



# The Sentinel

Volume 3, Issue 4

October 2001 – February 2002

Membership Newsletter for the Society of The Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

## 1926

## 75 Years of Dedication

## 2001

March 24, 1926

IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. The Commanding General, District of Washington, will take necessary action for the establishment, **effective March 25, 1926**, of a military guard, armed with a rifle, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery.

2. One Sentinel will be posted at the Tomb from the hour of the opening of the gates to the cemetery each morning until the closing of the gates each evening.

3. In this connection, attention is invited to the fact that the Quartermaster Department now maintains a watchman at the Tomb **whose special duty is to prevent any desecration or disrespect.**

By order of the Secretary of War



With this simple order, the US Army assumed the great responsibility of standing guard over American service members who, in the service of their country, have given more than just their lives. Since that date a Sentinel has stood watch during every national crisis, in weather that is always unpredictable.

The Sentinels responsibility has grown since the internment of three more servicemen, representing other major wars that the United States has fought in. While the Vietnam crypt is now empty, we continue to stand eternal watch in humble reverence over these unidentified warriors.

*“...Not for fame or reward, not for place or for rank, not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity, But in simple obedience to duty...”*

## America is Attacked, and We Respond

Everyone remembers where they were when the attacks came. Just like Pearl Harbor, the assassination of JFK or the Challenger explosion; you will forever remember that defining moment.

I was exchanging emails with Carrie Brunori, our Assistant Editor, when she told me to turn on the TV. When I rushed into the room and turned it on, Laura and I both went into shock. How could this happen? Who dares attack the United States of America?

As soldiers and Americans we all want to respond to these cowardly attacks and pure murder. Some in uniform will get the chance to “visit” the Taliban, others will pour their every effort into relief organizations, to help in any way they can.

The following are brief stories from some of the men and women who responded to these tragedies.

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, as many of you did, I watched on TV as the Twin Towers burned. Being a fire-fighter I thought of the enormous task facing the NYFD. I figured that it may take a day or more to extinguish the fires. I prayed for the safety of my brothers.



*“I knew that hundreds of my brothers were gone and that the fire service had lost a piece of its soul.”*  
*John Higginbotham*

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## From the Editor

Dear Members,

### Congratulations to our two new Life Members!

Ray Homyk (1963-65) and Edward Favreau (1971-72)

As I get closer to starting a new job, I have been thinking quite a bit about the start of the Society back in 1998. It seems the helping the Society develop has become a driving factor in my life, which requires more and more time. I love the challenge, and dread the day that I will have to scale back my involvement.

How far have we come? The number one reason, as stated by Tomb Guards, to create the Society was: *Maintain Contact w/ Fellow Tomb Guards*. I think we have done that and more. One the biggest joys working with the Society has been the un-expected phone call from a Tomb Guard that has been "missing". You can hear the anticipation in his/her voice when they ask if I know where so-and-so is. This last year alone we have been contacted by a dozen former Guards or next-of-kin.

Education and History were a close second. With the dedicated effort of John Porter we have taken a huge leap forward in teaching the next generation about the military and the sacrifice Americans sometimes have to make. We started out telling Tomb Guards to just take some pictures and talk to the kids. Now we have a full blown media presentation that has been seen by 20 schools, military units and will soon be on display at the Visitors center in ANC.

I know that each of you have had a rough few months. No one in this nation can say they were not effected by what has transpired. Just as in 1941, the enemy of the entire world have awoken a sleeping giant. My thoughts and prayers go out to those at the tip of the spear. We know that Special Forces units have already been "in-country" long before our direct involvement. How many of these unknown warriors have already given the supreme sacrifice fighting terrorism? We may never know, but we will honor them every time a Guard Change is conducted at the Tomb, or when we see the Stars & Stripes snap in the breeze.

I know that each one of you can say: **"I am proud to be an American!"**

Yours in the Society,  
Gavin McIlvenna (1997-98)



## ELECTION RESULTS

In accordance with Bylaw Article's (V (a), X and XI) these are the election results:

### Board of Directors for 2002

Richard Azzaro (Pres.)  
James Cardamon (VP)  
Meredith Smith (Treasurer)  
John Porter (Secretary)  
William Rigsby  
Gavin McIlvenna  
Chuck Shacochis  
Wayne King  
Neale Cosby (Past Pres.)

### Approved Amendments

Amendment #4  
Amendment #5  
Amendment #6

New Bylaws should be printed early next year and copies sent to all members, since the last version is dated 1998. Until then, cut and past the new amendments to your existing Bylaws.

David Goodwin (1960-62)  
Election Committee Chairman

\*The BoD thanks the outstanding efforts of the Election Committee

## News from Around The Society

\*SGT Jeff Hojnacke (1996-01), 2nd Relief, took his last walk on 17 October. Laura, his wife, was present as well as the Commanding General for the Military District of Washington, the H Company Commander and ANC Superintendent. Jeff has since moved back to Oregon, where he will be attending the University of Oregon (Go Ducks!), and is a member of the Oregon National Guard in Eugene.

\*7 October saw the entry of an American Legion float in the Minster, Ohio "OKTOBERFEST" parade. Pat Hoying (1952-53) once again stood on the "mat", and the float received the "Gemutlichkeit" award (#1). The idea for the float was endorsed by a 5-year POW fighter pilot, who was shot down during Vietnam.



Pat Hoying stands watch during the Minster parade.

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## I Can't, But I Will!

By Neale Cosby

I must paraphrase George Washington to describe the new President. On Tuesday, October 20, 1998, I had lunch with Richard A. Azzaro at Bertolie's, an Italian restaurant in Washington DC.

I met with Richard on the advice of Jan Lilly, who two months earlier had contacted me with the idea of forming an association of Tomb Guards. Jan insisted that I meet with Richard because he had impressed Jan at the 1998 reunion of Tomb Guards. Jan described him as a positive man, well-spoken, natural leader with a burning interest in the Tomb Guards. I accepted all of this as a normal Tomb Guard but Jan pressed me to talk to Richard. Then he said Richard was a Lawyer. That did it.



I exposed Jan's idea of forming an association to Richard and he responded positively. He immediately rattled off a number of brilliant ideas that the association could do for the Tomb Guards. At the end of our long lunch, I told him that this would take dedicated leadership. Then I dropped the rock on him.

I told Richard that I would act on Jan's suggestion but I needed his help. He offered all kinds of valid reasons why he could not get involved with another outside association: too busy in his day job, Karen thinks he is too committed already, hoping to take on the job of General Counsel of the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board, and on and on.

I listened to all of Richards excuses and then I told him that it is easy to start something but it difficult to keep it going. It takes time, talent and a desire to do something for other people and in this case it is for the best soldiers anyone will ever know. He then replied with something that a lieutenant said to General George Washington, after having been given an impossible mission: "I can't but I will."

Later Meredith Smith, a Sentinel in my days and I had lunch at my office. Richard got a hold of Gavin McIlvenna, whom Richard described as the guy who can make things happen. With that start the Society was on its way. And as they say, the rest is history.

The moral of this story applies to every member of the Society. Some things are more important than others and for those things that you hold high; you have to take on the greater mission.

Neale Cosby (1958-60)

SHGTUS President

1998-2001

## Q & A With the Past President

*Editor: Neale, What was the easiest thing about being President?*

Neale: That is an easy question. The easiest thing was working with extremely talented and pleasant people. They were professional in every respect. I should know better, but I still find myself in awe of the former Tomb Guards and their abilities. Like the new President, Richard Azzaro, the Society is never in peril with leaders like him. He does not subscribe to the fashionable thing to do, like putting lipstick on a bulldog. He asks the more important question and makes sure it fits with our core values. The Society is full of good leaders that will step forward in the future.

*Editor: What was the hardest?*

Neale: I did not find anything hard. Sometimes there are many things that need coordination but that is true of a lot of worthwhile things in life.

*Editor: Did you find it easy to balance your professional life and the volunteer time to the Society?*

Neale: Yes. The trick is to delegate tasks to members who are willing and more able to make things happen. I learned a long time ago that I cannot do everything and, more importantly, there are people in this world who are better at doing things that I cannot do. Even Richard will tell you that lawyers should not practice dentistry. The best thing a leader can do is to set the compass with general directions and meaning, and let the experts do the work.

*Editor: What was the one thing you wish you could have accomplished while as the President?*

Neale: I wish we could have gotten a better start with the education fund. I truly believe this is a cause worth doing well. It will take some time but I believe it will come. Then there is the electronic badge board that we have talked about that still needs fixing.

*Editor: What are you plans now, as the first past president?*

Neale: I would hope to assist the current president with anything he asks me to do.

## The Expedition – Part Two

(The term expedition, sounds more exciting and adventurous than "camping trip")

The night before "E" day had finally arrived. With all checklists complete and the gear stored in the transport, granddad and grandson hit the racks for an early first call.

"The Expedition" had begun.

After an o-dark-thirty wake up, "Grammy" prepared them a big breakfast and gave them last minute reminders and warnings. They loaded into the truck, put in a tape of The West Point Glee Club and Marching Band and were off. It was 30 miles to the expedition site through hazardous terrain (farm tractor traffic & cattle crossings) with wild animals all around (a deer crossed the road and they came across the remains of a black snake that failed it's attempt). The movement was accomplished without great difficulty.

Upon reaching the expedition site, they were fortunate find a spot on the water, with a view of Bomb Island in the distance. Priorities were set, and it was decided that shelter should be the first thing to be put up (besides, it looked like it might rain anytime). Fire was next on the list, as all good expeditions have a roaring fire to stand around. Granddad went over some safety procedures to follow while using the hatchet & machete, and the general precautions to follow when building a fire.

Grandson headed to dig the drainage ditch around the tent, while Granddad located some rocks for the fireplace as well as some firewood. With this completed, a demonstration on how to properly fold and store the entrenching tool was conducted, at which point the first casualty of the expedition occurred. While trying to fold the tool, Granddad pinched a blood blister on his thumb. This required first aid (water and some sympathy from the grandson) and part of a "Snickers Bar".

With the casualty taken care of, next on the list was food. It still looked like it would rain any minute while Grandson used the hatchet to "beat" a limb in two and gathered some fine twigs. Putting them carefully in a teepee type pile, Granddad then struck the match and carefully lighted the twigs. As with any good expedition, a little bit of gentle huffing and puffing and they had a fire - with just one match.

Cooking duties fell to the grandson (he still hadn't learned never to volunteer) and carefully placed a "round steak" (wiener to you civilians) on a piece of wire that had been scrounged. Adapting to unforeseen problems is vital in expiations, and since the wire grill was "misplaced" in the rear, we were lucky to prepare dinner without any more casualties.

The wind shifted just as the "round steak" was nearing completion, the wind shifted and grandson got his face and lungs full of smoke. The Assistant Cook immediately took over, and the "round steak" was consumed with great gusto.

Still feeling hungry, the standard Army (MRE, or better known as Meals Rejected by Everyone) meal was opened, with all the fruit and goodies consumed first. A cup of good ol' Army coffee finished off the meal, followed by a discussion about the impending weather conditions (it had sprinkled two different times and still looked like a storm was brewing across the lake).

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Missing Tomb Guards

Since the last newsletter we have tracked down the following Tomb Guards:

John Bott  
John Van Kan  
Edward Favreau  
Weber R. Holloway III  
Kym Kirby Burns \*(1st wife of  
Michael Kirby)



The Master Sentinel List, which has the last known address/phone of every Tomb Guard, has some holes in it.. We need your help in tracking down the following:

Arnold, Mark (78-79)  
Bell, Tonya (98-00)  
Bertelson, Lonnie (81-82)  
Chimel, Kenneth (67-68)  
Curtin, John (54-55)  
Elliott, Thomas (71-73)  
Davidson, John (67-69)  
Feehan, Jack (54-55)  
Ferrante, Tom (54-55)  
Lee, Steven (96-98)  
Leverone, Robert (72-73)  
Manning, William (88-90)  
Moffat, James (68-69)  
O'Conner, Kevin (89-90)  
Pratt, Colden (75-79)  
Robinson, Sean (96-97)  
Sanders, Peter (54-55)  
Savage, James (77-78)  
Strohmaier, Walter (54-55)  
Trimble, Don (73-74)  
Wadlinger, Joe (54-55)  
Williams, Joseph (71-72)  
Zych, Joe (54-55)

**If you have any information on our missing brothers and sisters, please contact the Editor.**

## ..., and We Respond (Cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Knowing the danger that they faced I knew that some of them would not be going home, but I hoped that I was wrong. Collapse wasn't an option, it had never happened in a high-rise. The Trade Center withstood the truck bombing and never wavered.

But when the towers collapsed, I knew that hundreds of my brothers were gone and that the fire service had lost a piece of its soul.

My name is John Higginbotham and I served as a Tomb Guard from 1988 to 1989 on 2nd Relief.

Today I am Lieutenant with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I am currently assigned to Rescue 401 located in McLean, Virginia.



"Higgy" in his command truck

My station did not respond to the Pentagon until the second day of the incident. We were held back and placed on alert for response to the CIA, which is located in my first due assignment area. On the second day of the incident Tower 401 (100 ft aerial platform ladder) reported to the Pentagon and during their time there assisted in extinguishing the roof fire which had re-ignited. Our Urban Search and Rescue Team operated at the incident for about 7 days.

My units normal function is to carry out search and rescue activities on the ground, conduct vehicle extrications at accident scenes and handle Hazardous Materials emergencies as part of our response team. In addition to our normal duties we have an increased focus on terrorism, with particular focus on biological agents such as anthrax.

As part of our duties we respond to reports of suspicious powders or substances that could potentially be anthrax. Upon our arrival we interview the citizen making the report to gather information for what we call a risk based analysis.

My unit runs an average of 4 suspicious powder calls a day. So far we unit have found no credible threats. What we have learned is that powders are commonly used in the mailing and packing industry to prevent items from sticking together and that people are noticing things that are normal occurrences.

*John "Higgy" Higginbotham (1988-89)  
Lieutenant, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue*

It's such a cliché to hear "it's too bad it took such as tragedy to bring us all together" but it's the truth.

Immediately after the horrifying events of September 11, Todd and I starting volunteering. We couldn't watch the towers descend over and over anymore. We couldn't stand to see the desperation in people's faces as they ran for their lives. Watching the news twenty-four hours a day started to make us go numb. I never wanted to feel numb.

After hearing heard the third plane hit the Pentagon; I was shocked, scared and worried...we had to do something! My anger was building and I felt the extreme need to help with the rescue efforts in anyway possible.

It was simple; we bought a lot of supplies and headed over to the local Salvation Army, which had been set up as the Pentagon Disaster Relief site.

We sorted, packed and organized boxes of food. When a fax would come back from the Pentagon with request for specific items, such as water or bread, we will pull those boxes and load them onto the truck which north to the Pentagon.

We had only volunteered there for about three days when the site had become so packed with donations that it was impossible to move about the room!

The Salvation Army Pentagon Disaster Relief was then moved to a 140,000 square foot warehouse, which within two weeks had received more than 100,000 square feet of donated items. These items were again boxed, put on pallets and shrink-wrapped and then categorized.

The media was constantly there reporting the need for specific items. When the word got out we needed sweat-pants: within hours we had three pallets of sweats. People came together in such a way it

shocked me at first. I knew that if someday we could all come together it would be such a beautiful thing, yet why did it have to take such a disaster for this to occur?



Volunteers loading a truck heading to the Pentagon



The warehouse starts to fill up with goods

*(Continued on page 6)*

## CFC Fair's are a Success!

There were two fairs that the Society was able to attend this year. With short notice we were able to get Wayne King (1985-89) and Chuck Shacochis (1965-67) to put up booths during both.

Wayne spent a day in mid October at the Federal Reserve in Washington DC. While this one started off slow, Wayne states, "as time passed several folks recognized the Tomb Guards and presented the Society with a mountain of praise and comments. I talked to folks that had family members in the cemetery, a member of the original Army Chorus, and a gentlemen whose wife is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution". Many people wanted to help in any way they could.

As Wayne was the first in the "hot seat" we were able to identify some modifications needed to the brochure. While we were unable to get any pictures, Wayne still had a good time, "All in all I enjoyed the time I spent talking about the Society and the Tomb today..."

Chuck was able to set up a booth at the National Security Agency Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland on October 31st, that had a steady stream of visitors from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Chuck advised that he couldn't bring the Education Presentation or even a laptop as, "security was extremely tight from entrance to exit, including bomb-sniffing dogs, x-rays, wand scans and escorts everywhere."

Chuck went on to say that nobody minded, "In fact, when the lead coordinator tried to apologize for all the security hoops, she was silenced by a round of applause and thanks to the Agency for its thoroughness."

Thanks to the quick turn around time by our Education Chair, Chuck was able to distribute a large quantity of Society brochures. Most visitors to the Society's booths showed a genuine interest in our programs, with many thinking the education program was a great idea. The Education Committee will have many new requests for presentations.

### Answers from the last quiz

- 1) Francis Gary Powers, Section 11
- 2) BG Jonathan Wainwright, Section 1
- 3) Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart

## ..., and We Respond (Cont.)

*(Continued from page 5)*

I was amazed at how many people volunteered their time to help. I met one young couple who had just gotten in their car drove up from North Carolina straight to the Salvation Army to help. They came with no money or change of clothes. The Salvation Army was nice enough to put them up in a local hotel. The staff of the Salvation Army was great; they were very encouraging, friendly and were a great support for all of us.

Everyone was in good spirits despite the world events. It was almost as if when we were there we had to be upbeat because, when we got home and turned on the television we were reminded of the horror once again.

I'm not saying volunteering helped us forget what was happening, no one will ever forget. But it did help us get together with a bunch of newfound friends, complete strangers that were there for each other. There we were, exhausted and our good spirits had run out, and we would take a break and talk about the shock of it all. Sometimes we couldn't find words, but words aren't always needed.

*"Even though I walk in through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."*

Psalm 23:4

Carrie A. Brunori

Assistant Editor

Salvation Army Volunteer at the Pentagon

2nd Relief was working that day just going about business as usual when the Sergeant of the Guard, SFC Ronken, called to the badge room from his office and told us to turn the television to CNN. He said something was wrong with the WTC. As soon as we turned it on, we saw the first tower in smoke, and then to our horror watched as the second plane hit on *live TV*.

As there was nothing we could do, I went up to watch the next Guard Change with SSG Kelly. While we were watching the Sentinel we heard the plane fly overhead, but didn't think anything of it. Planes flying overhead are a common occurrence with Reagan National so close.



Smoke Rises from the wounded Pentagon, photo by Michael Patterson

Suddenly, SSG Kelly and I felt the ground shake and heard a loud explosion. Sure enough, after running into the

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Committee Status Reports

During the past year your Committees have been hard at work. At the beginning of the year, a goal was set for each Committee, and we have had success in accomplishing our missions. Below you will find a quick summary on two Committees:

### Education Committee

Mission: Create package for TG speakers for use at schools and veteran organizations

The Education Committee has come along way since the beginning of 2001, and is part way to competing this mission. The development of the Education Presentation and successful use of the presentation has proven to be a very valuable tool for the SHGTUS. To date more than 40 presentations have been given by various members throughout the United States. Additionally, the presentation was shown at the Washington DC Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Fair for the promotion of the SHGTUS and federal funding.

The Society's Education Committee has recently teamed up with the White House and the Veterans Administration to promote President Bush's *Lessons of Liberty Campaign*. This recent campaign, launched by President Bush on 30 October, is designed to educate our nation's school children about the cost of liberty. In light of recent events, it is very important to get the word out to our children. The *Lessons of Liberty Campaign* parallels the Society's efforts to have veterans visit classrooms and speak on their experiences in the military.

*John Porter (1987-88)*

**2002 Goal:** We need to finish the packet, which will include slides, notes, presentation flag w/certificate, quizzes for students and handouts on basic information.

SHGTUS Education Committee  
C/O John Porter  
40977 Cypress Point Drive  
Cherry Valley, California 92223

### Public Relations Committee

Mission: Create solid ties with military, veteran and major news organizations.

Over the past year we have had strong work on the Newsletter and Website, the two largest parts to the Public Relations Committee. While there was hand-off in the Chair position, we are getting closer to accomplishing the overall goals.

We have actively sent out Press Releases on members who are giving presentations, and have gotten good responses. Some members have been sought out by active and National Guard units for presentations. The next year should see a significant increase in coverage and presentations, as we are working with the White House on the *Lessons of Liberty Campaign*. To make this happen, we need your help in reporting activities and sending in photos! One of the outstanding goals for the History Committee is getting those personal stories of each Tomb Guard. If you have not completed a Bio, please send one in as soon as possible.

*Gavin McIlvenna (1997-98)*

**2002 Goal:** The need for a quick reference list for local media outlets is desperately needed for press releases, and each member can assist by sending in contact information for city and state media outlets in their area. This can be any medium (TV, Radio, Newspapers, School Boards, Web News Sites, etc.)

SHGTUS Public Relations Committee  
C/O Raymond Homyk  
4182 Middlebrook Cove  
Brunswick, Ohio 44212

### HOW CAN YOU HELP THE SOCIETY?

**The Society desperately needs back-up volunteers in place for major committees. We are going to hire an outside source for all planning of Reunion 2002, but we need a Society Contact to help. Little things such as sending in your Biography, photo's, acting as a Point of Contact are vital. Our goals as an organization cannot move forward unless we all pitch in, and it only takes a little bit of your time! Please contact the Secretary or Executive Director today!**

### ....Around the Society (Cont.)

*(Continued from page 2)*

**\*SPC Vincent Fasano (1997-00)** has left the military and is back in his home state, in training to become a New York City Police Officer.

**\*John Porter (1987-88)** was able to help a California museum with a float for the local Veterans Day Parade. Les Carlyle of Desert Hot Springs, and some volunteers are rebuilding a Douglas SBD-5 Dauntless Dive Bomber that had crashed 55 years ago over Lake Michigan. They wanted to have a float in the parade, and

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Passing the Guidon . . .

**On November 19th, during the monthly Board of Director's Meeting, the results of the Election were made public and the 2002 officers identified. Neale Cosby will turn over the Presidents position to Richard Azzaro on January 1, 2002. The following are the thoughts from those who worked behind the scenes.**

Today, by operation of our by-laws, Neale Cosby relinquished his position as inaugural President of the Society of the Honor Guard Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. As his Vice-President and co-founder of the Society, his friend and his student, I believe it is a moment in our Society's history that requires recognition of his services to the Society, his devotion to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and his unwavering belief in the high privilege he shares with his fellow Tomb Guards to have been called to honor the memory and to protect the remains of America's most honored war dead.

I met Neale when he initiated a phone call to me, several months after the first reunion. We met for lunch and we discussed the idea of starting an organization of Tomb Guards. I had thought the idea absolutely great, but of course someone else would have to do it and I listed about ten reasons why "we" needed to find someone else to get it started. He responded with, "you mean you have a day job". There was a look in his eyes that I had seen before and I knew I was already losing ground. He immediately followed up with "yes, I know, but if we don't do it, who will"? It was clear to me that this guy, this stranger, knew me better than some of my closest friends. He knew that part of me that only Tomb Guards could understand. From that conversation our little circle grew. First to Gavin McIlvenna and then to Meredith Smith. Four Tomb Guards working toward one goal and Neale leading the way. I must admit two things at this point, I really did not have the time and, yet, I could not resist working with Tomb Guards again. Nobody owns the work like Tomb Guards. And these guys were the best of the best. Watching Meredith and Gavin work and Neale probing and pushing -- it was like being brought into the Tomb Guard all over again.

After we hammered out what we thought was worthy to present to the Tomb Guards that we were finding, in ones and twos, it was time to meet with the Regimental Commander to present our proposal and enlist his support. Neale presented our case with the aplomb of a dip-



Neale explaining, once again, why a certain Relief is still the best

lomat and won the Commander's support. There were more meetings with others in the Old Guard and some of which (because I was tied up at work) he attended alone. There were some who were not friendly to the idea of the Tomb Guards forming a separate organization. Cosby held firm until we could reach the membership and secure their sense of this pivotal issue. When the Society met and agreed upon the Charter that would govern us, he was an immovable rock and gave example to the integrity of our Society and our determination to continue our service to the TUS as only Tomb Guards understood. No one would or could push him away from his vigorous representation of our Society. He brought even greater stature to our Society by bringing to our reunions guest speakers who in turn brought us new and deeper understandings of what we are part of and the great honor we shared in the work we were called to do as Tomb Guards.

When faced with adversity, he always sought and found a path forward that resolved the matter in a way that benefited the Society and the mission that we serve. He empowered those who have served the Society so well and that have put us on a very solid footing for significant accomplishments in the near and long term future. Our Society is now firmly established as an educational institution, incorporated in the State of Virginia, and fully qualified as tax exempt (state and federal), we enjoy the respect of numerous veteran's and civic organizations. We enjoy a good relationship with the Regiment, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Old Guard Association. We have launched our education program, led by John Porter, that is reaching high schools, federal agencies and civic groups (and the solid foundation has been laid for even more aggressive efforts in the near future). Because of the work already done, we are in a position to support the President's call for veteran's to go into the schools and talk with the students. With Neale's encouragement, Chuck Shacochis, mobilized our resources and secured our qualification to participate in the federal sector's Combined Federal Campaign. This will help us fund our all-important educational programs. Additional initiatives include the memorial postage stamp, a viable store for the Society, preservation of the TUS logs, and the development of an electronic Badge Board. With Gavin as our Webmaster we have a web site that is first rate and serving the membership and frequently



Neale, standing next to John Porter, accepts a plaque from the National Sojourners Society after a presentation in November.



## ... Reflections from the Board of Directors

helps missing Tomb Guards to find and join us. With Meredith, we have a newsletter that is professional quality and our Treasury is sound and healthy. When crisis struck, Wayne King jumped in and kept the store and the mail afloat until we could recover. With Jim Card each of us has a cert of our members in the society that we all can be proud of. His work on the scholarship endowment continues and we all look forward to the benefits that flow from that effort to all our members and their children. With Bill Rigsby, we have a truly Tomb Guard memorial service and rose ceremony that allows us to express our respect and love, individually and collectively.

These are some of the thoughts that I needed to share with you as we witness Neale's assumption of his new role. It is occasions like this that I am most grateful for my service at the Tomb and what the living and the dead taught me at Arlington National Cemetery. I know when I am in the presence of a warrior. I know when I am in the presence of a man who loves his country, and most of all; I know when I am in the presence of a Tomb Guard. I have had the honor and privilege to serve the Society under Neale Cosby's leadership and I commend him to you for your recognition.

Yours in the Society,

*Richard Azzaro (1963-65)*

The success of the Society to date rests mainly on its leadership. No one deserves more credit for bringing the idea of a Tomb Guard Society to reality than its founding President, Neale Cosby. Neale has been deeply involved in every facet of the Society's development. When issues have arisen the required debate and discussion, either among the Board of Directors or the membership at large, Neale has been the quintessential consensus builder.

The results show that he has led the establishment of a brotherhood of people from a wide range of backgrounds and interests who have come together with one primary goal: to improve public understanding and point to the significance of one of the most important national monuments in the free world. All of us in the Society own a debt of gratitude to Neale for his vision, his spirit, his humility and his inimitable class.

*Chuck Shacochis (1965-67)*

As I remember, in December 1958 a new lieutenant named Neale Cosby (even then he didn't have much hair) was assigned to Honor Guard Company.

As far as I know he was the first officer to be assigned the primary responsibility of the Tomb Guard and Post #1. He impressed me then as a very professional "no nonsense" officer and leader, and that impression remains with me today.

Immediately the standards began to rise. He demanded the very best performance from all personnel, and in return he gave his very best. Neale gained the respect from all those that worked with him and indeed he worked very hard, always striving to find ways to improve procedures. One notable improvement that I recall involved the verbal exchange between sentries during the guard change. At that time the Relief Commander would command: **"Turn Over Your Orders"**. During that time all personnel on guard duty were governed by the Army's General Orders.

One of the General Orders was: *"To receive obey and pass on to the sentinel who relieves me, all orders from the commanding officer, officer of the day and officers, noncommissioned officers of the guard only"*. Thus to comply with the General Orders the Relief Commanders command was changed to **"Pass On Your Orders"**. A procedure that remains in use today.

When I learned that members and former members of the Tomb Guard had a reunion and were considering forming a Society and the name Neale Cosby appeared, I knew that the Society would be in good hands. Neale, as the Society's first President, has continued to bring us the best in leadership. Through his vision and dedication we are a thriving Society and moving onward and upward toward great achievements. We have been blessed to have Neale as our leader. We are also blessed that even though he won't be president next year, he will remain as a member of the BoD.

Neale, as a member of the Society, please accept my humble thanks for your hard work and dedication as President. I am proud to count you as my friend---and leader.

*Bill Rigsby (1960-61)*



1LT Neale Cosby  
1958



Presentation of the Society wreath Reunion 2000

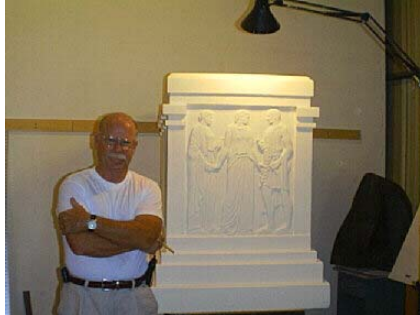
**On behalf of the Society, we wish Neale and Dot the best in their future endeavours, thanks for *Leading the Way!***

## ... Around the Society (Cont.)

(Continued from page 7)

the theme was "The Price for Paradise".

Les, who contacted the Society for specifications and pictures of the Tomb, commissioned artist Joe Wertheimer of the Palm Springs Air Museum to build a ¼ scale replica of the Tomb.



Joe Wertheimer working on the South side of the Tomb replica

Les is a WWII Marine that fought in the battles of Saipan and Iwo Jima, and he wanted to remind people of the sacrifice that many Americans have given for this nation.

John was given an insiders tour of the Air Museum and a close-up view of the float. The Tomb replica, the most detailed and accurate replica that John has ever seen, took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the parade and standing ovations as it journeyed through the parade route. Later that day the Air Museum proudly displayed the might of WWII air power with flyover of the B-17 Flying Fortress. The Tomb replica is now a permanent display at the Palm Springs Air Museum. Please visit the Palm Springs Air Museum online at: [www.air-museum.org](http://www.air-museum.org)



\***Kevin Grubel (1997-01)** changed his last name to Kevin Welker on October 6th. Grubel was his step-fathers name, but Kevin and his brother made the decision to change it back to their birth fathers last name a few months ago. So don't delete those incoming emails from Kevin!

\*Congratulations are in order to the following new badge holders down at the Tomb:

SSG Kelly #492

PFC Buttner #493

SPC Benjamin Bell #494 (1st Relief)

SSG Eric Kolesar #495 (1st Relief)

SFC Rolf Ronken #496 (SOG)

PFC Schumann #497

The SOG also advised that badge #500 should be awarded sometime early December.

\*\*The Education Committee would like to recognize some Society members for their support and further educating our nation:

Neale Cosby

Martin Green

Wayne King

George Koch

Dennis McMahon

Rolf Ronken

David Goodwin

Ray Homyk

Michael Knight

Gavin McIlvenna

John Ranum

Chuck Shacochis

In addition, the following members have been awarded the Bronze Oak Leaf for Achievement from the Education Committee:



Martin Green, George Koch and John Ranum

**George Koch (1941)** was part of a presentation for Veterans Day at the Boyertown Junior High East School, with 500 students in attendance. George then took a little rest, and then visited Boyertown Elementary School on November 16th where he talked to about 100 students. George reports that the students during both presentations asked very intelligent and direct questions.

**John Ranum (1960-61)** visited the Sun River Valley School in Simms, Montana on October 10th. While he was not able to use the Education Presentation, the kids were able to see some photo's and handouts from the website. John had a great discussion about patriotism with the kids, and many had stronger emotions for the National Anthem.

**Dennis McMahon III (1987-88)**, who is a 1SG with A Company, 310th Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Meade, Maryland conducted a two part NCO Professional Development Class on the Tomb and Arlington National Cemetery.

**Gavin McIlvenna (1997-98)**, used the Education Presentation during classes for Oregon National Guard Recruits at the November Drill. The new Privates felt it was a good lead-in to Veterans Day.

## ... , and We Respond (cont.)

guard quarters, we saw the smoke coming out of the Pentagon on CNN. We quickly turned the security cameras toward it, and watched as the fire was blazing.

We went on lock down right away. The entire platoon was called in to assist with the security as per the SOP. Security was tightened on the Tomb and around the Amphitheatre. After about 12 hours the Company Commander, CPT Green called down and wanted 1st and 3rd Relief's to go up to the company for gate guard and vehicle inspection. Fort Myer went to TheatCon Charlie, something I never thought would happen.

For the next three days, no one went home. We were tasked to guard the Hatfield & Wright gates into ANC, inspecting every cars that wanted to enter. During the first day and a half, we only conducted "Post 1" Guard Changes in Battle Dress Uniform. At one point, news helicopters flew over and took some shots of the Sentinel on duty.

As soon as possible, we were back into blues. Someone claimed that was in the news too, but I didn't see it.

*Jeff Hojnacke (1996-2001)*

*Former Tomb Guard, now a College Student in Oregon*

Soon after I started volunteering with the Salvation Army I found myself with other Defense Department employees in a van to the Pentagon. We passed through several security checkpoints eventually arriving at the Pentagon's south parking lot that was transformed into a tent city. The lot was filled with pallets of food, water, and other supplies for the rescue and recovery effort. I climbed in a golf cart with an Air Force Master Chief and transported hot meals to the rescue personnel at the crash site. We had to pass through more checkpoints to get to the damaged side of the Pentagon.

The crash site was swarming with fire fighters, search and rescue personnel, local law enforcement, the FBI, and every branch of the military. Pentagon employees still working their normal jobs were finishing their regular day shift in the Pentagon and volunteering through the night at the crash site. Construction workers renovating the building a day before the attack where now fighting to save the structure.

I don't expect our minds to be free of the images we saw that day and wish words could express the feelings of anguish in my heart for the attack victims and their families.

As Americans we have differences that sometimes build walls around us and we slowly tear each other apart, but we are often reminded of our common desire and a true love for



Former Tomb Guard, SGT Leslie Johnson (1994-96 & 1998-01), now of Delta CO, at the Pentagon

our brothers and sister of this country and of the world.

*Todd Brunori (1993-98)*

*Former Tomb Guard, now a DOD Civilian Contractor*

At the time of the bombing of the WTC, my son Vincent Fasano (1997-00) was in the NYC Police Academy a few blocks away. The commander of the academy wanted to send his recruits to the WTC to help, but was told by the higher ups "NO WAY"; no experience! Just send them there to direct traffic and to set up barriers to keep the public out, assist in any way possible, *but do not go into or near the buildings.*

Vincent said that the pictures we saw on TV were not even close to what the actual site was like. Horrific was the term he used, which has been used by most people who were close enough to see it. They were also sent to the hospitals to help unload the victims from the ambulances, Vincent said this was a really bad experience for him, the people crying, bleeding, burned and the look of fear on their faces.

They had the recruits working 12 hour days in the beginning, with just enough time to go home to see your family, shower, grab a few hours sleep and then back to the WTC for another 12 hour shift. The boy was exhausted after 2 weeks of this and the first day off he had, he slept it away.

Vincent told me the one thing that helped him a lot was the military training he had, dealing with people at the Tomb and being in the office. I am sure there is a lot more he has to say, but I don't push it. He'll tell us when he is ready to.

Anyway, things are back to normal, he is back in the academy with his graduation being pushed back to February or March. So with any luck, I'll have a cop for a son soon. Thanks for asking about him.

*Mike Fasano*

*Father of former Tomb Guard, Vincent Fasano*

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**When our nation was attacked, and its citizens in need...we responded. Those in uniform are continuing to do their duty, and we have a few members in harms way right now (101st ABN, 10th MTN, 75th Rangers and Special Forces units). Keep your powder dry and your butt down!**

**Those out of uniform are pushing forward, and helping in any way they can. One of Carrie & Todd's fellow volunteers said it best:**

***"Volunteering was one of the best and most fulfilling things I've done in a long time ...Where I live and how I volunteer is tentative, but that I WILL do both is not."***

*Roberto Andre'de Moraes (Ho)*

## The Expedition (Cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

Granddad suggested that grandson get the sleeping bags from the truck, and they get prepared for a wet night. After some furious digging in the truck, Grandson quietly announced that there were no sleeping bags – they had put in the back of the barracks the night before so they wouldn't be stumbled over. The look on the grandson's face was that of disappointment - after all their preparation and planning and making checklists, precious items had still been forgotten. It was later discovered that "Teddy Bear", which always accompanies a certain "someone", had been left in the barracks.

Discretion being better than valor, it was decided to strike camp and make a retreat back to the barracks where it would be dry. They would be able to have an AAR (After Action Review) while enjoying some "Grammy" treats and a video. With all that had happened on the expedition, it was "waltz" music on the ride home - "march" music just didn't seem appropriate.

Just before snuggling in with the Teddy Bear for a good nights sleep, they agreed that today was just the scouting trip for their real expedition, to take place next summer.

It was also agreed that they would **CHECK** the checklists next time.



Pictured above is the author and Life Member in the Society, Bill Rigsby (1960-61), with his grandson and Associate Member Garret Tidsworth at an 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division annual re-enactment Owens Field in Columbia, South Carolina.

### **\*\* STORIES WANTED \*\***

Do you have a ghost story to tell? What about the time the "Zzz" monster almost got you?

We want to hear your story!

**"What was the strangest thing witnessed during night hours?"**

### Knowledge Quiz

Do you remember the days when visitors asked you questions? Was it a tough one like: "When did you join the Marines?"

As we represent the best the **ARMY** has to offer, the public expects Tomb Guards to know everything about ANC, the Regiment and the Army. Do you still have what it takes? Take the following quiz and see:

1. Who selected the Unknown Soldier from World War I, and where did it take place?
2. What is the inscription on the World War I Unknown Soldier's casket?
3. In what cemetery will you find the graves of the 3 soldiers not chosen to represent World War I?
4. For how many days did the Unknown Soldier from World War I lay in state at the US Capitol building?

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**Address Correction Requested**

**Next Deadline: February 25th, 2002**

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Sentinel* is February 25th. You can email (Webmaster@tombguard.org) or snail mail them to 1622 SW Rimrock Way, Redmond, Oregon 97756