

Subject: Mohave County Chapter 975 Dispatch Volume 2 Edition 3 ++++MAXIMIZE++++
From: "Chap Tom" <chap975@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 3 Mar 2008 14:22:14 -0700
To: "Chap Tom" <chap975@gmail.com>



Mohave County Arizona Chapter 975
"CHAPTER 975 DISPATCH"

"Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another"



***"Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you,
Jesus Christ and the American G.I."
~One died for your soul, the other for your freedom~***





For Questions, Comments, Suggestions, Issues: Contact chaplain@vva975.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters and Family and Friends of Chapter 975, here your Chapter 975 Dispatch.

Please send your pictures, emails, articles, items of interest for the Dispatch.

Maximize your email program display for better viewing.



Vietnam Veterans' Day -- Bullhead City Arizona!



Mayor Jack Hakim, a veteran, friend and strong supporter of serviceman and women and veterans, will ask Bullhead City Council to approve naming March 29th as Vietnam Veterans Day at the City Council meeting **Tuesday March 4th at 5:30PM**. Please join us if possible to **show support for Vietnam Veterans Day** and **thanks to Mayor Hakim**.

City Council chambers are located at the Bullhead City Administrative complex at 1255 Marina Blvd. Following is Google maps link:

<http://local.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=1255+Marina+Blvd,+Bullhead+City,+Mohave,+Arizona+86442,+United+States&sl=37.0625,-95.677>



Welcome Home PFC Keith Stein

We had a great turnout at VFW Post 404 for PFC Keith Stein, US Army MP who is home on his mid tour leave from duty in Iraq.

Local

Soldier, home from Iraq for R&R, gets hero's welcome

By DOMINIKA MASLIKOWSKI/The Daily News

Saturday, March 1, 2008 10:43 PM CST

FORT MOHAVE - Keith Stein, 19, says his years growing up in the Tri-state were typical of many local teenagers - hanging out at Wal-Mart, riding personal watercraft, off-roading and weekend trips to Las Vegas.

In high school Stein was into computers, but after his brother came back from boot camp he began thinking about the military.

“Not a lot of people do it and it has to be done,” he said. “It gets you training and education.”

Stein joined the Army in November 2006 and was shipped to basic training a few months later. He left for his first tour in Iraq in September 2007.

He's currently on two weeks of R&R but will be returning to Iraq in mid-March. There, he's based in Balad - a Shiite town 50 miles north of Baghdad - where he helps the Iraqi Army and police enforce laws and trains forces with the 18th Military Police Brigade.

But at home in Fort Mojave on Friday, he was looking forward to taco night, spending time with family and maybe taking his F-150 - free (on loan) from Colorado River Ford - out for a spin.

Stein has lived most of his life in the Tri-state, since the time his family moved to Golden Valley when Keith was a year old. He married Stephanie last year - who he had known since elementary school - and they dated for less than a year before Stein left for training.

In Balad, Stein thinks the Iraqi police force is willing to learn and thinks most citizens appreciate what U.S. troops are doing.

“I've seen progress made, and that's solely my opinion,” he said. “They're getting better at their job and progressing in how they know how to do their job.

“The fact I can say I've been over there, it's not so much an achievement but something you can be proud that you helped other people,” he said. “It's the most unselfish thing you can do.”

On Saturday, Stein's parents told him to put on his uniform for some family photos.

When Keith heard the roar of approaching motorcycles, and saw the first few pull up to the house carrying U.S. flags, he figured it was a surprise for him and thought, “cool.”



PRAYER: From left, Chaplain Tom Hanlon reads a psalm from a military edition Bible as Keith and Stephanie Stein bow their heads in prayer. DOMINIKA MASLIKOWSKI/The Daily News

“Then they kept coming and coming and coming,” said his father, Joel Stein. “(Then it was) shock. He was amazed and said he couldn't believe it.”

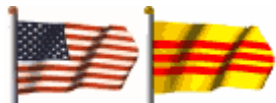
“I knew something was going on, but they weren't telling me,” Keith said. “And there were all those guys excited to see me. It means a lot.”

The Patriot Guard Riders had arrived to escort the River Valley High School graduate to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 404 in Mohave Valley. With a procession of nearly 50 bikes, they rode down Highway 95 to a “welcome home” reception that paid tribute to Stein's service.

At the post, dozens of veterans filled the room as Mohave County Sup. Tom Sockwell, post commander Spike Norman and Ladies Auxiliary President Joey Norman gave speeches in appreciation of the soldier. Stein received a certificate of appreciation and a Patriot Guard Riders flag he was told to bring back from Iraq with “no holes.”

The crowd gathered donations to get Stein a lifetime membership to the VFW while the Ladies Auxiliary served up a spaghetti lunch.

“We can go to the airport and open up our arms,” Keith's father told the crowd, “but this is the icing on the cake.”





From Sisto Sandoval

THANKS TO YOU COMRADE

I am a man who has aged alone yet bonded with the best of friends who will always remain a part of me. Some gave their life so I may live; they gave me my breath of air I call my Freedom. Always in my heart and prayers they always remain. They served in different uniforms in Freedom's name.

Today I step aside from my past, close my eyes and open my heart. I recall so vividly the oath I took one day to protect, defend my Country the USA. I don't want to think of the past for its memories will always last. I want you to know that today as I stand to Honor you, to thank each of you for what you have done for me. Your giving of your self for my freedom means more to me than you'll ever know. Your loyalty is with your soul, Your Commitment will keep us free and my Lord will keep you safe.

You gave your oath and now we stand together, some young some old. Yet together we bond with our reach hands in unity to protect our land. We are individuals with a common goal in defending freedom. As we age and see the past, we close our eyes and see that memories of youth do last.

Some are just beginning to travel the road of honor. A road well chosen, where others have paved the path. Yet the struggles last. My comrade's blood has hardened on foreign soil so that we may walk in peace in this our land. Honor goes to all who took the oath and walked the walk, those who fought, those who supported and all who have worn a uniform. God will send angels to bless each of you for time well served. Thank you my brothers/sister. Thank you for the Freedom I enjoy today. I pray for you that dragons may not come, that dreams will become the realities of the true freedom you gave to us. God Bless you my comrades and thank you with all my heart.

Merry Christmas for the honor is mine to have you here today. Each of you deserves the very best. Thank you for our Freedom

Sisto Sandoval
Vietnam Veteran (1968-1969)
Creations of the Heart





From Heather Ching:



Eric Fefebete / AFP



Jean-Marc Bouju / AP



Yes... It is like that!

Count your blessings, pray for them,

Talk to your Creator

And the next time when ...

The other car cuts you off and you must hit the brakes, or you have to park a little further from Wal-Mart than you want to be, or you're served slightly warm food at the restaurant, or you're sitting and cursing the traffic in front of you, or the shower runs out of hot water,

**Think of them...
Protecting your freedom!**



From Ralph McKie and Sisto Sandoval

George Jones song 50,000 Names Carved On The Wall. Click here >>

<http://home.comcast.net/~singingman7/TNOTW.htm>



From Blu and Karen Kelly:

Blu and Karen report Garrett is doing well and should be home in a few more months. Garrett and Keith Stein are close friends and we look forward to having them both safe and sound and back home with us! Blu sent the following email:

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about. Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house. The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." She read the words "United States of America"

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?" " No, keep reading."

"In God we Trust?" " Yes!" " And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And, God is patient...

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen:

1 cross

+ 3 nails

4 given



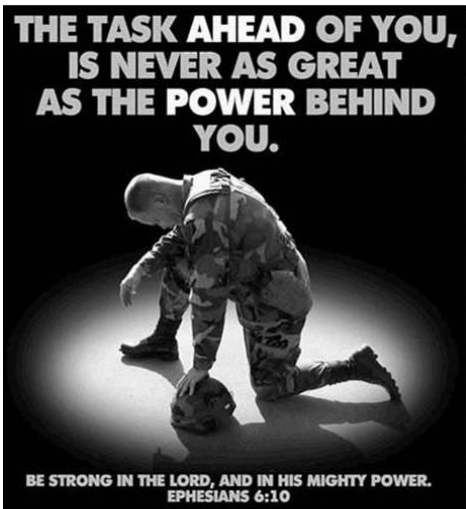
From Webmaster Dave Stafford

As I reflect on this photograph, I see once again that not all the brave leave the 'home of the brave' to enter battle; some are required now to be the brave of the home. It is said a picture is worth a thousand words, but this one leaves me speechless .



Would You Send This Please

We have a long list of good friends whose husbands are deploying (ed) to Iraq . One of the wives sent me this. We feel compelled to send it on. Your prayers are deeply appreciated. These guys deserve our love, our hugs and most powerfully, our prayers.



Prayer Request:

I understand that life in Iraq is very difficult to bear right now. Our troops need our prayers for strength, endurance and safety.

'Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need... Amen.'



Chaplain's Corner:



Its good to get the Dispatch going again. We all go through it and lately Nana and I have been going through tough times involving our son with alcohol related issues back in California. Please keep us in your prayers as the Lord leads.

Please lift Chapter 975 member and dear friend Ralph and Katherine Clay up to the Lord for



care, healing and strength.

(Ralph and Katherine on the left)

Ralph was injured in a motorcycle accident and is in critical but stable condition in intensive care. The family requests prayer but no visitors at the present time.

From Ralph McKie

One of our members that works at the prison has been off of work with a back problem looks like he will be having surgery sometime soon his name is Bobby Taylor. Lets keep him in our prayer



Please pray for:

- Our Servicemen and Women and our Brothers and Sisters in arms** who are being treated / are recovering in military and VA hospitals.
- Chapter 975 & 785 members and families**



- Rich Poliska for the Lord's care and healing**

- **David Duggins and his wife and daughters; for the Lords provision, care and healing**



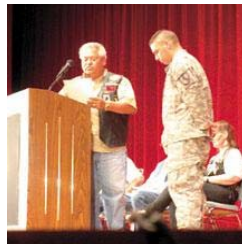
- **Tom Murray for the Lord's care and healing;**



- **Richard Carroll for the Lord's care and healing**



- **Nancy (Friend of Ch 975 member Mark Young) for the Lord's care and healing**



- **Sgt Kenny Bower US Army** currently serving in Iraq



- ***PFC Garrett Kelly US Army*** currently serving in Iraq



- ***SPEC Ryan Smith US Army*** currently serving in Iraq



- ***Airman 1st Class Joshua Wages***



- ***Chief Petty Officer Gil McGillivray,***



• *Spec Anthony Martinez;*



• *Airman 1st Class Ralph Lopez;*



• *Spec Rehta Woelfer;*



• *Airman Christopher Coyner;*



• **Airman Scott Weaver;**



• **USMC Tony and Nicole ;**

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• **PFC Keith Stein;**



- **Major Bill "Monsoon" Mimiaga for the Lord's care and healing**
- **Joyce Huggins, Chapter 785 for the Lords care and healing**
- **Norman Coy** Chapter 975 member for the Lord's care and healing.
- **Brien Richards** for the Lord's care and healing
- **Hal Earls** for the Lord's care and healing while in VA Prescott
- **Bobby Taylor** for the Lord's care and healing

God Bless our "Troops in Harms Way....." and God bless Those brave men and women who gave all.....

Email prayer requests to chaplain@vva975.org and **be sure to indicate if they are confidential** or for public display in the "Chapter 975 Dispatch"



Well that's it for this edition, keep sending pictures and articles for the Dispatch!

Psalm 61

To the Chief Musician. On a stringed instrument. [a]A Psalm of David.

1 Hear my cry, O God;

Attend to my prayer.

2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You,

When my heart is overwhelmed;

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

3 For You have been a shelter for me,

A strong tower from the enemy.

4 I will abide in Your tabernacle forever;

I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah

5 For You, O God, have heard my vows;

You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name.

(NKJV)

Lord Bless and keep you and yours until we meet again!

Tom Hanlon

Chaplain

Mohave County Chapter 975

Vietnam Veterans of America

www.vva975.org

chaplain@vva975.org

