

# THE PATRIOT NEWS

## MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

**Jacked up:** used in USAF for an individual placed in apprehension (from the position he is placed in prior to being handcuffed)

**Jawa:** a soldier, usually of low rank, stationed in a desert area (from the creatures in the Star Wars films)

**Jedi mind truck:** when flight lead needs the wingman to do something unplanned or that has not been briefed, but the wingman magically does it before he is told to

You can probably guess where this month's terms came from...



Colonel (Ret) Steven D. Martin

Phone: 919.817.0706  
stevedebmartin@gmail.com

### Words to Ponder:

"If you know how to shoot, and are quite ready to shoot, the chances are that you won't have to shoot."

~ Gen. John J. Pershing

## YELLOW RIBBON MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



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### Inside this issue:

<i>Military Terms, Abbreviations, Acronyms</i>	<b>1</b>
<i>The Gideon Bible</i>	<b>1, 2, 4</b>
<i>America's Last Fighter Pilot Ace (Part 2)</i>	<b>2, 3</b>
<i>Did You Know: Tomb of the Unknowns (Pt 2)</i>	<b>2, 3</b>
<i>National Call to Service</i>	<b>3, 4</b>
<i>This Day in Military History</i>	<b>4</b>

### Pray for our Deployed Members:

Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family: US Army, serving the Lord in Fort Hood, Texas

### Together in Scripture Reading:

This month: the book of Revelation



## The Gideon Bible

The barrage of artillery fire was deafening, and the smoke-filled forest seemed to be alive with shrapnel and bullets coming from every corner. Platoon leader, 1st Lieutenant William Funchess was desperately trying to regroup his scattered platoon while remaining concealed from the destructive enemy fire. While trying to move to a more secure position, Funchess heard the unmistakable sound of a machine gun bolt slamming forward. He knew what would follow and moved quickly trying to reach the new position. The machine gun sprayed the area with bullets and Funchess felt a sharp pain in his right foot. As he began to fall, two of his men grabbed him on each side and got him out of the line of fire. As he peered into the area where his platoon had been located, his worst fears were realized; the remainder of his platoon lay dead in the North Korean forest. Realizing that they were surrounded on three sides, the men tried to make a desperate retreat to safety. The man on his right was shot and killed. Funchess, along with the other G.I., came to a canyon. They had two choices, jump to certain death or surrender. They decided to take their chances and surrender. As William shivered in the darkness, he felt something in his chest pocket. It was a New Testament bearing the Gideon emblem.

On Sunday, June 25, 1950, 90,000 North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel and the United States was once again called to war. Then 2nd Lieutenant William Funchess was shipped to Korea for what he thought to be "police action." Funchess related, "On the LST (Landing Ship Tank) we were happy, jubilant even. We thought, 'we'll be home in three or four weeks.'" However, upon arrival in South Korea, Funchess realized things were in chaos. "The



Lt. Funchess, c. 1953

### Colonel Steve Martin

South Korean army was in disarray, and they were fleeing the Soviet trained and equipped North Korean Army. They had no means of stopping them." The American troops were able to turn the tide of battle as they regained lost territory and moved into North Korea. In early November 1950, the tables turned again as the Chinese Army moved into North Korea to help push back the new initiative by the Americans and South Koreans.

Funchess was now a part of hundreds of prisoners of war (POWs) that were taken by the Chinese Army that day. Funchess knew the desperate situation he and his fellow POWs were in, "No immediate help and no counterattacks by the United States or South Korean armies were forthcoming. We were alone, and we were prisoners of a hostile enemy in a hostile country." With the bitterly cold night approaching, Funchess remembered the Gideons New Testament that had been given to him by an Army chaplain shortly before he entered North Korea. He opened the Testament to Psalm 23 and began to read. "When I was growing up, my mother always told me to read it when I was in trouble because it would give me a certain amount of peace and make me capable of handling any situation. I needed all the help I could get."

Funchess and his fellow POWs were forced to march north toward the city of Pyoktong in the ice and snow. Funchess had only a thin summer jacket and the plummeting temperatures along with snow and ice made the journey difficult for everyone. Additionally, Funchess' right foot had been shattered by a machine gun bullet and he struggled to keep up.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

*'As he peered into the area where his platoon had been located, his worst fears were realized; the remainder of his platoon lay dead in the North Korean forest.'*

## DID YOU KNOW: THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN (PART 2)

**Editor's Note:** Last month, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the guarding of the Tomb of the Unknowns. In part two, here are some interesting things you might not have known about the guards of the tomb.

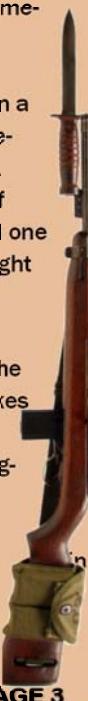
The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and in any weather by Tomb Guard sentinels. Sentinels, all volunteers, are considered to be the best of the elite 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), headquartered at Fort Myer, Va.

After members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment become ceremonially qualified, they are eligible to volunteer for duty as sentinels at the Tomb. If accepted, they are assigned to Company E of The Old Guard. Each soldier must be in superb physical condition, possess an unblemished military record and be between 5 feet, 10 inches and 6 feet, 4 inches tall, with a proportionate weight and build. An interview and a two-week trial to determine a volunteer's capability to train as a tomb guard is required.

During the trial phase, would-be sentinels memorize seven pages of Arlington National Cemetery history. This information must be recited verbatim in order to earn a "walk." A walk occurs between guard changes. A daytime walk is one-half hour in the summer and one hour in the winter. All night walks are one hour.

They learn the guard-change ceremony and the manual of arms that takes place during the inspection portion of the Changing of the Guard. Sentinels learn to keep their uniforms and weapons immaculate condition.

**Typical M1 Garand used by guards**



CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## The Gideon Bible

He had frozen blood on his sleeves and pant legs and the pain was almost unbearable. "I was always the last man to enter the camp at night, but I knew that if I stopped they would execute me, and I wasn't going to give up." It took them seventeen bitterly cold and miserable days of marching to reach their destination. For the next 34 months, Funchess was housed in a compound of mud shacks and huts near the Yalu river. The prisoners referred to the location simply as, "the valley."

POWs were divided into groups that were housed in the dilapidated huts. The conditions were deplorable - no running water, no heat, and no blankets. In the winter, conditions were so bad that many men lost fingers and toes to frostbite. Funchess related, "There was nothing we could do to stay warm but to cling to each other. Looking back, it's a wonder any of us survived the first

month." The interrogations by their captors was brutal and all prisoners suffered horrendous wounds as a result. He recalled that he would hear sobbing at night and occasionally he would hear someone call for their mother. One night, Funchess was reading Psalm 23 and asked the others in his hut if they would like for him to read it aloud. Each man replied with an enthusiastic yes. As he finished the passage, they asked him to read more and Funchess began to regularly read aloud passages from his New Testament. The passages he read brought an extraordinary peace to the hut and gave the men a respite from their suffering.

Funchess hid his New Testament from his captors during his imprisonment and later related, "I began to love my New Testament, and I was determined to not let the soldiers take it away from me." On two occasions, the Bible was found by his captors, and Funch-



A close-up of Funchess's Gideon New Testament

(continued from page 1)

ess recovered it from a trash pile at great personal risk to his life. This small New Testament (*pictured below, left*) helped bring him closer to God. He had been stripped of all his earthly possessions, his dignity, and even his health had deteriorated to where he weighed less than 100 pounds. Yet, the Scriptures gave him hope and that brought him through his terrible ordeal.

Funchess was released from his captivity after almost three years as a POW in a prisoner exchange. He went on to serve as a professor at Clemson University for 30 years and he celebrated his 67th wedding anniversary with his wife Sybil shortly before her death in May 2017. The lessons he learned in "the valley" all those years ago have been faithfully passed on to his three children and grand-children. A small Gideons New Testament given to him all those years ago gave him faith and courage in the most desperate situation of his life. It also served as a source of encouragement to his fellow POWs giving each one hope in a seemingly hopeless situation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## America's Last Fighter Pilot Ace (Part 2)

BILL ROBINSON

**Editor's Note:** Below is the second installment of Huffington Post writer Bill Robinson's article on Cpt. Steve Ritchie. We pick up the story right where we left off last month.

"We'd had a period of bad weather and I hadn't flown in over a week," Ritchie told me. "I like to fly every day. If I'm off too long, I don't feel sharp. I was used to flying 12 days straight and then taking one day off, at the time. So, I was eager to get back in the air." On this day, in spite of the time off, Ritchie was sharp.

"Now we took off in four flights of four airplanes. And there was a lead grouping of four called the 'ingress' flight and the last flight was the 'egress' flight. I was used to being the first flight in, the 'ingress' flight because I was so experienced; was the flight leader; had MIG kills; and liked being where the action was, so

**'He had broken away from his flight and must have panicked because you always stay with your flight mates, no matter what.'**

I was very upset to be in the last flight. The schedulers arranged it all the night before and they were friends of mine, so I was pissed off that the schedulers put me at tail end Charlie." Ritchie clearly thought it would be a ho-hum day at the office as the last flight; clean-up detail, nap time. He couldn't have been more wrong.

As the mission began, Ritchie and DeBellevue took to the air and immediately met a tanker to top off, as the taxi and take-off process burns a lot of jet fuel. "We headed in-bound (toward Hanoi) on a patrol route."

"About 30 to 40 minutes into the flight, we got the radio call from 'Disco' (the call sign for the American airborne radar RC-121 plane that flew supporting the fighters) that an outbound US plane had been hit by a MIG missile and was leaking fuel and hydraulics. This is a very

bad thing for a pilot. He had broken away from his flight and must have panicked because you always stay with your flight mates, no matter what. He was all alone and had been hit and that's when the MIGs all come after you and shoot you down. Knowing he was a sitting duck, I immediately turned north to help him out."

"Very quickly, I then received another alert from 'Disco' that there were two 'Blue Bandits' (MIG-21s) near our pilot in trouble about 30 miles southwest of Hanoi."

Ritchie recalled of that morning, "I picked up the two MIGs at about 10 o'clock and they were trailing our man, preparing to shoot him down. The lead MIG and I passed about 1,000 feet from each other. I could see the pilot in the cockpit. He was wearing a leather helmet, I think."

Precursor to the RC-121



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# National Call to Service Program

This incentive program is a benefit provided to those who perform a period of national service. It is a Department of Defense program that is administered by VA.

## Type of Assistance

Participants who elect to receive an educational assistance incentive are not entitled to additional assistance under Chapter 1606 or Chapter 30 benefits unless the participant completes the service requirements necessary to establish eligibility. An individual who receives benefits under this program who also establishes eligibility under Chapter 1606 or Chapter 30 will have those entitlements reduced accordingly.

## Available Benefit and Eligibility

Participants can choose from the following incentives:

- Cash bonus of \$5,000

- Repayment of a qualifying student program loan not to exceed \$18,000
- Entitlement to allowance equal to the three-year monthly Montgomery GI Bill Active-Duty rate for 12 months
- Entitlement to allowance equal to 50 percent of the less than three-year monthly Montgomery GI Bill Active-Duty rate for 36 months
- Coordination with Montgomery GI Bill Benefits

## Eligibility

There is a three-tiered service requirement to qualify for incentives under the National Call to Service



Staff Writer, VA.GOV

First, after completion of initial entry training, individuals must serve on active duty in a military occupational specialty designated by the Secretary of Defense for a period of 15 months.

After this, and without a break in service, these individuals must serve either an additional period of active duty as determined by the Secretary of Defense, or a period of 24 months in an active status in the Selected Reserve.

## CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

*For more information, visit  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)*

# America's Last Fighter Pilot Ace

"This was a low-altitude dogfight between two MIGs and our four F-4s. Usually MIGs can be found at 15 to 20,000 feet but we had intel and were briefed that they were now changing strategy and going further down."

"We had also learned that the MIGs liked to set a trap by getting our pilots to engage on the first MIG passing and if you turn to get the first MIG, the second MIG is right behind you and shoots you down. They didn't care about the first MIG and would actually sacrifice that one to get you. We (the USAF) never did that. So I let the first MIG pass and engaged the second one that I knew was coming."

"I was able to maneuver behind the MIG #2 and fired two Sparrow missiles at him. The first missile hit him dead-center in his fuselage, breaking the MIG into two pieces and creating a huge fireball. There was debris everywhere. The second Sparrow hit him too going through the fireball and debris. I had to take severe evasive action to avoid flying

into the debris and went up and to the left in a split-second. That was 47 seconds into the dogfight, so it happened very, very quickly."

Now there was a little matter of MIG #1. "I call the MIG that day the 'shiny MIG' because most of them were a kind of gun-metal gray but that one gleamed. At that point, the dogfight

was in a gigantic rotating circle and MIG #1 was trailing my number four, a young kid named Tommy. It was his

first mission. He radioed that he had a MIG on his tail and when I spotted him, there was MIG #2 closing on him. I cut across the circle to get to Tommy quicker and just wanted to get the MIG off his tail; so I shot another missile at the MIG, trying to get him to turn off the kid. Well, the missile hit MIG #2 dead-center too."

Ritchie had radioed in "Splash One" and "Splash Two" (the radio signals for downed MIGs) within 89 seconds, something that had never been done before. "My two MIG kills that day were immediately confirmed by radar and intel sources on the ground."



Russian MiG 21

"There were no victory laps though," the General said, "we had just received radio alerts that two more MIGs had been vectored toward us. We would have stayed and got them too, but we were down to about three minutes of fuel for flight time. So, I decided to get us out of there fast."

On this day, Ritchie blew apart two MIG-21s with three missiles hitting their target. "On the second kill, I was just trying to get him to turn around, so I could use my guns on him. The chances of firing three perfect missiles are incalculable."

Did you see the MIG pilots eject? "Oh no, those Sparrow missiles are 12 feet long and about 500 pounds with a 30-pound warhead. They move at 1200 miles per hour above launch velocity (approx. 1600 mph), so there's nothing left of an airplane that gets hit by one."

Was there much of a celebration upon his return to base? "Oh yes, there was a huge party at the officer's club that night. It was great."

*What happened during Ritchie's second tour of duty in Vietnam? Read about it in next month's issue of The Patriot News!*

## CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

## DID YOU KNOW: THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN (PART 2)

(Continued from page 2)

The sentinels will be tested to earn the privilege of wearing the silver Tomb Guard Identification Badge (*pictured below*) after several months of serving. First, they are tested on their manual of arms, uniform preparation and their walks. Then, the Badge Test is given. The test is 100 randomly selected questions of the 300 items memorized during training on the history of Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The would-be badge holder must get more than 95 percent correct to succeed.

The Tomb Guard Identification Badge is a temporary award until the badge-holding sentinel has honorably served at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for nine months. At that time, the award can be made a permanent badge, which may then be worn for the rest of a military career. The silver badge is an upside-down, laurel-leaf wreath surrounding a depiction of the front face of the Tomb. Peace, Victory and Valor are portrayed as Greek figures. The words "Honor Guard" are shown below the Tomb on the badge.

A further distinction of The Old Guard is the time-honored custom of passing in review with fixed bayonets at all parades. This practice, officially sanctioned by the War Department in 1922, dates to the Mexican War in 1847 when the 3rd Infantry led a successful bayonet charge against the enemy at Cerro Gordo. Today, this distinction is still reserved for The Old Guard alone.

### Sources:

The Arlington National Cemetery website.  
Tomb Guards website ([tombguard.org](http://tombguard.org)).



**Friendship Baptist Church**

5510 Falls of Neuse Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609

**Phone:** (919) 876-0585

**Website:** [friendshipraleigh.org](http://friendshipraleigh.org)

**COLONEL STEVE AND DEBORAH MARTIN**

**Phone:** (919) 817-0706

[stevedebmartin@gmail.com](mailto:stevedebmartin@gmail.com)

**Editor in Chief:**

**Joe Perez** ([perez@usa.com](mailto:perez@usa.com))

**Contributing Author:**

**Don King** ([dking010@nc.rr.com](mailto:dking010@nc.rr.com))

**MAY BIRTHDAYS:**

- Dianna Perez - 4 ❤️❤️
- Gene Hayden - 6
- Andy Ralph - 16
- Andrew Parchue - 21
- Ashley Shaut - 22
- Catherine Carver - 24
- Kiah Reece - 26
- Steve Martin, Annette Parchue - 31

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES:**

- Gene & Pat Mesley - 19
- Ken & Cheryl Folz - 31

**Prayer Notes, Event Announcements**

Please keep Redgie Chambers in your prayers as he is undergoing treatment for cancer. Please continue to keep our missionaries, Brian and Ivey Palmer, in your prayers as they minister to our service members at Fort Hood, Texas.

NOTE: If you have a friend or relative who is deployed into a combat zone, please let us know so we can include them in our prayer list.

~ Colonel Martin

**THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY**

**4 May 1951** - The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a bill to raise the maximum strength of the Marine Corps to 400,000 - double its strength at the time. The bill also made the Commandant of the Marine Corps a consultant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

**16 May 1846** - Eleven cutters were assigned to cooperate with Army & Navy in the Mexican War. USRCs *McLane*, *Legare*, *Woodbury*, *Ewing*, *Forward*, and *Van Buren* were assigned to the Army. USRCs *Wolcott*, *Bibb*, *Morris*, and *Polk* were assigned to the Navy.

**18 May 2011** - The United States Coast Guard reopens a section of the Mississippi River to shipping that was closed on the previous day as a result of the 2011 Mississippi River floods (which caused between 2 and 4 billion dollars in damage).

**National Call to Service**

After completion of this period of service, and without a break in service, the remaining period of obligated service specified in the agreement will be served as follows:

- On active duty in one of the branches of the armed forces

• In the Selected Reserve

• In the Individual Ready Reserve

• In AmeriCorps, or another domestic national service program jointly designated by the Secretary of Defense and the head of such a



(Continued from page 3)

program Any combination of the service referred to above may also be approved by the Secretary of the military department concerned pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and specified in the agreement.

**The Gideon Bible**

*"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."* (Matthew 28:19-20)



Gideons has printed the Bible in over 100 languages. In 2015, the

Gideons distributed its two billionth Scripture.

Over the years, scriptures have been delivered to hotel rooms, hospitals, schools, jails and individually handed out to people

in every walk of life. The military has long received New Testaments from Gideons. These Bibles have found their way into the hands of those like William Funchess who needed that special closeness and guidance that only God's word can provide. These Bibles and New Testaments are given out freely to all who will accept across the globe. Contributions from churches and individual contributions pay for all the scriptures. All monies donated go to the purchase of Scripture.

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11). I truly believe that promise from Scripture and I am proud to be a member of the Gideons International. I often hear stories of how Scriptures given out by Gideons have changed lives around the corner and around the world. Men and women, boys and girls who are searching for the truth find their answers in God's Word. Stories of men like William Funchess show the greater impact of God's Word - it is their anchor in the most difficult circumstances of life. Through contributions to the ministry of Gideons International, lives will be won for the cause of Jesus Christ around the world!

**Author's note:** Adapted from an article on "William Funchess" by Mandy Liebig.

**Coming Up Next Month:**

- America's Last Fighter Pilot Ace (Part 3)
- Did You Know: WWII History Influenced by the Monopoly Game
- For Flag Day: Did Betsy Ross Really Make the First US Flag?

**Looking Forward to July:**

- Did You Know: 15 Astonishing Facts About America



The Brian Palmer Family

