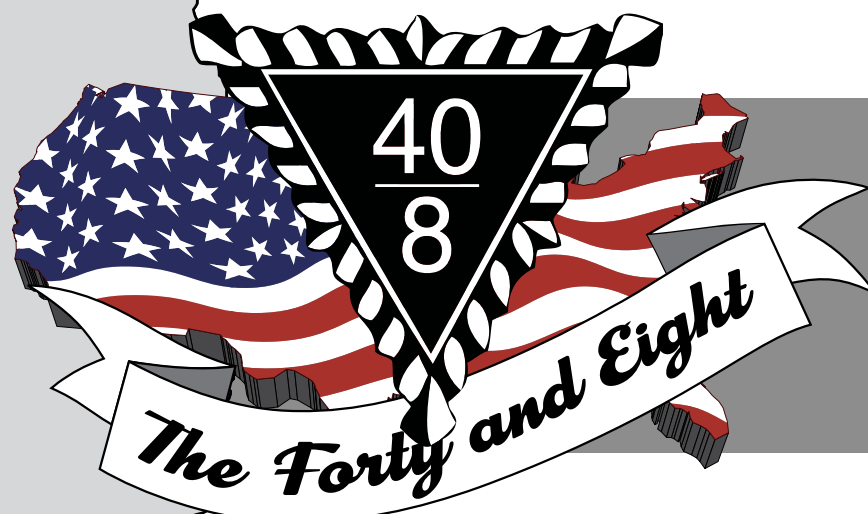


The Illinois 40 et 8 News

Official Publication of the Honor Society of Illinois Veterans



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Spring 2026

VOITURE 516 CONTINUES THEIR SUPPORT OF STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS & VETERANS



Locale Publiste Tom Ballagh of Voiture 516 presents a \$300 check to Amanda Pony of the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia to support the Christmas Stockings for Soldiers & Veterans Program. The Christmas stocking program is a service project that exemplifies the very essence of the objectives of the 40 & 8.

Voiture 516 in Centralia, Illinois recently donated \$300 to the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home to support the Christmas Stockings for Soldiers & Veterans program. The Christmas Stockings Program is a national program established in 2002. The Sutherland's have continually participated in this program to send Christmas Stockings to soldiers serving abroad. Funeral home employees and volunteers fill stocking with packaged food and personal care items for soldiers serving abroad to provide our troops with a little taste of home for the holidays. Voiture 516 has supported the program through the Sutherland's over the past several years to assist with the cost of the postage to send the cases

of stockings to the overseas military units.

The Sutherland's send cases of Christmas Stockings to overseas military units many of which are directed to military units in which local soldiers are serving. Many times, these stockings reach troops in those military units who have no family back home and receive no other gifts.

The national organization has also expanded the program to include infirmed local veterans. The Sutherland's will also be providing the Christmas Stockings to infirmed veterans in local adult care facilities and those veterans who are homebound as a gesture of the community's recognition for their service to our country.



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Veteran Mike Stachowski, Chairman, left, accepts a \$300 donation to the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave from Voyageur Tom Ballagh, Locale Publiste, representing the Marion County 40 & 8 Voiture 516 in Centralia.

GIFTS TO THE YANKS WHO GAVE

The Marion County Voiture 516 in Centralia, Illinois contributed \$300 to the long-standing Illinois program Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave. The program shows appreciation during the Christmas holiday season to those infirmed veterans who have served our nation. The Illinois State Department of American Legion has sponsored this program throughout Illinois since 1944 for area American Legion Posts.

Voiture 516's contribution is one of many coming from local veteran service organizations that support

the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave Committee. Voyageur Mike Stachowski of Voiture 516 is also a member of the American Legion Post 446 in Centralia and serves as the Chairman of the Gifts to the Yanks Committee for Post 446. Veteran Stachowski visited six nursing homes in Marion County and identified 25 residents who are infirmed veterans. He also identified 2 other veterans who are homebound. Each infirmed veteran is offered their choice of four gifts. The gifts are distributed in December.



QUOTES THAT RING TRUE!

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools."
- Plato

"The good citizen will demand liberty for himself, and as a matter of pride he will see to it that others receive the liberty which he thus claims as his own. Probably the best test of true love of liberty in any country is the way in which minorities are treated in that country. Not only should there be complete liberty in matters of religion and opinion, but complete liberty for each man to lead his life as he desires, provided only that in so doing he does not wrong his neighbor."
- Theodore Roosevelt 26th president of US (1858 - 1919)

"When they call the roll in the Senate, the Senators do not know whether to answer 'Present' or 'Not guilty.'
- Theodore Roosevelt 26th president of US (1858 - 1919)

"A goal without a plan is just a wish".
- Antoine de Saint-Exupery French writer (1900 - 1944)

"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up".
- Thomas A. Edison US inventor (1847 - 1931)

"An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field".
- Niels Bohr Danish physicist (1885 - 1962)

"Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards".
- Vernon Sanders Law

Before God we are all equally wise - and equally foolish.
- Albert Einstein US (German-born) physicist (1879 - 1955)

"If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion".
- George Bernard Shaw Irish dramatist & socialist (1856 - 1950)

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference."
- Winston Churchill

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts."
- Winston Churchill

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."
- Winston Churchill

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak, it's also what it takes to sit down and listen."
- Winston Churchill

"Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential."
- Winston Churchill

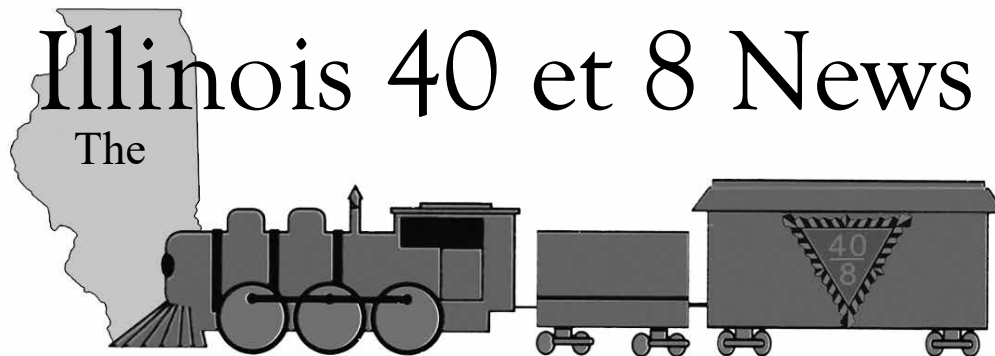
"Worrying is like Paying A Debt You don't owe."
- Mark Twain

"A committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours."
- Milton Berle

Grande Voiture du Illinois

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2025 - 2026

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Spring Issue
ARTICLE CUTOFF DATE - February 1st

Summer Issue
ARTICLE CUTOFF DATE - May 1st

Fall Issue
ARTICLE CUTOFF DATE - August 1st



GRUNDY COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN 2025 OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

Grundy County, IL – In advance of the upcoming Veterans Day holiday, the Grundy County Board passed a resolution in support of Operation Green Light. Operation Green Light is a nationwide effort uniting individuals, families, businesses, and communities to support military veterans. The initiative, led by the National Association of Counties (NACo), raises awareness around the unique challenges faced by many veterans and the resources available at the county, state, and federal levels to assist veterans and their families.

Now in its fifth year, Operation Green Light is spearheaded by NACo and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO), building upon successful efforts by the New York State Association of Counties and the NYS County Veteran Service Officers' Association

in 2021. In 2023 and 2024, over 450 counties participated in Operation Green Light. "Grundy County has always supported our veterans and the active and reserve members of our nation's military. Operation Green Light is another opportunity leading up to Veterans Day for our community to continue to show their support. This is not only an opportunity for the county to recognize the veterans in our community but also the veterans that work for the county and continue to serve their community." said Ken Buck, Superintendent of the Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission.

"This year Veterans Day is a little more special because the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps are celebrating their 250th anniversary. Our nation does not celebrate the 250th until next year, we have had men and women serving our nation

before we were a nation." said Buck.

Grundy County residents, businesses and community organizations are encouraged to participate in Operation Green Light by changing one light to a green bulb the week of November 4 to 11. By shining a green light, we let our veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported.

"Operation Green Light is an opportunity to thank veterans for both their service to our nation and their contributions to our communities," said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase. "With hundreds of counties coming together to light up everything from courthouses to bridges, we know veterans will see and feel our gratitude for their selflessness and courage."

Counties and residents across the country are sharing their participation on social media using the hashtag #OperationGreenLight.



V-812 FLAGS FOR FIRST GRADERS 2026

February 10th and 20th V-812 presented the Flags for First Graders Program. February 10th we were allowed to go to Eastview Elementary school and give our program to a group of very active and inquisitive 1st Graders. I am amazed at some of the questions they have, during and after our presentation about our Flag. Then on February 20th we went to the other side of town to Westview and presented our Program there. Again there wasn't a bashful kid in the crowd. At both schools we were welcomed

by the Teachers and Students with big smiles! When the Program was over all received a small flag and they were very proud to wave them for the picture. We also did a program at Lincoln Elementary but didn't get any pictures. We presented a total of 135 flags. I don't know who had more fun, them or us!

This being the 250th year of our United States this years Program had special meaning. It is never to late to present the Program at schools in your area. I have a script that you can download off the Nationale Website, buy

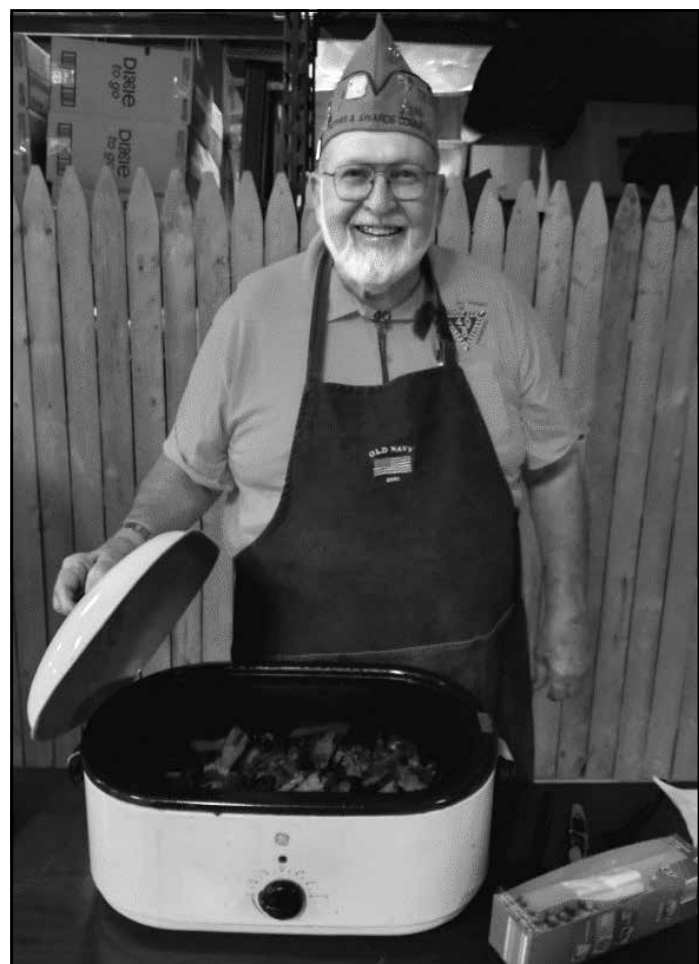
some small flags and contact the school for permission to "come aboard" and you are all set. If you have any questions call me, Wally Hammond, Grand Americanism Directeur, at 309-338-8332. I will be glad to help you out.

This Program is one of the most FUN if not the most FUN things your Locale can participate in.

The Voyageurs pictured are Jim Watts, Robert Peterson, Ronnie Haynes, Bill Nebergall, Ron Harkness and Wally Hammond.



CHEF DE CUISINE



Cheminot Chef de Cuisine Verlin Funkhouser displays his culinary masterpiece for the luncheon: Verlin's home smoked brisket.

Sides complimenting it were green beans, potato salad, and an assortment of cookies.

Plenty of delicious food.

Haute Cuisine.
Merci, Verlin.

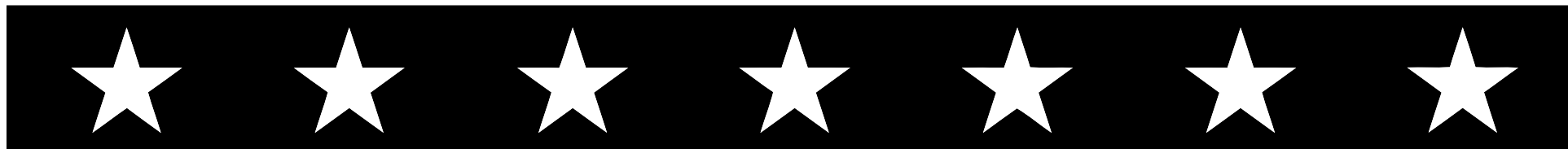
VOITURE 516 AWARDS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AT KASKASKIA COLLEGE



Marion County 40 & 8 Voiture 516 and Kaskaskia College Associate Degree Nursing Program are proud to announce that nursing student Kaylee Schoonover of Salem, Illinois was recently awarded a \$500 scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year to financially assist her with her studies. The Marion County 40 & 8 Voiture 516 has awarded annual scholarships to nursing students enrolled in the Kaskaskia College Associate Degree Nursing Program for the past 7 years. Voiture 516 is very proud to be affiliated with this excellent program at Kaskaskia College that prepares our area students at the Community College level to serve as nurses who will be available to provide

primary care for veterans. The Kaskaskia College nursing program is located in an on-campus, state-of-the-art Nursing Education Center with a simulation lab and convenient clinical sites.

Kaylee Schoonover is a second-year student in the Associate Degree of Nursing program. She is committed to providing an unwavering commitment for compassionate care to patients. She is particularly interested starting her career as a Registered Nurse in the general medical surgery field to gain experience in the most basic nursing skills then transitioning to becoming a labor and delivery nurse. Her passion for nursing is driven by a desire to help others and make a positive impact on their lives.



What it means to be an American

I do not choose to be a common man. It is my right to be uncommon.

I seek opportunity to develop whenever talents God gave me— not security. I do not wish to be kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me.

I want to take a calculated risk; to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for if Dole. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence; the thrill of fulfillment to this stale calm of utopia.

I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout. I will never cower before any earthly master nor bend to any threat. It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid; to think and act myself, enjoy the benefit of my creations and to face the world boldly and say

“This, with God’s help, I have done.” All this is what it means to be an American.

~ Dean Alfange

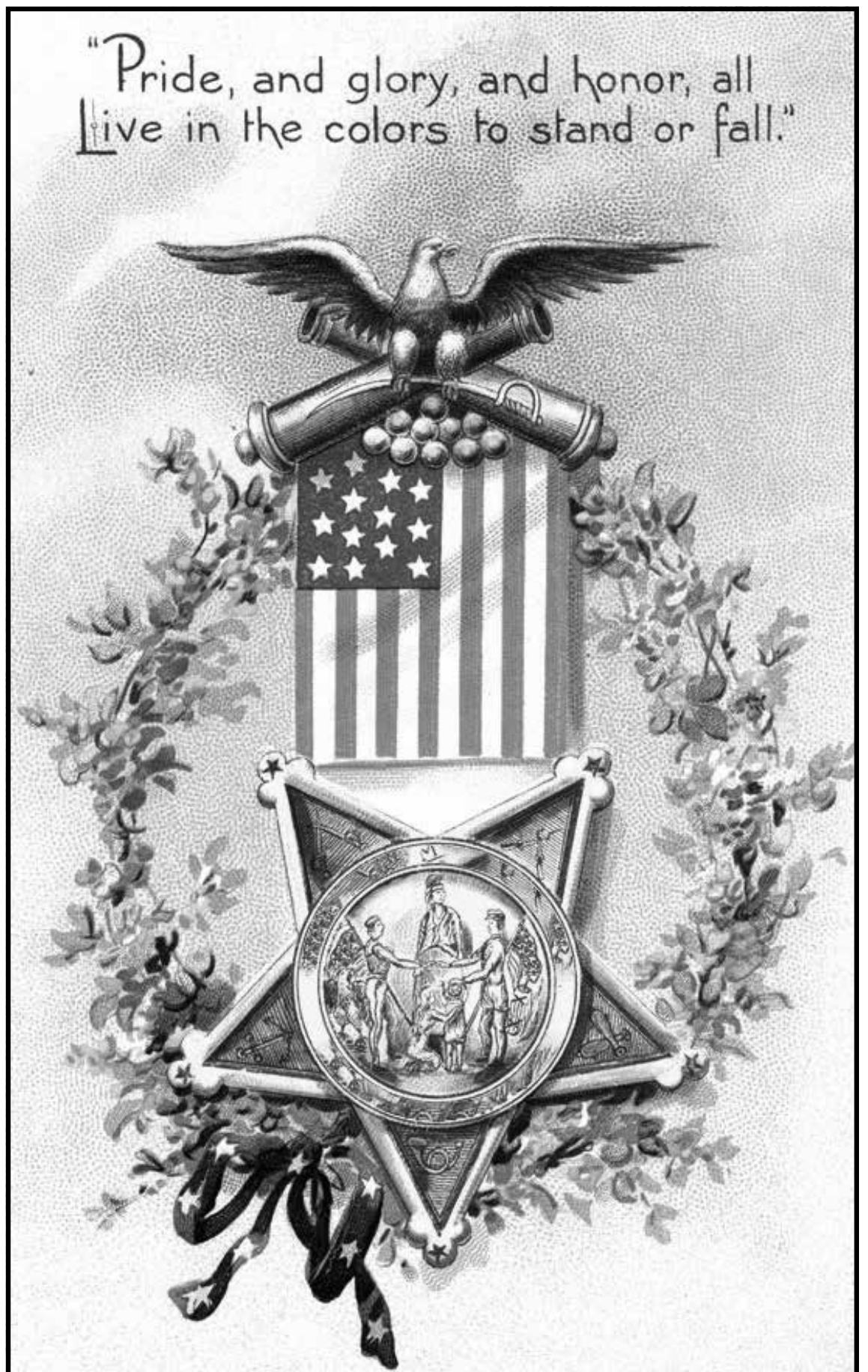
THE MORRIS 40&8 BLUE CHEVALIERS HAVE PRESENTED MORRIS OFFICER SCOTT EVANS WITH A CITATION OF APPRECIATION FOR BEING NAMED MORRIS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

By Michael Urbanec - Morris Herald-News



(Photo provided by Jerry Terando)

Evans was recognized as Officer of the Year back in February. He spends most of his time as the community resource officer at Morris Community High School. He has been the school resource officer since 2017. The Blue Chevaliers motto is “In support of law enforcement.”



Thank You For Your Service





Rules for Rendering Hand Salute of U.S. Flag

Law Now Allows Retirees and Vets to Salute Flag

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag only while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 contained an amendment to allow un-uniformed servicemembers, military retirees, and veterans to render a hand salute during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the U.S. flag.

A later amendment further authorized hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel. This was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14, 2008.

Here is the actual text from the law:

SEC. 595. MILITARY SALUTE FOR THE FLAG DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES NOT IN UNIFORM AND BY VETERANS.

Section 301(b)(1) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

“(A) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;

“(B) members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and

“(C) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart;

Note: Part (C) applies to those not in the military and non-veterans. The phrase "men not in uniform" refers to civil service uniforms like police, fire fighters, and letter carriers - non-veteran civil servants who might normally render a salute while in uniform.



The Forty and Eight PAID LIFE RATE CHART Rate Chart



DUES	AGE GROUP													
	0-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85&up
15.50	593.00	546.00	509.00	470.00	428.00	385.00	341.00	296.00	250.00	215.00	180.00	146.00	117.00	94.00
16.00	612.00	563.00	525.00	485.00	442.00	397.00	352.00	306.00	259.00	221.00	185.00	151.00	121.00	97.00
16.50	632.00	581.00	542.00	500.00	456.00	410.00	363.00	315.00	267.00	228.00	191.00	156.00	125.00	100.00
17.00	651.00	599.00	558.00	515.00	470.00	422.00	374.00	325.00	275.00	235.00	197.00	160.00	129.00	103.00
17.50	670.00	616.00	575.00	531.00	484.00	435.00	385.00	334.00	283.00	242.00	203.00	165.00	132.00	106.00
18.00	689.00	634.00	591.00	546.00	498.00	447.00	396.00	344.00	291.00	249.00	209.00	170.00	136.00	109.00
18.50	708.00	651.00	608.00	561.00	511.00	460.00	407.00	353.00	299.00	256.00	214.00	175.00	140.00	112.00
19.00	727.00	669.00	624.00	576.00	525.00	472.00	418.00	363.00	307.00	263.00	220.00	179.00	144.00	115.00
19.50	746.00	687.00	640.00	591.00	539.00	484.00	429.00	372.00	315.00	270.00	226.00	184.00	147.00	118.00
20.00	766.00	704.00	657.00	606.00	553.00	497.00	440.00	382.00	323.00	277.00	232.00	189.00	151.00	121.00
20.50	785.00	722.00	674.00	622.00	567.00	510.00	451.00	392.00	332.00	284.00	238.00	194.00	155.00	125.00
21.00	804.00	739.00	690.00	637.00	580.00	522.00	462.00	401.00	339.00	291.00	243.00	198.00	159.00	127.00
21.50	824.00	758.00	707.00	652.00	595.00	534.00	473.00	411.00	348.00	298.00	250.00	203.00	163.00	131.00
22.00	842.00	775.00	722.00	667.00	608.00	546.00	484.00	420.00	356.00	304.00	255.00	208.00	166.00	133.00
23.00	880.00	810.00	755.00	697.00	636.00	571.00	506.00	439.00	372.00	318.00	267.00	217.00	174.00	139.00
24.00	919.00	845.00	788.00	728.00	663.00	596.00	528.00	458.00	388.00	332.00	278.00	227.00	181.00	145.00
25.00	957.00	880.00	821.00	758.00	691.00	621.00	550.00	478.00	404.00	346.00	290.00	236.00	189.00	151.00
26.00	996.00	916.00	854.00	789.00	719.00	646.00	572.00	497.00	421.00	360.00	302.00	246.00	197.00	158.00
27.00	1034.00	951.00	887.00	819.00	747.00	671.00	594.00	516.00	437.00	374.00	313.00	255.00	204.00	164.00
28.00	1072.00	986.00	920.00	849.00	774.00	696.00	616.00	534.00	452.00	388.00	325.00	264.00	212.00	169.00
29.00	1110.00	1021.00	952.00	879.00	802.00	720.00	638.00	554.00	469.00	401.00	336.00	274.00	219.00	175.00
30.00	1149.00	1057.00	986.00	910.00	830.00	746.00	660.00	573.00	485.00	416.00	348.00	284.00	227.00	182.00
31.00	1187.00	1092.00	1018.00	940.00	857.00	770.00	682.00	592.00	501.00	429.00	359.00	293.00	234.00	188.00
32.00	1225.00	1127.00	1051.00	970.00	884.00	795.00	704.00	611.00	517.00	443.00	371.00	302.00	242.00	194.00
33.00	1263.00	1162.00	1084.00	1001.00	912.00	820.00	726.00	630.00	533.00	457.00	382.00	312.00	249.00	200.00
34.00	1302.00	1197.00	1117.00	1031.00	940.00	845.00	748.00	649.00	549.00	471.00	394.00	321.00	257.00	206.00
35.00	1340.00	1232.00	1149.00	1061.00	967.00	869.00	770.00	669.00	566.00	484.00	406.00	330.00	265.00	212.00
36.00	1378.00	1268.00	1182.00	1092.00	995.00	894.00	792.00	688.00	582.00	498.00	417.00	340.00	272.00	218.00
37.00	1416.00	1303.00	1215.00	1122.00	1023.00	919.00	814.00	707.00	598.00	512.00	429.00	349.00	280.00	224.00
38.00	1455.00	1338.00	1248.00	1152.00	1050.00	944.00	836.00	726.00	614.00	526.00	440.00	359.00	287.00	230.00
39.00	1493.00	1373.00	1281.00	1182.00	1078.00	969.00	858.00	745.00	630.00	540.00	452.00	368.00	295.00	236.00
40.00	1531.00	1408.00	1314.00	1213.00	1106.00	994.00	880.00	764.00	646.00	554.00	464.00	378.00	302.00	242.00
41.00	1569.00	1443.00	1346.00	1243.00	1133.00	1018.00	902.00	783.00	663.00	567.00	475.00	387.00	310.00	248.00
42.00	1608.00	1479.00	1379.00	1273.00	1161.00	1043.00	924.00	802.00	679.00	581.00	487.00	396.00	318.00	254.00
43.00	1646.00	1514.00	1412.00	1304.00	1189.00	1068.00	946.00	821.00	694.00	595.00	498.00	406.00	325.00	260.00
44.00	1684.00	1549.00	1445.00	1334.00	1216.00	1093.00	968.00	840.00	711.00	609.00	510.00	415.00	333.00	266.00
45.00	1723.00	1584.00	1478.00	1364.00	1244.00	1118.00	990.00	860.00	727.00	623.00	522.00	425.00	340.00	272.00
46.00	1,761.00	1,620.00	1,511.00	1,395.00	1,271.00	1,143.00	1,012.00	879.00	743.00	637.00	533.00	434.00	348.00	278.00
47.00	1,799.00	1,655.00	1,543.00	1,425.00	1,299.00	1,167.00	1,034.00	898.00	760.00	650.00	545.00	444.00	355.00	284.00
48.00	1,837.00	1,690.00	1,576.00	1,455.00	1,327.00	1,192.00	1,056.00	917.00	776.00	664.00	556.00	453.00	363.00	290.00
49.00	1,876.00	1,725.00	1,609.00	1,485.00	1,354.00	1,217.00	1,078.00	936.00	792.00	678.00	568.00	463.00	370.00	296.00
50.00	1,914.00	1,761.00	1,642.00	1,516.00	1,382.00	1,242.00	1,100.00	955.00	808.00	692.00	580.00	472.00	378.00	303.00
*Other	38.28	35.21	32.84	30.32	27.64	24.84	22.00	19.10	16.16	13.84	11.59	9.44	7.56	6.05

*If the Voiture Locale dues are an amount not shown in the above chart, compute cost by multiplying the actual dues by the amount shown on the "Other" line, according to the age of the applicant.

The Snipe's Lament

Now each of us from time to time has gazed upon the sea, and watched the mighty warships pulling out to keep this country free. And most of us have read a book or heard a lusty tale, about these men who sail these ships through lightning, wind and hail. But there's a place within each ship that legend's fail to teach.

It's down below the water-line and it takes a living toll - - a hot metal living hell, that sailors call the "Hole." It houses engines run with steam, that makes the shafts go round. A place of fire, noise, and heat that beats your spirits down. Where boilers like a hellish heart, with blood of angry steam, are molded gods without remorse, are nightmares in a dream.

Whose threat from the fires roar, is like a living doubt, that at any moment with such scorn, might escape and crush you out. Where turbines scream like tortured souls, alone and lost in hell, are ordered from above somewhere, they answer every bell. The men who keep the fires lit and make the engines run, are strangers to the light and rarely see the sun.

They have no time for man or God, no tolerance for fear, their aspect pays no living thing a tribute of a tear. For there's not much that men can do that these men haven't done, beneath the decks, deep in the hole, to make the engines run. And every hour of every day they keep the watch in Hell, for if the fires ever fail their ship's a useless shell.

When ships converge to have a war upon an angry sea, the men below just grimly smile at what their fate will be. They're locked below like men fore-doomed, who hear no battle cry, it's well assumed that if they're hit men below will die. For every day's a war down there when gauges all read red, twelve-hundred pounds of heated steam can kill you mighty dead.

So if you ever write their songs or try to tell their tale, the very words would make you hear a fired furnace's wail. And people as a general rule don't hear of these men of steel, so little heard about this place that sailors call the "Hole." But I can sing about this place and try to make you see, the hardened life of the men down there, 'cause one of them is me.

I've seen these sweat-soaked heroes fight in superheated air, to keep their ship alive and right, though no one knows they're there. And thus they'll fight for ages on till warships sail no more, amid the boiler's mighty heat and the turbine's hellish roar. So when you see a ship pull out to meet a war-like foe, remember faintly if you can, "The Men Who Sail Below."

-Anonymous



A bit of Historical knowledge for YOU.

Thanks to Phil & Vicky Drum

Early aircraft throttles had a ball on the end of it, in order to go full throttle, the pilot had to push the throttle all the way forward into the wall of the instrument panel. Hence "balls to the wall" for going very fast. And now you know the rest of the story.

During WWII, U.S. Airplanes were armed with belts of bullets which they would shoot during dogfights and on strafing runs. These belts were folded into the wing compartments that fed their machine guns. These belts measure 27 feet and contained hundreds of rounds of bullets. Often times, the pilots would return from their missions having expended all of their bullets on various targets. They would say, I gave them the whole nine yards, meaning they used up all of their ammunition.

Did you know the saying "God willing and the creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek", he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October). Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig'. Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt. Therefore, the expression 'losing face.'

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced' wore a tightly tied lace.

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some Ale and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the phrase 'minding your 'P's and Q's'.

One more: bet you didn't know this! In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem.... how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others.

The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.'

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts greater and much faster than iron when it's chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would roll right off the monkey; Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.'



Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 57 years since the first casualty.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam..

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam..

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest . And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam . In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters.



There are no noble wars, just noble warriors!