

# U.S. ARMY FIELD BAND RETIREE & ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Vol. XII, No. 1

FEBRUARY 2005

## WARNING ORDER

### Save these dates!

2006 will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States Army Field Band. The Band's Social Committee is in the preliminary planning stages of the celebration. Here is what we know at present. The Annual Homecoming Weekend in 2006 will be combined with the Anniversary Celebration, projected for 17 – 19 August, 2006. The gala party will be held on Thursday, 17 August at the Newton-White Mansion in Mitchellville, MD, with the concert on Saturday 19 August. Cost for the gala party is

projected to be in the \$65-\$75 price range. There are no plans for a picnic, nor for any Sunday activities, but the traditional golf and bowling tournaments will be held. The Social Committee will assist the Retiree and Alumni Association with any activities we may stage that weekend. The Social Committee will also have some 60th anniversary commemorative items for sale - more information to follow on that.

Make sure to save these dates. This Anniversary celebration will be a major one, as celebrated every five years. If you've not been back to see the new rehearsal facility, this will be a great excuse to do so, and you'll have the opportunity to see your old friends and comrades. This will be a great event!

### *Inside . . .*

*Welcome Aboard*....page 1

*Commander's Call*..page 2

*Sound Bites*.....page 3

*Looking Back*,,,,,,page 3

*Sick Call*.....page 4

*Sad Notes*.....page 5

*Treasurer's Report*..page 6



## WELCOME ABOARD

*By Joe Greco*

**Cathy A. Ogram** (class of 2004, Clarinet): Cathy played clarinet, was clinician training NCO and founder of the Educational Outreach Woodwind Quintet. Currently she is the director of the music program at Hargrave Military Academy, Chatham, Virginia. She is also the principal clarinetist with the Danville Symphony, as well as playing in the Baltimore area with La Fourze Quartet (of which she is co-founder), the Howard County Ballet Orchestra, Columbia Orchestra and the American Clarinet Choir. I guess I can't say enjoy retired life. You are one busy young lady. Welcome to the USAF Band Retiree & Alumni Association!

**James W. Burge** (Class of 2000, Saxophone), NCOIC Concert Band): We welcome Jim to the Association. He didn't give us any information on his life after the Field Band. The last time I spoke to Jim he was in business with his son, installing lawn water sprinkler systems. Jim, when you get a chance, bring us up to date. (Continued on Page 8)

*"To the Grassroots and Beyond"*

## COMMANDER'S CALL



### Colonel Jack H. Grogan, U.S. Army, Retired

**G**reetings and Happy New Year to all from the Grogans.

This year has been very eventful—travel (too much), adjudicating, teaching, working, and, yes, a “little” golf. Someone forgot to tell me in retirement planning that time doesn’t slow down; in fact, I am feeling as much pressure now as when I was commander. The difference? Options! I now can choose what, where and when I want to do something (most of the time), and I don’t live with a phone that delivers 90% bad news, or a schedule that says, “Do this and do it now!” However, “honey do’s” continue. Sue and Genny are doing fine; Sue continues with a local law firm and Genny, as Director of a before and after school program. I am still helping Anne Arundel County music teachers who become ill or need assistance during (un)expected happenings—a job of ups-and-downs depending on the situation.

As for travel, we started the year with our annual March trip to the American Bandmasters Convention in Williamsburg—a time to meet with former commanders and their better halves, old friends and discuss the news in the band world. For the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, we joined former Field Band Atlanta sponsors Stuart and Kathy Kamille at their beautiful home in the spectacular South Lake Tahoe region of Nevada; it was an old fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> with a parade of golf carts, salute to Veterans, and the best “hoe-down” picnic you can imagine. Later in the month, we were in Ocean City for a week attending Sue’s family reunion. In August, we hosted a Hardin-Simmons U. alumni gathering attended by the President and staff of the school’s public relations department—great fun for alumni, staff and potential students. Then it was off to Florida for a relaxing week on the beaches at Palm Beach, and finally in December, it was back to Aruba for our 31st Anniversary. The island was the site for our honeymoon in 1973, and upon return for the 30<sup>th</sup> in 2003, we fell in love with it all over again, purchasing a timeshare. It has everything we want: beautiful beaches, casinos, golf, wonderful restaurants and shopping, proximity to South America and other islands, year-round 80°+ weather, and most importantly, safety—you can actually walk to restaurants (and bars) via the beaches at night. It’s a rough life—someone’s got to do it! The Gibsons are to blame for all this hard work—they’ve brainwashed us!

I see the band often and the excellence continues under COL Hamilton’s leadership. Times are changing though, or perhaps I should say the world is changing, and the band has not been immune. Driver positions have been eliminated and replaced with contractual support—not unexpected with an evolving post 9/11 Army. The band is very busy, but that’s a good thing—validation of an essential mission. As Vietnam taught us, a continuing war can challenge a nation’s resolve—Iraq is *not* a new scenario. Hopefully, this time we will take the lessons of Vietnam and apply them *politically* as well as militarily; you cannot win a war without the support of the American people—and that’s where the Field Band shines! The Army lives in a “the-buck-rules-all” reality world; if a unit cannot show its value to the mission (read “keepers” of the dollars), it will cease to exist. How many military, or for that matter civilian organizations, can take on the mission of keeping the nation committed to our military? Changes will always be a part of the future; but, rest assured, as long as the band remains focused on *the* mission, the need for “the” Field Band will always exist.

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous year!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Grogan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## **SOUND BITES** (Notes from all over)

By Joe Greco

**EDWARD J. AUGUSTINE** (class of 1976, Public Affairs): Ed and his wife Jaki are living in Clarksville, TN, just outside of Fort Campbell, home of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. He is especially grateful at this time as the Division has just returned from its year long deployment in Iraq. He said our soldiers carried on the finest traditions of the United States Army, but with a cost, 60 killed and 250 plus wounded. A huge price was paid by these young men and women for our freedom and security. America, home of the brave and land of the free! Ed, thank you for this tribute to the 101<sup>st</sup>.

**BILL BOPE** (class of 1985, Bass Clarinet): Bill is the head coach of the Glen Burnie High School tennis team, enjoying every moment. He is in his 25<sup>th</sup> year as a Youth Counselor at the Glen Burnie United Methodist Church. His musical talent is used as the Asst. Music Director and Hand Bell Choir Director. Bill wishes all members, active and retired and alumni good health and long life.

**TONY W CASON** (class of 1977, French Horn): Tony is presently Deputy Commander of The U.S. Army Band, Director, U.S. Army Strings, U.S. Army Orchestra and U.S. Army Herald Trumpets. He and his wife, Jan

will be retiring and relocating to San Diego, CA. Lots of luck, Tony and Jan.

**CHARLES (BOB) CLARK** (class of 1952, Tuba): Bob still is working at ASU in Boone, NC, teaching tuba and euphonium. He is also director of a community band in Winston-Salem. He does find time for a little R&R reading and fishing.

**TODD COMBS** (class of 1974, Tuba): Todd has completely retired and he said life is "WONDERFUL". He just got back from Australia and New Zealand, doing what else???? Hunting and Fishing. He said he has seen several Field Band concerts and recitals. QUOTE: "What a wonderful organization we were lucky to be a part of."

**HAL J. GIBSON** (class of 1974, Commander): It's just go, go, go for Marie and Hal. He has been busy judging music which includes gigs on cruise ships. Hal do you consider work on a cruise ship "work?" Speaking of cruise ships, Marie and Hal did a Trans-Atlantic crossing on the new Queen Mary 2, flew to Edinburgh for a few days, and then flew to London for a few more days before flying back to the states. In August they went on a tour of the National Parks of the USA. In case you haven't heard, Col. Gibson was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Distinguished Band Conductors in February, 2004. During the ceremony he was presented with a framed picture of he and Pablo Casals and a most touching in-

*(Continued Next Page)*

## **LOOKING BACK....**

by Ken Stoppelbein

### **FOURTH QUARTER 2004**

#### **5 Years Ago / 1999**

Under the baton of Marvin Hamlisch, The Jazz Ambassadors perform four concerts in the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Duke Ellington's birth.

#### **25 Years Ago / 1979**

MAJ William E. Clark assumes command of the Field Band from MAJ Samuel J. Fricano to become the unit's sixth commander.

#### **55 Years Ago / 1949**

The Army Ground Forces Band (*subsequently re-designated the United States Army Field Band*) performs in concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

## ***SOUND BITES***

*(Continued)*

scription. It was a gift from The Field Band. Hal said the picture and inscription from "The Band" meant more to him than the award. Yes, we truly are a very special family. Congratulations, Colonel Gibson.

**EDWARD A. IMHOFF** (*class of 1966, Trumpet*): Ed is enjoying retirement after 32 years as a software engineer with Xerox Printing Systems Division. Life is good.

**FRANK KAGGERUD** (*class of 1955, French Horn*): Frank moved back to North Dakota from Arizona, where he spent a year. He is feeling fine and is in the best of health. He is 94 years old. I believe Frank is the oldest living member of the Association. Congratulations on your long and healthy life!

**ROBIN KELLY** (*class of 1990, Trombone*): Robin retired from the 5 Maryland State Veterans Cemeteries and War Memorials as program manager in February, 2003. Maryland has the largest State Veterans Cemetery program in the nation. Robin has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. His doctor, Dr. Ricaurte from Johns Hopkins has him on a special medication that seems to be keeping the disease pretty well at bay. I see Robin once in a while and he looks

good. He is enjoying spending as much time as he can with his wife, Sue and youngest son, John.

**FRANK LACZKO** (*class of 1945, Trumpet*): Frank said he is still honking at 81 years old. He is playing an average of 7-8 jobs a month, playing the Big Band favorites of the 40's for ballroom dances.

**ORVEL H. LEE** (*class of 1997, Narrator*): Orvel would like to thank those who took the time to drop a note or e-mailed sympathy on his mothers passing. Mrs. Lee enjoyed each concert, being able to have many members share her home and dinner in Williston when the band performed there on tour. Orvel said he and his sister, Karen, thank all for your prayers and the Field Band "family love."

**GEORGE W. NORMAN** (*class of 1958, Vocalist*): George did a little reminiscing about Gunnar Johanson from the 50's. Gunnar did a vocal arrangement for the Concert Band and George of "Moon Light Serenade." He said Gunnar was a very colorful and interesting man and thanked us for letting him know of his passing. George, you are right, Gunnar was one in a million.

**JOSEF OROSZ** (*class of 1982, Bandleader/Bass*): Joe just got back from a four month honeymoon in Portugal. Congratulations to Joe and Ann. I can't keep up with Joe; he has resi-

dences all over the world, Portugal, Pennsylvania and Texas. The last mailing I received is PO Box 421014, Del Rio, TX 78840.

**LANCE H. SWEIGART** (*class of 1998, Vocalist*): Lance is the Dept. Service Officer for the American Legion, Dept. of Maryland, which is the veterans advocate for benefits claims with the VA. This office is for the men and women leaving the military service who need someone to take care of their claims and the V.A. process. I understand he has helped many of our fellow bandsmen. Lance, thank you for all your help.

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## ***SICK CALL***

*By Joe Greco*

**BOB MASON** (*class of 1993, Support/Percussion*): For those who do not have e-mail, we have been keeping in touch with Vickie, Bob's wife, who tells us Bob has stage-four melanoma in his lungs and lymph nodes on the left side of his neck. He will be taking chemo. But just to retard the growth, not cure anything. Please keep Bob in your prayers.

**JOE LEVINE** (*class of 1966, Clarinet and R&AA Association Webmaster*): Joe had surgery in September for an abdominal hernia. He says he is doing great. Robbie is taking good care of him. *(Continued Next Page)*

## SAD NOTES

**MR. BOPE**, father of **Bill Bope**, (class of 1985, Bass Clarinet/NCOIC Concert Band): passed away this year. He was 95 years old. Condolences can be sent to Bill at 943 Princeton Terrace, Glen Burnie, MD 21060.

**VERONICA FRICANO**, mother of **Major Sam Fricano** (class of 1979, Commander): passed away on October 12, 2004. Condolences can be sent to Major Fricano, 3644 Fallon Oaks Drive, Jacksonville, FL., 32277.

**RUTH LONG** wife of **Harry Long** (deceased) (class of 1962, Motor Pool): passed away September 15, 2004.

**DONALD J. MCKINTOSH** (class of 1971, Motor Pool): passed away on December 28, 2003. He was a bus and staff car driver. Mack retired and moved back to his home town Miles City, MT.

**MARSHALL OCKER** (class of 1957, Arranger): passed away on April 25, 2004. He was 77 years old. Condolences may be sent to his wife Lennie Farr at 2017 Berry Roberts Drive, Sun City Center, FL, 33573-6142

**LON NORMAN** (class of 1956, Arranger/Trombone): passed away on May 23, 2004 after battling cancer for several years. Condolences can be sent to his daughter, Ms Wendy Norman, 4144 McFarlane Ave, Burbank, CA91505-4104.

**MICHAEL D. PYATT** (LTC, Director of the Soldiers Chorus): passed away after a long battle with cancer. Condolences can be sent to Patti W. Pyatt, 44045 Brook Hollow Drive, Schertz, TX, 78154. Contributions can be made to: Dr Geoffrey Weiss Melanoma Cancer Treatment & Research Center, P O Box 1657, San Antonio, TX 78296-1657, Attn: Tobin Challenge.

**JEANNE TRAPHAGAN** wife of **Wil Traphagan** (class of 1959, Tuba): passed away August 5, 2004. Condolences can be sent to Wil at 57 Brown Road, P O Box 418, Harvard, MA, 01451

**ELWOOD H. EDWARDS** (class of 1961 Trombone Section Leader): died on December 23, 2004 of cancer. "Cuz," as everyone knew him, was one the first members of the Ground Forces Band back in 1946. "Cuz" was 82 years old. Cards can be sent to his wife Julia, 605 Chattawka Lane, New Bern, NC, 28560, and contributions can be made to American Cancer Society.

Thank you notes were received from **Lennie Farr-Ocker** and **Wil Traphagan**.

## SICK CALL

(Continued)

**FRANK GRANOFSKY** (class of 1981, Percussion, Band Sergeant Major): Frank had a third hip-replacement. I know he only has two hips.....One of the hip operations did not work. He said he is doing just fine.

**MICHAELANGELO RICCO-BENE** (class of 1982, Admin): Mike had a knee-replacement. Mike said he is doing just great. Remember to do what your therapist tells you, Mike, it will hurt, but, no pain, no gain.



## APOLOGY

From Joe Greco

I want to take a minute to apologize to our members for such a late newsletter. As you can see, some of the news is very old. I will try to be more responsive in the future. Al Grossberg has been doing such a terrific job keeping all the members informed by e-mail that I seem to put the members that do not have e-mail on the back burner by neglecting the newsletter. All of you non e-mail members please accept my apology.

## *Music Appreciation*

*By Jane and George Koran*

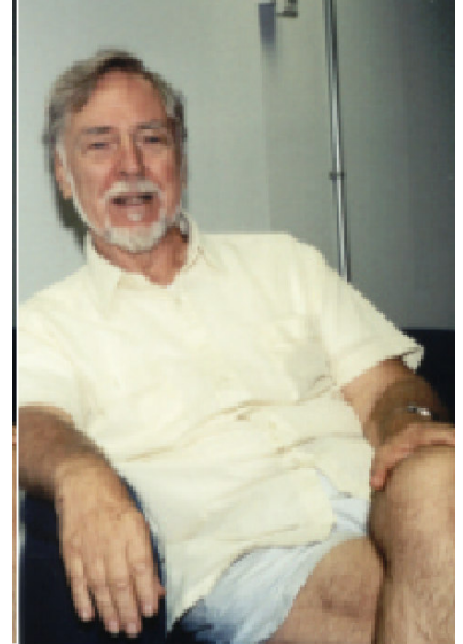
Traveling on the canals of France, is sometimes like being in a time warp. It is not unusual to ride all day without seeing anything that looks like it was built in the present. There are many villages so remote and so small that the bread, so essential to French life, arrives from elsewhere in a small truck. In many small villages, one knocks on a certain door in the village where the butcher lives, and he cuts to order from the back with no shop. The post office and Mayor's office may occupy the same small building. These are mostly farming areas, where life hasn't changed much over the centuries.

To add to the illusion, the canal sides are often heavily wooded and offer a profusion of wildflowers. In the open fields the poppies really do grow in such numbers that you feel yourself to be in an impressionist painting. It is always an objective to reach a certain lock before closing time around 1900, especially if the next day the locks are not working. If you get behind a slow barge, or must wait your turn too often you may not make it. Then it becomes necessary to find a spot to park before total darkness comes upon you.

On one occasion we had gone as far as we could get for the day

when we found ourselves in a wooded area, quiet and isolated, we thought. A bridge up ahead indicated the presence of just such a small village as described, which we explored next morning on foot, not very visible, and with no good place to moor for the night. We settled along the best spot on the bank beside the old tow path and a fence which bounded an open space in the woods. On either side were uniformly tall horse chestnut trees, indicating their planting at the end of WWII. Perhaps tall enough to have been placed at the end of WWI as a replacement of earlier ones lost in the conflicts.

It was very quiet and solitary. After dinner we decided to listen to La Boheme for the evening. As the music floated out over the field we shortly noticed first one, then a one by one procession of cows arriving slowly at the fence to stand quietly in the growing darkness, close enough that we could almost touch their heads leaning over the top of the fence. Soon we were in that kind of total darkness and stillness so rarely experienced in other countries, but often on the French canals. When the last note faded away into that stillness after two hours, the cows began to depart one by one, and we reasoned that they were responding to music played at milking time. That there was none forthcoming must have confused them, but we enjoyed the simple pleasure of that special audience.



### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

#### **For Budget Year 2004**

Beginning Balance – 1 Jan 2004 \$1,047.08  
 Funds Received (2004 Dues) \$ 815.00  
 Total \$1,862.08

#### **Expenditures**

Stamps & Stationary \$ 133.40  
 Newsletter & Roster \$ 289.72  
 Flowers, Cards, Memorials \$ 100.00  
 Retiree/Alumni Lunch \$ 216.45  
 Total Expenditures 2004 \$ 739.57

### **Plan Now**

## **2006 HOMECOMING WEEKEND 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**17, 18, 19 August 2006**

## Other News

By Joe Greco

### **SURVIVERS OF IVAN AND CHARLEY**

**George Koran** (class of 1975, *Flute*), resident of Port Charlotte, was hit very hard, but they were spared compared to the other houses on their street. Charley came right over their house. The wind tore off some siding, left a lot of debris in the yard, and toppled most of their trees. After all that has happened, they still found time to take a Baltic cruise. Retirement is great!

Heard from **Bill Beckman** (class of 1988, *French Horn*) that they survived Ivan. Bill and his wife Lynda decided to evacuate their home in Navarre, Florida to Decatur, Alabama. The eye of the hurricane hit about 60 miles to the West of their home. They said the closer they got to their home they could see the devastation getting greater and greater. As they drove through the neighborhood he said it felt like the middle of winter. All the leaves were blown off the trees, piles of tree limbs lined the street and homes had shingles blown off the roof down to the plywood. Their house only had a few shingles missing, no water damage. They lost several trees, one just missed the house, and

their pool is black. Bill said they were very fortunate.

**Col. Hal J. Gibson** (class of 1974, *Commander*) and his wife Marie want to thank all for the many calls, cards and e-mails expressing your concerns regarding all the hurricanes in the Melbourne area. They said they were very lucky and had only a little damage. The only bad luck was his plane was destroyed. He tried to get it in a hanger but none were available.

### **PATRIARCH OF CSU MUSIC SCHOOL PLEDGES \$1 MILLION**

The **Hal and Marie Gibson** Endowment for Musical Excellence will support various special projects and initiatives, including equipment, faculty development, music scholarships and stipends for attracting faculty of national stature. Both of you are so very special.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

A very special Happy Birthday to **Tony Salatti** (class of 1975, *Clarinet, Concertmaster*). On February 5, 2005 he reached that wonderful age of 90 years old. I spoke to him the other day, he is in fantastic shape. He works in the yard in summer and this winter we had eight inches of snow and he shoveled his driveway.

If you stop and see him he will serenade you on his guitar.

### **NOT GETTING R&AA EMAILS?**

If you've not been getting information about your Association via email, it's because we don't have a correct email address on file. The R&AA email list is separate from the list posted on the website—you must get your email address to Al Grossberg if you'd like R&AA announcements sent to you. Send your correct email to:

**usafbraa@cablespeed.com**

### **DON'T FORGET**

To check out the United States Army Field Band Retiree and Alumni Association Website from time to time. It's a great place to visit!

**[www.msu.edu/user/levine/usafb/](http://www.msu.edu/user/levine/usafb/)**



## SOUND BITES

(Continued)

**ROBERT M. ROETKER** (*class of 1981, Guitar*): Bob said he will always treasure the time he spent touring with the Jazz Ambassadors. He left the Field Band in the summer of 1986 to return to the Armed Forces School of Music and teach during his final years in the service. Bob and his wife Sally are fine and living in Cincinnati where they both grew up. Their oldest son, Michael is married and living in Virginia Beach. He has a daughter, Mikayla, who is 8 years old. Their daughter Melissa is living in Franklin, Indiana with her husband and two daughters, Katie 8 and Elizabeth 4. Their son John is living with Bob and Sally. Sally still works for the University of Cincinnati in the Public Safety Department. Bob provides IT support to Procter and Gamble, but he is employed by Hewlett Packard due to the recent outsourcing of P&G's IT support to HP. Bob has two CD's currently available, one is an organ trio called "Just a Few", recorded live at the Blue Wisp Jazz Club in Cincinnati and the other is a duo with a string bassist called "Second Chance" recorded in a studio. Both are available by going to [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com) and search for roetker. Bob's e-mail is: [broetker@one.net](mailto:broetker@one.net) and website is: [www.broetker.com](http://www.broetker.com).

## WELCOME ABOARD

(Continued)

**David L. Hughes** (*class of 1972, Clarinet*): David is an alumni who performed with the Field Band from September 1969 to August 1972. His address is 3604 Launcelot Way, Annandale, VA 22003. Phone: 703-560-7835, E-Mail: [david-hughes@cox.net](mailto:david-hughes@cox.net).

**Tedd R Griepentrog** (*class of 2003, Saxophone*): Tedd is a retiree who performed with the Field Band from June 1983 to September 2003. His address is 1001 Sharon Drive, Glen Burnie, MD 21061. E-Mail; [teddg@verizon.net](mailto:teddg@verizon.net), Phone: 410-553-6351. Tedd is currently Executive Director of the Columbia Orchestra. He is also helping revive the band program at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Glen Burnie, MD.

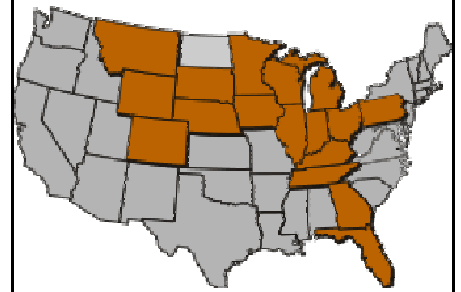


LTC Hal J. Gibson, LTC Chester A. Whiting,

MAJ Samuel J. Fricano

June 14, 1974

## SPRING TOUR 2005



The Concert Band and Soldiers' Chorus, and the Jazz Ambassadors will be touring throughout the mid-west and parts of the southern United States.

The **Concert Band** will be touring in the states of Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

The **Jazz Ambassadors** will be touring in the states of Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

**Look for an element of the Band in your area.**

Go to the Band website for more details:

[www.armyfieldband.com](http://www.armyfieldband.com)



LTC Whiting, Ted Henry, Frank Whiting,

Louis DiLavore

Circa 1960