

November, 2018, Volume 8, Num. 9

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*Ann's Choice Residents and Guests are invited to attend Veterans Group Programs and Events-
(Meetings are open to ALL residents)*

Veterans Day Service November 9, 2018 at 10:30 am, Ann's Choice PAC

On Friday November 9, 2018 starting at 10:30 am the Veterans Group invites



residents for a remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the "Eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" when hostilities ceased in World War I.

All members are asked to wear their Ann's Choice Veterans Group shirts.

Please note, the start time for this event will be 10:30, and there will be muffled battlefield background noise until 11:00.

Volunteer and Service Opportunities

There is a continuing need for help with the program to drive veterans to the Horsham VA Center. Volunteers do not have to be veterans themselves in order to assist veterans getting to their appointments. Call Judy Wright at 215-674-2328 for information about the program or to schedule a ride.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the Deployable Flags Program. For more information or to volunteer call Jerry Wright at 215-674-2328.

New Members

A big welcome to Len Borthwick (US Air Force, 1960 - 1964) who recently joined the Ann's Choice Veterans Group.

Save the Date – Next Regular Veterans Group Meeting Tuesday, January 15, 2019 in the PAC

The next regular meeting will be in January next year. More information about the program for that meeting will be in the January 2019 issue of *The Bugle Call*.

Save the Date – Bob Hope Comes to the PAC on Tuesday, December 18, 2018

The Veterans Group will present a selection of Bob Hope's USO shows on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the PAC. There will be a pre-show at 6:45. A suggested donation of \$ 3.00 at this event will help support service projects of the Veterans Group.



Return to Standard Time

On Saturday night, November 3, remember to set your clocks back one hour before retiring. This is the weekend when we switch back to standard time from daylight saving time.



**Lt. Col. Alexander Miguel Roberts,
Veteran of WWI and WWII,
Prisoner of War, and Aviation Enthusiast**

Lt. Col. Alexander Miguel Roberts served as an Army pilot during World War I. He reached celebrity status back home after his plane was shot down over Belgium in July 1918. After surviving his plane crash, the German Army captured Roberts, taking him as a prisoner of war. Hometown newspapers reported on Roberts's experiences during the war.



Roberts was born in Mexico City on October 13, 1895. His father was an American citizen, and his mother became a naturalized citizen after the family moved to Mississippi. During his childhood, Roberts often traveled back and forth between Mississippi and Havana, Cuba with

his family.

Roberts attended Mississippi State University and studied electrical engineering. When the United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917, he withdrew from school to enlist in the Army. He attended flight training for about a year before going to France in June 1918.

On July 19, 1918, on his first mission, Roberts engaged in aerial combat against German aircraft over Belgium. He successfully shot down the first plane he engaged. As Roberts watched the enemy plane go down, the German ace pilot Josef Jakobs caught him off guard and gained an advantage. The German ace disabled Roberts's plane and Roberts became the ace's 24th victory.

At home the newspapers headlines blazed: "Gulfport Youth in German Prison," and "A.M. Roberts Alive Though Prisoner, Young Aviator, Well-Known in Gulfport, Missing, - Found in German Prison." Syndicated articles appeared in newspapers across the country - everywhere from Biloxi, Denver, Chicago, and beyond. In his

encounter with the Germans, Roberts managed to bring down one of the enemy planes despite his squad being outnumbered three to one. Roberts described his only combat mission this way:

I picked out a machine... and let drive at it when to my intense satisfaction, I saw that I had scored. The machine started on its downward flight and I was watching it to see the crash, when I was attacked by another machine which I had not seen. I was taken at a disadvantage. Shots from the enemy machine disabled my own and ripped my sleeve but failed to injure me. My plane descended and when it struck earth I was inside the German lines and was made a prisoner.

After his capture, Roberts refused to stand down and attempted escape several times. Traveling from Liege, Belgium to Aachen, Germany, Roberts jumped out of the train he was traveling in and tried to make it to the border before being recaptured. On another occasion, he and fellow serviceman Hector Gray created a rope out of sheets to escape out of a window at the prison and then hid in the Black Forest for a week before returning to the prison for lack of food.

During Roberts's imprisonment, the German ace who shot down his plane visited him. Jakobs (*see related story on page 3*) told Roberts that he felt relieved to learn that he had survived the crash, and that the pilot of the aircraft that Roberts had shot down also survived. The ace promised to write Roberts's father while he was imprisoned. In 1919, after the end of the war, Roberts was released and returned to the United States.

After returning home, Roberts continued his career as a pilot. He flew in air shows and races across the country. Roberts reached a level of national fame and used this status to promote the aviation industry.

Roberts reentered military service during World War II. The U.S. Army promoted him to Lieutenant Colonel and he served as an aviation adviser.

Roberts dedicated much of his life to the new, quickly growing field of aviation. He served his country in both World War I and World War II. On July 23, 1988, Roberts died at the age of 92 in Tampa.

Based on an article posted in Memorial Affairs, Veterans Legacy Program website by Kenneth Holliday, and supplemented with other internet materials.

Josef Carl Peter Jacobs World War I German Ace



Josef Carl Peter Jacobs (15 May 1894 – 29 July 1978) was a German flying ace with 48 victories during World War I. His total tied him with Werner Voss for fourth place among German aces.

Josef Jacobs was born in Kreuzkapelle, Rhineland, German Empire and learned to fly in 1912, aged 18. As a schoolboy in Bonn, he had been

fascinated by the activities he saw at the nearby flying school in Hangelar. When war broke out, he joined up for the Imperial German Army Air Service to train as a pilot with *Fliegerersatz-Abteilung* (Replacement Detachment) 9.

On 3 July 1915, Jacobs was posted to FA 11 (a reconnaissance squadron) for a year, flying long-range sorties over Allied lines, his first flight occurring the evening of his arrival. His first victory over a French Caudron occurred in February 1916; it was unconfirmed, due to lack of independent witnesses. After leave in April, Jacobs was posted to Fokkerstaffel-West to fly a Fokker E.III Eindecker (monoplane); he finally achieved his first official victory over an enemy aircraft on May 12 when he shot down a two-seater French Caudron crewed only by its pilot. At the end of July, Jacobs and his unit had been pulled back for what became a month's aerial bodyguard duty, protecting General Headquarters at Charleville. On September 1, Jacobs left this duty since it disgusted him, and returned to a front line assignment flying a Fokker E.III. On the 19th, he upgraded to a Fokker D.II.

He achieved his second victory (this time over a Caudron RIV) in January 1917. He achieved three officially confirmed and eight more unconfirmed victories while at Jasta 22, where he remained until August 2, 1917, when he transferred to Jasta 7 as its Staffelführer (commander). On September 10, 1917 Jacobs shot down French ace Jean Matton.



A flyable reproduction of the Fokker Dr.I of World War I, the best known triplane.

During World War I, some aircraft manufacturers turned to the triplane configuration for fighter aircraft. In practice these triplanes generally offered inferior performance to the equivalent biplane and, despite a brief vogue around 1917, only four types saw limited production.

From early 1918, Jacobs started flying the Fokker Dr.I triplane with Jasta 7, and had his aircraft finished in a distinctive black scheme. The Dr I was his favored mount until October 1918 and he used its maneuverability to his advantage, becoming the

triplane's highest scoring ace, with over 30 confirmed victories.

Jacobs' victory tally rose slowly. On July 19, 1918, he downed Alexander Miguel Roberts as he flew his first mission. Now with 24 victories Jacobs was awarded the coveted Pour le Mérite. Jacobs would remain with Jasta 7 until the armistice; his final victory tally was 48 enemy aircraft and balloons.

Jacobs continued to fight against the Bolshevik forces in the Baltic area in 1919. After combat against the Bolsheviks, Jacobs briefly became a flying instructor in the Turkish Army, before completely withdrawing from military activity.

After Hitler came into power, Jacobs became a Major in the Luftwaffe Reserves, although he refused to join the NSDAP ("Nazi" Party) after being personally asked by Hermann Göring. Then after refusing to let Göring become a major shareholder in his company, Jacobs moved his company to the Netherlands, and for a time after the German invasion went into hiding.

Jacobs moved to Bavaria after World War II. He owned a construction crane operation, became president of The German Bobsleigh Society, and aided aviation historians of World War I. He died in Munich on 29 July 1978, the last living aviation recipient of the Pour le Merite.

Based on articles found on [Wikipedia](#).



National Wreaths Across America Day Saturday, December 15, 2018

Each December the Wreaths Across America organization carries out a program to lay

wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery as well as more than 1,400 locations in the fifty states and at locations abroad and at sea. This annual project is undertaken to remember our veterans, honor their service and teach the value and cost of freedom.

The organization understands that we have Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, but our service members sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedoms.

In many homes, there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We hope you will join us at any of our more than 1,400 participating locations to show our veterans and their families that we will not forget. We will never forget

Wreaths Across America's mission touches the lives of thousands of school, scout, civic and religious groups across the country through fundraising for wreath sponsorships. These groups help us ensure that we reach our goal to place a wreath on each hero's grave. In return, they receive fundraising dollars that assist in furthering their own goals and projects.



Locally, Ann's Choice is supporting Wreaths Across America by providing a bus for residents to participate in

the program at Washington Crossing National Veterans Cemetery on Saturday, December 15, 2018.

The Ann's Choice bus will be free of charge for all who RSVP to participate. Please RSVP to Becki Nixon at (215) 443-3140 by December 12th, 2018. The bus will leave from the Village Clubhouse at 10:00 AM and approximate return by 2:00 PM.

This is the schedule for events at Washington Cross National Veterans Cemetery:

11:00 AM: Assembly at the Main Flag Pole area of the National Cemetery

11:15 AM: "REMEMBER-HONOR-TEACH" Program commences

12:00 PM: Program continues with the placing of the wreaths on the headstones

Please note that this is an all-weather event. Dress according to the forecasted weather.

Participants could be standing and walking for an extended period of time so please wear proper foot attire for possible uneven ground.

Information for this article was compiled from www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org and from Ann's Choice flyer.



Patriotic Bouquet Raffle

At the October 16 meeting, Frank Gorman's name was drawn for the skill raffle. Congratulations to Frank!!!

"At the Eleventh Hour"

The last of the workers hired in the Parable of the Workers in Matthew 20 (King James Version) was hired at the "eleventh hour". That phrase has taken on a distinctly martial, or military, tone since the signing of the armistice at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. Its meaning has become synonymous with "at the last minute".

From Swinging the Lead & Spiking His Guns – Military and Naval Expressions and Their Origins.