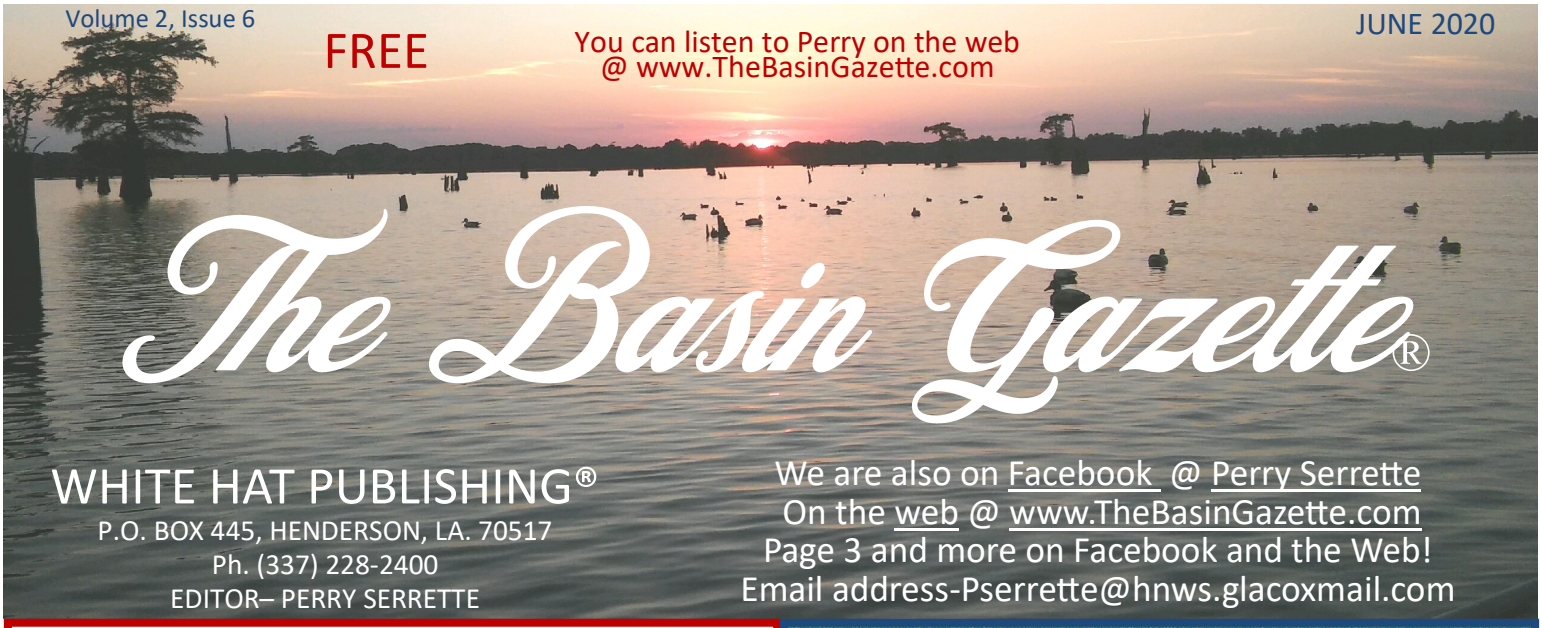
Volume 2, Issue 6

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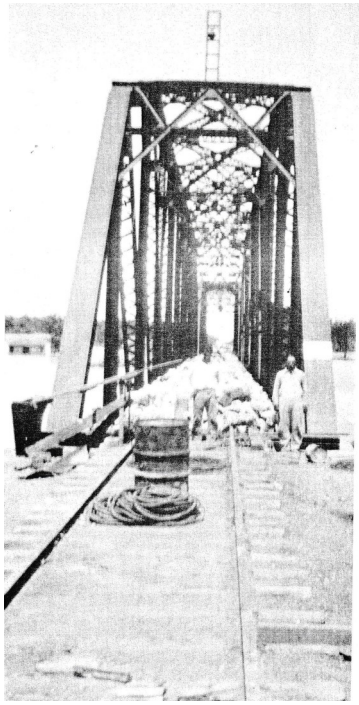
Continued from Lords of the Basin, by Kenneth Delcambre

Nevertheless, the problem in the basin persisted. The primitive Weather Bureau began to see slight predictions of a major flood for Louisiana, this was in the year 1926.

The spring of 1926 proved itself to be no different from the previous years, but the railroad took no chances. In early 1927, a number of barges loaded with boulders and stones were sent to the bridge location at Atchafalaya.

By May of that same year, the water table began to rise at a rate never seen before and midway in the month, the water level in the basin was extremely high. The train ceased to run and an alert of the incomprehensible began to numb the hearts of the people of Atchafalaya.

Cranes lifted the huge boulders and stones on top the rail section of the bridge. This added weight was used as an anchor to keep the bridge in place, should the raging current of the Atchafalaya River chose to wash it away. At this point, it was all that could be done …..except wait.



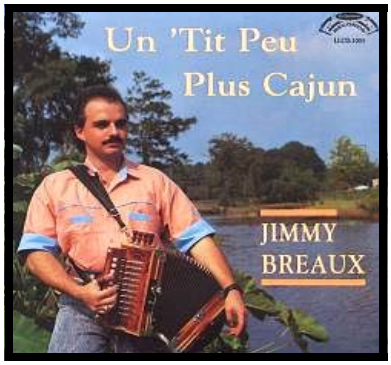
Boulders and stones were loaded on the bridge to prevent the mighty current from destroying it.

It seems that Atchafalaya and neighboring Pelba were selected to be sacrificed, so that the other communities could be spared. But, the small levees broke at Melville and Henderson, sending the flood waters to their prehistoric banks at the ridge on the Breaux Bridge- Lafayette highway. The contrary happened. Breaux Bridge had twice the water of Atchafalaya,

The bridge at Atchafalaya did not hold and during the course of the "Great Flood of 1927",

Cont. on page Two

Musician Of the Month

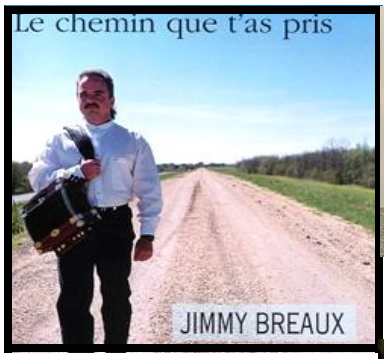


Jimmy Breaux is acknowledged to be one of the best Cajun accordionists of the modern era. The accordion player for the Grammy Award-winning group Beausoleil, Breaux is another Louisiana performer who comes from a musical dynasty.

Breaux is in the fourth generation of his family to play Cajun music. Among his musical relatives are his father Preston Breaux, grandfather Amédé Breaux, his brother Pat Breaux, also his brother Garry Breaux, his great grandfather Auguste Breaux, and his great-aunt Cleoma Breaux. The latter was married to Joe Falcon, one of the great Cajun musicians of the 1930's. Together, the couple led the way for the Cajun musicians of today, like their great-nephew. Even when Breaux, who was born in 1967, was coming up, the Cajun people in Louisiana were still being put down for their culture and punished for speaking French. It was the legendary fiddler Dewey Balfa who first captured the attention and acceptance of mainstream America. And it was the popular group Beausoleil, which Jimmy Breaux joined at the age of 20 in 1988, that really spread the gospel of Cajun to the world. The title of one of their CDs, Cajunization, says it all.

With his button accordion, Jimmy Breaux is a standout in the band. While his persona is very low-key, his playing is hot. The only parts of his body that seem to move are his fingers and they go at lightning speed. His bandleader, renowned fiddler Michael Doucet, cannot say enough good things about his main man on the squeezebox. The group's CD, Looking Back Tomorrow Beausoleil Live, released in 2001, showcases the talents of Breaux at his best. He makes it all sound so effortless and yet his music is complex and innovative, while still holding to the traditions of his cultural heritage.

His first solo effort, Un 'Tit Peu Plus Cajun, was recorded in 1991 and features Beausoleil colleagues Michael Doucet and his brother David Doucet. The recording is mainly a collection of traditional tunes, such as "Creole Stomp" and "La Valse de Meche," with several cuts by musicians of more recent vintage. The common denominator is that all songs are meant for dancing.

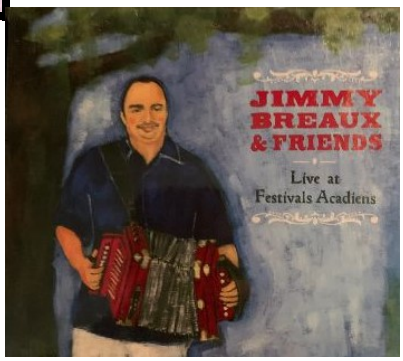


Breaux's second release, Le Chemin Que T'as Pris, received much critical acclaim. It was chosen as the best album of 1997 by the prestigious Le Cajun Music Awards. The record, which is dedicated to Breaux's parents, contains both traditional material and new songs. The title cut, which translates into "The Road You Took," was written by Jimmy Breaux's father. The accordionist receives a musical assist from artists including Steve Riley, David Doucet, and Breaux's stepfather U.J. Meaux. Whether fronting his own band or in his place on the stage with Beausoleil, listeners can be assured that Jimmy Breaux will be putting out some great music.

Artist Biography by Rose of Sharon Witmer



Jimmy's last album



Lords of the Basin

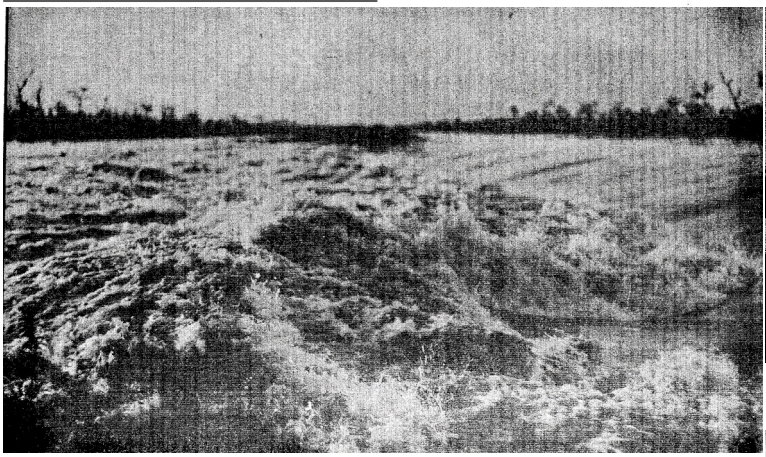
Continued from page one

it collapsed partially into the river. Nature won out finally over the famous railroad.

Sidney Martin said, "it

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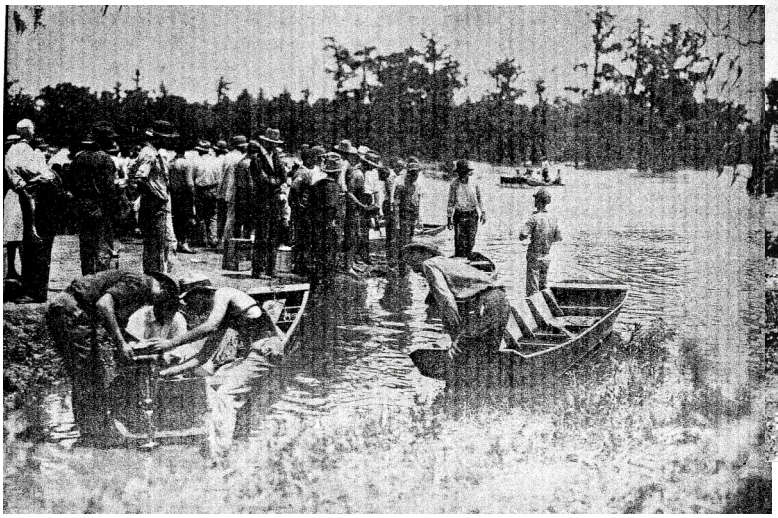
Don't forget page 3 and more will be on Facebook @PerrySerrette and the web @TheBasinGazette.com.



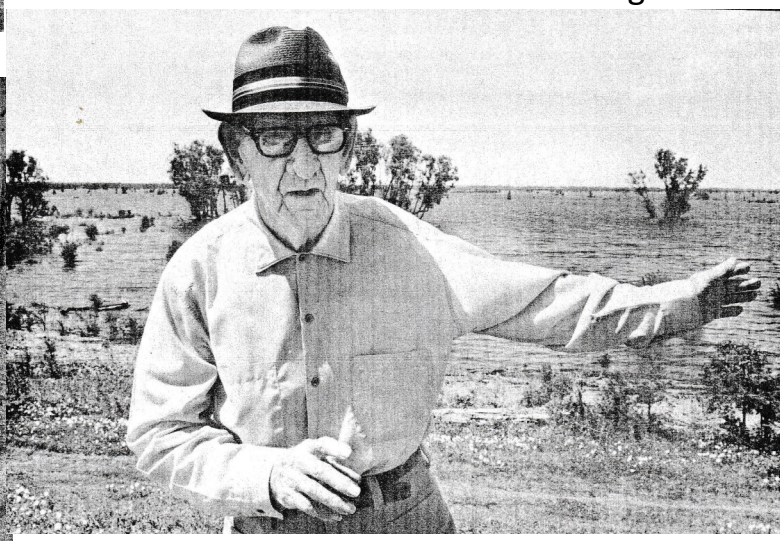
The break in the Henderson levee



A residential area in Breaux Bridge



The prehistoric natural bank of the basin at Lafayette, La.



Tom Bernard in his 80's shows a journalist where the break occurred in Henderson

Lords of the Basin

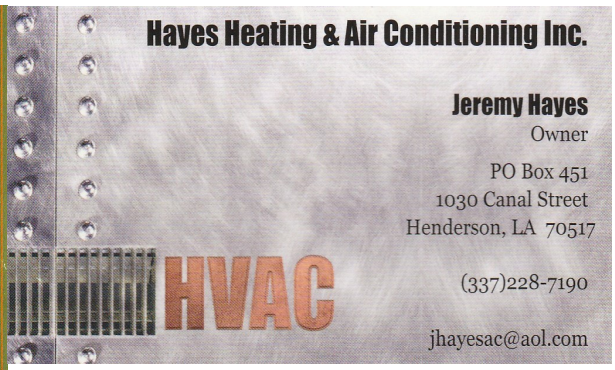
Cont. from page two (2)

really put us out of commission." C.R. Shaw said, "the center pier was washed out and leaned downstream and this pier was 112 feet from bottom to top and it was not possible to salvage it." Shaw also said that a torch was used to cut the pin that controlled the center

Cont. on page five (5)

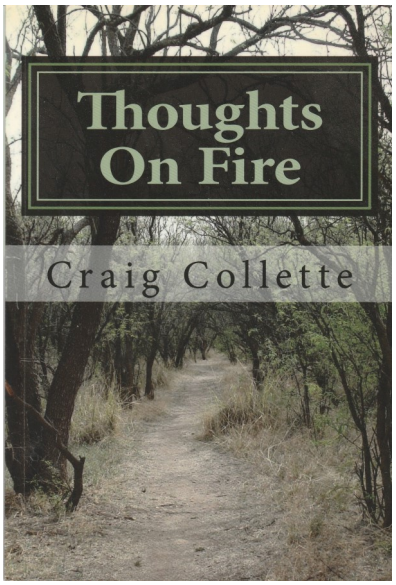


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Another poem by Craig Collette

A Million Stars

A million stars flutter in the night sky,

Painting the universe with dazzling colors of light.

Splattered across heaven like broken pieces of a rainbow,

All of darkness, all so bright.

Suspended like celestial fixtures arrayed in grand design,

Shadowless ornaments emanating bright and clear.

Standing guard over the dark secrets of space and time,

Ever far away, ever so near.

Silently singing that all creation might hear,

A somber chorus of music unrestrained,

Telling of God's splendor in all that He has made,

Proclaiming His glory with lips unstained.

A million stars flutter in the night sky

Like flames igniting the imagination;

Like mythical characters caught up in a cosmic drama,

Captivating audiences from generation to generation.

Ask Boudreaux

Dear Mr. Boudreaux,

Things are starting to get blurry.

All my friends are telling me my arms are to short.

Is there anything I can do about that?

Boudreaux

All your friends are all wrong.

You must be getting around forty years old.

You see as time goes by and you get older time goes by a little faster. That's why things get blurry. If you look at the fence post on the side of the road going fast, they get blurry.

I would recommend you go see an eye doctor.

Tell him you think you need glasses.

Don't tell him your arms are short.

He's gonna laugh at you!

One Hero Marine



SEMPER FI R.I.P.
BROTHER MARINE A Marine Corps legend . . .

Born on April 27, 1918, in Plumerville, Arkansas, John H. Yancey quit college, joined the Marines after Pearl Harbor, and by November 1942 was a Marine Raider fighting on Guadalcanal.

On the night of November 30, 1942, while serving with Company F, Second Raider Battalion, Corporal Yancey and his squad surprised a Japanese artillery position of over 100 soldiers. Although vastly outnumbered and outgunned, Yancey, determined to wipe out the enemy encampment, charged into the group. Blasting away at the Japanese and yelling for his squad to follow, the determined corporal became a one-man killing machine. Continued on page Five

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One Hero Marine Continued from Page five

During the brutal close-in and often times hand-to-hand fighting, Yancey and his fellow Raiders "killed over fifty Japanese and drove the remainder into the bush." For his "swift and courageous action that won a complete victory over the enemy without the loss of a Marine," Cpl. Yancey was awarded the Navy Cross.

More than two years later, after receiving a battlefield commission for his actions on Guadalcanal and fighting on Iwo Jima, Lt. Yancey returned to Arkansas, married, opened a liquor store, and was assigned to the Marine Corps Reserves Rifle Company in Little Rock.

When the Korean War broke out, he was again sent overseas. On the night of November 27-28, 1950, during the opening hours of the Battle of Chosin, Yancey, a platoon leader with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, was "defending strategic high ground north of Yudam-ni," when an overwhelming Chinese force attacked. During the brutal fighting, Yancey was hit three times, once from an exploding grenade that sent shrapnel into the roof of his mouth and twice from enemy bullets that tore into his nose and right cheek, causing his right eye to pop out.

In a 1985 interview, Yancey said, "I was in such bad shape . . . I had that slug through the roof of my mouth and one through the nose . . . I poked my eye back in the socket and I put a scarf under my chin like this, and tied my jaw." Despite his wounds, the seemingly indomitable Marine refused to be evacuated and "boldly made his way from one platoon to another in the face of intense enemy fire, shouting words of encouragement to his men, seeking aid for casualties, and directing the defense of the vital terrain."

Miraculously, Yancey survived the ordeal and for his "inspiring leadership, outstanding courage and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of overwhelming odds" was awarded his second Navy Cross. (He was nominated for the Medal of Honor, but because his senior officers were killed during the battle, an official report of his actions was never sent to higher command. Efforts to have his Navy Cross upgraded to a MOH were all denied.)

Postscript:
In the mid-1960's Yancey, still eager to serve his country, volunteered to serve in Vietnam. The Marine Corps, however, denied his request due to his wounds, particularly his lack of teeth. Angered by the decision, he said, "Hell, I wasn't planning on biting the sonsofb#@* to death."

The most decorated Arkansas Marine in history died on May 16, 1986, at the age of 68. He left behind a wife of 36 years and five children. A year before his death he told a friend, "I have had a lot of [health] trouble lately . . . I have taken so much codeine I ain't hungry at all. It comes in spells. Something you learn to live with, more or less."

Today we pay tribute to John Yancey, his family, and all those who served, sacrificed, and died during WWII and the Korean War.

We will never forget you!



Lords of the Basin Cont. from page three (3)

span and the pier then fell into the water, which at that point was about 100 feet deep. Mulate Guidry recalled that, "my brother Henry had me measure the depth daily and the depth of the river was some 120 feet at that point."

Shaw stated that the swivel section was 232 feet long, while Guidry claimed it was approximately 400 feet long. Guidry said the section was custom made and was incorporated to fit

Continued on page six

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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Rusty Chase
Ann Thomasee
Mia Mertz

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Nathan Patin

14th Grant Mertz

15th Cohen Theriot
Tracy Meche
Danny (Champ) Champagne

16th Kiri Domengeaux
Jody Meche

17th Catherine Castania Butler
Irine Benoit
Barbara Oglesby

18th Anna Guidry

19th Bailey Borel
Hunter Tauzin
Gertie Patin
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20th Candace Thomassee Mills
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21st Brian Lormand
Drake Allemond
Kamryn Elizabeth Theriot
Cody Broussard
Sheree Templeton

22nd Thomas Hebert
Cadence Hollier
Chloe Hollier

23rd David Dupuis Sr.
Belinda Champagne Prados

24th Cayson Spell

26th Drake Mier
Brandy Z. Champagne

27th Johnny Serrette
(Milton J. Serrette Jr.)
Joyce Theriot

29th Katie Benoit
Autry Champagne

Lords of the Basin

Continued from page 5

the requirements necessary for operation, however, both agreed on the methods used in removing the span.

Platforms were built on barges and water was pumped into the barges to lower them in the river. The barges were placed in position under the span and as the water was pumped out of their hulls, the span was lifted off its piers.

The span was then pulled to the river bank where it was dismantled. We find later, it was re-erected over the Houston Ship Channel. The same technique was used to remove another span, leaving one pier in the river bed. Shaw stated that Southern Pacific engineers decided to blow it to pieces with dynamite to a point lower than 40 feet below low water level, as required by government regulations. Guidry, who was there the day of removal, said, "no dynamite was used. It just fell into the water when the span was lifted". Guidry was present keeping notes for the Corp of Engineers.

This great catastrophe did not dampen the spirits of the people of Atchafalaya, however, Pelba's days were being numbered. Tom Bernard sold his business at Pelba to Schwings & Wilbert

in ca. 1935.

More next month

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Then he said "You're a generous man. If you want to donate, Donate Locally . That way you know where your money is going."

That made sense to me. I thanked him. Since then I only give locally. It is honorable to donate to people who are in need. Before you do look around you. There are people in need just as much as anywhere in the world. And right now more than ever local people are in need. By Perry Serrette

Please Donate Locally

Smokey The Hero Dog



Nice read about a Hero. Smokey was found in a foxhole in New Guinea in Feb 1944. The American thought she must have been a Japanese soldier's dog, but when he took her to a POW camp, they found out she didn't understand commands in Japanese but in English. The soldier sold Smokey to Cpl. William Wynne of Cleveland OH for two Australian dollars.

Over the next two years Wynne carried Smokey in his backpack, fought in the jungles of Rock Island and New Guinea, flew 12 air/sea rescues. She survived 150 air raids on New Guinea and made it through a typhoon at Okinawa, made a combat jump in Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, in a parachute made for her. She would warn G.I's of incoming artillery and was dubbed the "angel from a foxhole."

In retaking the Philippines combat engineers were setting up a telegraph line to an airfield. The joints collapsed filling them in with sand. Cpl. Wynne knew that Smokey could climb through the pipe with a new line and that is what she did. Smokey's work saved approximately 250 ground crewmen from having to move around and keep operational 40 fighters and reconnaissance planes, while a construction detail dug up the taxiway, placing the men and the planes in danger from enemy bombings. What would have been a dangerous three-day digging task to place the wire was instead completed in minutes.

In her down time she performed tricks with the Special Services to improve the morale of the troops and visited hospitals in Australia and Korea. Visiting with the sick and wounded, she became the first recorded "therapy dog".

After the war she became a sensation back in the states, had a live TV show, and often visited Veterans hospitals. Smoky's work as a therapy dog continued for 12 years. Wynne had Smokey 14 years before she passed away. He buried her in a 30 caliber ammo box in Rocky River Reservation, Ohio.

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"The Meaning of the Flag-Draped Coffin"



All Americans should be given this lesson. Those who think that America is an arrogant nation should really reconsider that thought. Our founding fathers used GOD's word and teachings to establish our Great Nation and I think it's high time Americans get re-educated about this Nation's history.

Please pass it along and be proud of the country we live in, and even more proud of those who serve to protect our 'GOD-GIVEN' rights and freedoms. I hope you take the time to read this ... To understand what the flag draped coffin really means …

Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers: Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.'

The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America , and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal

Continued on page 10

"The Meaning of the Flag-Draped Coffin"
Continued from page nine.

of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christian's eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their Nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

Please share this with the children you love and all others who love what is referred to as the symbol of ' Liberty and Freedom.'

MAYBE THE SUPREME COURT SHOULD READ THIS EXPLANATION BEFORE THEY RENDER THEIR DECISION ON THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. FORWARD IT; MAYBE SOMEONE WITH THE NECESSARY POWER, OR POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL INFLUENCE, WILL GET IT TO THEM.

IN THE MEANTIME, MAY GOD PROTECT US ALWAYS. ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL. From Facebook

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