



Prosit!



Newsletter of the 601st-615th ACW Association - Vol 1 No 6 December 2010

A message from our president Francis X Gosselin



*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
2011*

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and was able to spend the holiday with friends and family.

Soon we will be approaching several cornerstones in our association. It is nearing the sixty year mark when some of the members first meet, and shortly it will be twenty one years when the first reunion and the first web site came to be.

We have all traveled a long way together, and hopefully we will share many more to come. Sadly, to say the least, we began with a list of well over 700 member's names, and today, as each day approaches, this number gets smaller and smaller.

It is time we started to think of our future and how we can pass this association on to others. The updating all the required structure for a sound association is nearly completed. Now we must look forward to renewing our association with some new energy to carry us into the times and day ahead.

To close my comments, let me share the following poem by Kay Hoffman with you:

Christmas Wish

If I could have one Christmas wish more precious than all others,
My wish would be that all mankind would truly live as brothers.
With love to guide the daily path there would be no one in need;
God's blessings would be shared by all of every race and creed.
If I could have my Christmas wish, we could count our brother's worth,
And make come true the angels' song
"Peace, Goodwill to men on earth."

On behalf of The Board of Directors, my family, and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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Windows is now loading....!

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on.

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, **If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1000 miles to the gallon.'**



In response to Bill 's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating:

If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics (and I just love this part):

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crashTwice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the

windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.

4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single 'This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation' warning light.
7. The airbag system would ask 'Are you sure?' before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

PS ~ I'd like to add that when all else fails, you could call ' customer service ' in some foreign country and be instructed in some foreign language how to fix your car yourself!!!!

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Visit our Web

Site @

<http://www.601st-615t-acw.org/index.html>

You will find lots of information about our annual reunions, photographs of members and events and on topics of interest.

Make sure that you sign our guest book and leave us your comments, suggestions and to make changes to your personal address, email, telephone number and other pertinent information relating to your membership.

Sergeant Gilbert J. Matherne

US Army/Constabulary, Kassel Kasserne



Irene Matherne-Moore

My name is Irene Matherne Moore . My dad was a remarkable man and I would like to tell you about him. He was assigned to the Headquarters and Services Co., of the 14th US Constabulary Regiment, Kassel Kasserne from 1946 to deactivation long before the USAF setup a military outfit there.

The regiment was to maintain security and discipline of all the areas surrounding the war-devastated city of Kassel, Germany. The original name of the kasserne was Fliegerhorst Kassel, and was used during World War II as a German combat airfield.

In December of 1946, arriving in Rothwesten, Germany, my father, Gilbert Matherne, was not new to the military. Eight months earlier, he finished his two year tour with the US Navy. It was November 20, 1946 when he signed up to join the U.S. Army in New Orleans, La. He was sent to Fort Sam Houston, TX for one week and then to Camp Kilmer, NJ for shipment overseas. Here he was put on a transport ship headed for Europe.

After arriving in Bremerhaven, my dad boarded a train with the other soldiers. The train passed thru Kassel on the way to Marburg. He noticed how badly Kassel was destroyed during the war. His first impression was that the damage was the worst he had ever seen. He remembered thinking of how flattened out it was from the bombing. My dad told



me, "It had been bombed flat down to the ground. It was torn up somewhat awful". And he was happy he didn't have to be stationed there. He stayed 3 days in Marburg before he was back on the train and was taken right back to Kassel. At Kassel, he was picked up and taken to the Rothwesten Kaserne. To much of his surprise, he was stationed near Kassel anyway.

At the Kasserne, he had Constabulary training. The Constabulary had

set high standards for itself. The troopers were selected from the best soldiers available, and it was desired that all of them be volunteers. They were to be trained as soldiers and policemen. And to operate in an efficient and alert manner calculated to inspire confidence and respect in all persons they met, whether Germans, Allies, or Americans. The Germans referred to them as the "Blitz-Polizei" or the "Lightning Police." Some units referred to them as "Circle C Cowboys"!

The United States Constabulary provided general military and civil security, patrolled the borders, seized contraband and controlled displaced persons, among their other duties.

They performed many of the security functions that the German and Austrian governments could not perform.

In their typical day-to-day operations, Constabulary troopers manned border checkpoints; kept an eye on other American troops for disciplinary and traffic violations, as well as crimes against civilians; and tracked down Germans and displaced persons suspected of smuggling, black market or possessing weapons. They also were poised to respond quickly to riots, uprisings or other threats to the security of U.S. forces in the zone. Whenever any of those arrested by the force, were determined to be Nazis, they were held and turned over to the Military Police (MP) since that was a military concern.

My dad recalled a time when he and his friends all went into the enlisted men's club (EM Club). This is where everyone went for beer. The Army Air force guys were hanging around the same place. He told me that he remembered seeing more of the Army Air force guys around than them. When my dad and his friends entered the club, he made sure they sat at the table closest to the door. Since he used to say, "You can bet that a lot of guys having fun, with a little too much to drink, will disagree on about anything. If that were to happen, we wanted to be the first ones out the door."

He enjoyed the EM club. It was soon after his arrival in Rothwesten, he went in the club for a few beers. And noticed a very pretty girl standing near the outside entrance of the Enlisted Men's Club waiting to be asked to come inside. He was too shy to ask her, even though he really wanted to, but instead, he walked on by. Later that evening he noticed her inside and excitedly bought her a beer. They sat down to talk without realizing that this was the beginning of a long beautiful relationship, a wonderful marriage and 6 children. My dad married Elisabeth, my mom, in Kassel in August 1949.

His tour ended in October of 1949 and he was transferred back to America. His wife, Elisabeth, flew to New York on November 22nd where he met her. The next morning they took a train down to Louisiana and started their lives together. My mom and dad were happily married for 46 years. She passed away in 1995 and my father 5 years later in November 26th, 2000.

Having accomplished its assigned mission, the US Constabulary was phased out in December 1952. It has been one of the elite forces of the US Army and lived up to its motto: Mobility, Vigilance, Justice.

My father was part of their history.

I will always miss him!



Editor's Note: The bombing of Kassel is fully described in our web site. Please visit: <http://www.601st-615th-acw.org/mother.html>.

Irene Matherne-Moore is the Web Editor *United States Constabulary Army of Occupation Germany and Austria 1946 - 1952*

[Visit them :http://www.usconstabulary](http://www.usconstabulary).

2011 COLA for Retired Pay

2011 COLA Watch: The Federal Government announced that the 2011 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for military retirees, disabled veterans, and social security recipients will be zero for the second year in a row.

COLA Explained

Each year Military Retirement pay, VA Compensation and Pensions, and Social Security benefits are adjusted for the rate of inflation. This annual Cost of Living Adjustment is determined by the [Consumer Price Index](#) for the previous year. In a normal cycle the CPI for a given year is compared to the previous year to determine the actual rate of inflation. However, since 2008 was the last year the rate of inflation was positive, it is the baseline for determining the 2010 rate of inflation.

For example, the 2011 COLA will be based on the 2010 rate of inflation. The 2010 rate of inflation was -0.1% when compared to 2008, therefore there will be no COLA for Fiscal Year 2011.

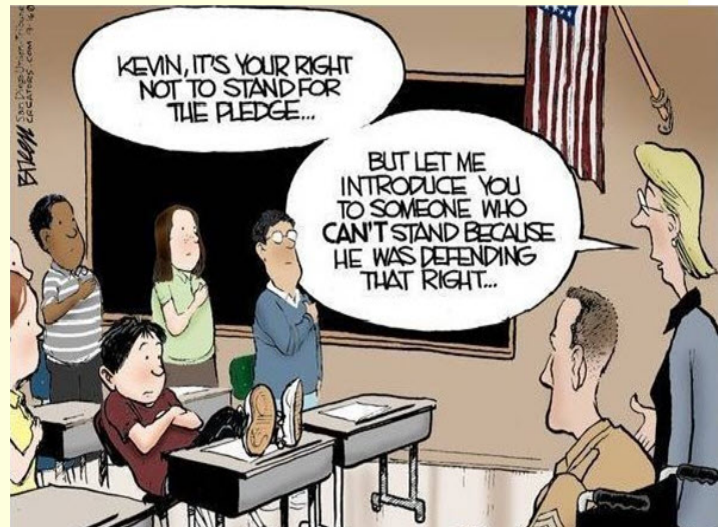
Note: Retiree Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) differs from the Active Duty Cost of Living Allowance which is paid based on the cost of living in a given high-cost locality. This number will be released in late December.

More on Retiree COLA from DFAS:

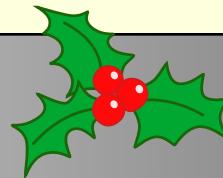
Cost-of-Living Increases: Perhaps the most common change to retiree pay accounts are the Cost-of-Living (COLA) increases. Currently, federal law authorizes periodic increases to reflect rises in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). COLA increases impact your monthly gross pay, federal [withholding tax](#), [SBP](#)

premiums and annuities. While DFAS does not establish COLA increases, the agency does apply any authorized increases to your pay, SBP premiums and other account information. COLA is applied depending on your date of entry into the armed forces and your date of retirement. If you entered service on or after Sept. 8, 1980, and became eligible for retired pay on or after Jan. 1, 1996, any authorized COLA will be decreased during your first calendar year of retirement. Full COLA increases will be applied for all subsequent years. Retirees who entered military service on or after Aug. 1, 1986 and opted in for the Career Status Bonus (CSB/Redux retirement plan), will have any authorized COLA increases reduced by 1 percent.

(Subscribe to the <http://www.military.com/> for the most comprehensive reports of military benefits.



LoAnne Zentner

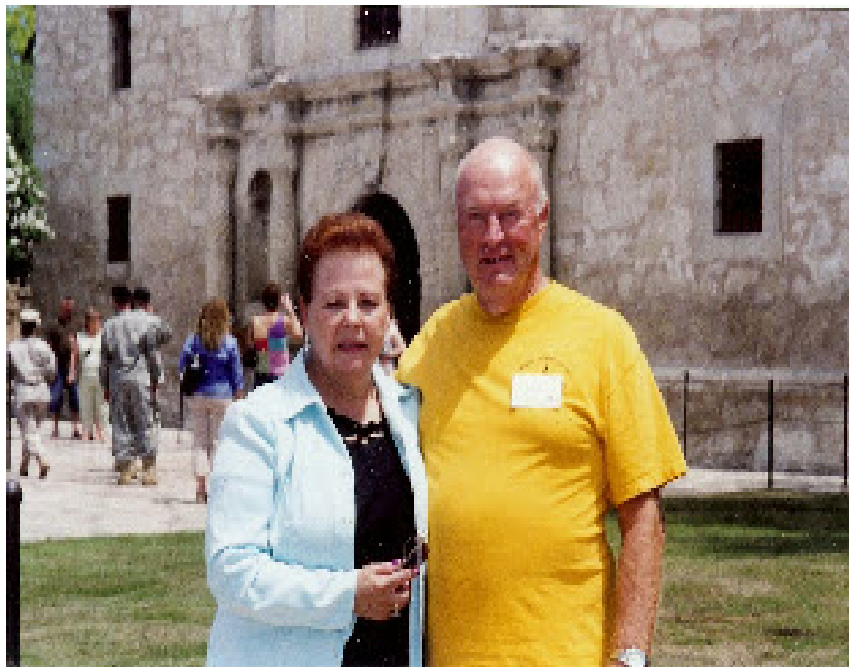


Greetings from the beautiful state of Wisconsin. To introduce myself to you, I'm LoAnne Zentner and officially I'm an assistant to Fay Dickey to help her with planning the reunions and in any other ways I can. I've been attending reunions of the organization for 5 years now with Cliff Karau and have enjoyed all of them. We look forward to next year's reunion in Biloxi to see how much it has changed since Katrina. A few facts about me - I've lived all my life in the Milwaukee area and in the same house for more than 50 years. I have 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Most of my life was spent rearing children and taking care of grandchildren and running a small business for my husband. When my husband died I closed the business and retired. In retirement, I play a lot of bridge and travel (having a son and grandchildren in Colorado is a good excuse for that!) and seem to have more to do than when we were younger. Bridge and travel help to keep us young. Cliff and I look forward to seeing and all of you in Biloxi in the spring.



Howard and Fay Dickey have had a lifetime full of memories!

Our treasurer, E. Howard, Jr., was born July 22, 1936 in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, where he attended high school at Pawtucket East and completed one year of college. He served in the USAF from 1954 to



February 1958 and attended the Florida State University (FSU) after leaving the service. At FSU, he was awarded a BA in Accounting. He worked for Price Waterhouse and Singer in New York. He moved up and down the East Coast working in corporate jobs. His last corporate job was as controller for Rusco Industries.

In 1958, Howard met Fay (Felicitas), our Secretary, Events Coordinator, and Sweetheart-at-large. Fay was born February 11th, 1936 in Aussig, Czechoslovakia (Tschechoslowakei), which became the part of the "Sudetenland" during World War II. Fay and her Mother were refugees after the war and immigrated to Germany because her German father did not return from the war.

Fay went to high school in Germany and studied music at the Musikhochschule in Munich, Germany. Fay sang opera in Kassel and in many opera houses throughout Europe.

In 1958 she married her husband, Howard, and has had a beautiful and long-lasting marriage! Fay sang for the International Podyum in New York while Howard and she reared their three children.

In 1970 the Dickey's changed their life style and moved to a farm in Northern Minnesota. Having done nothing else but singing, Fay went back to school in Bemidji, MN and earned her Bachelor in Science in teaching German, English and music. Later on, she obtained her Masters in Arts from the University of California, in Santa Barbara (USCB).

Fay taught German for 24 years in a MN high school and worked daily on their farm. She continued to entertain community groups and her claim to fame the fact that "She sang opera to her cows to keep them content." This was aired by the television station "Real People" out of Minneapolis and made the news on all the national television stations!

Fay and Howard turned the dairy farm over to their son in 1989 and moved on to another farm in the Leonard, MN vicinity, where they built a new house.

Fay retired from teaching in 1999 and Howard, who had worked for the "Red Lake Indian Tribe" as their accountant and grant writer, also retired in March 1999.

Now Howard and Fay spend their winters in Arizona in their RV, and their summers on their farm in Northern Minnesota. Just for information, the Mississippi River originates in Itasca State Park, which is close to the Dickey's farm.

Fay still teaches for the Concordia Language Villages, and when needed, she substitutes in Arizona and Minnesota area schools.

The Dickey's have eight grandchildren and three great-grand-daughters.



Radars blips....



And it's winter before we know it...



You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. • And yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. • I know that I lived them all.

And I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. • But, here it is the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise.

How did I get here so fast? • Where did the years go and where did my babies go? • And where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me, and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. • But, here it is - my friends are retired and getting really gray; they move slower and I see an older person now. • Lots are in better shape than me but, I see the great change. • Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now "those older folks" that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! • And taking a nap is not a treat anymore - it's mandatory! • Because if I don't on my own free will I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains, and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!

But, at least I know that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last this I know, that when it's over, it's over. Yes, I have regrets. • There are things I wish I hadn't done; things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. • It's all in a lifetime.

If you're not in your winter yet let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! • Don't put things off too long!

Life goes by quickly. Do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life so live for good today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things you have done for them in all the years past!

Life is a gift to you. • The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. • Make it a fantastic one! LIVE IT WELL!!

Author unknown. From an email from: Carl Kitchens

WEB BITS @ PIECES

By Bill (Willie)
Hanson

The 601st/615th has approximately 750 names in its member database. A large majority of of member's records display missing and address errors and some display errors in the E-mail address. When we manually attempt to contact a number of, or all those, with E-mail addresses, we are minimally at best successful. We then receive an onslaught of notices of rejected mail. All these have to be gone through in order to try to determine which addresses are working for us and which ones are not. This is a most frustrating task and one that never seems to be resolved. If you never receive E-mail from us, this may be why.

There can be several reasons for this:
The address has been changed and we were not notified.
Mailbox is full. This happens when E-mail goes unchecked for some time.
Some internet providers allow less space for mail than others.
The user has employed a "Spam Fighter" or some similarly named program that does not allow mail from an unknown sender.

Some providers require all the senders and receivers to be listed within the system address book to validate the incoming message. If not found, the message is rejected.

Some domains filter mail in the same fashion as stated just above. The one we have the most problems with is AOL, followed by Verizon, and others. A check of certain addresses can show that they are valid and in use, but our mail to them is rejected. Providers, such as Comcast, continues to send the message to the intended recipient and returns an error message for every rejection.

There are methods of overcoming this:

1. Contact your internet provider and ask for their solutions. You may be directed to a page on their

home site where you will be able to manage whom you will accept mail from. The Spam Fighter program should have the same type of solution. If you have an option, elect to receive mail if it has 601st and/or 615th in the subject line.

2. Another method, which might be easier for some, is to download an E-mail account such as Hotmail, Live Mail, Yahoo, MSN. These are free to own and can be used at any or from any location. A user can send and receive mail when traveling, or when his/her regular account is not working. The user still uses the AOL (or other) account as desired. I recommend this method; or

3. Add to your address book the names of board members who may send you information about the organization/

So, if you have been wondering why you are never contacted by the organization, these may very well be the reasons why. We attempt to notify members (members, meaning all those in our database, as opposed to *active members*) of reunion plans, additions to the web site, an old friend trying to contact you, and other reasons. If you prefer not to receive E-mail from us, let us know and you will be removed. You can visit our web site and leave us an address change and/or leave us a message telling us how to get the information to you. Click the following link to access our web site:

<http://www.601st-615th-acw.org/index.html>



Silvia Heise paints fuldatal

Pictures taken by Silvia while on a walk from Simmerhausen to Wahnhausen and back



Photos by Silvia

Veterans' Reflections: A life of service

Posted 11/8/2010 Updated 11/8/2010 [Email story](#) [Print story](#)

by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class William Selby
Emerging Media, Defense Media Activity

11/8/2010 - **WASHINGTON (AFRNS)** -- If all you knew about Bill Sumner was that he joined the Navy during World War II a day after graduating from high school, that would say plenty about his character and dedication to his country. But it marked only the beginning of a life of service for this retired Air Force lieutenant colonel.

When he left for boot camp in 1942, the United States was involved in World War II and he felt he had to do his part.

"A few months later I was transferred to Pearl Harbor and was stationed aboard the USS Mahan," he said.

On Dec. 7, 1944, the USS Mahan was patrolling between Leyte and Ponson Island when a squadron of Japanese aircraft found it.

"They were heading home after bombing an invasion force, and I guess the American P-38 started to hit them," Colonel Sumner said. "So they decided [that] rather than go home, they would just destroy us."

During the ensuing battle, Colonel Sumner said, the nine twin-engine Bettys were diving into the ship one at a time, but only three of the aircraft actually hit the Mahan.

"The first one hit midship, and the second one hit us between two stacks," he added. "The third one missed us and then came back around and hit us."

The ship was exploding from all the munitions and weapons onboard, and there was nothing to extinguish

Photos



During an Oct. 13 interview at the World War II Memorial in Washington, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Bill Sumner -- a veteran of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War -- discusses his military experiences. (DoD photo/Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class William Selby)

the fires, because one of the planes knocked out the power to the ship, Colonel Sumner recalled. With no power and no water to fight the fires, the Mahan's skipper decided it would be best for the crew to jump overboard. But there was one thing he could not leave the ship without, said Colonel Sumner.

"I had a dog onboard," he said. "His name was Butch. He was a cocker spaniel, and he was our ship's mascot. I went down below to get him, and then we all jumped off the ship into the water."

The Mahan's crew floated in the water for roughly two hours while waiting to be picked up, and eventually was sighted and picked up by the crew members of USS Walke, a flat-bottomed landing ship.

Colonel Sumner said when the ship was ready to start taking sailors on board, none of the crew would go until Butch was safely aboard -- a fairly funny addition to an otherwise less-than-comical story. After the sailors from the Mahan had boarded the Walke, the decision was made to sink the listing ship.

The surviving sailors did not get to come home immediately, and Colonel Sumner stayed aboard the Walke. While leaving the Philippines, Colonel Sumner's ship was challenged, he said, only this time it was not the Japanese.

"We were on the way back from the Philippines, and we hit the edge of Halsey's Typhoon," he said. "And believe me, that was [scarier] by far than being sunk."

Colonel Sumner returned to the United States after traveling aboard five different vessels over three months, and he was assigned to the USS Steinacker on the East Coast. Soon after that, Colonel Sumner received an honorable discharge from the Navy.

Years passed, and after he earned a degree from the University of Nevada, Colonel Sumner decided to seek a commission as an Air Force officer. He served in the Air Force for 22 years, including time spent as a bombardier navigator flying combat missions in the Korean and Vietnam wars. All told, Colonel Sumner spent 27 years serving in the armed forces. He fought in three major wars and retired as a lieutenant colonel.

He said serving his country was the most important thing he ever did.

"I am deeply, deeply heartfelt about my experiences in the service," he said. "To me, I think it's one of the greatest experiences a person could ever have."

("Veterans' Reflections" is a collection of stories of men and women who served their country in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and the present-day conflicts. They will be posted throughout November in honor of Veterans Day.)



Thank You!

Visit the: afpc.retiree@randolph.af.mil

A Different Christmas Story

The embers glowed softly,
And in their dim light,
I gazed round the room
And I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep,
Her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me,
Angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell,
A blanket of white,
Transforming the yard
To a winter delight.
The sparkling lights
In the tree I believe,
Completed the magic
That was Christmas Eve.
My eyelids were heavy,
My breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded
By love I would sleep.
In perfect contentment,
Or so it would seem,
So I slumbered,
Perhaps I started to dream.
The sound wasn't loud,
And it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes
When it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough,
I didn't quite know
Then the sure sound of footsteps
Outside in the snow.
My soul gave a tremble,
I struggled to hear,
And I crept to the door
Just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold
And the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood
His face weary and tight.
A soldier, I puzzled,
Some twenty years old,
Perhaps a Marine,
Huddled here in the cold.
Along in the dark,
He looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me,
And my wife and my child.
"What are you doing?"
I asked without fear,

"Come in this moment,
It's freezing out here!
Put down your pack;
Brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home
On a cold Christmas Eve!"
For barely a moment
I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold
And the snow blown in drifts...
To the window that danced
With a warm fire's light
Then he sighed and he said
"It's really all right."
I'm out here by choice.
I'm here every night."
"It's my duty to stand
At the front of the line,
That separates you
From the darkest of times.
No one had to ask
Or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here
Like my father's before me.
My Gramps died at "Pearl
On a day in December,"
Then he sighed,
"That's a Christmas
"Gram always remembers."
My dad stood his watch
In the jungles of "Nam",
And now it is my turn
And so, here I am.
I've not seen my own son
In more than a while,
By my wife sends me pictures;
He's sure got her smile.
Then he bent
And he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red, white, and blue...
An American flag.
I can live through the cold
And the being alone,
Away from my family,
My house and my home.
I can stand at my post
Through the rain and the sleet,
I can sleep in a foxhole
With little to eat.
I can carry the weight

Of killing another,
Or lay down my life
With my sister and brother.
Who stand at the front
Against any and all.
To ensure for all time
That this flag will not fall."
"So go back inside
He said, "Harbor no fright,
Your family is waiting
And I'll be all right."
"But isn't there something
I can do, at the least,
"Give you money," I asked,
"or prepare you a feast?
It seems all too little
For all that you've done.
For being away
From your wife and your son."
Then his eye welled a tear
That held no regret,
"Just tell us you love us,
And never forget.
To fight for our rights back at home
While we're gone,
To stand your own watch,
No matter how long.
For when we come home,
Either standing or dead,
To know you remember
We fought and we bled.
Is payment enough,
And with that we will trust,
That we mattered to you
As you mattered to us."

Poem By

LCDR Jeff Gies, SC, USN
30. Naval Construction Regiment OIC,
Logistics Cell One Al Taqqdum, Iraq

For a video presentation of this poem, click the following URL:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_P6yUymFM&feature=share:](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_P6yUymFM&feature=share)

Bad to the bone ... !



Aviatrix Jessica Cox

By *Disabled World*

Published: 2009-04-21

Jessica Cox is recognized around the world as an inspirational keynote speaker. Born without arms, Jessica flies planes, drives cars, and otherwise lives a normal life using her feet as others use their hands.

* * *

Jessica Cox is recognized around the world as an inspirational keynote speaker. Born without arms, Jessica flies planes, drives cars, and otherwise lives a



normal life using her feet as others use their hands. Today Jessica holds the titles of the first person without arms in the American Tae Kwon-Do Association to get a black belt, and the first woman pilot in aviation history to fly using her feet. ([Flying with a Disability](#))

Jessica Cox has been featured in the popular afternoon program *Ellen*, hosted by Ellen Degeneres, *Inside Edition*, and TV networks like CNN and Fox News. The second daughter of a retired American music teacher and a Filipina nurse from Samar province, Jessica Cox holds the distinction of being the first woman pilot in aviation history to fly with her feet. "Creativity is something I use every time I step into the airplane. The first challenge of flight training was learning how to buckle my seatbelt. Through creativity and recognizing there is more than one way to do something, I figured it would be best to buckle the seatbelt first before sitting down, then loosen the

straps, stand on the seat and slip into the seatbelt. Once seated, I used my right foot to pull the seatbelt tight, securing it around my hips."

Jessica was introduced to Tae Kwon-Do by her parents when she was ten to further develop her self-confidence, and at the age of 14, she earned her first black belt at the International Tae Kwon-Do Federation. In college, she resumed her interest in martial arts, joined the American Tae Kwon-Do Association and secured a second black belt. She is the first woman without arms to achieve that feat in the United States.

Jessica Cox believes that by combining creativity, persistence, and fearlessness, nothing is impossible. In her presentation, she digs deep into her experiences living armless in a two-handed world. She shows how these three qualities helped her achieve the seemingly impossible.

Visit <http://www.rightfooted.com> for further information or to book Jessica Cox for speaking engagements.



Read more: <http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/motivational/jessica-cox-pilot.php#ixzz17U5w50N2>

Our Mailbag



From: Arthur Harman
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2010 9:16 PM
To: william hanson
Cc: francis; GC Polk; Art Arruda
Subject: Memories

Just out of curiosity, I Googled "USS Gen H.W. Butner," the troopship we travelled on from Elizabeth NJ to Bremerhaven Germany via Southhampton England in October 1953. I read a lot of her history re: WWII in both Atlantic and Pacific areas, as well as the Inchon invasion in Korea, esp. the Wikipedia site.. And her last work before being decommissioned was carrying troops such as ourselves between Brooklyn and Bremerhaven in the 1950's. She's mothballed on the East Coast nowadays.

I have such vivid memories of those 11 days we spent on board her; the gigantic waves we encountered a day or so off Lands End, England. The bow would go under water and the screws would vibrate and scream when the stern lifted up. I enjoyed the outdoor movies on the rear deck even though the horizon would move up and down, back and forth when she pitched and rolled. I remember, also, having gotten so seasick on one of those high seas days off the English coast, having eaten roast beef and could not eat roast beef for a long, long time thereafter. I can't remember how many canvas bunks there were in each aisle between the decks and bulkheads, but maybe there were as many as 4 or more. Just cannot remember, except the man on the top bunk had his nose practically on the ceiling all night long. (Some of us, me included, caught "crabs" on that ship and I believe we all had to be deloused with DDT powder at the dispensary shortly after our arrival at Flugplatz Rothwesten.)

The huge "United States" cruise ship was docked next to us in Southhampton and it made us feel as though we had just crossed in a rowboat. The route to Bremerhaven through the channel was rough; and the German fog in Bremerhaven will never be forgotten. To get from the barracks there to the chow hall (one extremely foggy night), we had to use ropes to guide us to help us get back and forth between the buildings...just to keep from getting lost. What a trip. Then when we got into the Hauptbahnhof in Kassel, we were met with some guys in deuce-and-a-half truck(s) and they hauled us to Rothwesten in a rude manner. Worse, they had no sleeping arrangements made for us when we arrived and - on our own - had to find places to set up canvas cots wherever we could. I believe most of us slept in the court martial room in the building across from TSgt Pastel's AP office; a few, I believe, actually slept in the jail cells; and others elsewhere. We were young and didn't think too much about it; we found the club, the pizzas, the beer, and enjoyed our casual status. Those of us sleeping in the court martial room had no trash containers and we just piled our junk and trash in a corner of the room. One of the officers discovered us and wanted to subject us all to some disciplinary measures on that account; mostly me as I already had 3 stripes, but I treated him with respect and actually talked him into helping us get better situated. There were so many great guys in that group of us, I believe there were 18 of us, and I will never forget those terrible, wonderful days throughout that tour. Maybe this will stimulate some of your recollections, too.

Thought you would enjoy seeing the photos. I checked out a number of the sites and expect you will want to do the same.

My best to you guys,
Harman

For those who read "You Would Have Never Guessed, Sept 2010, newsletter, you might find the following article from snopes.com interesting:
<http://www.snopes.com/military/celebrities/leemartin.asp>



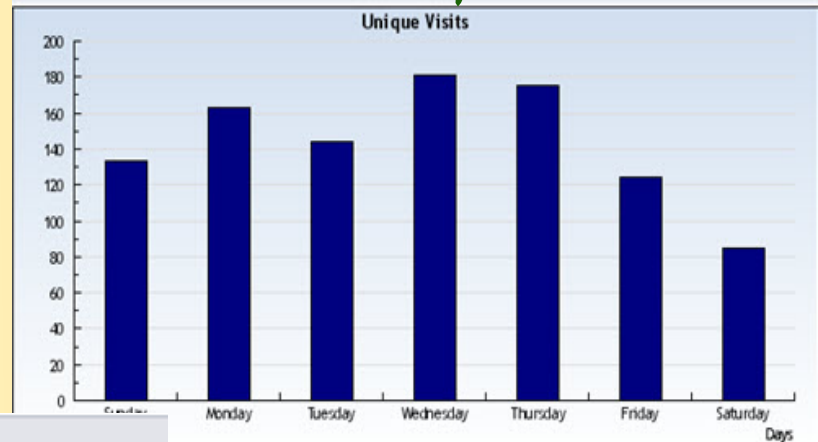
Web-Stats



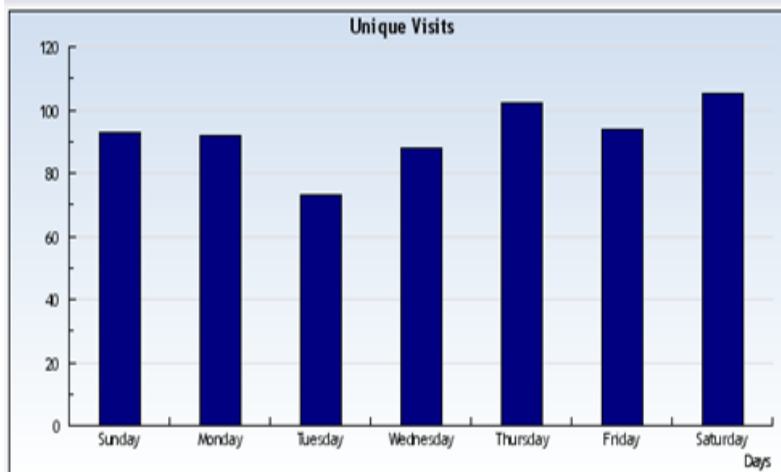
Our Web Master, William Hanson (Willie), reports the following statistics taken from the access activity generated within the 601st/615th web site.

The graphs depict the number of persons who visited us and browsed around the site.

From November 21, 2010 to November 27, 2010



From December 5, 2010 to December 11, 2010



The graphs are interesting as they show we are getting visitors world-wide. Subsequently, we will be looking at ways to provide more useful information and improve access to our guests. Come over and join us.



Visit our web site: <http://www.601st-615th-acw.org/index.html>