



LOCK & LOAD



From the Presidents Desk:

Thanks to all who attended the January meeting. Our members are our greatest asset.

Unfortunately for me but fortunately for you, members attending the next meeting, I will not be in attendance. My wife has a mandatory vacation time from her work (spring break) and we will be visiting New Mexico. I am sure that Mike will do a wonderful job in my absence.

Let us seriously start thinking about the committees the Rifle Raffle and the Poker Run. With a date picked well in advance for the Poker Run we should be able to increase our attendance. With the Rifle Raffle finalized by July and tickets printed, I am positive that Mike, John and myself will be able to sell a lot of tickets at the National Convention in August. As an incentive to out of state purchasers I thought we might say that if they win, we will ship. Let me know what you think.

That's all for this month. See you all at the April meeting.

John H. Howe

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V.V.A. Chapter 750 Board Members: John H Howe, Mike Isbell, Rod Kutz, Marie Mayo, Bob Hart, Fred Collins and George White.

THE NEXT CHAPTER 750 BUSINESS MEETING: MARCH 17TH, 1900 HOURS (7 P.M.), AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST ON SOUTH STREET.

This newsletter was printed and distributed by **THE UPS STORE**, 14th St., Ponca City.

Meeting called to order at 7 PM by President Howe.

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all POW/MIA's and active duty personnel.

Invocation: by Larry

Attendance: 19 members, one guest, Skip Russell

Minutes: Were read and accepted

Treasury Report: 105 members, \$7,500 General, \$18,800 Monument, \$26,226.48 Total.

Monument: No Report

Bricks: Waiting on weather to engrave.

Membership: Nothing new

Old Business:

TET Dance, Feb 19 at American Legion Post Lounge.

John Howe showed Weatherby Shotgun, 12 ga., cost for drawing to be proposed.

John Steward sent Thank You Card for transport to Okla City.

Bob Robbins advised no one has requested to run against current officers. Election next meeting.

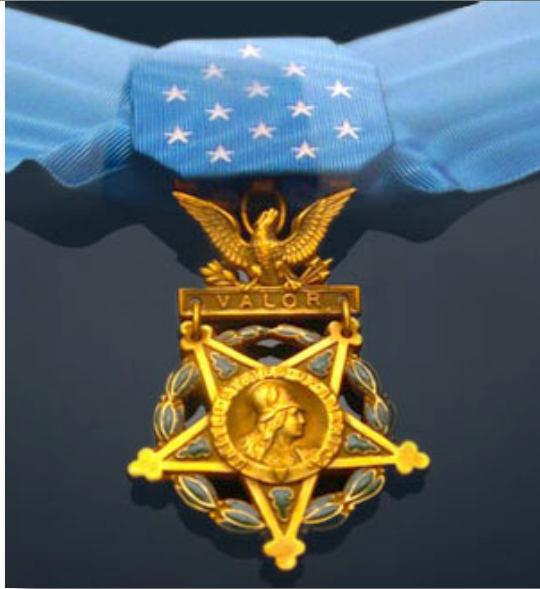
New Business:

Bob Robbins advised of Nation Guard Mobilization of local unit and city activities proposed for Feb 26. VVA Color Guard has been requested. Those that agreed to participate include Mike Isbell, Bob Hart, Gary Strickland, John Foster, John Howe, Bob Robbins, Jerry Johns and Ken Luttrell. Uniform was discussed and John Howe asked Jerry Johns to set up practices and lead during ceremony.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Bob Robbins





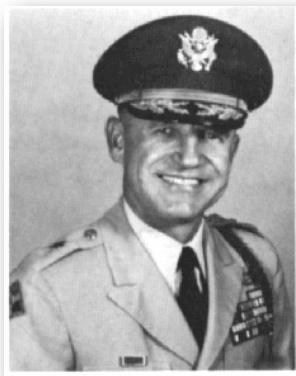
MABRY, GEORGE L., JR.

Rank and organization:
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division

Place and date:
Hurtgen Forest near Schevenhutte, Germany, 20 November 1944.

Entered service at: Sumter, S.C.

Citation: He was commanding the 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry, in an attack through the Hurtgen Forest near Schevenhutte, Germany, on 20 November 1944. During the early phases of the assault, the leading elements of his battalion were halted by a minefield and immobilized by heavy hostile fire. Advancing alone into the mined area, Col. Mabry established a safe route of passage. He then



moved ahead of the foremost scouts, personally leading the attack, until confronted by a boobytrapped double concertina obstacle. With the assistance of the scouts, he disconnected the explosives and cut a path through the wire. Upon moving through the opening, he observed 3 enemy in foxholes whom he captured at bayonet point. Driving steadily forward he paced the assault against 3 log bunkers which housed mutually supported automatic weapons. Racing up a slope ahead of his men, he found the initial bunker deserted, then pushed on to the second where he was suddenly confronted by 9 onrushing enemy. Using the butt of his rifle, he felled 1 adversary and bayoneted a second, before his scouts came to his aid and assisted him in overcoming the others in hand-to-hand combat. Accompanied by the riflemen, he charged the third bunker under pointblank small arms fire and led the way into the fortification from which he prodded 6 enemy at bayonet point. Following the consolidation of this area, he led his battalion across 300 yards of fire-swept terrain to seize elevated ground upon which he established a defensive position which menaced the enemy on both flanks, and provided his regiment a firm foothold on the approach to the Cologne Plain. Col. Mabry's superlative courage, daring, and leadership in an operation of major importance exemplify the finest characteristics of the military service.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) last week sponsored a resolution designating 30 MAR as —Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. The proposed resolution S.RES. 55, presently has 5 cosponsors. It states and resolves that the Senate:

1. honors and recognizes the contributions of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam during war and during peace;
2. encourages States and local governments to also establish 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day'; and
3. encourages the people of the United States to observe 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day' with appropriate ceremonies and activities that:
 - a. provide the appreciation Vietnam War veterans deserve, but did not receive upon returning home from the war;
 - b. demonstrate the resolve that never again shall the Nation disregard and denigrate a generation of veterans;
 - c. promote awareness of the faithful service and contributions of such veterans during their military service as well as to their communities since returning home;
 - d. promote awareness of the importance of entire communities empowering veterans and the families of veterans to readjust to civilian life after military service; and
 - e. promote opportunities for such veterans to assist younger veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and unseen, and to support the reintegration of younger veterans into civilian life.



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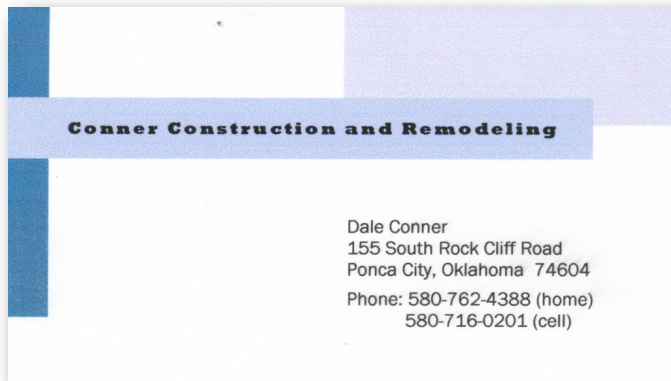
The Season Professionals

**SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE SLINKIES - NOT
REALLY GOOD FOR ANYTHING BUT THEY DO
BRING A SMILE TO YOUR FACE WHEN PUSHED
DOWN THE STAIRS.**

New Members Appointed to VA Committee on Minority Veterans

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has announced the appointment of eight new members to VA's Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, an expert panel that advises him on issues involving minority veterans.

"The new members of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans will bring their expertise to help guide VA's efforts in serving minority Veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "VA welcomes these new members."



Chartered on January 30, 1995, the committee makes recommendations for administrative and legislative changes. The committee members are appointed to one, two, or three-year terms.

The eight new committee members include: Clara L. Adams-Ender, Woodbridge, Va.; Allie Braswell Jr., Orlando, Fla.; Amanda Heidenreiter, Ellicott City, Md.; Oscar B. Hilman, Tacoma, Wash.; Pedro Molina, Fresno, Calif.; Wayne Nickens, Honolulu, Hawaii; Celia Renteria Szelwach, Arden, N.C., and Joseph Wynn, Washington, D.C.

There are approximately 4.1 million minority Veterans in the United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and territories. They comprise approximately nearly 15 percent of the total Veteran population today.

New U.S. Army Rifle Uses Smart Bullets

The XM25 Counter Defilade Target Engagement System has a range of roughly 2,300 feet - and is to be deployed in Afghanistan this month

The rifle's gunsight uses a laser rangefinder to determine the exact distance to the obstruction, after which the soldier can add or subtract up to 3 metres from that distance to enable the

bullets to clear the barrier and explode above or beside the target.

Soldiers will be able to use them to target snipers hidden in trenches rather than calling in air strikes.

The 25-millimetre round contains a chip that receives a radio signal from the gunsight as to the precise distance to the target.

CONTINUED:

Lt. Col. Christopher Lehner, project manager for the system, described the weapon as a 'game-changer' that other nations will try and copy.

He expects the Army to buy 12,500 of the XM25 rifles this year, enough for every member of the infantry and special forces.



Lehner told FoxNews: 'With this weapon system, we take away cover from [enemy targets] forever.

'Tactics are going to have to be rewritten.

The only thing we can see [enemies] being able to do is run away.'

Experts say the rifle means that enemy troops will no longer be safe if they take cover

The XM25 appears perfect weapon for street-to-street fighting that troops in

Afghanistan have to engage in, with enemy fighters hiding behind walls and only breaking cover to fire occasionally.

The weapon's laser finder would work out how far away the enemy was and then the U.S. soldier would add one metre using a button near the trigger.

When fired, the explosive round would carry exactly one metre past the wall and explode with the force of a hand grenade above the Taliban fighter.

The army's project manager for new weapons, Douglas Tamilio, said: "This is the first leap-ahead technology for troops that we've been able to develop and

deploy.'

A patent granted to the bullet's maker, Alliant Techsystems, reveals that the chip can calculate how far it has travelled.

Mr Tamilio said: 'You could shoot a Javelin missile, and it would cost \$69,000. These rounds will end up costing \$25 apiece.

They're relatively cheap Lehner added: 'This is a game-changer.

'Tracers work both ways.' - Army Ordnance Manual

CONTINUED:

The enemy has learned to get cover, for hundreds if not thousands of years.

'Well, they can't do that anymore.

We're taking that cover from them and there's only two outcomes: We're going to get you behind that cover or force you to flee.'



Fred Boettcher

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U.S. and Australian Departments of Veterans Affairs Research Impacts of Recent Conflicts

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will collaborate with the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs on a new research effort focused on investigating the impact of recent conflicts on the health of returning Service members.

"The health and welfare of those who have served our Nation, and their families, remains the highest priority for VA," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Joint research between the United States and Australia will shed light on similarities and differences with respect to the health effects of recent military deployments we have in common, such as Afghanistan."

The program will be conducted in three phases involving short, medium and longer-term comparative research. In the first phase, scheduled for completion in six months, researchers will review previous studies on this topic which will help inform the final stages of the research collaboration.

Although both countries conduct their own extensive research on Veterans' health, this joint effort will allow both nations to take advantage of larger data sets and comparative analyses to learn best practices and treatments that can help returning Veterans manage post-deployment health effects.

"The Oriental doesn't put the same high price on life as the Westerner. Life is plentiful, life is cheap in the Orient, and as the philosophy of the Orient expresses it, life is not important."

— General William Westmoreland, interviewed for the documentary *Hearts and Minds*, 1974

CONTINUED:


“While the Australian and U.S. military experience has differed, with both countries serving in different locations and frontlines, we can collaborate on reaching a common understanding of the impact of war on our service personnel,” said Warren Snowdon, Australia’s Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Defence Science and Personnel, and Indigenous Health.

This joint effort will complement the extensive work VA continues to support in both leading research,

advancing treatment, and supporting evidence-based treatments for our Veterans.

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Sports Programs for Disabled Veterans Expanding VA Awards \$7.5 Million to U.S. Olympic Committee for Therapeutic Competitive Events

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is awarding two grants totaling \$7.5 million to the U.S. Olympic Committee to enhance recreation and sporting activities for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces.

“Many of our Veterans have experienced traumatic injuries while at the peak of their physical conditioning,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “Our partnership with the U.S. Olympic Committee will aid in their recovery by allowing them to engage in therapeutic sporting events and competition right in their own communities.”

Additionally, Christopher J. Nowak has been selected to be the director of the VA Paralympics Program Office.

Under terms of the grant agreements, funding will be provided to the Olympic Committee’s member organizations, Paralympic sports clubs and Veteran



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CONTINUED:

and military organizations nationwide to implement community-based, physical activity programs for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces. Disabled Veterans can locate adaptive sporting events in their communities by visiting the U.S. Paralympics Web site:

www.usparalympics.org.

Public Law 110-389 authorized VA to award grants to the U.S. Olympic Committee to plan, manage and implement an adaptive sports program.

“This support from Veterans Affairs will have far reaching impact in communities around the country,” said Charlie Huebner, chief of U.S. Paralympics. “We know that sports and physical activity can have a transformative effect on those with a physical disability.”

“These funds will help our community partners to expand and provide greater access to sports programs for injured Veterans, disabled members of the Armed Forces and all living in their local area with a physical disability,” Huebner added.

Since 1999, Nowak has served as a prosthetics manager for VA Healthcare Veterans Integrated Service Network 4, which includes Pennsylvania, Delaware and parts of West Virginia, New Jersey and New York. A 17-year veteran of VA, he directs a \$92-million budget and all prosthetics operations for 10 VA medical centers.

Nowak joined the Marine Corps 1983. His military career ended in 1987, when the then-infantry squad leader lost his right leg to friendly fire during a routine training exercise. He is a champion of sports rehabilitation for wounded soldiers and Veterans. He has developed and co-chaired "First Swing" and "Next Step" golf clinics for amputee Veterans and is a former member of the USA Amputee Hockey Team.

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Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

-P.J. O'Rourke, Civil Libertarian

Army Looks to Improve Guard Life

Starting next fall, the time a reservist spends at home between mobilizations will increase to four years, the Army Chief of Staff said yesterday during a meeting with members of the Army National Guard in Arlington, Va. Gen. George Casey said the longer time at home is necessary for the welfare of troops.

"We had to get there," he said. "Studies show that it takes a minimum of 24 to 36 months to recover from a combat deployment. The reality of it all is that we cannot go to war without the Guard and Reserve."

Casey previously announced that the Army's active-duty force would return so-called "dwell time" to two years home after a deployment. In recent years, some Soldiers have re-deployed barely a year after coming home. Guard and Army Reservists might be home two or three years after a deployment.

Casey has said the demands placed on the Guard and Reserve essentially transformed it from a strategic reserve to an operational force. "It's a fundamentally different Guard, and because of that, it is a fundamentally different Army today, and we can't go back," he said March 7.

Meanwhile, as the Army readies to stretch the dwell time for its reserve

forces, the Pentagon is communicating with thousands of civilian employers to figure out ways the military can help ease the strain on both employer and employee as they deal with the ongoing operational demands. The Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, a Defense Department agency responsible for handling reserve forces and employer relations, has sent a survey to 80,000 employers.

The survey is an acknowledgment that the past decade of war has also put strains on the reservists' employers that are required by law to provide differential pay to mobilized employees and also to have the troops' jobs ready for them when they return.

"Our goal for this survey is to identify best practices in supporting employers of Guard and Reserve members and evaluate the effectiveness of Department of Defense programs," Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Dennis McCarthy said in announcing the project.

Roofing done Right



Jeff Beets
Vice-President

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Please support V.V.A. Chapter 750 by renewing you membership today. Thanks Rod Kutz, Membership

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