

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

When it's time to 'face the music' what will you hear?



By Chaplain
(Capt.) Peter
Agdamag

Everybody some-day has to Face the Music. Everybody is going to, one day, Hear Taps Played In His Own Soul.

It may be through an unexpected stroke, a cerebral hemorrhage, one stray cancer cell, a car accident, a heart attack or a plane crash but one day everybody has to Face The Music.

Eventually everybody faces death. Hebrews 9:27 says "And it is appointed unto men once to die...but after this the judgment."

Put a circle around the word appointed, because in the Greek that is a word that means to be "laid up, to put aside or to be put in a special place." We would say today "Reserved..." The Bible says that every one of you already has a reservation made with death. You haven't made the reservation —

it's already been made for you.

The Bible says that Death is not an accident but death is an appointment! And it is one that you will keep. There are at least two things about death that upset the Apple Cart.

First is the Certainty of death. The fact is you and I know we are going to die. I don't have to tell you because you already know it.

Dustin Hoffman, an Academy Award-winning actor, some time ago did an interview. And in that interview he was asked a very fascinating question.

They asked "what epitaph would you like to have on your tombstone after you die?" He said, "After I die I want it to read very simply: I Knew That This Was Going To Happen." Human beings are the only living organisms in the universe that know that they are going to die.

We know that some way, some day that we are all going to die for it is "appointed unto men once to die..."

You cannot escape it and you won't get away from it. I heard about an evangelist who was preaching a revival. He decided to preach on the Brevity of Life and he really

got worked up over the message.

He took a long pause and said, "I want to tell you — every member of this church is going to die!"

And when he said that, there was a fellow sitting on the front row who just started smiling and said to himself, "maybe this man misunderstood what I said." So he said it again much louder, "I said, every member of this church is going to die."

This time the man crossed his arms and legs and was grinning from ear to ear. And it really shook the Evangelists up. Really upset, this time he shouted at the top of his lungs, and pointed to that man on the front row and said "every member of this church is going to die."

That fellow just began to laugh out loud. And the preacher thought "this guy is nuts."

After the service he tracked the guy down and said to him, "Sir I need to ask you a question."

"Why did you smile and even laugh out loud when I said, every member of this church is going to die?"

The man said with a big smile, "Because, I'm not a member of this church!"

But there is a second thing about death that really bothers us. Not just the Certainty of death, but next lets notice the Uncertainty of death.

You see, the bad news is we know that we are going to die but the worst news is we don't know when, where, or how. Today may be the last walk you take to your car. Today may be the last meal you eat. We don't when, where or how but we know! Every one of us has an appointment with death we all must meet. If that was the end of the story it would be a sad story.

Hebrews 9:28 says, "So, Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many..."

He died in our place he paid the debt that we could never pay. And to accept him means forgiveness and eternal salvation.

One of these days we are all going to face the music. And when you face the music — called death — you will either hear The Terrible Measure of Judgment — or you will hear The Sweet Melody of Salvation.

The choice is up to you.

Worship Opportunities

The following worship opportunities are available through Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

ON POST

General Protestant

Sunday, 9 a.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 9 a.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 2 p.m., Greer Chapel

Catholic Mass

Saturday, 2 p.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 9 a.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 2 p.m., Greer Chapel
(Confessions 1:30 p.m.)

OFF POST

*Transportation provided for Jewish, Episcopal, Lutheran, Muslim services ONLY (due to time scheduling) Units are responsible for arranging transportation by calling 601-558-2622.

Church of God at Bellevue, Hwy. 589, Hattiesburg
Jesus Christ of LDS, 2215 Broadway Drive, Hattiesburg

Lutheran

Sunday, 8 a.m., St. John Lutheran Church, 2001 Hardy Street, 601-583-4898

Episcopal

Sunday, 8 a.m., Trinity Episcopal, 509 West Pine St., 601-544-5551

For Jewish, Latter-day Saints and Muslim services, please contact the Post Chaplain for assistance at 558-2378.

Jewish

Friday at Temple B'Nai Israel at 801 Mamie Street, 601-545-3871. Every Friday at 6 p.m.

Latter-day Saints

Sunday, 9 a.m., Latter-day Saints Meeting House, 1618 Broadway Dr., 601-268-2438/ Hall: 601-268-9706. Contact the Post Chaplain.

Muslim

Contact Post Chaplain The following worship opportunities are available through Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Greer Chapel, Bldg. 804, 601-558-2378

McVay is face of Armed Forces Museum

By SGT. MICHAEL WILLIAMS

CSJFTC Public Affairs

The first thing most people say when they see Eilene McVay at the front desk of the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum is "so that's where she went."

McVay has been a Camp Shelby JFTC employee for nearly three years. Her prior assignment was working at the installations entry control points as a security guard.

"I started out working at Camp Shelby as a security guard on the gates," said McVay. "But I just couldn't take the weather."

Now she sits at a desk, tackling the duties as a receptionist at the Mississippi AFM. It's something she has a passion for.

"I love meeting and greeting people," she said. "I love hearing stories that people tell after they have been through the museum. It's wonderful listening to men and women talk about their past experiences in the military."

Now that she's in a new environment, she has to grow accus-

PERSONNEL PROFILE CIVILIAN

tomed to her surroundings and coworkers.

"Being inside is an honor and privilege to me. We (Mississippi AFM staff) are a Family here and we enjoy each others company," she said.

Newly widowed, and with her son being an adult and no longer living at home, McVay says that she spends her spare time riding her Harley.

"The man I met here on post also owns a Harley. The group I ride with is people here on post," she said.

McVay's philosophy of life is to embrace each dawn as a new day. "The special accomplishments in life are the awards you receive by accomplishing things you didn't think you could do to start with and hobbies, whatever they might be, are things that help us relieve the pain in life," she said.



Eilene McVay

Calvary gives deploying Troops a fighting chance

By 2nd LT. ANGELA K. FRY

256th Infantry Brigade
Public Affairs Officer

Just a few weeks into mobilization training at Camp Shelby, Ms., the Louisiana National Guard's 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment received valuable training to provide much-needed safety measures for its Troops, who will soon deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Soldiers with the 2-108th, and A Company, 199th Brigade Support Battalion, currently assigned to the cavalry unit, recently trained on tasks to include proper procedures for exiting a vehicle roll-over and hand-to-hand combat.

"In the early stages of our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Armed

Forces sustained numerous casualties from multiple vehicle roll-overs," explained Staff Sgt. Jason Traylor of Slidell, La., assigned to A Troop, 2-108th. "Initial training was limited on how to handle the vehicles in these instances."

Traylor, who deployed in 2004 with A Troop during the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's initial deployment to Iraq, along with 40 Soldiers from the Natchitoches, La., unit, completed required training on the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Egress Trainer and the HMMWV Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT).

With the progression of the Global War on Terrorism, the military has experienced the need for up-armored vehicles to better protect its Troops. With this improve-



Louisiana National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Jason Traylor of Slidell, La., exits an over-turned humvee during a simulated exercise.

ment, the need for training on top-heavy vehicles such as the MRAP and up-armored humvees has increased. The Soldiers also received training on maintaining safe vehicle speeds and distances, elements of safe driving and maintaining composure in combat situations.

Traylor also expressed the importance of using proper procedures for exiting vehicles submerged in water. These procedures

include constant communication, teamwork and specific positioning of Soldiers in the vehicle.

"The Training on the MET and the HEAT gives the Troops the opportunity for real-world application to put into effect during deployment," he added. "After this training the Soldiers are better prepared in case they face these scenarios in combat."

While egress training ensures limited casualties in both combat and non-combat situations, the need for basic defense awareness is still a primary focus in the military. Soldiers from A Co., 199th, headquartered in Colfax, La., and the 2-108th honed their skills in individual defensive tactics through Army combatives training.

Combatives, which utilizes the tactics of four dominant positions, is basically designed to keep the Soldier in the fight, explained Capt. Tom Mesloh of Bossier City, La.

"While in a combat situation, a Soldier is not guaranteed to always have a weapon," said Mesloh, the

Knoxville boxer trains for deployment

"In the clearing stands a boxer and a fighter by his trade and he carries the reminder, of every blow that laid him out or cut him till he cried out, in his anger and his shame I am leaving, I am leaving, but the fighter still remains."
-Paul Simon's 'The Boxer'

By STAFF SGT. THOMAS GREENE

278th ACR Public Affairs

Sgt. James Webb has been fighting almost as long as he has been in the military. The 37 year-old squad leader of Headquarters Platoon, Engineer Troop of the 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Squadron, Tennessee Army National Guard, resigned from his job as bouncer in a Knoxville night club and postponed his hobby as ultimate fighting coach to participate in his first deployment in his 18 year military career.

"I was packed up several times after Desert Storm, but they always called us back," Webb said.

Webb began his career in 1991 when he joined the United States Marine Corps at the age of 18. He was a member of 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion stationed at Twenty Nine Palms, CA.

At the end of his enlistment Webb left the Marines and took up

PERSONNEL PROFILE NCO

boxing. After a year off he joined the U.S. Army in 1997, enticed by its boxing program, and in the years that followed he traveled to Singapore, Guam, Okinawa, Somalia, Korea, Poland, and Japan.

As an amateur boxer, Webb fought in the Welterweight class and was a three time All Army Forces Champion and participated in the World Military Games, which is the military equivalent of the Olympics.

Webb said, "I was stationed at Fort Carson, Colo., and worked as part of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation group."

In the year 2000, Webb finished third in the Olympic trials and became first alternate when a fighter ahead of him turned professional and lost his amateur status.

"I won the fight that led to my being first alternate by whipping a friend of mine. We fought three times and all three were like 'Rocky' fights. I lost two close decisions to him. One I knew I had won but didn't get the call. The

second time I lost a close decision.

The third time was in the Olympic Trials and I beat him. He was mad as heck. I said 'you got two wins but I got the one that counted the most.'"

The Olympians were invited to the White House and Webb, as an alternate, received a tour of the Pentagon. The Olympic fighters also appeared in Soldiers Magazine, but as an alternate he narrowly missed that opportunity.

Webb left the amateur ranks after the Olympics to fight professionally. In his professional career he won 22 fights (20 by knockout) and lost three. He averaged one hundred punches per fight with his average fight only lasting two and a half rounds

He fought the final three years of his career under contract to Don King, the famous boxing promoter, and was crowned North American Boxing Council Welterweight Champion in 2004. Of this accolade Webb said, "My personal highlight was a knockout I scored

in a fight broadcast by ESPN2".

Not all of Webb's boxing career was 'green grass and high tides.' He realized the end had come when he lost a fight to an up-and-coming kid whom he felt he should have beaten, and shortly thereafter, two detached retinæ in his left eye pushed him to retire.

"That was what I considered my worst injury but I did suffer a broken hand about ten times."

Webb explained that fighting is a tough profession. He said the fights "aren't rigged but often stacked".

"The struggling fighter may get six days notice and a \$7500 offer to fight on television. If you're struggling, you'll take it, you'll crash diet to meet the weight, and fight a guy that's been training all along. The odds are with the opponent."

Deployment to Iraq will take Webb away from his latest hobby, which is training fighters for Ultimate Fighting, the up-and-coming fighting sport that showcases fighters of different styles such as wrestling, boxing, and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and even a combination of all. Webb refers to it as "full-blown, legal street fighting".

There have been many sunsets since Webb began fighting as sport. The Soldier/fighter now uses his

squadron's electronic warfare officer. "There is always the possibility of hand-to-hand combat and Soldiers have to understand how to protect themselves and gain the upper hand in that situation."

The veteran of OIF explained that combatives training focuses on the neutral position, where there is no positive control and each combatant has the ability to break the guard.

"The four positions, which are the mount, the guard, the side hold and the rear mount, are not utilized to win the fight," explained Mesloh, the squadron's electronic warfare officer. "Combatives allows the Soldier to stay alive until a battle buddy can arrive with a gun or a knife."

The Troops of the 2-108th and A Co., 199th, were given the opportunity to practice the four combatives moves in a controlled environment during their mobilization training. "This instruction can be a matter of life or death," he added. "...and at the end, the one with the weapon typically wins the fight."



Staff Sgt. Seth Eaves

talents and the lessons he learned to instill in his troops the same discipline that the sport has imprinted on him. "You must train your body, you must know your opponent and you must know your strengths and how to use them."

"I had a couple of platoon sergeants in my career who basically instilled 'discipline or death' on you and that's kind of my leadership style," he said with a laugh.

As a Welterweight fighter Webb had to reach the weight of 137 pounds. Now he carries 190 and looks fit and trim (and has all his teeth). On that subject Webb grinned as he said, "my boxing coach just happened to be a dentist."