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LDIER IN THE TRUEST SENSE

By Hope Lecchi

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or Command Sgt. Maj. David Gail, military service runs through his veins. As the son of a career Air Force veteran, Master Sgt. Dale Gail, there was little doubt that David Gail would follow in his father's footsteps. While his path to the military was slightly different from that of his father, David Gail's career has been rewarding. Now in his 34th year in the Missouri Army National Guard, David Gail has recently returned from what he believes to be his third and final deployment.

"After a wonderful childhood growing up in a military family and traveling all over the world, my father ended his United States Air Force Career at Whiteman Air Force Base," Gail said. "My family experienced many exciting sites and places while my father served for 22 years. When we arrived in the Green Ridge community we found everyone so welcoming and enjoyed being part of such a tight knit community."

After finishing high school and working at Gardner Denver in Sedalia for five years, Gail began to consider joining the Missouri Army National Guard on a part-time basis. Gardner Denver's management was supportive of the

decision, according to Gail. The company kept his position open until Gail returned from Army Basic training at Ft. Dix, New Jersey, and Military Occupational Skill training at Ft. Eustis, Virginia.

The local National Guard unit, the 1-135 AHB at Whiteman Air Force Base, is an Army Aviation Unit, which appealed to Gail.

"I found working on Army aircraft exciting and rewarding, and still do after 34 years of service," Gail continued. "The camaraderie, fellowship, and sense of belonging I get from the National Guard keeps me fulfilled and excited every day I am in uniform.

"The Adjutant General of the Missouri Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Lavon Cumpton's motto is 'We will train, fight and win while taking care of each other as one team' and we live by those words in the Missouri Army National Guard today," he explained. "Many soldiers join the National Guard for the fantastic college reimbursement benefits, but I, like many others, joined to be part of something bigger than ourselves and give back to our nation, state, and community."

Gail said he looks forward to his monthly National Guard drill weekends and training with other citizen-soldiers. Gail's drill weekend can include time at

the shooting range, driving in military convoys or preparing the UH-60 Blackhawk for flight to conduct missions to any number of places nationwide.

"My time as an Attack Helicopter Mechanic or Crew Chief was very rewarding, as I prepared the AH-1 Cobra for flight, I made sure all systems were working correctly and serviced to exact standards," Gail said of his first position. "During my crew chief time, I worked many long hours on the flight line and in the hangar, ensuring every detail was attended to before the pilots took the aircraft out on mission."

Gail worked as a crew chief, part of a squad, and soon found himself as the squad leader. He was then promoted to platoon sergeant.

"My platoon sergeant time was some of the most rewarding, training and working with the soldiers of the 1-135th Attack Helicopter Battalion," Gail said. "The soldiers of the 1-135th at Whiteman drive from all of the state to be part of such a successful and distinguished unit with a strong record of excellence, this made weekend drill something I looked forward to.

"My time as a platoon sergeant was ended when I was promoted to A

See GAIL | 4

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID GAIL

1st Sgt. David Gail is pictured in Camp Anaconda Iraq in 2007. Gail has been deployed three times in service to the United States during his 34-year career in the Missouri Army National Guard.

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GAIL

From Page 3

Company, First Sergeant, the senior enlisted soldier in the company," he added. "I enjoyed being the First Sergeant and found this position also very rewarding as I was able to recommend training, policy and mission plans to the Company Commander who I worked with very closely."

During that position, Gail deployed to Iraq for 18 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon returning and bringing back valuable experience, Gail continued training the men and women of the 1-135th on their mission of providing attack aviation support to United States soldiers on the ground in convoys and anywhere close air support was needed.

"I interviewed and was promoted to the Command Sergeant Major position (CSM), the senior enlisted advisor the Battalion Commander and we began to prepare for a deployment to northern Afghanistan," Gail said of his second deployment. "The CSM is another very gratifying position because as such you can advise the commander on all policies affecting training and standards for the soldiers of the battalion.

"The 1-135th had a very successful 12-month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in northern Afghanistan and I was honored to be part of a high performing unit," Gail explained. "The 1-135th's National Guard soldiers earned high praise from their active duty counterparts, performing all assigned missions to



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID GAIL

Command Sgt. Maj. David Gail, left, receives a certificate of appreciation for re-enlisting in the Missouri Army National Guard from Col. James P. Schreffler. Gail, whose father served in the Air Force for 22 years, will retire this year after 34 years of service in the Missouri Army National Guard.

above Army standards, earning a unit award for valor."

Following their return, Gail accepted the CSM position at the 1107th Aviation Group in Springfield. The 1107th supports and maintains Army National Guard aircraft from 14 states across the Midwest. It also deploys in support of a wartime mission as the Theater Aviation Maintenance and Sustainment Group, or TASMG.

"As the 1107th Aviation Group CSM, I work closely with the Group Commander on all issues concerning the soldiers of the unit, another very rewarding position which I have found enjoyable and satisfying," Gail

explained. "Just last year the 1107th TASMG was called upon for a rotation to the Middle East and the 80 soldiers of the 1107th's, TF24, were stationed in five different locations sustaining Army aircraft in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve."

The 1107th and Gail returned in September after a nine-month tour maintaining and sustaining Army aircraft deployed to the Middle East. Gail continues to serve as the 1107th's CSM. He is facing his final year as a National Guard soldier with mixed emotions. He said he has enjoyed his service but realizes it is time for someone else to lead the 1107th.

"Over the course of my 34-year Missouri Army National Guard career I have seen the role of the National Guard change dramatically," Gail commented. "The National Guard in my early years train ed on equipment handed down from the active duty.

"In the years since the 9-11 attack, and during the years of the global war on terrorism, the National Guard plays a much more active role in our nation's security," he added. "The National Guard has the same aircraft and equipment as their active duty counterparts, and now deploys on a more frequent cycle."

Gail said National Guard soldiers train at the same facilities and schools as full-time active duty soldiers. The National Guard's parttime citizen-soldiers perform and adhere to many of the same active duty standards.

"Military service is a very rewarding career choice, and I highly recommend it to anyone," Gail said. "The military has many occupations that transfer over to civilian jobs and the training, and experience is world class while serving one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer.

"The Missouri Army National Guard also offers many educational benefits such as college reimbursement, but I think the biggest benefit to being a member of the Guard is belonging to an organization that takes care of each other and cares about one other while earning extra money and retirement and educational benefits," he added. "The Missouri Army National Guard really does train, fight and win, while taking care of each other as one team."

Hope Lecchi can be reached at 660-826-1000 ext. 1484.



MILITARY SERVICE TAKES FORMER TEACHER TO ALL POINTS OF THE WORLD

By Hope Lecchi

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hen David Steele began his military career, little did he realize it would quite literally take him full circle. Ultimately it would end where it began at Pearl Harbor. In between, Steele took part in "opportunities of a lifetime" as he served his country in the U.S. Navy.

Steele was born in Sedalia in 1951, the 10th of 12 children to John Marvin and Evelyn Irene (Dickinson) Steele. The family lived south of Smithton. He graduated from Smithton High School in 1969 and received a bachelor's degree in education, majoring in chemistry with a minor in math at Central Missouri State University. Steele returned to Sedalia to teach chemistry and junior high math at Sacred Heart.

"I joined the U.S. Navy in 1976 under the Strategic Weapons Officer program with the purpose

of serving as a Weapons Officer on our ballistic missile submarines," Steele said. "I attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and upon being commissioned as an Ensign I went straight to Submarine Officers Basic Course training in Groton, Connecticut."

From there, Steele completed the Navy's Strategic Weapons Officer school in Pearl Harbor. His first assignment was as the Assistant Weapons Officer aboard the USS John Marshall (SSBN 611 Gold).

"Ballistic missile boats are manned by two crews, designated Blue and Gold, alternating at approximately three month intervals," Steele explained. "The Marshall was homeported in Guam while the crews were stationed in Hawaii.

"The oncoming crew would be flown to Guam to assume control of the sub and the off going crew would be flown to Hawaii for a

three-month break and undergo refresher training," Steele continued. "Although the general public typically refers to submarines as ships, submariners themselves affectionately refer to them as boats."

After com-**STEELE** pleting numerous patrols as the Assistant Weapons Officer and then as Weapons Officer, Steele's first shore tour was at the Naval Submarine Training Center of the Pacific in Pearl Harbor.

Steele explained submarine crews trained on ship handling via dynamic simulators, approach

See STEELE | 6

DAVID

Crew members stand in position aboard the USS Bremerton SSN 698. It was one of the submarines LCDR-04 David Steele served on during his 18 years of service in the Navy.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID STEELE





From Page 5

and attack tactics on enemy subs and ships utilizing sophisticated simulators, damage control and a myriad of other submarine-related topics.

Following his tour at the training command, Steele said he was offered an "unbelievable opportunity" as a weapons officer aboard the USS Bremerton (SSN 698), a brand new, fast attack sub.

According to Steele, a typical career path would have been limited to missile boats and diesel subs.

"Strategic Weapons Officers served only on missile boats (affectionately referred to as 'Boomers'), or as senior officers on diesel submarines subsequent to their missile tours," Steele said. "Luckily, for me, at that time the retention rate for nuclear trained officers was rapidly declining and the Navy was having difficulty retaining enough officers to man all the positions on their fast attack boats (SSNs).

"To ease the strain, non-nuclear submarine officers, like me, were offered the chance to serve onboard attack boats," he continued. "The offer was extended to only a handful, so I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been given this rare opportunity and I have never regretted taking the offer."

Except for a 100-foot missile compartment between the forward com-

partment and engine room, missile boats and attack subs are virtually identical in construction, size, layout, Steele noted. However, the deployed operations are a universe apart.

"Missile subs essentially deploy and hide for a few months," Steele commented. "Attack subs aggressively conduct highly sensitive missions. At the time of my tour on the Bremerton, it was the 'hot boat,' meaning it executed its training, local operations and deployed missions in superlative manner and was ranked number one in the squadron. If a challenging mission arose and the Admirals had a choice of which boat to send, the USS Bremerton would get the assignment."

After completing his tour on the Bremerton, Steele was assigned to the Operational Test and Evaluation Center at San Diego. He had two projects: the Theater Mission Planning Center (TMPC) and the Tomahawk Land Attack submunitions dispensing cruise missile (TLAM-D).

"The TMPC is a complex system that produces missions for the Tomahawk cruise missile to fly and transmits those missions to the ships at sea," Steele explained. "The TLAM-D was in the early stages of development at that time so we planned and executed test missions that were launched off Point Mugu, California and flown inland to Naval Weapons Center China Lake, California. As its name suggests the TLAM-D has the capability of sequentially flying



I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been given this rare opportunity and I have never regretted taking the offer.

-David Steele

over multiple targets and ejecting submunitions on those targets, then covertly ditching or flying itself into a final target."

Steele transferred to Newport, Rhode Island, where he attended the Naval War College and simultaneously attended a private college, Salve Regina in Newport. He earned his master's degree in management.

Steele was then stationed at the Naval Security Group in Washington, D.C.

"That was an eye opening tour," Steele recalled. "Naval Security Group deals with naval communications and the specific department I was assigned to worked hand in hand with NSA, CIA, Defense and Naval Intelligence Agencies.

"Only a handful of staff knew what

our department did," he added. "It wasn't even given a name, it was simply referred to as GX. I will paraphrase a line from the movie 'Top Gun,' 'I could tell you what we did there but then I'd have to kill you."

Steele's final tour in the Navy was back where it all started — Pearl Harbor, where he served as the Pacific Submarine Fleet's Command and Control Officer in charge of the Pacific fleet's command center.

The command center was manned around the clock in support of all submarine operations in the Pacific. It was collocated with the fleet communication center, which controlled all broadcasts to subs at sea. Steele commented the position involved frequent briefings to the force Admiral and upper-level staff.

It was while serving on the USS Bremerton Steele met and married his future wife, Gaelic Ahuna. Steele said the native Hawaiian has been his bedrock, confidant and best friend for the past 37 years.

"My wife had enjoyed living on the mainland as a temporary adventure, but would never permanently leave her beloved Hawaii," Steele explained. "So, when retirement eventually came we took up residence in Hawaii where I began my career. After a full career and retiring at the rank of Lt. Cmdr. I have now been retired longer than I was in the Navy and that just doesn't seem possible."





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NAVY VET ENJOYED TIME AS A BROADCAST JOURNALIST

By Faith Bemiss

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or Navy veteran Dawn Hill, serving as a broadcast journalist in Japan defined her life and taught her many important lessons.

Journalist 3rd Class Hill, 44, originally from California, served from 1996 to 2001. She served two tours with American Forces Network — the first at an Air Force base at Iwakuni, Japan, and the second at a Naval base at Sasebo, Japan.

"Some of us specialized in radio, but I was mostly on the TV side of it," she said. "I did the in-home news."

Most of Hill's interviews were "feel good" news rather than hard news; news that kept the sailors' spirits up and positive. She remembers covering an orphanage at Christmas.

"It was a Christmas party at the orphanage," she said. "The Marine Corps does a Toys for Tots every year and I was actually able to help wrap the gifts and we took them to the orphanage.

"Some of the Marines barbecued for them," she continued. "So, we fed them

It just taught me the importance of friendship, and trust and being there when you can for other people."

-Dawn Hill

(and) we played with them."

Hill covered events at Iwo Jima and on Mt. Fiji, which involved a six-hour climb to the top. She added her team also did spots for TV ads.

"We basically shot the film, edited it, and assembled the spot or story," she explained. "We did everything, we narrated it if we had to. It was pretty awesome."

She spent A School, or accession training, at Ft. Mead, Maryland, which usually

lasts six months. Naval A School is where sailors are trained in their MOS, or military occupational

specialty.

"Half of it was the photo side of it and how to do written stories," she noted. "And the other half was broadcasting — how to film, how to edit, how to make spots."

Hill said she decided to join the Navy at 21 because her father, Carsel Butcher Jr., had served as a medic and her brother Duane Butcher joined when he was 17.

Although she didn't serve on the front lines, Hill said serving in the military has taught her much.

"It taught me discipline," she noted. "Self-discipline, get up early, go to bed early."

It also taught her respect.

See HILL | 8

While serving as a broadcast journalist with the Navy, Journalist 3rd Class Dawn Hill was never far from her camera. She said serving in the military taught her respect and the value of people.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAWN HIL

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HILL

From Page 7

"Although I already had that, it really brought it home," she noted. "I interviewed colonels and lieutenants and anyone in between. I had to speak with them clearly, distinctly and with the utmost respect.

"It taught me the value of people," she continued. "You never know what's going to happen from day to day. All your friends go out (on a ship), I didn't know if they would come back."

She added that North Korea tested a missile while she was stationed in Japan and aimed it straight at the base.

"So, you never know," Hill explained.

"So, that put us on high alert. It just taught me the importance of friendship, and trust and being there when you can for other people."

She added that since that time, she's met people who have severe PTSD from their service.

"(Military service) taught me to respect people," Hill said. "My mom (Fran Butcher) even taught me this, but this really brought it home to always treat them with kindness. To be the first to reach out, and smile and say something nice."

Hill added she moved to Sedalia because her friend lives here and they invited her to relocate to the area.

"I love it here," she said. "I love the Southern hospitality of a small town."

Faith Bemiss can be reached at 660-530-0289 or on Twitter @flbemiss.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAWN HILL

Navy veteran Dawn Hill worked out of the Far East Network building while serving as a broadcast journalist in Japan.

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SHAUL CONTINUES SERVICE IN STUDENT VETERANS ORGANIZATION

By Sara Lawson

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or former marine Andy Shaul, Veterans Day is a chance to give back and serve his fellow

Shaul, 26, is a junior attending the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg and serves as co-president of the Student Veterans Organization on campus.

"Veterans Day, to me it means just kind of appreciating other veterans, honestly," Shaul said.

In October of 2019, the SVO organized a ruck march as a way to collect non-perishable food donations for the Campus Cupboard.

"Then we packed up ruck (sacks) with all the food, did a little march, came back and dropped all the food off at the Campus Cupboard," Shaul said. "For me, it's, I guess, for continuing my service. While you're in there you are doing your service and while you're out people are appreciating you on Veterans Day. For me, I feel like it's a good time to give back."

Due to campus restrictions and the ongoing pandemic, the SVO was unable to host a food drive and ruck march this year.



If it hadn't been for some of my fellow student veterans. I don't think I would have gotten as far as I have in college."

-Andy Shaul

Born in California while his father was in the Marine Corps, Shaul and his family moved to Warrensburg when he was in kindergarten.

Shaul served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2012 to 2017.

"I kinda come from a military family," Shaul said. "My father was in the Marines; great-grandfather was in the Army. I didn't really know what I wanted to do after high school, so I thought the Marines might be a good place to take some time and figure it out."

Shaul's military career inspired him to pursue a degree in physical therapy.

Shaul served in Afghanistan for a month, then Iraq for 11 months and finished his contract in the following year at Camp Pendleton in California.

Shaul is pursuing a bachelor's degree in pre-physical therapy with a goal to get a doctorate and work with Wounded Warriors.

"Having been deployed, I had to go to these medical check-ups after you get back for so many months and seeing a couple of the guys that were in there from post-deployment stuff, a lot of them had needed physical therapy for injuries they sustained while they were (deployed)," Shaul said. "I figured, I kind of have a shared experience as far as the military side. If I can come in with that as well as being the person that helps fix them, I thought that would be kind of another way I could serve the Marine Corps as a civilian."

Shaul said transitioning from soldier to student took some time.

"I did my first semester and just kinda went to class, went home, and didn't really interact with any of the students, but then I was persuaded into going on a trip that the Military (and) Veterans Center puts on," Shaul said.

See SHAUL | 10



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From Page 9

The trip was to the Appalachian trail where veteran and civilian students were doing maintenance on the trail.

Shaul said the trip provides a chance for veteran and civilian students to interact and dispel stereotypes.

"That is kinda what really got me back, got me into college," Shaul said. "More so than anything else was the Military (and) Veterans Center helping show me that anyone can be a college student. It doesn't just have to be someone straight out of high school and I met a lot of good people on that trip that helped me deal with some of the issues that they dealt with while transitioning back. If it hadn't been for some of my fellow student veterans, I don't think I would have gotten as far as I have in college."

Sara Lawson can be reached by emailing saral@phillipsmedia.com or by calling 660-747-8123.







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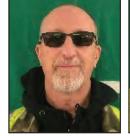
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FROM VIETNAM TO ANTARCTICA, VETERAN FLEW THE WORLD

By Faith Bemiss

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hen Gordon "Gordy" Bohling, 80, left Sedalia at age 17 to join the Navy, he didn't realize it would take him 63 years to come home.

After his wife Diane died, Bohling moved back to the area this past summer from Claremore, Oklahoma, to be near his nieces Holly Thomlinson and Jenni Ramey. Petty Officer 1st Class Bohling began serving with the Navy in 1958 and served 20 years.

Five years after he joined the Navy, he became a flight engineer and his career led him to serve in a highly classified mission, Observation Squadron SIX-TY-SEVEN, during the Vietnam War. The mission lasted from November 1967 to July 1968. Due to the secret nature of the mission, Bohling couldn't talk about it until 1998 when it became unclassified. During his Navy career, he eventually flew supplies to scientists in Antarctica.

Before being assigned to the mission and after attending advanced aviation, or Naval B School, Bohling was sent to Long

It's like jet-propelled and it gets up to 200 feet in two seconds. The thing that we were adjusting would fall off of it (and) they were wanting to make sure it went up straight."

-Gordon "Gordy" Bohling

Island to train with weaponized drones.

"The reason was they could fly that drone out 50 miles and they could drop them," he explained. "They sent all of the stuff out to California to put together."

He was supposed to be assigned to a ship, but he added laughing he "wasn't big on ships." Instead, he requested to be sent to Okinawa, Japan, where he again worked with drones, making sure they were balanced.

"You have to be real careful when you are putting them together," he noted. "It's like jet-propelled and it gets up to 200 feet in two seconds. The thing that we were adjusting would fall off of it (and) they were wanting to make sure it went up straight."

This training led him to volunteer with Observation Squadron SIXTY-SEVEN. All involved with the classified mission were deployed to Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, nine miles from the Laotian border.

According to the VO-67 Association, the mission was "to detect, classify, hinder and penalize the North Vietnamese Army infiltration into the South."

"They assumed it was going to be a 50% personnel loss," Bohling said. "A 50% aircraft loss and it turned out ... we lost two of our aircraft in a little less than a month. They shot them down."

He added he was lucky he wasn't killed during VO-67 because many men were lost during the mission's short duration.

See BOHLING |13

Gordon Bohling served with the U.S. Navy from 1958 to 1978. During his time in the military, he served in Vietnam as a flight engineer and delivered supplies to scientists in Antarctica.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GORDON BOHLING



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LSNAVY

BOHLING

From Page 12

"What we were doing was dropping listening devices along the Ho Chi Minh Trail," he explained. "And it was along the Laos border ... and we weren't supposed to be over there."

He added the concept was to drop the listening devices along the trail to gather information on what the North Vietnamese were transporting and how many troops they were bringing through. To drop the devices, the men were assigned to fly a P2V-5 Neptune aircraft.

"The problem was we had to fly an older aircraft," he said. "They didn't use them anymore, it was an ancient aircraft they got out of the boneyard. But that old airplane, we couldn't turn it around or anything.

"Basically, we were sitting ducks," he continued. "They (North Vietnamese) had cannons right above us. We couldn't go over 200 knots at 200 feet to drop the listening devices."

During the project, the VO-67 volunteers also helped secure the U.S. Marine Base at Khe Sanh from the North Vietnamese Tet Offensive of 1968 "by implanting Acoubouy sensor fields around the combat base," information from the VO-67 Association said.

Because of his involvement with VO-67, Bohlin received a Presidential

Unit Citation from the Secretary of the Navy. Bohling added the VO-67 mission was only a small segment of his 20-year Navy career.

He also taught aviation during his career, but what he enjoyed most was flying in a C-130 filled with supplies for scientists in Antarctica.

"I read in a Navy magazine that they were looking for experienced flight engineers," he noted. "So, I shot off a letter to them and within a week ... I was to go to Antarctica.

"We'd go down in like October, that was their summertime," he continued. "We would keep our aircraft at Christ Church, New Zealand, and then we go down on the ice for two or three months."

He added he "loved every minute of it."

"You could look out the window and point anywhere and say no human being has ever laid a foot here," he said. "I did that for five years."

Bohling added he enjoyed his military career and was happy to have served and flown in the Navy.

"I've always said if I could pick anything I wanted to do in my career in the Navy, I couldn't come even close to what I enjoyed," he noted. "I just loved every minute of my 20 years.

"Some of it, I should say was a little hairy," he continued. "But, there were so many other things, like going to Antarctica. That was the main thing I enjoyed."

Faith Bemiss can be reached at 660-530-0289 or on Twitter @flbemiss.



PHOTO BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

Navy veteran Petty Officer 1st Class Gordon "Gordy" Bohling, 80, sits in his West Broadway Boulevard home recently. Bohling left Sedalia at age 17 to join the Navy. After 63 years, he returned this summer to live near his nieces Holly Thomlinson and Jenni Ramey.







WWII HERO FINALLY GETS DESERVED RECOGNITION

By Emily Walton

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Sedalia man is telling the story of his late grandfather, a WWII veteran who was denied the benefits promised to him but is now being recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal honoring Filipino Veterans of World War II.

Maj. Honorio N. Reyes was born in Pila, Laguna. He graduated from the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Veterinary Medicine and practiced his profession before joining the military service. He married Caridad Francisco in 1933.

Reves was commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant in 1940 when the Philippines was a commonwealth under the United States. In July 1941, President Roosevelt federalized forces in the Philippines into service. As a commonwealth nation during the war, Filipinos were legally American nationals and were therefore promised all the benefits afforded to those serving in the United States armed forces.

Reves was called to serve in the United States Army Forces in the far east in August 1941. On April 9, 1942, and after a three-month battle in Bataan and their eventual capture, Allied prisoners, including Reyes, were forced to march

more than 60 miles from Saysain Point in Bataan to Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac, in the Bataan Death March. Casualty numbers are not clear but estimates say approximately 10,000 soldiers died during the march, a large majority being Filipino.

Individuals who couldn't make it were either killed on the spot or were carried by their fellow soldiers who were still healthy enough. Some of them were starving and Reyes resorted to eating water spinach that he would snatch up along the road they marched on, according to his grandson, Pedro R. Villanueva Jr., of Sedalia. While a prisoner of war, Reyes was responsible for treating the sick and administering their medication.

When Japan surrendered, Reves was released from USAFFE back to the Philippines' Armed Forces on Feb. 11, 1946, where he continued to serve in the Philippine Army as a chief financial officer and was eventually promoted to Major.

Upon his honorable discharge, Reyes was appointed as a Provincial Veterinarian of Laguna, where he held the position of Provincial Warden of Laguna before settling in Parañaque, Metro Manila, Philippines, to continue his veterinary practice.

This is how Reyes is remembered by Villanueva, who served as his grandfa-

ther's "bag boy" carrying around a heavy bag of veterinarian supplies while his grandfather traveled to different homes for his practice. Afterward, Reyes would give Villanueva a small salary.

"He was pretty humble but was kind of stern and disciplinary," explained Villanueva. "He was very funny, could be a funny guy. He was pretty outgoing. He liked to go places, bring us places. Treat us to different snack bars and things like that when me and my brother would go out with him sometimes carrying his veterinarian supplies and stuff."

Despite their

The late Maj. Honorio N. Reyes received this posthumous **Congressional Gold** Medal honoring Filipino Veterans of World War II for his military service.

See REYES |15







From Page 14

closeness in his early years, Villanueva said Reves never spoke of his service in WWII. The stories came from Villanueva's mom and Reves' children, who even tended to not want to talk about it and often spared the elaborate details.

One thing Villanueva does specifically remember is Reyes' constant and unwavering efforts to receive the benefits he and other Filipino veterans had been promised but did not receive. After WWII, the Philippines became an independent country and the United States introduced into law the Rescission Act of 1946, which retroactively annulled benefits that would have been payable to Filipino troops on account of their military service.

"When I was young he would always borrow my dad's typewriter and was typing letters, kind of like every day to President Reagan to the U.S. embassy..." Villanueva said. "He would just constantly write, hoping to get something back because they'd been promised benefits."

Reves never gave up on writing, but he never saw anything. He died on May 15, 1987, and was buried in Pila. Reyes received full military honors at his funeral. He had eight children, 18 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.



he didn't get the benefits that he thought he was going to get. At least now we have something to continue his legacy."

Throughout the years, Filipino veterans were finally given benefits through the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act, to include U.S. naturalization and compensation to surviving veterans. In 2016, all eligible Filipino Veterans of World War II through Public Law 114-265 were recognized with the Congres-

-Pedro R. Villanueva Jr.

Recently, Villanueva was contacted by a group who told him Reyes might be eligible for the medal, so he submitted what he had. On Oct. 6, Villanueva was contacted and told his grandfather would be receiving a medal.

sional Gold Medal for their efforts.

"Of course I got all excited and told all my relatives and their siblings," Villanueva explained. "We're supposed to have a Zoom presentation here Nov. 15 where I do a video accepting

it, kind of like in absentee, basically because of COVID...

"(My family) were excited," he added. "I was getting phone calls from the Philippines from my aunt and my uncle thanking me for doing this because they also knew for the longest time that he didn't get the benefits that he thought he was going to get. At least now we have something to continue his legacy."

While he never saw any benefits or recognition, Villanueva said he believes Reves would have been happy about receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

"I think he would have been very happy about this because people were just wondering what he was doing because he kept on writing letters," Villanueva said. "It seemed like it fell on deaf ears, nobody was listening and people were telling him just to give up, don't write anymore, but he just kept on writing for something.

"Nothing came of it, but at least now with the medal, at least everybody knows OK, yeah, he should have gotten something basically," he continued. "That's what we see it as, as what it represents. This is what he was fighting for, at least he got something out of it."

A United States Air Force member himself, Villanueva said his grandfather's and father's military service inspired him to join as well. He described his grandfather as a "blessed man" who would do anything for anyone.

"It seemed like he would bend back-

wards for anybody needing help with anything," Villanueva said. "I remember him, when he was doing veterinarian practice, he would travel for miles just to treat somebody's puppy, and we're talking miles.

"Then that would be the only house call he would have gotten for that day," he continued. "Of course, I'm still young thinking, 'Well shoot, we went all the way over here just to treat a puppy and that's it?' He basically explained it to me, 'No that's not the point. It's the help that they needed (which was important)."

Emily Walton can be contacted at 660-530-0146.







VFW COMMANDER HELPS FELLOW VETERANS AFTER RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

Bv Dustin Steinhoff

dustins@phillipsmedia.com

fter a number of years in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve, Howard Good received assistance from his local Veterans of Foreign Wars post and since then, he has made it his goal to help local veterans through the VFW just as he was.

Good serves as the Commander of VFW Post 2513 in Warrensburg, being elected to the position earlier this year.

Good was active in the military from 1970 to 1974, serving in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War as a Navy aircrewman.

During his time in the Navy, Good worked on a C-130 aircraft as part of a transport squadron where he earned his Wings.

Good and his squadron were stationed at Barbers Point in Hawaii and made 30-to 60-day deployments to the Philippines.

Good said during these deployments, he and his squadron would deliver supplies ranging from mail to helicopter parts to ammunition from the Philippines to different areas of Vietnam on about two to three missions each day.

Good said while his squadron served as more of a support role, the aircraft's size made it a large target as it flew



PHOTO BY DUSTIN STEINHOFF | STAR-JOURNAL

VFW Post 2513 Commander Howard Good poses for a photo at the post's facility located at 618 Lakeview Drive in Warrensburg.

over Vietnam.

"I was fortunate that our squadron never suffered any casualties and I never had to watch a buddy die like so many guys did," Good said.

Over the course of four years, Good worked his way up to the rank of petty officer third class (E-4).

After his four years in the Navy, Good returned home to assist his father with his cattle operation in Centerview.

Good said his family members, such as his father, served as inspirations to join the military.

Good's father was a Third Division Marine in World War II and assisted in the logistics of the Battle of Iwo Jima, where he received a citation that the family has preserved to this day.

"He wasn't one to talk a lot about his service, but it was something I always knew he was proud of and I was proud of him," Good said.

In addition to his father's military service, Good's older brother had enlisted in the Navy and both of his uncles served in WWII.

"Patriotism really runs strong in our family," Good said.

About four or five years after leaving the Navy, Good joined VP-67, a U.S. Navy Reserve Patrol Squadron stationed in Memphis, Tennessee, after a chief petty officer contacted him to offer him a job as an aircrewman for a patrol aircraft.

Good spent an additional four years in the U.S. Navy Reserve flying with the patrol squadron.

See GOOD |17





From Page 16

During his time in the Reserve, Good achieved the rank of petty officer second class (E-5).

A number of years following his time in the military, Good decided to join VFW Post 2513 as a member because of the help he received from the organization as a veteran.

"I joined the VFW because they had done so much for me," Good said.

Good received assistance from the VFW as he applied for benefits after contracting type two diabetes, an illness that can be caused by Agent Orange exposure.

Good said he was later contacted by a lawyer with the VFW who informed him that he would be receiving the benefits he applied for.

"It's like someone calling you up and telling you that you won the lotto," Good said. "My life was going to be a little bit different from that moment on. I was going to be in a better state."

Good said the benefits he received, along with his social security, allowed him to quit the 10-12 hour shift job he had been working at 65 years old.

With more time on his hands thanks to the VFW's efforts, Good decided to reach out to his local post and became a member in 2015 before working his



What (the VFW) did for me was such a stress relief. If I could help somebody else feel that and get that, that's what I want to do."

-Howard Good

way up to Commander in 2020.

"What (the VFW) did for me was such a stress relief," Good said. "If I could help somebody else feel that and get that, that's what I want to do."

Good said one of the organization's biggest goals is to inform veterans of all eras of the benefits they are eligible for.

The post also has lawyers to assist veterans in receiving their benefits.

Good said his post doesn't require a veteran to have a membership with them in order to provide them assistance.

Good said a number of the men he knew before enlisting in the military were affected by their experiences in the war, which encouraged him to put a heavy emphasis on PTSD and suicide prevention as Post Commander.

The post also supports two local

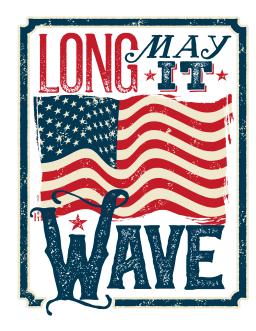
Boys Scouts of America troops and provides scholarship opportunities to local students.

Good has also made it a priority to reach out to veterans as much as possible rather than just letting them come to the post.

While COVID-19 has made it difficult for organizations to get out into the public, Post 2513 has reached out to community veterans through means such as setting up a booth at the Warrensburg Farmers' Market.

VFW Post 2513 has about 150 members and is actively trying to recruit new members.

Dustin Steinhoff can be reached by emailing dustins@phillipsmedia.com or by calling 660-747-8123.









UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



STAFF SGT. KARRIE BISSEN AIR FORCE 1986-1993



E-4 ROBERT BOND AIR FORCE 1969-1973 VIETNAM



STAFF SGT. ROY A. BEMISS AIR FORCE 1975-1981 VIETNAM ERA



SENIOR AIRMAN SARAH N. DUMITRASCU AIR FORCE 2016 TO PRESENT



LT. COL. TOM FITZPATRICK AIR FORCE 1965-1987 VIETNAM ERA



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AIR FORCE
1955-1977
KOREA & VIETNAM



JIMMIE W. HALL AIR FORCE 1956-1976



SGT. AIRMAN 1ST CLASS NEAL E. HUNTER AIR FORCE 1965-1969 VIETNAM



WILLIAM S. JACKSON
AIR FORCE
1949-1973
KOREA & VIETNAM



SGT. CHARLES CLIFFORD LEAR AIR FORCE 1944-1948 WWII



SMSGT. E-8 ANTHONY MONFORTE AIR FORCE 1961-1993 VIETNAM WAR & GULF WAR



SENIOR MASTER SGT. PATRICK S. ROBINSON AIR FORCE 1992-2017





NITED STATES AIR FORCE



COL. PHILIP J. WHITE AIR FORCE 1950-1977 **VIETNAM**



SENIOR AIRMAN BERNIE A. WILLIAMS AIR FORCE 1978-1981



CHIEF MASTER SGT. CARLIE L. WILLIAMS JR. AIR FORCE 1961-1985



TECH SGT JEFFREY D. WILLIAMS AIR FORCE 1977-1992



SENIOR MASTER SGT. PAUL D. WILLIAMS AIR FORCE 1967-1993



LARRY R. WILLIAMS AIR FORCE 1965-1989 **VIETNAM**



STAFF SGT. MICHAEL T. WILLIAMS AIR FORCE 1959-1962 **VIETNAM**



THE U.S. AIR FORCE SONG



Off we go into the wild blue yonder, Climbing high into the sun; Here they come zooming to meet our thunder, At 'em now, Give 'em the gun! Down we dive, spouting our flame from under, Off with one helluva roar! We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey! Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

Brilliant minds fashioned a crate of thunder, Sent it high into the blue; Valiant hands blasted the world asunder; How they lived God only knew! Boundless souls dreaming of skies to conquer Gave us wings, ever to soar! With scouts before and bombers galore. Hey! Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

Here's a toast to the host Of those who love the vastness of the sky, To a friend we send a message of the brave who serve on high. We drink to those who gave their all of old, Then down we roar to score the rainbow's pot of gold. A toast to the host of those we boast, the U.S. Air Force!

> Off we go into the wild sky yonder, Keep the wings level and true; If you'd live to be a grey-haired wonder Keep the nose out of the blue! Fly to fight, guarding the nation's border, We'll be there, followed by more! In echelon we carry on. Oh, nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!







TECH SGT. HOMER C. ANDERSON ARMY AIR CORPS 1942-1945



E-5 RONALD W. ANDERSON ARMY 1968-1971



MASTER SGT.
JAMES R. ATWOOD
ARMY
1968-1994
VIETNAM ERA



PFC. HAROLD BASLEE ARMY 1942-1946 WWII/KOREA



PFC. RAYMOND BELL ARMY 1956-1958



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ARMY
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SGT. LEONARD R. BENSON ARMY 1942-1945 WW II



CORY BIRDSONG
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2006-2007,
2009-2010, 2013-2014
IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN



STAFF SGT.
THOMAS P. BOEHNER
ARMY
1966-1970
VIETNAM ERA



SGT. ROBERT L. BOHM ARMY 1966-1968 VIETNAM WAR



E-4 CHARLES BOND ARMY 1944-1946 WWII



CPL. HAROLD F. BROWN ARMY 1952-1953 KOREAN WAR









CPL. LEROY L. BUGH ARMY 1953-1955 KOREA



CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM L. BURNS ARMY 1941-1944 WWII



SGT. CHRIS CASTRO ARMY 1974-1983



CPL. CARL EDWARD COLSON ARMY 1949-1952 KOREA



SGT. EMMETT COX ARMY 1943-1946 WWII



SPC. 4TH CLASS RON DAVIS ARMY 1965-1967



TECH 5 MARTIN DOOGS ARMY 1945-1946 WWII



PFC.
DONALD R. ELLISON
ARMY
1952-1954
KOREAN



SGT. HOMER "MUTT" EMBREE ARMY 1943-1946 WWII



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STAFF SGT. M. LEONARD HANSEN ARMY 1942-1944 WWII



SGT. DAVID HENDERSON ARMY 1969-1971 **VIETNAM**



PFC. GERALD F. HICKS **ARMY** 1970-1972



SGT. E-6 ROBERT L. HICKS **ARMY** 1968-1982 **VIETNAM**



RAYMOND LEE HILLER ARMY 1950-1952 **KOREAN**



PFC. **DAVID HOWE ARMY VIETNAM**



PFC. WILLIAM E. HOWE SR. ARMY AIR CORPS 1940-1942 WWII



PFC. **GLENN E. HUNTER ARMY** 1942-1945 WWII & KOREAN



PFC. **ROBERT F. INMAN ARMY** 1943-1945 WWII



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E-5 SPC. 5 GARY L. KIRK ARMY 1969-1971 VIETNAM



SGT.
DONALD KLEIN
ARMY
1952-1954
KOREAN



ELBERT KNECHT ARMY 1943-1945



STAFF SGT. RALPH A KURTZ ARMY 1943-1948 WWII



SPC. 5TH CLASS VIRGIL KURTZ ARMY 1958-1961



PFC. WILLIAM K. LEICHER ARMY 1953-1955



MAJ. CHARLES E. McGINNIS ARMY 1953-1955 KOREA



T-5 ROBERT L. McGINNIS ARMY 1944-1946



LT. COL. RUSSELL H. MILLER ARMY WWII



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DALE MONSEES

ARMY
1966-1968
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E-4 RICHARD POSZ ARMY 1957-1960



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E-5 MARION ROPER ARMY 1990-1995 DESERT STORM



SGT. E-5 DAVID W. SCHEID ARMY 1968-1970 VIETNAM



E-5 CAMERON SCOTT ARMY 1989-1995



PFC. RONALD CLAYTON SCOTT ARMY 1942-1945 WWII &KOREA



CPL. EUGENE G. SCOTTEN ARMY 1951-1953 KOREA



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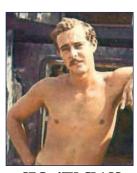




CHARLES H. SMITH ARMY 1945-1947 WWII



SPC. E-4 JOHN STREIT ARMY 1968-1970 VIETNAM



SPC. 4TH CLASS TOM TRAY ARMY 1970-1971



STAFF SGT.
RAYMOND WARBRITTON
ARMY
1944-1946



E-5 SCOTT P. WATSON ARMY 1985-1992



E-5 GARY WHEELER ARMY 1966-1968 VIETNAM



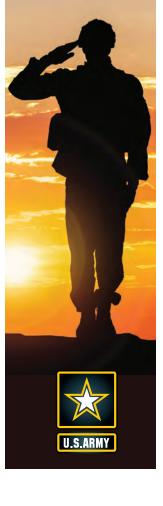
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> First to fight for the right, And to build the Nation's might, And The Army Goes Rolling Along Proud of all we have done, Fighting till the battle's won, And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hev! The Army's on its way. Count off the cadence loud and strong (TWO! THREE!) For where eer we go, You will always know That The Army Goes Rolling Along.

> Valley Forge, Custer's ranks, San Juan Hill and Patton's tanks, And the Army went rolling along Minute men, from the start, Always fighting from the heart, And the Army keeps rolling along.

Men in rags, men who froze, Still that Army met its foes, And the Army went rolling along. Faith in God, then we're right, And we'll fight with all our might, As the Army keeps rolling along.

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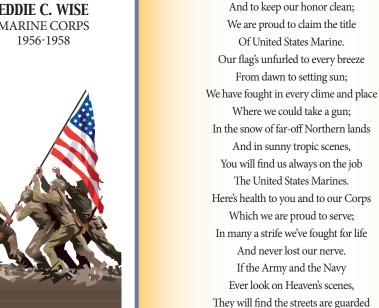


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UNITED STATES NAVY



ETN2 WILLIAM ANDERSON NAVY 1961-1967



E-6 DARREN RAY BAKER NAVY 1986-1992



HOSPITAL CORPMAN E-7 DONALD BARTLETT NAVY 1953-1975 KOREA &VIETNAM



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS RICHARD L. BASLEE NAVY 1966-1970



RADIOMAN 1ST CLASS KELLY BIRDSONG NAVY 1975-1995



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS GORDON "GORDY" BOHLING NAVY 1958-1978



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SGT. 1ST CLASS JOHN BRESHEARS NAVY 1966-1969 VIETNAM



SK-3 DENNIS BRYANT NAVY 1965-1969



EM3 WILLIAM W. BUSHMEYER JR. NAVY 1952-1956 KOREA



QUENTIN BUTTS NAVY DESERT STORM



RSMN LOYDE T. CANIDA NAVY 1948-1951 KOREA





JNITED STATES NAVY



PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS BILL ESTES NAVY 1969-1971 **VIETNAM**



10-3**DAWN HILL NAVY** 1996-2001



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS LYLE HOARD NAVY 1942-1965



QUARTERMASTER SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER HENRY T. HOOD NAVY 1953-1974



E-3 LAWRENCE B. HOWE NAVY 1980-1984



E-4 LLOYD L. HOWE NAVY 1972-1988



SHOPKEEPER 3RD CLASS JOHN L. KNAUS NAVY 1944-1946 WWII



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS KATHY McGINNIS NAVY 1977-1987



E-7 BRUCE MEYER NAVY 1972-1994 **VIETNAM**



E-4 A03 **REV. LARRY S. NEWSON** NAVY 1988-1993 **DESERT STORM**



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CHM-3 **ELLIS TILLMAN** NAVY 1963-1967



PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS LEE WARD NAVY 1948-1952



ETERNAL FATHER, **STRONG TO SAVE**



Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the restless wave, Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep Its own appointed limits keep, O hear us when we cry to thee For those in peril on the sea!

O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard And hushed their raging at thy word, Who walkedst on the foaming deep, And calm amidst its rage didst sleep, O hear us when we cry to thee, For those in peril on the sea!

Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood Upon the chaos dark and rude, And bid its angry tumult cease, And give, for wild confusion, peace, O hear us when we cry to thee For those in peril on the sea!

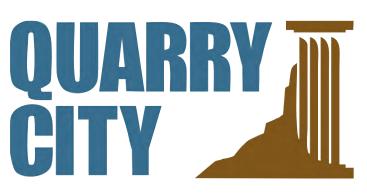
Eternal Father, grant, we pray, To all Marines, both night and day, The courage, honor, strength, and skill Their land to serve, thy law fulfill; Be thou the shield forevermore From every peril to the Corps.

Lord, guard and guide the ones who fly Through the great spaces in the sky. Be with them always in the air, In darkening storms or sunlight fair.



"Thank You" Veterans!





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