

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

May we never forget...

May we never forget those many who serve... Part One

Kudos to our Bart Rodgers, USAF Retired for forwarding this article on another American hero. As a Coasty, it is only my inattention that I have never known of this fine American Coast Guardsman, Jack Columbus Rittichier, who is iconic for that which all us Coasties volunteered to do if called upon. We cannot know them all, however we can honor them all without knowing them.

This reprint of what has been forwarded to me by another American Patriot who served in Vietnam is only a small effort on my behalf, a very small effort to bring to our attention to the only reason we still live in our Sovereign Republic, the greatest nation in world history, America. That reason is simply those men and women who have donned any of our nation's military uniforms and sacrificed a little or given 100%. Just as Lieutenant Rittichier, demonstrated many times over in his service to America. As written by Malcolm Kirby USAF Veteran - 191st photo recon. Vietnam Veterans of America-Chapter 785.

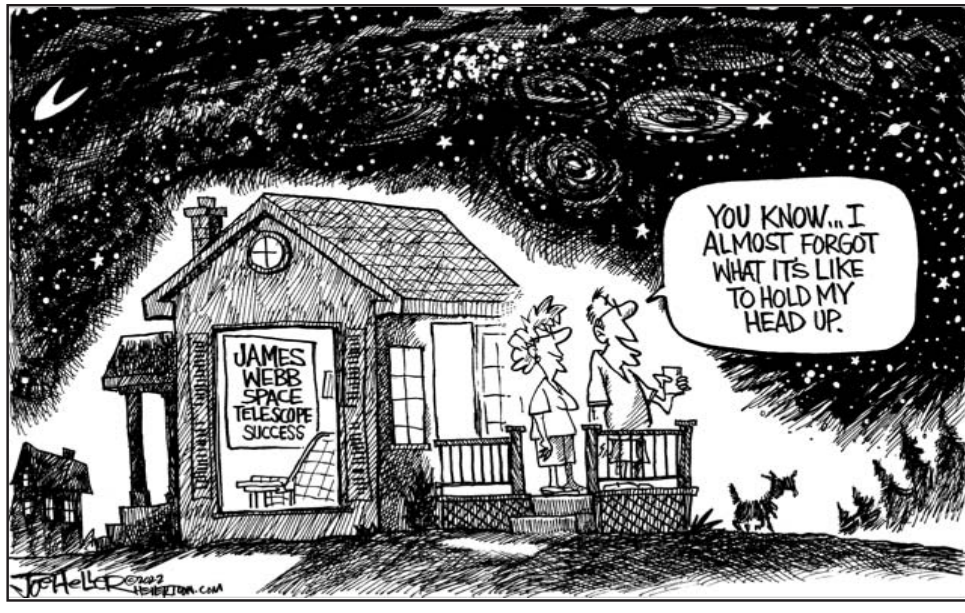
I find myself not willing to change a word or edit anything, thus this column will continue in multiple columns in our TCH. The lengthy details herein and awards aren't always achievable by all who have served America, as we cannot all be expected to be rescue chopper pilots, but everyone of us who have served can do our jobs no matter how menial, the critical importance of doing our assigned duties cannot be overstated or underestimated.

This story is reminiscent of what lies in the heart of every man or woman who has volunteered to serve our great nation. Or those who were drafted and went forth to do their assigned duty for each and every one of us.

Lieutenant Jack Columbus Rittichier: Silver Star Awarded posthumously for actions during the Vietnam War The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Air Force Award) (Posthumously) to Lieutenant Jack Columbus Rittichier (CGSN: 0-68068148), United States Coast Guard, for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force while attached to the 37th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, United States Air Force, as rescue crew commander of an HH-3E helicopter in Southeast Asia on 9 June 1968. On that date, Lieutenant Rittichier attempted the rescue of a downed pilot from one of the most heavily defended areas in Southeast Asia. Despite intense accurate hostile fire, which had severely damaged another helicopter, Lieutenant Rittichier, with undaunted determination, indomitable courage and professional skill, established a hover and persisted in the rescue attempt until his aircraft was downed by hostile fire. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Lieutenant Rittichier reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Coast Guard.

To be continued. -Semper Paratus

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



We Are The Traffic...

We Are Not In the Traffic.

We Are The Traffic...

"Beautiful area, nice people, but I don't like the way y'all drive," said the visitor to the resident. "You drive too slow, and you know you're going to drive slow, but you still wait until the last second to pull out in front of me," he continued. "If you can't see any better than that, might want to get your eyes checked."

"Don't like the way you drive either," said the resident. "If you're here on vacation, what's your hurry? Do you think riding my bumper is going to make the five cars in front of me go any faster? Do you get extra points for being the first one to the traffic light?"

"Do you have to hog the left lane all the way from Hiawassee, just because you're planning to turn left in Blue Ridge? The visitor continued. "You would never make it on the Interstate."

"In case you haven't noticed, 76/515 is not an interstate highway or a controlled access road, and there are lots of left turns between here and there. Besides, I don't want to "make it" on the Interstate. That's why we live here. Why are YOU here?"

The conversation ended abruptly, and it occurred to me that I probably wouldn't like the way either of those guys drive. I don't like the way emotion crosses the boundary between the skin and the steering wheel, or the foot and the gas pedal. I don't like the increasing aggression on our roads, active and passive, including the guy who rides your bumper as well as the one who passes you, only to immediately slow down. I don't like the one who slows down and taps the brakes when you're 5 car lengths away, and then speeds up 20 mph when you get to the passing lane.

I don't like the fact that traffic jams are the cumulative result of individual acts of selfishness and stupidity. I don't like the territory between cussedness and cluelessness which prevents most people from using a pull-out on a mountain road when there is a line of cars behind them, and a simple act of courtesy could eliminate a lot of unnecessary frustration.

Simple acts of courtesy seem harder to come by on the highway. If the way people drive is a measure of the state of civility in a civil society, then we may be in trouble. I don't want to share the road with people impaired by emotion any more than I want to drive amongst those who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol - both use the same systems in the brain, and the results can be identical. There have always been hot heads on the road, and idiots, and people with the coordination of a half grown puppy. One hundred percent of us have, at one time or another, overestimated our ability to understand and manage the physics of objects in motion, or to react to the unexpected. Unfortunately, the anger and frustration that is now actively cultivated by cultural and political forces and aggravated by economics, is manifesting in many unhealthy ways. When it finds its way into a half ton projectile traveling 70 miles per hour, it makes a hazardous activity even more dangerous.

"Who, oh who will the next fool be? Don't let it be me. Don't let it be me." That is a pretty good driving mantra. It cultivates an awareness of the certainty that we will sooner or later be surprised by something on the road that requires an immediate response, and we're all capable of being that black swan. In the meantime, it might help our attitudes to remember that we are not in the traffic. We are the traffic.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:

Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor
P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546
Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net

Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste.

Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers.

Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*

Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

The Towns County Herald is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.

Fire Blight

Many folks have apple trees in their yard, and they are a great addition to any landscape. They have beautiful flowers in the spring, and then in the late summer you can pick the apples or let them feed wildlife. One of the biggest diseases that people have on apple trees is fire blight. This disease can spread rapidly through your apple trees. This year I have seen more of it around than normal. So let's talk about fire blight and what you can do to prevent it from taking over your trees.

Fire blight is a bacterial disease, which separates it from many of the other diseases that we see which are fungal. The scientific name of the bacteria that causes fire blight is *Erwinia amylovora*. You will see the effects of it on blossoms, leaves, shoots, branches, fruits, and roots. It can affect other plants in the rose family. This includes pears, plums, cherries, and spirea among others. These plants are not as common, so they don't get as much attention. A unique example is Bradford pears. They have some natural resistance, but they still can get fire blight.

Fire blight will normally enter the tree during bloom through the blossoms. Once it gets into the current season's growth, it will move into older growth. Some of the symptoms that you'll see are blighted twigs that have become water soaked. Young twigs, branches, and leaves will die at the end and look like they have been burned. The branches may bend at the end forming a shepherd's crook. The dead leaves remain on the branches.

Once an apple tree is infected with fire blight, it will spread throughout the tree. It is spread from infected trees to healthy trees by rain, wind, or contaminated pruning tools. It can overwinter in the tree and cause an ooze out of cankers in the spring. That ooze will attract insect that carry the fire blight to other trees.

If left untreated fire blight will kill an apple tree. So what can you do about it? The first step is to prune out infected growth during the spring and summer. Cut the infected branches out 8 inches below where the damage is. Dip your pruning tools in a 10% bleach solution between each cut to avoid spreading the pathogen. It is also important to spray your apple trees every 7-10 days with either copper hydroxide or streptomycin when leaves begin to emerge through bloom. Copper hydroxide can start to burn leaves as they get larger. Sprays are not 100% effective especially if you have a warm wet spring. Avoiding heavy nitrogen fertilization will help reduce infection during the summer.

Finally, plant apple varieties that have natural resistance to fire blight to ease the challenge. A couple of varieties that have natural resistance are Arkansas Black, Golden Delicious, Liberty, Yates, and Winesap. A few varieties that are highly susceptible to fire blight are Fuji, Gala, Granny Smith, Pink Lady, and Empire.

If you have questions about fire blight contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

UGA extension
Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



Letters To The Editor

Re: "Rename Lake Winfield Scott"

Dear Editor,

Some of my ancestors were Cherokee. Do I demand Lake Winfield Scott be renamed because Scott removed Cherokees from their homeland? No. This is history. It's in the past.

Just how far does the writer of "Rename Lake Winfield Scott" want us to go?

Should I demand Blood Mountain be renamed because it makes the Cherokee look bad due to the bloody battle with the Creek Indians?

Should I go on the warpath about how whites and blacks are reaping the benefits of land stolen from my Indian forefathers?

The Cherokee were not saints. They attacked white settlements sometimes, murdering and scalping their victims. Some captured and tortured other Indian tribes or sold them into slavery. They also owned black slaves. Chief James Vann was one of the largest slave owners in the Cherokee nation.

At the time of the Civil War, a total of more than 8,000 slaves were held in all of the Indian Territory. Most Cherokees favored the Confederacy. At the Battle of Pea Ridge, Cherokee soldiers scalped at least eight Union cavalymen and mutilated several others.

Since the beginning of time, all races have been enslaved and conquered and abused. History is the story of the conqueror and the conquered.

This letter writer suggests we rename the lake "Lake Grace" signifying a "new chapter of Forgiveness." But she encourages condemnation and division. As the Bible says, forget the past and move on.

Karen Pansler Lam

"Democracy" by Dictatorship

Dear Editor,

Here's a question for Jane and John Q. Public: have you ever wondered why, in our so-called democratic Republic, where one man (sic) one vote is how the average American exercises power? But then, paradoxically, nameless Wall Street bankers meet regularly (including this week), in the quasi-secret enclave, out of public view, called Jackson Hole, Wyoming. They meet as the so-called Federal Reserve Board, which is a private, non-governmental group, founded by banker J.P. Morgan in 1913. They are a group of rich and powerful bankers that in no way are subject to public scrutiny, or accountability. They meet in wealthy surroundings to decide ours and their financial "well-being" based on interest rates, that is, the cost of money and indebtedness, for example, mortgage and student loan debt.

These same private bankers decide the rate of money printing and distribution, mostly, supplied to their fellow bankers. Printing fiat money is a primary role, which results in devaluation by inflation. Money printed out of thin air, raises the cost of living, including raising the number of people in poverty and for which there is no democratic participation in the decision-making action.

Ordinary citizens, like you and I, are locked out of the most critical political and economic decisions. Instead, the vast majority of citizens are subjects in a dictatorship by a tiny minority, whereby the majority have no say or participation in America's most undemocratic decision-making system and rule by bankers' diktats.

Lance Jobson

Letters To The Editor

Electric Bill

Dear Editor,

Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Cooperative is doing it again. They find ways to sneak in extra charges to the membership. I purchased a piece of property, recently in Union County, Georgia, because it already had the utilities installed, including electric. I changed the account over into my name as I should have done. Just received my second month's bill from BRMEMC as the electric is turned on, but there has been no usage for the month. On the bill, the Previous Reading was "0" kWh Used. The Previous Reading was also "0". YET there is a charge of \$3.19 for the Metered Electric?

They have managed to keep upping the Customer Charges, and now they are adding a meter charge, or as I was told by the operator when I called about this, it's included even if you don't use any service. We need to all attend the annual meeting and elect new board members from the floor and get these rates down where they should be.

William R. Hall

Wrath of A Loving God

Dear Editor,

It saddens my heart to see our nation going under with all the crime and hatred and killings that look like back in the old days of Pretty Boy Floyd and John Dillinger, but it should not surprise us that human life has no value any longer, as though it was a piece of trash being buried at a dump site.

We have seen what happens down through history when a civilization disregards the warnings of a loving God who is patient, but to a point, and that point is at our doorstep, knocking to come in and heal our land. II. Chronicles 7:1 -- If My people will humble themselves, pray and seek My face, then shall I come and heal your land.

Folks, you can't have your cake and eat it too and leave God out of everything that is precious in His sight. God will not be mocked and thrown under the bus without great consequences to face.

Yes, God is a loving God, but also a God of wrath as we see in the Bible in Genesis 13:10-13, where He completely annihilated the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sinfulness. God deals with sin in His just and righteous way. Lots of people don't even believe that there is a God. Others perceive that God is dead or just asleep at the helm of a mighty universe, a God who has turned His back on this immoral and corrupt world of sin and lust.

And mark my word, there is coming a payday when all of humanity will stand before a Holy and Righteous God and give an account of their actions while here on earth.

In God's book, Romans 14:11, Jesus Christ said: That every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord overall and judgment of sin will be dealt with for the last time and those people who hated, despised, and rejected the only hope of living in heaven will be cast into the lake of fire called Hell forevermore.

How long is eternity? According to God's word, eternity never ends. For those who accepted the Lord Jesus as their Savior will live with God in heaven and enjoy the good life that was promised to all who loved and served the Lord Jesus Christ of all creation.

Frank F. Combs

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