



Inside this Issue:

A Military Legacy

This month Colonel Martin is allowing me the honor of writing the opening article for the Patriot News. I am certain you will understand why in the next few sentences. General David H. Petraeus and I recently connected over LinkedIn. During a conversation with the General, I told him about our church's Yellow Ribbon Ministry and our monthly newsletter. I then asked him if he would let me interview him for the Patriot News, and to my complete amazement, he agreed. It took me a while to recover from the pleasant shock that this four-star retired general, US Army veteran of 37 years, former commander of the multinational coalition forces in Afghanistan, and prior director of the Central Intelligence Agency would do us such an honor. Colonel Martin wrote the questions that I weaved into an interview with one of the most gracious military officers with whom I have ever been acquainted. In this special edition of the Patriot News, we will be featuring these questions and answers, along with the General's biography.



Gen. David Petraeus

Patriot News (PN): *First of all, General Petraeus, thank you so much for allowing us to interview you, sir; this is a great honor for our publication. We sincerely appreciate your many years of faithful service. That being said, you have indeed had a long and distinguished career in service to our nation. In your opinion, are leaders born or are they developed or built to become great leaders?*

I think that leaders are both born and developed. The best leaders typically have signifi-

cant God-given talents from birth; however, they also then work very hard to make the most of what they have been given by pursuing formal education, work experience, reading and self-study, observation of others, and so on.

PN: I couldn't agree with you more, sir. Now, speaking of leadership, from your life experiences, what are the key attributes of leadership that are critical to success no matter your vocation or station in life?

It always seemed to me that, beyond the usual attributes common in effective leaders – [that is], a modicum of brains, a significant work ethic, solid values, commitment, concern for others, and so on – that the quality that most distinguishes the best from the rest has to do with what might be termed “operational judgment.” In essence, that is the ability of a leader to make the correct decisions when the really key moments requiring such decisions are at hand – [for example], determining the strategy for the Surge in Iraq.

PN: Absolutely! I wonder if perhaps the seeds for some of those key moments you speak of may date back all the way to the beginning? With this in mind, on your first day at West Point, did you have any inkling of the type of iconic military career that you would come to enjoy?

No, of course not – though I suspect that most of my classmates and I had some fuzzy notion of what might be possible down the road and had aspirations to achieve whatever that was!

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Dr. Joe Perez

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MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

November Golf: phonetically stating NG for NO GO, literally, to fail. Army evaluations are scored as either GO/NO-GO instead of Pass/Fail.

nugget: an inexperienced pilot or air crew member (USAF and US Navy)

numbered beach: in amphibious operations, a subdivision of a colored beach, designated for the assault landing of a battalion landing team or similarly sized unit

nylon letdown: descent with a parachute, in reference to the materials used during WWII for the parachutes

Pray for our Military Family:

- ◆ **Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family** - US Army, serving the Lord in Hawaii
- ◆ **Merry Dare Goodwin** - US Navy, serving aboard the USS Decatur
- ◆ **Justin & Kimberly Reece** - US Air Force, stationed at Pensacola NAS
- ◆ **Timothy & Hope Robinson** - USMC, stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC
- ◆ **Sgt Aaron David de Serres** - USMC, deployed in the Middle East
- ◆ **2nd Lt Matthew Parker** - active duty at USSTRATCOM



A Note About This Special Issue

Veterans Day and Thanksgiving make the month of November a special time for giving and expressing gratitude. Recognizing the selfless service of our veterans stirs our sense of gratitude to those who have sacrificed so much to keep our nation strong and free. Thanksgiving is a time to pause our normal activities and give thanks to God for the abundance of blessings He has given to us, not because we are somehow owed these good fortunes, but



rather because God's grace that has been extended to us. Both holidays allow us to humbly recognize the blessing of freedom that has been passed to us from the generations that have gone before.

This November, we have a unique opportunity to hear from one of the most well-respected and universally admired military leaders of the last half-century. General David Petraeus' long and distinguished military career offers us a

Colonel Steve Martin

perspective from a man who has held some of the most senior and significant positions that a military leader can attain. His accomplishments and experiences remind us to be thankful for military leaders of distinction who have honed their skills and used their singular talents to effectively lead our military and keep our country free. Thank you, General Petraeus, for your service to our nation and for taking the time to give us access to your expansive knowledge and expertise.

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A Military Legacy: General David Petraeus

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PN: Well, fuzzy notions or not, I'm sure those certainly were some wonderful aspirations, General. Now, perhaps to help focus those aspirations, did you have a mentor or mentors who helped guide and encourage you through difficulties during your career?

You bet, many of them, and not just during the difficult times, but during all of the times. General Galvin, for whom I worked directly three times, was a huge mentor and role model – a true soldier, scholar, and statesman who exemplified what I sought to be. So was General Knowlton, my father-in-law. And I was fortunate to have many other great mentors along the way, too, such as General Vuono, General Keane, General Shelton, General McNeill, and numerous others, as well as Command Sergeant Major Hill and various non-commissioned officers with whom I was privileged to serve. And, of course, I also had a very supportive wife and family, and that was hugely important in my final 10 years in uniform, during which I was deployed for well of 6-1/2 years, and immediately after I left government.

PN: Let's stay on that topic of mentorship for just a moment, sir, if you don't mind. How important would you say mentorship is to giving men and women the tools to succeed?

I think that mentors are hugely important and very helpful in providing developmental assistance in a host of different ways.

PN: No doubt, sir. You know, I believe those who base their mentorship principles on Scripture have the most solid foundation possible. To that point, do you have a favorite

scripture or life verse that has guided your life?

There are many verses that provided inspiration over the years, especially in the book of Isaiah. This is my favorite (6:8): "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

PN: Indeed; that's one of my favorites as well! And speaking of Scripture, faith in God and the spiritual welfare of the troops has been recognized as a critical element of the United States Military since George Washington commanded our first troops. How has freedom of religion and faith in God separated the American soldier from his/her counterparts in other countries?

Our freedom of religion manifests itself in various ways in uniform, including the fact that our unit chaplains come from a variety of faiths (e.g., Christian, Jewish, Muslim, etc.), as well as from different backgrounds within those various faiths – and by the fact that our men and women in uniform are also free not to worship any faith at all. That said, it is often noted that there are relatively few atheists in foxholes or at the end of a static line (the line that deploys the parachute off the back of a military paratrooper). That is because soldiers in combat and other challenging times (such as when about to jump out of an aircraft) typically value their faith and their chaplains highly, as do those in any walk of life during difficult times.

PN: Let's shift gears a little. In your opinion, General, how has the American military changed

over the course of the last half century?

Our military has changed in numerous ways over the last 50 years. We are certainly much more inclusive of those of different races, creeds, colors, orientations, and so forth. Beyond that, women can now serve in any branch of service, including the combat arms (Infantry, Armor, Artillery)

in the Army and Marines and also can serve in Special Operations. Additionally, a considerably higher proportion of our men and women in uniform are likely to be married. And our men and women in uniform tend to be better educated, as well. And that is just a few of the ways our military has evolved and changed.

PN: So on that note regarding married military personnel, families have always served as the backbone of each military member. What have been the changes and challenges you have observed with military families during your almost 40 years of military service?

I guess the most significant change is that more military families have both parents holding full-time jobs than was the case when I entered active service, and that carries a host of implications, needless to say, especially in the case where both parents are serving in the military during a deployment.

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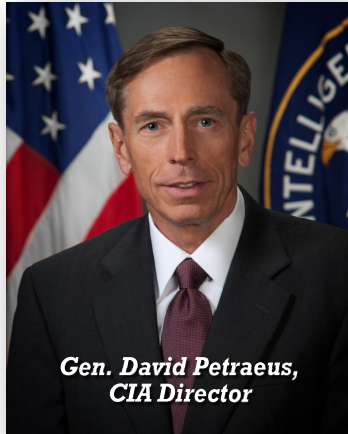
"...Of course, I also had a very supportive wife and family, and that was hugely important in my final 10 years in uniform..."



Gen. David Petraeus, July 2011, Berlin

Editor's Note: Here are some interesting facts about General David Petraeus, whom we are featuring in this month's Patriot News.

General David H. Petraeus (US Army, Ret.) is a Partner with the global investment firm KKR and Chairman of the KKR Global Institute, which he established in May 2013. He is also a member of the boards of directors of Optiv and FirstStream, a venture investor in more than 15 startups, and engaged in a variety of academic endeavors.



Gen. David Petraeus, CIA Director

Prior to joining KKR, General Petraeus served over 37 years in the U.S. military, culminating his career with six consecutive commands, five of which were

in combat, including command of the 101st Airborne Division during the fight to Baghdad and the first year in Iraq, command of the Multinational Security Transition Command in Iraq, command of coalition forces in Iraq during the Surge, command of U.S. Central Command, and command of coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Following retirement from the military and after Senate confirmation by a vote of 94-0, he served as Director of the CIA during a period of significant achievements in the global war on terror, the establishment of important Agency digital initiatives, and significant investments in the Agency's most important asset, its human capital.

He is currently a Visiting Fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute, Co-Chairman of the Global Advisory Council of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Senior Vice President of the Royal United Services Institute, and a Member of the Trilateral Commission, as well as a member of the boards of the Atlantic Council, the Institute for the Study of War, and over a dozen veterans service organizations.

Over the past 15 years, General Petraeus was named one of America's 25 Best Leaders by U.S. News and World Report, a runner-up for Time magazine's Person of the Year, the Daily Telegraph man of the year, a Time 100 selectee, Princeton University's Madison Medalist, and one of Foreign Policy magazine's top 100 public intellectuals in three different years.



ings upon the Yellow Ribbon Ministry of Friendship Baptist Church. This would not have been possible without the faithful, capable leadership of Colonel Steve Martin, the wonderful, insightful interviews by Major Don King, and the loyalty and moral support from all of you, our readers. Thank you for 12 phenomenal years, and by God's grace, here's looking at 12 more!

**Warmest Regards,
Dr. Joe Perez, Editor In Chief**

A Note About This Special Issue (Continued)

Editor's Note: Adding to Colonel Martin's comments, you may have noticed the new layout. For the 12th anniversary of the Patriot News, not only are we featuring General David Petraeus, but we are also unveiling the "new look" for the Patriot News as we begin our 13th year of publication with Volume 13, Issue 1 premiering in January 2021. Quite a bit has changed since that very first issue in November 2009, and we are very grateful to the Lord for all His bless-

A Military Legacy: General David Petraeus

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PN: In recent decades, treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) has rightfully come to the forefront of treatment for our active and veteran population. General, can you expand upon the need to eliminate the stigma associated with PTSD and seek early treatment?

Yes. Those who suffer from PTSD clearly need to seek treatment and get over the notion that doing so is a sign of weakness or

some such. But, of course, that is easier said than done.

PN: Indeed it is, sir. So, now that you are a veteran of military service, what role do you see as important for the veterans of military service in today's society?



I think most veterans would agree that most important for them is not just a job opportunity but a career opportunity – in other words employment that not just earns them a salary but also results in investment in them in terms of training, education, and mentoring and provides opportunities for advancement, as well.

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Jobs You Didn't Know the Military Had

Logan Nye, veteran, journalist

Editor's Note: This month we present the last three jobs in this 5-part feature on some of the most interesting jobs you didn't know the military had. Thank you, Mr. Nye!

21. Refrigeration/Air conditioning technician (USMC, USAF)

The Air Force has airmen trained as standard HVAC technicians. The Marine Corps version is a little dif-



ferent with some Marines being trained in refrigeration and air conditioning while others handle heating systems. In either case, these service members are the ones called when the desert is too hot or the mountains are too cold.

22. Shower/Laundry and Clothing Repair Specialist (Army)

Like the HVAC technicians, these service members try to make

deployed life just a little more comfortable. Soldiers in this job set up and operate deployed showers, laundry facilities, and repair damaged uniforms.

23. Veterinarians (Army)

While all the services employ working dogs, the Marine Corps trains on horses, and the Navy uses dolphins and sea lions. The Army provides veterinarians for all of these programs. Though they're Army officers, these veterinarians are tasked out to support every branch.

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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- Kristy Salerno - 2
- Edith King - 7
- Don Woodard, Rachel Vradenburgh - 8
- Don King, Mary Smith - 11
- Shaphaun Parchue - 26

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- Gary/Therry Johnson - 19
- Gene /Jeanne Hayden - 29

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions, we WILL NOT be having a Veterans Day luncheon 11/8 as previously announced. We expect to continue our luncheon meetings during calendar year 2021.

THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

11 Nov 1918 - At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the Great War ends. At 5 a.m. that morning, Germany, bereft of manpower and supplies and faced with imminent invasion, signed an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car

outside Compiègne, France.

14 Nov 1930 - Birth of Edward H White II, San Antonio Texas, Lt Col USAF, astronaut (Gemini 4). On January 26, 1967, Lt Col White was killed with fellow astronauts Gus Grissom & Roger Chaffee in the Apollo 1 spacecraft fire during

a launch pad test at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

16 Nov 1973 - Launch of Skylab 4 under command of LTC Gerald P. Carr, USMC. The missions lasted 84 days and included 1,214 Earth orbits.

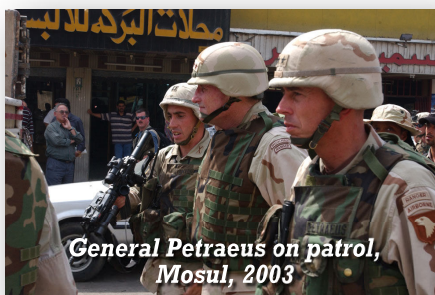
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PN: Last question, General - Based on your wealth of knowledge and service to our nation, what will be the greatest challenges facing our country in the next eight to ten years?

We face numerous significant challenges: the ongoing pandemic and resulting economic downturn; a return of so-called "great power rivalries;" Islamist extremism; domestic hyper-partisanship; domestic extremism; ever more sophisticated and damaging cyber threats; dysfunction in Washington, DC; the need for infrastructure investment in the US and comprehensive immigration and education reform; the increasing impact of climate change; and many more... That said, there is no country in which I would rather be facing such challenges. As Warren

Buffet has often noted, it never pays to bet against America.

Editor's Note: In the course of this interview, we learned some very interesting facts about General David Petraeus from his bio, some of which is shared on page 3. For example, the General graduated with distinction from the U.S. Military



General Petraeus on patrol, Mosul, 2003

Academy, and he is the only person in Army history to be the top graduate of both the demanding U.S. Army Ranger School and the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College! He also earned a PhD from Princeton University's School of

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Public and International Affairs. So I'm not sure if it's more appropriate to refer to him as "Dr. Petraeus" than "General Petraeus" - although I suppose it would depend upon whether he's being addressed in an academic setting.

And speaking of academic settings, General Petraeus taught international relations and economics at the U.S. Military Academy in the mid-1980s, he was a Visiting Professor of Public Policy at the Honors College of the City University of New York from 2013 through 2016, and he was for six years a Judge Widney Professor at the University of Southern California and a Senior Fellow at Harvard University's Belfer Center.

The leadership of the Yellow Ribbon Ministry, the Patriot News, and this author all agree in this sentiment: thank you, General Petraeus, for honoring us with this interview, and for your many years of service to our country.

Quote of the Month: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Winston Churchill



Yellow Ribbon Ministry (YRM) Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Please pray for Missionaries Brian and Ivey Palmer as they're now in Hawaii. Their son Nathaniel recently started his freshman year at Liberty University. (Albert & Becky Watkins' son-in-law & daughter). Remember Merry Dare Price-Goodwin serving aboard the USS Decatur (Dale & Dixie Ulmer's granddaughter; Rachel Vradenburgh's niece). Pray for Nathaniel Salyer (Don & Sharon Woodard's grandson) at Camp Lejeune, NC and Justin & Kimberly Reece (Dan & Becky Reece's son & daughter-in-law stationed at Pensacola NAS). The Reece's have recently been notified that they would be transferred to Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC. Please keep 2nd Lt. Matthew Parker (Joe & Dianna Perez's nephew, stationed at USSTRATCOM) and Sgt Aaron David de Serres (USMC, deployed to the Middle East) in your prayers. Please keep our country in your prayers. May the Lord give wisdom

to our leaders during this period of pandemic and social un-rest. May the Lord direct and guide our upcoming elections and may we, as a nation, experience a revival in our land. If you know of anyone who is a Veteran that I've missed in the Prayer Notes, please let me know so that I can add them to our prayer list.

~ Colonel Martin

Coming Up Next Month:

- The Dollar Discourse (Part 1): Five Steps to Financial Retirement
- A Military Christmas



The Brian Palmer Family

