

KIWAN-O-GRAM
Friday, August 19, 2011
AUGUST 2011

Chester, VA

August 2011 Kiwan-O-Gram

Newsletter Editor: Kathleen J. Wiltsie.

Thank you in advance for your contributions to your newsletter.

OFFICERS: President:	Joan Benton
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Prez Joan Benton's 5 F's: **Faith, Family, Friends, Finances & Fun**

The following is a speech that Noelle Grosso gave at a Veteran's day remembrance for Girl Scouts.

I thought I would briefly talk about how my experience with and in the military, shaped me into the person I am.

I grew up as a proud Army dependent. My father is a Vietnam veteran and served 27 years in the Army as a Field Artillery Officer. I grew up on various Army bases, 17 to be exact if you include my AD assignments, admiring my father's selfless service and my family's sacrifice to serve. My grandfather served in both WWII and Korea. During visits to my grandparents' home, I loved to sit with my grandfather and go through his old Army photographs. It was amazing to me that he knew the first and last name of everyone in the photo and the city and state where they were from. And these were photographs with 12 guys in it around an AA Gun. After Saving Private Ryan came out in 1998, my grandfather began to share so many stories. He was drafted in Jun 43 with these men I saw in photographs and didn't come home until Jan 46. He entered Europe through Normandy just after D-Day and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. After hearing the stories, I was not surprised he knew these men in photographs - they were like brothers, they were his family. I also have 2 uncles who served in the Air Force. I grew up hearing the stories of combat and sacrifice.

Again, I knew that I wanted to follow in my father's footsteps. I decided in High School that I wanted to go to West Point and I worked very hard to get there. I graduated from the United State Military Academy in 1994. I was commissioned as an Army Lieutenant in the Aviation branch and trained at Fort Rucker,

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Alabama in the OH-58 Kiowa. My following assignment was with the 24th ID, which later became the 3rd ID at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, GA. I was an aviation maintenance officer, platoon leader & company XO. I especially loved my time at HAAF because I met my husband there. He was a Warrant Officer and Blackhawk pilot with the Aviation Brigade. My next and final assignment was here at Fort Lee where I was assigned to the 49th Petroleum Group. My most memorable experience here and in the Army was my time as the commander of the 109th QM Company from 2000 - 2002. I commanded 182 soldiers for 28 months. I loved every minute of command and gave everything I had into taking care of and developing these soldiers and they in return took care of me.

There are a few events in life where you can remember where you were exactly and every detail of that day. Sep 11th, 2001 I was on my way back into work after PT when I heard the horrific news of the terrorist attacks on our soil. After the initial shock, by the end of the day, I along with everyone else was ready to do whatever was necessary to serve, protect, and defend. During this time in my command, I had a platoon deploy as part of the initial show of force into Kuwait, but it wasn't until 2003, with the next commander, that the entire unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I remember still wanting to be with and take care of my soldiers still assigned to that unit. They were my family. GK Chesterton, an English Writer, explains courage as almost a contradiction. "Courage is a strong desire to live taking the form of the readiness to die." What courage our veteran's showed and continue to show in operations in both Iraq & Afghanistan. What courage our veteran's have shown throughout history.

After command, I was an Instructor at the Officer Advance Course. A number of elite foreign officers from all over the world would also attend the course. I mention this only to share with you what almost all of my foreign students would tell me when asked what stood out most during their time in the USA. They immediately noticed our patriotism and how we proudly display our flag everywhere. I thought this was cool. Our love of country was so obvious to them and so different than theirs.

It was a very hard decision to leave the Army after 10 years. What I soon realized was that you don't need a uniform to serve our country. We all have something to contribute to the community in which we live. I am able to do this through my company, Running Kids, which focuses on getting the children in the community active through physical fitness and racing events and through the Chester Kiwanis Club in which I am a member.

My experience with and in the military has shaped me into the wife, mother, person I am.

I have a strong commitment and love of country.

A Strong work ethic

I'm Mission focused

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I have an intense desire to serve

Can-Do Attitude

Always up for an adventure

I'm committed to a lifetime of faith and hard work

Of course Veterans Day is a day to honor military veterans & families for their service. Our hearts are filled with pride in the heroism of those who have served, those who have died, and those who continue to serve our country.

We are blessed to live in a land that affords such freedom and opportunity and that is protected by such brave men and women.

Thank you for your service.

Thank you

July & August Birthdays. Happy Birthday!!!

JULY

13 Ed Thompson
21 Walt Carter
22 Gary Crutchfield
31 Philip Crow

AUGUST

13 Ronnie Gray
15 Linda Torrence
26 Marshall Henry
27 Danny Wyatt

MEETINGS

Speaker Ideas always welcomed!!

August 22 Meeting @ Chester Library-Bring Appetizer

29 Meeting + Sept Board Meeting

Sept 5 Holiday / No Meeting

12 Meeting

19 Meeting

26 No meeting at RiteAid.....TBA Installation of Officers Night
to Replace meeting

LAUGH CORNER

FROM Gary Burleigh

The Haircut

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you; I'm doing community service this week.' The florist was pleased and left the shop.

When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop comes in for a haircut, and when he tries to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you; I'm doing community service this week.' The cop was happy and left the shop.

The next morning when the barber went to open up, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a Congressman came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I can not accept money from you;

I'm doing community service this week.' The Congressman was very happy and left the shop.

The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen Congressmen lined up waiting for a free haircut.

And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.

BOTH POLITICIANS AND DIAPERS NEED TO BE CHANGED OFTEN AND FOR THE SAME REASON!

Interview with member Thomas Sokol

Tom, Donna, Brian, Julie and Melissa

Tom is married to Donna, an elementary teacher and mother of their 4 children. 3 daughters and one son. Son Brian is an Occupational therapist and works for Advanced Orthopedics, his wife Katrina is a speech pathologist at the Veterans hospital in Richmond. They reside in Richmond and are expecting Tom and Donna's third grandchild in October. Their daughter Amy is also a speech pathologist and lives in Williamsburg with her two children a girl 2 and a boy 5. Amy's husband is a doctor of neuropsychology and works for the Veterans hospital in Hampton, VA. Tom and Donna's daughter Julie lives in Franklinton, NC and works as a culinary arts teacher at Northern Vance high School. Their youngest daughter Melissa is a librarian in Ohio.

Tom & sister Peg

Tom was born in Steubenville, Ohio and went to school with Dean Martin's nephew and played baseball against Raleigh Fingers, a Hall of Famer. His Mom, one of 10 children died at 87 in 2010. Tom's Dad died in 1997 and served 5 years under General Patton during WWII. Tom's sister Peg lives with her husband in Toronto, Ohio.

Tom

Tom held several VP positions while working for Sprint and had 10 corporate moves during his career in telecommunications. His jobs included being Sprint's CFO, chief Regulatory and External Affairs Officer and VP of Human Resources.

Tom's Hero

Tom's hero is his wife Donna who is now a 10-year Breast Cancer survivor.

Tom and KIWANIS

Tom's history with KIWANIS includes 10 years in Bristol, TN; 6 years with the Downtown Richmond club and 4 years in Chester. He serves on Bon Secours Foundation Board and always takes part in the Golf Tournament for the Massey Cancer Center and serves as a volunteer there. His most enjoyable charitable event is BRIGHT BEGINNINGS every August- helping those children less fortunate to get school supplies and clothes.

When I asked him what he missed about working now that he is retired, his response "Nothing!" He enjoys Racquet Ball, Golf, boating and reading.

Tom will become our President in 2012.

One unit of blood saves 3 lives. Blood given to the military will be overseas in 3 days.

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Here is information on upcoming opportunities to save lives.



Date	Location	Details
08/27/2011 07:00 AM - 01:00 PM - EDT	Fort Lee Fire Station House Number 2 520 A Ave Fort Lee, VA 23801	
08/27/2011 07:30 AM - 01:00 PM - EDT	Fort Lee, Virginia FORT LEE - 23RD QM BRIGADE FORT LEE FORT LEE, VA 23801	
09/21/2011 06:00 AM - 05:00 PM - EDT	Army Logistics University Fort Lee - Army Logistics University 562 Quarters Rd Bldg 12402 Fort Lee, va 23801	
10/29/2011 07:30 AM - 12:00 PM - EDT	Fort Lee Fire Station House Number 2 520 A Ave Fort Lee, VA 23801	

Thank you to all who contributed and helped to make this newsletter.
Submissions always welcomed.
KJ Wiltsie