



THE POST



Website: www.orlandpost111.org

Volume VII Issue IX

September 26, 2007

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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Once again, Junior Vice Commander Jerry Jumkas took the lead for the pancake breakfast (file photo)

The pancake breakfast was a qualified success. It generated approximately \$180 dollars. A follow-up examination and critique revealed the need for better promotion. Based on this evaluation, the Commander is seeking someone to coordinate Public Relations. If there is any interest, please see Matt.

BOYS STATE

David Buckley, left and Dan Cronin (right) our two Boy's State representatives came to last months meeting to thank the members for their support and comment about their experience

POST CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHEN: Wednesday December 12, 2007

WHERE: Orland Chateau

COST: \$25.00 Each

MENU: Family Style

TIME: 6 PM—10 PM

With Cash Bar

DEADLINE FOR TICKETS: Monday December 10, 2007

Make checks payable to Orland Memorial Post 111 and give to:

Sal Estrada

Questions? Call Sal at 708-479-7795 or Jerry Junkas at 708-479-6642

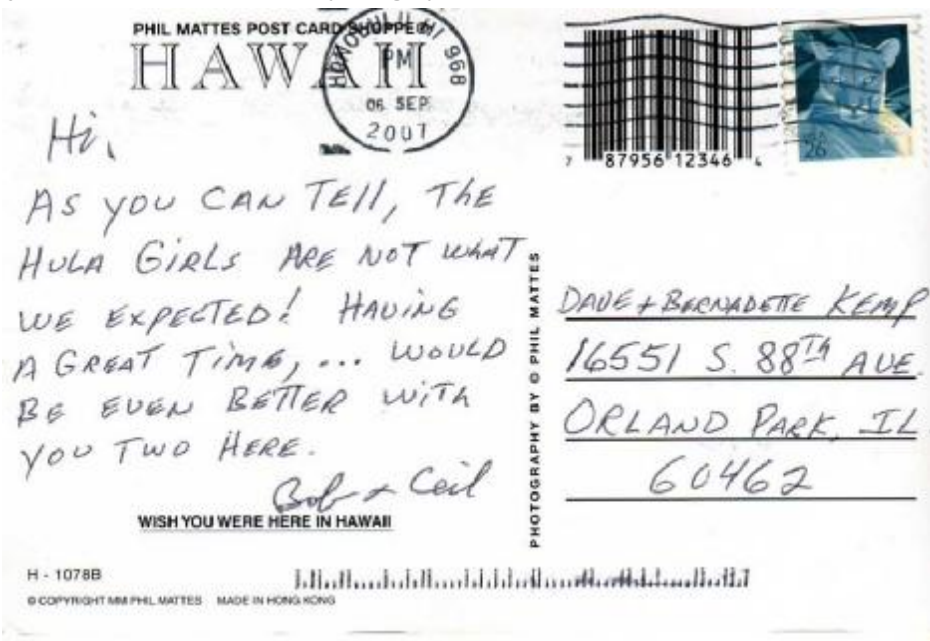
FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK

I wish to thank all those of you who helped out at the Pancake Breakfast. With a very special thanks to Gerry Junkas for making it a success. The breakfast was a success, we did make money but not as much as in the past.

A meeting for The Retired Enlisted Association, if any Enlisted Retiree wishes to join the meeting it will be held on 2 Oct 07 at the Veterans Center (Brown Building) at 8:00 p.m. Purpose is to organize a south side chapter of the Retired Enlisted Association.

On 25 Oct 07 there will be a Health Fair for Veterans at the Orland Park Civic Center. If you are interested in finding out what your benefits are you should attend.

Once again I wish to thank all those who helped out at the Pancake Breakfast and to Gerry a job well done. Thank-you guys.



The postcard was received from Bob Palucki who currently is on a long cruise with his wife Ceil. To see the other side, turn to page 7.

ADJUTANT'S CALL AND CHAPLAINS CORNER

ADJUTANT'S CALL

You should have already received your dues notice for 2007-08. Make sure the address on your bill is P.O. Box 413, Orland Park, IL. If not, contact Adjutant Tim Kut to have it corrected. Otherwise the Post does not receive your dues. **PLEASE PAY ANY UNPAID DUES ASAP. IF EVERYONE IS PAID BY NOVEMBER, WE CAN GET MONEY BACK FROM BLOOMINGTON**

Chaplains Corner

Donna Koerner
Maurice Fernandez
POST EVERLASTING

Glenn Greene
Robert Johnson
Robert Sommers
R.I.P. fallen brothers
All our brothers and sisters far from home and in harm's way and their loved ones.

The email below was shared by Sheila Snyder of the agent orange Victims and Widows Support group. Some of you met her when the wall was here. She shared the email below.

"In this current time & place in my life right now this is the most significant thing I can see fit to forward to anyone on my email lists.

Anyone that knows me, knows how I fail in the arena of politics, at this point my life I think that perhaps I always will. I think that anyone that would put a political label on a task such as "care packages" to a deployed American Soldier should be banned from any decisive vote as an American!"

Shelia Snyder aka proud wife of a Vietnam Veteran & proud daughter of a WW2 Veteran

Home Of The Agent Orange" Quilt Of Tears"

A Traveling Tribute, Honor & Memorial to Veterans

A day in the life of a military wife...

As usual, I made my weekly visit to the post office today. While I was figuring out how to carry 3 large boxes into the building a car pulled up beside me, an older lady stepped out and asked, "child what in the world are you mailing out in those big boxes?"

I smiled my proud Army wife smile, and I said, "my husband is deployed."

In Fayetteville, that is only the response you have to give... everyone understands. Her next comment pushed my think tank into high gear. Without missing a beat she looked at me and stated, "well, I am a democrat, and I am against the whole thing there."

I am sure a puzzled look crossed my face. I wondered what she had meant by that. I have witnessed harsh criticism of both wars, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, but I have never experienced this... especially in the "All American" city. I thought for a few moments, and I simply told her that I was an American who is proud of her husband. As the older lady walked away my engines were still turning in response to the odd but candid comment. A few moments later (after I had dropped 2 of the boxes.. regrouped and dropped another) I felt someone grab the weight of the one on top, and then I saw him reach for the one on the ground. I am sure he noticed my newly pregnant figure. In a calm but young voice he said, "you know, I am an American too."

By that time I had noticed his uniform and patches. We made small conversation as he helped me into the post office line. Before I walked up to the counter I gave him a thank you and a sincere good luck. He had mentioned he was leaving for Iraq in the coming days. We both knew what that meant. That young but patriotic soldier simply said, "ma'am if you see my wife while I am gone... just help her carry her boxes."

We exchanged another smile, and I felt a lump in my throat. You see every soldier is part of my husband. I know that if Brian could, he would shake that paratrooper's hand and say thank you. If I ever see his wife, I would never recognize her, but I would help carry her packages because she is me. (cont next page)

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After the whole sequence of events, I was sitting in my car thinking (over analyzing I'm sure... another pregnancy hormone thing). You see, my husband is simply an American soldier. He has always wanted to serve his country. He was attending NCSU on a military scholarship even before 9/11. It wasn't his choice to miss every Valentine's day, both our birthdays, Christmas, Thanksgiving, our anniversaries, and possibly the birth of our first child, but because of his patriotism and duty to country, he misses them all without any regret. He fights to ensure that I get to spend the 1st (and every) birthday with our son or daughter, so our child can open gifts at Christmas, so we can travel to an exotic location for our anniversary without worry, so I can safely fly to Chicago for a girl's weekend, and so on the 4th of July we can teach our child what it means to be an American. He fights to protect not only the US, but also to protect the weak and inflicted. Genocide, hatred, and terror are ugly. I promised I would keep the love as he dealt with the pain. That is why I mail out those packages every week. I made him that promise over 2 years ago. He was a soldier long before I met him. We both chose this life. We are both proud of our roles.

One day, maybe that older lady will recognize that many American soldiers have fallen to give her the ability to express her opinion like she did today at the post office, and soldiers continually allow her to vote freely for her liberal candidate of choice. They help her to sleep safely at night.

Freedom is not free...it's written with the blood of heroes.

I share with you Sheila's thoughts as she reflects on 9/11. Of course this is outdated by now but I thought worth sharing.

Tonight, on the eve of 911 our thoughts are ever so conscious of what we were doing & where we all were when we got the news of such tragedies that took place...it's a time that I've personally committed to sending prayers up for so many things. I imagine my list includes most of the same things that I & most Americans do.

However, tonight I'll be including a special prayer & a heartfelt hug for every Veteran out there tonight, as they've been hurt so terribly by some vandal with no heart, respect, courage or common sense of dignity for the dead. If the act is true & someone has desecrated The Wall, I see them no different than a terrorist... their act is despicable & cowardly!

With that being said & remembering exactly where I was, along with all the details of my day on 911....I've listened to one of my favorites by Alan Jackson (Where Were You On That Sept. Day?) numerous times because I will never forget....& I've also visited Soldier Wall browsing through it most of the night while listening to "Soldier" & "Fallout"also because I never want to forget Freedom is not free...it's written with the blood of heroes.

God Bless You All! Hugz & Prayers, Shelia & Henry

P.S. It was later confirmed in an email from Sheila that the wall had been desecrated by vandals pouring some kind of oily substance on the panels.



Sheila indicated that it appears someone walked along the wall with a container of oily substance at their side to escape detection while they squirted the substance on the lower portions of the panels. The oily substance apparently discolored the shiny portion of the wall but unfortunately was absorbed into the areas of the name etchings.

POSSIBLE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR VETERANS

Illinois House Bill 0664 passed both the Illinois House and Senate on August 10, 2007. The bill provides an exemption of \$2,500 per year for anyone with 50-70% disability and \$5,000 for anyone who is 80-100% disabled. You are asked to call one or more of the people listed below to ask them to get the Governor to sign it. While you may not fit one of the categories, no doubt we have brothers and/or sisters that do. It is our obligation to attempt to help them.

GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH

PHONE: 217-782-0244 OR 312-814-2121

REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA FLYNN CURRIE

PHONE: 773-667-0550 OR 217-782-8121

SENATOR TERRY LINK

PHONE: 847-735-8181 OR 217-782-8181



EVENTS ON THE HORIZON.

FUTURE

- **Retired Enlisted Association**
October 2, 2007 8 PM
Orland Park Veterans Center
- **Post 111 Officers Meeting**
October 22, 2007 8 PM
Orland Park Veterans Center
- **General Membership Meeting**
October 31, 2007 8 PM
Orland Park Veterans Center
- **Veterans Day Ceremony**
Ashburn Baptist Church
November 11, 2007
Details TBA
- **Veterans Day Ceremony**
Orland Park Civic Center
November 11, 2007 11 AM
- **POST CHRISTMAS PARTY**
Wed Dec 12, 2007
Orland Chateau
Details page 2



Orland Memorial Post 111
P.O. Box 413
Orland Park, IL 60462