

A Veterans Recognition Committee Newsletter

April 2019



D-Day June 6, 1944 75 Years Ago page 3

Steve Monez Editor [smonez1@gmail](mailto:smonez1@gmail.com)



Compatriots,

Welcome our Veterans Recognition Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman

Chairman

COL Patrick J. Niemann



Colonel Pat Niemann retired from the U.S. Army after 30 years of active duty. He served as an enlisted soldier for three years prior to attending the U.S. Army Infantry Officer's Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Pat's various command and staff assignments include two combat tours in Vietnam where he served as an Advisor to a South Vietnamese Army Recondo Company and on a subsequent tour was assigned to a Special Operations Unit conducting cross border operations into Cambodia. He was the Commander, 519th Military Intelligence Battalion (Airborne), Ft. Bragg, NC and was the Commander, Brigade

Task Force 525 (Airborne) during Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada. His staff assignments include being the S-2, 1st Brigade, 2nd Armored Division, Ft. Hood, TX; Executive Officer, 319th Military Intelligence Battalion (Airborne), Ft. Bragg, NC; Deputy G-2, XVIII Airborne Corps, Ft. Bragg, NC; and served on the Army Staff assigned to the Deputy Chief of Staff Intelligence.

Pat's joint service experience includes an assignment on a Battle Staff Team, U.S. European Command Airborne Command Post, RAF Mildenhall, England. Continued on page 2



In This Bugle

COL Patrick J. Niemann	page 1
Colonel Gary Pettett	page 1
Cert's. issued March -May	page 6
D-Day	page 3
Links to the Corps	page 6
Looking for your information	page 6
Memorial Day Events	page 5
Prescott to Honor WWII Vets	page 2
VRC	page 6

Vice Chairman

Colonel Gary Pettett



I have been a member of NSSAR for 21 years starting with the (now defunct) Joseph Morgan Chapter in Platte County Missouri. I served as Secretary and President of that Chapter until approximately 2008. In addition I held the office of Surgeon General in the Missouri State Society and sat on their Board of Managers. In 2011, I retired and we relocated to Tucson, AZ and Eagle, ID. I am a dual member of both the AZSSAR (primary) and IDSSAR. I subsequently served one-year terms as the AZSSAR Trustee and then as the Alternate Trustee. For the last 5 years I have been the Trustee for Idaho. Most recently I held the office of Vice President General for the Intermountain District (2017-Continued on page 2

The NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee Bugle

Chairman Patrick Niemann from page 1

He served as the Chief, Intelligence Directorate, and Chief, Current Operations, Operations Directorate, U.S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, FL and participated in Operation Desert Storm. Prior to retirement Pat served a joint service tour as the Director, Security and Counterintelligence, Defense Intelligence Agency.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star w/V device, 2 OLC; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal 2 OLC; Air Medal w/V device, 7 awards; Joint Commendation Medal 1 OLC; Army Commendation Medal; Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Army Aircrewman Badge, and Egyptian Parachutist Badge. Pat also earned the Canadian Parachutist Badge while on unit exchange duty with the Canadian Special Air Service Regiment, Petawawa, Canada.

COL Niemann graduated from Pacific University, B.S. and Tarleton State University, M.S., and is a graduate of the National War College.

After retiring from the Army, Pat worked for the Florida Attorney General's Office and retired as a State Law Enforcement Captain.

Besides various SAR Chapter offices, Pat has been a Chapter President, Regional Vice President, Senior Vice President, and President, Florida SAR.

He has life membership in the American Legion; Disabled American Veterans; Veterans of Foreign Wars; Military Order of World Wars; and Military Officers Association of America.



Vice Chairman Gary Pettett from page 1

2019) and in 2018-2019 I was appointed as the Chair of the Council of VPGs. This year I have volunteered to fill Compatriot Vic McMurray's position as Vice Chairman of the Veterans Recognition Committee and will direct the Veterans Multi-Corps Recognition Program. I am also the Treasurer and Newsletter Editor for our Tucson Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), an organization dedicated to the support of our military both active duty and veterans. I am a GWEF Fellow and have submitted my name as a candidate for the GWEF Board of Directors. I am also a Friend of the Library and member of the King George Papers Committee.

Aside from my SAR activities, I am a retired military physician (23 yrs. of service) with a terminal rank of Colonel (O-6). Following my military service, I joined the Neonatology Staff at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. As part of that service, I was appointed Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Medicine where I also served as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs. Upon my retirement from medical practice, I was appointed as Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Humanities. In addition to the practice of medicine, I was a Fellow at the Center for Practical Bioethics in Kansas City. These latter two positions remain current.

My wife (Virginia) and I have been married for 52 years and have two grown children (Lisa & Scott) and three grandchildren (Spencer, Marcus and Piper). My wife is an active DAR member both in Idaho and Arizona and served as a regent of her chapter in Missouri. Our daughter (Lisa) is a DAR member and our son (Scott) is an SAR member. In retirement we now spend the fall and winter months in Tucson, AZ and the spring and summer months in Eagle, ID.

The Prescott Chapter of the Arizona Society

will hold its General Meeting on June 8. It will honor 12 World War II Veterans and their guests with a free Lunch. The Guest Speaker is Jerome Welna who was at D-Day on June 6, 1944.

The 75th anniversary of D-Day. June 6th, 1944

D-Day was the largest amphibious invasion in military history.

According to the D-Day Center, the invasion, officially called "Operation Overlord," combined the forces of 156,115 U.S., British and Canadian troops, 6,939 ships and landing vessels, and 2,395 aircraft and 867 gliders that delivered airborne troops.



This story is about the Bedford Boy's

Bedford Virginia is located at the foot of the Peaks of Otter in the heart of *Virginia's* Blue Ridge Mountains.

They were teenage buddies in the Depression days, growing up in Bedford, a town of 3,200.

They joined the National Guard together. *It seemed like a fun thing to do as it brought the young men together for a couple of weeks each year for training. In their eye's It was like a social club.*

They marched in Fourth of July parades. They gathered with their girlfriends at American Legion halls.

They were mostly in their teens. They never expected that the United States would go to war. The news indicated the United States would stay neutral.

This courageous bunch of small-town boys represented a cross-section of the little Virginia community.

The NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee Bugle

Captain Taylor N. Fellers came from an affluent Bedford family. Frank Draper Jr. was a star athlete from the less affluent part of town. John Wilkes was the company's leading sergeant. Lt. Elisha Ray Nance was the son of a tobacco farmer. Twins Ray and Roy Stevens came from a farm family of 14 children.

The National Guard was activated on February third, 1941. They became part of the 29th Infantry Division, assembled in Company A of the division's 116th Infantry.

The United States declared War in December 1941.

In September 1942 the 29th Division boarded the converted luxury liner *Queen Mary* and sailed for England.

The division's 116th Infantry became the first unit to complete amphibious exercises at the U.S. Army's amphibious training center.

June 6, 1944, the long-awaited Allied invasion of northern Europe got under way. 34 soldiers from Bedford with Company A were among the first infantrymen approaching Omaha Beach.

At 3:30 am they loaded into the landing crafts. The landing crafts were tossed about in the rough water.

The bombers flying overhead had bad weather and dropped bombs inland instead on their intended targets. The heavy guns from the destroyers and battle ships failed to soften up the German gunners in the heights.

The landing crafts were taking heavy fire.

Four Bedford boys were in a landing craft that was hit by German fire and sank. Fished out of the waters, they were the fortunate ones.

Thirty were in other crafts. Ray one of the twins along with eighteen others died almost immediately when they landed on Omaha beach at Normandy.

The family hit the hardest was John and Macie Hoback, both sons were killed.

The town welcomed the survivor's home, but things were never the same again. Those soldiers' memories never went away. The terrible carnage and the still, lifeless bodies. They still remembered the young, smiling faces, boyish laughter and youthful innocence. These are the memories that time cannot diminish or take away. Twenty-Three boys died during that campaign.

Let us remember the Bedford Boys and that war that took so many lives.



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The total Allied losses at Normandy are estimated to be at least 4,413 and total Allied deaths in the Battle of Normandy, which dragged on until August, topped 226,000.

“Freedom is not free”

Memorial Day in Arizona

Seven Chapters participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony to honor all those Veterans that gave their all.



At the Phoenix Memorial Cemetery the Arizona Society Color Guard carried a new flag as they marched to the flagpole. After the old flag was lowered they folded it. Members from four different chapters and one person from the Children of the American Revolution took part. They shared their ancestors and presented a program on D-Day. Henry Davis a Korean Veteran was honored for his service.



The Prescott Chapter CG carried Flags at the Prescott National cemetery. A Sedona DAR member assisted.

Jan Huber and Jim Heller of the Saguaro Chapter took part in the Phoenix Military Cemetery.



The Tucson Chapter served at East Lawn Cemetery's Memorial Day event. The Chapter posted the colors, presented the branch of service flags and laid a wreath. The Guard performed wonderfully and replaced the Marines, firing a musket salute.

Eleven members of the Color Guard and seven members of the Auxiliary participated, many DAR members.



The NSSAR Veterans Recognition Committee Bugle

The SAR Veterans Recognition Committee provides recognition to living SAR Veterans by awarding the SAR Certificates of Patriotism. It ensures that the work of the committee not only has a legacy dimension but is also visionary and administratively sound so that the incumbent SAR President General can expand the Veterans Corps to include service to country during periods of peace, war, and/or armed conflict.

Award of Certificates of Patriotism was expanded in 2016-2017 to past, current, and future conflicts in the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR). This AOR consists of eighteen countries in the Middle East and East Africa (these countries include Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Yemen).

If you know an SAR veteran that has not been recognized please notify your chapter president and make sure they are recognized. This can be done at the chapter level.

Victor G. McMurry



Thanks Victor G. McMurry <vicmc4@gmail.com>for continuing to print and send these certificates out during our transition. Vic is committed to help our new Vice Chairman and will stay in contact. He has over 78 forms and continues to make new ones for those veterans that have served our country.

Vic reports:

Final certificates printed and sent out for March, April, and May. The batches were mailed to NSSAR.

March we printed 42 Certificates of Patriotism

April we printed 21 Certificates of Patriotism

May we printed 21 Certificates of Patriotism

For the three month period we printed a total of 84 Certificates of Patriotism

Of the 84 Certificates of Patriotism Printed, 45 were for the Military Service Veterans Corps.

That leaves 39 for the various War Service Veterans Corps.

Follow these links to the various areas on our website to see all those listed in the different Corps.

[The Veterans Multi-Corps Recognition Form](#)

[A Committee History](#)

[Veterans Recognition Charter](#)

[Veterans Recognition President General's Guidance](#)

[SAR Medals and Certificates for Military Service](#)

[Descriptions of the Six Veterans Corps](#)

[All Veteran Corps Compatriots listed by State](#)

I would like to add items from your societies and chapters regarding our Veterans that might be interesting to our readers. Thus far I keep using Arizona Society information. I have received one request for a newsletter from someone that is not on our mailing list. He has shown an interest. I'll send him this newsletter. His Society President sent him a copy. Perhaps our mailing list should be wider. If anyone on the committee has any ideas to do that please let us know. Please share your Chapters and Societies Veterans information with me. I would like to put articles in your Bugle for all of you across the organization. Email me, Steve Monez at smonez1@gmail.com