

THE MAINE TROOP GREETERS ***WINTER NEWSLETTER***



Vol. 3 Issue 1
Jan – Mar 2014

**WELCOME
NEW
TROOP GREETERS
OCT – DEC
2013**

Frances Billings
Judith Kaut
Linda King
Robert LaBrie
Irene R. Williams

JUNIOR MEMBERS
John Hachey
Leslie Kaut

Happy New Year and welcome to the winter issue of the Maine Troop Greeters Newsletter. Our winter season so far has been a series of ice storms , power outages, icy roads and pot holes, but thankfully these conditions have not kept our Greeters from carrying out their mission.

OUR MISSION The mission of The Maine Troop Greeters is to express the Nation's gratitude and appreciation to those Troops going overseas for a safe return and for those returning, for a joyful homecoming and to make their (hopefully brief) stay in Bangor as comfortable and pleasant as possible.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE: 2013 has been an eventful year for Maine Troop Greeters. We have improved our communications capabilities both thru email and our in-house call-em-all system separate from the airport system. Our large turnout at the annual meeting in November is evidence of the improvement we have in communications.

A new computer system has been installed to allow service members access to our database.

With the help of the Patriot Guard we have a display of all Maine service members who have been killed in action over the past ten years.

We continue to work on obtaining the funds that will allow us to establish a Troop Greeter Museum to house the extensive collection of memorabilia that we have collected over the past ten years.

Finally, a big **THANK YOU** to all Troop Greeters for your continued support. We do make a difference.

Chuck Knowlen

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: March 22nd, will be our first general meeting of 2014. Watch for details.

Donation: Our friends in St. Albans held a fund- raiser for Maine Troop Greeters on December 7th. This Ole Tyme Jamboree Christmas show resulted in a donation of \$667.00. Many Thanks to all.



GREETERS PROFILE:

Born in Veazie Me., Bill Dean and his twin brother Richard moved to the Washington D.C. area as youngsters and went thru their school years there. They were both drafted into the army in 1954, the year that they graduated from high school, and being in the same unit both were sent to Germany where they were based in Nuremburg. They continued to cause confusion as to who was who until Richard was promoted to corporal and they then could be identified by rank. Bill returned to the U.S. in 1956 and was honorably discharged after two years of service.

Bill remained in the Washington D. C. area until 1962, when he returned to Maine. In 1964 he began working for the Maine Central Railroad and remained with them until he retired in 1996. Not ready to settle into complete retirement, Bill turned to house painting as a new career and stayed with this until 2006 when he finally called it quits. During the return of troops at end of Desert Storm in 1991-1992, Bill attended as many flight arrivals as his work schedule would allow.

When troop flight activity resumed in 2003, Bill was among the handful of people meeting flights as often as they could. Often staying around the clock, going home for a nap and then returning to the airport, this group without any real organization began setting up calling tree communication to let each other know flight schedules, obtained a donation of telephones for the arriving troops, and eventually grew into a group of sixty to seventy people by year end 2003. Bill has served on the board of directors and is currently a member of the membership committee. He has received many awards over the years, but one he is very proud of is the American Flag that was flown over a base in Afghanistan and was presented to him at our annual meeting in 2012 for greeting the most flights that year.

On the family side, Bill has passed on a military tradition to his two sons, daughter, two stepsons and a grandson, all of whom have served or serve at this time. He is also active with American Legion Post 12, where he holds the position of Sgt. at Arms.

As of December 31, 2013



IN SYMPATHY: Condolences to the families of the following Troop Greeters who have recently passed away:

Jean Moffet	September 15, 2013
Barbara Jewell	November 1, 2013
William "Bill" Knight	December 25, 2013
Fred Hardin	January 2, 2014

LETTER OF APPRECIATION: Troop Greeters, I wanted to thank you for the warm welcome home! We passed through Maine a couple of weeks ago, and I can't tell you what it meant to come off the plane, finally back in the U.S., and to see your group of veterans and supporters there to welcome us. It was all I could do to keep the tears away, (a few slipped out, to be honest).

What a great organization, and thank you for taking time away from your schedules to meet us. Just so you know, it was much appreciated. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
LTC James V. Crawford, MD
Madigan Army Medical Center
Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA
Email to Cathy Czarnecki, dated 11/23/2013



Weightlifting Record Holder: Karen Campbell, daughter of Troop Greeter Roberta York has been a competitive weight lifter for the past ten years. Over this time, she has set forty six world records as sanctioned by the WABDL weight lifting federation. Competing in the 181lb. class, she is currently ranked #1 in the world for the bench press lifting 463 lbs. and #3 in the world for the dead lift at 504lbs, these rankings are set by powerliftingwatch.com.

Karen, a mother of two and grandmother of three, with one more on the way is looking forward to defending her records in Wisconsin this coming April.



Maine Troop Greeter Natasha Reynolds: Natasha Marie Reynolds, a Troop Greeter since 2011, and grandniece of Troop Greeter Roberta York deployed to Korea on December 10th, 2013 for a one year tour of duty. Natasha, a 2012 graduate of Hermon High School, where she was a member of the JROTC for three years completed her training as a wheeled vehicle mechanic at Fort Jackson South Carolina. Natasha was able to spend two weeks at home before deployment and told her family "I enjoyed meeting the troops, but never thought that one day I would be in their boots"

Graduation Ceremony: Troop Greeter Leon Higgins who recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday had the honor of pinning his own wings earned 69 years ago to the uniform of his grandson Travis A Berry at the ceremony at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma on December 18th, 2013.

End of Photo Shoots: Bud and Lynne Tower have let us now that with the end of 2013 they will stop taking pictures for the Our Stop in Maine website. Today's technology makes it possible for service people passing thru Bangor to keep in touch with their families on their own. They pass on their appreciation to Nory and Galen Jones and Cheryl and Ron Lare for the work they have done over the years. Bud and Lynne will continue to photograph and post activities for the Patriot Guard.

Bill Knights Funeral: A Big Thanks to Troop Greeters who made a contribution for flowers and a \$100 donation to the Salvation Army made in Bill's name.

MAINE TROOP GREETERS: THE EARLY YEARS

As 2013 came to an end, so did the tenth year of Maine Troop Greeters. We thought that we would recognize those Greeters who were with the organization in the beginning. We soon learned that the number of people who were active in 2003 as Greeters was much larger that we had thought, and that attendance records are no longer to be found. We hope we have accounted for everyone, but if you know of someone who was a Greeter in 2003 and is not on this list, let us know.

Everett Steele	Harry Rideout	Sharon Rideout	Bill Knight	Harold Hansen
Bill Dean	Margarey Dean	Marion Rudnicki	Jean Rudnicki	Al Dahl
Dee Denning	Maxine Doucette	Joan Gaudet	Gerry Mundy	Bud Tower
Lynne Tower	Joanne Black	John Moore	Angie Moore	Fred Hardin
Carol Hardin	Don Guptill	Gloria Guptill	Sylvia Thompson	Dick Shaw
Freeland Jones	Sally Jones	Peter Jones	Karen Walker	Norm Rossignol
Sid Buzzel	Ruth Merrill	John Buckingham	Betty Buckingham	Cathy Czarnecki
Charles Fisher	Ellen Fisher	Charlotte Moscone	Francis Cartier	Debbie Daniels
Don Crosby	Alexis Daniels	Laura Daniels	Paige Daniels	Joe Dudley
Dick Campbell	Dwight Blodgett	Clayton Dodge	Dottie Dodge	Don Mattson
Chuck Maples	Don Gallupe	Pat Gallupe	Kirk Cline	Judi Cline
Dick Gifford	Dana Chase	Sandra Warner	Neil Williams	Randy Klug
Kay Liebowitz	Janet Klug	Jan Kopang	Dwight Chessie	Roger Begin
Joyce Goodwin	Ted Rudnicki	Richard Banker	Ina Banker	Nancy Bond
Frank Jewell	Barbara Jewell	Gordon Reynolds	Lucy Reynolds	Ted Curtis
Rose Curtis	Joe Cushing	Edith Cushing	Paul Martin	Patti Pelletier

TROOP GREETER MUSEUM: If you would like to be a member of an Ad-Hoc committee to review fund raising options for the proposed museum, please submit your name to a board member.