

Devil's Advocate

Veterans Day Edition - 2017



Cover photo by Rick Sorensen

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Throughout His 93 Years: Patrick Kearney

By Patrick Kearney

In April of 1943, Patrick William Kearney enlisted for the United States military, serving as a military police officer. In said era, many men his age were poor, and enlisting was an easy way to get three square meals plus a roof over your head. Kearney served in Germany, after the second World War was over, guarding prisoners that were doing cleanup. He had spent three years there in the European Theater, contacting his wife through let-

ters.

Nonetheless, guarding prisoners wasn't the only job he had. Kearney, according to his separation qualification record, "moved an advance of combat troops to determine best the roads to be followed and [directed] combat under combat fire." Kearney had seen combat, and survived.

Upon coming home, Kearney found himself having a difficult time finding a place to live, a job even. Until one day when he came upon Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, who took him in for a time. Then, because of his training with



servicing Army vehicles, he became an auto mechanic for many years.

wanted to become a member of the military police himself, having taken the test to do so. My

father is "proud of his father's service, and always enjoyed listening to his stories."

I am named after my late grandfather. So, naturally, have always wanted to learn more about him. So, naturally, I interviewed the best source I could find - his son. I was curious what impact Kearney may have had on my father's outlook on the military. In truth, it made him more interested in World War 2. In fact, he



Completing the Veteran's Dream

By Jamie Breton

Serving the country was once a dream to Master Sergeant Dennis Dumont. After serving 26 years in the military, he retired September 22 in Louisville, Kentucky, completing his dream. The ceremony took place inside Fort Knox where friends and family gathered to honor his retirement.

During the ceremony, Dumont and his colleague folded the flag as an honor to himself and other veterans who have served. He was awarded multiple certificates and plaques from both the military and family.

Dumont explained, "I felt a little stressed that it would go as planned... and overwhelmed that my military career was coming to a close."

As stressful as it

was, the ceremony went off without a hitch, and Dumont said he was more than grateful for those who pulled it together and made it happen.

Immediately following the ceremony, Dumont and his wife, Heather Dumont, took a well-deserved road trip, but even with the mini vacation, the feeling of retirement is still fresh in his mind.

"It has only been three weeks since I last put on a uniform, so it is still pretty new to me," he said. Dumont talked about how he will miss being a soldier but not the moving, constant physical training, and the mandatory training.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time in [the military] but know this is a job for younger folks," he said.



Photo submitted by Heather Dumont

Looking back on his time in service, Dumont said that there was nothing that he wished he could have done differently if he had the chance.

"Looking back... only leads to re-

grets and that takes too much time and energy. Always look forward to what is next."

Dumont is currently looking for a full time job and wants to continue working to help support

his family. To read more on MSG Dennis Dumont's military background, see page four of last year's Devil's Advocate Veteran Newsmagazine at crhsnews.com.



Photo submitted by Heather Dumont

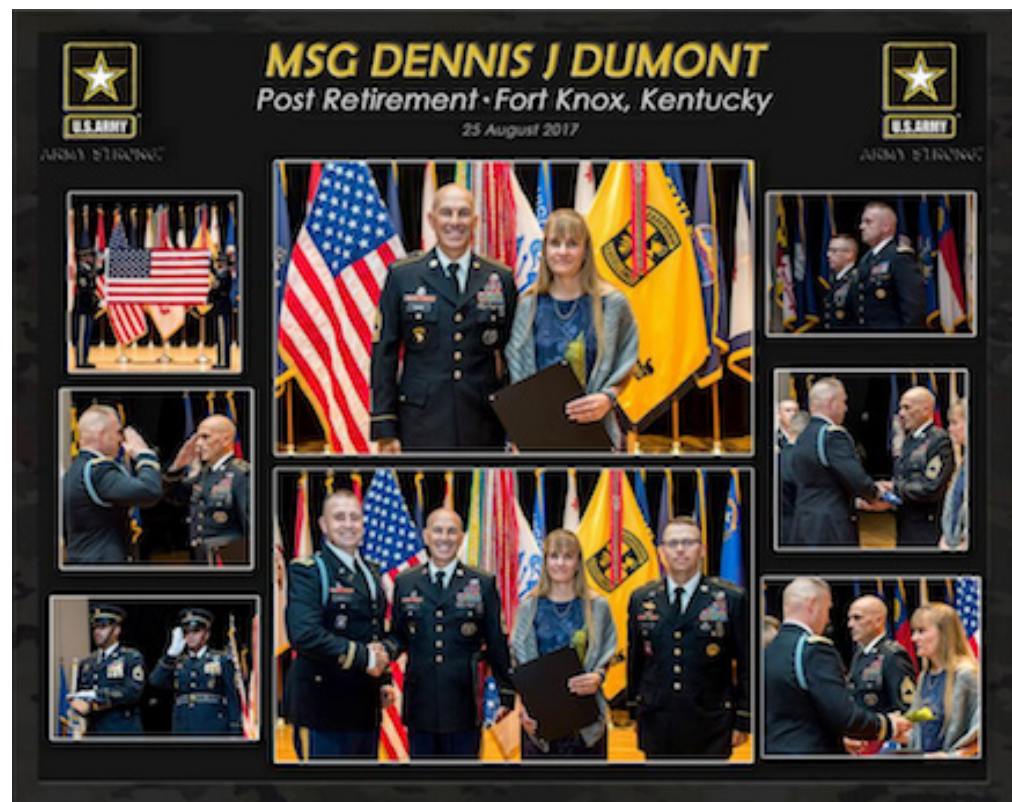


Photo submitted by Heather Dumont

Third Generation Soldier Uses Army Skills in Everyday Life

By Sarah LeMere

Mike Laubach always knew that he was going to join the Army, even as a young kid. Growing up, he “was taught a strong sense of country and nation,” and that drove him to take the Military Entrance Exam during high school. Both of his grandfathers were in the Army, along with his dad, which made Laubach want to join even more.

Laubach joined the inactive ready reserve in December of his senior year, but as he was still seventeen, his mom had to approve of his joining. He spent eight weeks at basic training in New Jersey, then a year in Ft. Devens, Massachusetts to learn electronics. After that, he spent

a summer at an Air Force base in Biloxi, Mississippi learning a new direction system. The rest of his deployment was spent in South Korea, working with electronics for six years, and teaching for another two. Instead of seeing his family when he was discharged, Laubach moved out and started a career.

“Sadly, I never really ‘came home.’ After I got out of the Army, I moved back to Mass. where I spent so much of my time and got a job working on the computer systems that I was teaching my last two years,” he said. “I still visit Pennsylvania and see my old friends and my family though --just not as often as I (or they)



Photo submitted by Mike Laubach

would like.” Being in the Army taught Laubach more than just electronics. Growing up in a small town, he was naive and innocent, so he had to learn very quickly about different types of people. He also learned that dealing with them can be very difficult, but they were all there for a single purpose and could not succeed without one another. It also gave him skills that he still uses every day.

“It still helps me to understand other things - automotive electronics for when something on the car isn’t working, when I’m tuning

a stereo amplifier for maximum clean output, or when I’m working on the wiring in the house (outlets, switches, garbage disposal, dishwasher, washing machine, etc.).” His training also is helping him to use a Raspberry Pi to build web-controlled lighting and heating in his house.

While there are some things that would he would change, Laubach would happily enlist in the Army again if given the chance. It was a great time in his life, he experienced things that he will never forget, and the stories he witnessed will stick with him for the rest of his life.



Photo submitted by Mike Laubach



Photo submitted by Mike Laubach

From Military to Music

By Camryn Thayer

Joining the military as a Freshman in college, Michael Meurs, the music teacher at John Lyman and Memorial school, wasn't always sure the army would be his path in life. Coming from a family with extensive military involvement, Meurs said the thought of joining the armed forces was "always in the back of [his] brain as something to do."

This thought became a reality when he realized he didn't have the means to continue attending college, so he dropped out and joined the armed forces. Meurs recalls his intertwined college and military experience, saying, "I was part of the Connecticut Army National Guard...they offered free in-state tuition to any state college." This unique opportunity allowed him to do something "new and different".

He describes the training as intense but oddly enjoyable. "It depends on what we were doing," he says, "Basic training was hard. You're adjusting to



Michael Meurs on his first day of basic training.

life in the military. As you got used to it, it got simple." After basic, he started job training as a bridge builder. Although he never saw combat, he recalls a time in the months following the attack on 9/11 when his unit got together for a drill weekend. "The country was in high state of alert already because of 9/11, but some-

thing had triggered an alert." He details the interaction he had with another platoon mate, saying that the man in charge of his unit needed to see him immediately. "What did I do wrong" ran through his head as he went to meet with the head of the unit. Then, the head of the unit assigned him to lead a guard detail, saying, "I need you to go to

the supply room, you have to grab your M-16, ammunition and get your web gear."

He's thankful that he never saw active combat but was still impacted greatly by the military experience. "Some of my life experiences have been driven by the military experience, both good and bad. I tend to have pretty strict dis-

he says, "whether it's with my kids or with students, and I have to step back and say, 'Alright, you guys aren't in the Army, that's not how I should approach things.'"

Overall, he says the military gave him a better understanding of what it takes for freedom and the physical, mental and emotional tolls that it takes on individuals who serve our country: "There's a lot that goes into who we are as a nation, and I think we need to sit back more and remember that."

cipline but I try to build people back up in class. I wouldn't be who I am today without that experience." He says that the military taught him patience. "Hurry up and wait" is something he said he heard consistently, meaning do something quickly then wait for the next task. "Sometimes I break into drill sergeant mode,"

Veteran Owes His “Can-do Attitude” to U.S. Army

By Nicole Ahern



We thank those who served for not just their time in service, but for protecting us and for putting their lives before ours. Though the gratefulness is much appreciated, veteran Mike Goldweber claims he feels a slight bit of embarrassment because although he understands why people are so thankful, he feels he actually got more out of the Army than he gave in return.

Fueled by his love of history and fascination of World War II stories told by his grandmother, Goldweber always pictured being a soldier one day. Later in his teenage years, Goldweber decided the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program was right to finish out his junior and senior years of high school. After graduating, Goldweber ultimately decided enlisting in the Army was the best career path for him at the time. “It was almost a calling... and more practically, I wasn't ready for college; I didn't have the money.” He continued, “it was a way to grow up a little.”

In September 1987, it all became a reality. Goldweber was stationed in Fort Knox, Kentucky and later Fort Stewart, Georgia. Placed in the 24th infantry division or “18 Airborne Corps” (meaning rapid deployment front), he was training to fight in Iran. The “19 kilo” also known as the “armour crewmen” (men in the tank) was where he contributed the most. He was not only the driver, loader, and gunner, but the tank commander when the commander was gone. He earned the title “gunner #2” - a very “prestigious” position when placed in a “simulated gunnery exercise” where Goldweber had been consequently the fastest shooter.

“The Army isn't bashful about responsibilities,” said Goldweber. “When they see that you're ready to handle certain responsibilities, [they will] give you those responsibilities.” Goldweber stated, “The company commander, he said, ‘Goldy - you're in charge of the arms room,’ and this is of course was

the room where all the weapons were stored. He asked me, ‘Do you know what you're responsible for? You're responsible for over a million dollars in weapons and equipment.’” Having a very respected and high authority job was one of the main reasons Goldweber felt he really grew up. “Tanks are killing machines. You had to take things seriously and trust that others would take their job just as serious as well. You wind up becoming tighter with people than you thought, tighter than most people [can] image,” said Goldweber. He still keeps in touch here-and-there with a lot of guys who had served, and still currently serve in “69 armour”.

Looking back, he can't help but stress that enlisting gives you a certain “perspective on the world that you cannot receive without being in the service.” Goldweber says that it made him become a “better and stronger person, while in the process of giving back to your community.” He continues, “No matter your position, front line or payroll - it changes your life.”

On top of that, he was given what he refers to as a “can-do attitude,” an attitude in which you see no problem as unsolvable. He refers to his weakness in mathematics. Goldweber said to himself, “I don't care what I have to do; I am going to learn and master this subject.” To this attitude he owes his career now. Working in a “heavily soaked mathematical subject,” Mike Goldweber is now a software engineer and future data analyst.

Mike tells me that serving was almost a “contentious gift” to him because although he was training to put his own life on the line, he can't thank the Army enough for the traits

developed while active and ever since.

He now resides in Middlefield with his fiancée, Shari Lehr van Eyndhoven and his “three stepchildren” Justin, Alyssa, and Brianna. Though not an active member, he pays back to his community by volunteering for Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Mike Goldweber wants you to know that having a “can do attitude” can get you through anything and everything in life.



Paul Danielson: Four Tour in Army Reserves

By Carly Lane

Paul Danielson, a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, is a veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars with a story unlike any other, having served in the medical field on multiple deployments.

After attending Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut, Danielson wanted to go to medical school but knew he would need financial assistance. By joining the Army Reserves and having his tuition paid for, Danielson was able to attend medical school at the University of Rochester.

Working as a surgeon in the medical field, Danielson went on four tours of duty to Iraq and Afghanistan. There are five levels of medical care. He

spent his time at level two, which is a small hospital where he received patients from the battlefield, as well as civilians that were caught in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Some days were filled with boredom. "I would get up, read, eat, exercise, wash laundry and sleep," said Danielson. Depending on if there was activity on the battlefield, however, some days were very frantic. One particular day was rather unusual, and Danielson chronicled the events that took place in an article he wrote that was eventually published in a book of war stories, called Operation Homecoming.

The abnormal day that Danielson de-

tailed in his article was when a soldier arrived at Danielson's medical facility, with his forearm hanging by a thread from the elbow. The initial assessment made by his co-surgeon was that the soldier's arm would have to be amputated; however, since there were no other injured victims that needed help, Danielson and his co-surgeon were able to dedicate their time to try and reattach the arm. After the surgery, the patient was sent to the United States where the patient received further medical care. Like most patients that Danielson provides care for, he rarely knows the final outcome of the patient's condition.

One day, Danielson received a call



All photos submitted by Paul Danielson

from his co-surgeon, who told him that the patient that they had operated on was on Oprah Winfrey's television show. The patient described to Oprah how happy he was when he returned home and was able to hug his family with both arms.

As humans, we all want to feel as though we made a difference in somebody's life. After

hearing what the soldier had to say on Oprah's show, Danielson felt as though his time in Iraq and Afghanistan had been validated.

"I feel as though I fulfilled my missions," he said.

Today, Danielson is still changing lives as the Chief of Pediatric Surgery at John Hopkins Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida.



Michael Breen

By Anthony Curry

After high school, with no interest in college, Michael Breen enlisted into the Air Force. He wanted “to serve his country, help others and help pay for school.”

In 2008, he first went to Texas and Nevada where they trained him physically

and mentally. His first time overseas was in Ireland. Shortly after, he was moved to Germany and eventually went to Kyrgyzstan. He ended his tour in Afghanistan, and by the summer of 2014, he was brought back to America. While overseas he “was able to

keep in contact through letters, email and Skype.” Talking to his family helped him get through some difficult scenarios that war causes, but gave him a positive thing to look forward to.

Coming home for Breen was harder than he expected. “It was tough to adjust

to coming home, coming from an environment where you are constantly on edge, and have minimal room to make errors.” Getting back to everyday “menial tasks” were difficult for him because he was mentally and physically tired from fighting. Although being back seemed hard, he was just happy to be with his family alive and injury free. Being back made him appreciate the small things that most Americans take for granted every day. He went from saying, “I wish I had...” to “I’m just glad I have this.”

After being around the different international cultures, Michael said, “I appreciated all the freedoms that we have here and how we are able to

choose our own life path instead of being chosen for you.” He realized that many people in the world don’t have the freedom to choose or dream about what they want to be. Instead, they are told what they are going to be and how they are supposed to live. Many Americans don’t realize or understand how important Veterans Day is and what it truly means. Michael said, “I think that when people just respect America, the flag and the freedoms that men and women have fought and died for, that is enough.”



Photo by Olivia Breen

Ms. Pamela Griffin: Thankful for the United States Air Force

By Julia Filiault

Ms. Pamela Griffin, of Melrose, Massachusetts, tells the story of her time serving in the Air Force 25 years ago. She enlisted as a nurse in the Air Force in 1992 and served a total of six years in three various areas (Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Turkey). Her reason for choosing the Air Force was that “it sounded so interesting, different and fulfilling.” Griffin states that it gave her the chance to “travel around the world and see many places she never would have

had the opportunity to see.”

She intended on entering into the Navy, but when she asked for a letter or recommendation from her dean, he insisted that she look beyond the Navy and see what the other branches had to offer.

“Someone told me the nursing in the Air Force was the ‘cream of the crop,’ but all of the other branches with nursing are just as well.”

According to Griffin, one of the most important things to handle as a nurse is focus. Things can

go terribly wrong, and as a professional in the field, it is key that you hold yourself together.

“You have to be optimistic because your adrenaline takes over, but the medical team works well when an emergency happens,” she said.

When Griffin was stationed in Turkey, there was a terrible house explosion where

two Americans were badly burned. It was so bad that they had to be shipped out to a hospital in Germany that was much bigger with greater resources. Since she served in times when there was no active war, there wasn’t a whole lot of horrendous treatment that had to be done on patients. She described the patients with the bad burns to be the most vivid memory of the

worst she had seen during her time serving.

Missing home was hard, but Griffin still looks back on the time she spent serving and recalls it as one of the best things she has done in her life. It pulled her away from family and loved ones, but it also created life long friendships from all over the world.

Back home working at Mass

General Hospital, Pamela incorporates the skills she learned from the Air Force like leadership, skills and interacting with a diverse group of people into her job every day.



Robert Pasco: Corps Values

By Alexa Catania

Maine resident, Robert Pasco, was formerly enlisted in the Marines at the age of 18 years old, “solely for the purpose of gaining strength, both mentally and physically.” He was always one to push himself to be the best he can possibly be, and he thought that by joining the Marines, there was no other way to achieve this goal.

Among the many service branches, Pasco felt strongly that the Marines was the right fit for him. “Marines are the smallest of branches, and I felt it was a better fit for me,” said Pasco. “I had heard the training was harder and was ready to get in the best shape of my life.”

Although Pasco never officially went to war, his experience in training was “hard and very challenging, both physically and mentally. As time went on, it got harder at each training phase. In the end, I am a better and stronger person,” said Pasco.

Pasco was away from home for a total of four years. He was first stationed at Parris Island, South Carolina at a boot camp for training. From there, he was moved to a base in North Carolina at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. Pasco was then transferred to Massachusetts for 10 months where he guarded nuclear weapons that came off of ships.

Pasco spent the rest

of his service in the US Marine infantry, stationed at the military base camp in Pendleton, South Carolina, preparing for war through exercises such as climbing off of the sides of ships and jumping out of helicopters.

“The Corps’s core values are honor, courage and commitment,” said Pasco. “These values were instilled in me. It helped me build my own confidence to know I will get through it and come out a better person.”

**Robert Pasco is journalist Alexa Catania’s maternal grandfather.*



Photos submitted by Robert Pasco



Robert Halligan Marine Corps

By Ashleigh Halligan

My father, Robert Halligan, is truly my hero. My father joined the military at the age of 19 and served for two years.

When he first started the Marines, he was stationed in Parris Island, South Carolina where

they did a lot of training for new recruits. From there, he went to Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, where they did more training but also became more familiar with what his job would be in the Marines. In

my father's case, he was part of the infantry. When in the infantry, my father was taught how to locate and destroy enemies by fire.

After being in Jacksonville for a while, my father then moved to the United States

Marine Corps Reserve Center in Plainville, Connecticut.

Throughout my father's journey in the Marine Corps, he has learned so much and believes he made the best decision of his life going into the Marines. Ever

since he went to his cousin's military graduation when he was very young, he always knew that he wanted to be a Marine because "to a young boy, those guys were the coolest dudes ever."

During my dad's time in the Marines, he was able to

learn a lot about life and what it truly means to be a Marine.

The most important things he learned while in boot camp and in South Carolina were self-discipline, attention to detail, leadership and teamwork.

The thing that surprised me the most is that the toughest thing for my dad wasn't the pain or journey but rather leaving the Marines and the mental aspect of the Marines. Throughout my dad's interview he was very proud to call himself a Marine and even though it was a rough journey, "the outcome is unbelievable."



Photo submitted by Robert Halligan



What It's Like When Your Soldier Is Away

By Demarie Del Vecchio

In 1952, 18-year-old Stephen Del Vecchio was drafted to serve in Austria, leaving behind his girlfriend, Janet Amirault. The couple had been dating for two years when Stephen was sent to serve. Janet was devastated to see her boyfriend go, especially because "Stephen had already lost his brother, Dominic, in the service while he was serving at the Korean Campaign."

Janet describes the time being separated from Stephen as lonely, as she no longer had a dancing partner or someone to go out with, unlike all of her friends who always went out with couples. The only way for the two of them to stay in touch was by letter, exchanging about three letters every week. Janet said that she was always "so happy to get a letter and couldn't wait to see what he had to say."

She wasn't the only one she knew in this position though; her good friend Louise also had her boyfriend

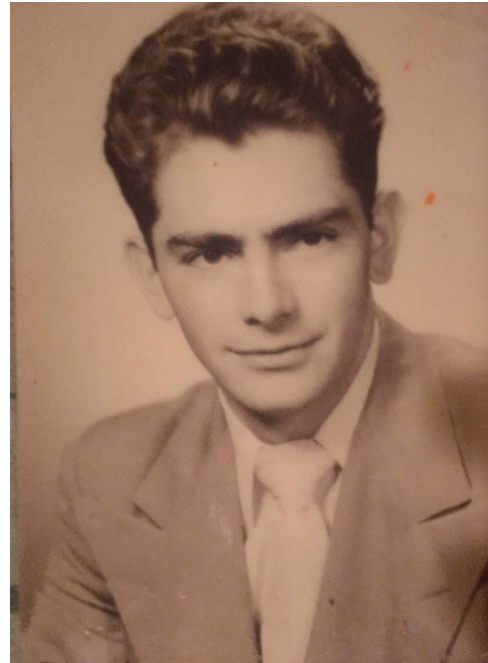
drafted. In order to occupy herself, Janet would go to the movies with her friends and then even got her license. Janet said, "It was hard not knowing when he would come home." To support the troops from home, Janet would bake cookies and send them to Austria for Stephen and his friends.

Even though Stephen was out of harm's way, working as a sergeant for communications, he was still devastated because he was still affected by the loss of his older brother, making him scared to serve himself. After Stephen got over being homesick, he enjoyed his time in Austria. Janet said that he loved the food and thought the country was beautiful; he was glad that he had the opportunity to travel there.

In 1954, after two years of service, Stephen received an honorable discharge and was sent home. Janet said she was

overpowered with joy the first time she saw Stephen after his return: "He brought me back a cuckoo clock and some Hummel figurines, but the only thing I really cared about was his return."

One year after Stephen's return, Stephen and Janet got married and had four kids. Janet believes that Stephen's time serving made him a more strict parent who expected a lot from his kids. Now, years after Stephen's passing, his children are still proud of their father for the time that he served.



Young Stephen



Stephen and his family share a moment together. From left to right: (Top Row) Domonic, Dean, Stephen Jr. (Bottom Row) Janet, Stephen, Cynthia

Forever Fearless

By Robert Griffin

Fearless is how Gary Joslen described his 18 year-old self, when he enlisted into the Navy. The Joslen family has multiple family members that have served in the navy and Joslen was the youngest sibling to enlist himself. He never enlisted to follow suit in his family's footsteps (like his father or older brother), he did it for himself. He also said, "I never imagined being sent to Vietnam. I received my orders to go to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and grab a destroyer and sail to Vietnam, to the height of the war." Joslen serves his country for 25 months on a boat in the middle of war.

When asked what it felt like to be in the situation he was in, Without any hesitation he answered, "I remember exactly how it felt. You're 18; you have no fear; nothing bothers you... I wasn't afraid of dying, at least I didn't think I was going to die." It was the first time he ever left home independently and got on a plane for the first time at

Bradley International Airport to go to Los Angeles after he graduated from boot camp.

Boot camp may sound physical, but for Gary it was quite the opposite. It was a mental boot-camp where they did have some classes, but it was a "grinder," meaning he, with a bunch of his classmates, would go to the parking lot and drill [march] up and down carrying an M-16. According to Gary, boot camp was a test to see if a person can handle the pressure, emotionally and psychologically. on him, protesting the U.S. presence in Vietnam, even though he didn't have a choice of where he would deploy.

"Unfortunately, it was a political war, and we lost 58,000 lives. We didn't gain anything," he said.

He was pleased to see his family and to spend Christmas at home, but everything wasn't as it seemed. He said it is hard for anyone



Photo submitted by Robert Griffin

who serves their country to return to a normal lifestyle.

"When you go into service," Joslen said, "you develop a regiment, so you build your body and your mind up to accept the Navy's way of life."

Joslen still doesn't

regret participating in this war. He gave advice for the American youth: "Don't kneel at football games. Do not kneel at football games. Honor your flag, and honor your country. This is a wonderful country, and I

think the people that are protesting that way are sadly mistaken. There are better ways to protest. Protest for all lives because all lives matter. Protest for the veterans that are homeless and are living in the streets."

What Veterans Day Means to a Blue Star Family

By Charlotte Planeta

Veterans Day is a holiday that was created to celebrate the brave men and women who have served our country. But something that can be overlooked, is the impact of deployment on military families.

The Planetas (of Portland, Connecticut) have three sons, George, Jon, and James, with the addition of George's wife Jill. George Planeta is a captain in the US Marines. He has been deployed on two occasions for up to seven months, to Okinawa, Iraq and Qatar. George's wife Jill is a Lieutenant in the US Navy; who has been deployed on Navy ships, USS Carl Vinson, USS Boxer and a special medical mission on the USS Mercy. Jon is a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army, who will be deployed overseas after he graduates from EOD training next year. Finally, James is a Corporal in the US Marines, who has been deployed for seven months in Djibouti, Spain, Kuwait and Syria.



Photo by Anna Planeta

All three of my cousins have been very close growing up, and it wasn't too surprising when they all joined the military.

"I am very proud that they all chose to serve in the military," said my aunt, Anna Planeta. "I think the hardest was when our youngest enlisted. Even though both his older brothers were already in the Marines and the Army Reserve, James took a different route and enlisted right after high school, so he was much younger when he got deployed overseas."

The Planetas are a Blue Star Family, which means that they have a banner with a blue star for each family

member serving in the Armed Forces during any period of war or hostility. They have four blue stars, one for George, Jill, Jon and James.

Having family that is involved with the military makes you more aware of your political situation. When we hear something on the news about the struggles that are taking place in other countries, we are always thinking about how that may have an impact on our family.

"Every time you go shopping you keep an eye out for things to send in the next care package that might give them or their buddies some comfort while they are so far from home. You

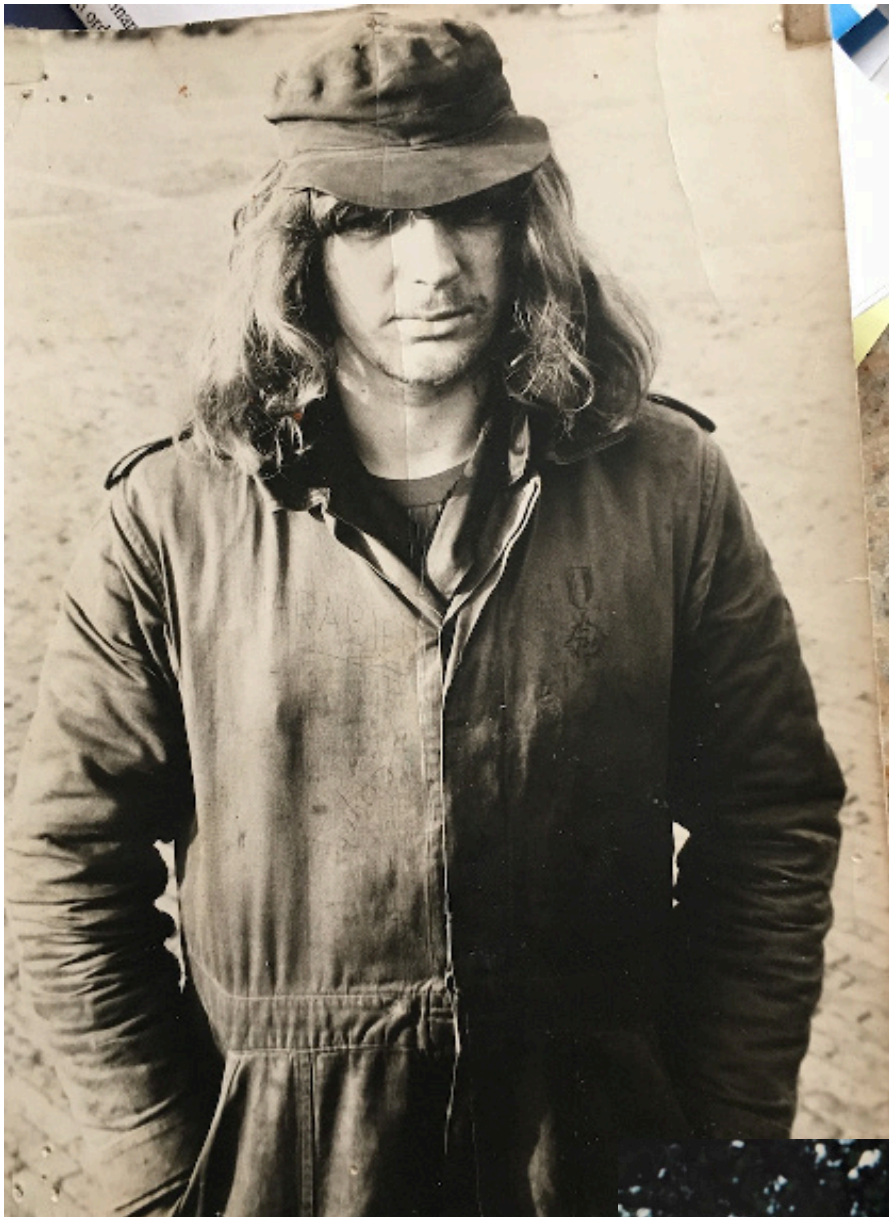
keep their names on the prayer list at church and are so grateful knowing the whole congregation is praying for their safe return," said Anna. "There is a Military tribute I have seen on the internet," said Anna, "We wait. We hope. We pray. Until you are home again." This basically summarizes it. We pray for their safe return to us. During these times you always make sure you have your phone/computer turned on so you do not miss a call from them or even just a quick text that says 'Hi mom.'"

Depending on where they are deployed and their access to internet, the boys are able to message their

parents. They can go weeks on end without having any form of communication. The hardest part of having all of the boys away would be "not knowing exactly where they are because of security reasons," said Anna. "You can imagine how scary it can be to lose your five year old in the supermarket, but when all three of your kids are in different countries or states, it's a different form of fear." Anna's message is to be supportive of your children's decisions: "They are making a selfless decision to serve." They need your moral support and someone to believe in them, every step of the way.

Dutch Soldier Now a Retired Veteran

By Justin van Eyndhoven



The draft in the Netherlands got a hard working man that served and protected his country. Joining the army did have an affect on his life he just saw it as a normal way of life, “I didn’t really think about it, it was the normal thing to do”, said Pesman. While this experience was not life changing for

Pesman he did use some of the training to strengthen himself.

Pesman’s parents and other family members did not really see this change in his life as a bad or good thing. It was the normal thing to do for some generations, Pesman’s father was in World War II so he knew being drafted was

bound to happen to his son. While everyone was drafted, “the rich always found their way out of it”, said Pesann.

When he got into the army, he trained hard, and soon he was stationed near the city of Eijndhoven in Harderwijk. While in the army he acted how he wanted and didn’t let anyone push him around. “In the Dutch army you don’t take crap from nobody, if someone yells at you, then you get back at them, it’s more of a free spirit ideal”, said

Pesman.

Pesman served for 18 months and swiftly returned home, and he was proud to serve for his country but at the end of the day, it was something that everyone had to do. Pesman’s says, “The U.S. military is overdone, people get money when they get out of the war, but in the Dutch military, they just ask if you are ok”. Soon as he returned home and started working as a plumber. Soon after he left the army the draft ended making him one of the last ones who was drafted.



Photos submitted by Los Pesman