



Rescue of Injured Seaman

Our ship had exited the Panama Canal and was in route to Pearl Harbor when we copied a distress signal from a foreign flagged cargo ship. There was a language barrier which was luckily resolved by a third party who also copied the distress message and was able to translate that they had a severely injured seaman on board and requested assistance from any ship with a Doctor on board.

We set an intercept course, found the ship and launched a boat to take our Doctor to the Cargo Ship.



Doctor in route to Cargo Ship.

Our Doctor was able to stabilize the patient and brought him back to our Sick Bay.

We reversed course and steamed within helicopter range of the US where the injured seaman was medevaced State Side for treatment.

Much, much, much later in the South China Sea the Ship received a communication that was forwarded on behalf of the injured seaman. It was broadcast throughout the ship.

'Recovery Complete, returning to sea.

Thank you.'

by Earl Fowler

May Birthdays

Jim Sipes, May 7th

Michael 'Butch' Brannen, May 27th

Keith Carpenter, May 31st

Happy Birthday to anyone we missed.

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May Dates To Remember

May 1 - Cambodia Campaign Began 1970

May 4 - Battle of Coral Sea 1942

May 8 - VE Day Germany Surrendered 1945

May 10 - Battle of Hamburger Hill Began 1969

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Message From Cameron Swallow

We are having a great time in France, traveled to the Normandy beaches with my parents (my mother is the daughter of a WWII vet) during the Easter vacation.

It's a wonderful year, and we are singing and playing lots of different types of music with a lot of different folks--British, French, and American. The bluegrass sound is 'exotic' here, though, and I look forward to being back where it feels normal!

Please tell everyone hello for us, and we'll see you in August.

Cameron Swallow





Message from Dustin

Hello Everyone,

I hope everything is going good for you. This has been a very long month for me. It started by getting a new commanding officer. We were all really excited about that. He seems to be really squared away and cares a lot for his soldiers. In our platoon we got 2 new squad leaders and some new team leaders. I got moved to a new squad so I have been trying to adjust to my new squad this month. It seems to be going pretty well.

Our brigade had our first KIA. It was the first time I ever had to do a ramp ceremony. For those of you who don't know what that is, it's where you pay your respects to a fallen soldier. We salute him as his casket goes by. It was a very weird feeling. I hope I never have to do one of them again. It was not the most exciting experience in the world and something I will never forget.

Activity in the area has been picking up. We are guessing its due to the change of weather. We have already had a few days that were between 100 - 105 degrees.



We had our first really bad sand storm this month. I was driving the lead truck and I couldn't see anything. It was a total brown out. I had to stop the truck in the middle of the road. On top of all that I

have had some personal issues going on. So it's been an extremely hard and long month.

It looks like I will be coming home in about 3 1/2 months and I look forward to seeing you all soon. I will keep updating you all as much as possible.

I love and miss you all,

Dustin Buzze



The Bottle of Wine

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the Seat next to Sally. "What's in the bag?" asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband." The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two.

Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said, "Good trade..."



PGCS Web Site & Newsletter

Visit the Coffee Shop web site at -

www.welcomehomeveteran.org

Back copies of the newsletters are also available.

Thanks to everyone who sends in suggestions for the newsletter.





Professor of Philosophy

This is reported to be a true story of something that happened just a few years ago at USC.

There was a professor of philosophy there who was a deeply committed atheist.

His primary goal for one required class was to spend the entire semester to prove that God couldn't exist.

His students were always afraid to argue with him because of his impeccable logic.

Sure, some had argued in class at times, but no one had ever really gone against him because of his reputation.

At the end of every semester on the last day, he would say to his class of 300 students, "If there is anyone here, who still believes in Jesus, stand up!"

In twenty years, no one had ever stood up. They knew what he was going to do next. He would say, "Because anyone who believes in God is a fool".

If God existed, he could stop this piece of chalk from hitting the ground and breaking such a simple task to prove that He is God, and yet He can't do it."

In addition, every year, he would drop the chalk onto the tile floor of the classroom and it would shatter into a hundred pieces.

All of the students would do nothing but stop and stare.

Most of the students thought that God couldn't exist. Certainly, a number of Christians had slipped through, but! For 20 years, they had been too afraid to stand up.

Well, a few years ago there was a freshman who happened to enroll.

He was a Christian, and had heard the stories about his professor.

He was required to take the class for his major, and he was afraid. However, for three months that semester, he prayed every morning that he would have the

courage to stand up no matter what the professor said, or what the class thought.

Nothing they said could ever shatter his faith...he hoped.

Finally, the day came. The professor said, "If there is anyone here who still believes in God, stand up!" The professor and the class of 300 people looked at him, shocked, as he stood up at the back of the classroom.

The professor shouted, "You FOOL!!!"

If God existed, he would keep this piece of chalk from breaking when it hit the ground!"

He proceeded to drop the chalk, but as he did, it slipped out of his fingers, off his shirt cuff, onto the pleat of his pants, down his leg, and off his shoe. As it hit the ground, it simply rolled away unbroken.

The professor's jaw dropped as he stared at the chalk. He looked up at the young man, and then ran out of the lecture hall.

The young man, who had stood, proceeded to walk to the front of the room and shared his faith in Jesus for the next half hour. 300 students stayed and listened as he told of God's love for them and of His power through Jesus.

Thanks to Alexis for sending this email

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The One Dollar Bill

Take out a one dollar bill. The one dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design.

This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It is actually material. We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know.

It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look.

If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for





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a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury.

That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know.

If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States.

The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.

If you look at the left-hand circle, you will see a pyramid. Notice the face is lighted, and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity.

It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything. "IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means, "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means, "A new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman numeral for 1776.

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery, and is the centerpiece of most heroes' monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States, and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet very few people know what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: First, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong, and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. In addition, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation.

In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning, "one nation from many people."

Above the Eagle, you have thirteen stars, representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one.

Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. However, think about this:

13 original colonies,

13 signers of the Declaration of Independence,

13 stripes on our flag,

13 steps on the Pyramid,

13 letters in the Latin above,

13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum,"

13 stars above the Eagle,

13 bars on that shield,

13 leaves on the olive branch,

13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows.

And, for minorities: the 13th Amendment

I always ask people, "Why don't you know this?" Your children don't know this, and their history teachers don't know this.

Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let the meaning fade.

Many veterans remember coming home to an America that didn't care.

Too many veterans never came home at all.

Share this page and let others learn what is on the back of the UNITED STATES ONE DOLLAR BILL, and what it stands for. Otherwise, they will probably never know...

Thanks to Anne McCutcheon for the email.

