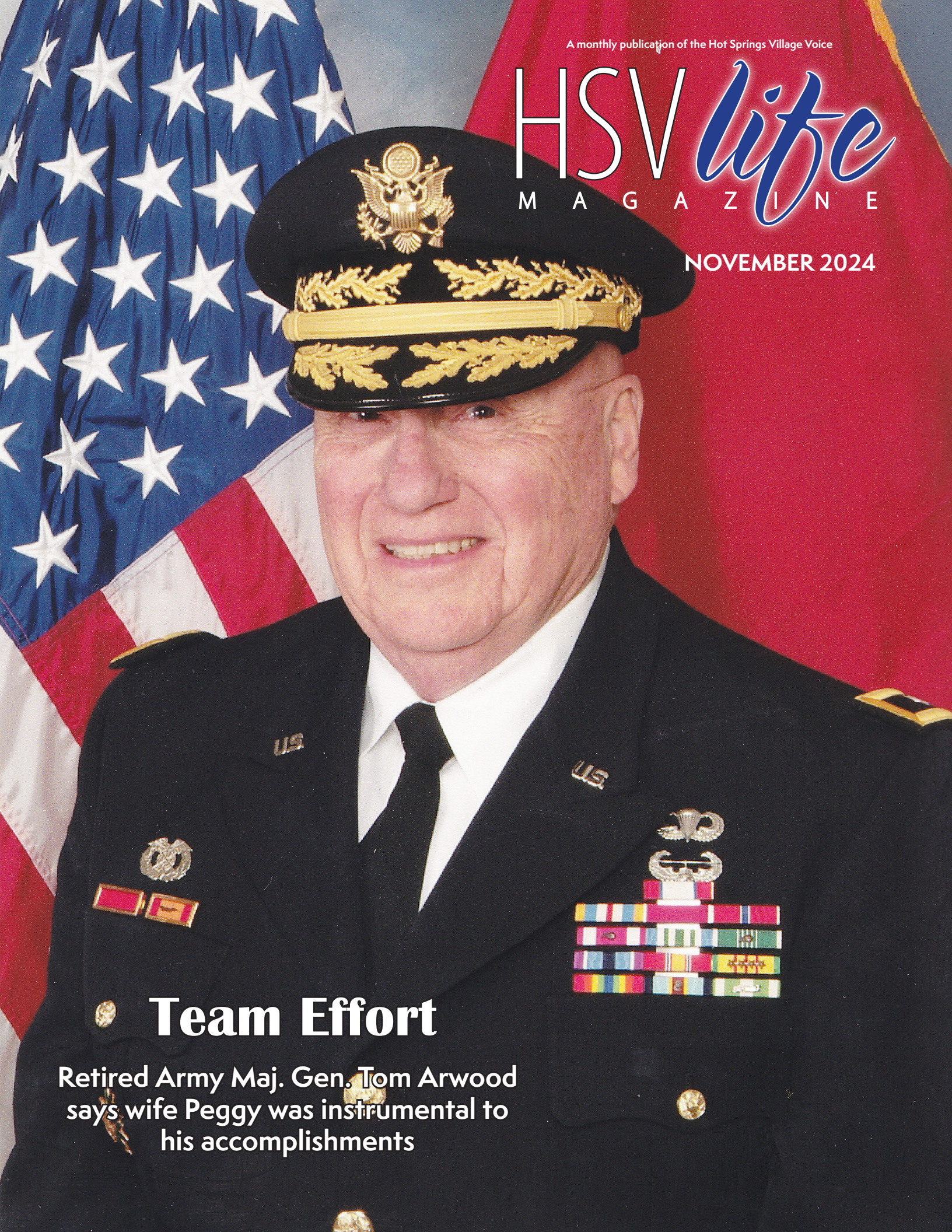


A monthly publication of the Hot Springs Village Voice

HSV *life*

M A G A Z I N E

NOVEMBER 2024



Team Effort

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Tom Arwood says wife Peggy was instrumental to his accomplishments




RE/MAX®

Hot Springs Village


Come Home to Hot Springs Village!




REALTOR®
Pat Bollier



NIGHTLY RENTAL RESERVATIONIST
Brooke Brinkley



REALTOR®
Deb Bryan




EXECUTIVE BROKER
Susie Burns



REALTOR®
Kayla Casada



ASSOCIATE BROKER
Ray Clem



ASSOCIATE BROKER, GRI, RCC
BJ Conner



REALTOR®
Randall Cummings



REALTOR®
Laura Floyd



REALTOR®
Linda Forry



REALTOR®
Pamela Graves



REALTOR®
Jim Harbour



EXECUTIVE BROKER
Charlotte Hitchens



REALTOR®
Darla Hollansworth



REALTOR®
Jane Hollansworth



EXECUTIVE BROKER
Jeff Hollansworth



REALTOR®
Stephanie Iglehart




REALTOR®
Brenda Langley



REALTOR®
George Langley




REALTOR®
Chuck Luther



LONG-TERM LEASING TEAM
Cheyenne Morel



EXECUTIVE BROKER
Alissa Nead



EXECUTIVE BROKER
Anthony Nicolosi



BACK OFFICE
Elizabeth Rusk




REALTOR®
Ethan Simpson




EXECUTIVE BROKER, TRLP, ABR
Dana Smith



REALTOR®, SALES ASSOCIATE
Allen Sobek



FRONT DESK
Victoria Spann



REALTOR®
Modine Spruell



REALTOR®
Melanie Spurgeon



NIGHTLY RENTALS MANAGER
Cindy Strait



REALTOR®
Hamp Wilson



BROKER/OWNER
Clara Nicolosi

Call 501-922-3777

Happy Thanksgiving!

Voted the *BEST* Real Estate Agency and Vacation Rental Company in HSV!



REAL ESTATE



SCAN ME

LONG-TERM RENTALS



SCAN ME

NIGHTLY RENTALS



SCAN ME

Keith's Roofing

YOUR ROOFING SPECIALISTS

Roof Repairs | Tear Offs Chimneys | Seamless Gutters & Covers

501.922.2020 **HSV** | 501.623.4747 **Hot Springs**



Gratitude, Respect & Best Wishes to America's Veterans

On behalf of our team and our fellow Americans,
we wish each of you a happy, healthy & safe Veterans Day.



Keith Lynchard On-site Owner/Operator
Over 27 Years Experience • Lifelong Resident of Hot Springs



VOTED #1 ROOFING
COMPANY IN HOT SPRINGS
VILLAGE VOICE READERS'
CHOICE AWARDS 2024

ASK ABOUT OUR
**DISCOUNTS FOR SENIORS
& VETERANS**

FREE Estimates!
Insurance Claim
Specialists!

*"When Quality Counts,
One Call Does It All."*

WWW.KEITHSROOFS.COM



HSV *life*

M A G A Z I N E

Publisher
Jennifer Allen

Contributors
Darrell W. Brown
Robin Raborn Burns
Adrienne Cohen
Lewis Delavan
Mary Eliades
Sandy Johansen
Jeff Meek

Advertising
Summer Benedict
Stephanie Highfill
Kendall Kegley

Design/Layout
Michael G. Fox

HSV Life Magazine is a monthly publication of the Hot Springs Village Voice newspaper. For additional copies, visit our office. Please send any questions or comments to us following our "Viewpoints" guidelines.

Hot Springs
Village Voice

**PO Box 8508 • 3576 N. Hwy. 7
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909**

**(501) 623-6397
news@hsvvoice.com
advertising@hsvvoice.com
hsvvoice.com**

**Copyright © MMXXIV
Hot Springs Village Voice**



Another year winding down

**The Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.
(Jeff Meek photo)**

Well, Hot Springs Village. Can you believe it. We're just a couple of months away from the year 2025. Wow. Where has 2024 gone? It's tough to think of the month of November without conjuring up memories of past Thanksgiving Day gatherings with family or friends. Some of you may have Thanksgiving Day family traditions, like a certain beverage, a certain pie, or main dinner course. In the Meek house our daughter Jennifer bakes our Thanksgiving Day pumpkin pie, and I carve the turkey. Everyone else is moving around the kitchen helping (or do I mean getting in the way?) When our son Jeff cooks, the kitchen is a forbidden zone. Enter at your own risk.

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. Family is usually together and it's a time to reflect and give thought to life, what's important to you, thoughts of loved ones who have passed away, and of course more food than one should eat in a 24-hour period, right!

We go around the table after the blessing and everyone takes just a moment to share something they're grateful for. Now approaching 75 years old, the number one thing on my list of blessings is a continuation of another year of relatively good health, mine, wife Jeanne's and everyone in our family.

November's next most important date for the Meek's is Veterans Day, this year on Monday, November 11. Each year Hot Springs Village remembers our veterans with a meaningful program at the Woodlands Auditorium. Take an hour or two to attend this year and show your respect for sacrifices made by those now and in the past, in uniform.

We at the Hot Springs Village Voice honor our veterans each No-



Follow us on Facebook & Instagram.



ember by making them the centerpiece of November’s HSV Life magazine. Here you’ll read the stories of those who served in World War II and Vietnam. As I did, and still do interviews and read about others who served, I cannot imagine what it was like to be in a combat zone, wondering, wary and wishing for a safe return to loved ones at home.

Across the globe are cemeteries filled with the graves of those who were not so lucky. I can remember standing in the cemetery above Omaha Beach in Normandy, France and seeing all those tombstones, noting that some of dead weren’t yet 20 years old.

The Hot Springs Village Voice and America salutes those of you who took that oath of service. An oath that led you many times to foreign lands and strange cultures thousands of miles from home.

You have our respect, for without you our world would likely be very different. It reminds me of a tee shirt I saw a few years ago. It said something like, “If you can read this, thank a teacher. If it’s in English, thank a veteran.”

Enjoy the magazine, the stories, and we hope your month of November is filled with excitement, good fortune and all that makes up a wonderful HSV Life.

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

CONTENTS

Another year winding down	4
ALL AROUND ARKANSAS	
The Civil War (aMost) Started Here	6
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE SAR	
Preserving History, Remembering the Past	8
HSV VETERANS	
Sayles served in 23rd Infantry	10
George Wiser served in WW II	12
Jerry Devon earned two Purple Hearts	14
COVER STORY	
The Arwoods enjoy life of service	18
Tyler served with 10th Army	21
Doyle served on 4 Navy ships	24
Gene Rasure served in Korea & Vietnam	26
Bateman served with 3565th WAF Squadron	30
November Events	34

ON THE COVER: Retired U. S. Army Major General Tom Arwood.

ALL AROUND ARKANSAS

The Civil War (Almost) Started Here

Darrell W. Brown

On April 12, 1861, the South Carolina Militia fired shots upon Fort Sumter, which marked the beginning of the Civil War. For the next five years, America experienced its great challenges as a nation, with more than 600,000 lives lost and millions of dollars in property damaged or destroyed. But what many people don't know is that the Civil War almost began in Arkansas.

Arkansas became the 25th state on June 15, 1836. Later that year, the federal government decided to build a new federal arsenal in Arkansas' capital city, Little Rock. Gov. James Conway and U.S. Army Major Robert B. Lee chose a site on the outskirts of the city that was the former home to a racetrack once used by a local jockey club. Congress appropriated \$14,000 for the arsenal, but the final cost of the building was nearly \$30,000.

The arsenal was built using timbers from Pine Bluff and rock from the Big Rock Quarry on the north side of the Arkansas River. At the arsenal's completion, the *Arkansas Gazette* declared it to be "a splendid specimen of masonry." Its signature feature: a three-story tower building. Over the next several years, 30 buildings were added to the installation.

In November 1860, U.S. Army Capt. James Totten was transferred from his previous post in Kansas to become the commander of the federal arsenal in Little Rock. Totten brought 65 troops with him, a move that caused much unrest across the state. On Jan.



The Federal Arsenal in Little Rock dates from the 1830s. It is now a museum.

28, 1861, Totten was informed by then-Gov. Henry Rector that neither reinforcements nor the removal of any weapons from the arsenal would be tolerated. Totten politely responded that he reported to the federal government and not the state of Arkansas. In the meantime, militias from all over the state began to arrive in Little Rock, prepared to halt any potential reinforcement of the arsenal.

The Little Rock City Council demanded that Rector immediately assume control of the militia groups to prevent a potential assault on the arsenal. Rector responded that he didn't have authority over such groups. The city council then called upon the Capital Guards, a militia group headquartered in Little Rock. By Feb. 6, Rector persuaded Totten to surrender the arsenal to the Arkansas militia troops. In order to prevent a serious military conflict between southern militias and the federal government, Totten agreed.

A few days later, the Capitol Guards escorted Totten and his troops from the arsenal. Totten and his men boarded a ship to St. Louis four days later. While he waited to leave the city, Totten received a sword from the ladies of Little Rock in honor of his heroic conduct during the arsenal crisis. By avoiding conflict, Totten had earned the respect of many Little Rock citizens and his U.S. Army superiors — and possibly avoided starting a war.

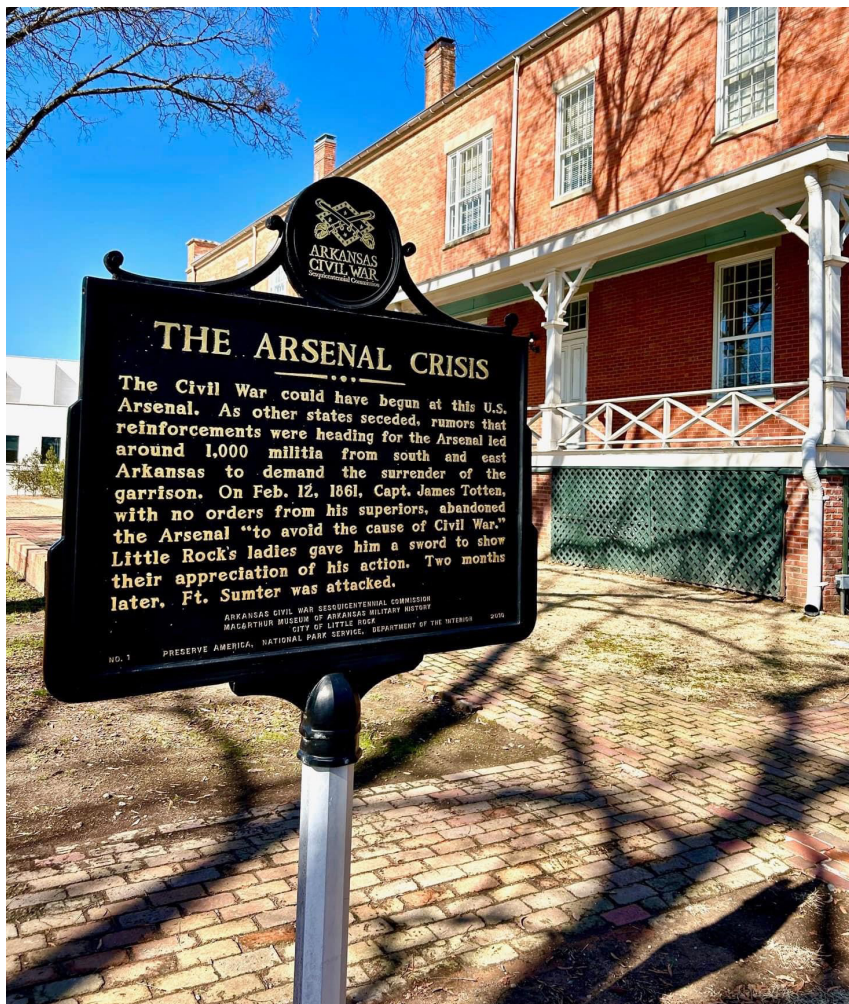
In 1863, federal troops entered Little Rock and occupied the arsenal for the remainder of the war. From 1863 to its decommissioning in 1890, the arsenal became a housing complex, with weapons stores being replaced with rooms for soldiers and families. And it was under that circumstance that the arsenal became famous as the birthplace of an iconic American World War II general, Douglas MacArthur. MacArthur's father, Gen. Arthur MacArthur, was stationed in Little Rock in 1880 when Douglas was born.

Ultimately, the federal government gave the arsenal to the city of Little Rock. Its grounds were converted to a public park and all its buildings, except for the tower building, were demolished or sold.

The tower building stood vacant until the late 1930s, when Little Rock began to renovate the historic building. In 1942, the Museum of Natural History and Antiquities opened in the tower building. The museum's name changed in 1964, to the Museum of Science and Natural History, and again in 1983, to the Arkansas Museum of Science and History. In 1997, the museum moved to a new location in the River Market, where it is now called the Museum of Discovery.

The arsenal was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 1970, and named a National Historic Landmark in April 1994. Today, it is the home of the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History.

If you get the opportunity, visit the tower building and take the self-guided tour around the old arsenal grounds. It's a beautiful park that, had one federal general not kept his cool, could have been ground zero for America's bloodiest conflict.



This plaque commemorates the arsenal crisis of 1861.

A proud sixth-generation Arkansan, Darrell Brown is a lover of all things Arkansas. He lives in Saline County with his wife, Amy, and their Boston Terrier puppy named Tucker. Find him on Facebook and Instagram at AllAroundArkansas.

MEDICARE INSURANCE QUESTIONS

Turning 65? On Disability? Just Moved?



Contact Local Independent Agent
JAMIE SELDEN
for a "No-Cost" Consultation

ALL ABOUT YOU Medicare Insurance

501-922-9898 or 501-441-4591

3560 N. Hwy. 7, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently, we represent 7 organizations which offer 107 products in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all your options.

HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE SAR



SAR members from 5 states gathered for a grave marking ceremony in northern Crawford County. (Submitted photo)

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Many are unaware of an organization called the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). Like the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), it's an organization that honors our Revolutionary War patriots and works to educate others about the sacrifices made over 240 years ago and assist veterans in need.

SAR was founded in 1889 and is headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky. It is one of the largest male societies in the U.S. with thousands of members and approximately 550 chapters. One of those chapters is the DeSoto Trace Chapter, Arkansas Society SAR (ARSSAR) here in Arkansas, with many of its

members being Hot Springs Village residents. By email and in an interview with chapter president Charles McLemore, he shared many of the DeSoto Trace chapter's activities.

The Chapter originally met in Arkadelphia when first chartered, but more recently met in Hot Springs Village for several years. Currently their meetings take place the second Saturday, January through May and September through December, at Smokin' in Style BBQ, 2278 Albert Pike Road in Hot Springs.

"We are an organization of men who are descendants of brave soldiers who fought for our freedom and establish the United States of America," McLemore said. "The objects of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical and educational, to unite and promote fellowship among the descendants of those who sacrificed to achieve the independence of the American people, to inspire them and the

community-at-large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers. We foster true patriotism.”

Five State Societies comprise the South-Central District: Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and Texas. District meetings are hosted by sponsoring state societies in this order: Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

McLemore is current President of DeSoto Trace Chapter, is Past Vice President General of the South-Central District and the Past State President of Arkansas Sons of the American Revolution. This past April, he was presented with the first Silver Hanna White Arnett award at the Arkansas DAR State Conference. The award is given to an SAR member that helps with DAR event coordination.

One annual event for this SAR chapter is the George Washington Birthday luncheon, held at Hot Springs Country Club, at which many different lineage society members attend from all around the State “Each year a noted historian will present a program on George or Martha Washington. The event is well attended with an average attendance of more than 100. This luncheon was started by Mr. and Mrs. Duane E. Vandenberg and has been held for more than 20 years.

SAR annually holds a spring leadership meeting in Louisville, this year back on February 29 to March 2. Several DeSoto Trace members attended. McLemore attended as a State Trustee. The Arkansas State meeting was held in Conway on March 16. Again, DeSoto Trace Chapter was well represented.

SAR DeSoto Trace Chapter met with the DAR Akansa Chapter this past April as a joint meeting to support both organizations. McLemore said the activity promotes a congenial and harmonious working relationship for the betterment of shared objectives, renders support and assistance in the area of community-centered events and mutual membership growth, fosters shared goals of historic preservation, education and patriotism.

Again, this year DeSoto Trace Chapter participated in the annual “Welcome Home Hot Springs Village Vietnam Veterans” event held at Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church.

SAR DeSoto Trace Chapter and DAR Akansa Chapter were invited to a remembrance event of Colbert’s Raid that took place back on April 17, 1783. Members of DeSoto Trace Chapter, dressed in period attire, traveled to Arkansas Post National Park in Gillette, Arkansas for the 241st anniversary.

DeSoto Trace Chapter also participates in grave marking ceremonies (see photos). On May 24, along with the Crowley Ridge Chapter the planned and conducted 2 such markings in Northeast Arkansas. Again, DeSoto Trace and McLemore are involved, McLemore as State Grave Marking Chairman.

On May 26 members attended the Battle of Fort San Carlos Festival and grave marking in St. Genevieve, Missouri. That battle was the largest Revolutionary War battle fought west of the Mississippi River. Five patriot graves were marked, and DeSoto Trace Chapter members participated in the Color Guard. Future grave marking events will take place in November in Southwest Arkansas. In December, SAR will participate with other lineage society members and the National Guard in laying Christmas wreaths at the Little Rock National Cemetery.

As one can see, the Chapter stays busy promoting their goals and participating in many events.

DeSoto Trace Chapter officers are President – McLemore, Vice President – open at this time, and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Wells.



We care for our patients just like we would care for our own family; focusing on individual needs one person at a time.

**Michael Semmler, O.D. & Susan Semmler, O.D.
102 Plaza Carmona Place, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909**



**501-922-5778
HSVEyecare.com**

HSV VETERANS

Sayles served in 23rd American Infantry Division in Vietnam

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

The U.S. Army's Americal Infantry Division was formed during World War II, getting its name from the phrase "Americans in New Caledonia." It was the first Army unit in World War II to go on the offensive, fighting at Guadalcanal. In Vietnam, in Feb. 1967, it reinforced Marine Corps units in I Corps with three brigades – the 11th, 196th and 198th. With the Americal Division, 198th Brigade in 1969 was Dave Sayles.

Born in Kansas, at age 13 the family moved to Michigan. After high school Sayles attended Western Michigan University, graduating in 1969. He was soon



Dave Sayles served in the U.S. Army. (Jeff Meek photo)

drafted in July and reported for basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Next came three weeks of advanced training at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

After jungle training he was sent to Oakland, California for assignment in Vietnam. Sayles was now a part of the 23rd Americal Division (he had turned down opportunities to attend OCS and pilot training).

On Dec. 17, 1969, he arrived at Bien Hoa air base and put with the 198th Brigade. His first impressions? "It was hot, dry and red dust everywhere," Sayles said.

Right away he was transferred to LZ (Landing Zone) Gator, home of the infantry in that area. His first field action took place on Dec. 24, when the unit went to My Lai, the site of the infamous March 16, 1968 massacre.

Sayles said the jungle had reclaimed much of My Lai and that they were there as part of an investigation. "We had Senators and Congressmen and VIPs of all sorts that were coming for the investigation into the massacre. Basically we were acting as a security force," Sayles said. He added there were times when enemy small arms fire would come in, but nothing serious. When finished they returned to LZ Gator.

The 198th's job was to go out on patrols, mostly

1 Percent Lists Arkansas Real Estate

Now Serving
HOT SPRINGS &
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE

SCOTT LOUPE
FULL SERVICE REALTOR®

501.489.2084

slope@1percentlists.com



- AFFORDABLE
- LOCAL
- PROFESSIONAL

1PercentListsArkansas.com

EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED. ©2024 1 PERCENT LISTS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

along the South China Sea or inland a few miles. They'd be helicoptered in, dropped off at an initial starting point and move out, making sure to stay off well-worn trails for fear of stepping on a mine. Sayles said it was much safer to walk in the rice patties, but they'd get leeches stuck on them which they removed with a lighter. Just pulling them off could cause a problem.

In the afternoons the unit would set up camp for the night, string wire and claymore mines along their perimeter, approximately 20 feet away. Night watch was done in three shifts and staying awake was essential for those on watch duty for the protection of all. "That was the worst possible sin," said Sayles of anyone falling asleep while on watch.

The men would re-group in the morning and continue their patrols. Sayles said they had no incidents of nighttime ambush. During the day they would see signs of the enemy and find tunnels which were cleared with concussion grenades.

During a Feb. 1970 mission near the sea, a helicopter flew in. He didn't think anything of it because it was a common sight. Choppers brought in supplies at various times so it was no big deal to see a chopper come in. But this time was different. Sayles was told he was leaving the unit and was to report to LZ Bayonet. Upon arrival he learned that JAG officers at Bayonet wanted him as a legal clerk.

As such he typed lots of trial paperwork. The trials related to drug use, assaults, drunk and disorderly and auto accidents. Sayles said there were a few "fragging" incidents as well when men tossed grenades into officers' quarters. Those men ended up in jail and got a dishonorable discharge. Sayles said he also did guard duty and that the enemy would sometimes attack nearby outposts.

In December he extended so he'd have fewer days

of service once back in the U.S. Sayles said he wasn't one to count days, but those last few seemed as if he started walking on egg shells. "Those were the scariest days I was there," he told me.

On Feb. 5, 1971, from Cam Ranh Bay, he flew home. He remembers the beautiful stewardesses, drenched in perfume. They made a stop at Guam, then flew on to Fort Lewis, Washington where he was discharged on Feb. 7. He said he experienced no ill-treatment as he made his way home, in uniform, to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

As a civilian Sayles went into the surety insurance industry, working for several companies in several locations. He retired on Sept. 30, 2005.

Reflecting back on his Army service Sayles said he mentally built a box to keep all the Vietnam memories inside. "I was proud to go, I think I did a good job while I was there, but did I want to go back? No. I did my duty," he said. "I think it (the war) was a waste of resources, human, monetary and all other types," he added.

Sayles said the U.S. should have let the military run the war, not the politicians. "I think initially I thought the military was running the war, but the longer I was over there it was very obvious that politicians were running the war. And politicians have never won a war in their life," he said.

Sayles concluded by saying he did not look into that mental box he talked about earlier, until he came to the Village. I can attest to that. When I first met Sayles in 2008 he showed me his medals. They had rust on them, and he told me he hadn't looked at them in many years.

Editor's note: Even after their passing we at the Voice are determined to keep our Hot Springs Village veteran's stories alive and show our support and appreciation for all they and their families have done.



We HEAR you voted for us...
Thank You

VILLAGE HEARING CLINIC

1ST PLACE 2024
Voice READERS CHOICE
THE BEST OF GARLAND AND SALINE COUNTIES

501-337-6222
Hearing Aids
Hearing Exams

Located in the RE/MAX Center-HSV

Marilyn Phelan
Certified Audiologist
CCC-A / SLP
ARhearinghealth.com



George Wisner

George Wisner served in World War II on B-24 bombers

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

The 7th Army Air Force operated against the Japanese in the vast Pacific Theater of War. It flew over 59,000 sorties and dropped 32,000 tons of bombs. It participated in actions at islands such as Midway, Guadalcanal, Wake, Guam, Tinian and Iwo Jima. George Wisner was in the 7th as part of the 30th Bomb Group, 27th Squadron as a flight engineer.

In Waukegan, Ill., Wisner was at the movies watching A Yank in the RAF, when word came of the attack at Pearl Harbor. He knew this was something big.

He later entered the military at Camp Grant, Illinois as part of the Aviation Cadets, on Oct. 5, 1943. From there he was off to Texas for basic training. After several more training stops, Wisner earned his wings.

At what is now Edwards Air Force Base, Wisner was assigned to the crew of a B-24 as an assistant flight engineer. The crew continued their combat training with Wisner in the nose turret. At Hamilton Field in San Francisco, they got a brand-new B-24.

Soon the crew flew their ship to Hawaii. They took off at night so they could use the stars to help navigation.

At Kauai, the plane was fine-tuned and prepped for duty in the Pacific. It made several stops along the way as they headed for their base on the island of Guam.

Their living quarters were up in the jungle. Also in that jungle were Japanese soldiers which had not yet surrendered when the island was secured by our fighting forces many weeks before.

Wiser slept with a .45 caliber handgun. "You just never knew when a Jap could come through the tent area wanting to steal things like clothes," Wisner said. This happened frequently while Wisner was in Guam.

Local natives were used as workers around the camp and therefore could eat in the mess hall with the U.S. military personnel. These natives looked much like the Japanese. "One of the guys asked a native to pass him the Tabasco sauce. The poor guy didn't have the

"Thank you for voting me in the TOP 3 FOR BEST REAL ESTATE AGENT."



Jane Hollansworth
Your 24/7 Realtor®
Cell: (501) 922-8177

Toll Free: (888) 828-9478
Office: (501) 922-3777
Email: janeholl@ipa.net
Website: HSVAgent.com

RE/MAX
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE
1400 DeSoto Blvd. in the RE/MAX Center

WINNER 2024
Voice READERS CHOICE
STANLEY GARLAND AND SALLINE

MLS
Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

LIST WITH THE BEST & GET THE BEST RESULTS!

vaguest notion of what that meant. He was a Jap. He had the guts to go in the mess hall in the middle of the day,” Wiser remembered.

Wiser also recalled the time when he was leisurely walking down a road. A big Packard went by and stopped. A Navy Ensign got out and started yelling at Wiser for not saluting Admiral Chester Nimitz who was in the car.

The primary mission of Wiser’s group was the pre-invasion bombing of Iwo Jima. On a daily basis, for two months, Iwo was pounded from the air. As invasion day, Feb. 19, 1945, approached, Wiser witnessed the amassing of a huge fleet near the island.

On Iwo Jima’s D-Day, the pilots were told to stay clear of all the Allied ships and fly over Iwo Jima by passing directly over Mt. Suribachi. The mountain was loaded with guns. So, the airmen were not too happy about their instructions.

As the planes went in, they were not fired on. All the Suribachi guns were now aimed at the Marines coming ashore.

After dropping their bombload, the plane strafed the Japanese as they continued their path across the island. It was the last of Wiser’s 13 missions over Iwo Jima.

Shortly thereafter, Wiser and the crew were back in Hawaii. Their plane and others in the group were inspected and declared unsafe to fly so they were cut up and pushed over a hill forming a huge junk pile.

They got a brand-new B-24 and set out for Midway Island. On final approach, the big bomber struck several albatrosses. A wing was dented and one engine damaged, but the plane touched down safely.

On the return flight to Hawaii, Wiser was assigned to take care of the needs of a passenger they were taking back with them. A Navy captain boarded the plane and off they went.

En route, they had to fly through a rough storm. “We started seeing purple fire on all the propellers. Suddenly there was a blinding flash and a loud bang,” Wiser said. The plane had been hit by lightning and a fire broke out onboard, but the B-24 made it back to Hawaii despite the scary ride. The Navy captain departed the plane without saying a word. “I think he had enough of the Air Force,” Wiser said.

While in Hawaii, Wiser was offered a chance to attend West Point. A military career was not to his liking, so he turned down the offer.

As they were later preparing to go to Okinawa, the

news came of the Japanese surrender. George Wiser had survived the war.

He was sent to a huge tent city to await transport back to the United States. Eventually, a Chilean banana boat, the Aconcague, was his ticket home.

Seven days later he was in Los Angeles. He was discharged at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin in January 1946.

As a civilian in 1949, Wiser got a pilot’s license. Over the years he would fly an F-5 jet, a Lockheed L-1011, commercial airliners, business jets and even a blimp.

He wanted to design airplanes and because of this, he earned an aeronautical engineering degree.

Wiser spent 34 years with Sierracin Corporation in California working as chief engineer and later president and CEO of the company. He retired in 1990.

Editor’s note: Even after their passing, we’re determined to keep our Hot Springs Village veteran’s stories alive and show our support for all veterans and their families for what they have done.

HSVlife
MAGAZINE

Hot Springs Village **Voice**

ADVERTISE WITH US!

88%
of Hot Springs Village residents turn to the **HSV Voice newspaper & the HSV Life Magazine** for local events, stories, news.

501-623-6397
ADVERTISING@HSVVOICE.COM

Jerry Devon earned two purple hearts for service in Europe

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

The 99th Infantry Division, known as “the Battle Babies,” fought in several European campaigns



Army medic Jerry Devon. (Jeff Meek photo)



**Free In-Home
Consultation**

Financing Available

**Window & Door
Projects**

Licensed & Insured

501-617-7024

www.swwindowanddoor.com

during World War II. Activated on Nov. 15, 1942, the Division saw 151 days of combat in the Rhineland, Ardennes and elsewhere in Central Europe. Jerry Devon served with “the Battle Babies” and later the 1st Infantry Division in Europe.

In 1942, Devon was drafted into the U.S. Army. He had been working in a drug store. Apparently, that was enough medical background for the Army to make him a combat medic. His training was at a hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

Later, he had other training in the swamps of Louisiana as preparation for fighting the Japanese in the Pacific Theater of war. In 1944, for some reason, his unit was pulled out of the swamps and sent to Boston, MA for transport to the action in Europe.

After a brief stay in England, Devon and his unit headed for the port of LaHarve in France.

Devon recalled for me his initial thoughts upon arrival, knowing his entry into combat was drawing near. He said, “I didn’t think I would ever come back.”

He was off to Belgium and found himself in the Elsenborn Ridge area when the Battle of the Bulge broke out on Dec. 16, 1944. The Ridge was the dominant feature in that part of the Ardennes.

German Lt. Col. Jochen Peiper was moving his troops parallel to Elsenborn Ridge. This action forced men from the 99th and the 2nd Infantry Divisions toward the Ridge.

Peiper's men were part of a huge German counter-offensive which eventually pushed the Allied lines back many miles. Thus, the battle became known as the Battle of the Bulge because of this bulge in the Allied lines.

Devon learned help was needed at the front so he went to see what he could do.

Shortly after he got there, the unit realized they were about to be surrounded by the German advance.

Devon treated one man with a shot of morphine, picked him up and pulled back with the other troops in the area. He saw German soldiers across the field as he and his wounded companion retreated.

As the battle wore on, Devon treated many wounded men. He would later receive letters of thanks from some of them.

Devon told me it was really tough to leave the badly wounded behind. He recalled one incident that still haunts him. A wounded man said to him, 'Please don't let me die.' "There was nothing we could do for him. You hate to leave guys like that," Devon remembers. The man had been hit in the chest and was not going to survive.

He also recalled seeing a GI leaning against a tree. He went to him to see if he could help. "I moved his head. A shell had gone through his head. I can't tell you what it looked like," Devon said.

Many times he used morphine to help the painfully injured. "The guys were strong-willed. They could take more pain than you can believe. That's hard to talk about," Devon recalled.

Day and night, Devon did his job helping the wounded. Sleep was not an option.

Then it was his turn. A tank round came in and Devon was hit in the back with shrapnel. In total, seven men were wounded and 11 killed in the blast.

He was evacuated to Paris where he spent 19 days in a hospital. While there he received a Purple Heart.

Devon returned to his unit as they were headed toward Dusseldorf, Germany. He was told to set up an aid station near Remagen, Germany. The bridge at Remagen was the first bridge over the Rhine River the Allies found undamaged and passable. A decision was made to immediately take advantage of this fortunate discovery and quickly move as many troops over the bridge as possible.



Happy Holidays
from

THE
ARLINGTON
RESORT HOTEL & SPA



Thanksgiving
Dinner buffet

NOVEMBER 28 | 11 AM - 3 PM

ADULTS: \$60
6YO-12YO: \$30
UNDER 6YO: FREE

Christmas
BUFFET

DECEMBER 25 | 11 AM - 3 PM

For reservations, please call 501-623-7771 or visit ArlingtonHotel.com/dining.



Devon was in a jeep crossing the bridge as enemy rounds were coming in and hitting the bridge supports above. “I didn’t think we were going to make it,” he said.

But they did make it. Devon, now on German soil, set up an aid station in a nearby house. It may very well have been the very first Allied aid station in Germany. This involved setting up equipment, necessary drugs and an operating room.

Later, Devon was near Kassel when he was again wounded. This time he was hit in the leg. He was flown to Paris for three weeks of recovery. While there, he heard the glorious news of the German surrender on May 8, 1945.

Devon returned to his unit and was offered a battlefield commission. He turned it down.

He was transferred to the 1st Infantry Division as part of the early occupation forces.

He continued his duties in the Bamberg and Nuremberg area.

Devon recalls one incident in particular when he treated a Nazi SS officer who had been hit in the leg. “He just stared at me,” Devon remembers.

In the town was a stream where the men decided to go trout fishing – with hand grenades.

“We just went around and picked up trout,” he said with a chuckle.

At Wurzburg, Germany, Devon served for a time as Camp Surgeon at the Lager Hamelberg concentration camp.

Devon eventually earned enough points to go home. From LaHarve he was taken home aboard the cruiser U.S.S. Portland.

I asked him to describe his feelings when he saw the Statue of Liberty as the ship sailed by. “That

Medicare Annual Enrollment Help.

Let’s Meet For Coffee!

501-922-7449



Affordable
HEALTH AND LIFE

AffordableHealthLife.com



Brian Kulis

Local Agent

was really something. You can't express what it is like coming back home. There's no feeling like it," he said.

A train took him to Indianapolis where he was discharged in September 1945.

In civilian life, Devon worked for Bendix Corporation in South Bend, Ind. For 30 years as head of maintenance. He retired in 1979.

Editor's note: Even after their passing we're determined to keep our Hot Springs Village veteran's stories alive and show our support and appreciation for all that our veterans and their families have done.



At the German border, the Bridge at Remagen, above and far left. (Jeff Meek photo)

Schedule your
FREE Evaluation today!

Land of the Free,
THANKS
to the **BRAVE**

To all of our nation's troops and veterans,
Happy Veterans Day,
and thank you for your service!

Your courage, commitment and sacrifice fill us with admiration and gratitude.

1st Place for Best Home Health Agency 2024 Readers' Choice Awards

Be cared for...
at home.
In comfort.
With love.

Village Home Care

Where Caring is Our Calling

501-922-2224

198 Carmona, Ste. 12
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

• ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA • IN-HOME CARE 24/7 • PHYSICAL DISABILITY CARE | VillageHomeCareHSV.com
• RELIEF & RESPITE CARE • TRANSPORTATION & POST SURGICAL SERVICES

COVER STORY

The Arwoods enjoy life of service

Lewis Delevan
and Jeff Meek
HSV LIFE

He's earned many accolades during his life, but retired Army Maj. Gen. Tom Arwood wants to make one thing clear – his wife Peggy was instrumental to his accomplishments.

"It was a team. Could I have done it without Peggy? I don't know. She is great," Arwood says.

One key lesson he learned in his career: "The most important thing is people," he said. The key is to know the people you're working for, know the people you're working with and most importantly, know those who are working for you."

Now 90, Arwood was blessed to work with good people. "I got in with good people – it wasn't just me," he added.

Keys to leadership: Listen to people, evaluate and make a timely decision. All the preparation is for naught if a timely, prudent decision cannot be made, he says.



Retired U. S. Army Major General Tom Arwood speaks in a veterans ceremony. (Jeff Meek photos)

Growing up in a small community south of Toledo, Ohio, his fortuitous choice to attend Bowling Green State University led to meeting his future wife on a double blind date. He knew Peggy was special from the time they met.

He worked hard during college years. "I'd work 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, then go and sleep before attending that day's classes," he recalls.

Hearing that joining Bowling Green's senior Reserve Officer Training Corps would earn monthly pay, he saw it as a good step toward his career goal as an accountant. "I saw (ROTC) pay as meaning I could eat. So I joined ROTC," he said.

The couple married on graduation day and moved to Utah, where the new 2nd lieutenant served as a commissary officer. Later deciding he enjoyed military service enough to apply for the regular Army, he completed Fort Bennett training and then Airborne School.

Rising from 1st lieutenant to 2-star general, the Arwoods traveled the world, moving 21 times in 34 years. Outstanding service earned Tom Arwood the Army Legion of Merit and the Humanitarian Service

Specializing in:
Exquisite home furnishings
Innovative kitchen & bath design
Top-notch commercial remodeling &
Cutting-edge construction services.

SANDY SUTTON
DESIGN CENTER
4112 Central Ave next to Olive Garden
501.624.6700 SandySuttonsDesigns.com

Medal.

After six years as Lockheed vice president, they decided it was time to retire.

Retirement led to a great choice. “The best decision we made was when we came here to Hot Springs Village.” He quickly noticed the great talent held by Villagers in many fields of life.

The Arwoods bought a lot in 1993; three years later they built a new house, with the home’s detailing made by Peggy.

Tom and Peggy Arwood have served the Village and the region in many ways. Among honors they have received is the HSVPOA President’s Award for outstanding service to the Village.

Tom Arwood is proudest of serving as chairman of the HSV Veterans Memorial Foundation site selection committee, the memorial’s fundraising committee and as the memorial’s board vice president, president and senior adviser. His dynamic, inspirational leadership helped raise \$257,000 in six months for the memorial, which was built in front of the Ponce de Leon Center on DeSoto Boulevard.

“This memorial is the best thing I’ve been involved in here at the Village,” Arwood said at its dedication. “It’s a fitting tribute to all who served their country. I was fortunate to have a satisfying career in the military in service to our nation. Now, I have the opportunity to serve our Village in many ways.”

Another great accomplishment was co-chairing an effort to repurpose an expiring Garland County sales tax to fund the county’s share of building the Hot Springs Bypass Scenic Highway. An educational effort led to strong support for the project in north Garland County, which allowed the funding to narrowly gain voter approval.

The new highway saves crucial minutes for accessing Hot Springs’ two medical centers, CHI St. Vincent-Hot Springs and National Park Medical Center. Over



The retired major general leads a procession of veterans to a ceremony.

NOW FEATURING PRODUCTS
MADE IN AMERICA
LUXURY VINYL PLANK FROM
TRUCOR & FirmFit

Free Estimates / Award Winning Customer Service

Southern FLOOR CO. *- Affordable Elegance -*

Villager Owned and Operated
4013 Highway 7N, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas
501-623-3000

the years he has served on boards of both hospitals.

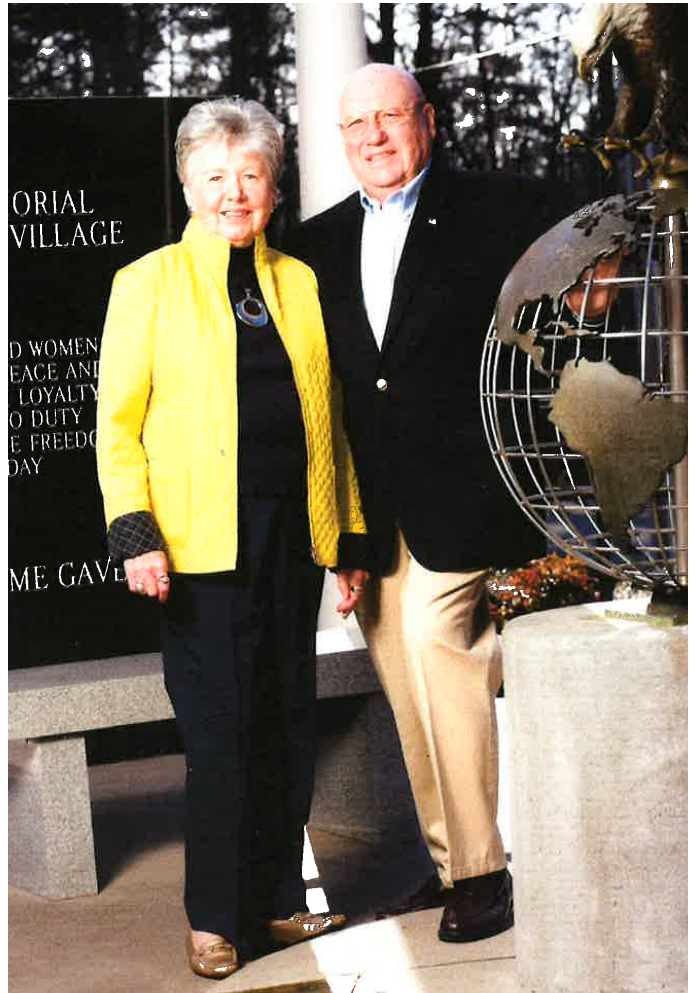
Here's a partial list of his service:

- 1998-2001 chairman, HSV Property Owners Association Strategic Planning Committee.
- 1998-2012 vice president/president, Rotary Club of HSV (ongoing member)
- 2000-2003 president, vice president, member, HSVPOA Board of Directors
- 2000-2004 vice president, member, POA Men's Golf Association
- 2002-2012 president, vice president, HSV Veterans Memorial Foundation (senior adviser and current member)
- 2002-2004 board member, Regions Bank's HSV advisory board
- 2002-2012 vice president, president, HSV Veterans Memorial Foundation (senior adviser)
- 2003 -2010 board member/vice president/president HSV Community Foundation

Serving Hot Springs Village for 30 years!

HotSpringsVillage.com
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE REAL ESTATE
Deb Seibert
Cell: 501-922-7169
Office: 501-922-5252
DebHSV.com
Deb Seibert
MLS GRI
The REALTOR you need!
 4124 N. State HWY 7, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

- 2004-2010 board member, Saline County Veterans Board
- 2004-2006 board member HSV St. Joseph's Hospital advisory board
- 2004-2010 president/member Friends of HSV (kitchen cabinet for the director of HSV)
- 2005-2008 chairman of stewardship, Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church
- 2005-2010 board member/secretary St. Joseph's Society Foundation Board
- 2005-2012 senior adviser, Military Officers' Association
- 2007-2010 member, chairman P O A



Peggy and Tom Arwood, partners in life and in public service. (Submitted photo)

- Governmental Affairs Committee
 - 2008-2010 executive board member, Saline County Economic Development Corp.
 - 2010 member, POA Ad-hoc Declaration Committee
 - Other honors:
 - Boy Scouts of America, "Good Scout of the Year 2009"
 - Bowling Green State University - Ohio Hall of Fame - ROTC
 - Inducted into the U.S. Army Quartermaster Hall of Fame 2012
- As an accountant and as a military and civilian leader Tom Arwood and his wife Peggy have enjoyed a rewarding life.

Tyler served with 10th Army at Okinawa in World War II

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT



World War II Sergeant Bill Tyler. (Jeff Meek photo)

The U.S. 10th Army was activated two weeks after the D-Day landings in Normandy, France. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. was given orders to organize and command the outfit. Their first mission was to take Okinawa and other islands in the Ryukus Group.

Gen. Buckner would later be killed by enemy shellfire while observing a Marine infantry and armor attack on Okinawa.

Also with the 10th Army at Okinawa was Bill Tyler. Tyler was with the 86th Infantry Division as a machine gunner, radioman, and telephone repairman.

He was duck hunting when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. His brother was already in the Army and Tyler thought eventually he, too, would be in the war.

While working as a barber, he was drafted in January 1943. Boot camp for him was at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

While in radio school in Los Angeles, he participated in another bit of history known as the Zoot Suit Riots. The riots were a series of fights in Los Angeles between servicemen and Hispanic youths who were recognized by the suits they wore.

Tensions were high between the Hispanics and the service men. In May 1943, sailors claimed “zoot suiters” stabbed a sailor. They retaliated by beating young



To our men and women in uniform,
both past and present, thank you for
your service to this country.
On behalf of our team we wish each
of you a happy, healthy and safe
Veterans Day

Ike Eisenhower Ins Agcy Inc
Ike Eisenhauer, Agent
4705 N Highway 7
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
Bus: 501-984-4100



Hispanics leaving a dance.

Other clashes followed throughout the month, culminating in a full-blown riot involving hundreds. Military authorities eventually broke up the fighting on June 7. "We weren't kind to them," said Tyler of the youths they fought.

His unit was soon attached to the Marine Corps because they needed the Army's machine guns and gunners. During some war games, Tyler was "killed" and had a sign put on his chest that said, "dead." He was sitting under a tree when an officer chewed him out for not saluting. "Not me sir, I'm dead," Tyler told the Lieutenant.

Later, the unit was shipped to Hawaii for more machine gun training. While there, he got to spend time with his brother whose ship was in the harbor.

The 86th was being readied for the invasion of Okinawa. They sailed to Ulithi where the invasion fleet was amassing. By now, Tyler could take apart and put back together his machine gun while blindfolded. He also spent time shark fishing with telephone wire off the fantail of his ship.

Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, dawned with the Allied forces ready for the initial assault. Tyler was in the first wave aboard an LCV. He crossed the beach in a half-track vehicle.

I asked Tyler his thoughts as he entered the battle. "You don't really think. You just know what you have to do. You just do what you can," he said.

He was surprised at the lack of enemy fire as they came ashore. That would soon change.

At times, the men would go into caves to protect themselves from enemy artillery. In some of those

caves, the men found jars of bones which were placed there by native Okinawans. Tyler learned that a cave he stayed in for a time was later found to contain a two-million-dollar Japanese payroll. The unit kept moving up through hostile fire and incessant rain.

Through all the carnage, Tyler remembers a funny incident he observed from afar.

He saw a GI go into a shack and then, a moment later, come running back out. Out another door of the same shack came a Japanese soldier running as well.

The fighting on Okinawa was fierce. Tyler remembers the stress of battle. "You had to be on alert all the time," he said. Tyler paused for a moment and looked off in the distance. I felt he was reliving the experience as we sat there in his living room.

One day, while out on patrol, a GI he was with got wounded. While under enemy fire, Tyler patched him up and both made it to safety.

Another time, while on radio duty, he was sent out to find a break in the line. With another man along for protection, Tyler went out to find the problem. The Japanese were known to cut a wire and wait for a repairman to come out and fix it. Tyler was lucky. Both men returned to their lines unharmed.

Tyler also remembers a friendly fire incident one night near Naha.

His unit of 26 half tracks, all equipped with machine guns, was in position for a fight. They could hear men approaching. Just as they were about to open fire, the group got a radio call. The movement was by approaching U.S. Marines. "We would have killed every one of them," Tyler said.

Tyler was also on the nearby island of Ie Shima when



Final Touch
ROOFING, INC.

Install Confidence in Your Roof!

**We also offer:
Windows - Siding - Gutters - Painting
Call Today for Your FREE Estimate!**

www.finaltouchroofs.com • 501-525-4200 • 457 West Grand Ave • Hot Springs, AR

beloved reporter Ernie Pyle was killed.

We talked about combat, the death and the dying. "You know, when you are in combat, you're not a person anymore. You're a thing. You kill or be killed. Your sense of dignity is gone," he said.

On August 14, the Japanese surrendered, and the war was over.

Tyler was sent to Korea for occupation duty.

A smallpox outbreak occurred and due to faulty paperwork, Tyler received three smallpox shots within 24 hours.

He was eventually sent home aboard a new Liberty ship and discharged in spring 1946.

Tyler spent his civilian career as a barber in Iowa.

Tyler loves to fish and once caught a 12-pound, 8-ounce largemouth bass in Lake Cortez as well as several 7- and 8-pound bass.

He's proud of his service to his country and feels the Army teaches self-sufficiency. "I don't regret any of the time I spent in service," he concluded.

Editors note: Even after their passing, we're determined to keep our Hot Springs Village veteran stories alive and show our support and appreciation for all that our veterans and their families have done.



Open 6am-9pm • 7 Days per Week

**4444 HWY 5
BENTON, AR 72019**

(Located 20 minutes from the East Gate)

CATFISH DINNER
BUY ONE GET ONE
1/2 PRICE
All Day FRIDAYS

Must bring in coupon. Expires 12/31/24

WE CATER!

*We provide everything you need
to make your event a success!*

Reunions • Anniversary • Holiday
Birthday Parties • Customer-Employee Appreciation
Receptions • Rehearsal Dinners • Fundraisers

*Fancy or Casual, Large or Small
Fixins' for Everyone, We do it ALL!*

Book Your Next Event, Call Rick at

501-794-0329

#1 Caterer

*We Cook U.S. Catfish,
Chicken Strips, Fried Shrimp,
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw,
French Fries and
Hush Puppies!*
On Site For Groups
Up To 1500.

Minimums Apply.



Doyle served on four Navy ships as an officer

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

Hot Springs Village resident Ed Doyle grew up in the Philadelphia area, attended Villanova University and participated in the school's ROTC program. He graduated with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree in May 1966 and was commissioned as an Ensign.

In June, Doyle attended Damage Control School at Philadelphia Naval Base. There he took several courses on such topics as firefighting and nuclear, biological, chemical defense. "We studied how to keep a ship alive in a battle environment," said Doyle.

I asked him what was involved in repairing a damaged hull. "Obviously below the water line is a lot more of a problem than above the waterline, but what you have to do when a ship goes to general quarters is you set "condition zero," which is when all water-tight doors are shut and not to be opened. You then have to go to the hull, get pumps going and somehow plug the hole with whatever you can," he answered. Beams, boards, metal pieces and whatever other nearby materials are used to plug into a hole. Doyle said two-by-fours and four-by-eights are used to brace the materials, which could even include a mattress and a sheet of plywood.

They also had a simulator to learn to fight fires, sometimes in smoke so thick they couldn't see their hand in front of their face. When battling a blaze, the men worn oxygen breathing equipment and a rubber-like suit and boots.

Doyle finished school in September and reported to the USS Monrovia in Norfolk, Virginia as the Main Propulsion Officer. The ship was an old World War



Ed Doyle served in the United States Navy. (Jeff Meek photo)

II attack transport. As propulsion officer he was in charge of two divisions – machinery and boilers. The propulsion of the old ship involved a single prop and two boilers. The boilers produced steam that was fed into turbines which turned the prop.

In November the ship went to Todd Shipyard in Brooklyn, N.Y. for overhaul, which took four months. After completion in April 1967 the ship went on a refresher-training cruise to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. For six weeks the crew trained, doing whatever the ship was assigned. Those assignments included landing men on the beach. A U.S. Marine battalion was also on the Monrovia and the crew would practice loading them up and sending them in.

As for living conditions, Doyle said they were good. "As officers we had it pretty nice," he noted.

In Jan. 1968 the ship did a Mediterranean cruise with the Amphibious Forces of the Sixth Fleet. They

conducted several full-scale landings of troops at places like Crete for example.

In July, Doyle transferred to the destroyer USS Forest Sherman as Damage Control Officer. In August the ship did the refresher cruise to Guantanamo and drilled day and night preparing for future assignments. He then reported to the Naval Destroyer School in Newport, R.I. in November. At the school the men learned to become one of three things – an Engineer or Weapons or Operations Officer.

In May 1969, Doyle was sent to the USS Waldron as Engineer Officer on the old WWII vessel. As such he was in charge of the engineering department which oversaw everything mechanical as well as all auxiliary equipment, even the small items, like an ice machine. Doyle said the only thing not under his watch were electrical matters, like radar. On this cruise they operated with other destroyers as an anti-submarine screening unit for Sixth Fleet.

In May 1970, Doyle reported to the USS Sumter while under construction in Philadelphia. Doyle's job was to get equipment installed on the ship and to see that it was working properly. In August the Sumter was commissioned and made its way through the Panama Canal to its home port in Long Beach, Calif.

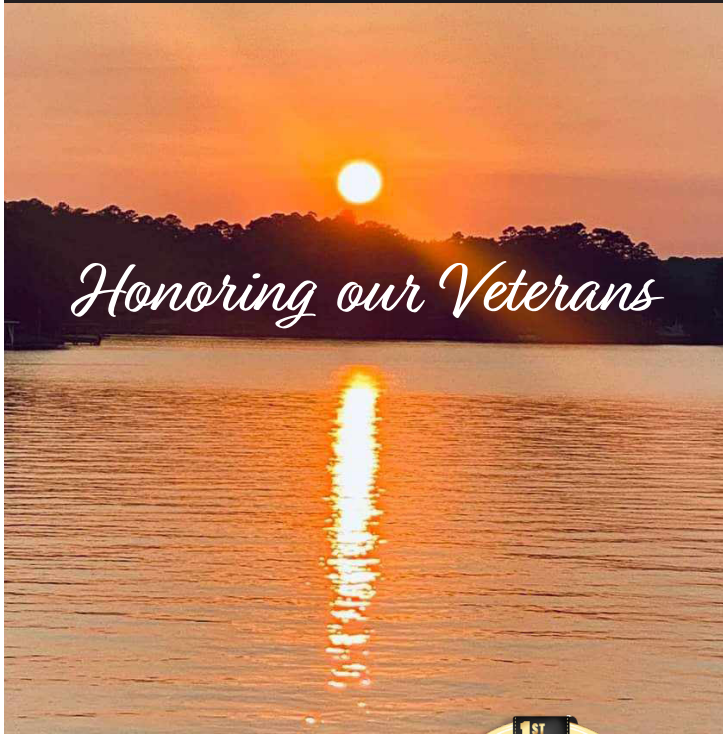
In April 1971, the Sumter went to Vietnam. Their mission was to evacuate United States Marine Corps motorized equipment from DaNang. Along the way they towed two patrol boats all the way to Vietnam.

Much of the Marine equipment "was pretty well used," said Doyle. Once loaded they went back to the U.S. and in June Doyle was interviewed about staying in the Navy. He declined the offer and was discharged in Long Beach on June 23, 1971 as a Lieutenant.

As a civilian Doyle spent 30 years with Kaiser Aluminum, then nine years with the Aluminum Foil Container Manufacturers Association, retiring in Jan. 2002. In May of that year, he and wife Paula moved to the Village from Palos Park, Ill. They have two children: Tom and Jill.

Reflecting back on his Navy service, Doyle said it was a terrific experience. "I wouldn't trade it for anything. It gives you confidence," said Doyle of his military experience. Completing tasks, setting goals, teamwork, they were all a part of what he learned as a member of the United States Navy.

SUNSET GRILL



Honoring our Veterans

Thank You!

**Voted Best Dining Atmosphere
in Garland & Saline Counties**



- Book your holiday party at the perfect spot:
- Sunset Grill on beautiful Lake Balboa.
- **Call 501.226.0447**
- We appreciate your support more than ever,
• and we thank you for choosing us.
- **Ask about our military discount!**

HOURS:

**Tues-Thurs & Sun 11am to 8pm
Fri & Sat: 11am to 9pm - Closed Every Monday**

Upstairs Dining Available

488 Ponce de Leon Drive | Hot Springs Village

SUNSETGRILLHSV.COM



Gene Rasure served in U.S. Army in Korea and Vietnam

Gene Rasure served in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division. (Jeff Meek photo)

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

The U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division has a storied past – Guadalcanal and Luzon in World War II, the defense of Pusan during the Korean War and beginning in 1966, deployment to Vietnam. During the Vietnam War the 25th operated in the Central

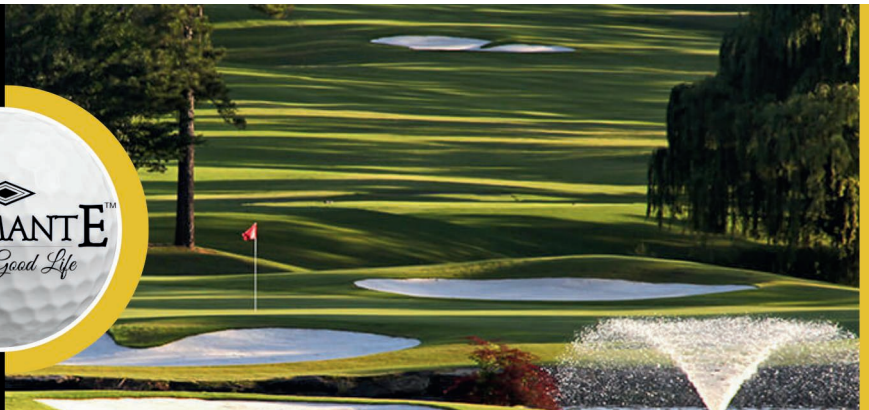
Highlands and participated in major battles in regions between Vietnam and Cambodia, including Operation Junction City and the Tet Offensive.

Overall, this division suffered 34,484 soldiers killed or wounded in action. With the 25th in 1970 was Hot Springs Village resident Gene Rasure.

He grew up in the Dallas area, graduated high school in 1966, then enrolled at a junior college. He dropped out, got a draft notice, but decided to enlist. Soon he was off to Fort Polk, La. for boot camp in Oct. 1967


DIAMANTE™
Live the Good Life
Private Country Club

501-922-1114
diamantecc.com



Championship Golf Course | Fine & Casual Dining | Tennis | Pickleball | Pool | Social Events

during a short cycle of 7 weeks training at that time. Rasure qualified for the Green Berets, but did not enter the unit. After finishing boot camp and a two week leave, he got orders to report to Fort Lee in Virginia for small arms repair and supply organization schooling. The small arms training taught him how to disassemble everything from a .45 pistol to 106 recoilless rifle, back then, mounted on the back of jeeps. The M-16, M-79 grenade launcher, machine guns, you name it, Rasure could repair them all.

After another leave he reported to Fort Lewis in Washington for assignment to Korea with the 45th Transportation Company, arriving in April 1968. "It was a helicopter maintenance unit. I thought I was going to be their small arms man, but they already had a Sergeant in there that out-ranked me. So, they put me into the technical part of supplying parts and requisitioning parts for helicopter," said Rasure.

He also did two weeks of duty guarding bunkers. Rasure said he was never told what was in them, but they were constantly guarded.

In May 1969 he returned to the States after 13 months in Korea. After a leave, he reported to Fort Bragg, N.C. to train others that were in their basic training period and became an assistant drill instructor. As such, he walked with the troops and filled in for other drill instructors on marches and at rifle training sessions. Rasure also handed out rifles and worked as training NCO keeping records.

Eighteen months later he was ordered to Fort Ord in California followed by a trip to Long Bin in Vietnam, where he based out of Chuchi for small arms repair work there and at other fire bases as needed, sometimes as much as three times a week, getting there by chopper.

One of those brief stops at a base is still remembered vividly by Rasure. "That was the scariest part I ever had in my life," he said of the time at a base where there was just a berm between the enemy and those inside the fire base. Attack by enemy forces was a real possibility there and all he had to defend himself was a .45 pistol, so it was a long sleepless night for him.

Nothing happens in Hot Springs Village



...until a POA employee comes to work.

Let's Say Thanks! Donate Now.



The VEBF distributes donated funds to hourly POA employees at their annual Holiday luncheon with a thank-you note from us, **the residents**, who deeply appreciate their dedicated performance throughout the year.

Visit our website to see unpublished photos and "The Inside Story of the March 14th Tornado and the Incredible Response by POA Employees"

VEBF.org

Mail a Donation to: Village Employees Benefit Fund,
P.O. Box 8503, Hot Springs Village, AR 71910



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. (Jeff Meek photo)

Six months later his unit was ordered back to the U.S., but not Rasure. He was reassigned. During the waiting period, he got some R & R in Thailand, then put with a different unit where he was made part of a supply outfit handling all sorts of parts for numerous things.

In jeeps and other vehicles, he and others would

drive to other supply depots for the necessary parts. One day, almost at his destination along Hwy 1, he came upon a Vietnamese bus that made a sudden U-turn. Rasure had two choices – slam into the bus or head for the ditch. He chose the ditch, rolled the jeep and was injured. “I got nerve damage to my left leg. They eventually medevacked me and took me to Japan. I spent two weeks in a neurology ward in Japan,” Rasure remembers. He also had a separated right shoulder.

Doctors there thought the nerve problem was in his back, but that turned out not to be the case. In total, he spent two weeks in a hospital in Vietnam and two weeks in hospital in Japan and was then taken back to the States, ending up at Fort Hood, Texas.

After several tests, it was determined the nerve damage was in his leg, which was still very swollen. After diagnosis, in 1971, he was told the swelling would eventually go down, which it did, “but the nerve damage has remained,” said Rasure. He was sent home to Dallas and put on a temporary disabled list. Seven months later he had one more test which determined the damage to be permanent. On July 25, 1972, he was honorably discharged.

The leg still bothers him today, but Rasure remains active.

As a civilian, Rasure got into the auto parts industry, then spent 30 years as a food broker, checking on everything the company represented, which was over 400 items. That work also involved new item placement and securing the best positions on store shelves. He retired in 2012. He and Beverly have a daughter Carmen.

Reflecting back on his time in service, Rasure said it helped him “understand that there’s more ways to do things than just my way. The Army instilled in me a pride of my country I hadn’t thought about. It also helped me calm down. It took a while,” he said with a laugh, “but it did calm me down. I credit military service for that.”

Rasure said when he came home from Vietnam he didn’t wear his uniform, “but I’ve never been more proud than how things are going now for the service and I’ve never felt more welcomed than here in Arkansas. I truly mean that,” he said, and explained that many times he’s been thanked for his service.



Village Dental Group
cosmetic and laser dentistry

Serving Hot Springs Village since 1999



1396 DeSoto Blvd., HSV
www.hsvdvg.com | 501.922.1045
Larry Powell, DDS
Chelsie Cooper, DDS

A Tradition of Excellence in Estate Planning

Taking legal action to protect your assets, provide for your loved ones, and ensure your final wishes are followed while you can make these decisions on your own terms is important.

- Wills
- Elder Law
- Estate Planning
- Revocable Living Trusts
- Real Estate Transactions
- Durable Powers of Attorney
- Prenuptial Agreements
- Planning for Nursing Home Expenses
- Living Wills and Health Care Documents

SHERRILL NICOLOSI

Attorney at Law

Your Village Lawyer for
Trust & Estate Planning



SHERRILL NICOLOSI Attorney at Law

36 Years Serving Hot Springs Village

A trusted provider of legal services
for local families & businesses

501-922-1330

710 Desoto Blvd, Suite A
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909



Bateman served with 3565th WAF Squadron

Women's Air Force member Barbara "Bobbie" Bateman served from 1952 to 1954. (Jeff Meek photo)

Jeff Meek
VOICE CORRESPONDENT

In 1948, President Harry Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act which allowed women to serve directly in the military. From that act came the formation of the WAF – the Women in the Air Force. Initially 4,000 women

Thinking of Selling Your Home?

Call Joe Stewart

U.S. ARMY VETERAN & 17 YEAR VILLAGE RESIDENT

501-209-0273

TRADEMARK HSV Real Estate

R LENDER

Trademark HSV Real Estate - 1060 DeSoto Blvd, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909 - trademarkrealestatehsv.com

CRAWLSPACE DOCTOR *of Arkansas*

We'll transform your
unhealthy home into
a *Healthy* home!

- Water & Moisture Issues
- Crawlspace Encapsulation
- Crawlspace Structural Repair
- Crawlspace Mold Prevention



And More!

Local & Family-Owned
Crawlspace Experts



**LEARN
MORE!**

IT'S TIME TO
Call the Doctor!

CrawlspaceDoctorofArkansas.com GET A *Free* QUOTE: 501-335-9911

enlisted and were supervised by 300 female officers as they performed their military duties.

Hot Springs Village resident Barbara “Bobbie” Bateman served in the United States Air Force’s 3565th WAF Squadron during her service from 1952 to 1954.

Bateman, a Chicago native, said she had wanted to go to college. Seeking scholarship help, her high school principal told her they didn’t give scholarships to women. She decided to enter the military so she could use the GI Bill to further her education. “My brother was in the Air Force so I chose the Air Force,” Bateman said.

In January 1952 she was first sent to San Antonio, Texas. Bateman said it was obvious the Air Force was still deciding what to do with females. She added that the older Air Force personnel made it clear they did not want women in their Air Force.

The women trained separately and had their own mess hall. “We hardly saw any men,” Bateman said.

She and the other women did marching drills,

learned to handle a gun and took lots of classes on USAF discipline.

Bateman quickly became a squad leader with a responsibility of seeing that the other women followed orders and were where they were supposed to be.

During this time the ladies took several aptitude tests. Bateman scored high marks in electronics and low marks in parachute rigging. She was chosen as a parachute rigger.

She was then sent to Chanute AFB in Illinois where she learned the mechanics of how a parachute worked, how to pack it and how to repair it. “We were told to put our parachute onto a weighted dummy, and we went up and pushed our dummy out the door (of the plane) to see how the parachute worked,” Bateman said.

The women were not allowed to make a parachute jump, but Bateman was itching to give it a try. As she put it, “I happened to fall out the door,” she said. “I almost got court marshaled. I was pretty adventurous.”

She landed safely and awaited pick up. Bateman was immediately brought before a hearing board. She told them that it was an accident and avoided disciplinary action.

Later she was sent to Waco, Texas and worked on the flight line helping to keep track of records and checking on high altitude equipment and parachutes. She described the work as fun and interesting.

Bateman was also a water safety instructor trainer and was put in charge of the base’s swimming pool and taught Air Force crews how to swim.

These WAF personnel wore brown dresses with boots, not such an attractive look for a lady. Soon there was a push to make the WAF girls the best dressed women in the Armed Forces. Designer Christian Dior was commissioned to create their new uniform. For a time, Bateman modeled the new look. “The uniforms were very stylish and very nice,” she said. “Everybody liked wearing them.”

The base at Waco had many pilots from foreign countries. They were there to learn to fly U.S. planes. “Occasionally there would be a crash,” Bateman said. “If you were on duty you went out and helped pick up the pieces.” She had to cleanup after a T-33 crash as well as a few others.

It was at the base in Waco that Bateman met a man who would later become her husband. They began

SAVE \$50-\$100 ON RECLINERS!*

*Select in stock recliners thru Nov. 30, 2024.

Three models of recliners are shown: a light blue Petite Recliner, a red Medium Recliner, and a brown Large Recliner. A woman is sitting on the blue one, a woman on the red one, and a man on the brown one.

Petite Recliners Medium Recliners Large Recliners

One Size Does NOT Fit All

You don't buy shirts two sizes too big, and you definitely wouldn't buy a pair of shoes three sizes too small. So why settle on a recliner that doesn't fit your size? **Best Home Furnishings** carries the largest selection of recliners ranging in styles and sizes, all at an affordable price. **Choose the style that fits you.**

Best Home Furnishings

JORDANBEDDING.COM

JORDAN BEDDING
& FURNITURE GALLERY

handcrafted comfort

4735 Malvern Ave. | 501-262-1581
(3 miles east of MLK Expressway)

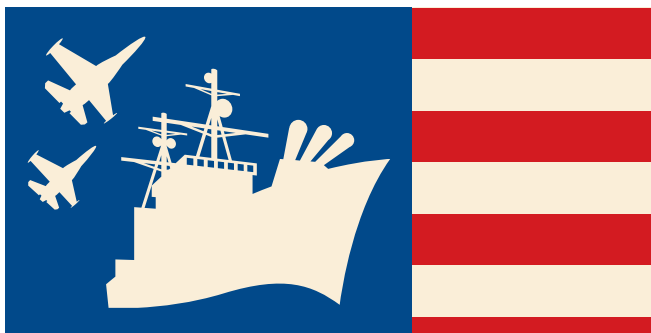
dating and were married a year later. Because she was married, Air Force officials tried to get her to quit the Air Force. She did not.

After a honeymoon with husband Bill the couple learned she would be going to Paris, France and Bill to the Far East. He requested a transfer, which was granted, and the two were able to stay together in Waco. She later became pregnant. In those days that meant she was out of the Air Force. The couple lived off base until his service ended eight months later.

After her 1954 discharge, Bateman spent five years as a housewife and then went to work. For 10 years she

worked as a Girl Scout professional, then 12 years as an Executive Director of YWCAs. After that she worked 15 years for John Hancock Financial before retiring in 1998. That same year she moved to the Village.

Editor's note – Even after passing we are determined to keep our Hot Springs Village veteran stories alive and show our support and appreciation for all that our veterans and their families have done.



21 The *Other* Century 21®
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Century 21® United

DONNA BIGG
Realtor®

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS:

- » Looking for the perfect home
- » Wanting to sell a home for the best return

Just Call!

WE EXCEED REAL ESTATE EXPECTATIONS DAILY

501.922.8009 www.C21UnitedHSV.com

LIVE Your Healthiest LIFE

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death, and if you're a smoker or former smoker, your risk may be much higher. That's where screening comes in. A **low-dose CT** can detect cancer early, when treatment is most effective.

With preventative screening, you can live your healthiest life — this November, and all year round.

Take our Lung Health Assessment at SalineMemorial.org/Lung to learn your risk.

Saline Health System

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Fred Klett Live
Woodlands Auditorium
November 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Glitz & Garland
Benton Event Center
November 1-2

Hot Springs Renaissance Faire
Garland Co. Fairgrounds
November 2-3 at 9 a.m.

Ghostbusters - Frozen Empire
Woodlands Auditorium
November 7 at 7 p.m.

HSV Night of Wishes
Coronado Center
November 8 from 5 to 9 p.m.

Gudrun: Northwoods Mountain Bike Fest
461 Wildcat Road
November 8-10

Veterans Day Ceremony
Woodlands Auditorium
November 11 at 10 a.m.

Spa Running Festival
134 Convention Blvd.
November 16 at 7 a.m.

HSV Players - A Christmas Carol
Woodlands Auditorium
Nov. 21-22 at 7 p.m., Nov. 23-24 at 2 p.m.

Tom Daniel Holiday Chili Cookoff
Exchange Street Parking Deck
November 25 at 4:30 p.m.

Nikki Glazer Alive and Well Tour
Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort
November 30 at 7 p.m.

What Christmas Means with Shannon Hushaw
Coronado Center
November 30 at 4:30 p.m.



THANKSGIVING DAY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28



Building Trust with Quality Work - WE'LL GET THE JOB DONE!



*Family
& Locally
Owned*

Mystical

CONSTRUCTION & RESTORATION

Serving the Central Arkansas Area Specializing in

- **Fire, Water & Storm Restoration** • **Remodeling**
- **Roofing** • **New Construction** • **Kitchen/Bath Remodeling**
- **FINANCING AVAILABLE** • **WORKMANSHIP WARRANTY**

Request Your Free Estimate Today!

Choosing Mystical Construction means investing in Quality, Reliability, & Peace of Mind.

Our seasoned team of professionals uses their extensive experience to deliver results that exceed expectations.

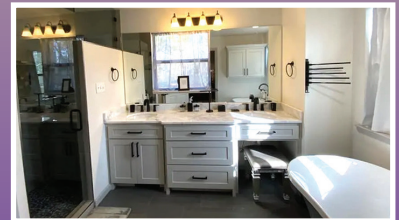
We understand that every project is unique, which is why we provide personalized solutions tailored to your specific needs.

With our financing options, we make it easier for you to complete your project.

We also offer free estimates, allowing you to plan your project with no hidden costs.

**CHOOSE MYSTICAL
CONSTRUCTION & EXPERIENCE
THE DIFFERENCE.**

**24-HOUR
EMERGENCY
SERVICE
AVAILABLE**



501-455-0411
WWW.CALLMYSTICAL.COM

Prsrt'd Std
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 432
Montgomery, AL

ECRWSS

For advertising rates and information go to hsvoice.com or call

501.623.6397

Postal Customer
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909



Village True Value

HOME CENTER • BUILDING SUPPLY • LUMBERYARD
MORE THAN A HARDWARE STORE

VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11

Honoring All Who Served

4650 N. Highway 7, Hot Springs Village, AR | 501-984-6074

Land of the Free,
THANKS
to the BRAVE

To all of our nation's troops and veterans,
Happy Veterans Day,
and thank you for your service!

Your courage, commitment *and* sacrifice
fill us with admiration and gratitude.

NOVEMBER CHARITY

Donate your change in November and we'll match it to benefit:

**Hot Springs Village
American Legion**



Save
40%
or more



39.99

Geneva Industrial Group
Quartz Infrared Tower Heater Create a warm and comfortable space. 1,500 watts. Dual quartz tubes. Adjustable thermostat. Tip-over switch. W 118 115



6.99

YOUR CHOICE
Kinco

Frost Breaker Thermal Gloves Choose large, extra-large or medium. 100% acrylic thermal knit shell. Elastic knit wrist. T 172 664, 665, 666

7.99

Stanley
16 ft. **PowerLock** Tape Measure Secure blade won't move when measuring. Mylar® polyester film extends life of entire blade. Durable chrome high-impact ABS case. Tru-Zero® end hook provides accurate



12.99

Master Mechanic
12 ft. **Booster Cables** A trunk necessity for any vehicle. 10-gauge. 200 amp. H 601 896

Save
25%
or more



69.99

Schumacher
12V **Portable Power Jump Starter** 600 peak amps. Great for basic jump-starting needs and charging mobile devices. Spark-resistant clamps. Alerts users if the clamps are connected improperly. H 239 805



19.99

Master Mechanic
4V **Lithium-Ion Cordless Screwdriver** Includes 20-piece bit set. 90-minute USB charger. Battery indication lights. Soft rubber grip. R 103 707

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 16
1PM-3PM

Ladies Day

REFRESHMENTS
AND MUCH MORE!
IT'S GOING TO BE ALL ABOUT YOU, LADIES!