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Hello world!

I've enclosed our third newsletter distributed to our veterans group. It's a positive tool to remind veterans that we are men of integrity. We don't have to think like convicts. The peer pressure to "fit in" is huge in prison. Prison reinforces the dysfunctional behavior of teenager mentality. It takes a real man and courage to stand-up for things like honor, respect and integrity. Many do though. I'm surprised that it's not complete chaos.

GrahamVets falls under the Chapel program so I try to help out with the newsletter. Without a full time Chaplain though my work hours are cut to one-day a week. So my time is really restricted otherwise we'd have 6 or 7 letters published instead of just three. It's a positive start though.

Can anyone tell A. Turner I need an address for him. My letter was returned last month. I want

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to thank him for sending me some cash. I used part to cover the phone account so I could reach my family and with extra postage money I am able to write more letters like this.

Koinonia House Ministry (KhnM.net)

is a group that is working very hard to influence the prison in a positive way. To break the cycle of destruction to families and repeat offenses.

Check them out.

They visited us again for the fourth time in 2-years. They would visit more, but without a Chaplain it's difficult. Last year they, with Willow Creek Church, donated a couple of computers to our Chapel. We now use one to display announcements and words to songs every Sunday service. A big help for worship services.

The other helps the Chaplain do assignments. Now we can assign a person to a list, i.e. Church, A.A. or GrahamVets, for attendance within 2-days. It normally required 7 to 21 days before a person could be on the list which permits the movement within the ~~camp~~ prison for attendance.

Until next time...

David

Commander's Corner

New GrahamVet Creed:

CONGRATULATIONS! To all the members of GrahamVets for the accomplishment of creating and voting for the adoption of a new GrahamVet Creed which is unique to our group and our needs.

Now I encourage all of us, by the grace of God, that we will live out the example of what we believe. Teaching one another, especially our new members, what this creed means and setting the example of what real men are to those incarcerated with us.

(Commander
Travis Wilkes, US Army)

GrahamVet Creed

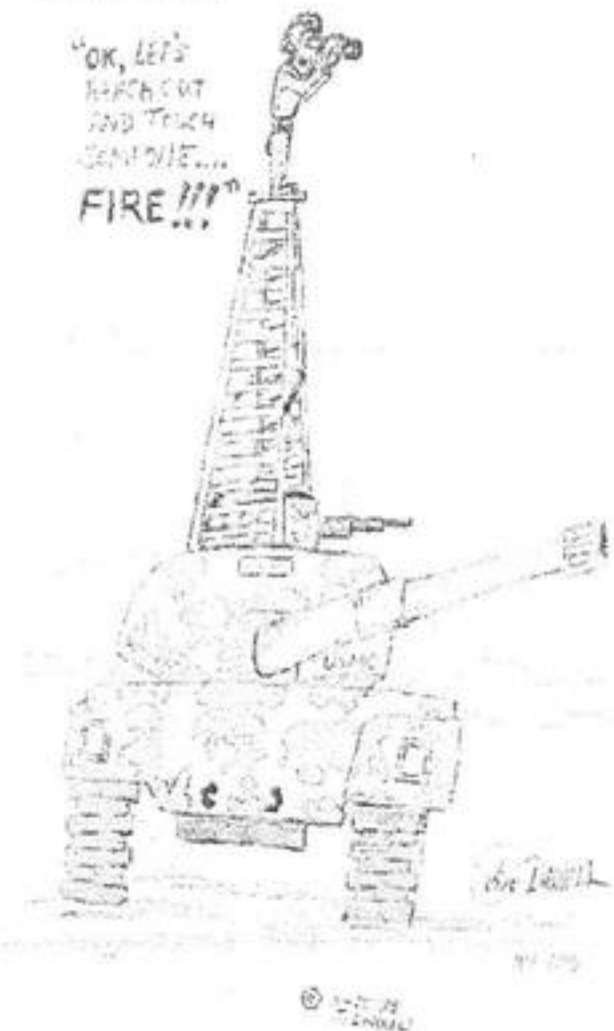
We the Graham Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, having served both war and peacetime, do associate ourselves to share our struggles and victories for the common good.

We will continue to demonstrate strength and courage;
We will remind each other of integrity and discipline;
We are **MEN OF HONOR** and proud American patriots.

By God's grace, we will overcome and strive to build the bonds of brotherhood that are unique and only known by military veterans.

So say we all !

I thought these were funny.



Chaplain's Corner

NO GREATER LOVE

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. This is a reference to the supreme evidence and expression of Jesus' love for us, His sacrificial death upon the cross. I see that we were once called, as military servicemen, to exemplify the same kind of sacrificial giving toward one another, even if such sacrifice involved the laying down of one's own life. I have seen the extent of this love for our

fellow man, and the highest proof of it is laying down one's life for his friend, to save his life. This commitment must be so fervent as to make us willing to suffer—even to death, for the safety of our brothers. This is love in the highest degree—which is strong as death. Think about this; Others have laid down their lives for their friends, but Christ laid down His life for us while we were still His enemy. Wow!

(Chaplain Adams, U.S. Navy)

Sergeant's Corner

SALT: Nature's greatest preservative

Man has used salt for thousands of years as a natural preservative for meat. Why? It has properties that kill and minimize bacterial growth.

A survival tip (which also works in prison) is to use salted water for gargling 2 or 3 times each week. This will help to rid bacteria that causes bad breath and tooth decay.

(Submitted by D. Linley, Sgt. USMC)

Florida DOC Program Targets Incarcerated Veterans

The Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) has implemented a program for military veterans that includes special housing and counseling services. While some see the program as providing preferential treatment, FDOC officials view it as a way to meet the special needs of incarcerated veterans in hopes of rehabilitating them.

Of the approximately 101,000 FDOC prisoners, around 6,700 are veterans. As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan stretched past ten years, the number of military veterans has increased, including the number entering the prison system. Critics have long complained that the government has failed to help veterans integrate back into society after their tours of duty in war zones.

"I think we are going to see a lot of the things we saw after Vietnam," said FDOC Secretary Ken Tucker. "PTSD [post traumatic stress disorder] is real and we have a lot of Iraq and Afghanistan vets returning right now who don't always want to talk about that."

FDOC prisoners who were honorably discharged and are within three years of their release date may volunteer for the program, which houses them in units that hold about 400 prisoners each at the Gulf, Lowell, Martin, Santa Rosa and Sumter Correctional Institutions.

The veterans units are different from those for the rest of the prison population. "They are having to live up to higher standards, military standards with clean language and in the condition they keep their dormitories," said Tucker.

Prisoners are required to maintain their clothes, bunks and living standards at the same level as required by the military; they take part in a flag rising and retiring ceremony at the beginning and end of each day. The guards in the units also have military experience.

One of the main purposes of the program is to "congregate as many inmates as possible in one area where the [Veterans Administration] could meet with them and discuss the programs available to them," said FDOC spokeswoman Jo Elyn Rackleff.

The program also provides incarcerated veterans with educational and vocational opportunities, as well as counseling for PTSD.

"The military emphasizes pride, character, and integrity," Tucker stated. "By having veteran inmates in the same dorm before their release from prison, they can work together to recapture some of those qualities while also learning about programs and benefits available specifically for veterans." ■

Sources: *New York Times*, *Daily Mail*, *Orlando Sentinel*

Excerpt from Prison Legal News

GrahamVets Newsletter

(SPECIAL ISSUE)



"A SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD"

On May 30, 1868, Decoration Day was celebrated nationally for the first time. The day was chosen by General John A. Logan of Illinois {Logan County, Logan Correctional Center}, a national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, for decoration of Civil War graves.

In 1873 it became Memorial Day and made a legal holiday.

In 1921, an American soldier— "known but to God" - was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, DC. The burial site of this unknown World War I soldier in Arlington National Cemetery symbolized dignity and reverence for America's veterans.

(Compiled and written by
K. Barrington, USAF)



THE U.S. CONSTITUTION (PART 3)

We have covered the preamble and Article I of the Constitution; Instead of addressing Article II we will cover the First Amendment due to current events in the news.

The Constitution has 27 Amendments, the first ten are known as the "Bill of Rights". The original Constitution did not contain a "Bill of Rights", it was originally omitted for two basic reasons: First, because State Constitutions already possessed a bill of rights, and the founding fathers thought it would be redundant. The second and more compelling reason may have been that by September 1787 when George Mason, a delegate from Virginia, raised the idea of a bill of rights members of the convention were tired and yearning to return to their homes. Fearing a new debate might extend their stay in Philadelphia by months and through the Winter.

The First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the

CONSTITUTION (CONT.)

press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances."

Recent scandals in the news have placed a spotlight on the first amendment, especially "Freedom of Speech and of the Press". Two of the scandals plaguing our government are referred to as the "AP Scandal and the "IRS-Tea Party Scandal".

The first scandal centers around the Justice Department obtaining phone records of Associated Press (AP) reporters, and even more serious, obtaining phone records of the reporter's office, home, cellular phones, including his parent's home.

The search warrant was issued based on an affidavit by the Justice Department stating that the reporter was a co-conspirator in a leak in the White House. In other words, the reporters were investigated for crimes committed by doing their jobs, this is government directed violation of the First Amendment. The current administration made a statement that, "now was a time for Congress to look at ways to protect

the press' right to report the news". However, the First Amendment already guarantees "Freedom of the Press".

The second scandal deals with the IRS, Justice Department, EPA, and other government agencies targeting conservative groups, organizations, and individuals petitioning for smaller government. This is in direct violation of the First Amendment's right to free speech.

The U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights have been under attack since the time of ratification. Two hundred years later there are people inside and outside government calling the Constitution an outdated and overrated piece of paper.

The Constitution is not just a piece of paper, it is a way of life, it is the very essence of the American people, it is a statement of free people that sets America apart from the rest of the world.

(Submitted by
K. Barrington, USAF)

MILITARY TRIVIA

What is the more commonly used name (hint: rank) for "General of the Army"?

MILITARY TRIVIA

During which conflict was the rank of "General of the Army" was first instituted?