

TLSC/KWV  
P. O. BOX 802541  
HOUSTON, TX.  
77280-2541  
www.kwvahouston.org

TEXAS LONE STAR CHAPTER / KOREAN WAR VETERANS



# THE WARRIOR

Volume 22- Issue 10

OCTOBER 2012

Formed - February 1991

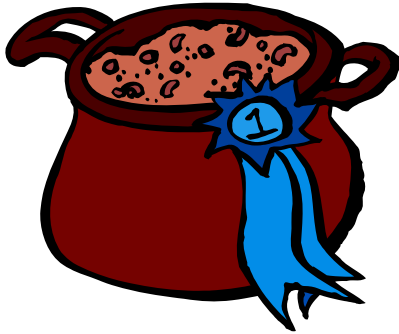


By Lee & Charlotte Henderson, Publishers / Editors

*Our Mission as Editors of the Warrior, is to Enlighten the Minds and Hearts of its Members!*

## CHILI COOK-OFF & SILENT AUCTION

Guess What? October is here and that means the Chili cook-off is right around the corner. We have 6 volunteers to cook their wonderful chili, but if you did not sign up and want to make your favorite chili, please do so, just make it and bring it to the kitchen area where we will be eating. plus we **need donations** for the silent auction. Remember, the Silent Auction is our fund raiser, if you have an item to donate, please bring it to the October meeting. There are merchants that will donate to the cause, so please ask them.



look through your closet or visit the thrift stores and

\* Prizes for the best costume.

In the past, members have the event more fun. After Halloween is in members like to dress and it's fun to see what



dressed in costume to make all, it is October and October, and many of our up in costume for the event, everyone looks like. So, find your perfect outfit.

Prizes are also awarded to the cook with the best cooking. If you signed up to bring a side dish, don't forget it. Different people have signed up to bring rice, beans, crackers, cheese, salads, drinks (soda's, tea) and desserts. If you want to bring something to contribute to the dinner, please do.

chili, so, start



Please arrive at the October meeting around 4 pm, as all the eating and browsing and bidding of the Auction items takes place before the meeting at 6 pm.



# Happy Halloween

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

The date has been set: **December 22nd, a Saturday.**

The cost will be: **\$22.00 per person.**

Location: **Brady's Landing, 8505 Cypress St., Houston, Tx. 77012.**  
(On the ship channel, east Houston.)

Contact **Nelda Napp 281-443-1809.**

**1207 Whitestone, Houston, Tx. 77073-1242**

Make checks payable to: **KWV/TLSC**



### CHARITY: WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Submitted by Bob Mitchell

We all get a lot of requests for donations from many different charities, but how can we be sure that the money is being used properly? As it turns out, you can. There are two different organizations that track all the charities and rate them on how well they do in spending your money. They are totally independent, like Consumer Reports, so they say just what they find, which is why they are sometimes called the pit bulls of the charity business.

The first one is the American Institute of Philanthropy, or AIG. They rate on an alpha system, just like in school, starting with A+ and going down to F. Just because a charity is well known does not mean they do a good job with the money. They use guidelines such as:

- At least 60% of the money is used for the charity purpose, only 40% on fundraising and administration.
- No more than \$35. is spent for every \$100. raised in the fundraising process.

Top rated charities use 75% of the money for the charity purpose, and spend \$25. or less on fundraising and administration per \$100. raised.

To view the information, go to AIP on the web. They want you to pay \$40.00 for a copy of the list but, if you click on "Top Rated", you can see the ones with the best ratings. Click on "A\_Z Listing" and you can see all of them, but you can't see the ratings, except for those that are highlighted in color. Click on those and you can find out about them and related charities as well. If you do not have internet access you can obtain a sample copy of the Charity Rating Guide & Watchdog Report by sending a check for \$3.00 S&H to:

Charity Watch  
P.O. Box 578460  
Chicago, IL., 60657

The second organization is called Charity Navigator. They use a Star system, such as is used in rating hotels, restaurants and movies, and rate them on the basis of Accountability and Transparency. It's all explained on the website. If you click on "View list of 547 Charities" under new Rating on the right side of the Hope page, you can see the rating of all of them. If you don't have internet access, you can contact them by writing to:

Charity Navigator  
1 '39 Harristown Road  
Glen Rock, NJ 07452

We all have limited amount of money for Charitable donations and, with this input, you can feel more confident that your money is being used wisely. Prepare to be surprised at what you discover. It's a real eye opener.

### ATM PIN - NUMBER REVERSAL

If you should ever be forced by a robber to withdraw money from an ATM machine, you can notify the police by entering you PIN in reverse.

For example, if your pin number is 1234, then you would put in 4321. The ATM system recognized that you PIN number is backwards from the ATM card you placed in the machine. The machine will still give you the money you requested, but unknown to the robber, the police will be immediately dispatched to the location. All ATMs carry this emergency sequencer by law.

This information was recently broadcast on Crime Stoppers however; it is seldom used because people just don't know about it.

**Wreaths Across America- Houston (WAA-H)-**  
**Dec 15, 2012 -11AM-**  
**Houston National Cemetery**

On December 13, 2008 WAA-H began their first annual program of placing wreaths on individual graves/headstones at the Cemetery. 14,000 wreaths were placed and TLSC was there in support both financially and with manpower.

AND-we have supported WAA-H every year since-2009,2010,2011 both financially and with manpower. I can assure you that Scott deMasi and his WAA-H team deeply appreciate our financial and manpower support. They work very hard (all volunteers) and the proof is shown by the number of wreaths placed: 2009-22,000 wreaths,2010-26,000 wreaths,2011-36,000 wreaths.

In 2011 TLSC raised and contributed \$3400+(doubling our contribution of 2010).

**THIS YEAR OUR GOAL IS \$3500+.**

At our August Chapter meeting, I asked those in attendance to make their decision as to making a donation again this year and bring their checks (or cash!) to the September Chapter meeting. I am asking all TLSC members to make their decision and if you are going to make a donation either bring it to our September Chapter meeting or if unable to be at the meeting, mail it to our P.O Box 802541-Houston TX., 77280-2541, by September 20. **In all cases, make the check, money order or Cashiers Check to: TLSC-KWV and designate it is for Wreaths Across America-Houston. We want to finish this project by September 30th as we have a lot going on in October and November**

It goes without saying that I am very proud to be a member of this chapter and all members should be also. We get things done. Let's do it again.

**CONDOLENCES**

We send our sincere condolences to the family of **Norman Hackler**, Life member 439 Norman passed away on September 14th, 2012. Norman leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Charlotte, three children, Alan and wife Lisa, Lee An MacDonald and husband Richard and Linda DeShazer and husband Michael, and 8 grandchildren.



In the Korean War, Norman served in the 40th Division, 223rd Regiment, A Company as a Sgt. 1st Class.



A memorial service was held Sept. 18th, with internment to be held in Los Angeles, California.

**CONDOLENCES**

We send our sincere condolences to **Col. Ralph Melcher**. Ralph's wife of 65 years, **Anita**, passed away on 12/07/2011 at the age of 91.

**CONDOLENCES**

We send our sincere condolences to the family of former member **Frances W. (Arch) Ethun**. Arch has been hospitalized for a long time. He passed away on Tuesday morning Sept. 25,2012. He is survived by his wife, Karola Ethun, children-Francis, Jr, Richard, Duncan and Frances, 10 Grandchildren and 15 Great Grandchildren.



There will be a Memorial service for him at the American Heritage Funeral Home, 10710 Veterans Memorial, Houston, Tx., on Saturday, October 6th at 10:00 AM.

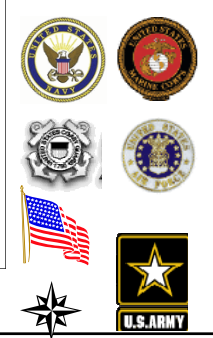
Arch served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam, and was a member of the VFW and Past Pres. of the Houston National Cemetery Council.

Burial will be in the National Cemetery in Arlington, VA., in the Spring, when the Cherry Blossoms are



## **“WARRIOR DONATIONS” Honor Roll for “July 2012 to July 2013”**

The editors would like to acknowledge and thank the following members and patrons of the *Warrior* who have contributed in helping to defray some of the cost of printing and mailing. As you know, we now have the **Warrior on line for those with computers**, but the Post Office has informed us that the cost of mailing has gone up, so we still need your help. We thank you for your generous support and contributions. **We will be using the funds received to defray the costs of the newsletter. The following names will be published monthly through the July 2013 issue. Be sure and have your name included. Fill in the sponsor card, seen below, or included in your newsletter, (those that are mailed) and return with your contribution. Thanks: Your editors: Lee & Charlotte Henderson**

Ammerman, Mary Arnwine, Cleve Ballard, Martha Barnhart, Harvey Beecroft, B. E. Chavez, Jimmy Cipriano, Ray Conte, Tom Coussons, Charles Dilick, Michael Dry, Carl Duncan, Jim Ehrlund, Ruby Fry, Hank Glass, Joe Goody, Richard Hinojosa, Roberto	Hollan, Albert Johnson, Ruth Kirk, James Laird, Grace Levine, Janice Maloy, Ted McLendon, Mary McLendon, Charles Melcher, Ralph Middlebrooks, W. Middlebrooks, Butch & Beverly Mulrooney, Joseph Mulrooney, Maureen Munguia, Tony Nathan, Shirley Pedraza, John	Pendarvis, Floyd Riess, Don Robinson, Forrest Romano, Joe Singleton, Carl Sloane, Jane Spencer, Milly Striedel, H. E. Wallace, Peter Watkins, James Younger, Marianne		
				* - Indicates more than one donation

### **Yeah, That'll Work**

This technician's company uses satellite communications to send and receive messages from tugboats moving barges up and down major rivers. Each day, by 2 p.m. the tugboats send data on the day's activities to the company's traffic department.

At least that's how it's supposed to work.

"I got a call from our traffic dept. saying they only got data from about half the boats and would I check on it?" technician says. He calls the satellite company, but the technician there says there's no problem on his end. Meanwhile, the traffic dept. calls again—they're still not getting messages from the missing boats. "So I called the boats and got them to re-send the messages, and they came through." says our tech. "The problem apparently cleared itself up." But he isn't quite satisfied, "I called the satellite company back to see what happened, and what we could do if the problem recurred." Satellite company's technician doesn't know what happened and doesn't have any way of finding out. "In order to track the messages, we would need an identification number from the message." he tells our tech. We could find out those numbers eventually, he figures. "Also, the identification numbers are recycled every half hour." tech continues. "So I need to get you the identification number within that time?" he asks. "Right", says the satellite tech. "So to summarize," says our tech glumly, "we need to give you the identification numbers of the messages we haven't received, within half an hour of not receiving them?"

### **In Memory of —**

Viencent Aguelera  
 Pat Canny  
 G. K. Fry - WWI  
 Birt A. Jobe—WWII  
 Charles Laird  
 Jack Levine  
 Joe Mulrooney  
 Howard Nathan  
 John J. O'Flynn  
 Roy Russell  
 Mickey Spencer  
 Lt. Thornton  
 Marvin Treadwell

W. O. Watkins WWI  
 All P.O.W.'s  
 For all who Gave!

*This Space is for you to Remember someone you Care for.*

Texas Lone Star Chapter – KWV  
 P. O. Box 802541—Houston, TX 77280-2541

**“Warrior” Sponsor**  
**I want to be a sponsor of the Warrior for**  
**July 2012—July 2013**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member number: \_\_\_\_\_





# Membership Chapter & Other Events

## TIME TO RENEW

Dues are \$25.00 - Life Membership \$200.00 – Send renewal to TLSC/KWV – P O Box 802541 – Houston TX 77280-2541.

**The following memberships are due October 1, 2012**

Alvin Annoot	M848	Robert Campbell	M847
Alvin Hollas	M381	Henry Martinez	M595
Oscar Migl	M385	Jimmy Richardson	M599

## RENEWALS

## DRAWING 9/20/2012

Max Johnson	Candle
Jim Duncan	Book
Bob Mitchell	Book
Hank Daumann	
Max Johnson	Aloe plant
Ruby Ehrlund	Tall vase
Georgia Jackson	Coffee mugs
Martha Ballard	Hand held fan
Forrest Robinson	
Rod Ramsey	
Hank Fry	
Maggie Bazan	Card case
Ruth Johnson	Angel statue
Roger Morris	Book

The 50/50 drawing was won by Roger Morris. Roger donated the winnings (\$31.00) to Wreaths Across America.

The items for the nights drawing were donated by: Bob Mitchell, Kimberly Ehrlund, Charlotte Henderson, Martha Ballard, Dick Halferty and George & Maggie Bazan.

*Thank you everyone for these great items.*

## \* CHAPTER COIN \*

Recently, members of the Board, voted to have a Chapter Coin. This coin is available for sale to members only, or spouses of deceased members, the coins can be given to anyone the member chooses.

*Since it contains the image of our Monument in Austin, on one side, it cannot be sold to the general public. (This monument was given to the State of Texas.) The other side of the coin contains the Texas Lone Star Chapter emblem.*

The coin sells for **\$8.50** each and members can purchase as many as they want, to give to kids or grandchildren, as a memento of your service

## 1 OCTOBER

4th - Board Meeting 4 pm  
 8th - Columbus Day (Observed)  
 13th - U.S. Navy Established 1775  
 18th - Meeting - Chili Cook-off 4:00, 6pm  
 24th - United Nations Day  
 31st - HALLOWEEN



## NOVEMBER

1st - Board Meeting 4 pm  
 4th - Daylight Savings Time Begins  
 6th - Election Day  
 10th - Marine Corp Established  
 11th - VETERAN'S DAY  
 15th - General Meeting 6 pm  
 22nd - Thanksgiving Day



## RAMSEYS ATTEND 24<sup>TH</sup> REUNION OF 32<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT

Rod and Sandra Ramsey travelled to Watertown, NY to attend Rod's unit reunion on August 21 through 25. Watertown is located in far upstate western New York State. It is the city next to Fort Drum where the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) is based. Various units of the Division have been deployed to Afghanistan recently including the First Battalion of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment (1/32 Inf.). The 1/32 has recently returned to its home station from its most recent deployment to Afghanistan as of April 2012. The reunion group of Korean veterans spent a morning visiting with the 1/32 Battalion at its barracks in Fort Drum, and in addition held a joint memorial service in a post chapel to honor those soldiers who were killed in action during the latest deployment. The joint service also honored the Association veterans who passed on since the last reunion. The 1/32 suffered a total of 14 soldiers lost to enemy action during the period of April through October, 2011. The memorial service was a tribute to these young heroes as well as to the 13 veterans of the Association who had died in the past year.

*Submitted by Rod Ramsey (current president of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment Association.)*

Tact is the ability to close your mouth, before someone else wants to.

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAY'S

James Belcher . . . . . 2nd  
 Joseph Correa . . . . . 2nd  
 Forrest Robinson . . . . . 3rd  
 Jim Duncan . . . . . 4th  
 Bill Craigmill . . . . . 4th  
 Vincent Aguilera . . . . . 5th  
 Tom Lyke . . . . . 5th  
 Paul Johnson . . . . . 6th  
 Eloise Illanne . . . . . 6th

Marie Palmer . . . . . 6th  
 James Tarver . . . . . 6th  
 Homer Gregory . . . . . 8th  
 Marlene Susca . . . . . 8th  
 Ralph DeCosta . . . . . 9th  
 Robert Arias . . . . . 10th  
 Floyd Frawner . . . . . 11th  
 Antonio Munguia . . . . . 11th  
 Alvin Hollas . . . . . 13th

Bernard Bergan . . . . . 15th  
 Tom Conte . . . . . 16th  
 Ralph Hockley . . . . . 17th  
 Vito Susca . . . . . 18th  
 Arnulfo Cortez . . . . . 18th  
 Ralph Melcher . . . . . 20th  
 Harvey Barnhart . . . . . 21st  
 Jack Starlin . . . . . 21st  
 Beverly Middlebrook . . . . . 22nd

Kenneth Nevill . . . . . 22nd  
 George Conrad . . . . . 25th  
 Bernice Hollas . . . . . 25th  
 Bob Bighouse . . . . . 26th  
 Bobby Owens . . . . . 26th  
 Estella Frawner . . . . . 29th  
 Carolyn Hockley . . . . . 29th  
 Raul Trevino . . . . . 29th

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY'S

**Tom & Charlotte Lyke . . . . . 58 yrs . . . . . 10/1/1954**  
**Ralph & Eva DeCosta . . . . . 58 yrs . . . . . 10/4/1954**  
 Floyd Y Estella Frawner . . . . . 8th  
 David & Willetta Garner . . . . . 9th  
**J. B. & Shirley Hatfield . . . . . 53 yrs . . . . . 10/13/1959**  
 Bob & Phyllis Ottis . . . . . 16th  
 Ernest & Elrose Baumgart . . . . . 23rd  
**Alvin & Bernice Hollas . . . . . 59 yrs . . . . . 10/25/1953**

Gene & Camila Lugo . . . . . 5th  
 Donald & Susan Belken . . . . . 7th  
**Joe & Muriel Mueller . . . . . 59 yrs . . . . . 10/9/1953**  
**Henry & Eva Martinez . . . . . 59 yrs . . . . . 10/11/1953**  
**Clifford & Louise Petrey . . . . . 59 yrs . . . . . 10/15/1953**  
 Roland & Barbara English . . . . . 20th  
 Albert & Debbie Hollan . . . . . 22nd  
 L. B. & Peggy Wilmeth . . . . . 30th

***Congratulations to our members celebrating their 50th + Anniversary's !!***

If your name has been left off the above lists, or the dates are wrong, please contact us at:  
**bhenderson49@comcast.net**, also, if your anniversary is 50 years or more, and has not been acknowledged,  
 please contact us.

### SPECIAL INVITATION FROM KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO ALL KOREAN WAR VETERANS

#### 60th ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN WAR COMMEMORATION

TRIP TO KOREA WILL BE THE FINAL ONE IN 2013  
 YOU MAY TAKE JUST THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM ONLY, OR  
 EXTEND TOUR TOGETHER. IT IS YOUR CHOICE.  
 YOUR JOURNEY WILL BE A DREAM COME TRUE,  
 A ONCE IN A LIFETIME.

May 18 thru 25 or May 25 thru June 02, 2013

All Korean War Veterans and Family Members

*Korean Government pay 50% of the airfare for all Veterans and 30% for spouse.*

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS

THANK YOU;  
 WON PAE PAK

5815 CREEKWAY ST., SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78247  
 Tel.: 210-257-6068 E-mail: kwv625@yahoo.com

**KEEPING IN TOUCH - SICK BAY**

**Carlos and Martha Ballard** recently returned from a sightseeing trip to the East Coast and Niagara Falls. A complete detail of this fabulous trip can be found in the attachment, be sure to read.

**Correspondence:**

Member **James Watkins** found an article among his possessions, and made a copy to send to us. This article appeared in the Feb. 6, 1991 issue of The Chronicle. It is about the founders, Nat Young and Joe Coyle, seeking veterans of the Korean War. *Thank you very much!!!*

**RETURN ADDRESS.....**

It was brought to our attention, that there was no longer a return address on our newsletter. (Thank you Joe Glass for alerting us to the oversight). If you look on the front (1st page), you will notice the address in the upper left corner of the page.

**KOREAN WAR EXPERIENCES PROGRAM**

**By Bob Mitchell**

For the benefit of our newest members, we have a program that has been in operation for a few years now where Chapter members talk about their Korean War experiences at one of our General Meetings. The talks are videotaped, and copies go to the speaker, to our Chapter records, to our webmaster and one copy goes to the National Korean War Museum for their permanent archives. The webmaster posts the video on our Chapter website, where friends and relatives can view it, no matter where they are. If you go to our website at [kwvahouston.org](http://kwvahouston.org) you can see those already there. To date, there are over 30 videos posted. You should consider this opportunity to tell your story for the benefit of you families. Four of those posted are of members now deceased and their families were very happy to have this memento of them to enjoy

To sign up for the program, contact **Don Napp** at **281-443-1809** or at [DONALD.NAPP51@gmail.com](mailto:DONALD.NAPP51@gmail.com). Don will sign you up and tell you how the program works and how to prepare for it. For all you other members who have not yet done so, there is plenty of room for you as well. Do it today. You won't regret it.

This program will give your children and children a visual account and written account, (as most of you will need to write your thoughts down) of your activities during the war. This is something everyone should have to pass on to their family.

*The editor requests a copy of your experience to put in the newsletter. Thank You!!!*

Whether you're retired from the military, presently serving in one of the branches of the armed forces, or living each day protecting and serving in the local communities of the United States of America you are to be honored for your brave sacrifice.

Your unwavering fortitude and resolve to protect the freedoms that are held dear by every American will forever impact our nation. Your individual name may not be written on the pages of American history books, but your spirit, sacrifice, and determination have written history and preserved freedom!

Perhaps President George W. Bush said it best: "Your courage, your willingness to face danger for your country and for each other, made this day possible. Because of you, our nation is more secure. Our commitment to liberty is America's tradition-declared at our founding, affirmed in Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms, asserted in the Truman Doctrine and in Ronald Reagan's challenge to an evil empire. In the words of the prophet Isaiah: "To the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free'"

**Thank you for serving our country and our cause.**



# WREATH'S ACROSS AMERICA—HOUSTON



The Wreath's Across America campaign for 2012 has begun again.

Last year was a great success, and this years goal is to cover even more resting places than was achieved last year. Be a part of History. Donate to the **WAAH**.

Each wreath is **\$15.00**. Make checks payable to the **TLSC/KWV**. The TLSC will make a check payable to the WAAH for all funds collected, please have your donations in as soon as possible, so the donation can be forwarded to the WAAH .

The distribution of the Wreath's will be:

**December 15, 2012 @ 11:00 AM @ Houston National Cemetery**

Bailey, Richard	Ramsey, Rod		
Ballard, Carlos & Martha	Smith, Charles		
Bighouse, Bob	Spencer, Milly- <i>in memory of Mickey Spencer</i>		
Jim Duncan	Susca, Vito		
Fitzmorris, Mary- <i>in memory of Tom F.</i>	Velasco, David & Frances		
Glass, Joe	Watkins, James		
Johnson, Max & Ruth			
Laird, Grace- <i>in memory of Charles Laird</i>			
Martino, Nuncio			
Morris, Roger			
Naomi, Sam			
Napp, Don			
Priger, Ray			

## OFFICERS

## DIRECTORS

President	Hank Daumann	281-785-6992
1st Vice Pres.	Jim Duncan	713-464-0633
2nd Vice Pres.	Rod Ramsey	281-497-4054
Secretary	Roger Morris	713-729-5929
Treasurer	Bob Bighouse	713-464-3676

Term Expires		
03/13	Hank Fry	713-774-4922
03/13	Wayne Telling	281-376-0100
03/13	Forrest Robinson	832-259-3977
03/14	Carlos Ballard	281-499-5334
03/14	Dick Halferty *	832-660-8286
	* Chairman of the Board	

## FORMER PRESIDENTS

- 1991-92 - Nat Young
- 1992-93 - W. B. Kirchheim
- 1993-94 - Don Foisie
- 1994-95 - James Duncan
- 1995 -97 - Bill Hare
- 1997-98 - John Jackson
- 1998-99 – “Stoney” Stone
- 1999-00 – Sal Gambino
- 2000-01 – Howard Nathan
- 2001-02 – Bob Mitchell
- 2002-03 - Carlos Ballard
- 2003-04 - Don Napp
- 2004-05 - Charlie Ehrlund
- 2005-07 - Buddy Blair
- 2007-08 - Charlie Ehrlund
- 2008-09 - Carlos Ballard
- 2009-11 - Bob Bighouse

## COMMITTEES

CHAPLAIN	Max Johnson
COLOR GUARD	Don Napp, Asst. - Wayne Telling
EDUCATION	
HISTORIAN	Carlos Ballard
MIA / POW	David Velasco
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Manny Carnero
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SGT. AT ARMS	Forrest Robinson
KOREAN COMMUNITY LIAISON-	Johnney Lee
VA CEMETERY	“Stoney” Stone / John Jackson
VA HOSPITAL	Buddy Blair
VETERANS COALITION	Jim Duncan, Stoney Stone
WARRIOR EDITOR	Lee Henderson ( <a href="mailto:bhenderson49@comcast.net">bhenderson49@comcast.net</a> )
KWV MUSEUM LIAISON	Bob Mitchell
MEMBERSHIP DUES	Bob Mitchell
WEBSITE LIAISON	Jim Duncan
NEWSLETTER LIAISON	Rod Ramsey



## Ballard's Have *Waterful* Vacation

If you have never driven along the Eastern Coast line or visited Niagara Falls, Canada you have truly missed some of God's most beautiful creations. Carlos and I took that journey recently.

We flew from IAH on September 12<sup>th</sup> to Boston, Massachutes, picked up a rental car and started out. Our first destination was Bar Harbor, Maine. It was dark when we arrived at our reserved hotel, we were tired, it had been a long day, (we left home at 3:00 am) so we were anxious to just get "bedded down".

The sun came shinning in the next morning and much to our surprise, there was the Atlantic Ocean right out our patio door and three cruise ships were docked there. Beautiful view and surroundings. I was most anxious to get down town to see everything, after a breakfast of a little bit of everything they offered including jumbo fresh blueberries we headed out. We walked, we shopped, we



toured, and we ate ice cream with fresh fruit, made right in the ice cream store. So much to see, beautiful houses, shops, parks, the harbor was alive with sail boats, fishing boats and tourist like us, just like I've seen on TV, I couldn't help but think about the movie "Jaws"

Dinner was a treat, Maine lobsters that weighed in at 1.5 lb. each with those red potatoes that taste better than they do at home and of course, corn on the cob, Carlos had been waiting for that meal since we decided on the trip back in June. The next day was for touring, we toured Cadillac Mountain and surroundings areas, I love the stories tour guides have to tell, surely they are a little "enhanced" sometimes but who cares, it makes for a more interesting trip. Bar Harbor, Maine is beautiful; we truly enjoyed it, now time to move on.

Second destination is Jackson, New Hampshire and the Nordic Village Resort. The distances between states was more than we assumed it was but that turned out to be a good thing (I didn't do any of the driving, I just enjoyed looking) I love the small towns; they are so "real". Weather was perfect, in the mid to high 60's and crystal clear. Nordic Village was high in the mountains, we had a condo complete with kitchen, (who's cooking?) Again, we toured MT Washington and the villages, had more great food. The only moose we saw was iron, guess the real ones just weren't in the mood to move. These coastal towns have the most beautiful old churches all painted white with stained glass windows and tall steeples and I find the covered bridges very interesting and worth taking pictures of.

Destination three is Burlington, Vermont and a nice little La Quinta Hotel near the airport. Did more sightseeing, nice dinner and beer at the Windjammer and off to bed, we have to get up at 2:30am for our flight to Toronto, Canada. Made it! Cleared customs and took off, (long flight....about 25 minutes).

Final Destination (almost) had a little problem here; they didn't have our reservation for an air bus to Niagara Falls which is a two hour drive away. After some strong discussion, Carlos convinced them they had made an error.....air bus and driver was produced pronto. Well here we are in Niagara Falls, Canada in the Hilton Hotel on the 32<sup>nd</sup> floor looking right down into 'THE FALLS'. Oh my goodness, what an awesome sight to see! Everything we can see is beautiful, the grounds, the fountains, the flowers, and the weather, again is picture perfect. Much to my surprise. Looking out the window of our suite just about dusk I see what looks like a high wire walker coming across from the tower across the street to our hotel. He gets closer and closer, has a balance pole and knows what he is doing. NO safety devices what so ever. He comes in at the 55th floor penthouse successfully. I find out later he is 68 years old, has no fear and loves to high wire walk; he does it every night during the summer, weather permitting. We were just above where Nik Wallenda walked over The Falls in June, never will we understand how he made it!

Another day, after a good buffet breakfast, we are on a Maid of the Mist tour and will end the day on a boat ride down in The Falls. There are rain showers today, but that's ok, we know we will be wet before we get back to the hotel. We toured the "tunnels" behind the falls early in the tour where they gave us a bright yellow garbage bag like poncho to keep us dry, so much spray and force we got wet anyway, but oh so interesting, almost scary. After lunch and other stops, each with a souvenir shop, it's finally time to get down in the river and get close up to the falling waters. Believe me, that was breathtaking, the force and the water current is unimaginable. That tug/barge like boat was pretty smooth, issued us a blue poncho and took us right up to the USA side and "The Horseshoe" falls on the Canada side. When the Captain began to turn back, he gave that boat all the power he had and it turned so nicely and headed back. The shore line is pretty, the cliffs and sculptures cut in the granite and stone by years and years are indescribable. They tell us Niagara Falls furnishes 20% of all the drinking water used in the United States. It spills over something like a million barrels every second. At night they light it up, it's pretty but nothing like the light of day when you can see that gorgeous water rushing over and swirling in the river below.

It was a great trip for us, we enjoyed every minute of it and we discovered a few things about people, everyone was nice but they are nothing like us Southerners or us Texans, we are friendly fun loving folks and usually never meet a stranger. Their sense of humor is very dry; at least that is our opinion. We also learned that we are not near as fast as we thought we were, we walk slower than most, have to move over so they can zip by and we were usually bringing up the tail end of the group, maybe we were just observing more. Flight home was good, only bad thing was we had to get up at 3:00 am, told to be at the airport no later than 4:00 am and when we got there the airport wasn't even open, the counters and retail places didn't open till 4:30 am.

This world is filled with so many awesome and beautiful sights and places, Carlos has seen many, I have seen a few and I put The New England Coast and Niagara Falls high on the list. If you haven't been and get a chance to go..... just do it! We are thankful and truly blessed.

*Your Friends,*

*Carlos & Martha Ballard*