



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: WILLIAM R. MILLER

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XVII, Number 2

FEBRUARY 2005



**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
Meets
7:30 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA**

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DON H. GEE, PC**

**Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
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**MARINE OF THE YEAR
WILLIAM E. JERROM**

What is An American?

[This was probably missed in the rush of news last month, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American. So an Australian dentist wrote the following to let everyone know what an American is, so they would know when they found one. (Good on ya, mate!!!)]

An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani, or Afghan. An American may also be a Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans.

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses. An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American is from the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each person the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in other world in their time of need. When Afghanistan was overrun by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country.

As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan.

Americans welcome the best, the best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best athletes. But they also welcome the least. The national symbol of America, The Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America. Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2001, earning a better life for their families. I've been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 other countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and every bloodthirsty tyrant in the history of the world since 1775. But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

As many of you probably know by now, our regular Detachment meeting of January 12 was called off due to the absence of three Officers, our new Mess Sergeant and the poor turnout of members. The Senior Vice Commandant, Adjutant, Paymaster, and Mess Sergeant had personal commitments and were excused after notifying me of such. Also the very bad weather conditions of rain and heavy fog kept many of our members at home. We did manage to have three Officers and seven

members including the Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chaplain. I did not think it was appropriate to hold an official meeting with such a small turnout. Therefore I decided to have an informal round table discussion. I started off by reading the correspondence and discussing anything of importance.

Then, we spent the remainder of the time going over the upcoming activities of the Marine Corps League and our Detachment. We wrapped it up after about 30 min. and went home.

Our next meeting to be held

on February 9 will be an important one in that it's that time of year when we select a new slate of Officers for our Detachment.

Nominations will be done at that time and I am asking for everyone to please make an effort to attend the February meeting and show your support for your Detachment. Anyone wishing to become involved in the Detachment in a Staff or Appointed level, this is your chance to let it be known.

Semper Fi!

Bill Miller

2nd Annual Parents Conference Slated for July

The second annual National Marine Corps Parents' Conference is gearing up! The Conference will be held July 29-21, at the Hilton Hotel & Conference Center in Kansas City, MO.

Last year, hosted by Marine Parents United, the first ever conference was held at the Crowne Plaza in Indianapolis and was an enormous success.

Parents, spouses, and other family members of Fallen Marines, former and active Marines, from all over the country came together for a full weekend of workshops: Post War Stress, Starting a Support Group, Care Package Know How, Marine Comfort Quilts, Bootcamp 101, Online Connections, Marine Wedding & Homecoming Planning, Marine

Scrapbooking, along with many others. Also great guest speakers were present such as Frank Schaeffer, Max Beerup, General Carol Mutter, Tracy Della Vecchia, with entertainment by Bob Bennett, Adam Marshall and other musical guests. A welcome reception, formal banquet, worship service, vendors, authors, and military exhibits were provided for attendees. The evaluations proved that the conference weekend far exceeded the expectations of attendees and the impact of the weekend is reaching back into many communities.

"United in Pride" is the theme this year in Kansas City and it truly represents the Marine Corps family. The upcoming conference is expanding to include more workshops, Kansas City tour, golf outing, breakfast buffet and lunch buffet. The entertainment is going to be fantastic. The hotel is wonderful and the Director of the Missouri Hiltons is a father of a Marine.

To organize a national conference that brings potentially thousands of USMC family members together is a big undertaking. With sons, daughters and spouses fighting overseas, the need to come together is vital to deal with is-

ues and support one another. A parent or spouse of a United States Marine is not only proud of the Marine's service to our country but on a personal level, equally proud of the training, values and principals that the Marine Corps instills. If you feel that you could help in any way, please contact us.

Please join us for this weekend and help us spread the word.

Visit the website and sign up for more information and a brochure.

www.marineparentsunited.com

Feel free to contact a Marine Parents United Board Member: **Angie Engle** (Flora, IN) aengle03@yahoo.com; **Joyce Gilmour** (Brooklyn, WI) jmgteach@yahoo.com; **Lorraine Nelson** (Maplewood, NJ) njmarine-mom@yahoo.com; **Tracy Della Vecchia** (Columbia, MO) mpu@marineparents.com; **Lynda Barkes** (Columbus IN) dleibarkes@yahoo.com; **Marcia Gould** (Cloverdale, IN) songbird@ccrtc.com; **Lori Jamrok** (Hobart, IN) Wallycot@aol.com; **LtCol. Charles Haislip** (Indianapolis, IN) chaislip@ITWGEMA.com; or **Cathy Schoon** (Albion, IN) schoon@ligtel.com.

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LISTEN UP! is the internal information publication of the CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636, Inc. of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc. It is published monthly by and for the members of the Central Bucks Detachment.

2005

ACTIVE DUTY PAY SCALE

2005 BASIC PAY

Active-duty members received a 3.5 percent increase in basic pay under the 2005 Defense Authorization Act. The monthly pay rates in effect as of Jan. 1:

Grade	Years of service														
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
Commissioned officers															
O-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,433.20	12,433.20	12,433.20
O-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,337.90	11,501.10	11,737.20
O-8	8,022.30	8,285.10	8,459.40	8,508.30	8,725.50	9,089.40	9,173.70	9,519.00	9,618.00	9,915.30	10,345.50	10,742.40	11,007.60	11,007.60	11,007.60
O-7	6,666.00	6,975.60	7,119.00	7,233.00	7,439.10	7,642.50	7,878.30	8,113.50	8,349.00	9,089.40	9,714.60	9,714.60	9,714.60	9,714.60	9,763.80
O-6	4,940.70	5,427.90	5,784.00	5,784.00	5,805.90	6,054.90	6,087.90	6,087.90	6,433.80	7,045.50	7,404.60	7,763.40	7,967.70	8,174.10	8,575.50
O-5	4,118.70	4,639.80	4,961.10	5,021.40	5,221.50	5,341.80	5,605.50	5,799.00	6,048.60	6,431.10	6,613.20	6,793.20	6,997.50	6,997.50	6,997.50
O-4	3,563.80	4,113.90	4,388.40	4,449.60	4,704.30	4,977.60	5,317.50	5,582.70	5,766.60	5,872.20	5,933.70	5,933.70	5,933.70	5,933.70	5,933.70
O-3	3,124.50	3,542.10	3,823.20	4,168.20	4,367.70	4,596.70	4,728.60	4,962.00	5,083.20	5,083.20	5,083.20	5,083.20	5,083.20	5,083.20	5,083.20
O-2	2,699.40	3,074.70	3,541.20	3,660.90	3,736.20	3,736.20	3,736.20	3,736.20	3,736.20	3,736.20	3,736.20	3,736.20	3,736.20	3,736.20	3,736.20
O-1	2,343.60	2,439.00	2,948.10	2,948.10	2,948.10	2,948.10	2,948.10	2,948.10	2,948.10	2,948.10	2,948.10	2,948.10	2,948.10	2,948.10	2,948.10
Commissioned officers with more than four years of active duty as enlisted members or warrant officers															
O-3E	-	-	-	4,168.20	4,367.70	4,596.70	4,728.60	4,962.00	5,158.50	5,271.00	5,424.60	5,424.60	5,424.60	5,424.60	5,424.60
O-2E	-	-	-	3,660.90	3,736.20	3,855.30	4,055.70	4,211.10	4,326.60	4,326.60	4,326.60	4,326.60	4,326.60	4,326.60	4,326.60
O-1E	-	-	-	2,948.10	3,148.80	3,264.90	3,383.70	3,500.70	3,660.90	3,660.90	3,660.90	3,660.90	3,660.90	3,660.90	3,660.90
Warrant officers (Army, Navy, Marine Corps)															
W-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,548.20	5,738.40	5,929.20
W-4	3,228.60	3,473.40	3,573.30	3,671.40	3,840.30	4,007.10	4,176.30	4,341.00	4,511.70	4,779.00	4,950.00	5,117.40	5,290.80	5,461.80	5,636.40
W-3	2,948.40	3,071.70	3,197.40	3,238.80	3,371.10	3,522.30	3,721.80	3,918.90	4,128.30	4,295.50	4,442.10	4,509.30	4,578.90	4,730.10	4,881.30
W-2	2,593.50	2,741.70	2,871.30	2,965.50	3,046.20	3,268.20	3,438.00	3,564.00	3,687.00	3,771.30	3,842.40	3,977.40	4,111.50	4,247.40	4,247.40
W-1	2,290.20	2,477.70	2,603.10	2,684.40	2,900.40	3,030.90	3,146.40	3,275.40	3,360.90	3,438.30	3,564.30	3,659.70	3,659.70	3,659.70	3,659.70
Enlisted members															
E-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E-8	-	-	-	-	-	3,193.50	3,334.80	3,422.10	3,527.10	3,640.50	3,845.40	3,949.20	4,125.90	4,224.00	4,465.20
E-7	2,220.00	2,423.10	2,515.80	2,638.80	2,734.50	2,899.50	2,992.20	3,084.60	3,249.60	3,332.40	3,410.70	3,458.70	3,620.40	3,725.10	3,990.00
E-6	1,920.30	2,112.60	2,205.90	2,296.50	2,391.00	2,604.30	2,687.10	2,779.20	2,859.90	2,888.70	2,908.20	2,908.20	2,908.20	2,908.20	2,908.20
E-5	1,739.50	1,877.10	1,967.70	2,060.70	2,205.30	2,329.80	2,421.60	2,450.70	2,450.70	2,450.70	2,450.70	2,450.70	2,450.70	2,450.70	2,450.70
E-4	1,612.80	1,695.60	1,787.10	1,877.70	1,957.80	1,957.80	1,957.80	1,957.80	1,957.80	1,957.80	1,957.80	1,957.80	1,957.80	1,957.80	1,957.80
E-3	1,466.20	1,547.70	1,641.00	1,641.00	1,641.00	1,641.00	1,641.00	1,641.00	1,641.00	1,641.00	1,641.00	1,641.00	1,641.00	1,641.00	1,641.00
E-2	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50	1,384.50
E-1	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10	1,235.10

E-1 with less than four months: 1,142.70

Note: Monthly basic pay for 2005 is capped at \$12,433.20 by Level III of the Executive Schedule.

Source: Defense Department

Marine Gets Dog Tags Back After 35 Years

When he stepped on a land mine outside Quang Tri, near the border between North and South Vietnam, **Larry Lacanlale** had a few more thoughts going through his mind than wondering what happened to his dog tags.

Lacanlale (pronounced lock-in-law-lee) always assumed that the Corpsmen who rushed to treat him that day--Sept. 3, 1969--cut the identification tags off the chain that held them around his neck.

"When I got hit, I thought the Corpsmen took the dog tags. That's what I used to see in the movies," Lacanlale said.

The 54-year-old Winchester, OR, man was floored when he received a telephone call a few weeks ago from a woman in California who told him she had obtained both of his dog tags during a visit to Vietnam.

"She called me and I started crying when she told me she had my dog tags. I was happy, then I was sad. I broke down because I didn't know what to think.

She overwhelmed me," he said. "It sounds like something out of 'The Twilight Zone' or 'Amazing Stories.'"

Lacanlale grew up in Wilmington, CA, near Long Beach.

He joined the Marine Corps at age 18 and spent time in Southern California, Hawaii and Guam before heading to Vietnam.

He missed out on the romanticized Vietnam of films showing peaceful watering holes and friendly girls. The eight months he was there before stepping on the mine were spent patrolling the jungles between Quang Tri and the demilitarized zone, or DMZ--what the troops dryly called the "dead Marine zone." There were no villages, just endless places for people to hide.

The day he was injured, Lacalanle was out on his second patrol of the day.

He carried a grenade launcher, earning him the nickname of "Blooperman," for the noise the grenades made as they left the barrel of what looked like an oversized shotgun.

The point man walked ahead of the rest of the patrol, using a five-foot bamboo pole to jab into the ground to set off any hidden mines or to trip wires connected to explosives.

"While my point man was looking for booby traps, I stepped on it," Lacanlale said.

Lacanlale lost his left leg above the knee and his right leg was severely injured. He was treated initially in Da Nang, sent to a hospital in Okinawa for two months and then shipped home.

He spent 13 months in the Oakland (California) Naval Hospital before being released.

Lacanlale had played football in high school and was working as a commercial tuna fisherman when he enlisted. The loss of his leg and his other injuries put an end to that career.

After battling a drug addiction and getting clean, Lacanlale moved to Douglas County, OR, in 1982 to make a new start.

Over the years, he had never given thought to his old lost dog tags. Then came a phone call a couple of weeks ago from a woman he'd never met.

The tags, one that was in pretty good shape and the other a bit bent and stained from the red clay that covers that part of Vietnam, were mailed shortly thereafter to Lacanlale by **Stacey Hansen**.

Hansen, a 35-year-old firefighter in San Jose, CA, was born during the Vietnam War.

After she became an adult, she talked with many men who had served in the war. She also had a friend at work who had grown up in Vietnam. They spoke at length about the country and its history and he later invited Hansen there for a visit.

Hansen later split from her friend to go backpacking on her own. During a trek to Ho Chi Minh City, the former South Vietnamese capital of Saigon, Hansen visited the former presidential palace now known as the Hall of Reunification. Inside, things were left the same as when North Vietnamese forces took Saigon on April 30, 1975.

Hansen came across a room where a glass case held items left from the war: Zippo lighters, a pair of military boots, a military radio, a canteen and several dog tags. The identification tags were rusty, twisted and old.

They looked real enough and Hansen ended up buying them all.

In Da Nang, Hansen met a waitress in a bar who introduced her to a woman on a moped.

The woman, Lien, took her to an old military compound where they spoke to a dour man in a uniform. After some serious haggling, Hansen bought a large number of dog tags for \$2 apiece.

She brought back 563 tags to the United States. She verified their authenticity through a veterans' group, then organized a Web site --located at www.vietnamdogtags.com -- to try and reunite the tags with the veterans who wore them or their families.

The owner of each tag is listed in alphabetical order and Hansen verifies the information before sending a tag out.

"I feel it's the least I can do," said Hansen, during a telephone interview from her home in Santa Cruz, CA.

Hansen located Lacanlale herself. She uses a variety of public databases and also employs a private detective. So far, she has returned dog tags to 261 veterans or their families.

Although some people she's contacted fear it's part of a scam, most of the veterans soften up once they realize she's not looking for money and only wants to return what she says is rightfully theirs.

"I feel really honored to do it," she said. "A lot of them have opened up with their experiences and I have learned a lot."

She described Lacanlale as an especially warm and generous man.

He told her about stepping on the mine and how he never expected to see his old identification tags again.

With Lacanlale's tags, Hansen included a card. On the front was a photo of all of the dog tags laid out on a bed in a hotel in Da Nang.

"Larry, thank you so much for your service over there," Hansen wrote. "I truly appreciate you. I know it's because of guys like you who have the guts to go to war that I live as freely as I do."

Both her note and her gesture touched Lacanlale deeply.

"I couldn't explain to her in words how grateful I was," he said.

"I'd like to meet her someday and tell her how much I appreciate her efforts."

WORLD WAR II TRIVIA

1. The first German serviceman killed in the war was killed by the Japanese in China in 1937. The first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians in Finland in 1940. The highest-ranking American killed was Lt. Gen. Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps (in "friendly fire"). So much for the allies.
2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded in combat and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. (His benefits were later restored by an Act of Congress.)
3. At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us" and abbreviated for Commander in Chief, United States). The shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry Division was the Swastika. And Hitler's private train was named "Amerika." All three were soon changed for public relations purposes.
4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required US Air Corps 30 missions, their chance of being killed was 71 percent.
5. Not that bombers were helpless. A B-17 bomber carried 4 tons of bombs and 1.5 tons of machine gun ammo. The US 8th Air Force shot down 6,098 fighter planes, 1 for every 12,700 shots fired..
6. Germany's power grid was much more vulnerable than realized. One estimate is that if just 1 percent of the bombs dropped on German industry had instead been dropped on power plants, German industry would have collapsed.
7. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For example, Japanese ace Hiroyoshi Nishizawa shot down more than 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.
8. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every fifth round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. The tracers had different ballistics so at long range, if your tracers were hitting the target, then 80 percent of your rounds were missing. Worse yet, the tracers instantly told the enemy that he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell the gunner that he was out of ammo. This was definitely not something that the gunner wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate increase to nearly double and their loss rate decrease.
9. When allied armies reached the Rhine River, the first thing that men did was pee in it. This act was universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill, who made a big show of it, and General Patton, who had himself photographed in the act.
10. German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City, but the Germans decided that it wasn't worth the effort.
11. A number of air crewmen died of farts because ascending to 20,000 feet in an unpressurized aircraft causes intestinal gas to expand 300 percent.
12. The Russians destroyed over 500 German aircraft by ramming them in mid-air. The Russians also sometimes cleared mine fields by marching over them. "It takes a brave man not to be a hero in the Red Army," said Joseph Stalin.
13. The U.S. Army had more ships than the U.S. Navy.
14. The German Air Force had 22 Infantry divisions, 2 armor divisions, and 11 paratroop divisions. None of them was capable of airborne operations. The German Army had paratroops that were capable of airborne operations. Go figure.
15. When the US Army landed in North Africa, among the equipment brought ashore was three complete Coca-Cola bottling plants.
16. Among the first "Germans" captured by Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the Germans until the US Army captured them.
17. A malfunctioning toilet sank German submarine U-120.
18. The Graf Spee never sank. The scuttling attempt failed, and the British bought the ship as scrap. On board was Germany's newest radar system.
19. One of Japan's methods of destroying tanks was to bury a very large artillery shell with the nose exposed. When a tank came near enough, a soldier would whack the shell with a hammer.
20. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 US and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska. Twenty-one troops were killed in the firefight. It would have been worse if there had been Japanese on the island.
21. The MISS ME was an unarmed US Piper Cub. While spotting for the US artillery, her pilot saw a similar German plane doing the same thing. The US pilot dived on the German plane, and he and his co-pilot fired their pistols, damaging the German plane enough that it had to make a forced landing, whereupon the US pilots landed and took the Germans prisoner. We don't know where they put the prisoners, however, because the MISS ME had only two seats.
22. Most members of the Waffen SS were not German.

The only nation on which Germany declared war was the United States.

New Phone Scam

I received a telephone call last evening from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T Service technician who was conducting a test on telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test I should touch nine(9), zero(0), the pound sign (#), and then hang up.

Luckily, I was suspicious and refused.

Upon contacting the telephone company, I was informed that by pushing 90#, you give the requesting individual full access to your telephone line, which enables them to place long distance calls billed to your home phone number.

I was further informed that this scam has been originating from many local jails/prisons. I have also verified this information with UCB Telecom, Pacific Bell, MCI, Bell Atlantic and GTE. Please beware.

DO NOT press 90# for ANYONE.

The GTE Security Department requested that I share this information with EVERYONE I KNOW.

PLEASE pass this on to everyone YOU know.

If you have mailing lists and/or newsletters from organizations you are connected with, I encourage you to pass on this information to them.

After checking with Verizon they said it was true, so do not dial (9),zero(0), the pound sign # and hang up for anyone.

(Submitted by Ed Hoth)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

GROUNDHOG DAY
7 FEBRUARY

DETACHMENT MEETING
9 FEBRUARY
1930

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY
14 FEBRUARY

PRESIDENTS DAY
16 FEBRUARY

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
22 FEBRUARY

GENUARDI Markets Receipt Form

Clip it and forward to the address shown. Contact
Past Commandant Don Parzanese Sr. for any additional information.

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Central Bucks Det.	Group ID*
Marine Corps League	1512379860

Last Name*

First Name*

Address*

City*

State*

Zip Code*

Email Address

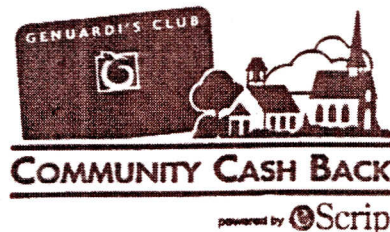
Phone Number

Genuardi's Club Card Number

Signature

*Required Information

Send the completed form to:
eScrip, PO Box 6988, Auburn, CA 95604



For complete program information, visit

www.escrip.com

Ann Margret's Vietnam Visit, 1966

Richard, (my husband), never really talked a lot about his time in Vietnam other than he had been shot by a sniper.

However, he had a rather grainy, 8 x 10 black and white photo he had taken at a USO show of Ann Margret with Bob Hope in the background that was one of his treasures.

A few years ago, Ann Margret was doing a book signing at a local bookstore. Richard wanted to see if he could get her to sign the treasured photo so he arrived at the bookstore at 12 ! o'clock for the 7:30 signing.

When I got there after work, the line went all the way around the bookstore, circled the parking lot and disappeared behind a parking garage. Before her appearance, bookstore employees announced that she would sign only her book and no memorabilia would be permitted.

Richard was disappointed, but wanted to show her the photo and let her know how much those shows meant to lonely GI's so far from home. Ann Margret came out looking as beautiful as ever and, as second in line, it was soon Richard's turn.

He presented the book for her signature and then took out the photo. When he did, there were many shouts from the employees that she would not sign it. Richard said, "I understand. I just wanted her to see it."

She took one look at the photo, tears welled up in her eyes and she said, "This is one of my gentlemen from Viet Nam and I most certainly will sign his photo. I know what these men did for their coun-

try and I always have time for 'my gentlemen.'"

With that, she pulled Richard across the table and planted a big kiss on him. She then made quite a to-do about the bravery of the young men she met over the years, how much she admired them, and how much she appreciated them. There weren't too many dry eyes among those close enough to hear. She then posed for pictures and acted as if he were the only one there.

Later at dinner, Richard was very quiet. When I asked if he'd like to talk about it, my big strong husband broke down in tears. "That's the first time anyone ever thanked me for my time in the Army," he said.

That night was a turning point for him. He walked a little straighter and, for the first time in years, was proud to have been a Vet. I'll never forget Ann Margret for her graciousness and how much that small act of kindness meant to my husband.

I now make it a point to say "Thank you" to every person I come across who served in our Armed Forces. Freedom does not come cheap and I am grateful for all those who have served their country.

If you'd like to pass on this story, feel free to do so. Perhaps it will help others to become aware of how important it is to acknowledge the contribution our service people make.

Don't be too busy today...

Share this inspiring message with friends and family

The Wife of a Viet Nam Vet

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