

July 2006

For Army Print Journalists



Post-30-

**Print and Web Communications Division,
Office of the Chief Public Affairs, Department of the Army**

Farewell

By Sgt. Maj. Gary G. Beylickjian (Ret.)

The time has come to bid you farewell, or as we often said back during my early days in uniform: *"to stack arms."*

I'm ending my tenure with Army newspapers that first began during the mid-to-late 1950s when my passion for Army newspapers began and grew deeply over the years. I came across my first Army newspaper -- which I still have -- back in 1946, and was hooked.

I'm 75 now and have faced for quite some time a few medical problems, reminders of my days in Vietnam. Unfortunately, I may have been in an area there where the greenery was defoliated by Agent Orange. The results of getting too close to AO are well documented. I have leukemia and diabetes.

During the past year or so, I became increasingly tired. I was allowed to work at home for more than a year, reviewing every page of every newspaper, magazine and newsletter together with producing Post-30-. I went to the office one day a week to pick up stacks of publications awaiting me. I soon realized, however, because of my fatigue, the time had come to cut the cord that kept me tied to the newspapers and Post-30-.

Thus I leave a program in which I was deeply involved and truly loved for so many decades. And like the old barracks ditty, *"Old Soldiers never die, they just fade away,"* I'm about to do the same.

I can't say whether Post-30- will continue, or if it does, whether it will be in the same format. I changed its format a few times since day one in 1966. I suspect something for Army journalists will be produced.

Army newspapers are in good hands with Sgt. 1st Class Shaun Herron, chief of Army newspapers. He knows the business and knows the importance of keeping Army journalists informed and educated.

I'll miss writing about my experiences in the Korean War. Finally got that experience off my chest after more than fifty years. Some members of my family had no idea I had fought on the frontlines of that war. I also appreciate the comments and the interest the so-called *"Forgotten War"* series generated.

More importantly, I'll miss reading the many outstanding passages and viewing creative graphic presentations that appear in many newspapers. Newspapers must always support their commander's mission, and serve the men and women who fill the Army's rank and file by informing and educating them about the "real world" that surrounds them. Unfortunately, not many newspapers contribute to such enlightenments. Perhaps some day they'll see the light.

Thank you for all the many outstanding contributions to Army print journalism. Working with words and pictures is indeed a noble and a truly satisfying profession.

Thus, I say goodbye and continue to march. -- GGB

"Valete et fortunam bonam!" (Latin) "Farewell and good luck!"