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# 2017 SALUTE TO SERVICE

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**2017 Salute to Service is a Fort Hood Herald publication.**

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# Take time to honor those who served this Veterans Day

**V**eterans Day is an important day to remember and reflect upon the sacrifices made by all veterans, whether they served during a time of war or a time of peace. As we've learned during 16 years of conflict since Sept. 11, 2001, it's also important to remember those family members who have stood by their veteran both during and after their time of service — especially during the difficult time of readjustment between active duty and civilian life.

Serving in the military, regardless of which branch of service, isn't easy. Whether it's training, deployments or a nine-month rotation to dozens of areas across the globe, service members spend a lot of time away from home. They sacrifice their personal and family time to train or fight for this great nation.

This year has seen a lot of changes for both our members still in uniform and for our veterans. A new Vietnam War memorial now stands at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen. Thousands of our Vietnam veterans are finally receiving the welcome home they deserved up to 50 years ago. Medical care through the Veterans Affairs is changing to catch up with the times,



## SARGE'S CORNER

David A. Bryant

to include a medical records system that talks to Department of Defense to make filing disability claims quicker and the ability to be seen by local medical providers when getting an appointment at a VA clinic can't be done in a timely fashion.

Between all of the rotations to Korea, Europe and the Middle East, approximately half of the 1st Cavalry Division is deployed — yet their family members are staying in the Fort Hood region in record numbers; a testament to the way local communities step up to take care of military families while their loved ones are gone. Perhaps it is because the communities surrounding Fort Hood are filled with veterans, many of whom ensure the great things

**As a retired soldier,** I love interviewing my fellow veterans and soldiers. I love learning about where they're from, what they've gone through and how they have become the outstanding individuals who continue to serve long after they take off their uniforms.

that happen in this area are done to honor our active-duty service members, veterans and their families. Many who are serving as mayors or council members are veterans too.

Here at the Herald, it's our job to tell the stories of those veterans and soldiers to highlight the great things we can accomplish together as a community. Some of those stories you have heard before: Others are waiting to be told. What is important is that they are told, and not just on Veterans Day but every day.

As a retired soldier, I love interviewing my fellow veterans and soldiers. I love learning about where they're from, what they've gone through and how they have become the outstanding individuals who

continue to serve long after they take off their uniforms. It keeps me connected, and the sense of camaraderie within the veteran community keeps alive the one thing we all miss when leaving active service — the military family we always know we can count on.

On this Veterans Day, we'll be telling the stories of some of those veterans and retelling the stories of some of the great veterans we lost this year. There are still plenty of stories left to tell. If you know a veteran or soldier with a good story, give me a call or send me an email.

**DAVID A. BRYANT** is an Army retiree and a military journalist for the Killeen Daily Herald. You can reach him at [dbryant@kdhnews.com](mailto:dbryant@kdhnews.com) or 254-501-7554.



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# A LASTING LEGACY

## King left large shoes to fill in Fort Hood area

HERALD STAFF REPORT

**W**hen retired Command Sgt. Maj. Elijah King Jr., a longtime advocate for veterans and soldiers in the Killeen area, died March 12, the loss was a heavy blow.

The 64-year-old King was passionate about helping soldiers and his fellow veterans and their families. To all he came in contact with, he was a mentor and a leader worth following.

Retired Gen. James Thurman, who served as King's commander from 2004 to 2007, gave the eulogy during King's funeral.

"Elijah King was a great soldier, a man of true faith, with a tremendous love of God," said Thurman, who lives in the Salado area.

In the eulogy, the former four-star general quoted other military leaders who were impacted by King's service.

Current III Corps chief of staff Col. Todd Fox was quoted by Thurman saying: "King was my go-to man for anything I needed. I relied on his insight to rally our troops."

Thurman ended the eulogy saying everyone who knew King loved him, and said people should strive to serve like King did during his life.

Thurman said King was one of a kind, a man who loved God and would be proud of all the lives he impacted.

A burial at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery followed the funeral service.

During the burial, hundreds gathered as taps was played, then the flag was folded and presented to

King's wife, Debbie Nash-King.

After the burial service, those close to King spoke of their memories of him as he touched the lives of so many.

"Sgt. Maj. King was a phenomenal leader who cared about his soldiers," said Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Heinze, who served as the 1st Cavalry Division Home Station command sergeant major during the division's recent deployment to Afghanistan. "He put their needs above his own. He was a selfless server who loved helping others. A great American, and an even better soldier."

Joann Courtland, director of Operation Stand Down of Central Texas, said King was a good mentor.

"It didn't matter how big or how small an issue was for veterans, he wanted to try to find a way to fix it," she said. "He supported every organization he could. As long as you supported veterans, he was right there."

"I refuse to fade away, I'm here to serve the community," King said in a 2016 interview. "We don't live this life for ourselves, but to help our fellow man. After 35 years in the Army, that mindset tends to carry over into civilian life."



**‘Sgt. Maj. King** was a phenomenal leader who cared about his soldiers. He put their needs above his own. He was a selfless server who loved helping others. A great American, and an even better soldier.’

**Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Heinze**

Born and raised in Tuskegee, Alabama, the retired command sergeant major attended Florida A&M University before joining the Army in 1977.

“It was a difficult time economically and financially for my family, but the military was common ground for us,” he said, noting that his father had served in the Navy and both his younger and older brother also served in the Army.

After training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, King reported to Fort Hood for his first duty station with the 2nd Armored Division. After other stints in Germany, New York and Korea, King deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1991. He served multiple times at Fort Hood and Korea.

Upon the completion of Sergeants Major Academy, he served in multiple units before heading to Operation Iraq Freedom I. Upon returning from the deployment, he remained with 4th Infantry Division and was appointed as the command sergeant major of 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. He is the recipient of numerous awards and decorations. Among them are the prestigious Legion of Merit and three Bronze Star medals for service in combat operations.

After three and a half decades of service to his nation, King retired in 2007.

Decades in the military gave King a clear perspective on life and those around him.

“Living that life wasn’t always easy,” he said. “The constant separation from loved ones is tough — with the younger soldiers, and even among senior leaders, many experienced divorce. Throw in post-traumatic stress disorder, which is a very real thing, and family members just can’t understand what their



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Elijah King Jr. holds the Congressional Record at his home in Killeen in 2016.

soldier went through. When you see your best friend blown away, it does something to you. A lot of soldiers come back unable to deal with some of the things they’ve experienced.”

King, who was himself remarried, said he nevertheless always encouraged his soldiers to try to seek help for themselves and their relationships through avenues such as counseling or talking with a chaplain.

“I would tell anyone — do whatever it takes,” he said.

The retired soldier also spoke somberly of lives lost.

“On my second brigade rotation, we lost 53 soldiers,” he said. “My most traumatic loss was five soldiers in 3-16 Field Artillery that I lost in an IED vehicle attack in 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07. I had trained these soldiers before I moved up to brigade. Each one of those soldiers, I knew

personally. Losing them brought the reality of war even closer.”

Despite the challenges and hardships of military life, King emphasized there were also many lifelong memories made. One such recollection centered around a particularly memorable night in Iraq during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

“My commander needed someone to stay and wait for our engineers to come and dig out firing pits (for our howitzers), so I volunteered,” he said. “There I was, along with my driver, in the middle of the Iraq desert all alone. It was very dark and we were wide awake all night. We were so frightened — terrified — and no more than a few miles from Iraq units. We didn’t sleep for 24 hours straight,” he chuckled.

Another memory involved King’s first support mission to Kuwait in

1993 with Task Force 1-9 of the 1st Cavalry Division, his first of three support missions.

“I reported to the Task Force Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Minosky to let him know we had arrived,” he recounted. He asked “who are you and why are you here?” I informed him that I was his heavy artillery support. “He said, ‘Well, I don’t have anywhere for you guys to stay, but there is an abandoned Iraqi barracks about 5 kilometers to the east, you can occupy those. There’s just one thing, though — you have to cross a minefield to get there.’ Frank lives here in Central Texas and is one of my very best friends. I’ve never let him live that down,” King said, laughing.

King was married to Debbie Nash-King and was a father of four: Celeste Smith, Stephanie, Elijah III, Elizabeth Nash; and a grandfather to Brandon Smith and Sassy King (family dog). His daughter Stephanie continued the family’s commitment to the military by serving five years in the Air Force Nurse Corps.

Prior to his death, King was the co-chair with retired Gen. J.D. Thurman of the III Corps/Fort Hood Retiree Council. From 2010 to 2014, King also served as Fort Hood’s representative reporting to the Army Chief of Staff, traveling each year to the Pentagon to discuss issues and provide recommendations about matters that concern and affect retired soldiers, a tour of which King states he is rather proud. He was recognized by Congressman John Carter as a recipient of the prestigious Congressional Veterans Commendation.

He also served as the chairman of the Area Veteran’s Advisory Committee Central Texas and was a member of the Lifeway Fellowship Church in Killeen.

# REMEMBERING A LEGEND

## Shoemaker a big part of Central Texas community

HERALD STAFF REPORTS

One of the most notable figures in the Greater Fort Hood area died June 21, leaving behind a large hole in the lives of many.

Retired Gen. Robert Morin Shoemaker, 93, was a living legend in the region. He spent 36 years in the Army and led two 1st Cavalry Division units in Vietnam: 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment and 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment. He served as chief of staff for the 1st Cavalry Division during his third tour of Vietnam, and later, as the assistant division commander.

Shoemaker was the commander of III Corps and Fort Hood in the 1970s. In 1977, he was assigned as deputy commander of U.S. Army Forces Command before becoming U.S. Army Forces Command commander, a four-star position that only few Army officers achieve.

Born Feb. 18, 1924, Shoemaker grew up on his father's dairy farm near Almont, Michigan, a town of fewer than 3,000 people about 45 miles north of Detroit.

He had plans to become a pharmacist, but that changed when he unexpectedly was granted admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, according to family members. He graduated West Point in 1946, beginning his military career.

### TASK FORCE SHOEMAKER

As an infantry officer, Shoemaker steadily rose through the ranks, becoming widely known in the Army after numerous command positions during the Vietnam War.

During the war, Shoemaker was a commander for two air cavalry



**‘We join the entire Central Texas community** and our Army in mourning the loss of a great general, dynamic leader, philanthropist, and friend. General Shoemaker was an accomplished III Corps and Forces Command commander, a pillar of the community, and an inspiration to us all.’

**Lt. Gen. Paul E. Funk II**

units. Later, as a brigadier general for the 1st Cavalry Division, he led a bold and risky mission into Cambodia to crack the North Vietnamese supply lines in 1970.

It was known as Task Force Shoemaker.

Shoemaker was appointed to be in charge of the task force that would launch the initial attack into Cambodia — a vast jungle, rural area where the enemy was stockpiling weapons, ammunition, rice and other supplies.

To get the job done Shoemaker was given five, air-mobile battalions from the division, along with a brigade from the 25th Infantry Division, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and a brigade comprised of South Vietnamese troops.

All told, combined with support and supply personnel, about 35,000 to 40,000 troops comprised Task Force Shoemaker.

“By the time we went in, I had 12 maneuver battalions under my task force,” Shoemaker said in a Herald interview in 2015.

The mission was vague, bold and risky: Enter Cambodia — previously off limits — to shatter the North Vietnamese supply lines.

“I wasn’t, nor was anyone else, exactly sure what we were going to run into,” Shoemaker said.

Shoemaker went from unit to unit in his helicopter, encouraging the troops and taking in the big picture.

“I required every brigade to call me on secure radio every three hours with a report of what was going on,” he said.

A massive number of supply dumps were found almost immediately in warehouses, buildings,

buried underground and “all of the above,” Shoemaker said.

The task force lost two soldiers in the first three days of the attack, and by May 7, the task force was disbanded and the units reverted back to their normal commands. U.S. forces stayed in Cambodia through June 30, 1970, fighting and uncovering supply dumps the entire time.

While the mission was hugely successful for U.S. and allied troops in Vietnam, it ignited more protests back in the United States, where the anti-war movement was nearly at its peak. President Richard M. Nixon, however, defended the attack, saying it would allow South Vietnamese troops more time to train, and get the Americans out of the war sooner.

Looking back, Shoemaker said he was quite satisfied with how Task Force Shoemaker was carried out.

“Vietnam, for me personally, was a real learning experience. It convinced me that when you’ve got large forces like that, you’ve got to, very carefully, make sure that every commander knows what you want them to do, give them resources and let the horses ride,” Shoemaker said. “I’ve followed that general thought all the rest of my career.”

#### **RETIREMENT AND REACTION**

Shoemaker retired from the Army in 1982, and remained an active community member in the Killeen-Fort Hood area.

He served as a Bell County commissioner and helped lead the community’s efforts to bring a four-year university, now known as Texas A&M University-Central Texas, to the area. In 2000, Killeen

Independent School District named a new high school after him.

Reactions to Shoemaker’s death ranged far, with congressmen and current generals issuing news releases, and more than 43,000 viewers seeing the article on the Herald’s Facebook page, many of them sharing the link and commenting on what Shoemaker meant to them.

“We all called him Uncle Bob,” said Ann Haller, Shoemaker’s niece, a Fair Hill, Maryland, resident.

She said her uncle had “always been a thinker and a community-minded person,” traits he learned from his parents. Shoemaker’s mother was a school teacher and later a school board member, one of the first women school board members in Michigan, said Haller, 54.

Haller said Shoemaker was a champion of education and believed people could achieve goals if they made the commitment.

“You wanted to do the very best for him,” she said.

#### **MILITARY REACTIONS**

Lt. Gen. Paul E. Funk II, the current III Corps and Fort Hood commander, made the following statement on behalf of the Central Texas Army community:

“We join the entire Central Texas community and our Army in mourning the loss of a great general, dynamic leader, philanthropist, and friend. General Shoemaker was an accomplished III Corps and Forces Command commander, a pillar of the community, and an inspiration to us all. We will truly miss him.”

The U.S. Army Forces Command headquarters issued the following

statement on Shoemaker’s death:

“We extend our condolences and thoughts to the Shoemaker Family and family friends on the passing of Gen. Robert Shoemaker. He was a visionary Army leader and his vision continues to inspire the U.S. Army Forces Command and our Army. He implemented the Department of the Army’s CAPSTONE program, designed to enhance training effectiveness within the Reserve Component. General Shoemaker directed the initial alignment of Reserve Component units with Forces Command active-component units to form more effective training partnerships. These partnerships remain a key component of today’s Army readiness. His leadership legacy of teamwork and mission command continues to shape Army officers, soldiers and Army units throughout U.S. Army Forces Command.”

Acting Secretary of the Army Robert Speer also issued a statement on Shoemaker’s death: “With the passing of (retired) Gen. Robert Shoemaker, the Army and our nation lost a decorated leader, mentor, advocate and friend. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones. We should never forget his leadership during one of the most difficult times in our nation’s history.”

#### **COMMUNITY REACTIONS**

School, city, county and other leaders also reacted to the news of Shoemaker’s death.

Killeen ISD’s Superintendent John Craft: “We will graciously celebrate the life and legacy of Gen. Robert M. Shoemaker and the impact he

has had on our community and our school district, which will be felt for many years to come.”

U.S. Rep. John R. Carter: “Erika and I are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of retired General Robert Shoemaker this morning. General Shoemaker’s service to our great nation spanned over five decades. He served with honor and integrity, earning numerous awards including the Distinguished Service Award, the Bronze Star and the Silver Star. He served in multiple battles, including the Korean War, the Vietnam War and during the Cold War. In addition to his outstanding military service, General Shoemaker served the Fort Hood community and all of Bell County. He was a former Bell County Commissioner, an avid volunteer for the Heart of Texas Boy Scouts and for Central Texas United Way.”

U.S. Rep. Roger Williams: “The people of Central Texas are a fam-

ily and Gen. Shoemaker has left a legacy that will forever be felt throughout the community. He was a patriot, and I am humbled to have had the honor to know him and call him a friend. This is a great loss not only for the Fort Hood area, but for all of America.”

Bell County Judge Jon Burrows: “He leaves behind the military legacy, and he served as Bell County commissioner for eight years. ... He was always involved in community projects. He was a good public servant and a good friend.”

Bell County Commissioner John Fisher: “The legacy he leaves behind is the affordable educational opportunity to anyone who chose to take it. ... He was a dedicated, hard-working and selfless person who was willing to give anything it took to his community.”

Gatesville City Manager Bill Parry: “We have a gaping hole in our hearts and our region, but Gen. Shoemaker would charge us to carry on. There was no one who

could build and convene a team to tackle tough issues better than Gen. Shoemaker.”

Retired Lt. Gen. Dave Palmer of Belton called Shoemaker “a really great servant of the country for more than 30 years. ... He set the standard for a lifetime of service.”

Killeen Mayor Jose Segarra: “Gen. Shoemaker was a great leader who, after retiring from the military, became a great servant to our community. He will be remembered as a great leader and a great servant to all the Central Texas area.”

Jean Shine, Harker Heights resident and civilian aide to the secretary of the Army: “Our nation lost a great soldier, Central Texas lost a great leader, and we lost a great friend. Please keep Mrs. Shoemaker in your thoughts and prayers.”

While the facts of Shoemaker’s career impress high school students, it was his personal presence that inspired them.

“He’s the backbone of the school,” said Shoemaker senior Evan Poe of

the Science National Honor Society at Shoemaker’s 93rd birthday at the school in February. “He inspires us to make him proud. We have immense respect for him.”

In recent years, Shoemaker’s health deteriorated, but he still made it a point to attend as many military ceremonies as possible, often sitting in the front row at promotions and changes of command.

At a March 2016 meeting in Killeen about the future of the Army, the retired four-star general spoke openly about his failing eyesight. “Macular degeneration has gotten to me,” he said, adding he can’t really see people’s faces anymore. “But I know good people when I hear their voices.”

At that same meeting, he said he made at least two good decisions in life. “I married wisely,” said Shoemaker, acknowledging his wife, Tuke, who was also at the meeting.

“Another great decision was to retire to the Fort Hood area,” he said.

He was given a standing ovation.



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# New American Legion posts to be named after King, Shoemaker

BY DAVID A. BRYANT  
FORT HOOD HERALD

**K**ILLEEN — Two new American Legion posts have been chartered to honor the legacies of two Killeen-area veterans.

The posts will be named after retired Gen. Robert M. Shoemaker, a Nolanville-area resident who died June 21, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Elijah King Jr., a Killeen resident who died March 12.

“All American Legion posts are named after a deceased veteran, and all our posts are named after veterans from the area,” said Dan Corbin, a former Killeen mayor tasked with setting up the new posts. “Not enough people understand just what a great man Gen. Shoemaker was. Sgt. Maj. King was a little less known, but no less a great man.”

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness, according to the American Legion mission statement. It is the nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship

**Shoemaker’s post** will be associated with the high school that bears his name.

**King’s post** will be associated with Ellison High School, where King’s children attended.

of wholesome programs in local communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security and continued devotion to fellow service members and veterans.

The goal of Texas American Legion posts is to have a post associated with every high school in the state, Corbin said. Shoemaker’s post will be associated with the high school that bears his name. King’s post will be associated with Ellison High School, where King’s children attended.

“The new posts will actually meet at the schools and won’t have a traditional brick and mortar building,” Corbin said. “We really don’t need

big buildings with bars anymore, and our image should be tailored more toward the things we should be doing, such as our programs taking care of kids and our veterans.”

Many of the programs sponsored by the American Legion are tailored toward youths, including a Junior ROTC shooting program, an oratory competition based on patriotism and taking care of the children of service members who are deployed, he said.

“These are the programs these posts will be focused on,” Corbin said.

## LASTING LEGACY

For retired Lt. Gen. Pete Taylor,

a long-time friend and associate of Shoemaker and lifetime American Legion member at large, the opportunity to be associated with a post named after a friend and mentor will be an honor.

“I’m very pleased they are naming a post after Bob Shoemaker,” Taylor said. “I can’t think of anyone who personifies what the American Legion does as Gen. Shoemaker. I am very pleased I will be a member of a post named after him.”

Debbie Nash-King, Elijah’s widow, said she was truly honored a post would be named after her husband.

“When I was approached by Dan Corbin about it, all I could say was ‘sure,’” she said. “He gave me the paperwork and told me I had to go find the charter members, so I talked to (retired Command Sgt. Maj.) Frank Minosky, who was (Elijah’s) closest friend, and it was just so easy to get the 15 charter members needed to set the post up.

“The greatest thing is, I get to be a part of it,” added Nash-King, who also serves as a Killeen city councilwoman. “It is amazing to be a part of his legacy.”

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# Namesake of Freddy's was a 1st Cavalry Division soldier

HERALD STAFF REPORTS

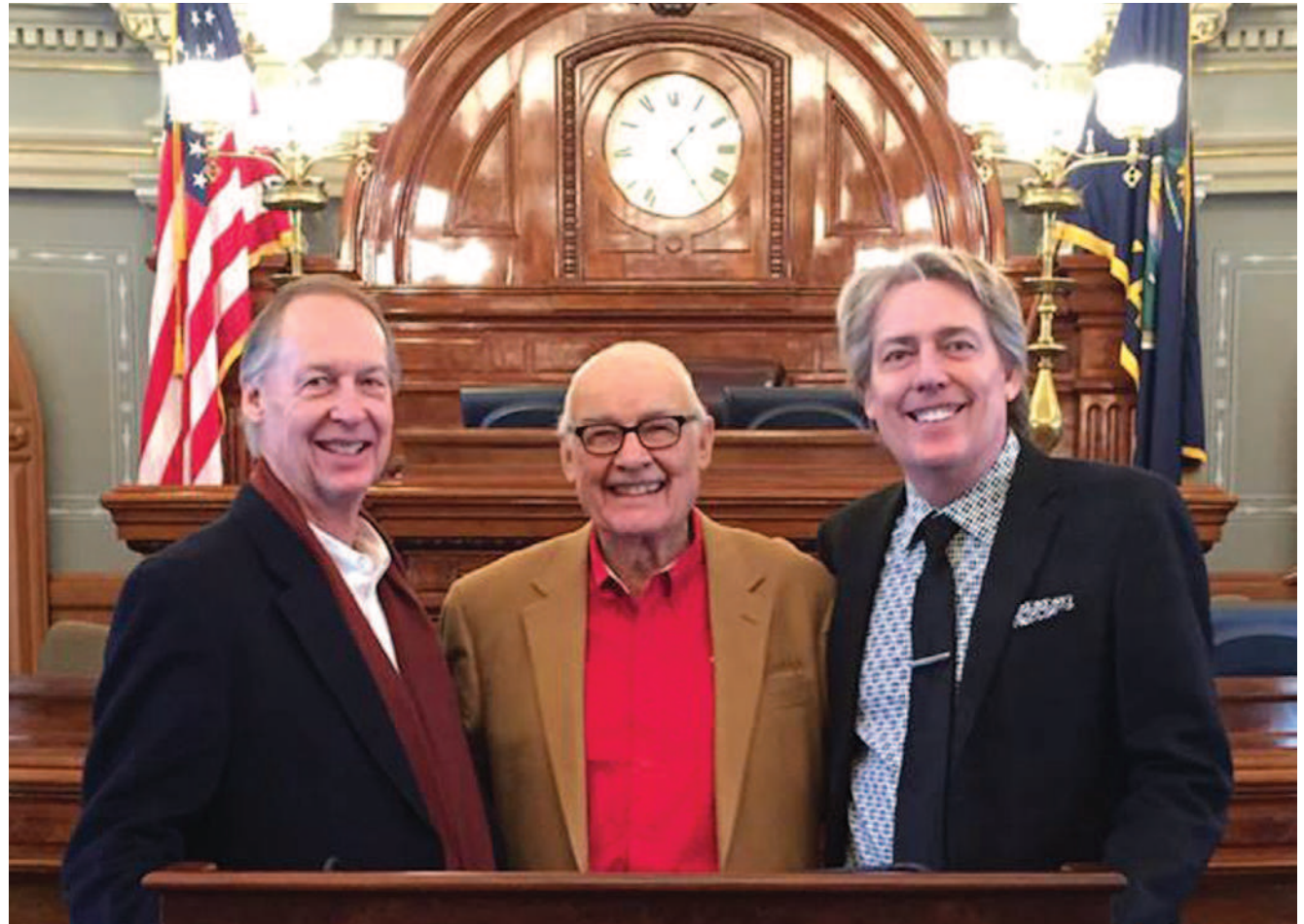
**F**reddy Simon, the namesake of Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburgers, is not only a World War II veteran but also, like many in the Killeen area, a 1st Cavalry Division veteran.

"After being denied admittance to the Army because he was underage at the time Pearl Harbor was bombed, Freddy joined the United States Army in 1943 after graduating from high school. He trained at Fort Riley, Kansas, after which he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division," according to the nationwide chain, which has locations in Killeen and Harker Heights. The restaurant was founded by his sons.

Then-Pfc. Simon was on the first wave of ships at the historic amphibious landings at Leyte, Philippines, on Oct. 20, 1944. The landings commenced the liberation of the Philippines and fulfilled Gen. Douglas MacArthur's famous "I shall return" commitment of the United States to the Filipino people.

While serving, Freddy earned and was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained and the Bronze Star for valor. He was promoted to sergeant shortly before the end of the war, only 10 months after the landing, according to the company.

After World War II, Freddy, as he was affectionately known in



COURTESY PHOTO | FREDDY'S

Freddy Simon, center, was honored by the Kansas House of Representatives in 2015.

his childhood and in the service, returned to Wichita, Kansas, where he graduated from Wichita University with a degree in accounting. He joined a wholesale liquor company shortly after prohibition in Kansas

was repealed and worked there for 56 years. Freddy has been married to his wife, Norma Jean, for 67 years and raised six children. They have 19 grand- and step-grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Over the past 20 years, Freddy has provided a first-hand account of his World War II experiences to nearly 100 audiences of young and old Kansans but, primarily, to high school history classes across the state.

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# Central Texas community prepares to honor veterans

## KILLEEN

• The Area Veterans Advisory Committee will conduct the annual Killeen Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. The parade route starts and ends at North College Street. Bleachers can be found on North Gray Street next to the Killeen Public Library. Registration forms are available at [www.avac-centex.com](http://www.avac-centex.com). For more information, call Lupe Lopez at 254-702-0465.

• Boy Scouts will pay their respects to fallen soldiers buried at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery, 11463 State Highway 195, Killeen at 8 a.m. Nov. 10. To commemorate Veterans Day, each Boy Scout will place an American flag on a grave. A flag retirement ceremony will follow, about 9:30 a.m.

## FORT HOOD

• Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Areas is waiving all day use fees at more than 2,400 recreational areas nationwide. This waiver is available to all veterans, active and reserve members and their families. Only verbal confirmation of service is needed to waive fees. For more information, call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rough River Lake Project Office at 270-257-2061.

## HARKER HEIGHTS

• Veterans Ceremony at the Harker Heights Recreation Center;

## Lampasas to welcome colonel on Veterans Day

The Lampasas County Museum will host Col. Robert A. Wright IV at 2 p.m. on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Wright will speak on the topic of service: What private citizens can do to thank servicemen and women for their sacrifices. Light refreshments will be served at the museum, 303 S. Western Ave., Lampasas.

Wright is the senior regular Army adviser to the Texas Army National Guard. Before this position, Wright served as the chief of Colonels Requirements for the Army chief of staff and the deputy chief of staff for operations at NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Turkey, where he performed NATO political directives with 13 nations.

Wright has also served as a regional director for the Soldier for Life program for the Army chief of staff, assisting with veteran reintegration for employment, education and health care at the federal, state and local levels. He also served as the commander of the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Wright graduated from Copperas Cove High School in 1989. He is married to Myra Graves, and they are the parents of two children, Kyle A. Wright, a freshman and member of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University, and Madalyn Wright, a freshman at Lake Travis High School in Austin.

Also in conjunction with Veterans Day, the museum will display information on Lampasas County veterans. The museum collects information on county veterans.

For more information, call the museum at 512-556-2224.

307 Miller's Crossing, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9. For more information, email [nbroemer@ci.harker-heights.tx.us](mailto:nbroemer@ci.harker-heights.tx.us) or call 254.953.5465.

## RESTAURANTS OBSERVE VETERANS DAY

Most restaurants require proof of service. Call restaurant for require-

ments and details before dining in.

• Applebee's: free meal for veterans and active members of the military on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-526-9711.

• Chili's: free meal for veterans and active-duty service members on Nov. 11. For more information, call

254-690-4644.

• BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse: free entree up to \$12.95 for service members on Nov. 10 and 11. For more information, call 254-778-3300.

• Cici's Pizza: 25 percent off adult buffet for service members on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-242-3400.

• Golden Corral: free dinner for military retirees, active duty, National Guard and reserves from 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 13. For more information, call 254-501-4710.

• Texas Roadhouse: free lunch for veterans 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-699-7366.

• Buffalo Wild Wings: free one small order of wings and a side of fries for veterans and active duty members on Nov. 11 all day. For more information, call 254-690-1523.

• Cracker Barrel: complimentary slice of Double Chocolate Fudge Cocoa Cola Cake on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-953-8290.

• Hooters is offering a free meal for veterans and active duty members Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-501-4195.

• IHOP: free red, white and blue pancakes for veterans and active duty members on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-526-7702.

• Little Caesar's: free \$5 lunch combo to veterans and active-duty service members on Nov. 11. For



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- Olive Garden: free entree for active duty and veterans on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-699-2709.

- Outback Steakhouse: active-duty and retired members receive a free Bloomin' Onion appetizer. For more information, call 254-699-4164.

- Red Lobster: free appetizer or dessert for veterans, reserve and active duty personnel on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-526-7335.

- Red Robin: free Red's Tavern Double Burger with Bottomless Steak Fries on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-699-8550.

- Starbucks: free tall coffee for veterans, reservists, active duty members and their spouses on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-690-5192.

- TGIFriday's: free lunch for veterans and active-duty service members from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-953-2117.



AMY PROCTOR | HERALD

Herald staff reports Fort Hood soldiers march in the Veterans Day parade in downtown Killeen in 2016.



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## Quilt exhibit at Bell County Museum honors service members



HERALD STAFF REPORTS

**R**ed, white and blue quilts will be on exhibit to honor service members and veterans at the Bell County Museum in Belton.

Quilters With a Heart is a local Quilts of Valor group whose goal is to honor the brave men and women who have been touched by war or military conflict. The local group Quilters With a Heart have had on display since September approximately 22 patriotic quilts. All of these quilts will be awarded to veterans from World War II to Iraq and Afghanistan at 2 p.m. on Nov. 11.

“We invite you to come and share with them how much you thank them for their service, sacrifice and valor in serving our nation,” according to the organization. “Please plan to make this an integral part of your experience when you come to see this amazing exhibit! We have so many creative, wonderful, and talented quilt makers in Bell County and from around the United States who stitched these 22-plus patriotic quilts with love and caring.”

Business hours for the Bell County Museum, 201 N Main St., are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

For more information about the QOVF and how to request a Quilt of Valor go to [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org).

Local Quilts of Valor group Quilters With a Heart have a display honoring veterans at the Bell County Museum.

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# Local veteran reflects on adversities, successes throughout career

BY JASON DOUGLAS  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

**C**opperas Cove resident and veteran Eddie L. Bell Sr. first enlisted in the U.S. Army from his hometown of Mobile, Alabama, as a teletypewriter repairer on June 20, 1966.

The 70-year-old retired first sergeant, and current state president and national director of the Department of Texas Korean War Veterans Association, didn't at the time realize it would lead to more than 26 years of military service.

His first assignment took him to Schweinfurt, Germany, a country he would later call home for more than two decades, and then he was sent to Vietnam in 1968.

"At that time the military used to levy an individual by (military occupational specialty)," Bell said. "When they levied us to Vietnam, it was because of the mobile (communications) systems called 'ratt rigs.'"

Bell said he was in Vietnam from 1968-1969 and left military service for a variety of reasons, but one being racism.

"A lot of people probably don't want to talk about it but, if they think problems with people of color didn't follow us into combat, then they are lying to you," Bell said. "They did, they do, and they still do."

Bell said some of the treatment in the military was a factor — dealing



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Retired First Sgt. Eddie L. Bell Sr. is seen Sept. 29 at a pinning ceremony for Vietnam veterans commemorating the 50th anniversary of the conflict.

with racism while in a combat zone was harrowing.

"I'm not from this country and you aren't from this country, why do I have to be some N-word," Bell said.

However, returning home after

military service didn't prove to be any easier when it came to race concerns.

"The lesson I learned was it's no different on the street than it was in the military," Bell said.

Bell said he went to an unemployment office with his military skills but was told by an individual there that if he wanted a job, he should move to California or New York.

"Naively thinking that people weren't really the way they were, I went to a job interview," Bell said.

Bell said the interviewer took one look at him and said, "he'd be right back" but never returned. It was these experiences that led Bell to return to military service in 1974.

Bell spent the next several years being assigned to South Korea, Fort Hood, Utah and Germany, climbing through the enlisted ranks to sergeant first class in 1983, eventually retiring as a first sergeant in 1995.

Bell said after retirement he spent the next 23 years in Germany working for the Department of Defense and only returned to the United States in 2015. Some of the old communications systems he was trained on were still being used, and he was one of a few individuals skilled at operating them.

"I went to work as a telecommunications officer for the 57th Signal Battalion in support of headquarters (U.S. European Command)," Bell said. "My last seven years before I retired again after 19 years of service from them, I was with headquarters U.S. Africa Command, and helped stand up headquarters U.S. Africa Command."

Bell said when he reflects on his

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MIKE BARTOSZEK | HERALD

Eddie Bell Sr., left, and Ronald Swift of the Korean War Veterans Association bow their heads during the invocation during a Korean War remembrance ceremony June 25, 2015, in Killeen.

military service, he knew the path was a struggle that he would have to face head on to be successful.

“The hardest part I think I had was in combat and individuals using the N-word, trying to determine whether they wanted to do what I say or not,” Bell said. “The part that really stands out was when I first got out I had to grow up — when I came back in things hadn’t changed much. Probably my proudest mo-

ments were understanding who I was and what I had to do, I knew I would have to fight to stay in and move up the ladder in a world where I had no control.”

Since returning to Central Texas, Bell has become the state president and national director of the Department of Texas Korean War Veterans Association and the local director of the Forty and Eight chapter. The Fort and Eight is an affiliate orga-

nization of the American Legion and, among other things, provides scholarships to people wishing to become nurses.

Bell is also involved with the Veterans’ Interment Fund that aids families of deceased veterans who can’t cover burial costs.

“I raise money by selling bracelets and other things, collect donations so that when I get the call to help a veteran that does not have the

means to be buried, we support it,” Bell said.

Bell is also a member and active in the Disabled American Veterans chapter 74, the Vietnam Veterans Association chapter 1,000, the Military Order of the Cooties, the Association of the United States Army and Veterans of Foreign Wars, as well as several other groups aimed at helping veterans and members of the community.

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# Coryell County veteran continues to serve after retirement

BY JASON DOUGLAS  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Copperas Cove resident and veteran Tony Smith has been serving his country and community in and out of uniform for more than 30 years.

Smith, a retired first sergeant and current county-appointed veterans service officer in Coryell County, began his military career as an atomic munitions demolitions specialist after enlisting in the Army from his hometown of Port Jervis, New York, in 1977.

"I worked with nuclear explosives," Smith said. "I worked as a combat engineer; I also did CID (U.S. Army Criminal Investigative Command) work for a little while."

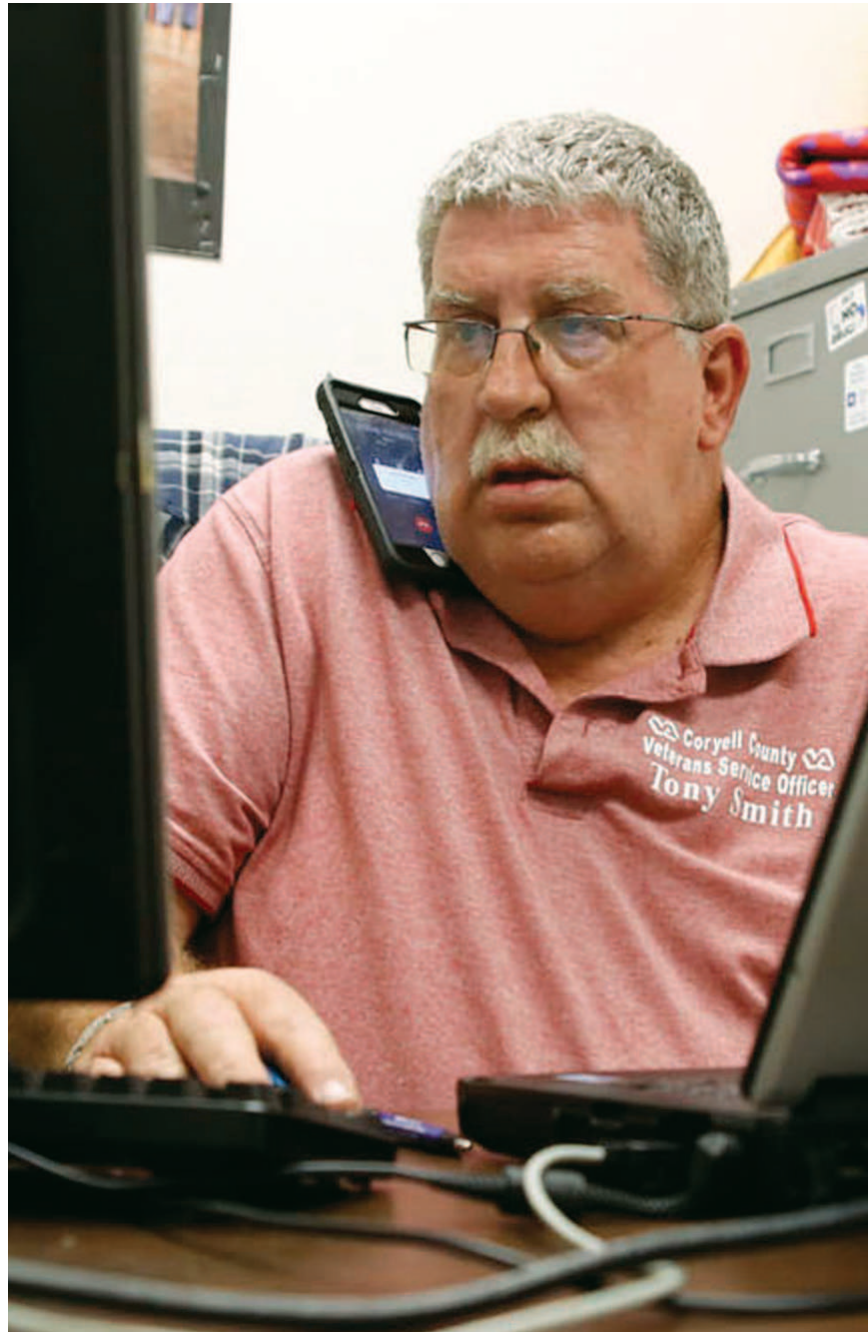
Smith's military assignments included serving as a drill sergeant at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, tours along the demilitarized zone in South Korea and at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he witnessed the Mount St. Helens eruption in 1980. He deployed in support of Operation Urgent Fury during the invasion of Grenada in 1983, conducted peacekeeping operations in Kosovo and Bosnia and deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Smith said when reflecting on his military career, one of his fondest memories was following a deployment to Iraq.

"When I went to Iraq the first time, I lost soldiers there, and I made it my mission that the next time I go back over we are going to be fully trained no matter what," Smith said. "I came back with all of them the second time, that was the best."

Smith is the father of nine children who, he said, all served or are serving in the military, including a son lost to combat in Iraq and another who was badly injured in combat.

"I lost one there, and I've got one at home with me right now who got



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Tony Smith, veterans service officer for Coryell County, works in his office Dec. 28 at the Coryell County Main Street Annex in Copperas Cove.

hit with IEDs, and he can't ever live by himself for the rest of his life," Smith said.

Smith said his proudest accomplishment is his children who followed in his footsteps of military service.

"My kids are my pride and joy

— that's what my focus is," he said.

Smith retired from the Army in 2003 and was appointed as the Coryell county veterans service officer in 2015, and said his focus is on veteran's care.

"My main goal is to make sure every veteran gets what's due to

them," Smith said. "I don't mean just benefits."

Smith said he works a lot with the suicide prevention lines and receives phone calls from people who are struggling with suicidal thoughts.

"A lot of guys are out and don't want to get help with anything, but they still hold problems," Smith said.

Smith recalled helping a veteran out that reminded him of why he does the work he voluntarily does.

"I had one kid I helped out quite a bit; he was lying on the floor dying and the police can't do anything," Smith said. "We went in, got him up and sent him over to a treatment center and today he's a mechanic for Harley-Davidson."

Smith said the veteran has stayed sober since and continues to stay in contact with him, who views him as a mentor.

As the veteran service officer, Smith assists veterans by answering questions on what federal, state and local benefits they qualify for and assisting veterans in filing for medical claims with Department of Veterans Affairs. It's bringing this information and assistance that is the driving force and only reward Smith needs.

"The other thing is to make sure they understand what they have; a lot of people don't understand that they have health benefits, education benefits and don't understand that some of their education benefits can be put off to their children," Smith said. "A lot of them don't understand that they have life insurance due to them and a lot of them don't understand that after a person dies, what the spousal benefits are."

Smith's efforts were acknowledged when he was named as a recipient of the 2017 Governor's Volunteer Awards. He received the award during an evening reception at the Texas Governor's Mansion on Oct. 23.

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# Army retiree empowers, provides guidance to female veterans

BY JASON DOUGLAS  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

**K**ileen resident Lila Holley saw military service as an opportunity to serve her country and provide a better life for her child as a single parent.

The 47-year-old retired Army chief warrant officer 4 from upstate New York and author of the award-winning book, “Camouflaged Sisters,” and of “Camouflaged Sisters: Silent No More,” spent 22 years as a military intelligence analyst and said her service made her who she is today.

Holley served from 1990 to 2012, rising in the enlisted ranks to a staff sergeant before becoming a warrant officer. Her career took her around the country and world. She spent time at Fort Stewart, Georgia, Fort Carson, Colorado, and Fort Hood, and had overseas assignments in South Korea, England, Hawaii, Bosnia, Japan, Singapore and the Philippines. She also deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Holley said when reflecting on her military career, several moments stand out to her as being the most impactful.

“My tour in Iraq was probably a major highlight for me in terms of growth as a leader, soldier and analyst,” Holley said.

Holley said initially she was ill-prepared going into the deployment as an active-duty augmentee to a National Guard division and gave what she describes as the worst briefing in her life.

“I dug my heels in and I learned everything I needed to learn and became that go-to chief for the commanding general for that division,” Holley said. “Not only me, but my whole team had a level of growth that was impressive and the general and staff took notice of that.”

Holley said to this day the soldiers from the deployment contact her.



“I think a lot of times as leaders we don’t understand the impact that we have until down the road,” Holley said. “We always have to understand that they (soldiers) are always watching us, and we have to give our best effort.”

Holley said her last assignment in the Army was as a warrant officer assignment manager and was very rewarding. “I had a young soldier

who her and her husband had just been picked up to become warrant officers and they were so excited but, she found out she was pregnant,” she said.

Holley said the soldier was going to withdraw her acceptance to the warrant officer school due to her pregnancy.

“She called me, and I asked her ‘why would you do that?’” Holley

said. “You worked hard for this, have that baby and work to get that body back in shape and get back in school, don’t be so easy to give something up because life takes a different path.”

Holley said the transformation from soldier to civilian was especially challenging, which inspired her to begin writing about not only leaving military service, but

**‘There was nothing out there in our own voices** and our own words that recorded our experiences in the military. Any woman can relate to these topics: balancing life, how your faith plays into making it through life and career, mentorship among women, leadership and transition.’

**Lila Holley**

also women veteran’s experiences and adversities they may have gone through while serving in the military.

“The transition really caught me off guard — there’s things that you miss from the military and then there are those things in your person that you didn’t address those 20-plus years that you’ve served,” Holley said.

Holley said after reaching out and receiving help through the Veterans Affairs, she began to write a journal which led to her write a guide titled, “Battle Buddy.”

“I use this one to speak at colleges; I speak regularly at Baylor to their veterans’ class about transitioning and some of the things they can do to help with that process,” Holley said.

Holley said during this process, she was also around many women veterans and discovered they had some incredible stories that weren’t

being told.

“That’s when ‘Camouflage Sisters’ was birthed, which is coming up on our two-year anniversary,” Holley said.

The books full title is, “Camouflaged Sisters: Revealing Struggles of the Black Woman’s Military Experience” and was co-authored with 13 other African American women service members.

“There was nothing out there in our own voices and our own words that recorded our experiences in the military,” Holley said. “Any woman can relate to these topics: balancing life, how your faith plays into making it through life and career, mentorship among women, leadership and transition.”

Holley said during an event, she invited female veterans to share some experiences of theirs, which led to her second book titled “Camouflaged Sisters: Silent No More,” a book she co-authored with 11

women service members and was released on Veterans Day 2016.

“I had the great honor of meeting so many incredible women, but what I saw was a lot of pain in our military sisters that they were carrying,” Holley said. “Women when they come out of the military ... It changes their demeanor.”

The book reveals what women serving in the military have gone through and how those women overcame those obstacles. Each chapter of the book is written by a different veteran and discusses challenges of leadership women face, including sexual trauma.

“As we as women take back the narrative of telling our own stories, we have control of how we tell the whole story,” Holley said. “‘Silent no More’ tackles the ugly part of the story, so we talk about domestic violence, we talk about military sexual trauma, PTSD from combat from a woman’s prospective, and then we

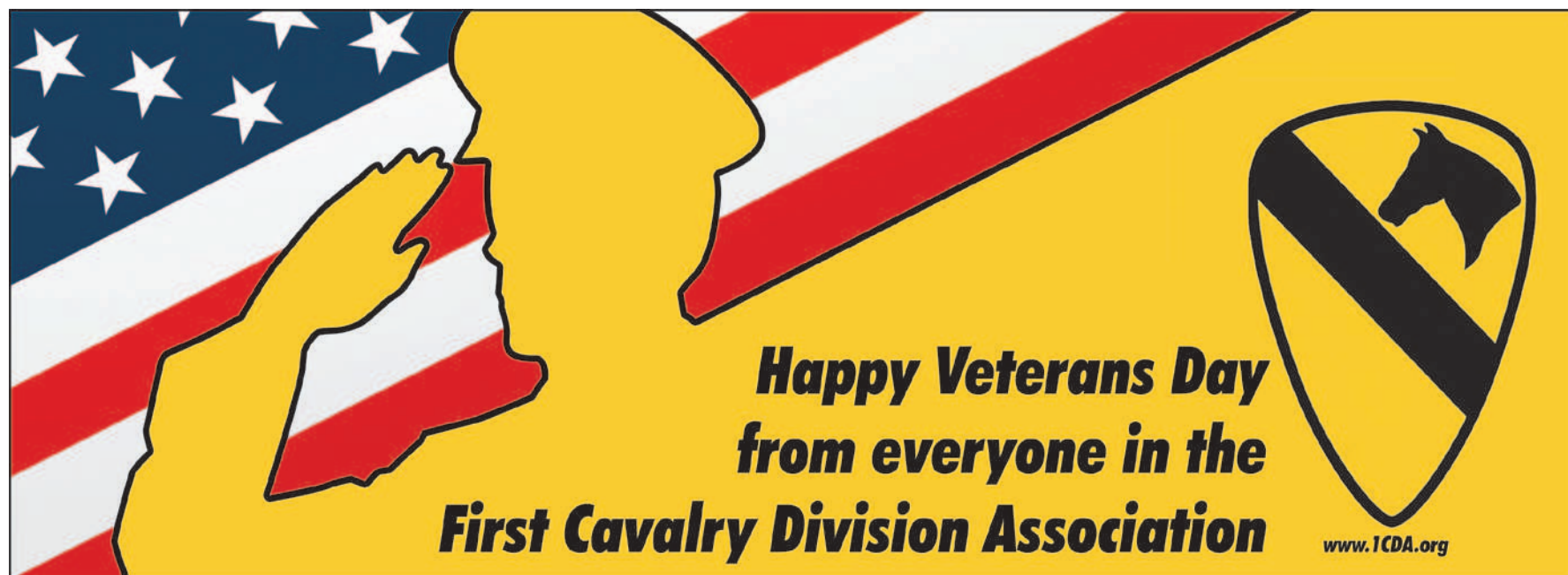
focus on the healing.”

Holley is about to go on tour for her new book titled “Behind the Rank Volume 1,” which she co-wrote with 29 authors and was recently released in September.

“When I was on this journey of doing the books, I had a lot of women who had their stories to tell, so I said let me tell the story behind the rank,” Holley said. “A lot of people just don’t know those conversations and little battles we have to have behind the rank as women serving in the military.”

Holley said she hoped the new book would be a guide for the next generation of women leaders.

“There’s really nothing new when it comes to toxic leadership or being a mother having to leave your children,” Holley said. “These are the things we talk about in this book, because these are the stories behind the rank that make us the women we are today.”



# SOLEMN SHOW OF RESPECT

## Cemetery ensures veterans aren't laid to rest alone

BY DAVID A. BRYANT  
FORT HOOD HERALD

Since Veterans Day 2016, 21 unaccompanied veteran funerals have been conducted at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, according to Brittany Eck from the Texas General Land Office.

An unaccompanied veteran is one who no longer has family members available to attend, either through having no family members left or having no family near enough to attend, Eck said. The Texas GLO is responsible for all six veteran cemeteries in the state of Texas, and 21 is simply the number of unaccompanied veterans buried at the Killeen cemetery.

Due to the high number of veterans in the greater Fort Hood area, however, these veterans are not alone when they are laid to rest, according to retired 1st Sgt. Eddie Bell.

"Us old guys get together a lot, and this is what we often talk about," Bell, the president of the state Korean War Veterans Association, said. "I've never even thought of the number of how many (unaccompanied veteran funerals) I've attended. When I hear about one and I can go, I'm just there."

Bell said most veterans in the area feel the same. Especially if the veteran is from World War II, Korea or Vietnam and has no other family available.

"I need to be there to show respect. Someone has to step in to be the recipient of the flag, and while I have not had that honor yet, someone has to be there," he said. "We're paying our respects — that's a brother or a sister, so that's where I'm supposed to be."



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Staff Sgt. Jevon Watkins, left, and Sgt. Shawnar Thomas fold an American flag during an unaccompanied veteran burial for Walter Scott Bundy Jr. at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery on July 25, 2016. Bundy served in the Army from August 1942 to January 1963 and passed away with no next of kin. He was deployed during World War II and the Korean War, and was on active duty during Vietnam.

**'We're family, and we're proud to stand in as family when they have none of their own.'**

**Retired 1st Sgt. Tony Smith**

Retired 1st Sgt. Tony Smith, the Coryell County veterans service officer, also said this is because each of those veterans are "family."

"These are our brothers and sisters — it doesn't matter what

color they were, what religion, male or female ... Doesn't even matter if we served in the same war or at the same time or in the same branch," he said. "We're family, and we're proud to stand in as family when

they have none of their own. I know my fellow veterans feel the same."

Those funerals were for veterans of all branches of service.

Usually, a folded American flag gets passed to the family. But in this case, the flag was presented to Jean Shine, the civilian aide to the secretary of the Army and president of the Friends of the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery.

It was the first time Shine received the American flag at a military funeral.

“You’re doing it for all of his family, friends, and we hope they know that we will always honor him and our cemetery will take care of him forever,” she said at the time.

Daryl Richard Gibbs, 78, served in the Army from 1958 to 1960, and was buried in November 2016. His family members were unable to attend, but a crowd of about 40 was there to honor the veteran.

Edward Stone, 63, an Army veteran, died at the Veterans Affairs nursing home in Waco in January. He served in the Army from April 1971 to April 1974.

In March, Samuel Stewart, an Army and Vietnam veteran and Waco resident who served in the Army from December 1964 to December 1966, was honored. His discharge paperwork was too worn to be read, according to officials from the funeral home coordinating the services, but indicated he served in aviation.

In May, Aubry Bolding Jr., who served in the Army from November 1965 to October 1967, was laid to rest.



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Jason Bretado pays his respects during a burial for U.S. Army veteran LeRoy Jacobson at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen.

Also in May, Arthur McClanahan, who served in the Air Force from January 1981 to September 1983, was laid to rest.

In June, Karin Laws, who served in the Navy from September 1981 to

January 1989, was laid to rest.

In September, Romanita Snyder, who served in the Army from October 1978 to April 1979, was laid to rest.

“This is the consensus and at-

titude I get within the community,” Bell said. “They show up. The bottom line is, that’s where they feel they have to be.”

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# Groups ensure veterans receive proper burial

BY DAVID A. BRYANT

FORT HOOD HERALD

It was a situation no veteran wants to face — one which stressed James Cogan and his family until shortly before his death Sept. 9, 2016, at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Temple.

The a Purple Heart Medal recipient had been exposed to the side effects of Agent Orange in 1972 after being drafted into the Army and sent to Vietnam, making it impossible for him to find a life insurance company who would give him a policy. Because of it, he and his family were unable to come up with the money to bury him.

So Eddie Bell Sr., a retired Army first sergeant and the president of the state Korean War Veterans Association, decided that was unacceptable and immediately set about ensuring Cogan received the honors he was due once he found out about the family's predicament.

With the help of veteran organizations from the Fort Hood area and Scott's Funeral Home in Copperas Cove, enough money was raised to give Cogan a proper burial.

"Scott's Funeral Home in Copperas Cove came through for us, and they are doing a fantastic job taking care of our veterans," Bell said, adding that the funeral home cut the cost down to \$3,500. "When I received the phone call about this particular situation, it reminded me of Willie Browning, when they were having issues with interment for her. It clicked real quick that we can't keep going through this, and we need to do something."

Browning was a beloved veterans service officer in Harker Heights who helped more than 100,000 veterans receive their disability benefits.

While Bell was able to gather the funds needed for Cogan's funeral, he said he quickly realized it would not be the last time funeral arrange-



ERIC J. SHELTON | HERALD

Staff Sgt. Christopher Gilbert gives San Juana "Janie" Cogan, wife of James M. Cogan, an American flag during James Cogan's funeral Sept. 13, 2016, at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen.

## How to help

Donations to the Internment Fund can be mailed to:

Department of Texas KWVA  
Attn: Eddie Bell  
1105 Craig Street  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

Please write "For Internment Fund" somewhere on check/money order.

All donations are tax deductible.

ments would need to be taken care of for veterans.

"I started a separate fund through the Texas Korean War Veterans

Association specifically for this," he said. "We are not going to get ourselves in the position again when we have a situation like this."

Since then, the fund had paid for the funerals of five veterans in similar situations, Bell said. There have been a few who have tried to take advantage of the fund, but he said he really does his "homework and due diligence."

Bell said the fund is only be used to pay for funerals, that veterans are vetted to ensure they are able to use services provided by veteran organizations and all funds go through KWVA.

"The Korean War Veterans Association is a nonprofit, so any funds donated are tax deductible,"

he added. "The fund is also one which will be audited regularly, with all expenses listed, and is a public record. That means anyone can see exactly where the money is going at any given time."

Other local veteran organizations help ensure the fund stays viable.

"We're still raising money for the fund and are ready to answer the call when needed," Bell said. "Operation Stand Down-Central Texas (a Copperas Cove-based nonprofit for homeless veterans) even donated about \$3,000 to help replenish the fund a few months ago. And the funeral homes, mainly Scott's Funeral Home, help do the best they can to do the best deals they can to help us defray the costs."

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- NATIONAL SECURITY
- AMERICANISM
- CHILDREN & YOUTH

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CSM Elijah King, Jr. (Post 217)

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(Mailing Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

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(Membership ID# former member) \_\_\_\_\_ (Email Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Dues) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below**

<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2, 1990 – cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines 12/7/41 – 12/31/46 (only eligibility)
<input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918	

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Name of recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

30-009 (2016)

General Robert M. Shoemaker (Post 216)

**The American Legion Membership Application**

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(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ (Post #) **216**

(Membership ID# former member) \_\_\_\_\_ (Email Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Dues) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below**

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Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Name of recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

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**INTERESTED?** Complete the application and mail your \$30 check to Dan Corbin at 603 N 8th St., Killeen, TX 76541. Please make checks payable to The American Legion.

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