



Together in Scripture Reading:
This month: the book of Esther

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Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men

Colonel Steve Martin

Christmas has, for centuries, been a time of joy and happiness across most of the world. As family and friends gather from far and near, hearts are joyful, smiles are plenteous and celebrations abound not only in families, but in churches, businesses, and in other public venues. Some celebrate traditions passed down over generations. Some use the holiday to celebrate the close of another year while remembering both the successes and difficulties that have taken place since the previous Christmas. Some are caught up in the commercialization that has so overtaken our society in recent decades. For Christians, it is a time to remember the gift of a child born to bring salvation to the world.



by a long and bloody war raging in otherwise unknown corners of the world.

At Christmas 1944, it appeared that the end of the war could be close at hand. Many servicemen across the globe had a specific Christmas wish - to be "Home Alive by '45." The war in Europe closed on V-E Day (Victory Europe) on May 8, 1945, and V-J (Victory Japan) on September 2, 1945. At long last, the war that had encompassed the

world had come to an end.

During the war, the military had spent all its time and energy prosecuting the war by positioning men, machines, and munitions at critical points in support of the war effort. On V-E day, there were over 2 million men and women in uniform who would be separating from the service as the war ended. With all the energy going to the war effort, no plans had been put in place for transitioning these men and women from military back to civilian life. In September 1945, with little prior planning, Operation Magic Carpet was implemented to bring our military back to the United States. It was a tremendously taxing logistical process that exceeded many of the wartime operations in scope and complexity. As Christmas 1945 approached, the army and navy launched Operation Santa Claus to further expedite Operation Magic Carpet.

Operation Santa Claus was designed to get as many service members as possible home by Christmas Day. Severe storms in both the Atlantic and Pacific caused a delay in troop transports reaching their destination on time.

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**MILITARY TERMS,
ABBREVIATIONS,
AND ACRONYMS**

materiel requirements: quantities of items of equipment and supplies necessary to equip, provide a materiel pipeline, and sustain a Service, formation, organization, or unit in the fulfillment of its purposes or tasks during a specified period

meals on wheels: nickname for the military Mobile Kitchen Trailer (MKT-99)

During the years of American involvement in World War II (1941-1945), Christmas was a more somber and anxious time. It began shortly after America entered the war in December 1941. With much trepidation, families gathered for the traditional celebrations, unsure of what the coming years would hold, as we fought a war on two fronts. By that first Christmas, places around the family dinner table were vacant as many of our nation's young men had already joined the military and were away at training.

During the following three years, Christmas in America was more subdued. Many families had vacancies around the family dinner table and some of those empty chairs would forever be empty. Rationing of food and various goods and materials impacted many traditional family gatherings. Parents tried as best they could to make Christmas special for children, but the feeling of many was that Christmas had forever changed. The joy of Christmas was tempered

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
- ◆ **Sgt Aaron David de Serres** - USMC, deployed in the Middle East

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14



Robert Deangelo, Senior (Part 2)

Article by Don King, US Army (Ret).

Bob's next assignment was to Radio School at Bainbridge, MD, where he met Stuart Noble, another Sailor from the Chicago area. After completing radio school, Bob served for a little over a year at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and then was assigned to a 15-month tour of duty outside the United States where he met up with Stuart once more. Stuart would have a major role to play in Bob's salvation, but not until several years later. In 1970, Bob was assigned to duty on a destroyer, the *USS Bordelon*.

(The USS Bordelon, pictured on p. 3, was one of 98 World War Two Gearing-Class destroyers of the U S Navy, and was named for Marine Staff Sergeant William J. Bordelon, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism in the Battle of Tarawa.)

The *Bordelon* carried Seaman DeAngelo on a series of port stops; first back to Cuba, then Puerto Rico, Panama, Lima, Peru (where he took leave to visit Machu Pichu), Chile, (his favorite stop), around the tip of

"He ... decided there wasn't any money in it, so he pursued a degree in Accounting and became a CPA."

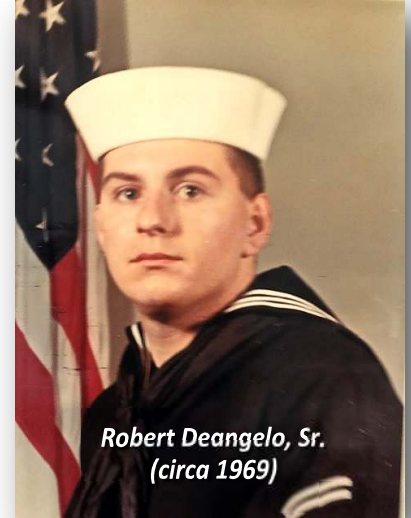
South America (Tierra del Fuego), Buenos Aires, Argentina, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and then Caracas, Venezuela. At many of these stops, his ship would link up with the host country's navy and train with them. He said he really enjoyed being aboard ship; they were almost always on duty, but there was enough slack time to do a lot of reading and to participate in some boxing tournaments ("I wasn't very good," said Bob.). He also spent some time visiting the host countries when the ship was docked in port. From Caracas, Venezuela, Bob flew to Charleston, SC, his home port, for discharge in December, 1970, a little before his enlistment was up because he was going back to college.

His continuing education and his salvation story ran parallel at this point. As for his education, Bob finished college at the University of Illinois with a BS in accounting. He had a love of British literature, and studied that as his major, with a minor in British History. He told me that he wanted to pursue that

MEET THE MILITARY

(US Navy, 1967-1970)

as a career, but decided there wasn't any money in it, so he pursued a degree in Accounting and became a CPA. He is now retired from two corporations after working for one for 25 years, and 12 with another.



Robert Deangelo, Sr.
(circa 1969)

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The Bailey Act & Your Retirement (conclusion)

Col. Jeff Copeland Tarheel Guardsman

Technical Consideration #2: "After the Bailey Settlement was passed the Court was called upon to resolve several issues related to defining when "vesting" occurs in different plans. The period of time required to 'vest' for the purposes of the Bailey Settlement, does not always match the vesting period specified by the retirement plan. For example, participants in the Military Retirement System vest in the retirement plan after 20 years of service; but they 'vest' for the purposes of the Bailey Settlement after 5 years." (For more information, visit ncnga.org/news.php.)

Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men

The week before Christmas, there were over 250,000 troops on American soil trying to get home by Christmas Day. Service members with discharge papers in hand had returned home, but not quite home. The days leading up to Christmas found these weary warriors facing the worst air, rail, bus, and automobile traffic jams in history. Every available means of transportation was packed to capacity. As a rule of thumb, a westbound train was 6 hours behind schedule and an eastbound train 12 hours behind schedule. Regardless of the delays, being back on American soil was the best Christmas present anyone could have wished for. What had only been a distant wish the year before was now reality.

Christmas 1945 reflected a time of joy and hope across our nation unlike any Christmas before or since. The euphoria felt by so many Americans was reflected in the



civilians gifted their train tickets to returning servicemen and women. At train stops across the country, grateful civilians passed out sandwiches, snacks and milk to carloads of servicemembers.

Some citizens even sacrificed Christmas with their own families to help servicemembers get home to see their family. A Colorado truck driver drove 35 stranded servicemembers from Denver to Dallas and 34 points in between. The driver refused to accept payment, insisting the men spend their money on gifts for their families. A Los Angeles taxi driver drove six new veterans 2,700 miles to their home in Chicago at no charge. Another drove six

goodwill expressed to these weary travelers across the United States. Civilians near the west coast "separation centers," where soldiers and sailors were being released from active duty, opened their homes to those who could not get back to their own homes on Christmas Day. Some

veterans from L.A. to their homes in Manhattan, The Bronx, Pittsburgh, Long Island, Buffalo, and New Hampshire for nothing but the cost of gas.

Little could dull the happy spirits of those service members now back in America awaiting transportation. The transportation problems meant that some would not make it home by Christmas Day, but they joyfully celebrated Christmas aboard ships or at serviceman's centers knowing that Christmas would be celebrated whenever they reached home. Those servicemembers who were unable to separate from service in time to return home for Christmas made the most of the holiday. In New York Harbor, the Navy hosted 1,000 needy children aboard 31 ships ranging from battleships and carriers to the smaller destroyers. In coordination with local charities, the wide-eyed children were served a meal and the sailors handed out presents that included navy-blue coats and woolen caps that would be needed through the cold winter. Giving to those children in need bolstered the Christmas spirit of those who were not able to spend Christmas with their own family.

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Editor's Note: Adapted from an article published October 2019 on Army.mil.

The VCH-34 presidential helicopter on display at the Fort Rucker Army Aviation Museum in Alabama is a model for this year's White House Historical Association (WHHA) Christmas ornament. The 2019 ornament honors President Dwight D. Eisenhower as the first President to use helicopters in 1957, and the helicopter displayed at the museum was one of the first used by Eisenhower.

On September 23rd the WHHA hosted an event at the Army Aviation Museum to help tell the story of the aircraft and the ornament. "We were honored and pleased to host the event and bring greater awareness about the legacy of Army aviation in presidential history." Said Bob Mitchell, the Army Aviation Museum Director.

According to Stewart McLaurin, President of the WHHA, "We like to use the ornament each year to tell a story about the President we are honoring. This year we wanted to use Ike's military history and the fact that he was the first to use helicopters was compelling to us."

The helicopter on display at the Army Aviation Museum, nicknamed the "whirlybird," is a model that first appeared after the Korean War. It is also the same helicopter President Eisenhower used to transport other world leaders around Washington D.C. including Winston Churchill and Nikita Khrushchev.

McLaurin noted that the mission of the WHHA and the ornament program is "educating and inspiring." He said "the enthusiasm to the ornament this year is the perfect validation of what we're doing," and went on to say that you could see the connection that the ornament was making with the young people at Fort Rucker.

The Army can't take all the credit for the ornament design. To show he was being fair as Commander in Chief, Eisenhower had two executive flight detachments alternating transport missions, equipment



and crews. One from the Army and the other from the Marine Corps. This program stayed in effect until President Ford decided to use only the Marine Corps Detachment for his transport requirements.

Likewise, the helicopter ornament this year (*depicted above left*) also represents Eisenhower's fairness to both services since it does not represent a single helicopter or military branch. On one side of the ornament is the Presidential Seal and on the other side is Eisenhower's Five-Star Rank honoring his military service.

Since the event at Fort Rucker, the Army Aviation Museum has experienced an increase in interest. Mitchell said he was grateful that the ornament has increased visitation to the museum. "It is something special that is driving more interest in Army Aviation history."

For more info, visit www.army.mil

Robert Deangelo, Sr. (Part 2)

Shortly after College graduation Bob married Eileen, who he has been happily married to for the past 46 years. Bob occasionally would get together with his old Navy buddy Stuart. During one visit Stuart asked if he'd ever given his life to Christ. (Bob found out that Stuart was a new Christian). Bob's reply was, "Sure - I'm Catholic." Stu had something else in mind, but did not push it at this time.



When Bob Jr. was about two years old, Eileen approached Bob Sr. about their son, Bob's Christian upbringing and Bob Sr. replied, "Well, let's invite Stuart over. He knows the Bible." Stuart asked if he could bring over some literature and he soon

brought a bunch of books for Bob and Eileen to peruse. Eileen understood and believed right away, but Bob wasn't impressed. Stu stayed with it, explaining the Gospel and bringing more books every time he came over. "They were really piling up," Bob told me. Finally, Stu invited Bob to go to church, just to check it out, and Bob and Eileen decided to go to Pleasant Hill Bible Church in Wheaton, Illinois. Bob

took note of the very long sermon which seemed like about an hour and a half, as opposed to the standard catholic 15-minute fare. Bob told how, after the service, they "were immediately descended upon by the small congregation, showing friendliness and what ap-

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peared to be a real interest in them - It scared us to death!"

It was about a year or so later that a lady from Pleasant Hill Bible Church came to their house for a belated follow-up visit. Bob couldn't remember the date but recalled that it was a beautiful summer day. This lady explained that she remembered them coming to church a while back. She then presented the Gospel to them just as Stuart had done, and invited them to come again to church. Eileen was already a saved Christian and very much wanted to go, but Bob was still hesitant.

Editor's Note: What happens next? Stay tuned for the January 2020 Patriot News for the conclusion of Robert Deangelo Sr's story.

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

Did You Know: Origins of Navy Terminology (Part 6)

www.navy.mil

Editor's Note: Continuing with part 6

Longshot

Today it's a gambling term for an event that would take an inordinate amount of luck. Its origins are nautical. Because ships' guns in early days were very inaccurate except at close quarters, it was an extremely lucky shot that would find its target from any great distance.

Mayday

This is the internationally recognized voice radio signal for ships and people in serious trouble at sea. Made official in 1948, it is an anglicizing of the French m'aidez, "help me".

No Quarter

The expression "no quarter given" means that one gives his opponent no opportunity to surrender. It stems from the old custom by which officers, upon surrender, could ransom themselves by paying one quarter of a year's pay.

Pea Coat

Sailors who have to endure pea-soup weather often don their pea coats but the coat's name isn't derived from the



US Navy Pea Coat

weather. The heavy topcoat worn in cold, miserable weather by seafaring men was once tailored from pilot cloth; i.e., a heavy, coarse, stout kind of twilled blue cloth with the nap on one side. The cloth was sometimes called P-cloth for the initial letter of "pilot" and the garment made from it was called a p-jacket; then later, a pea coat. The term has been used since 1723 to denote coats made from that cloth.

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- Cheryl Blake - 2
- Phil Wagher - 4
- Keith Martin - 6
- Sharon Woodard - 7
- Shirley Owens - 12
- Garrett Huskey - 19
- Porcia Parchue, Sheila Sheppard - 27
- Lily Salerno - 30

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- Todd/Tammy Huskey - 19
- Joel/Chris Harris - 23
- Kiah/Cassia Reece - 23
- Andrew/Annette Parchue - 28



THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY:

2 Dec 1775 - The USS Alfred becomes the first vessel to fly the Grand Union Flag (the precursor to the Stars and Stripes); the flag is hoisted by John Paul Jones.

19 Dec 1899 - Death of Major General Henry Ware Lawton, 56, American soldier, highest ranking officer killed in action in the Philippine-American War.

25 Dec 1776 - General George Washington crosses the Delaware River with 5,400 troops, hoping to surprise a Hessian force celebrating Christmas at their winter quarters in Trenton, New Jersey.

Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men

On Christmas Eve at the National Tree lighting ceremony, President Harry S. Truman simply stated, *"This is the Christmas that a war-weary world has prayed for.... Across the United States, churches opened their doors for prayer services to offer thanks to God for the end of the war and to pray for comfort and peace to those weary veterans and wounded veterans returning from war; for children who lost fathers and parents who lost sons; for communities decimated by the impact of war; and for our nation to recover from the effects of war. Our nation was able to, at long last, live out the angelic words recorded in Luke chapter 2: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."*

The Christmas of 1945 was indeed a special time as our nation breathed a collective sigh of relief as the dark cloud of uncertainty and sacrifice was lifted from our national consciousness. The somber determination of the past four years was replaced with happiness and joy, fueled by a bright hope for our future. A grateful nation welcomed home her sons and daughters who had paid such a heavy price to preserve our freedoms. These brave men and women had stood toe-to-toe with the enemy and did not flinch when they were called upon to sacrifice. No amount of thanks could reflect the true

gratitude of men, women and children as these heroes returned home. Because of their sacrifice, there was now peace on earth and goodwill reigned in the hearts of Americans.

In 1963, Andy Williams recorded the song *"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"* which is still used today to describe the great atmosphere felt at the Christmas season. The upbeat and happy tune describes many of the traditions of Christmas that are widely enjoyed by family and friends in the weeks leading up to Christmas. It is easy to get caught up in the euphoria and traditions of the season and completely miss its real meaning.

Over two thousand years ago, the Son of God, laid aside His royal robes and came to this world in the form of a baby. He gave up the joys and splendor of Heaven to be born in abject poverty and be raised in the lowest class of earthly society. He endured the hardships of this battlefield called earth and He fought sin toe-to-toe in order to gain the freedom of those who could not win the battle themselves. He died a cruel death on a cross and His suffering was compounded by having the sins of the world placed on His shoulders. He died to win our freedom. On that cruel cross, He won a great victory over sin. When He arose on the third day, He won another

great victory on a second front when He conquered death. Because of His sacrifice, those who believe in Him share in His victories and can celebrate true freedom.

If you are a Christian, Christmas is a time of truly celebrating God's goodwill toward men. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, it's a time to reflect on His blessings and express your gratitude for His great sacrifice to secure your freedom from the effects of sin and death. If you have not accepted Jesus as your personal Savior, John 3:16 says: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* By simple belief in Jesus and by asking Him to forgive your sins and become Lord of your life, you too will share in His great victory and the freedom He gives to those who follow him. The dark cloud of uncertainty will be lifted, and the hope of a bright future will bring you joy unspeakable. During this Christmas season remember that because of God's goodwill toward man, you can have true peace in your heart!

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Portions of this story are adapted from, *Christmas 1945 - The Greatest Celebration in American History* by Matthew Litt.

(continued from page 2)

Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Please pray for missionaries Brian and Ivey Palmer at Fort Hood, Texas (Albert & Becky Watkins' son-in-law & daughter). Merry Dare Goodwin is serving aboard the USS Decatur (Dale & Dixie Ulmer's granddaughter; Rachel Vradenburgh's niece). Remember Justin & Kimberly Reece stationed at Pensacola NAS (Dan & Becky Reece's son & daughter-in-law). Please keep Don Small, Bob Perry, & Redgie Chambers in your prayers as they recover from recent illnesses.

CHRISTMAS NOTE: Deborah and I wish each member of the Yellow Ribbon Ministry a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It has been our privilege to serve alongside each of you this past year and we look forward to more opportunities to serve in 2020. May the Lord richly and wonderfully bless you and your family in this coming year!

- Colonel Martin

Coming Up Next Month:

- Meet the Military: Deangelo (part 3)
- More US Navy Terminology Origins



The Brian Palmer Family

