

ARNEWS marks 75 years of serving Soldiers

Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

The Army News Service was established 75 years ago in 1943 as U.S. Soldiers were fighting in North Africa and the Solomon Islands.

“Wherever Americans are stationed, they must know what’s going on,” said Brig. Gen. Fred Osborn, chief of the Information and Education Division, U.S. Army Special Services. He stood up the news service with the objective “to bring the greatest number of overseas United States Soldiers the best conceivable coverage of undoctored news.”

ANS was first established in the Pentagon and staffed by a handful of officers and



Four MPs take a break along a German road in 1945 to read about the Nazi surrender. The Army News Service sent wire copy to the Stars and Stripes and about 4,000 military newspapers serving troops during World War II. (U.S. Army photo)

noncommissioned officers who had newspaper experience before the war. News from the Associated Press and other commercial wire services was summarized, rewritten, updated and then carried up five floors to the Signal Corps Center to be transmitted every night to points overseas.

On June 15, 1943, the Army News Service moved to New York City where offices at 205 East 42nd Street were co-located with Yank magazine and the American Forces Radio Service.

See NEWS on page 7

Medical Department Activity-Alaska capabilities tested in mass casualty event

Medical Department Activity – Alaska personnel stabilize the leg of a patient during ICE FOG, a mass casualty force protection exercise, June 28 at Fort Wainwright. Bassett ACH received 18 patients from a simulated active shooter to test the organization’s capabilities during a mass casualty event. (Photo by Brandy Ostanik, Medical Department Activity – Alaska Public Affairs)



Brandy Ostanik
Medical Department Activity – Alaska, Public Affairs

Medical Department Activity - Alaska joined Fort Wainwright in ICE FOG, a post-wide exercise June 26 through 28, testing hospital and staff capabilities during a mass casualty event.

The halls were still quiet and only the inpatient wards were caring for beneficiaries when a call came in from the Fort Wainwright Installation Operation Center at 6:36 a.m. An overhead page and mass notifications system called a “Code Grey” at 6:40 a.m. to all MEDDAC-AK staff members.

This code alerted personnel to activate the mass casualty/disaster plan, putting into action a well-tested, highly choreographed set of procedures for all MEDDAC-AK personnel.

The scenario reported an active shooter on the installation resulting in mass casualties, all of which were transported to Bassett Army Community Hospital.

“The simulated events we

receive mirror real-life situations that happen around the country and could just as easily happen here,” says Ralph Wineland emergency manager for MEDDAC-AK. “We do this to ensure a safe environment of care and that we are prepared to take care of the community no matter what the emergency.”

As part of the exercise, Bassett responded to the unexpected patient surge by triaging, sorting and treating 18 patients that were brought in by first responders. These patients had injuries such as multiple gunshot wounds.

While the emergency room was in the forefront during the event, as they were receiving the injured patients, the exercise touched almost every department of MEDDAC-AK, says Wineland.

“The patient administration division was evaluated for their ability to track patients and their movements throughout the hospital, security guards conducted perimeter and vehicle checks to ensure the safety of all beneficiaries receiving care at Bassett ACH, the managed care division coordinated evacuation flights for some

victims and the medical warehouse supported with MASCAL carts containing additional medical supplies during a patient surge being pushed to the hospital,” said Wineland.

At the end of the four-hour event, an external evaluation team from U.S. Army Installation Command gave high marks to the MEDDAC-AK team, indicating that they had exceeded the requirement contained in the exercise evaluation guide.

“Though the exercise was deemed a success,” said Wineland, “there are always areas we can improve in, which is exactly why we do these exercises. Being able to hone the skills of both our medical and non-medical personnel in a quick-paced, high pressure environment like that found in a mass casualty event is important - as is the ability to test our processes and procedures.”

MEDDAC-AK conducts large scale exercises two to four times a year as well as smaller monthly drills in different areas of the hospital.

See MASCAL on page 4

The Silent Farmer: Decorated Soldier of World War II finally awarded Medal of Honor (Part 2 of 2)

Joe Lacdan
Army News Service

AT ANY COST

On the morning of Jan. 24, 1945, the men of the Kilo Company, 7th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, entered the Brunwald Woods near Houssen, France.

As U.S. troops scrambled to reinforce their position in the small village near the German-French border, a bitter cold swept over eastern France, creating a stinging chill.

As the frigid wind stung their faces, Kilo Company’s Soldiers marched into the snow to take on a battalion of desperate German soldiers.

Conner had rejoined his unit in the French countryside while still

recovering from a sniper bullet wound in his left hip. Conner, knowing a crucial battle loomed, had earlier slipped out of the field hospital in northern France and returned to the front lines.

Upon his return, Conner learned that his commanding officer, Lt. Col. Lloyd Ramsey, had made arrangements to send him home. Conner had earned eligibility to return to Kentucky based on his time served and accolades earned. Ramsey removed Conner from the front lines and reassigned him to serve as his intelligence officer in battalion headquarters for his own safety.

Hitler’s army, facing looming defeat, countered American forces with desperate barrage after barrage, attacking U.S. forces with

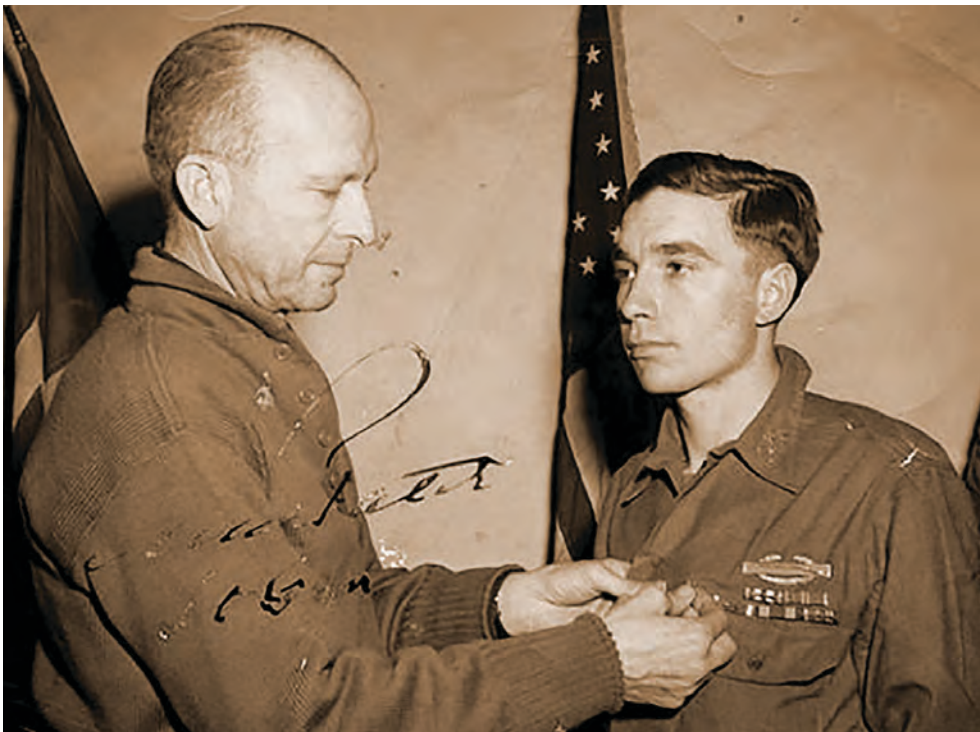
ruthless resolve. The German assaults gravely concerned Ramsey. The day before, the Germans had rallied for a fierce offensive against another company, costing the Americans 25 men.

Ramsey needed a patrol team to scout the enemy’s position, but resources ran thin.

Conner, still ailing from his hip injury, once again volunteered to take a patrol and said he would attempt to use direct artillery to halt the German offensive. Ramsey, knowing the weight of Conner’s previous contributions and his pending return home, reluctantly agreed.

“No words can express the outstanding leadership qualities that Lt. Conner had,” the late Ramsey wrote.

See CONNER on page 6



1st Lt. Garlin Conner receives one of his commendations during World War II. Conner risked his life against insurmountable odds the morning of January 24, 1945, in the woods of eastern France. Conner’s direction as a field artillery guide resulted in the destruction of six German Panzer tanks, and the deaths of 50 German soldiers. His acts of bravery saved numerous lives from his Army company. For his actions, he will be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony June 26, 2018. (Photo courtesy U.S. Army)

WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday



Mostly sunny with a high of 80 degrees and a low of 56.

Saturday



Partly clouds with a high of 83 and a low of 62 degrees.

Sunday



Morning rain with a high of 75 degrees and a low of 54.

INSTALLATION-WIDE YARD SALE

The next installation-wide yard sale is Saturday, July 21, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fort Wainwright residents may sell from their homes or from the Family and MWR resale lot, located at the corner of Neely and Meridian Roads. DOD ID cardholders coming from off post to participate may sell from the FMWR resale lots on a first come, first serve basis. General public wishing to enter post with the purpose of attending the yard sale need to obtain a pass from the Visitor’s Center by providing a valid driver’s license, proof of insurance and registration for the vehicle they are operating. All passengers will be required to show a photo ID. A reminder that marijuana in any form, though legal in the State of Alaska, is still illegal on federal installations. For more information, call 353-7648 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

69530357

Tanana Valley Farmer’s Market

Nutrition Corner: Nutrition facts and food

Brandy Ostanik
Medical Department Activity – Alaska, Public Affairs

The nutrition facts of food products contain information that allows you, as the consumer, to make informed and healthy choices. Frequently, the food label is overlooked but it contains all the information you need to ensure you are getting the most bang for your buck in the nutrition department.

Before you look at anything, always check out the serving size. Everything listed on that label is relative to the portion size. Even items that look like they are single serving items, some varieties of chips for example, may have two to three servings.

Next, scope out the calories. This is of particular importance if you are trying to manage your weight. The daily values can be used as a guide but note that they are based on a 2,000 calorie diet, which may be more or less than you need. None the less, they are a good snapshot at what nutrients the product contains.

If a product contains less than 5 percent of the daily value in a particular nutrient, it is considered “low” in that nutrient. Conversely, for something to be considered “high” in a nutrient, it must have more than 20 percent of the daily value in a nutrient.

As a general rule of thumb, aim for low in cholesterol, saturated fat, trans fat and sodium; and aim for high in vitamin, minerals and fiber. Diets high in saturated fat and trans fat can increase your risk for heart disease. High sodium diets can lead to high blood pressure.

Don’t confuse “reduced sodium” with “low sodium.” Products that are low in sodium must have less than 140 milligrams of sodium per serving while reduced sodium products only have 25 percent less than their original product. A good example of how this can be misleading is soy sauce.

Next time you are in the grocery store, check it out. You will find that the reduced sodium variety is indeed reduced but is still very high in sodium.

FEATURED FOOD
Greek yogurt. Calorie content varies depending on the brand and ingredients. Aim for yogurts that are low in fat with no sugar added. A great option is to purchase plain, fat free Greek yogurt and add your own fruit or use it as a sour cream alternative.

FEATURED RECIPE
Banana and Berry Smoothie

- Ingredients
- 1 1/2 frozen banana
 - 1/4 cup orange juice
 - 1 cup strawberries
 - 1 cup blueberries
 - 1 cup plain, fat free Greek Yogurt
 - 1/2 cup skim milk

INSTRUCTION
Place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth. Enjoy!

MEDDAC Minute

Brandy Ostanik
Medical Department Activity – Alaska, Public Affairs

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency: 911
24 Hour Nurse Advice Line: 1-800-874-2273 Opt. 1
Appointment Line: 361-4000
Behavioral Health: 361-6059
Benefits Advisor: 361-5656
Immunizations: 361-5456
Information Desk: 361-5172
Patient Advocate: 361-5291
Pharmacy Refills: 361-5803
Referral Center: 361-1810
Tricare On-Line: www.tricareonline.com
Health Net Federal Services: www.tricare-west.com
1-844-866-9378

PERFORMANCE TRIAD TIP
Sleep is a biological need for brain function. Soldiers require seven to eight hours of quality sleep every 24-hours to maintain their mental edge. When Soldiers do not get enough sleep, their mental acuity suffers—putting themselves and fellow Soldiers at risk for making errors that lead to accidents and mishaps. Insufficient sleep is a safety risk and a threat to mission success.

DISPOSE OF UNWANTED PRESCRIPTIONS
Bassett ACH will be hosting a Drug Take-Back day Oct. 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fort Wainwright Post Exchange. This is an opportunity for individuals with unwanted, unused and expired medications to dispose of them safely.

BREAST PUMPS AND SUPPLIES
Do you have a breastfeeding child at home? TRICARE covers breast pumps and breast pump supplies at no cost. You must have a prescription from your provider and state which type of breast pump you need. For more information on coverage go to www.tricare.mil/breastpumps.

TRICARE ONLINE REMINDERS
TRICARE makes it easy to receive a reminder for upcoming appointments. Beneficiaries who have their cell phone number in their TRICARE profile will receive a reminder text 48-hours, and two hours, prior to their appointment.

PERFORMANCE TRIAD TIP
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INTERNAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
The Bassett ACH Primary Care Clinic now offers internal behavioral health consultations. Assistance with concerns such as stress, chronic pain, tobacco dependency, weight loss, depression, diabetes and more is being offered without the need for a referral. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 361-5670.

ANONYMOUS OR NOT
Sometimes being anonymous is not a good thing. When filling out Interactive Customer Evaluation forms, leaving contact information helps us to better serve our beneficiaries. Many times the issue is something we can easily fix, but without contact information we are not able to remedy the situation. Giving us a name and number allows us to contact the beneficiary and correct the problem on the spot.

TRICARE ONLINE REMINDERS
TRICARE makes it easy to receive a reminder for upcoming appointments. Beneficiaries who have their cell phone number in their TRICARE profile will receive a reminder text 48-hours, and two hours, prior to their appointment.

SAVE A TRIP TO THE ER
Not sure if you need to come into the emergency room or make an appointment? Beneficiaries can call our Nurse Advice Line to talk to a registered nurse 24 hours a day, seven days a week for advice about immediate health care needs. Call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273).

Weekly Financial Tips: Fresh produce

Ryki Carlson
Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator

Fresh vegetables With the longer days, the growing season is getting into full swing. The farmer’s markets and grocery stores offer a wide variety of produce at reasonable prices. With so much produce at our fingertips this growing season, it’s time for refresher on the proper way to store fruits and vegetables to make the most of our investment. For additional information visit www.usda.gov.

Do NOT store fruits and vegetables together. Fruits that give off high level of ethylene (the ripening agent, think apples, bananas, melons, and tomatoes) can prematurely ripen and spoil surrounding vegetables.

Storing fresh cut fruits and vegetables. Immediately refrigerate any fresh-cut items such as salad or fruit for best quality and food safety.

Preparing vegetables. Leave refrigerated produce unwashed in its original packaging or wrapped loosely in a plastic bag, except mushrooms and herbs. If your greens are dirty, rinse and dry them well then wrap them in a paper towel before placing them in a bag. Fruits and vegetables stored at room temperature should be removed from packaging and kept loose. Here are some tips for storing vegetables:

Asparagus – Cut an inch off the bottom of asparagus spears. Submerge the ends in water or wrap the stalks in a damp paper towel and refrigerate in an unsealed plastic bag.

Beets – Cut the tops off to keep firm. Leaving any top on a root vegetable draws moisture making them lose flavor and firmness. Beets should be washed and kept in an open container with a wet towel on top. To store the tops, wrap them in a paper towel and place in a plastic bag.

Bell peppers – Refrigerate peppers, unwashed, in a plastic bag in the vegetable drawer. Keep them dry, as moisture will eventually cause them to rot. Red and yellow peppers will last four to five days, while green ones will last about a week.

Carrots – Remove the tops and store in a perforated plastic bag in the refrigerator. You can use the tops like herbs in soups or main dishes. Store the tops like a bouquet, place them in a glass with water in the fridge.

Celery – Wrap tightly in foil and refrigerate. It will stay crisp for up to two weeks.

Cucumbers – These should be stored at room temperature since they are sensitive to temperatures below 50 degrees. Do not store with high ethylene producing fruits.

Eggplant – The best place to store eggplant is in a cool spot, away from direct sunlight at room temperature. Ensure you do not store with bananas, tomatoes, melons, or apples since they are all high ethylene producers and can cause the eggplant to ripen and spoil quickly.

Herbs – Store herbs like a bouquet. Snip off the bottom of the stems, make sure the leaves are completely dry, and then place them in a glass with water in the fridge.

Mushrooms – These do well removed from their plastic-wrapped container from the store and placed in a paper bag in the fridge. The paper allows for better airflow while the crisper drawer keeps the air slightly humid and prevents the mushrooms from drying out.

Onions – Sweet onions produced in early summer have a high moisture content and they will not keep long. Wrap each one in a paper towel and keep them in your fridge. The pungent onions harvested in late summer and early fall can be stored for months. They have sulfurous compounds (the stuff that makes you cry when you cut them) that help preserve them. Store these in a well ventilated, cool and dry place. Do NOT us a plastic bag, they need to breathe. Consider using a reusable produce bag or delicate bag. Do NOT store with root vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, or turnips.

Potatoes, including sweet potatoes – These don’t need to be refrigerated and should ideally be stored in a dark environment at about 45 to 50 degrees in a paper bag. At warmer or more humid temperatures, they have a tendency to start sprouting or going bad.



Fort Wainwright Police: 353-7535

ALASKA POST

The Interior Military News Connection

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A black and white photograph of a large, single-story building, likely a warehouse or industrial structure. The building features a gabled roof with a small dormer window. The main facade is composed of horizontal siding, with a central large doorway and two octagonal windows on either side. The building is elevated on a concrete foundation. The surrounding area is a dirt lot, and the sky is overcast.

If you have any stories or photographs to share with the Cultural Resources Management program please call, (907) 361-9329 or email laurel.a.phillippe.ctr@mail.mil.

17531959
Once Upon A Child
Summer Clearance!
2 x 5

MASCAL

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According to Wineland, these exercises are imperative to the safety of the community.

“These types of drills allow us to test and train both our rotating military

personnel and our civilian workforce,” said Wineland. “The teamwork built during these exercises both internally and externally allows us to maintain a high state of readiness to ensure we can support a globally ready force and provide safe, high-quality care not just during day-to-day operations, but also in large scale emergency situations.”



Lt. Col. Rachel Stratman (left), assistant deputy commander of nursing for Medical Department Activity – Alaska and Sgt. 1st Class Jacqueline Degraf, noncommissioned officer in charge of the emergency room at Bassett Army Community Hospital, chart victim status and coordinate care for patients during the June 28 ICE FOG force protection exercise at Bassett ACH. (Photo by Brandy Ostanik, Medical Department Activity – Alaska Public Affairs)



Federal Resume Workshop

A special event for transitioning service members, spouses, and veterans looking for an opportunity to continue to serve as part of the Federal Workforce.



- Create a USAJOBS Account
- Search and Apply
- Application Manager
- Resume Overview
- How Federal jobs are Structured
- Federal Hiring Process
- Tools You Can Use

Tuesday, July 10th , 2018 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

USO Fort Wainwright Center Conference Room
3727 Neely Rd., Fort Wainwright, AK
99703 Dress: Casual or Uniform

To register, visit <http://bit.ly/EAFBFWAFedResumeWS>

As a part of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), USAJOBS helps recruit, retain, and honor a world-class government workforce for the American people.

Federal agencies use USAJOBS to facilitate their hiring processes and match qualified applicants to job openings. Therefore, USAJOBS serves as the central location to find job openings within hundreds of federal agencies and organizations.

The U.S. Federal Government relies on more than two million Americans and foreign nationals to work in the civil service. Citizens like you help the government fulfill its essential duties in service to the American people. USAJOBS is here to help you find ways to serve.

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USAA

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Weekly Events

July 6 – 13

7

UFC 226: Moicic vs. Cormier

July 7
6 p.m.

There can only be one winner. Who will walk away the victor in the match up between Miocic and Cormier? Find out on Saturday, July 7 at the Warrior Zone. No cover charge!

Warrior Zone, building 3205
Call 353-1087

8

Women in the Wilderness: Quartz Lake ATV

July 8
8 a.m.

Get dirty! Spend the day out on the trails of the White Mountains National Recreation Area with fun and exciting riding conditions, as well as enthusiastic women riders! Transportation, equipment, and instruction included.

Outdoor Recreation Center, building 4050
Call 361-6349, reservations and safety course required

9

Summer Laser Tag

July 9 through 13
3 to 6 or 7 p.m., dependent on day

Take advantage of the long summer days with longer Laser Tag hours! Get a group of buddies together and challenge yourself to an intense round of laser tag. Special rates for groups and punch cards.

Last Frontier Community Activity Center, building 1044
Call 353-7755

12

USARAK and Chena Bend CG Golf Tournament

July 12, 1 p.m.

Golf enthusiasts, get ready to compete in the USARAK and Chena Bend CG Golf Tournament Series. Register online, then come with your A-game. Fees include green and cart fees, as well as prizes. This series is open to USARAK Military and DoD Civilians.

Chena Bend Clubhouse, building 2090, Call 353-6223, registration required

12

Spouse to Spouse

July 12
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Meet Military Spouses currently living in and around Fort Wainwright. Learn what makes this military community special, ask questions, receive advice, and network with similar individuals.

North Haven Community Center, building 4286, Hosted by Army Community Service. Call 353-4332

Ice Cream

JULY 21

LAST FRONTIER COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER

Ice Cream Sheddade

5k Fun Run

Start at the Last Frontier Community Activity Center and enjoy free ice cream at the finish line! Includes a race t-shirt! Starts at 1:30 p.m.

\$15 REGISTRATION THROUGH JULY 9
\$20 REGISTRATION JULY 10-15

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or the Physical Fitness Center (907) 353-7223
www.wainwright.armymwr.com
@WainwrightMWR #WainwrightSports #WainwrightLFCAC





Play ball! The Fort Wainwright Softball Invitational is now open for registration.
Learn more at www.wainwright.armymwr.com



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14531537
State of Alaska/DNR - Forest-
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Kill Your Campfire!
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40528859
Risse Greenhouses
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CONNER

Continued from page 1

“(He was) always willing to do more than his part.”

Conner had built a reputation as an expert scout and marksman. The Soldier from the Bluegrass State had earned the respect of his fellow Soldiers by fearlessly confronting the enemy and taking dangerous missions. Maurice Williams, a Soldier who served under Conner, said Conner’s background as a Kentucky outdoorsman helped prepare him to go undetected in combat. Raised on a farm during the Depression era, Conner learned to become a skilled marksman and hunter.

“He could go through the woods unnoticed,” Haddix, the family friend, said. “And if a squirrel (was) in a tree somewhere and move its tail, he could see it.”

While other Soldiers would go on night scouting missions with team members, Conner operated alone.

Conner had fostered such a respect from his fellow Soldiers, and had performed with such distinction, that he earned a battlefield commission at Anzio. Conner, along with the highly-decorated Murphy, both served in the 3rd Infantry Division, which suffered more casualties than any other during World War II.

“He always led from the front,” wrote Williams, who fought alongside Conner earlier in the war. “And his platoon felt safe following him.”

At about 8 a.m. on Jan. 24, a sudden barrage of light artillery swept on the American troops. Six German Panzer tanks emerged from the frigid air, flanked by a battalion of 600 German soldiers descending on Kilo Company. The powerful, nine-foot tall tanks nearly spanned 27 feet across and 12 feet wide.

“The Americans, the Allies, had nothing like it,” said Luther Conner, President of Clinton County’s historical society. “It was the most potent war weapon at that time. It was just a monster. It caused fear just for a soldier to see the size of it.”

Two thirds of the battalion pushed toward Kilo Company, attempting to split and divide the Americans. A week earlier, a German Panzer division attacked 2nd Battalion’s 600 Soldiers. About 100 returned to their units. Germans killed or took the remainder as prisoners.

Near Houssen, Kilo Company faced similar odds. Conner knew his unit’s only chance in the wintry conditions rested in his hands. He needed to guide artillery fire on the Germans.

Conner saw the towering frames of German Panzers barreling through the forest. Without a moment’s hesitation, the Soldier sprinted straight toward tanks, carrying a telephone, radio and wire reel.

Conner uncoiled the wire as exploding shells and wood splinters from the surrounding woods showered upon him. Conner ran nearly 400 yards toward the enemy, ignoring warnings from his unit, said Chilton.

He did not stop until he had advanced 30 yards past the American Infantry front line.

There, in a shallow ditch beneath the January snow, Conner planted himself before the oncoming German fire. And for three hours, Conner laid like immovable rock under a violent wave, directing artillery rounds onto the German infantry. As swarm after swarm of German soldiers came like an avalanche upon him, Conner, barked directions and coordinates to battalion headquarters.

“Although he was in a prone position, the ditch only covered part of his body,” wrote 1st Lt. Harold Wigetman, who served as the operations officer in 3rd Battalion. “He was wedged in there so tight that it was almost impossible for him to move or shift his position.”

The Germans soon grew aware of the lone figure in the snow guiding the American artillery. German soldiers began to swarm and surround Conner and the Americans. The German army mounted a final surge to overwhelm the American forces.

Conner, seeing the enemy close, made a lasting, drastic choice to defeat the German infantry.

Conner directed American artillery rounds toward his position, and the surrounding Germans. As the enemy attack continued to unfurl, Conner put himself in peril so that his unit could achieve victory.

“He cared about his men more than he cared about himself,” Chilton said.

With bullets flying toward him from both directions, Conner never wavered. At one point, a German soldier ran within five yards of Conner clutching a grenade before an American stopped him. Haddix said Conner dispatched German soldiers with his submachine gun.

“With icy self-control, he kept telephoning his directions,” Wigetman wrote, “although he must have seen that the (Germans) would have killed him before he could get on his feet.”

The American onslaught led by Conner overwhelmed the German attack. By the time the final rounds fell, Conner’s actions had resulted in killing 50 German soldiers and leaving more than 150 wounded. American munitions destroyed the six German tanks.

“I saw elements waver ... their fighting spirit broken by the deadly concentration of (American) fire,” Wigetman wrote.

Conner paid a heavy toll for his valor during the war. The injury to his left hip would hamper his mobility for the rest of his life. Like many veterans of his generation, Conner did not think highly of anything he had achieved in Europe, his wife said.

“He was always very humble,” Pauline said. “He did what he felt like he had to do to protect our freedom to vote and our freedom of speech, which we have truly earned from what he did and others like him.”

Ramsey called Conner the greatest combat Soldier he had ever seen. Troops who remembered him noted Conner’s cool resolve under the most difficult conditions.

Wrote Williams in his journal, “I had such confidence in (Lt.) Conner. I would have followed him anywhere he wanted to go.”

NEW BEGINNING

In the years after Conner’s heart attack in 1979, he found a new calling. He listened with concern to stories of Soldiers who had not received their veteran’s affairs benefits. Some servicemen struggled with living expenses after they left the service.

Conner and his wife would drive across Clinton County’s 196 square miles of rolling hills and farmland to meet with vets. They extended their travels to 10 neighboring counties. Once a month they would place their paperwork and a suitcase in their Buick sedan and travel to veterans’ homes or meet them at their office in the courthouses. Pauline acted as his secretary, fielding phone calls and helping her husband coordinate his appointments with the veterans in need.

The night episodes continued through the years, Pauline said. And Conner still struggled to sleep on some nights. But helping other veterans, she said, helped him find peace.

“(Assisting veterans) became his life,” Paul said.

But listening to the tales of other Soldiers and hearing about their struggles awakened a longing in Conner he thought that he had long buried.

Throughout his four years in the Army, Conner’s concerns rested with his Soldiers, never seeking personal glory, but always on the lookout for how he could help, whether scouting the enemy position, or finding ways to help retired vets file their military records. But hearing their stories, Pauline said, she noticed for the first time regret.

That regret became clear in 1996, his wife said.

Chilton, a former Army Green Beret from Wisconsin, wrote a letter to Conner in search of information on his late uncle, Pfc. Gordon Roberts, who was killed after landing at Anzio. Conner, no longer able to speak or write, invited Chilton to his Albany home.

Chilton visited Conner on a fall day in 1996. He sat with Conner in the family living room, and asked him questions about his uncle and the war, while Conner nodded his answers from his wheelchair.

Chilton learned that Conner had indeed served with his uncle, and that Conner had carried his uncle in his last moments to a medical aid station. Conner, reliving a moment from 50 years prior, began to weep.

Pauline suggested that she could sort

through her husband’s old war records to search for documentation of Roberts’ service. She carried her husband’s weathered, military green duffel bag out of the living room closet and pulled out old paperwork, records and medals contained inside a cardboard box.

As Chilton skimmed through the pages, his eyes widened. Chilton saw the decorations: the Purple Hearts and Bronze Star and Silver Stars. The Kentucky native had participated in ten major campaigns and had been wounded in each of the countries he toured.

“My God,” a stunned Chilton said to Pauline. “This man should have been awarded the Medal of Honor.”

Chilton, feeling sudden inspiration, asked Pauline and Garlin if he could pursue an application for the medal on Murl’s behalf. Pauline turned to her husband.

“I looked at [Garlin],” she said. “And he was looking at me so straight with tears in his eyes.”

Conner nodded his head yes. After 50 years, he was finally ready to apply for the honor that he had for so long been reluctant to seek.

LIFETIME BOND

“He’s my hero,” Pauline said, sitting in the Conner family’s living room, clutching the brown picture frame holding her husband’s black and white service photo. “He always has been.”

Wearing a black blazer and rose-colored blouse, her once-blond locks have faded into gray. Now 89 years old, her voice wavers when she talks about the life of her late husband. She fondly recalls his humility and his quiet way of voicing his approval.

Finally, she talks about that spring night in 1945, when she and Garlin slipped away from Clinton County in his convertible with nothing but a homemade dress to get married at a courthouse in Rossville, Georgia. They would stop at a neighboring town on the way to Georgia to purchase clothing for Pauline. Pauline said Garlin’s patience and understanding swayed her to marry him after two weeks of dating.

Though their early marriage suffered the occasional bumps, Pauline stood by her husband’s side for more than five decades. Conner suffered a heart attack in 1979, after falling ill riding on the tractor. He underwent open heart surgery later that year, and a second surgery 11 years later.

In the years before his death, Garlin had battled numerous illnesses, including kidney failure, diabetes and Parkinson’s disease. He suffered a stroke that left him bedridden and no longer able to speak. Pauline took on the role of caretaker, cooking his meals and driving him to his medical appointments. She took a part-time job for additional income.

Conner passed mercifully on a November day in 1998. He was 79.

“The last few years my dad was alive, he wasn’t really alive,” Paul said. “It progressively got worse. I wish I hadn’t have had to see that part of it. But we can’t choose how we’re going to live and how the last days are going to be.”

At the Weldon Haddix Funeral home along Business Route 127 in Albany, hundreds waited in line to view Conner’s remains. In the rectangular, brick building nestled between local businesses on the north side of Albany, farmers, neighbors and veterans paid their respects. Veterans whom Conner had helped approached Pauline to express their gratitude for Conner’s assistance years ago. Neighboring farmers whom Conner helped as president of the Clinton County Farm Bureau also attended. To this day, Pauline said, veterans still greet her.

“They come up and hug me for what I’ve done, for what [Garlin] has done,” Pauline said. “And I always hug them and tell them I love every one of them.”

Conner’s acts left a lasting impression on Ramsey. The two remained in touch for decades through letters and phone calls. Ramsey later retired as a major general and suffered five combat wounds during his time in service. He encouraged Conner to apply for the medal over the years, Pauline said. But each time, Conner declined and the medals and decorations remained mostly untouched inside the duffel bag, in the living room closet.

Ramsey, whose 34-year career spanned three wars, wrote in 2006: “One of the most disappointing regrets of my career is not having the Medal of Honor awarded to the most outstanding Soldier I’ve had the privilege of commanding.”

The Army medically retired Ramsey in 1974.

A FINAL PLEA

Chilton continued to press on Conner’s application for the Medal of Honor, writing letters and contacting politicians.

New evidence had been uncovered by Congressman Ed Whitfield’s office in the National Archives in Washington, including three eyewitness accounts written by fellow Soldiers who fought on the front lines with Conner. The three affidavits painted in vivid detail accounts of Conner’s acts in January 1945. But even the affidavits would not be enough.

The Army Board for Correction of Military Records rejected Chilton’s original application for Conner’s eligibility for the medal. Haddix assembled a legal team, headed by Dennis Shepherd of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs as lead trial counsel, and included Luther Conner, who also serves as the Conner family’s lawyer, to begin work on a lawsuit, which was filed in federal court. That lawsuit would obtain a ruling ordering the Board to grant Pauline a new hearing and to consider the new evidence.

In 2014, U.S. District Judge Thomas Russell ruled that the statute of limitations to correct Conner’s military record had expired and that the family could no longer continue to seek the award.

After the judge dismissed Pauline’s case in 2014, she said she had lost hope. She returned to Albany and resigned herself to the idea that her husband’s decorated service record would remain as it was, without the addition of the honor that Conner’s family and friends felt he deserved. Despite the backing of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, several generals and Congressman Ed Whitfield, Conner’s chances for the Medal dimmed.

But then, on March 2, 2015, Conner’s case reached a turning point at the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. During the appeal for Conner’s Medal of Honor bid, Assistant U.S. Attorney Candace Hill was assigned to represent the government’s stance against Conner’s case. For 15 minutes, Hill defended the Army’s previous stance during the proceedings, saying the case should be left alone.

But then, in a closing moment of abject candor, Hill revealed her true feelings.

Hill broke into tears, as she discussed her father’s service as an officer in the same unit as Conner during World War II. She said her father suffered a severe leg injury on Jan. 25, 1945, one day after Conner’s heroic acts.

“For all I know,” she said. “Garlin Conner may have ... helped save his life.”

Hill’s words, according to an Associated Press report, convinced the panel to submit Conner’s case to a federal mediator. The mediator then directed the ABCMR to grant a new hearing and to consider all evidence, including the recently discovered eyewitness accounts. The following October, the Board granted “full relief” to Pauline’s request to upgrade Conner’s Distinguished Service Cross to the Medal of Honor.

Still, Conner’s bid for the medal needed further approval from the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Defense and the president.

Last March, Pauline received a call from a military officer at the Pentagon who told her to expect an important phone call from a high-ranking DOD official regarding her husband. Could this be the phone call she had been waiting for? It must be a trick, Pauline thought, and she called Luther Conner, the family’s attorney, to confirm its validity. When Luther gave his assurances, Pauline still asked Luther, and his wife Susan, to sit with her for the important call.

The following Monday the phone rang.

“Is this Lyda Conner?” asked a man with a gruff, New York accent.

“I go by Pauline,” she said.

“You sound just like an old country gal,” the man said.

“I am,” Pauline said, soon realizing the caller was the president.

“It’s a beautiful place down there where you live,” President Trump said.

“Yes it is,” Pauline said, as she sat in the

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CONNER

Continued from page 6

family’s tidy living room, amid family photos of Conner, her son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Outside, redbirds chirped in the cool spring air. “You are the widow of Lieutenant Garlin Conner?” Trump asked. “I am,” she confirmed. After a brief exchange of pleasantries, Trump said, “Well I’ve got some good news for you. He has a wonderful military record -- one of the best I’ve ever seen. I am going to award him the Medal of Honor.”

The news soon spread to the rest of the Conner family, Conner’s legal team and Clinton County’s residents. Chilton, who spent much of his own time and money on Conner’s journey, could breathe a sigh of relief. Chilton traveled across the country in his quest to bring the Medal of Honor to the Conner family. He’d conducted dozens of interviews with former veterans who knew Conner. Nearly all have since passed. Chilton also penned what he said could be hundreds of hand-written letters to congressmen and to the Army.

A 22-year quest for a man who left everything on the battlefield had finally ended. Conner will be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony June 26.

“It gets you kind of numb, you know?” Chilton said. “It sinks in and you understand it. You realize how long you’ve been after it and how long you’ve been doing it. I was just kind of numb ... I felt good for him. I felt good for his wife; she suffered through all this stuff. I felt good for (Paul). They’ll all know this forever: (he’s) a hero.” Pauline was asked what she thought her husband would say if he was still alive. Pauline thought for a moment. And she recalled how her husband might not want the honor, and might brush it aside once more. He might defer credit to the men he fought alongside. But Pauline said she sensed her husband’s attitude



President Trump presents the Medal of Honor to Pauline Conner, the 89-year old widow of World War II veteran Garlin Conner. Conner earned the award for valorous acts on the morning of Jan. 24, 1945. Conner charged against a battalion of German Soldiers and six panzer tanks, directing artillery. In order to defeat the Germans, he directed American munitions on his position. His acts saved numerous lives in his unit. (Photo by Joe Lacdan Army News Service)

toward the honor had changed during his waning years. She remembered his regret in the 1996 meeting with Chilton. Maybe, Conner might just tip his cap, and smile. “More than anything I miss him,” Pauline said wistfully. “And I wish he was here so he could go get the Medal himself. Because I think he would have been proud of it. I know he would have.” “I always kept thinking he didn’t want it in his younger days. And he didn’t really. ... When he got older, he wished he had.” The story of Garlin Conner doesn’t lie in his heroic acts or in his courage under the grimmest of odds. His family says it lies in his unending desire to help others, whether guiding Soldiers on the battlefields of Western Europe, or helping veterans in the rolling hills of Clinton County, Kentucky. Chilton, a military veteran of 20 years, traveled the world with both the U.S. Army and the Israeli Army during Desert Storm. Perhaps the Wisconsin resident put it best. “I’ve traveled a lot and I’ve seen a lot,” Chilton said. “But I’ve never met anyone like Garlin Conner.”

Editor’s note: The U.S. Army posthumously inducted 1st Lt. Garlin Conner into the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes on Wednesday, June 27. The Pentagon ceremony added Conner’s name to the distinguished roster in the Hall of Heroes, the Defense Department’s permanent display of record for all recipients of the Medal of Honor. See more, at <https://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/conner/?from=st>

NEWS

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SEASONED STAFF
The Army News Service staff included:
-- Capt. William B. Murphy, a veteran of the New York Daily News.
-- Capt. Royce B. Howes, who wrote for the Detroit Free Press before and after the war, earning a Pulitzer Prize in 1955. He was also author of eight “Crime Club” novels popular in the 1930s.
-- 1st Lt. Norman S. Wesier, author of the Writer’s Radio Theater, which earned Outstanding Play of the Year in 1941.
-- Pfc. Alvin McGraw, who worked for United Press before he was drafted and went on to spend 40 years after the war with UPI, covering such stories as President Kennedy’s assassination and the Little Rock School integration.
-- William R. Murray, one of the staffers of the ANS San Francisco

Bureau that opened in September 1943, went on to become a columnist for New Yorker magazine. He also wrote a series of mystery novels involving horse racing, the last titled ‘Dead Heat’ in 2005.
The ANS San Francisco Bureau began sending wire news to the Pacific theater Oct. 1, 1943 while the New York office continued serving the European theater. ANS copy was also used in American Forces Radio Service newscasts around the world, especially in the program recorded in its New York headquarters, “The Voice of Information and Education.”
CAMP NEWSPAPER SERVICE
The New York office additionally provided what was called the Camp Newspaper Service, or CNS, which sent original feature articles, news and art to what began as 400 Army newspapers. By VJ day, Sept. 2, 1945, CNS had grown to about 4,000 military papers. The four-man CNS staff was headed up by Master Sgt. Walter Farley, author

of the Black Stallion book series.
The most popular CNS service was a weekly “clip sheet” that included comic strips, maps, photos, cartoons and news feature stories. Among the first stories was a feature about the Army’s glider service, which was training for D-Day and landings in Normandy.
The most popular part of the clip sheet was a cartoon by Milt Caniff titled “Male Call.” A readership survey

indicated more than 10 million military readers followed the cartoon at one time or another, and this didn’t include family members who viewed it in the states.
The survey indicated that news service material in camp and unit papers overseas especially helped to battle isolation, boredom and loneliness and brought a bit of home to GIs overseas.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY:

READ AND ROLL
EVERY THURSDAY, STARTING AT 1 P.M., NUGGET LANES BOWLING

At Nugget Lanes Bowling Center, there will be a variety of free kids activities rotating throughout the month, including but not limited to move and grove sing-a-longs, arts and crafts, a wacky science show, magic act, puppet show, and more!

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME
EVERY TUESDAY AT 10 A.M.

Come out and join us for Preschool Story Time, where we explore a new theme in the book world! Perfect for children under 5.

TUESDAY TRIVIA
EVERY TUESDAY AT 7 P.M., WARRIOR ZONE

How smart are you? Prove your genius at the weekly Tuesday Trivia, hosted by the Post Library. Afraid of being stumped? Bring a team along and combine brainpower! Must be 18+ and a DoD ID Cardholder to enter the Warrior Zone.

MOVIE DEBUT TUESDAYS
EVERY TUESDAY, 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.

The Library will play new releases throughout the day! Join the continuous fun and watch back to back movies, all day long. Requests are taken ahead of time. Please contact the Library staff to make a request. All movies will be rated PG-13 or lower.

SATURDAY FAMILY MOVIE DAY
EVERY SATURDAY, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Bring your friends and family to the Library every Saturday for family-friendly films on request. If you have a special movie in mind, request it ahead of time with Library staff.



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