

The Bulletin

L'Editeur, Renslar "Renny" Keagle, rennykeagle@gmail.com

President, P.A.L.S., Robert Cearlock, cearlock@aol.com



THE PRESS ASSOCIATION OF LA SOCIETE

MAIL P.A.L.S. DUES TO:

Renslar R. Keagle

8714 Marble Dr., El Paso, TX 79904-1710

Ph: (915) 346-6099 rennykeagle@gmail.com

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Vol. 38 No. 10 **Supporting and Encouraging La Societe Public Relations for 38 Years** June 2023



An obvious theme this month with Flag Day around the corner. Flags for First Graders may be coming to a pause because summer and school breaks are coming up.

We touched base on FFFGs a long while back but it doesn't hurt to revisit the program with perhaps some fresh ideas. My locale this year added the original first congressionally approved 13 star and stripe flag—the star has six points. We added a "show and tell" flag that needed to be retired—worn and faded. We also added a POW/MIA flag out of respect and to count the hours and miles.

And of course FFFGs is an excellent public relations program easily drawing media attention. Don't forget a press release!

So enjoy your Flag Day and if you are doing FFFGs remember to invite your community partners, invite the PTA and school staff... Don't forget Memorial Day and the Calvin Kain ceremony! Blessing to all! - L'Editeur

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**"Once you carry your own water,
you will learn the value of every drop."**

P.A.L.S. since 1984—Past L'Editeurs

George Hartley

Don Collins

Paul Chevalier



NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE—2023

Directeur—Renslar "Renny" Keagle, rennykeagle@gmail.com, 915.346.6099

Area 1—Renslar R. Keagle

Sous/Directeur Area 2—Terry Stanberry, terrync57@gmail.com 919.520.3861

Sous/Directeur Area 3—Andrea Miller, xaylan@msn.com

Sous/Directeur Area 4—Bradley Heck, bheck@ionet.net 480.987.4210

Advisor—Mark Moots, moots@charter.net 256.582.5782





5 ways you're sabotaging your own writing...

1. You don't have a clear goal.—Good writing starts with good thinking. And in most cases, that means understanding why you're writing. If you don't have a firm understanding of the purpose behind whatever piece of content you're creating, you're most likely going to end up with writing that's aimless, disconnected from an audience and overall meh.

- If you're struggling to define your goals, ask yourself these questions:
- Who is this for?
- How will they receive this information? (Email, social media, after a Google search?)
- What do I want that person to know/think/do after they read this?

2. You overthink it.—When it's just you and a blank document, it's so easy to get into your head — to doubt yourself, to doubt your goals, to just feel paralyzed by that blinking cursor that demands so much from you.

Maybe you over-research, going over the materials you need to write the piece until everything blurs together into a soft fuzz. Maybe you procrastinate on social media or by doing literally anything else, including organizing your emails from 2019.

We've all been there. You're not alone in those feelings. But reassure yourself that there's a reason you have your job. Whatever the challenge is, you can face it. The most important thing is to start writing. Get out of your head and put words to the page. Only once you have something on the page can you make those words not suck.

3. You don't have a style guide.—This might sound like an oddly nitpicky thing that can sabotage you. Is a style guide really that important? Yes and no. On an organizational level, it's important for consistency. But on a personal level, it eliminates some of the grammatical uncertainty you can face when writing.

Oxford comma or no Oxford comma? Do compound modifiers need hyphens? Do any words need unusual capitalization? When you try to address these questions one by one, they can chip away at your mental energy. Each one is a tiny road bump between you and smooth writing that's more focused on messaging than form.

If your organization doesn't have its own in-house style guide, or a preferred guide that they use (ahem, AP style), pick one, if only for your own sanity. Consult it for those questions rather than using your precious brain space to make those individual decisions. *L'Editeur—I highly recommend AP Style—check out the AP Stylebook*

4. You don't give yourself enough time to let it sit.— You need some distance from a piece to be able to accurately see if it's meeting your goals. You need to emotionally disengage from your writing so you can begin making it better, sharper, tighter.

Whether you have another person editing or you're going it solo, always try to build in some time to let a piece simmer before you go over it again. This could take as long as a week or as little as the time it takes you to go make a cup of tea. The more the better, but this pause is vital to re-set your brain and allow you to move forward with improvements.

5. You aren't doing post-evaluation.—You've finally got the piece finished, edited, approved and sent out into the world. Now you never have to think about it again! Nope. Take this outlook and you're setting future you up to make the same mistakes all over again. Remember when you set those goals at the beginning? Now it's time to evaluate how well you achieved them. Sometimes this might be simple.

How many bites did you get off the press release or pitch? How many click-throughs on your email? Did this really speak to my intended audience? These are quantitative metrics that can give us instant feedback on our success or room for improvement. •

2022—2023 Public relations Awards

Thomas W. Fay Award - Chef de Chemin de Fer - 1978

Awarded to the Voiture Locale presenting the best publication for the fiscal year.

Award John Kilgus - Chef de Chemin de Fer - 1977

Awarded to the Grande Voiture presenting the best publication for the fiscal year

Arthur McDowell Award

Awarded to the Grande Voiture presenting the best publications without advertising for the fiscal year. Award and Honorable Mention

John W. Emerson Award

Awarded to the Voiture Locale presenting the best publication without advertising for the fiscal year. Award and Honorable Mention

La Verne Eccleston Award

Awarded to the Voiture Locale for excellence in promoting 40/8 Programs and fostering effective communication with the community during the year. Award and Honorable Mention

Robert Kaseman Award

Presented to the Grande Voiture for excellence in promoting 40/8 programs and fostering effective communication within the community during the year. Award and Honorable Mention

Don Collins Award

Presented to the Voiture Locale that submits the best entry showing utilization of the public media (TV, Radio, Newspapers, etc.) to promote the activities of the 40 & 8. Award and Honorable Mention

Directeurs L'Editeur Award

Presented to the L'Editeur of a Grand, Locale or Nationale publication exhibiting the best combination of News, Humor, Creativity, and articles promoting the Programs and Traditions of La Société.

Renslar "Renny" Keagle

Directeur of Public Relations Nationale

rennykeagle@gmail.com 915-346-6099

Note: The above awards will be presented from the floor of Promenade Nationale this September. To be eligible, copies of newsletters have to be sent to myself, P.A.L.S. President Bob Cearlock or your area Sous. Those who have been routinely sending material and their newsletters please continue to do so. Deadline July 1st. Next year, upon approval by the Public Relations Committee, the Don Collins Award will be changed to include best utilization of social media.

Special Observances—June 2023

PTSD Awareness Month

June 11—17—National Flag Week

June 6, 2023 – Anniversary of the World War II Allied invasion in Normandy, France, now known as D-Day.

June 11, 2023—Bunker Hill Day - (State of Massachusetts)

June 12, 2023—Woman’s Veterans Day—Commemoration of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act. “Signed on June 12, 1948, the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act legally permitted women to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces in a number of official capacities.



June 14, 2023 – Flag Day – A day to celebrate the adoption of the U.S. flag. “In 1893, the Society of Colonial Dames succeeded in getting a resolution passed to have the flag displayed on all of the city’s public buildings. Elizabeth Duane Gillespie, a direct descendant of Benjamin Franklin and the president of the Colonial Dames of Pennsylvania, that same year tried to get the city to call June 14 Flag Day. Resolutions by women were not granted much notice, however, and it was not until May 7, 1937, that Pennsylvania became the first state to establish the June 14 Flag Day as a legal holiday. Flag Day is a nationwide observance today, but Pennsylvania is the only state that recognizes it as a legal holiday.”

June 14, 2023—National Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance— there’s a companion day that goes along with Flag Day that you may not have heard of: Pause for the Pledge Day. This addition to the traditional observation of Flag Day began in 1980 at the Star Spangled Banner Flag House and Museum (Baltimore, Maryland). Baltimore businessman Louis V. Koerber came up with the idea, and he was joined by a group of fellow businessmen for the first Pause for the Pledge Day. That first one was small but, promoted by The National Flag Day Foundation (with Mr. Koerber as president), the movement grew quickly. It soon became a national celebration, with events in communities large and small across the country.

June 14, 2023 – Army Birthday—248th birthday!

June 18, 2023—Father’s Day

June 19, 2023—Juneteenth—Juneteenth (a blending of the words June and nineteenth), also known as Freedom Day, is an American holiday and is the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in the United States.

June 23, 2023 – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

June 25, 2023—Marks the 73rd Anniversary of the Start of the Korean War.

After five years of simmering tensions on the Korean peninsula, the Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when the Northern Korean People’s Army invaded South Korea in a coordinated general attack at several strategic points along the 38th parallel, the line dividing communist North Korea from the non-communist Republic of Korea in the south. North Korea aimed to militarily conquer South Korea and therefore unify Korea under the communist North Korean regime. Concerned that the Soviet Union and Communist China might have encouraged this invasion, President Harry S. Truman committed United States air, ground, and naval forces to the combined United Nations forces assisting the Republic of Korea in its defense. President Truman designated General Douglas MacArthur as Commanding General of the United Nations Command (UNC).

June 25, 2023— Marks the 75th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, an allied humanitarian aid response to the Soviet Union’s land and sea blockade of West Germany at the end of WWII, and which led to the organization of NATO.

June 27, 2023 – National PTSD Awareness Day – A day to bring awareness about issues related to PTSD.



PR Editorial — “Remember the Value of One”

Last month we talked about the importance of “one day more” or “one more day”. This month we take a look at the value of one. Especially now as we enter the time of elections and leadership.

It’s been a long year—a little way to go yet—and at this time it is easy to lose our motivation and the vision we may have had at the beginning of the year. So it may be self-doubt or giving up on those around us. Not uncommon in leadership to have these feelings. Not making goal, failure in some programs, the feeling of being let down by others or us letting others down. Taking things personally. Seems to me I’ve heard it described as being “burned out”.



In our bid to be everything to everyone, we often neglect our own needs and desires and perhaps even health.

Remember the value of one. Remember your value! Value is something that each of us deems vital or worthy. However it is also one’s knowledge, principles, and something beneficial to yourself or perhaps even La Societe. It’s our social identity.

“Self-value is where we take the foundation of how we feel about ourselves and put it to work. Self-value is the driving vehicle that allows us to walk the walk and act in ways that align with what we value.” (Lifhack.org) Forty and Eight values like Faith, Hope and Charity—or Fraternity, Loyalty and Unity.

At this time of year, when we consider our value to the Forty and Eight and struggling with how to contribute or if we’ve contributed enough—ever wonder how the new PG or member just wrecked feels about their value to the group being new or holding no title? Could the same be true for a new leader or even first time Chef de Gare?

To value someone, it goes beyond regarding them as important; you also appreciate their qualities, while investing time, energy, effort, and sacrifice in nurturing or maintenance. This applies to our families and for us in La Societe.

So in the context of the Forty and Eight we must assess how we value ourselves and one another. Being an active part of a Locale helps with your own collective identity and that of the Forty and Eight. Because the value of one grows to be the value of many. La Societe does not exist independently without individuals.

Our value as one, our sense of self, our social identity— is influenced by the groups we belong to. We value the Forty and Eight because we are a member of it...we must value our own contribution and the contribution of others—contribution equals success.

Remember, the value of one, *our* value and contribution multiplies when the value of one becomes the value of we.

L’Editeur

“The most valuable person is the one who recognizes the value in others.” - Ron Kaufman

“The man who does not value himself, cannot value anything or anyone.” - Ayn Rand

“One person caring about another, represents life’s greatest value—Jim Rohn

“We never know the value of a person during their PRESENCE... We know their value only during their ABSENCE.— Ajhu Rajsal

“To realize the value of one minute, ask a person who missed the train.” - Idlehearts.com

“Until you value yourself, you won’t value your time. Until you value your time, you will not do anything with it.” - M. Scott Peck

**Anything is valuable only in two situations:
One: Before getting it.
Two: After losing it.
In between, one doesn't realize its true value.**

SMSQuotesimage.com

Public Relations and Flags for First Graders

Flags for First Graders Suggested Outline/Talking Points

Welcome (Introduce the FFFGs crew)

What is the Forty and Eight? (Provide an easy to understand explanation—be brief)

What is a veteran? Who knows a veteran – veteran in family?

Purpose of program – Ask students where they see the flag

(Recommend both current US flag and 1795 flag.) Which Flag is the American Flag?

Answer: Both—all 27 official versions of flag, can be flown legally at any time.

What is the name of the official song we sing to our flag?

Star Spangled Banner aka National Anthem

Who wrote the words? *Francis Scott Key (US flag pin to any who get correct)*

Go to 1795 flag, discuss differences – link to National Anthem

Our flags has a few names – what are they?

The Stars and Stripes, Old Glory, The Red White and Blue

Only one flag has the official name of the “Star Spangled Banner” (1795 flag)

When we hear or sing the National Anthem – what do we do?

Tie into their morning ritual and Pledge of Allegiance

When we see the flag in a parade what do we do?

How many stars on the flag – what do they stand for?

Have 3 students try to find your state star. (Ex: Star for State of Texas is the 28th)

How many stripes are on the flag – what do they stand for?

7 red and 6 white – 13 in all for original colonies

Flag has a birthday – does anyone know when that is?

June 14th, 1777 – 246 years old in 2023 (Tie into U.S. Army Birthday and Flag Day)

Things we should do or not do with the U.S. Flag—ask students.

Fly from sunrise to sunset – at night with a light only

Do our best never to let flag touch the ground or in water—but can be cleaned

NEVER throw the flag in the trash—Bring to school, give to a veteran or Boy Scout

Flag facts/trivia

How many flags are on the moon? 6 w/5 still standing

First flag blown over being too close to the lunar landing when taking off

Current 50 star flag designed by a HS student who got a B- (1958 – only 48 states)

- 17 yrs old Bob Heft, flag chosen over a thousand submitted by Pres. Eisenhower
- before he died in 2009, Bob submitted a 51 star design in case of a new state

Quiet the children – tell them about the “13 Folds of the Flag” Fold Flag...

Folded flag is in the shape of a Continental Army hat like George Washington wore.

Flag is 3 sided standing for Land, Sea and Air where our veterans have served in all the wars.

Three sides of the flag stand for Faith, Hope and Charity (Tie to the 40 & 8)

*** The above is just a suggestion and is used by several locales in their program.

Great Speeches— Ronald Reagan Radio Address to the Nation on Flag Day - June 14, 1986

My fellow Americans:

Today we celebrate Flag Day, the birthday of our Stars and Stripes. As we think back over the history of our nation's flag, we remember that the story of its early years was often one of hardship and trials, sometimes a fight for simple survival.

Such is the story behind our Star-Spangled Banner. It was 2 years into the War of 1812, and America seemed to be teetering on the edge of defeat. The British had already taken our Capital and burned the White House. Baltimore was the next target in a grand design to divide our forces and crush this newly independent nation of upstart colonies. All that stood between the British and Baltimore were the guns of Fort McHenry, blocking their entry into Baltimore Harbor.

The British bombardment lasted for 25 hours. Through the dark hours of the night, the rockets fired and the bombs exploded. And a young American patriot named Key, held captive aboard a British ship, watched anxiously for some proof, some sign, that liberty would prevail. You can imagine his joy when the next morning, in the dawn's early light, he looked out and saw the banner still flying -- a little tattered and torn, but still flying proudly above the ramparts. Fort McHenry and the brave men manning it had withstood the assault. Baltimore was saved. The United States, this great experiment in human freedom, as George Washington described it, would endure.

Thinking back to those times, one realizes that our democracy is so strong because it was forged in the fires of adversity. In those dark days of the war, it must have been easy to give in to despair. But our forefathers were motivated by a cause beyond themselves. From the harsh winter of Valley Forge to the blazing night above Fort McHenry, those patriot soldiers were sustained by the ideals of human freedom.

Through the hardships and the setbacks, they kept their eyes on that ideal and purpose, just as through the smoke of battle they kept a lookout for the flag. For with the birth of our nation, the cause of human freedom had become forever tied to that flag and its survival.

As the American Republic grew and prospered and new stars were added to the flag, the ideal of freedom grew and prospered. From the rolling hills of Kentucky to the

shores of California to the Sea of Tranquility on the Moon, our pioneers carried our flag before them, a symbol of the indomitable spirit of a free people.

And let us never forget that in honoring our flag, we honor the American men and women who have courageously fought and died for it over the last 200 years, patriots who set an ideal above any consideration of self. Our flag flies free today because of their sacrifice.

And I hope you all will join Nancy and me and millions of other Americans at 7 o'clock this evening, eastern daylight time, when we pause a few minutes to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Though separated by many miles, we will be together in our thoughts. These anniversaries remind us that the great American experiment in freedom and democracy has really just begun. They remind us of the terrible hardships our forefathers willingly endured for their beliefs. And they challenge us to match that greatness of spirit in our own time, and I know we will. We are, after all, the land of the free and the home of the brave.

If we ask ourselves what has held our nation together, what has given it the strength to endure and the spirit to achieve, we find the answer in our families and those basic family values of work, hope, charity, faith, and love.

Note: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. from Camp David, MD.



"If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under." - Ronald Reagan

Newsletter Filler, Trivia or Just for Fun

TRIVIA

The original flag, created in 1777, had 13 stars and 13 stripes, which represented the 13 American colonies. Since then, there have been 27 versions of the American flag, according to the National Flag Foundation.

Who knew the American flag was designed by a teenager?! In 1958, then-17-year-old Robert G. Heft of Lancaster, Ohio submitted the design in a contest. President Dwight Eisenhower chose Robert's design from over 1,500 other submissions. Before he died, Bob Heft designed a 51 star flag in the eventuality of adding another state. His design is archived in the Library of Congress.

Six American flags have been planted on the moon. The U.S. planted the first flag on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. Since then, five more U.S. flags have been planted on the moon during subsequent missions. All flags are still standing except the first one having been placed too close to the lunar lander and blown over upon returning to earth.

Apart from the Apollo 11 flag, which is believed to have been lost, the others were planted during Apollo 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17. According to images captured by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter during different times of day, shadows in the areas where the flags were planted indicate they're still standing.

What is the oldest existing U.S. flag? The Bedford Flag is the oldest known flag in the United States. It is associated with the Minutemen of Bedford, Massachusetts, and the Battles of Lexington and Concord of 1775.

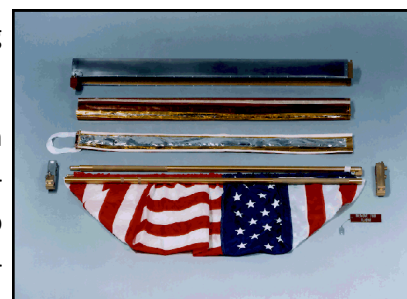
Until the Executive Order of June 24, 1912, neither the order of the stars nor the proportions of the flag was prescribed. Consequently, flags dating before this period sometimes show unusual arrangements of the stars and odd proportions, these features being left to the discretion of the flag maker. In general, however, straight rows of stars and proportions similar to those later adopted officially were used.

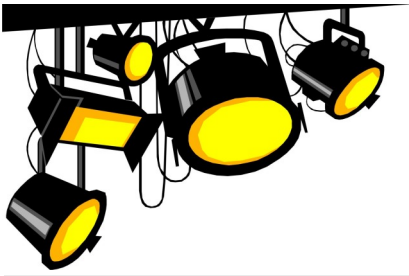


The Lunar Flag Assembly (LFA) was a kit containing a flag of the United States designed to be erected on the Moon during the Apollo program. Six such flag assemblies were planted on the Moon. The nylon flags were hung on telescoping staffs and horizontal bars constructed of one-inch anodized aluminum tubes. The flags were carried on the outside of the Apollo Lunar Module (LM), most of them on the descent ladder inside a thermally insulated tubular case to protect them from exhaust gas temperatures calculated to reach 2,000 °F (1,090 °C). The assembly was designed and supervised by Jack Kinzler, head of technical services at the Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC) in Houston, Texas. Six of the flags (including one for Apollo 13 which was not planted on the Moon) were ordered from a government supply catalog and measured 3 by 5 feet (0.91 by 1.52 m).

The first Lunar Flag Assembly, carried on Apollo 11, prior to packing and mounting on the Apollo Lunar Module ladder .

The United States is the only country where people have physically placed flags on the moon. Four other countries — China, Japan, India and the former Soviet Union — and the European Space Agency have sent unmanned spacecraft or probes to the moon. Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin were the first of 12 human beings to walk on the Moon.





Spotlight on Public Relations



Spotlight on the “13 Folds of the Flag”

The first fold of the flag represents the first color of our flag – **RED** – Red stands for bravery, power, and courage.

The second fold of the flag represents the second color of our flag – **WHITE** - White stands for purity. Purity means to do what is right. We hope and pray that our country will always stand for what is right.

The third fold of the flag represents the third color of our flag – **BLUE** - Blue stands for justice. When we pledge allegiance to the flag, we end with the words: "With liberty and justice for all."

The fourth fold of the flag stands for our country, the United States of America and the 13 original colonies.

The fifth fold of the flag is to honor our mothers, for whom it flies on Mother’s Day, honoring the faith, love, and devotion that women used to make this country great.

The sixth fold of the flag is a tribute to our fathers, for they have given their sons and daughters in the defense of our country.

The seventh fold of the flag represents the **246 years**, the American flag has been the symbol of our nation's unity, as well as a source of pride and inspiration for our citizens.

The eighth fold of the flag is for our family and our churches, schools, teachers and all who help us become better citizens.

The ninth fold is for **where our hearts lie**. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The tenth fold is a tribute to our Veterans, who gave some or all of their lives for the defense of our country, “Thank You For Serving.”

The eleventh fold represents our children, for in our youth and their education, stands the future of our country.

The twelfth fold of the flag represents who we are as citizens of the United States of America. It stands for the freedom we all share and the pride and patriotism we feel for our country. We cherish its legacy, as a beacon of hope to one and all. Long may it wave.

The thirteenth fold represents our flag, now completely folded in honor of our war dead, the stars point towards the sky upward, reminding us of our national motto, “In God We Trust.”

Note: There are many versions of the “13 Folds of the Flag” - the above is a compilation of several that a first grader or anyone should be able to understand.



POSTER OF THE MONTH



Standing as I do, with my hand upon this staff, and under the folds of the American Flag, I ask you to stand by me so long as I stand by it.

Abraham Lincoln

L'Editeurs Back...



I need to get a few words in here somewhere. I'll address more in my monthly PR Communique—but I cannot stress how important the PR awards are. If you haven't already, now is the time to send in an example or three of your locale or Grand newsletter, even if it's via email or social media. I suspect many are forgoing a traditional newsletter and just doing postings to their social media pages—let us take a look please—could be award worthy. Next year, look forward to a new social media award category. Myself, the P.A.L.S. President and the PR Committee will evaluate and make recommendations on awards.

Here we go again, each month at least ten or more emails come back in error, incorrect, changed or mail-box full. If your membership is important—please keep us addressed on email and snail-mail address changes also.

Having been L'Editeur since before 2013, I hope I don't have too many memory lapses and repeat articles or any content—some on purpose though. L'Editeur



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE BLUE CHEVALIERS		INITIAL MEMBERSHIP		
NAME:		40ET8 MEMBER	LA FEMMES MEMBER	NON MEMBER SUPPORTER
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PHONE:	EMAIL:			

New members: \$15.00 Renewals: \$2.00 PUFL: \$65.00 for new members \$50.00 members

Checks payable to P.A.L.S. - Remit to:
Renslar R. Keagle, 8714 Marble Drive, El Paso, TX 79904

SEE ABOVE! Note change: Until further notice, remit renewals, new memberships, orders above.

P.A.L.S. APPLICATION—RENEWAL or NEW MEMBER

Full Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ New Member Renewal

Email _____ **PUFL \$100.00**

Voiture Locale _____

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PUFL down payment (minimum \$25)

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8714 Marble Drive
El Paso, TX 79904-1710
rennykeagle@gmail.com

More Unremembered...

Army Veteran Charles Long served in the Army from 1943 to 1951, receiving a Bronze Star for Valor as a combat infantryman in World War II and earning a Purple Heart and a posthumous Medal of Honor in the Korean War. He was drafted into the Army for the European Theater of Operations in the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign during 1944 and 1945.

Long served with Company D, the light tank company of the 745th Tank Battalion, alongside the 1st Infantry Division. In the Battle of the Bulge, Long's task force routed the German counteroffensive and established its own defensive line past Germany's former defense of the Siegfried Line. The 745th was instrumental in the Crossing of the Rhine.

Following World War II, Long remained in the Army Reserve until he was recalled to active duty for the Korean War in 1950 as part of the UN Defensive.

At Hoengsong, South Korea, Long was a forward observer for the mortar platoon in M Company, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division. When an unexpected major offensive by four Chinese and two North Korean divisions overwhelmed inexperienced Republic of Korea forces on Feb. 11 and 12, the greatly outnumbered U.S. support troops suffered the war's most concentrated losses of American lives in the Hoengsong Ambush.

In the early hours of Feb. 12, a larger force attacked Long's platoon while it was in a defensive perimeter on Hill 300. Long voluntarily remained behind near the enemy so he could provide target locations, enabling the rest of his platoon to safely withdraw and reorganize while he calmly directed their mortar fire. He also provided cover fire with rifle and grenades for his platoon until he ran out of ammunition and was overrun; that's when he made one final call for fire: 40 explosive rounds on the enemies engulfing his position.

The citation for the Medal of Honor that President Truman gave to Long's family on Jan. 16, 1952, describes his deeds and "inspirational, valorous action [that] halted the onslaught, exacted a heavy toll of enemy casualties, and enabled his company to withdraw, reorganize, counterattack, and regain the hill strongpoint." We honor his service.



Army and Air Force Veteran Joseph McConnell, a Korean War pilot who became the first triple ace in U.S. history. It wasn't until 1946 that McConnell entered pilot training. On Feb. 25, 1948, he received his pilot wings at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona. He formally joined the U.S. Air Force after its formation between 1947 to 1954.

McConnell was assigned to the 39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron of the 51st Fighter-Interception Wing in September 1952. He attained his first victory on Jan. 14, 1953, and within a month he took down four more enemy aircraft, becoming an ace. Flying F-86 Sabres, He shot down his eighth MiG over the Yellow Sea before being shot down himself by Soviet fire. He bailed out of the aircraft and spent two minutes in freezing cold enemy waters before being rescued by helicopter. The next day, he shot down his ninth MiG and, by the end of April 1953, he became a double ace for taking down a tenth aircraft.

McConnell's final victories were secured on May 18, 1953, when he shot down two MiGs on one mission, becoming a triple ace; later that afternoon, on a new mission, he shot down his 16th MiG. He secured all victories within only four months and became the first triple ace in U.S. history. For his service in World War II and the Korean War, McConnell received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, and the Distinguished Flying Cross, along with many other awards. His hometown of Apple Valley dedicated many awards including a new home, the "Appreciation House," to McConnell and his family. The 1955 film "The McConnell Story" chronicled his life. We honor his service. •