



THE GROVE GAZETTE

BROADSHEET

Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

This Special Edition Broadsheet is an informational EXTRA presented to you by our editorial staff. Please enjoy this bonus information until our next publication date (November 22)

With Respect, Honor, and Gratitude — Veteran's Day

By Nathan Moyer

President Harry S. Truman once declared "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices." Embodied in this quote lies the gratitude and respect that veterans deserve and receive on November 11 each year.

Veterans Day is an official holiday designated to honor all veterans, both past and present, fallen or living, who served in the United States Armed Forces. Following World War I, the United States originally observed Armistice Day on November 11.

In 1954, a World War II veteran named Raymond Weeks proposed to expand our observance of Armistice Day to incorporate all veterans who have served our country. Later in 1954, Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 to be Veterans Day.

Today, veterans are recognized on November 11, among other days, in numerous ways. America's Parade is being held today, which encourages all veterans to come and march in New York City. This year's parade also commemorates the 15th anniversary of 9/11, with special recognition of our Iraq, Afghanistan, other post-9/11 veterans and First Responders.

Additionally, the National Veterans Day Ceremony is being held in Arlington National Cemetery, beginning with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns. National cemeteries located across the country also have parades to commemorate our service men and women. A little "closer to home", Penn State is holding a week-long series of events to honor vets, from November 4 to November 13, including a Veterans Day ceremony, march, and breakfast.

The Selinsgrove Area School District has a total of eight teachers, staff

and school board members that have served in the armed forces.



Mr. Thomas Badman, one of our school board members, served in the United State Navy from 1966-1970. As a 2nd Class Petty Officer, Mr. Badman served in Tennessee, Florida, California, and Hawaii as an Aviation Structural Mechanic working on P3 anti-submarine aircrafts.

A great difficulty he experienced in his service was dealing with the separation from family and friends at age 19. Along with that, he said, "...having to go places you have never been to before was trying at first." He married and travelled, while on duty, with his wife Cheryl, and had his first child, Tom Jr., in Hawaii.

Something he still uses from his time in the military is the amount of respect he holds for everyone, and the leadership skills he gained. Veterans Day brings great pride to Mr. Badman, knowing he was able to serve our country and protect its freedoms. He also takes this day to remember his friends lost in the Vietnam War.

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The *Grove Gazette* is a student organized newspaper. If you are interested in working for the *Grove Gazette* as a writer, editor, or photographer, please join us during the first half of lunch on Thursday, December 1, 2016 in Room 222 for our next meeting. You can also email Mr. Switala at wsitala@seal-pa.org if you cannot make the meeting.



Mr. Mark Beitz, middle school Social Studies teacher, served from 1990-2000 in the United States Navy. Mr. Beitz, a 2nd Class Petty Officer, served in the 1st Gulf War as a missile technician on nuclear submarines.

In his years, he travelled to Seattle, Panama, Nova Scotia, Alaska, and Hawaii. When asked about any difficult experiences, he first replied with, “boot camp sucked, dude.”

Mr. Beitz then explained that in his 10 years, he served seven patrols in the subs. Each patrol consisted of 110 days underwater. They did not see sunlight in those months, and only could send or receive eight “family grams”, each consisting of a mere 40 words.

An interesting piece Mr. Beitz shared was that he was part of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and stood guard while the Russian inspectors were on the submarines. One “easy” experience that he had was knowing that if he was “in the right place, at the right time, in the right uniform, everything would fall into place.”

Mr. Beitz still uses many things he gained from the military, including a strong work ethic, a sound mind set, and his dedication of service to others. He believes that is why he, along with many others, have become teachers, to “serve our future after having served our [past].” Veterans Day, to Mr. Beitz, is a day to recognize all military. He doesn’t want the spotlight, but wants to recognize “everyone who served, especially those who sacrificed the most.”



Mr. Faron Hollenbach served from 1981-1987 in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. In the reserves, he served one week a month, and two weeks in the summer. He was part of the Marine Air Support Wing, acting as a driver of the military vehicles.

One difficulty he faced in his time was boot camp. He said “boot camp was extremely difficult, but it instilled in me the respect and discipline that I still carry with me to this day.” After graduating from boot camp, Mr. Hollenbach thought the driving was fairly easy, compared to everything else. He said “some look at the large military trucks and think they’d be hard to operate, but it was an easy experience.”

Mr. Hollenbach still holds his self-discipline from the military. Using these skills, he was able to quit smoking with ease. When asked what Veterans Day means to him, he said “it means everything, but it means nothing.” While he believes this day is important and it is very deserving to our veterans to honor them, he believes Veterans Day should be every day, and that our gratitude is not expressed enough for those who are serving or have served our country.



Mrs. Amie Longacre, high school paraprofessional, served in the Army. She served from 2004 to 2006 before she was honorably discharged after 2 ½ years. She began training at Fort Jackson and then went to Fort Hood. She was an Administrative Specialist, and while she wasn’t on duty, she was constantly training. Although she was never deployed, she trained for combat and was ready for deployment at any time.

One thing she found extremely difficult was having a dual military family. Her husband has been in the Army for 22 years and at one time, they both served simultaneously. She still finds it difficult to have her husband serving while they have two kids. She said she had the “easiest” hard job.

While the training wasn’t easy, she always knew what her role was. She said “combat came first” and there were never questions, because it was simple. Mrs. Longacre took many things away from the military, including deep respect for all people, especially since she knows “what it is like for veterans and their families.” She also has learned to accept the word “no” as a simple answer to questions. She also gained integrity and accountability, more responsible for her words and actions.

Veterans Day means a lot to Mrs. Longacre, both as a civilian and a vet; however, she does believe more recognition should fall on those who were deployed and saw combat. She sees serving our country as a selfless service.



Mr. Jacob Stiefel, middle school social studies teacher, served as a Sergeant in the Army from 1997 to 2003. He worked as a military policeman and military police investigator. Mr. Stiefel served in Panama, Kuwait, Korea, Washington, the National Security Agency, and Iraq. Similar to many veterans, Mr. Stiefel feels that he does not need recognition, but wants to recognize all who have served our country.



Mr. Ben Tressler, a high school math teacher, served in the Air Force from August, 1996 to June, 2004. Staff Sergeant Tressler was an Aerospace Ground Equipment Craftsman, and handled over fifty pieces of machinery. He described his job title as a “jack of all trades.”

Mr. Tressler served four months in Saudi Arabia and spent time in Idaho. While serving, he enjoyed the culture in Saudi Arabia. He worked with the French and British militaries, as well as the US Navy. One of his favorite parts about the military was that “no matter where we were from, we came together as one.” He enjoyed the comradery and viewed it as a second family.

One difficulty he faced was not being able to walk on the grass at basic training and most other places. He said, “Growing up as a country boy, you can imagine what not being able to touch grass was like.” Something interesting about Mr. Tressler’s time while serving is that his wing, the 366 Air Expeditionary Wing, was on-call during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Mr. Tressler does not look for recognition on Veterans Day, but rather

wants to thank all veterans, especially those who sacrificed their lives.



Mr. Robert Whyne, a high school guidance counselor, served in the United States Army for five years. He was a member of the 7th Division, stationed at Fort Ord, California, training as an infantryman. He soon moved to the weapons room and he was responsible for the security and maintenance of all weapons the company would use, including mortars, bayonets, and everything in between. “If it was a weapon, I was responsible for it,” Mr. Whyne said.

As far as difficulties Mr. Whyne faced, the 7th Division was considered “light” infantry, meaning they “carried everything and walked everywhere, rarely using vehicles.” Mr. Whyne said, “Lugging around 100 pound rucksacks in the desert was difficult at times.” He also found the time away from his wife and two children difficult.

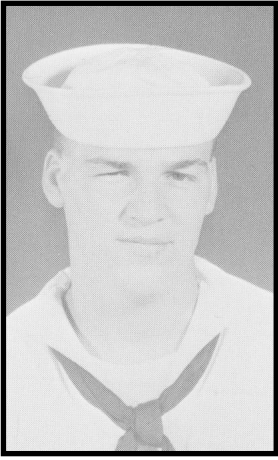
An enjoyable experience Mr. Whyne had was, “getting to play (I mean train), with any of the weapons systems we had, as well as working with explosives.” As a Sergeant in the infantry, Mr. Whyne was trained for combat, but those skills don’t necessarily come into play in his current career as a counselor. However, Whyne recalls the many memories and friends he made in the Army and is grateful for the experiences he had.

While he never saw combat, Mr. Whyne understands that war is gruesome and believes war should be avoided at all costs. When asked what Veterans Day mean to him, Mr. Whyne explained that it is important to him since he comes from a military background — his father being a 30-year veteran along with having other veteran relatives.

On this day, he takes the time to think about and honor their sacrifices, not seeing it in terms of his own service. He believes his service in peace time cannot compare to some others’ sacrifices and appreciates what he has as a citizen.



**Thanks to all members,
past and present, of our
armed services!**



Mr. Leon Yoder served in the Navy from 1968, when he was drafted, to 1972. He served a total of 2 ½ tours during the Vietnam War. He was stationed on the USS Tripoli for 3 years, which was a helicopter carrier, designed for amphibious assaults. He worked primarily in the engine room.

Following this, he was stationed on the USS Seattle in the Mediterranean. After he was finished, he flew home from Germany and was honorably discharged. Mr. Yoder explained one of his worst experiences while serving. He shared, "I used to play pinochle with a man called *Big Red*, who was killed in service, and while I only knew him for four months, he became a very good friend. That was hard."

He also shared the best thing about the military: the liberty he experienced and served for. He talked about how he had a great time serving, traveling, and meeting new people, and "would do it all over again." Mr. Yoder gained a new frame of mind while in his service. He realized how important people are. He still uses the "people skills" he gained in the military to be open to others and get to know them.

Mr. Yoder enjoys people, which is why he enjoyed the military and enjoys what he does now. Veterans Day means more to Mr. Yoder now more than ever. He believes veterans don't receive enough recognition, and that the country should have more patriots, those who care about and are grateful for our freedoms, liberties, and country.

Veterans Day is the day we recognize those who serve our country, those who previously served, those who have fallen, those that still walk with us, those that have come home, those who have not, and all who have sacrificed time, family, blood, and life for our country. If you see or know any of these staff, or any other veteran, past or present, take the time to thank them for their selfless sacrifice to us and our country.

**"THE WILLINGNESS OF
AMERICA'S VETERANS TO
SACRIFICE FOR OUR
COUNTRY HAS EARNED
THEM OUR LASTING
GRATITUDE."**

—JEFF MILLER

