

PRESIDENT
Mary Hurly
215-420-7472

VICE PRESIDENT
(vacant)

SECRETARY
Bob McQue
215-394-8401

TREASURER
Rose Torgerson
215-672-1416

PAST PRESIDENT
Gordon Larson
215-672-3137

CB1 DIRECTORS
Jack Robbins
215-444-0140
Jerry Wright
215-674-2328

CB2 DIRECTORS
Bob Swan
215-674-1935
James Morgan
215-682-0187

CB3 DIRECTORS
Keith Lawrence
215-444-0116
Don Leypoldt
215-833-2956

SGT AT ARMS
Burt Korn
215-983-7120

SERVICE OFFICER
(vacant)

CHAPLAIN
Louis Schmid
267-282-5466

SHIRTS / MEMBERSHIP
Bob Swan
215-674-1935

PROGRAM
Ken Kastle
215-323-4888

VALET SERVICES
Jim Morgan
215-682-0187

COLOR GUARD LEADER
Jim Seyboldt
267-401-4320

July and August, 2022, Volume 12, Number 7

Warminster, Pennsylvania

*Ann's Choice Residents and Guests are invited to attend Veterans Group Programs and Events
(Meetings are open to ALL with no charge)*

Volunteers Are the Heart of the Veterans Group Mission



WE WANT YOU!

The activities, programs and meetings of the Ann's Choice Veterans Group are organized by dedicated volunteers. They are the lifeblood of our Veterans Group. Here is a listing of opportunities to volunteer and serve. Memorial Flags (donated burial flags of deceased veterans) are displayed on patriotic holidays; contact Gordon Larson (215-672-3137). Our clubhouse entrances and campus are festooned with small flags on patriotic holidays; contact Jim Kibelstis (215-837-7660). It only takes about an hour to deploy flags and to retrieve them.

The colors are presented at meetings and program by our Color Guard team; contact Jim Seyboldt (267-401-4320).

Informative programs are organized by Ken Kastle (215-323-4888).

Rides to nearby Horsham VA Center are provided by dedicated volunteers; Judy Wright (215-674-2328) volunteers as the coordinator for this service activity.

Valets manage residents' mobility devices at many events. This service is provided by Veteran volunteers; without this service, many residents would not be able to attend events in the PAC.

Additional volunteers are needed for the valet service; contact Jim Morgan (215-682-0187).

This newsletter is edited and published by John Hodges (215-323-4969) with input from other group members. Hard copies of the newsletter are cubby-stuffed to members without email.

Club records and leadership are provided by Mary Hurly (215-420-7472), Bob McQue (215-394-8401) and Rose Torgerson (215-672-1416).

Membership Open

At the Veterans Group meeting in June the membership approved changes to the By-Laws to expand eligibility to all residents for membership in the Veterans Group. Veterans may apply to be a Member, and non-Veterans may apply to be an Associate Supporting Member. Lifetime membership fees are \$50 and \$35 respectively.

All members 1) receive a copy of the monthly newsletter, *The Bugle Call*, 2) will not be asked for a donation at Military Movie Night if wearing their Veterans Group shirt, and 3) may participate in any of the service projects of the Veterans Group. Note: Associate Supporting Members are not eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors.

Rides to Horsham VA Center

Judy Wright organizes the volunteers who provide rides to Horsham VA Center eight miles



from Ann's Choice. Volunteers do not have to be veterans and might be asked to provide a ride about three or four times in a year. For more information, give Judy a call at 215-674-2328.

If you need a ride to the center, please call Judy Wright at 215-674-2328.

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The position of Vice President of the Veteran Group is vacant. The Vice President assists the President in leading the Group. Contact Mary Hurly for information about volunteering for this important position.

The Ann's Choice community needs you.

What would happen if these services provided by the Veterans Group were not available?

Photos of volunteers are on page 4.

The USO

Before the formation of the United Service Organizations, charity groups worked with soldiers deployed in France during World War I. In 1940, some of those charities assembled in New York City to consider forming a similar operation. Initially, it was a way to keep troops occupied as they waited to ship out to serve in World War II. Before long, the USO adopted the concept of "camp shows"; these soon toured in Burma, China, Russia, Bermuda and other areas. About 7,300 performers took part in these shows.

USO Camp Shows, D-Day and Entertaining Troops in ETO during WWII

USO Camp Shows, Inc. began with just seven trucks that traveled to stateside military camps and was tasked with providing live entertainment to troops. Hollywood professionals – actors, producers, radio hosts, dancers, talent agents and more – worked together with the USO team to schedule, coordinate and put on full-fledged shows for all types of military audiences.

Four circuits were organized – Victory, Blue, Hospital and Foxhole Circuits. The Victory and Blue Circuit troupes entertained stateside military personnel; Hospital Circuit troupes visited the wounded. The Foxhole Circuit troupes headed overseas. When the U.S. officially entered WW II in December 1941, USO Camp Show operations drastically increased, particularly in the Foxhole Circuit. Throughout the war, Foxhole Circuit troupes would travel to entertain GIs in Europe, Central Africa, Alaska (then a U.S. territory), the South Pacific and the Middle East, among other locations.



Dinah Shore entertains troops in France, August 1944. photo credit USO

USO Camp Shows Head to Europe

As more U.S. service members poured into England and other parts of Europe after the Pearl Harbor attacks in December 1941, stateside entertainers quickly followed in their footsteps. The first USO performers arrived in the United Kingdom (UK) in 1942.

Big names like Bob Hope, the Andrews Sisters,

Dinah Shore and more eagerly volunteered their time and talents to travel to troops overseas throughout the war. Marlene Dietrich was also a familiar face on the Foxhole Circuit in Europe, making two USO tours there during the war.

In the days and hours leading up to D-Day, the USO was there at the side of U.S. troops. In May 1944, 243 entertainers split into 23 units and were traveling and performing throughout the UK. According to a firsthand account of Army Col.



Marlene Dietrich with troops in France in 1944. Photo credit NARA

Joseph Harkiewicz, on May 20, just 19 days before D-Day, a USO troupe performed for service members preparing for the Normandy invasion in England and the show "was

enthusiastically received."

On D-Day itself, according to the New York Times, Marlene Dietrich was performing for troops in Italy when she heard of the invasion news and announced it to the audience. Dietrich said the crowd "went wild and whistled like mad."

By VE Day, the USO was putting on 700 shows per day all around the world and, by the end of the war, had sent over 7,300 entertainers overseas to perform for the troops. Together, they put on an estimated 420,000 performances for over 130 million service member attendees.

USO Programs Today

Programs depend on the current state of operations, location, budget and availability of volunteers but may include the following:

The Bob Hope Reading Legacy Program – One of the many features of this program is long-distance bedtime stories. Deployed service members can record themselves reading bedtime stories to send to their families back home.

USO Stronger Families Couples Seminar – This program is designed to help couples strengthen and rekindle relationships, work on tough issues and more in a safe environment that facilitates communication. Some of the important topics addressed in these seminars deal with

readjustment issues when service members return home from deployments.

USO Operation Phone Home – Despite living in an age of cell phones and online chat options, the USO's Operation Phone Home program is still important, connecting deployed and remotely assigned military members with family back home. This program began as a simple phone card program but branched out to include internet access and a private telephone network. Those in forward-deployed locations where phone and internet rooms are not available receive free calling cards to help stay in touch with those back home.

The Bob Hope Reading Legacy Program

When U.S. Army Pfc. Brandon Gonzales stepped into the back of a USO van, parked in the middle of a field at his deployment location in Hungary, something felt familiar. The van was outfitted with a cheerful banner, a comfortable chair, a small table with a laptop and stacks of children's books. As Brandon settled into the chair to record himself reading a book, he realized that this was not the first time he had utilized a USO reading program – his father had done this years ago, when deployed to Iraq; he had recorded a video of himself reading to Brandon as a child.

Now, all these years later, life had come full circle and Brandon was doing the same to stay connected to his own child while deployed – all thanks to the USO's Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program.

Although this is Brandon's first deployment in the military, he's all too familiar with the challenges of being separated from

loved ones due to military duties. After all, as a military kid himself, Brandon grew up watching his father leave on multiple deployments.

How One Soldier Relied on the USO

Capt. Cary Creamer has utilized the USO many times throughout his time in the Army National Guard. Over the years, he quickly learned that he could turn to USO lounges when he was stuck at an airport during a layover. It had always been a place where he could refuel, take a quick nap, or even work out before heading to his next training course.



"I've always appreciated the level of care and commitment from USO people I've seen," Creamer said.

Creamer's dedication to the USO went beyond just an appreciation for free Wi-Fi or events to keep spirits high during deployment. The USO was particularly special to him because it was at a USO center, just a week before, that he would see his terminally ill father for one of the very last times.

His father was diagnosed with terminal cancer

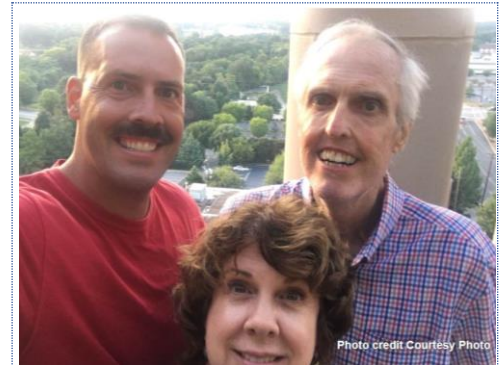
and was not given much time, and yet he had lived beyond the doctor's estimated timeline. "He was supposed to not make it much past last May," Creamer said in December 2019. "So now he's on borrowed time and it's been great. I love every minute I can."

Creamer was set to deploy to the Middle East out of Texas, and as the days inched closer to his deployment, his father was undergoing chemotherapy nearby. Creamer decided to bring his parents – who had never been to a USO before – to the local USO center. Once there, Creamer explained the circumstances of his family's visit and his impending departure to the staff. Without hesitation, the USO staff set aside a private room within the center for Creamer and his family to use and have just a moment to themselves.

Five weeks into deployment ("Everybody has a countdown here," he explained), Creamer had already become an active USO participant as well as a USO volunteer. Although there are permanent USO staff who work throughout the Southwest Asia region, it is often the service members themselves who serve as volunteers at the center in these locations, helping staff do everything from host holiday-themed events to explaining how to use the video game systems.

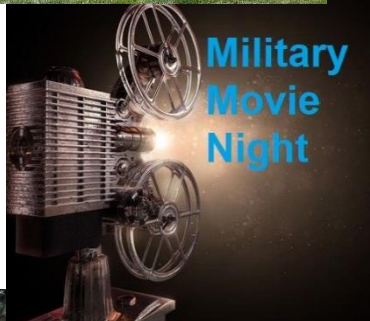
Capt. Cary Creamer's father passed away in the spring of 2020, while Creamer was still on deployment in Kuwait.

Stories from USO website www.uso.org/stories/.



Capt. Creamer with his mother and father at a family send-off lunch, just before deployment to Kuwait.

Volunteers at Work



Voices of Veterans

Did you serve during World War II or the Korean War? Did you serve during Vietnam? Did you serve during a time of no conflict? Did you serve in the Middle East? Did you serve on the Homefront? Do you have stories – humorous anecdotes, what you saw, where you were – that you could share? Do you have any letters which describe what you were doing? New episodes of *Voices of Veterans* are now being recorded, and are being shown on AC TV 977 and 973. If you answered 'Yes' to any questions in the first paragraph, the Veterans Group invites you to share your stories. Steve Rodos (215-620-7315 or srodos@gmail.com) would like to sit with you in the AC TV studio for a short interview.

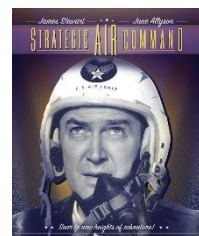


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Military Movie Nights in July and August

On Tuesday, **July 19**, the Veterans Group will show *Strategic Air Command* starring Jimmy Stewart and June Allyson. It will be shown on ACTV 977 (HD) and 973 (SD) at 7:00 pm. 'Dutch' Holland plays baseball for the Cardinal and is recalled into the U.S. Air Force as SAC assumes an increasingly important role in Cold War deterrence.



On Tuesday, **August 16**, *A Gathering of Eagles* starring Rock Hudson, Mary Peach and Rod Taylor. This movie will be shown in the PAC at **7:00 pm** with a pre-show at 6:45. Col. Jim Caldwell takes over a SAC bomber and missile wing after it fails an Operational Readiness Inspection. At the end of the movie the Caldwell's get a phone call. It is for **Mrs. Caldwell; she has a meeting with a volunteer group**. Check the Cubby Chronicle for updates to the schedule.

In the PAC, the suggested donation to help fund service projects of the Veterans Group is \$3.00 per person. Members and Associate Supporting Members who are wearing their official Veterans Group shirts will not be asked for a donation.