



South Alabama Veterans Council

A coalition of Veterans, Friends and Organizations working together to Further the Cause of Veterans in the South Alabama area

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CAPT HAL PIERCE, SPIRITUS AMERITUS SAVC

Facebook — [South Alabama Veterans Council](#)

we will not meet in June
— another mark for CoVid —

JUNE 14, 1775: The Birthday of the United States Army. On 14 June 1775, The Second Continental Congress formed the Continental Army as a means for the 13 unified American colonies to fight the forces of Britain. George Washington was unanimously elected Commander-In-Chief of the fledgling Army, and he would lead the colonies to victory and independence.

JUNE 14, 1777: The Birthday of the American Flag. On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

JUNE 6, 1944: D-Day; Operation Overlord; the Normandy Landings. The beginning of the end of the War for Germany. Approximately 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's

2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.

Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history. By late August France had been liberated and by spring of 1945 Germany had been defeated.

Pensacola News Journal has [a little coverage](#) on the 76th anniversary of D-Day; [AL.com](#) had none ...

JUNE 21, 2020: Father's Day is a celebration honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. The tradition was said to be started from a memorial service held for a large group of men who died in a mining accident in Monongah, West Virginia in 1907. It was first proposed by Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Washington in 1909. It is currently celebrated in the United States annually on the third Sunday in June.

June is the sixth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar and its predecessor, the Julian calendar. It is believed that the month is named after the Roman goddess Juno, who is the wife of Jupiter and is also equivalent to the Greek goddess Hera.

June was originally the fourth month of the year in earlier versions of the Roman calendar and consisted of 30 days. It became the fifth month with a length of 29 days following a calendar reform around 450 BCE. In the Julian calendar, June was given a length of 30 days again.



Are you coping successfully with the CoVid-19? Are you staying in? ARE YOU BORED YET? Did you wash your hands? It's kind of weird watching NASCAR with no spectators ... and there's no baseball ...

The National Purple Heart Honor Mission announced May 28 that it is opening the nomination process for its 2021 Purple Heart Patriot Project. This multi-day salute to service will bring together Purple Heart heroes representing each state and territory in the nation to pay tribute to their courage and sacrifice on behalf of a grateful nation.

One Purple Heart recipient and an escort of their choosing from each state and territory will again be selected for an all-expenses-paid tribute filled with tours and ceremonies honoring their service and that of all those who have earned the Purple Heart. The four-day Patriot Project Mission will feature visits to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, historic Washington's Headquarters where the Badge of Military Merit originated in 1782, and a private tour of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor - the museum dedicated to paying tribute to our nation's combat wounded. Other special tribute events are also being planned.

"Our nation's Purple Heart recipients have made extraordinary sacrifices for our freedom," said National Purple Heart Honor Mission Executive Director, Russell Vernon, Col. USA Ret. "These brave men and women who bare the physical scars of war, saved the world from the darkness of Nazism, communism, fascism and terrorism. This tribute is a reminder to all of us that their sacrifice will never be forgotten. For some, it is the homecoming they never had. For others, it is an opportunity to connect with their fellow Purple Heart recipients and share

stories only they can fully appreciate. For all Americans, The Patriot Project it's a reminder of the cost of freedom."

It is estimated that more than 1.8 million Americans have been awarded the Purple Heart for being wounded in action or making the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

"The honorees we will select symbolize what it means to be humble heroes, who served, sacrificed and continued to serve their communities," said Vernon. The Purple Heart recipients who have participated in the Honor Flight-style program have been moved by the outpouring of gratitude from the public and the immediate sense of camaraderie they felt with their fellow honorees.

Anyone can nominate a Purple Heart recipient they know. Nominations must include a short description (up to 250 words) of why their nominee is deserving of this special recognition. Submissions can be sent via email to Info@PurpleHeartMission.org or submitted via the Honor Mission's website at <https://www.purpleheartmission.org/patriot-project>. Nominations will be accepted until August 31. The Honor Mission will select three finalists from each state and territory and a national panel of Purple Heart recipients and other distinguished Americans will select the final honorees. A complete list of honorees will be announced nationally on November 11 - Veteran's Day - 2020.

Video footage of the 2019 Patriot Project Mission and interviews with select honorees can be found at: <http://bit.ly/PHHonorMissionVideos>.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, which was established and expanded through the vision and work of the Honor Mission, today is operated by the New York-New Jersey Palisades Interstate Park Commission. The National Purple Heart Honor Mission is an approved 501(c)3 national charitable organization that provides a range of tribute programming to honor our Purple Heart heroes and preserve their legacy.

SgtMaj [Brian Battaglia](#), USMC (ret) has nominated Brandon Lloyd USA (ret)

Jlm Jeffries nominated Capt Joe Birindelli, USA CE (ret).

Once a pest of the past, bedbugs now infest every state in the U.S.. *Cimex lectularius*—small, flattened insects that feed solely on mammalian and avian blood—have been living

I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6 foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are:



with humans since ancient times. Abundant in the U.S. prior to World War II, bedbugs all but vanished during the 1940s and '50s thanks to improvements in hygiene and the use of pesticides. In the past 10 years, however, the pests have staged a comeback worldwide—an outbreak after the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney was a harbinger of things to come. This revival may be the worst yet, experts say, due to densely populated urban areas, global travel and increasing pesticide resistance—something to consider as the summer travel season gets underway.

"By every metric that we use, it's getting worse and worse," says Coby Schal, an entomologist at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Health authorities and pest control operators are regularly flooded with calls, and the epidemic may not have yet peaked. And because bedbugs are indoor pests, there are no high or low seasons throughout the year, he adds, only continual bombardment. "It's just the beginning of the problem in the U.S.," Schal says.

Some important things:

Bedbugs lack wings, and therefore cannot fly; bedbugs are slow to reproduce: Each adult female produces about one egg per day; bedbugs can be found anywhere from ritzy high-rises to homeless shelters; bedbug bites can lead to anxiety, sleeplessness and even secondary infections, but there have been no reported cases of bedbugs transmitting disease to humans.

(I knew you wanted to know that ...)

Memorial Day was not a total bust. We did our "normal" ceremony at Mobile National Cemetery with a slight adjustment - there was no gathering of the People. And we condensed it down to about 17 minutes. Fran videoed the event and posted it on the South Alabama Veterans Council [Facebook page](#).

Big VA sent word down that there could be no more than 10 people in the cemetery so we had to make do. We did. And there were no Flags on the graves. Except one - I placed a Flag on Uncle Robert's grave.

Pete MC'd the event; Cindi Gartman sang the National Anthem and, a little later, "God Bless America." Both were well done. GySgt Lester Davison and Sgt. Michael Kirksey, representing Montford Point Marines, raised the main Flag and lowered it to half-staff; I, your humble scribe, read "Bury Me With Soldiers" and narrated the Tolling of the Bell while Korea War Veterans Sonny Willisson and Robert Rigsby laid the wreath; Michael Austin and Sonny shared the chaplain duties; Randy Davis and his trumpet provided TAPS to close the program. There was no Rifle Volley.

and now, from the mind of Joe McCormack

Our Country
Our Country 'tis of Thee;
God granted us our Liberty
Where everyone can live Free
In Peace enjoying Democracy.
With Rights ensuring Opportunity
To practice Freedom and Equality
We pray for this Land of Liberty
Ask God for strength to stay Free.
Poetry for Memorial Day
JoMac - Poetry in Action

I asked Jerry Cherne, "What did you do?" or some such as that ... this is his answer ...

Jerry Cherne

CWO-3, United States Marine Corps (Retired)

(One-each, olive drab, Marine Corps issue)

Born in Milwaukee, WI where I spent my youth. I enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1968 and off I went to Boot Camp, Infantry Training and Radio Operator School. I must have done something right because I was awarded an all-expense paid trip to South Vietnam.

In Vietnam I was temporarily assigned to Communications Company, then later to my permanent assignment with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division. We were based at Vandergrift Combat Base (VCB) in Quang Tri Province from which we conducted various operations.

On one of my early ops, I learned a valuable experience. While sleeping one night in a fox hole we were hit by mortars. Of course, I immediately woke up and when I did, I jumped up on my feet. As I was grabbing my helmet I was hit with small fragments in my hands, wrists and lower arms and another piece in my butt cheek. I learned the lesson of not standing up during incoming:) [editor's note: *that's an important lesson*]

Weeks later I returned to my unit. They were between ops and apparently had too much time on their hands. I was welcomed back with signs such as "CYA" and guys running around with their

I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.



hands over their backsides yelling "cover your ass". They thought it was funny.

Most of you have heard of or seen the movie about Hamburger Hill. This was part of Operation Apache Snow. The Army had the task of assaulting Hamburger Hill and suffered horrendous casualties and they performed admirably. My unit was also part of this operation, but we were a good distance away acting as a blocking force. The Army did the heavy lifting on this one.

Returning from Vietnam I was assigned to Camp Lejeune. After about 8 months I volunteered to go back to Vietnam. Arriving in Okinawa I was told they were assigning most Marines who had already been to Vietnam to units in Okinawa. I didn't really spend much time in Okinawa. I kept getting assigned to Navy ships for three months at a time. We spent most our time cruising up and down the coast of Vietnam as a reactionary force. I went on 3 of these luxury three-month cruises. We geared up many times and even boarded choppers several times, but never any farther. I went on to make a career of the Marine Corps. I worked my way up to Gunnery Sergeant (E7) and then applied for the Warrant Officer program which, surprising everyone including myself, I was selected. I retired as a CWO-3

During my Marine Corps time I was stationed at Cherry Point, NC, Beaufort, SC, 29 Palms, CA, and a total of 7 years in Okinawa. I was also assigned to Inspector-Instructor duty in Mobile, AL with 4th Force Recon. While here from 1978 – 1982 I met and married my wife of now almost 42 years, Roberta. I have called the Mobile area home since 1978. All credit goes to Roberta for straightening my ass out.

The Marine Corps did much for me and I am grateful. I enjoyed it, learned a lot of things, and made a lot of friends. I also obtained my Associates Degree while on active duty.

Since retiring from the USMC in 1988 I worked in telecommunications for several companies, big and small. In 2005 I began working from home mostly doing telecom regulatory consulting services. I am pretty much retired but still do a little on the side.

I am a member of multiple VSO's but my primary involvement is with the Marine Corps League where I have served both locally and as a state officer. My final message is do all you can to take care of our veterans and their

families and keep their memories alive. This includes active duty personnel.

Semper Fi, y'all

Tune In Next Month for THE STORY OF DON Vinson

The Assault Continues in Oaklawn Memorial Cemetery. Since the 'pandemic' hit and people stopped coming out to help clear the Cemetery the weeds and grasses have grown up again. Veterans Memorial Recovery Team - reconfigured from Operation Overload - is out one or two days each week. We'd like to be there more but Life gets in the way. CVMA and American Legion are still coming out. If you'd like to help, come on out Saturday morning bring your gloves and a weed eater and a rake ... contact Fran at sweetgumcat@aol.com



Photo By Bill
It's not as bad as it was when we started but it's close



these photos by Fran

Fran and Neil cleared this section



The Team, taking a break ...
Sherri, Neil, Bill, Georgeann, Jim