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Friendship
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Together in Scripture Reading:
This month: the book of I Samuel

Rejoice at Dawn!

Colonel Steve Martin

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Few military leaders, over the course of history, have gained as much fame for their military prowess as did Napoleon Bonaparte. Much of western history was shaped not only by the conquests of Napoleon's army, but also his defeat by the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo in 1815. That defeat shaped the future of the European continent. Napoleon, an ambitious, shrewd, skilled military strategist, waged war against his European neighbors in order to expand his empire. He was feared by these European nations because of his military might. His La Grande Armee de Napoleon handily defeated foe after foe and his empire spread as he conquered territory after territory. Indeed, all of Europe quaked in the shadow of this great conqueror.

Napoleon Bonaparte, circa 1813



would do the following day. Should they organize a defense of their town? The carnage would be great as untrained citizens tried to withstand against the greatest army in the world. Should they simply display the white flag of surrender and allow the enemy to march into their community unopposed? This would save lives and probably spare their community, but at the cost of occupation by a hostile force.

As the council deliberated their decision, many of the citizens gathered in the local churches to pray, asking for God to spare their community. Tension and immense distress were felt by everyone throughout the night. In the darkness of the night, a realization struck the pastor of one local church - this was Easter Eve. The approaching dawn that they feared was the time that they would traditionally celebrate the glorious resurrection of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As dawn began to approach, the pastor of the church rose and addressed those gathered around him. He said, "Friends, we have been counting on our own strength, and apparently that has failed. As this is the day of our Lord's resurrection, let us just ring the bells, have our services as usual, and leave the matter in His hands. We know only our weakness, and not the power of God to defend us."

In 1799, Napoleon made a move into Austria. He decided to strike quickly in order to move through smaller towns and villages before Austrian reinforcements could be brought in to oppose him. As Napoleon's army appeared on the heights above the town of Feldkirch situated on the Austrian border, the town greatly feared what awaited them the following day. The reputation of La Grande Armee had preceded them, and the leaders of this community knew there was nothing they could do to prevent this great army from descending into their town and capturing it the next day.

As Napoleon's army encamped around the community overnight, a council of the leaders of Feldkirch met to determine what they



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MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

lodgement: a designated area in a hostile or potentially hostile operational area that, when seized and held, makes the continuous landing of troops and materiel possible and provides maneuver space for subsequent operations

logistics: the planning and executing the movement and support of forces

Pray for our Military Family:

- ◆ **Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family** - US Army, serving the Lord in Fort Hood, TX
- ◆ **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

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

Psalm 20:7



Rejoice at Dawn!

As sunlight began to spread over the mountains, this small church began to ring its church bells vigorously. Soon, bells from other churches began to ring out as well calling the towns people to gather for their church services. From every corner of the community, people began to gather in the town - to celebrate Easter and the resurrection of their Lord.

When the bells began to peal, Napoleon and his generals were taken aback. Not realizing that it was Easter Sunday, they assumed that the town must be welcoming the powerful Austrian army coming to save them. Napoleon could not comprehend how the army had so quickly moved to reinforce this community, but what else could possibly cause such a celebration? Part of Napoleon's military genius was his ability to choose battlefields that would support his strengths and expose the weaknesses of the enemy. Napoleon felt that he would be at a great disadvantage if he tried to move into Feldkirch to face a strong enemy on a battlefield not of his choosing. Based on an erroneous assumption, the French army packed up and retreated from the outskirts of Feldkirch to fight another day on a battlefield more advantageous to their army.

"Based on an erroneous assumption, the French army packed up and retreated from the outskirts of Feldkirch to fight another day on a battlefield more advantageous to their army."

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The gospel artist, Marvin Sapp, once wrote: "I've had my share of ups and downs, times when there was no one around, God came and spoke these words to me, praise will confuse the enemy."

In this story, I'm reminded of the gospel accounts of the activities of the disciples on Easter eve. They had gathered together, hiding out in fear that they too would be taken by the Jews and killed for following Jesus Christ. For three years, they had lived with and followed the Messiah - the one who had performed miracles in their presence, healed broken bodies, fed thousands from just a few loaves and fishes. Their whole future had been tied up in this one man who claimed to be the Son of God. Of course, the disciples had also watched as He was taken away by a mob, tried and convicted of heresy, beaten by Roman soldiers and then hung on a cruel cross. His lifeless body was taken down from the cross and He was buried in a tomb that had been sealed and guarded by the Roman guards.

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Recipe for a Military Wife

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups Patience
- 1 cup Courage
- 3/4 cup Tolerance
- dash of Adventure
- 1 pound of Ability

To the above ingredients:
Add 2 tablespoons elbow grease and let stand alone for one year. Marinate frequently with salty tears. Pour off excess fat and sprinkle ever so lightly with money then Knead dough until payday. Season with international spices. Bake 20 years or until done.

Makes unlimited servings.

Oven/Time:
SERVE WITH PRIDE

Serves with: (Author Unknown)

Last Minute Tax Tips for the Military

Editor's Note: To help those who have not yet filed their Federal and state tax returns, we're adapting this feature from an article written by Alisa Deuermeyer, 633rd Air Base Wing Public Affairs correspondent and staff writer for the militarynews.com website.

Filing taxes does not have to be a daunting process if properly prepared.

The Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, Tax Center offers the following tips to help JBLE community members get ready for tax season.

1. Get organized.

Know what information needs to be reported to the IRS. "If it made you money during the year, or you lost money on it, you should have documentation," says U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Timothy Lewis, 633rd Air Base Wing Legal Office noncommissioned officer in charge of the Tax Center. This includes, but is not



limited to: retirement plans, W-2s, stock dividends and interest received.

2. Avoid these mistakes.

According to Lewis, the two biggest mistakes people make when filing their own taxes are leaving out information that needs to be reported to the IRS, and not being aware of what credits apply to them which could result in a larger refund.

3. Seek a second pair of eyes.

Mistakes can be costly when filing taxes independently. A tax preparer will review tax return documents to ensure everything is there. "When people do it themselves, they forget things that they did during the year," he says. "A preparer is red-flagging things saying, 'this is missing, or do you have documentation for this.'"

Alisa Deuermeyer

4. Be careful using tax software programs.

Make sure the software program being used is reputable. Lewis warns of programs not vetted by the IRS and an increasing number of "fake" programs resulting in people's identities being stolen. Contact the Tax Center to find out how retired and active duty military members can use programs at no cost.

5. Take steps to maximize your refund.

Several ways Lewis says refunds can be maximized are, contributions to retirement funds, such as a TSP, charitable donations, itemized deductions and having children. Filling out W-2s correctly is important, too. "If you're not giving back to the government a significant amount, then you're not going to get much back at the end of the year," said Lewis.

6. It's okay to file for an extension.

If filing taxes on time does not look like a possibility, file for an extension as soon as possible. Lewis says he has found the IRS to be "pretty generous" when given a reason for an extension.

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Editor's Note: The following two-part feature is adapted from an article posted on Military.com by military spouse and associate editor Heather Sweeney.

Military couples spend a lot of time apart. So, one of the things we treasure is a good old-fashioned date night. But couples often claim they don't indulge in date nights as much as they'd like to because one night of fun isn't worth a month of figuring out how to pay off the credit card bill.

Fortunately, date nights don't have to be super expensive. Here are 7 date night deals for military couples:

1. Get a babysitter.

We love our kids, but date night just isn't the same if they're tagging along. What's the best way to find a free babysitter? Swap sitting services with friends. One night you host all the kids to give your friends some time alone, another night

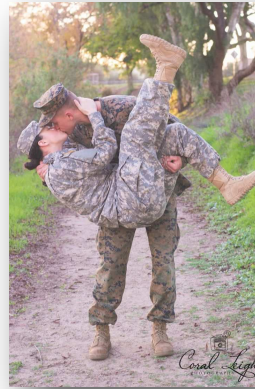
it's your turn to hit the town. The kids end up with a play date, and you don't have to pay a dime for child care.

2. Take a class.

Are you a do-it-yourselfer? Home Depot offers free workshops on everything from installing a toilet to lawn maintenance. (And while you're there, use your 10% military discount to pick up the necessary items to practice what you learned.)

Want to get creative? Michaels offers classes as well, and you can use their military discount to stock up on supplies.

Are you into gadgets? Apple stores offer free workshops to teach you how to use those new devices you bought through their military discount program.



3. Hang out on base.

Your local military installation provides lots of free or discounted activities that are perfect for an inexpensive date night. What exactly can you and your honey do on base? (Programs vary by location so check with your local installation to find out what's available.)

Spend time with your spouse by staying fit. Find out the class schedule at your installation's free fitness center. In addition to cardiovascular and weight-lifting equipment, most fitness centers on base have free group classes like spinning and Zumba.

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For more info, visit www.military.com

Last Minute Tax Tips for the Military

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7. What to do with a refund:

While it may be tempting to take that refund and splurge on something fun, as an NCO who has had Airmen with money troubles, Lewis recommends putting that money into a TSP or savings account. "When you really need that money and you really have nowhere else to go, that's where it's going to help you the most."

Editor's Note: The Internal Revenue Service provides a comprehensive publication called the *Armed Forces Tax Guide* (found at irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf). This 36-page document covers the special tax situations of active members of the U.S. Armed Forces.



Did You Know: Facts About Women in the Military (Part 1)

Susan Scanlan

Editor's Note: Susan Scanlan, president of Women's Research & Education Institute (WREI), compiled a number of interesting facts regarding women in the military. Over the next couple of months, we will feature each of the three parts of her article. In the first installment, we share the general historical facts regarding women who served in various military conflicts over the years.

The first woman awarded a disability pension by Congress for wounds incurred during military service was Margaret Corbin. She took over her fallen husband's cannon in the Battle of Fort Mifflin during the American Revolution and she herself was wounded.

During the War of 1812, two women served as nurses aboard the *United States*, Stephen Decatur's flag ship.

During the Civil War, women disguised as men served on both sides. Women also served as spies, nurses--including aboard at least one hospital ship and one, Dr. Mary Walker (a contract sur-

geon for the Union Forces who was kept as a POW by the Confederacy), received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the only woman to ever be so honored.

Women have served in the American armed forces for more than a hundred years (since 1901) when the Army Nurse Corps was established. The Navy Nurse Corps soon followed in 1908.



During the Spanish-American War, 1,563 women officially served as contract nurses, but it wasn't until the end of the First World War (1917-18) that women were officially allowed to enlist in the U.S. Army and Navy. More than 33,000 women enlisted in this manner, and 400 died in the line of duty.

Women who were not Nurses were first enlisted in the Navy and Marine Corps during World War I. Only nurses served in the Army during this war; but the Army did hire about 200 civilian women

who were fluent in both English and French to serve as telephone operators. These women, often referred to as the "Hello Girls," were later given veterans' status.

There were 432 American military women killed during World War II. Of these, 88 were prisoners of war, and all but one of these served in the Pacific Theater.

Seven women died in the line of duty while serving in theater during the Vietnam War. Their names can be found inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial.

Almost 41,000 women served in theater during Persian Gulf War. Thirteen women were killed and two were taken as prisoners of war.

To date (as of 2018), more than 20,000 women have served as peacekeepers in Bosnia and Kosovo.

Two women sailors were killed and five were wounded in the terrorist attack on the *USS Cole*.

About 10 percent of the U.S. Forces currently serving in Afghanistan and Iraq are women.

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APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- Joe Wilson - 3
- Deborah Martin - 10
- Joshua Ingersoll - 17
- Pat Mesley - 20
- Amy Nelson - 25
- Micah Palmer - 26
- Becky Watkins - 29
- Ivey Palmer, Ed Salerno, Kimberly Stewart - 30

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

- Andy & Teresa Ralph - 3
- Don & Sharon Woodard - 26

THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY:

1 Apr 1864 - Birth of Florence Blanchfield, an American nurse and first woman to receive a military commission as a fully ranked officer in the US Army.

5 Apr 1950 - USCG announced that former enlisted women of the Coast Guard Reserve could apply for enlistment in the Women's Volunteer Reserve SPARS. Enlistments would be for a 3-yr period with written agreement to serve on active duty in time of war or national emergency.

9 Apr 1941 - The United States and Denmark signed an "agreement relating to the defense of Greenland." The Coast Guard, because of its experience in the Arctic environment, was the principal service to carry out the agreement. The first action seen by U.S. forces in World War II was the seizure of a Nazi weather station and the seizure of a Nazi vessel by the cutter Northland just before the United States declared war.

11 Apr 2013 - Death of Jonathan Winters, an American comedian (with a career spanning more than 60 years) who also served our country in the Pacific Theater during WWII in the US Marines.

15 Apr 1986 - The Libyan military (on orders from dictator Moammar Gadhafi) fired a missile (or missiles) at the Coast Guard LORAN Station Lampedusa, off the coast of Italy. The missile(s) missed by a wide margin and there were no casualties.

Rejoice at Dawn!

I'm sure that evening was frightening, and with much trepidation, the disciples anticipated what the dawning of another day would bring. The dawn of that Easter morning brought an unexpected victory to mankind. When Jesus came forth from that tomb, he was carrying the keys to death, hell and the grave! He was not dead as the disciples feared, He was not defeated as Satan assumed; He had risen with power far greater than anyone could ever comprehend.

Yes, Easter is a time of celebration. In the 2000 years since our Lord came out of the tomb, Christians have gathered together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When our trust is weak, it points

us to His power, not our weakness. When we are fearful, it reminds us that "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." When we are lonely, we can recall "For God so loved the world (me), that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever (me) believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Of all the people on earth, we as Christians should have the most joy and hope in our lives. It doesn't matter the circumstances around us, we have a Lord and Savior who is able to deliver us from our enemies. We need not wait on an army to

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deliver us; Psalm 20:7 says: "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." This Easter, let the bells of your heart ring out in the celebration that Jesus is alive. Your praise will confuse your enemies.



Quote of the Month: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

John Quincy Adams



Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Missionaries Brian and Ivey Palmer are at Fort Hood, Texas (Son-in-Law and Daughter of Albert and Becky Watkins). Ivey asked that we keep their family in our prayers to overcome some recently illnesses that have plagued them since arriving in Texas. Additionally, Brian's workload and stress level have greatly increased as Command Chaplain. Please pray for grace, patience and wisdom.

Merry Dare Goodwin serving aboard the USS Decatur (Granddaughter of Dale and Dixie Ulmer and niece of Rachel Vradenburgh). The USS Decatur will be coming off sea-duty in California the first of April. Merry Dare is looking forward to a little rest and relaxation. She is doing well.

Justin and Kimberly Reece stationed at Pensacola NAS (Son and Daughter-in-law of Dan and Becky Reece). Their family is doing well. Kimberly's Dad recently passed away unexpectedly. They are trying to get a transfer to Seymour-Johnson AFB to be close to Kimberly's mother. Also, they are expecting baby number 5 in August!

Timothy and Hope Robinson stationed at Cherry Point, NC (Son-in-Law and Daughter of Bran and Michele Kennon, Granddaughter of Jerry and Lynn Kennon). Timothy will be leaving the military in a few months and will be returning to a Christian College to finish his degree. Their son is 17 months old and Hope is expecting a little girl to be born on April 8th. They ask for the Lord's guidance in their life.

- Colonel Martin

COMING UP NEXT MONTH:

- ◆ Date-Night Deals for Couples (part 2)
- ◆ DYK: Women in the Military (part 2)



The Brian Palmer Family

