

CHAPTER NEWS

* Support for Soldiers; All Components, All Ranks *

2019 'Our Community Salutes' Enlistee Recognition Dinner

Planning is underway for our 8th Annual Enlistee Recognition Dinner.

In 2012, the Chapter started a program entitled Our Community Salutes (OCS), part of a nationwide effort to recognize and celebrate those high school seniors who have chosen to join one of the military services after graduation. We were able to partner with sponsors to conduct an Enlistee Recognition Dinner, for the new enlistees in Delaware. All services are included.

Attendees and their families are invited to hear praise and congratulatory remarks from military and civilian speakers. Service organizations and sponsors are on hand to provide information on their products and services.

Many thanks to Summit Aviation in Middletown, one of our corporate members, for being our main sponsor each year!

The O.C.S. Motto:

'The First to say Thank You'

Fall Meeting and Museum Tour

The Delaware Chapter hosted a meeting followed by a tour of display aircraft at the Air Mobility Command Museum at Dover Air Force Base on October 27, 2018.

Attendees received information from the AUSA National Meeting in D.C., planned Chapter activities for 2019, and the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, BG (Ret) Terry Wiley spoke on the Army's challenges with recruiting, force structure and modernization.

Chapter activities this year include strengthening our support for ROTC and the 5 Army JROTC programs, a Spring meeting, the 8th Annual Enlistee Recognition Dinner, and our 2nd Annual Golf Scramble. Also, we may conduct a work day to assist the completion of the 'Warriors Helping Warriors' facility in Middletown.

We are hoping to add a few new members to the Executive Council, so let me know if you can share some of your time for one of our events.

Look for the flyer that announces the next Chapter meeting in the Spring

Quote of the Month:

"No problem of human making is too great to be overcome by human ingenuity, human energy, and the untiring hope of the human spirit."

George H.W. Bush

Army News

The Black Knights of the U.S. Military Academy have a 9-2 record and are ranked 23rd by the Associated Press. It was announced this week that Army will meet the Houston Cougars in the Armed Forces Bowl on Dec 22 at 3:30 pm. This Saturday, the Black Knights will face Navy, which has a 3-9 record and lost to Air Force earlier this year. Go Army, Beat Navy!

U.S. Army 1LT Vincent Sherrill left his desk job Nov. 10 and headed for the airfield. He left his civilian job as an insurance underwriter and took one of the Army's newest helicopters to help drop water on the deadly Camp Fire in Northern California's Butte County.

LT Sherrill is a traditional Guardsman who serves as a UH-60M Black Hawk pilot in the California Army National Guard's 1st Assault Helicopter Battalion, 140th Aviation Regiment.

During the fires, he logged about 30 flight hours on fire missions, and dropped more than 70 buckets of water on active fires. He described the experience as intense, but rewarding.



Army Vets do Alaska to Argentina Trek (Continued)

This is the third part of a summarized story of four Army Veterans who made the 29,000 mile motorcycle trek from Alaska to the tip of Argentina on the Pan American Highway. They made it from the frozen roads of Alaska and Canada through most of Central America, finally receiving permission to cross the Darien Gap, a 100-mile stretch of nearly impenetrable jungle that straddles the border between Panama and Colombia. Now they had to figure out how to cross the jungle with few roads or bridges, a region that is plagued by drug smugglers and weapon traffickers.

The first destination was a remote village of Yaviza. After a hot, noisy 4-hour bus ride, they are stopped and our team is told to exit with all of their belongings. The local police did not get the word about their permission, and they are told, "Too dangerous, you must go back"! Finally, the officer contacts their superiors in Panama City, and the team is allowed to get back on the bus. Now the bus will not start.

After an hour of shouting and searching for tools, the bus is fixed and they are finally moving again. Less than hour later, they arrive at another checkpoint. Again, only the gringos are told to depart the bus. The soldiers know nothing about permission, and they are told to return home. As they plead their case, the bus and its local passengers tire of the delay, and depart; without them, but with all of their gear. Finally, the police radio ahead and have their gear taken off the bus and returned to them. Now they are in the jungle, without transportation, and still miles from the Darien Gap. How will they go on?

Continued next month...or view the documentary, 'Where the Road Ends

Future Events...

The **Delaware National Guard** will begin the Holiday Season with Free concerts. The 287th Army Band will give two 7pm performances of their 20th Annual Holiday Concert.

- December 5, at the Rollins Center, Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, Dover 19901

- December 7 at the Cab Calloway School, 100 DuPont Road, Wilmington 19805

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony, Lake Como, Smyrna, DE

December 7 at Noon

Delaware Military Heritage and Education Foundation (DMHEF) Speaker's

Program presents: Kim Burdick who will speak on The **Philadelphia Campaign-1777,**

Seized in September. Kim is a noted local historian and author. - Saturday, December 8,

2018 at 1 pm. The Museum opens at Noon; at First Regiment Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.

The **Delaware General Assembly** will host an annual **Wreaths Across America** ceremony at Legislative Hall, Dover, in the east parking lot, rain or shine. A large wreath honoring all five branches of the armed forces will be placed at the base of the Delaware Continentals Statue.

Additional wreaths will be laid on the grounds of Legislative Hall, including the Women's Service Monument, the Gulf War Memorial, the Dover Light Infantry Memorial, the World War I and World War II Memorials, the Korean and Vietnam Missing in Action Memorials and the Medal of Honor Memorial. Maj. Gen. Carol A. Timmons, Adjutant General of Delaware, will place the wreath at the recently dedicated Women's Service Monument. - Monday, December 10 at 11:30, Legislative Hall, Dover.

Wreaths Across America will be placing holiday wreaths at the Delaware Veterans Cemetery in Bear, DE on Saturday, December 15th. Volunteers can arrive at 8am to help place the wreaths at 8am. The ceremony will be at 12 Noon that day

Delaware Chapter AUSA Golf Scramble - Friday, May 17, 2019, at the Salt Pond Golf Club in Ocean View.

Wishing you the very best of the Holiday Season!

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Remember: AUSA membership is not an expense, it is an investment in soldiers and their families!