

November 2018

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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

Class of 1969 Thornton Fractional Township South High School, Lansing, IL



Honoring the World War II GIs Who Never Opened Fire

by Marilyn Rea Beyer (Massachusetts)

The Ghost Army (23rd HQ Special Troops) landed in Normandy on June 14, 1944. Their wildly innovative tactics aided General Omar Bradley's Twelfth U.S. Army Group, not in attacking enemy forces, but in fooling them.

These soldiers stood on the front lines armed only with sound trucks, phantom radio transmissions, and inflatable rubber tanks and artillery. Just 1,100 men pretended to be as many as 30,000 U.S. troops in one spot, while the real forces prepared to strike elsewhere. They were decoys, sitting ducks attracting enemy fire. They fought firepower with nothing but fakery.

The Ghost Army's 21 deception missions saved an estimated 15,000 to 30,000 GI lives. Maybe more. They lost three men. Dozens more were injured. But for them, there were no medals, no victory parades. Most of the men didn't even tell their families about their daring wartime ruse.

My husband Rick Beyer (with a little help from me) has been telling The Ghost Army story on film, in print, and in Congress since 2005. It's become our own mission; we pursue it proudly.



This September in Luxembourg, we unveiled the first-ever historical marker commemorating the bravery of The Ghost Army. Our Ghost Army Legacy Project (GALP) partnered with the city of Bettembourg, the U.S. PSYOP [Psychology Operations] Regimental Association, and the U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg to make it happen.

We were accompanied by Ghost Army veteran Bernie Bluestein, age 95, of Schaumburg, Illinois, who was there to represent his comrades.

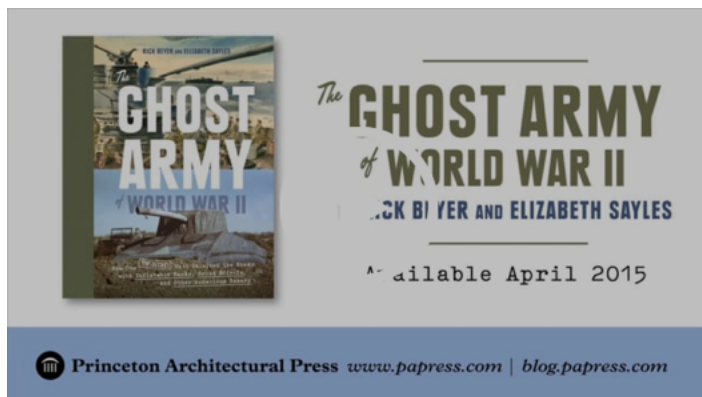
In this photo, Mr. Bluestein is saying, "This is me" as he points to a young soldier in the truck.



And yeah, we were also accompanied by a replica rubber tank!

The Ghost Army Legacy Project is currently advocating for bi-partisan legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor the valor of those who fought Hitler with creativity and courage.

For more information about the Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act and videos about the history and mission of the Project, go to www.ghostarmylegacyproject.org



And... [CLICK HERE](#) for a video about the Ghost Army and the book, *The Ghost Army of World War II* by Rick Beyer and Elizabeth Sayles.

Veterans Added to the TFS Wall of Honor

The TFS Wall of Honor in the high school lobby is an ongoing student History Club project. With the help of several TFS alumni, the Life & Times was able to collect the service information for these three now deceased veterans so that their names would be added to the wall.

Greg Bossick was our classmate. Alvin Anker was the brother of our late classmate **Diane Anker Van Noort**, and Lawrence Perkins was a close friend of several classmates. The addition of their names to the Wall of Honor helps us proudly honor their service.



If you have information about a TFS veteran, please email Mr. Chris Roberts, TFS teacher, croberts@tfd215.org, with the following information: service branch, rank, years of service, and TFS graduation year.

TFS 50th Reunion Committee Update

The venue is chosen, the dates are confirmed, the DJ secured. Your 50th Reunion planning continues to move forward.

We still have a full agenda of items to discuss and decide, such as optional events around the reunion to give us more opportunities be together.

We need volunteers for the Reunion Decoration Committee for a fresh set of eyes and ideas! Please let us know if you are willing to participate, as soon as possible. This is a very important committee because it will set the stage for the 50th Reunion. We need you and your input! You do not have to live nearby in this digital age. Skype, text, FaceTime, Facebook, and email allow everyone to participate.

Also, watch your email inbox in November. We will be asking for your favorite songs from the 60s and early 70s! This is your 50th Reunion. Let's rock the party with your favorite songs! tfs69.50threunion@gmail.com

—Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis (Illinois)

A 50th Reunion Message from Peggy—

"We Are Mellow"



Hi Ya'll,

Ed and I are in our 16th year in Lexington, SC and loving every minute of it. We dodged a bullet a few weeks ago when Flo took a turn north toward North Carolina. We are praying for all those affected by the storm and the resulting floods in NC and northern SC. You can't stop Mother Nature once she has her mind set on doing naughty business! Now we can only lend a helping hand to those in need and keep them in our prayers.

We enjoy every issue of the Life & Times. You should all be commended for the effort you put into each issue. Most importantly, I think this publication is the glue that has kept our class united and moving forward. Thank you all so very much!

Ed retired in December of '17 and has no problem keeping busy. He manages to play a round or two of golf each week and has really become a super "house-husband."

He excels at making dinner, doing laundry, cleaning floors, as well as mowing and other yard chores. I'm the flower and bird lady of the cul de sac. And I stay busy with church stuff and art work.

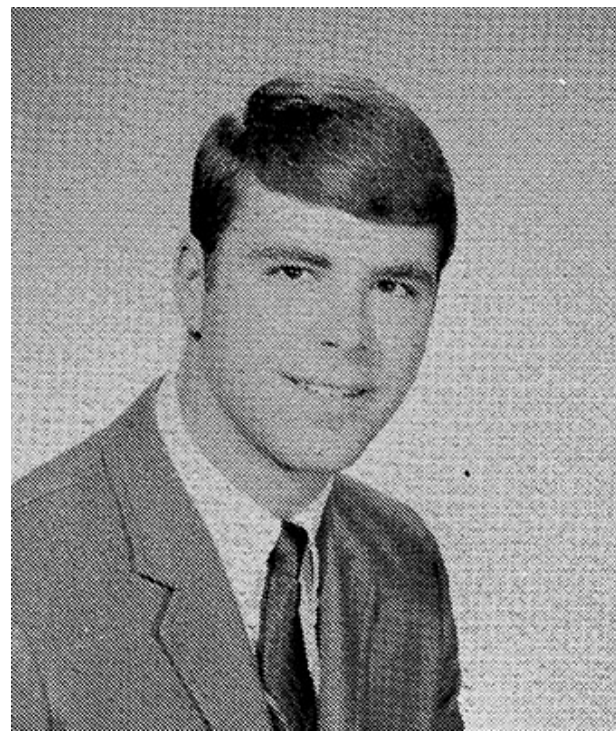
We are both excited about the reunion next year, and I hope we'll have the opportunity to see many of our Rebel friends there. After all, "We are mellow, we are fine, we're the class of 69!"

—**Peggy Peacock Kubic** (South Carolina)

SAVE THE DATE!
TFS CLASS OF 1969 50TH REUNION
OCTOBER 5, 2019
at VILLA CESARE
Schererville, Indiana

Remembering Bob Regman (1951–2017)

With sadness and fond memories, we report the passing of classmate Bob Regman in December 2017 from complications of Alzheimer's disease.



As a TFS Rebel, Bob played baseball, basketball, and football, and was a member of the National Honor Society. He attended the University of Illinois and served his country in the US Navy from 1971 to 1975 as a SCUBA dive instructor. Bob, a long-time Arizonan, retired from the Arizona utility Salt River Project in 2013.

Family and friends remember Bob as a kind, thoughtful, generous, and loving man. Our condolences to Bob's wife Nora, sisters Connie Regman Bailes (TFS '65) and Ellen Cavanaugh, and their families.



Best Beard of the Senior Class was Terry Engelbrecht (center). Bob Regman (left) was a colorful second and Art Edelstein (right) sported a hairy third.

The Life & Times Heard from...

Bud Jenkins (Illinois)—Absolutely loved it...only thing missing was “the dog ate my paper,” or should I say “my newsletter”? [Life & Times Oct. 2018]

Judy Kaufer Lohr-Safcik (TFS English Dept., retired)—You are excused. We missed you and the September issue, but more than understand. I can't wait to see people in October 2019.

Connie Kats (TFS '65)—Another nice letter and update.

Dave Kats (Indiana)—Thanks for all the work again. May God bless you all.

Dan White (South Carolina)—A fantastic issue! Really enjoyed the stories of the staff's vacations! You guys are the best! [Life & Times Oct. 2018]

Happy November Birthday!

Barbara Homans Schwarz, Craig Gutowski, Dick Schoon, Janet Ferko Carey, Dave Bulla, Donna Zentz Diver, Patty Bain Mansker, Terry Nespor, Owen Watterson, Cindy Graham Kats, Barb Elliott, Diana Steinweg Plese, Dean Danks, Mark Inman

Classmates Celebrated October Wedding Anniversaries

Juno & **Marion Luszyk Bunge** (Indiana)—36 years

Holly & **Dave Ervin** (Indiana)—42 years

Wanda & **Keith Gardner** (Illinois)—45 years

Deborah Moss & **Rich Wold** (Indiana)—47 years

Bobbie & **Chris Cooper** (Illinois)—41 years

Bob & **Anita Harris O'Dell** (Indiana)—48 years

Our Heartfelt Condolences...



to Barbara Homans Schwarz (Florida) and her family on the loss of her brother Philip Homans, October 1, 2018, following a long battle with kidney failure. Phil, 72, lived in St. Petersburg, Florida. He is survived by his wife, five of his six children, three siblings, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

And condolences to Robert J. Murray (Georgia), his brother Michael, sisters Linda, Karen, and Annette, and their families on the passing of Bob's dear mother, Sue Etta Murray, October 3, 2018, at the age of 85. Bob and his siblings, with mom in attendance, participated in the Walk for Alzheimers just a few days before on September 29. A photo from that day shows the loving family gathered around Mrs. Murray with Bob's caption, “Supporting mother. Alzheimer's walk Ocala, FL with my

siblings...great day... great cause! Murray strong!"



We're Always Looking for Classmates

We've lost touch with some of our classmates. If you are in contact with anyone listed below, or if you are forwarding the newsletter to a classmate, please invite him or her to subscribe to the Life & Times through our website TFSClassof69.weebly.com or by contacting us at TFSouth69@gmail.com

Susan Bennett Miller
Sue Bedell Gossiaux
Jim Bedell
Judith Becker Alberts
Paul Barclay
Harry Baran

Dawn Arney Irby
Joe August
Jeff Bakker
Kristine Anderson Barrett
Karen Anderson Hasselbring
Norma Albertson Koch

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Send Us Your News We love hearing from you and about you. Email us at TFSouth69@gmail.com or message us on our Facebook page [Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine](https://www.facebook.com/TfsouthClassofsixty-nine)


Stay in Touch! Our 223 classmates and "friends of the class" stay in touch by subscribing to our free monthly newsletter. Not subscribed? Visit our website tfsclassof69.weebly.com or email us at TFSouth69@gmail.com to sign up. And...Help us keep our database current. Send changes in your phone number and email and snailmail addresses to TFSouth69@gmail.com



November 2018 Life & Times

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Photos: Marilyn Rea Beyer, Christopher Roberts, Peggy Peacock Kubic, TFS Postscript, TFS Rebel Rouser, BillHutchisonPhotography.com

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 [Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TfsouthClassofsixty-nine)

 [Our Website tfsclassof69.weebly.com](http://tfsclassof69.weebly.com)

Mission of the TFS Class of 1969: To promote and grow our network of TFS Class of 1969 friendships by sharing information and planning reunion events to keep the spirit of the 40th Reunion alive and vibrant.

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