



PASS IN REVIEW

“Shedding Light On Idaho’s Military History”

2nd Quarter

June 2006

MUSEUM RECEIVES KOREAN WAR MEDAL OF HONOR!

On June 14, 2006, the Medal of Honor presented by President Eisenhower to Sergeant David B. Bleak for his heroic actions during the Korean War, was donated to the Idaho Military Historical Society by SGT Bleak’s widow, Mrs. Lois Bleak.



SGT David Bruce Bleak

SGT Bleak felt very strongly that he did not wear the Medal of

Honor for himself but wore it for the people of Idaho. He left instructions to his family that when he passed, his Medal was to be presented to the people he so proudly wore it for.

The Bleak family chose the Idaho Military History Museum to be the location for the people of Idaho to view his Medal. They also specifically requested that the donation take place on the 14th of June.

Not only was the 14th of June the 54th anniversary of SGT Bleak’s heroic action, it was also Flag Day AND the Army’s Birthday! In keeping with the significant history of the day, a special program was held.

Joining us for this momentous occasion were two of Idaho’s Medal of Honor Recipients, Col Bernie

Fisher and Lt. Tom Norris. Other dignitaries included Jim Adams, representing Congressman Otter, Generals Lafrenz, Saylor, and Gayhart, Adjutant General and Deputy Commanding General’s for the Air and Army National Guard, Col Shawver, Chief of Staff and COL Goodale, Commander of the 116th Cavalry Brigade.

General Lafrenz also authorized those working on Gowen Field to attend the ceremony and the Security Forces opened the gate between Gowen Field and the Museum so everybody could pass through.

Governor Risch was not able to attend but did sign a proclamation making June 14, 2006, Sergeant David Bruce Bleak Day.



The ceremony began at 10:00 a.m. with the Army National Guard Color Guard Posting the Colors. This was followed by the National Anthem.

Rick Johnson, IMHS President, welcomed everybody and Ian Spurgeon, IMHS Board member, provided some of the history related to the Army’s Birthday.

Steve Bonde, IMHS Board member, then provided the history behind Flag Day, read a very moving poem entitled, *I am the Flag* by Ruth Apperson Rous and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following this, Charles Bleak, SGT Bleak’s son, read the only speech his father ever gave entitled *I’m An American!*



Charles Bleak reads his father’s speech entitled *I’m An American!*

Gayle Alvarez, IMHS Board member, then read SGT Bleak’s biography and Gary Keith, Museum Curator, read SGT Bleak’s Medal of Honor Citation.

The Bleak family then presented SGT Bleak’s Medal of Honor to the IMHS.

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MOST WANTED

GIFT SHOP BOOKS AVAILABLE

**WWII/D-DAY
COMMEMORATIVE
OPEN HOUSE**

On June 3, 2006, the Museum held an Open House to commemorate the June 4, 1944, invasion of Normandy. The event kicked off at 10:00 a.m. with **James Whitlock and Scout Troop 43** serving donuts, hotdogs and an old G.I. Favorite, SPAMwiches!



Mrs. Lois Bleak presents her husband David Bleak's Medal of Honor to the IMHS. Left to Right: Rick Johnson, Mrs. Lois Bleak, Charles Bleak, Bruce Bleak, (David's sons) and Gayle Alvarez

Following the presentation, **Lt. Thomas R. Norris**, Medal of Honor Recipient from the Vietnam War and the District Representative for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, spoke briefly about SGT Bleak, the Medal of Honor and the men who wear it.



**Medal of Honor Recipient
Lt. Thomas R. Norris**

On behalf of the Board, a very special thank you to the Bleak family for allowing the IMHS to be the custodian of such a prestigious award. **We are deeply honored to be granted such a privilege!**



**David Bleak's
Medal of
Honor**

The Board would also like to express its appreciation to everybody who had a part in making the day so memorable. ★



Museum Visitors enjoying their SPAMwiches



James Whitlock (standing on the left) and members of Scout Troop 43 organized and manned the food booth

We would also like to thank **Fred Meyers, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and Nagel Beverage** for donating the food James and his group served.

Visitors were able to visit both Allied and Axis bivouac sites and WWII Reenactors were on hand to demonstrate or explain the equipment and answer any questions.

Rachel Smythe drove up from Utah to autograph copies of her book *Entertaining Strangers* and also hosted a mini canteen with "Victory cookies" made from WWII sugar rationing recipes. She 'enlisted' the help of several of her family members and had a nice variety of treats.



Rachel Smythe and Amanda Cambra offering WWII delicacies



Bill Heath was also on hand to autograph copies of his book *The 148th Field Artillery Story 1940-1946*

WWII Reenactors demonstrated various weapons which the audience REALLY enjoyed, especially the 75mm Pack Howitzer which in recognition and appreciation for *all* his efforts on our behalf, James Whitlock fired the first volley!



James Whitlock fires the first volley of the 75mm Pack Howitzer

We had a nice turnout and received *many* very favorable comments. **A very special thank you to everybody who helped make the event such a success!**



Russ Trebby explains the German StG44 - the first assault rifle



Gary Keith prepares to demonstrate the M1903 rifle with antitank rifle grenade

CURATOR'S CORNER

It has been a busy spring for the Museum so far. Our big events, the March Gurdon Barter Medal of Honor exhibit and the June D-Day event were both quite successful.

The IMHS was also invited to participate in the honors rendered at the Veterans Cemetery on Memorial Day. It too was very successful.



Brad Murphy, Bryan Johnson, Russ Trebby, Kyle Kahm, Ian Spurgeon, Gary Keith and Jeff Packer fire 75mm Pack Howitzers at the Veterans Cemetery on Memorial Day

As I write this, we are preparing for the presentation of Mr. Bleak's Medal of Honor to the Museum. It makes me think about how far this Museum has come in a short time and what the Museum offers to the community.

There are quite a few factors that have combined to make the Museum what it is. From getting a larger facility to the public access gate, these are significant impacts on our daily operations. But looking around, there are more artifacts on exhibit with newer cases. There are more new cases on the way with the infusion of more money thanks to the Idaho State Legislature who approved new funding.

You see my point, all of these factors are quite important. But **the most important of all is the people factor.** It takes people like our volunteer staff to come together and make this Museum what it is. *I do not know how to emphasize just how important our volunteers are!*

Everybody that spends time here, from four hours to forty hours a month, is making an important contribution. Every volunteer is making it possible to improve the Museum so we can make forward progress.

For every volunteer you see out greeting the public, there are even more behind the scenes working on exhibits, artifacts, or data entry to track the artifacts. In many cases these are working people willing to give up their weekends and in some cases their military leave from active duty to help this Museum.

I would also like to extend a very special thank you to the **Eagle High School History Club.** The students raised and donated \$148 to the IMHS for operations!

As members of the Society, I urge you to visit the Museum if you have not done so in some time. **You'll be amazed,** as these volunteers have

made the Museum an outstanding educational facility. **And when you do visit, be sure to say thank you to the people wearing the name badge that says, "Volunteer."** They deserve the recognition!
- Gary Keith

NEW MEMBERS

Special Welcome to:

- ★ Todd A. Marquart
- ★ Gary Donnelly

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Special Welcome to:

- ★ Jack Enterkine

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

RECENT DONATIONS

This list is by no means all-inclusive, but highlights some interesting items that have recently been donated to the Museum.

Dorothy Shaver – Her father was a member of the 183rd Field Artillery Regiment (later Battalion) and she donated his WWII photos and uniforms.

Jim Rabdau- Mid East newspapers, US military newspapers, documents and maps. ★

ENDOWMENT UPDATE



Our Endowment balance currently stands at **\$34,682.00.** (Our Goal is \$500,000)

Recent Endowment Donors include:

William L. Reinig
(in memory of John Shaver)

Don't forget, you can also make a credit card donation on *on-line*. Look for this link on the Museum's webpage:



The Idaho Military Historical Society is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization and donations are tax deductible; be sure and tell your friends and co-workers!

Thank you for supporting The Idaho Military History Museum. ★

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER



Please meet Kyle Kahm

This Volunteer of the Quarter is actually a family that has been with the Museum for just over two years. It all began as a phone call from Kurt Kahm who was trying to find a place for his son Kyle to complete a class assignment of four hours of volunteering in the community. Kyle volunteers at least one afternoon a week after school and during the day while on summer break.

Not only do parents Kurt and Connie drive Kyle to and from the Museum, they also volunteer for our open houses as Docents.



Kurt and Kyle man the information booth at a Museum Open house

They often can be seen staffing the gift shop selling merchandise and making dog tags. (You can see them in the gift shop behind Bill Heath in the photo on page 2) All three of them were half of the volunteer staff on the dog tag machines at the last Mountain Home AFB air show. They have done a *tremendous* job of supporting their son's interests in military history.

Kyle is currently a sophomore at Mountain View High School and very interested in military history.



Kyle helped carry the IMHS banner in the 2005 Veterans Day Parade

He is more than willing to help in any area as needed, but Kyle primarily works with cataloging in the artifact collections area. In addition, Kyle has taken an interest in World War II living history. He has started putting together a uniform representative of one his grandfather wore while serving in the 101st Airborne Glider Infantry during WWII.



Kyle poses in his grandfather's WWII Uniform

The Kahm family is reliable, dependable and always willing to help. *They are a very important part of our volunteer staff* and can be counted on to help the Museum at peak times.

Please join me in thanking them for all of their efforts. **They have truly made a difference at the Idaho Military History Museum.**

Kyle, Kurt and Connie, we deeply appreciate all of your hard work. You are our Volunteer(s) of the Quarter!

☆☆☆☆

UPCOMING EVENTS



14-17 September 2006 – 148th FA WWII Reunion. The Annual Reunion for the 148th FA WWII Veterans will be held at the Ameritel Inn in Bend, Oregon. Relatives, guests, 148th FA veterans of later wars, and interested parties, are welcome. To learn more, contact Bill Heath at wahboi@rmci.net or 336-5359.



8-10 September – Farragut WWII Reunion. If you or someone you know attended Training at the Farragut Naval Training Center during WWII, there will be a reunion for attendees and any interested descendants or family members. If you are interested, send Gayle your e-mail address and she will pass along additional information as it becomes available.



October will be the month for our annual membership meeting and elections. More details will be provided in our next newsletter.



11 November – Veterans Day Open House. Again, more details will be provided in our next newsletter. ☆

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Yellow Pine veteran honors those who served



Thousands of times in his long life, Bob Auth has created beautiful things to make people happy. With the dedication of a veterans monument in Yellow Pine for Memorial Day, the World War II Navy machinist's mate does more than honor comrades in arms. He distinguishes himself.

Auth, 79, is the force behind a memorial to men and women from the high basin near the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Auth's design, in

shiny black granite, mirrors Antimony Ridge. The mountain looms east of the village, pop. 32 in winter, about 200 in summer. He agreed to take on the monument more than two years ago, despite a fight with prostate cancer and dozens of projects demanding attention.

“His most endearing quality is endurance,” said Margaret Vranish, his closest ally in the monument effort. Auth also taught art in Boise schools for 30 years; collects guns, stamps and coins; exhibited his painting and calligraphy at the Smithsonian; was a good friend of mountain man Buckskin Bill; painted the picture at the Boise Airport of the biplane that began the nation's first scheduled air service; bakes pineapple upside-down cakes; and designs the T-shirts for the annual Yellow Pine Harmonica Contest.

The three-hour drive to Auth's cabin above the East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon was more than a respite on a lovely day. It was a journey to the mountain retreat of a whirlwind who calls himself “The Last Victorian.”

Auth came to Idaho in 1955 from Bloomington, Ill., to hunt. He fell in love with the mountains and, along with two buddies, moved his family first to Burley and then Boise.

One of his dear friends is Boise Airport Police Chief Mike Johnson, the former U.S. marshal for Idaho. Johnson met Auth 35 years ago when Johnson was in ROTC at Borah and Auth drove an old van painted like a rig from TV's “Hogan's Heroes,” only this one had a cannon in back. Both gun nuts, they hit it off.

Johnson helped raise money for the \$6,000 monument, after Auth called him in desperation when just one of 50 letters to potential corporate

contributors brought any cash — \$500 from Idaho Power Co.

At today's dedication, longtime Valley County sheriff's Deputy Dave McClintock will lead the cannon crew. He was to be a gun captain, but Auth couldn't find the right shoulder boards.

“So, we elevated him to major,” Auth said. McClintock has lived 35 years in Yellow Pine, far from pretense.

Auth donned his uniform and stood for photos on our visit, and today will shout “Fire Peter!” and “Fire Paul!” [the names of the cannons] to his crew.

“You can't say no to Bob,” said McClintock. But after four hours with Auth, I still couldn't figure out what drove him to work so hard to remember 82 people from Yellow Pine who served from the Spanish American to the Persian Gulf wars.

He shucked questions about his feelings until Statesman photographer Joe Jaszewski and I readied to go. Standing at the memorial, Auth let it out. “No. 1, I'm a veteran, so maybe there's a bit of selfishness there,” he began. “But No. 2, this is a little podunk mountain community that for the vast number of people doesn't even exist. We don't enjoy the prominence of Idaho City, or even Atlanta.

“I don't want to make a big issue of my patriotism, but I believe in everything we fought for from the very inception of our country. When a guy stands up, or a woman stands up, and says, ‘I will defend,’ that does something to me.”

Auth began to weep, behind large eyeglasses. “I'm sorry. I get emotional. But there's guys over there right now dying and they don't know why. But they said, ‘I will.’ There's some things I believe in, and believe in deeply. And when they

said, ‘It's for our veterans,’ I said, ‘You're damn well right!’”

Happy Memorial Day, Bob. You're unforgettable.

Editors Note: The preceding is condensed from an article by Dan Popkey that appeared in the *Idaho Statesman* on May 29, 2006. ★

IDAHO FILE INTO HISTORY



**GENEVIEVE E. BOGUSLAWSKI
IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER
FIRST IDAHO FEMALE TO WEAR THE
‘SNAKE’**

I was born Genevieve E. Delp in Williston, ND, the oldest of six children. Shortly after I was born, my parents moved to my Dad's paternal grandparent's homestead which was in Richland County, Montana, but only two miles from Dore, ND which was where our mail was delivered from.

I became Dad's hired hand when I was about nine years old and I was always proud of my Montana farm upbringing. My Dad instilled in all of us the ethics of hard work. Later in my life, some of my supervisors had a difficult time with my questions of “Why,” but Dad always gave us a reason when he told us to do or not to do something.

It was during a high school career day that I knew I wanted to join the military; I was inspired to join after listening to a lady from the Navy. Mom and Dad were NOT thrilled with the idea however and neither were some of my WWII veteran uncles. In

fact, one uncle said he would disown me! Fortunately, he later relented.

The day after I graduated from high school, I traveled to Portland, Oregon to try to find a job. After constantly hearing that I was only 18 years old and had no experience, I walked into the Air Force recruiting office. I was not yet 21 so I had to have my parent's permission to enlist. Permission was granted and I became a WAF on July 17, 1956.

I attended basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas from July through September; very warm months in Texas! It was quite an experience for a farm girl from eastern Montana to be in a barracks with 72 women from all walks of life and from all over the US. From Lackland, I went to Scott AFB, Illinois to complete personnel training. Although we graduated just before Christmas, we had to stay at Scott because the Air Force did not know where they were going to send all of us. We had no orders!

It was our first Christmas away from home and it was very difficult. Finally, our WAF First Sergeant gave us verbal permission to go to my girlfriend's grandparents who lived on a farm outside of Kansas City, Missouri. We would be outside the mileage limit from Scott. She told us if we were caught, she would help us as much as possible, but could not promise anything. We were so homesick, we did not care. Fortunately, we didn't get caught.

Quite a few of us received orders to Manhattan Beach AFS, Brooklyn, New York. This was the base where the Air Force processed personnel headed to and from overseas. I was assigned to the 2227th Dispensary, where I worked in the Orderly Room. The facilities were greatly improved, we had two-person rooms in our barracks, rather than the open-bay barracks. There was also a great beach right next to our barracks. Best of all, Coney Island was very close by

and we spent a lot of our off-duty time on the Coney Island Cyclone.

The doctors in New York considered themselves doctors first and Air Force Officers second and disliked saluting. Being only 18-19 years old, I loved to catch them out in the open where they had to return my salute.

I married a fellow airman (Doyen) -- had three children -- became divorced -- and began college at Boise State. That was when I read in the Boise Statesman that women were being allowed into the National Guard. I called the NG Recruiting Office at Gowen Field and MAJ Vestal Baker answered the phone. I told him I was interested in the Air NG, and he told me that they did not have any openings at that time but that the Army NG was accepting females. He also told me he had just the right unit for me to join; the Headquarters at Gowen Field already had three females!

MAJ Baker arranged for me to be sworn in by COL Arvin Spofford on the first day of annual training, May 26, 1973. I became a SP4 in the Personnel Section of the 1st Squadron, 116th Armored Cavalry, Caldwell, Idaho.

I decided to dress up to be sworn in so I wore a dress. The dress style in 1973 was short. "Chief" Fearheller asked me to go to USPFO to get some Army fatigues. They did not have any in my size, as I was 100 lbs in those days. When I came back to the office and told him, he asked if I knew when I was going to be able to get a uniform.

I finally caught on and I asked him if I could wear jeans and shirts to work. He said, "It would be a H--- of a good idea." He always took good care of his personnel section.

When I finally received my uniforms, I was very proud to sew the "Snake" on, and I am still proud today to say I wore it at one time. Now my oldest stepson wears it, and wore it to Iraq and back.

My NCOIC was SFC Anderson; the head of the personnel section was CW4

Chris Fearheller. At first, everybody in the personnel section was unsure if they wanted a female among them.



Genevieve being sworn in by COL Arvin Spofford

I completed my work, did not try to become one of the "guys" and before long, I was accepted. I learned so much from SFC Anderson and CW4 Fearheller. They were great mentors, teachers, and professional soldiers. They made me want to follow in their footsteps. Because of their training, I always tried to mentor others as I had been mentored.

I was now in the Army NG part-time, and going to college full-time but the time came when I had to find a job and complete college on a part-time basis. MAJ Baker hired me in May 1974 and I went to work in the Recruiting Office. I was still assigned to the 1st Squadron, and worked as a recruiter on FTTD (full-time-training-duty) status. Those were busy days, working full time, going to college part-time, and going to drill on weekends. I enjoyed recruiting, especially going to the high schools and the fairs.

I completed two weeks of NCO training at Gowen Field in 1975. In those days, females had to complete this training in order to be promoted above E5.



NCO Graduation photo

Shortly after I completed NCO training, I became the NCOIC of the personnel section and the second AST for the 1st Squadron. I was also the first

female in Idaho to be promoted to SSG (E6). That was another experience! One day a co-worker in the personnel section, the next day their NCOIC!

“Chief” Fearheller was very helpful, but the one time I whined about someone in the section not listening, he stated, “You better learn how to handle it or I will find someone who can.” It was a huge lesson-learned for the remainder of my career. When I was eligible, I was the first female in the state to be promoted to SFC E7. This was a little more difficult. The “glass ceiling” was firmly in place; it was ok to promote a female to E6, but not E7. The “Chief” was determined, and convinced the 116th Regimental Commander to allow my promotion to go through.

After I completed the NCO training, I married a fellow guardsman, SSG Frank L. Boguslawski of the 1st Squadron, 116th Armored Cavalry on April 19, 1975. (He later retired as a CW3 from the AGR program in the AKARNG.)

Then the time came that they took the 1st Sqdn away from Idaho, and we became the 145th Supply and Service Battalion. It was very difficult for some of us, but the 145th S&S Bn opened many more opportunities for women.

I eventually became the Retention NCO, and my friend Pat became the NCOIC of the personnel section.



Frank and Gen, April 1996

Pat and I set up meetings at the Armories to talk to wives about the benefits of their husbands remaining in the Guard. We did not know it at the time, but we were beginning a “family support system” before National Guard Bureau (NGB) started the program. Years later, I met Dorothy Oglivy, Family Support Manager for NGB. She used some of our ideas in her program.

We females had to “go-to-the-field” as members of the 145th S&S Bn; that was an experience! It was our first experience putting up tents, moving camp in the middle of the night, and all that goes with it.

We had been told that the Air Guard was sending out jets for an exercise simulating being attacked by aircraft. I was so tired that I thought I would hide in the ladies latrine for awhile. The latrine was canvas material nailed to poles in a square, with no roof, but with seats over a hole. I was minding my own business, when I saw the Air Guard jets come by **prior to the time we were told they were coming**. I stood up, managed to get my fatigue bottoms up and was scrambling to get my web gear on when the jets flew over. Latrine poles were sailing close to my head - the noise was deafening!

I covered my ears the best I could and stood there in a state of shock. From down below, I guess it was quite a show! Everyone wondered who it was that got caught in the ladies latrine. Finally, Pat guessed it was I and came up to see if I was all right. My good friends at USPFO gave me the “Band-Aid” award when I went back to work after annual training.

When we lost the 1st Squadron, we also lost the second AST job at Caldwell and I had to find another full-time job. Fortunately I was hired as a Purchasing Clerk at USPFO, thus began my career in purchasing and contracting.

I was able to complete two tours at NGB while I was working in

Procurement, USPFO, Idaho. The legal office at NGB had to review all contracts over a given dollar amount, before they were signed by the contracting officer. September, the month before the end of the fiscal year, became very busy for reviews. In 1977, I was asked to help out for one month. It was very interesting and I learned a lot. I also received the NGB Minuteman Award for that month. MG Brooks came to drill in Caldwell and presented the award to me. The following year, I was asked to help out again during the last two weeks of September.

I was learning that the “Chief” was correct though about the “ceiling-factor” when you worked as an NG Excepted Technician. I knew if I wanted to advance, I had to become a competitive Civil Service employee. I was able to obtain a position with the Bureau of Reclamation and I received my Business Management degree from Boise State University in May 1979.

In June 1979, we females in the IDARNG, who had not had combat training in our basic training, went through combat training for our annual training. We formed a company and called it Company J for Juliet.



J Company

CSM Larry Steele was our instructor along with other NCO’s he had selected. MAJ Paula Edmonds-Hollifield (now COL-retired) was our company commander, and I was the First Sergeant as an E7.

We had two platoons with three squads each. We had classes during the day, but also ran our company. We went to the field for three days and two nights. We set up our tents by ourselves. The men gave us advice, but we did the work. I missed shooting the M60 though because when I was sitting in one of the tents discussing rotation times, a whirlwind caused a tent pole to break and it hit me along side of the

head. The company commander made me go to the clinic on Gowen Field.

We also completed a "live-fire" course. CSM Steele had us convinced that we would have live-fire as we crawled through the dirt. I found out this wasn't true when he allowed me to wear a soft cap rather than a helmet.



Getting ready for the live-fire course. Left to Right: Gen Boguslawski, Diana Pankowski and Pat Cummins

We had a nice graduation ceremony followed by a party at the end of the two weeks. MAJ Kent Jewell had filmed our training and we watched it at our party. **(If anyone has a copy of that tape, I would really like to make copies of it.)** We complained loudly when we heard BG Shore was going to make us go through combat training for our annual training but we all had a great time. We were so proud of our accomplishments; most of us did not think we were capable of doing some of what we did.



Gen and then Major Paula Edmonds-Hollifield with the Company J Guidon

The chief of the Selective Service Section was COL Charles

Brandeberry, who was another great mentor. I had the experience of completing an exercise of interviewing persons in the Pocatello area for prospective board members if the Draft was activated again.

Shortly thereafter I transferred to the Selective Service Section and was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer. This was when I had to give up the "Snake" patch.

This was one of my most interesting NG jobs. I was only in the Selective Service Section for a year before I transferred to Anchorage, Alaska in April 1982, with my full-time job as Contracting Officer for Office of Aircraft Services, Department of the Interior.



MG Brooks administers the Oath of Office to WO1 Boguslawski

Upon my transfer, I was assigned as a Personnel Technician in the 1st Battalion, 207th Infantry Group, Nome, Alaska. I was attached to Headquarters, 207th Infantry Group for drills and pay. My superiors decided I needed to go to Nome for my 1983 annual training. Annual training in AK is held in **February and is not to be confused with summer camp in Idaho!**

Working and staying in the armory in Nome was not too bad, except for all of the traffic in the armory at all hours. The small towns and villages in AK use the armories to practice and play basketball. We had to go to the "field" for four days and three nights. They sent a nurse and me (their only female officers) out on the first helicopter to the campsite.

It was quite an experience trying to walk in the deep snow --my legs were going in deep. I noticed a native friend was walking on top of the snow and I asked him to show me how he was doing that. He replied, "You white lady, you cannot learn how to do it." I learned later that they walk on the sides of their feet. I also learned that you do not take a briefcase of work to the field because you concentrated on not allowing anyone to sneak into camp.

This was my first experience with men and women in the same tents; a section stayed together in one tent. It was so cold outside, that you just turned your head the other way, when someone asked you to, so that clothes could be changed.

The company commander was an Alaskan native from Nome who tried to teach me how to walk on snowshoes -- I kept falling. He took me for a ride on the Army snow machine and then misjudged the snow and tipped me over into a deep hole. With the depth of the snow and the hole, I had to have help to get out. We also had to watch out for moose when walking around camp. The company commander made me the day shift Sergeant of the Guard. I quickly learned just how well both female and male soldiers could cuss when being woken up for guard duty!

I also would take a turn on the radio in the commander's office-tent. It was my first experience with the Russians trying to scramble our radio frequencies. The nurse and I made sure we were on the first helicopter going back to Nome since we were on the first one going out.

A few months later, I was transferred to STARC G1 Office, and did not have to go to the field again. Although sometimes going to Bethel, Kotzebue, and similar could be difficult, as their motels were not like most of those in the lower 48. I had to go to Bethel one drill weekend to present personnel information to 2nd Bn, and my motel room had not been cleaned in quite awhile. I found out later that the bed and breakfast facilities were the best.

When I transferred to G1 at STARC, I was in charge of an officer records review prior to the semi-annual officer promotion

MOST WANTED



➤ **Docents.** Many of our volunteers have re-entered the workforce

➤ **USS Boise and USS Idaho Artifacts**

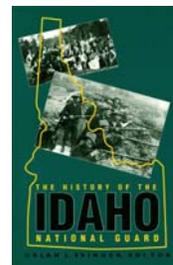
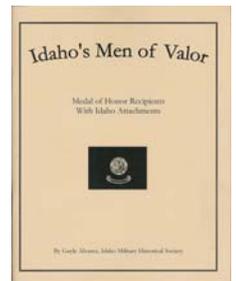
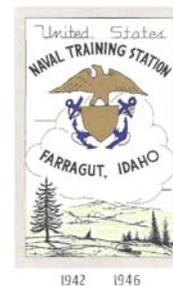
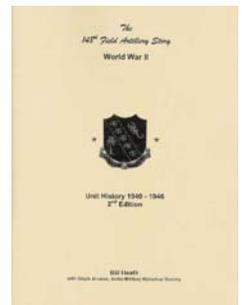
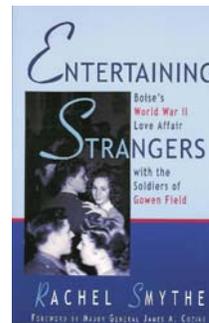
➤ **116th Engineer related items from Vietnam**

➤ **WWII items from:**

- ✍ 133rd Combat Engineer Bn
- ✍ 183rd Field Artillery
- ✍ 951st Field Artillery

➤ **Desert Storm field gear** ☆

GIFT SHOP BOOKS AVAILABLE



If you weren't able to attend our D-Day Open House, you can still get Rachel and Bill's books through the IMHS gift shop. Arrangements can be made for them to personally autograph them too!

Also available is the WWII history of the Farragut Naval Training Center, the History of the Idaho National Guard and Idaho's Men of Valor, short histories on the 34 Medal of Honor Recipients with Idaho Attachments. ☆

boards and the annual officer retention board. I learned that several officers expected me to keep their records current, and "fix" everything for them. I completed a checklist that was mailed to each officer whose records were going before the boards to assist them in their personal review of their records. And, because of all of the fantastic mentoring I had received, I would try to mentor and assist the young officers of how important it was for them to always keep a copy of important records, keep their records up-to-date, and stay current on photos, PT tests, education, and the like.

In 1991, I applied for and received the position of Supervisory Contract Specialist of the Alaska NG at their USPFO. During the week, I sat at my desk as a civilian, and on drill weekends and annual training, I sat at my desk in uniform. I was able to complete a lot of work on drill weekends, because I was the only one in Purchasing and Contracting that was also in the NG.

It was about this time that DoD changed the education requirements for contract signers. NGB was also supportive of having more civilians in USPFO. I encouraged everyone in my section that did not have a degree to obtain one. I am very proud to say that several women followed my advice and now have very good positions in Federal Contracting.

I was always grateful for all of the education that the military allowed me to receive. I received many hours of personnel training, recruiting and retention training, and procurement training.

I retired from the Army National Guard at the end of February 1998 as a CW4. "Chief" Fearheller had given me some of his CW4 rank when I was first appointed as a warrant officer and I wore it with great pride when I was promoted to CW4. I had a great career, thanks to many helpful people along the way.

They combined my civil service and military careers for a great retirement party for me. My three children and their spouses, and my youngest stepson and his wife were able to attend, and my best friend from my Air Force days flew up from Seattle to attend.

I was also presented with a much-treasured shadow box. Among my awards; two Meritorious Service Medals and two Army Commendation Medals.



SSG Boguslawski receives her first ARCOM in December 1975 from MG Brooks

I am a firm believer in professional organizations; I am a life member of Alaska National Guard Officer's Association, National Guard Association of the US, Military Officer's Association of America, Association of the US Army, National Active and Retired Federal Employee's Association, and Boise State Alumni Association. I am also a member of the Idaho Women's Veteran's Organization and in the process of becoming a Lifetime member of the IMHS.

Editors Note: A very special thank you to Gen for sharing her story with us! We had planned to profile Gen in the March edition of Pass In Review in conjunction with Women's History Month. The article was delayed due to the dramatic arrival of the Gurdon Barter Medal. ☆

JUST IN CASE - Have you sent in your renewal for 2006? Perhaps you know somebody who is interested in the joining the Society. The enclosed membership application may be used or copied as needed. Don't forget, *donations are tax deductible*.

Produced By: Idaho Military Historical Society
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Photo Credits: MSgt Tom Gloeckle, IDANG, Guen Johnson, Gayle Alvarez
Comments or article suggestions are welcome, contact us at 422-4841 or visit our web site at:
<http://inghro.state.id.us/museum/>



IDAHO MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Donation/Membership Application/Renewal Form

YES! Please enter my **tax-deductible** membership application/renewal in the category checked below. I have enclosed a check or money order in the amount indicated. I understand my donation is **tax-deductible** and am pleased to accept my canceled check as my receipt. Please find enclosed my donation for the amount indicated. *(The IMHS is a 501(c)(3) Organization.)*

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