

Rotary summary for Kurt Krueger 020224

The Headwaters Council for the Performing Arts (HCPA) is bringing Kathy Kaefer to the Northland Pines High School stage on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm, to perform her one-woman show, "Kiss Me Once . . . Stories from the Homefront". She will include songs from the era of the World Wars, and read letters written by service men to their families. Service men and women will be acknowledged during the program. We expect this to be a touching and impactful performance.

To build on her performance, HCPA has pulled together community representatives:

- those with veteran connections (the Veterans Resource Center, the Vilas County Veterans Service Office),
- people who have worked on the Veterans Day Program at the high school (Jackie Coghlan, Sarah Simic),
- people who worked at the V.A. (Gail Nebgen), and
- people with access to resources for veterans (Sara Klemann at the Olson Library, and Donna Murray at The Warehouse),
- and members of the HCPA Board.

We applied for and received a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council. Our project is called the "Veterans and Families' Expressions" to offer veterans ways to express their thoughts and feelings about having served in any service at any time. This builds on the model of the collaborative effort of the Escanaba Museum and the Iron Mountain VA to create an exhibit of veterans' art works, sculptures, writings, memorabilia etc. Eagle River will have display sites for veterans' submissions at

- the Courthouse entry way and hallway to the Veterans Service Office,
- the Olson Library,
- the Warehouse, and
- the Veterans Resource Center.

Submissions have already been received, and the displays are expected to grow during February and March leading up to the show. Some items will be moved to the high school on the day of the show.

The Veterans Service Office has purchased concert tickets to be given free to any veteran who requests them. Funds from the Veterans Resource Center will pay for any class any veteran wants to take at the Warehouse. A veteran singer/songwriter, Bobby Bullet, will conduct **writing workshops at the Warehouse** for those who would like to put their ideas down on paper (six Tuesdays starting Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1-2:30 pm at the Warehouse). The library is making recording equipment available for people who would just like to talk about their experiences or hold a conversation; these will be transcribed for the displays. The Eagle River Historical Society is holding an open house at the Museum on Hwy 45 South on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12-2 pm, open to the public and veterans to view the military collection and also to hear a speaker explain the collection.

Any art object or craft a veteran has created as a means of personal expression will be accepted for the displays. All objects will be photographed and compiled into a video to be shown prior to the Kathy Kaefer show on March 24<sup>th</sup>. A post-concert reception in the high school gathering space is being planned for veterans to meet her and any governmental dignitaries in attendance. The City of Eagle River Mayor's office has agreed to issue a Proclamation for "Veterans and Families' Expressions" Weekend, March 23-24, 2024.

Coincidentally, the Veterans Service Office is also offering free tickets to veterans for the Windigo hockey game to be held that weekend, Sat. March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The "Veterans and Families Expressions" poster is attached with contact names and numbers.

Concert tickets are available at Eagle River Roasters, online at HCPApresent.com or by calling Rick Roder at 920-676-3621.

Submitted by Norma Yaeger, HCPA Board President

715-477-1984

norma888@frontier.com.

Submissions for the Veterans Families & Expressions Project March 2024, As of 3/19/24; revised 3/22/24; revised 3/19 7 pm.; revised 4/5/24

| Name               | Branch of service | Desc of item, purpose, incentive, memory                                 | Date submtd | Place of display |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|-------------|------------------|
| Anon               | Air Force         | Photo collage, Tuzla Air Base Operation                                  | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Unk               | Drawing: "Oppenheimer"   | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Unk               | Emblems, patches, medals, pins (42+)                                     | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Unk               | Match books: Presidential aircraft                                       | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Unk               | Framed print: bomb behind aircraft                                       | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Air Force         | Air Force Associations 50 <sup>th</sup> Ann., directory of members, 1996 | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Unk               | Book: "Forgotten No More, The Korean War Veterans Memorial Story"        | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Unk               | Book: "Korea Reborn, A Grateful Nation"                                  | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Unk               | Family photos (19)   | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Unk               | Dreamcatcher with feathers   | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Unk               | Stitchery: "God Bless America, Land That I Love"                         | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Unk               | Drawing, words re: sexual assault  | 3/24        | Warehouse        |
| Anon               | Son               | Recollection of father's service, newspapers, photos                     | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anon               | Unk               | Wood Sculpture puzzle  | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Anderson, Mary     | Army              | Army reserve uniform, hat/gloves, mess kit, meal ration, canteen         | 1/24        | Courthouse       |
| Buono, Robert P.   | Army              | Essay: "Arrigo Park, When I Was Wounded"                                 | 3/24        | OML              |
| Buono, Robert P.   | Army              | Essay: "Getting Naked on TV (it was a good thing)"                       | 3/24        | OML              |
| Buono, Robert P.   | Army              | Essay: "Murphy's Dream Vision or Warrior's Ring"                         | 3/24        | OML              |
| Buono, Robert P.   | Army              | Essay: "Sin Loi Desidario" re: sculpture (photo)                         | 3/24        | OML              |
| Dreger, Nicole N.  | Air Force         | Service Recognition Plaque   | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Eades, Kevin       | Army              | Two uniforms: green camo, tan camo                                       | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Garcia, Lisa Marie | Air Force         | Painting, collage, re; sexual assault                                    | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| George, Larry      | Army              | Photo, scene in Vietnam, compassion                                      | 3/24        | Warehouse        |
| Kallio, Robert     | Army              | Handmade leather gun holster   | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Kallio, Tiffany    | Army              | Framed collages (2) pills, words   | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Larson, Leonard,   | Army, AF          | Photo album, 1943 submitted by Wendy Harris                              | 3/24        | Courthouse       |

| Name  | Branch of service | Desc of item, purpose, incentive, memory   | Date submtd | Place of display |
|---|-------------------|--|-------------|------------------|
| Mee, Marlon                                   | Air Force         | Framed medals, ribbons, medallions   | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Mee, Marlon                                   | Air Force         | Essay: "A Veteran Reflection" re: a unique brotherhood                                   | 3/24        | OML              |
| Mee, Marlon                                   | Air Force         | Memorial Day Speech, 5/26/2014, photo  | 3/24        | OML              |
| Mee, Marlon                                   | Brother           | Essay: "Through the Eyes of Those Who Were There"  | 3/24        | OML              |
| Mee, Marlon                                   | Brother           | Brass Medallion, Italy, "Aviano", photos, Vietnam Memorial                               | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Mee, Marlon                                   | Brother           | Marable plaque, KIA, May 19, 1969 Ashau Valley,  | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Mee, Marlon                                   | Air Force         | Uniform, blue beret, framed poem   | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Nesbit, Pamela                                | Spouse, daughter  | Photo W.W.II "Can Do", two poems: "Air Land Sea & Sun" and "Brave Fabric"                | 3/24        | Warehouse        |
| Nesbit, Pamela                                | Spouse, daughter  | Photo 113 NCG, Co D, 1944; poem "Transformation"   | 3/24        | Warehouse        |
| Raatz, Jenni                                  | Daughter          | Essay re: dad's service and reactions  | 3/24        | Warehouse        |
| Schuller, Bernard - Army subm by Tom Schuller | Son               | Recollection of and effects of atomic bomb testing in Las Vegas                          | 3/24        | Warehouse        |
| Selcke, George G.                             | Marines           | Short essay: "George G. Selcke, 092746"  | 3/24        | Warehouse        |
| Spurgeon, Dawn                                | Army              | Drawing on the theme of sexual abuse/trauma  | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Spurgeon, Wesley                              | Army              | Handmade cutting boards, trivets   | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Thomas, Brian                                 | Air Force         | Mounted knife: "Operation Enduring Freedom, 1/9-3/11-'07"                                | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Thomas, Brian                                 | Air Force         | Sculpture: Sand, rocks, on painting  | 2/24        | Courthouse       |
| Thomas, Brian                                 | Air Force         | Brass bucket: "In appreciation for your support to USDAO ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, Jan '2007" | 2/24        | Courthouse       |
| Thomas, Lisa                                  | Air Force         | Art work   | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Thomas, Sybella                               | Daughter          | Book covers (5)  | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Wise, T.                                      | Grandson          | Tugboat bell, plaque, emblems  | 3/24        | Courthouse       |
| Yaeger, Norma                                 | Spouse            | Wood crafted objects made by Roger Yaeger  | 2/24        | OML              |
| Yaeger, Norma                                 | Spouse            | Songbooks from the W.W.II era  | 2/24        | OML              |
| Zirbel, Kirk                                  | Air Force         | Essay, Berlin, Germany 3 years   | 3/24        | Warehouse        |

Courthouse - Vilas County Courthouse; OML: Olson Memorial Library; Warehouse: Warehouse Center for the Arts

Share Your Stories  
"Veterans & Families' Expressions"



Headwaters Council for the Performing Arts: [hcapresents.com](http://hcapresents.com)  
funded by a grant to HCTA from W1 Humanities Council

Project Description

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous)

Branch of Service: USAF Time of service: 20

Location worldwide

Description of item submitted:

F-16 framed photo

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

Aircraft 750 has a very meaningful maintenance story to this veteran. A lot of great lessons learned and ~~comradery~~ ~~comradery~~ camaraderie grew immensely from the crew working on the jet engine.

Permission to use your name sure

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: sure

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received: 21 Feb 24

Item displayed at:

Item returned: @ADRC, Vilas County

Share Your Stories  
"Veterans & Families' Expressions"

Project Description

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous) Kevin Eades

Branch of Service: Army Time of service:

Location Iraq, Afghanistan

Description of item submitted:

Uniforms



WE SALUTE OUR  
**VETERANS**  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Headwaters Council for the Performing Arts: [hcapresents.com](http://hcapresents.com)  
funded by a grant to HCAPA from WFF (www.wff.com)

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

Participation

Permission to use your name \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: \_\_\_\_\_

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:

Share Your Stories  
"Veterans & Families' Expressions"

Project Description

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous)

Branch of Service: USAF Time of service: Oct 82  
to Apr. 187

Location Aviano, Italy

Description of item submitted:

Last letter written to me by my brother.

Last Known Picture of my brother

Tribute to my brother

The Wall reflection Touching my brother's name

Randy Mee / Marlon Mee Frame

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

I was 12 years old when my brother was killed in Vietnam. His memory will never be forgotten. People especially younger people need to know the sacrifices members of the military and their families make. Sharing and telling stories keeps memories alive. We need to keep our past present not only today but in the future too.

Permission to use your name Marlon Mee you may use

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: Marlon Mee

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

my name?  
display my items

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:



Headwaters Council for the Performing Arts: hcpapresents.com  
funded by a grant to HCTA from W7 Humanities Council

*Project Description*

*Name:* Dawn Spurgeon

*Branch of Service:* US Army *Time in Service:* 1994-2001

*Location:* Camp Red Cloud, South Korea, Fort Campbell, KY

*Description of Item Submitted:*

Drawing

*Discuss your incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, and impact:*

Awareness

**1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse.**

**1 in 3 women and 1 in 50 men experience sexual trauma while on active duty.**

**1 in 4 women Veterans experience sexual trauma while on VA grounds. 88% said they had been harassed by male Veterans and 24% by male VA staff or volunteers.**

Looks like I hit the jackpot. It's downright unfair if you ask me. This dirty secret that lies within families, in the military, and at the VA has crushed me. I have a basket full of mental health diagnosis that includes PTSD, depression, and suicidal ideation, to name a few. I am still here.

This idea that we need to "sweep it under the rug" and keep sexual trauma quiet is complete bullshit. We are not protecting the victim, only the perpetrators. Let's call them for what they are, pedophiles and rapists. They live among us, and things will only change if people speak up and hold perpetrators accountable. Speak your truth. Stop letting everyone tell you to be quiet.

That is what this piece is about. I am tired of being hurt. I am tired of being quiet and letting people get away with hurting the vulnerable in society.

I like to draw around my thoughts, poems, quotes, and other things that move me. Sometimes, it's anger or humor, but it always has some meaning to me and helps to get it out on paper.

**This piece is for you, and I want you to know that I hear you. I support you, and I encourage you to ask for help. Keep asking until someone listens.**

*Permission to use your name:* Yes

*Permissions to photograph and or transcribe submission:* Yes

*Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION:*

*Date and item received:*

*Item displayed at:*

*Item returned:*

Share Your Stories  
"Veterans & Families' Expressions"



Manufacturers Council for the Performing Arts - [mcpa.org](http://mcpa.org)  
Sponsored by a grant to SLPA from the MPA Manufacturers Council

Share Your Stories  
"Veterans & Families' Expressions"

Project Description

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous) Brian Thomas

Branch of Service: Air Force Time of service: 1995-2015

Location All over

Description of item submitted:

Rock/sand art



WE SALUTE OUR  
**VETERANS**  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Headwaters Council for the Performing Arts: [hcapresents.com](http://hcapresents.com)  
funded by a grant to HCAPA from W11 Humanities Council

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

Creative outlet

Permission to use your name Y

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: Y

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:



Share Your Stories  
"Veterans & Families' Expressions"

Project Description

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous) Lisa Thomas

Branch of Service: Air Force Time of service:

Location All over

Description of item submitted:

Created a picture to describe service



WE SALUTE OUR  
**VETERANS**  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Headwaters Council for the Performing Arts: [hcapresents.com](http://hcapresents.com)  
funded by a grant to HCTA from WI Humanities Council

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

Creative outlet

Permission to use your name \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: \_\_\_\_\_

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:

Share Your Stories  
"Veterans & Families' Expressions"



WE SALUTE OUR  
**VETERANS**  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Headwaters Council for the Performing Arts: [hcapresents.com](http://hcapresents.com)  
funded by a grant to HCAPA from W7 Humanities Council

Project Description

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous) Sybella Thomas

Branch of Service: Parents were Air Force Time of service:

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description of item submitted:

Disney Crafts

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

Fun.

Permission to use your name \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: \_\_\_\_\_

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:

Share Your Stories  
"Veterans & Families' Expressions"

Project Description

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous) T. WISE

Branch of Service: NAVY Time of service: 2003-2023

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description of item submitted:

BELL AND BELL STAND



Headwaters Council for the Performing Arts: hcpapresents.com  
funded by a grant to H.C.P.A. from W71 Hamanchar (Council)

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

1950's US NAVY BELL PULLED FROM TUG-BOAT @ GLENN AIR FORCE  
BASE AND PASSED DOWN TO SERVICE MEMBER FOR HIS RET.  
CEREMONY AND RANG ~~BE~~ BELL AT HIS FINAL DEPARTURE.

Permission to use your name YES \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: YES \_\_\_\_\_

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received: 3/7/24

Item displayed at: COURTHOUSE

Item returned: 3/22/24

**AIR, LAND, SEA, AND SUN**

Human tracks in the snow

Tracks in the sand

Tracks in the mud and mountains

Ghost winds caress, erase

Water's waves dissolve

War's memories

Pamela Nesbit      March, 2024



**BRAVE FABRIC**

Invisible memory thread's weave

Awaken rhythms

Of loving connections

Demilitarize stories

Pamela Nesbit      March, 2024

Project Description "CAN DO" World War 2

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous)

113 Branch United States

Branch of Service: Navy CB's Time of service: 1943-45 Location Philippines and New Guinea

Description of item submitted:

photo of CB Battalion

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

poetry & photos: weaving memories & waves

• demilitarize stories

• dissolve war's memories

• practice kindness & respect

CB's of The Navy "CAN DO!" transformation

Permission to use your name Pamela Nesbit daughter of Chester Mason Nesbit

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: pn

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:



113 M.C.D. Co. D. 811.2 Fort Horneme Calif, Feb 1944

Project Description 'CAN DO' World War 2 Asian Theatre

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous)

Branch of Service: Navy CB Time of service: 1943-1945 Location Philippines &

Description of item submitted:

113 U.C.B. Co D PT. 2 Port Hoeneme  
(Feb 1944) CALIFORNIA

Discuss your incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

'Sea Bees' of the Navy - "CAN DO!"

"Transformation"

Burn fire  
Rise smoke  
Renew creation's story  
Prayerful intentions

Permission to use your name Pamela Nesbit daughter of Chester M. Nesbit

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: pn

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:

# Transformation

a haiku

Burn fire

Rise smoke

Renew creation's story

Prayerful Intention

Jamela Nesbit

March 12, 2024

daughter of

Chester M. Nesbit



I joined the U.S. Air Force in January of 1975. It was a few years after the Vietnam war was over and our service people who served there were all home. It was not a popular time to be in service. I came home for a weekend leave and went to dinner with my parents, proudly wearing my uniform, and heard someone at the table next to me say "he's one of those baby killers." Not a pretty time to be in service. That's what the Vietnam vets had to put up with when they came home. They got no "thank you for your service." They really are the ones who deserve the thanks.

When you see a Vietnam veteran, please say thank you. They didn't hear that when they came home.

The Air Force did see fit to send me to Berlin, Germany for 3 years, 10 months and 23 days though. And it was great. This was at the height of the Cold War with Soviet Union and the eastern bloc countries. There were more spies in Berlin than anywhere else in the world. And I was a "spy". I worked in an intelligence collection site that reported to NSA, Air Force HQ Europe as well as Nato HQ. It was a great job in a great place.

I vividly remember going to see the Berlin Wall for the first time. Concrete wall 10 or more feet tall. Jagged glass cemented into the top. A totally flat, unobstructed "no man's" land for 20 or more yards, rows of razor wire and land mines for another 10 yards, deep ditches to prevent vehicles from crossing as well as metal anti-tank structures. Finally, every 100 yards or so, a manned guard tower with machine guns to "keep us capitalist pigs out". This was the "Iron Curtain" as called by Winston Churchill.

The guards took pictures of everybody who went up on this platform to overlook the wall just in case you were in some way assisting in an escape attempt. East Berlin, as well as the Eastern bloc countries, were under total domination by the communist Soviet government.

Then there were the memorial crosses for every freedom loving person who had been killed trying to flee this oppression who was shot down at this section of the wall. Men, women, teenagers as well as elderly who wanted their God given freedom. I stood on that platform, as a 19 year old soldier, and I could just feel the absolute hatred of this communist system for our freedoms and our way of life. And the tears of grief freely flowed down my cheeks. What an absolutely horrible feeling. Down to the core of my being.

Now, 49 years later, I still remember why I chose to wear the uniform and proudly serve. I pray we never allow our government to take away the freedoms on which this country was founded. We shed the blood of too many of our youth to forfeit these precious God given freedoms.

Krik Zirbel / 6912th Security Squadron / 3 years, 10 months and 23 days (1975-1979) / Tempelhof Air Force Base, Berlin, Germany

Project Description

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous)

Branch of Service: US Air Force Time of service: 3 yrs, 10 mos Location Germany  
23 days.

Description of item submitted:

Letter about Kirk's service.

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

Permission to use your name Kirk Zirbel, Sgt

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: yes

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:

6912TH SECURITY SQUADRON  
TEMPLEHOF AIR FORCE BASE  
BERLIN, GERMANY  
1975-1979

## Dad

He went in at 18. He volunteered, he wasn't drafted. He went army, like his father had in WWII. He was a door gunner. A bad ass. A Zippo on display that says "Killing is my business and lately business has been damn good" with tick marks etched into the lighter.

The stories have been few, but the ones he's told have been unfathomable. His time there may be a mystery, but things that I do know are:

1. NEVER shake him awake when he's sleeping.
2. He will ALWAYS sit in the corner at the restaurant so he is able to see all points of entry.
3. In all our favorite tv cop shows, when someone was caught in a fire, he would walk out of the room.
4. There is an anger and a hurt that still lingers with the treatment he received upon his return.

This is my dad. He proudly wears a "Vietnam Veteran" shirt or hat everyday. He will, with his cane in hand and painful steps, walk across a parking lot or store to give a "welcome home brother" to others donning the same gear.

While I will never know what he endured and survived, I do know that his time in Vietnam is forever in his memory, his heart and his soul.

Project Description

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous) Jenni Raatz

Branch of Service: Army Time of service: 10/67-10/70 Location Vietnam

Description of item submitted:

A written piece about my dad.

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

To put in words the way his time  
in Vietnam affected him.

Permission to use your name yes

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: yes

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:

Although this picture depicts a common scene in Vietnam, on this particular day, it caught my eye because the beasts of burden are oxen versus the usual Water Buffalo. When we made eye contact, I felt compassion for his life being made worse by our army being here and imagined his thoughts being why have you come to my country to kill my friends and make whores out of my daughters and maybe a widow out of my wife.

Larry George / Army / 1966-1968 / Tay Ninh, Vietnam

Project Description

LARRY GEORGE

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous)

Branch of Service: ARMY Time of service: (1/66-1/68) Location TAY NINH

Description of item submitted:

(VIETNAM)

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

ALTHOUGH THIS PICTURE DEPICTS A COMMON SCENE IN VIETNAM, ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY, IT CAUGHT MY EYE BECAUSE THE BEASTS OF BURDEN ARE OXEN VERSUS THE USUAL WATER BUFFALO. WHEN WE MADE EYE CONTACT, I FELT COMPASSION FOR HIS LIFE BEING MADE WORSE BY OUR ARMY BEING HERE AND I MAGINED HIS THOUGHTS BEING WHY HAVE YOU COME TO MY COUNTRY TO KILL MY FRIENDS AND MAKE WHORES OUT OF MY DAUGHTERS AND MAYBE A WIDOW OUT OF MY WIFE.

Permission to use your name YES

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: OK

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:

6 50434 54515 0

WOODSTOCK  
2.5" x 8"

**IN 1969... THIS IS THE ONLY**



**“WOODSTOCK” I REMEMBER**

23232

PEEL & STICK

Peel Here 

Project Description Exercise Desert Rock V

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous) Bernard Schuller, father of Tom Schuller

Branch of Service: ARMY Time of service: 1951-1953 Location Camp Polk, Louisiana

Description of item submitted: story Bernard wrote down after being ordered to participate in an atomic bomb test in the desert 60 miles north of

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact: Las Vegas, Nevada on April 25, 1953.

This is a story that people need to hear about testing done to determine the effects of an atomic bomb explosion on personnel and military equipment in the desert of Nevada in 1953.

My father in law developed cancer as a result of his exposure to this atomic explosion and passed away in 2002. Many of the personnel exposed during this exercise suffered the same fate.

Permission to use your name Nancy and Tom Schuller

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: yes

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:



1993

*That's quite a while*

FORTY YEARS AGO ~~ON~~ APRIL 25, 1953, AN EXPLOSION LIKE THIS TOOK PLACE

IN THE DESERT SOME 60 MILES NORTH OF LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

THIS TEST WAS CALLED "EXERCISE DESERT ROCK V" WHICH WAS ONE OF A

SERIES OF TESTS CONDUCTED AFTER THE FIRST USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY IN

WARFARE IN AUGUST OF 1945.

TESTING WAS DONE TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTS OF AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION UPON

MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL.

I WAS ONE OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL TO TAKE PART IN THE EXPERIMENT.

(READ MOVEMENT ORDER NUMBER 4-1

13 APRIL 1953)

AFTER INSTRUCTION AT FORT BLISS, MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE MOVED TO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA,  
BY TROOP TRAIN AND <sup>FROM THERE</sup> TO CAMP DESERT ROCK BY BUS.

SEVERAL "DRY RUN" EXERCISES WERE HELD AT THE SITE FOR TWO DAYS BEFORE THE TEST.

IN THE VERY EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 25 APR 53 OUR DETACHMENT MARCHED IN FORMATION TO  
THE SITE OF THE DETONATION. IT WAS VERY COLD, AND SOME PERSONNEL AFTER REACHING THE  
SITE WHILE WAITING FOR FURTHER ORDERS GATHERED SOME TUMBLEWEEDS AND LIT A BON-FIRE TO  
WARM UP. A LOUD-SPEAKER IN THE VICINITY IMMEDIATELY CAME ON AND WARNED, "FIRES IN  
THIS AREA ARE NOT A GOOD IDEA. SITTING ATOP A 200-FOOT TOWER LESS THAN A MILE AWAY  
IS AN ATOMIC DEVICE. YOU WILL HAVE PLENTY OF HEAT IN A FEW MINUTES!"

ABOUT THIS TIME AS A MATTER OF COMPARISON A 50,000 POUND TNT BOMB WAS EXPLODED AT  
ABOUT A ONE-MILE DISTANCE. THE SOUND COULD BE HEARD, AND A RED FLASH WAS SEEN ON THE  
HORIZON.

NOW THE TIME HAD COME. WE WERE DISPERSED AND ENTRENCHED AT 1500 YARDS <sup>about 9 of a mile</sup> (.85 MILES)  
FROM GROUND ZERO IN A DITCH <sup>about 2</sup> FEET WIDE AND 5 FEET DEEP. MILITARY VEHICLES -- TANKS,  
JEEPS, TRUCKS -- HAD BEEN PLACED AT STRATEGIC POSITIONS TO TEST EFFECTS. MILITARY  
UNIFORM MATERIAL WAS ALSO IN POSITION FOR TESTING. A DRONE PLANE WAS READY TO FLY  
THROUGH THE GROUND ZERO AREA AT THE TIME OF DETONATION.

AND NOW FOR MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE:

I WAS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE TRENCH ON MY HANDS AND KNEES WITH MY RIFLE IN MY RIGHT HAND (REMEMBER ORDERS "CLASS B W/ARMS AND GARRISON CAP." THIS WAS THE W/ARMS PART.) TEN, NINE, EIGHT, SEVEN, SIX, FIVE, FOUR, THREE, TWO, ONE, DETONATION!

LIGHT COMES FIRST. MY EYES WERE AS TIGHTLY CLOSED AS I HAVE EVER HAD THEM WITH MY HEAD AS CLOSE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE TRENCH AS I COULD GET IT, AND THROUGH IT ALL I <sup>STILL</sup> SAW A VERY BRIGHT RED FLASH. *unprotected this would be a light that would permanently damage eyesight.*

I DID NOT FEEL ANY HEAT BECAUSE I WAS PROTECTED BY THE WALLS OF THE TRENCH; BUT, AS AN EXAMPLE, THE HEAT FROM THE BLAST SET CACTUS PLANTS ON FIRE AT A DISTANCE OF TWELVE MILES. I SAW ONE BURNING. *you can see a long way in the flat desert of Nevada.*

SOUND IS THIRD. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY GET ALL THAT CRACKLING AND CRUMPLING ON TV EXPLOSIONS. FIRE AND SMOKE DON'T MAKE ANY NOISE, AND AFTER AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION, THERE ISN'T ANY RESIDUE TO MAKE ANY NOISE. *Everything is melted.* CA-WHOOMP! THAT'S THE NOISE.

NEXT COMES THE SHOCK WAVE AND EARTH QUAKE. I HESITATE TO SAY WHAT THIS SHOCK WAVE COULD KNOCK DOWN. THE SHOCK WAVE PICKED UP ROCKS AND DUST FROM THE DESERT FLOOR AND DUMPED THEM RIGHT IN ON TOP OF ME. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES AND HAD DIRT PILED AROUND YOU UP TO YOUR ELBOWS? AND AT THE SAME TIME, HAVE YOU FELT AND SEEN THE EARTH MOVE TWO OR THREE FEET FROM SIDE TO SIDE WHILE ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES IN A TRENCH FIVE FEET DEEP? IT'S QUITE A FEELING.

AS SOON AS THE SHOCK WAVE PASSED (ALL OF THIS TOOK A SECOND OR TWO.) WE STOOD UP IN THE TRENCH AND LOOKED. THERE WAS STILL A LITTLE FIRE IN THE CLOUD, AND <sup>then</sup> THE EDGE ~~WAS~~ *Moved* JUST ABOUT OVERHEAD, WHICH MEANT THE DIAMETER OF THE CLOUD WAS ABOUT TWO MILES. *with*

WE THEN IMMEDIATELY WERE ORDERED OUT OF THE TRENCH TO PROCEED TO GROUND ZERO. (RIFLES IN HAND AS IF THERE WERE SOMETHING THERE TO CONQUER -- I COULDN'T GET THE *(I guess we were to claim the territory)* BOLT OPEN ON MY RIFLE BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN UNDER A FOOT OF DIRT. --)

WE PROCEEDED TOWARD GROUND ZERO (MAYBE NOW I SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT GROUND ZERO MEANS THE POINT OF DETONATION) WITH GEIGER COUNTER AT THE HEAD OF THE TROOP.

YOU ARE AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT A GEIGER COUNTER MEASURES RADIATION. WE MOVED TO WITHIN ABOUT A HALF MILE OF GROUND ZERO BEFORE STOPPING. WHAT ABOUT RADIATION? IF A PERSON IS SUFFICIENTLY PROTECTED, THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF RADIATION ARE REDUCED. WE WERE PROTECTED IN THE TRENCH FROM INITIAL RADIATION (TO A CERTAIN DEGREE) AS WE WERE PROTECTED FROM LIGHT, HEAT, AND SHOCK WAVE. I WAS IN THE RADIATION ZONE OF AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION WITHIN A HALF MILE OF GROUND ZERO <sup>ON THIS OCCASION</sup> FIVE MINUTES AFTER DETONATION, <sup>APPROXIMATELY</sup> FORTY YEARS <sup>THAT WAS</sup> AGO, AND I'M STILL HERE. <sup>IT MAY SOUND AS IF I'M SAYING RADIATION IS NOT DANGEROUS,</sup> <sup>CAUSING AFTER EFFECTS YEARS AFTER EXPOSURE,</sup> <sup>IT IS, IN FACT RADIATION CAN BE THE MOST DAMAGING</sup> YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING NOW ABOUT THE DRONE PLANE AND ARMY VEHICLES. NO TRACE WAS FOUND OF THE DRONE, AND NEEDLESS TO SAY, VEHICLES WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED AND MILITARY UNIFORM MATERIAL BURNED. THE STEEL TOWER WAS COMPLETELY MELTED AND NOTHING BUT A BLACK SPOT <sup>ABOUT A 1/4 MILE IN DIAMETER</sup> REMAINED ON THE DESERT FLOOR.

THE BOMBS AT HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI WERE EXPLODED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 2,000 FEET -- THE ONE I EXPERIENCED AT 200 FEET. KNOWLEDGE OF GEOMETRY WILL TELL YOU THAT THE TRENCH I WAS IN WOULD NOT HAVE PROTECTED ME IF THE EXPLOSION HAD TAKEN PLACE AT 2,000 FEET. THE HEAT, SHOCK, AND INITIAL RADIATION, ALONG WITH MORE BLINDING LIGHT, WOULD HAVE ENTERED THE TRENCH FROM ABOVE.

DESTRUCTIVE FORCES -- LIGHT -- HEAT -- SHOCK -- RADIATION

THESE THINGS COMBINED CAUSE MASSIVE DESTRUCTION. I THINK WORLD LEADERS TODAY REMEMBER THE EFFECTS OF THE FIRST USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY IN WARFARE IN 1945. THIS BROUGHT AN ABRUPT END TO WORLD WAR II. ONLY BECAUSE THERE WAS NO MEANS OF RETALIATION. TODAY THERE CAN BE RETALIATION, AND THERE CAN BE NO WINNER. WORLD LEADERS NEED TO REALIZE THIS.

BY TODAY'S STANDARDS IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, THE EXPLOSION I WITNESSED IN 1953 WAS NOT PARTICULARLY POWERFUL. DOUBLE, TRIPLE, OR QUADRUPLE THAT POWER. AND I CAN'T IMAGINE THE DESTRUCTION -- OR MAYBE I CAN.

YOU KNOW, IF THE ENERGY EXPENDED IN THAT 1953 EXPLOSION WERE TO BE USED TO PRODUCE ELECTRICAL ENERGY, POWER COULD BE FURNISHED TO A CITY SUCH AS HOLDREGE FOR A LONG, LONG, TIME.

FROM THE LIGHT-HEAT-SHOCK WAVE, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT RADIATION

IF NUCLEAR ENERGY IS USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, WE WILL PROSPER. IF NUCLEAR ENERGY  
IS EVER AGAIN USED IN WAR; <sup>you may</sup> DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSION. THERE'S NO TRENCH  
DEEP ENOUGH.

---

Project Description

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous)

Branch of Service: U.S. ARMY Time of service: MAY, 1942 THROUGH NOVEMBER, 1945 Location EUROPE

Description of item submitted:

2 8 1/2 x 11 DISPLAYS (MORLAIX, FRANCE & GARDELEGEN, GERMANY)

2 STEVENS POINT NEWSPAPERS

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

My dad, George Roder, served in the U. S. Army from May, 1942 through November, 1945. He was assigned to an Ordnance Unit and achieved the rank of Sergeant. He entered onto the beaches of Normandy in August, 1944 and over the next 15 months traveled a path across Europe, ending up near Hanover, Germany. Like many from "The Greatest Generation" he did what was required of him and helped to get the job done. I never heard him complain or beat his chest about his service, although he would talk about it when someone wanted to listen.

As I look at the pictures he sent back to my mother during the war, it causes me to reflect on some of the horrible things he must have experienced in WW II, and to appreciate the freedom and life we are able to live because of the efforts of the men and women who struggled through that timeframe.

Permission to use your name \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: \_\_\_\_\_

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received:

Item displayed at:

Item returned:

RICK RODER  
(920)676-3621  
rroder6491@901.com  
Please do not use names.

Wendy Harris

608-698-6804

Share Your Stories  
"Veterans & Families' Expressions"



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**VETERANS**  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Headwaters Council for the Performing Arts: [hcapresents.com](http://hcapresents.com)  
funded by a grant to HCAP from WI Humanities Council

Project Description

Name (or assign a number to be anonymous)

Branch of Service: Army & Air force Time of service:

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description of item submitted:

*Service album*  
*Air force association book*

Discuss your Incentive, purpose, memory, meaning, impact:

*Memories from my Uncle Leonard Larson*

Permission to use your name Wendy Harris

Permission to photograph and/or transcribe your submission: \_\_\_\_\_

Request NOT TO USE IDENTIFICATION \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Item received: 3/5/24

Item displayed at:

Item returned: