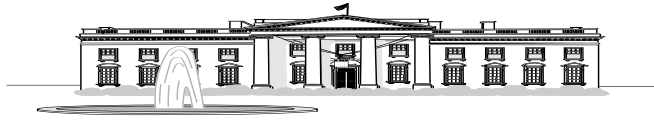


"The Aiguillette"

The Society of White House Military Aides Summer 2020



Chairman's Report – Summer of 2020

July 8, 2020

"Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose." "The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help you." Ronald Reagan

Dear Society Members, good day!

I have purposely avoided being the sage who promoted what you should do during this pandemic and law enforcement crisis. After all, we are social people who seek rather than avoid social contact. You be the judge!

We started with two great events, a special gathering of Trump Military Aides and Society Advisors by invitation of the White House Historical Association in November. We thank White House Historical Association's (WHHA) distinguished President, Mr. Stewart D. McLaurin for the invitation, and COL (Ret) Veronica Richardson (Clinton) for leading our Advisors in my absence. Our strategic partnership with the WHHA developed over many years is alive and working.

"Speaking Truth to Power"



AMB Abelardo Valdez (Johnson, Chief of Protocol for President Carter) addresses Trump Military Aides at the White House Historical Association. Our newly elected Advisor, Lt Col Paige Young (Obama), listens attentively.

Then, in December, the Christmas Tour launched from the White House Visitors' Center, always a special treat. Pictures and narrative follow for both events!

We congratulate Paige Young (Obama) upon her unanimous selection by our eight (8) Advisors to fill the Advisor position vacated by COL (Ret) Roger McNamara who is 80 years old. More about Paige's impressive resume follows. She is now referred to as "One of Nine" (Star Trek terminology) as no doubt she will someday be part of the Space Command's Mission to Mars!

May I also add that COL (Ret) Jack Koser (Truman) at age 101 is our most senior aide, and his mind is sound. His picture and a narrative about President Truman follow. But be sure to read the interview with Brig (Ret) Paul Tibbets who commanded the Enola Gay on its nuclear mission over Hiroshima. Jack Koser accidentally came upon the hiding place for the B-29 prior to its launch from the Pacific island of Tinian!

Sadly, we report the death of the great Alan Merten (Johnson) who for many years led George Mason University. He and his wife Sally were great Society supporters, hosting two events. Alan also served as our Air Force Senior Director. He will not be forgotten.

We also congratulate RADM Melissa Bert (Bush '43 / Clinton) for her selection as US Coast Guard Judge Advocate General and Chief Counsel. She is always an enthusiastic follower of the Society and its newsletter.

A bright spot is our balance sheet which is attached and shows that we have increased our reserves by almost \$2,000 this last year due to your continued support. Good job!

Our organization is still together and looking at events or gatherings for summer or fall or winter depending on how long our current crisis remains with us. We know at some point this crisis will end and we'll be ready to lay out something fun for the group to gather and rejuvenate. Advisors Dave Pitcher (Nixon), Paige Young (Obama) and Kelly Brown (Clinton / Bush '43) are on this and working with the Trump Aides for something special. It is important to keep in touch at these times of distraction so the newsletter will be mailed in addition to emailed. I thank Advisor Veronica Richardson, Executive Officer Sid Rodgers, and Advisor to the Advisors Andy Lawrence for their valuable input to this letter.

Let it be said that throughout the history of the Society, our collective service in key positions of leadership and authority remains the shining example of hope, conduct, and courage. I look forward to enjoying our future Society events. Until then, be safe, be healthy and God Bless America!

"It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first."

"No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

Ronald Reagan

Kenn Riordan, Jr., US Army (Ret)

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 (Reagan)
(505) 450 4293

The White House Historical Association Event

November 19, 2019

By Paige Young (Obama)

“In November 2019, I had the privilege of attending the White House Historical Association reception for White House Social Aides at the Decatur House. Nestled on the North West corner of Lafayette Park, the Decatur House and its staff were as high class as they come in historic Washington D.C. Upon arriving at the reception, I was ushered to meet the White House Historical Association’s distinguished President, Mr. Stewart D. McLaurin. Mr. McLaurin went out of his way to welcome me to the reception and introduced me to the treasure trove of history and artifacts preserved in the building that dates back to 1818. As I joined the reception, I took a moment to revere the crowd filled with White House Social Aides, both old and new, sharing stories of poignant moments in history they’d observed, unforgettable Christmas decorations, and events where crises were thankfully averted. I was reminded, in that moment, how truly special it is to serve as a White House Social Aide and what an honor it is to be part of one of the military’s most unique communities.

During the reception, Mr. McLaurin took the time to remark the special occasion and salute the relationship between the White House Historical Association (WHHA) and the Society of White House Military Aides (SWHMA). It was outstanding to see that the current group of White House Social Aides have a supportive relationship with the White House Historical Association. A point of growth that we did not have during the Obama years is that the WHHA is now providing training to current aides twice a year on the history of the White House and its artifacts. Post event, I mentioned the training to two aides I previously served with and we were all definitely jealous of the opportunity to learn from the WHHA. At the event, we were also honored to hear from some of the Society’s most successful White House Social Aides like Ambassador Abelardo Valdez, an Honorary Society Advisor, Johnson Social Aide, and Chief of Protocol for President Carter, as well as RADM (ret) Mimi Blackburn Drew and her husband Brigadier General (ret) Philip Drew, both aides for Nixon. As remarks were finished, one of the current White House Social Aides presented Mr. McLaurin with an honorary Social Aide sweater, a symbol of “45”, President Trump’s generation of White House Social Aides. Perhaps one day a White House Social Aide sweater will be a collector’s item or in the show case of the WHHA for current aides to admire.”

By Kelly Brown (Clinton / Bush '43)

Yesterday's event at the WH Historical Association was amazing! What a great opportunity to connect with current and former Aides.

Good news - it was also a SWHMA recruiting extravaganza!

Interest in joining the SWHMA is extremely high. I sent an e-mail tonight to the current Senior Aide and Social Aide Chair. They are going to share with the rest of the currently serving Aides. Prepare for an influx of membership applications!

Additionally, we talked about future events to connect current and former Aides. More to follow on that over after everyone survives the current Christmas reception season.

Not exactly sure how yesterday's event came to be, but it was a stroke of genius and the initial linkage spark we needed!

Kelly Brown



White House Christmas Tour 2019

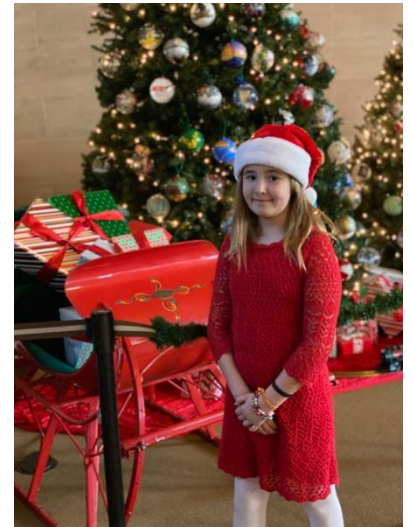
By Kenn Riordan Jr (Reagan)

We were pleased to announce our 28th Christmas Tour on December 18th beginning with 3 groups of 50, a total of 150, at 1 PM.

Cost was \$25 which covered expenses related to sign-up, website updates, and preparation of the security roster of over 1000 data entries for the White House Security Access Roster, plus \$10 towards future events such as the sponsored and awesome Christmas Reception and Speaker at the Metropolitan Club last Christmas. The incredible multi-media display at the Visitor Center is provided thru funding by the White House Historical Association (WHHA). No food was allowed or nametags for that matter.

Once again, we executed a memorable White House Christmas tour with many thanks to Veronica Richardson and Sarah Chapman as assisted by Nancy Chapman. This followed the unique invitation we had on November 19th to meet at the elegant Decatur House with the currently serving aides courtesy of the White House Historical Association. Kennedy Aide CDR (Ret) Don Kentopp, our 2nd most senior aide joined us travelling from El Paso.





Our Newest Advisor: Paige Young



Lt. Col. Paige Young with a portrait is of General Billy Mitchell, a founder of the U.S. Air Force

Lieutenant Colonel Paige Young received her commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of South Carolina in 2005. She currently serves as the Chief of Special Technical Operations in the Office of the Associate Director for Military Affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency. Prior to her current assignment, she was a student at Air Command and Staff College in the Multi-Domain Operational Strategist concentration, where she earned the Secretary of the Air Force Leadership Award.

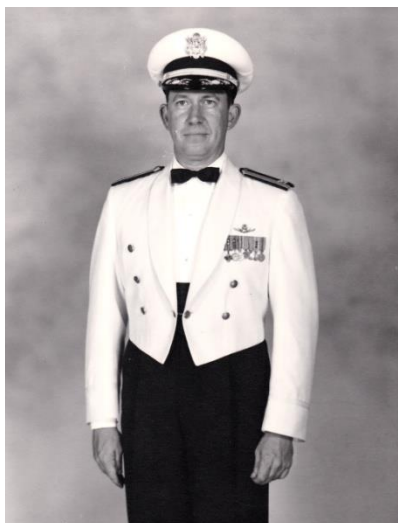
Her most recent operational assignment was as the Director of Operations for the 11th Special Operations Intelligence Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida. As the Director of Operations, she directed over 500 Airmen, contractors, and civilians in the processing, exploitation, and dissemination of full-motion video derived imagery intelligence from manned and unmanned aerial systems. In addition, she led a specialized intelligence analysis team in the fusion of all-source and national-level derived intelligence to inform special operations forces worldwide. She has over 4,000 hours as an Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Mission Operations Commander for the MQ-1, MQ-9, RQ-4, MC-12 and U-2. Additionally, she has 213 combat flying hours as a SOF Airborne ISR Systems Operator in the BE-350 and U-28.

Lieutenant Colonel Young is a combat experienced officer with multiple deployments supporting special

operations from the company to the Joint Task Force level in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, ENDURING FREEDOM, INHERENT RESOLVE, and FREEDOM'S SENTINEL. She has served in various staff and supervisory capacities within the United States Air Force, at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the White House, as a White House Social Aide and as the Air Force White House Social Aide Service Program Manager. Lieutenant Colonel Young holds Air Force Specialty Codes as a Contracting Officer, Intelligence Officer, and Political Affairs Strategist. She is engaged to Lieutenant Colonel Daniel M. Hendrix (United States Army).



Paige is now officially nicknamed as "One of Nine"! Kenn Riordan



COL (Ret) Jack Koser (Truman) Turns 101

COL (Ret) Jack Koser (Truman) is our Senior Aide and a witness to history, accompanying President Truman as a fellow Missouri native during his famous walks with the press corps.

Later, while serving in the Pacific Theater WWII, he witnessed the hiding place of the 'Enola Gay' which as many of you know was the plane used to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. His mind is sound if speech garbled, an amazing man and soldier who did much to build this Society.

See the riveting account of Paul Tibbets' mission over Hiroshima on pg. 13 as interviewed by Stud Terkel, the Mike Wallace of his day.

Loss of Dr. Alan Merten (Johnson)

We are very sad to inform you that the exceptional Dr. Alan Merten (Johnson) has passed away. The Wash Post article is attached, and we have permission to use that photo from Sally Merten for our newsletter. Bill Sinnott and Russ Cherry alerted me initially, and then Sally Merten emailed, ever the Vietnam nurse that she was, thanking us for the connections that Alan made to his WH buddies, noting the 100 events he participated in, and for our kind words. Alan and Sally hosted a Trustee meeting at their George Mason home, and a luncheon for Johnson aides where I had the honor of sitting next to Governor Chuck Robb, with Reagan Attorney General Ed Meese not far.

Alan also served proudly as our USAF Sr. Service Director. He maintained contact annually thru the newsletter. Alan graduated from Stanford and came early to the computer science world, always possessing a sunny, positive disposition with a brilliant mind and a wonderful humble wife. What a guy and couple! - Kenn Riordan

Alan G. Merten, President Who Expanded George Mason University's Reach, Dies at 78

By Matt Schudel

May 22, 2020

Alan G. Merten, who led George Mason University through a period of rapid growth as president for 16 years, with expanding campuses and a growing student body that made it Virginia's largest four-year university, died May 21 at a nursing facility in Naples, Fla. He was 78.

The cause was complications from Parkinson's disease, said his daughter, Melissa Belleville.

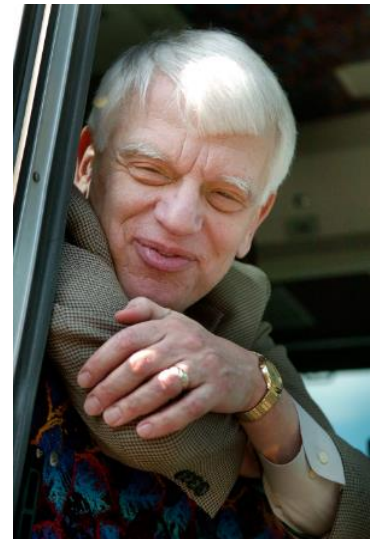
Dr. Merten, whose background was in computer science and business administration, became president of George Mason in 1996, when the university was less than 40 years old. He built on the progress of his immediate predecessor, George W. Johnson, who led GMU's transformation from a suburban commuter school to a full-fledged university with ambitions of greatness.

When he took over the presidency, Dr. Merten said it "was like this small entrepreneurial company that now had to become better organized."

With an emphasis in information technology, engineering, business administration and public policy, Dr. Merten helped propel George Mason to national prominence and higher rankings in annual ratings by U.S. News & World Report and other services.

Dr. Merten reorganized some departments and colleges, drawing pushback from faculty and students, who sometimes complained that he emphasized science and technology over the liberal arts and that he acceded too readily to a powerful and politically conservative board of visitors.

Over the years, as the university became more selective in its admissions, enrollment continued to climb at GMU's three Northern Virginia campuses, from 24,000 in 1996 to more than 33,000 when Dr. Merten retired in 2012. (GMU currently has about 37,000 students, giving it the largest on-campus enrollment of any four-year university in Virginia.)



Dr. Merten in 2006. (Gerald Martineau/The Washington Post)

The number of faculty and staff members increased from 4,400 to 9,600. Thousands of dormitory rooms were added, creating more of the feel of a traditional residential campus. Despite ever-shrinking allocations from the state, Dr. Merten quadrupled the university's annual budget from \$220 million in 1996 to \$880 million when he left.

During his tenure, more than 20 major buildings went up on George Mason's campuses, including a performing arts center in Manassas and showcase structures in Arlington and on the main Fairfax County campus.

Research grants rose from \$28 million to more than \$100 million under Dr. Merten's watch, and the number of degree-granting programs doubled to almost 200.

"The George Mason story is a story of making things happen faster than universities normally do things," Dr. Merten told *The Washington Post* in 2011. "We have an approach that says, 'Do something in a hurry and then correct it, because it's never going to be perfect.'"

Faculty member Vernon Smith won the Nobel Prize in economics in 2002, but the university was never in the spotlight more than when its men's basketball team reached the Final Four in the 2006 NCAA tournament.

During the Patriots' Cinderella run, many sports fans and basketball announcers learned about George Mason for the first time. According to then-Coach Jim Larranaga, Dr. Merten had planned for the team's success for a decade.

"The first time we met, when I was interviewing for the men's basketball coaching job in 1997," Larranaga said in an interview, "he said something to me that made a lasting impression. He said, 'The men's basketball team is the marketing arm of the university. I'm trying to make it the best and biggest university in the state, and I need you to build a winner.' He told me about his vision for the university and how the basketball program could be a big part of that."



George Mason University President Alan G. Merten in 2011. (Toni L. Sandys/The Washington Post)

As underdog George Mason defeated Michigan State, North Carolina and Wichita State, enthusiasm grew on the campus. Dr. Merten, who became close friends with Larranaga, organized campus celebrations that grew more spirited with each victory. After George Mason reached the Final Four, the team was greeted on campus by thousands of students and a fireworks display.

"I said, 'Did you orchestrate the fireworks?'" recalled Larranaga, now the head coach at the University of Miami. "'You didn't know until a couple of hours ago that we were even going to win.' He said: 'I ordered them a week ago. We were going to have them anyway, win or lose.'"

"When you have a president who shows that much foresight and leadership skills, they are one of a kind. And it wasn't just basketball. He had total focus on what the future of what George Mason University was going to be."

In the tournament, George Mason lost to eventual national champion Florida, but the publicity led to a 25 percent increase in enrollment applications and an uptick in alumni donations.

"We used the athletic megaphone to tell the George Mason story every day for a month," Dr. Merten later told *The Post*.

Alan Gilbert Merten was born Dec. 27, 1941, in Milwaukee. His father repaired shoes, and his mother was a homemaker.

The first member of his family to attend college, Dr. Merten graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1963 and received a master's degree in computer science from Stanford University a year later. He then served in the Air Force, including stints at the Pentagon and as a social aide at the White House during the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson. He received a doctorate in computer science from the University of Wisconsin in 1970.

He was a professor and administrator at the University of Michigan from 1970 to 1986, and then he spent three years at the University of Florida before becoming dean at Cornell University's school of management in 1989.

At George Mason, Dr. Merten faced criticism in 2004 for rescinding a speaking invitation to provocative filmmaker Michael Moore after objections from some members of the Virginia legislature. Still, Dr. Merten was generally well liked on the GMU campus, where he ate with students in the dining hall and attended concerts, dance recitals and sporting events.

A university building was renamed in his honor in 2014. He and his wife, a retired nurse, endowed four scholarships at GMU and settled in Florida.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, the former Sally Otto, of Bonita Springs, Fla.; two children, Eric Merten of Sterling, Va., and Melissa Belleville of Rye, N.Y.; a sister; a brother; and four grandsons.

When the George Mason Patriots were making their unlikely run in the 2006 NCAA tournament, Larranaga said, Dr. Merten was at almost every game. After George Mason upset Connecticut in overtime, 86-84, to win a berth in the Final Four, Larranaga invited Dr. Merten to join the team on the court in the postgame celebration.

"He was up there on the ladder," Larranaga said, "with the scissors, getting a piece of the net."

The Bain Family

Steve and Denise Bain (Reagan) were active with the Society from the beginning. Steve served as our Database Manager and recorded our second Trustee meeting at the Army Navy Club DC, with Roosevelt and Truman Aide George Elsey, and Dr. Alan Merten in attendance.

Denise passed away this last year, her last words "Tell my children I love them". She is remembered as both one of the most beautiful, poised, and intelligent women I have known. No one praised the Society or its leadership more than Denise. God Bless Steve and their four exceptional children for the time spent together.

"Yes, Denise's earthly remains are swimming "wild and free" with the dolphins – and her spirit is dancing with indescribable joy before the Lord of Life – who gave her life." Steve Bain

God Bless these good people! Kenn Riordan



RADM Melissa Bert (Bush '43 / Clinton) selected as USCG Judge advocate General

Melissa is a “serious” reader of our newsletter apparently despite meetings at NORAD HQ! I hope she reads this one in between briefings of the Coast Guard Commandant and Capitol Hill! – Kenn Riordan



US Coast Guard Names Its First Female Judge Advocate General **And Chief Counsel**

U.S. Coast Guard sent this bulletin at 05/01/2020 01:55 PM EDT

US Coast Guard names its first female judge advocate general and chief counsel

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Coast Guard announced Friday Rear Adm. Melissa Bert has been invested as judge advocate general and chief counsel of the Coast Guard. Bert is the service's first woman to hold that office.

Bert was most recently the director of Governmental and Public Affairs for the Coast Guard, where she was responsible for external engagement with Congress, the media and other inter-governmental entities.

As judge advocate general and chief counsel, Bert will lead a group of legal professionals who are responsible for the delivery of all legal services in support of the Coast Guard's missions, its units and its people.

Bert is the Coast Guard's 20th chief counsel and seventh uniformed judge advocate general. She joins other trailblazing women in the Coast Guard's legal field such as Capt. Eleanor Creed L'Ecuyer and Capt. Etha B. Fox of the Coast Guard Reserve, both of whom joined the Coast Guard in 1944.

Bert has served as the Coast Guard's Seventh District chief of staff and as chief of the Maritime and International Law Office, supporting U.S. engagement with the International Maritime Organization and providing legal advice on a variety of policies, including the Law of the Sea, drug and migrant interdiction, homeland security, Arctic policy and environmental protection. She also served as commander of Coast Guard Sector Juneau and captain of the port for southeastern Alaska.

She is a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy and The George Washington University Law School and was a national security fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and a military fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Bert has taught as an adjunct professor at George Washington University and the University of Miami Law School. Her honors include the United Way American Values Award, the Joint Superior Service medal, two Legions of Merit and three Meritorious Service Medals. She was awarded the Young Military Lawyer of the Year for the Coast Guard by the American Bar Association in 1997 and the Judge Advocates Association Outstanding Career Armed Services Attorney Award in 2006. Bert is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Proctor in Admiralty in the United States Maritime Law Association.



Rear Admiral Melissa Bert (Source: United States Coast Guard)

How Different It Was When Harry Truman Was the President

By Donna Calvin



President Harry Truman and Wife, Bess

Harry Truman was a different kind of President. He probably made as many, or more important decisions regarding our nation's history as any of the other 42 Presidents preceding him. However, a measure of his greatness may rest on what he did after he left the White House.

The only asset he had when he died was the house he lived in, which was in Independence Missouri. His wife had inherited the house from her mother and father and other than their years in the White House, they lived their entire lives there.

When he retired from office in 1952 his income was a U.S. Army pension reported to have been \$13,507.72 a year. Congress, noting that he was paying for his stamps and personally licking them, granted him an 'allowance' and, later, a retroactive pension of \$25,000 per year.

After President Eisenhower was inaugurated, Harry and Bess drove home to Missouri by themselves. There was no Secret Service following them.

When offered corporate positions at large salaries, he declined, stating, "You don't want me. You want the office of the President, and that doesn't belong to me. It belongs to the American people and it's not for sale."

Even later, on May 6, 1971, when Congress was preparing to award him the Medal of Honor on his 87th birthday, he refused to accept it, writing, "I don't consider that I have done anything which should be the reason for any award, Congressional or otherwise."

As president he paid for all of his own travel expenses and food.

Modern politicians have found a new level of success in cashing in on the Presidency, resulting in untold wealth. Today, many in Congress also have found a way to become quite wealthy while enjoying the fruits of their offices. Political offices are now for sale.

Good old Harry Truman was correct when he observed, "My choices in life were either to be a piano player in a whore house or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference!"

An Amazing Interview with Paul Tibbets in 2002

By Studs Terkel

Here's a bit of American history yet to reach the history books –an interview by Studs Terkel with Paul Tibbets, the pilot of the B-29 'Enola Gay' that dropped the first atomic bomb. Fascinating...

Studs Terkel: We're seated here, two old gaffers. Me and Paul Tibbets, 89 years old, brigadier-general retired, in his home town of Columbus, Ohio, where he has lived for many years.

Paul Tibbets: Hey, you've got to correct that. I'm only 87. You said 89.

ST: I know. See, I'm 90. So I got you beat by three years. Now we've had a nice lunch, you and I and your companion. I noticed as we sat in that restaurant, people passed by. They didn't know who you were. But once upon a time, you flew a plane called the Enola Gay over the city of Hiroshima, in Japan, on a Sunday morning - August 6 1945 - and a bomb fell. It was the atomic bomb, the first ever. And that particular moment changed the whole world around. You were the pilot of that plane.

PT: Yes, I was the pilot.

ST: And the Enola Gay was named after...

PT: My mother. She was Enola Gay Haggard before she married my dad, and my dad never supported me with the flying - he hated airplanes and motorcycles. When I told them I was going to leave college and go fly planes in the army air corps, my dad said, "Well, I've sent you through school, bought you automobiles, given you money to run around with the girls, but from here on, you're on your own. If you want to go kill yourself, go ahead, I don't give a damn." Then Mom just quietly said, "Paul, if you want to go fly airplanes, you're going to be all right." And that was that.

ST: Where was that?

PT: Well, that was Miami, Florida. My dad had been in the real estate business down there for years, and at that time he was retired. And I was going to school at Gainesville, Florida, but I had to leave after two years and go to Cincinnati because Florida had no medical school.

ST: You were thinking of being a doctor?

PT: I didn't think that, my father thought it. He said, "You're going to be a doctor," and I just nodded my head and that was it. And I started out that way; but about a year before, I was able to get into an airplane, fly it - I soloed - and I knew then that I had to go fly airplanes.

ST: Now by 1944 you were a pilot - a test pilot on the programme to develop the B-29 bomber. When did you get word that you had a special assignment?

PT: One day [in September 1944] I'm running a test on a B-29, I land, a man meets me. He says he just got a call from General Uzal Ent [commander of the second air force] at Colorado Springs, he wants me in his office the next morning at nine o'clock. He said, "Bring your clothing - your B4 bag - because you're not coming back." Well, I didn't know what it was and didn't pay any attention to it - it was just another assignment. I got to Colorado Springs the next morning perfectly on time. A man named Lansdale met me, walked me to General Ent's office and closed the door behind me. With him was a man wearing a blue suit, a US Navy captain - that was William Parsons, who flew with me to Hiroshima - and Dr Norman Ramsey, Columbia University professor in nuclear physics. And Norman said: "OK, we've got what we call the Manhattan Project. What we're doing is trying to develop an atomic bomb. We've gotten to the point now where we can't go much further till we have airplanes to work with." He gave me an explanation which probably lasted 45, 50 minutes, and they left. General Ent looked at me and said, "The other day, General Arnold [commander general of the army air corps] offered me three names." Both of the others were full colonels; I was lieutenant-colonel. He said that when General Arnold asked which of them could do this atomic weapons deal, he replied without hesitation, "Paul

Tibbets is the man to do it." I said, "Well, thank you, sir." Then he laid out what was going on and it was up to me now to put together an organisation and train them to drop atomic weapons on both Europe and the Pacific - Tokyo.

ST: Interesting that they would have dropped it on Europe as well. We didn't know that.

PT: My edict was as clear as could be. Drop simultaneously in Europe and the Pacific because of the secrecy problem - you couldn't drop it in one part of the world without dropping it in the other. And so he said, "I don't know what to tell you, but I know you happen to have B-29s to start with. I've got a squadron in training in Nebraska - they have the best record so far of anybody we've got. I want you to go visit them, look at them, talk to them, do whatever you want. If they don't suit you, we'll get you some more." He said: "There's nobody could tell you what you have to do because nobody knows. If we can do anything to help you, ask me." I said thank you very much. He said, "Paul, be careful how you treat this responsibility, because if you're successful you'll probably be called a hero. And if you're unsuccessful, you might wind up in prison."

ST: Did you know the power of an atomic bomb? Were you told about that?

PT: No, I didn't know anything at that time. But I knew how to put an organisation together. He said, "Go take a look at the bases, and call me back and tell me which one you want." I wanted to get back to Grand Island Nebraska, that's where my wife and two kids were, where my laundry was done and all that stuff. But I thought, "Well, I'll go to Wendover [army airfield, in Utah] first and see what they've got." As I came in over the hills I saw it was a beautiful spot. It had been a final staging place for units that were going through combat crew training, and the guys ahead of me were the last P-47 fighter outfit. This lieutenant-colonel in charge said, "We've just been advised to stop here and I don't know what you want to do... but if it has anything to do with this base it's the most perfect base I've ever been on. You've got full machine shops, everybody's qualified, they know what they want to do. It's a good place."

ST: And now you chose your own crew.

PT: Well, I had mentally done it before that. I knew right away I was going to get Tom Ferebee [the Enola Gay's bombardier] and Theodore "Dutch" van Kirk [navigator] and Wyatt Duzenbury [flight engineer].

ST: Guys you had flown with in Europe?

PT: Yeah.

ST: And now you're training. And you're also talking to physicists like Robert Oppenheimer [senior scientist on the Manhattan project].

PT: I think I went to Los Alamos [the Manhattan project HQ] three times, and each time I got to see Dr Oppenheimer working in his own environment. Later, thinking about it, here's a young man, a brilliant person. And he's a chain smoker and he drinks cocktails. And he hates fat men. And General Leslie Groves [the general in charge of the Manhattan project], he's a fat man, and he hates people who smoke and drink. The two of them are the first, original odd couple.

ST: They had a feud, Groves and Oppenheimer?

PT: Yeah, but neither one of them showed it. Each one of them had a job to do.

ST: Did Oppenheimer tell you about the destructive nature of the bomb?

PT: No.

ST: How did you know about that?

PT: From Dr Ramsey. He said the only thing we can tell you about it is, it's going to explode with the force of 20,000 tons of TNT. I'd never seen 1lb of TNT blow up. I'd never heard of anybody who'd seen 100lbs of TNT blow up. All I felt was that this was gonna be one hell of a big bang.

ST: Twenty thousand tons - that's equivalent to how many planes full of bombs?

PT: Well, I think the two bombs that we used [at Hiroshima and Nagasaki] had more power than all the bombs the air force had used during the war on Europe.

ST: So Ramsey told you about the possibilities.

PT: Even though it was still theory, whatever those guys told me, that's what happened. So I was ready to say I wanted to go to war, but I wanted to ask Oppenheimer how to get away from the bomb after we dropped it. I told him that when we had dropped bombs in Europe and North Africa, we'd flown straight ahead after dropping them - which is also the trajectory of the bomb. But what should we do this time? He said, "You can't fly straight ahead because you'd be right over the top when it blows up and nobody would ever know you were there." He said I had to turn tangent to the expanding shockwave. I said, "Well, I've had some trigonometry, some physics. What is tangency in this case?" He said it was 159 degrees in either direction. "Turn 159 degrees as fast as you can and you'll be able to put yourself the greatest distance from where the bomb exploded."

ST: How many seconds did you have to make that turn?

PT: I had dropped enough practice bombs to realise that the charges would blow around 1,500ft in the air, so I would have 40 to 42 seconds to turn 159 degrees. I went back to Wendover as quick as I could and took the airplane up. I got myself to 25,000ft, and I practised turning, steeper, steeper, steeper and I got it where I could pull it round in 40 seconds. The tail was shaking dramatically and I was afraid of it breaking off, but I didn't quit. That was my goal. And I practised and practised until, without even thinking about it, I could do it in between 40 and 42, all the time. So, when that day came...

ST: You got the go-ahead on August 5.

PT: Yeah. We were in Tinian [the US island base in the Pacific] at the time we got the OK. They had sent this Norwegian to the weather station out on Guam [the US's westernmost territory] and I had a copy of his report. We said that, based on his forecast, the sixth day of August would be the best day that we could get over Honshu [the island on which Hiroshima stands]. So we did everything that had to be done to get the crews ready to go: airplane loaded, crews briefed, all of the things checked that you have to check before you can fly over enemy territory. General Groves had a brigadier-general who was connected back to Washington DC by a special teletype machine. He stayed close to that thing all the time, notifying people back there, all by code, that we were preparing these airplanes to go any time after midnight on the sixth. And that's the way it worked out. We were ready to go at about four o'clock in the afternoon on the fifth and we got word from the president that we were free to go: "Use 'em as you wish." They give you a time you're supposed to drop your bomb on target and that was 9.15 in the morning, but that was Tinian time, one hour later than Japanese time. I told Dutch, "You figure it out what time we have to start after midnight to be over the target at 9am."

ST: That'd be Sunday morning.

PT: Well, we got going down the runway at right about 2.15am and we took off, we met our rendezvous guys, we made our flight up to what we call the initial point, that would be a geographic position that you could not mistake. Well, of course we had the best one in the world with the rivers and bridges and that big shrine. There was no mistaking what it was.

ST: So you had to have the right navigator to get it on the button.

PT: The airplane has a bomb sight connected to the autopilot and the bombardier puts figures in there for where he wants to be when he drops the weapon, and that's transmitted to the airplane. We always took into account what would happen if we had a failure and the bomb bay doors didn't open: we had a manual release put in each airplane so it was right down by the bombardier and he could pull on that. And the guys in the airplanes that followed us to drop the instruments needed to know when it was going to go. We were told not to use the radio, but, hell, I had to. I told them I would say, "One minute out," "Thirty seconds out," "Twenty seconds" and "Ten" and then I'd count, "Nine, eight, seven, six, five, four seconds", which would give them a time to drop their cargo. They knew what was going on because they knew where we were. And that's exactly the way it worked, it was absolutely perfect. After we got the airplanes in formation I crawled into the tunnel and went back to tell the men, I said, "You know what we're doing today?" They said, "Well, yeah, we're going on a bombing mission." I said, "Yeah, we're going on a bombing mission, but it's a little bit special." My tailgunner, Bob Caron, was pretty alert. He said, "Colonel, we wouldn't be playing with atoms today, would we?" I said, "Bob, you've got it just exactly right." So I went back up in the front end and I told the navigator, bombardier, flight engineer, in turn. I said, "OK, this is an atom bomb we're dropping." They listened intently but I didn't see any change in their faces or anything else. Those guys were no idiots. We'd been fiddling round with the most peculiar-shaped things we'd ever seen. So we're coming down. We get to that point where I say "one second" and by the time I'd got that second out of my mouth the airplane had lurched, because 10,000lbs had come out of the front. I'm in this turn now, tight as I can get it, that helps

me hold my altitude and helps me hold my airspeed and everything else all the way round. When I level out, the nose is a little bit high and as I look up there the whole sky is lit up in the prettiest blues and pinks I've ever seen in my life. It was just great.

I tell people I tasted it. "Well," they say, "what do you mean?" When I was a child, if you had a cavity in your tooth the dentist put some mixture of some cotton or whatever it was and lead into your teeth and pounded them in with a hammer. I learned that if I had a spoon of ice-cream and touched one of those teeth I got this electrolysis and I got the taste of lead out of it. And I knew right away what it was. OK, we're all going. We had been briefed to stay off the radios: "Don't say a damn word, what we do is we make this turn, we're going to get out of here as fast as we can." I want to get out over the sea of Japan because I know they can't find me over there. With that done we're home free. Then Tom Ferebee has to fill out his bombardier's report and Dutch, the navigator, has to fill out a log. Tom is working on his log and says, "Dutch, what time were we over the target?" And Dutch says, "Nine-fifteen plus 15 seconds." Ferebee says: "What lousy navigating. Fifteen seconds off!"

ST: Did you hear an explosion?

PT: Oh yeah. The shockwave was coming up at us after we turned. And the tailgunner said, "Here it comes." About the time he said that, we got this kick in the ass. I had accelerometers installed in all airplanes to record the magnitude of the bomb. It hit us with two and a half G. Next day, when we got figures from the scientists on what they had learned from all the things, they said, "When that bomb exploded, your airplane was 10 and half miles away from it."

ST: Did you see that mushroom cloud?

PT: You see all kinds of mushroom clouds, but they were made with different types of bombs. The Hiroshima bomb did not make a mushroom. It was what I call a stringer. It just came up. It was black as hell, and it had light and colours and white in it and grey colour in it and the top was like a folded-up Christmas tree.

ST: Do you have any idea what happened down below?

PT: Pandemonium! I think it's best stated by one of the historians, who said: "In one micro-second, the city of Hiroshima didn't exist."

ST: You came back, and you visited President Truman.

PT: We're talking 1948 now. I'm back in the Pentagon and I get notice from the chief of staff, Carl Spaatz, the first chief of staff of the air force. When we got to General Spaatz's office, General Doolittle was there, and a colonel named Dave Shillen. Spaatz said, "Gentlemen, I just got word from the president he wants us to go over to his office immediately." On the way over, Doolittle and Spaatz were doing some talking; I wasn't saying very much. When we got out of the car we were escorted right quick to the Oval Office. There was a black man there who always took care of Truman's needs and he said, "General Spaatz, will you please be facing the desk?" And now, facing the desk, Spaatz is on the right, Doolittle and Shillen. Of course, militarily speaking, that's the correct order: because Spaatz is senior, Doolittle has to sit to his left. Then I was taken by this man and put in the chair that was right beside the president's desk, beside his left hand. Anyway, we got a cup of coffee and we got most of it consumed when Truman walked in and everybody stood on their feet. He said, "Sit down, please," and he had a big smile on his face and he said, "General Spaatz, I want to congratulate you on being first chief of the air force," because it was no longer the air corps. Spaatz said, "Thank you, sir, it's a great honour and I appreciate it." And he said to Doolittle: "That was a magnificent thing you pulled flying off of that carrier," and Doolittle said, "All in a day's work, Mr President." And he looked at Dave Shillen and said, "Colonel Shillen, I want to congratulate you on having the foresight to recognise the potential in aerial refuelling. We're gonna need it bad some day." And he said thank you very much. Then he looked at me for 10 seconds and he didn't say anything. And when he finally did, he said, "What do you think?" I said, "Mr President, I think I did what I was told." He slapped his hand on the table and said: "You're damn right you did, and I'm the guy who sent you. If anybody gives you a hard time about it, refer them to me."

ST: Anybody ever give you a hard time?

PT: Nobody gave me a hard time.

ST: Do you ever have any second thoughts about the bomb?

PT: Second thoughts? No. Studs, look. Number one, I got into the air corps to defend the United States to the best of my ability. That's what I believe in and that's what I work for. Number two, I'd had so much experience with airplanes... I'd had jobs where there was no particular direction about how you do it and then of course I put this thing together with my own thoughts on how it should be because when I got the directive I was to be self-supporting at all times.

On the way to the target I was thinking: I can't think of any mistakes I've made. Maybe I did make a mistake: maybe I was too damned assured. At 29 years of age I was so shot in the ass with confidence I didn't think there was anything I couldn't do. Of course, that applied to airplanes and people. So, no, I had no problem with it. I knew we did the right thing because when I knew we'd be doing that I thought, yes, we're going to kill a lot of people, but by God we're going to save a lot of lives. We won't have to invade [Japan].

ST: Why did they drop the second one, the Bockscar [bomb] on Nagasaki?

PT: Unknown to anybody else - I knew it, but nobody else knew - there was a third one. See, the first bomb went off and they didn't hear anything out of the Japanese for two or three days. The second bomb was dropped and again they were silent for another couple of days. Then I got a phone call from General Curtis LeMay [chief of staff of the strategic air forces in the Pacific]. He said, "You got another one of those damn things?" I said, "Yessir." He said, "Where is it?" I said, "Over in Utah." He said, "Get it out here. You and your crew are going to fly it." I said, "Yessir." I sent word back and the crew loaded it on an airplane and we headed back to bring it right on out to Trinian and when they got it to California debarkation point, the war was over.

ST: What did General LeMay have in mind with the third one?

PT: Nobody knows.

ST: One big question. Since September 11, what are your thoughts? People talk about nukes, the hydrogen bomb.

PT: Let's put it this way. I don't know any more about these terrorists than you do, I know nothing. When they bombed the Trade Centre I couldn't believe what was going on. We've fought many enemies at different times. But we knew who they were and where they were. These people, we don't know who they are or where they are. That's the point that bothers me. Because they're gonna strike again, I'll put money on it. And it's going to be damned dramatic. But they're gonna do it in their own sweet time. We've got to get into a position where we can kill the bastards. None of this business of taking them to court, the hell with that. I wouldn't waste five seconds on them.

ST: What about the bomb? Einstein said the world has changed since the atom was split.

PT: That's right. It has changed.

ST: And Oppenheimer knew that.

PT: Oppenheimer is dead. He did something for the world and people don't understand. And it is a free world.

ST: One last thing, when you hear people say, "Let's nuke 'em," "Let's nuke these people," what do you think?

PT: Oh, I wouldn't hesitate if I had the choice. I'd wipe 'em out. You're gonna kill innocent people at the same time, but we've never fought a damn war anywhere in the world where they didn't kill innocent people. If the newspapers would just cut out the shit: "You've killed so many civilians." That's their tough luck for being there.

ST: By the way, I forgot to say Enola Gay was originally called number 82. How did your mother feel about having her name on it?

PT: Well, I can only tell you what my dad said. My mother never changed her expression very much about anything, whether it was serious or light, but when she'd get tickled, her stomach would jiggle. My dad said to me that when the telephone in Miami rang, my mother was quiet first. Then, when it was announced on the radio, he said: "You should have seen the old gal's belly jiggle on that one."

Gina and Michael Pack are longtime friends of the Society – Kenn Riordan, Jr.

Documentary on Clarence Thomas - Now Completed!

By Gina and Michael Pack

Greetings Friends,

This is my first Newsletter update to kick off our upcoming documentary, *Created Equal: Clarence Thomas in His Own Words*. Supreme Court Justice Thomas tells his life's story chronologically, in great detail, in this two hour film for PBS.

The film is in the can! The production of *Created Equal* is now complete. Justice Thomas was generous to give us this in-depth interview — we filmed for over 30 hours in a six month period — and his wife, Ginni Thomas, was also interviewed and contributed to the telling of his life story. The Thomases have had no editorial control on the film, nor have they seen a cut. The photo shows Justice Thomas on set with Director Michael Pack.



Justice Thomas starts at the beginning, his early life in Pin Point, Georgia. Off camera, Producer/Director/Writer Michael Pack asks the questions that take us from Thomas' childhood through his contentious confirmation hearing and to the present. Many have never heard directly from him. I can't say Justice Thomas was happy telling us all this; his story is complicated and sometimes painful to tell, difficult to hear. However, his life story is fascinating — a study in personal resilience.

After each four hour session, the Justice agreed to stay for lunch with the crew, decompressed a bit, with his big laugh, and asked many questions about our lives, too. He especially enjoyed talking to our youngest crew members, production assistants Mimi and (our son) Alex.

Included in the film is much archival material, some evocative recreations, and original music from our own Charlie Barnett (who also brilliantly scored our *RICKOVER* doc), along with period music. Some of you already saw production photos from Pin Point and Savannah, but I'll send more next time.

We will have screenings in the DC area beginning in November 2019, and a theatrical release is planned for February 2020. The film will also be broadcast on PBS in May 2020.

Thanks for your interest — Michael and I hope you will enthusiastically look forward to *Created Equal: Clarence Thomas in His Own Words* — and tell others!

Many Thanks,
Gina Cappel Pack
Executive Producer

Airline Captain

By FlyGuy - July 04, 2008

My lead flight attendant came to me and said,

"We have an H.R. on this flight." (H.R. stands for human remains.)

"Are they military?" I asked.

'Yes', she said.

'Is there an escort?' I asked.

'Yes, I've already assigned him a seat'.

'Would you please tell him to come to the Flight Deck. You can board him early,' I said...

A short while later a young army sergeant entered the flight deck. He was the image of the perfectly dressed soldier. He introduced himself and I asked him about his soldier. The escorts of these fallen soldiers talk about them as if they are still alive and still with us. 'My soldier is on his way back to Virginia,' he said. He proceeded to answer my questions, but offered no words.

I asked him if there was anything I could do for him and he said no. I told him that he had the toughest job in the military, and that I appreciated the work that he does for the families of our fallen soldiers. The first officer and I got up out of our seats to shake his hand. He left the Flight Deck to find his seat.

We completed our preflight checks, pushed back and performed an uneventful departure. About 30 minutes into our flight, I received a call from the lead flight attendant in the cabin.

'I just found out the family of the soldier we are carrying, is also on board', she said. She then proceeded to tell me that the father, mother, wife and 2-year old daughter were escorting their son, husband, and father home. The family was upset because they were unable to see the container that the soldier was in before we left.

We were on our way to a major hub at which the family was going to wait four hours for the connecting flight home to Virginia. The father of the soldier told the flight attendant that knowing his son was below him in the cargo compartment and being unable to see him was too much for him and the family to bear. He had asked the flight attendant if there was anything that could be done to allow them to see him upon our arrival. The family wanted to be outside by the cargo door to watch the soldier being taken off the airplane.

I could hear the desperation in the flight attendant's voice when she asked me if there was anything I could do. 'I'm on it', I said. I told her that I would get back to her.

Airborne communication with my company normally occurs in the form of e-mail like messages. I decided to bypass this system and contact my flight dispatcher directly on a secondary radio. There is a radio operator in the operations control center who connects you to the telephone of the dispatcher. I was in direct contact with the dispatcher. I explained the situation I had on board with the family and what it was the family wanted. He said he understood and that he would get back to me.

Two hours went by and I had not heard from the dispatcher. We were going to get busy soon and I needed to know what to tell the family. I sent a text message asking for an update. I saved the return message from the dispatcher and the following is the text:

'Captain, sorry it has taken so long to get back to you. There is policy on this now, and I had to check on a few things. Upon your arrival, a dedicated escort team will meet the aircraft. The team will escort the family to the ramp and plane side. A van will be used to load the remains with a secondary van for the family. The family will be taken to their

departure area and escorted into the terminal, where the remains can be seen on the ramp. It is a private area for the family only. When the connecting aircraft arrives, the family will be escorted onto the ramp and plane side to watch the remains being loaded for the final leg home.

Captain, most of us here in flight control are veterans. Please pass our condolences on to the family. Thanks.

I sent a message back, telling flight control thanks for a good job. I printed out the message and gave it to the lead flight attendant to pass on to the father. The lead flight attendant was very thankful and told me, 'You have no idea how much this will mean to them.'

Things started getting busy for the descent, approach and landing. After landing, we cleared the runway and taxied to the ramp area. The ramp is huge with 15 gates on either side of the alleyway. It is always a busy area with aircraft maneuvering every which way to enter and exit. When we entered the ramp and checked in with the ramp controller, we were told that all traffic was being held for us.

'There is a team in place to meet the aircraft', we were told. It looked like it was all coming together, then I realized that once we turned the seat belt sign off, everyone would stand up at once and delay the family from getting off the airplane. As we approached our gate, I asked the copilot to tell the ramp controller, we were going to stop short of the gate to make an announcement to the passengers. He did that and the ramp controller said, 'Take your time.'

I stopped the aircraft and set the parking brake. I pushed the public address button and said: 'Ladies and gentleman, this is your Captain speaking: I have stopped short of our gate to make a special announcement. We have a passenger on board who deserves our honor and respect. His Name is Private XXXXXX, a soldier who recently lost his life. Private XXXXXX is under your feet in the cargo hold. Escorting him today is Army Sergeant XXXXXXXX. Also, on board are his father, mother, wife, and daughter. Your entire flight crew is asking for all passengers to remain in their seats to allow the family to exit the aircraft first. Thank you.'

We continued the turn to the gate, came to a stop and started our shutdown procedures. A couple of minutes later I opened the cockpit door. I found the two forward flight attendants crying, something you just do not see. I was told that after we came to a stop, every passenger on the aircraft stayed in their seats, waiting for the family to exit the aircraft.

When the family got up and gathered their things, a passenger slowly started to clap his hands. Moments later, more passengers joined in and soon the entire aircraft was clapping. Words of 'God Bless You', I'm sorry, thank you, be proud, and other kind words were uttered to the family as they made their way down the aisle and out of the airplane. They were escorted down to the ramp to finally be with their loved one. Many of the passengers disembarking thanked me for the announcement I had made. They were just words, I told them, I could say them over and over again, but nothing I say will bring back that brave soldier.

I respectfully ask that all of you reflect on this event and the sacrifices that millions of our men and women have made to ensure our freedom and safety in these United States of AMERICA.

Foot note:

I know everyone who reads this will have tears in their eyes, including me. Prayer chain for our Military... Don't break it! They die for me and mine and you and yours and deserve our honor and respect.

'Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need... In Jesus Name, Amen.'

Prayer Request:

When you receive this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our troops around the world... There is nothing attached. Just send this to people in your address book. Do not let it stop with you. Of all the gifts you could give a Marine, Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and others deployed in harm's way, prayer is the very best one.

GOD BLESS YOU!!!

Thank you all who have served, or are serving. We will not forget!!!!

Lucky Mr. Gorsky

In case you didn't already know this little tidbit of wonderful trivia..... on July 20, 1969, as commander of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon. His first words after stepping on the moon,

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," were televised to Earth and heard by millions.

But, just before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark "Good luck, Mr. Gorsky."

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival soviet cosmonaut.

However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs.

Over the years, many people questioned Armstrong as to what the 'Good luck, Mr. Gorsky' statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled.

On July 5, 1995, in Tampa Bay, Florida, while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26-year-old question about Mr. Gorsky and

This time he finally responded because his Mr. Gorsky had just died, so Neil Armstrong felt he could now answer the question.

Here is the answer to "Who was Mr. Gorsky?":

In 1938, when he was a kid in a small mid-western town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard.

His friend hit the ball, which landed in his neighbor's yard by their bedroom window.

His neighbors were Mr. And Mrs. Gorsky.

As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky,

"Sex! You want sex?! You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!"

It broke the place up.

Neil Armstrong's family confirmed that This is a true story.

Have You Ever Heard/Read This?

This has been around before, but is worth rereading:

Here is a refresher on how some of our former patriots handled negative comments about our country.

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JFK'S Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, was in France in the early 60's when DeGaulle decided to pull out of NATO.

DeGaulle said he wanted all US Military out of France as soon as possible.

Rusk responded, "Does that include those who are buried here?"

You could have heard a pin drop.

~~~~~

When in England , at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of 'empire building' by George Bush.

He answered by saying,

"Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return."

You could have heard a pin drop.

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There was a conference in France

where a number of international engineers were taking part, including French and American. During a break, one of the French engineers came back into the room saying, "Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intend to do, bomb them?"

A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly:

"Our carriers have three hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered and can supply emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,000 people three meals a day, they can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water each day, and they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in transporting victims and injured to and from their flight deck. We have eleven such ships;

how many does France have?"

You could have heard a pin drop.

~~~~~

A U.S. Navy Admiral

was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the U.S., English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies
At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of officers that included personnel from most of

those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks but a French admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, Americans learn only English.

He then asked, "Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?"

Without hesitating the American Admiral replied, "Maybe it's because the Brit's, Canadians, Aussie's and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German."

You could have heard a pin drop.

~~~~~

AND THIS STORY FITS RIGHT IN WITH THE ABOVE...

Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane.

At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on

"You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically.

Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously.

"Then you should know enough to have your passport ready."

The American said,

"The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."

"Impossible. Americans always have to show their passports on arrival in France!"

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained,

"Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchmen to show a passport to."

You could have heard a pin drop.

~~~~~

I am proud to be of this land, AMERICA

Expense Report

Society of White House Military Aides
Washington D.C.
(505) 450-4293

January 4th, 2020

To: Members and Advisors, Society of White House Military Aides

Society Balance Sheet: July 2018 - December 2019 Membership Year*

Beginning Balance – July 6th, 2018 + \$9,523

Revenue:

- Dues + Events + \$22,858

Expenses:

-Administration + Events - \$20,472

Total: Revenue – Expenses + \$2,386

Ending Balance December 31st 2019: + 11,909

 2/9/2020

Gary Smith
Secretary / Treasurer

 1/11/2020

Kenn Riordan, Jr.
Founder and Chairman

 2/11/20

3rd Party Review

DAN KRYNBUCH, LTC(EE)

*The Society has changed from a fiscal year to calendar year review with the end date of the last review July 6th, 2018.

Society of White House Military Aides

FY2020 (2019-2020) Membership Drive

Washington Area Membership. I wish to renew/initiate my membership, access the FY 2020 Directory, and receive one lapel pin **for new members**. Enclosed are my dues of \$40.00. Annual _____ \$40.00

Out - of - Area Membership. I wish to renew/initiate my membership, access the FY 2020 Directory, and receive one lapel pin **for new members**. Enclosed are my dues of \$20.00. Annual _____ \$20.00

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 2020 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 2019-2020 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:

email: “lordstrider@earthlink.net”

or

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

If you would rather register online, please go to our website:

<http://swhma.org>. You must register at the website to gain a username and password. Once you have access, you can purchase a membership and memorabilia using the Shopping Cart.

SOCIETY OF WHITE HOUSE MILITARY AIDE (SWHMA)

CORE ETHICAL VALUES 2020

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.

SWHMA
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Bernardine Riordan honored in 2007



Advisors and Directors pose before the White House
from the Hay – Adams Hotel in 2016