

A young boy in a light blue button-down shirt and dark jeans stands in a field of many American flags. He is saluting with his right hand to his forehead, looking upwards. The flags are on white poles and are waving in the breeze. The scene is outdoors on a grassy field.

2022

Salute to Veterans

Produced by the Saratoga Sun

2022 Salute to Veterans

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Cleveland to Egypt

**Under privledged
teen finds success
in the military**

by Virginia Parker

Theresa Ramsey was born in Cleveland, Ohio. Once she graduated from high school, she realized that her mom did not have the means to help her go to college, so she had to find another way.

Ramsey decided that the best way to get an education was to go in to the military. In 1980 she went into the delayed enlistment program.

She was in Ann Arbor, Michigan working when she went to the recruiting offices of every branch of the military. After taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test, she did very well. They recommended Ramsey take the Defense Language Analytic Battery (DLAB) test. She blew that test away. The recruiter said they'd never seen a test score that high.

Ramsey says that her aptitude for language may come from her grandfather who was Lebanese and spoke five languages. He taught her how to speak Arabic.

She visited all the different services and found them unwilling to put a woman this field. They wanted linguists that spoke Arabic, but due to the close and dangerous circumstances it wasn't a



Photo courtesy Theresa Ramsey

Theresa Ramsey in Sudan 1984.

good fit for a woman.

Ramsey went to the Air Force (AF) and they said they put her into the linguistic program, but they weren't going to let her pick the language.

She was leaving the AF recruiting office when a guy in a green uniform waved her into his office. He was an Army recruiter and told her if she would sign up that day, not only would they send her to the Defense Language Institute (DLI) - Foreign Language Center in Monterey, California, they would give her a huge bonus if she passed.

Ramsey went through basic training and graduated "trainee of the cycle" which is an award, like the honor roll. She graduated from the Defense Language Institute (DLI) after one year. Only five graduated out of eleven, Ramsey was one of them.

She then went on to San Angelo, Texas for Advanced Individual Training. She learned about radio equipment, mainly technical type things.

After graduation, Ramsey was trying to figure out where she wanted to be posted. She chose Hawaii and California. However, she ended up with orders to Fort Stewart, Georgia assigned to the 24th infantry division—mechanized. To say the least, she did not enjoy it. When Ramsey arrived and was processed in, they gave her a wool blanket, led her over to a long cinderblock house with no screens on the windows and no air conditioning.

She stayed in Georgia for a while and spent the majority of her time working on vehicles in the motor pool, maintaining jeeps and doing oil changes.

Ramsey deployed to Egypt in 1982. Suddenly, all of the linguists that spoke Arabic were a hot commodity due to the conflicts brewing in that region. This was around the time of the Beirut bombing in 1983 and the Achille Lauro hijacking which created a desperate need for Arabic translators.

Ramsey was supposed to be interpreter/translator, but due to the fact that the linguists hadn't been given the language training that they were supposed to have; it didn't take long for the upper echelon to figure out that the linguists weren't going to be able to provide what they needed.

Ramsey ended up being relegated to taking groups into the market place to translate and help negotiate purchases. Ramsey was in Egypt for about a month. She said she really enjoyed being immersed in the culture and not sleeping in the sand.

Ramsey decided she wanted to get into the intelligence work.

When her time was up, Ramsey was offered a bonus if she would reenlist. She reenlisted in 1984 with a promise from the Army to be sent back to the DLI for intermediate Arabic training and promised an assignment to Fort Meade, Maryland where she could work for the National Security Agency (NSA).

After her training, she was sent to NSA as promised. During this time Ramsey was asked if she wanted to be a part of a special mission unit. She learned how to "jump out of perfectly good airplanes and helicopters" as well as going to French language training. She says she got to do lots of crazy

stuff, including fire guns.

Ramsey and her coworkers were farmed out to other agencies. Those agencies would use them and train them. Ramsey said she earned a lot of money. When she returned to Maryland, she bought her first home a six months after returning from Sudan. Quite an accomplishment for someone so young. Ramsey had a roommate that moved in and took care of the house because she was gone 9 months out of the year.

Ramsey decided to resign from her commission in the military because her husband at that time was stationed in Belgium. She thought it would be a good time to start a family.

NSA asked her not to quit. She did resign from the Army, but she stayed on with the NSA as an unpaid employee until she got to Belgium where the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe is located.

Ramsey was the first American female civilian asked to work in the SHED. The SHED is a special intelligence unit behind a big green door with several locks on it. Ramsey said she knocked on big green door and a Danish Lt. Colonel welcomed her with open arms. Ramsey said it was 8 a.m. and they brought out a big tray with shot glasses on it. She did the shot, but it was a Danish "schnapps". Ramsey says it was like drinking white lightning with lots of hops.

Ramsey stayed at the SHED for a few years. She returned to the United States and continued working for the NSA.

When she decided to quit, she found a position with a company inside the 'beltway' which is a 64-mile interstate highway that surrounds Washington, D.C. and its inner suburbs.

On Septembr 12, 2001, Ramsey was in a conference room that had many windows with her coworkers. They were watching the news as the twin towers came down.

Ramsey said they saw a plane coming out of the south towards their building. It all of a sudden took a U-Turn and headed back south again. Moments later, they saw a huge plume of smoke not even 15 miles away.

Ramsey left this position and went to the Pentagon where she was a Senior Executive (SES). She stayed for 13 years and decided to retire. Robert Manley, her husband was semi-retired, so she decided to take the early out incentive.

These days Ramsey hangs out with her husband and their very large, adorable pup named Gemma.

Ramsey is an accomplished potter with a beautiful studio in her home and also very active in community concerns and activities.

2022 Salute to Veterans

Know what you want before you join

Military assigns training after taking ASVAB

by Virginia Parker

Robert Manley was born in Colorado and grew up in Sinclair, Wyoming. His dad was the Chief Operator for the Colorado Interstate Gas Company(CIG). He went to Laramie when he was in high school. After high school, Manley joined the Air Force when he was 17. He went to boot camp in San Antonio six days after enlisting.

Weather in San Antonio was quite a shock for him.

Manley had an uncle that was a bomber pilot in WWII and the Korean War and received two purple hearts.

His uncle's service influenced Manley. He didn't know what to do when he graduated high school, so he went straight to the recruiter after graduation. He joked that he was a pretty wild, redneck Wyoming kid, so his family, probably, thought military service might help his discipline.

Manley went into the military without any specific job in mind which he says was kind of stupid. He thought they would put him in something like Para-rescue or Special Forces. He joked that he's lucky they didn't make him a cook.

Manley's Armed Services

Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)—a multiple-aptnitude test that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military was unclear so to Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants (POL) training from boot camp.

He was sent directly to a base, rather than a "tech" school where he learned about all the fuel the Air Force uses.

He was sent there because there was a shortage of people in that field at the time. After six years active duty, Manley was based in Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. Where he served for two years before going to Okinawa.

He was stationed at Kadena Air Base for three and half years. Kadena is where the "Vampires" were stationed. The Vampires are F-15's, part of the 18th Wing's 44th Fighter Squadron.

Manley worked all over the area including Southeast Asia, the Philippines, Korea and mainland Japan.

When he was in Frankfurt, Germany, a plane came in from Saudi Arabia carrying the "Tops In Blue". This is comparable to the old USO shows, but Tops In Blue is an entertainment showcase for the entire family.

The Tops in Blue were getting ready to do a tour around Germany. They used a big 2,500 KW generator



Photo courtesy Robert Manley

Robert Manley in his dress blues.

that went "tango uniform", translation, it stopped working. Manley and his men put two 75 KW generators on a semi truck flatbed and powered the shows around Germany. They hit every base in just a few

days. Manley said the whole team worked hard setting those shows up and tearing them down.

When they returned to the base, the generator had been repaired and they were able to

continue their tour.

In 1982, Manley came back to Wyoming after being discharged from the Air Force. He said he was freezing because he had been in the tropics for several years and it was a rough winter.

Manley went to the University of Wyoming for awhile and worked at the cement plant. He felt that he needed to get his college degree so he went into the Air Force reserves and moved to Colorado Springs.

Manley spent another sixteen years in the reserves in electrical power production. He was stationed at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

He was then sent to Germany and the United Kingdom on deployments.

Manley was promoted to First Sergeant in the 302nd Security Forces and was the NCO of the year for the 302nd AirWing in Colorado Springs. He had intended to become a commissioned officer after earning his engineering degree, but was disqualified due to prior RK eye surgery.

He finished his career in Westover, Massachusetts as a Senior Master Sergeant.

Manley was given two Meritorious Service Awards and was an honor graduate from his technical training in Electrical Power Production. He was also an Expert Marksman.

Manley still stays in touch

with some of the men he served with in the Air Force. He said it was an honor to serve and really good experience. Manley does miss the comradery. He made life long friends and saw amazing areas.

Manley had some incredible experiences, including sitting in the cockpit of an SR-71 and an F-15. When he was with NASA in Houston he had the opportunity to fly the shuttle simulator out to space and back to land at Kennedy Air Force Base. He remembers that Tom Hanks had signed the guest book at the NASA base. He is grateful for the opportunities he was given.

Like many others, Manley said sleep deprivation was terrible. The field exercises were the worst including heat stroke in the Philippines and ash from the Mount St. Helen's eruption. He said they were hallucinating after four days of sleep deprivation, but it's part of the training.

Twenty-Nine Palms, California, does not hold fond memories for Manley, it was hot during the day and freezing at night.

Manley said he would recommend the Air Force to anyone considering joining. He feels they have excellent training and treat their people well. Just make sure you have an idea what you want to do when you go in.

Manley is retired and moved the Platte Valley in 2019 with

Proudly serving

Wyoming is always home to well traveled Lieutenant Colonel

by Virginia Parker

Robert Brooks' grandfather came to the Platte Valley in 1950s and had a homestead. His dad, Thomas S. Brooks was born in Rawlins and worked as a US Embassy/State Department Officer.

Brooks was born in Taiwan where his dad was studying Chinese. He grew up in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Beijing. The Brooks' family also lived in Nepal.

The family returned to Wyoming his last year of high school. He went to the University of Wyoming after graduation.

Brooks wanted to be a

doctor after taking trips into India with his parents. He was very young, but overwhelmed by the suffering and desperation. He told his dad that one day he was "going to be a doctor and save all these people".

Brooks had earned a degree from UW in Economics and Philosophy, but decided to go back to the conservation property that is owned by his dad. Brooks did some logging and was a climbing guide.

Brooks was injured in a motorcycle accident in 1993. It took him a year to walk again.

Once Brooks was back on his feet, he took an EMT basic class and went to work in Rawlins.

Brooks went back to UW to get his science degree in preparation for medical

school. He went to Michigan State for medical school. The cost of his first year at Michigan state was \$100,000 so Brooks and his wife decided that the best option was the military. Brooks joined the Army in 2005 to help pay for medical school. He graduated and was accepted into a radiology program in Hawaii. Brooks soon realized that he enjoyed working with a team, and taking care of his own patients so he resigned from radiology to work in a hospital environment.

Brooks still had an obligation to the Army, so he served in the Emergency department at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii. Brooks was then assigned to Fort Hood, Texas as a brigade surgeon with the Chemical, Biological, Radiological,

Nuclear (CBRN) Brigade. Brooks wrote a new Army treatment algorithm for the Russian nerve agents. He took care of a lot of the Hazmat Frontline soldiers, monitoring them carefully and preparing them for the duty.

Brooks left active duty with an honorable discharge in 2013.

He continued his service in the Army Reserve and was promoted to Major. He was now an inactive ready reservist obligated for three years.

Brooks established a rural emergency medicine contract business. Then in 2014, Brooks went to Drexel University for three years in Philadelphia.

He wanted to come back to Wyoming, but his wife preferred Fort Collins.

Brooks has received several awards including the Army Achievement Medal and Meritorious Service Award.

During Brooks deployment as part of the COVID 19 response, he was sent to South Texas with an Army team called the Urban Augmentation Task Force to help hospitals that were being overrun with patients.

He was then deployed to Kuwait in January through May 2021 to be an emergency physician at the combat support hospital, treating casualties coming in from Syria and Iraq.

June 2021 through October 2021 he deployed to Iraq as part of the Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was supporting the Green Berets.

Brooks loves Wyoming.

He says it's a clean, simple, honest living here. He also loves the fishing, hunting, hiking and climbing.

As a child they came back to Wyoming every summer. It left an indelible impression on him. He's been co-managing the conservation property with his dad since 2008. Brooks is very thankful for all of the amazing neighbors he has as well as the local businesses that have helped them over the years.

On September 9, 2022 Brooks was promoted to Lt. Colonel which adds five years to his commitment. Brooks will be deploying in February 2023 to Africa to support the SEAL teams members.

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2022 Salute to Veterans

Around the world in six years

Tyler Hughes plans to continue his education after returning from active duty

by Virginia Parker
Tyler Hughes is a 2015 graduate of Saratoga High School.

Tyler started an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class a year before he graduated in the summer of 2014. He worked with South Central Wyoming Emergency Services (SCWEMS).

Hughes enlisted in the United States Air Force in January 2016 under the delayed entry program. He actually started the enlistment process as soon as he graduated from high school, but had to wait eight months to get into the firefighter program he wanted.

Hughes went to basic training in San Antonio, Texas. From there he went to the Firefighting Academy in San Angelo, Texas.

Hughes' memories of San Angelo are of the heat. He

was there for three months in the summer. Training was the same as civilian firefighters with a few extras since they're main focus is airplanes and airfields.

Hughes first deployment was to Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany, home of the 52nd Fighter Wing. Hughes was able to utilize his EMT training on a limited basis, as well as being a firefighter.

Although Hughes was stationed in Germany for two years, he deployed for short assignments to other areas including Poland and Rumania. Hughes said these were mainly NATO exercises and any place there is an American aircraft—there must be firefighters to protect it.

Hughes said, while in Rumania, they were able to do a lot of sightseeing. They went canoeing and hiking. They hiked over a mountain in the Carpathians but only three of them actually climbed the mountain. The rest of the group was too afraid to climb because of the steep terrain.

Hughes was also able

to visit the Bran Castle in Transylvania and the Poienair Castle, home of Vlad the Impaler. Hughes said that Germany was definitely his favorite duty station.

After three years, Hughes returned to the States and was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

Hughes had various positions while at Andrews. He was a driver/operator for the ladder truck and worked in the dispatch center.

Hughes deployed to Saudi Arabia for five months during COVID-19. He came back to Andrews Air Force Base as a Staff Sergeant.

In the fire department, Hughes was a Fire Lieutenant because of the mutual aid with civilian agencies.

Hughes left the Air Force in January 2022. He is still in the National Guard and has just completed his recertification as an EMT. He has applied Paramedic School through Laramie County Community College (LCCC).

Hughes is still with SCWEMS ambulance service and lives in the Valley.



Photo courtesy Arlen Hughes
Tyler Hughes graduation photo from basic.

Serving God and country

Family influence spurs calling to serve of others

by Virginia Parker
Bob Cain grew up in a little farm town in midwestern Illinois.

Cain decided to join the Navy in 1985, a year after he graduated from high school. His oldest brother was in the Navy and Cain wanted to get away from Illinois to see the world. Cain's dad was in the Army in WWII.

Cain went to boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

He went to basic Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut. Cain was on submarines for two years as a helmsman, then served for two and half years as a hospital corpsman.

He decided to go back to school and entered the Catholic Seminary. When he graduated, he was at the diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma for five years.

Cain went back in the Navy as an active duty

commissioned officer, Navy Chaplain. He was deployed to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines in Hawaii where he spent three years in Hawaii.

He was also deployed twice to Okinawa and once to Australia. Cain said it sounds nice, but they were out in the middle of nowhere with the Australian Army.

When it came time for orders again, Cain was sent to the USS Enterprise, an aircraft carrier. He spent about two years on the Enterprise. He enjoyed being on the ship with 5000 crew members. Cain joked that it was a lot bigger than a submarine.

Cain was on the Enterprise during the second Gulf War.

After he left the Enterprise he went to Sasebo, Japan for a short time where he was able to visit several areas in Japan.

Cain said that being on base is a lot like being in a Parrish; except the need to deal with special issues involving dependents and service members separations due to deployments. Cain

said there are some very unique situations that can come up.

Cain was able to take the train to Nagasaki to do the 'tourist thing' and was able to visit the Peace Park.

He also was deployed to Okinawa with the Marines. He got to see Mount Fuji and Tokyo a little bit.

Cain separated from the military in 2012 because he found that as he rose in rank, he was tied to a desk. He enjoyed all the opportunities to travel and experience new things, but decided that being in an office all the time was not for him.

Cain retired with 20 years active duty service as a Lt. Commander. He doesn't miss the military, he said, "as you get older you don't bounce as well as you used to."

Cain came to Encampment to get away from the humidity of the midwest. He enjoys the outdoors and the lack of mugginess in Wyoming.

Cain wrote a book titled Jeremiah that was published March, 2020.



Photo courtesy Bob Cain
Bob Cain at the White Cliffs of Dover.

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2022 Salute to Veterans

Small but mighty

One of the first female service members in Co-Ed barracks, over comes stereo types

by Virginia Parker
Martha Ralston is from Charleston, South Carolina. She went to Washington state with her husband who had been discharged from the Navy.

On May 13, 1995, Martha joined the Navy on the delayed entry program. She went to boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in October 1995, not long after they had changed over to having both male and female enlistees training at that base.

Ralston was given the option of being a construction mechanic or an aircraft mechanic. She said she chose construction mechanic because she figured, if she worked on an aircraft and it didn't work, it would fall out of the sky. If a vehicle breaks down, the worst that could happen, is it stops in road. Ralston grew up with cars because her mom was a used car dealer so she spent a lot of time with cars when she

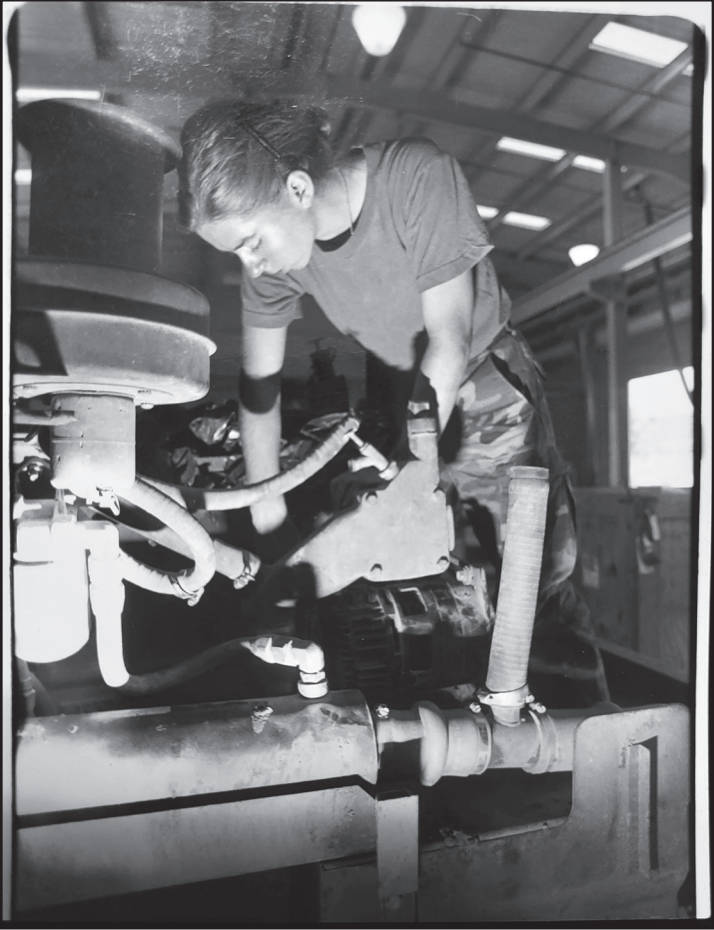
was younger. Martha went to "A" school at Port Hueneme, was given orders and sent to Cuba with one other person. They worked in the Public Works department. Ralston enjoyed Cuba. She drove tow trucks and the busses that transported workers to lunch. Overall, she spent a year and a half in Cuba.

Ralston was sent back to Port Hueneme in 1997 to join up with Mobile Construction Battalion (MCB) 5. Three weeks later she was deployed to Puerto Rico. She was deployed for 8 months and then back to Hueneme for 8 months. She deployed to Okinawa for several months and then back to Hueneme, home port for several months.

Ralston was going to get out of the military and go to college. She reenlisted for three years and went to "C" school for construction mechanic. She was sent to Naval Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 427 in San Diego.

Ralston made First Class Petty Officer and decided to reenlist. She was given the option of choosing a battalion. She chose MCB 40 and went back to Hueneme in February 2004.

Ralston had met her current



Martha Alexander (Ralston) performing maintenance on a vehicle.

husband, Mark Ralston, on occasion, but hadn't paid much attention. Her husband was brought over to her company and put in charge of her squad. This did not sit well with Ralston. She said it

seemed like every time she turned around someone was calling her-looking for him.

They went on deployment together in Okinawa and ended up getting together at the Christmas party.



Photos courtesy Martha Ralston

Martha Alexander (Ralston) receives her promotion to Third Class Petty Officer.

Ralston returned from Okinawa and started having issues with her left foot putting her on light duty. She had to have surgery on her foot and was then on limited duty.

Ralston got out in October

2006.

Ralston lives in Encampment with her husband Mark and son Declan. She works as the Deputy Town Clerk of

Carrying on the family tradition

Mark Ralston honors family and country by becoming a Seabee

by Virginia Parker
Mark Ralston has lived in Encampment, Wyoming for the past 10 years. He was originally from Seattle.

Ralston joined the Navy SeaBees December, 1994, when he was 19 years old. Seabee is a nickname from the initial letters "CB" from the words "Construction Battalion."

Ralston wanted to be an Equipment Operator (EO).

Ralston comes from a family of men who served in the military. His father and grandfather served in Navy. Ralston has two older brothers that weren't interested in the military so Ralston decided to carry on the family tradition by serving.

Ralston went to basic training at Great Lakes Naval

Training Center. He then went to Equipment Operator "A" School in Gulfport, Mississippi. His class was one of the last to attend before that "A" school was closed and moved to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Ralston went to San Diego, California after completing "A" school to join his unit, the Amphibious Construction Battalion.

Ralston's first deployment was in Thailand where he was participating in Amphibious exercises with his battalion. The Amphibious group is there to take care equipment that is used during contingencies throughout the world. Ralston said he worked with Thailand Marines while there.

Ralston did a tour in Iraq and three tours in Africa. He was deployed quite a bit, the SeaBees have camps all over the world.

The SeaBees work a good deal with the Marine Corps



Mark Ralston at Thousand Oaks, California 2009. Ralston and a crew helped set up the traveling Vietnam Wall.

because the Marines train the Seabees in combat.

Ralston said he hated field exercise. It can be weeks before you get a shower and you sleep in the dirt.

Ralston visited many 'touristy' sites, but he especially liked Rota, Spain

when he stationed there.

Ralston retired in 2014 after 20 years service as a First Class Petty Officer. Ralston hadn't planned to retire from the military, but he enjoyed his job so he stayed as long as he could.

Ralston misses the



Photos courtesy Martha Ralston

Mark Ralston with his buddies

comradery. He said if he was able to do it, he would go back in. If he was given the opportunity, he would like to go back as an instructor. He spent three years as an instructor at Port Hueneme and really enjoyed it.

Ralston said that his time in the military changed him. He felt that it was a humbling

experience.

When Ralston was discharged he started looking for jobs. The first one he was offered, was at Sinclair Oil Refinery. His brother was already working for Sinclair so he put in an application and was hired quickly.



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2022 Salute to Veterans

Reflections from the Saratoga Sun

February 1, 1945
Lt. Robert Milliken has many decorations

Word has recently been received from the European theater of war that First Lieutenant Robert C. Milliken of Hanna, P-38 fighter-bomber pilot of the Ninth Air Force, now has five confirmed victories and six planes damaged. He holds the Air Medal with 15 Oak Leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He has flown over 70 missions and is squadron leader.

He is the nephew of Mrs. R.R. Riggs of Saratoga, and the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Milliken of Hanna. He is a graduate of Hanna High School, attended the College of Engineering at the University of Wyoming and completed the civilian pilot training course there. Before enlisting in the Army Air Corps he was employed in the Union Pacific's engineering department at Cheyenne.

February 1, 1945
39 Men to Leave for Ft.

Logan next week

The Carbon County Selective Service Board announced this week that a group of 39 men will leave for Ft. Logan, Colo., Wednesday next week to receive their pre-induction physical examinations for the armed services. Saratoga and Platte Valley men included in the group will be Garland Bartlett Jr., Paul Hilliard, Mark Doherty, Alfred Kraft, George Foote and Robert Young of Saratoga and Pete Romios,

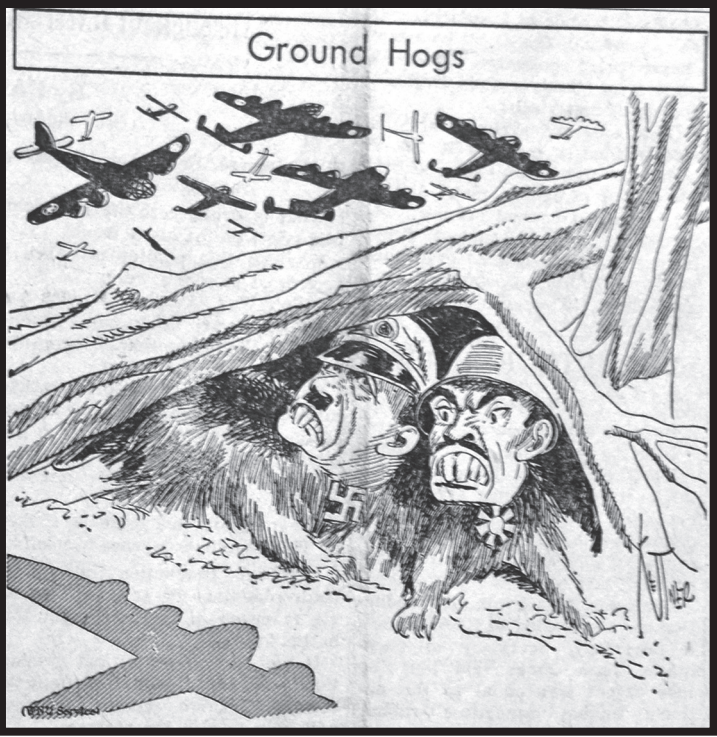
Russell Herring, Wayne Platt, Norman Merrill and Roger Wasson of the Encampment section.

The Board has been instructed to send all men under 26 for examination, but those being sent from ranches will not be considered for re-classification until they return home following their examinations. It is said young farmers are being sent from all parts of the nation to determine how many may be physically qualified for military service.

April 6, 1967
Former Valley Ranch Hand Killed in Vietnam

Word was received here this week that a former valley ranch hand was killed in Vietnam Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. James York were notified that Bennie H. Strait of Bryan, Ohio was killed in a tank explosion while serving with the Army's 4th calvary regiment. Mr Strait, a machine gunner on the tank had been in Vietnam only 10 days.

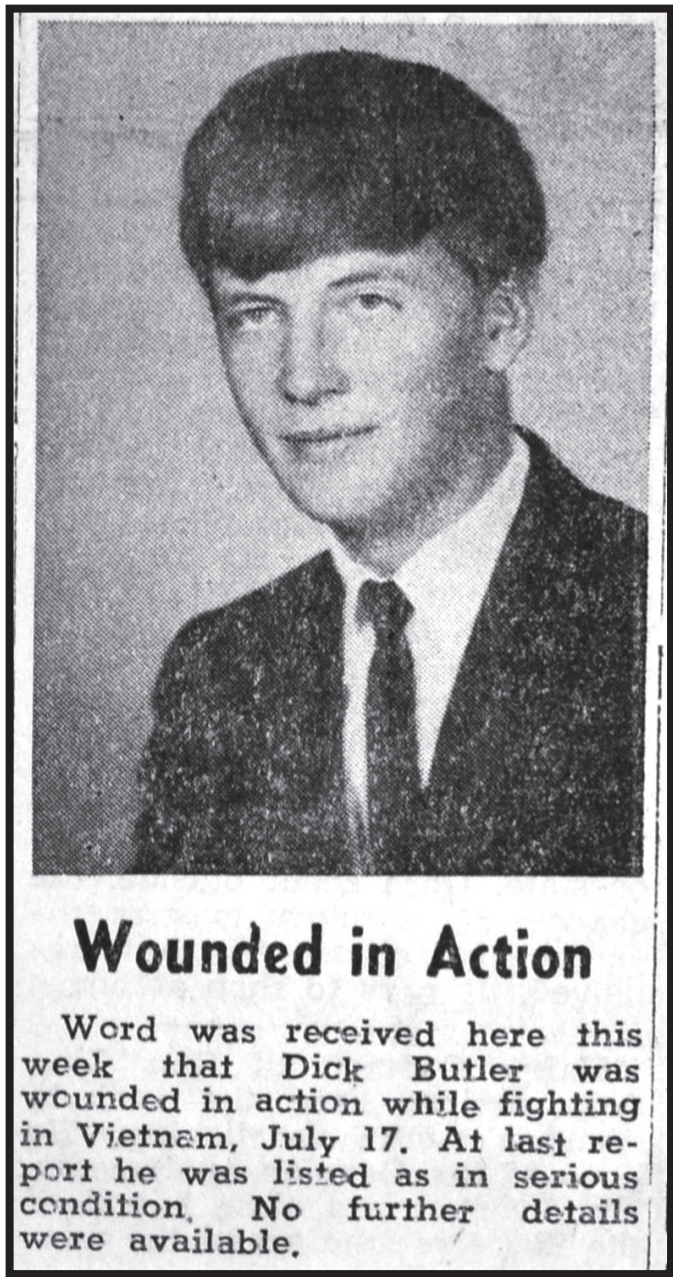
Prior to his induction into the Army, the 20 year old soldier had worked at the Silver Spur Ranch from June 1965 until September 1966. He was a member of the Encampment Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge. Mr. Strait came to this area following his graduation from Bryan High School. He was a nephew of Dr. Bennie G. Erwin, Former local veterinarian. Services are pending awaiting arrival of the body from Vietnam.



Political cartoon published in the January 25, 1945 edition of the Saratoga Sun.



From the July 5, 1917 edition of the Saratoga Sun.



Wounded in Action

Word was received here this week that Dick Butler was wounded in action while fighting in Vietnam, July 17. At last report he was listed as in serious condition. No further details were available.

From the July 25, 1968 edition of the Saratoga Sun.



Veterans, we appreciate your service to our country and thank you for all you do!

RNB State Bank
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Saratoga, WY 82331
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Calling all Veterans and their supporters!

Come enjoy your **FREE SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Sunday, November 13th, 4pm-6pm
St. Ann's Parish Hall
218 W. Spring, Saratoga

We want to thank you for your service to this country.

Hosted by St. Ann's Catholic Youth Group

American Legion Post 54 family would like to extend their thanks to all veterans for their time and sacrifice. We hope you know that we stand for the flag and kneel for the fallen always.

Thank you for our freedom.

American Legion Post 54
403 E Bridge Street
Saratoga, WY 82331
307-326-9600



The Poppy Remembers Veterans

Veterans Day honors our armed services and there are poems which honor these soldiers who have fallen. Two stand out for veteran celebrations: “In Flanders Fields” and “Only a Paper Poppy”. They are often associated with Memorial Day, but they are appropriate for Veterans Day as we remember the sacrifices our armed forces have made over the years. On May 2, 1915, Canadian poet John McCrae’s close friend and former student Alexis Helmer was killed by a German shell in World War I. Composed at the battlefield on May 3, 1915 during the second battle of Ypres, Belgium, this poem became the basis for poppies being the flower symbolically used to honor the war dead.

In Flanders Fields

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead: Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved: and now we lie
In Flanders fields!
Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from failing hands, we throw**

**The torch: be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders field**

American professor Moina Micheal conceived of the Flanders Field Memorial poppy in 1915 to decorate the graves of American soldiers. In 1919 her fame spread to such an extent she was known as the “Poppy Lady”. In 1920 the poppy was made the official memorial flower of the American Legion and the Auxiliary in 1921. In 1924, the Legion started the national poppy program, where paper poppies are made by disabled vets to be sold to honor veterans of wars. The disabled vets are paid for each poppy they make and materials are supplied free of charge. The proceeds from buying these paper poppies have the funds go Veterans Affairs for rehabilitation of vets and to help their families. Symbolism of the Poppy is as such for the American Legion. The red petals stand for the vast outpouring of blood; the green and black center, the mud and desolation of all battlefields. The green of the stem is symbolic of the forests, meadows and fields where generations Americans have perished to make this land free. The stem represents the courage and determination of our fallen warriors. The assembled product, a flower, is a symbol of resurrection which is sure to follow.

There is poem written by an unknown author to make Americans aware of the paper poppy’s importance to vets.

Only a Paper Poppy

**Only some paper petals
With two leaves of paper, too.
Only a paper poppy
Does it mean anything more to you?
The red is for the courage
Of men who fought and bled,
And then came back to spend their days
In the ranks of the living dead.
The green of the leaves reminds me
Of the sunny hillsides over the sea,
Wherever rest the war torn bodies
Of those who died that war might cease to be.
The cup that is formed by the petals
Covers a heart of gold.
It stands for a labor of love
Whose value can never be told.
Only a paper poppy
But it holds the hopes and fears
Of numberless men and their loved ones
As they carry on through the years.
Although the red poppy is associated with Memorial Day, on Veterans Day, it makes sense to also read both poems to honor the vets during this time.**



VETERANS DAY

Honoring those who have served

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2022 Salute to Veterans

From Navy corpsman to CEO of North Platte Valley Medical Center

The military prepares young men to climb the ladder of success

by Virginia Parker

Jeff Mincy grew up in Houston, Texas. Mincy was a junior firefighter while in high school. He decided to join the Navy in 1989 after graduating from high school. After bootcamp in San Diego, California, he went to “A” school at Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego where he was trained as a corpsman. Mincy went on to laboratory technician school in Texas.

Mincy’s first deployment was to Sasebo, Japan where he served with a dozen other corpsmen and 2 doctors. He was trained in a variety of healthcare skills because of the shortage of doctors.

While in Japan, He was able to act like a tourist occasionally. He visited both the Nagasaki and Hiroshima Peach Parks.

Mincy left Japan and went to Pensacola, Florida for Search and Rescue School. Mincy earned a Navy Marine Corps Medal, the highest non-combat decoration awarded for heroism by the US Dept of Navy. He tells the story of how the award came about.

Mincy and a coworker jumped in a boat to rush out to sea to rescue a drowning man. As they skimmed across the water, Mincy asked his coworker if he was going to jump in to rescue the man. His coworker replied, “Geez Doc, I don’t know how to swim”. Mincy’s retort was, “but you’re in the Navy!”

He was obviously the one that went into the water that day and saved a life.

Mincy served eight years active duty and five years in the reserves. When he was discharged he went back to Fort Bend County, Texas and worked for the Emergency Medical Services for the county.

In 2019, Mincy was named president of the Texas Emergency Medical Service Alliance (TEMSA) at EMS Evolution 2019. He had been climbing the ladder in his career, attending various leadership seminars/courses, completing a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in Healthcare Management at Texas Tech Health Science Center. He served as clinic administrator and director of patient experience as well as the safety/emergency management coordinator for the Coryell County Hospital Authority in Gatesville, Texas for several years.

Mincy was named CEO of the Platte Valley Clinic and Saratoga Care Center in 2021 and will continue as CEO for the new North Platte Valley Medical Center.

Mincy lives in Saratoga with his wife, Heather and their beautiful pups.



Photo courtesy Jess Mincy
Jeff Mincy preparing for duty.

God bless our brothers and sisters in arms

Reporter is honored to speak to the veterans

by Virginia Parker

The last few weeks I have had the honor of interviewing military veterans for our special section. It was truly humbling to listen to their stories. These men and women that served the United States of America gave of themselves in a way that many of us can’t understand.

They sacrifice time away from loved ones, special events and holidays to do a job that, in many cases, was not only distasteful, but dangerous.

Veterans Day always falls on November 11. It was originally created to commemorate the end of World War I, in 1918. Throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century we continue to fight the evils that plague our world.

Our military is all-volunteer. Men and women continue to risk their lives as icons of justice and freedom, even as they counter the forces of evil that would do us harm.

Veterans Day is an occasion to honor any and all military veterans who have served or are serving and to thank them for their service.

Now, more than ever, we need this celebration that is distinctly American and unapologetically patriotic. Be encouraged. Patriotism still lives. We are still the international beacon of justice, freedom and hope.

There have been and always will be naysayers—those who see faults of our nation and deny the noble and good.

As a whole, we are blessed to live in a nation where our communities are united and strong where hearts beat powerfully with the love of our country.

As a Navy wife, I hold service members close to my heart. I reach out to shake a hand and thank a service member for their service, it’s always surprising how humble they are and somewhat surprised that someone took a minute to thank them. Most service members will tell you that it was an honor to serve.

A poem by Colonel C.E.Thompson

To you beneath the Crosses
and stones at Arlington,
to you who fell at Iwo
and Salerno and Verdun:
We ask that you
ignore the noise
raised by a fractured few,
and hear the distant heartbeat where
your sons will follow through.

It comes again 11 November
now, and those who walk your land
are here but to remember
and remind you where they stand:
The creed you loved
remains intact.
Your flag shall not come down!
The gift you gave still stirs the brave

and ridicules the clown.

At Schweinfurt and at Midway
and at Inchon and Bastogne
and all the thousand places
where your valor stands alone:
Pray rest you still,
'till those who scorn
the trumpet have withdrawn.

Join Adrienne, Jennifer & Sally at the Pub to relax & dine!

THANK YOU VETERANS!

307 PUB & GRUB
EST. 2022

HWY 70 at the corner of 6th St & MacFarlane Ave, Encampment WY
307-327-5280

Thank you Veterans!

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Ice Cream • Espresso
& Specialties
107 E Bridge Ave, Saratoga

10% off a single dip cone for all Veterans

Happy Veterans Day

CW2 William Peters - Retired ('85-'08)
Thank you for your service and sacrifices.
Love Always, Dad and Ginger

WHITE STONE REALTY COMPANY
SARATOGA, WY
EST'D 2018

“AS WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE,
WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THE HIGHEST APPRECIATION IS NOT TO UTTER WORDS
BUT TO LIVE BY THEM.”

-JOHN F KENNEDY