



Airmen say thank you for veterans' sacrifice

By Staff Sgt. Martin Moleski
445th Public Affairs

They slowly emerged from the comfort of their rooms into the early summer heat. Some walked, others came by wheelchair. Their scars were visible; their pride never-ending. The veterans, our heroes, were surrounded by family, friends and caretakers.

But on this day, Airmen, both active duty and reserve, from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, gathered at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center to honor our veterans with a picnic. The annual event, sponsored by the Air Force Sergeants Association Kittyhawk Chapter 751, allowed for servicemembers past and present to share their experiences of defending freedom and ensured that our veterans will always be remembered.

After many finished their lunch, retired chief master sergeant and AFSA President Ruben Garcia took time to address the crowd. He thanked the veterans for their service and the Airmen for supporting their efforts.

"To the veterans, this is why we are here. We thank you for your service," the chief said. "This picnic is an opportunity to thank the veterans, those who served before us. It's an opportunity to bring current members out from the base and to get them to interact with our veterans."

The AFSA holds two events every year at the VA Medical Center, one in the summer and one during the holiday season.



Chief Master Sgt. Bill Arehart, 445th Security Forces Squadron, listens to Army veteran Staff Sgt. George Allen as he talks about storming the beaches of Normandy on D-Day during World War II. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Doug Moore)

Many reservists brought donations including socks, T-shirts, toiletries, shoes and books.

"All the things that we can just go out and buy and the things we take for granted, they just don't have that luxury, said Master Sgt. LaShunda Lewis, 445th Maintenance Operations Flight.

Sergeant Lewis worked with Master Sgt. Henry Harlow, 445th MOF, to box up all the donations before donating them to the veterans. Sergeant Harlow, who is also a member of the AFSA, said a lot of the veterans have outlived their

families and AFSA sponsors the events to "take care of our Airmen past, present and future."

"It's just a great event," said Col. Colleen Ryan, 88th Air Base Wing Commander. "I'm proud to be a part of what AFSA and all organizations are doing to honor and just take care of people."

Colonel Ryan spent much of her time listening to the incredible stories of Walter Ellison who shared his memo-

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Thanking your employer



Employers' Day this past May was a rousing success. Thanks to all those who helped put it together. Employer's Day is a creative way to show your employer what you do in the Air Force Reserve and in the wing. It also gives us a chance to thank them for their support over the years for supporting you.

If your employer couldn't make it to Employers' Day and you still want to show your appreciation for their support, you can go to the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve (ESGR) website at: <http://www.esgr.mil> and complete the Patriot Award form and hit the submit button. It's done. All it takes is about five minutes of your time.

Your employer will receive a nice certificate of appreciation in about 30 days thanking them for supporting you. If what you write on the form expresses your employer going above and beyond what is required by law, then they can be submitted or nominated for a higher award.

Don't let another month go by without thanking your employer for all they have done. Without their support the reserve system which comprises of approximately 46 percent of our total available military manpower, would be in jeopardy. All it takes is a computer and five minutes.

2007 101 Critical Days of Summer: A time to exercise caution

By Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command

The "101 Critical Days of Summer"

between Memorial Day and Labor Day, are once again upon us. In the past this is a historically hazardous time where we sometimes forgo our usual cautious nature and enjoy the warm weather and sunny days without taking the necessary steps to stay safe. Last summer alone the Air Force lost 18 Airmen in accidents during the "101 Critical Days of Summer"; a trend which has remained unacceptably high. Motor vehicle fatalities accounted



Lt. Gen. Bradley

for most of our losses. Collectively, we lost seven Airmen to automobile mishaps and another four to motorcycle mishaps. Too many of these tragedies involved speeding, alcohol, and a lack of use of seatbelts or a helmet.

There are still several other factors that make us vulnerable during the "101 Critical Days of Summer". An increase in sports and recreational activities, high-risk acts, outdoor-leisure pursuits, lack of proper risk management/planning and failing to know your physical limits are just a few of those reasons.

I personally challenge each of you to strive to be an unrivaled wingman to your family, friends and fellow Airmen this summer. Take some extra time to plan your trips and outdoor activities, keep a watchful eye over each other and don't take or allow your friends and family to take any unnecessary risks. Just a few extra moments will significantly help lessen the possibility of this summer being filled with tragedy instead of fond memories.

I hope your family and you enjoy these summer months by taking full advantage of what your contributions to this great country have made available. But, please enjoy them responsibly.



Buckeye Flyer 445th Airlift Wing (Air Force Reserve Command)

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Master Sgt. LaShunda Lewis, 445th Maintenance Operations Flight, serves food to a veteran's caretaker. Many veterans were unable to leave their rooms at the Dayton VA Medical Center so volunteers took food to their rooms. (U.S. Air Force photos/Master Sgt. Doug Moore)

Airmen say thank you

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ries as if they happened yesterday. Sitting in his motorized wheelchair, Ellison talked about his time as an assistant to the flight surgeon in the Army, and how much he appreciated the new generation of servicemembers taking a moment from their day to spend time with the veterans.

"Every time we have a picnic, I always meet someone new," Ellison said. "I love it when you come down here. I love it."

As live music played in the background, many had to lean in to be able to hear the veterans recall their stories. Even though their voices are weak, their minds are still strong.

Army Staff Sgt. George Allen told of his experience in World War II as a member of the 9th Infantry Division. In less than one year, Allen stormed the beaches at Normandy, marched through Belgium on his way to Germany before losing his right leg. He said he remembers on his way into Germany there were two ladies standing on each side of the street passing out sauerkraut to the American soldiers.

"We didn't have anything to put the kraut in," Allen said jokingly. "So we just held out our hands and they scooped it into our palms."

After returning home from combat, Allen worked as a civil engineer for more than 30 years, his wife, Patricia, said. He's been able to do everything he ever wanted, she said.

Girl Scout Troop 364 from Lima, Ohio, presented the veterans with more than 15 hand-sewn blankets and pillow cases representing all four branches of our armed forces.

"We knew we wanted to get them to the veterans, but we

weren't sure how," said Master Sgt. Greg Myers, 445th Security Forces Squadron. Sergeant Myers, whose daughter, Alexandra, presented one of the blankets said, "We decided this was a great way to show our appreciation to the veterans."

But on a day in which appreciation and recognition was given to our veterans for answering the call of duty and defending the freedom of our country, many could only say thank you. To be able to say thank you to a veteran is truly a surreal experience. For them to say thank you back is an honor.



Senior Airman Amanda Duncan, 445th Maintenance Operations Flight, serves food to veterans during the AFSA Annual Picnic at the Dayton VA Medical Center.

Reserve employers get a treat on Armed Forces Day

By Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller
445th Public Affairs

About 40 employers of 445th Airlift Wing Airmen celebrated Armed Forces Day with a visit to the wing on Wright-Patterson AFB and a flight in a C-5 Galaxy aircraft Saturday on Employer Appreciation Day.

The employers came from West Virginia, Kentucky, Cincinnati, Dayton, Springfield and other areas to see exactly where their Air Force reservist employees work and what they do on drill weekends.

Employers and reservists gathered for breakfast at the base club and listened to two briefings to start the day off. Before briefs began, Brig. Gen. Bruce Davis, the 445th AW commander, gave a short history on the wing and thanked them for their support.

“Currently there are 2,300 guardsmen and reservists mobilized from the state of Ohio,” said Joe Ellis, Ohio Employer of Guard and Reserve, who provided the first briefing. “I thank you for supporting them and your continuing support.”

Before the flight, which took the employers and about 20 reservists accompanying them to Niagara Falls, N.Y., and back to Wright-Patterson,



Dennis Pelletier (left) holds a military machine gun as John Wesley (right) looks on. Both are employers of reservists from the 445th Airlift Wing. About 40 employers visited the 445th Airlift Wing on Employers Day.



Leslie Adams takes aim on a M-250 caliber machine gun mounted on a Humvee. She was one of 40 employers who visited the 445th Airlift Wing on Employers Day. The day is to inform employers of some of the duties and equipment used by Air Force reservists on training weekends and when deployed. (U.S. Air Force photos/Maj. Ted Theopolos)

members of the 445th Security Forces Squadron displayed a variety of weapons, night vision goggles and an indoor shooting range. The 87th Aerial Port Squadron also provided a demonstration of their various aircraft uploading and downloading equipment, moving more than 35,000 pounds of cargo off a C-5.

“I’d seen the C-141, but this is my first time with the C-5 and it’s incredible,” said Phil Sinew from Bearing Point Management and Technology Consultants. “You hear a lot of people complain about the amount of money being spent by the military, but when you see this, you know the military is doing things right. You know things are not short changed in any way.”

After the two-hour flight, which included lunch and a visit to the flight deck, employers were given a certificate of appreciation and a goodie bag to take with them.

“You guys should be proud of what you do,” said Leslie Adams from Oak Pavilion Nursing Center. “Everyone here is very informative, very polite. I’m looking into the student job shadow program for my 12-year-old son. This is definitely cool. I’ve been talking about this for two weeks now.”

“I was disappointed that I couldn’t shoot a rocket launcher. I’ve always been fascinated by the military. This is my first time on an Air Force base.”

Maj. Scott Huddle of the 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron said that it was good to have Employer Appreciation Day.

“It’s good that the employers can see the impact of what the Air Force Reserve does,” he said.

Airman joins Air Force Reserve after long break in service

By Tech. Sgt. Charlie Miller
445th Public Affairs

Here's a follow up to the November, 2006 Buckeye Flyer story in which we profiled two wing members returning to military life after 16 plus years as civilians. We found another wing member who had a long break in service and wanted to share his story with you.

Senior Airman Gary Wilson, a maintenance systems analyst with the 445th Maintenance Squadron had an almost 17-year break in service. He served over six years on active duty with the Air Force and rose to the rank of buck sergeant, now senior airman. At age 41 he joined the wing and went to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, for school.

"I was the oldest in my class but not the oldest taking the course," Airman Wilson said "The school lasted 90 days." That's a long time away from home for a

husband and father of two. Plus, he was away from his full time job as a letter carrier with the USPS in Springfield, Ohio.

"Both of my children are in college, one is attending Sinclair Community College in Dayton and the other one is at Clark State Community College in Springfield," the airman said. Having older kids made leaving for three months a lot easier, he said.

"Upon my return to the Post Office from technical school, I was presented with a plaque showing the United States Postal Services' appreciation to me for my service. Of course, the honor of serving my country once again at a time of need is very important to me."

Sort of losing a stripe was another part of the re-enlisting equation. Things were different the first time Airman Wilson served, back in the 1980's. Dropping from the old rank of E-4 buck sergeant with its NCO status to senior

airman was not the best scenario, but Airman Wilson said it wasn't a huge deal, rank will come in time.

Another challenge was being in the tech school environment on an active duty base with 18 and 19-year-old airman fresh out of Basic Military Training.

"The only major requirement outside the classroom that we had to do was PT," Airman Wilson said. "I keep myself in pretty good shape so it wasn't too bad. The running wasn't too hard but overall I'm glad I'm a letter carrier with the Post Office."

Did he stay up with those 18 and 19-year-olds?

"I'm not going to say that. There were some guys just hauling. My run time went from under ten minutes to 13:30, but I'm 41 years old now."

And how about repeating basic?

"There is no way. No way. I just couldn't do it now."

Airman Wilson plans on staying with the 445th until he hits the 20 year mark, and perhaps beyond. He said that his squadron has made him feel at home and that he appreciates their level of professionalism.



Deployed Wright-Patt team preside over change of command ceremony

Total Force Team Wright-Patt is represented during a change of command ceremony at Camp Bucca, Iraq, June 13, 2007. Col. Denise Ridgway (left), Commander, 586 EMSG, Camp Arifjan, Iraq, presided over the 586 ESFS ceremony for the incoming commander Lt. Col. Jenkins (right). Senior Master Sgt. William Spradlin, (back) is the Security Forces First Sergeant, Camp Bucca, Iraq. All three military members are deployed from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Col. Ridgway is deployed from HQ AFMC; Lt. Col. Jenkins is an IMA to the commander of 88th Security Forces Squadron; and Senior Master Sergeant Spradlin is a traditional reservist with the 445th Airlift Wing. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

Reveille and Retreat symbolizing the finest military members for nearly 900 years

By Master Sgt. Mark Lyle
445th Honor Guard

Many of you know and refer to me as the "Honor Guard" guy. That's fine, but my real name is Master Sgt. Mark Lyle assigned to the 445th Airlift Wing as the Air Force Reserve Command Program Manager for Wright-Patterson AFB Honor Guard. I would like to share with you a story about something that happened to me June 5, 2007.

I was driving on base at approximately 7:28 a.m. The car ahead of me was stopped and pulled to the right side of the road. I followed the car in front of me and pulled over. Not seconds after I pulled to the right, four other vehicles passed us, seemingly in a hurry to get to their destination and ignoring the playing of Reveille.

For many, the playing of Reveille and Retreat seems to be a burden that keeps them from getting to one destination or another in the mornings and evenings. It makes some hide inside their buildings waiting for the "all clear" signal.

"Reveille" originated in 1812 and was used to muster units or as a means to conduct roll call. Additionally, it was used to signal sentries to leave off night challenging. Reveille was not originally intended as honors for the flag.

"Retreat" was first used by the French Army and dates back to the Crusades. The American Army has used this bugle call since the Revolutionary War. When you hear it, you are listening to a beautiful melody that has come to symbolize the finest qualities of military members everywhere for nearly 900 years. Retreat has always been at sunset and its original purpose was to notify sentries to start challenging until sunrise, and to tell the rank and file to go to their quarters and stay there.

Today, Reveille and Retreat ceremonies serve a twofold purpose. They signal the beginning and ending of the official duty day and serve as ceremonies for paying respect to the flag and those who serve it. The

ceremonies of Reveille and Retreat constitute a dignified homage to our National Flag from its raising in the morning to its lowering in the evening.

At Wright-Patt, Retreat and Reveille are broadcast over the base loud speaker system at 7:30 and 5:00 respectively. The proper response for military members in uniform during Reveille and Retreat is to face the flag or the direction of the sound of the music and stand at parade rest. When the flag is being lowered or the music is heard playing, come to attention and render a salute. Reveille in the morning is preceded by the bugle call, "to the colors". Retreat is followed by the National Anthem. The salute is held until the flag is lowered or the music ends.

Military members in uniform performing flight line duties are exempt from rendering military courtesies during Reveille and Retreat. However, when on the flight line and not performing flight line duties, proper courtesies will be rendered by both military and civilian members.

The proper response for civilians is to stand at attention, face the flag or music and place their right hand over their hearts. Vehicles should stop during both Reveille and Retreat. Passengers should turn down radios and remain quietly seated.

On the morning of June 5, I didn't really know the history behind Reveille. It wasn't until later that I took the time, looked it up and discovered its origin. I pass it on to you so that the next time you hear Reveille or Retreat, you will remember the history behind these honorable ceremonies. Hopefully, you will take a minute or two out of your busy day and reflect on the flag of this great country we live in. You will stop and remember all the men and women who have given their lives for the freedoms that we so often take for granted.

What I later found out on June 5, 2007, is that:

- 33 year old Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ryan Balmer of Indiana, died in Kirkuk, Iraq, of wounds sustained



when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device.

- 25 year old Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Kuglics of Ohio, died of wounds sustained when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in Kirkuk, Iraq.

- 19 year old Army Pfc. Timothy Vimoto of Kentucky, died of wounds sustained when his unit in Korengal Valley, Afghanistan was attacked by insurgents.

- 28 year old Army Sgt. Andrew Higgins of California, died of wounds sustained when his unit came in contact with enemy forces in Baqubah, Iraq.

- 20 year old Army Pfc. Justin Verdeja of California, died of wounds sustained when his unit in Baghdad, Iraq, was attacked by insurgents.

If, during Reveille or Retreat, remembering history is not enough, then pause and remember the men and women who are currently in harms way and who may be called on at any time, to give the ultimate sacrifice...their lives.

As a member of the Honor Guard I can tell you how close to home that sacrifice is. The Wright-Patt Honor Guard escorted Sergeants Balmer and Kuglics to their final resting places. They will never hear the National Anthem or be able to salute the flag again, but we have the opportunity to honor them every day by stopping and rendering the proper courtesies when Reveille and Retreat are played.

Reveille takes only 110 seconds and retreat 122 seconds. Both are small sacrifices for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

If you would like to know more about AF Customs and Courtesies, visit the web site:
<https://www.afmc-mil.wpafb.af.mil/HQ-AFMC/CS/csp/ch18.htm#cour>

Promotions

Congratulations to the following reservists recently promoted to the rank indicated.



Airman

Justin Silva, 87 APS

Airman First Class

Tracie Allen, 445 AMDS
Cheryl Beauchamp, 445 ASTS
Erin Black, 445 ASTS
William Bowden, 445 SFS
Danitra Culberson, 445 AMDS
Vincent Gibson, 445 OSS
Eddie Sanchez, 445 AMDS
Nicole Shider, 445 SVF
Mark Vickers, 445 AES

Senior Airman

Sean Fowler, 445 MXS
Mario Hinton, 445 LRS
Christopher Judd, 89 AS
Elizabeth Onnela, 445 MOF
Daniel Roten, 445 MXS
Timothy Sexton, 445 SFS
Brandon Vance, 445 CES

Staff Sergeant

Stephen Billingsley, 445 AMXS
Tara Buss, 445 AMDS
Stephanie Macek, 445 AMDS
Sean Miller, 445 AMDS
Robert Nieman, 445 CES
Christopher Plescher, 445 CES

Master Sergeant

Robert Anderson, 445 AMXS
Anthony Gallela, 445 ASTS
Robin Landon, 445 AMXS

First Lieutenant

Matthew Judd, 89 AS

Newcomers

Welcome to the following reservists, recently assigned to the 445th AW:

MSgt Grace Kunkleman, 445 MSF
MSgt Douglas Lowery, 445 AES
TSgt Timothy Grant, 445 AES
SSgt Laura Eversole, 87 APS
SSgt Sherica Hall, 445 OSS
SSgt Justin Hunt, 87 APS
SSgt Donald Johnson, 445 AMDS
SS Joshua Sharp, 445 AMXS
SrA Paul Chattin, 445 AMXS
SrA Gregory Coffey, 87 APS
SrA David Jones, 87 APS
A1C Kenneth Burkhardt, 445 MXS
A1C Ronald Campbell, 445 MXS
A1C Natalie Stiles, 445 AW

Awards

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently earned an award.

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col John Goodman, 445 AES
Maj William Barton, 445 AW
Maj Daniel Dooley, 89 AS
Maj Neil Repke, 445 ALCF
CMSgt Charles Burger, 445 MXG
SMSgt Cecil Dalton, 445 LRS
MSgt Paul Adducchio, 445 MXS
MSgt Freda Britain, 445 MOF
MSgt Kevin Conkle, 445 MXS
MSgt John Patten, 445 ASTS
TSgt Thomas McVey, 87 APS
TSgt Michael Sams, 445 MXS
TSgt Troy Whitaker, 445 LRS

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt Chirron Hayslett, 445 ASTS
TSgt Gary Muckerheide, 445 MOF

Air Force Achievement Medal

SSgt Brent Pemberton, 445 AW

News Briefs

Medical Squadron earns award

The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States selected the 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron as one of seven units as winners of the Air Force Reserve Command's 2006 AMSUS awards.

The 445th ASTS won in the category of aeromedical staging squadron (250 bed) during a May 3 announcement at Robin Air Force Base, Ga.

"It is a great honor for our unit," said Col. Oba Vincent, 445th ASTS Commander. "It's very indicative of the performance of all the troops. It's a real credit to them. They won the award."

Colonel Vincent said the ASTS has won an award from AMSUS twice in the past eight years, and they hope to win more.

"There's a lot of competition out there, so to win the 445th did a great job," Colonel Vincent said.

Fabrication shop earns nomination

Fourth Air Force awarded the 445th Maintenance Squadron Fabrication Flight as the nominee for the AFRC Maintenance Section of the Year Award. The 445th MXS Fabrication Flight earned the nomination after competing against ten other fabrication shops throughout 4th Air Force.

The shop, which consists of six reservists, is responsible for creating such items as mobility folders, canvas bags and sure slides and rafts for the C-5 aircraft. Reservists also sew Velcro and ranks on flight suits and make repairs.

Although the flight did not win AFRC Maintenance Section of the Year Award, congratulations on being first in the 4th Air Force.

Donations Needed



After receiving an e-mail from one of our deployed security force members, the Public Affairs office is asking for donations of baseball and softball gloves, bats and balls for deployed members to enjoy their time off. Please bring your donations to the 445th Public Affairs office. Thanks!



Fox and Friends live from the 445th flightline



A crew member from the Fox and Friends Morning Show sets the stage to broadcast live from the 445th Airlift Wing's flightline.



(Air Force photo/ Maj. Ted Theopolos)

Airman Kimberly Beaudoin, 445th Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron, is surprised with a promotion during Fox and Friends co-host Brian Kilmeade's visit to the 445th Airlift Wing.



Fox and Friends co-host Brian Kilmeade shakes hands with Master Sgt. Larry Unger while Lt. Col. David DeLuca, both of 89th Airlift Squadron, looks on.



(Air Force Photos/ Master Sgt. Doug Moore)

Fox and Friends co-host Brian Kilmeade broadcasts live from the 445th flightline with a crowd of Air Force active duty and reserve members.



Maj. Ted Theopolos coordinates with producer Patty McGeever and co-host Brian Kilmeade from the Fox and Friends Morning Show.



445th Airlift Wing reservists pose for a group photo with Fox and Friends co-host Brian Kilmeade.



Fox and Friends co-host Brian Kilmeade is on air during the morning show broadcast.

Co-host Brian Kilmeade from FOX News Network's "FOX and Friends" morning show broadcasted multiple live segments worldwide during the two hour program on June 8, 2007. The segments took place on the 445th Airlift Wing's flightline with a C-5 Galaxy as the backdrop. Wright-Patt was the third Air Force stop for "FOX and Friends" as part of the program's Salute to the Troops tour.

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