



The REGISTER

Fall 2013

Director Guest Speaker at Hispanic American Heritage Month

Director Romo was the guest speaker at the Aberdeen Proving Ground's Hispanic American Heritage Month celebration on September 19, 2013. The theme of the event was "Hispanics: Serving and Leading our Nation with Pride and Honor." In his speech, Mr. Romo recognized the many social, economic, cultural and other contributions of Hispanics to our country's growth and well-being.



From Left to Right: Command Sgt. Maj. Puig, Director Romo, and MSG Ryan Cole



From Left to Right: BG Burton and Director Romo



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Director Signs Pledge

The Combined Federal Campaign for 2013 is in full swing. This year's campaign got off to a slow start due to the government shutdown. As a result, the campaign deadline has been extended to January 15, 2014. The NHQ's fundraising goal is \$10,000.



Pictured: Danae Tuley and Vince McClure, SSS CFC Keyworkers, look on as Director Romo signs his CFC pledge

Duane Goff Visits NHQ



Duane Goff, State Commander American GI Forum of California (center) visited SSS NHQ and met with Deputy Director Allard (left) and Director Romo (right)

Region II Supports Citizenship Mega Workshop in Miami

On June 22, 2013, CDR Amelia Stringer and LTJG Deborah Peeples staffed a one-day event at the Citizenship Mega Workshop held at Miami Dade College in Miami, Florida. This one-day event was sponsored by the New American Campaign and a coalition of legal service providers and volunteers. These volunteers assisted over 600 individuals interested in completing naturalization applications for citizenship.

CDR Stringer and LTJG Peeples were on hand to assist young men who were age 18 and had not yet reached age 26 to register with Selective Service

Pictured right and below are Region II Detachment, CDR Amelia Stringer and LTJG Deborah Peeples, both USNR, of Florida Detachment 2-6



Director Romo Speaks on Radio Station

Director Romo spoke on Latino 97.9 (KLMG-FM), a Spanish Language Radio Station in the California, Sacramento region. The Director's interview and outreach initiative was also video broadcast on Azteca America. Azteca America is the Latino based information cable television show that is broadcast throughout California and reaches over an estimated half-million people. In addition to educating thousands of families about the Agency's mission and the importance of registration, this event was part of the Director's efforts to encourage California legislators to adopt Driver's License Registration.



Mr. Elias Conde and Director Lawrence Romo

Board Member Continuation Training



CW04 Mark Anning (CA Det 3-4) taught a FY13 Board Member Continuation training session in Carlsbad, CA on August 13, 2013. There were 13 board members in attendance at the session.



CW04 Mark Anning (left) and ENS Jason Morgan (right).

Region II Officer Shines

Major Nguyen Ba Tran was recently presented the Joint Service Achievement Medal from Director Romo for his outstanding work as Commander of Region II's Virginia Detachment 2VA. Major Tran, the son of a former South Vietnamese Navy Seal Officer (LTJG Phuoc Ba Tran), came to the United States in Spring 1992 to join his father. Major Tran emigrated from Vietnam to the United States under his father's sponsorship, who was a refugee and an escaped prisoner of war from a communist prison camp in 1978. After nearly 14 years of separation, he and his father physically met for the first time as the plane landed in Norfolk, Virginia.



Shown above: Major Nguyen Tran, wife, Kym, and daughter, Myan

Major Tran graduated from Phoebus High School in Hampton, Virginia in 1996 and attended Old Dominion University where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in science in 2001. In late summer 2012, he earned his master's degree in education and also became a father of a beautiful baby girl, Myan Tran.

Major Tran is married to Kym A. Tran from Richmond, Virginia. The couple and their daughter currently reside in Newport News, Virginia.

Congratulations to Major Tran for a job well done!



IT Award

AIS won the 2013 Government Information Security Leadership Award (GISLA) in the Federal Contractor Category for its work modernizing the legacy Registration, Compliance, and Verification (RCV) system at the Selective Service System (SSS). David Y. Ratnaraj, PMP, AIS Program Manager was presented the award by (ISC)²® (“ISC-squared”), the world’s largest information security professional body and administrators of the CISSP®.



From Left to Right: Jerry Klotz, SSS CIO, David Y. Ratnaraj, PMP, AIS, and Director Romo

Halloween Surprise

At a special gathering October 31, 2013, hosted by COL Fern O. Sumpster, commander Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Director Romo presented the Agency’s Meritorious Service Award with Bronze Medal to Sergeant First Class Michael L. Swinton, Jr., U.S. Army. As the joint base Equal Opportunity Advisor, SFC Swinton included Selective Service in all his events, personally orchestrated six highly successful ceremonies which were both dynamic in presentation and executed with unusual flair. Beyond the traditional ethnic events, this extraordinarily cooperative Noncommissioned Officer left nothing to chance. The “Days of Remembrance” program, addressing the Holocaust, was especially well organized and judged most impressive. Each of his programs was cited by participants as highly educational, informative, and meaningful. His partnership with our Agency is aiding tangibly our cultural awareness program. As Director Romo stated, “Good people doing good things merit public recognition.” Congratulations and thank you, SFC Swinton.



(Photo by Lauren Poindexter/ Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Public Affairs Office)

The Courage of their Convictions: Three Conscientious Objectors and the Heroism that earned them the Medal of Honor

By Danae Tuley, Alternative Service Program

*Single-handedly destroyed ...
Repeatedly attacked the enemy...
Provided covering fire at the cost of his own life...
Led the assault...*

Statements like these often describe the distinguishing acts for which a member of the United States Armed Forces has been awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration that may be awarded by the United States government¹.

Though direct combat may not always be used to describe the acts of “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty” for which a Medal of Honor is awarded, it is often closely connected. After all, the settings during which the Medal of Honor may be earned are based on action against an enemy, a military operation or armed conflict against an opposing armed force.²

Imagine, then, the heroism it would take for someone who conscientiously objects to war and refuses to take up arms or engage in any form of combat to be awarded the Medal of Honor. Three such Americans have received this honor: Private First Class Desmond T. Doss (World War II), Corporal Thomas W. Bennett (Vietnam), and Specialist Four Joseph G. LaPointe, Jr. (Vietnam).

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DESMOND T. DOSS United States Army



Doss - The National Archives

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. ³

The first and probably best known and most celebrated Conscientious Objector to be awarded the Medal of Honor, Private First Class Desmond T. Doss is credited with saving approximately 75 lives over a 23-day period beginning in late April in 1945, on Okinawa Island, Japan. Doss, a Seventh-day Adventist, wanted to serve both God and country, but objected to taking a life or taking up arms. He eventually served with the U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD) as a Company Aidman where he was attached to Company B of the 307th Infantry. As his troops neared the summit assaulting the 400-foot-high Maeda Escarpment, they were met with heavy enemy fire. Doss refused to seek cover and instead carried the injured men, one by one, to the edge of the escarpment.³ According to Doss, there he fashioned a rope into two slings using a knot he had learned years ago as a Junior Missionary Volunteer with his church and lowered each wounded soldier down to where they could be put on a stretcher and taken for treatment.⁴

Doss performed several similar rescues during his tour. He continued providing aid to his wounded comrades in dangerous situations, managing to escape death on many occasions. Eventually, Doss' legs were severely injured in a nearby grenade explosion. Instead of calling another aidman away from safe cover, Doss cared for his own injuries and waited five hours until a stretcher could reach him and deliver him to safety. However, when Doss identified a more critically wounded soldier, he crawled from the stretcher and instructed the carriers to first evacuate that soldier. While awaiting their return, Doss was hit again, this time causing a compound fracture in his arm. Taking up arms for the first time, Doss used a nearby rifle shaft as a splint for his arm and then crawled all the way to the aid station.³

First Lieutenant Cecil L. Gornto, the platoon leader of the first platoon of Company B where Doss served as an aidman, said in his statement supporting Doss' Medal of Honor: “I feel that I can state without reservation that

the actions of this man were the most outstanding display of bravery that I have ever seen. ...although [Doss] never carries a weapon, I have never seen a wounded man in a position too dangerous for him to go. The men of my platoon always had the feeling that they could depend on Doss to go to them regardless what happened or where.”⁵

Doss survived the war and was presented with the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman on October 12, 1945.⁶ He passed away in 2006, at the age of 87.⁷

Far less is known about conscientious objectors whose heroism during the Vietnam Conflict earned them the Medal of Honor. Little is also known about their religious background or their beliefs as conscientious objectors.

Unlike Desmond Doss who voluntarily enlisted, both Corporal Thomas W. Bennett and Specialist Four Joseph G. LaPointe, Jr. were called to serve in Vietnam as part of the draft.^{8,9} Unlike Doss, neither survived their deployments; both men were awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

CORPORAL THOMAS W. BENNETT United States Army



Bennett - The U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD)

*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.*¹⁰

Corporal Thomas W. Bennett was born and raised in West Virginia. While service records only indicate that he was a protestant with no denominational preference⁸, he and his family were said to have been active in a Boy Scout Troop sponsored by a local United Methodist Church¹¹.

Bennett was a Medical Aidman and served with the 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry. While his platoon was en route near Pleiku, Vietnam, to assist another platoon that had been ambushed, Bennett's platoon became engaged in fire with a larger and more-fortified enemy unit. After learning that three of the platoon's point men had been wounded, Bennett ran through heavy fire to administer life-saving first aid to his comrades and then made repeated trips to carry each of the soldiers to a safer location where they could be medically evacuated. Day in and day out between February 9 and February 11, 1969, Bennett repeatedly risked his life by passing through enemy fire to administer aid and comfort the wounded and retrieve the bodies of his fallen comrades. Bennett was attending to the first of a new group of wounded when he started to run to another wounded soldier who was located forward of the company's position and covered by heavy enemy fire¹⁰. Despite being warned by several that the wounded soldier could not be reached safely and that he should wait until the hostile fire let up⁵, Bennett immediately proceeded towards the wounded soldier. It was during this rescue attempt that Bennet was hit by enemy fire and killed.¹⁰

Bennett's Medal of Honor was presented to his mother and stepfather by President Richard M. Nixon¹² on April 7, 1970¹³.

SPECIALIST FOUR JOSEPH G. LaPOINTE, JR. United States Army



LaPointe - The U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD)

*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.*¹⁴

Specialist Four Joseph G. LaPointe, Jr., whose military records indicate he was a Baptist⁹, was recognized posthumously with both the Medal of Honor for his actions on June 2, 1969¹⁴, and with a Silver Star for his actions on April 12, 1969¹⁵.

LaPointe was a Medical Aidman attached to the 101st Airborne Division. On June 2, 1969, while assisting with a combat helicopter assault mission in Quang Tin Province, Vietnam, his patrol was surprised with a heavy atomic attack from a large, well-fortified enemy bunker. LaPointe heard the call for aid and while members of his unit attempted to provide covering fire, he crawled straight through enemy fire and in

view of the enemy bunker to assist his two wounded comrades. While caring for one soldier, he shielded the other with his body. Repeatedly wounded and knocked to the ground, each time LaPointe returned to his position of administering first aid while shielding the wounded soldiers with his body. Unfortunately, both LaPointe and his two wounded comrades were killed by an exploding enemy grenade before he could stabilize the two soldiers and help evacuate them to safety.¹⁴

LaPointe's Silver Star was awarded for similar bravery when he ran through heavy artillery to the aid of 17 wounded soldiers. His actions reportedly saved one life and likely many others.¹⁵

LaPointe's Medal of Honor was awarded to his family by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew on Dec 16, 1971.¹⁶

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Major and Colonel Tingle Visit Normandy

Major Earl Tingle, USAFR, of Georgia Detachment 2-7, and his father, COL (R) Earl Tingle, Jr., USA, are pictured to the right standing on Utah Beach on June 6, 2013, the 69th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion. This is not the first visit to Normandy that Major Tingle and his dad have made. During this trip, they spent a week visiting many memorials and listening to stories of those who were there during the invasion.

Major and COL (R) Tingle also visited the church in Sainte-Mère-Eglise (pictured bottom right), the first village in Normandy liberated by the Americans on D-Day, June 6, 1944, which is still an active church and memorial. Many remember the story of the American paratrooper who was made famous in the movie "The Longest Day", whose parachute caught one of the back pinnacles of the church tower, where he hung pretending to be dead until he was later captured by the Germans.

The last picture below was taken at the Normandy American Cemetery, which is located on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach (one of the landing beaches of the Normandy Invasion) and the English Channel. This cemetery contains three recipients of the Medal of Honor and two sons of President Theodore Roosevelt, among others.

Major Tingle stated, "This was an amazing trip. I spent a week in Normandy visiting many memorials and listening to stories of those who were there during this time period. I already have my trip planned for next year's 70th Anniversary. For those who have not had the chance to visit, I would highly encourage it. Very few surviving veterans of the D-Day invasion are still alive or able to attend. It is an honor to be able to thank them in person on the grounds for which they fought so bravely."



Pictured Above: father, COL(R) Earl L. Tingle, Jr., USA, 82nd Airborne, Major Earl Tingle, USAFR



Major and COL (R) Tingle Visit the Church in Sainte-Mere Eglise



Normandy American Cemetery

Thomas J. Kenney

Director, Region I

Thomas Kenney joined the Region I Headquarters as the Director in October of 2013. He is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel with over 25 years of service. His assignments included: Chief of Operations, Air Force Recruiting Service, Randolph AFB, TX; Deputy Group Commander, Western Sector, United States Military Entrance Processing Command, Great Lakes Naval Training Center, North Chicago, IL; Deputy Chief, Acquisition Logistics Division, Directorate of Logistics, Air Force Material Command (AFMC), Wright-Patterson AFB, OH; Executive Officer, Directorate of Logistics, AFMC, Wright Patterson, OH; Homeland Security Strategic Planner, Directorate of Plans and Programs, AFMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH; Commander, 311th Recruiting Squadron, Canonsburg, PA; Chief, Human Resources Analysis Branch, AF Element Command, Department of National Defense, Ottawa, Canada; Operations Flight Commander, 319th Recruiting Squadron, Portsmouth, NH; Project Manager, Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center, Hanscom AFB, Bedford, MA; Acquisition Logistics Analyst, Electronic Systems Center, Hanscom AFB, MA; Personnel Analyst, United States Air Forces Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. He earned his bachelors degree at the United States Air Force Academy and an MBA from the University of Southern New Hampshire. He is also a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, Air War College, and the Joint and Combined Warfighting School.

As Director for the Region I Headquarters, located in North Chicago, IL, Mr. Kenney is responsible for the leadership and operations for the Agency's field structure in the northeastern and midwestern portions of the United States, including New York City and Washington, D.C. He is also responsible for the conduct of the Agency's programs and readiness activities in Region I, which includes 18 State Directors, 60 Reserve Force Officers, and 3,620 citizen-volunteer board members.



Mr. Kenney grew up as an Air Force brat and lived throughout the country. He graduated from high school in Dover, New Hampshire where he met his wife, Tracie. They have two daughters, Emily and Ashley, and one son, Patrick.



Sherwin Thompson Departing SSS



Sherwin Thompson, Accountant in the Financial Management Directorate has accepted a position with the Department of Defense Accounting Services. Sherwin's main job responsibilities here at SSS include payment of all invoices, monitoring of all related purchase orders, reconciliation of all vendors purchase orders, running the budgetary report, verification of invoices, dispute any incorrect invoice with the vendor, assist with the processing of local travel requests, maintain files on all the agency's commercial vendor purchase orders, and audit the commercial vendors' purchase orders and resolving any issues. In his new job, Sherwin will be processing and auditing the pay and entitlement for active duty Army personnel. He will also be reconciling their pay account to ensure they receive the correct entitlements. Mr. Romo presented Sherwin with the Meritorious Service Award with Bronze Medal for, superior performance during his tenure at Selective Service. The SSS family will miss you. Congratulations Sherwin!

Special Message from Vanessa Lyde



Retirement is just a pause between the professional and second inning of Life. It's that time to enjoy the fruits of your labor. It's time to rejuvenate and enjoy all the unfulfilled dreams that were on hold. It's time to have fun with your family

and friends to enjoy the simple things in life like; walking, fellowshiping, witnessing, volunteering, loving and serving. I Thank God for His Faithfulness and many benefits of blessing He has bestowed on me.
~ Vanessa Lyde

Vanessa Lyde plans on retiring after 38 years of Federal Service. She began her career as a clerk in the administrative offices of the Mildred Green Elementary School in Washington, DC where she was a UPO

Scholarship Student with the work study program. She worked with various Government agencies as a summer intern before attending Union College in Barbourville KY. After attending college, Vanessa continued her career and worked for the Metropolitan police department as a computer assistant, the Office of Personnel Management for thirteen years as a computer aid, and the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution for five years as database administrator. Vanessa joined the SSS in 1992 under Norm Miller Associate Director, for Information Technology and Don Beck, Program Director. She has been an IT specialist during her tenure at SSS. Vanessa plans on spending this next chapter of her life with her husband Anthony enjoying her family. She has two daughters Rhonda and Dana, one son, Stephon, five grandchildren Asya 15, Jordon 9, Destiny 4, Carmen 4 and Joy 3. Vanessa plans to spend her free time ministering to the gospel through her church's Ministry of Helps, the HOPE Ministries which involves visitations, praying and visiting the sick and elderly. She will also be providing "Celebrations of Life" services for the community and ministering the WORD to Prison inmates.

Vanessa has touched the lives of so many of the Selective Service family. We will miss her and wish her health and happiness in all of her future endeavors. Congratulations Vanessa!

Tom White's Retirement Gathering

Friends, colleagues and dignitaries came together from across the country on August 21, 2013, to celebrate the retirement of former Region I Director Tom White at Bonnie Brook Country Club in Waukegan, IL.

After the luncheon, presentations in Tom's honor were made by Director Romo, Mr. Campos as well as the other Region Directors and Data Management Center Managers who presented Tom with awards and gifts in thanks for his many years of service to the Agency. Everyone wished him and his wife, Martha, a happy retirement.

A good time was had by all with many stories and laughs shared in the culmination of a great career.



Contributors

Many Thanks to:

Mary Berglund
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