

VETERAN HONOR GUARD, TN

Notes: VETERAN HONOR GUARD

Al William joined the Veteran Honor Guard in 1999. He is a Navy veteran who saw service during the Korean Conflict. He is a past commander of VFW Post 6277 in Monterey. **Earl Richardson** served with the Marine Corps during WWII and the Korean Conflict. He is a past commander of VFW Post 6296 in Cookeville, TN. **Terry Johnson**, commander of the Veterans Honor Guard has served as commander of the unit since May 2007. He is an Army veteran who saw service in Korea and Vietnam. He joined the unit in January 2006 and regularly participates in more than 100 funerals a year. He is a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277 in Monterey, where he serves as the post's junior vice commander. **Greg Nead** is a Navy veteran who saw service during the Korean Conflict. He also serves as commander of American Legion Post 135 in Cookeville. **Roy Tudor** is an Army veteran who saw service during the Berlin crisis. He joined the Honor Guard when it was formed in 1996 and regularly participates in more than 100 funerals a year. His current assignment is usually that of rifleman, but over the years he has served as the unit's commander, casket guard, color bearer and color guard and has folded and presented the casket flag. He is a life member and past commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277 in Monterey as well as a member of American Legion Post 4 in Livingston and served as a past District 4 commander. **Vic Humeniuk** is a WWII Army veteran who saw service in the South Pacific. He joined the Honor Guard when it was formed in 1996. Since May 1999 he has served as the unit's adjutant/quartermaster. He is a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277 in Monterey and is also a life member of American Legion and Disabled American Veterans. Other members of the Veteran's Honor Guard are: **Curt Tays, Forrest Powell & Darius Bielicki.**



900 Funerals: Terry Johnson (right), commander of the Veterans Honor Guard, pins a "900 Funerals" pin on Greg Nead. Nead joined the unit in 1999 and regularly participates in more than 100 funerals a year. He is a Navy veteran who saw service during the Korean Conflict. He also serves as commander of American Legion Post 135 in Cookeville, TN.

Herald-Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 25 November 2007, pg. C-2.

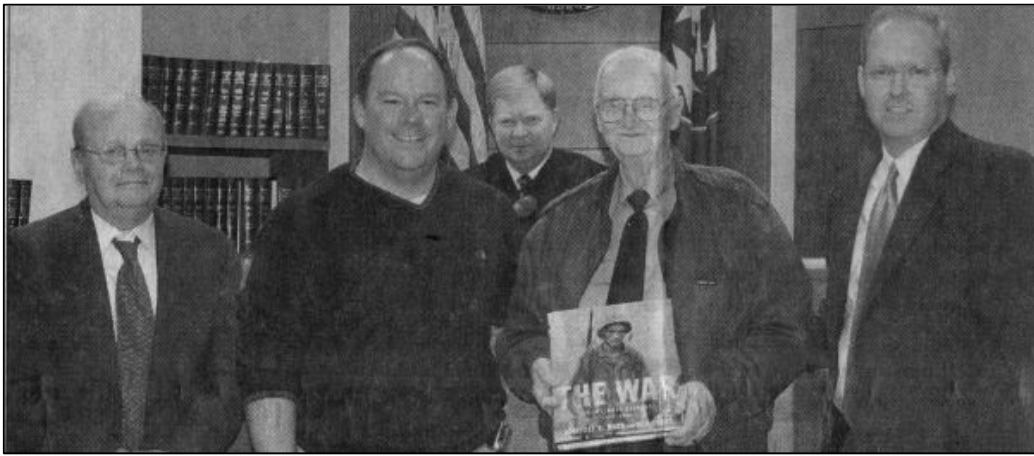


300 Funerals: Robert Grimsley (left) of Crossville Memorial Funeral Home pins a "300 Funerals" pin on Terry Johnson, commander of the Veterans Honor Guard. Johnson has served as commander of the unit since May 2007. He is an Army veteran who saw service in Korea and Vietnam. He joined the unit in January 2006 and regularly participates in more than 100 funerals a year. He is a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277 in Monterey, where he serves as the post's junior vice commander.



Roy H. Tudor, who served with the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953, snaps to a salute during the Veterans Day program at Monterey High School this morning. Tudor was based in Germany during the Korean War. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277 and a member of the Veterans Honor Guard. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

Herald-Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN:
Tuesday, Nov 11, 2008



Veteran Recognized: Deputy Earl Richardson was recognized recently in Putnam Chancery Court County for his longtime service efforts. Richardson served with the US Marine Corps in the Pacific in World War II as well as Korea. He is still active in the local American Legion and he volunteers his time to help honor fellow soldiers. Richardson is currently the Deputy court officer for the Chancery Court in Putnam County. To recognize his outstanding citizenship, members of the Putnam County Bar Association presented him with a commemorative book about the Ken Burns Documentary detailing WWII. Pictured from left are Randie Hill of the District Attorney's Office, State Representative Henry Fincher, Chancellor Ron Thurman (back), Deputy Earl Richardson, and Britt Jared, President of the Putnam County Bar.

Herald – Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Tuesday, 11 December 2007, pg. A-2.



APPRECIATION BREAKFAST
 Herald Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN:
 Thursday, 29 November 2007, pg. 12

Members of the Veterans Honor Guard attended a recent appreciation breakfast hosted by David, Jill and Jason Horner of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home in Cookeville. The Horner family also presented a generous donation to the guard in memory of Operation Iraqi Freedom casualties L. Cpl. Lance Clark and Sgt. Alex van Aalten. From left are Jason Horner, Bobby Floyd, Curt Tays, Vic Humeniuk, Carl Bishop, Al Williams, Terry Johnson, Roy Tudor, Chip Pennington, Greg Nead and Joe Lentini. Honor Guard members are former Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force men and women. They are members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 5025, 6277, and 6296; American Legion Posts 4, 46, 99, 135, 217, 238 and 587; and Disabled American Veterans Chapters 7 and 32. They hail from Monterey, Cookeville, Crossville, Fairfield Glade and Sparta.



Gary Hood, right, of Hood Funeral Home in Crossville watches as Roy Tudor, left, pins a "400 Funerals" pin on Earl Richardson. Tudor is commander of the Veterans Honor Guard. Richardson, a Marine Corps veteran of World War II and the Korean War, joined the Honor Guard in 2001. He is a member of American Legion Post 46 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6296, both in Cookeville. He regularly participates in more than 100 funerals per year.

(Earl Richardson is the h/o Sue Denny Richardson).



Terry Johnson (right), commander of the Veterans Honor Guard, pins a "1,999 Funerals" pin on Roy Tudor. Tudor is an Army veteran who saw service during the Berlin crisis. He joined the Honor Guard when it was formed in 1996 and regularly participates in more than 100 funerals a year. His current assignment is usually that of rifleman, but over the years he has served as the unit's commander, casket guard, color bearer and color guard and has folded and presented the casket flag. He is a life member and past commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277 in Monterey as well as a member of American Legion Post 4 in Livingston and served as a past District 4 commander.

Herald Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN:
 Sunday, 16 December 2007, pg. C-2.



500 funerals: Carl Bishop displays a "500 Funerals" plague awarded to him recently. Also pictured are former recipients of the award. From left are Curt Tays, Vic Humeniuk, Al Williams, Greg Nead, Bishop and Roy Tudor. The occasion was a breakfast for members of the Veterans Honor Guard and their wives hosted by David, Jill and Jason Horner of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home in Cookeville, TN.

Herald Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN:
 Sunday, 16 December 2007, pg. C-2.

Earl G. Richardson
 Enlisted in Marine Corps in 1943 and attended boot camp at Platoon 594 in San Diego. Served with 4th Marine Division at Iwo Jima. Discharged in 1946. Joined Reserve unit in Nashville in 1950 for duty in Korea. Was in Reserve Rifle Company until 1966 with a rank of S/Sgt.

Earl Givens Richardson
 (1925-2008)



Military funeral honors: From left, Veterans Honor Guard commander Terry Johnson pins an “800 Funerals” pin on Al Williams while Earl Richardson waits to receive his “600 Funerals” pin and Anderson-Upper Cumberland Funeral Home funeral director Jimmy Anderson witnesses. Williams joined the unit in 1999. He is a Navy veteran who saw service during the Korean Conflict. He is a past commander of VFW Post 6277 in Monterey. Richardson joined the unit in 2001. He served with the Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean Conflict. He is a past commander of VFW Post 6296 in Cookeville.

100 funerals: Terry Johnson (left), Commander of the Veterans Honor Guard, pins a “100 Funerals” pin on Wayne Christopher. Witnessing the event is Gary Hood of Hood Funeral Home in Crossville. Behind them are Guard members Jim Bryant (second from left) and Forrest Powell. Christopher joined the unit in 2006. He is an Air Force veteran who saw service in Thailand and Vietnam during the Vietnam War. He is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6296 in Cookeville.





200 funerals: Curt Tays (left), Commander of the Veterans Honor Guard, pins a “200 Funerals” pin on Terry Johnson, an Army veteran who saw service in Korea and Vietnam. Johnson joined the unit in January 2006 and regularly participates in over 100 funerals a year. He is a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars post 6277, where he serves as the post’s junior vice commander.

Herald Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 13 May 2007, pg. C-8.

500 Funerals: Curt Tays, right, commander of the Veterans Honor Guard, pins a “500 Funerals” pin on Earl Richardson. Standing at attention in the background are, from left, Greg Nead and Terry Johnson. Richardson, a Marine Corps veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict, joined the Honor Guard in 2001. He is a member of American Legion Post 46 and the commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6296, both in Cookeville. He regularly participates in more than 100 funerals per year. The occasion was the units’ 1, 112th funeral at which military honors were provided.

Herald Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 25 June 2006, pg. C-3, Living section.



HE'S 85 BUT FINDS REAL RETIREMENT IMPOSSIBLE

Herald-Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN
front page, 21 January 2005
by Jill Thomas, Herald Staff



Vic Humeniuk plays 'taps' at a veteran's funeral.

● H-C Photo/Shawn Sidwell

After several careers, Monterey's Vic Humeniuk still has a hand in lots of projects. Vic Humeniuk has finally figured out how to retire. And it's only taken him three tries.

In 1974 when he was 55, Humeniuk retired as postmaster at the Baudette Post Office in Minnesota. At that time he took up real estate as a retirement supplement.

"But when the real estate market fell through the basement a few years later, that was the end of that," he said.

Then in 1985 Humeniuk met a

woman at a casual gathering and 13 days later they were married.

"She said she'd waited 15 years for me," Humeniuk said.

For both it was a second marriage, but the children, after an initial surprise, were supportive and happy for their folks.

Nancy and Vic bought a tree farm in northern Minnesota.

But that was a little too strenuous for the retirees.

For the next six years the two of them spent most of their time moving from one place to another.

"We moved 12 times in six years," Humeniuk said.

For the most part they bounced back and forth from various areas like Nevada and North Carolina to Tucson, Ariz.

Finally Nancy promised Vic that he could move wherever he wanted if he would let her finish a pottery course in North Carolina.

When that was accomplished, the two looked into retiring either in Texas or Tennessee.

"When we found out that real estate taxes in Texas would run to about \$150 each month, we decided Texas was not for us," he said.

Humeniuk was familiar with Kingsport and the two started looking there and eventually worked their way to Monterey where they found an acre and half that was that was perfect.

"The wife signed me up to join the Lions Club right off the bat. And from there I met some people in the VFW post in Monterey," he said.

And thus began Humeniuk's latest retirement. He joined Monterey VFW Post 6277 and when the Veterans' Honor Guard was created in 1996, Humeniuk immediately joined up.

Last year he was one of 10 people in the Honor Guard to participate in more than 100 funerals of military service veterans during the year.

The octogenarian also writes the VFW Post's monthly newsletter where he includes interesting tidbits about different members, announces current events and tells stories of the war experiences of the 122 members.

In the January issue of *Standing Tall*, Humeniuk wrote that he might have to go to a bimonthly newsletter.

"I've enjoyed putting it together...but one of these days I may cut back to every other month. As I age – I am 85 – it's using up more and more of my available energy," he wrote.

For a man who was released from the Army with a 'disability discharge,' Humeniuk abounds with so much energy it's hard to envision him having to reduce the number of newsletters he produces.

In 1944 when he was drafted, the energetic 24-year old was trained to be a medic – a skill he never used in his year-long stint in the Army.

"We were sent to Oro Bay, New Guinea, long after the war had passed through that region," he said.

The freshly-trained medic was put to work in the postal unit where a few months later he came down with he calls "jungle rot."

"These were open weeping sores that never healed. They happened because of the humidity and heat," he said.

For the next few months the Army hospital where he was sent tried everything to cure him of the debilitating disease.

"They tried everything. But the more treatments I had, the worse I got," he said.

Even penicillin did him no good. "I became allergic to it. And have remained so," he said.

Finally he was sent home on a troop ship and, thanks to a run-in with one of the others on the ship, Humeniuk initiated his own cure.

"I was so mad that I simply laid out on the deck of the ship for hours on end, day after day. I did that for 20 days and by the time we docked, I was pretty much dried out."

Still, he was discharged six months after his hospitalization and to this day receives a 10 percent disability payment.

His younger brother, Chet, was a gunner on B-24's over Italy. His youngest brother, Frank, wound up in Korea.

"Chet reached the rank of technical sergeant. Frank became a master sergeant, and I wound up a lowly private first-class," he said.

Now he keeps physically active with the Honor Guard and because of two 'personal trainers' who insist that he get out and walk everyday.

"Sidney and Sandi are terriers that we adopted from the Animal Shelter and they make it clear there's no hedging on their daily walk," he said.

As for keeping mentally active Vic and Nancy have that all figured out.

Each has a computer.

“Nancy keeps busy on the diabetes chat line. She’s made all sorts of new friends there,” Vic said.

“She’s planning trips this year to Great Britain and to Vermont to meet some of them in person. And we’ve had some visit us from as far away as Maryland and Wisconsin.”

As quartermaster at VFW Post 6277, Vic uses his computer to keep the records of the VFW post. He also uses the computer to write a second newsletter to family and friends every other week.

He keeps a file he calls “flashbacks” with descriptions of memories and recollections of his life growing up on a farm, fighting in the war, post-mastering a small town near the Canadian border.

“These may be of interest to my grandchildren some day. I promised I’d write them, he said.

And then Vic has to keep up with his letter writing.

“I correspond with a number of people in prison,” he said. “Some are there for serious crimes. Some are there for less serious ones. In some cases the mail from me is the only mail they get.”

For Vic Humeniuk, life is active and full. But not full enough.

“We’re going to visit all our grandchildren this summer. We’ll be ready for a little vacation by then,” he said.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

*See Audrey Lambert’s Heritage Stories:
William Jarratt/Jared, Revolutionary War Soldier

HONOR AND DUTY

Members of the Veterans Honor Guard volunteer time and energy to honor America's bravest

By Earl Richardson, Vice Commander, Veterans Honor Guard



Elizabeth Ayres
Herald-Citizen Staff
Sunday, May 25, 2008:
Herald-Citizen, Cookeville,
TN

From left are Veterans Honor Guard members Greg Nead, unit commander; Wayne Richardson, rifleman; and Earl Richardson, unit vice commander. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

"It's very honorable. I'm very proud to be doing what I am doing."

Veterans Honor Guard unit commander Greg Nead shares his sentiment of being involved with the 18-member volunteer organization as he sits around a table with two of his fellow guard members, vice commander Earl Richardson and rifleman Wayne Christopher.

For anyone who has ever been to a military funeral or even attended a local Veteran's or Memorial Day event, you know who they are. They are the gentlemen who fold the flag, the ones who fire the ominous 21-gun salute whose reverberation rattles you to the core. They come dressed in their polished uniforms of white and black and stand at attention for lengths at a time, whether it be sweltering or snowy, on a sunny day or in a torrential downpour. And they never, repeat, never charge a dime for their services.

Current members of the Veterans Honor Guard range from 65 to 83 -- it is not uncommon for members to serve at several funerals each week, so retirement is actually an advantage in their availability -- but membership is open to servicemen and women of any age who have been honorably discharged from their branch of service.

"The members are veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom," said Vic Humeniuk, adjutant and quartermaster of the guard. "They are former Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps servicemen and women. They are (members of) Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 5025, 6277 and 6296, American Legion Posts 4, 46, 99, 135, 163, 217, 238 and 587, Disabled American Veterans Chapters 7 and 32 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 203. They hail from Monterey, Cookeville, Crossville, Fairfield Glade and Sparta.

"The unit works closely with directors of funeral homes located in nine counties. The area served is roughly from Smithville to Fairfield Glade and Celina to Sparta, but there are no set boundaries," Humeniuk said. "The unit has been to Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery west of Nashville, Coalfield, Spring City, McMinnville and once even to Estes, Miss.," where the guard drove for a soldier's burial after a memorial service in Cookeville.

"We will never say 'no,'" said Commander Nead.

The process begins when the family of the deceased notifies the funeral director of their request for the Veterans Honor Guard at the service. The funeral director notifies the adjutant, Humeniuk, who then notifies the members. Numbers vary, but there are always at least eight to 12 members at each service -- seven riflemen, a commander, a bugler to play "Taps" and two flag folders. At the service, the unit commander confers with the funeral director regarding the procedure to be followed. Some families request full military honors while others just ask the guard members to serve as pallbearers. Sometimes "the family wants the prestige Honor Guard members in uniform add to the service," Humeniuk said.

"The current honor guard was first conceived by members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 741, from Cookeville. Uniforming and training started in 1996," continued Humeniuk. "Shortly thereafter, members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277 from Monterey joined the unit. Since then, members of other veterans organizations have joined the ranks. The unit has since adopted its own set of bylaws." Since its inception, as of press time, the Veterans Honor Guard has provided its services at 1,458 funerals.

The Veterans Honor Guard asks for no payment for their services but instead survives on financial support from families of the deceased who make honorariums to the group, funeral homes, a Volunteer Electric Consumer Grant, the general public and the members themselves. Both Budweiser and the Herald-Citizen have made contributions of bugles for the guard members to use in their services.

Members of the Honor Guard are given honorary pins for every 100 funerals they serve, with pins ranging from "100 Funerals" to "1,100 Funerals." Commander Greg Nead, at interview time, was 14 funerals shy of 1,000. Nead, 75, is a Navy veteran who saw action during the Korean Conflict. He also serves as commander for American Legion Post 135. Vice Commander Earl Richardson, 83, is a Marine Corps

veteran who fought with the 4th Division in World War II and Iwo Jima and with the 1st Division in the Korean Conflict and the Battle of Seoul in South Korea. He, at interview time, had served at 670 funerals. Rifleman Wayne Christopher, an Air Force vet who served in Vietnam, is the "spring chicken" of the group at 65 years of age. He has served in approximately 150 funerals.

"We are (serving) our contemporaries when we do their funerals," said Nead. "I feel honored that we are honoring boys we went to boot camp with, those we served with."

Richardson shared that, within the last six months, he has served at the burials of a foxhole buddy in Iwo Jima and his squad leader in Korea.

"But I find that, the younger the soldier is, the harder it is for us," said Christopher. "It feels like I help the family, showing respect to the deceased."

"It's hard to tell you about the job that we do," Richardson said. "I know it's a job that needs to be done. I'm honored to be a part of this organization and participate in these funerals. I can't think of anything that would give me more satisfaction."

*See Earl Givens Richardson Obt. in the Denny files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>



1,200 FUNERALS

Greg Nead (2nd from left), Veterans Honor Guard commander, pins a "1,200 Funerals" pin on Roy Tudor (2nd from right). Witnessing the occasion were J. T. Bennett (left) and Harold Ralph Maynard, both of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home in Cookeville. Tudor joined the unit when it was formed in 1996. He is an Army veteran who saw service during the Korean Conflict. His current assignment is usually that of rifleman, but over the years has served as the unit's commander, casket guard, color bearer and color guard and has folded and presented the casket flag. He is a life member and past commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277 in Monterey. He is also a member of American Legion Post 4 in Livingston and a past District 4 commander.

Herald-Citizen, , Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 15 February 2009

Curtis Tays Obt.

MONTEREY -- Memorial services for Curtis Tays, 74, of Monterey, will be held at 7 p.m. today, Sunday, June 14, from the chapel of Goff Funeral Home, with full military honors by the Veterans Honor Guard.



The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until time of services today at the funeral home.

Mr. Tays died Thursday, June 11, 2009, in Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.

He was born Oct. 22, 1934, in Monterey to the late Albert and Rener Floyd Tays.

Mr. Tays was a member of VFW Post 6297 and was former post commander. He was a member of the Veterans Honor Guard and was former commander where he served on 1,008 funerals. He served in the Navy aboard the aircraft carrier Shangri-La as a utility boat commander. He was a master cabinet craftsman.

His family includes his wife of 50 years, Jeanette Madewell Tays of Monterey; a daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Rick Pugh of Elizabethtown, Ky.; a son, Chris Tays of Monterey; three grandchildren, Ashley and Brittney Amber Tays and Zachary Pugh; and two great-grandchildren, Adrian Tays and Gavin Kerley.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by five sisters, Annie Wallace, Pearl Tays and three infants; and two brothers, Marion and Alvie Tays.

Memorial donations may be made to VFW Post 297.

Revs. Junior Lowson and Tony Phipps will officiate at the services.

A guest register may be signed at www.gofffh.com

Saturday, Jun 13, 2009: Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN

<http://www.ajlambert.com>