

# The RETIRED GUARDIAN

WINTER 2015



**Indiana National Guard's State Partnership Program with Slovakia.**

**Story on page 2**



THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
MAJ. GEN. COURTNEY P. CARR

News gathering, layout and  
design by Indiana National  
Guard Protocol Officer  
Christy Ruzga

Tel: 317-247-3300 ext. 79956  
email: christy.l.ruzga.nfg@mail.mil

The Indiana National Guard  
Public Affairs Office appreciates  
any and all feedback. Please  
direct comments, suggestions,  
critiques via email to:

retiredguardian@gmail.com

Joint Force Headquarters-Indiana  
ATTN: Retired Guardian  
2002 South Holt Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46241-4839

**On the Cover: Cpl. Peter  
Mihalčín, a Sloviakian soldier  
gives a tour of his BMP to Sgt.  
John Ferguson, Indiana National  
Guard, during Slovak Shield  
Sept. 15. (Army National Guard  
Photo by Sgt. Daniel Dyer)**

**Issue Number 77**

## Reassurance partners, Indiana and Slovakia exchange forces

Story by Sgt. 1st. Class  
Lasima Packett

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana and Slovakia continued their longstanding military and enduring strategic partnership as part of the National Guard's State Partnership program.

In September, approximately 120 Hoosier Guardsmen traveled to Military Training Area Lešt' in Slovakia to participate in Slovak Shield that helped contribute to NATO's European Reassurance Initiative. In return more than 70 Slovakian soldiers arrived here in Indiana.

Slovak Shield 2015 was a multinational training exercise, which included nearly 4,000 participants from the Czech Army, Polish Armed Forces, Hungarian Defense Forces, Indiana National Guard, as well as, the Ministry of Defense-Crisis Department

and the Ministry of Interior of Slovak Republic. Indiana Guardsmen operated together with them to conduct battle task and combat operations.

The exercise allowed for the Slovak Armed Forces to work with allied forces while analyzing their capabilities and level of readiness to respond to emerging threats that U.S. Army Europe anticipates for the region.

"European Command wants to see a more persistence presence, and they have identified 13 countries they want to have a higher visibility in and Slovakia is one of them," said Maj. James Claghorn, the Indiana National Guard's State Partnership Program director.

The Slovak soldiers who came to Indiana conducted familiarization operations throughout the state. They were matched up with Guardsmen who shared the same skill sets. The soldiers were then

CONT ON PAGE 3



Indiana Guardsman and a Slovak Armed Forces soldier practice firing an M240 machine gun together at Camp Atterbury, during the Indiana-Slovakia Exchange, Sep 19, 2015. (Army National Guard Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lasima Packett)

split into smaller groups according to those military specialties where they could spend time conducting familiarization with their counterparts, with the overall goal of attaining interoperability during multinational operations.

Slovakian Air Force mechanics traveled to Shelbyville, Ind., and they saw the 38th Combat Aviation Brigades UH-60s, very much like what their military is expecting to receive in the near future. While in Evansville, Ind., the troops spent time becoming acquainted with M119 and M777 howitzers.

The Slovakian medics were enthusiastic about putting their skills to the test while under pressure. They were faced with the challenge of finding their patients and treating them in a dark and smoke-filled room during a simulated exercise at the Medical Simulation Training Center at Camp Atterbury.

“They are very engaged and interested in what’s going on,” said Maj. Harmonie Foster, commander of 113th Company C Medical Support. “It’s very interesting and enlightening to know that there are

a lot of similarities and differences between the two cultures and operations.”

Most of the other soldiers spent their days and nights on various Camp Atterbury ranges. They participated in several events from grenade throwing, M4 and AT-4 firing, to setting up explosives for heavy demolition exercises.

“We had the chance to work with C-4, which we don’t use in Slovakia, we use different explosives,” said 1st Lt. Lubomir Muran, deputy commander of a Slovak Armed Forces engineer company.

Muran also said that it has been a great opportunity to see how Americans work. He said Slovaks may have experience with some of the equipment, but he said they were excited to see the way American servicemembers work.

Indiana support came from several units within the Indiana National Guard’s enhance emergency response team, the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 38th Combat Aviation Brigade and the 113th Air Support Operation Squadron.

The Indiana National Guard has partnered with the Slovak Armed Forces since 1994.



Slovak soldiers pose for a group photo at Sliac airport before their flight to train with Indiana National Guard Soldiers, Sept. 14. (Army National Guard Photo by Sgt. Daniel Dyer)

# AIRMEN FIRED UP ABOUT TRAINING AT THE ALPENA CRTC

Story by Master Sgt. Darin Hubble

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — The 122nd Fighter Wing recently completed an Annual Training period at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Alpena, Michigan, July 21 through July 31, 2015. During the two week training period, the unit's Fire and Emergency Services performed many training tasks to include a simulated burn of an aircraft.

The 24 member 122nd FW Fire and Emergency team trained on fully engulfed aircraft fuel fires that included aircraft engines, wheels, interior and exterior fires. Tech. Sgt. Matthew Brown, 122nd Fighter Wing Station Captain, performed safety and instruction, while also helping to create the scenarios for the learning firefighters.

“As an annual requirement, fighting live fires is imperative to continuity in order to learn how to better work with one-another and to learn techniques on how to attack various kinds of fire,” said Brown. “Interior techniques used in large aircraft fires are like structural fires, we finished the training strong, aiding in our team building and overall the Alpena training was good for our team.”

Alpena CRTC is equipped with a C-130 Static

Aircraft live-fire training simulator that allows for fully engulfed training on exterior and interior aircraft, engines, wheels, running fuel and egress training fires. The CRTC also boasts multiple automobiles and a four story tower with smoke and flash-over simulator, for structural training.



Members of the 122nd Fighter Wing Fire Department, from the 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne, Ind., battle a simulated aircraft fire July 22, 2015, at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Mich. (Photo by Staff Sgt. William Hopper)

## JET RETURNS TO COLISEUM HOME

Story by Dave Gong

Provided by the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette

Several yards away from construction crews at Memorial Coliseum, 79-year-old Richard Young watched as a historic F-84F Thunderstreak jet was lowered onto its new pedestal.

The jet was removed in June from its original home at the Coliseum and relocated to what will soon become Veterans Plaza at the northwest corner of the arena. Crews mounted the jet onto its pedestal shortly before 10 a.m. Thursday.

Young, who served 38 years in the Air National Guard in Fort Wayne, has history with this particular jet, flown by Brig. Gen. William R. Sefton, former base commander for the 122nd Fighter Wing.

Young was crew chief on Sefton's jet and was responsible for coordinating the plane's maintenance – preparing it to fly each day and getting it ready for major repairs, like engine changes.

“You worked not by yourself always, you had other

support people, you had specialists you worked with, but as crew chief you coordinated whatever was going on with the airplane,” he said.

In fact, several former Air National Guard members who served under Sefton – James Prezbindowski, Kenneth Fritz and Paul Swick – had helped mount the jet to its original location at the Coliseum in 1973. They were back again Thursday to help secure the plane at its new home.

Veterans Plaza, which also features the anchor from the U.S.S. Indiana and is the future home of the Coliseum's eternal flame, will be officially dedicated in a ceremony Nov. 7. The plaza will feature green space, landscaping and benches for quiet reflection.

“We are dedicating this as a living memorial for the people who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom,” said Randy Brown, vice president and general manager of the Coliseum. “Moving the airplane, moving the eternal flame creating Veterans

CONT ON PAGE 5

Plaza is just the next step in our display of respect for our veterans.”

The fighter jet was mounted to its original location in 1973.

“It’s been pretty neat to have this out here for all these years. I was full time with the (Air National Guard), I served for 38 years, and I’ve been retired for 22 years,” Young said.

When the plane was given to the Coliseum in 1973, Young was still with the Air National Guard. As the years went on, the plane became significant for Young and his family.

“Back in the day when they put it up, my name and Gen. Sefton’s name were on the edge of the cockpit,” he said. “My boys were both in school and they used to come out here on class trips and they’d always have the class come over and they’d point at it and say, ‘That’s my dad.’ ”



Crews from Weigand Construction and Martin Construction guide the F-84F Thunderstreak jet as it’s lowered onto its new pedestal in Memorial Coliseum’s new Veterans Plaza, which was dedicated Nov. 7.

## EARLY MORNING FIRE EXERCISE AT THE 181ST IW

Story and Photos by Senior Master Sgt. John Chapman

HULMAN FIELD AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ind. — The 181st Intelligence Wing and the Terre Haute Fire Department conducted a fire response exercise at the 181st Intelligence Wing ANGB, July 29, 2015.

The alarm sounded at 9 a.m. and soon after members of the 181st IW evacuated the building and assembled at the rally point, where they waited for the on scene commander to take over.

After being escorted by the 181st Security Forces personnel, local fire department showed up on the scene and the training began with Wing members and the THFD personnel.



The 181st IW Inspection Team used this exercise to evaluate response time, current obstacles, and existing checklists and procedures. Building our relations with community organizations is key to the Indiana Air National Guard.



Airmen from the 181 Intelligence Wing, along with the Terre Haute Fire Department, conducted a fire response exercise at the 181st Intelligence Wing, July 29, 2015.

“During our 181 IW exercise, the local Terre Haute Fire Department did a great job preparing our Wing for a fire response. Since we don’t have a firehouse on base, it’s great to know we have the support of our community’s Fire Fighters,” said Col. L. Kip Clark, commander of the 181st Intelligence Wing.

The 181st IW Inspection Team evaluated the response time, obstacles, and existing checklist and procedures.

“The 181 IW conducts exercises like this to ensure the safety and preparedness of our personnel. Also, by writing realistic scenarios, we build relationships with our civilian emergency response personnel in the community,” said 181st IW director of inspections.

# Making changes in LiFE Styles

Story and Photos by Capt. Jessica Cates

EDINBURGH, Ind., - Soldiers from the 38th Infantry Division, Indiana National Guard recently gathered at Camp Atterbury to take on the Lifestyle and Fitness Education (LiFE) Course, a three-week pilot program with a concept to develop the individual Soldier in overall wellness with the intention to retain stronger, self-confident and resilient citizens.

"I wanted this course to encompass more than just military structure, physical fitness and eating right," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Martin, 38th Infantry Division's top enlisted Soldier. "Yes, we are focused on healthier eating and physical fitness but also resilience, strong bonds and financial wellness. The goal is to make them very well rounded Citizen Soldiers," said Martin.

To focus more on coping with the stresses of life, such as family life, home and work, the program included two Strong Bonds events. Strong Bonds is a unit-based, chaplain-led program which assists commanders in building individual resiliency by strengthening the Army Family. The core mission to increase individual Soldier and family member readiness through relationship education and skills training. During the second week of the course chaplains, with the Indiana National Guard, taught the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People for Soldiers" course.

"This course gives individuals insight and knowledge on how to become a more effective person in the military and in the civilian world. It is based around discussion and group activities that make it fun and interactive," said Capt. Clifford Pappé, an Indiana Army National Guard chaplain.

During the third week, an offsite event for the Soldiers was offered as they wrapped up the course. "This course has a strong emphasis on individual skills and insight on how to learn about one's self and other people in order to work together as a team, despite differences they may have," said Pappé. "Such topics as relationships, communication, hidden issues and personality differences were covered," said Pappé.

"I was kind of a negative person before and when we had the resiliency class it turned me into a positive person," said Pfc. Michael Kiel from the 190th Transportation Battalion. Kiel also said he struggled with his physical fitness and with the help of cadre he was eligible for extension during the three week course.

Most of the Soldiers attending the course are

combat trained providing experience to the unit. "All are currently in their extension window and want to stay in the military while continuing to serve, but need the additional guidance and training to be eligible for extension," said Martin.

Indiana National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Gabe Morgan, 38th Sustainment Brigade, said, the run portion was the most beneficial portion of the class. "In the Army they teach you how to do sit-ups and push-ups, but no one ever teaches you how to run," said Morgan. Cadre taught classes on running tips, injury prevention to even wearing the correct shoe. During the final Army Physical Fitness Test, Morgan shed three minutes off his run time giving him a passing score, something he had struggled with in years past.

"This is a life style course and that's what we are getting out of it, a new life style," said Sgt. Charles Leavell, 38th Infantry Division. "A new way to run properly, eat properly and watch calories," Leavell said.

The life style change will not stop when these Soldiers go home. Leaders of the 38th Infantry Division are making sure they keep these Soldiers motivated and continued down their new path by providing each Soldier with a personal fitness tracker. The device tracks different statistics in real-time, including steps taken, distance traveled, calories burned, stairs climbed and active minutes throughout the day.

"We have to focus on retaining the Soldiers that are trained and combat hardened so we don't lose experience. And if they decide to ETS (expiration term of service), then we have trained Soldiers to handle the stressors of life and provided valuable skills," said Martin.

Even though none of the Soldiers knew each other going into the three-week program, most admitted they felt comfortable with contacting each other after the program was complete.



# Agencies partner to assist Hoosier veterans and families

Indiana Guardsman provided story

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana National Guard is pleased to announce the partnership with state and federal agencies to work together to improve the lives of military service members, veterans and their families.

The agencies include Purdue University's Military Family Research Institute, Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Health Administration. The initiative is known as Joining Community Forces Indiana.

JCFI, led by an executive committee, will provide support to community mobilization groups around the state by identifying common issues and providing resources and education. It has identified two areas of focus for its inaugural year that are employment and financial readiness related.

The employment priority is to connect veterans and service members to employment resources and events throughout Indiana. The financial priority spotlights financial literacy, training opportunities and how to secure immediate financial assistance for those in need.

"This initiative is designed to offer new ideas, best practices and most importantly action-focused results to help our military members and

their families throughout the state of Indiana," said retired Col. Kevin W. Extine, the Indiana National Guard civil military affairs director. "Community partners coupled with military affiliated organizations all across the state go to great lengths to help veterans every day and have do so for years. JCFI's goal is to expand the greater impacts of these efforts and build upon those successes through a state level committee."

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics in 2014, Gulf War II-era veterans, men aged 25 to 34, have a higher unemployment rate that their civilian counterparts – 7.5 percent versus 6.3 percent. Also, women veterans from the same era, aged 35 to 44, also have a significantly higher unemployment rate than their civilian counterparts – 9.0 percent versus 4.8 percent.

"A 2014 survey of Indiana National Guard members found that those with financial challenges were more likely to experience significantly more social and physical struggles than those members who reported more secure financial situations," said Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth, MFRI director.

Currently, about 20 community mobilization groups meet at regular intervals around the state to provide support for their communities. These groups consist

of community leaders, social service organizations, veteran service organizations, business leaders and others. In addition, JCFI will be adding statewide workgroups made up of subject matter experts that will convene to discuss current efforts, identify gaps and provide support and education to communities about best practices.

"We're banding together to accomplish collectively what would be difficult to realize separately," said Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs Director James A. Brown. "Our veterans deserve nothing less than our very best efforts to help them."

Additional information about these agencies can be found at:

The Military Research Institute at Purdue University: <https://www.mfri.purdue.edu/>

Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs: <http://www.in.gov/dva/>

Veterans Benefits Administration: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/>

Veterans Health Administration: <http://www.va.gov/health/>

## STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
302 WEST WASHINGTON STREET ROOM E120  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738

☎ 1-844-480-0009

🌐 [www.in.gov/dva](http://www.in.gov/dva)

✉ [VetEmployment@dva.in.gov](mailto:VetEmployment@dva.in.gov)



# NATIONAL GUARD DEDICATED HALL IN HONOR OF UMBARGER

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana National Guard dedicated Umbarger Hall at Johnson County Armory in honor of retired Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, Friday, Oct. 16.

Umbarger spent 45 years in service to the United States and the state of Indiana, and he is the second longest serving adjutant general in Indiana history. Appointed by three separate governors from both parties, Umbarger led Hoosier Guardsmen as an operational force during the Indiana National Guard's challenging years fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

The Indiana National Guard continues to provide ready and capable Soldiers and Airmen around the world to protect the interests of the United States of America while maintaining a strong presence in communities across the state to respond in support of civil authorities.



Retired Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger and his family attend the hall dedication at the Johnson County Armory on October 16, 2015.



# Indiana Army National Guard field artillery battery cases its colors

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Lorne W. Neff  
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

The Indiana Army National Guard's Battery E (Target and Acquisition), 139th Field Artillery, or E-TAB cased its colors in a ceremony on Nov. 7, 2015. The ceremony occurred at at Stout Field in Indianapolis.

During the ceremony, Battery Commander Capt. Peter Warfel saluted his commander and said, "Sir, I relinquish command." Thus ending the run of one of Indiana's most deployed units in the last 20 years.

Before the casing, Warfel thanked the battery's soldiers for their service and for helping him during his 18-month command.

"During my command, you all carried yourselves with a sense of duty, a sense of honor and sense of professionalism," said Warfel. "And given this unit's storied history, I think everyone can leave this unit on par with that storied history."

Indiana Army National Guard Col. David Vesper, 219th Engineer Brigade commander, was the keynote speaker at the casing ceremony. He started as a private with ETAB in 1984 before receiving his commission in 1988. He outlined the history

of the unit explaining how the battery was able to adapt with technology as radar systems changed over the years, the battery's mission was target acquisition, tracking incoming fire to enable return fire, but modernization also lead to the casing.

"Radar systems are simpler and easier to use, and don't require a centralized oversight that requires a dedicated battery to keep them going," said Vesper. He said what was once done by a whole separate battery like the E-TAB can now be done by a platoon and small crews.

The E-TAB's history included the first major deployment by an Indiana National Guard unit since Vietnam when a unit detachment headed to Bosnia in 1996. The battery again deployed to Iraq in 2004 and then to Afghanistan in 2012.

"Us going away isn't a huge shock," said Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Cooper, a platoon sergeant in the unit. "But it's still sad." Cooper had been in the unit for over 10 years and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"It's bittersweet," said Sgt. Jerrad Lizotte, survey section leader, who deployed with the battery to Afghanistan. "You move on to better things, but at the same time I've grown through the ranks with all these guys and some of them have become my best friends. I trust them with my life."

The unit isn't going completely away. Its lineage and history, along a handful of its soldiers will be going to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 150 Field Artillery Regiment.

"The way lineage works in the National Guard, they don't belong to guide-ons," said Vesper. "Even though the battery did these three deployments, it is the soldiers that did the deployments and when units close their guide-ons, you look at where the soldiers go."



Casing of the flag of the 139th Field Artillery, November 7, 2015 at Stout Field, Indianapolis, Ind.



# TAPS

## **SGM (Ret) Donald L. Melvins**

Donald L. Melvin, Sergeant Major Retired, 83, of Beech Grove, died February 16, 2015. He was born in Mitchell, IN to the late Otha and Pauline Jean Melvin. He served 34 years in 3 different branches of the Government, U.S. Army, Civil Service and Army National Guard. His last duty assignment was Sergeant Major for the director of Maintenance and foreman of the Armament Maintenance shop for the CSMS at Stout Field. His many decorations included the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal and three U.S. Army Commendation Medals. He was also a past member of the Indiana Ceremonial Unit and the Gunfighters, a military retiree group.

## **SFC (Ret) John Joseph "JJ" Elliott**

John Joseph "JJ" Elliott, 66 of Brazil passed away unexpectedly, February 21, 2015 at his home. He was born September 2, 1948 in Clay County, the son of Ross W. Elliott, Jr. and Mary Elizabeth Crank Elliott. Jay graduated from Brazil High School, Class of 1966.

Jay enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967 and served in Viet Nam. Later, he joined the National Guard and served another 20 years with the military last working as Training NCO and Truckmaster with the 38th MSB Support and Transportation, retiring in 2005.

Jay was a life member of the National Guard Association; Life member of the Disabled American Veterans; Life member of the VFW Post #1127 and a life member of the American Legion Post #2. He also was a member of the Last Man's Club of the American Legion and a member of the Brazil Moose Lodge. He served as Post Commander of the VFW for 2 years and assisted with many military funeral honors over the years.

Jay enjoyed golfing, fishing and mushroom hunting. He also enjoyed playing his guitar and music was an important part of his life. He and Cindy also enjoyed traveling. Jay was a good friend to many, a good husband and dad and a devoted "Papaw".

## **SSG (Ret) Victor M. Bever**

SSG (R) Bever joined the Indiana National Guard and completed his Basic Training and Advanced Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was a Field Artilleryman

serving as a Fire Direction Control (FDC) Specialist. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. He was activated for the Georgia Olympics Security mission and during Hurricane Katrina. Victor expressed his love for his country and other service members by performing countless funerals and Color Guard ceremonies as a member of the Indiana National Guard Ceremonial Unit. He retired from the Indiana National Guard in 2011 after 25 years of service in the 2-150th Field Artillery Battalion.

## **MSG (Ret) Gary Wathen**

Gary David Wathen, 57, of Nineveh, passed away Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at IU Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

Gary was born to the late Donald Earl and Pearl Bernice (Clements) Wathen in Beech Grove.

He married the love of his life, Christine Berger, on June 12, 1982, in Jasper.

Gary was a 1976 graduate of Loogootee High School. He was a member of the Indiana National Guard for 31 years and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. After 27 years of employment, Gary retired in 2013 from CSMS No. 2 at Camp Atterbury. Gary deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 as a member of OMLT No. 1.

He was an active member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Franklin and American Legion Post 233 in Edinburgh.

## **SFC (Ret) Leslie Earl Reeves, Jr.**

Leslie (Les) Earl Reeves, Jr., 71, resident of Middletown passed away Monday at his residence.

He was born in New Castle, Indiana, June 19, 1943, the son of Leslie and Agnes Bowman Reeves.

He was a attended Sulphur Springs High School and retired from General Motors after 34 years of service.

He served his country in the US Army and National Guard receiving the National Defense Service Metal, Sharpshooter and Expert Rifle classifications.

He was a member of the National Street Rod Association for 30 years and was it's representative for Southern Indiana for the last 17 years.

He loved working with cars and was an avid NASCAR fan.

He loved working with horses in his early years and going camping with them in Brown County.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

**SFC (Ret) Charles D. Dyer**

Charles D. Dyer, 94, Logansport, formerly of Royal Center, passed away at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2015, in Miller’s Merry Manor.

Born March 14, 1921, in Carroll County, he was the son of Charles Cecil and Ethel Rose Bougher Dyer.

On March 14, 1946, in Sharon, he was married Marjorie M. Etherington, who preceded him in death on Jan. 15, 1999.

Charlie had been a farmer in the Royal Center area.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He joined the National Guard at the age of 40 and served for 17 years. Charlie belonged to and was an active member of the China-Burma-India veteran’s organization. He had been a member of the VFW Post 3790.

**SGT (Ret) James D. Rock Sr.**

James Rock of Delphi, passed away on March 28, 2015 at St. Vincent Hospice in Indianapolis. James was born to the late Howard W. Rock Sr. and Pearl (Kerfoot) Rock in Lafayette on Aug. 12, 1948.

He attended Delphi Schools and served as a Sgt E5 in the US Army from June 1969-March 1970. He served 1 tour in Vietnam and returned to enlist in the Indiana National Guard.

He married Theresa Rockhill on Dec. 23, 1967 in Delphi and she survives.

He retired after 15 years employment with Lox Equipment as a heavy equipment operator.

Mr. Rock was a member of the Delphi Wesleyan Church and the Delphi VFW Post #75.

James was a collector and builder of HO scale trains. He was a backyard mechanic and was a small engine and John Deere enthusiast.

**SFC (Ret) Patrick Kinnaman**

No obituary listed. Passed away on March 31, 2015.

**SSG Jason A. Smith**

Jason Alexander Smith, 31, Camby, passed away April 14, 2015. Jason was born in Cookeville, TN on November 8, 1983 to parents Dennis and Ruby (Jackson) Smith.

Jason was a member of the Indiana Army National Guard. Jason is survived by his wife Chelsea L. Smith; children, Carson Smith, Zoey Smith, Dane Browning (step-son), Sydney Smith, and Mason Smith; brother Timothy (Brittini) Smith; sister, Jennifer (Brandon) Tompkins and parents Dennis and Ruby Smith, as well

as a large extended family and Military brothers and sisters in arms.

**LTC (Ret) Cecil Frey**

Cecil G. Frey, 83, of Lafayette, passed away at 4:14 am Friday, March 27, 2015 at IU Arnett Hospital.

He was born May 30, 1931, in Stockwell, to the late Lawrence and Una Jane Hubble Frey.

Cecil served in the United States Army retiring as Lieutenant Colonel where he received numerous awards, including the US Army Meritorious Service Medal, Commendation Medal, Achievement Medal, Indiana Distinguished Service Medal and had received A Sagamore of the Wabash.

He graduated from Oxford High School and on July 28, 1972 he married Patricia Kay Primmer. She passed away November 17, 2014.

Cecil was a member of St. Paul Community Church and was an avid hobbyist especially carving wooden birds and model ships as well as making quilts.

**PFC Timothy S. Edwards**

Timothy Scott Edwards, 19, of Rushville, died in a drowning accident on June 20, 2015 in rural Rush County.

He was born April 17, 1996 in Indianapolis to Steven Scott Schwaner & Deanna Edwards. Tim spent most of his life in Rushville and was a 2014 graduate of Rushville Consolidated High School.

Tim was active duty in the US Army National Guard and was working for Littleton Sand & Supply in Indianapolis where he was a heavy equipment operator. Tim enjoyed wrestling and wrestled 135 & 142 pound classes while in high school. While growing up, Tim enjoyed playing youth baseball. He also enjoyed music & spending time with family & friends.

**SSG (Ret) Gabriel John Wiggins**

Gabriel John Wiggins, age 64, of Fountaintown, passed away Monday, June 22, 2015.

He was born on November 4, 1950 in Southington, CT as the son of Daniel and Marjorie (Louis) Wiggins.

Gabe graduated from Shelbyville High School in 1968. He served in the Indiana Army National Guard for over 20 years and retired as a Staff Sergeant (E-6). Gabe married Linda (Glass) on June 20, 1981 in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Indianapolis.

Gabe was self-employed as “A Home Inspector, Inc.” for many years. Gabe attended Brookville Road Community Church. He was a commander of American Legion Post 119, a member of VFW Post 2693, and The Forty & Eight Club. Gabe volunteered as a transport driver for the Disabled American Veterans. He enjoyed fishing, the beach, and helping others.

### **SSG (Ret) Donald Lynn Wood**

Donald Lynn Wood, 56, of Columbus, died at 1:42 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2015, at Columbus Regional Hospital.

He retired from the Indiana National Guard after 30 years.

### **LTC (Ret) D. Christopher Osborne**

D. Christopher Osborne, 68, of Greenfield, passed away June 25, 2015, at Hancock Regional Hospital. He was born Nov. 27, 1946, to Donald and Lola (Sanderson) Osborne in Springfield, Ohio, where his father was a professor at Wittenberg University.

He spent much of his childhood in Libertyville, Ill., graduating from Libertyville High School in 1964. Chris received degrees from Purdue University (1968) and Ohio State University (1971), and went on to work in the then-emerging field of computer technology. In 1985, he received his J.D. from Indiana University, eventually opening his own legal and consulting practice in Noblesville, Ind.

He served for a combined 30 years in the Ohio and Indiana National Guard. During his service, he graduated from the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College, and retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1998.

Chris was a member and past president of Greenfield Kiwanis and an active member of Bradley United Methodist Church. He was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather who loved his family dearly, a friend to many in the community, and a staunch supporter of the Purdue Boilermakers.

### **Donald E. Abston**

Donald Edward “Duck” Abston, 42, a life-long Frankfort resident, passed away suddenly at his home on Sunday, July 12, 2015.

He was born September 6, 1972, in Frankfort, to William E. Abston Jr. and Cathy J. Jackson Abston; his mother survives.

Donnie was a graduate of Frankfort Senior High School. He then served in the United States Army from 1990 -2014, under Operation Iraqi Freedom. Donnie was a truck driver who loved NASCAR and working on cars. He was a giving, loving, and funny guy.

### **SSG (Ret) Earl E. Whitesel Jr.**

Earl E. Whitesel Jr., 65, of West State Road 46, died at 9:02 a.m. Thursday, July 16, 2015, at Columbus Regional Hospital Emergency Department.

Mr. Whitesel was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He later became a member of the Indiana Army National Guard, retiring in 2009.

He retired from Delta Faucet after 31 years of service. His hobbies included racing, camping, and woodworking.

### **CW4 (Ret) Harold Leroy Dougherty**

Harold Leroy Dougherty, 90, of Franklin, passed away Thursday, July 16, 2015, at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Franklin.

He was born March 26, 1925, to Ira and Iva (Fisher) Dougherty in Whiteland.

He was a World War II U.S. Marine and a retired chief warrant officer 4 in the Indiana Army National Guard, retiring after 39 years of service.

Harold was a member of the National Rifle Association and the Gun Fighters Club. He enjoyed mushroom hunting, gardening, tending to his lawn and landscaping.

### **(Ret) Charles “Charlie Bill” Rice**

Charles William Rice, 92, of Ellettsville, passed away Friday, July 24, 2015. Charlie Bill was the first born of Charles E. and Stella (Rednour) Rice. He was born May 11, 1923, and raised just west of Spencer on Highway 46. He was united in marriage to Phyllis (Hudson) on December 19, 1952.

Charlie enjoyed the outdoors. He owned coon hounds, bird dogs and beagles. He loved to hunt, fish, garden and spend time with his family. He was an avid reader of non-fiction books about WWII and Korean War.



Joint Force Headquarters - Indiana  
ATTN: Public Affairs/Retired Guardian  
2002 South Holt Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46241-4839

---

# THE RETIRED GUARDIAN

## WINTER 2015

---

