Volume 2, Issue 9

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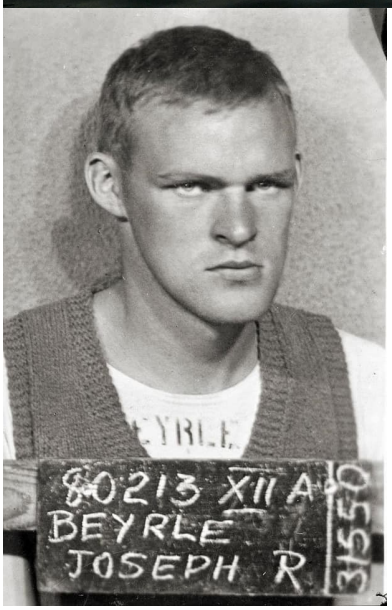
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October 2020

The Basin Gazette®

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Ph. (337) 228-2400
EDITOR– PERRY SERRETTE

We are also on Facebook @ Perry Serrette
On the web @ www.TheBasinGazette.com
Email address-Pserrette@hnws.glacoxmail.com



YOU THINK YOU'RE A TOUGH GUY...?

Take a look at this Billy bad ass

Here is SGT Joseph Beyrle's Prisoner of War picture after he was captured again by the Germans.

US paratrooper Joseph Beyrle served with the 101st Airborne Division during World War II.

Prior to the start of the Normandy invasions, Beyrle jumped twice into occupied France to coordinate, provide arms, and money to several French resistance units.

He then jumped into France on D-Day, destroyed an enemy gun emplacement, was captured, escaped, and captured again. He was beaten nearly to death, his uniform and dog tags were taken from him. A German soldier attempted to infiltrate US lines dressed in Beyrle's uniform and was killed.

The US War Department believed Beyrle had been killed in combat and notified his parents.

His mother refused to believe her son was dead and continued to ignore the calls from the family to accept his death.

Beyrle was taken into captivity at an German controlled POW camp.

He attempted to escape and was shot and wounded. He survived on minimum food and medical attention.

Beyrle would be held in seven different POW camps and escaped again, this time the Gestapo was ready to shoot him, claiming he was a spy.

He escaped again and found his way to a Soviet armor brigade which was near the POW camp. Beyrle having knowledge of engines and mechanical background assisted the Soviet tank unit which was equipped with American made M4 Shermans.

He served with armor unit commanded by a Soviet female officer and acted as

Continued on page two

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TOUGH GUY...?

Continued from page one

a scout for the Russians against German positions. He was wounded again when German dive bombers attacked the Russian armor column.

He was taken to a Soviet hospital where he met Soviet Marshall Zhukov who was curious on how this American paratrooper ended up in a Soviet hospital. Zhukov was so impressed with Beryle's story he provided safe passage back to the US Embassy in Moscow. Due to the US War Department believing Beyrle had been killed back in June 1944, the US government kept him under guard for several days until his dental records confirmed he was indeed Beyrle.

Beyrle served more combat time with the Soviets than the Americans and received both US and Soviet citations.

Beyrle returned home and married his sweetheart by the same priest who two years earlier had held his funeral when his family believed he was dead.

Here is SGT Joseph Beyrle's Prisoner of War picture after he was captured again by the Germans.

Hebert's
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Lords of the Basin. The final chapter.

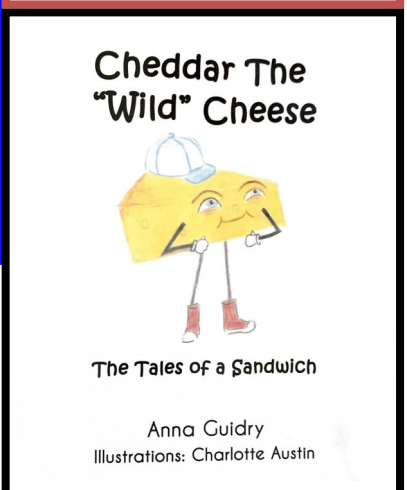
The Post Office building was moved to Henderson and the rest of the houses and shanties were moved to the levee area as camps or dwellings.

This is a list of those remembered in the Atchafalaya Era:

CLAMILE BERGERON
"HOT" BERGERON
ABERIE HEBERT
CLEVELAND HEBERT
W]LLIE MC GEE
NICHOLAS GUILBEAU
CLAUDE MC GEE
LUCERE MC GEE
VALLOT GUIDRY
ADAM ROBERTSON
HERMAN DUPUIS
KAISER DUPUIS
EDWIN "COE" DUPUIS
HERBERT DUPUIS
JOSWELL DUPUIS
AL DUPUIS
STANLEY DUPUIS
ARTSTA ROBIN.
ANTHONY ROBIN
OPHE GU]DRY
AMILCAR GU]DRY
OVEN EDDY
"NOOKIE" COTRIEL
SAVINGET FREDERICK
DAVID GUIDRY
ROBIN HUVAL
TOM HUVAL
OLIVIER GU]DRY
AMILCAR ROBIN
ADELMA ROB]N
ALBERT HUVAL
ALFRED HEBERT
SOSTHENE GUILBEAU
CYRYL, LEBLANC
MR, CARTER
MR HEAD
AN ATOLE ALLEMAND
PAUL ALLE]VIAND
PIERRE ALLEMAND
OZEMINE ALLEMAND
ALPHONSE ALLEMAND
ABEL SAVOY
LOUIS COLETTE
DIVACOUR HAYES
THOMAS HAYES
CLAY ANGELLE
LEON HARDY
FLORENT HARDY
SAMUEL HARDY
BRUNO HARDY
ABEL HARDY
FREDDY ZERINGUE
CARLOS LEBLANC
DONAT HEBERT
CHARLES FREDERICK
AMILCAR FREDERICK
SEZANNE MELANCON
WESTLY AMY
DORSEY BERGERON
AMES COLETTE
GASTCN COURV]],LE
ALFRED "FRED" DAIGRE
JESSE DAIGRE
RAYMOND ROBIN
WESTON ROBIN
ALCIDE SERRETTE
WESLEY SERRETTE
CONNIE SERRETTE
T. J. SERRETTE
ANATOLE SERRETTE
MILTON SERRETTE Sr.
DOLORES SERRETTE
JULES WILTZ
ODIE W]LTZ
WILL GUIDRY
ABEL ALTUMUS
ISSAC ALTUMUS
KEBEL ALTUMUS
S. J. AMY
JULIEN GUILBEAU
LANDA PATIN
CLAUDN PATIN
HENRY ANGELLE
DALTON ANGELLE
NUMA ZERINGUE
REMY GUIDRY
JULIEN LEBLANC
JOHN DAIGRE
KILVAN SCRANTZ

Continued on page three

New Book By Anna Guidry



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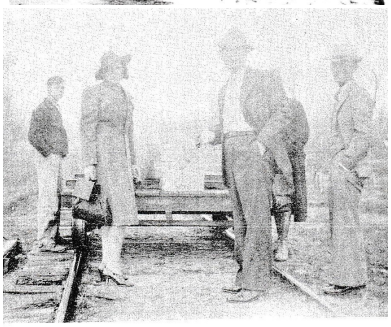
Lords of the Basin

Continued from page two

“BES” SCRANTZ
TONY ANGELLE
LOUIS ANGELLE
MARINCASA ANGELLE
"BIG MAN" GUIDRY
DEWEY BERGERON
NEVILLE BERGERON
PAUL BRASSEAUX
RODNEY GUIDRY
LIONEL HAYES
WILSON HAYES
HARRIS LEBLANC
CLIFTON ROBIN
CURLEY ROBIN
NOAH WHITE
ARMAND NOEL
LEO RIDDER
WILLIAM WHITE
GERMAN PATIN
“FRERE" PATIN
BILL FLETCHER
EBRABE MELANCON
CORBERT SAVOY
SAM BENNET
VALERY GU]DRY
EDDY RAY
BOB ZERINGUE
WILLIE THOMASSEE
JOE LACASSINE
RAYME GUIDRY
OLEED ROB]N
ALDUS ROB]N
FREDD]E STELLY
FREZIE STELLY
W]LL COLETTE
DAVE GOODFELLOW
JOE MELANCON
HENRY MELANCON
ALFRED PATIN
TOM PATIN
ONEAL PATIN
DEWEY PATIN
DEWEY GUIDRY
HENRY GUIDRY
DAN GUIDRY
EDWIN"MULATE" GUIDRY
PRESTON ANGELLE
"DAGO" STEWART
"MULATE" BAUDIN
CLARENCE HOTARD
JOEL HOTARD
PETE ANGELLE
TREV]LLE GUIDRY
SABASTIAN BENTOT
LENNY ANGELLE
ALEXSON ANGELLE
ARMAND ANGELLE
ROCK ANGELLE
AUDEBERT ANGELLE
ANESS BRASSEAUX
NOAH HUVAL
LEE HUVAL
JEAN HUVAL
NOAH HEBERT
RENE HEBERT
"BOON" HEBERT
ARTHUR HEBERT
ALCEE THOMASSEE
JULES GUIDRY
W]LLIE ANGELLE
WILLIE BENIOT
JULIEN BENIOT
"TAN" BENIOT
MAXIME CHAMPAGNE
AVAUGHN HUVAL
MAUR]CE BEGNAUD
LUKE BEGNAUD
DALTOE JOHNSON
ERNEST THOMASSEE
ALCEE BABINEAUX
TOM MARTIN
TOM BERNARD
ANDY ABRAZIE
FERNAND DUPUIS
GEORGE WESTFALL
ELVINA WESTFALL
CLARA BELLE HARDY
“PEP” RICHARD
BEAIN BIJEAUX
XAVIER BIJEAUX
GUS BERNARD
VIRGINIA BERNARD
DORA JACKSON BERNARD
JAMES"NOOKIE" BERNARD
ELAINE BERNARD ST. GERMAIN
DOROTHY BERNARD
LOWELL T. BERNARD
FERDIE DUPUIS
NURSY HEBERT
BEATRICE CHAMPAGNE
RONA RESWEBER
CHARLIE MACKENZIE
WILLIAM CALHOUN
E. L. GUIDRY
YANCY RAMAGOSSA
ENO " BLACKIE " DEVILLIER
School Board Member
U.S.- Mail Deliverer



Snow of January, 1940



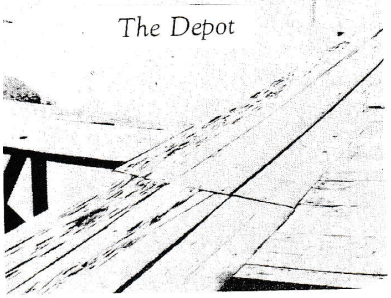
James Bernard, Clara Belle Hardy
Tom Bernard & Charlie Willis
L to R

Views of Atchafalaya





Boat leased to the Corp of Engineers



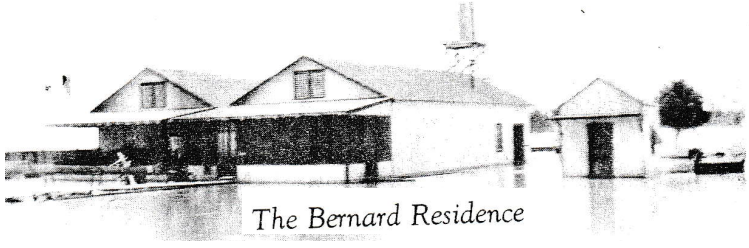
The Depot



Tom Bernard



The Post Office



The Bernard Residence

Continued on page four

Lords of the Basin Continues from Page three

Only the skeleton remains of the trestles near pelba are still in view and a rest area stands at the Butte La Rose exit on 1-10, on what little ground that was once claimed as Atchafalaya, Louisiana.

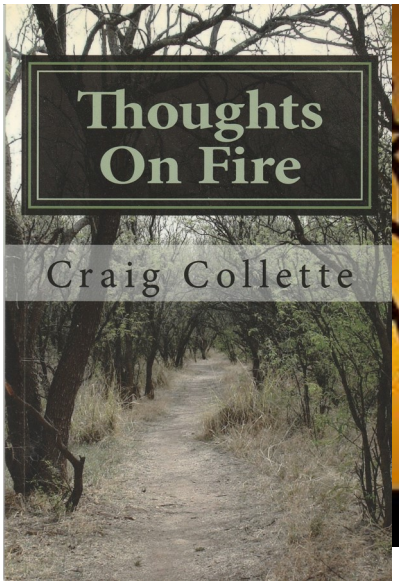
From the time of its beginning in 1907 to its end in 1959, Atchafalaya's history was made by a gallant people…. Tough and rugged, determined to survive nature as well as the molds society had put together for them, defiant Cajuns who were forced away from a life they truly loved.

This has been their story. This history has been a record written in their honor, to assure the future generations to come that their effort was not in vain. St. Martin parish will always be proud of their 52 year battle with time.

May they always be remembered as Lords of the Basin. (The End)



Sidney Tauzin with "Mulate" Guidry on a bass fishing trip in 1952



Another poem by Craig Collette. You can buy Craig's book by calling (337) 308-1498

And I Miss You

Feels like I've been
On the dark side of the moon.
I feel so far away,
Like words without a tune.

Feels like I've been
Looking up from the ocean floor;
Down where it's dark and cold
And I can hide from the savage bore'

And I miss you.

Feels like you've been
Gone for a million years;
Like time has never been
And I'm frozen in my tears.

Feels like the world
Is a place that's hard to be,
'Cause living without you
Has taken its toll on me.



At least the kid's will be wearing masks



100 Years Old WWII Veteran Walked 100 Miles To Save A Foster Home On His Birthday

This is the inspiring story of WWII veteran Jerry Redway and his love for kids. Jerry was an orphan himself before he decided to enlist, he spent his whole life serving for the honor of the country. But after the war ended, Jerry came back home alone having lost most of his comrades that went together. He was all by himself yet again with no relatives or family.

Jerry was a paratrooper for the 82nd regime which after performing hundreds of landings during the war started taking a toll on his back and knee. Coupled with his age, Jerry soon had a hard time walking, nevertheless he still visited his former foster home everyday. Being raised his

Continued on page five

100 Years Old WWII Veteran continued from page four

whole life without parents, Jerry knew the struggle of growing up orphaned. He tried his best to be a guidance and parental figure to the kids living at the foster home, but in recent years due to limited funding. The foster home is due to close down soon.



"I Just Couldn't Believe The Only Place I Can Call Home Is Going To Be Gone Soon."

The management and Jerry tried many ways to raise the needed funds. They tried appealing to funds and donors and even doing presentations all over, but they just couldn't attract enough attention to raise the funds. Jerry was feeling hopeless from the impending closure of the foster home, but it all changed during one of the foster home community meeting.

"We were asking for any ideas to raise funds and all that, suddenly one of the members just jokingly said about doing something viral. He said, do something crazy like walking 100 miles to celebrate your 100th birthday. I thought about it and said… I could do that since I used to walk a lot back in the war."

Deep down Jerry knew it would be hard to achieve for his aging body. But to his surprise, the news spread like wild fire, the local media even offered to provide coverage for the event. Many people started noticing what was happening to the foster home, Jerry realized this might actually be the only chance the foster home has.



Soon after Jerry started training for his birthday walk. In the beginning he would be able to only walk 3 to 5 miles per day, even with his best struggle and determination he could only reach 7 miles before running out of energy and his body giving upon him. His doctor strongly advised him against performing this stunt citing the dangers that could come with his old body and heart.

"It just seems so impossible for me to continue anymore. But I knew the orphanage needed me more than ever. I couldn't give up here, I have to finish what I started."

Jerry tried to find many ways to hit the 100 mile mark. He tried wearing a leg brace to provide more support. But soon realized that it was obstructing his movements, he even tried taking painkillers to tough it out.

But Nothing Worked

This was when a former veteran Barns Cadrick heard about his news. Barns contacted Jerry and offered to help.

"When I first saw Barns I was shocked! The last time I saw him he was on a wheelchair. But now he is walking like it was nothing! I asked him what happened and how did he do it."

This was when Barns slipped something out of his shoe, it looks just like a piece of silicone.

"This has been something I used after I left the army. Believe it or not, this is the solution you are looking for."

Continued on page six

100 Years Old WWII Veteran



"It's called Torin™"

After researching about Torin™ we found out that it has plenty of evidence. One of the medical journals written by Dr. Javier Sakuva wrote…

"The feet are the foundation of our body. They support both our entire weight and also balance. Research shows that out of 3 out of 5 people have no proper feet support, especially when it comes to sports or anything that demands heavy labour, The lack of proper support on our sole can cause long term problems."

"Affecting the ability to stand, walk or even any motions and just like a building without proper foundation, it'll collapse. Torin™ works like braces for the feet. It applies targeted pressures to realign our feet into proper anatomical position, each Torin™comes with 358 precise acupuncture nodes, when it presses on the sole it redistributes the weights properly, while also promoting pain relief and blood circulation, providing a proper foundation for the body again."

Jerry Was Skeptical At The Beginning

"I couldn't believe that a silly silicone could help me. But at this point I have nothing to lose, I have to try everything."

Jerry was surprised after using it for a few days. *"It blew me away! I never thought it could work! I tried walking with it and was able to hit 8 to 10 miles easily!"*

With eyes full of hope and determination. Jerry continued on with his training until the day of his birthday event. There were many spectators as the media starts to broadcast his walk, he was able to effortlessly walk through the 100 mile mark within 11 days. During his walk many of the spectators flocked together and marched on with him, providing support to his cause at the end of the event they were able to amass a total



of $137,982.00 through everyone's support to continue their operations.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing. It was all thanks to Torin™ that I was able to save the kids. I can know move around more to play with the kids too, I hope I was a good role model for them in the future."

"If You Know Anyone Who Is Also Struggling With Back And Knee Pain. Please Share My Story To Them."

Many people around the world have tried Torin™. 97.3% of our volunteers experienced positive results in just a month, so if you are thinking of getting one now might be a good time. Torin™ is offering up to 70% off to raise awareness for veterans.

Worshipful Past Master Perry Serette has become very active! Going through the chairs again....

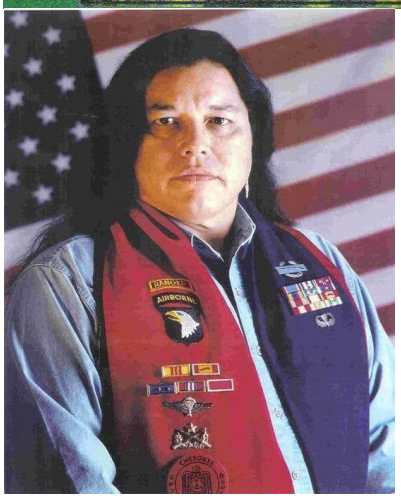
I am blessed to have really great friends. After decades of friendship with Perry Serrette, we met up at Turtle's Bar, then went eat at Waffle House. I had my Masonic Belt Buckle on, he saw it, and after all these years we realized we are Masonic Brothers! Our friendship, in this new Light, has ascended to an Eternal Level. Perry is actually a Past Master. We each knew we were good men, good friends, but now know why.

"When is a man a Mason?

When he can look out over the rivers, the hills and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage, which is the root of every virtue. When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic and as lonely as himself; and seeks to know, to forgive and to love his fellow man. When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, yea even in their sins - knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds. When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them and above all, how to keep friends with himself. When he loves flowers, can hunt birds without a gun and feels the thrill of an old forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child. When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life. When starcrowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the thought of one much loved and long dead. When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response. When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and see majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be. When he can look into a wayside puddle and sees something beyond mud, and into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something beyond sin. When he knows how to pray, how to love, how to hope. When he has kept faith with himself, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of a song; glad to live, but not afraid to die! Such a man has found the only secret of Freemasonry, and the one which it is trying to give to all the world." Submitted by MOJO







The man you're looking at is 2nd Lt. Billy Walkabout, a Cherokee of the Blue Holly Clan. Walkabout served as an Army Ranger in Vietnam, in the Company F, 58th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. Walkabout (then Specialist Four) distinguished himself on 20 November 1968 during a long range reconnaissance patrol southwest of Hue.

After successfully ambushing an enemy squad on a jungle trail, the friendly patrol radioed for immediate helicopter extraction. When the extraction helicopters arrived and the lead man began moving toward the pick-up zone, he was seriously wounded by hostile automatic weapons fire. Sergeant Walkabout quickly rose to his feet and delivered steady suppressive fire on the attackers while other team members pulled the wounded man back to their ranks. Sergeant Walkabout then administered first aid to

Continued on page eight

2nd Lt. Billy Walkabout continued from page seven

the soldier in preparation for medical evacuation. As the man was being loaded onto the evacuation helicopter, enemy elements again attacked the team. Maneuvering under heavy fire, Sergeant Walkabout positioned himself where the enemy were concentrating their assault and placed continuous rifle fire on the adversary. A command-detonated mine ripped through the friendly team, instantly killing three men and wounding all the others. Although stunned and wounded by the blast, Sergeant Walkabout rushed from man to man administering first aid, bandaging one soldier's severe chest wound and reviving another soldier by heart massage. He then coordinated gunship and tactical air strikes on the enemy's positions. When evacuation helicopters arrived again, he worked single-handedly under fire to board his disabled comrades. Only when the casualties had been evacuated and friendly reinforcements had arrived, did he allow himself to be extracted. This is one of his many actions. His bravery earned him 1 Distinguished Service Cross, 5 Silver Stars, 10 Bronze Stars (5 with V Device) and 6 Purple hearts; making him one of the most decorated Native American soldier of the Vietnam War; retiring as a 2nd Lt. He died in 2007 at the age of 57 due to Agent Orange.

Musician of the Month Gregg Martinez

One of the most powerful knock-the-paint-off-the-wall vocalists South Louisiana has ever produced!" - Offbeat Magazine

Gregg Martinez is an American rhythm and blues singer and purveyor of the South Louisiana genre called Swamp Pop. He is also referred to as "Mac Daddy" and is a member of the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame. His vocal style has been inspired and influenced by the soul crooners of the 60's/70's including Sam Cooke, Marvin Gaye, Al Green, and Louisiana artists G G Shinn, T K Hulin, Big Luther Kent, and Johnny Adams. He is the leader of and tours regularly with Gregg Martinez and the Delta Kings.

Martinez began singing in public at the age of eight



Continued on page nine



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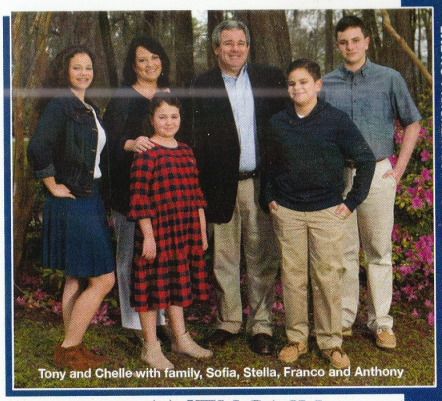
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in your 16th Judicial District Court Judge.



- 26 Years Experience with the 16th Judicial Court System.
- Worked over 40 jury trials and over 200 bench trials.
- Personally handled over 11,000 cases.
- Supervised the handling of another 10,000 prosecutions.
- Maintained close working relationship with all levels of law enforcement as a prosecutor.
- Worked in or alongside every department in the 16th JDC – District Attorney's Office .

ASSOCIATIONS and MEMBERSHIPS
LA State Bar Assn., St. Mary Bar Assn.-President, Inn on the Teche Chapter of the American Inns of Court, National & Louisiana District Attorney's Assn., Franklin Rotary, National Rifle Assn., Ducks Unlimited

Married to Mary "Chelle" Bourgeois Saleme, father of four children.
Knights of Columbus, Council 1710, Patterson, LA - 3rd Degree Knight
Holy Cross Catholic Church, Morgan City, LA - Lector/Eucharistic Minister



Tony and Chelle with family, Sofia, Stella, Franco and Anthony

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Musician of the Month

Continued from page eight

in his home church in Carencro, Louisiana. He began his professional music career after graduating from Teurlings Catholic High School in Lafayette, Louisiana in 1974 by performing in the local nightlife scene of South Louisiana.

From 1981 through 1984 Martinez was frontman and bandleader of Gregg Martinez and Kingfish. In 1985 he began to tour nationally with a new backing group called the Heat. Within a few months he landed an exclusive contract with the Donald Trump casinos in Atlantic City, NJ, where he would appear regularly through 1988 and relocated to in 1986.

In 1990 Martinez began a new chapter in his musical journey in the Contemporary Christian Music field. He released three Christian albums from 1991-1997. With the releases of *For the Ages* and *All the Days*, 1999, 2001, he began to blend the Christian music

Continued on page 10

Musician of the Month
Continued from page nine

with the Rhythm and Blues of his earlier days. He formed Gregg Martinez Outreach in 1998 which most notably consisted of a public school anti-drug program which reached many thousands of students around the country.

By 2006 Martinez had relocated back to his native Louisiana and had also returned to the R&B/Blues/Swamp Pop genre with the release of Big Bad Daddy. At this time he also joined the legendary blue-eyed soul group the Boogie Kings. He wrote the title song for The Boogie Kings' 2007 release Never Go Away. Martinez' CD, *Soul of the Bayou*, was released April 30, 2016 on Louisiana Red Hot Records. It reached #2 on the national soul chart and #4 on the national R&B chart. It was also voted #8 of the top 50 albums in Louisiana 2016 by Offbeat Magazine. Martinez has been nominated five times for Best Male Vocalist by Offbeats' Best of the Beat Awards. On February 9, 2019 he was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame.

Mac Daddy Mojeaux, Gregg's latest release and first on his new label, Nola Blue Records, was scheduled for release July 17, 2020.





This Army Veteran found purpose by helping others

Fernando experienced heavy combat when he deployed to Fallujah. He felt anxious, guilty, and hypervigilant when he returned home. Learn how cognitive behavioral therapy and helping others has allowed Fernando live his life to the fullest.

My name's Fernando and I joined the Army September 29, 2001 until February 8, 2008. So, I hope to graduate in May from Biola University with a Master of Divinity and Pastoral Care and Counselling. I'm a youth pastor at my church but that's part-time. I wanted to serve in the Army because I remember I was five years old, I watched Operation Desert Storm on TV and I was like, “Wow, these guys are warriors.”

Ten years later from 1991 to 2001, on September 11, 2001 and I saw these attacks and I said, “Okay, this is it. It’s time for me to step up and to join.” So, I

Continued on page 11

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This Army Veteran

Continued from page 10

did. I was pumped. I remember getting the orders, we're going to deploy. We're going to this place called Fallujah. It's supposed to be really dangerous. It's out of control. I thought, "Okay, this is what I trained for. This is it. It's game time."

Going to combat was something very, very different. It was an eye-opening experience just to know that my life is really in danger and every time we had gone to the city of Fallujah it was the same, ambushes. I don't how many IED explosions I experienced. I was never hit; I was never wounded, thank God. Some of my friends were.

When I returned home from my first deployment, I started to notice some anxiety problems and I thought it was normal cause all of my friends had the same thing. And it wasn't until I got out of the Army that I realized, I am not like everyone else in society. I am different. I was around civilians. I'm going to college and I'm walking through campus and I just can't stop looking at everyone around me. I want to see their hands. I want to see their facial expressions. I'm looking at windows and roof tops. I just did not feel safe and it was like that every single day. I did not seek any help. I lived with this with this anxiety, with stress, with nightmares. I was falling apart. It wasn't until my friend, he told me to get help. He picked me up and drove me to the VA and that's where I finally opened up to a Clinical Social Worker form the VA. But it wasn't until a few more sessions, maybe ten sessions, that I asked him, "Do I have post traumatic stress disorder?" and he says, "I believe you do."

Going through therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, being able to talk things out I came to the realization that I was carrying all these burdens of shame and guilt of what I did in combat when I didn't have to. It was a lie. Every unit has a Psychologist or Psychiatrist. Just go see him. Go talk to him because I can say now where I am in my life making new friends and being able to meet other Veterans and share this fellowship with them.

Life is truly a blessing from God and it's worth living. As human being we were made to bond. We were made to share our experiences, to be friends and family, to talk things out. Don't isolate yourself and know that you have a purpose in life.

Move forward and you'd be surprised just the great things that you can accomplish. Take all that military motivation and stamina and everything and just channel it to something positive in your life and realize that life is not all about you, help others. Seek help and help others. The sooner the better and you'll see the benefits of living a healthier happier life.

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WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST



75 years ago, Audie Murphy earned his Medal of Honor with nothing but a burning tank destroyer's .50 cal and insane bravery

JARED KELLER

Editor's note: a version of this post first appeared in 2018

On January 26, 1945, the most decorated U.S. service member of World War II earned his legacy in a fiery fashion.

Audie Murphy — then a second lieutenant commanding Company B of the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division — found himself surrounded by six German tanks and wave after wave of enemy infantry while fighting in Holtzwihr, France. Rather than retreat with his men, Murphy made a gutsy decision: He ordered his soldiers withdraw to the cover of nearby forest and set up their artillery while he remained at his forward command post to direct their fire.

Things quickly took a turn for the worse. A nearby Allied tank destroyer burst into flames following a direct hit from an enemy tank, its crew fleeing to the woods and leaving Murphy alone. But Murphy didn't shrink from the oncoming onslaught of German armor; instead, he mounted the burning tank destroyer and took on wave after wave of German infantry with nothing more than the vehicle's .50 caliber machine gun and superhuman determination.

From his Medal of Honor citation:

With the enemy tanks abreast of his position, Second Lieutenant Murphy climbed on the burning tank destroyer, which was in danger of blowing up at any moment, and employed its .50 caliber machinegun against the enemy. He was alone and exposed to German fire from three sides, but his deadly fire killed dozens of Germans and caused their infantry attack to waver. The enemy tanks, losing infantry support, began to fall back.

For an hour the Germans tried every available weapon to eliminate Second Lieutenant Murphy, but he continued to hold his position and wiped out a squad which was trying to creep up unnoticed on his right flank. Germans reached as close as ten yards, only to be mowed down by his fire. He received a leg wound, but ignored it and continued the single-handed fight until his ammunition was exhausted.

He then made his way to his company, refused medical attention, and organized the company in a counterattack which forced the Germans to withdraw. His directing of artillery fire wiped out many of the enemy; he killed or wounded about 50.

"Second Lieutenant Murphy's indomitable courage

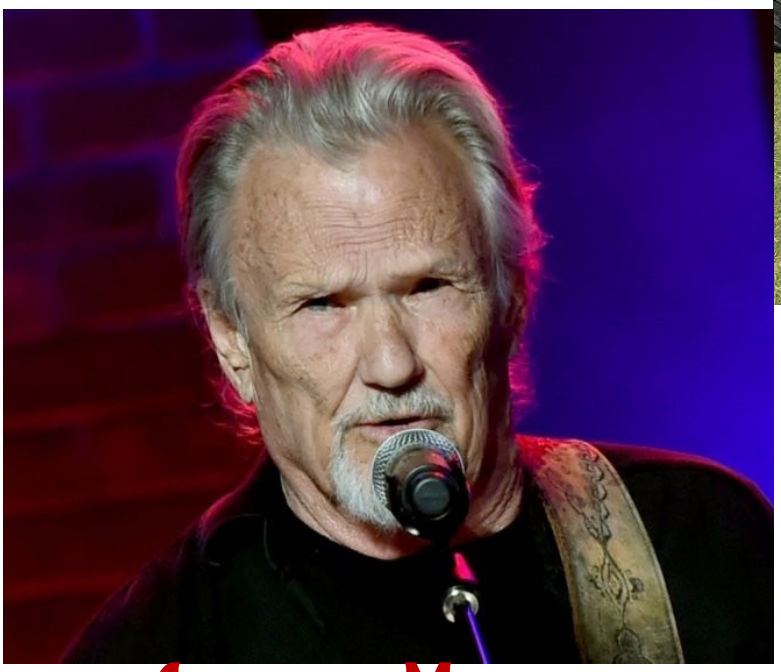
Continued on page 13

Audie Murphy–Medal of Honor

Continued from page 12

and his refusal to give an inch of ground saved his company from possible encirclement and destruction, and enabled it to hold the woods which had been the enemy's objective," the citation reads. His bravery also earned him a spot in the history books as one of the most highly-decorated heroes in U.S. military history — and set a new standard for courage under fire in the process.

Here's to you, Audie Murphy. There isn't a field in Valhalla that can hold Guts as enormous as yours.



Another Musician You may know

Bob Shelton August 21

Most people probably would not have known that he was quite an intellectual, was a Rhodes Scholar, a very gifted athlete, and had a promising career in the United States Army. Of course, he became famous for other endeavors and if I had not shown his picture, chances are, you would never have guessed who I was referring to.

Kris Kristofferson was born in Texas, into a military family, due to his father being a general in the US Army. As a young man he first attended Pomona College where he was a three-sport collegiate star in football, rugby, and track and field. In addition to that, he loved boxing and earned his Golden Gloves honors. Kristofferson was known as an excellent student, where he loved creative writing, and later earned his bachelor's degree at Oxford University. Kris graduated with honors and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and in 1958, was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, during the same time that he playing rugby and participating in boxing.

Kris Kristofferson Continued from page 13

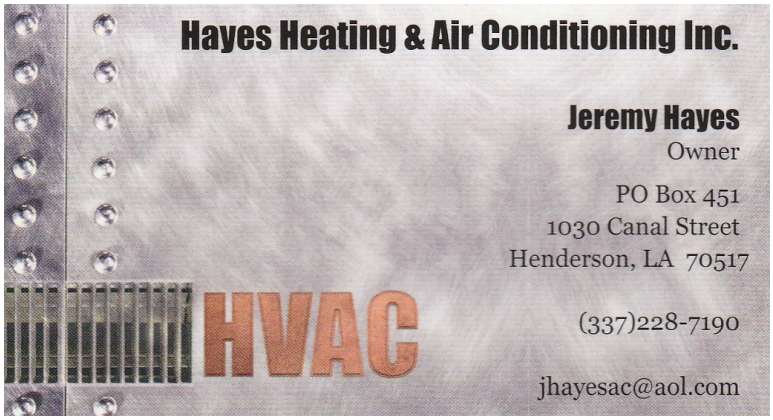


Alligator season is in full swing down here in Louisiana. Take a look at this monster Micah Meche and Brad Robert hauled in this week! Measuring right at 13 ft, Nick had the tractor fully extended to get this pic! Final resting place for this trophy will be at Mr. Roberts restaurant in Illinois, Swamp Tales. If you're ever up that way, stop by for your fix of Cajun food while up North. What should he name him?!

Continued on page 14

Kris Kristofferson Continued from page 13

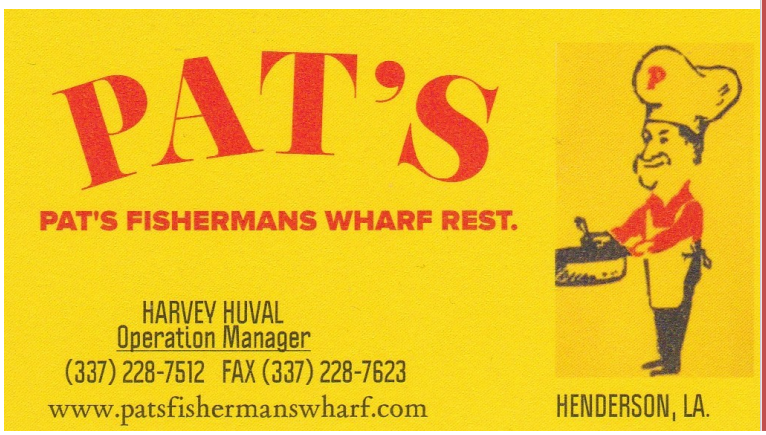
Being influenced by his career military father, he returned to the America, enlisted in the military, and enrolled in Ranger School, training to become a helicopter pilot. As a member of the Army's Airborne Rangers, he reached the rank of Captain while being stationed in Germany. When his hitch ended in 1965, he was offered a position of teaching in the military academy at West Point, but declined and hung his uniform up. He was once quoted as saying that it was at that time, "his family disowned him".



Kris Kristofferson walked away from his military career because he wanted to pursue his first love – song writing. He headed for Nashville and connected with a friend's cousin, who he believed could assist him in his new vocation. For the next five years, he worked as a janitor, sweeping floors and emptying the ash trays of other famous recording artists. Many of Kristofferson's songs were recorded by Faron Young, Waylon Jennings, Ray Price, Sammi Smith, Roger Miller and Janis Joplin. Regardless of who sang that particular song, my favorite was Kris' personal rendition of "Me & Bobby McGee".

There was an old story that while Kristofferson was serving as a pilot in the Army Reserve, that he diverted his course one day and landed in Johnny Cash's back yard, unannounced, much to the dismay of Cash. It was there that he handed Cash the demo tape "Sunday Morning Coming Down". A few days later, Cash played that song, which hit #1 on the country chart in 1970. Finally, Kris received his big break, and recorded an album, "The Silver-Tongued Devil and I."

There are volumes of information that could be written about Kris Kristofferson, his failed marriages to famous women, his starring in several movies, his numerous musical successes, him becoming a Christian, and becoming a member of the group the "Highwayman". He once stated some of his biggest hits came to him while he was flying personnel back and forth to the off shore drilling platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. However, there is a cruel twist to the end of this story because, sadly, Kristofferson can no longer remember most of his accomplishments. He began to suffer memory loss in his seventies, which doctors contributed to dementia caused by repeated head blows during his boxing, football, and rugby days. Kristofferson's mental deterioration has now advanced to the degree that he forgets what he is doing in the middle of his activities, and his attempts to write a song about his declining condition has failed.



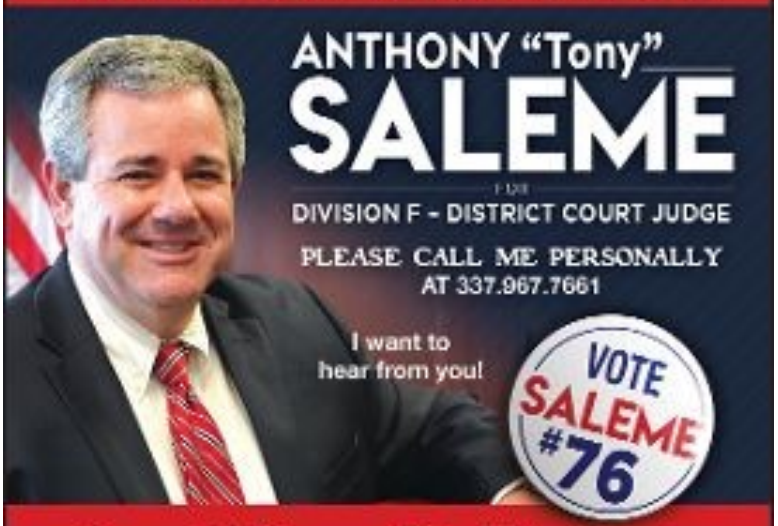




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Dear Boudreaux

This is Willie. I put a Confederate flag in my yard and one of my neighbors was complaining about it. What do you think I should do?

Boudreaux

Mais Cher that's a tough one. We all need to get along with our neighbors. You might want to ask your neighbor what offends him about the flag. Then tell him you are a true AMERICAN, I know you. The flag is a part of history. That can't be erased. We all need to remember our history so we don't repeat the bad parts.

The flag is neutral. Southern people are proud of it while some Northern people are offended by it. (Remember the North won the war). You live in a northern state now where that might be a problem to display it. Maybe just tell him you don't want to repeat history.

You are a true AMERICAN and you have the right to decorate your house and yard as you wish. You also might want to put an AMERICAN flag of the same size next to it. Let him know you care about his feelings. He may understand. I hope this helps you.

October Birthdays

1st Crissy Berthelot
Curlis Melancon
2nd Nathan Trosclair
Ryan Meche
Dennis Theriot
3rd Heidi LeBlanc
Phillip "PJ" John
Arden Rogers Jr.
Trenton Latiolais
P.J. Ellsworth
Bryce Meche
Oscar Abshire
Marie Patin
Nichole Breaux
Arlene Dore'
Anita Begnaud
Breccan Begnaud
4th Glenn Usie
5th Shantel Castille
Calvin LaGrange
Matthew Latiolais
6th Braygon Rebert
7th Julie L Patin
8th Essie Williams
Cheryl Melancon
Belle Knott Roberts
9th Steven O'Brien
Hayden Long
11th Norris Thibodeaux
Shannon Roger
12th Faren Serrette
Peggy Guidroz
13th Ray Bellard
Eric Hayes
Abbie Lane Guidry Feerick
Holly Rebert
14th Myla Mistric
Shayron LeBlanc Boudreaux
Kaylee Breaux
15th Loretta Brown
16th Melvin (aka-Fafin) Serrette
Sherbin Collette
Heather Lynne Thibodeaux
Cheree Hayes
17th Tyler Serrette
Kailley Fontenot
Dayton Wiltz
Kailley Fontenot
Christopher Cox
Gage Smith
Kerrigan Rose Dupuis
18th Ashley Quebedeaux
Heather Morris
19th Patricia McLee
Hayli Allemond
Blissful Jolla
21st Tailey Begnaud
23rd Tammy Latiolais
Gerdie Angelle
Wayne Curtis
Erika Hayes
Carice Robert
Joey J. Huval
Chris Girouard
Darren Hyatt
Shallen Hebert
24th Ashley Ann Mouton
Alton Hayes
Lloyd Melancon
25th Yvonne Knott Himel
Mona Montet
Yvonne Himel
26th Ryan Serrette
Jean Begnaud
Robert Sonnier Jr.
Bubba Boudreaux
Timmy Berard
Shantelle Guidroz
Sherry Patin
27th Don Thibodeaux
Camille Angelle
28th Candice Rogers
Parker Robicheaux
29th Brilan Degeyter
Helen Thibodeaux
30th Grover Angelle
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