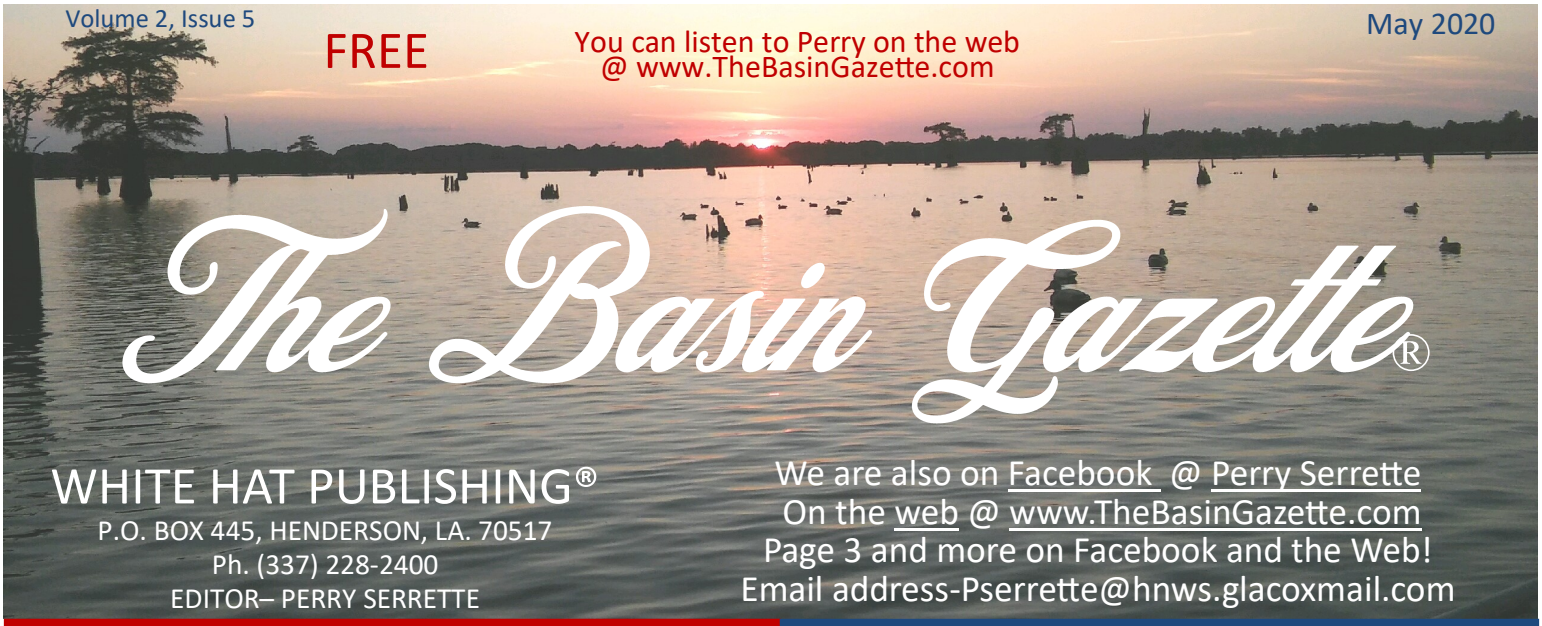
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May 2020



# The Basin Gazette®

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## Continued from Lords of the Basin, by Kenneth Delcambre

## 1920-1927

From day one, the railroad was ahead of it's time and the people who chose to found the village of Atchafalaya presented the same enthusiasm.

The government-ordered levees were in place, protecting Breaux Bridge, Cecilia, Arnaudville and basically the entire western ridge of the basin. Today, with the data history has given us, we can see how inadequate they were. In some places, one could jump over them.

Mulate Guidry stated that siltation then became a major problem among the swamp dwellers as well as the people of Atchafalaya, keeping in mind, the folks at Pelba suffered this change in history mutually. The Atchafalaya River and many of the streams and bayous in the basin could not push out the silt" It, therefore, collected on the basin floor causing a rise in the water table. The Atchafalaya River itself, an extremely deep river, was shallowed to a great degree. At Butte La Rose, 35 feet of siltation took place, while Atchafalaya had 30 feet and Melville some 43 feet. The silt was a hard and well packed composition of sand sediment. The houses and other structures at Atchafalaya were jacked up annually to stay above the water line, but the railroad could not be elevated, nor the bridge.

By 1923, the flooding in the basin began to play hell with the line. J.B. Nepveaux of Breaux Bridge made his first "pay run" as a fireman on the swamp railroad in 1923. Nepveaux said, "the locomotives struggled valiantly to keep going. Its top speed was about 20 miles per hour and very frequently on an average speed of 8 and 10 miles per hour."

"The locomotives used," Nepveaux said, "were the 400 type and could only operate in 20 to 24 inches of water or until their fire boxes were swamped."

C.R. Shaw stated, "we couldn't run fast. The tracks on the dirt embankment were unstable and we had a constant problem with slippage."

Cont. on page Two




## The Henderson/Nina Water System

Would like to make an announcement. It has been confirmed that they will be receiving a Federal grant for the Butte La Rose water project. They have been working on this project to bring good water to Butte La Rose for over three years.

This is great news for the people of Butte La Rose. This has been a great concern for many years. There are two more hurdles to jump, the final approval of financing from LDH and the Corps of Engineers. Once that is achieved the bids will go out.

## The President of the United States

Has made an announcement to re-open the businesses and let people get back to NORMAL. That direction is left to the Governor of each individual State. The state of Texas seems to be the first to make the move. Hopefully the State of Louisiana will follow soon.

I know everyone is anxious to get out and feel some kind of normality. This will be a slow process, and most people should and will continue to wear face masks. The venerable will feel safer.

The real numbers are starting to be reported. It seems that we've been lied to all along because of greed. The hospitals get more grant money for each death they report as connected to COVID-19.

## Lords of the Basin

Continued from page one

This occurred in areas where the embankment was built up alongside a canal or stream. The embankment tended to slide toward the stream.

When the water was up, you could not see the tracks and there was no guarantee that they were even there. "Southern Pacific had a flatcar placed in front of the engine and a bridge gang became part of the branch year around," Sidney Martin recalled, "When water covered the tracks, someone had to walk ahead of the engine to assure the engineer the tracks were in place, keeping in mind….. this train carried passengers."

In 1924, Tom Bernard offered his talents as a contractor to the Southern Pacific Line. Bernard hired a number of basin residents to remove the silt by hand shovel. This process took from one and a half to two months to complete. Bernard at this time, said that his future business interests and the interests of Atchafalaya depended completely upon the railroad, and he was right. Fish could be transported by other means, but his apiary business was of a more successful standpoint beyond the outer reaches of the basin. He could foresee a termination, if the line was discontinued.

As early as the 1870's, the unwritten laws of the basin were verbally spoken and understood. Many murders took place in their defense, and in the 1920's, maximum efforts were again enforced.

Being that a radical water table had an effect on the fish catches, these said boundaries of the basin dwellers were closely watched, mainly because of the squatters and drifters who were coming down from all parts of the country. Hunting areas were also well guarded.

Many of the drifters did make a move to overtake the areas of the basin claimed by the Cajuns, but in many cases….. in self-defense, they were shot on the spot, and the Cajuns would put hoop net weights on the victims and sent them to the bottom of the Atchafalaya River.

Mulate Guidry was one of the few basin associates hired by the U.S. Corp of Engineers,

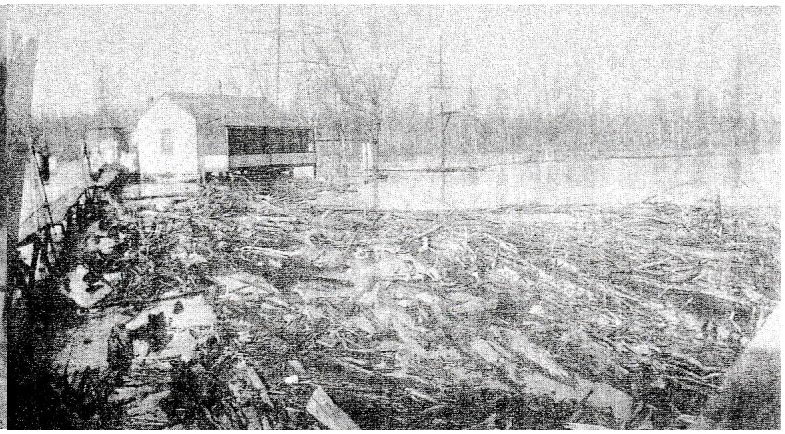
Continued on page three

Don't forget page 3 and more will be on Facebook @PerrySerrette and the web @TheBasinGazette.com.

# Views of Atchafalaya, Louisiana







## Front yards



## Back yards



## The Children

Tom Bernard (hat) with a right-of-way worker

## Lords of the Basin

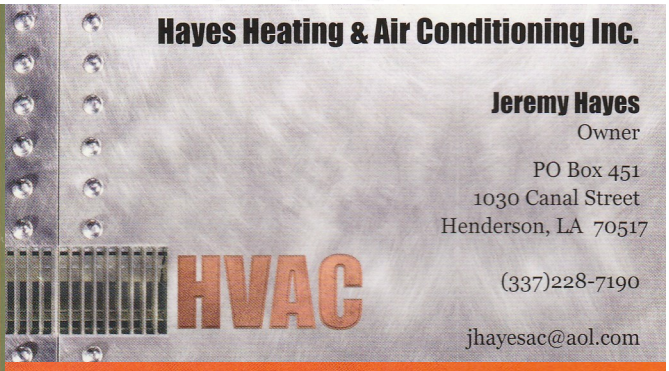
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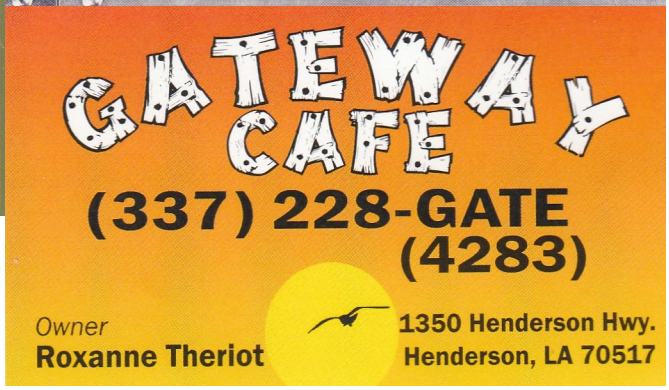
because of his knowledge of the basin. Although he was just a boat pilot at this time, his monitoring of the siltation of the basin and wild game relocations, became the data in which the Corp was interested. Later we find, during the Great Depression, that Guidry's popularity and kindness would be long respected, even to this day.

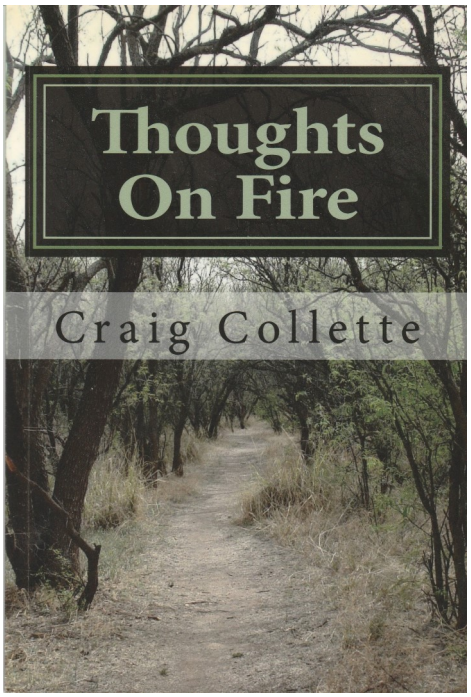




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# Another poem by Craig Collette

## Drinker of the Wind

You drink up the wind like fire
Racing across the hot desert sands,
Head held high in your proud, Arabian style,
Living up to all the great Bedouins' demands.

Tails carried high, nostrils all a flare,
Drawing speed, strength and courage from the wind;
And with the trumpet sound of Mohammed calling,
You would ever prove your loyalty in the end.

Thunder and lightning on four strong legs,
Extraordinarily graceful, floating above the ground.
Snorting and neighing, mane flying in the wind,
Father of the best horses ever found.

Legend has it that your creation was divine:
A wind sprout swirling across the hot desert floor
Gathered itself together into a fine, prancing horse.
And so you were cast into legend forevermore.

With divine blood coursing through your veins,
It's no wonder that you could fly like the wind.
Eyes of fire, and the angel Gibril upon your back,
You were great, there was no need to pretend.

Bred for fighting, sparks flying from your hooves,
Standing steady against both arrow and spear.
Unafraid of the blood and gore of war,
You would plunge into battle without fear.

You could outrun the striped zebra and swift gazelle,
So your good masters were always well fed.
You were the honor of many a sultan and sheikh
And often to their fine stables were led.

You've been the desire of every Arabian
And the possession of many others as well:
Solomon, Napoleon, royalty of England and France;
Still the stuff of which legends will ever tell.

So into the 21st century your legend thrives,
The horse to which all other horses aspire.
You were great when blown into existence
And your greatness passes on from sire to sire.

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# Ask Boudreaux

Dear Boudreaux,
My husband is building a barn.
What color should we paint it?

# Boudreaux

Mien Cher, let me tell you what I think.
Most people paint their barn red.
I think that's the wrong color.
If I had a barn, I'd paint it brown.
You see everything the cows and horses leave in there is brown. That way it all blends in.
That's from a decorators point of view.




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*I have no idea where we're going at this point in time. Neither does anyone else. Buckle up! We are Americans. We will survive. Toilet paper? Who would have thought? In 2050, when little Johnny pulls out the last roll of toilet paper his parents bought in 2020 he'll have no clue why they had so much.*

*There's about a 20 year memory span in the world. Learn your history and teach your kids. Not knowing your history means that you're doomed to repeat it.*

*Being liberal is not a bad thing. We need to be able to see both sides of the coin. It's good to listen to advice but any decision you make is yours alone. If you take someone's advice and later regret it, remember it was your choice, not theirs. They just gave you advice. You accepted it.*

People wake up! Take responsibility for your actions. If you think you have a cold or just allergies don't mix with others.

You can transmit what you have to others. It was customary to shake hands or hug. In this day and age do like the Indians used to do. Open your right hand and raise it above your shoulder. That is to let the person you're greeting know you're not armed.

That was always the reason for hand shakes. The real meaning seems to have been lost. If more people learned this there would be less diseases transmitted. In your opinion this COVID-19 virus may not be any more deadly than other viruses. That does not mean it is not fatal to others.

If you see someone shaking hands say something. Old habits die hard. We can change that. If someone you know dies it's to late!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! That's something you can't back up.

# MAY BIRTHDAYS



1st Morgan Tauzin
Khloe Mire
Amanda Amy
Michael Brown
Amanda Amy
Troy Guidry
3rd Trenton Usie
Brandy Dupuis
Stacy Duplechein Bergeron
Monica T. Meche
Skipper Robinson
4th Mike Thibodeaux
7th Tori Robicheaux
8th Norma Cupp
10th Naomi Angelle Maraist
12th Summer Cormier Noel
13th Beth Mix
15th Telly James Cormier
16th Ted Patin
Landon Prejean
Desine Marie Broussard Bennett
17th Michelle Marie Savoie
Frank Thomassee, Jr.
18th Tyra Patin
19th Shae Stelly
Davy A. Cormier
20th Chad Robicheaux
Sandra Ann Tauzin
Dr. T'Peche
21st Beckham LeBlanc
23rd Myrtle Lasseigne
Misty Hebert
Kody Courville
24th Ezra Angelle
25th Tucker Friedman
Gavin McGee
Paulette Morille
Rosalina Alor
Tommy Cooper
25th Josie Craig
Suzanne Daughdrill
26th Lori Theriot
27th Andre' Courville
Sissy Patin
28th Dr. Jeanne Theriot
29th Jett LeBouef
Alex Brown
30th Michael Castille
31st Misty Patin LeBouef
Marilyn Noel Robichaux

For those of you who are wondering who is this man in the picture. Some of you may know about an incident occurred that a pregnant woman named Ebony Wilkerson attempted to drown her kids in an SUV in the Ocean. He and another man saw and heard the kids scream for help and rescued the children. You see our hero carried the kids out of the car. Reason why I'm showing a photo of our hero is that mainstream media isn't giving this man the credit that's due or showing his face that much. I think you and I know the answer to that.

All I can say to our hero Stacy Robinson is thank you for taking action instead of standing there doing nothing. Thank you for saving those children.

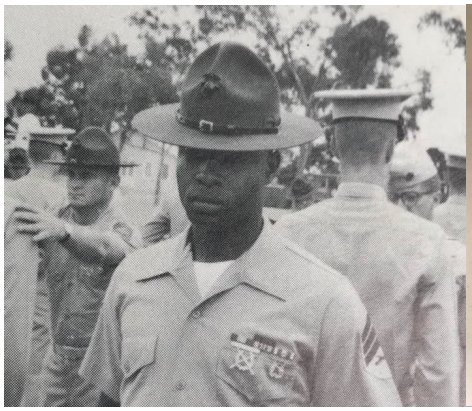
Even though those kids are going to be haunted they'll remember that hero who risked his life and carried the them to safety.

<u>Once again Stacy Robinson thank you.</u>



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THE HEART OF THE MARINE CORPS , the 3 DRILL INSTRUCTORS THAT HONED US TO PERFECTION. 80 started out at beginning of boot camp and about 75 of us graduated, 18 of us went to NAM and 18 came back home, some even got PURPLE HEARTS. Feilder got shot five times and still came home, the only one that didn't make it back was our Senior DI, ( STAFF SGT. GONZALES ). I came home October 1970, he was on his 3rd trip to Nam and was killed March 1970, he is the one in the middle. SGT. GATTLIN on the left and SSGT. ALLEY on the right. SSGT. Alley lives in Columbus, TX. ( Alleytown, TX just a few miles away) is named after his family, he was the bad ASS, to me. He was walking death , HE IS WHAT THE MARINE CORPS IS ALL ABOUT. I talked to him on my birthday March 7th, this year. I rate him in the high end of people that helped me in life.

By Tony White

# Another Incredible Marine Story!

SEMPER "Once I had Charlie in my scope, it was my job to kill him before he killed me."
- Chuck Mawhinney, Marine Corps sniper and Vietnam veteran

During his 16 months in Vietnam, he was credited with 103 confirmed kills and 216 "probable kills," more than any other sniper in Marine Corps history.

Growing up in Lakeview, Oregon, Charles "Chuck" Mawhinney loved to hunt. "My father was a Marine during World War II . . . and he taught me to shoot like the Marines taught him," Mawhinney told American Rifleman magazine in 2012.

After graduating from high school in 1967, the accomplished hunter and avid outdoorsman, eager to follow in his father's footsteps, enlisted in the Marines.

By 1968, with boot camp and Scout Sniper School under his belt, he was on his way to Vietnam. "It was the ultimate hunting trip: a man hunting another man who was hunting me," he told the Los Angeles Times in 2011.

Over the next 16 months, Mawhinney would become a Marine Corps legend.

As a member of 5th Marine Regiment HQ Scout Sniper Platoon, he was constantly in the jungle: hiding, tracking enemy soldiers, and using his M40 sniper rifle to make confirmed kills.

"My rules of engagement were simple," he recalled. "If they had a weapon, they were going down." Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7



"Chuck was extremely aggressive," remembered retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Mark Limpic, Mawhinney's squad leader. "He could run a half-mile, stand straight up, shoot offhand and drop somebody at 700 yards."

On the night of February 14, 1969, Mawhinney, operating in an area called "Arizona Territory," spotted a platoon of NVA soldiers crossing a river. In what would go down as one of the Vietnam War's most remarkable feats of marksmanship, the 20-year-old sniper killed 16 communist soldiers with 16 head shots - all in a 30 second period.

Sgt. Mawhinney survived the war, returned to the States, and in 1970 was discharged from the Marines.

Postscript:

After leaving the Corps, Mawhinney rarely talked about his time in Vietnam. It wasn't until 1991, when a fellow Marine sniper wrote a book about snipers during the war, that Mawhinney's exploits became known to the world.

Now 71 and retired from the US Forest Service, Mawhinney attends marksmanship competitions, works with military and police SWAT snipers, and serves as a spokesman for Strider Knives, a company that presents a knife, with Mawhinney's signature on the blade, to the top graduate at USMC Scout Sniper School in Camp Pendleton, California.

Today we pay tribute to Sgt. Mawhinney, his family, and all those who served, sacrificed, and died in Vietnam. We will never forget you!

# The Bridges in Coteau Homes.




View from the levee. Old bridge on the left, still open and new bridge on the right, not opened yet.



View looking toward the levee. New bridge on the left, not opened yet. Old bridge on the right, still open.

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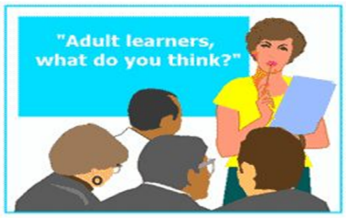
# THIS MONTH ONLY

*I've decided to do something special at The Basin Gazette for the month of May. This COVID-19 has most of my advertisers shut down. I thought I'd see if there was something I could do to help. There doesn't seem to be any use in printing the month of May. I can't distribute. With no expense and all this time on my hands, I decided to give free advertisement to all for the month of May. I love what I do so it's not labor.*

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**A GREAT MARINE. SEMPER FI**

**SPOTLIGHT:** Major Jim Capers Jr., legendary Marine Force Recon Master Diver in Vietnam. Only three generations removed from slavery, he is the first African American to lead a Force Marine Recon team and the first African American to receive a battlefield commission. Multiple Purple Heart recipient and for his actions in Vietnam he received the Silver Star. Today there is still a petition for him to receive the Medal of Honor which he was initially nominated for. Let me tell y'all, this is a man with which you do not play. From a Facebook post.







PRAYER REQUEST: Retired Chief Master Sergeant, Juan Lewis needs our prayers. Chief is in ICU, on ventilation and in the biggest fight for his life. Chief is one of America's most inspiring speakers to young people; his message is called "PEP" passion, enthusiasm and pride. In the U.S. Air Force, we call him the "Fired Up Chief." He was the first and only African-American to serve as a Command Chief out of the bases I was assigned to. Our last functional duty together was handling a visit from the— Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force (CMSAF) at Lackland Air Force Base. Please keep my Chief, Wingman, brother and friend lifted in prayer. #COVID19 From a Facebook post.

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# This was posted on Facebook

I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO FORGET. ONLY FOUR PEOPLE DIED. THREE NAVY SEALS AND OUR AMBASSADOR. THAT WAS AN "ACT OF WAR"




THE PROBLEM I HAVE WITH THAT IS.

"WE DID NOTHING!"

AND Y'ALL STILL WANT THESE PEOPLE TO RUN OUR COUNTRY?

## THIS WAS POSTED ON FACEBOOK NOT LONG AFTER

Short poem you won't forget

Do you recall President Obama referring to the Benghazi incident as "a bump in the road?"
Recently, I heard an ex-Navy SEAL being interviewed on Fox News regarding a book he has written about how to handle crisis situations in our lives.
At the end of the interview he asked if he could make a comment on Benghazi and, of course, the anchor said "yes." He then thanked Fox News for keeping the Benghazi story in the news, since other news organizations are not.
He said the SEALS who died deserve the public knowing the truth about the whole affair
The poem was written by an anonymous Marine Corps officer:
"THE BATTLING BOYS OF BENGHAZI"

We're the battling boys of Benghazi, No fame, no glory, no paparazzi.
Just a fiery death in a blazing hell, defending our country we loved so well.
It wasn't our job, but we answered the call, Fought to the Consulate and scaled the wall.
We pulled twenty countrymen from the jaws of fate, led them to safety and stood at the gate.
Just the two of us and foes by the score, but we stood fast to bar the door.
Three calls for reinforcement, but all were denied, so we fought and we fought and we fought 'til we died.
We gave our all for our Uncle Sam, but Barack and Hillary didn't give a damn.
Just two dead SEALs who carried the load, No thanks to us...we were just "Bumps in the Road".

## NEVER FORGET !