



OCTOBER, 2010 POST NEWSLETTER

VFW POST 1093, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our VFW Post is an incorporated entity. This means that the Post is registered with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Secretary of State as a non-profit, charitable veterans organization. As such we must file Annual Reports with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the IRS. Board of Directors are elected annually (June of each year), to fill expiring Board member terms, by the Post membership to manage the business of this incorporated body. This business consists of, but not limited to, the management, control and operation of the Post Club (Canteen) and all real and plant property. The Board of Directors consists of seven elected members and the Post Commander and Quartermaster are automatic members. These members elect a President, Vice President and Clerk of the Corporation. The Treasurer of the Corporation, who is also a Board member, is the Post Quartermaster. These Board Officers and members must be listed on the annual report to the Secretary of State.

At the Board of Directors meeting on July 21, 2010, Buddy Bernard, President of the Board, resigned from the Board and indicated that he would like to stay on as Club Manager only. The Board accepted Buddy Bernard's resignation with regrets. The Vice President of the Board, William Duke, moved into place as the President of the Board and thus the office of Vice President became vacant.

At the Board of Directors meeting on August 18, 2010, in accordance with our Corporation By-Laws, Frank Lindquist was appointed by the Board to serve as a member of the Board of Directors until the next Annual Corporation meeting in June of 2011.

At our Board meeting of September 15, Board member Jake Burridge was elected as Vice President. On September 20th Board member Ted LeMieux resigned from the Board and we will be looking to fill his slot on the Board very soon.

Those Board members who have resigned in the past few months have long served our Corporation and Post with honor and devotion and will be missed very much. However, they still serve our Post in another capacity. Those who we have and will appoint to replace them will have big shoes to fill but I am confident they are up to the task. For those not in the know, our Corporation Board of Directors now consists of the following Post members: William Duke-President, Jake Burridge-Vice President, George Lewis-Clerk, Bob Metz-Post Commander, Bob Riddle-Post Quartermaster, Clifton Wentworth, Dan Gallant, Frank Lindquist and one to be appointed at our next Board of Directors meeting on October 20th.

Bill Duke
President, Board of Directors

. Veterans Benefit Package Passes Senate:

A large veterans' benefit bill cleared the Senate this week. The bill, HR 3219, will provide improvements to a host of VA benefits and reauthorize programs that provide services to veterans, including qualifying work-study activities, the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education and the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs. It also improves life insurance programs for "totally disabled" veterans, increases disability compensation for several categories of disabled veterans, including a cost-of-living increase for spouses that survive service members, if those spouses have minor children and increases burial plot allowances.



A NEW SIGN AT POST QUARTERS

With all the construction underway and the convoluted approach to post quarters, including the popular post members' watering hole, we needed improved signage. Thanks to PC Bill Duke we have the new sign pictured above which prominently identifies our location. When our reporter asked Bill about the sign he replied, " I build and erected the new post sign, Jim Graffum and several friends helped me to set it up. Buddy Bernard, Jim Graffum and Jake Burridge helped to get it from my home to the VFW. I had a lot of help and I thank them all." When all construction is complete a new sign noting the post location will be placed at the entrance driveway.

TAPS **IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES - MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**



O God, Father of us all, we offer this final earthly tribute to our beloved comrades who have passed on
Stephen M. Harasen, 92, passed away Thursday, September 16, 2010

GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON IV - A MEMBER OF POST 1093



Comrade Richard Barbato is the creator of a FACEBOOK PAGE dedicated to preserving the memory of Major General George Patton, United States Army. This effort is intended for veterans who served with General Patton and for friends who knew him (and) to preserve his memory and the service he rendered to our nation. Before relocating out-of-state as he accepted an employment promotion as Seafood Operations Manager for Connecticut Shellfish, Ipswich Shellfish Group, Rich Barbato, an IraqVet, was an active officer and member of Post 1093. Capt. Barbato (ret) has been a dedicated member of this post who has been generous with his time and talents. Along with his interest in serving vets with current needs he is also a collector of military memorabilia as well as military history. These interests have resulted in his creating this Facebook Page for a distinguished deceased member of our post, General George S. Patton IV. Comrade Barbato is correct. General Patton IV had an illustrious military career and stands tall beside his father Old Blood and Guts General George S. Patton III.

George Smith Patton, IV was born December 24, 1923 in Boston, Massachusetts and died June 27, 2004 in South Hamilton, Massachusetts. He was a Major General in the United States Army and the son of World War II General George Patton. A 1946 graduate of West Point he was initially trained as an infantry officer. Patton served in Korea starting in July 1953, commanding "A" Company of the 140th Tank Battalion, 40th Infantry Division where he received his first Silver Star and the Purple Heart. Patton served a total of three tours of duty in Vietnam. During Patton's final and most intense tour, lasting from January 1968 to January 1969, he was awarded two Distinguished Service Crosses for his actions on the battlefield. Patton, who frequently used helicopters as a mobile command post, was shot down no less than three times and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. After Vietnam, he was promoted to brigadier general in June 1970 before becoming the commanding officer of the U.S. 2nd Armored Division, a unit his father had commanded in North Africa during World War II, making this the first time in U.S. Army history that a father and a son had both commanded the same division. The Abrams were the second to accomplish this feat. (Photo: Col. George S. Patton IV in Vietnam)



His decorations included the Distinguished Service Cross with one oak leaf cluster,^[6] the Silver Star with one oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal (picture above), and the Purple Heart as well as Parachutist Badge and Aircrew Badge.

In the years after his retirement in 1980, Patton turned an estate owned by his father located in Hamilton into the 250-acre Green Meadows Farm, where he named the fields after Vietnam soldiers who died under his command. He died from a form of Parkinson's disease at the age of 80 in 2004.

This very brief review of General Patton's life and service hopefully will prompt comrades with access to computers to check the Facebook Page as well as Google and similar sites including pages dedicated specifically to Gen. G. S. Patton IV.

HINT: Try - <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Presence-of-Mind-Recovered-Ground.html>

As a **local note** regarding **General George S. Patton III**: Hamilton, where the summer home of General George S. Patton III was located, dedicated its central park to him with a World War II-era tank in the center of town. The town's school sports teams play under the name "Generals." In addition, the French government gave two statues to the town commemorating Patton's service to their nation. They were improved in 2003 and sit at the entrance to Patton Park. A quote attributed to GSP III;

“Accept the challenges so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory.”

MEDAL OF HONOR



From left, the Army, Navy/Marine Corps/Coast Guard, and Air Force medals

Vietnam Airman to Receive Medal Of Honor



President Obama on Sept. 21 to presented the Medal of Honor posthumously to the sons of Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Richard L. "Dick" Etchberger, of Hamburg, PA, who was killed in action in Laos on March 11, 1968, during the battle of Mount Phou Pha Thi, a half-mile-high karst ridge that held a secret radar navigation site to direct aircraft heading deep into North Vietnam.

Etchberger risked his life repeatedly during the battle to ensure the safety of his troops. He held off enemy fighters with an M-16 rifle while directing air strikes and air rescue from his radio. He put himself into harm's way when rescue helicopters arrived, exposing himself to heavy enemy fire as a decoy, allowing three wounded troops to safely board the hovering helicopter. Etchberger was

fatally wounded as he was being raised into a rescue helicopter. Read the DOD press release at <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=60749>.

THE REST OF THE STORY (WHY DID IT TAKE 30 YEARS?)

They weren't supposed to be there. Then again, neither were their enemies. The 16 U.S. airmen of the 1st Combat Evaluation Group were stationed atop a 5,600-foot mountain that towered above the Laotian jungle. Before daybreak on March 11, 1968, the first rocket dropped. Then grenades were hurled and gunshots came whizzing by. North Vietnamese soldiers had infiltrated the Air Force's secret "Lima Site 85" – and few Americans would leave alive. The Air Force used the covert U.S. radar base, which was 20 miles from the Vietnamese border, to guide U.S. bombers to and from targets in North Vietnam and Laos. But because Laos was officially a neutral country in the conflict, the U.S. troops were there in violation of the Geneva Agreement. So before sending them to Lima Site 85, military officials told the airmen they would operate in Laos under the cover of being civilian technicians who worked for Lockheed Aircraft Services

The Laos mission was so secret that the only other people briefed on it were the airmen's wives – and they weren't allowed to tell their children what their fathers had been doing, even after they died. It wasn't until 1983, when the Air Force declassified the mission, that Etchberger's three sons found out the real story from their mother, Catherine. "She kept her promise to the Air Force," said son Cory Etchberger who was 9 when his dad was killed. A spokeswoman for Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., who had been advocating for Etchberger to receive the Medal of Honor, said the airman was nominated for the award when he was killed but records show that the Air Force vice chief downgraded the nomination to an Air Force Cross because of the secrecy of the mission in Laos and instead was awarded the Air Force Cross, the service's second-highest military decoration.

Etchberger is not the only serviceman to be honored many years after his death. The Union Army's 1st Lt. Alonzo Cushing is scheduled to receive the Medal of Honor later this year — 147 years after he died at age 22. Badly wounded in the Civil War battle of Gettysburg, he refused to give up on his short-handed unit and fought until the final moments of his life, according to his commendation

FIRST LIVING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT SINCE THE VIETNAM WAR

SSG Salvatore Giunta, a paratrooper w/ the 173rd Airborne, will become the first living Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War. He earned this by charging a group of Taliban who were trying to make off with a wounded comrade in the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan. His actions broke the Taliban's attack and allowed him to regain control of SGT Josh Brennan. He also saved the lives of the many other members of his unit who had been caught in a near ambush by the Taliban. Giunta didn't hesitate one second before advancing on his own to ensure the enemy would never take one of ours, but sadly Josh Brennan was too badly wounded to survive. His cousin PVT Joe Brennan recently graduated airborne school and has joined the same unit proudly carrying on Josh's memory.



The 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 503rd Infantry Regiment "The Rock" deployed to Afghanistan in 2007 for 15 months of the most intense combat any US unit has faced in this war. During the time they spent on the border with Pakistan, this one battalion averaged three troops in contact incidents every day. They were right in the path of the Taliban's major push back into Afghanistan after years of resting, recruiting and retraining in their safe havens in Pakistan. The Rock proudly upheld the tradition of our airborne forces in some of the most inhospitable terrain on Earth.

SSG Giunta was a member of Battle Company and the exploits of some of his compatriots in that unit are vividly chronicled in Sebastian Junger’s book “War” and the documentary “[Restrepo](#)” (in theaters now) he made with Tim Hetherington. The two spent a total of five months with a platoon from Battle Company and the book and film show the tremendous challenges these men faced and overcame. Giunta was a Specialist when the action occurred and his squad was hit with a well-planned ambush at extremely close range. He was the trail team leader and Josh Brennan was the lead. When the fighting started Brennan was severely wounded, their squad leader was knocked to the ground, their medic was killed and several others were wounded. Giunta immediately began maneuvering toward the enemy throwing grenades and eventually charging them when he saw two of them hauling Josh away. He emptied a magazine killing one and wounding the other and grabbed Brennan telling Josh to stay with him so that he would get a chance to tell heroic stories. They did get Brennan on a medevac chopper, but unfortunately his wounds were too severe and he didn’t survive. But Giunta’s actions stopped the Taliban from taking him and by running headlong at the enemy he disrupted the ambush. SSG Giunta’s story can be read in Junger’s book “War” starting on page 115. It has been far too long since we have awarded the Medal of Honor to someone who survived, and SSG Giunta is a wonderful addition to the ranks of those who have earned our country’s highest honor. There are a number of others under consideration for this decoration and hopefully this is a sign that more of these brave warriors will be recognized. We salute SSG Giunta and all who serve or have served our country.

Parents win burial rights in National Cemeteries

The Associated Press reported that on September 29 Congress approved burial privileges for some biological or adoptive parents of service members who are buried in the 131 cemeteries run by the Veterans Affairs Department's National Cemetery Administration. The bill does not apply to burials at Arlington National Cemetery which is maintained by the Army. [VA](#) national cemetery directors have the primary responsibility for verifying eligibility for burial in VA national cemeteries. A determination of eligibility is usually made in response to a request for burial in a VA national cemetery. VA Regional Offices will also assist in determining eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery. The toll-free number for the nearest VA Regional Office is 1-800-827-1000.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (an award-winning government Web site) This site is well worth a visit. Computers are available at the Ipswich Public Library and help is available if needed. A post meeting is also a good opportunity to get help if needed. Considerable current and helpful information is available as, for example: **What’s a Vet Center?** [Watch a video](#) to learn how [Vet Centers](#) provide free readjustment services for Veterans who served in combat—all in an environment Veterans find comfortable. This includes group and individual counseling, family counseling, and more. Find it at:

<http://www.va.gov/>

POST OFFICERS - 2010--2011

<p>Commander Senior Vice Commander Junior Vice Commander Quartermaster Chaplain Judge Advocate Post Surgeon Trustees</p>	<p>Robert K. Metz Chad W. Freeman Francis Lindquist Robert C. Riddle William J. Hurley William E. Duke Joseph W. Parks Peter Wilson, Jake Burridge, George Lewis</p>	<p><u>Appointments:</u> Chad W. Freeman, Service Officer chad.freeman1@googlemail.com George O. Lewis, Adjutant w1cnrlewis@comcast.net</p>
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