

The Bagpiper

November 8, 2013

Happy Veteran's Day! Thank you for your service.

Volume 5, Issue 2

The flight of a lifetime

By Isaiah Crane
Editor

"Oh golly, I think it's the finest thing that has happened to me in my life," WWII Veteran Joe Richardson said as he reminisced about his once-in-a-lifetime Honor Flight. "I can't really put it into words."

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization that has dedicated their time to transporting military veterans to Washington D.C. to view their memorials. The Network is run by the donations and with the help of the airlines. Volunteers escort and assist veterans around Washington D.C.

"The draft age had been lowered from 21 to 18 years old," Richardson said about his enlisting in the Army. "I could get the benefit of the GI Bill for college and I felt that I needed to serve my country."

Richardson enlisted as an Army medic right out of high school. Amongst the first Americans to occupy Japan 1946, Richardson served his country. Like anybody that enlisted, he was required to go through



Photo courtesy Joseph Richardson

Young Joseph Richardson in Yokohama Japan, March 1947.

Basic Training with, that we were needed and serving our country was an honor and duty as citizens," Richardson said.

Richardson had a hard time picking his most memorable moment during his Honor Flight experience.

"The whole thing was so impressive it's hard to pick one out," he explained.

In the end, he chose the

basic training. After Richardson completed basic training, he went beyond and trained to become a medic.

"We would have field training to apply splints, tourniquets, and the anatomy," Richardson said.

With real live training, Richardson prepared for live action. Training for emergencies was the main focus of the medics.

"I felt like many others of my buddies that I took



Photo courtesy Joseph Richardson

The Korean War Memorial is one of many sites Richardson visited during his Honor Flight to D.C.

WWII Memorial.

"I can't really put it into words," Richardson said. "It's just a very moving moment."

When talking on the phone with Mr. Richardson, I could tell how moved and honored he felt to be chosen to go on the Honor Flight. This honor is well deserved for someone who put his life on the line for his country as Richardson did.

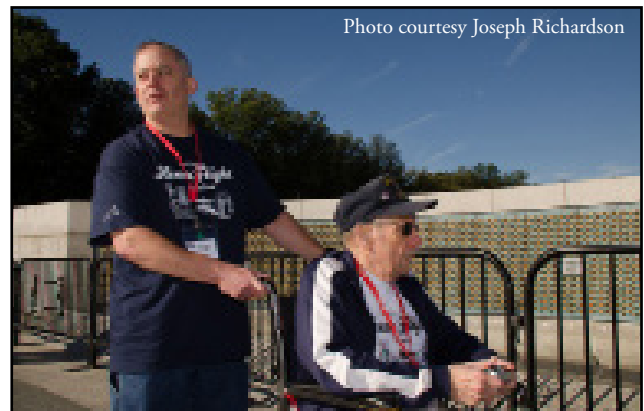


Photo courtesy Joseph Richardson

Joe Richardson arrives at the Wall of Honor and remembers his experiences in World War II.

Dear Veterans,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your service in the war. I think veterans are the ones that made our country what it is now. My Great-Grandfather Mel was a B-17 navigation pilot, and I was so proud of him that he put his life on the line to save our country and make it free. On his last flight, he got a Purple Heart, and that made me even more proud of him. I just want to tell you how proud I am of your service in the war, and how you put your life on the line to save our country, and make it what it is today. I know it was a very hard time for you. I just want to thank you.

Sincerely, Tyler Haase, 9th grade

War at sea: Navy history

By Jake Hansen
Staff Writer

In most cases, victory in the sea has changed the outcome of many wars. From the moment the Navy was created, it strove for greatness. Today, the United States Navy is a monument to tactical and technological perfection.

The Navy is a branch of the military that specializes in sea battles. Officially founded in October of 1775, the Navy included sailing ships, ships that used cannons and other close-ranged weapons for combat, and ironclad sailing ships used late in the Civil War.

Congress funded construction of new, advanced battleships in 1882, and later, the construction of the well-known aircraft carriers. Within 5 years, America had jumped up to fifth place in the number of ships possessed.

Today, the Navy has shifted its focus from preparing for large scale war to special operations and strike missions in regional conflicts. The Navy is also an active member in the War on Terror, or the war on the terrorists. Since war is ever changing, the Navy is always bringing new ways to beat an enemy.



Army history of valor

By Isaac Stokoe
Staff Writer

For the past 238 years, the US Army has protected and served our beloved America. From US soil to overseas, they have given their lives to preserve our right to freedom.

The birth of the US Army started during the Revolutionary War on July 14, 1775. The British had planned to make an attack on Boston and the only people defending Boston was a militia of men that had each come from their own colonies. These men were not seasoned soldiers like the British and had to re-organize if they were going to do anything to the incoming British. On June 14, John Adams apparently requested that congress help the small militia. Congress formed a small committee and elected to give two million dollars to fund the new “army” and they were also given ten companies of marksmen from all of the other colonies to assist the army in defending Boston.

Since then, the Army has served in countless wars ranging from the War of 1812, WWI and WWII, Libya, Iraq, and Afghanistan. From 1775 to now, over 1.5 million brave men and women have given their lives to keep us safe. So we thank all who are serving and that have served in the armed forces, you made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe.

National Guard of the United States

By Anna Lee
Editor

The term “national guard” was first established in the 1790’s by Marquis de Lafayette describing anti-royalist French Revolutionary citizen forces. The United States National Guard was formed on December 13, 1636. Even though it was formed on this day, it was not established as a federally funded reserve until 1903 with the help of the Militia Act of 1903. The National Guard serves as some of the front line defense for the United States.

Being part of the National Guard means that you could be called to active duty to respond to domestic emergencies and national disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes and floods. Everyday, domestic emergencies require the National Guard. One of the biggest emergencies was hurricane Katrina in 2005, when 50,000 troops were sent to support the Gulf States.

The National Guard is the oldest unit of the Armed Forces of the United States. It celebrated its 377th birthday on December of 2013!

Marine Corps first to fight

By Katie Ophus
Staff Writer

The Marine Corps have been around since 1775. Before the American Revolution, a committee of the Continental Congress met to discuss a resolution calling for two battalions of Marines able to fight for independence at sea and on shore. Samuel Nicolas became the first commander of the new formed Armed Forces.

The Marines are one of the seven uniformed services of the United States. Despite the name Marine, the Marine Corps is a water and shore-based operation. The Marine Corps is “first to fight” meaning that the Marines are the first to attend any crisis right away. Marines have responded to every conflict our nation has seen.

All Marines are riflemen, trained with discipline. Marines not only are trained with warrior skills, but citizen skills as well.

At the beginning of 1800s, there were 368 enlisted marines. At the beginning of the 2010, 204,153 marines were enlisted, increasing their numbers over the years.

“We’re looking for leaders, those individuals who will make the right decisions when no one is watching,” quoted the Marine website of Gen. James F. Amos, CMC.

United States Coast Guard: Semper Paratus

By Anna Lee
Editor

The United States Coast Guard or USCG, is one of our countries seven uniformed services and is also a branch of the United States Armed Forces. The main job of the Coast Guard is enduring roles of maritime safety, stewardship and security.

The USCG is run under the Department of Homeland Security during times of peace, and during times of war can be transferred to the Department of

the Navy by either the President or by Congress.

The Coast guard was originated from the United States Revenue Cutter Service which was established by Alexander Hamilton on August 4, 1790. The location of the first Coast Guard station was in Newburyport, Massachusetts.

It was originally established to collect taxes from a nation of patriot smugglers. While out at sea, they were told to crack down on piracy and rescue anyone that needed any help.

The history of the Air Force

By Madi Groves
Editor

Have you ever wondered how the Air Force came about? The Air Service was created by President Woodrow Wilson. He placed it directly under the War Department on May 24, 1918. By November 1918, the Air Service, which later became the Air Force, had grown to more than 19,000 officers and 178,000 enlisted men.

The American aircraft industry had turned out 11,754 aircraft, which is a big difference compared to how many people they had. Most of the men and aircrafts were later lost by a rapid demobilization after the war. Unlike the British, the United States kept their Air Service as part of the Army, instead of separating them.

On September 18, 1947, the Air Service got separated from the Army and became its own branch. Previously, it had been split between the Army and the Navy. Now that the Air Service was its own branch, they renamed it the Air Force.

The organizations leading up

to the event of the Air Force being created were the Aeronautical Division, Single Corps, the Aviation Section, Signal Corps, the Division of Military Aeronautics, the Air Service, U.S. Army, and the U.S. Army Air Corps. The Air Force was established by transfer order 1, Office of the Secretary of Defense on September 26, 1947.

“We are looking for people that have good moral character, no law violations, a high school diploma, good physical condition,” recruiter Chad Whalen said.

Today, the U.S Air Force is the largest, most capable, and most technologically advanced Air Force in the world. They have about 5,778 manned aircrafts in service, and approximately 156 unmanned combat air vehicles. The Air Force also has 328,439 personnel on active duty and 74,000 in the selected and individual reserves. The U.S. Air Force works on preserving the peace, security and provide for the defense of the United States against anything that can harm the U.S.



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The editorial board reviews letters to the editor, advertising and guest commentaries and reserves the right to edit and refuse material. Reasons can include length, clarity, libel, obscenity, material disruption of the educational process at Freeman High School or violation of copyright law.

Elementary teacher has a Navy adventure

By Ali Tesch
Editor

Imagine being on a ship, enjoying a warm afternoon with friends, but then with no warning, being called to general quarters and being expected to be ready for battle. What kind of questions would you ask yourself? During her Naval service, this was a turning point for Freeman Elementary teacher Danielle Boyd, this was when she realized that the world could go to war at any moment.

"This experience made me look at life very differently," Boyd said.

After graduating from Rogers High School, Boyd decided to join the Navy with her best friend Katrina Phillips. Boyd served for five years in the Navy and learned from many experiences that were both good and bad.

Joining the Navy is a huge commitment; you must meet certain qualifications and serve for a specified amount of time. Boyd chose to join the Navy after high school because she was not informed of any other options. She could not afford to go to college and had no support from her school staff. That's when Phillips inspired Boyd to join the Navy with her.

"I joined the Navy because I believed that I had no other options, and in the end I hoped I could pay for schooling," Boyd explained.

After serving for five years, Boyd went to the University of Idaho for her bachelor's degree, and she attended Eastern Washington University to earn her Master's in Education.

"The Navy made me more confident

and taught me how to communicate with all different types of people," Boyd said. "I had many good and bad experiences that made me the person I am today."

Joining the Navy was not only a learning experience for Boyd, but it was also an incredible adventure. Boyd was able to travel the world. She visited Italy, France, England, Singapore, Guam, Indonesia,

and Japan. This allowed her to do things she could never imagine doing.

During her naval career, Boyd was a broadcast and print journalist. During this time, she had many responsibilities. In Italy, Boyd was in charge of the morning radio show. Then when Boyd was stationed in Guam she ran the ship newspaper. During her time as a journalist, Boyd covered stories about local events. One of her favorite stories she covered was about a British submarine that was docked with her.

Not only did Boyd cover local events, she also got to have several adventures. One time, Boyd flew in an aircraft carrier with local media for a tour.

"This was one of my favorite experiences it was so intense," Boyd said.

The Navy allowed Boyd to meet many new people, but the most important person she met was her husband Bo Boyd. After Boyd met her husband, her life changed drastically.

"It was a turning point in my life because I met the person I was going to spend the rest of my

life with," Boyd said.

At the young age of 21, Boyd married the man of her dreams in order to stay together. Now Boyd has two wonderful kids: Mark and Maia.

"My kids are very proud that both their parents served their country," Boyd explained.

Boyd's experience in the Navy was incredible, and she believes that every high school student should be able to have the same experiences as her. The best advice Boyd has for high school a student is to know all

your options and always do your very best at whatever you choose. The Navy forces you to get out of your comfort zone and teaches you to face your fears.

After Boyd, graduated she chose to live an adventure. You also have the choice to follow your dream. You may not be serving in the Navy, but you can still grow into a stronger person no matter what you choose to do. As long as you follow Boyd's wise advice and always do your very best, than you can also have an exciting adventure.



Photo courtesy Danielle Boyd

The Boyds enjoy some family time together.



Photo courtesy Danielle Boyd

Danielle Boyd and her husband Bo are a very happily married couple and both thier lives have been changed by the Navy for the better.

An honor to have a family member serving

By Madi Groves
Editor

Many community members have family in the service, including one of Freeman's School Board Members, Annie Keebler. Her brother-in-law Pete Coore serves in the Navy. Coore has mostly been stationed in the Persian Gulf on aircraft carriers.

"It is an amazing feeling to have family in the service," Keebler said. "It really is an honor. He makes me very proud of him and also his family."

Coore served during the Persian Gulf War, Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has also been stationed in San Diego, Calif., Everett, Wash., and Norfolk, Va.

Coore was born on July, 24 in St. Andrews, Jamaica, West Indies. He immigrated to the US in 1970 and settled in Brooklyn, New York. Coore then graduated from Wingate High School in June, 1982. He learned about the Navy from his older brother; he then enlisted with his younger brother in November 1987.

After Coore completed recruit training, he reported to Naval Air Technical Training Center, in Millington Tennessee, for Aviation Electronics Technician (AT) class "A" school. After AT school, he reported to Naval Air Station in North Island, San Diego, California. While he was assigned to the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD), he was advanced to Petty Officer Second Class.

Later in July 1991, he reported to Sea Operational Detachment, NAS Miramar in San Diego, California. During this tour he completed two



Photo courtesy of Annie Keebler

Pete Coore meets US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice.

deployments, and he was designated as an enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist. Coore was certified as a trusty Shellback, awarded a flag letter of commendation, and earned his first the Good Conduct medal.

Coore has completed many deployments and tours, but he is currently assigned to the Pre-commissioned Unit (PCI) USS Gerald R. Ford, the first carrier to utilize electromagnetic catapults to launch aircrafts.

"I feel so proud to say that he is serving in our country," Maddie said.

She has never known anything different; he's been in the Navy for as long as she can remember. It was hard for her cousins growing up because he was away for months at a time. It's hard for her because he's stationed in Virginia and she doesn't get to spend time with him, her aunt and cousins.

"I remember being really afraid during 9/11 because he was on an aircraft carrier in the waters outside of New York," Maddie said. "I didn't really know anything other than my uncle was there, and he could get hurt and that was scary."

Just imagine if you had to go through all of these things just to do a job that you want to do. Well, that is what Pete Coore had to do just to become a Navy Seal.

Dad is a hero in daughter's eyes

By Ali Tesch
Editor

Every little girl looks at her father as a hero, but for sophomore Laura Ruby, this is a reality. Ruby's father, Darrell Ruby, has served in the Navy for 23 years and, in 2008, went to Iraq for a year.

At the age of seven, Laura moved to Washington after living in Hawaii, Southern California, and Northern California.

One of Laura's favorite places she lived was in California. During this time, she had many opportunities.

"It was a ton of fun living in California because there were more military benefits," Ruby explained.

During the time Laura and her family lived in California, she got to go to Sea World once a year and had season passes to Disneyland. The Ruby family also enjoyed living closer to the ocean.

In 2008 when Darrell was deployed, Laura's family's world was turned upside

down. During this year, Laura's mother had to raise three kids on her own. They were also in a constant state of worry, but they were able to talk every two weeks and wrote several notes and emails.

"What helped get my family through this time was knowing that we could talk to him," Laura said.

During this year, one of the most difficult parts of Darrell being away was that Laura's mom had to raise three kids on her own. All three kids played sports and had several activities going on. Although The Rubys had tons of support from grandparents and friends Laura mom still had to raise three kids on her own. The Ruby's grandparents still supported all three kids at sporting events and other activities.

"My mom had to juggle all three kids and take care of us without my dad," Laura explained.

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Photo courtesy Susan Ruby

Darrell Ruby's service to his country is a source of pride for his family.



Photo courtesy Danielle Boyd

The Navy made Boyd a more confident woman.

Military father makes his daughter proud

Continued from Page 5

Although it was hard being separated, the Ruby family overcame the distance and grew stronger as a family. Emails and notes were always wonderful reminders that even though they were far apart they were still a family.



Photo courtesy Susan Ruby

Ruby's family comes together while he is deployed abroad.

in life and the Ruby family has learned the importance of family. Although it was difficult being separated, Laura is very proud of her father for serving our country and is very thankful for him.

"My dad had an impact on my life and taught me the importance of being together," Laura said. "He also sets an example for my life by showing me how to treat others."

"During this time, my family grew stronger and learned that family counts," Laura said.

Laura and her father have an amazing father-daughter relationship. She has several memories of her dad and is very proud of her father for serving our country.

"My dad and I are very close," Laura said. "My favorite memory of him was when I was really little and he taught me how to water ski."

Family is one of the most valuable treasures

Live to serve

By Jake Hansen
Staff writer

When you think of a teenage boy, you think of sports, school and dumb things they do with their friends. Parker Henderson, a 2013 Freeman graduate, was just like any other kid, and throughout high school, Henderson did not know what he was going to do.

Being born into a military family, he learned from his mother, an Air Force professor, that serving your country is the right thing to do. Later in life, he received even more influence from his step-dad Rick Bartch, a colonel in the Marine Corps.

Growing up, Henderson always loved the heat of battle, and by participating in airsoft wars held by his friends, he got as close to battle as he could. Henderson was still indecisive about what to do.

"Parker didn't know what he wanted to do until his senior year in high school," said junior Landon Henderson, Parker's brother. "Parker was always looking for an idea to spark about something he wanted to do, and it wasn't until later that he

realized his dream."

Before Henderson graduated, he decided to join the Navy. On July 3, 2013, Henderson was accepted to the Navy.

He will finally be able to come home to his family later this month. After completing boot camp, Henderson was offered a spot in Navy Seal training. He refused, and instead he decided to go into Operation Specialist training.

Operation Specialists work in the combat information center (CIC) or the combat direction center (CDC). They use screens that display tactical information such as a grid screen showing positions of the Navy's fleet and the position of all other ships and vessels. With this information, they relay suggestions to the Commanding officer (CO) about positioning and flight patterns of the ships and planes in the fleet. They also monitor radios such as IFF's, HF's, VHF's, and UHF's.

When Parker returns in November, he will officially be a Navy Operation Specialist. He will be a portion of our military's brave men and women who serve to protect these United States of America.

From Freeman to the Air Force Academy

By Isaiah Crane
Editor

Freeman Graduate Anthony Emtman (class of 2009) is now an Air Force Academy Graduate. Sparked by a dream of following in his grandpa's footsteps of becoming an F-102 fighter pilot and acquiring his education, Emtman enrolled into one of the most well-known and respected universities in the United States: The United States Air Force Academy.

While providing some of America's best education, The Air Force Academy is also a military organization. To be accepted into the Academy, Emtman had to first apply for a nomination to the Academy by a Washington State Senator or Congressman. Once he was accepted into the Academy, Emtman was considered a cadet.

"Considering once a person is accepted into the Academy they automatically receive a full-ride scholarship, I was very relieved when I received my acceptance letter," Emtman said. "After the extensive application process, being accepted to the Academy felt like—in a word—triumph".

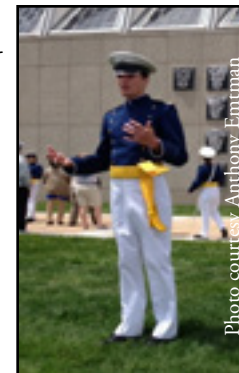
As a D1 college, students (cadets) are required to participate in athletics. While earning a degree in their field of choice, cadets are

required to complete a 5-week training program to prepare them for military life. Not anybody can attend the Academy; every semester, cadets must pass a fitness test.

As Emtman graduated from the Academy, he had his eyes set on his goals.

"Upon graduating from the Academy, I incurred a five year commitment to serve in the Air Force," Emtman said. "I chose to serve this commitment as a contracting officer as I am too tall to be a fighter pilot. I am currently stationed at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware and will likely be here for approximately three of the five years."

Emtman is a great example of not giving up when things don't always work out as planned. Although his plan to become a fighter pilot didn't work out, Emtman is still pursuing his dream of joining the Air Force while protecting our country. Freeman is proud to call Emtman a Freeman alumni.



Emtman gives a tour at the Air Force Academy.

Parkers in Germany

By Katie Ophus
Staff Writer

Alumnus Josh Parker (class of 2012) has been in a military family his whole life, having to move around, send his dad off on deployments and learning how to make new friends. The last move Parker made was to Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany. Making this move wasn't easy for Parker as he packed up all his things and moved overseas to Germany, away from all his friends.

Parker has moved four times in 19 years. Parker spent most of his life living on the military bases, except for when he was in Spokane and now in Germany.

"Base housing is basically like living in a small apartment, but you are surrounded by fences and police, so you feel a little bit safer," Parker said.

Parker's move to Germany was not his first choice, but he has grown to like it, making new friends and having a fresh start in a new country.

"I didn't like [moving] at first, and in fact I hated it," Parker said. "I really liked living in Spokane and loved the friend group I had and everything about Spokane. But the more I have gotten out and met people, the more I've come to realize what an opportunity I have living here. For instance, I've been to France, Italy, and Poland. I'm going to Ireland in March and Amsterdam sometime after that."

Parker is excited to say that he is moving back to Spokane in June.

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for your service. Words cannot express how grateful I am for your service. My dad has been in the Navy for 22 years and he was deployed to Afghanistan in 2008. I hope your family is as honored as I am to have my dad. I hope you have an amazing Honor Flight trip full of memories that you will cherish.

Thank you,
Laura Ruby, 10th grade

Dear Veterans,

I would like to start out and say thank you. Your sacrifices made our country strong and dependable through times of crisis. Two of my uncles were in the Air Force. They worked on the bombers. None of the planes they worked on were ever used, so they're being stored at the airbase here. Lots of students from Freeman have gone on or are going into the Army. Again, we here at Freeman thank you.

Sincerely,
Madie Boyd, 9th grade

Dear Veterans,

I would like to thank you for your service and everything you've done to help keep my freedoms. Your service will not be forgotten. Most of my family has served in the military, so I know everything that goes into it. So thank you for everything you have done.

Sincerely,
Ian Johnston, 10th grade



Photo courtesy Anthony Emtman

Emtman's family celebrates his graduation from the Air Force Academy last spring.

THANK YOU



Dear veterans,

Thank you for fighting for our country.
Thank you for keeping our country free.

Thank you for keeping our world safe and protecting us.

We love you!

Thank you for all that you have done.

From,
Mrs. Cochrane's First Grade Class

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for all the hard work, dedication, and time that you have given for our country. We are so grateful that you risked your lives in order to fight for freedom. I bet it was scary out there with people surrounding you. But everything that you have done has made a huge difference.

Because of you, our country now has freedom. Girls and boys can go to school, which can't happen everywhere. Blacks and whites have the same rights. Also we can pursue any interest that we like, as in jobs, schools, or classes. We can always buy food in our grocery stores, but some countries, their government is so controlling there isn't always food to buy.

Once again, we thank you for all the effort you gave. We also thank those who can't be here today, but hope they know we appreciate what they gave to our country.

Sincerely,
Willow and Mindee from Mrs. Brune's 5th grade class.

Dear Veterans,

This letter is being written to you by the fifth grade students of Freeman. We want you to know that we are grateful as can be for all of the sacrifices that you have made to protect our country's freedom.

First of all, we want to thank you all of the veterans out there for serving our country. You gave yourself up for the USA and to our pleasure made it through. Everything you did made a positive difference in our country, and what it is today. We know it was hard to watch friends and families lose their lives, but even though it was extremely sad we are ever so thankful that all of you pulled through. So once again, thank you!

Next, all of the wars that you went through ended pleasantly when you were there at the battlefield and the American flag made it up! The Iraq, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and the World War II were pretty much all of the wars that you courageous individuals made it out of. We greatly honor all of you and appreciate the veterans of all these difficult wars. You sacrificed your lives for ours. You are all true HEROS!

Last but not least, your training is proudly honored. It gave you the strength to survive. Even today those skills are still used, and they protect the young and the old. We know going through this training was a difficult task, for this was worth it. You learned and became a special and unique person of Americas past, present, and future! We are all glad to call you our true AMERICAN HEROS, and are thankful that you made a mark in our country's history. So we are proudly honoring you today!

Sincerely,
The fifth grade

"You are probably the most courageous people I know," said third grader Cameron.

The flag graphic used is created from photographs of Freeman families' military members. Thank you for your service!

Gareth Lamont Davis, Gene Frice, Bill Stairs, Collin Becker, Tawnya Becker, Garth Clark, Guy Clark, Ronald Joe Hoyt, Bill Sims, Todd Lundin, Ty Neuman, Matthew Neuman, Lloyd Seehorn, Bill Bell, Donald Ebert, Max Ebert, Anthony Emtman, Devin Bell, Frank Angelis, Frederick W. Caraviello, Sr., Robert Dean McClure, John Wesley Stone Jr., Alex Armtrout, Charles Patrick Lund, Walter Everett Sundstrom, Art Grewe, Jack Bergstrom, and Mr. Crockett, David Hamilton, Clifford Hamilton, Earl Kirkland, Rex Boozer, Danny Kirkland, Kim Kirkland Corbin, Danny Mathews, Darrell Ruby, Ryan Goettel, Scheresa Erickson, Leah Nay, Neil A. Davey.

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for fighting for us.
I am happy that you're fighting for us.
Thank you for being brave to fight.
I want to be brave like you.
You also have to be willing to fight and you have to be really strong too.
Sincerely,
Isaiah from Mrs. Wall's 3rd grade class.

"I want to be brave like you," said third grader Isaiah.

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for serving our country.
Thank you for our freedom.
And you have risked your life to save us.
But most of all you rock, because you have saved our country.

Sincerely,
Aiden S. from Mrs. Wall's 3rd grade class

Serving in the Air Force since 18

By Madi Groves
Editor

Many students have family members that are veterans. Ryan Groves, uncle to junior Madi Groves, has served in the Air Force for 18 years.

Groves first joined when he was 18, three weeks after he graduated Fruitland High school. Groves has been to a lot of different places during his 18 years of serving including Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, United Arab of Emirates, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Chile, Italy, Germany, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Guam.

When he was in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, UAE, and Kyrgyzstan, they were all deployments. His duties varied from defusing IEDs, responding to aircraft emergencies, or convoy and patrols throughout the communities. In other countries like Italy, Chile, South Korea, and Singapore, he was providing protective support to U.S. national leaders such as Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries of State. Groves ensured their visits went without interruptions or threats from local terrorist organizations or hate groups.

Grove's current Air Force job is managing a flight of Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) members. He has to



Photo courtesy Ryan Groves
Ryan Groves stands ready to do his job.



Photo courtesy Ryan Groves

Groves sits happily in the SUV ready to blow a bomb up.

train and equip them with tactics, weapons, skills, and certifications. Throughout this process, they train on robots, radios, night vision goggles, vehicles, explosives, aircraft, and various ordnances from all around the world. When they are in the middle of all that, they drop everything when the phone rings because someone found a grenade in their yard, or someone dropped a bomb off a plane, or someone left an unattended backpack somewhere, so whenever they get a call, the EOD team responds to whatever the call is.

"The Air Force isn't for everyone," Groves said. "You have to be able to take orders and direction without giving attitude."

The Air Force isn't a job anyone chooses to make money. They do it for a sense of pride and the honor of serving the best nation in the world. In the Air Force, times are tough, but the benefits are nice, such as paying for higher education, fitness, stability and medical care.

"We have our ups and downs as any job, but you are on the clock 24/7, and if that means missing

your child's soccer game because you got called into work, that's what you have to do," Groves said. "We try and maximize our time with our families when we can because we travel so much."

In Iraq and Afghanistan, there were always times Groves felt like "this was a bad situation," especially walking down on an IED in a bomb suit. The time he most felt concerned for his safety was when he had bullets ricocheting off of his

High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle as he was standing next to it. Every time Groves opened the door, the soldiers from Iraq would try to shoot him again. Once he was in the Apache helicopter, it provided air cover for him, and he was able to walk down and take care of the IED.

In the Air Force, Groves' mission isn't strictly military ordnance; his team responds off-base to suspect packages or explosive hazards. In Guam, where Groves is stationed now, there are unexploded ordnances that show up all the time. Kids pick one up and bring it home, construction crews dig it up and call them. The Air Force works hard and to try and find them and remove them from the battlefield.

"The veterans today look different than the old men I remember seeing growing up," Groves explained. "I have the utmost respect for the battles and suffering they endured. The battlefields may change, but the experiences are very similar."



Photo courtesy Ryan Groves

Groves and his buddies make the best out of being in Iraq.

Freeman's female fighter

By Taylor Walker
Staff Writer

2013 Freeman graduate Alexandra Armtrout is the first of her family to pursue any military career. Red-headed and ready for boot camp on October 7 in Paris City, South Carolina, this strong girl is preparing for an extremely difficult time ahead.

"The hardest thing as of now will be boot camp," Armtrout shared. "I've done all I can to prepare myself. I've been working out with my Sargent, and training with Sam Lewis [Class of 2010]. I run every day. Ultimately, the hardest part for me will be being separated from my family and being so far away."

The Marine Corps was founded in 1775. Throughout hundreds of years, the Marines have had a very rich history of young men and women devoting their lives to serving and protecting their country.

"I only ever thought about it and was serious three months before graduation when I was 17," Armtrout said. "My parents made me wait until I was 18 to go any further with it. By the time graduation came, I was enlisted and my recruit Sgt. Cesar Casillas attended my graduation."

The current slogan for the Marine Corps is *The few. The proud. The Marines.* This slogan says everything in itself. As intimidating as it all sounds, nothing could stop Armtrout from setting this plan in

stone.

Having someone you love so far away really leaves an impact. Armtrout has two younger sisters who are both in 8th grade. Their names are Ailsa and Ileana Hansen. Their feelings towards her leaving are very clear; she will be missed greatly.

"I'm really sad about her leaving," Alex accompanied by her mom and two younger sisters. Ailsa said. "I'm

also really proud though because I know she is taking a big step in her life. The hardest part is knowing I can't call her up to ask for advice and knowing she is so far away from me."

"When she told me, we were just at home," Ileana shared. "She told me she wanted to join and she was very serious about it. I didn't think she was really going to, so it was very shocking when she went through with it. The way that this has affected our family is that it has definitely brought us all closer, and we've never anticipated a letter more than we are now."

Armtrout is proud to take a stand and join forces with the rest of her Marine Corp



Photo courtesy Ileana and Ailsa Hansen

brothers and sisters.

"I'm doing this to prove my self-worth, and that I can indeed accomplish something that very little women in our country have before me," Armtrout explained. "It's one thing to join the military, another to take the path of a female United States Marine. I wanted to become someone and be a part of something with importance."

As the day for her to be ship out draws nearer and nearer, Freeman wishes Armtrout the best and hopes that everything goes exactly how she wants it to. Good luck and thank you, Alex! We know you'll do wonderful things and that our country is in great hands.



Photo courtesy of Ileana and Ailsa Hansen
Alex accompanied by her two younger sisters, Ileana and Ailsa Hansen.



Photo courtesy Ileana and Ailsa Hansen

Ileana and Ailsa Hansen will miss sister Alex Armtrout when she leaves for Marine bootcamp.

Little Henderson’s future in Marine Corps

By Ruby Falciani
Editor

Today on Veteran’s Day, we do not just respect the ones who have served, but our future protectors as well. We must respect our veterans who have protected us in every way they could, whether that be going far over-seas or staying in the states on a base. A thing we should all remember is that these veterans were once simple high school students like us. They once went home to worry about math that was due the next day, and now, they are American heroes. We have future vets of our own here in our classes, and they should all be recognized. One of these future heroes is junior Landon Henderson.

“Ever since I was a little kid, I was fascinated by war and different battles,” Henderson said. Henderson has always loved the military, and for those who have known him since elementary school, this is no shock. Although many may know about his passion for the military, most probably

aren’t aware of how much the military has to do with his family. The Henderson family has had everyone on his mother’s side in the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, his step-father was a colonel in the Marine Corps, and his older brother, Parker Henderson, is currently in the Navy. Military plays a huge role in Henderson’s life, whether it’s about him, his family, or his friends of whom he has multiple enrolled and enrolling in various branches. Henderson’s plan is to enlist in the Marine Corps Special Forces then later switch to the Navy Seals. If he does move on from the military, he wishes to join Black Water which is basically the Marines except they are not officially affiliated with the military. They’re a high-tech security agency, and if the government doesn’t want to send in troops for a mission, they can buy out and send Black Water to use as soldiers; they can be both security and soldiers. The military--and military-like groups—have greatly influenced Henderson’s life plans and goals. “I’m planning to stay in the military as long as possible,” Henderson said.

Dear Veterans,

I would like to thank you for everything you have given up to keep our country safe. A lot of people, especially younger kids, don’t really know how big of an impact you had on our freedom. You are the reason that we are free today. I can’t imagine how much you have been through and the pain that you have felt. My grandfather was in the Air Force around the time of the war. And some good did come out of it he said. He owuld have never met my grandmother if he wasn’t there. I hhope you enjoy your trip and realize how much you really maeen to our country. Sincerely, Waylon Dashiell, 10th grade

Dear Veterans,

I haven’t really learned about the war yet, but I kind of understand it. My dad served in the Navy for 4 years and the Army for 11 years. It was hard, but it was necessary, just like you serving. I would really like to thank you for your time in the service. I think that what you did is a hard thing to do, but you did it. Brave people like you are what the world needs. I hope you have a marvelous time in Washington D.C. My great-grandfather was there last month to accept an honor for his service during the war. He said it was incredibly, and I hope it is for you as well.

People always talk about the word freedom and its meaning. I really don’t understand what it means to everyone around me, but to me it means that I am able to lay down and sleep safely tonight. That is because of you. You putting your life on the line are what gave everyone freedom. For that, the world can nver thank you enough. I hope you enjoy this honor flight. I really, truly immensely appreciaie all you did and do. So thank you! Sincerely, Tori Wagner, 9th grade

Danny Mathews on the other side of the world

By Anna Lee
Editor

For the past four years, Freeman alumnus Danny Mathews (class of 2006) has been living in South Korea serving our country. Although Mathews planned to be an Army Chaplin, his mind changed in the process, and he is now working for Army Intelligence.

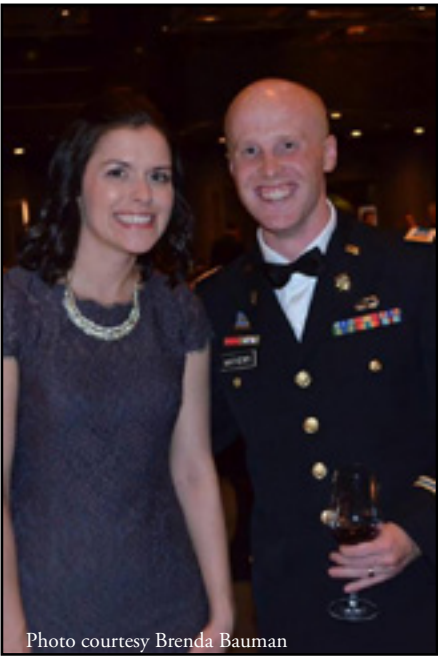


Photo courtesy Brenda Bauman
Danny Mathews and his wife Heidi.

stationed, 100-member Military Intelligence Company consisting of 4 detachments dispersed in three cities throughout the Republic of Korea (ROK).” Mathews’ job helps provide daily counter-intelligence and human intelligence support for force protection, indications and warnings, and the war fighting missions for the Commander U.S. Forces Korea and Commanding General Eighth U.S. Army. He helps to train and equip soldiers for war. “I have been in

Korea for almost three years now,” Mathews said. “While I do have my wife here, we miss our family terribly. I have not seen U.S. soil in almost two years. The hardest part is not getting to see your nieces and nephews grow up and not getting to see your siblings at their homecoming games and dances. Just missing out on the important memories. With the social media available to us today, it is not hard to stay in touch, but it isn’t the same as getting to be there in person. My wife and I are very excited to move back to the States.” Currently Mathews lives right in the



Photo courtesy Brenda Bauman
Mathews works for Army Military Intelligence stationed in Seoul, Korea.

middle of the 10th largest city in the world, Seoul, Korea, which has over 10.5 million people in this city alone. Even though Mathews loves moving and getting to explore new cities, he would like to move to North Carolina for half a year and then move on from there. He still considers Spokane his home, though, and would love to move back when he is done in the military. “It’s really hard having my brother gone for four years and not being able to talk to him that often,” junior Hope Mathews

said. “We talk about every month or so on Skype for maybe like 10 minutes.” “Currently, I plan on staying in the army for 20 years (17 to go) and then retiring from the Army,” Mathews said. “I am pursuing selection within Civil Affairs, but while my job in the Army will change, I plan on staying in the Army for 20 years. After I am done...well who knows. There will be a lot of different opportunities to pursue. At some point (whether in the army or after), I plan on coaching wrestling though.”

Dear Veterans,

I want to thank you for the freedom you give us. Without you I don’t know what we would do. With you our flag stands for freedom. You protect us from danger. When you protect us you are taking a risk trying to save our lives from danger. You are protecting our country from danger. Without you we would not be complete. You do not know how much I care about you. Sincerely, Aster, Third grade

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for keeping our country free! Did you know that my grandpa was in a submarine in the Navy? I am glad you can come to the performance. Still thank you for serving our country. Sincerely, Jaden, Third grade

Dear Veterans,

I want to thank you for freedom. And I love that you fight for us, to protect us. If we did not have you I do not know what we would do without you. I am so sorry for the family members and friends you have lost. Sincerely, Lily, Third grade

Small museum with big history

By Taylor Walker
Staff Writer

30 years ago, parent Tim Smetana inherited an irreplaceable treasure that sparked an interest in preserving and collecting military items. That interest only grew more and more as time went on and eventually became the little, private museum that is now known as “Smitty’s Militaria.”

“I inherited my uncle’s bomber jacket about 30 years ago,” Smetana explained. “When my aunt gave it to me, I knew I had to take care of it. Listening to all of his stories as a kid always captured my attention.

He was a tail-gunner on a B-17 Bomber. The name of his plane was “The Biggest Bird,” and he was first stationed in Polebrook, England.”

Since that first bomber jacket, Smetana’s collection has done nothing but grow. People who own items from past wars will actually give them to Smetana because they know and trust that he will take good care of them. The most recent additions to his museum are some items from the Korean War that are being shipped from Alaska.

“I probably have about 30 different manikins dressed in uniforms from different wars,” Smetana said. “The old-

est item I own is an 1889 uniform. I have around 250 uniforms from all different countries, different firearms and weapons from the Civil War, as well as some German stuff from World War II.”

Not surprisingly, the majority of Smetana’s family has been involved in the military somehow. For Smetana personally, this museum is his way of holding onto these irreplaceable treasures as well as hearing hundreds of unbelievable stories that go along with each item he receives.

“Every one of my items has a story with it,” Smetana revealed. “My uncle served in WWII, I

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Photo courtesy Tim Smetana

Smetana’s collection includes a display of military swords from around the world.



Photo courtesy Tim Smetana

Smetana’s museum features military uniforms from multiple eras including these Nazi uniforms from WWII.

Poindexter proud of childrens’ service

By Katie Ophus
Staff Writer

Being in a tough situation can be hard, but when you have to think quickly and be ready to adapt to the situation almost immediately, it makes it even more difficult. Well, this quick thinking is exactly what Jared Poindexter does while he is deployed. Poindexter, son of middle school teacher Mindy Poindexter, is training to be an Army Ranger in Tennessee. The Ranger Training program is training him to be even more quick- minded than he already is.

Poindexter joined the Army right after high school as a tech sergeant, before becoming a Pathfinder. Being a Pathfinder is

a dangerous job where a soldier goes in after fallen soldiers and soldiers that have crossed enemy

lines. In 2011, Poindexter and his team were in an accident. Poindexter was sitting in the passenger seat of his AMRAP as it ran over a 100- pound bomb. The AMRAP did what it should in the situation and protected the passengers. The bomb threw the AMRAP 100 feet, and all the men

Poindexter has a dangerous job, but his sister Jessica Poindexter had an equally stress-

ful job, Jessica was in the Air Force, and she and her partner were in charge of ten underground nuclear missiles. She went down into silos for two days with one other person and monitored all ten of the nuclear missiles and their standings.

Jessica served in the Air Force for seven years and also

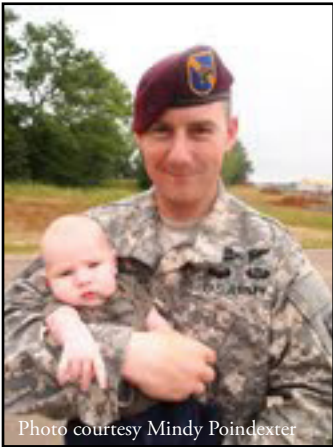


Photo courtesy Mindy Poindexter

JaredPoindexter poses for a quick picture in his uniform!

Smetana’s museum a hidden Palouse treasure

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lost an uncle in Vietnam, my dad served in Korea, and my siblings also are involved in the military. Being fluent in German also has helped in a few cases. I have had about six or seven German soldiers come and tell me their side of the story, including the fact that even if they didn’t agree with their government, they had to serve it.”

Something that Smetana also mentioned was the fact that one of the first things he learned through talking to so many veterans is that they don’t like to be called “heroes”. Instead, they call themselves “survivors,” To them, the “heroes” are the soldiers who didn’t make it home and died fighting for our country. So, to both the heroes and the survivors, thank you.



Photo courtesy Tim Smetana

Smetana’s museum includes memorabilia from German soldiers who faught for their country during WWII. Smetana’s love of history and care for his artifacts has made him a popular choice for those looking for a good home for their war memorabilia.

Kirkland family, a legacy of military service

By Taylor Walker and Madi Groves
Staff Writer and Editor

Sitting behind the office desk at Freeman High School with a smile planted on her face, ASB secretary Kay Kirkland is always willing to help. Whether it's assisting somebody with an elevator key or giving out school pictures and ASB cards, she constantly puts her needs aside for ours. Much like her example, Kirkland has four generations of family members who were able to put their needs aside to fight for our country's freedom.

"I have four generations in my family that have served in the military," Kirkland shared. "My Great-Grandfather Earl Kirkland served in the Army during WWI, my Grandfather Rex Boozer served in the U.S. Air Force during WWII, my husband Danny Kirkland served in U.S. Army Air in Vietnam, and my daughter Kim Kirkland Corbin served in the U.S. Air Force during the Gulf War."

A life in the military always comes with challenges though. Having four generations being involved in the military, Kirkland had to adapt to them being gone. Although the military life has some lows, it also has some ups. To certain people, those ups are all they need.

"The hardest part was definitely them being gone from their family for so long," Kirkland explained. "My dad and husband always wanted to fly and be pilots. My husband was a helicopter pilot and my dad flew P-38s. My daughter enrolled because she wanted to find a career that suited her. Now, she is involved in security."

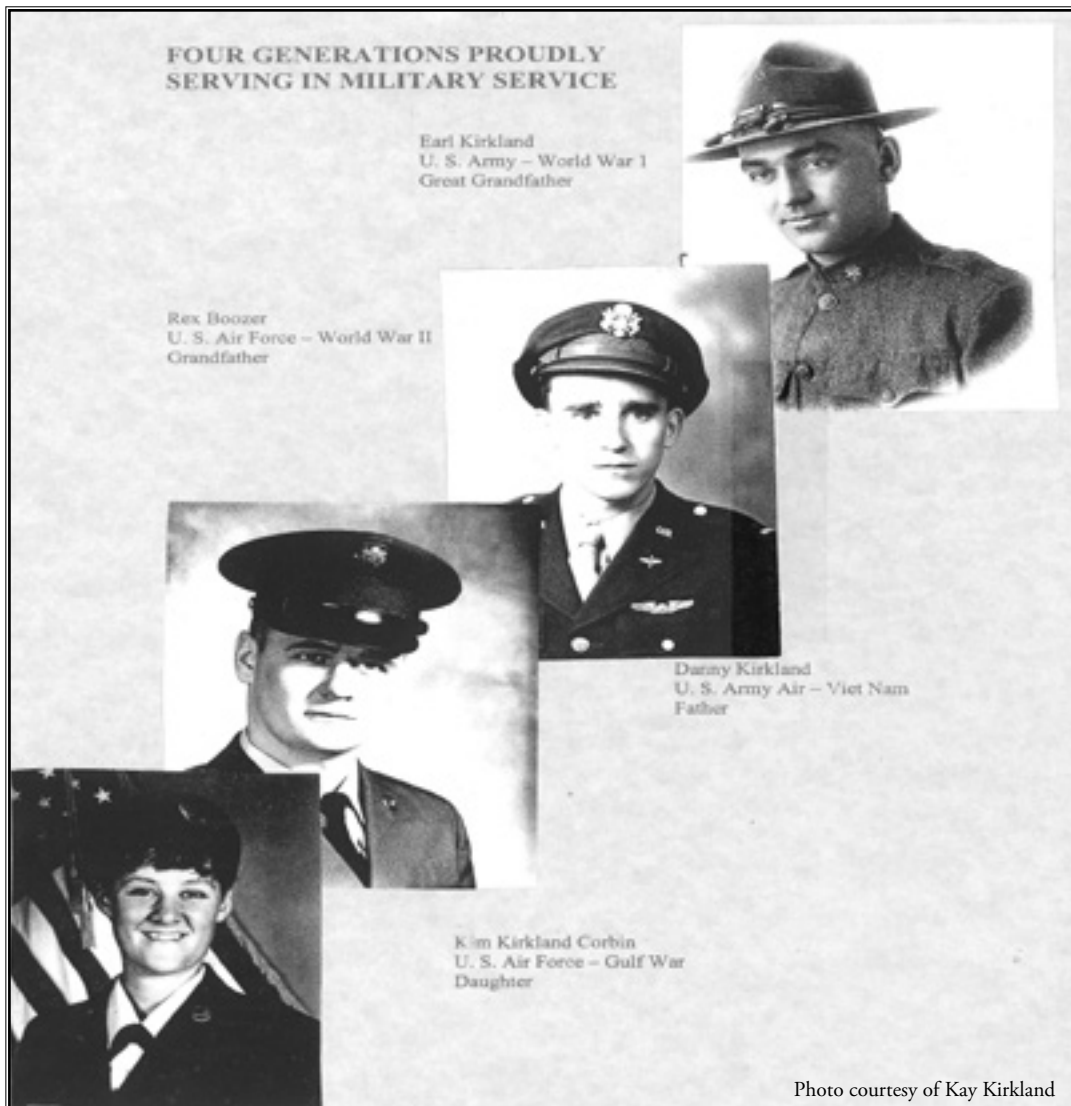
Corbin decided to enlist in the Air Force at the age of 19. She served for little over two years in military law enforcement. When Corbin enlisted, she signed on with her childhood best friend Terri Paulicheck Groves.

"Every kid should go through boot camp in the military for at least two years because it builds character and teaches you how to respect others," Groves said.

Corbin went into the law enforcement while Groves wanted to work in the office area. They didn't know at the time that even if

they enlisted together that doesn't mean that they would serve in the same unit. They ended up not getting shipped out together, so they never got to serve together because of the different jobs they were doing. Corbin made it through all of boot camp that was required, and then she decided to no longer be in the Air Force.

When Corbin was in the Air Force, it made her very proud of herself. Her parents were very proud of her also because she was the fourth generation to go into the



This picture of four generations of Kirkland military service sits next to Kay Kirkland's desk at FHS.

military in her family.

"Glad I did it, I think it builds character, respect and diversity," Corbin said.

It takes a special person to be able to devote their lives to serve and protect others and their country. Clearly, the Kirkland blood-stream contains what is needed for this and Freeman is proud to know them!

Photo courtesy of Kay Kirkland