



### PRAY FOR OUR DEPLOYED MEMBERS

- Kyle Pleasant
- Bob Shaut

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**TOGETHER IN SCRIPTURE READING:**  
*This month the book of Mark*

# Yellow Ribbon Ministry Newsletter

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## FAITH OR FEAR?

I recently completed my 30th year of military service. It seems like a lifetime since I joined and I guess in many respects it has been a lifetime. There are some things that are drummed into you from your earliest training that remain with you over time. When I went to Basic Training, everyone was required to pull "Dorm Guard" duty at various times during our training. You were told that you were to be vigilant and to never desert your post for any reason! Dorm Guards were to make sure that only authorized personnel were to enter the dorm. If the flight was out participating in training, he would guard against illegal entry and theft. If the flight was in the dorm, he would ensure that only flight members were able to enter. At night, he would guard against fire and any other problems while the flight slept.

Anyone wanting to enter had to be challenged by the Dorm Guard before they could pass the door. The Dorm Guard would challenge with: "Sir, may I see your authority to enter, your pass or Military ID Card?" At that point, the person must display their pass or ID card at the window and it was checked against the authorized roster. If

you did not display proper credentials or were not on the authorized roster, the Dorm Guard was not to let you enter, no matter what your rank.

Training Instructors (TIs) were notorious for playing tricks and trying to enter without the proper credentials or trying to sneak in the door while other flight members were entering. One TI in particular was infamous for his efforts. He was a really big guy with a nasty temper and was known as "Tech Sergeant Miller, the Dorm Guard Killer." One day, he loosened the pins on the door earlier in the morning. A short while later he came back when another Dorm Guard was on duty. He requested to enter without showing his credentials. Time and again, the Dorm Guard would issue his challenge as Sergeant Miller would yell, scream and threaten the frightened Basic Trainee. Finally, a red faced Sergeant Miller reached over and pulled the door off its frame. The 18-19 year old trainee turned completely white and almost passed out - it was classic!

in Matthew, chapters 27 and 28, the account is given of the burial of Jesus. The chief priests and



**Colonel Steven D. Martin**  
**Phone: 919-571-4378**  
**E-Mail: sdmartin@nc.rr.com**

Pharisees came to Pilate to implore him to set a guard against the disciples taking away Jesus' body and fulfilling Jesus' claim to rise again. Pilate, the Roman Governor, personally ordered the guard to be set. Although not reflected in scripture, my military background tells me that the centurion, who received Pilate's order, put his top troops in charge of the tomb. It was not a wise move to mess up an order from the governor. Justice in the Roman army was swift and brutal. Deserting your post or sleeping on duty was punishable by death and that was without question.

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## Military Terms and Abbreviations



- **BLUELEG:** infantryman (a.k.a. "grunt")
- **BRIGADE:** military unit consisting of 2-5 battalions (3000-5000 soldiers) typically commanded by a colonel
- **BRUCE:** Basic Remote User's Content Editor
- **BURSTER:** 2nd explosive charge used to break open and spread the contents of chemical projectiles, bombs, or mines



**“The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces ...”**

## Veterans’ Salutes during National Anthem

*reprinted from VA bulletin*

Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month [*This article was written in October 2008*].

“The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation’s flag.”

The new provision improves upon a little known change in

federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year’s provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation’s veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization’s official head-gear.

The most recent change, au-

thorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.

## Salt of the Earth - Horace Johnson

*(Sergeant, US Army Corps, 1942-46)*



article by Don King

Horace Johnson was born somewhere in Johnston County, NC, on 27 September, 1918, and lived there until volunteering for military service in 1942. He has had a love affair with airplanes for as long as he can remember. There was a man named Al Stewart who had a little private airstrip off Old Garner Road (on the Johnston County side of Raleigh) and Horace’s dad took him there several times when he was about six years old to watch the planes take off and land. That’s where his love of airplanes began. Several years later, when he was about eleven, he remembers that his first airplane ride was in Myrtle Thompson’s airplane, flying out of an airstrip near Selma, NC.

When Horace went in the service in 1942 he had intentions of becoming a pilot in the then fairly new Army Air Corps, but his bad eyes precluded that. He was sent to Camp Croft, SC, for in-processing, where his aptitude tests plainly showed his leaning toward airplanes, then three

days on a train to Savannah, then Jacksonville, FL, followed by New Orleans, LA, and finally to Camp Blanding near Gainesville, FL, where he spent a few weeks awaiting assignment to a training school. He was put under the charge of Sgt Blanton, Platoon Sgt (One never forgets his first Platoon Sergeant – mine was SFC Guthrey at Ft. Ord, CA.) Horace remembers being impressed by the Georgia pines, “so tall you could just see the tops”, after living around loblolys all his life. He was there long enough to get his wife, Ila, to join him and he got authorization to live off-post (a pretty good deal for a Private who hadn’t even started training yet!) He remembers oversleeping and coming in late one morning and getting chewed out by Sgt Blanton (another “first” that one never forgets.) While at Camp Croft, he was initially assigned the job of fueling and washing down five BT-13 Valiant airplanes (pictured at left), which were used for training Army Air Corps pilots. Then he spent a few weeks working under the supervision

of a mechanic, doing pre-flight inspections on them. This proved to be good “basic training” for a soldier destined for a career in aircraft maintenance, although to the best of his remembrance he was never told that that was his destiny.

Eventually he got orders to move but wasn’t told where. He sent Ila back home, got on a train and headed north, wondering where he would end up. He recognized Smithfield and Wilson as he passed through them, and had it pretty well figured out before the train arrived in Goldsboro. At Seymour-Johnson AFB he attended aircraft maintenance school for about six months, in a class of sixteen students. The “carrot-and-stick” approach was used as a primary motivational tool: The students were told that if they didn’t keep their grades up they’d be assigned to “the ground forces” (i.e., the Infantry...at that time the Army was fighting in North Africa), and that the six students with the best grades would be kept on as instructors.



**BT-13 Valiant**

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## Salt of the Earth - Horace Johnson

*(continued from page 2)*

This technique worked very well on PVT Johnson, and he spent the rest of his hitch on the flight line at Seymour-Johnson, teaching groups of six students how to perform pre-flight inspections on B-17 Flying Fortress bombers. He enthusiastically told about the complexity of the B17; the four big engines (Wright Cyclone turbocharged radials, developing 1200 horsepower each [I looked this up]) and the redundant electrical and hydraulic systems (which I had always assumed was a later development.)

He attained the rank of Sergeant before his discharge in 1946. (He admitted to having not made Staff Sergeant because of a lapse in attention to detail that caused him to lose a stripe during his time as an instructor.) He was sent to Greensboro for separation processing and there ran afoul of an authoritative Corporal who, upon examining his records, asked him where he had taken basic training. The conversation went something like, HORACE: "I didn't"; CORPORAL: "Why didn't you?"; "Because nobody told me to";

"Well, in this man's Army, you cannot be discharged until you've completed basic training"; "I want to speak with your Sergeant"; SERGEANT: "That's what the regulations say"; "Well then, who is your Officer? I want to talk to him."; LIEUTENANT: "I'm sorry, but there's nothing we can do."; "Well, who is your commanding officer?"; COLONEL: "Sergeant, don't you think every good soldier should take basic training?"; "Yes sir, but he shouldn't have to wait four years to do it!"

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**"Well, in this man's Army, you cannot be discharged until you've completed basic training."**

## IRS Drops and Gives You Ten ... Military Tax Tips

*(part 2)*

Continuation of last month's feature. This month, we're showing you the last six of ten IRS tax tips military members can keep in mind to help with filing a tax return (don't forget to request an extension if you have not filed yet).

**5. Joint Returns.** Generally, joint returns must be signed by both spouses. However, when one spouse may not be available due to military duty, a power of attorney may be used to file a joint return.

**6. Travel to Reserve Duty.** If you are a member of the US Armed Forces Reserves, you

can deduct unreimbursed travel expenses for traveling more than 100 miles away from home to perform your reserve duties.

**7. ROTC Students.** Subsistence allowances paid to ROTC students participating in advanced training are not taxable. However, active duty pay – such as pay received during summer advanced camp – is taxable.

**8. Transitioning Back to Civilian Life.** You may be able to deduct some costs you incur while looking for a new job. Expenses may include

travel, resume preparation fees, and outplacement agency fees. Moving expenses may be deductible if your move is closely related to the start of work at a new job location, and you meet certain tests.

**9. Tax Help.** Most military installations offer free tax filing and preparation assistance during the filing season.

**10. Tax Information.** IRS Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide, summarizes many important military-related tax topics. Publication 3 is available for download at IRS.gov or may be ordered by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

**For more info visit:**  
[www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf)



## HERE'S WHY - "Jarhead"

Ever wondered where the term "jarhead" originated? One legend says that it referred to the shape of a marine's head due to the "high and tight" haircut. Another legend says that during World War II the Mason Jar Company stopped making jars and made the helmets for Marines. The nickname started

to be used after the name "Mason" was noticed printed in the helmets. Here's my personal favorite: The term "jarhead" as referring to a Marine comes from the same thing that gave them the nickname "leathernecks" -- the leather collars on some of their uniforms.

Before rubber was commonly available, the rings used to seal canning jars were made of leather. So the implication is that the Marine's leather collar is akin to the leather sealing rings once used on canning jars, making him, literally, a "jar head."

### Jarhead ???



## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Friendship Baptist Church  
5510 Falls of Neuse Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Phone: (919) 876-0585  
E-mail: fbcmail@fbcweb.net  
Web Site: www.fbcweb.net

## COLONEL STEVE AND DEBORAH MARTIN

Phone: (919) 571-4378  
E-Mail: sdmartin@nc.rr.com

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- Joe Wilson - 3
- Deborah Martin - 10
- Joshua Ingersoll - 17
- Pat Mesley - 20
- Kim Stewart - 30

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

- Andy & Teresa  
Ralph - 3

## MARK THE DATE:

- May 16 - Dessert social after PM Church Service
- May 30 - Special Memorial Day church service

(More details next month)

## FAITH OR FEAR?

(continued from page 1)

Military training also tells me that no one was going into that tomb without either a bunch of dead civilians or a bunch of dead Roman Soldiers - no gray area here.

On that first Easter morning, the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and rolled back the stone. I can only imagine the scene as the radiance and glory of our Lord came from the tomb. The battle-hardened Roman soldiers became as dead men in the presence of our glorified Lord. Fear gripped their hearts. Afterwards, the chief priests and Pharisees concocted a preposterous story about the disciples taking away Jesus' body while the soldiers slept. Fear also gripped their hearts.

In his book, *Loving God*, Chuck Colson reflected on his part in the Watergate cover-up. Colson was one of the inner circle of the Nixon presidency along with names that are now a part of history books such as Dean,

Ehrlichman and Haldeman. They were smart, well educated, powerful men working for the most powerful man in the world. Yet these men became panic-stricken, not by the prospect of beatings and execution, but by political disgrace and prison sentences. Their conspiracy quickly crumbled and Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency in disgrace. They all cracked under the pressure.

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, the eleven disciples and 500 others physically saw our risen Savior. Fear did not grip their hearts, but their faith was emboldened. As Colson reflected, "Is it really likely, then, that a deliberate cover-up, a plot to perpetuate a lie about the Resurrection, could have survived the violent persecution of the apostles, the scrutiny of the early church councils, the horrendous purge of the first century believers who were cast by the thousands to the lions for refusing to re-

nounce the Lordship of Christ? Is it not probable that at least one of the apostles would have renounced Christ before being beheaded or stoned? Is it not likely that some 'smoking gun' document might have been produced exposing the 'Passover plot'? Take it from one who was inside the Watergate web looking out, who saw firsthand how vulnerable a cover-up is. Nothing less than a witness as awesome as the resurrected Christ could have caused those men to maintain to their dying whispers that Jesus is alive and Lord."

During this Easter season, I hope your faith is emboldened. This world is stricken with fear over many things and conspires against the truth. But for us, "blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Rejoice, for He Lives!

**"I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."**

**- Revelation 1:18**

## Salt of the Earth - Horace Johnson

(continued from page 3)

SGT Johnson was discharged in 1946, one of the few soldiers in Army history to have served honorably and effectively for four years without having had any basic training. Horace and Ila lived in Wilmington for a few years after his military service, and there one evening he heard the gospel message while standing outside the tent at an Oliver B. Green tent meeting. His heart was stirred by the message, and he was saved a few weeks later during a revival meeting at the church he and Ila were attending. (Horace told me that Rev. Green could still be heard on the radio station in Rocky Mount every Sunday. I assume

that they're recorded messages.) Because of his ability to read blueprints, gained before his military training and greatly enhanced by his having to read electrical diagrams and such in his aircraft maintenance duties, he was employed by Custom Millworks, later Martin Millworks, in Raleigh for over twenty years. During that time he attended N C State for additional professional training, and was the General Superintendent of the company for the last seven years, before retiring in about 1964.

He found Friendship Baptist Church in 1966, before it lo-

cated to our present location, and has found no reason to go anywhere else ever since.

Mr. Horace Johnson has been an example and an inspiration to us all in the years since he joined Friendship Baptist Church. Before we started this interview we conversed briefly about our current activities and I mentioned the thought of retiring. In a highly passionate and obviously heart-felt response, Horace responded vigorously, "Don't quit! Don't ever quit!"

Good advice for all of us.

