

*We Remember*  
*The Battle of Exercise Tiger*  
April 28, 1944

As they walk the beautiful town square of downtown Mexico, Missouri, visitors are surprised to come upon a ship's anchor permanently mounted on display at the northwest corner of the grounds of the Audrain County Courthouse. This anchor is the foundation of the Exercise Tiger Army & Navy Anchor Memorial and serves as a reminder of the sacrifice that more than 200 Missourians, 8 from Audrain County, made during World War II as American soldiers and sailors prepared to help liberate France from the Germans.



Exercise Tiger  
Army & Navy Anchor Memorial  
at Audrain County Courthouse,  
Mexico, Missouri.



LST 289 after the battle of  
Exercise Tiger

“Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. **It is not ours by inheritance**; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and lost it, have never known it again.” — *Ronald Reagan*

# Exercise Tiger Association



## Adopt A Serviceman Banquet & Awards Ceremony

September 22, 2006  
Jack's Gourmet Restaurant  
Columbia, Missouri



*“Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty”*

— *Thomas Jefferson*

*The Exercise Tiger Association's recognition programs began with awarding three plaques to veterans of the WWII Battle of Tiger in 1989. Since then, more than 15 separate categories have been established to honor all veterans. The association provides special recognition to active members of our armed forces and to those that provide support for our veterans and our active troops. Since 1989 more than 800 awards have been presented to veterans, elected officials, students, military units, journalists and others. Each recipient must be nominated and must meet the criteria for the award for which they have been nominated.*

## THE EXERCISE TIGER ASSOCIATION'S ADOPT A SERVICEMAN PROGRAM

The "Adopt A Serviceman" Program is an annual event for the state of Missouri. It began in 1999 as the "Adopt An Airman" program and honored 4 airmen and NCOs as well as the Company Grade Officer of the Quarter from the USAF's Air Combat Command's 509th Bomb Wing. The program was met with outstanding support from Columbia and surrounding mid-Missouri communities. In 2000, the program was expanded to honor ALL branches of military service. As long as there is a need for our armed forces to serve, there is a need to honor those who are routinely placed in harm's way. It is truly an honor to recognize the individual efforts of enlisted NCOs and the personnel of the United States Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy and Marines. The Association began to recognize those who serve and protect us here at home by including police officers and firefighters in 2001. In times of conflict and during peace, our military, police and firefighters are always there serving. The Missouri chapter of the Exercise Tiger Association is proud to sponsor this program.



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## The Exercise Tiger Association National Commemorative Foundation

The New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association began in 1989 with two veterans of the battle, Bud

Carey, LST 507, and Tom Glynn, LST 289. The executive director, Walter Domanski, Jr., is the son of the late "Tiger" vet Walter "Guns" Domanski, Sr., LST 496, and a former U.S. Navy Midshipman from the University of Missouri's NROTC unit. In 1996, with the creation of the Missouri chapter, the New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association was renamed The Exercise Tiger Association, National Commemorative Foundation. Since 1995 the national association has grown to include over 300 members as well as select honorary members.

Ceremonies to commemorate Exercise Tiger have been conducted on the east coast and in the midwest; five at VFW Post 3729 on Long Beach Island, three at the Philadelphia Naval Base, one at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station, the 1997 Midwest ceremony at VFW Post 280 in Columbia, Missouri. In 1996 the nuclear submarine USS Nebraska, part of Sub Group 10 based in Kings Bay, Georgia, held the first ceremony by a US sub while underway. The 1998 tribute was hosted by the Navy ROTC and held at Crowder Hall on the University of Missouri campus and the USS Maine, also part of Sub Group 10, held the first tribute to "Tiger," with veterans of the battle, while at sea. In 1999 the Indiana Tiger Chapter held the first ceremony in Indiana at Indianapolis and a stretch

of US Highway 54 between I-70 and Mexico, Missouri was dedicated "The WWII Battle of Exercise Tiger Expressway". Construction was completed on the Missouri Exercise Tiger Army & Navy Anchor Memorial and dedication ceremonies were held in 2000 in Mexico, Missouri, at the Audrain County Courthouse. The memorial was the site of the national commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Exercise Tiger on April 28, 2004.

Each year, the Barnegat Light [NJ] Coast Guard Station, has laid a wreath in the Atlantic Ocean to commemorate the Battle of Exercise Tiger. In 2006, through coordination between Barnegat Light and Bodega Bay Coast Guard Station [CA], memorial wreaths were laid simultaneously in the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans.

The Exercise Tiger Association is recognized by the Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of the Navy, Office of the Under Secretary of the Army for International Affairs, the US Coast Guard, the Governors of Missouri and New Jersey, by members of the Congress and Senate, and, in 1998, by the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It continues to promote and educate Americans about the historic battle of Exercise Tiger, advocates and conducts annual ceremonies in honor of the men and the memory of Exercise Tiger, and serves to advocate and lobby for all veterans of the United States. The Exercise Tiger Association, National Commemorative Foundation is a nonprofit organization, federal ID number 22-3273160.

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*To join the Association, or to make a financial contribution, write  
c/o The Exercise Tiger Assoc. PO Box 246 Columbia, MO 65201*

## VIGILANCE PREVAILS...

**"No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation."**

*- General Douglas MacArthur*

America was founded as a free society with certain rights guaranteed to us as citizens. These rights and freedoms have been earned, and defended, through the sacrifice and bravery of military men, as well as citizens, that believe in the spirit that defines the United States of America. Throughout our history, these rights and freedoms have been challenged, but through the vigilance of our military men and women, firefighters, policemen, and civilians we have been able to protect them. These courageous and selfless acts exemplify the spirit of "Tiger".

It is in the spirit of "Tiger" that we have come here this evening, to honor and remember true American heroes - our armed forces of today. These men and women are routinely placed in harm's way because they have chosen to protect and defend the rights and freedoms that we enjoy every day as American citizens and to place God and country above all else.

The events of this weekend are only one small way that we, as citizens, can let these vigilant guards of our God-given right to freedom know that we recognize all of the sacrifices that they, as well as their families, make for us each and every day. It was extremely difficult to select just a few of them honored here today. If possible, we would honor all of the members of our armed forces in this manner.

We also honor our elected officials, veterans, journalists, military units, community leaders, students and everyday citizens that support our military during times of peace and times of war. We also honor their support of the efforts of the Exercise Tiger Association, National Commemorative Foundation, as it strives to advocate for, and bring recognition to, all veterans of the United States.

To each of you here today, "Thank you" for your service to our country. As we honor these servicemen and women that are here with us today, we also remember those who are here with us in spirit; those who have served, or continue to serve, in both world wars, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, the Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq and other places in this world where freedom and basic human rights are in jeopardy.



# EXERCISE TIGER ASSOCIATION AWARDS

## Captain Gregory G. Faughner Trophy for Excellence

Named in honor of CPT Gregory G. Faughner, USAF (ret). CPT Faughner began his 28 year military career in 1968 as a US marine serving in the Republic of Vietnam. He received 5 medals including the Bronze Star. In 1970 he moved to the United States Air Force. He taught at the prestigious Air Force Academy and made his final stop as the Missile Launch Officer of the 321<sup>st</sup> Strategic Missile Wing at Grand Forks. In all, Faughner received more than 18 major medals and decorations, including two unit citations while at the 321<sup>st</sup> for unit readiness. Faughner served as a Senior Aerospace Science Instructor in the Air Force JROTC program.

*Award is presented to outstanding units, enlisted personnel and officers.*

## Sergeant Rudy Baginski Marine Corps Trophy for Outstanding Enlisted Excellence

Named in honor of Korean War veteran SGT Rudy Baginski, USMC. In 1943 a 17 year-old boy dreamed of being the best. Too young for the Marines, he made a deal with the Navy to be assigned to the famed 2<sup>nd</sup> Division as a Navy Combat Corpsman beginning a journey that took him from the blood-soaked beaches of Saipan in 1944 to the bloody hills of Korea in 1952. As a corpsman with Marine Assault Group 53, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, Rudy not only treated Marines, but fought as one. On July 7, 1944, history's first Bonzai charge was made with 4,000 Japanese soldiers attacking the 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. The marines lost 10,000 men on Saipan. Rudy and his unit received the Presidential Unit Citation. By 1952 Rudy was a US Marine with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. On July 21, 1952, Rudy's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Anti-Tank Company engaged communist Chinese forces less than 60 miles from Seoul during which his unit was virtually destroyed before help could arrive. Wounded, Rudy continued firing with his 75mm gun. For his actions, he received the DSM and Bronze Star. In all, Rudy received more than 22 medals and ribbons.

*Award is presented to Navy Corpsman, enlisted Marines and NCOs.*

## Petty Officer Walter Domanski, Sr. Memorial Trophy The Naval Petty Officer Achievement Award

Named in honor of Gunners Mate 3rd Class Walter "Guns" Domanski, Sr. Domanski served in the US Navy during WWII. During the now famous Battle of Exercise Tiger on April 28, 1944, "Guns" and his crew on board LST 496, began firing back at the attacking German Navy "E" boats. On June 11, 1944 (D-Day plus 5), LST 496 struck a mine only hundreds of yard off the Normandy coast. "Guns" was critical with a broken back and lacerations and made AP news as one of the first Navy casualties of D-Day. Petty Officer Domanski also served aboard the DE USS Keith and the Destroyer DeHaven. He saw combat in the North Atlantic, the Pacific and the Mediterranean. He participated in three major amphibious operations and received 10 awards and ribbons, including the Purple Heart.

*Award is presented to Petty Officers and CPOs.*

## Sergeant Charles Griffey Trophy for Army Achievement

Named in honor of SGT Charles Griffey, Independence, Missouri. While serving in WWII, SGT Griffey was assigned to the 478<sup>th</sup> US Army combat Truck Company, US 1<sup>st</sup> Div. His first baptism by fire was during the Battle of Exercise Tiger when his LST was attacked. During D-Day, June 6, 1944, Griffey ferried troops from the beaches over the flooded marshes and into the hedge country of France. Griffey and the 478<sup>th</sup> fought German troops all the while transporting 1st Div. Army soldiers and supplies into Northern France. Griffey received more than 8 medals and ribbons,



# SPONSORS

The Exercise Tiger Association is proud to recognize this weekend's Adopt A Serviceman program sponsors:

University of Missouri Athletic Department  
University of Missouri Air Force, Army & Navy ROTC  
Officers and Staff of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB  
Officers and Staff of the 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB  
Missouri National Guard  
Robert and Carol Julian  
WWII Exercise Tiger Veteran Charles Griffey  
Banastre Tarleton Bamd  
Jack's Gourmet Restaurant  
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Country Kitchen



BENNETT  
PACKAGING



"Our nation's military and law enforcement personnel work hard to protect us. We must thank them for their continued vigilance. Without their sacrifice we would be less capable of protecting our nation."  
— Leonard Boswell



## Colonel Donald E. Ballard Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient



Serving as a Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class and assigned to the Marines, Co M., 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, 3d Marine Division, in Vietnam, HC2c. Ballard was moving with Co M to join the remainder of the 3d Btln in Quang Tri Province. After treating and evacuating 2 heat casualties, HC2c. Ballard was returning to his platoon from the evacuation landing zone when the company was ambushed by a North Vietnamese Army unit employing automatic weapons and mortars, and sustained numerous casualties.

Observing a wounded marine, HC2c. Ballard unhesitatingly moved across the fire-swept terrain to the injured man and swiftly

rendered medical assistance to his comrade. HC2c. Ballard then directed 4 marines to carry the casualty to a position of relative safety. As the 4 men prepared to move the wounded Marine, an enemy soldier suddenly left his concealed position and, after hurling a hand grenade which landed near the casualty, commended firing upon the small group of men. Instantly shouting a warning to the marines, HC2c. Ballard fearlessly threw himself upon the lethal explosive device to protect his comrades from the deadly blast. When the grenade failed to detonate, he calmly arose from his dangerous position and resolutely continued his determined efforts in treating other marine casualties.

HC2c. Ballard's heroic actions and selfless concern for the welfare of his companions served to inspire all who observed him and prevented possible injury or death to his fellow Marines. His courage, daring initiative, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of extreme personal danger, sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the US Naval Service.

Ballard left the Navy in 1970 and was selected for Army officer candidate school. Ballard was called to the White House to receive the Medal of honor from President Richard M. Nixon, General Westmoreland, and Admiral Moore. Upon learning that Ballard was switching over to the Army, Westmoreland offered him a direct commission to be an active duty Army officer. However, for family reasons "Ballard turned the offer down but was persuaded to join the Kansas Army National Guard.

During his 30+ years in the Guard, Ballard has been an ambulance platoon leader, company commander and served in several key positions. "What kept me from retiring was the honor of being asked to start a new unit - Medial Detachment 5," said Ballard. He was the first person in the unit, and the executive officer. "Detachment 4 is the most cost-efficient organization I've ever seen in the Army," said Ballard. "It saves the Guard thousands of dollars by performing physicals for Guard members instead of contracting them out."

Born in December, 1945, Ballard has also served as a captain in the North Kansas City, Missouri fire department's emergency medical technician division and owned two funeral homes. He was inducted into the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame, November 2001.

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including 3 major battle stars and the Rhienland Campaign and Croix De Guerre with palm medals. Award is presented to Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserves enlisted, NCOs and officers.

### Master Sergeant Lee A. Messina Trophy for Outstanding Enlisted Achievement

Named for retired MSGT Lee A. Messina, a 20-year veteran of the United States Air Force. In 1980, MSGT Messina was selected to teach Air Force basic training at Lackland AFB. While there, he received the famed Air Force Blue Rope as Master Military Training Instructor. MSGT Messina has been awarded more than 6 major medals and decorations. MSGT Messina received the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Award for Outstanding Instructor in the Nation in 1983. As an Aerospace Science Instructor with the 931st NJ Air Force JROTC, his drill team was named national champions 3 out of 6 years.

*Award is presented to outstanding airmen and enlisted personnel*

### Major William D. Hobbs Trophy for Outstanding Public Affairs

Named in honor of Missouri's own Bill Hobbs, Major, USAF (ret), who began his career as a Public Affairs Officer in 1954 during which he received numerous medals and decorations. MAJ Hobbs survived a guerilla attack in Africa and has lectured on his experiences and survival tactics. Highlights of his career as a PAO include his work on the TV show **Bold Journey** and on Armed Forces radio and TV. He ended his career in 1992 in service to Missouri at the Ike Skelton Missouri National Guard HQ. A former editor of the Missouri National Guard publication *Bear Facts*, he continues to write articles for *Bear Facts* as well as *The Air Force Times*. He is a member of the Exercise Tiger Association and has served as MC for many of the association's past programs.

*Award is presented in recognition of outstanding public relations to military officers or units or to civilians.*

## 2006 Award Honorees

### Officer Candidate Robert Leidy, USN

#### University of Missouri-Columbia, Navy ROTC

~ Assigned to 2nd Medical Battalion where supervised and implemented \$4.5 million medical equipment upgrade to radiology rooms and medical clinics, instructed all assigned radiologists and technicians in use of new procedures and cutting edge medical technology resulting in savings of \$240,000 annually; Combat Water Survival instructor resulting in qualification of 40 marines, organized and executed 1st annual battalion 5K run/walk raising in excess of \$3,000 for charity ~

### SSGT Edward Leslie, USMC

#### University of Missouri-Columbia, Navy ROTC

~ Assigned to 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit in support of OIF, squad leader participated in over 100 missions ranging from offensive combat to humanitarian aid; as company navigator was responsible for planning routes and being lead vehicle in all company operations; upon return from OIF, assigned as advisor to prepare battalions for deployment for operations in Iraq; active in Habitat for Humanity and builds community support for USMC speaking to school students about experiences in Iraq ~

### CPT Adam Minnich, USAF

#### 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB

~ Expertly managed \$1.2M in armored bus assets; coordinated security transportation on Baghdad's deadly Route Irish, transported 21K personnel / 1.5M tons of cargo while exposed to enemy fire; led joint Army/AF staff to transport SECSTATE/NATO/foreign diplomats and furthered Iraqi security efforts; mentors local school children, counseled Hurricane Katrina victims; Deployed Troop Ministry volunteer sending care packages to deployed troops ~

### SFC Mickeal E. Pennington, MOARNG

#### 1139th Military Police Company

~ As 4th Platoon Sergeant in Baghdad, in support of OEF, SFC Pennington took the initiative, trains, lead, and motivate his soldiers to accomplish their missions safely and successfully. He is always willing to continue to train newly appointed soldiers to prepare them for the unexpected situations of today's battlefield during the platoon's free time, stressing the importance of being ready. With his belief that soldiers must be able to take control of whatever situation they face when given the opportunity to lead others, he ensures that his soldiers are trained in the positions above their rank. He takes the time to fully explain his expectations for his subordinates to ensure a clear understanding of their responsibilities to themselves and their peers. He is involved in many activities to provide children with the reinforcement that they need to succeed in life and assists other parents in coaching kids sport activities. ~

### SMSGT Charles M. Pignotti, USAFR

#### 442nd Maintenance Squadron, 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB

~ During Operation Mountain Thrust deployment to Afghanistan, aggressively engaged all sortie production issues producing 488 combat sorties in 30 days; maximized airframe utilization exceeding maintenance production operations by 20% while maintaining 24/7 alert coverage allowing unit to meet increase close air support mission requirements; revamped alert procedures cutting scramble times by 25%; directed enhancement of TF-34-100A jet engine performance enhancement allowing A-10s to carry increased bomb loads; developed and implemented plan to successfully relieve and redeploy 55 maintenance personnel while maintaining continuity of combat operations; developed dynamic training plans used to upgrade train jet engine technicians on complex engine maintenance practices, lifetime member of VFW post 5789 ~

### 1LT Charles E. Sheller, MOARNG

#### 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery

~ Established 2 maintenance support teams and complete 2,200 work orders in less than 4 months; managed over 1100 pieces of wheeled equipment traversing more than 1.5M miles in support of the 42nd ID in Iraq, maintaining 95% mission readiness on all equipment; responsible for requisition, storage and accountability of \$1M of shop stock with \$0 loss; ensured repair parts were ordered and stocked to keep unit battle-ready and mission-capable; active member of US Field Artillery Association and MO NG Association ~

### SSGT Vernon Verschelden, USAF

#### 509th Contracting Squadron, 509th Bomb Wing, Whiteman AFB

~ Presented Defense Meritorious Service medal for actions at Victory Regional Contract, Baghdad; managed as \$6M vehicle lease program and saved the government, thereby taxpayers, \$3M; awarded contracts in excess of \$28M in support of 83,000 troops; became subject matter expert and then trained 12 contracting officers on Camp Victory's new procurement system; procured \$8.7M pesticide spraying contract for entirety of Iraq having a huge impact to Iraq's \$1B date industry ~

## The Battle of Exercise Tiger



What began as a top secret naval operation, to prepare US Army and Naval forces for the June 6 D-Day invasion, would end with one of the highest losses ever suffered in combat by the US Army and Navy in WWII.

At 0135 on the morning of April 28, 1944, eight Tank Landing Ships (LSTs) and their lone escort, the British corvette HMS AZALEA, were en route to the landing area. Slapton Sands was selected because its beach looked every bit like the beaches at Normandy that would be code named Utah and Omaha by the allies.

The eight LSTs of LST Group 32 formed convoy T-4. They were the support group for elements of the 4th and 29th Infantry, 82nd Airborne and 188th Field Artillery Group already ashore at Slapton Sands.

The LSTs were carrying the 1st Engineer Special Brigade, the 3206th Quartermaster Company from Missouri, the 3207th Company and 462nd combat truck support companies as well as other elements of the US Army's engineer, signal, medical and chemical corps, and some infantry.

Miles south in the mouth of Lyme bay, lay the bulk of the Tiger naval force. This portion of the force was protected by the cruiser USS AUGUSTA and the new British "O" class destroyers HMS ONSLOW and HMS OBEDIENT, as well as the Tribal Class destroyer

HMS ASHANTI, and a covering force of motor torpedo boats. Anchored along with LSTs 55 and 382, they would be of no help to the ambushed LST force of T-4.

Attacking in the pitch black night, 9 German Navy "E" boats (torpedo) struck quickly and decisively without warning. LST 507 was torpedoed first. Explosions and flames lit the night. At 0217 LST 531 was torpedoed; it sank in six minutes and 424 of the 496 soldiers and sailors on her died. It was on this ship that the state of Missouri lost some 201 of its boys of the 3206th. LST 289 tried to evade the fast German "E" boats but was hit in the stern. LSTs 496, 515, and 511 all began firing at their attackers. LST 289 joined in, returning fire while lowering landing craft to pull it out of harm's way.

At 0225 LST 499 radioed for help. Minutes later the lead ship, LST 515, sent out an urgent and chilling message: "E" boat attack." Radio stations along the coast picked up the dramatic calls for help; unaware of the top secret operation underway, the calls go unanswered. Only after an alert radio operator heard the words "T-4" did the Naval Command realize that the calls were from "Tiger" and sent help.

By 0240, the horror was slowly realized - two LSTs sunk, a third lay crippled. Of the 4,000 man force, nearly a quarter were missing or killed. Official Dept.

of Defense records confirmed 749 dead; 551 US Army and 198 US Navy. The death toll made "Tiger" the costliest battle to US forces at that point in the war, after Pearl Harbor.

On April 28, 1944, the LSTs darkest, yet finest, hour occurred. For one hour, the men and ships of Convoy T-4 fought the greatest naval battle ever faced by an LST force in history. Against superior enemy warships, the Tiger amphibious force held its own.

The German attack did not stop Exercise Tiger. Landing operations resumed later on the 28th. To the credit of the tenacity and determination of the soldiers and sailors involved in Exercise Tiger, the D-Day invasion at Normandy occurred as planned.

The events surrounding Exercise Tiger were officially declassified in early August, 1944; two months after the Normandy Invasion. On April 28, 1996, Secretary of the Navy, John Dalton, stated in his remarks "Tiger... was the LSTs' finest hour."



This history was assembled by the NJ/MO Tiger Assoc. and based on Navy reports, DOD reports, and eye witness accounts.

# Adopt A Serviceman 2006 Award Presentations



## ~ SGT Charles Griffey Trophy for Army Achievement

**1LT Charles E. Sheller, MOARNG**  
*1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery*

**SFC Mickeal E. Pennington, MOARNG**  
*1139th Military Police Company*

## ~ MSGT Lee A. Messina Trophy

**SSGT Dustin D. Wright, USAFR**  
*442nd Maintenance Squadron, 442nd FW*

**SSGT Vernon Verschelden, USAF**  
*509th Contracting Squadron, 509th BW*

**SMMSGT Charles "Mike" Pignotti, USAFR**  
*442nd Maintenance Squadron, 442nd FW*

## ~ Walter Domanski, Sr. Memorial Trophy

**OC Robert Leidy, USN**  
*Univ of Missouri - Navy ROTC*

## ~ SGT Rudy Baginski Marine Corps Trophy

**SSGT Edward Leslie, USMC**  
*Univ of Missouri - Navy ROTC*

## ~ CPT Gregory Faughner Trophy

**CPT Adam Minnich, USAF**  
*509th Logistics Readiness Squad, 509th BW*

## ~ MSGT William E. Jackson Memorial Trophy for Military Career Achievement

**COL George D. Burgess, USAF (Ret)**



## Spirit of Patriotism Award

- ~ Reverend Philip Niekamp
- ~ Andrew G. Grinch, UMC Athletics Dept.
- ~ Columbia Conv & Visitors Bureau
- ~ Brown Printing & Publishing
- ~ Stoney Creek Inn
- ~ Maggie George-Murray
- ~ Carol & Robert Julian

## Spirit of Tiger Award

- ~ John McClane, Country Kitchen
- ~ Denise Hawkins, USAFR
- ~ Ken Applegate, Jack's Gourmet Restaurant
- ~ Robert Hayden, CEO, Sierra Bullets
- ~ Cosentino's Price Chopper, Lee's Summit
- ~ Ron McCready, USCG

## Military Community Relations Award

- ~ Jack Calegari, Kansas City, MO

## Outstanding MO Educator in Aviation

- ~ Larry Washington, USAFR  
442nd Fighter Wing

## Alexander J. Toth Memorial Scholarship

- ~ MIDN Emily Merritt, UMC-Navy ROTC

## MAJ William D. Hobbs Trophy for

### Outstanding Public Affairs

- ~ MAJ David Kurle, USAFR, *Mohawk*  
442nd Fighter Wing

Special Recognition in honor of  
**WWII Exercise Tiger Veterans**  
***Walk of Honor at the Liberty Memorial***  
Kansas City, Missouri

## Legislator of the Year

## Missouri Statesman of the Year

## Missouri Director's Award

## Tiger Unit Awards

- ~ University of Missouri Air Force ROTC
- ~ University of Missouri Navy ROTC
- ~ Barnegat Light Coast Guard Station, NJ
- ~ 509th Contracting Squadron
- ~ 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- ~ University of Missouri Army ROTC
- ~ 1st Battalion, 129th Field Artillery, MOARNG
- ~ Bodega Bay Coast Guard Station, CA
- ~ 442nd Maintenance Section
- ~ 1139th Military Police Company, MOARNG

## SSGT Dustin D. Wright, USAFR

### 442nd Maintenance Squadron, 442nd Fighter Wing, Whiteman AFB

~ Recently returned from Afghanistan after his volunteer mission supporting Air Expeditionary Force tour of 120 days. His leadership, dedication and technical skills contributed to the fully successful A-10 war jet mission in Afghanistan in the fight against the Global war on Terrorism. Performs most critical tasks in Structural Maintenance career field accomplishing repairs, major re-building and manufacture of structural assemblies not normally authorized at field level; performed aircraft pain refinish overhauls saving \$80,000 per aircraft over contractor costs; collaboration of forces to support AEF resulted in rapid acquisition of equipment and parts critical to the support of the combat maintenance, exhibited extraordinary courage under threat of hostile fire to complete critical repairs to A-10 fleet and C-130s; trained both reserve and active duty personnel in combat zone in art of aircraft structural maintenance ~



## MSGT William E. Jackson Memorial Trophy for Military Career Achievement

William E. Jackson began his career of service to his country by joining the United States Army in 1943 where his first tour of duty included an unfortunate stint as a POW in Germany during 1945. Following his rescue from the POW camp by GEN Patton, he remained in the European theater until 1949. His second tour of duty during the Korean War took him to Korea from 1950 to 1956. He retired from the Army in 1964, but continued to serve his country as a civilian working for the department of defense in Vietnam. During his military career, Jackson was awarded many medals including 7 Army Good Conduct medals. His volunteer duties included hand-to-hand combat military training instructor, military advisor - Saudi Arabia - instructed infantry tactics, ROTC instructor at Indiana University where he trained officers in military education and as an Integrated Armored Infantry instructor. He later decided to serve God by becoming a Baptist preacher. Four of Jackson's sons and two grandsons have continued the tradition of serving their country.



## 2006 Honoree for Military Career Achievement COL George D. Burgess, USAF (Ret)

Colonel George D. Burgess entered active-duty service in 1973. Desiring to continue in service to his country, he entered the Air Force Reserve at Richards-Gebauer AFB in 1983. Since joining the USAFR, he has been promoted to Major in 1987, Lt. Colonel in 1993 and to Colonel in 1999. He has received numerous awards and decorations including the Meritorious Service Medal with two devices, Air medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with two devices, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. His assignments as a member of the USAFR include A-10 pilot, instructor pilot, flight examiner, flight-test pilot, commander of the 442nd Operations Support Flight, commander of the 303rd Fighter Squadron, both deputy commander and commander of 442nd Operations Group, vice-commander, 442nd Fighter Wing and, finally, commander of the 442nd Maintenance Group.

As commander of the 442nd Maintenance Group, 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, MO, COL Burgess was responsible for the manning, training and combat readiness of two squadrons and one flight, which provide aircraft maintenance, munitions maintenance, and sortie generation and weapons loading support for the 303rd Fighter Squadron training and combat readiness. The group also manages the wing quality assurance program and maintenance training program.

COL Burgess is rated as a Command Pilot and has logged a total of 3,856 flight hours, 2,622 of those in the A-10. He has also flown the T-37 and T-38.

COL Burgess has also been actively involved with the Wright Flight program in Missouri.







# The Exercise Tiger Association's ADOPT A SERVICEMAN PROGRAM

## ~ SEQUENCE OF EVENTS ~

### ~ Soloist ~

*Maggie George-Murray*  
Jefferson City, Missouri

### ~ Opening ~

#### Introduction of VIP's and Honored Guests

*Tri-Service ROTC Sabre Arch Ritual Entry*  
University of Missouri Army ROTC  
University of Missouri Navy ROTC  
University of Missouri Air Force ROTC

#### Welcome to Columbia

#### "The Lord's Prayer"

*Maggie George-Murray*

#### Invocation

*Rev Philip Niekamp, Assoc Pastor*  
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church  
Columbia, Missouri

### ~ Dinner ~

### ~ Awards, Recognition and Remarks ~

#### Master of Ceremonies

*Susan Haines, National Associate Director*  
Exercise Tiger Association  
Columbia, Missouri

#### Selection Committee

*John McClane, Chairman*  
Columbia, Missouri

#### Recognition of WWII Exercise Tiger Veterans

*Jack Calegari*  
Kansas City, Missouri

#### Recognition by Missouri Governor Matt Blunt

*BR GEN Larry Kay, Missouri Army National Guard*

#### Recognition by US Congressman Kenny Hulshof

*Tim Freeman, District Director for Congressman Hulshof*

#### Recognition and Remarks by Exercise Tiger Association

*MSgt. Don Daly, USAFR(r), Missouri State Chapter Director*  
Lees's Summit, Missouri

### ~ Presentation of Tiger Awards ~

#### *Alexander J. Toth Memorial Scholarship Recipient*

presented by

*John Toth*

*In memory of his brother*

*Alex Toth, WWII Exercise Tiger Veteran*

#### MSgt. William E. Jackson Memorial Trophy

*MSgt. Robert Jackson, 442nd Fighter Wing, USAFR*  
Knob Noster, Missouri

#### Recognition by Secretary of the Navy

*Capt J. Basil Read, III, Commander, USN, UMC Navy ROTC*

#### Recognition by President George W. Bush and Remarks

*Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient*

*COL Donald E. Ballard*

*Kansas City, Missouri*

#### Closing Remarks

*Susan Haines, National Associate Director*  
Exercise Tiger Association  
Columbia, Missouri