill also was the individual most responsible for me becoming a Naval Aviator. Because of our obvious uniqueness in the White House we became friends. Additionally, Captain “Gorgeous George” Watkins, USN was the senior Social Aide at that time, a Naval Aviator who took a liking to me and would invite me to all the Social Aide parties. Back then the parties were wild! And the most outrageous behavior was exhibited by the Naval Aviators! I wanted to be one of them.

Lastly, when I decided to apply to the Navy I had a discussion with LBJ and Mrs. J. They preferred I come with them to Texas. I said “no” that I felt obligated to serve my country and the Navy was my choice. President Johnson wrote a one sentence recommendation to the Navy for me. At some point, someone looking for a souvenir removed the original from my personal file.

I have a million stories about my time as personal butler to President Johnson & President Nixon. I graduated from GWU in May 1969 and left my WHS employment. I came back as a Military Social Aide in 1976. The WHS Butler Staff were still there and I renewed old friendships. I would arrive an hour early, so I could spend time in the kitchen and pantry with the butlers and domestic staff.

## A History Lesson

*By Mike Mudd (Clinton Presidential Aide)*

“In my visits to Christ Church [in Alexandria, Virginia] I have noticed the well-dressed congregation is not very diverse. Removing the Washington and Lee plaques will not likely expand its demographic.

On Christmas Eve I almost always arrive early at Christ Church and sit in the Washington family box. FDR and Churchill with Eleanor sat there on New Years’ Day 1942 and heard the sermon regret America’s sinful isolationism before Pearl Harbor while praying for victory against Nazi and Japanese militarist aggression. Churchill wept as the congregation sang The Battle Hymn of the Republic. FDR chose the church because of its ties to Washington, whose Mount Vernon they visited after worship. Churchill admired both Washington and Lee.

Churchill and FDR, with Washington and Lee, were sinful men and instruments of Providence. Their stories merit examination and often admiration, not Manichean caricatures. Lee’s faith failed to make him an abolitionist but it did guide his gracious surrender and support for peace with reconciliation. Washington’s faith almost certainly guided him toward opposition to slavery and emancipation for his own slaves. Christianity, based on the example of St. Paul, usually judges lives based on their trajectory and conclusion, not the sins of earlier life.”

- Mark Tooley Oct 30, 2017

“Too bad ignorance is on the rise in our country as we tear down reminders of men, humans in some cases deeply flawed, but none the less dedicated to the ideals of our country and sacrificed much to provide for the future of those who would turn against them. Our current so called progressive and enlightened culture is rife with stupidity, ingratitude and a high degree of arrogance – analogous to a man tearing down the walls of his own home and expecting it to continue to stand.

“United we stand; divided we Fall”

The beauty, and really a blessing, about the US, is not really our illustrious history, but the collective belief in the unique set of ideals codified by the Founder’s allowing for individual freedom as conceived by a Creator and that those inalienable rights can never be abrogated by our elected officials. No other country on the face of the earth has as closely perfected that ideal relationship (the Founder’s vision; guided by, I believe Divine Providence) between the governed, you and I, and the elected representatives that work for us.

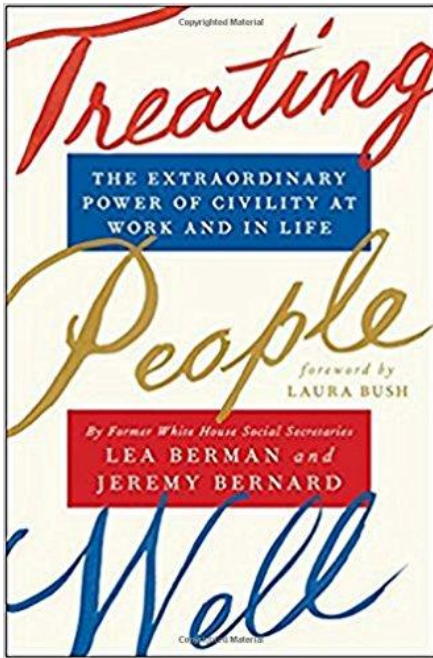
When that relationship is corrupted by self-serving individuals interested only in acquiring and maintaining their power then we have, unfortunately, arrived at our present state of affairs.

Then again, Kenn, all great nations, dynasties and empires reach a pinnacle and then experience a period of decline, precipitous or slow but a deterioration all the same.

My political and social commentary for today.”

- Mike Mudd (Clinton)





## ***Treating People Well: The Extraordinary Power of Civility at Work and in Life***

By **Lea Berman (Bush 43')**, Author, **Jeremy Bernard (Obama)**, Author, & **Laura Bush**, Foreword

A guide to personal and professional empowerment through civility and social skills, written by two White House Social Secretaries who offer an important fundamental message—everyone is important and everyone deserves to be treated well.

Former White House social secretaries Lea Berman, who worked for George and Laura Bush, and Jeremy Bernard, who worked for Michelle and Barack Obama, have written an entertaining and uniquely practical guide to personal and professional success in modern life. Their daily experiences at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue taught them valuable lessons about how to work

productively with people from different walks of life and points of view. These Washington insiders share what they've learned through first person examples of their own glamorous (and sometimes harrowing) moments with celebrities, foreign leaders and that most unpredictable of animals—the American politician.

This book is for you if you feel unsure of yourself in social settings, if you'd like to get along more easily with others, or if you want to break through to a new level of cooperation with your boss and coworkers. They give specific advice for how to exude confidence even when you don't feel it, ways to establish your reputation as an individual whom people like, trust, and want to help, and lay out the specific social skills still essential to success - despite our increasingly digitized world. Jeremy and Lea prove that social skills are learned behavior that anyone can acquire, and tell the stories of their own unlikely paths to becoming the social arbiters of the White House, while providing tantalizing insights into the character of the first ladies and presidents they served.

This is not a book about old school etiquette; they explain the things we all want to know, like how to walk into a roomful of strangers and make friends, what to do about a difficult colleague who makes you dread coming to work each day, and how to navigate the sometimes-treacherous waters of social media in a special chapter on "Virtual Manners." For lovers of White House history, this is a treasure of never-before-published anecdotes from the authors and their fellow former social secretaries as they describe pearl-clutching moments with presidents and first ladies dating back to the Johnson administration.

The authors make a case for the importance of a return to treating people well in American political life, maintaining that democracy cannot be sustained without public civility.

*Foreword by Laura Bush*

## **H. CARL QUITMEYER (*Johnson/Nixon*)**



H. CARL QUITMEYER (Age 88) Of Cedar Park, TX, died Wednesday, February 21, 2018 in the home of his son and daughter-in-law.

Mr. Quitmeyer was born in Detroit, MI in 1929, and was the youngest of 10 children.

Mr. Quitmeyer lived an amazing life filled with lots of beauty and wonder, accomplishing more in one lifetime than could be conceivable. He was able to travel the world both in the military and civilian life. He served his nation as a Naval fighter pilot, retiring from the Navy after 23 years of service. During his career, he helped develop and test the Sidewinder missile, was a part of the Navy's Space Program Division, as well as a Presidential Advisor to Presidents Johnson and Nixon.

Upon retiring from the Navy, Mr. Quitmeyer joined an investment banking firm as a stock broker/principal, and he also worked with an aeronautical firm as an operations research analyst. As well as being a full-time teacher at George Mason University teaching decision science and statistics, he was a certified tennis teaching professional with the United States Professional Tennis Registry and loved the game of tennis.

Mark Twain is quoted as saying: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover," and Mr. Quitmeyer lived this advice.

He was a member of Who's Who in Washington D.C. as well as an active member of the Ski Club of Washington D.C. conducting ski trips around the world. One of Mr. Quitmeyer's lifelong passions was music. He was a concert level master pianist, blessing those around him with not only his mastery of Chopin, Brahms, Bach and Beethoven, but also with his numerous piano concertos which he wrote and performed in numerous concerts in his lifetime.

He continued his love of music playing with the Springfield Music Group later in life. Mr. Quitmeyer had one son, Douglas Quitmeyer, whom he loved, supported, and taught his passions to. Mr. Quitmeyer shared his keen mind in math, analysis, music, tennis and love of politics with his son, and his numerous acquaintances. He was a hero to those around him, both in personal life as well as to his friends. In his later years, he moved to Texas to be near his son, daughter-in-law, Angela, and his beautiful granddaughters, Charlotte and Juliette, who brought him so much joy.



## **Medal of Honor: Meet the 16 Heroes of Iraq and Afghanistan Who Received the Nation's Highest Honor**

*Source: wearethemighty.com*

Of the roughly 2.5 million service members who have deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq over the past decade, just 16 have received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor. It's not an award most aspire to. The criteria for receiving it are incredibly stringent, requiring significant risk to life and limb in direct combat and a display of "personal bravery or self-sacrifice so extraordinary as to set the individual apart from his or her comrades." But for some service members put into extreme circumstances, the daily grind can give way to moments of incredible bravery that warrants them the nation's highest award. We've collected them here (in alphabetical order).

### **Cpl. Kyle Carpenter**

On Nov. 21, 2010, then-Lance Cpl. Kyle Carpenter was providing security alongside his friend Lance Cpl. Nick Eufrazio on a rooftop at a combat outpost the Marines had established the previous day. It wasn't long before the shooting started, forcing both to lie on their backs to avoid getting hit.

An hour later, Taliban bullets began getting closer to the compound, and under that cover fire, insurgents launched three grenades inside at the Marines. One landed in the center of the base, injuring an Afghan soldier. The second harmlessly detonated near a post that was destroyed the previous day. The last landed on the roof, dangerously close to both Marines.



*Photo: The White House*

"I only remember a few moments after I got hit," Carpenter told me when I interviewed him for Business Insider. "But nothing before." An extensive investigation found that Carpenter had actually jumped on the grenade, absorbing the majority of the explosion. "The majority of the grenade blast was deflected down rather than up, causing a cone-shaped hole to be blown down through the ceiling of the command operations center," his award summary reads.

Carpenter was severely wounded, with injuries to his face, jaw, and upper and lower extremities. Eufrazio received shrapnel to the head. Both were immediately evacuated and survived. Eufrazio is still recovering from the attack. "I wouldn't change anything," Carpenter said. "We're both alive and we're here and I'm fully appreciating my second chance."

**Award Presented: June 19, 2014**

### **Staff Sgt. Ty Carter**

On Oct. 3, 2009, Carter was one of 54 members of B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment defending Combat Outpost Keating in Nuristan Province. Shortly before 6 a.m., the remote base was rocked with blistering enemy machine gun and rocket fire. More than 400 fighters were attempting to overrun the base.

Then-Specialist Carter sprinted across open ground to join his fellow soldiers on the perimeter, then ran back again to gather up necessary supplies despite withering enemy fire. Later, Carter noticed his fellow soldier Specialist Stephan L. Mace was wounded.



*Photo: U.S. Army*

Stripes has more:

While Larson provided cover fire from within a nearby Humvee, Carter stanching Mace's bleeding and placed a tourniquet on his shattered leg. He realized he couldn't carry Mace while he had his weapon. He returned to the Humvee and told Larson his plan. Larson got out of the Humvee and provided cover fire while Carter returned to Mace, picked him up and carried him through the hail of bullets back to the Humvee, and went back to firing.

During the 12-hour long battle, Carter continued to give medical aid to Mace, engage the enemy, and communicate with his fellow soldiers to retake the base. According to the Army's official narrative of the battle, "Carter's remarkable acts of heroism and skill, which were vital to the defense of COP Keating, exemplify what it means to be an American hero."

**Award Presented: Aug. 26, 2013**

### **Cpl. Jason Dunham**

While his unit was engaged in a major firefight in Iraq along the Syrian border on Apr. 14, 2004, Dunham and his team stopped several vehicles to search them for weapons. As he approached one of the vehicles, the driver lunged at Dunham's throat and

they fought in a hand-to-hand battle. Wrestling on the ground, Dunham then yelled to his Marines, "No, no watch his hand." The insurgent then dropped a grenade with the pin pulled. Dunham jumped on top of it, placing his helmet between his body and the grenade in an effort to blunt the explosion. "He knew what he was doing," Lance Cpl. Jason A. Sanders, who was in Dunham's company, told Marine Corps News. "He wanted to save Marines' lives from that grenade." He saved the lives of at least two Marines, and was mortally wounded in the blast.

**Award Presented (posthumously): Jan. 11, 2007**



#### **Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta**

On Oct. 25, 2007, Giunta's platoon was on patrol in Afghanistan's deadly Korengal Valley when they were hit with a fierce L-shaped ambush from fighters **only 10 meters away**.

The 10 to 15 enemy fighters fired rocket-propelled grenades, machine-guns, and AK-47s, which immediately wounded two soldiers. With his team pinned down, Giunta left a covered position to give first aid to his wounded squad leader. He was shot twice — one hit the rocket launcher on his back, and the other hit him in the chest of his bulletproof vest. Once he recovered from the shots, he got up and bounded towards the enemy in order to push them back. When he noticed two Taliban fighters dragging away one of the wounded soldiers, he chased after them, killing one and forcing the other to flee.

"If I'm a hero, every man that stands around me, every woman in the military, everyone who goes into the unknown is a hero," Giunta later told The Christian Science Monitor. "So if you think that's a hero — as long as you include everyone with me."

**Award Presented: Nov. 16, 2010**



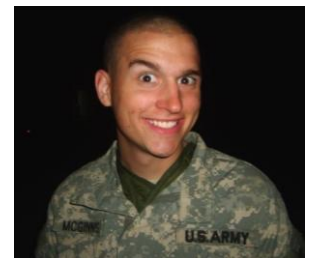
#### **Pfc. Ross McGinnis**

As McGinnis' platoon was driving through Adhamiyah, Iraq on Dec. 4, 2006, an insurgent on a rooftop tossed a fragmentation grenade into his Humvee. McGinnis, who was in the gun turret behind the .50 cal, could have jumped out of the hatch and escaped the blast. Instead, he screamed, "grenade" to warn his fellow soldiers as he tried to grab it to toss away, but he missed.

From Command Posts:

He stood as if he were going to leap out of the top of the Humvee, but instead he dropped down from his fighting position into the truck. Newland thought McGinnis was trying to escape the grenade. But he wasn't. McGinnis had realized that his teammates hadn't spotted it, and so he was chasing it. Newland couldn't move quickly enough to get out of the truck with its combat-locked doors, and none of the guys quite understood what was going on because McGinnis hadn't dived out. The soldiers watched as McGinnis threw himself on the grenade and took the blast. He gave his life to save the four men inside the vehicle.

**Award Presented (posthumously): Jun. 2, 2008**



*Photo: U.S. Army*

#### **Sgt. Dakota Meyer**

On Sep. 8, 2009, Meyer was providing rear security as the four other members of his team (along with Afghan troops) headed on foot into the village of Ganjgal, Afghanistan to meet with village elders. It turned out to be a trap, and they were ambushed by more than 50 enemy fighters with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars, and machine guns firing from high ground.

Listening on the radio to his team — who was now cut off — Meyer disobeyed orders to remain in place and manned a .50 caliber machine gun on a gun truck heading into the village. Despite being wounded and braving intense enemy fire, Meyer went in and picked up wounded Afghans and brought them to safety four times. On his fifth trip, he dismounted and recovered the bodies of his four-man team, who Meyer had been trying to save throughout the battle. "I was a failure," Meyer later told CNN. "My guys died. That was my whole team."

**Award Presented: Sep. 11, 2011**



#### **Staff Sgt. Robert Miller**

On Jan. 25, 2008, Miller's Special Forces team was on a reconnaissance patrol near the Pakistani border when they came under attack. The first attack was quelled after calling for close air support, but soon after, insurgents opened up with heavy machine guns.



Miller's team captain was seriously wounded early in the battle. Completely disregarding his own safety, he ran into the hail of bullets from over 100 enemy fighters to give his team an opportunity to escape to covered positions. Even after being shot in his upper torso, he ignored the wound and ran over open ground, ultimately killing at least 10 insurgents and wounding dozens more, according to his award citation.



"Five members of his patrol had been wounded, but his team had survived," President Barack Obama said at the award presentation. "And one of his teammates surely spoke for all of them when he said of Rob, 'I would not be alive today if not for his ultimate sacrifice.'"

**Award Presented (posthumously): Oct. 6, 2010**

#### **Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Monsoor**

While providing sniper overwatch in Ramadi, Iraq on Sep. 29, 2006, Monsoor and his SEAL Team eliminated insurgents that were planning a coordinated attack. As the enemy activity ratcheted up, Monsoor took up a rooftop position to watch for more insurgents. Then a grenade bounced off his chest and landed at his feet.



From The Washington Post:

"Grenade!" Monsoor shouted. But the two snipers and another SEAL on the roof had no time to escape, as Monsoor was closest to the only exit. Monsoor dropped onto the grenade, smothering it with his body. It detonated, and Monsoor died about 30 minutes later from his wounds.

"He made an instantaneous decision to save our teammates. I immediately understood what happened, and tragically it made sense to me in keeping with the man I know, Mike Monsoor," said Lt. Cmdr. Seth Stone, Monsoor's platoon leader in Ramadi.

**Award Presented (posthumously): Apr. 8, 2008**

#### **Sgt. 1st Class Jared Monti**

On Jun. 21, 2006, Monti's unit established a small base on a ridge above a valley in northeastern Afghanistan to support troops below. Later that evening, a group of at least 60 insurgents established two firing positions only 50 yards away and opened up on the team of only 16 soldiers.

"We were taking so much fire we couldn't make out where the mortars landed. It was coming in so close that ... you could hear it right over your head, just like whizzing through," Private First Class Derek James told Stars & Stripes. "They were so close at one point you could hear their voices."



With soldiers killed and wounded, Monti called in artillery and close air support. But one of his soldiers was hit and cut off from the rest of the men. Monti left the cover of rocks and moved through open ground and gunfire to try and rescue Specialist Brian Bradbury, saying, "that's my guy. I am going to get him." He tried twice to make it to his wounded comrade, but intense enemy fire pushed him back. With his men laying down covering fire, he went once more, almost making it before being shot himself.

**Award Presented (posthumously): Sep. 17, 2009**

#### **Lt. Michael Murphy**

While leading his Navy SEAL team on Jun. 28, 2005 to infiltrate and provide reconnaissance on a Taliban leader, Murphy and the three other members of his team came under withering gunfire from 30 to 40 enemy fighters.

The fierce gunfight pitted the SEALs against insurgents on the high ground, and they desperately called for support as all four operators were hit by gunshots. When his radioman fell mortally wounded, and with the radio not able to get a clear signal, Murphy disregarded the enemy fire and went out into the open to transmit back to his base and call for support.



From his Summary of Action:

He calmly provided his unit's location and the size of the enemy force while requesting immediate support for his team. At one point he was shot in the back causing him to drop the transmitter. Murphy picked it back up, completed the call and continued firing at the enemy who was closing in.

"I was cursing at him from where I was," Hospital Corpsman Marcus Luttrell, the only survivor of the battle, later told The New York Times. "I was saying, 'What are you doing?' Then I realized that he was making a call. But then he started getting hit. He finished the call, picked up his rifle and started fighting again. But he was overrun."

**Award Presented (posthumously): Oct. 23, 2007**

#### **Staff Sgt. Leroy Petry**

After his platoon of Army Rangers jumped out of helicopters in Paktia Province, Afghanistan to look for a high-value Taliban target on May 26, 2008, they came under serious attack.

Spotting a nearby compound, Petry led his soldiers in clearing the courtyard which had three Taliban fighters inside. Despite being hit in both legs by gunfire, Petry pushed in and led his soldiers to cover and assess other wounded soldiers. Only a short time later, both of his soldiers were wounded by a grenade thrown at them by one of the fighters, and then another landed nearby. That's when Petry decided he would throw it back.



"It was almost instinct; off training," Petry told the Army News Service. "It was probably going to kill all three of us. I had time to visually see the hand grenade. And I figure it's got about a four-and-half second fuse, depending on how long it has been in the elements and the weather and everything and how long the pin has been pulled. I figure if you have time to see it you have time to kick it, throw it, just get it out there."

Saving the lives of two soldiers, the grenade exploded just as he was throwing it, taking off his right hand. He then calmly placed a tourniquet on his arm as other soldiers neutralized the threat from the Taliban.

**Award Presented: Jul. 12, 2011**

#### **Staff Sgt. Ryan Pitts**

On July 13, 2008, Taliban fighters attacked a small outpost in Wanat, Afghanistan in an attempt to overrun it, and almost immediately, a number of soldiers were wounded or killed in a blistering volley of rocket-propelled grenade fire.

"It was just a barrage of RPGs, and it was very disorienting," Pitts told the Army Times. The first volley left Pitts' lower body peppered with shrapnel, forcing him to crawl to areas where he could return fire. "I'd blind fire, spraying along the rock, and once I thought I had laid down enough suppressive fire, I'd pop up and try to take out whatever I could."



From Business Insider:

Crucially, Pitts maintained radio contact between the OP and the command post as the battle progressed, warning of enemy movements. After fighting for over an hour despite being critical wounded, Pitts was medically evacuated.

Were Pitts not present at the Battle of Wanat, the outcome would have been significantly different.

**Award Presented: Jul. 24, 2014**

#### **Staff Sgt. Clinton Romesha**

With only 53 U.S. troops at Combat Outpost Keating, Afghanistan, the early morning of Oct. 3, 2009 was quite different than what they had endured before. Over 300 Taliban fighters were attacking from all sides with the goal of overrunning the remote base. But Romesha wasn't going to let that happen. "We weren't going to be beat that day," he later said.

As fighters breached the perimeter of the camp, Romesha calmly rallied his men to repel the assault even after he was wounded. He personally played "peek-a-boo" with an enemy sniper, took out an enemy machine-gun position, and called in airstrikes that killed at least 30 Taliban fighters.



From The New York Times:

His bravery, Mr. Obama said, helped prevent the outpost from being overrun by Taliban fighters. He was wounded in the neck, shoulder and arms by shrapnel after a rocket-propelled grenade hit a generator he was hiding behind. Eight American service members were killed in the October 2009 battle, one of the most intense of the war.

**Award Presented: Feb. 11, 2013**



### **Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith**

On April 4, 2003, after his unit briefly battled and captured several Iraqi fighters near the Baghdad International Airport, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith instructed his men to build an impromptu holding area for the prisoners in a nearby walled compound.

A short time later, his troops were violently attacked by a larger force. Smith rallied his men to organize a hasty defense, then braved hostile fire to engage the enemy with grenades and anti-tank weapons. He then ran through blistering gunfire to man the .50 caliber machine gun on top of an armored personnel carrier to keep the enemy from overrunning the position, completely disregarding his own safety to protect his soldiers. Smith was mortally wounded during the attack, but he helped defeat the attacking force which had more than 50 enemy soldiers killed, according to his award citation.

**Award Presented (posthumously): April 4, 2005**



### **Capt. Will Swenson**

On Sept. 8, 2009 while assigned as a trainer and mentor to the Afghan border police, Capt. Will Swenson's team was ambushed by a force of more than 50 Taliban fighters. With no reinforcements and repeated denials for fire support, Swenson repeatedly risked his own life to search for members of the team who were cut off.

From the U.S. Army:

With complete disregard for his own safety, Swenson voluntarily led a team into the kill zone, exposing himself to enemy fire on three occasions to recover the wounded and search for missing team members.

Returning to the kill zone a fourth time in a Humvee, he exited the vehicle, evaded a hail of bullets and shells to recover three fallen Marines and a Navy corpsman, working alongside then-Marine Corps Cpl. Dakota Meyer, who on Sept. 15, 2011, received the Medal of Honor for his own actions in the battle.

"This award was earned with a team, a team of our finest: Marines, Army, Air Force, Navy and our Afghan partners, standing side by side," Swenson told reporters after his award ceremony. "And now that team includes Gold Star families who lost their fathers, sons and husbands that day. This medal represents them. It represents us."

**Award Presented: Oct. 15, 2013**



### **Sgt. Kyle White**

On Nov. 8, 2007, Kyle White repeatedly ran through intense enemy gunfire to get to wounded troops, called in steady reports and air support to beat back Taliban fighters, and directed medical evacuations for the dead and wounded, Army Times reports.

"An RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] hit right behind my head and knocked me unconscious ... it was just lights out ... when I woke up, I was face-down on a rock," White told Army News Service, recalling that as he came to, an enemy round fragmented near his head and sent a shower of broken rock chips and debris into the side of his face. "I didn't feel pain at all, just numb like when you go to the dentist."



With chaos all around him, White realized that 10 of those with his 14-man team embedded with Afghan soldiers had been forced to slide more than 150 feet down the side of a rocky cliff. As one of four soldiers left above (and closest to enemy fire), White tended to a wounded soldier for some time before seeing a Marine on the team lying wounded out in the open. White then ran through blistering enemy fire to reach wounded Marine Sgt. Philip Bocks, but unfortunately his injuries were mortal. "I worked on him until he was no longer with us." Remarkably, White was never hit by enemy fire during the 16-hour battle, although his pack, weapon, and equipment were hit multiple times.

As night fell, White — now suffering from two concussions — directed Afghan Army soldiers to set up a defensive perimeter as he kept a badly-wounded Spec. Kain Schilling from falling asleep and marked a landing zone so helicopters could land and bring the soldiers out.

**Award Presented: May. 13, 2014**

## Van T. Barfoot died...

Remember the  
Guy who wouldn't take  
The flag pole  
Down on his Virginia  
Property a  
While back?  
You might  
Remember the news story several  
Months ago  
About a crotchety old man in  
Virginia who  
Defied his local Homeowners Association,  
And refused to take down the  
Flag pole on  
His property along with the large  
American flag  
He flew on it.  
Now we learn  
Who that old man was.  
On June 15, 1919, Van T. Barfoot was born in  
Edinburg, Texas. That probably didn't make  
News back then.

But

Twenty-five years later, on May 23, 1944,  
Near Carano, Italy,  
That same Van T. Barfoot,  
Who had in 1940 enlisted in the U.S. Army, set  
Out alone to  
Flank German machine gun positions  
From which gunfire was raining  
Down on his Fellow soldiers.  
His advance  
Took him through a minefield but  
Having done  
So, he proceeded to single-handedly  
Take out  
Three enemy machine gun positions,  
Returning  
With 17 prisoners of war.

And if that  
Weren't enough for a day's work, he  
Later Took on and  
Destroyed three German tanks  
Sent to Retake the machine gun positions.





That probably  
Didn't make much news either,  
Given the Scope of the war, but it did earn  
Van T. Barfoot, who retired as a Colonel after  
Also serving In Korea and Vietnam, a well  
Deserved Congressional Medal of Honor.

What did make  
News...Was his Neighborhood Association's  
Quibble with how the 90-year-old  
Veteran chose  
To fly the American flag outside  
His suburban Virginia home.  
Seems the HOA rules Said it was  
OK to fly a flag on a house-mounted  
Bracket, but, For decorum, items such as  
Barfoot's 21-foot Flagpole were "unsuitable".

Van Barfoot  
Had been denied a permit for The pole, but  
Erected it anyway and was facing  
Court action Unless he agreed to take it down.

Then the HOA  
Story made national TV,  
And the Neighborhood Association rethought  
Its position And agreed to indulge this  
Aging hero Who dwelt among them.

"In the Time I have left", he said to the  
Associated Press, "I plan to continue  
To fly the American flag without interference."

As Well he should.

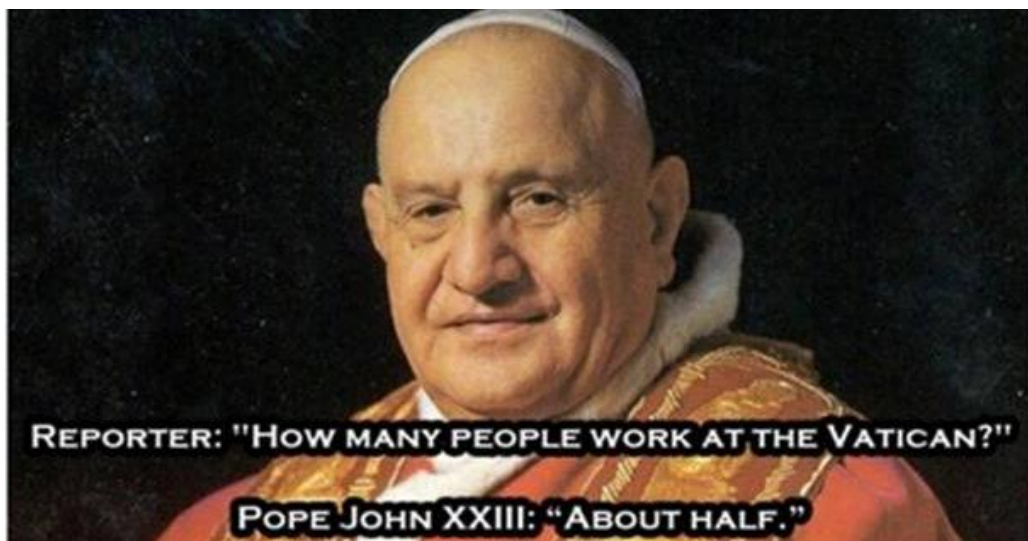
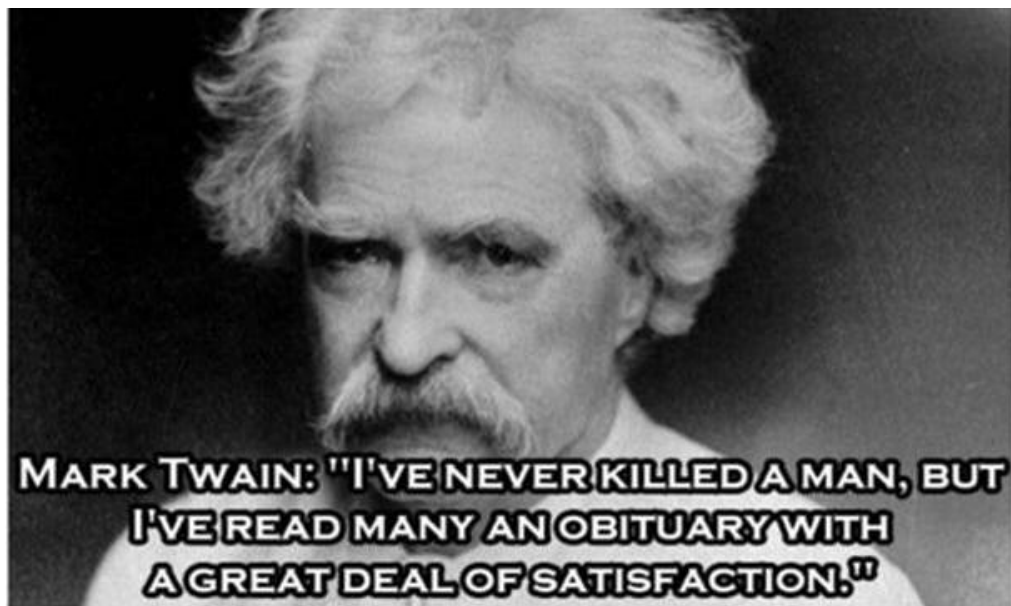
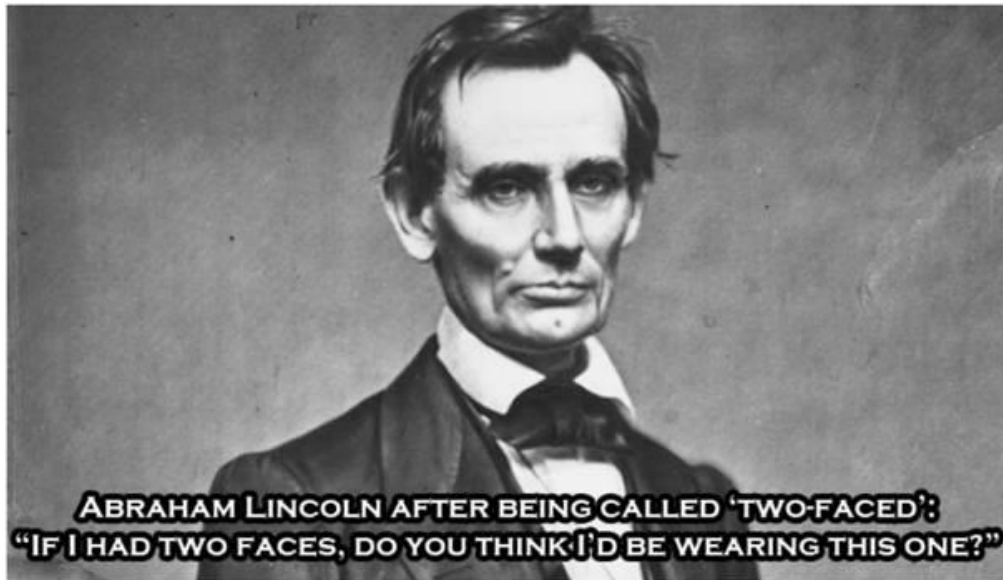
And if any of his neighbors had taken a  
Notion to Contest him  
Further, they might have done well to Read his  
Medal of Honor citation first. Seems it  
Indicates Mr. Van Barfoot wasn't  
Particularly Good at Backing down.

WE ONLY LIVE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE  
BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE!  
AND, BECAUSE OF OLD MEN  
LIKE VAN BARFOOT!

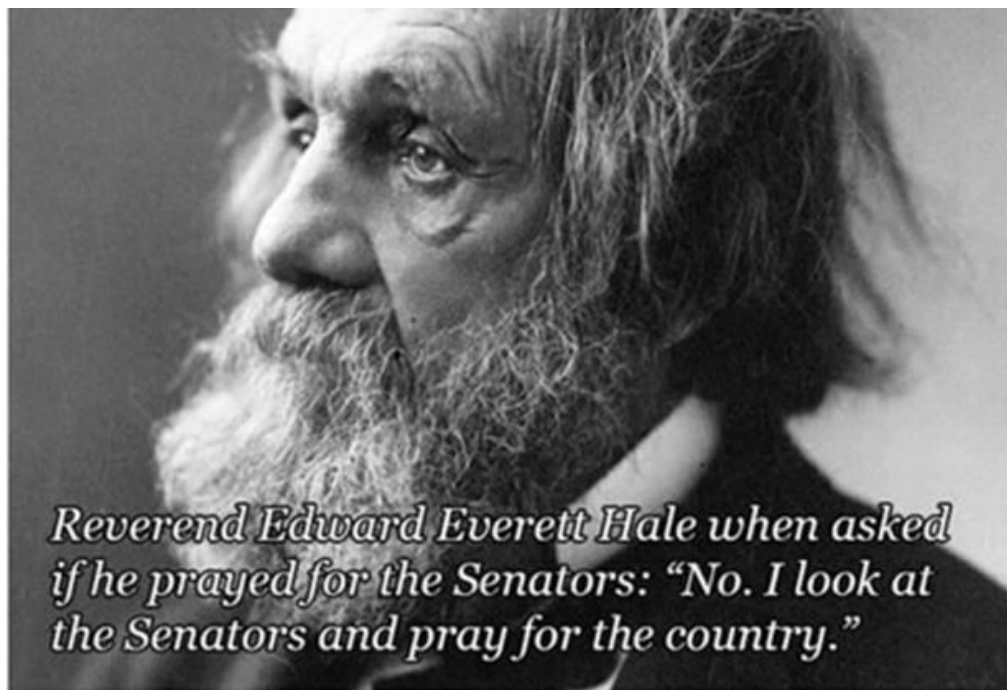


## Historic Comebacks

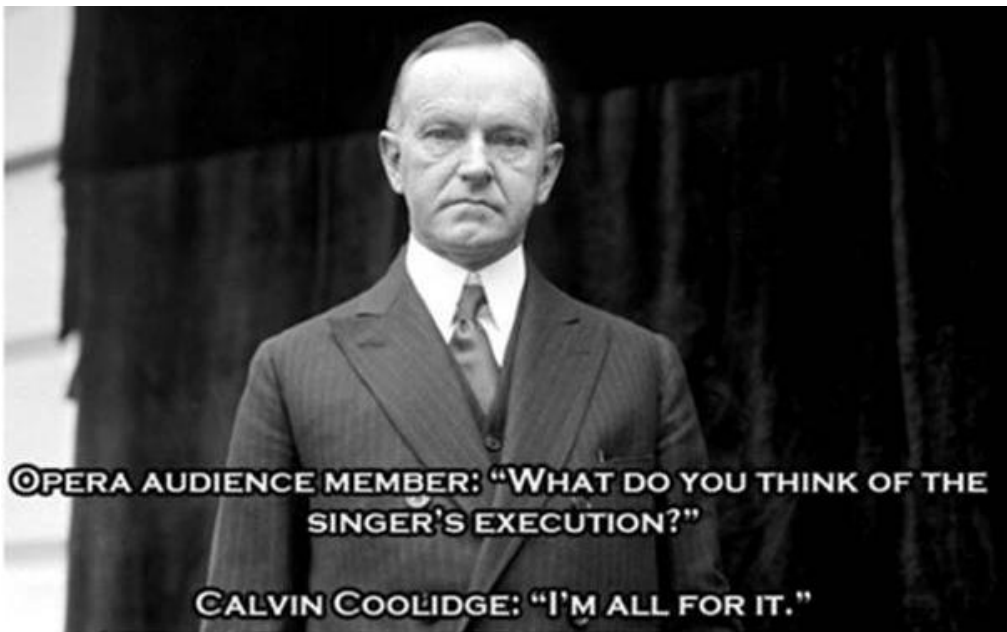
*Source: yesemails.com*





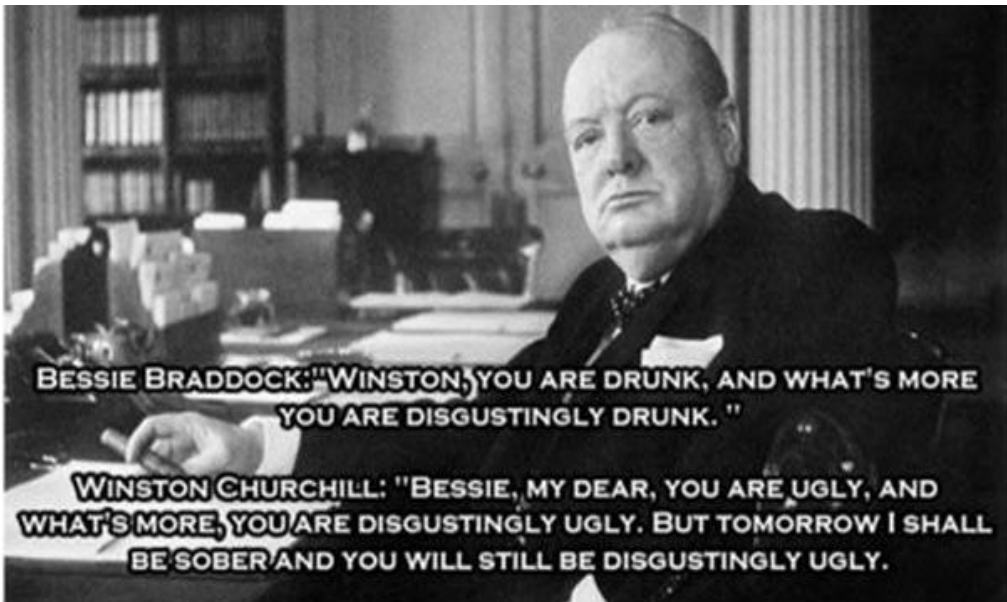


*Reverend Edward Everett Hale when asked if he prayed for the Senators: "No. I look at the Senators and pray for the country."*



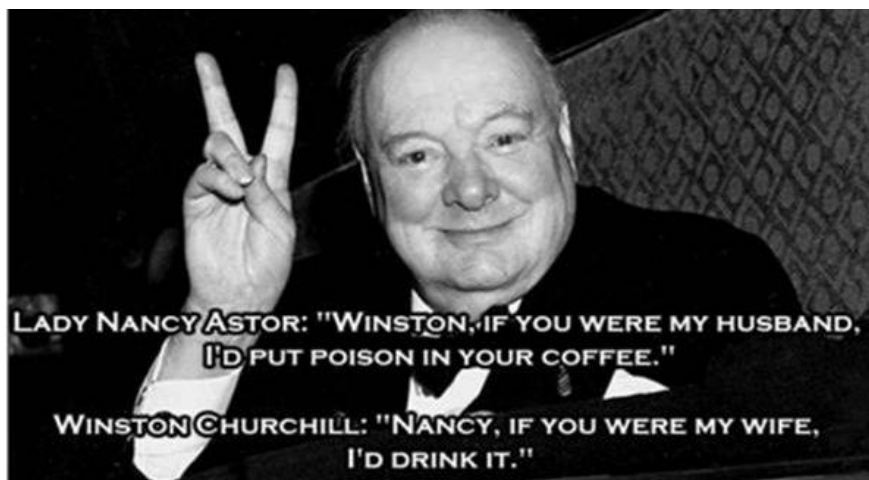
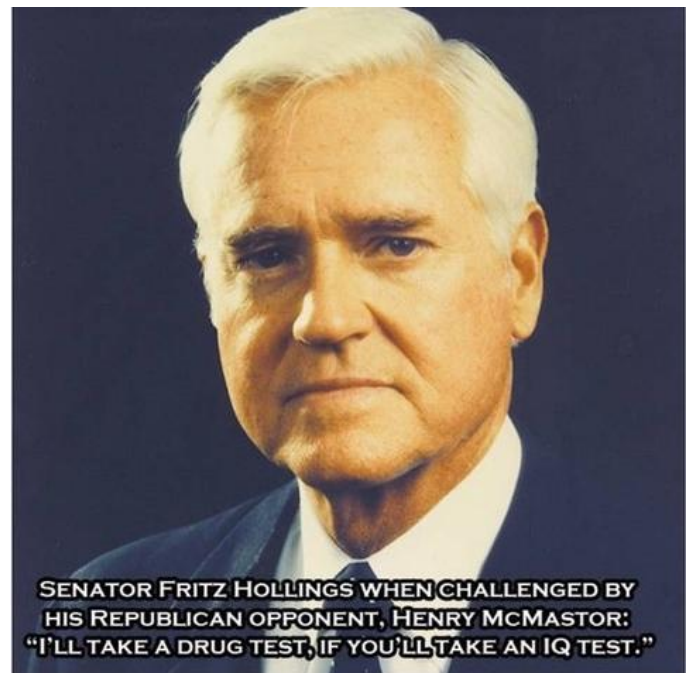
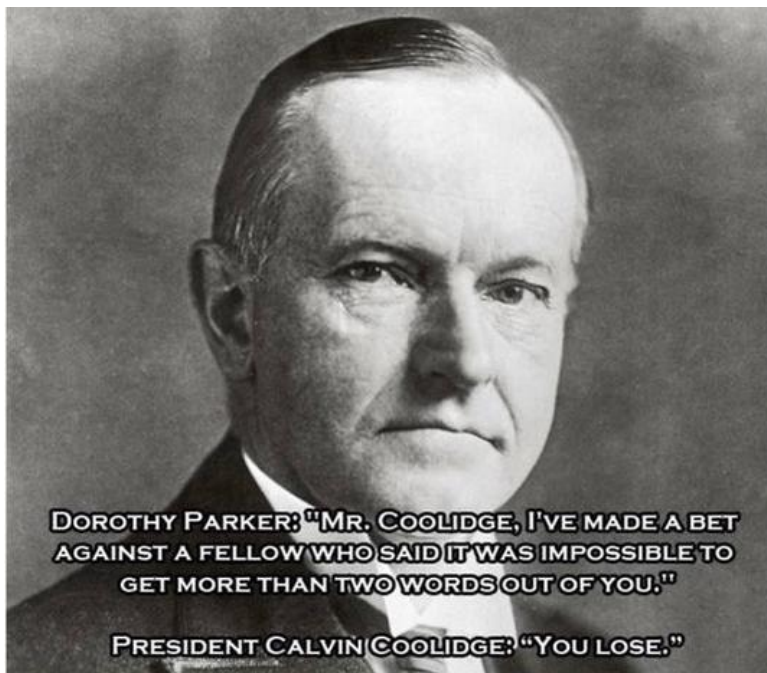
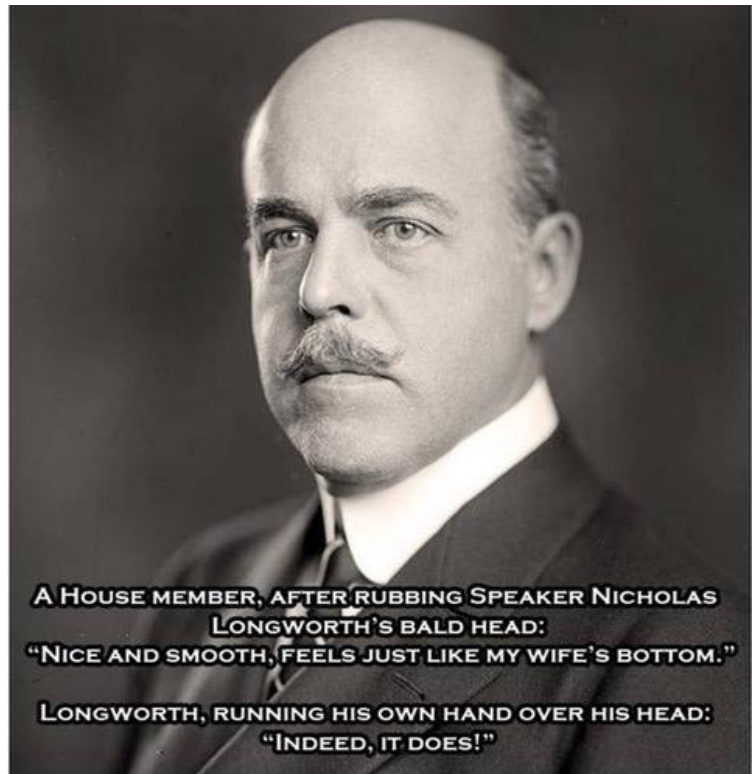
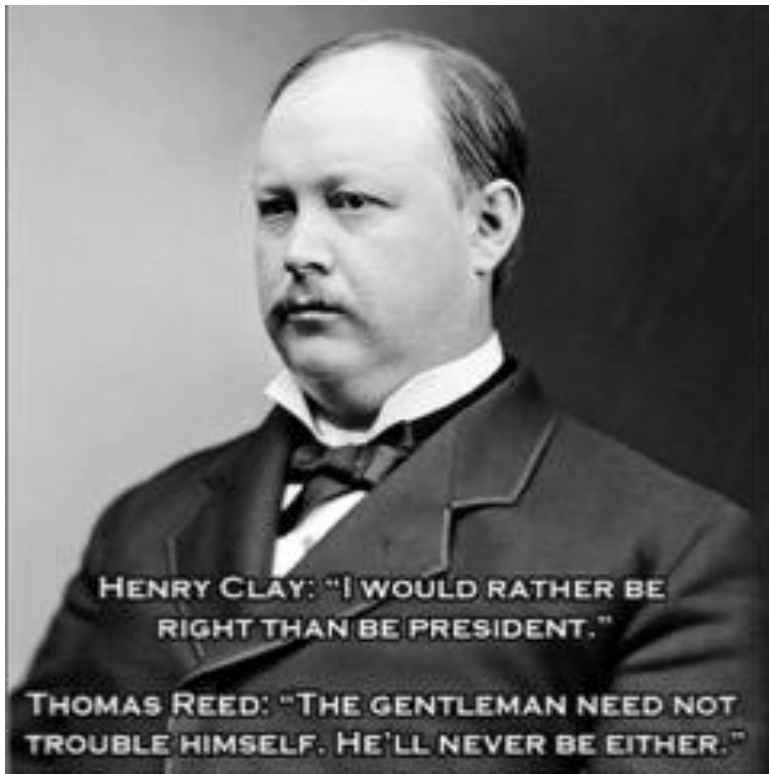
**OPERA AUDIENCE MEMBER: "WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SINGER'S EXECUTION?"**

**CALVIN COOLIDGE: "I'M ALL FOR IT."**



**BESSIE BRADDOCK: "WINSTON, YOU ARE DRUNK, AND WHAT'S MORE YOU ARE DISGUSTINGLY DRUNK. "**

**WINSTON CHURCHILL: "BESSIE, MY DEAR, YOU ARE UGLY, AND WHAT'S MORE, YOU ARE DISGUSTINGLY UGLY. BUT TOMORROW I SHALL BE SOBER AND YOU WILL STILL BE DISGUSTINGLY UGLY."**





# Society of White House Military Aides

## FY2018 (2017 - 2018) Membership Drive

**Washington Area Membership.** I wish to renew/initiate my membership, access the FY 2018 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 2018 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 2018 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 2018 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](mailto:lordstrider@earthlink.net)"

or

Society of White House Military Aides  
ATTN: Kenn Riordan, Jr.  
5445 Tennessee Pass Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80917  
Tel: (505) 450-4293



# **SOCIETY OF WHITE HOUSE MILITARY AIDE (SWHMA)**

## **CORE ETHICAL VALUES 2018**

*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.