

THE SALUTE



U.S. ARMY

I WAS A SOLDIER • I AM A SOLDIER • I WILL ALWAYS BE A SOLDIER

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF PRESENTS FREEDOM TEAM SALUTE COMMENDATION

As members of the Army Family, we all share an appreciation for those who support the work of our Soldiers — especially our husbands and wives. These Army spouses keep our hearts beating not just strong, but Army Strong!



Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey, Jr. and Holly Petraeus at Washington, DC Freedom Team Salute Commendation ceremony.

As a spouse who was there for her husband spanning decades in the Army, Mrs. Petraeus expressed both honor and humility as she received this recognition. She accepted her Commendation with the same flushed smile and grace we've seen on the faces of hundreds of Army spouses who have previously received Commendations.

That appreciation extends all the way to the top. In an October ceremony at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) convention, Army Chief of Staff General George W. Casey Jr. presented a U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation to Holly Petraeus, wife of General David H. Petraeus, commander of the Multi-National Force — Iraq (MNF-I).

Simple, profound moments of gratitude, that's the heart of Freedom Team Salute. To date, over one million moments like this have been shared across our country and around the world. Spouses, parents, employers and Veterans alike have been thanked. Do you know a deserving recipient? Go to FreedomTeamSalute.com to be sure all those who support our Soldiers are included in this special recognition.

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HONOR A U.S. ARMY VETERAN

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WORLD WAR II VETERANS & FAMILIES HONORED IN DOCUMENTARY FILM

"We are losing over a thousand World War II Veterans every day, here in the United States," lamented Ken Burns in an interview about his new film, *THE WAR*. "This loss of tangible memory moved me as a historical filmmaker, and was an overwhelming factor in my decision to create *THE WAR*."

Compelled by this desire to preserve what he called "our nation's historical compass," Burns set out to make powerful emotional connections. He wanted viewers "to feel something, to be awakened by the experience of the so-called ordinary people who in extraordinary times did amazing things." He says that World War II provided the best example in American history of shared sacrifice and collective purpose toward preserving freedom.

In the film, we see WWII Veterans telling their stories in deeply personal — and often painfully emotional — recollections of what it was like to be in the war. Representatives of this "unusually reticent generation" as Burns says, will live forever in his film. As a counterpoint, viewers also get to see and hear people who tell their stories about what it was like to wait and worry for someone to come home from the war.



Filmmaker Ken Burns poses with the American Flag on the National Mall in Washington, DC during a late September 2007 public event to honor WWII Veterans.

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SALUTING THE SERVICE OF HISPANIC VETERANS OF WWII

Puerto Rican World War II Veterans Carmen Contreras Bozak (left) and José L. Medina Negrón (right) were visibly delighted to receive Freedom Team Salute Commendations at a Hispanic Heritage Month reception held on September 19 at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida in Miami.



Post Headquarters Company, the first WAAC unit to serve overseas. Tech 4 Bozak served as a teletype operator in the Signal Corps at the Allied Forces Headquarters in Algeria, North Africa, under General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Medina Negrón was drafted in 1943 in Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. He served in the Panama Canal area from 1943-

Miami Hispanic community leaders and local Battalion representatives were in attendance to lend their support in honoring these Veterans, who shared stories of their service with everyone who had gathered — and with each other!

1945 and with the Occupational Forces in Germany from 1945-1956.

Bozak is the first Latina to join the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). She was part of the 149th WAAC

Other Freedom Team Salute events to honor Hispanic World War II Veterans included ceremonies in San Antonio (26 September) and Los Angeles (25 October).

**THE SALUTE
ONLINE**

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*See complete details at
FreedomTeamSalute.com*

CEREMONY LIFTS SECRECY

Just south of Washington, DC along the Potomac River on the Virginia side, there once stood a U.S. Army installation where enemy prisoners of WWII were interrogated. Formerly called "P.O. Box 1142," it is now part of the National Park Service and no longer shrouded in military secrecy.

P.O. BOX 1142

THIS FLAGPOLE IS DEDICATED TO THE VETERANS OF P.O. BOX 1142 WHO SERVED THIS COUNTRY AS MEMBERS OF TWO MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (MIS) PROGRAMS DURING WORLD WAR II. THEIR TOP SECRET WORK HERE AT FORT HUNT NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE ALLIED VICTORY, BUT ALSO LED TO STRATEGIC ADVANCES IN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGY THAT DIRECTLY INFLUENCED THE COLD WAR AND SPACE RACE. THE MIS-X PROGRAM COMMUNICATED WITH AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HELD CAPTIVE BY THE ENEMY AXIS FORCES AND ATTEMPTED TO COORDINATE THEIR ESCAPE. THE LARGER MIS-Y PROGRAM CARRIED OUT THE INTERROGATION OF NEARLY 4,000 ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR AND SCIENTISTS WHO WERE PROCESSED AT THIS CAMP.

If you visit the site of this coastal battery today, now called Fort Hunt, look for a slab of granite at a flagpole with an explanation of its significance.

One of the Soldiers who served there was SGT George Frenkel (below). He and 28 other Army Veterans received the U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation in October 2007 for wartime service at Fort Hunt. COL David Griffith (right), Director of the U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute program, presented the Commendation while employees of the National Park Service stood to honor all the recipients.

When the recipients were given an opportunity to speak about their service, many of them expressed a sense of connection with Soldiers now serving, empathy for the difficult choices wartime can bring and hope for a safe return home.

While the place is never more significant than the people, the combination of these Veterans and this historic place made for a very special Freedom Team Salute ceremony.

Interested in more information? Discover more about this declassified WWII facility by going to NPS.gov and search using keyword "Box 1142."

And, for more information about how you can honor someone with a Freedom Team Salute Commendation, please visit FreedomTeamSalute.com.



Correction: In the Summer 2007 issue of *The Salute*, our page one article about Vietnam War Veteran Bill Beck should have reported that he was a Bronze Star recipient.

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

As 2007 ends, we are thrilled as we look ahead to 2008 and the U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Volunteer Ambassador program. If we had to choose only one word to express how we feel about our Ambassador program this year, the word is Hooah!



Left to right, Barbara Foelber, Jenny Bickel and Kaitlin Merritt are very proud of the photo wall of selected Freedom Team Salute Ambassadors at the Washington, DC area program office.

At this same time one year ago, we enjoyed the partnership of 212 Ambassadors. We will start the New Year with 419 Ambassadors, which doubles our outreach opportunities.

Each of our Ambassadors is a dedicated volunteer who helps recognize our Army Veterans for their service to our country. Together, they also help honor the incredible supporters of our

Army Soldiers — parents, spouses and civilian employers.

Our Ambassadors have collectively been responsible for nearly 15,000 Freedom Team Salute Commendations in the last six months. These dedicated men and women have participated in over 100 events, including distributing information at county fairs and retiree days, holding special Commendation ceremonies at retirement homes, churches and Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, as well as briefing Veteran and military service organizations.

Among the many events hosted by our Ambassadors, 2007 marks the first time Freedom Team Salute has taken part in *USA Weekend Make a Difference Day* — a national day of service with volunteers working to help better their communities. Over 35 Ambassadors around the country set up displays at public libraries, Army installations, retail stores and American Legion and VFW posts to sign Army Veterans up to receive the Freedom Team Salute Commendation.

Serving as a Freedom Team Salute Ambassador is a great way to put your pride in our Soldiers and Veterans into action, and to share the honor with deserving recipients. To join, visit FTSAmbassador@hqda.army.mil or call 703-325-3996.



A SOLDIER'S HOLIDAY



ARMY TRIVIA

Test your knowledge of Army trivia with this fun quiz!



1. What are five types of humanitarian missions the Army provides?
2. Can you name a provider of care packages to Soldiers that is very popular at the holidays?
3. What nonprofit organization has supported our troops since 1941 by providing morale, welfare and recreation-type services to our men and women in uniform?
4. Can you name any celebrities who appeared during WWII on behalf of the organization in Question #3?

WORLD WAR II FILM Continued from page 1.

“I think we will have succeeded if people say that the experience of watching the film is ‘terrible and wonderful,’” Burns shared. He went on to explain the emotional response his film evokes has a specific purpose “to promote a collective wisdom as a people regarding war and the sacrifices made by ordinary people.”

A late September 2007 Washington, DC public event to honor WWII Veterans (co-hosted by documentary producing partner WETA TV 26, plus the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, and the U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute program) featured Burns sharing his thanks for the Veterans of all wars for their service and their sacrifice.



U.S. Army WWII Veterans were further honored that afternoon with an outdoor ceremony, where they received Freedom Team Salute Commendations before a large audience seated on the lawn of the National Mall.

You can honor U.S. Army Veterans and say “thank you” for their service in the defense of freedom by visiting FreedomTeamSalute.com.

THE WAR, a seven-episode documentary, was initially broadcast nationally on PBS (see www.pbs.org/thewar) at the start of the current television season, and will continue to be shown on local PBS stations into 2008. The monumental project, says Burns, examines “the greatest cataclysm in human history.” A companion book and a six-disc DVD set are widely available today.



Ken Burns (left) and Major General Richard J. Rowe Jr., Commanding General JFHQ-NCR/MDW (right) during the National Anthem at the September 2007 event.

THEY ARE SOLDIERS ONCE AND FOREVER

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns believes that Soldiers have a “universal experience” in war. Rhyon Salvador knows this. He is a young man who joined the U.S. Army after graduating from high school and served in Iraq. “I wanted to make my parents proud — my mom especially — and grow up,” he explains.

Corwin McCormick reached a similar crossroads and joined the Army based on his family’s legacy of service in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He entered ROTC during peacetime, but ultimately found himself deployed to Iraq during the first phase of U.S. military actions.

Wes Knight, a graduate of West Point, also served in Iraq. Still on active duty as a Captain, he sought to become an Army officer because he respected his father’s military service in Vietnam.

All three of these young Soldiers whom we interviewed for *The Salute* admit that they were shaped by their experiences in warfare in Iraq, very much like WWII Soldiers felt when they came home from Europe and the Pacific. When Wes Knight looks back on his time in Iraq, he says, “I am more thankful for everything I have in my life.” In Iraq, an IED exploded

near his vehicle, injuring him, requiring a medical evacuation and ongoing stateside treatment. Rhyon Salvador agrees. “I appreciate just being alive and walking out in the street without thinking of danger. And the smallest things in the world — like it’s a beautiful day or it’s a rainy day — I appreciate things like that now.”



Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division transport a wounded Iraqi civilian to a medical helicopter, following a terrorist attack in Tarmiyah, Iraq, in late September 2007. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Summer M. Anderson.)

The lessons Soldiers learn in war transcend both time and the fields of battle. Wes Knight explains, “I expected to face the bad guys and the noncombatants who were angry with us, but I was not prepared for the help and sacrifice that some civilians gave. I had always thought of war in the context of good guys versus bad guys.”

When they return home, Soldiers benefit from receiving support and respect from all of us. Corwin McCormick says, “People come up and thank you and say how they admire what you’ve done whether they were against the war in Iraq or not.” Wes Knight concurs, “People didn’t let politics get in the way of how they thanked us.”

The Freedom Team Salute program provides the opportunity for everyone to give a special thank-you to Veterans for what they have done in the service of freedom. Whether they fought in battles in the 21st century or during WWII, honoring Veterans with a U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation offers the recognition that they deserve. You can honor U.S. Army Veterans who served our country easily and quickly online at FreedomTeamSalute.com.

“WELL, I GUESS I HAVE TO GO NOW.” THOSE WORDS I’LL REMEMBER...

Those were the words my mother and I heard over the crackling phone line when we spoke to my father, who was calling from Seoul. We were all set to join him in Japan... until that phone call. *Everything changed.*

We learned not long after that he’d stolen a moment to call while the North Korean army advanced. It was years before he told us he’d been part of Task Force Smith, the first U.S. Army ground unit to enter combat in Korea.

And it wasn’t until I was a Soldier myself, serving in Vietnam, that I understood why my father was so reluctant to tell us about his role in that historic action — or much of anything he’d seen in World War II or the Korean War.

It’s hard to say whether the instantaneous coverage of the events of war are more comfort or pain for those who have to watch and wait from half a world away. When news cameras are everywhere, when satellites and the Internet allow real-time observation and communication, there seems to be less pressure to tell the stories to our loved ones ourselves. They’ve already seen and heard most of what ordinary people would want to know.

Certainly, it eased my heart to talk with my fellow Veterans. But how much could I tell my wife and children? Would they hear the sound of artillery through my voice? Would they see the smoke and fire in my eyes?

“Talk to you later,” my father said. What else could he say?

More than 50 years after the Korean War, the weapons and uniforms and enemies are different, but Soldiers are still saying good-bye to their loved ones, struggling with how much to say. I know I always wanted to know what was happening at home more than I wanted to talk about where I was, anyway.

But I think that reluctance to tell our stories is part of why some people feel like Korea is “the forgotten war.” World War II was larger than anything we’d experienced as a nation; by the time we got to Vietnam, the press was deeply involved with spreading news; in the Persian Gulf and Iraq, the Internet was in on the game. Our Korean War Veterans won’t be with us much longer — which sure makes me feel old — and, as a military historian, I can feel their memories slipping away.

This past Veterans Day, I carried out a personal tradition of walking the cemeteries and reading out loud the names of Soldiers who have gone before me. I’ve learned that, as long as somebody speaks your name, you aren’t really gone... so that’s what I do.

At the same time, I think I’ll make a special effort to talk with the Veterans who are still with us. Before it’s too late, and their memories really are lost.

It will be well after Veterans Day by the time you’re reading this, but I hope you’ll do the same. Together, we can make sure the honor of Korean War Veterans — and thousands upon thousands of other brave men and women — lives on.

I’ll never forget that phone call, or my own holidays away from home — so let’s not ever forget the ones who were there. The ones who froze by the Inchon Reservoir and fought the good fight . . . because their days are growing short and their numbers are shrinking.

It’s time for us to say, “Thank you for a job well and faithfully done. You have passed the baton and we are proud to hold it aloft. Duty, Honor and Country are more than words. They are a way of life.”

~ as told to Freedom Team Salute
by LTC Albert W. Beaton III (ret.)



FROM THE

MAILBOX



This holiday season, all of us in the Freedom Team Salute program office feel especially grateful to you, our readers, for the support that you have given to *The Salute* and to the Freedom Team Salute program throughout 2007.

We are looking forward to continuing our service to you in 2008 with *The Salute* in print and online. We encourage you to

send us your suggestions for articles either by email or in a letter. Our addresses are listed on the left.

I would also like to wish you and your loved ones the very best for this holiday season from all of us at Freedom Team Salute.

— COL David Griffith, Director
Freedom Team Salute

We invite you to email us at:

FreedomTeamSalute@hqda.army.mil

Or write to:

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Go to **FreedomTeamSalute.com**
for more information.

Answers from Trivia (page 3)

- Q: What are five types of humanitarian missions the Army provides?
A: Medical outreach, Dental outreach, Veterinary outreach, Disaster Relief and Engineering services.
- Q: Can you name a provider of care packages to Soldiers that is most popular during the holiday season?
A: Operation Gratitude at www.opgratitude.com
- Q: What nonprofit organization has supported our troops since 1941 by providing morale, welfare and recreation services to our men and women in uniform?
A: The United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO) at www.uso.org
- Q: Can you name any celebrities who appeared during WWII on behalf of the organization in Question #3?
A: Hosted by Bob Hope, these celebrities (and many others) appeared in his USO shows: Bing Crosby, Judy Garland, Bette Davis, Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Frank Sinatra, The Marx Brothers, James Cagney, James Stewart, Gary Cooper, Fred Astaire and Lucille Ball.

HONOR SOMEONE NOW

Freedom Team Salute is sponsored by the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff. There is no cost to participate. Anyone can honor a U.S. Army Veteran. All Soldiers can honor their parents and spouse. Guard and Reserve Soldiers can also honor their employer.

See complete details at
FreedomTeamSalute.com

or write to

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