



Project Site: www.usaflegacytonasket.org
Newsletter: www.veteranlegacyproject.org
Contact Us: usaflp@comcast.net

Legacy E-News

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Next Meeting is on June 4th

6:00 PM (1800 Hours)
Whistler's Restaurant
Tonasket WA

Legacy Plaque Sales Now Over 160

Thanks to everyone who has supported the Legacy through these purchases!!

Sen. Murray's Representatives Visit the Legacy Site

The Legacy is capturing the attention of some of our state's elected officials. Senator Patty Murray's Eastern District representatives, Ms. Judy Olson and Ms. Danielle Joesten were in town to view the project and discuss some veteran related issues. Michael Stewart, USAFL Treasurer, has submitted notes of the visit. The full text can be viewed by clicking here --> [Olson and Joesten Legacy Visit](#)

A poster for a raffle. The text reads: "US ARMED FORCES LEGACY PROJECT RAFFLE \$1 PER TICKET Need not be present to win Drawing to be held, at the Legacy site, on Veterans Day, Nov 11, 2008 This Quilt was made by the Ladies of the Havillah Lutheran Church and donated to The Legacy for this purpose." Below the text is a photograph of a large American flag quilt. At the bottom, it says "size of Quilt is 67" x 82" Tickets will be available at various locations FOR INFO, CALL 486-1952, 486-2513 or 486-2747".

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Quilt Raffle Supports the Legacy

The Ladies of the Havillah Lutheran Church have donated a wonderful flag quilt to the Legacy.

It is 67 inches by 82 inches and represents many hours of craftsmanship. The raffle runs until Veterans Day, Nov 11th.

Please look for our ticket locations or contact us at usaflp@comcast.net



Help Spread the Word

If you're reading this newsletter, you can help. Please send the web addresses of our sites on to people you know who may be interested in learning more about the Legacy Project.. Many of their questions and required forms are available on the web. The addresses are:

Project Site: www.usaflegacytonasket.org

This Newsletter: www.veteranlegacyproject.org

If you would like email updates about the Legacy Project, please send your email address to: usaflp@comcast.net

George Frank Honored by Legacy Membership

The members of the Legacy recently presented George with an Award of Excellence.

George has been instrumental in starting the Legacy project and seeing it become a reality. His hard work and support is truly inspirational.

Please take time to thank George the next time you see him !!!



**United States Armed
Forces Legacy Project**



Presents:

Award of Excellence

To:

George Frank

You had the vision to honor our Veterans and have worked tirelessly in support of the Legacy project. Your efforts are inspirational and the community is blessed by having you. A permanent plaque recognizing your service will be placed at the Legacy.

Legal Policy: Prohibited

April 2008 2008

Serving Our Nation



The Legacy recognizes not only men and women who have served our country honorably, but also those that currently stand in defense of our freedoms and way of life. Accordingly, we would like to acknowledge service members who are currently serving. If you know someone that should be recognized in the newsletter, please email a photo along with background and current assignment info to usaflp@comcast.net. We will publish and let you know when it is available for viewing on the web.

Each family of a dead soldier copes in a different way

Maj. Gen. William Troy

The Olympian Published May 30, 2008

Throughout this war, the Army has maintained the practice of assigning a general officer to attend the funeral of every soldier who falls in service to our country. I've had this duty many times. The intensity of each funeral leaves me struggling to understand the enormity of the sacrifice to which I have been a witness.

My first funeral is as clear in my mind as scenes from a familiar movie. Pfc. Christopher Kilpatrick died June 20, 2005. I think everyone in town knew him. The residents of Columbus, Texas, filled every chair at the Knights of Columbus hall, and well-wishers lined the walls. His two sisters made a memorial video set to music. It was a moving tribute to the baby brother they fussed over; the toddler in cowboy boots; the youngster growing up hunting and fishing; the Eagle Scout; the basketball player letting a three-point shot fly; the kid with a big smile and the obligatory pickup truck.

I had to speak after that video, and I wasn't sure the words would come out. I blocked out the rest of the hall and tried to address his parents and sisters. I hope I did Christopher justice. We laid him to rest just outside of town. When I tried to tell my wife about it later, through my tears all I could say was, "Today was supposed to be his 19th birthday."

Every funeral is different. Each family copes in its own way. Our job is to oversee the military aspects of the services - taps, the firing of three rifle volleys, the folding and presentation of the flag. You comfort where you can and bear witness to the loss that the family, friends and community have suffered.

I have attended 23 funerals in many different states and, to my surprise, have never encountered an angry parent - only heartbroken ones who are intensely proud of their son or daughter. Grief is the crushing load these parents and spouses bear. Yet far more often than not they treat the military in attendance as family. They invite us to the receptions after the services, where they show us scrapbooks and introduce us to friends. They hug us and wish us a safe return to our units and families. They smile through their tears. I often get the feeling their sense of duty wills them through. I suspect that when the crowds have left and they are allowed to be alone, they collapse in grief and exhaustion.

During funerals, we typically read the tributes offered at the services conducted in theater. Nothing speaks to the families like the words of buddies and commanders. These people knew him or lived with her; fought beside and loved them. When a tank commander writes about the loss of his driver, you realize that a tank crew is a single entity - a living, breathing organism. It, too, has lost an integral piece that made it whole. Voices from deployed units transcend the miles and speak with an eloquence I could never approach. I never try. I simply read what they wrote.

My funeral duty has taught me a lot. The cynicism with which some people view politicians doesn't square with what I've seen. Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Mike Gregoire, husband of the governor of Washington, attended just about every funeral I went to in their states. Absent the media or official entourages, they personally expressed condolences to grieving families. I've learned that the Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle club might seem unconventional, but its members' patriotism and sincerity are undeniable.

And I've learned that war most often claims the lives of young kids who go out on patrol day after day, night after night. They go because they are good soldiers led by good sergeants. They go with a singular purpose: to not let their buddies down. Each soldier we lay to rest shared that goal. They kept faith with their comrades, even in the face of danger and death. That is the most humbling lesson of all.

Maj. Gen. William Troy is vice director for force structure, resources and assessment in the Joint Staff. In 2006-07 he served as deputy commanding general of I Corps at Fort Lewis.

At Ease: Cartoon Time



[Ready to Help? - Click Here](#)

