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Cherry Hill Memorial Post 372  
American Legion  
1532 Martin Ave  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-2060



*Welcome to*  
**The American Legion**

July—September 2012

WWW.ALCH372.COM

**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

May I first say "Thank You" for the honor of becoming your newly elected 32nd Commander of Post 372. Our first Commander, Edward P. Lacey, was elected in 1951.

One of my first assignments was to help flag the veterans graves at Locustwood Cemetery—this is a large undertaking and many gave up their time to help with this annual event. If you have never participated in this tradition, perhaps next year you would consider helping in honoring our deceased veterans, providing you with pride and a sense of peace knowing you have honored these brave men and women.

We also had volunteers flag in honor of KIA Cherry Hill resident Jeremy Kane—the 3rd Annual Jeremy Kane Run route. Jeremy was KIA in 2008.

In March of 1942 the Fall of Bataan (Death March) took place. In commemoration of the 70th Anniversary the Philippine Veterans placed a wreath at the Death March memorial at Cooper River on May 26th.

All this was followed up by our annual Memorial Day events,

which included Services at the Legion, Locustwood, Cooper River Bataan Memorial and Cherry Hill Township.

On June 3rd our Post hosted the Annual Statewide American Legion Services along with a parade—this was only one of many ways we can continue to show our appreciation for all those who have served their country. After the Service, we returned to the Legion and enjoyed food and refreshments made by our new cook, Donna Lis, and our Legion Auxiliary helped serve our guests, making this day one enjoyed by many. Thank you all for your time and effort.

Now for new business—yes, it is once more that time to renew your membership for Post 372. The yearly dues raised are an important part in keeping our Post up and running. Without your support we cannot maintain the daily upkeep and repairs needed. Our bartenders may request to see your new membership.

Please refer to our website and Facebook page for upcoming events, which includes our Annual Family Day Picnic to be held on

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September 15th. This annual event is always a great time. Ask a SAL Officer for details.

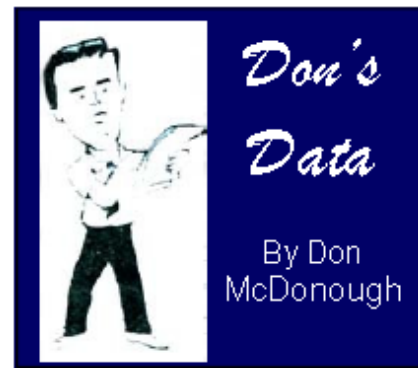
I am looking forward to working with all of our members, along with the Ladies Auxiliary, SAL's and Riders. Together and with your help we can make this year a time to go forward and continue to enjoy the benefits of our organization.

As a final statement, please keep our veterans in your thoughts and prayers— those of us who are still living, those who rest in peace and for those who are now serving our country. May God grant them a safe return from their call of duty.

For God & Country,  
Bill Quinn  
Commander

**www.alch372.com**

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Welcome once again to another lively session of that age-old version of handy household tips and treats with Post #372 newsy and nosey chatter interspersed among the valuable tidbits. An example: **For painful Summer Sunburn - empty a large jar of Nestea into your bath water...** Are there two more important Post members than the celebrated **Arinese Brothers**? For the past several years **Rob and Jimmy**



have been the Post "go-to-guys" for all forms of super-handyman tasks. Whether its carpentry work, advanced lighting ideas or other improvements the brothers have played a major role in brightening our facility and have made it among the County's most desirable Legion Post. Let's make **Rob and Jim** feel important and thank them for their special services to the Post through the years... Now see the boys in action hanging a series of historic military photos to brighten the Post Hall Banquet Wall... **Suffer**



a painful minor burn; - Use a smear of Colgate or Crest toothpaste on it.... And if you burn your tongue? Put sugar on it!... Post Member (and frequent Post benefactor) **Wes Barnett** surprised over 100 members attending the recent swearing-in ceremonies for new **Commander Bill Quinn**



last month. When outgoing chief, **Ernie Brosh** was about to turn over his gavel to **Quinnie**, Wes suddenly came forward to dramatically present the retiring "**Air Force Ernie**" with a beautiful framed patriotic portrait. It depicted, among other famous military figures, those of **Generals' McArthur, Eisenhower and Lincoln** and a special nod the **Ernie's'** hush-hush work with the **U-2 secret plane** project during WW2. A fitting tribute, indeed, and surely a worthy acknowl-

edgement of **Brosh's** four-year-work-a-day contribution to the Post... **Arthritis pain? A simple spray of WD-40. will ease the pain. For summer outdoor woes; another spritz and rub in the skin to kill any insect sting, and if you spray on wasps nests - it paralyzes wasps! On the other hand for Bee stings --use meat tenderizer....**Canteen regular **Jim Bates** is a ranking member of "**The Happy Hour**



**Club**", a popular members-only private club in Maple Shade, whose annual "Pigs Roasts" are well-known up-and-down the East Coast. **Jimmy's** also a epicurean so if you chat with him at the Post bar about gourmet foods, he just may invite you to one of his forthcoming pig roasts... **Surprising skin care; Elmer's Glue -just paint on your face, allow it to dry, peel off and see the dead skin and blackheads. (Also works to remove splinters or cactus spines-just let dry on your skin)**...The day they hung up the new sign by the Post fireplace declaring the bartender was the supreme arbiter and "Final Boss" of all disputes and decisions taking place at Post #372 was the day the ground shifted in Cherry

<p><b>Cherry Hill Mortgage</b></p> <p>1445 Brace Road, Suite F Cherry Hill, NJ 08034</p> <p>Phone: 856-795-0444 Toll free: 877-573-2328 Fax: 866-433-7004</p> <p>navyfederalorg</p>	 <p><b>Beneficial BANK</b></p> <p>Cherry Hill - West Campus 818 Haddonfield Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 856-662-2968</p>
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MANY EVENTS COME UP AT THE LAST MINUTE, or before the next publication of the SCOOP comes out. We encourage everyone to join up on the American Legion Post 372 Email List so that you receive late breaking news and reminders of events. To sign up on the Email List, go to [www.alch372.com](http://www.alch372.com)

[www.alch372.com](http://www.alch372.com)



**OIF/OEF WELCOME!** **2012**

**ANNUAL ONE DAY EVENT**  
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2012**  
**8:30 AM to 1:00 PM - CHERRY HILL ARMORY**  
**SERVING HOMELESS VETERANS**  
*Federal, State, Public & Private support agencies offer a broad array of FREE services and assistance such as:*  
**VA BENEFIT COUNSELING, PTSD COUNSELING, MENTAL HEALTH, WELFARE, SOCIAL SECURITY, FOOD STAMPS, LEGAL SERVICES, ADDICTION SERVICES, HOUSING, MEDICAL, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, HAIRCUTS, & CLOTHING PROVISIONS**  
**PRE-REGISTRATION AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED**  
**CALL (800) 464-8387**  
**www.standdownofsouthjersey.com**

## Memorial Day May 28, 2012 Cherry Hill Township

The event was held and recognized all men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Special mention was made of three men from Cherry Hill.

John Spahr USMC, Gregory Dallesio US Army and Jeremy Kane USMC. The names of Post 372 veterans who passed this year were also recognized. William Aydelotte, William Baker, Walter Bartnowski, James Donohue, James Gallagher, George Gelernt, Ray Rubel, Raymond Shillings, Eugene Slack and Donald Wilson.

The Ravitz family ShopRites of Cherry Hill again donated all the food and needed items. They stand up when we need them, so SHOP ShopRite !

The Post 372 Cook team led by John and Debra Giacoboni and comprised of General members, Ladies Auxiliary, SAL and Riders again gave an outstanding performance.

Hill! Among some there was dancing in the streets. To the old-timers, however, it was a shock to their senses. Some, in fact, including Plumber Ron Flynn, even voiced his vocal, good-hearted, false outrage... **For the Ladies; Budweiser beer rinse conditions the**



**most hospitals lately.) Finally, Athlete's feet? -- use cornstarch.. ...** Personable **Tim Viguers** has temporarily given up his popular Friday night bartending gigs for the Summer.... He's no fool; the sunshine and surf at the shore are just too tailor-made for a young guy like him to miss on a busy beach-harkening weekend...



**hair; Pam cooking spray will dry finger nail polish and even Cool whip will condition**

**your hair in 15 min. And remember, Mayonnaise will kill Lice and it will also condition your hair..... Got Puffy eyes? -- use Preparation H... but for Stinky feet -- use Jello! (Put your feet in a pan of Jell-O!)... And for an annoying little Paper cut;- just use Crazy Glue or Chap Stick. (Glue is used instead of sutures at**



## Post Flag to Fly In Honor Of



**July- Narciso, Frank**  
**August- Smargisso, Nicholas**  
**September- Henderson, Sam G.**

**Patriot Connections**



Veteran, Military, Law Enforcement and Patriot Related Events and News in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

**www.PATRIOTCONNECTIONS.org**

# Annual FAMILY DAY Picnic

**Sat., Sept 15th**  
**1pm - 6pm**



**DJ, Food, Fun & Games**  
**Roast Pig, Clams,**  
**BBQ Steak Sandwiches,**  
**Hamburger, Hotdogs, Salads**  
**and Corn on the Cob**

**\$20/pp - \$35/couple in advance**  
**\$20/pp at door**

**Tickets to be available at Canteen and at the door**

## MESSAGE FROM THE SAL COMMANDER



Firstly, I would like to thank Gary Gottron on his many years serving as Commander for the SALs. Hopefully as the new Commander III be able to follow in his footsteps and be the best Commander I can be.

Your new SAL Officers for 2012-2013 are as follows;

Commander; Tim Viguers  
Sr. Vice Commander. Rich Derer  
Vice Commander: Michael LaLena  
Adjutant/Chaplain; Mike Goffinet  
Finance/Membership: Jim Ihlenfeld  
Historian/Sgt at Arms; Fran Keashen

The Annual American Legion Convention in Wildwood was held June 6-9th, with several of our Legion mem-

bers attending again this year. A great time was had by all. Looking forward to seeing more participation next year as there is talk of competing in the parade. If you have any ideas please come out to one of our meetings to share them. Our meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. (no meetings in July or August).

As usual the Legion came out in force to support the annual 4th of July parade in Erlton.

We are making finishing touches on the preparations for our Annual Family Day which will be held on September 15th. You can purchase your tickets at the canteen

or at the door. Come out and support the Legion. This has come to be known as our biggest annual event and people even come from out of state to attend. It's a great time—music, contests, fun and lots of food. You surely won't leave hungry!

In closing, I encourage people to attend our meetings and to have any eligible friends/family join our organization to keep it one of the strongest and proudest in the state.

For God and Country  
Tim Viguers  
SAL Commander

## MESSAGE FROM THE LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR



The Cinco-de-Mayo/Kentucky Derby party was a great success, so we should do it again next year. Thanks to all who volunteered to help and donate to the cause. The Riders are very good at pulling things together.

Don't forget, Ron and Carol's Pig Roast is on 6/30/2012. I hope Father Paul doesn't try to get out of attending again.

We will have to discuss, at our next meeting, scheduling an event this summer when it is just too hot to do anything else. We also need to see if we can organize the Corbin City Run.

The 4th Annual NJ Run for the Fallen will start on Friday September 28 at Cape May Lighthouse and will finish on Sunday at The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel, NJ. We will be out there to honor our heroes, to support their families and also to support the runners Saturday morning September 29, 2012. More detail will follow as the event gets closer. You

can also go to the Run For The Fallen web site. We have 3 markers to support this year. Mark your calendars. Additional information on Rider activities and can be found on the Post web site.

Membership eligibility for the Post 372 Legion Riders is worth mentioning again:

*Section 1. Eligibility for basic membership in The American Legion Riders shall be as prescribed by the national constitutions of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion.*

*Section 2. All members of The American Legion Riders must demonstrate current individual membership in The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of The American Legion.*

*Section 3. Members will not at any time hold membership in more than one chapter of The American Legion Riders.*

*Section 4. In addition to sections 1-3 above, members must be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle with a minimum displacement of 350cc, or be the spouse or significant other of the legally registered, licensed, and insured owner within the state of registration. Said owner also being a member of The American Legion Riders in good standing.*

*Section 5. All operators must be properly*

*licensed and insured per state laws. Section 6. All members will obey the motor vehicle laws of any state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.*

The Legion Riders meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7:30 PM.

Your ALR Officers 2012-2013 are:

Director—Gary Gottron  
Asst Director—Jim Arcinese  
Secretary—Sue Quinn-Morris  
Treasurer—Al Sacca  
Membership—Al Sacca  
Sgt-At-Arms—Art Schneider  
Ride Captain—Ed Macy  
Historian – Sabrina Gottron  
Liaison—John Murphy

Pray for our troops.

For God and Country,  
Gary Gottron  
Post 372 Program Director

## COUNTYWIDE & SUN

THE TECUMSEH COUNTYWIDE NEWS THE SHAWNEE SUN

Between April 20-24, 1968, men from the 1st Battalion, 327th were involved in a firefight to secure two peaks located about 27 kilometers southwest of Hue in Vietnam. Seventeen Americans were killed.

One of those men, Jackie Dale Walker, had just recently celebrated his birthday – on April 7th, 1968, he turned 19.

He spent his birthday in Vietnam with his brothers of Bravo Company – 1/327th.

Jackie and his family should have been spending a joyous time celebrating his 63rd birthday a few weeks ago. Instead, his family was left with only memories and thoughts of what could have been.

Last Saturday, two days before the 44th anniversary of Jackie's death, his mother Christine and family were presented with a possession Jackie left behind in Vietnam – his dog tag.

Jackie's dog tag was found in 1998 by Wall Street trader Manny Santayana, who was touring the Ho Chi Minh trail. Over the next several years, Santayana was able to make some returns to dog tag owners, but he eventually became too busy to continue. He then enlisted the help of NJ Senator James Beach and the NJ Dog Tag Committee was formed.

The Patriot Guard Riders and friends escorted the Walker family from Sand Creek Cemetery, where Jackie is buried, to the VFW Post 1317, 811 East MacArthur Street, Shawnee, where VFW officers and the Patriot Guard presented the Walker family with Jackie's dog tag.



## Bluefield Daily Telegraph

### Program delivers dog tags to owners' families

By GREG JORDAN  
Bluefield Daily Telegraph

PRINCETON — They were relics of a war, just small tabs of metal stamped with a soldier's name, rank, serial number and other pertinent information. For collectors, the dog tags didn't have much meaning, but for the families behind the names on them, the tags represented loved ones too often long departed.

Back in 1993, a retired police chief, Ray Milligan of Deptford, N.J., was in Vietnam with a group called Operation Smile. He was there as logistics support coordinator for the project's medical program. In the small shops lining the street outside his hotel, he saw that vendors were selling what appeared to be old, rusty American dog tags as souvenirs. He bought 350 of them and later gave them to the POW/MIA Awareness Committee of New Jersey.

The organization's director of research, Sue Quinn-Morris, has worked to reunite the dog tags with their owners' families. Several veterans' organizations including the Nam Knights of America have helped with the project.

"What we have done different with this project since receiving the dog tags is to ensure that each dog tag, when welcomed, is hand delivered to the veteran, or to their family, by a veteran," Quinn-Morris said in a POW/MIA Awareness Committee statement.

On May 26, a dog tag that once belonged to Harley David Harless, born Nov. 2, 1949, was returned to his daughter, Amy Hollins, 40, of Princeton. Harless served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He was with the 1st Brigade, 50th Infantry — the Short Range Ambush Patrol.

After some effort, Quinn-Morris managed to find Amy, now Amy Hollins. "She had been searching for me for quite some time," Hollins told the Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

On May 26, a veteran presented Hollins with her father's dog tag during a ceremony at the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C. It took place with the Nam Knights of America MC along with the POW/MIA Awareness Committee.

"It was very emotional. They hand-delivered them," Hollins recalled. "They go through so much to get these, and it's such an honor."

Hollins now wears her father's dog tag.



This dog tag that once belonged to Harley David Harless, born Nov. 2, 1949, was recently returned to his daughter, Amy Hollins, 40, of Princeton.

Staff photo by Jon Bolt

# DOG TAG RETURNS in Washington DC, Greenville NC and Shawnee, OK

Many of you are familiar with the Vietnam Dog Tag Project that several of our members have been actively involved in. If you would like more detailed information, including how you can help, be sure to visit the following website; [www.powmiaawareness.org](http://www.powmiaawareness.org).

In the following months there are numerous dog tag returns scheduled in Arizona, New Mexico, Tennessee, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and New York....



March 2012—Wilmington, NC—A Vietnam veteran who lost his dog tags more than 40 years ago is closer to being reunited with them.

On Tuesday morning, a motorcycle rolled up to the Flatline Customs

cycle shop in Castle Hayne. The rider carried the dog tags belonging to Bill Ritenour, a retired police chief living in Greenville. Ritenour served as a Marine in Vietnam from 1965 to 1969 and lost his tags while on patrol, according to a story on [powmiaawareness.org](http://www.powmiaawareness.org).

In the early 1990s, a former Marine traveling in Vietnam on behalf of Operation Smile bought more than 400 dog tags from a vendor outside his hotel. Ritenour's eventually reached the POW/MIA Awareness Committee of New Jersey.

The organization is trying to help get the dog tags hand-delivered to each veteran by a fellow veteran.

In Southeastern North Carolina, the Cape Fear chapter of the Nam Knights Motorcycle Club received the dog tags and will deliver them to Ritenour, said Bob Pavlik, the club's president.



Cheryl Hall (second from left) puts the dog tag of Bill Ritenour around the neck of Bob Pavlik, while Rick Bentley (left) and Ron Colucci watch at Flatline Customs in Castle Hayne on May 16, 2012. Colucci had driven down from New Jersey to give the tag to Pavlik who will personally deliver the tag to Ritenour at his home in Greenville.



GREENVILLE, N.C. - An emotional ceremony in a Pitt County court room Friday afternoon as Vietnam vet Bill Ritenour got his missing dog tag back from more than 40 years ago.

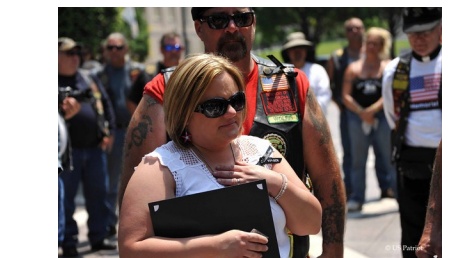
While on a 13 month tour of Vietnam, Ritenour lost one of his two tags.

"It's hard to explain, I just feel so great, finally, finally, after all these years," said Bill Ritenour, who got his dog tag back.

"This was my welcome home."



Bill Ritenour holds up his newly returned dog tags during a ceremony held at the courthouse.



Amy Harless Hollins is presented with her fathers dog tag in Washington DC over the Memorial Day weekend by members of the POW/MIA Awareness Committee of NJ, members of the Nam Knights, including Nam Knights President, Fritz Remein.

## MESSAGE FROM LADIES PRESIDENT



Well we made it to the summer again. A few of us attended the annual convention in Wildwood— maybe next year more members can make it down if even for the parade on Saturday—every year it gets better. Who knows maybe our Post could even participate, besides the fun, experience and camaraderie you can win money for the different categories. It's something to think about and we have a whole year to make it happen.

The month of May was busy for all of us also with the various ceremonies. For the first time in years we had an all Veteran guard participate in the Locustwood service and they looked sharp. Unfortunately it also brought to mind our fallen over the last year as the names were read at the memorials tears could be seen, we lost many good people but it was good to see the newer members participating. Our seasoned Veterans had set a high mark in their service to their country and the Post. Our younger Veterans are showing it is a tradition that is being carried on and will set

new marks for the next generation. Be on the lookout for some new and exciting things at the Post. The Auxiliary will be working closely with our Veterans and the SAL in the coming months to try to generate some enthusiasm for the various projects we do for the American Legion. Our Post is very active in the community both on the township and county level and with various Veteran organizations, but of course we always need more people to participate. We have a strong core but many just don't seem to care enough to get out to help. Come to a meeting to hear what we are trying to accomplish you might be surprised or check out our website to see what is going on. There are many choices within your interests you might not be aware of including children, animals, community service and of course our all important Veterans.

In the coming months look for a postcard regarding our dues. The National organization raised our fees for membership. We

have to pass along the increase, I understand this may be a hardship for some but we had no choice. Starting for the 2013 year our dues will be \$21.00 per year. Also be aware you should always carry your current membership card - you may be asked to produce it in the canteen. If you visit other posts you must present it as a visitor or if the state comes in everyone in the canteen must be able to provide a valid proof of membership or have a Veteran present to sign them in. At Family Day we will be accepting dues for the coming year, come enjoy the day, support the SAL and save a stamp. Early renewals are always appreciated.

In closing I want to Thank everyone who made this a stellar year for the Auxiliary. Many things were accomplished with every ones help and support. We look forward to working hand in hand with the officers of our Post. With Commander Bill Quinn at the helm, Tim Viguers our new SAL Commander and all our members the coming year should be fantastic journey for the Post.

For God and country,  
Carol Colucci  
President

### REMINDER

If you know of any Veteran, or a family member of a Veteran who is hospitalized, or is in need of Assistance, please call the Post Chaplain, Chester Malik at 856-427-4223

### HALL RENTAL

The Legion Hall is available for rental for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, parties, etc. For more information, contact Charles at 856-482-6855

## POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. It is traditionally observed on the third Friday in September each year. This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. The flag is to be flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, all post offices, VA medical facilities, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the official offices of the secretaries of state, defense and veterans affairs, the director of the selective service system and the White House.

JPAC Continues to search for our POW/MIA—since March of this year, the following have been returned home.

**\*\* Sgt. 1st Class Gunther H. Wald, U.S. Army, 5th Special Forces Group, was lost on Nov. 3, 1969, in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. He was accounted for on May 30, 2012. From NJ \*\***

Cpl. Pryor Gobble, U.S. Army, L Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, was lost on Dec. 11, 1950 near Hagaru-ri, North Korea. He was accounted for on May 23, 2012.

1st Lt. Warren G. Moxley, U.S. Army Air Forces, 107th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 9th Air Force, was lost on March 15, 1945, near Neustadt, Germany. He was accounted for on May 22, 2012.

Cpl. Kenneth R. Block, U.S. Army, M Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team, was lost on Dec. 3, 1950, near the Chosin Reservoir, in North Korea. He was accounted for on May 18, 2012.

Radioman 1st Class Harry C. Scribner, U.S. Navy was lost on Aug. 22, 1943 when the TBF-1 Avenger aircraft on which he was a crewmember crashed on the island of Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides (Vanuatu). He was accounted for on May 4, 2012.

1st Lt. Laverne A. Lallathin, 2nd Lt. Dwight D. Ekstam, 2nd Lt. Walter B. Vincent, Jr., Tech. Sgt. James A. Sisney, Cpl. Wayne R. Erickson, Cpl. John D. Yeager, and Pfc. John A. Donovan, U.S. Marine Corps, were lost on April 22, 1944 when their PBJ-1 crashed over the island of Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides (Vanuatu). They were identified on Jan. 24, 2012. They were accounted for on May 7, March 28, March 6, May 9, March 7, March 14, March 16 respectively.

Pfc. Gerald W. Kight, U.S. Army, 82nd Division, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, was lost on Sept. 28, 1944, near Groesbeek, Netherlands. He was accounted for on April 19, 2012.

Cpl. David L. Catlin, U.S. Army, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team, was lost on Dec. 2, 1950, near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. He was accounted for on April 16, 2012.

Cpl. Clyde E. Anderson, U.S. Army, Medical Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, assigned to the 31st Regimental Combat Team, was lost on Nov. 28, 1950, near Kaljon-ri, North Korea. He was accounted for on April 13, 2012.

Capt. Virgil K. Meroney III, U.S. Air Force, was lost on March 1, 1969 when the F-4D Phantom II that he was piloting was shot down in Khammouan Province, Laos. He was accounted for on April 11, 2012.

Col. Joseph Christiano, Col. Derrell B. Jeffords, Lt. Col. Dennis L. Eilers, Chief Master Sgt. William K. Colwell, Chief Master Sgt. Arden K. Hassenger, and Chief Master Sgt. Larry C. Thornton, U.S. Air Force, were lost on Dec. 24, 1965, when their AC-47D gunship crashed in Savannakhet Province, Laos. They were identified on March 5, 2012. They were accounted for on April 5, April 7, April 6, March 29, March 22, and April 10 respectively.

Lt. Dennis W. Peterson, U.S. Navy, was lost on July 19, 1967 when the SH-3A Sea King helicopter that he was piloting was shot down in Ha Nam Province, Vietnam. He was accounted for on March 30, 2012.

Pfc. Nelson E. Young, U.S. Army, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team, was captured on Dec. 2, 1950 near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea and died in late 1950 or early 1951. He was accounted for on March 30, 2012.

Master Sgt. Elwood Green, U.S. Army, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division was captured on Nov. 28, 1950 and died in 1951 in a POW Camp in North Korea. He was accounted for on Mar. 1, 2012.



**Gunther Herbert Wald** was born on January 7, 1944, in Frankfort, Germany and later moved to NJ.

Wald served in the US Army and attained the rank of Sergeant First Class (SFC).

Wald was listed as missing in action on November 3, 1969, when his patrol was ambushed in Laos.

Gunther entered the US Army in 1967 where he attained the rank of Sergeant First Class. When Gunther entered the Army he had already had four years in service in the US Marine Corps and served in the MACV-SOG, Command and Control North. MACG-SOG (Military Assistance Command Studies and Observation Group) was joint service high command unconventional warfare task force engaged in highly classified operations throughout Southeast Asia. The Fifth Special Forces channeled personnel (though it was not a Special Forces group) through Special Operations Augmentation (SOA), which provided their "cover" while under secret orders to the MACV-SOG. The teams performed deep penetration missions of strategic reconnaissance and interdiction, which were called, depending on the time of frame, "Shining Brass" or "Prairie Fire" missions.

It was on such a mission that SSGT Brown, SSGT Gunther Wald, SP4 Donald Shue and two of the six Montagnards went missing. The Americans and Montagnards were members of a patrol operating in Laos. The patrol team was attacked by a numerically superior force 30 miles inside Laos near Ban Chakevy Tai in Saravane Province. Four of the Montagnards escaped and returned to the camp to report the ambush and capture of their comrades.

When last seen, Brown had been wounded by a gunshot just below the ribcage. SSGT Wald and SP4 Shue were also seen to receive numerous shrapnel wounds from a fragmentation grenade. The other team members were forced to withdraw leaving the others behind.