



NAAVNEWS

National Association of American Veterans
Serving Our Service Members and Veterans With Honor and Respect

NAAV In Service to Others

This year, the National Association of American Veterans, Inc. (NAAV) participated in the National Memorial Day and National Independence Day Parades held in Washington, D.C.

The Memorial Day Parade honored our U.S. troops who have served and are presently serving in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Independence Day Parade honored U.S. troops from the Revolutionary War to include the war in Iraq.

Participants of these parades included veterans, service members, veterans' service organizations, high school bands from the Nation's Capitol, and other private organizations. Well represented with over 2,000 participants, an estimated 60,000 spectators gathered to honor them.



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"strongly committed to assisting"

The National Association of American Veterans (NAAV) is strongly committed to assisting the many valiant military men and women and their families who serve our great country. Veterans assisted by NAAV include:

Sgt. Toney Clemons, of Burns, N.C. who was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1970, enlisted into the U.S. Army Reserves in 1973, and National Guard 1974, then enlisted in the U.S. Army 1975.

His duties consisted of:

- completing basic training at Fort Brad, NC 1970
- completing infantry training at Fort Jackson, SC 1970
- serving in Korea as Wheel & Vehicle Mechanic 1971-1972 (B Battery Unit 6/52nd ADA)
- served in Units 335th 37th Maintenance Battalions in Korea.
- completed 2 week reserve training at Camp Shelby in MS 1973
- serving in Germany as Hawk Missile Crewman 1975-1977
- serving as Hawk Missile Crewman, Unit Race Relations NCO,

Unit Nuclear, biological, Chemical Warfare NCO at Fort Bliss, TX 1977-1979

Honors Awarded:

- Two National Defense Service Medals
- Expert M16 Medal
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Three Good Conduct (30LC) Medals
- Letter of Commendation from FORCOM in Germany

Sgt. Clemons is married to Princess. They have two adult sons. He was assisted by NAAV with the complicated application process for his benefit and Social Security Disability claims. Sgt Clemons sustained a serious ankle injury while in infantry training in Fort Jackson, SC.

Sgt. Leroy Scott initially enlisted into the Army Reserves and National Guard 20 years ago. His military career includes:

- enlisting into National Guard 1986
- enlisting into U.S. Army 1993 - present
- serving in Bosnia and Kosovo 1996-2004

- serving as a Medic
- serving one year in Korea 1994
- serving in Germany Honors Awarded
Wasn't able to get obtain info.

Sgt. Scott is married to Sheila and they have 3 young sons. They presently reside in Colorado Springs, CO. He has sustained severe injuries such as a head, right hip, back, ribs, and leg while serving in Iraq. NAAV assisted him and family by identifying counseling services, and providing assisting in applying for his benefit package.

Donald H. Henry served in the Army Reserves and D.C. National Guard from 1982-1990. His tour of duty included:

- completing training as Missile Munitions Specialist 1982
- completing training as Supply Specialist 1989
- serving in Desert Storm 1990

Honors Awarded

- Presidential coin from White House
- S.W. Asia Medal
- Mortorius Service Award

Mr. Henry sustained a back injury while serving. Mr. Henry has been employed as a Window Clerk with the U.S. Postal Service since 1993. When he

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found himself depressed, lacking motivation, NAAV was there to lift the clouds. He now finds contentment in volunteering for NAAV. He distributes flyers, networks with other veterans, and educates them about available services from rehabilitation, housing, to medical treatments. Earlier this year, he served as a volunteer for the Memorial Day Parade, in Washington, D.C.

Recognizing a need to help the children of men and women who serve our country, Elaine E. Hopkins, President, founded The Little Hometown Soldiers three years ago. Through inspiration, their name was based on a song written by Ms. Hopkins " as an ode to kids in this status." Ms. Hopkins continues, " originally our plan was to incorporate kids in our group whose parents were at war in IRAQ." Not able to receive the proper security clearance, participation could not be limited to children of parents in war. Dressed in military uniform, these 15 wonderful, giving kids sing patriotic songs, perform plays, visit hospitals, as well as send out encouraging correspondence. Their mission is

to offer comfort to other children with families serving in war zones. Some of their performance highlights include:

- Operation Home Front/MacDrill AFB - Tampa, FL
- Channel 57 WATC - Atlanta, GA
- Shriner's Children's Hospital - Tampa, FL
- Dr. Martin Luther King Parade, St. Petersburg, FL
- Kids Are Heroes Awards Ceremony
- Funeral Wake and Funeral for Antwar Walker (died in Iraq)
- 4-H Operation Military Kids (Christmas Event to raise money/toys for needy military families)
- Jim Baker Show - Branson, MI

Ms. Hopkins became involved with NAAV after Senator Nelson of St. Petersburg, Florida called Retired Bridgett General Carrie Nero inquiring about the Little Soldiers. This has led to their appearance at the Independence Day Parade, Washington, D.C. in July. Since then, they have been invited back to Washington, D.C. to perform at the Armed Forces Retirement Home, in December.

-Rhonda Moss Covington

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On July 9, 2005 in Tel Afar, Iraq at approximately 0600, Sgt. Leroy Scott Jr. and Pfc. Eric Woods (both Medics in the U.S. Army) were called out on a mission to pick up an injured soldier with a gun shot to his neck. When they arrived they discovered it was a soldier named Spc. Hoby Bradfield. As Sgt. Scott worked on Bradfield, he ordered a helicopter as the extent of Bradfield's injuries were critical. These soldiers then had to be escorted out to the landing zone. 1st Sgt Sorrano (and another soldier) would be their

escort out of the battlefield to the landing zone. Sgt. Scott remembers a tremendous amount of firing from the enemy and hoping that the soldiers from the Grimm Troop had their backs covered.

After traveling a short way, from the battlefield Sgt. Scott recalls a huge, bright light and an extremely loud blast. He realized they had been hit by an IED or RPG. The next thing that came to his mind was that he was trapped inside his vehicle. He called out to Woods and Bradfield and no answer came. He waited patiently, while trying to keep breathing. He then felt a hand coming through a hole, it was Sgt. Sorrano.

Sgt. Sorrano explained to him that he needed to go and get another vehicle and he would have to leave him. They needed a heavier vehicle to pull the metal off of Sgt. Scott's leg. During this time Sgt. Scott was all alone and as his breathing became shallower and shallower he prayed that God would just let him see his three boys and wife again. He then started to feel some blood going down his neck and felt around and he had a hole in his helmet into his head. After an unknown amount of time, he heard 1st Sgt. Sorrano

Wounded Soldiers and their families do not get any extra financial help during this time.

return. He could hear the chain and other soldiers helping to free him. Sgt. Woods had died and he and Spc. Bradfield were airlifted to Mosul, Iraq, where Spc. Bradfield had passed away.

Sgt. Scott was airlifted to Balad, Iraq where he underwent brain surgery, right and left leg surgery. After stabilizing him there, he was then transferred to Landstuhl, Germany. After three days in Germany he was flown to Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Total injuries include fractured back, five broken ribs, brain injury, collapsed right lung, right leg femur fracture, right leg below the knee amputation, left leg from the knee down fractured and toes broken.

The prognosis is good, and he feels it is from all of the prayers and concerns from people all over the world, especially right here in our local community. He will be learning to walk and get his prosthesis in October. He is in good spirits, and isn't bitter, because he knows what he has been through is a small price to pay for the freedom of United States.

Sgt. Leroy Scott Jr. is the husband of Shelia Scott (Mikita) who graduated in 1988 from Calhan High School. They had just bought a house in Falcon in January 2005. Shelia has had to take three months of unpaid leave and is staying with Leroy to encourage and help with his recovery.

Their children are staying with Rob and Dora Mease and are attending Calhan School. Wounded Soldiers and their families do not get any extra financial help during this time. Soldiers only get their base pay and their medical needs covered. Shelia has had to apply to non-profit organizations for help to be able to stay there.

This is a hard time for her family and if anyone would like to "Support Our Troops", this is the perfect time to help a local soldier and his family and say thanks for all he has sacrificed for us to be free. Also, an interesting note, all the plane tickets were covered by the Red Cross and they are able to do this from people donating their extra frequent flyer miles.

Please send cards or notes of encouragement to: Leroy Scott Jr.

& Shelia Scott WRAMC Fisher House 3, Bldg 56, Room 26, Washington, DC 20307-5001. Monetary donations will be accepted at Farmers State Bank in Leroy Scott Jr.'s name.

July 2005

By Katie Wilson

Where some may see a crumbling parking lot and rundown building at 2198 15th Ave. S, Elaine Hopkins envisions a center for teens between the ages of 13 and 17 to learn about television production...

Today Hopkins' idea for a non-profit program involves filming children's programs at schools, churches and community centers in the area and broadcasting the footage on a cable television channel...

The types of programs Hopkins hopes to broadcast includes presentations made by professionals and celebrities in a variety of fields, interviews with children involved with local activities and programs, and the details of such events. Part of the idea is to spread information about the community throughout the community. "We have a lot of good children's programs in the community", Hopkins said "But I've heard a lot of people say that they don't know what's going on." Hopkins cited Lakewood High School and Pinellas Technical

Education Center (PTEC) as potential resources for guidance in the television production aspect of her plan...

The Troops

The Little Hometown Soldiers Mission Statement

Understanding the necessity and loyalty of the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces, the mission of Little Hometown Soldiers is to reach out and encourage kids between the ages of five through twelve years of age, to be strong, proud and

courageous when their parents and loved ones are away serving the Country.

Biography

Little Hometown Soldiers is a non-profit youth organization founded in 2003 in St. Petersburg, Florida, at the inception of the Iraq war against terrorism.

The organization is comprised of a core group of 15 school children from varying cultural and religious backgrounds that range from 5 - 12 years old. They are dedicated to advocating and bringing comfort to other youth that have a military parent or both parents enlisted in the Iraq war and have been deployed to the war zone.

Children can often bring a unique understanding, different than adults, and also help to ease their sense of grief when they have lost a loved one. This dynamic group of youth: sing songs of patriotism; produce dramatic plays; send encouragement through written correspondence; assist in Final Rites Services; make three major television appearances per year, visit children hospitals; visit Veterans Hospitals and Nursing Centers and pray prayers of peace for children all over the world.

Other projects that Little Hometown Soldiers is involved with are:

1. CD entitled "Is Anybody Out There"

2. A book about death for kids between the ages of 5 -12 years. Soon to be available in major book stores. It's title, "An Open Window".

3. A community television Production Center to train troubled youth, 13 - 16 years, in Television Production as a positive alternative to drugs and violence.

To make a donation, purchase a CD, or for further information, please visit our website at www.littlehometownsoldiers.org.