

Walking 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.

*"If we ever forget that we're One Nation Under God,
then we will be a nation gone under." - Ronald Reagan*

*Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you:
one is Jesus Christ and two is the American G.I. One
died for your soul; the other for your freedom.*

Exercise Tiger Association

CELEBRATING THE WWII
65th Anniversary 1944-2009



**Adopted Servicemen and Women
Awards and Recognition Banquet**

*Boone Tavern & Restaurant
September 11, 2009*

THE EXERCISE TIGER ASSOCIATION'S

ADOPTED SERVICEMEN & WOMEN 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.

We are a team. We share a common mission. We must build a common future. This concept captures the spirit of cooperation and brings individuals together from across the entire Armed Forces, whether active duty, Reserve, Guard, or civilian, joining efforts towards achieving a common objective. This spirit of cooperation, along with the courageous and selfless acts of our American military men and women exemplifies 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 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.

Names on Missouri Exercise Tiger Army & Navy Memorial Located on the Northwest Corner of the Audrain County Court House Mexico, Missouri

Ovid C. Adcock	Paul R. DeHass, Jr.	Clarence Lasswell	Wallace F. Snyder
Alvin E. Aid	Joseph F. DeSalvo	Champ W. Libla	William F. Sparks
Delmar Allen	Earl V. Douglas	Evan W. Long	James W. Stephenson
Joe M. Arismendez	John Douglas, Jr.	Joseph D. Long	Lennie C. Sutt
Marion J. Asberry	Meredith J. Duckworth	Blaine L. Louder	Owen A. Tate
Raymond Baldwin	Johnnie O. Duncan	Earl C. Lowrie	Louis A. Tenuta
Calvin C. Bannister	William A. Duncan	Lawrence E. MacDonald	Joseph A. Tesoriero
Ralph E. Barber	Roy E. Eckhoff	Patrick J. Mahoney	Fay E. Thomas
Edwin A. Basgall	Matthew J. Edelman	John Mallassi	Mearl L. Toerber
James R. Baugus	Bill E. Edwards	John V. Manak	John N. Tolie
Walter B. Bergfeld	Carl M. Elliott	Robert E. Manes	Victor N. Tores
Howard G. Bird	Nicholas J. Evangelist	Ralph D. Marsh	Jacob Trager
Louis L. Birkley, Jr.	Junior T. Farris	Haskel H. Mayfield	Stanley J. Treef
Thomas J. Blethroad	David E. Fizer	Louis B. McCampbell	Luther R. Tucker
Harley E. Blevins	Arthur A. Fletewall	Roy E. McKinnon	William Turk
Bernard E. Bonderer	Charles R. Floyd	William F. Meehan	Howard Wagner
Winford G. Bost	Adrian L. Ford	Lawrence L. Meurer	Gerald A. Watson
Hoy F. Boyles	Joseph H. Frank, Jr.	James G. Miller	Everett E. Whetstine
Porter J. Bratton	Hershel G. Freed	Alvin G. Morgan	William Whitelock
Calvin Brecheisen	Leslie W. Friend	Hugh C. Murray	Horace S. Williams
Ivan J. Brown	Joseph A. Galuppi	Curtis A. Nagle	Paul W. Wilson
Ernest C. Bryson	John Gasser	Robert T. New	Vernon S. Wilson
George W. Buckner	Donald E. Gephart	Aubrey L. Newman	Floyd E. Wintjen
Robert E. Burke	Hilmer L. Gieschen	Lawrence W. Ott	Russel L. Wirt
Floyd H. Burks	Bill E. Gillespie	Delbert Overton	Frederick J. Wolpert
Harold W. Burns	John W. Glasscock	Johnnie D. Owens	Darryl V. Wooderson
Robert T. Burrell	Melvin Glaze	Joe V. Panalver	Myron A. Wright, Jr.
Metro Butry	Louis J. Golfopoulos	James E. Park	Mike J. Yadrick
Jay Cain	Dennie Goss	Marvin L. Payton	John W. Yates
Paul J. Caldwell	James P. Gray	Cleo B. Peake	
John H. Callahan	Marvin W. Grooves	Luther M. Pearson	
Ernest Carey	Dale E. Guffin	Milton Penn	
George P. Cates	Francis L. Haile	Lindsay Peters, Jr.	
Libro C. Cesaro	Ern F. Harrington	Charles R. Picking	<u>From Audrain Co.</u>
Richard L. Chamberlain	Peter J. Heffernan	Alfred E. Poggi	
Robert G. Chambers	Lester Hobbs	Edgar F. Pope	Thomas Creed, Jr.
Donald H. Childs	Ottis L. Hollon	Charles J. Pshenitsky	Garland Donaldson
Arthur F. Chudzinski	Robert L. Hopkins	Thomas R. Raines	Ralph T. Earnest
Joseph Ciccio	Albert H. Hovis	William R. Reese	D. Dean Ferguson
Ott S. Circle	Francis L. C. Hudson	Walter W. Reitzel	Harry Mettler
Herman Clark	William L. Humphrey	Irving Rettinger	Lowell Renner
Francis M. Coan	Arnold Hurt	Alvin F. Richardson	Wallace W. Smith
Woodson D. Constant	Clifford E. Hutchinson	Melvin A. Roberson	James Spurling
Christopher D. Cope	William M. Kay	Ralph R. Roberts	
James Cottrell	Otto W. Keller	Mes E. Robertson	
Harold E. Crandell	George Kielbasa	Aristedes Rodriguez	
Carrell S. Crane	William E. King	Rudolph J. Roper	
Ed W. Crocker	Bertram Kinkead	Raymond G. Salemmo	
Homer L. Dame	John D. Kladas	Harold L. Sanford	
Fred Danner	John T. Klobe	Willard C. Sharff	
Thomas Daoukas	William Karodi	John P. Sheahan, Jr.	
Franklin W. Davis	Ezra F. Kreiss	George R. Sitche	
Morris J. DeBaene	Walter V. Larson	Steve L. Smerek	

Sergeant Charles Griffey Trophy for Army Achievement

Named in honor of SGT Charles Griffey, Independence, MO. While serving in WWII, SGT Griffey was assigned to the 478th US Army combat Truck Company, US 1st 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 478th fought German troops all the while transporting 1st Div. Army soldiers and supplies into Northern France. Griffey received more than 8 medals and ribbons, 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). During a 39 year career of active, reserve, and national guard service, Hobbs made stops in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Hawaii, Panama, and Honduras, as well as several stateside bases. He served in various Public Affairs assignments both as an enlisted man and as an officer. One of his most unusual assignments was as manager of the only television station in Saudi Arabia at the time. During the French-Algerian War, as a civilian photo-journalist, his party was ambushed by Arab guerrillas. His two companions were killed and Hobbs, shot twice, survived by playing dead. He continues to write free lance articles for such publications as Army Aviation, Air Force Times, National Guard, and Family. Hobbs is a member of the Exercise Tiger Association and has served as MC for several of the association's past programs.

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

Chief Officer Ronald McCready Trophy The Coast Guard Achievement Award

Named in honor and recognition of Chief Officer Ronald McCready, US Coast Guard, who has been demonstrative for more than ten years coordinating the Exercise Tiger Association's Wreath Laying at Sea Ceremonies. Chief McCready has demonstrated great determination, leadership, and dedication to continually respect and recognize those who have served this great country on the seas from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. He personally escorted WWII Exercise Tiger Veterans and members of the Exercise Tiger Association out on to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans for laying of the memorial wreaths honoring those who have served, those who are currently serving, and those who have gone before us.

Award is presented to US Coast Guard enlisted personnel, NCOs, and officers



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, LST289. 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 mid-west; 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

To join the Association, or to make a financial contribution, write c/o

***The Exercise Tiger Assoc., PO Box 246
Columbia, MO 65205***

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 both the 60th and 65th anniversary of the Battle of Exercise Tiger on April 28, 2004 & 2009. 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. For the 65th Anniv. wreaths were laid in the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf Coast. The Exercise Tiger Assn. 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 non-profit organization, federal ID # 22-3273160.

Tonight's Key Note Speaker

BRIGADIER GENERAL LARRY D. KAY

Assistant Adjutant General -Army, Missouri National Guard

Brigadier General Larry D. Kay was assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Joint Force Headquarters, Jefferson City, Missouri in November 2006. As the Assistant Adjutant General he assists the Adjutant General in the formulation, development, and implementation of all programs and policies in the Missouri Army National Guard.

He began his military career with the Missouri Army National Guard in 1979 as a Flight Medic. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant at Westminster College, on 17 May 1981 at the age of 19. He has held command leadership positions at Section, Platoon, Detachment, Company, Battalion, Brigade and Task Force levels.

Brigadier General Kay served as the Executive Officer for the 1267th Medical Company during Operation Desert Storm 1990-1991. The mission of his air ambulance company was aerial evacuation of wounded, transportation of critical medical supplies, aerial search and rescue in the combat zone.

Most recently, Brigadier General Kay served as the Commander, Multinational Task Force East – Kosovo (KFOR 10). As the Senior United States Commander in the Balkans Region, he led the NATO Peacekeeping effort composed of Units from six states and seven nations to enforce United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and to assist in the transition to the civilian rule of law in the region.

Brigadier General Kay is qualified in both the UH-1H/V (Huey) and the UH-60A/L (Blackhawk) helicopters.

EDUCATION:

1. May 83 Bachelor of Science, Westminster College, Fulton, MO
2. May 89 Masters of Science, Health Services Management, Univ. of MO, Columbia, MO
3. Jul 02 Masters of Strategic Studies, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Mar 79 - May 81, Flight Medic, 868th Medical Detachment
2. May 81 - Nov 83, Air Defense Officer, 35th Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC)
3. Nov 83 - Sep 86, Section Leader, 868th Medical Detachment
4. Sep 86 - Mar 89, Flight Operations Officer, 868th Medical Detachment
5. Mar 89 - Nov 90, Commander, 868th Medical Detachment
6. May 89 - Nov 90, State Coordinator, Counter-Drug Task Force
7. Nov 90 - Oct 91, Flight Operations Officer, 1267th Medical Company (Air Ambulance)
8. Oct 91 - Oct 94, Commander, 1267th Medical Company (Air Ambulance)
9. Oct 94 - Oct 96, Evacuation Plans Officer, 35th Division Support Command (DISCOM)
10. Oct 96 - Oct 97, Flight Operations Officer, 1107th AVCRAD
11. Oct 97 - Apr 00, Commander, 935th Division Aviation Support Battalion (DASB)
12. Apr 00 - Sep 00, DMOC Chief, 35th Division Support Command (DISCOM)
13. Sep 00 - Feb 03, S-3, 35th Division Combat Aviation Brigade
14. Feb 03 - Feb 05, Commander, 20th Theater Aviation Brigade
15. Feb 05 - Sep 06, Director of the Joint Staff, Missouri Army National Guard
16. Oct 06 – Feb 07, Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Missouri Army National Guard
17. Feb 07 – Mar 09, Commander, Kosovo Forces 10, United States Army
18. Apr 09 – Present, Assistant Adjutant General – Army, Missouri Army National Guard

EXERCISE TIGER ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Captain Gregory G. Faughner Trophy for Excellence

Named in honor of CPT Gregory G. Faughner, USAF (r). 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 321st Strategic Missile Wing at Grand Forks. In all, Faughner received more than 18 major medals and decorations, including two unit citations while at the 321st 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 2nd 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, 2nd 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 2nd 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 1st Marine Division. On July 21, 1952, Rudy's 1st Battalion, 1st 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.

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**The Exercise Tiger Association is proud
to recognize this year's Adopted Servicemen &
Women's program sponsors.**

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Office of Governor Jay Nixon
University of Missouri Athletic Department
University of Missouri Army ROTC Unit, Columbia, MO
University of Missouri Navy ROTC Unit, Columbia, MO
University of Missouri Air Force ROTC Unit, Columbia, MO
Officers and Staff of the 442nd Fighter Wing,
Whiteman Air Force Base, MO
Officers and Staff of the 509th Bomb Wing,
Whiteman Air Force Base, MO
Banastre Tarleton Band, Columbia, MO
Boone Tavern & Restaurant, Columbia, MO
Captain's Quarters, Columbia, MO
Carole & Robert Julian, Omaha, NE
Columbia Police Department, Columbia, MO
Cosentino's Price Chopper, Lee's Summit, MO
Country Kitchen Restaurant, Columbia, MO
Bennett Packaging, Lee's Summit, MO
Roy Frey Western Wear, Topeka, KS
School House Bed & Breakfast, Rocheport, MO
Missouri Military Academy Choir, Mexico, MO

BRIGADIER GENERAL LARRY D. KAY

cont.

Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Missouri National Guard

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Legion of Merit
Meritorious Service Medal - 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
Army Commendation Medal - 3 Oak Leaf Clusters
Army Achievement Medal
Global War on Terrorism Medal
Kosovo Campaign Medal
Southwest Asia Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal - 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal 6th Award
National Defense Service Medal
Armed Forces Reserve Medal
Army Service Ribbon
Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon #2
NATO Non-article 5 Medal
Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)
Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)
Missouri Conspicuous Service Medal - 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
Missouri Commendation Ribbon
Missouri Desert Storm Ribbon
State Emergency Duty Ribbon - 2 Oak Leaf Clusters
Missouri 20 year Service Ribbon
Missouri Basic Training Ribbon
Senior Army Aviator Badge
General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award

CIVILIAN OCCUPATION:

Executive Director, Missouri Veterans Commission

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant USAR 17 May 1981
First Lieutenant, ARNG 16 May 1984
Captain, ARNG 10 December 1986
Major ARNG 22 January 1992
Lieutenant Colonel ARNG 22 December 1997
Colonel ARNG 28 February 2003
BG (Line) ARNG 10 January 2006

(Current as of May 2009)

2009 ADOPTED SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

CAPTAIN GREGORY G. FAUGHNER AWARDEE

~CAPTAIN GEOFFREY M. STEEVES ~

CAPTAIN STEEVES is a Flight Commander and B-2 Bomber Aircraft Commander in the 13th Bomb Squadron. He was selected the 13th Bomb Squadron's Company Grade Officer of the Year, Aircraft Commander of the Quarter, and twice honored as the Group's Pilot of the Quarter. While deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, he was the top choice to brief the Pentagon's top communications officer and the 13th Air Force Commander on the capabilities of the stealth bombe. Turned tragedy into friendship—answered dying child-grieving village's wish—formed lifelong ties in Guam.

MASTER SERGEANT LEE A. MESSINA AWARDEE

~SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT ROBERT M. HUGHES~

SMSGT HUGES is a Chief Enlisted Manager and Squadron Superintendent for the 509 Logistics Readiness Squadron attached to the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base. He has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Force Combat Action Medal. He braved improvised explosive devices and ambush threats as a driver/gunner/ commander on 90 combat support missions. He mastered the 40hr Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle training. MSgt. Hughes instructed Ft. Riley Veterans Assisted Program. Spearheaded Afghan education drive.

MASTER SERGEANT LEE A. MESSINA AWARDEE

~SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT MARK E. MOCK ~

SMSGT MOCK is a Fabrications Flight Chief, supervising the 442nd Fighter Wing Metals Technology, Nondestructive Inspection, and Structures Functions for the A-10 aircraft. He deployed to Bagrahm Air Base 2008 in support of coalition ground forces, and performed flawlessly as the production supervisor for the deployed A-10, C-130 and F-15 weapons systems. His superior leadership successfully supported aircraft maintenance for over 457 in-theatre combat missions against Taliban militia.

MASTER SERGEANT LEE A. MESSINA AWARDEE

~TECHNICAL SERGEANT MICHAEL W. PRICE ~

TSGT PRICE is an A -10 Aircraft Avionics Technician for the 442nd Fighter Wing Specialist Aircraft Maintenance Flight. His superior performance and experience with the new ARC 210 Beyond-Line-of-Sight Radio provided A-10 aircrews with a valuable communications tool , enabling clear, uninterrupted communications with ground controllers and base command in mountainous terrains. He directly contributed to over 1200 combat sorties, expended in direct support of coalition forces on the ground while deployed in Afghanistan.

MASTER SERGEANT LEE A. MESSINA AWARDEE ~

MASTER SERGEANT GARY D. HAYNER ~

MSGT HAYNER is a Supply Craftsman for the 139th Air Lift Wing, Civil Engineering Squadron, Missouri Air National Guard. he used his knowledge executing the movement of all base mobility assets to a new facility while maintaining 100% accountability and 0 mishaps. He was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Joint Forge, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Jump Start. Recipient of the Air Force Commendation Medal and is the Senior Noncommissioned Officer for 2008.

SERGEANT CHARLES GRIFEY AWARDEE

~SERGEANT JESSICA ZARATE ~

SERGEANT ZARATE is attached to the 35th Special Troops BN, Headquarters Company, MO Army National Guard. She was selected the 2009 MO Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. To achieve this, she bested her peers who were best of their brigades in physical fitness, warrior task training, land navigation, marksmanship, knowledge of military subjects, & appearance before a board. BS Degree in Criminal Justice, graduated with honors, member of professional fraternity for Criminal Justice Major. She is exemplary leader and role model.

SGT RUDY BAGINSKI MARINE CORPS AWARDEE

~STAFF SERGEANT ROBERT D. PFEIL~

SSGT PFEIL is in US Marine Corps, completed two combat deployments to Iraq & multiple deployments to Horn of Africa as CH-53 helicopter crew chief, and logged over 1700 flight hours. Is enrolled in Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program pursuing dual Bachelor of Arts Degrees. As Midshipmen Battalion Sergeant Major, he holds the senior enlisted student leadership rank in the UMC Naval ROTC BN.

PO WALTER DOMANSKI SR. MEMORIAL AWARDEE

~OFFICER CANDIDATE GEOFFREY PETERSEN~

OFFICER CANDIDATE PETERSEN is in U S Navy. While serving as the Command Search & Rescue Petty Officer for Helicopter Anti-submarine S 8, he was instrumental in the planning and execution of a international joint search & rescue training exercise w/ French aircraft carrier Charles DeGaulle. During WESTPAC deployment on board USS John C. Stennis, he flew 12 direct support missions support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Enrolled in The Seaman to Admiral Century 21 (STA-21) program at UMC pursuing a BA degree in Bus. Mgmt.

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 OBE-DIENT, 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.



Our Program Theme.....

A TIME TO REMEMBER ALL OUR LOVED ONES

This evening's program is especially dedicated to all military who've fought for our nation's freedom throughout this country's history. Many remain as memories, as do those who lost their lives due the 9-11 fiasco that struck our nation 8 years ago today.

Former President Ronald Reagan sums it up quite eloquently when he said. "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

2009 marks the twentieth anniversary for the Exercise Tiger Association, and as the next generation, we want to express our sincere gratitude to all who have supported us. We especially remember John Toth, Florence Domanski, Mrs. Eisenbeis, and Jack Calegari, parents and loved ones of our Exercise Tiger Association officers who've all passed this last year and half.

And General Douglas MacArthur reminds us, "No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation." All of our loved ones mentioned above are of the WWII era.

Toth Memorial Scholarship is in memory of the four Toth Brothers who served during WWII, Joseph, Julius, Lewis and Alex. Alex participated in the Battle of Exercise Tiger, practiced for the D-Day invasion on Slapton Sands, England, and landed on Utah Beach in Normandy. He served in battles/campaigns of Normandy, France; Rhineland, Central Europe and Aredenes. He was awarded five Bronze Stars for these campaigns.

The Exercise Tiger Association's
~2009 Adopted Servicemen and Women Awards Banquet Sequence ~

~Music~

Captain Michael Shoemaker & Choir
Missouri Military Academy, Mexico, MO

~Opening~

Introduction of VIP's and Honored Guests
ROTC Sabre Arch Ritual Entry
University of Missouri US Air Force ROTC
University of Missouri US Navy ROTC

~Posting of Colors~

University of Missouri ROTC
US Army, Navy, Air Force & Marines

~Welcome~

Darwin Hindman, Mayor
City of Columbia

~The Lord's Prayer~

Captain Michael Shoemaker

~Invocation~

Chaplain Randy Sawyer
Missouri Military Academy, Mexico, MO

~Missing Man's Table~

University of Missouri ROTC
US Army, Navy, Air Force & Marines

~Dinner~

~Military Medley~

Missouri Military Academy Choir
Mexico, MO

~Mistress of Ceremonies~

Susan C. Haines, National Associate Director
MSgt. Don Daly, USAFR(r) Missouri State Director

~Recognition by Columbia Police Department~

Officer Lloyd Simmons

~Recognition by US Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer Representative~

~Recognition by US Senator Christopher Bond Representative~

~65th Anniversary—Battle of Exercise Tiger~

LtCol. Hugh Rogers, Deputy Chief of Staff
US Army Maneuver Support Center, Ft. Leonard Wood, MO

~Recognition by Lt.Gen. Charles Stenner, Chief of Air Force Reserve~

Col. Jerry Fenwick, Commander 442nd Medical Squadron

~Recognition of Secretary of the U.S. Navy~

Captain Autum Swinford, US Marine Corps

~Presentation of Tiger Awards~

Adopted Servicemen and Women
Columbia Police Cadet
Outstanding Educator's Award
Toth Scholarship Award
Community Relations Award
Missouri Director's Award
Legislator of the Year Award
Spirit of Patriotism Awards
Spirit of Tiger Awards

~Key Note Speaker~

Brigadier General Larry D. Kay
Assistant Adjutant General, Missouri Army National Guard

~Benediction~

Chaplain Randy Sawyer

~Closing Song~

America the Beautiful
Everyone Join Singing with the Missouri Military Academy Choir

