



# Pat's Gourmet Coffee Shop

166 North Main Street, Mooresville, NC

The Most Patriotic Coffee Shop in the USA

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March, 2006

## It Happened at the Shop

by Richard Warren

Buck Cowan's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. What a celebration it was. The Marines especially made sure that he had a proper cake and was honored by speeches made by Harry Turner and Dennis Clary. Buck was very humble as he tends to be, saying "I don't deserve all of this attention". Buck, I have something I need to share with you and all the WW2 Veterans still alive today. You are our direct connection to the "Greatest Generation". Without your sacrifices, we would not be living in a free country today. You and your comrades, whether you served on land, air or sea, represent all those who served and paid the supreme sacrifice for our country. So many families come in here and look at the memorabilia and tell me of a Father, Grandfather, Aunt or other family member who served and lost their life somewhere during the war. I will show them one of our regular Veterans who served in the same branch or theater and they beam with pride knowing their Veteran still has buddies that would know what their loss means to them. Many will come in to meet a Veteran to hear stories of what their Veteran might have done while still serving.

Buck, it's ok to be humble, but remember, there are a lot of us who need you. You and your fellow WW2 comrades let us point with pride and say "He/She is my hero and friend".

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## PGCS Web Site

Visit the Coffee Shop web site at -

[www.welcomehomeveteran.org](http://www.welcomehomeveteran.org)

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

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**Wear short sleeves! Support your right to bear arms.**

## Gentle Giants

by Cheryl Ann

It is special Thursday as I call it, and we had some WW2 women veterans in here meeting for the first time which was really neat. The special part is that one of the women veterans, Mary Foreman, was a WW2 nurse who was stationed in Hawaii and cared for the Iwo Jima wounded. When Buck Cowan, a WW2 veteran who was at Iwo Jima, found out she looked after the wounded from Iwo Jima, he wanted to meet her. The looks on their faces were priceless as the two met each other for the first time. I watched them smile; I watched them laugh as they shared memories together. I had to capture the moment of



them meeting for the first time. The wounded had to rely on the nurses to help them get better just as they do today. Some didn't survive Iwo Jima and some like a Buck Cowan and a Mary Foreman are here today to be able to share their lives with us. I had tears in my eyes as I watched Buck and Mary, but they were happy tears. Buck had shared he was having a birthday in March and Mary had shared that she was going to be 84 the 18th of February. The smiles they had on their faces I think had to have come from the bottoms of their hearts, where else can it come from to be so beautiful a joy. It's one of those many times that with excitement I share with Richard what I saw and he will smile and say. "Cheryl ann. you're preaching to the choir" and I will laugh and say, "I know it!" what a beautiful day in here in the coffee shop as it always is.





# Did You Know

## An American Noah

Louisiana entrepreneur Andrew Jackson Higgins first designed shallow-draft boats in the late 1920s to rescue Mississippi River flood victims. Higgins tried for years to sell his boats to the U.S. military, but he was rejected repeatedly. At last, the Marine Corps selected the flat-bottomed landing craft for troop landings on Pacific beaches. Higgins, who had paid heavily out-of-pocket to promote his boats, finally landed the government contract -- and his factories produced 20,000 of the versatile craft for the war effort -- including D-Day.



# March Birthdays

Ron Raper – March 5<sup>th</sup>

Sue Brittain - March 7<sup>th</sup>

Buck Cowan – March 15<sup>th</sup>

Bobby Brown – March 17<sup>th</sup>

Dusty Rhodes – March 17<sup>th</sup>

Happy Birthday to anyone we missed.



# March Dates To Remember

Employee Appreciation Day – March 9

St. Patrick's Day – March 17

First Day of spring – March 20

(Vernal Equinox - day and night of equal length)

World Water Day - March 22

Good Friday – March 25

Easter Sunday – March 27.

1965-Operation Rolling Thunder, the systematic bombing of military units in North Vietnam started on March 26

# Medal of Honor

When considering the design of the Medal of Honor there are two factors one must remember:

- 1) The Medal of Honor was designed in the early days of the Civil War to represent the valiant efforts of the Union Army, Navy and Marines, and
- 2) Over the years as the Medal has become a historic symbol of the bravest of the brave, in respect to all who have earned it, little has been done to change its design.



THE ORIGINAL Navy Medal of Honor

The Navy's Medal of Honor was the first approved and the first designed. The initial work was done by the Philadelphia Mint at the request of Secretary of the

Navy Gideon Welles. The Mint submitted several designs for consideration, and the one prepared by the Philadelphia firm of William Wilson & Sons was the design selected.

## Present Day Variations of the Medal of Honor

ARMY



NAVY



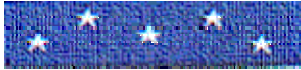
AIR FORCE





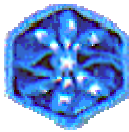
## RIBBON AND ROSETTE

On May 2, 1895 Congress authorized "a rosette or knot to be worn in lieu of the medal and a ribbon to be worn with the medal." Today's Medal of Honor Ribbon is blue with FIVE stars, 2 at the top and 3 at the bottom.



(One of the most common mistakes people make when displaying Medal of Honor graphics is to display the ribbon up-side down.)

The six-sided blue silk rosette bears 13 stars and is worn on civilian attire. Medal of Honor recipients also wear the Medal itself around the neck of civilian attire for special occasions.



When the patent on the Medal of Honor first obtained by General Gillespie expired in 1918 Congress intervened to protect the Medal's integrity. In 1923 legislation was enacted to prohibit the unauthorized manufacture of medals awarded by the military services. Additional legislation since then has taken steps to further protect the awards presented to our military heroes, and the Medal of Honor in particular.

As long as our Nation has veterans of military service there will be "war stories" and embellished tales of battlefield heroics. Such is the nature of military men. Sadly, some have stooped to the lowest levels by claiming or displaying medals they are not authorized. Misrepresentation of ones' self as a Medal of Honor recipient is a CRIME punishable by imprisonment.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

A big thanks to Doug Sterner and his Home of Heroes website for providing most of the content of this page.

*The Congressional Medal of Honor Society*

Probably the most famous World War II Medal of Honor recipient.



**UPI Photo of Audie Murphy with his medals.**  
Want to know more about Medal of Honor recipients?

Visit the 'Congressional Medal of Honor Society at

[http://www.cmohs.org/medal/medal\\_types.htm](http://www.cmohs.org/medal/medal_types.htm)





# Message from Dustin

Hello everyone, I hope things are going well for all of you. Things are looking really good here. I am hoping we will all be back home safe to our family and friends soon. As many of you know, I was just home for my mid-tour leave. I got to stop into the Shop a couple of times. My family and I really enjoyed the time we spent there. Thank you for all the great talks and the big hugs. It really felt good to come back to support. I really miss all of you. Let me tell you about our trip back to the states.

We were all excited to be coming home. We knew there would be a lot of people who didn't support us, and a lot of people that did. Well, we landed in Atlanta to get signed in for our leave. The people that work at the airport are all clapping for us and thanking us for the job we have been doing. When we get upstairs walking to our terminals to go our separate ways I started noticing things. The civilians wanted nothing to do with us.

It was unbelievable. There were no smiles, thank you for your work, hand shakes or anything. People would actually turn their head or look at the ground as we passed by them.

I was not too happy about that, especially after 20 something hours of travel. When we got in Chicago the people there made us feel a lot better the majority of them would smile as we walked by or even stop us to say thank you. They moved us up to 1st class on the airplane for those of us heading back to Nashville. When we landed in Nashville I was really excited, my wife was there waiting for me. So I was going to be happy either way. The people there were cheering, clapping, and whistling when we walked off. People were taking our pictures and video taping us as we embraced our loved ones at the gate. So it was a great feeling in Nashville. Thanks again for all the support and prayers. They are all helping us get through these long days. I will update you soon.

Dustin Buzze

# Sound Barrier Pictures

A special thanks to Len McCutcheon for sending a link to this site.



Condensation cloud as an F/A-18 Hornet flies at or near the speed of sound. Photo by John Gay.



B-2 Spirit Stealth Bomber. Photo by Bobbi Garcia. Posted here with permission of the AFFTCC.

If you want to visit an interesting link go to

<http://www.wilk4.com/misc/soundbreak.htm>

Make sure you visit some of the related links.

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