



# CENTURY SENTINEL

VOLUME 37, NO. 1 SPRING 2022

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David L. Belcher, Command Sergeant Major, Retired

As I write this, it is mid-February, we've just come out of a bad ice storm after having experienced the worst winter tornado in history in December. While we had a couple of 100<sup>th</sup> Division veterans who experienced significant property damage in the tornado, as far as I have been able to determine, we had no one who was injured. For that we are very grateful. If anyone knows differently, please let me know.

February seems a long way from August, but it will be here before we know it. The annual meeting is scheduled for 26-28 August 2022 at the Holiday Inn on University Drive in Bowling Green, Ky. As most of you know, we hold a raffle each year at the meeting and an auction at the dinner on Saturday to raise funds for the several charitable purposes of the AOC. I am asking that any of you who have the connections or resources to help us obtain items for these functions to pitch in. WE have had pretty good success in the past with the raffle and auction, so let's build on that success.

We have a planning cell working hard to make this Annual Meeting a great one, using last year's phenomenal meeting as our launching pad. We are working on some great activities for Saturday following our welcome event on Friday night and leading up to some exciting entertainment after dinner. Plan to be there. Registration and detailed meeting information will be available in our next edition of the Sentinel. Contact AOC members in your circle of influence and encourage them to join us in Bowling Green. It really is very good to get together with old friends and comrades to reminisce about old times.

Sadly, we have lost several members since our 2021 Annual Meeting as you can see in our TAPS section. Attending the meeting last year allowed me to spend some time talking with some of these and I'm grateful for that opportunity. We never know when that time will come for any of us which makes it that much more critical for YOU to attend.

I sincerely hope to see each of you in Bowling Green in August!

**THE CHAIRMAN'S FOXHOLE**

MG Bill Barron, USA, Retired

**What to Look For with the Patton Museum –**

Before talking about the Patton Museum of Leadership I will start by saying that after a long journey (at least five years), the Association of the Century has agreed to fund the placing of security cameras in the hallways in the rear of Boudinot Hall where our museum cases are located. This has been a project of mine which I have supported for a long time and it has finally come to fruition. Security Systems, Inc., a local company will begin installing some eight different cameras covering both directions of the long hallways to protect our museum cases from theft and vandalism. The cameras will feed into a single monitor which will be located in a room accessed by only Association of the Century personnel. The system will operate 24/7 which will give us the protection and security that we have long needed.

Now, to the Patton Museum. There have been some changes in Staff at the museum. Mr. Ty Reid comes on board during the past year with a huge amount of energy. He has willingly reached out to the Association of the Century and has made himself available to work with the AOC. A couple of week ago, he called me and we set up a time to photograph all of the weapons owned by the Association and to get them properly entered into a catalog of sorts that is a great improvement over what we were doing. Ty and his great amount of positive energy will bear great fruit for the AOC in the years to come. The museum continues to upgrade exhibits and continually look for ways to improve the experience for museum visitors. With Ty Reid leading the charge there is no doubt in my mind that the best days are still ahead for the Patton Museum of Leadership. Do yourself a favor and stop by the museum if you are on Fort Knox and oh by the way, the gate off of Hwy 31 W is now open again so you don't even have to go onto post.

General B



### Bowling Green Holiday Inn Site of Annual Meeting 26 - 28 August 2022

We'll return to Bowling Green's Holiday Inn for 2022, building on the record attendance and positive feedback of everyone who attended! August 26 - 28 is the weekend, so mark that weekend on your calendars. Our next newsletter will have registration information.

Remember 2021's Annual Meeting attended by General George Patton (in the body of MSG James Goodall), former US president George W. Bush (in the body of Mr. John Morgan) and actual World War II 100th Division veteran PVT Roy Sees? Remember the fantastic tour of the Baker Arboretum and the wine and cheese tasting by Bluegrass Winery? Friday night BBQ and Saturday night casual dinner at the Holiday Inn? Great personal reunions with fellow soldiers, families and friends and meeting new friends?

Our 2022 gathering will be better, but we're not giving any hints about it. We just need you and your family and friends to keep that weekend open to join us in Bowling Green. Also, please tell all your friends now to to the same. Look for registration information in our next edition.



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### Your Tricare Pharmacy Charges Have Changed in 2022

Copayments for all beneficiaries, except active-duty service members (ADSM), dependent survivors of ADSMs, and medically retired service members and their dependents, ~~will be~~ affected.

Military pharmacies still offer a \$0 copay for all covered drugs. ADSMs will still have a \$0 copay for covered formulary medications at home delivery and retail.

Medication Type	Retail Pharmacy 30-day Supply	Home Delivery <sup>1</sup> 90-day Supply
Generic	<b>\$14</b> was \$13	<b>\$12</b> was \$10
Brand Name	<b>\$38</b> was \$33	<b>\$34</b> was \$29
Non-formulary	<b>\$68</b> was \$60	<b>\$68</b> was \$60

<sup>1</sup> Pay a single copay for up to a 90-day supply when you fill with home delivery through Express Scripts® Pharmacy compared to paying three copays for three 30-day supplies at retail.

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Application packets for the Major General Benjamin J. Butler Scholarship Program are welcome for this year. The deadline for applying is 15 June 2022. For the first time the AOC will be accepting packets via email instead of mailed paper packets. Nomination Application Form and required documentation will be scanned into one file and emailed to [diamond.janie@gmail.com](mailto:diamond.janie@gmail.com). Contact CW5 Janie Diamond if you need help with this. Email or phone 502-432-6298. Packets need to be emailed prior to midnight 15 June 2022.

Please keep in mind, and let your eligible dependents know, that these packets are all the scholarship committee sees when evaluating eligibility and designating a score for awarding the scholarships. Academic grades count in the overall picture but the letter from the candidate and letters of recommendation are also especially important. Spending time to put together a quality packet will help in the overall selection process. For more information on the program, including packet requirements, visit the AOC website at <https://www.the-century.org/scholarship.htm>.

*The legal team at the  
Karl Truman Law Office  
proudly salutes the past  
and present soldiers of  
the 100th Division!*



## APPLICATION FOR MG BENJAMIN J. BUTLER “CENTURY DIVISION” SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

**Required documentation that must accompany this application may be found on the Association of the Century Website at <http://www.the-century.org>.**

A cash award in the amount of \$1,000 (minimum amount) will be paid directly to the college of the winning student's choice upon proof of enrollment. **There is a lifetime limit of two awards per student.** The decision of the Scholarship Fund Committee and the Community Foundation of Louisville in the selection of the recipient is final.

**1. Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security (Last 4): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 College of Choice: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Previous Award of this Scholarship? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. High School Attended:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
**College Attended (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Semester(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Nominated By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please list current or Former 100<sup>th</sup> Division Unit(s) and dates of service:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Relationship to Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Signature of Nominating Person:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nomination Application and required documentation will be scanned into one file and emailed to [diamond.janie@gmail.com](mailto:diamond.janie@gmail.com). Contact CW5 Janie Diamond if you need help with this. Email or phone 502-432-6298. Packets need to be emailed prior to midnight 15 June each year.**

Revised 13 February 2022

**Financial Results of the Scholarship Fund in 2021**

Ken Kapp, LTC (Ret), AOC Treasurer

The MG Benjamin J. Butler "Century Division" Scholarship Fund was established by The Association of the Century in December 2017 at the Community Foundation of Louisville. The Foundation has received \$199,417.55 in donations and has paid out 92 grants totaling \$91,000. As of December 31, 2021, the Fund has a balance of \$308,791.83. For the year ended December 31, 2021, the Fund, net of fees, returned \$43,942 or an annual rate of return of 15.1% . Donations may be made by making your check payable to the "AOC Scholarship Fund" and mailing them directly to AOC, P.O. Box 34393, Louisville, KY 40232.

**The General's "Franklin Club" in 2022**

Ken Kapp, LTC (Ret), AOC Treasurer

Major General Bill Barron's "Franklin Club Challenge" has now raised \$24,932 from 140 participants; \$16,702 has been designated to the Scholarship Fund; \$2,189 to the SOS Fund, \$1,241 to the Museum Fund and \$4,800 has been designated unrestricted. See the accompanied schedule in the Sentinel. John H. Ward, IV has made the first donation in 2022 to the Franklin Club. John has made the donation to honor the steadfast contributions Ben Zimmerman has made to the AOC. Please consider contributing to the Fund. In 2022, the General's Franklin Club has raised over \$25,000. Donations may be made by making your check payable to the "Franklin Club Challenge" and mailing them directly to AOC, P.O. Box 34393, Louisville, KY 40232.



**The General's "Franklin Club Challenge" as of 28 February 2022:**

The General's "Franklin Club Challenge" has raised \$25,032 from 141 participants; \$16,702 has been designated to the Scholarship Fund, \$2,189 to the SOS Fund, \$1,241 to the Museum Fund and \$4,900 has been designated unrestricted.

Larry D. Abel	Pete Evans	Gerald C. McKinney (\$150)
William D. Adams	James Fallin	Keith McWhorter (\$200)
Maurice Allgeier	W. Dan Farris	Ned McWhorter (\$200)
Sammy Alvey	Peter Fast	Mit Merritt (\$350)
Gabriel T. Arnold (\$450)	James Fleenor	Richard Dale Miller
Deborah A. Ashley	Lindsey Freeman	Ronald Moss
John Aubrey (\$800)	Scott Garrett	Benjamin F. Murphy
Paul Baker	Charles E. Gorton (\$340)	Paul Nadeau
Newton R. Bardwell III	Flem Gordon	Monte Nesmith
Robert T. Barnes	Elizabeth L. Grossi (\$200)	Bob Noble
Ronald Barnes	Joseph Hamilton, III	Cyndy Noble
Bill Barron (\$200)	Jay Hancock (\$150)	Milton Nugent
David Belcher	Philip L. Hanrahan	Larry Pierson
Byron Bell	Joel Hardin	Carl Platt (\$350)
Michael A. Bennett	Dr. Roland C. Haun (\$300)	Albert Pomey
Gregory Bethards	Larry Herzog (\$200)	Philip Reel
Richard Blain (\$250)	Leo Hill	Jack R. Reeves (\$250)
Francis Bland	Donald C. Hines	Ramon Rodgers
Joe B. Brown	Charles R. Hitchcock (\$200)	Richard Rowe
Joe E. Brown (\$200)	Carl A. Hulsewede III (\$200)	James Glenn Russell
William Brown	Gregory J. Hunt (\$250)	Robert Silverthorn (\$200)
Linda Bruin	George H. Imorde, Jr.	Rusti Silverthorn (\$200)
John K. Butler	Ronnie Jervis	Bob G. Simmons
George H. Campbell, Jr.	Horace Johnson	Charles B. Skaggs
Ben W. Carr, Jr (\$250)	James C. Johnson (\$300)	Earl Sosby Jr.
Richard D. Chegar (\$200)	Virginia C. Jones	James Starr (\$660)
Thomas Clay	Robert Judd (\$300)	James Stevens (\$200)
M. Courtland Clayton (\$500)	David Jungquist (\$600)	Dale Stewart
Robert Cobb	Ken Kapp (\$250)	David Sullivan
Richard Coleman	Allen Kessler	Harry M. Summerville (\$200)
Larry Craig (\$200)	James E. Kutzner (\$200)	John Swarts
Thomas Davis	Ray Lackey (\$500)	Ernest Taylor
James D. Davidson	Joe Lamkin	Durward C. Thomas
John M. Davidson	Kathleen Lee	Steve Thompson
James H. Dearing	Benjamin Livingston	Travis W. Tichenor III
Janie Diamond	Mike Lyall	John Tindall (\$250)
Arvil Dobson	Michael Mannarino	Karl Truman
Roy D. Dodson	J.D. Maples Jr.	John H. Ward IV
Roy Downey (\$200)	Clarence Martin Jr. (\$300)	Tony Warren
Douglas G. Draper (\$600)	Elmo Martin (\$700)	Cleland White
Tilman Drury	A. George Mason, Jr. (\$250)	Norm Williams (\$125)
Brian Duffy	Bobbie Maybrier	Luther W. Willis
J. Henry Duncan	Charlie McBride	Chappell R. Wilson
Odis Embry	Michael McCorkle	Marvin H. Wilson (\$200)
David Evans (\$300)	Francis 'Mac' McDermott (\$300)	Bernis Woodward (\$200)
Pete Evans	Johnny M. McGuire (\$200.00)	Ben Zimmerman

Gifts in Memoriam:	Name:	By:
	COL Byron Crawford	Anonymous
2 <sup>nd</sup> Donation	MG David L Evans (\$800)	Patricia S. Evans
	MG Roy C. Gray, Jr (\$397)	Roy Gray, III
	COL Anthony E. Martin (\$500)	Elmo Martin



Who are these two 100<sup>th</sup> soldiers?

## THE CAV HAT

## THE CHOIR

## THE THEFT

## RECOVERY

In January of 1972 at the beginning of my second tour, I was assigned to D Troop, 229<sup>th</sup>, (The Smiling Tigers) an Air Cav Troop part of the Garry Owen Taskforce, the only remaining Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division remaining in Vietnam. The war was winding down, or some thought. The first three months of that year were calm and uneventful with little enemy contact. I remember that “old timers” were leaving the unit that had never been shot at (to their knowledge) and obviously never been hit by small arms or anti-aircraft fire.

It was customary in those days that most Air Cav units in Vietnam wore black Stetson western hats, providing distinguishing head gear from other units, contributing to an elevated level of importance and significance along with a connection to the past. The Mission of the Air Cav was/is to locate the enemy, to engage the enemy and to develop the situation, a mission identical and typical of the old horse cavalry days of many years ago. The only difference; today's Army traded horses for helicopters. The Black Stetson provided that connection with the past. And so I was authorized to wear The Stetson while assigned to “The Smiling Tigers”. A big deal that took on added significance as a result of future events.



On Easter Sunday of 1972, The North Vietnamese Army (The NVA) initiated a multiple division attack into South Vietnam. Two or three divisions attacked from Laos into I Corps (the most northern sector in South Vietnam) in an effort to capture the Imperial Capital of Hue (I flew this area in 1968/69). Two additional divisions attacked from Cambodia in III Corps into the Michelin Rubber Plantation surrounding An Loc and Loc Ninh, with the intent of proceeding south on Highway 13 to capture Saigon.

The fight lasted several months with the NVA finally withdrawing their forces late spring or early summer in that year. The NVA employed tanks in the area along with sophisticated anti-aircraft weapons. Numerous 51 caliber weapons, 37 mm anti-aircraft guns, along with shoulder fired head seeking missiles (The Russian Strella Missile) were employed by the NVA. Flight was challenging, dangerous and obviously very risky. Tensions ran high.

#### THE CHOIR

After a long and difficult day, the pilots would congregate in our makeshift officer's club, drink too much, act crazy and release accumulated tensions associated with the active and dangerous activity of the previous days. Thus, the formation of The Choir, led by the choir director, Captain Paul (Bimbo) Lent (retired LTC, now deceased), assistant choir director (Captain Earnest C. (Buzz) Johnson (Retired Coast Guard pilot both helicopter and the C-130 plus the DC-8), Captain Dave Wallace (retired LTC and now Arkansas State Senator) as well as CW2 Mike (The Perch Man) Syverson (Retired as a W-4, flew civilian med-evacuation helicopters for many years and ultimately checked out in corporate jet aircraft to include the Gulfstream). These guys along with other low class Army Aviators—oops—I meant to say distinguished professional aviators—performed admirably and robustly, mainly after consuming too many beverages. Songs such as the following come to mind:

You don't remember me but I remember you, I killed your mom and dad, and I think your brother too, -----.

Your son is dead, he bought the farm today, he couldn't fly when skies were cloudy and grey, -----

Swing Low Sweet Chariot, -----

The Twelve Days of Christmas (the dirty version, a version that a young man should never sing to entertain one's grandmother).

While flying IFR on his horizon bar, he starting stalling, descending, spinning way too far, \_\_\_\_.

I should point out that I was also a member of The Choir as well as the Gun Platoon Leader of the above mentioned characters; it was incumbent upon me to lead and guide these young men through the challenges of this Vietnam experience. Because I have always considered myself a Christian, I encouraged The Choir to sing songs of a more soothing nature such as old and comfortable gospel songs; but no, The Choir insisted on singing calloused and insensitive hymns. What was I to do? Such a leadership conundrum.

#### THE THEFT

The Smiling Tigers occupied the southern side of the Bien Hoa Airbase, a large fixed wing and aviation complex located northwest of Saigon, now named Ho Chi Minh city. This base could accommodate the largest of fixed wing aircraft plus handle the needs of jet attack aircraft. The

Air Force and Navy always lived better than the Army with Officer's Clubs, the Post Exchange and good food almost always available. So, from time to time, The Smiling Tigers would travel on duce & half trucks (with a designated driver) over to the Officer's Club for food, entertainment and stress relief.

Before I proceed further, let me point out that the number of U S service members in country was rapidly declining with no U S Infantry soldiers left in country with the exception of those guarding the Embassy facility in Saigon. When I left in January of 1973, only 34,000 U S service members remained in country. A sharp decline from a few years earlier when over 500,000 were stationed in country.

To fight the war and to provide back up the South Vietnamese forces, Army , Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force aviation assets were used and counted on to retard the thrust of the NVA divisions pushing towards Hue up north as well as An Loc and Loc Ninh, both in close proximity to the Michelin Rubber Plantation and Cambodia.

So one night in late spring or early summer of 1972, The Smiling Tigers moved to the Bien Hoa Officer's club for a night of entertainment, food, drinking and socializing with Marine Corps and Air Force aviators that we worked with on almost daily basis but did not know on a personal level. One of those units was VMA-311, The Tomcats, a Marine Corps aviation unit that flew the A-4 Skyhawk, a single engine jet aircraft that the Corps used for attack purposes.

As it turned out, The Marine Corps aviators were raunchy, aggressive, feisty and full of spirit, similar to the aviators of The Smiling Tigers. As a unit we matched up well, pushing the boundaries of competition between rival services full of banter, booze and wild times that only young guys flying in a tough combat zone with a very dangerous mission can dream up.

So one night, The Choir entertained the aviators of VMA-311. A good time was had by all! When it was time to leave, my Cav Hat was missing! After a quick search, it was obvious that one of the A-4 pilots grabbed it. At that point, the assistant choir director, Captain Buzz Johnson, pulled out his 45 caliber hand gun, and fired two rounds into the ceiling! You have never seen a bar clear out so fast; many hit the deck, crawling on their bellies heading for cover, others running out the doors—total chaos.

Buzz then yelled: " I know who has it—let's go get it!" After a search of the living quarters of some of the Skyhawk pilots, The Cav Hat was not to be found—a bummer!

#### RECOVERY

Several weeks later (I was not flying this day), one of the A-4 guys was shot down and needed rescue. As it turned out, elements of The Smiling Tigers were in close proximity and quickly rescued the Tomcat pilot. Impressive flying skill, professionalism, teamwork and heroism was demonstrated by all involved that day, cementing the team work and close association of aviators from different branches of service working together to support one another. A potentially tragic event that ended up with the safe return of a downed pilot.

A week or so later, the pilots of VMA-311, The Tomcats, showed up in our area, unannounced, with beer, booze, steaks and a desire to party. What a night, full of celebrity, laughter, antics and singing as we made them honorary members of The Choir. So much fun!

Towards the tail end of the party, the commander of the Tomcats (or it may have been the rescued pilot) provided comments of thanks to the aviators of The Smiling Tigers. All was well. And then, my Cav Hat was brought out—and the place went wild—the Cav Hat was back.

Attached to the back of the hat was the Tomcat unit patch—such a memory. It is fair to state that I am the only Air Cav Trooper whose Black Stetson displays the VMA-311 patch!



Such great memories of a half century ago of young men flying great equipment in a challenging and dangerous combat environment.

May God Bless the United States of America and all service members who have served their country honorably and faithfully.



**NOTES**

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