

# THE MAINE TROOP GREETERS

## SPRING NEWSLETTER



Vol. 2 Issue 2  
Apr - Jun 2013

### WELCOME NEW TROOP GREETERS

Ashley Luhrs 1/7/13  
David Morgan 1/27/13  
Anne Collins 1/28/13  
Lorraine Myers 2/4/13  
Bruce Carter 2/5/13  
Hannah Ainslie 2/6/13  
Patricia Pereira 2/6/13  
Amelia Mank 2/6/13  
Carrie Cressy 2/12/13  
Heather Currier 2/12/13  
Megan Boucher 2/19/13  
Joyce Ibana 2/23/13  
Kate Abbott 2/23/13  
Alycia Campbell 2/27/13  
Anne McDougal 2/27/13  
John Ryder II 2/28/13  
Brian Polley 3/16/13  
Sarah Rodier 3/16/13

Jr. Members  
Garrett Courtney 1/4/13  
Justin Courtney 1/4/13  
Molly McDougal 2/27/13

*Welcome* to our spring issue of our Maine Troop Greeters Newsletter. Yes, spring is here, the days are getting longer, snow-birds are returning, and the snow has almost disappeared. Let's keep this spring spirit going by continuing to meet flights and greet troops with the energy that Maine Troop Greeters are known for.

### 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

- We have some great new members whose positive outlook and enthusiasm are helping us make the time that our tired Troops spend in Bangor as comfortable and pleasant as possible.
- Some of us would like to regularly meet military aircraft. However, Passenger Service gets little actionable information on military flight operations. Many times the guard refueling unit handles these flights. Certainly, if a key control greeter is in the airport when a military flight crew is in the passenger area, open up for them. Remember anybody on a military flight, even military families, may use our facilities.
- Many of our younger Greeters use face book, twitter etc. to communicate and wonder why we don't have an official site, Pease, New Hampshire does. We don't. It's too easy to talk about our Troops and flights. **We can't live with a security leak.**
- Last, please limit contact with passenger service unless you are the designated key person.

Chuck Knowlen

*BANGOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT*

*HOME OF THE MAINE TROOP GREETERS*

FLIGHTS MET: 6,739  
TROOPS GREETED: 1,384,587

AS OF MARCH 31, 2013

## ***Greeter Profile***



Upon graduation from college – see attached photo – Margaret Puckett felt that a career in the Army offered her the opportunity for advancement and growth that she wouldn't find elsewhere. At that time there were no ROTC programs for women nor did West Point offer any training, and as a result, it took Margaret and the Army a year to work out the various details before she was eligible to enter service as an officer.

Entering the Army as a Second Lieutenant, Margaret embarked on a career that was to take her to Europe twice, the Far East, and numerous Army posts in the U.S. Twenty years later, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, she could look back on a career of increasing responsibilities and continuous advancement. Working in the areas of Public Information, Supply Operations Management and Logistical Planning, she developed the skills necessary to publish award winning newspapers and newsletters, manage multi-million dollar supply facility budgets, and develop Public Relation programs

Upon leaving the Army, Margaret took a few years off to adjust to non-military family life. Although, not originally from Bangor, Margaret and her family moved here during this time to be near a sister and her parents. She and her two older sisters had grown up and went thru their school years in Manchester New Hampshire. While she had always been involved in volunteer activities, such as Sunday school teacher, Girl Scout Leader, and Teacher's Aide for at risk students, Margaret was now able to apply skills developed in the Army to Volunteer Management. She was Executive Director for the Bangor Historical Society for two years and then became Volunteer Services Coordinator for St Joseph Hospital. Because of her military background, Margaret was asked to represent Sister Mary Norberta CEO of the hospital at a Troop Greeter awards ceremony in 2006. Understanding what the mission of Maine Troop Greeters meant to the military community, Margaret soon became a member. Once a Troop Greeter, she recognized that the coin collection which numbered 2200 coins at that time was in the need of organization and management. Taking on this responsibility, she has established the protocols and discipline to manage the collection which now numbers over 4900 coins with 3600 currently catalogued and on display in our cabinets in our room at B.I.A. In Margaret's words, "a trust has been placed in Maine Troop Greeters to manage the coin collection", and she would see to it that we honored that trust. In addition, she has just completed the development of a data base program that has pulled together into one format information that has been split up into different categories for years, greatly increasing our control of membership records and our ability to communicate.

What a lucky day it was for Maine Troop Greeters when Margaret was asked to represent Sister Mary Norberta at that awards ceremony.



### **Bangor International Airport – Today**

This is the final segment of our three part series on the history of Bangor International Airport. Parts one and two were presented in the previous two newsletters. This segment covers the time period of 1968 to present day.

With the closing of Dow Air Force Base in 1968, the city of Bangor purchased a portion of the base and land and reopened the airport in 1969 as Bangor International Airport. That portion of land not sold to the city became the facility for the Maine Air National Guard and is the home of the 101<sup>st</sup> Refueling Wing providing 24 hr. air and ground refueling services, with the air refueling carried out by the K-135 tanker aircraft.

During the 70's thru the early 90's, B.I.A. proved to be a popular refueling spot for commercial charter airlines flying from Europe to the U.S. especially the west coast of the United States. Passing thru the International terminal, passengers could be processed for customs and immigration checks as the plane was being refueled. So, it was not unusual in those days to see planes representing airlines from around the world sitting at the international terminal. One of the humorous stories from that era that made national news involved a German tourist who thinking that he had reached his final destination while the plane was being refueled, walked out of the airport and wandered around Bangor

for four days believing he was in San Francisco. Other notable events taking place at the airport during this time included the filming of a two part TV movie based on a Stephen King novel, and a mini summit in 1995 between VP Al Gore and Russian officials covering economic cooperation issues .

With an 11,439 ft. runway B.I.A. can handle any commercial plane flying today including the Airbus 380 super jumbo jet and was a backup landing site for the space shuttle for NASA. Due to location and runway length, B.I.A is frequently used as a site for diverted aircraft either entering or departing from North America on transatlantic flights .Whether due to passenger illness, security threat or mechanical problems, both personnel and equipment at B.I.A. have to be at ready status to handle these unscheduled landings. Today, three airlines account for about twenty departures a day, and of course for Maine Troop Greeters our concern is with those flights carrying our Troops.

**LETTER OF  
APPRECIATION**



Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to extend my greatest appreciation to your organization and specifically to Gloria Guptill. My husband recently returned from Afghanistan and flew thru Bangor on December 9. While deployed, he missed the first four plus months of the lives of our boy/girl twins who were born in July.

While in Bangor, he received two beautiful hand-made baby blankets from Mrs. Guptill. My husband and I were very touched by the generosity and dedication of your organization and specifically Gloria Guptill. We can't thank you enough for all you do and want to offer a special Thank You for the generosity and thoughtfulness extended to those who have newborn children while deployed.



All our Best,  
Major and Mrs. VanOrven, Henry & Sofia  
Letter received January 2013

**Armed Forces Day May 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM Open House Bangor International Airport**

Armed Forces Day is the one day of the year when the community comes together to honor those Americans serving in one of the five military branches. Mark your calendar, program your smart phone, put a note on the fridge...and bring a friend to help us celebrate this day. Our Community Relations committee is hard at work to make this year's event the best we have ever had.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**April 13<sup>th</sup>** ....Quarterly General Meeting 10AM - noon.

Bangor Parks & Rec. Bldg. 647 Main St.

All members please attend. BBQ lunch to follow meeting

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** .....Armed Forces Day, 1PM till 4 PM.

Bangor International Airport, open house for Greeters, families and community

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** ....Veteran's Grave Flag Day, Maine Veteran's Memorial Cemeteries, in Augusta

Volunteers needed, car-pooling a possibility. More details to be covered at

April 13 meeting or contact Chuck Knowlen 356-6545

**May 27<sup>th</sup>**... Memorial Day, plan on attending local parades and ceremonies

## **Remember Me 2013**

The Maine Health Care Association has selected Troop Greeter Bill Knight to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award for 2013. The awards presentation will be made in the Hall of Flags area of State Capitol Bldg. in Augusta on Friday April 12 10AM ..Please help to honor Bill with your attendance. Bill currently resides at the Maine Veterans' Home, 44 Hogan Rd., Bangor 04401.

**Austin Croft:** Troop Greeter Jody Croft would like all to know that son Austin graduated with Honors from his boot camp training class at Lackland AFB, San Antonio Texas on Feb. 15 of this year. Austin ranked in the top ten percent of a class of 863.

Austin is a 2012 honor graduate of Brewer High School, where he participated in cross country. In addition to school activities, he played guitar and studied Karate. Austin is now in tech school at Vandenberg AFB, Ca. for Missile and Space Facilities Maintenance. So the next time you see Jody and younger brother Ryder, (blue hair) you will understand where that proud smile comes from.

**Congratulations:** to Troop Greeter Luke Krummel and wife Sarah on birth of daughter Lucy Reece, born March 29. Everyone is doing fine...

**Sick Call:** Bill Knight is at the Maine Veterans Home, 44 Hogan Rd. Bangor, 04401

Dana Chase is at Winterberry Heights Assisted Living, 932 Ohio St, Bangor, 04401