



Hartranft Herald

**The Newsletter of
Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

<http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/>

Celebrating our 125th Anniversary



Volume 10, No. 10 'New Members Issue' October 2008



[Come to our general meetings and view central Pennsylvania from high atop Reservoir Park!](#)

A newsletter for, about, and by the members of Camp 15 and Auxiliary 7.

Come One, Come All - Ladies and Brothers, and Family & Friends, all are welcome to our Camp meetings at the National Civil War Museum and field trips at-large -- Bring your camera!

[Report from your staff and officers](#)

Welcome to all new 2008 members!

Our Commander, Greg Kline, has invited five new members to be present at our Fall meeting this weekend, **Sunday, October 19th** at 2pm, at the National Civil War Museum, at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, to conduct the ceremony of membership with them. Sounds like Father's Day 2001 when five new members raised their right hand into membership with us.

Also, during the summer of 2008, a contingent of Camp officers drafted changes to our, nearly decade old, Camp By-Laws and our Fees and Dues schedule. Brother Greg, will give *drafts* of these two written documents to Camp 15 council members for their final draft. At a very near future meeting, under new business, the proposed changes will be presented to the Camp body for approval for 2009.

Newly installed Pennsylvania State Department Commander, John M. McNulty, will hold his mid-year meeting on Saturday, October 25th at Doc Holliday's, New Cumberland, starting at 8:30 am. All brothers

are welcome to sit in on this meeting. You do not need a credentials card for this meeting. Join in on the business of the Department, stay for lunch and select and pay for your own meal from the menu.

Remembrance Day Parade Gettysburg November 22. Contact Brother Greg if you desire to march with Camp 15.

Camp annual holiday party on Pearl Harbor Day, Sunday, December 7th at Doc Holliday's New Cumberland, 11:30 social time – a personal announcement will be forthcoming to Camp members, ladies of auxiliary 7 and guests.

[Executive Director of the SUVCW](#)

Life Member and PDC, Brother Lee Walters, and a past Camp Commander of Hartranft Camp 15, has served our Order since November 2001 as the National Executive Director being responsible for the national database, collection of department annual reports and archival reports and papers of Past Commanders-in-Chief and other officials of the Sons along with old documents, donated GAR and SUVCW relics, books, proceedings and keepsakes, including badges and ribbons, that

keep our Order operating for our 6,000 members. Effective 30 September 2008, Brother Lee has retired again. He has earned this retirement. Camp 15 wishes Lee and Charlotte a long and healthy adventure of rest and relaxation. Knowing Charlotte she will want to travel and Lee will want to work in his workshop. They will both be feeding the wildlife on their property. God bless you Charlotte & Lee.

--- Camp 15.

[Happy Birthday to Camp 15 and Auxiliary 7 October birthday personnel:](#)

Frank Haley	Green Acres, Hbg, PA
John Gearhart	New Columbia, PA
Scott Kramer	Fort Belvoir, VA
Lynn Herman	State College, PA
Penny Rittenhouse	Lewistown, PA
Ted Hazard	Elizabeth, PA

Ladies of the auxiliary, we want you to share your birth month with us so you can be recognized in this publication!

If your name is missing from this birthday roster for this month, please contact the *Hartranft Herald* with corrective information.

[Hartranft deceased](#)

Hartranft, John Frederick (1830-1889) — Born in New Hanover Township, Montgomery County, Pa., December 16, 1830. A Republican, he served in the Union Army during the Civil War; was Pennsylvania state auditor general, 1866-72; then Governor of Pennsylvania, 1873-79; and candidate for Republican nomination for President, 1876. He received the Medal of Honor in 1886 for action at Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861. The General died October 17, 1889. His Interment is at Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, PA, which Camp 15 has visited. The General, of course, is our Camp's namesake!

[Commanders Report](#)

Greetings Brothers,

Our last meeting was a productive one and we inducted three new members, Bill Neumyer, Don Messersmith, and Thomas Bruner. The October 19 meeting will prove to be an even greater new-member bonanza with at least five new members being inducted! Our membership growth for this year has been nothing short of phenomenal and it appears that we have some interested candidates to start off next year as well. My thanks to all of you for helping to spread the word about Camp 15.

I wanted to bring up several items just as a second reminder so that you can mark your calendars. We will be marching in the Remembrance Day parade in Gettysburg on November 22. Anyone interested in attending may contact me at 717-571-6877 or via email at gregsuvcw@yahoo.com for further details. For those who choose not to march, we can use your assistance in handing out flyers to parade spectators.

Make sure to mark your calendars for the annual Camp 15 Christmas Party which will be held on December 7 at the Doc Hollidays in New Cumberland. There will be games, musical entertainment and great food and fellowship so please make plans to be there.

See you this Sunday at our October 19 meeting at National Civil War Museum!

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty, Greg

[SUCVW Camp #15 Minutes](#)
[Sunday, 21 September 2008](#)
[National Civil War Museum](#)

[Pennsylvania Room #222, Harrisburg, PA](#)
[Officers Present: Gregory Kline; John Deppen; Stanley Zellers; Larry Sheibley; David Demmy, Sr.; David Klinepeter; Frank Haley; & Donald Prye.](#)

Officers Absent: Kelly Betz; & Eugene Mascioli.
Members Present: Thomas Bowman; Thomas Bruner; Donald Fry; Norman Houser; Donald Messersmith; William Neumyer; & Lee Walters.
Guest: Sue Messersmith

Commander Kline called the meeting to order at 1404 hours. The Hartranft Camp #15 treasury contains \$1358. Two candidate petitions were read: Dennis Dewalt and Anthony Kline. Brother Deppen moved and Brother Klinepeter seconded that they be given unanimous approval. Present for induction were Thomas Bruner, Donald Messersmith, and William Neumyer. The Commander stated that all copyright paperwork for our anniversary booklet was completed and will be submitted by the end of December.

Secretary Sheibley summarized Department Order #5 from Lee F. Walters, PDC, and Department Order #1 from John M. McNulty, newly installed DC. The official minutes of the Department mid-winter and summer Encampments were made available for camp members.

Brother Houser noted his 28 October "Civil War Letters" presentation at the Halifax Historical Society.

Brother Fry mentioned the Dauphin County Heroes Grove. Brothers Klinepeter and Houser moved and seconded that Camp #15 donate \$100 for the purchase of a brick listing the camp's name.

The Linglestown Church of God wishes to remove or bury the headstones of about 200 graves near the church; three graves are of Civil War veterans. Commander Kline will meet with Carl Book from the church to discuss the matter.

The commander formed a Committee for Civil War Memorials and Preservation. Members are Brothers Bowman, Deppen, and Prye. They will look into the procedures for Civil War tombstone preservation and replacement as followed by the office of Veterans Affairs.

Brother Prye appealed for Civil War teaching materials for home-schooled children. Camp #15 will be participating in the November 22 Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade. A springtime field trip to the Museum of Civil War Medicine is being planned by the Commander. The Senior Vice-Commander will have a slate of officers ready for the October meeting. Please see Brother Deppen if you wish to hold an office or be present at the meeting to volunteer for a position.

A motion to present SUVCW license plates to our new Department Commander at the 11 October luncheon and to our new National Commander-in-Chief at the 22 November Remembrance Day luncheon was made by Brother Klinepeter and seconded by Brother Walters and was passed.

Patriotic Instructor Klinepeter spoke of Civil War dates, the dedication of the new Gettysburg Cyclorama, "Clip-a-Coupon" campaign for families of American soldiers in Iraq, decks of cards showing looted Iraqi artifacts, and the 50th Anniversary of the Harrisburg Civil War Roundtable.

Brother Walters, while PA Department Commander, had written to the staff at the Gettysburg Cyclorama at the new Visitors Center to offer assistance at the Grand Opening Ceremonies. They replied that they needed no help.

The Commander closed the meeting at 1535 hours.

Respectfully submitted with Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, Larry Sheibley, PCC, Camp #15 Secretary, E-mail:

larrysheibley@embarqmail.com

Or regular mail at:

Larry Sheibley, PCC
523 South Fourth Street
Newport, PA 17074-1316

Continued

Camp 15's .45-70 Rifles

Camp 15 has sold three rifles and traded two .45-70s for 1861 models.

Two more black powder .45-70s are available! Interested persons may contact Brother Greg Kline.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN

by Dave Klinepeter

In the October 2008 issue of my American Rifleman I read an interesting article about the 2nd amendment to the Constitution, "the right to bear arms". On April 19, 1775, American colonists took up their muskets to defend their rights and freedom. But what happened after Lexington and Concord, the wholesale confiscation of firearms from the people of Boston, played a major role in determining the Founders' Second Amendment. Bostonians surrendered their arms at Fanell Hall in response to British General Gage's demand they be turned in and "at a suitable time would be returned to their owners."of course, they weren't returned". On October 13, 1775 the United States Navy was established and on November 10, 1775 the United States Marine corps was established.

November 11 was originally set aside as Armistice Day, honoring those who served in the War to end all Wars, now known as World War 1. This date has been changed to now honor all Veterans of all wars.

November 11 1865 This year is the 143rd anniversary of the closing of Camp Curtin. It was the largest training camp in the North. Over 300,000 men went through there during the war, many did not return. It was used as a training grounds, hospital, major supply base, prisoner of war camp. I recommend reading "The Training of an Army" (Camp Curtin and the North's Civil War) by William J. Miller.

November 11, 1990 the 125th anniversary of the closing of Camp Curtin. I was asked to portray Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin for this ceremony. It has been my privilege to continue portraying Governor Curtin to this day. His was a very important and interesting life.

November 19, 2008 145th Anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address at the National Cemetery in Gettysburg. Main speaker will be Ken Burns, James

Getty will portray President Lincoln and David Klinepeter will portray Ward Lamon introducing the President. Lamon was also Lincoln's body guard, chief marshal of the parade, in charge of security and master of ceremonies. --- DJK

Civil War Records

Ages of the boys who fought the Union Battles of 1861 to 1865:

10 years of age	10
11 years of age	68
12 years of age	112
13 years of age	303
21 years of age and under	2,456,112
Over 21 years of age	300,000
Killed during these four years of war	271,000
Wounded	493,000

Source: Official Records, Washington, D.C.

Presented by: R. N. Spohn
G.A.R. Post 157
Memorial Hall
Pittsburgh, Pa.
A long time ago!

The Military

I watched the flag pass by one day,
It fluttered in the breeze,
A young Marine saluted it
And then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud,
With hair cut square and eyes alert
He'd stand out in any Crowd.

I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years,
How many died on foreign soil
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea,
How many foxholes were soldier's graves?
No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,
When everything was still,
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times
That Taps had meant "Amen",
When a flag had draped a coffin
Of a Brother or a friend!

I thought of all the children
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea,
Of unmarked graves in Arlington
No, Freedom isn't free.

Author unknown
Source: Linglestown Life Line newsletter
Shared by Brother Don Fry

If you can read this, thank a teacher.
If you are reading it in English, thank a Veteran!



[New Members Section](#)

Welcome new Brothers into the patriotic fraternity of Camp 15 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

So far this year, eleven men have joined our Camp's ranks. Gentlemen to enable you to learn about your local Hartranft Camp 15, the Department of Pennsylvania and/or the National organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, you may read about us at the following Internet sites:

1. Camp 15
<http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html>
2. Department of Pennsylvania
<http://www.pasucw.org/>

3. National Organization
<http://www.sucw.org/id.htm>

Year 2008 is the 125th anniversary of General John F. Hartranft, Camp 15 Harrisburg, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Read all about our roots in the Camp's 125th history book – yours for the asking, while supply lasts. Donations are always grateful. Contact our Camp Treasurer who is the editor too of our newsletter, the *Hartranft Herald*. His contact data is available on cover of this newsletter or e-mail at DoubleD@Demmy.cc

You can enjoy our monthly Camp newsletter, the *Hartranft Herald*. If you have e-mail, you are expected to accept a monthly e-mail notice that the current issue of the *Hartranft Herald* is available at the Camp website:
<http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html>

Otherwise, your *Hartranft Herald* will be mailed to your home of record. Please inform your Camp secretary, Brother Larry C. Sheibley, PCC, of personal changes such as your address, e-mail and telephone changes – upgrades. It is cheaper for us to mail your Camp news to your current address than pay the post office for your change of address.

All known past issues of the *Hartranft Herald* have been posted on the Camp's website. Several members' profiles and other data are available too on our interest site. Our schedule of events is listed in each issue of your *Hartranft Herald*. The Pennsylvania website offers the Department's Officers and current annual newsletter, *the Battle Cry of Freedom*, as well as photos of a variety of Department events.

The National organization's website offers history on our Order along with other Allied Orders of the GAR, membership data, quartermaster needs and other pertinent data for all members.

Please know that the National Headquarters of the Sons is located in the National Civil War Museum rooms 240 and 241. Please stop by to visit before or after a Camp 15 meeting or call 717 232 7000 for an appointment.

Your dues cover the operating expenses of the National, Department, and local Camp. Dues include your subscription to the National Journal, the *Banner*.

You see abbreviations in everyday life including this organization too, especially on the internet sites and newsletters too. So, to help you understand our abbreviations and jargon go to list on a subsequent page in this newsletter.

The National Civil War Museum®

at Reservoir Park, HARRISBURG, PA
The only museum in The United States that portrays the entire story of the American Civil War! Equally balanced presentations are humanistic in nature without bias to Union or Confederate causes! Check our Events Schedule for Upcoming Living History Programs!
<http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.com/>

Civil War Research please contact



OR GO TO THE WEBSITE INDICATED BELOW

Carolyn S. Billups, The Research Muse

Contact our sister, Carolyn, for your research needs at the website below. Click on it or copy and paste it to your open Internet address box.

http://www.geocities.com/sothronbelle/Research_Services.html

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Camp Hill, PA 17011

Email: victoriandanceensemble@yahoo.com

Recreating a Bygone Era

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

National Headquarters
Executive Director's Office
Rooms 240-241 at National Civil War Museum
100 Concert Drive at Reservoir Park
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17103

Accessible from State Street or Market Street corridors

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR LIGHT FILING

Call 717 232 7000 to make an appointment!

David W. Demmy, Sr. - Executive Director

Member of Hartranft Camp 15
Of the Capital City of Harrisburg

Gracie Allen's Classic Recipe

'Oven Roasted Roast Beef'

1 large roast beef
1 small roast beef

Place both roasts in the oven.

When the little one burns, the big one is done!

[Brothers and Sisters in Distress](#)

SVC John Deppen's mother has a number of ailments including 70% blockage! Please keep the entire family in your prayers.

Marilyn J. Demmy, mother of Jon and Dave Demmy, Jr is under doctor's care for discomfort in her joints, knees, and lumbar area.

Brother Frank Haley continues in remission. Way to go Frank.

PCC Larry C. Sheibley continues to recover from surgery he experienced earlier this year.

Praise and blessings for all of these individuals and their families – after all, the families go thru the ordeals and worryment too.

If you or your family is experiencing some difficulty, you are welcome to share it [at whatever *degree* you may desire] so that we may pray for you and yours. We continue to pray for all brothers and their families who may be in discomfort or experiencing a difficulty.

[What did you do in the War daddy?](#)

Here's a story for you... a 'Friend' works for the Penn State Cooperative Extension in Union County. He called me today at work because he needed some rather unique help

His daughter works for a billionaire in New York who is a graduate of VMI. The billionaire, getting on in years, planned to donate a reproduction Civil War artillery piece to VMI, but the man who was manufacturing the piece died suddenly.

The daughter called home to see if Dad could help her out. Dad then called me to see if I knew of any companies that did such work. I happened to have the most recent Civil War News with me, and so I glanced through it and gave Him some contact information from the advertisements from Iron Works, Historical Ordnance Works, etc

And so when Molly (my dear pre-school daughter) asks me what I did at work today, I can tell her, "I helped to find a Civil War cannon for a billionaire!"

You can't make this stuff up --- John Deppen

[Trailer for sale](#)

On display at Lower Paxton Township home!



All new wood, new wiring, new floor, new paint; about 4' x 6' - Recent inspection - Ready for hookup to your vehicle!

Call 7 1 7 - 6 5 2 - 5 7 6 4 for information.

[Invest in Rub a dub-dub business or be a client](#)

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*Donald Butler, AA, CMT, LMT, NCTM
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Certified Massage Therapists*

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We have 12 years experience in the field of Certified Massage Therapy and Rehabilitation. Mandy is also an RN with a BSN degree.

We both are CPR/First Aid certified. We additionally are mobile, and do massage and rehabilitative work at businesses and homes.

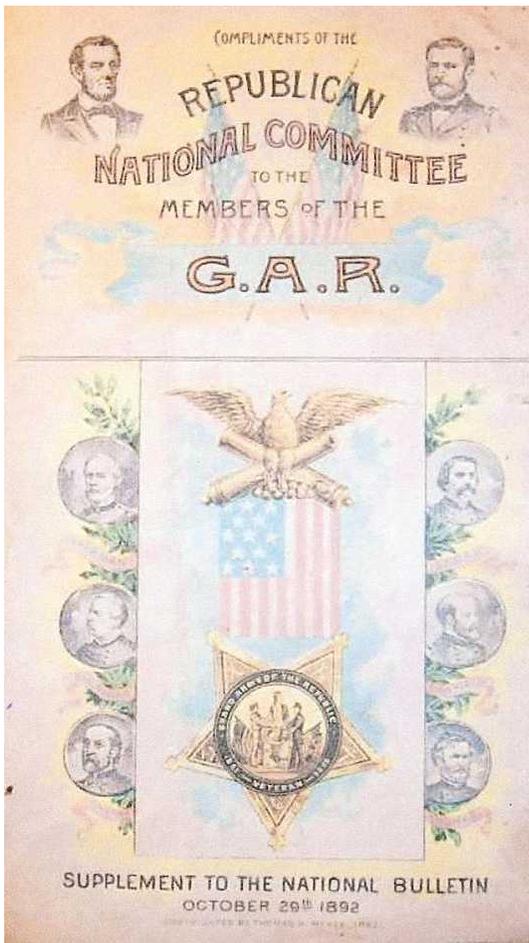
[Civil War 'teaching' Data Desired](#)
Books, magazines, DVDs, videos, stories, maps, etc. are desired for home-schooled children in Central Pennsylvania. If you have such items and would like to donate to this cause, please contact PCC Donnie Prye. The children have an immense

desire to study the Civil War era and items on this subject would aid in the teaching and studying on this big subject – the War of the Rebellion 1861 – 1865.

Contact Donnie in Mifflintown after 6 p.m. at 717 - 436 - 6124 or bring items to any Camp meeting. In F, C, and L. God bless you for donating and sharing your *gently* used materials.

[Vote your choice 2008](#)

Here is a relic from the 1892 election era



A year later, in 1893, the *New York Herald* declared in a scathing commentary, "Thanksgiving Day is no longer a solemn festival to God for mercies given.... It is a holiday granted by the State and the Nation to see a game of football".

Wonder what the editors had to say about the inception of televising sports on TV?



Come along Sir and we will grant you rest!

Terms and abbreviations of our Order – the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

GAR	Grand Army of the Republic
Allied Orders	During its existence the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was aided in its work by five organizations, known as the Allied Orders* of the GAR.
Order	Any one of the 5 Allied Orders of the GAR
SUVCW	Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
Sons	Another name for us – the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Brother	A male who is either a Member, Associate, Junior, Honorary Member or Life Member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Sister	A member of the other Allied Orders – LRC, LGAR, Daughters, Auxiliary
ASUVCW	Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Camp	Local organization of the Sons
Department	A state or alliance of states of the United States of America formed to peruse local camps within its purview; eg: Department of Pennsylvania
WRC	Woman's Relief Corps
LGAR	Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic
DUVCW	Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War
CC	Camp Commander – elected leader of a camp
PCC	Past Camp Commander
DC	Department Commander – elected state leader
PDC	Past Department Commander
CinC	Commander in Chief – elected national leader of SUVCW
PCinC	Past Commander in Chief
Rituals	A series of activities for opening, closing and operating the meetings and Encampments of the Order
Encampment	(A convention of) The official body of the National Organization of each of the Allied Orders and of their Departments
BIGS	Brother(s) in Good Standing with our Order
FCL	Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty - The principles upon which the Grand Army of the Republic and its Allied Orders were founded, and under which the Allied Order currently operate
Charter	A document issued by the Commander-in-Chief giving a Department or Camp the right to exist within the Order and under its regulations
MAL	Members-at-large
SVC	Senior Vice Commander – first officer after Commander
JVC	Junior Vice Commander – second officer after Commander

Camp Officers and other authors, The Deadline for submission of stories, events, articles, and photos to be published in our monthly Hartranft *Herald*, is the first Friday of each month.

2008 Camp schedule of events - - - please update your calendar accordingly.

Camp 15's Calendar of Events for 2008

October 19 – Sunday 2pm	General Camp Meeting at National Civil War Museum
November	No general meeting – Camp to participate in Remembrance Day
November 22 – Saturday	Annual Remembrance Day at Gettysburg
December 7 – Sunday 11:30 am social time	Annual Camp Holiday Dinner – Pearl Harbor Day 1941 Doc Holliday's Restaurant – New Cumberland, PA Installation of officers for 2009 and a Civil War holiday for you and yours – please plan to attend.
January 18 – Sunday	General Camp Meeting at National Civil War Museum
January 31, 2009 Saturday	World War II - period re-enacting; ** and vehicles which have been magnificently preserved!

**** The World War II Federation and Fort Indiantown Gap presents the 64th Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge.**

Saturday - January 31, 2009.

http://www.wwiifederation.org/p_index.html

Interested personnel only – this is not a sanctioned Camp field trip!

You may Go as an individual, carpool, and/or meet interested members for Breakfast; and then onto the re-enactment at the Gap.

Dress appropriately for January at the Gap!

2008 Camp [calendar](#) available on our Camp Website

* Allied Orders of the GAR

- ❑ Woman's Relief Corps Auxiliary to Grand Army of the Republic,
- ❑ Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic,
- ❑ Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War,
- ❑ Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and
- ❑ Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Be Proud Wear The Badge



Come out to a meeting and join us!

Looking Ahead into November and December 2008:

- Photos, as they become available, of recent SUVCW activities.
- Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members. Applications were inserted in Camp 15's 125th Anniversary history book.
- Keep a copy of your 2008 schedule of events and calendar handy for reference.
- Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!
Family and our sisters of Auxiliary 7 are always welcome!
- Annual Christmas Holiday party to be held on Sunday, December 7th – the December *Hartranft Herald* will be published after the Holiday gathering to show off photos of the event. Stories and event photos welcomed!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

Contact *Hartranft Herald* at DoubleD@Demmy.cc

--- End of September 2008 Hartranft Herald ---

"People are the most important part of any organization." - Lt. General Harold G. Moore, author of *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*– made into a movie which became a fine tribute to some of the first 1964 US troopers in Vietnam starring Mel Gibson as Hal Moore – a lead-by-action and best-friend-to the America soldier since World War II - - - In the same class as the late Colonel David Hackworth, one the most decorated soldiers in our military since World War II.

--- End ---