

The Courier

November 8, 2023 Volume 24 Number 10



G-Day - Lower School students have been busy preparing class projects and performances in anticipation of Grandparents' Day at WPS. The day began with coffee and refreshments, followed by a "We Can All Be Superheroes" themed performance by each grade. The students then met their grandparents and special guests in the Field House to present their projects followed by a tour of the newly renovated Children's Garden. Next up were visits to the Lower School classrooms and a quick stop for a keepsake photo. The day ended in the library with a visit to the Book Fair.

Fifth grader **Gavin Dennis** stopped for a photo with his grandparents **Shirley** and **Gary Hodges**, and mother, **Heather Dennis**, while walking the Children's Garden on Grandparents' Day at WPS. Those in need. New and unwrapped toys will go to Worcester GOLD for distribution.

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GM report highlights priorities, maintenance, budget updates

General Manager John Viola's monthly report to the Board on October 28 included updates on top priorities, maintenance, recent financials, and the upcoming budget process.

Priorities: Fire station, Golf irrigation and Racquet Center

Viola said his top priority continues to be the new South Fire Station. Also at the top of the list are Golf Course irrigation, and restrooms and the pro shop at the Racquet Center.

The presentation included sketches of each project.

"If anybody wants to look at that and has any questions, send them to info@oceanpines.org, or stop and ask Linda [Martin] and myself," he said.

Viola again underscored that the fire station is his top priority. He said there were plans for a workgroup presentation in October, but the workgroup just needs a little more time.

"I can tell everybody that this week we had a very productive, constructive meeting with the fire department and the work group ... [and] I'm very positive on what I see, going forward."

He said a request to move forward with the irrigation project would be part of the December Board meeting, and costs would be covered by reserves.

"We're looking at an estimated four-to-five-year project," Viola said.

He said outside contractors would be used to help with Racquet Center improvements.

Maintenance updates

Recent maintenance efforts helped spruce up the Yacht Club entrance sign, which dates to the mid 1970s. Public Works power washed the sign, and an outside contractor replaced rotted wood and repainted the sign.

"That's an iconic sign and we did not want it to go awry," Viola said. "Compliments to everyone who worked on it – the colors are almost what they were 40 or 50 years ago."

He added one final part of the entranceway, a refabrication of the "Yacht Club" sign, was also coming soon.

Viola said other recent maintenance efforts focused on the Beach

Club, where a landscaping boat was removed after discussion with OPA President Rick Farr.

At the North Gate fencing area, Viola said Public Works trimmed holly bushes, removed dead shrubs and ivy, and installed new flower beds, mulch and plants.

"There was a lot of clean-up there. Credit to Public Works," Viola said.

More on golf

Viola said Golf Maintenance has been making good use of several "Gator" vehicles, including a spray cart and a utility cart.

Viola was among the 67 participants in the recent Pink Lady tournament at the Golf Club. The event raised \$5,674 for the AGH Foundation to help pay for and provide mammograms and related care for local women who are unable to afford such services.

"It was a great time ... and it raised some nice money for AGH," he said.

More on Racquet Sports

Viola said several changes were re-

cently made in the Racquet Sports department, following "a lot of emails [and] a lot of passion" from membership.

"I want to assure this Association and the Racquet Sports community that the few items that we heard about were already being worked on and were already part of the budget process," he said.

Among the changes, Tim Johnson was promoted to director of Racquet Sports.

Viola said the team is working on a split-rail fence to cover the front of the Racquet Center, which will include a vinyl-coated, green mesh. The fence is estimated to cost less than \$3,000.

A three-wheeler to help rake tennis courts was also added, and a Rubbermaid shed costing roughly \$6,000 is in the works.

The center also recently saw the installation of new speed bumps, which cost \$2,245.

The Pink Ribbon Classic tournament held in early October drew 128

*please see **highlights** on page 4*



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Heritage Day celebrated

Sunday, November 12 is Eastern Shore Heritage Day, a special day set aside to celebrate the Eastern Shore, sponsored by the Beach to Bay Heritage Area. The Art League of Ocean City will hold a special afternoon dedicated to this heritage with performances highlighting music, storytelling, and film along with complimentary refreshments. The event is free and open to the public at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. bayside.

The afternoon will feature a variety of heritage programming. Charles Papparella, renowned local television photographer and reporter of “Travels with Charlie,” will perform music and share fascinating stories about the Eastern Shore.

Fiona O’Brien of Ocean City, co-founder of Saltare in Elementis Dance Collective, will show two movies she produced, directed, and choreographed. “The Way of the Shore” is a six-minute short that is part of a four-part film called “Roots: Maryland’s Nature to Nurture” about different environments across the state. “Hurricane Six” tells the story through dance of the 1933 storm and its impact on Ocean City.

The Tindley Family Choir will perform songs celebrating the legacy of Berlin-born Rev. Dr. Charles Albert Tindley, whose hymn, “I’ll Overcome

Some Day,” written in 1901, became the basis for the song titled, “We Shall Overcome.”

Beth Deeley will guide a community weaving project. Cultural organizations will be represented including the Beach to Bay Heritage Area, the Ocean City Lifesaving Station Museum, and Furnace Town Historic Site.

An all-media art show, “Eastern Shore Heritage,” hangs on the walls of the Arts Center in the Sisson Galleria, celebrating the stories, traditions, and heritage of the Eastern Shore, with special awards highlighting waterways, heritage sites, livelihood, and best in show.

TV trivia contest scheduled

Do you remember those TV shows? Well, if you loved the TV shows of the past, then you are a perfect candidate for the next trivia contest at the Ocean Pines library to be held on Wednesday, November 15 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the large meeting room. Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers with refreshments served. The event is free with no registration necessary. No team too big or small. Bring your friends, neighbors, siblings, in-laws or come and form a team at the event or play alone. Sponsored by Friends of the Ocean Pines Library.



Protection armor explained

Worcester County residents may not be aware that there is a leading manufacturer of protective armor located in Pocomoke. The Kiwanis Club heard about it at a recent weekly Wednesday meeting.

Emily Tunis, president and chief operating officer of Hardwire LLC and daughter of Kiwanis president Bob Wolfing and member Jan Wolfing, discussed the armor systems used by the military, law enforcement, municipalities, private and businesses consumers and school systems.

Hardwire LLC has donated more than 2,000 Emergency Response Shields to schools in Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties, an average of 30 units per school.

Pictured (L-R) are **Emily Tunis** holding a soft body armor protection sample and her father **Bob Wolfing**, holding a hard hand-held Emergency Response Shield.

updates

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players and helped raise \$13,000 for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign.

Budget updates

Viola said the fiscal-year 2024-2025 budget process is well underway. All departments have turned in budget sheets and Viola and the Finance team have started the review process. He said key budget items include pricing, statutory salary increases, and reserves.

Viola said budget binders would be delivered to Budget and Finance Committee members before the Christmas holiday. After that, review with the committee is tentatively scheduled for January 2-3, with Board work sessions to follow in January and a public hearing likely in February.

Rec and Parks updates

The Dog Park will soon benefit from several improvements, including separate agility courses for small and large dogs.

Fire hydrants were removed from the park, and the Association is looking into a more ADA accessible entrance-way. Additional benches are also being ordered.

Recent work at Pintail Park included repairs of the split-rail fence, at the request of the Recreation and Parks Committee. Senior Executive Office Manager Linda Martin said cleanup of the park is continual, with trash being picked up there at least three times each week.

New trash contract

Martin said a request for proposals for trash and recycling was sent to prospective bidders and posted on the Association website.

“We sent it out to nine contractors ... and it’s due to be back on November 13,” she said.

The current agreement with Republic Services is set to expire on December 31. Martin said the bids must be returned by November 13. Staff will evaluate those and target a presentation at the November or December Board meeting.

CPI updates

Martin said 96 new compliance, permit and inspections (CPI) violations were opened in September, including 67 for maintenance, trash and grass. During the same period, 127 violations were closed.

Ninety new work orders were opened in September, including 33 for general maintenance, 19 for grounds and landscaping, and 18 for drainage. Martin said 86 current or old work orders were closed last month.

Customer service updates

Martin said the customer service team fielded just over 100 questions in September, including 53 general questions, 23 about amenities, 18 about CPI,

and seven for Public Works.

For questions, email info@oceanpines.org or call 410-641-7717.

Financial updates

The Association was favorable to budget by roughly \$44,000 in September. Year-to-date budget favorability is now approximately \$483,000.

“The revenues continue with what has happened over the last several years,” Viola said. “We’ve made the phrase ‘organic growth’ popular here [and] it continues, especially in Golf.”

Viola said the total reserve balance as of September 30 is \$9.1 million, including \$6.2 million for general replacement, \$1.3 million in bulkheads, \$1.1 million in roads, \$400,000 in drainage and \$100,000 in new capital.

To view the latest financial statement, visit <https://www.oceanpines.org/web/page/s/finance>.

What is a veteran?

Veterans Day is Saturday and I was having a devil of a time conveying in words the high esteem in which I hold members of the armed forces. While doing some research I came across the following essay that captures how I feel. -CB



It's All About. . .

By **Chip Bertino**

chipbertino@delmarvacourier.com

What is a Veteran?

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem.

You can't tell a vet just by looking.

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel. He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She - or he - is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back AT ALL.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat - but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade - riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and

medals with a prosthetic hand. He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot, "THANK YOU."

"It is the soldier, not the reporter, Who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, Who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier, Who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protestor to burn the flag."

Father Denis Edward O'Brien/USMC





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Commentary

By Joe Reynolds
OceanPinesForum.com

OPA board meetings

The Ocean Pines Association is often touted as the second-largest HOA in the State of Maryland. It was created over 50 years ago.

Why then, given advances in technology, does video of board meetings leave much to be desired? Video coverage was better in 2010 than it is in 2023. From both a location and video coverage standpoint, OPA board meetings are a disgrace — not the board members or their conduct, but rather the physical facility where the meetings are held for those attending in person, and the video produced for viewing on YouTube.

OPA may well refute the above comment, but let's look at facts.

It is often said a picture is worth a thousand words. Look at the nearby image. This is more or less what a

entation box changing contents. Those fuzzy people in the postage-stamp box are your board members.

Only one board member is even recognizable, Stuart Lakernick. He participated remotely. Note that Lakernick's recognizable face is nearly the same "postage stamp" size as the rest of the entire video view of the seated board members. Those two postage-stamp video views are as good as it gets.

Much of the time, viewers have no idea who is speaking. At the last board meeting General Manager John Viola made his monthly presentation, a lengthy and important part of board meetings, but is never visible in the video. OPA counsel Bruce Bright participated in an important discussion related to enforcement of the OPA

members ask questions and viewers may have no idea of who is asking or who responds.

A presentation is made about offshore wind generation. Viewers never see the person making the presentation.

Viewers never see who is making public comments.

As for the physical meeting room, those attending have complained for a year or more about the inability to hear what board members or others are saying. Lora Pangratz, chair of the important

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee addressed this sound issue in public comments last Saturday. Tangentially, what she should have complained about as well, but did not, was the board held a "First Reading" of changes to Resolution M-01 dealing with DR violations, and apparently her committee was never even involved in the process. Of course, the board continued the ridi-

culous decades-long procedure of holding a "reading" of resolution changes without reading a single thing.

There has been discussion of constructing an addition to the Administration Building for a dedicated board meeting room where proper video equipment and audio equipment



could be installed. A place not adjacent to an open bar/restaurant.

OPA president Rick Farr put an end to any thought of a new meeting room at the meeting last Saturday when he said "this board" has no intention of using assessment dollars to build a board meeting room.

please see commentary on page 15

Courier Almanac

On November 8, 1960 John F. Kennedy, 43, becomes the youngest man ever to be elected president of the United States, narrowly beating Republican Vice President Richard Nixon. He was also the first Catholic to become president.

Estimates from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicate that there were around 19 million veterans in the United States in 2021. Veterans Day, observed each year on November 11, honors all those who served honorably in the U.S. military during both wartime and peacetime. Data from the VA indicates that, as of 2016, Gulf War veterans account for the largest share of all U.S. veterans. Roughly 7.8 million veterans served during the Gulf War. Vietnam veterans also make up a sizable percentage of U.S. military veterans, as VA estimates indicate there were approximately 5.9 million veterans who fought in the Vietnam War in 2021. Though veterans need not have served in wartime in order to be recognized and honored on Veterans Day, the vast majority of U.S. veterans served during wartime. According to the VA, 78 percent of veterans in 2021 had served during wartime.



That's Right!

By Carol Frazier

America is not just another country

My dear aunt used to have an expression that I thought was so funny - she would say, when baffled and confused, "I guess I just don't understand everything I know." I feel that way often these days, myself. Pretty much every day.

I look at our ginormous federal debt - over \$33,000,000,000.00 and counting - and marvel at the Left's ability (with loyal help from the mainstream media, academia, the entertainment industry, social media and just about the entire administrative state) to demonize as racist, homophobic, transphobic, cruel and coldhearted anyone who wants to rein in spending and reduce the debt. The emoji "SMH" comes into play here, as in "I'm scratching my head" wondering why they don't seem to have any concern or thought about how their

please see that's right on page 12

The Courier

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Three days of holiday farmers markets in Ocean Pines

When it comes to preparing a memorable Thanksgiving, many local people turn to the Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market's annual Thanksgiving markets.

This year, the three-day event will



year-round operation, has now grown into the largest off-season market event for its merchants and shoppers. Each year, merchants and community partners eagerly anticipate celebrating the harvest with farmers market patrons.

Market Manager David Bean said fall is the perfect time to visit the market, obviously for all the fresh, local produce, baked goods, and other items available for sale, but also because of the scenic beauty of the marketplace itself.

"With the majestic tree canopy above the marketplace in autumn color and the brisk fall

temperatures, it makes for a very special time," he said.

Bean said many visitors seize the opportunity to jump-start holiday shopping by exploring the various artisan boutiques and galleries at the marketplace.

What started roughly 11 years ago, when the market transitioned to a

temperatures, it makes for a very special time," he said.

Bean said many visitors seize the opportunity to jump-start holiday shopping by exploring the various artisan boutiques and galleries at the marketplace.

"There are always some great finds,

whether you are hosting dinner or in need of a hostess gift or just getting started on your holiday shopping," he said.

As for Thanksgiving, what can be better than an entire holiday that revolves around food?

"One of the best parts about Thanksgiving is the variety," Bean said. "Our green market merchants offer an astounding selection of fresh produce, meats, seafood and ingredients to complete your holiday feast."

Shoppers will find ample supplies of locally grown produce, including fresh greens like collards, cabbage, kale, turnip, and spinach, along with essentials like green beans, Brussels sprouts and sweet potatoes.

"Let's be honest – we all know that the vegetable side dishes are what makes the holiday feast complete," David Joseph Deacon of D.J. David Greengrocer said. "Those vegetable side dishes are always what we want seconds of. It's the green bean casserole, the sweet potato casserole with marshmallows and pecans, and fluffy

mashed potatoes that always manage to steal the spotlight from the rest of the table."

Shoppers can also grab a pie from one of the many marketplace bakeries. Or, for those who prefer baking themselves, Stag Run Farm will have a bountiful selection of apples from their Sussex County orchards.

Lenore Brady bakes her pies ahead of the big day, leaving room in the oven for the turkey and sides on Thanksgiving Day. Brady uses a mixture of her family's orchard apples to create the perfect pie, using some tart apples along with sweeter varieties.

For the home cooks, the spice traders at JABBS Seasonings offer herb and spice blends just right for Thanksgiving. Many shoppers return each year for their apple and pumpkin pie blend.

"If you're looking to discover something new, try our mulling blends, great when steeped in warmed apple cider or red wine," JABBS owner Janice Curtis said.

please see market on page 12

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Jolly Roger Parks announce Black Friday Sale

Black Friday is back for 2023 at Jolly Roger Amusement Parks! Visit the SpeedWorld Building at Jolly Roger on 30th St. on November 24, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kickstart your holiday shopping on the best deals of the year with 50% off all 2024 park passes and select merchandise!

“Black Friday is a lot of fun for our team and my family,” says Steve Pastusak, Vice President of Jolly Roger Amusement Parks, “there’s nothing better than seeing smiling faces of locals, guests, and friends saving 50% off their summer fun, especially knowing next year is going to be extra special as we’re going into our 60th season.”

Purchase passes for the Pier and

their 30th Street location, including SpeedWorld, Splash Mountain, 30th St. Amusement Park, and Mini Golf. Choose from The BIG Ticket, 2-Hour Armbands, Unlimited Daytime or Unlimited Nighttime Armbands, and more all for 50% off. Give your friends and family the gift that keeps on giving with Season Passes to Splash Mountain so you can cool off all

summer long.

Have a Jolly good time with music and live local coverage from Froggy 99.9 and Ocean 98, while sipping on some free hot chocolate. Or if you’d prefer, warm up by our fire pits while you make your way towards the register with a free cookie or pastry!

Plus, for the first time ever, Jolly Roger Amusement Parks is giving

away a free 2024 calendar for the first 300 guests who spend \$200.

Jolly Roger Amusement Parks Black Friday Sale will take place at the SpeedWorld Building at Jolly Roger 30th St. located at 2901 Philadelphia Ave in Ocean City.

For more information, please visit: <https://jollyrogerpark.com/black-friday/>

New art exhibits shown at Berlin library

The Worcester County Arts Council (WCAC) announced the current exhibit at the Berlin Library Gallery, featuring works by two local artists and Arts Council members: Mary Ainsworth, jewelry designs; and, Kathryn E. Redden – mixed media.

The exhibit will continue in the Berlin library branch until January 8, 2024.

Artwork is available for purchase and may be viewed during the library’s regular business hours.

For more information about fea-

tured artists, visit: www.worcester-countyartsCouncil.org

Mary Ainsworth received training in jewelry-making techniques and composition from the Smithsonian Institution’s Studio Art Department in Washington, DC. Her jewelry designs were aired last year on the local TV show “Beach and Beyond” and have been featured in the Bead Style Magazine. Currently, she designs and repairs jewelry at her home in the Parke in Ocean Pines. Making the world a more beautiful place, one piece at a time is Mary’s creative purpose. Her award-winning one-of-a-kind handcrafted jewelry has been exhibited in galleries in Ohio, Colorado, and currently in Maryland at the Worcester County Arts Council and the Art League of Ocean City where her work is exhibited and available for purchase.

Kathryn E. Redden was in eighth grade when she first started to study art. She explored various art mediums from oils, pastels, and charcoal to acrylic, photography, and mixed media. In addition to being a visual artist, Kathryn is the Artistic Director of Lower Shore Performing Arts Company, providing live performing arts events and arts-alive education programs for adults and children. Her art can be seen in Worcester County Arts Council’s, Windmill Creek Winery, the Atlantic General Hospital John “Jack” Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center in Berlin, Corbin Gallery and Studio in Crisfield, Art League of Ocean City, Hair Studio 720 in Salisbury, Delmarva’s Discovery Museum Shop, Morgan’s Gift Shop and Christmas Sweet in Pocomoke City. Kathryn has received numerous awards for her artwork. She has spoken at various conferences regarding the inspiration for her art and life challenges with cancer.



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Main topic - Ms. Dolansky's second grade class at Ocean City Elementary School has been working to identify the main topic and key details within a text by using text features. Students read the nonfiction book *Beavers* by Gail Gibbons to demonstrate this skill.

Veterans Day ceremony returns to Pines

The Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation will host a traditional ceremony to commemorate Veterans Day on Saturday, November 11, starting at 11 a.m. at the memorial grounds in Ocean Pines.

Memorial Foundation President Marie Gilmore said the ceremony will include patriotic music from the Delmarva Chorus, a color guard presentation of local American Legion representatives, and an address by guest speaker Col. David Cahn.

“Col. Cahn, USMC (retired) had a highly distinguished career spanning 35 years,” Gilmore said. “He served in the Middle East, Granada, Panama, South Korea, and on major Marine Corps bases. He was actively involved in wars and conflicts during Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, the Gulf War, Beirut, and Grenada. We are honored to have Col. Cahn as our Key-note Speaker.”

Some seating will be provided, but those attending are encouraged to bring a chair.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will move to the Ocean Pines Community Center.

For more information on the Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines and the Worcester County Veterans Memorial Foundation, visit www.opvets.org.

WCHD encourages diabetes understanding

In honor of National Diabetes Awareness Month, the Worcester County Health Department (WCHD) has a variety of opportunities for you to learn about prediabetes and diabetes, understand your risk of developing diabetes, know your response in managing diabetes, and diabetes screening. Throughout November, Worcester Health will share information about diabetes self-management and prevention through healthy cooking demonstrations, social media

*please see **wchd** on page 11*

***On Veterans Day and every day,**
may we always remember to thank the men and women of our armed forces for their selfless dedication to military service and for keeping our country the home of the free and the brave.*



Special thanks to the men and women of the Eastern Shore who have served and are serving now.

Senator Mary Beth Carozza

District 38



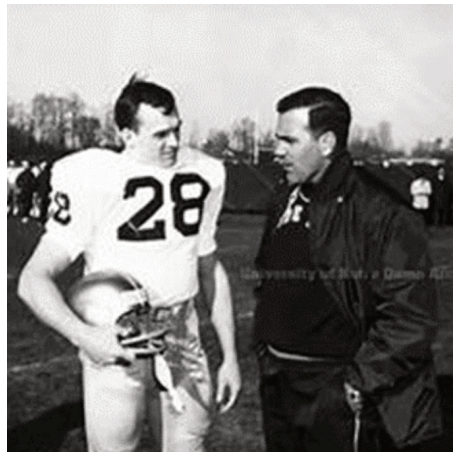
Knots & Knots by Dan Collins

The universal soldier

Last June I attended a very moving ceremony at my 55th college alumni reunion. It honored our veterans and those unfortunates who were called on to make the ultimate sacrifice. The keynote speaker was a Vietnam veteran and classmate who was wounded twice, evacuated, survived and moved on. This what he had to say 55 years later:

"In serving our country we came from the four corners of this great land – north-south-east and west. We were dispersed around the world and those who ended up in Vietnam, we ended up in 1, 2, 3, and 4 Corp... from the DMZ to the delta. From Cambodia and Thailand to the coastal shore.

"We wore the patches of the Americal, the 25th, the Big Red One, the



Captain **Robert "Rocky" Bleier** with Notre Dame head football coach, **Ara Parseghian**.



SPC4 **Robert Bleier**, in country, with Company C, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

82nd, and the 101st, representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. We were privates, non-coms, and officers. We walked point – humped the monkey on our back and bitched about the food. We worked the big guns, the mortars and the M-60s and flew support in fighters, gunships and C130s.

"We patrolled not only the rivers of the Mekong but also the streets of Saigon, Long Bin, Da Nang and Chu Lai. We belonged to the M.P.s, S&Ts and intelligence. We were in finance, communications and personnel.

"We cared for the wounded and sent the dead home in body bags. In that era, we were 3.5 million strong. We laughed, we cried and were afraid to die. We lost family, friends and loved ones. We were bored, waited for care packages and sent love letters home. We looked forward to R&R, rotation and becoming civilians once again.

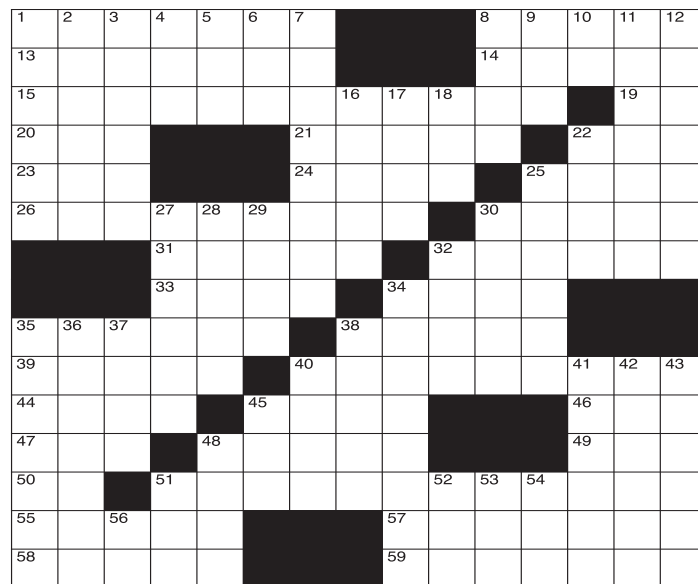
"We left one battlefield only to face another and we fought for our dignity. We went back to making a living. We became writers, doctors, lawyers and musicians. We went back to the farmlands and factories. We worked our way up the corporate ladder or became elected officials. We married or remained single or got separated or divorced but we raised our families and moved on.

"Our experiences changed us. We either copped out or we coped, and for those who survived, we worked hard and made it and now that we are of this age, remember we were the ones who fed this nation and cared for the sick.

"We were the ones who own the factories and made the country's decisions. We paid a price. So be proud not only as Americans but also as Viet Nam Veterans because you deserve it. You did good. I salute thee."

This speech was delivered by the only National Football League player to serve in Vietnam. He was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the sixteenth round in the spring of 1968 and played

please see **soldier** on page 11

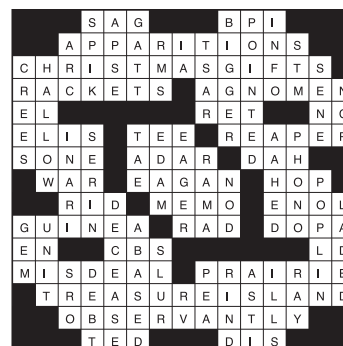


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Happen again
- 8. Large flightless birds
- 13. A type of account
- 14. Beyond what is natural
- 15. Beloved comfort food
- 19. Rural delivery
- 20. Belonging to us
- 21. Typical
- 22. Pie ___ mode
- 23. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 24. Not us
- 25. Discharge
- 26. Made empty
- 30. Fishing net
- 31. Fast-moving, harmless snake
- 32. Analyzed into its parts
- 33. In a way, chilled
- 34. Hindu queen
- 35. Circles around the sun
- 38. Used for emphasis
- 39. Reactive structures
- 40. Recommendations
- 44. Feel intense anger
- 45. Puke
- 46. Rural Northern Ireland community
- 47. Naturally occurring solid material
- 48. British watch brand
- 49. Toddler
- 50. Integrated circuit
- 51. Being revered
- 55. "Pets" you can grow
- 57. Continual
- 58. Puts together in time
- 59. Houses temporarily

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Vital public document
- 2. Disinter
- 3. Musical performances
- 4. After B
- 5. Every body has one (abbr.)
- 6. Utilize
- 7. In a way, disproved
- 8. Fisherman's tool
- 9. Of she
- 10. Trauma center
- 11. Commercial flyer
- 12. Administered medicine to calm
- 16. Popular R&B performer
- 17. Regretted
- 18. Leg (slang)
- 22. "Night Train" author
- 25. More supernatural
- 27. Baltimore ballplayer
- 28. Shoe parts
- 29. Scores perfectly
- 30. More lucid
- 32. Trim by cutting
- 34. Disreputable people
- 35. Dramatic behaviors
- 36. Disorder
- 37. Private box in a theater
- 38. More dried-up
- 40. Raw
- 41. In operation
- 42. Pillager
- 43. Butterflies with brown wings
- 45. Disallow
- 48. Own up
- 51. Hungarian city
- 52. A way to condemn
- 53. Tax collector
- 54. Lease
- 56. Not out



Answers for November 1

Magi Fund events scheduled

The Magi Fund will hold an all-new holiday event, "A Magi Christmas Concert & Veterans Day Tribute," for one performance only on Saturday, November 11, 2023.

It will feature the National Christian Choir and the Orchestra of the Eastern Shore.

The show will be at 3 p.m. in the 1,800-plus seat Emmanuel Church Auditorium on Beaglin Park Drive in Salisbury.

The Magi Fund, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, has for three decades staged musical events as fundraisers for the Joseph House Center and the Christian Shelter. Throughout its existence, the Magi Fund has devoted 100 percent of ticket proceeds and contributions to benefit those two charities, which provide housing and crisis intervention for the region's needy.

"We are celebrating our 30th year and we're planning a very special and

slightly different concert," said Magi Fund Chairman Bonnie Luna. "November 11 is a significant day of remembrance – Veterans Day – and in addition to our Christmas program, we will recognize and honor our Veterans with a special patriotic tribute. This will be particularly memorable as we celebrate the birth of Christ and honor those who have served our country."

Committee Member Cynthia Williams added, "The National Christian Choir is returning for its 20th year of performing in the Magi Fund's annual holiday concert. The Orchestra of the Eastern Shore is making its debut appearance. They will perform separately, as well as together, to produce an unforgettable program of music. You don't want to miss this concert."

Williams said members of the community encourage the Magi Fund to continue providing this holiday event to kick off the Christmas season.

please see events page 13

wchd
from page 9

posts, videos, and commercials that will be advertised at Flagship Cinema. The health department also offers Diabetes Support Groups and Lifestyle Balance, a diabetes prevention program.

In recognition of World Diabetes Day on November 14th, Worcester Health encourages residents to submit photos of themselves wearing blue for a chance to win a free wellness prize. To participate, snap your photo and email it to Crystal.bell1@maryland.gov. Photo submissions will be posted to the Worcester Health social media accounts with the promotional National Diabetes Awareness Month frames.

As part of National Diabetes Awareness Month activities, Diabetes Support Group sessions will take place in Snow Hill and Pocomoke. The Snow Hill sessions are held on the third Wednesday of every month from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Snow Hill library, and the Pocomoke sessions are held every third Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Pocomoke 50+ Center. November's support group sessions will be held on November 15 in Snow Hill, and November 16 in Pocomoke. Individuals who have diabetes and their caregivers are encouraged to attend monthly support groups to continue their education about how to manage diabetes. Monthly topics focus on blood glucose monitoring, medication

management, reducing your risk of developing complications from diabetes, nutrition, meal planning, physical activity, managing sick days, and more.

The health department also offers Lifestyle Balance, a year-long diabetes prevention program that is proven to help prevent or delay the onset of Type 2 diabetes. *Lifestyle Balance* is at three different locations:

-Pocomoke Health Center: 5p.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays (October 19 to October 17, 2024) at 400-A Walnut St. Pocomoke, MD 21851.

-Snow Hill Health Department: 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays (November 8 to November 6, 2024) at 6040 Public Landing Rd. Snow Hill, MD 21863.

-Berlin Health Center: 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., Thursdays (November 9 to November 7, 2024) at 9730 Healthway Dr. Berlin, MD 21811.

In this program, a trained coach helps participants learn how to eat healthier, increase daily physical activity, and lose weight. Individuals, on average, lose between 5% and 7% of their body weight. Pre-registration is required, class space is limited.

For more information about diabetes and prediabetes, please visit WorcesterHealth.org or call the Worcester County Health Department at 410-632-1100 ext. 1108 and ask about diabetes prevention and support group programs. To learn about your risk for prediabetes, take the Do I have Prediabetes risk test.

ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Worcester County Veterans Memorial at Ocean Pines



NOVEMBER 11, 2023

11 A.M.

*We will honor all
who have served in
our nation's military.*

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please bring your lawn chairs

*In the event of inclement weather the ceremony
will be held at Ocean Pines Community Center.*

that's right
from page 5

children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, ad infinitum, are going to be affected by this debt, which, at the rate we're going, may exceed \$50,000,000,000.00 by the year 2035.

I look at the various federal agencies that are being financed, at this point by money "borrowed" from China and other enemy nations, and wonder how long we can possibly go on like this - especially considering the abject failure of these agencies to do anything approaching a decent or proper job. A good example of this is the Department of Homeland Security. Were you aware that a terrorism suspect from Senegal was released into the U.S. after he was caught illegally crossing into Arizona on October 3rd? A week later, on October 10th, Homeland Security notified ICE that the man was wanted for terroristic activities and ICE was, thankfully, able to track him down and arrested him in New York on October 17th. I guess we should consider ourselves lucky that he wasn't able to accomplish a terrorist attack in the two weeks he was free in the USA. Of course, the reason he was released by the Border Patrol after his initial apprehension is because they had no idea about his

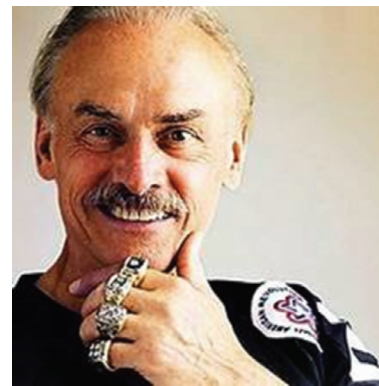
background - they were just following orders to process and release with a notice to report to Enforcement and Removal Operations in New York City at some future date. Does that sound as if the DHS is doing the job it was created to do? There are thousands of illegal aliens crossing our border every day, unvetted, unknown and being told to just go wherever they want to go.

I could tell similar horror stories about every federal agency - they are all rife with waste, fraud and abuse, and our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, ad infinitum, are going to pay for this.

If you love these children, wouldn't you want them to inherit an America governed by the rule of law and unburdened by a massive, corrosive federal debt - not an America governed by unelected bureaucrats looking to retain power and politicians seeking votes?

America is more than just lines on a map. It is an idea - the best idea for a self-governing republic ever derived. In order to truly be an American, one needs to understand and believe in the idea of America, as set forth in our precious founding documents. Without the principles set forth in these documents, America is just another country.

What a tragedy that would be.



Four-time Super Bowl Champion
Rocky Bleier.

soldier
from page 10

one season. Then, he was draft by the Selective Service that December and found himself "in country" by May 1969.

He was wounded twice during the same action and was evacuated with leg and foot wounds. In Tokyo, he was told that his professional football playing days were over and walking with a cane was the order of the day. That was not an acceptable prognosis and after two years of self-inflicted, endless rehab he returned to the Steelers team and earned four Super Bowl Championship rings.

His name is Bob "Rocky" Bleier. He was never a colossal NFL physical specimen. He was just a young man with vi-

sion and resolve who excelled in football. He grew up in his family's bar and rooming house business in Appleton, Wisconsin, and attended the University of Notre Dame. He became the Fighting Irish's starting halfback on its 1966 national championship team and team captain in his senior year before Art Rooney drafted him as the 417th pick in the 16th round.

Rocky's speech was given on the steps of Notre Dame's administration building with its iconic golden dome shining above. The ceremony included the reading of the names of all alums that had died in Vietnam as well as honoring the returning vets.

The litany of names was emotional, partly because the podium was also within sight of the doorway to Sacred Heart Basilica. Only 100 feet from where Rocky was giving his speech, the attendees could see from the corner of their eyes a well-known and often quoted inscription over the basilica's door that honors Notre Dame's WWI fatalities. It reads, "God, Country, Notre Dame."

Rocky's resolve to overcome obstacles and his lifelong effort to motivate others is inspirational. He, and all our veterans, have served our country proudly and continue to be the backbone and moral fiber of the United States. God bless all of them and God bless America.

Stay safe. Stay dry.

commentary
from page 6

Actually, no board has ever voted on the issue. Farr could have at least suggested the GM proceed with obtaining accurate costs and information relative to such a project. At this point, the cost is guesstimated at around \$500,000. No small sum of money, certainly.

However, Farr and the board should not allow short-sighted association member negativity, and perhaps board member re-election concerns, to cloud their thinking. OPA is in perpetuity. OPA is a major HOA in the State of Maryland. OPA is home to the largest group of voters registered in Worcester County. More voters than Ocean City, or Berlin, or Snow Hill, or Pocomoke City. Board meetings deliberating the future of our association should take place in a setting suitable to the importance of the meeting, a place where those attending can hear what is said and with video capability allowing viewers to see and hear who is talking.

A dedicated Board of Directors meeting room would not be for the benefit of the Board of Directors; it would be for the benefit of association members. The

idea should not be dismissed out of hand.

A dedicated meeting room aside, OPA must take immediate steps to correct sound problems for those attending meetings at the Country Club and use some common sense in the use of PowerPoint text or image banners that fill 80% or more of the screen for meetings, many times useless information that prevents viewers from even seeing or knowing who is talking.

How about this for an idea — have a laptop computer on the table in front of every board member and then have all seven members' faces displayed individually on the screen for video, perhaps with each director's name below their video image. Better yet, install the same system used by Worcester County at both the Country Club and the Assateague Room. More on these options to come.

Finally, the reality is the OPA Board of Directors has the absolute first right to use the Assateague Room for board meetings. The board has refused to exercise that right for years. If it did so, there would be no need for a new dedicated board room.

market
from page 7

Last but not least, the market also carries plenty of supplies to help decorate the home and the dinner table.

Merchants like floral artisan Terry Jordan creates stunning centerpiece arrangements. Jordan owns Longridge Gardens and has been at the Ocean Pines marketplace for 10 years. She also creates unique place setting favors and hostess gifts from items found from her gardens.

For many, the long Thanksgiving weekend is the perfect time to begin putting up holiday decorations.

At Snyder's Produce and Beautiful Things, the focus has changed to seasonal greenery. Debbie Snyder and her team will bring their fresh, handmade wreaths and garland roping to the market throughout the winter holiday season.

"We source a mixture of pine types to make our holiday greens," Snyder said. "The greens are hand cut, bunched, and attached to wreath frames or strung on rope cording for the garlands."

Don't forget: The market merchants will return on Saturday, Nov. 25 for Small Business Saturday.

"Those Thanksgiving leftovers can be amazing, but being able to freshen them up during Thanksgiving weekend is an added benefit of shopping here on Small Business Saturday," Bean said.

"What's a turkey sandwich without crispy green lettuce and a slice of late autumn tomato? Those leftover veggies can also make an awesome omelet with farm fresh eggs from the market on Sunday morning, before indulging in more holiday weekend football," Bean added.

The Ocean Pines Farmers & Artisans Market is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon in White Horse Park, next to the Ocean Pines Administration Building and Police Department.

For more information, visit www.oceanpines.org/web/pages/farmers-artisans-market.



Future boaters - The Ocean City Power Squadron presented the Safe Boating class to future boaters at the Berlin Intermediate School After School program.

Mann to address genealogy society

The Lower Delmarva Genealogy Society will meet November 16 at 2 p.m. in the conference room of the Ocean Pines branch of the Worcester County Library.

Local Author Bunk Mann will speak on three famous Ocean City mayors, discussing the achievements of Hugh Cropper Jr., Harry Kelley, Roland "Fish" Powell and the roles they played in Ocean City's history. Mann is the author of "Vanishing Ocean City," "Ghosts in the Surf," and his newest book "Ocean City Chronicles."

The Genealogy Society meets monthly in the spring and fall. Their special interest is the Lower Shore but other families are also studied.

They maintain their own library and welcome church histories. The meeting in Ocean Pines is free and open to the public. For further information please contact John King at 410-632-1751.

Tides for Ocean City Inlet

Day	High /Low	Tide Time
Th 9	High	4:47 AM
9	Low	10:43 AM
9	High	5:03 PM
9	Low	11:00 PM
F 10	High	5:28 AM
10	Low	11:30 AM
10	High	5:44 PM
10	Low	11:38 PM
Sa 11	High	6:07 AM
11	Low	12:14 PM
11	High	6:24 PM
Su 12	Low	12:15 AM
12	High	6:47 AM
12	Low	12:57 PM
12	High	7:04 PM
M 13	Low	12:53 AM
13	High	7:28 AM
13	Low	1:39 PM
13	High	7:46 PM
Tu 14	Low	1:32 AM
14	High	8:11 AM
14	Low	2:23 PM
14	High	8:29 PM
W 15	Low	2:13 AM
15	High	8:55 AM
15	Low	3:09 PM
15	High	9:14 PM

GOLD accepting donor support

Worcester County GOLD (Giving Other Lives Dignity) is now accepting donations and shoppers to support its Helping Hands for the Holidays program. This program provides holiday gifts for over 500 local children every year. All families are referred to GOLD by their community partners to verify needs and prevent duplication of services.

Supporters can donate toys by shipping or dropping them at GOLD's office at 201 River St in Snow Hill, MD 21863, or donate money by mailing a check to Worcester GOLD, P.O. Box 335, Snow Hill, MD 21863. Those who wish to donate online or sign up to shop for local children can do so at www.WorcesterGOLD.org. The deadline to donate or sign up to shop is December 1.

The Greene Turtle in West Ocean City will host the 25th Annual Chili Cook-Off to support this program. Attendees will provide \$10 or a new unwrapped toy and gain access to drink specials and unlimited chili samples from 12 of the best local restaurants. Help us crown the best chili and bring cheer to a child in need this holiday season! This event will be held on Sunday, December 3, 2023, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GOLD's Executive Director, Nicholas Cranford, said, "GOLD's programs provide an opportunity for local families, businesses, and organizations to serve our neighbors in need efficiently."

events from page 11

"Each year, God makes a way for us to do so," she noted. "We are often told by attendees that the concert sets the tone for their holiday, and many say it is the highlight of the season."

Luna said tickets for Magi concerts have always been in high demand. "The fact there will be only one show and we're adding the Veterans Day Tribute will just make this more so. Folks should buy their tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment," she said.

Tickets are \$20 and available at the Country House in Salisbury and

all branches of First Shore Federal Savings and Loan in Salisbury, Ocean Pines, Snow Hill, Pocomoke, Berlin and Ocean View, Delaware.

For additional information about the event or the Magi Fund itself, call Bonnie Luna at 410-749-1633 or visit the Magi Fund website at www.magifund.com.

If you live in Ocean Pines, be sure to contact The Courier if you want the paper each week in your driveway.

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Honors - The Charles R. Jenkins Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) at Worcester Preparatory School (WPS) inducted 30 new members on Tuesday, October 31.

Front Row: **Angeline Todorov, Frank Miller, Sydney Tingle, Lydia Schwartz, Avery Roselle, Emma Zajdel and Danielle Carr.**

Second Row: **Abigail Ament, Lindsay Bruner, Nazli Unal, Aurora Holland and Nathan Montague.**

Third Row: **Jayden Scopp, Lucas Nicastro, Michael DePalma, Owen West, Landon Schul, Ryan Mann, Edward Martikyan and Aleksey Klimins.**

Back Row: **Travis Netting, Ryan Lenox, William Wells, Jackson Fernley, Allen Zhang, James Haley, Jack Lynch, Benjamin McGovern, Dillon Scopp and Andrew McCormick.**

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Art League online auction to end

The nonprofit Art League of Ocean City is holding an online auction as a fundraiser for their 60th Diamond Jubilee anniversary. Funds raised from the auction will support updates to the Ocean City Center for the Arts and outreach programs to the community.

Bidding ends on November 9. The auction can be viewed at OCart.org and by clicking on the auction box on the home page. Anyone may bid on this auction, and attendance at the sold-out Diamond Jubilee is not required to bid.

Along with a selection of fine artwork, the auction includes experiences, get-aways, fine dining, and special services such as a private sunset cruise, catered dinners for six, a diamond necklace, get-aways to Antigua, family photos sessions, and much more.

"This is an exciting way to support us and enjoy a fun experience at the same time," Rina Thaler, executive director of the nonprofit, said. "The items in our auction were generously donated by our community, and we thank them for their support."

More information is available at OCart.org or 410-524-9433.

Some things to think about

Gathered from the internet
by **Jack Barnes**

Prepare to Groan

How does an attorney sleep?
First, he lies on one side, then he lies on the other side.

I have a few jokes about unemployed people, but none of them work.

Will glass coffins be a success?
Remains to be seen.

What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo?
One is really heavy, and the other is a little lighter.

Two windmills are standing in a wind farm. One asks, "What's your favorite kind of music?"
The other says, I'm a big metal fan.

Hear about the new restaurant called Karma?
There's no menu - you get what you deserve.

I went to buy some camouflage

trousers yesterday but I couldn't find any.

I tried to sue the airline for losing my luggage. I lost my case.

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Is it ignorance or apathy that's destroying the world today?
I don't know and I don't really care.

I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant, but then I changed my mind.

My ex-wife still misses me. But her aim is starting to improve.

I saw an ad for burial plots, and I thought:
That's the last thing I need!

Need an ark? I Noah guy

I used to be indecisive; now I'm not so sure.


What did the grape say when it got stepped on? Nothing - but it let out a little whine.

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Veterans Day

Each November, millions of people recognize the service and sacrifice of military veterans on Veterans Day. Initially commemorated as Armistice Day but renamed Veterans Day in the United States in 1954, the holiday is a federal holiday throughout the country.

The first Armistice Day was observed in 1919.

When is Veterans Day observed? *The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of which day of the week that happens to be. In 2023, Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11.*

Why is November 11 so significant? *November 11 is a significant day in world history because it marks the signing of the armistice between the Allies of World War I and Germany at 5:45 a.m. on November 11, 1918. Though the formal peace treaty, the Treaty of Versailles, was not signed until 1919 and hostilities between the sides continued for hours after the armistice was signed, the day is still viewed as the end of World War I.*

What distinguishes Veterans Day from Memorial Day? *The VA notes that Veterans Day honors all those individuals who served honorably in the military during both wartime and peacetime. Memorial Day is a day to honor and remember military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who lost their lives in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.*



Post 166 Leathernecks