



Pat's Gourmet Coffee Shop

166 North Main Street, Mooresville, NC

The Most Patriotic Coffee Shop in the USA

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It Happened at the Shop

by Richard Warren

Oct. 15th, William "Bill" Norwood from Cleveland, TN. came into the shop. He came down here to play some music on that Saturday morning with the rest of the pickers. Once here, he realized he was not in a typical coffee shop. When asked if he had served in the military, he told us an amazing story about the inner strength a man can find within himself under the most extreme conditions.

Bill fought in Korea with the 24th Infantry division where he was taken prisoner by the North Korean Army. He was held for 2 1/2 years! While in prison, he wrote a song for his Mother, which we were blessed by having him sing it to the Saturday morning crowd. If there was a dry eye in the shop, I was not aware of it.

Bill signed in the book and left to return to Cleveland, TN. Not long after, I received a large envelope from Bill. He had written a very moving letter about how he was welcomed by all here at the shop. Included was a poem "The 1600". This poem was written by prisoners who were held between 1951 and 1953 in North Korea and dedicated to those who had lost their lives by freezing, starvation or being shot by the North Korean guards. The poem hangs in the shop to honor those brave Soldiers.

As Bill was introduced to the crowd, he was recognized as a very strong man as he had survived that terrible ordeal. Bill, thank you and God bless you for your service to our country.

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PGCS Web Site

Visit the Coffee Shop web site at -

www.welcomehomeveteran.org

Give your comments and suggestions to Richard at The Coffee Shop.

Gentle Giants

by Cheryl Ann

It's a Tuesday before a special Thursday and a Mother whose son is serving his third tour in Iraq, came into the Coffee Shop with eighteen Christmas cards and asked Richard if he could get the Veterans to sign them so she could send them to her son Chris Benfield and the other young men in his unit.



Thursday came and I asked forty Veterans if they could sign eighteen Christmas cards for some young men who are serving in Iraq. Everyone gladly signed the cards and even put down when and where they served their country so proudly.



There is such a special bond among these Veterans





whether young or old. As I took pictures of them signing the cards, I couldn't help but smile with so much admiration, yet watch with tears thinking that some of these Veterans had been in the same situation these young soldiers are in today – away from home at Christmas proudly serving their country as these Veterans once did many years ago.



There was so much compassion on their faces as they signed the cards. Tears of joy came to my eyes when I thought that these young soldiers, our heroes of today, were getting Christmas cards that were signed by our heroes of yesterday.

The next day Chris Benfield's mother came in to pick up the Christmas cards and Richard said she was in tears when she saw how many Veterans had not only signed their names but where and when they served their country.

My apologies to Cheryl Ann for leaving this article out of the January Newsletter. Norm

From Dustin in Iraq

Hope all is going well down at the shop. I once again appreciate all the support you guys give me. Thanks again for keeping pictures and stories out there, so that people can see the good instead of just the bad. Anyhow I got a few little stories for you.

First story. I was pulling security on my truck. I was driving this particular day, while others went on a dismantled patrol. I handed my hand mike up to my gunner and told him to listen for anyone calling us. We had a bunch of kids swarming our truck and they were getting in the way of traffic. I then told them all to back up. They all wanted to shake my hand and give high fives. I stayed over there for about 20 minutes with them. I was walking back to the truck and I felt something on my pant leg. I was like what in the world is that so I brushed it away. It then happens again so I look down and there was this most precious little girl, she was pulling on my pant leg as I walked. She couldn't have been more than 2 years old. All she wanted was for me to smile at her and she got all giggly. She wrapped herself around my leg until we had to go.

Second story. I was gunning on a mounted patrol. It had been raining off and on for about a week. It had rained on us first thing in the morning but I dried off pretty quick. It's about 40 degrees outside. My driver decides to be funny and go flying through a mud puddle. I got soaked. Everyone laughed about it including me, because every time we get a chance to do that, we do it. It just takes the stress away and a way for us to have a good time.

Dusty

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Dustin Coming Home!

I have a surprise, I will be home to tell stories and show pictures in person instead of over email!! I am scheduled to be flying home on Feb 8th. I hope that we will not be delayed anywhere and can make it home on time. Well, that is all for now. Dustin.





Every American Should See This.



This statue currently stands outside the Iraqi palace, which is now home to the 4th Infantry division and will eventually be shipped home and put in the memorial museum in Fort Hood, Texas.

The statue was created by an Iraqi artist named Kalat, who for years was forced by Saddam Hussein to make the many hundreds of bronze busts of Saddam that dotted Baghdad.

Kalat was so grateful for the Americans liberation of his country; he melted 3 of the heads of the fallen Saddam and made the statue as a memorial to the American soldiers and their fallen warriors.

Kalat worked on this memorial night and day for several months.

To the left of the kneeling soldier is a small Iraqi girl giving the soldier comfort as he mourns the loss of his comrade in arms.

Do you know why we don't hear about this in the news? Because it is heart warming and praise worthy.

The media avoids it because it does not have the shock effect that a flashed breast or controversy of politics does.

Thanks Steve

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February Birthdays

None recorded – If you have a birthday in February, we hope you have a Happy Birthday and many more to come.

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February Dates To Remember

Groundhog Day, February 2.

Lincoln's Birthday, February 12.

Valentine's Day, February 14.

Washington's Birthday, February 22.

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Valentine's Day

In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first valentine cards.

Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's and now the date is very commercialised. The town of Loveland, Colorado, does a large post office business around February 14.

Happy Valentines Day to all our Ladies.





Why A "NATIONAL" Monument?

There are many reasons for establishing a "National War Dogs Monument" in Washington D.C. The primary one is that our country's War Dogs have earned the right to be recognized and honored for their service and sacrifice for our nation's freedom. Secondly, it is long overdue.

The United States War Dogs have a long—mostly unknown—legacy of military history for heroism and sacrifice on thousands of named and unnamed foreign fields of battle around the world. They saved the lives of countless thousands of Americans and non-combatants, including the protection of countless billions of dollars worth of military implements (e.g., aircraft and airfields, hospitals, base camps, motor pools of wheeled and tracked vehicles, ammunition dumps, fuel dumps, food and medical supplies, water storage facilities, strategic communication sites, naval supply vessels and depots) and the list goes on.

Our country's War Dogs were not mascots; they were highly trained and proficient four-footed Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, Sailors and Coast Guards. These intelligent animals performed dangerous jobs such as Scout, Sentry, Tracker, Mine & Booby Trap, Tunnel, Water Patrol, Coast Guard, Search & Rescue, Drug and Explosive Detection.

They had names like Stubby, Chips, Nemo, Prince, Rolf, Baron, Clipper, Rip, Caesar, Duke, Lucky, Kobuc, Smokey, Flop, Erich, Thea, Rebel, Opal, Tiger, Kelly, Renee, Alex, London, Troubles, Sergeant, Shadow, Paper, Stormy, and Dutch, just to name a few. And they worked for food and water and the love of their human companions. In return, their loyalty was unconditional. And they never gave up on the battlefields and didn't know the meaning of the word, "retreat."

They couldn't have performed their jobs without the proficient healthcare services provided by the military Veterinarians and Vet Techs that treated the dogs with respect, patience, understanding and loving care. They managed their diets, medicated their diseases,

dressed their cuts and scrapes, mended their combat wounds and nursed them to health, and they nurtured their emotional stress.

All of this and more is why we will never give up on a long overdue "National War Dogs Monument" to honor all the dogs and handlers of all Wars; past, present and future. As a "FREE NATION" we owe them this monument, mandated by Congress, and erected in our nation's capitol of Washington D.C. for the entire world to know and see that they are NOT America's forgotten heroes.

Visit www.wardogsmemorial.org for more information.

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Military Medals

Today, there are two categories of military medals: decorations and medals. Decorations are awarded for valor or meritorious service. They are traditionally in the shape of a star, cross, hexagon or similar heraldic design.

Although a few decorations are round, the circular shape is used almost exclusively for service medals. These medals are awarded for good conduct, participation in a particular campaign or expedition.

There are 4 official forms of a military medal ... the 3 basic methods for wearing medals are Full Size, Miniature Medals on formal dress and Ribbon Bars. An Enamel Lapel Pin is worn on civilian suits and many Veterans use the enamel pins on their hats.

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Did You Know?

The term "the whole 9 yards" came from W.W.II fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "the whole 9 yards."

