



DAS SALUTES

Our Military Family

NOVEMBER 11, 2015

The First World War, with its unprecedented scope and destruction, was thought at the time to be “the war to end all wars”. It ended when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect “at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” of 1918.

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of “Armistice Day”. The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

In 1938, an act of Congress made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.”

Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after the considerable mobilization and effort of World War II and the U.N.-sponsored military action in the Korean War, Congress, at the urging of various veterans’ organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by substituting “Veterans” for “Armistice”. With the approval of this legislation, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In this special Veterans Day edition of the DAS Times, we recognize and thank our employees and their family members who have served in the armed forces of the United States. On Veterans Day, while you spend time with your family and friends, spare a thought for all our veterans and if you know one, thank them.



Sergeant **Peter Wilson** (son of Carol Wilson) is actively serving in the U.S. Marines in the Marine Heavylift Helicopter Squadron 465 (HMH-465, the Warhorse) currently at MCAS Miramar in San Diego, CA.

Above is a photo taken April 19, 2001 when he visited DAS for Take Your Kids to Work Day.



DAS' Deb Hearl is one very proud grandmother these days. Her grandson, **Gabriel Purpura**, just graduated from Southington High school and after long consideration and a lot of research he enlisted in the U.S. Marines. Earlier this year he spoke to our staff: "I have been thinking about it for a while. I turned 18 on June 4 and I enlisted then. Where you live is what determines where you will do your boot camp - I am going to Parris Island. I will leave on September 7 and graduate on December 4 after 12 weeks of training. I have already been doing training twice a week. I was thinking about joining but I have a relative who wanted me to fully research all branches of government before I signed on with anyone. I actually seriously thought about the Navy but I do not think I could live and work on a boat at sea for that length of time so I chose the Marines."

Because of the contract he signed he may be deployed overseas. But he does know that once he graduates boot camp he is going to Twenty Nine Palms, CA for training in a Communications position. This was determined after he completed his ASVAB or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery testing. He is prepared to join eight other young men from the Waterbury area.



Gabriel professes to be a good runner and athlete so he welcomed the rigorous regiment of 12 weeks of Marine boot camp. In pre-training he had to do max sets of pull-ups and he boasted doing 99 crunches in two minutes. He will not have access to his cell phone or cell services for the entire 13 weeks of training but he is not fazed by that. He knows he will be sorely missed by his parents and his 12 year old brother, Matt. When asked what he wants to do when he completes his service with the marines, he answered, "I would really like to go the Police Academy!" That would certainly be Connecticut's gain!

Aaron Barkin (son of David Barkin) took his oaths on September 29, 2015 and is now a member of the CT Army National Guard. He is a ROTC cadet at UConn and a sophomore. This weekend he ran in the annual Army Ten-miler race in Washington DC. He was 140th of 26,000 runners and 5th in his age bracket (of 350 runners similarly classified below 20 years old).





Hugo Sciacca (father of Adrienne Runowicz) served in the U. S. Army with the 110th Anti-Aircraft Artillery. He fought in three World War II battles: Battle of Normandy; Battle of the Bulge; Battle of Remagen. He received a good conduct medal, a victory medal and a campaign ribbon with one bronze service arrowhead among several commendations. Hugo passed away in 2012 at the age of 87.

Dick Omohundro, Technical Sergeant, served in the United States Air Force as a Senior Air Traffic Control Specialist from February 1968 to March 1984 at Tyndall AFB, Panama City, Florida with the 2nd Combat Communications Group. *(Shown right circa 1982)*

Omohundro said, "I feel blessed to have had two careers (Air Traffic Controller and IT Analyst) in which I loved both my job and, for the most part, the people I did it with."



Father of Nina Ritson, **Frederick Charles Mascetti** (right), 1st Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force, stands next to his father Frederick Egidio Mascetti. He graduated from Lehigh University, ROTC and served as a pilot during the 1950s.



Sgt. Joseph Michael Nolan, nephew to John Nolan and Patrick Nolan (retired), graduated from college in 1999 then enlisted in the U.S. Army. After boot camp in Missouri he was sent to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California where he learned to speak and read the Arabic language. He was assigned to the 312th military Intelligence Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. In January 2004 the division deployed to Iraq.

As an intelligence analyst, Joe interrogated detainees and translated captured documents as well as being tasked with going on patrols when a linguist was needed. It was on one such patrol with a Marine Corps recon unit that Joe's humvee was struck with an improvised explosive device. Shrapnel ripped through a crack in the humvee's armor and struck Joe in the back of the neck. He was evacuated by medavac to Baghdad where he died about four hours later on the night of November 18, 2004. Sgt. Nolan was credited with helping to set up a tips hotline where

citizens could call in reports of insurgent activity. He interrogated over 500 detainees and translated reams of documents. Information that he gleaned from these sources saved the lives of numerous American soldiers and Iraqi nationals.

Sgt. Nolan was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He was previously awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct medal, NCO Leadership Course medal, War on Terror Service medal and War on Terror Campaign Medal.

On May 26, 2005, Sgt. Joseph Michael Nolan's name was officially inscribed on the black marble Memorial Wall at the National Security Agency headquarters at Fort Meade, Maryland. His name is the 154th to be added to the wall since World War II. The wall is dedicated to military and civilian cryptologists working for the National Security Agency that have been killed in action.

He is also honored by being one of the original soldiers whose photo hangs in the Legislative Office Building Connecticut Wall of Honor - a tribute to Connecticut men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces who lost their lives in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan that began after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. He was one of the original

photos when this memorial gallery was dedicated by then Comptroller Nancy Wyman and Brad Davis on November 2, 2007. (Shown to the right).





The above military members are the family of DAS Payroll Officer, Mary Gugliemino.

Top left is Mary's husband, **Sgt. Richard Gugliemino**. He was in the U.S. Army from December 1963 - December 1965, stationed at Fort Richardson, Anchorage Alaska.

Top center is Mary's son, Ret. **LtCol. Richard Gugliemino Jr.** He retired from the U.S. Air Force in June, 2010.

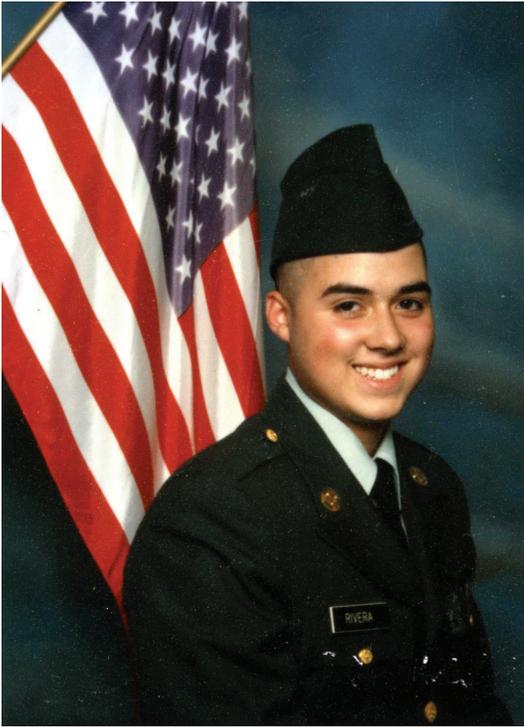
Top right is her grandson, **SrA. Christopher Davis**, who is currently a member of the CT Air National Guard out of the 103rd Air Wing in East Granby, CT.

Bottom left is her son-in-law, **Michael Dixon Jr.** He spent 5 1/2 years in the CT Air National Guard as a SrA. He was deployed to Afghanistan from July 2011 - January 2012. He then spent 3 years as a Specialist with the CT Army National Guard.

Bottom center left is Mary's father, **Sgt. Jerome Varrato** who served in the U.S Army during World War II.

Bottom center right is her brother, **SSgt. Jim Varrato** who served as a Law Enforcement Specialist with the U.S. Air Force from 1973 - 1981.

Finally, the bottom right are Mary's twin nephews, **TSgt. Justin Varrato** and **TSgt. Marshall Varrato**. TSgt Justin Varrato has been serving the U.S. Air Force for 13 years and is currently stationed at Aviano Air Force Base in Italy. TSgt Marshall Varrato has been serving the U.S. Air Force for 13 years also, and is currently stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.



Francisco (Franky) Rivera served in the U.S. Army for eight years at the following:

Boot camp: Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Advanced Individual Training (AIT): Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri – School of Engineering

He also worked in New London as part of the 92nd Engineer Battalion, building roads, surveying construction projects and soil testing. He worked on the team that built the pavilions at Camp Niantic.

Franky relocated to Newington and worked out of the Veteran's Hospital assigned to the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical unit (N.B.C.)

He was honorably discharged on April 13, 2005 at the rank of Specialist E-4.



Thomas C. Jerram, Jr. – USMC Private First Class (active duty 2013 to present) is at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA.

Allison Jerram Lotts – USN Lieutenant JG (active duty 2010 to present) is stationed at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC.

Their father is Thomas Jerram.



Christopher Abbott, E3 (son of Bill Abbott, State Fire Marshal) served in the United States Navy from 2008 - 2012. He was stationed in Afghanistan.



Joanne Cusano would like to honor, recognize and appreciate her family members who have served and are currently serving.

Top left Marine - **Alicia Stull** (Niece and God Child) Newest family member of the Forces as of September 2015.

Top right **Jennifer Stull** (Sister-in-law) joined the Air Force in 1995 and this is from when she was in Saudi Arabia in 2001. She just retired this past August from the Air Force with 20 years of service.

Lower left Marine **Ron Stull, Jr.** (Nephew) in Afghanistan - recently retired with 20 years.

Lower right Marine, **Rob Stull** (Brother) - recently retired.



Melissa Marzano's son, **Dylan Christensen**, joined the Navy Reserves September 18, 2013. He attended and graduated boot camp at the Naval Station in Great Lakes, Illinois. After graduation he traveled to Pensacola, Florida for training. After changing his job classification he had additional training in San Antonio, Texas. His current job title is Master of Arms; his training is in law enforcement. Dylan currently reports to Groton for his one weekend a month drill. So far Dylan has completed three "two-week" drills; one at each of the following Naval bases: Portsmouth, NH, Newport, RI and Groton, CT.

Dylan's entire family (especially his mom) is extremely proud of his accomplishments. He also holds a full time position as a Automotive Mechanic at DeCormier Nissan in Manchester, CT.

Shown here are twins, **Peter Simmons** (*right*) and his brother **Jeff** (*left*) who served as Navy Officers about the same time (in different jobs and units). The photo was taken when Peter was leaving Iraq and Jeff was serving in Kuwait in a boat unit that patrolled the Gulf.

Peter Simmons, CEC – USNR
Rank: Lieutenant
Service: US Navy, Construction Force (Seabees)
2000 to 2009

Jeffery Simmons, USNR
Rank: Lieutenant
Service: US Navy
1999 to 2009
Prior Service: CT National Guard
1983 to 1987



Linda Huntley would like to honor her great nephew, **Andrew N. Thompson**, and his wife, **Daneshia**, in the Army. They are both Special E4 and presently stationed in Clarksville, TN. Soon Andrew will go to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Andrew's father, **Donald N. Thompson III**, and Andrew's grandfather, **Donald N. Thompson II**, were in the Marines as Lance Corporals. Andrew's great grandfather, and great great grandfather also served in the Civil War.

Linda's father, **Oman Weston (Westy) Huntley** was in the Navy during WW II and served in the Pacific fleet. Her mother had four brothers who served in the Army during WW II.

Linda said, "I fly a flag at my desk in memory of everyone in my family."



Shun Zhang (DAS MIS) in the middle of the picture Connecticut Army National Guard Summer of 1988.



Joseph Liudzius (Teresa Dupont's Dad) was 17 when he and his parents had to leave their farm and belongings in Lithuania to flee from communism. He was a Displaced Person and grateful for the opportunity to come to America with his family. He then was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict where he achieved the rank of Corporal as a radio operator while he was stationed in Germany.

At 83 years old, he is still so proud to be a United States citizen. He continues to honor America and hosts flag burning ceremonies at his home where he still wears his army jacket. Each of his eight grandchildren participate by properly folding the American flag, placing it in the fire, and watching it burn as we all reflect on how lucky we are to be living in America. The ceremony ends as family and friends all sing "God Bless America".



Linda LoSchiavo, Contract Specialist in Procurement is seen here on Graduation Day. She served in the US Army from 1981 through 1984.

Her rank was SP4/Specialist 4 and she worked as a Practical Nurse and Company Clerk and was stationed at Fort Ord, California.

Scott Benson (*Left in picture to the right*) (DAS BEST) was a Sergeant (E5) in the US Army from 1986-1990. He served in the following duty stations: 82nd Airborne Division (US), 3rd Armored Division (Germany). Photo to the right was taken the day he was promoted to sergeant.



Richard May (*left*) of DAS BEST started serving in the US Air Force in 1976, and left as a SSGT (Staff Sergeant E-5) in 1986.

The attached picture was taken while he was serving at the Pentagon with the rank of A1C (Airman First Class).

Bases: Lackland AFB, TX, Shepard AFB, TX, Hellinkon AFB, Athens, Greece, Wright-Patterson, AFB Ohio, Pentagon, Virginia, Keesler AFB, Mississippi, Robins AFB, Georgia.



Mary Rice's nephew **Timothy P. Rice** enlisted in the Marines in December 2012, attended boot camp at Parris Island, SC. and is now a Corporeal with the 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC.

Spc. Anthony S. Perales, Son of Madeline Vargas
Served in the U.S. Army, 82nd Fort Bragg, as a Paratrooper
He served for six years 2008-2014.

