

MEMORIAL DAY

5-31-10

Saluting our servicemembers

A poem worth reading



Chuck Hurt Sr., U.S. Army
Korean War veteran



SSG Louis Parks, currently serving in Iraq with B BTRY RFS 278th ACR



CDR Scott Fields, U.S. Navy Retired
In the Panama Canal, 1988

Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men.
- General George Patton Jr.

HOME

Continued from Page B1

on to her daughters several of the items he had given her, including his bombardier wings.

One of McDow's daughters gave Roane a box with Kelley's wings and other items, knowing she would keep them in a safe place.

Roane and several other of Kelley's relatives are currently campaigning to their senators and congressmen of this situation in hopes to bring Kelley and the rest of the soldiers in the ginger field back to America.

"This is not just a recovery effort of one local hero. This must be a nationwide effort to bring these men home," said Roane. "These men paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom."

Today, John Kelley's tombstone rests at the Shiloh Cemetery in Garland alongside his parents and brothers and sisters. An American flag can be seen blowing in the wind on his grave, serving as a reminder that he, as so many other young men, died in honor of their country.

His sister, Jeanette Graham Seaton of

Marion, Ark. is his only living sibling, yet he has dozens of nieces and nephews who all grew up hearing stories of "Uncle Johnny" and his golden smile.

Kelley was profiled in an article for Reader's Digest and has been mentioned in several historical books.

While he is gone, his memory and all he did for his country still exists in the lives of many today.

The plane has been found, but the quest to have his remains sent home is ongoing.

Kelley's name is engraved on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial.

The entrance to this reads, "Here are the recorded names of Americans who gave their lives in the service of their country and who sleep in unknown graves."

Kelley's niece, Susan Krall of Avon, Ohio, credits this quote and the picture of John on her desk with giving her the strength and motivation to never stop searching for him and bringing him home, which is something, as many of his acquaintances would contend, that John Kelley would have done for anyone.

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 't'ho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For of 'Bob he has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'T'ho a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow men?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier--
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline
In a paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."

OUTLAW'S
FURNITURE & MATTRESS
340 Aloka McLaughlin
Aloka, TN 38004
901.837.8292

We pay the sales tax for all military

"Prices so low they oughta be outlawed!"

McCannell LANDSCAPES, INC.
NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER

2055 Rosemark Road
Aloka, TN 38004
840-3879 • 331-2209
Hours Monday - Saturday 8-6
Sunday 12-5

J.T. Warren served in World War II and was always very proud of his country. Miss you, Daddy.

Karen Richardson

ELECT BERT COMBS
CONSTABLE DISTRICT 3

Your vote & support greatly appreciated!

Paid for by the committee to elect Bert Combs Constable District 3, Leigh Ann Combs, Treasurer

Darlene Wheeler wishes her son, Tyler, a very special memorial day as he prepares to leave for his third deployment. "This is just one of the reasons I am so very proud of him."

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Paid for by the committee to elect Darlene Wheeler for County Clerk, Tim Wheeler Treasurer

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the men and women who have served in our armed forces. I am very proud of the distinguished military careers of my personal family members—Glen Counts and Bob Gaither.

Vote Mary Gaither
County Clerk

"Proven Leadership & Experience"
Paid for by Friends to Elect Mary Gaither for County Clerk, Kathy McMahan, Treasurer