



AUGUST 2019

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

Friendship
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Trust and Obey

General Douglas MacArthur (pictured at right) is the most highly decorated and one of the most revered military leaders in the history of our nation. Having been born on an old west army post to a war hero father (Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur - Congressional Medal of Honor - Civil War) and doting mother, MacArthur seemed destined to live an army life that began at West Point where he graduated top of his class in 1903. Following in his famous father's footsteps, he fought in World War I where he was nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor, awarded the Distinguished Service Cross twice and awarded the Silver Star seven times. His exceptional service and bravery against the enemy set-up an unequalled military career.



Gen. Douglas MacArthur
(with his corn cob pipe)

Following World War I, his career skyrocketed as he was appointed Superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point from 1919 - 1922. As the youngest Major General in the Army, MacArthur was appointed a member of the court-martial board for General Billy Mitchell in 1925. The sensational court-martial filled newspapers across the nation for weeks. General Mitchell was court-martialed for insubordination, reduced in rank and suspended from duty for five years. In 1930, MacArthur was appointed the senior army officer while serving as the U.S. Army Chief of Staff. Following his retirement in 1937, he was appointed Military Advisor of the Commonwealth of the Philippines by President Manuel Quezon and given the rank of Field Marshall (the high-

est rank ever achieved in the Philippine military).

Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, bringing the United States into World War II. MacArthur was recalled to active duty by President Roosevelt and appointed as the Commander of the U.S. Army Far East. He was ordered out of the Philippines by Roosevelt when it was certain that the powerful Japanese Army and Navy would conquer

the Philippines. To avoid the capture of such a prestigious officer, the U.S. Navy transported MacArthur and his family to safety aboard a PT Boat under the cover of darkness. Upon his arrival in Australia, MacArthur famously proclaimed, "I shall return" to the Philippines. Fulfilling his promise two years later, MacArthur waded ashore triumphantly as the Philippines was wrestled from the Japanese in a terrible struggle. During his time in Australia, MacArthur was awarded the long-awaited Congressional Medal of Honor for his defense of the Philippines.

General MacArthur was appointed the Supreme Commander, Southwest Pacific area and was the senior military officer in the Pacific Theatre of War. He was appointed a 5-star General of the Army, one of only five military officers to ever achieve the 5-star rank. On September 2, 1945, he received the formal unconditional surrender of Japan in Tokyo Harbor aboard the battleship U.S.S. Missouri. Following Japan's surrender, he was appointed Supreme Commander for Allied Powers, where he ruled over the nation of Japan while a more westernized government and economy was established.

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MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

Lost the keys: After a negative incident, the Commanding Officer relinquishes some operating authority of his ship /submarine / reactor to his superiors, but without dismissal

LRA: lowest-ranking airman, often assigned the menial or unpleasant tasks that nobody else will do.

LRSD: Long Range Surveillance Detachment (pronounced LERSDEE)

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

Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice...

I Sam 12:22b



David Nielsen, US Army & US Navy (part 3: conclusion)

Editor's Note: In part 2 last month, we left off with the altercation between David and another soldier in his barracks who had picked a fight with him. Now we pick up with the conversation between David and his commanding officer.

The colonel and David had spoken on more than one occasion about the consistent problems in the unit. The colonel told him if he would submit the paperwork requesting to move off-post he would sign them even though David was just an E4 (Normally only Sergeants, E-5 and above, are authorized to live off post.) So he got a little apartment in town, which he loved. He still had to put up with things from eight to four, but was then gone for the day. Also while in Bad Kissingen, David had a chance to volunteer as a Chaplain's Assistant for 90 days and although the days were 12 to 14 hours long he greatly enjoyed it.

Discharged from the Army in 1979, David returned to Greybull and worked in a bentonite plant for two months, then returned to Casper where he worked in a grocery store for two years while again attending Casper College part-time. He then decided to continue his study of Criminal Justice, so he moved to Laramie where he attend-

"David initially thought he would graduate with a Criminal Justice degree, and attend Law School but decided to take a break."

ed the University of Wyoming, with a minor in Education because he wanted to also be a basketball coach.

In 1982 he joined the Naval Reserve unit in Laramie and two years later switched over to the Army National Guard because they paid 15% of student loans for each year served. He stayed with the Guard, first in Laramie, then Riverton, Guernsey and Casper until 1990. In 1986 David worked full time in the Wyoming National Guard as an accountant before returning to the University of Wyoming in 1987 for the Spring semester. David initially thought he would graduate with a Criminal Justice degree, and attend Law School but decided to take a break. He decided to take the Postal exams, and two weeks before he was to finish his final semester for Criminal Justice, he was given an interview and offered a job in the Post Office in Casper. He worked for the USPS for almost 13 years before deciding to take early retirement.

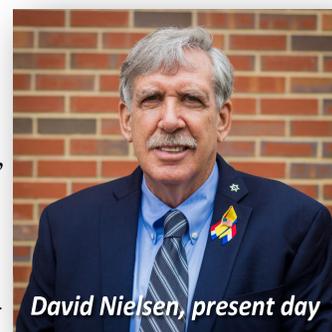
During this entire time David looked for a church home. He became tired of the lukewarm quality of the 1st Baptist Church that he had been attending, then found a Fundamental Independent Baptist Church, but left after about six months, disgusted by all



Article by Don King

the in-fighting he perceived there. In 1989, through a friend, he discovered another Fundamental Independent Baptist Church and attended there for 11 years.

After retiring from the Postal Service in 2000, David went to truck driving school, traded commodities on-line and drove a local butane truck around Casper. He then drove a cab and worked as a security guard and van driver for a large hotel before taking another job driving 18-wheelers across the country for several months, but tired quickly of the routine. Then because of some traumatic events, he left Wyoming and travelled the country for five years, working part-time jobs.



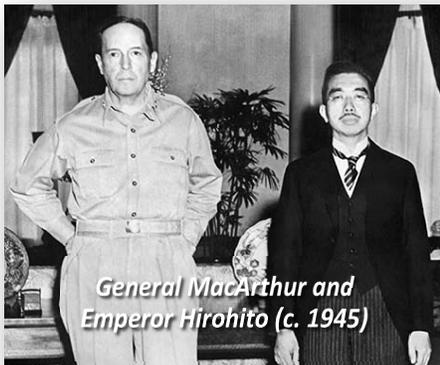
David Nielsen, present day

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Trust and Obey

MacArthur wisely and masterfully allowed Emperor Hirohito to retain his reign as monarch which in turn made MacArthur's job and the efforts of the Allied nations much easier and more efficient. Hirohito was viewed as a living god by the people of Japan. His endorsement of MacArthur allowed changes to be made throughout Japan that would have otherwise been impossible. MacArthur oversaw the rebuilding of Japan, and the plans he implemented set the foundation for Japan to become one of the world's leading economies. MacArthur is still revered in Japan.

On June 25, 1950, Communist North Korea invaded South Korea - the Korean War began. General MacArthur was appointed as the Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command. He was tasked with the removal of North Korea from the South. The bloody war became the showdown between the communist nations of North Korea and China against the western nations led by South Korea and the United States. In September 1950, MacArthur launched the successful landing of UN forces at Inchon. Landing



General MacArthur and Emperor Hirohito (c. 1945)

behind North Korean lines, he recaptured Seoul and sent the North Korean army on a hasty retreat to their original lines. The brilliance, risk, surprise and effect of the operation has made the landing at Inchon one of the greatest military maneuvers ever conceived and carried out in the history of warfare.

When China began supplying North Korea with troops and equipment, the stakes were raised higher, causing a great worry among western nations that those actions could escalate into World War III drawing in the Soviet Union on the side of North Korea and China. In the early years of the Cold War, the threat of nuclear war was very real as the United States and Russia began to build bigger and more powerful weapons. To avert what was already a

very costly war for the United States in terms of casualties and continual budget increases to support the war effort, President Truman's administration feverishly worked on options to prevent an escalation in hostilities by following the basic tenants of US Foreign Policy. The instruments of US Foreign Policy are first diplo-

macy, followed by either economic incentives or sanctions. The third instrument of Foreign Policy (military option) would have increased America's commitment to the prosecution of the Korean War and could have escalated this small theatre war into another world war. President Truman set the U.S. policy of diplomacy and economic incentives to hopefully broker a peace settlement. General MacArthur forcefully supported increasing the military option.

MacArthur's relationship with first President Roosevelt and later President Truman was belligerent and often borderline insubordinate. Although civilian leadership and oversight of the military has been present since the founding of our nation, MacArthur did not feel that either Roosevelt or Truman had his level of knowledge or expertise. MacArthur had even considered making a run for president himself. Knowing that President Truman wanted to de-escalate the Korean conflict, MacArthur was making plans to further engage China and draw them into the war. When MacArthur's plans were intercepted by the State Department in diplomatic communications, it was the last straw for President Harry Truman. On April 10, 1951, President Truman exercised his authority as Commander-in-Chief of the military and relieved General Douglas MacArthur from command.

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U.S. Army uniform officials are working on an Improved Hot Weather Army Combat Uniform that features lighter fabric, fewer pockets and not as many layers. The current Army Combat Uniform top weighs in at about 650 grams, or about 1.4 pound - a good part of that is pockets and multiple layers of fabric, making it dry more slowly.

As a solution, Program Executive Office Soldier is working on an Improved Hot Weather Army Combat Uniform that may eventually be available for all soldiers, Gen. Brian P. Cummings, commander of PEO Soldier, said in a recent Army press release.

PEO Soldier is responsible for managing most items soldiers wear or carry such as individual and crew-served weapons, pro-



ective gear, weapons sights and sensors, and uniform items. Cummings said the current Army uniform has a lot of good feedback from soldiers.

But the current ACU has "all this stuff on it," Cummings said, referring to shoulder pockets, and pen pockets and leg pockets to hold flags and unit patches. Each one of those pockets requires multiple layers of fabric and fastening material, and buttons.

"And they all hold water," Cummings said. "And they cost money."

The Army wants to issue Improved Hot Weather Army Combat Uniform to soldiers in the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii, who operate in hot, jungle environments. But Cummings said the Army also

hopes to bring the uniform to all soldiers - to make it available for purchase in military clothing stores.

Cummings said he hopes to have a light-weight uniform available within a year, saying that because it is based on an existing uniform that has already been extensively tested, getting this light-weight uniform to the field will take less time.

One issue with the Improved Hot Weather Army Combat Uniform's light-weight fabric is that it might prove itself more susceptible to wrinkling after washing. That could be fixed, Cummings said, with the application of an anti-wrinkle treatment. But that would only happen if it didn't interfere with the uniform's ability to wick away water. Uniform officials are also looking at a flame-resistant version, Cummings said.

For more info, visit www.military.com

David Nielsen, US Army & US Navy (part 3: conclusion)

During that period, he was a volunteer in Florida after a rash of hurricanes and worked in New Orleans for two months putting up FEMA trailers. In 2007 he went to the Employment Office in Hattiesburg, MS, looking for a permanent job and was put in touch with a non-profit organization in Crystal Lake, Illinois, that helped veterans. They contracted him to Albuquerque, NM, to work at an USAF base hospital as a groundskeeper/landscaper for a year.

Earlier, while trading commodities on the computer, he got on a Christian chat room "just to talk with other Christians" and met Mary Lou. After they had been chatting for about a year and a half he flew to Charlottesville, VA, to meet her. Mary Lou was in New Jersey when they first "met" but had moved to Charlottesville

where her niece was in medical school studying to be an OB/GYN; Mary Lou took care of her child while she was going to school.

David and Mary Lou were married in Charlottesville on September 20, 2008. David said he changed his first diaper when he was 58 years old. They turned the activity into a child care business that lasted for six years. They thought about going back to Wyoming, but Mary Lou's niece now had two girls and was living in Raleigh, so in 2014 they moved to Raleigh and Mary Lou has been working as a nanny for the two kids for the last five years. They found Friendship via a web search, looking for Independent Baptist churches. David visited by himself one Sunday morning and met Brad Kennon who guided him to the sanc-

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tuary. He was delighted with the message he heard and decided "this is where we need to be." David told me, "I've been searching for this church my whole life - I love this church - I love these people." and "There are so many lukewarm churches out there - I grieve for the people in those churches."

In September of 2018 they joined Friendship. David commented "I've been trying to find my place in life for all my life. I lived for decades in absolute sin, because I 'had no soil' - like the seed planted in rocky ground."

The good Lord willing, perhaps he has, after 68 years, finally found home. Thank you, David, for your service to the country, and for a great story.

Did You Know: Origins of Navy Terminology (Part 2)

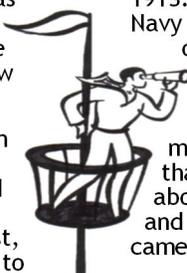
www.navy.mil

Editor's Note: We now bring you part 2 of this multipart feature.

Crow's Nest

The raven, or crow, was an essential part of the Vikings' navigation equipment. These land-lubbing birds were carried on aboard to help the ship's navigator determine where the closest land lay when weather prevented sighting the shore. In cases of poor visibility, a crow was released and the navigator plotted a course corresponding to the bird's flight path because the crow invariably headed towards land.

The Norsemen carried the birds in a cage secured to the top of the mast. Later on, as ships grew and the lookout stood his watch in a tub located high on the main mast, the name "crow's nest" was given to



this tub. While today's Navy still uses lookouts in addition to radars, etc., the crow's nest is a thing of the past.

Cup of Joe

Josephus Daniels (18 May 1862-15 January 1948) was appointed Secretary of the Navy by President Woodrow Wilson in 1913. Among his reforms of the Navy were inaugurating the practice of making 100 Sailors from the Fleet eligible for entrance into the Naval Academy, the introduction of women into the service, and the abolishment of the officers' wine mess. From that time on, the strongest drink aboard Navy ships could only be coffee and over the years, a cup of coffee became known as "a cup of Joe".



Devil to Pay

Today the expression "devil to pay" is used primarily to describe having an unpleasant result from some action that has been taken, as in someone has done something they shouldn't have and, as a result, "there will be the devil to pay." Originally, this expression described one of the unpleasant tasks aboard a wooden ship.

The "devil" was the wooden ship's longest seam in the hull. Caulking was done with "pay" or pitch (a kind of tar). The task of "paying the devil" (caulking the longest seam) by squatting in the bilges was despised by every seaman.

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

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AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

- Joe Wilson, Jr - 3
- Melanie Vradenburgh - 9
- Elena Carver - 10
- Sophie Wilson - 15
- Joyce Allen - 17
- Brenna Stewart - 24
- Cheryl Folz, Josh Perez - 27
- Gina Stewart - 29

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

- Don & Edith King - 22
- Bill & Cheryl Blake - 30

THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY:

1 Aug 1925 - Douglas MacArthur appointed to serve as 3rd Corps Area Commander, with headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland.

5 Aug 1917 - Douglas MacArthur promoted to the rank of Colonel.

15 Aug 1941 - Douglas MacArthur presided over ceremony at Camp Murphy (renamed Camp Aguinaldo in 1965), Quezon City, Philippines, marking the induction of the Philippine Army Air Corp.

24 Aug 1936 - President Quezon officially conferred the title of field marshal on General MacArthur in a ceremony at Malacañan Palace in Manila, Philippines, presenting him with a gold baton and a unique uniform.

Trust and Obey

When President Truman fired General Douglas MacArthur, it was not a popular decision. MacArthur was a very popular war hero and, in the weeks, following the dismissal, Truman's popularity bottomed out at 22% approval rating. Yet, President Harry Truman knew both his authority and responsibility in this situation, and rightly expected that his orders and intent be followed. General MacArthur, on the other hand, forgot one of the very basic lessons of military responsibility - you are to obey the lawful orders of the authorities appointed over you. Just as he sat in judgment of General Billy Mitchell in 1925, now MacArthur himself had been judged and found wanting.

In the Old Testament, we have another sad example of a great warrior, leader who failed to obey his ultimate authority. When the Nation of Israel cried out for a king, to be like their neighboring nations, God told the Prophet Samuel to anoint Saul as the king. In the Old Testament, the duties of the kings, priests and prophets were spelled out by God in holy Scriptures. Above all, God expected obedience not only of the children of Israel, but especially of

those chosen by God to lead His people.

Saul started out well as king, but his continual unfaithfulness and disobedience to God's commands ruined what could have been a blessed and fruitful reign. Over time, Saul began to rely on his limited strength and knowledge rather than trust God for the results. The condition of Saul's heart was reflected as the Children of Israel were about to face the Philistines in battle. Samuel told Saul to go to Gilgal and wait for him. Samuel, the temple priest, was to offer sacrifices to the Lord asking for help in battle. However, Saul was impetuous and impatient. Rather than wait on Samuel, Saul assumed the role of priest and offered the sacrifices unto God. In 1 Samuel chapter 15, the Lord tells Samuel that He regretted making Saul king because he had turned back from following the Lord and had not performed the commandments of the Lord. Later, Saul began to consult with a medium (witch) for guidance. 1 Chronicles chapter 10 reveals the outcome: *"So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it; And enquired not of the Lord: therefore he slew him, and*

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turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse."

Luke 12:48 tells us: *"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required,"* and leaders must answer for their actions as weighed against their responsibility. Both General MacArthur and King Saul were men of great authority, stature, and prestige. Both were concerned about the approval of the crowd versus the voice of authority. Both wanted to do what was best for their country, yet they fell short because they exceeded their authority and ventured into a path of their own choosing.

Each of us will be required to answer for the actions that we take in this life. In the passages of scripture about the life of Saul, we are given the key to God's expectation for each of us: *"Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice."* The Lord expects obedience from each of us over any actions or grand gestures that we can make. A successful life is found in obeying the Lord's commands and trusting Him for the details of our life. The old hymn portrays the benefits of this kind of life:

"Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."



General William ("Billy") Mitchell (c. 1940's)

Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Please pray for Missionaries Brian and Ivey Palmer at Fort Hood, Texas (son-in-law and daughter of Albert and Becky Watkins). Merry Dare Goodwin serving aboard the USS Decatur (granddaughter of Dale and Dixie Ulmer and niece of Rachel Vradenburgh). Justin and Kimberly Reece stationed at Pensacola NAS (son and daughter-in-law of Dan and Becky Reece). Timothy and Hope Robinson stationed at Camp LeJune, NC (son-in-law and daughter of Bran and Michele Kennon, granddaughter of Jerry and Lynn Kennon).

Please keep Shirley Owens in your prayers for recent health issues. Please pray for Dixie Ulmer as she recovers from knee replacement surgery. If you know of anyone who is a Veteran that I've missed in the Prayer Notes, please add them to the list.

- Colonel Martin

Coming Up Next Month:

- DYK: Origins of Navy Terminology
- 2019 Retirement Guide (part 1)
- Back to School Deals for Families



The Brian Palmer Family

