



# INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD PRESENTS THE PURPLE HEART



THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
MAJ. GEN. R. MARTIN UMBARGER

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**On the Cover:** Retired Chief  
Warrant Officer 4 Rodney Harp,  
of Evansville, Ind., received  
the Purple Heart Medal today  
during a ceremony at the  
Indiana War Memorial.

**Issue Number 75**

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Tinsley.

INDIANAPOLIS – Retired Chief  
Warrant Officer 4 Rodney Harp,  
of Evansville, Ind., received the  
Purple Heart Medal today during  
a ceremony at the Indiana War  
Memorial.

Harp received the medal for  
injuries he sustained while  
deployed to Afghanistan in support  
of Operation Enduring Freedom in  
2010. Harp said was humbled to  
receive the medal.

“It’s a little overwhelming.  
This signifies that your country  
appreciates what you did,” said  
Harp. “And that means everything;  
that somebody cares.”

Harp, then a member of the  
2-19th Agribusiness Development  
Team, helped teach Afghan  
farmers veterinary practices in the  
Sabari District. During a mission  
on the morning of April 3, Harp,  
who was to meet with local Afghan  
farmers, received hostile indirect  
fire resulting in injury.

Indiana National Guard Adjutant  
General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin  
Umbarger, awarded the Purple  
Heart Medal to Harp who was  
accompanied by family and  
friends.

“Your nation is going to recognize  
you today for the wounds you



Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rodney Harp  
received the Purple Heart on December 17,  
2014 at the Indiana War Memorial.

suffered,” said Umbarger. “And  
we want to thank you for your  
service.”

The Indiana National Guard  
agribusiness teams deployed  
to Afghanistan to assist, teach  
and advise local farmers. The  
Guardsmen used their civilian-  
acquired skills, experience and  
knowledge to help Afghans build  
a sustainable future with their  
crops and farm animals.

“They had to have a way of life,”  
said Umbarger. “We helped them  
get sustainable agriculture.”



Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger and the Purple  
Heart recipient, retired Chief Warrant Officer 4  
Rodney Harp.



The Purple Heart is awarded to members of  
the armed forces who are wounded by an  
instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and  
posthumously to the next of kin in the name of  
those killed in action or de of wounds received.

# LOCAL WWII VETERAN TAKES HONOR FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON D. C.

By Staff Sgt. Lorne Neff  
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

Petty Officer Dan Mattingly had a front-row seat to the Allied invasion of France on D-Day. He operated a machine gun on the deck of a landing ship, tank, off the shores Normandy, France.

Mattingly's ship sat next to the Battleship Texas, and he watched as it pounded German positions and their 88mm flack guns on the shore. Later, his ship ferried the 5th Rangers to the same beach depicted in the movie "Saving Private Ryan."

"I felt lucky as hell to be alive," said Mattingly. "But really, we didn't have it that bad, they had already taken out the 88s."

Mattingly is one of more than 16 million Americans to serve in World War II, but now less than two million are alive, with hundreds passing each day.

Mattingly is the grandfather of April Morgan, a civilian employee for the Guard who works for Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, the adjutant general of the Indiana National Guard.

"You are part of the Greatest Generation," said Umbarger, "It's people like you that give us the freedom we have today."

Umbarger, sat down in his office recently and talked with Mattingly and reminisced. They discovered they both were at the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion held in Normandy in June 2014.

Mattingly had a front row seat to that event as well, and met the presidents of the U.S. and France.

Morgan said, Umbarger and retire Col. Dave Shorter helped Mattingly take another trip in October, this time to Washington, to see the WWII memorial with the group Indy Honor Flight.

"When I told him about the honor flight, I told him it might be next year before I can get you on," said Morgan. "He said 'I don't know if I'll make it to next year, but if I do, that sounds like a hell of a plan.'"



April Morgan, a State employee with the Indiana National Guard, and her Grandfather Dan Mattingly took a trip of a lifetime, provided by the Indy Honor Flight who fly veterans to D.C. on a one day trip to see the memorial to the war they fought. Photos provided by April Morgan.

So Morgan worked to get him on the flight this year.

"My grandparents are everything to me, my work ethic and everything I am is because of them," said Morgan. "My drive, my ambition comes from them."

Morgan accompanied her grandfather to nation's capital. They also visited Arlington Cemetery where his brother, Mike, is buried. Mike was in the 38th Infantry Division during WWII before transferring to the 28th Division. He was captured by the Germans and was a prisoner for more than two years until the end of the war.

"Those memories, I'm going to have forever, of that one day, are just amazing," said Morgan.

When they returned from their trip from Washington, they received an outpouring of support from well wishers in the form of letters and email. Despite short notice for the trip, Morgan said her grandfather received a lot of mail thanking him for his service.

"The support he got was amazing and that meant more to him than anything," said Morgan. "The whole trip was great. He read every letter, and he just felt appreciated."

"It was a wonderful time, and they were extremely good to us in every way," said Mattingly of the trip's coordinators.

Mattingly is now 93 years old and still lives in Tipton, Indiana, where his has lived his whole life, farming for more than 40 years before he retired.

He has four sons and a daughter, April's mother, and is still married to the girl he first laid eyes on in high school. He plans to write a few novels, play some golf and fish, although he admits, maybe not as much as he would like.

"I still have plenty to do," says Mattingly. "I just love to get off my butt and go get 'em."

Editor's Note: Matingly's wife, Morgan's grandmother, passed away of natural causes a few weeks after this article was written in January.



# TAPS

## **Arthur J. Heminger**

Arthur J. Heminger, 52, died Tuesday, September 2, 2014 in Lakeville, IN, from a motorcycle accident.

Arthur was born December 19, 1961 in Plymouth, IN to Russell and Flossie (Coonfare) Heminger. On December 24, 1992 in Starke County, IN, he was married to the former Marilyn Schlabach.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn; daughters, Nancy (Nicholas) Hohalek and Candaice Heminger; grandchildren, Allison and Michelle Hohalek, Lyndzy and Katie Gilley, and Arthur Bowen; his mother, Flossie Tyson; sister, Norma Nitz; and brothers, Dan Heminger and Carl Heminger.

Arthur was a welder and a retired from the National Guard, Plymouth. He was an ordained pastor at the Biker Church of the Heartland, Culver.

Funeral services will be Saturday, September 6, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) at the Church of the Heartland in Plymouth. Friends may call at the church on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the family. Rannells Funeral Home, Koontz Lake Chapel is handling arrangements.

## **LTC (Ret) John Hart**

John Robert "Bob" Hart, 86, of Princeton passed away Friday, Aug. 29, 2014 at Gibson General Hospital in Princeton. He was born on Sep. 28, 1927 in Princeton, to Norman E. & Vivian P. (McElderry) Hart. He was a United States Army Lieutenant/Colonel retiring in 1979 after 32 years of service. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Princeton. He was a life member of Princeton Elks 634, where he was a Past Exalted Ruler. He also worked at Colvin Funeral Home for over 10 years.

## **SGT (Ret) Michael A. Wey**

Michael Allen Wey, 54, of Bridgeton, passed away on Monday, Sept. 8, 2014, at Union Hospital with his family by his side. Michael was born July 31, 1960, the son of the late Gail and Shirley Wey. He graduated from Terre Haute North High School. Michael served with the United States Military for 24 years, where he retired in 2004. He married Barbara in 2011. Michael was a loving husband and a caring father.

## **1SG (Ret) Jon (Jack) Lockyear**

Jon F. (Jack) Lockyear, 78, of Newburgh, passed away Friday, September 5, 2014. He was born to Fred and Walburga Lockyear on January 30, 1936, in Millersburg, Indiana. Jack retired from Ayrshire Amax Mine as a mechanic. After retirement, he worked at T.S.C. in Boonville.

He was a 23 year Army Veteran, 1st Sergeant. Jack was a very patriotic person. He was a member of Yankeetown Methodist Church, Local 1907, Masonic Blue Lodge, Eugene Pate, American Legion and the Yankeetown Fire Department.

Jack enjoyed playing golf. He never met a stranger.

## **CSM (R) John D. Osborne**

CSM John D. Osborne, 78, of Lebanon, died at his residence surrounded by his family. John was the son of the late

Raymond F. Osborne and Margaret Juanita Osborne Graham. He was born December 23, 1935 in Boone County and graduated from the Lebanon High School. John married Shelba J. Meece on November 29, 1957 in Lebanon.

In 1952, John began his career with the Department of Natural Resources and the Army National Guard. He retired forty two and one half years later in 1995 with the rank of Command Sergeant Major. John was very proud of his service to his Country and would often participate in local patriotic services.

His memberships included Hope Community Church and the American Legion Post 113. He enjoyed collecting hats and coins.

## **CSM (Ret) Richard E. Gaither**

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Richard E. Gaither, 80, Plainfield, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2014, at Methodist Hospital.

Born Feb. 2, 1934, in Indianapolis, Richard was the widower of Joan E. Gaither.

He was a member of Mooresville Masonic Lodge #78 and was a car enthusiast.

Mr. Gaither was a decorated combat veteran of the Korean War. He later served in a variety of leadership positions with the Army National Guard in California and Indiana, including being a civil service technician in Indiana.

After retiring in 1980, Richard and Joan moved to the East Coast where they opened two senior citizen assisted-living communities and worked side by side to take care of the elderly.

## **Stephen A. Beckley**

Stephen A. Beckley, age 61, of New Palestine, passed away October 15, 2014 at his residence. He was born on May 19, 1953 in Franklin, IN as the son of James A. and Yvonne (Dye) Beckley. He graduated from Morristown High School in 1971. Stephen married Linda (Hooten) on December 29, 1977 in Franklin, IN.

He worked for Defense Finance and Accounting Services for many years before retiring on February 28, 2014. Mr. Beckley was a member Morristown United Methodist Church, and a past president of the Morristown Alumni and Veterans Day Council. He was the editor of a company newsletter and a co-author for "Walking the Hardwood."

As a child he won the soap box derby twice in Morristown. Anyone who knew him knew how quick witted he was and his good sense of humor. He was a family man and would help anyone in need. One of his most cherished accomplishments was being a grandpa. He was a movie buff with a very large movie collection and an extensive knowledge of movies. He helped develop the laser disc. He enjoyed playing guitar, videotaping, super hero comic books and photography.

## **William "Bill" A. Thompson**

William "Bill" A. Thompson 79, beloved husband of Patricia Nelson Thompson, passed away October 16, 2014. He was one of 7 children of Nellie Marie and John Howard Thompson. He was a father to Rachelle Lovett (Rick) and Lori Smith (Dee); and Pa to 11 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren.

Bill was an avid volunteer with University of Indianapolis'

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Physical Therapy program and will be missed there. He retired from Eli Lilly Company and the Indiana Air National Guard. He was a lifelong member and former state officer of the Moose Lodge International and a Past Master of the Masonic Lodge.

**Orville Ray Yount**

Orville R. Yount, 83, of Indianapolis, was born August 15, 1931 and died on November 4, 2014. He graduated from Tech High School and served in the National Guard for 21 years. He was employed as an Auto Body Repairman for 50 years. After retirement, he worked for Church Brothers Auto Body doing PR work. He also attended Indian Creek Christian Church.

**LTC (R) Nicholas D “Nick” Cheesman**

Nicholas D. Cheesman 60, of Boonville, IN, and formerly from Bloomington, IN, passed away peacefully on Sunday November 23, 2014 at his residence in Boonville with his family at his bedside after six years of battling cancer.

Nick was born on July 18, 1954 to Charles and Phyllis (Davis) Cheesman. Nick graduated from Smithville High School in 1972, and earned his BS degree from Indiana University and his MS degree from Oakland City College.

**SFC (R) Paul E. Bauman, Jr.**

Paul E. Bauman, Jr., 70, of Kewanna passed away unexpectedly at 3:43 p.m., Friday, November 28, 2014 at his residence.

Born on November 25, 1944 in Winamac, he was the son of Paul E. and Florence Rosella (Braun) Bauman. On August 5, 1967 he married Vivian H. Stair, she survives.

He was a 1962 graduate of North Caston High School and a 1963 graduate of Purdue University Ag Short Course.

Paul was a lifelong farmer and he retired in 1991 from the U.S. Army National Guard after 27 years. He also was formerly employed with the Indiana Department of Transportation for 8 years and then with Dilling Mechanical where he worked at Caterpillar in Lafayette. Paul and his wife also were caretakers for over 10 cemeteries for over 30 years and he also “supervised” Viv’s Lunch Service for over 30 years where they worked for as many as 8 auctioneers through the years. Paul loved working on the farm, building furniture and constructing buildings on the farm.

He was a member of St. Ann’s Catholic Church, a charter member of Grass Creek Lions Club, Indiana Racing Lions and he was also a member of the American Legion.

Paul was a loving family man who was dearly loved by his family. He always had a smile and a very infectious laugh. He loved life and kept himself doing things for others. He had suffered the past 3 years with multiple Myeloma Cancer and End Stage Renal failure.

**SSG (R) Ludwayde Nunlet**

Ludwayde Nunley, 50, of Jeffersonville, Indiana was called home on December 2, 2014. He was born in Southern Indiana on August 19, 1964 to Spencer and Jerrietta Nunley. Ludwayde was a Army veteran and retired from the military after 29 years. He enjoyed

riding his Harley Davidson Motorcycle and spending time with his family and friends.

**TAPS**

*Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky;  
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*

*Fading light, dims the sight,  
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.  
From afar, drawing nigh, falls the night.*

*Thanks and praise, for our days,  
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath  
the sky;  
As we go, this we know, God is nigh.*

*Sun has set, shadows come,  
Time has fled, Scouts must go to their beds  
Always true to the promise that  
they made.*

*While the light fades from sight,  
And the stars gleaming rays softly send,  
To thy hands we our souls, Lord, commend.*

