



# The Bugle Call Rag

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www.alpost134.org

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## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

**Do you know who this is?** ▶

Find out and learn about his impact on The American Legion.

The Legion's official training program is now available online.



Franklin D'Olier of Pennsylvania was elected to serve as the first national commander, and Lemuel Bolles of Washington was appointed as the first national adjutant. Indianapolis won the bid in a competition with four other cities – Minneapolis, Detroit, Kansas City, Mo., and Washington, D.C. – to become the permanent home of The American Legion National Headquarters. In less than a year, The American Legion had emerged from an idea built on a few general values into a federally chartered and fast-growing force of patriotic veterans.

The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online. I've personally taken the course and gained valuable insight into areas and programs I never knew The American Legion offered. A must course for all of us who try and recruit new members.

[www.legion.org/alei](http://www.legion.org/alei) **Todd**



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### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Bill Underwood  
Transfer from Post 140
- Maciej Kolodynski  
USMC



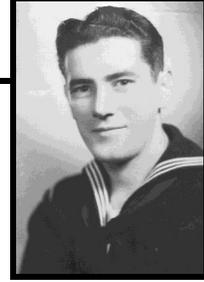
### Edwin Hill (Past Commander 1975-76)

July 30, 1923—Sept 7, 2012



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Called to military service in 1943, he served with the 42nd Rainbow Infantry Division. Deployed to France and Germany, they helped liberate the Dachau Concentration Camp. As a result of his battlefield actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor. May God be with you.



## Pride

Victor A. Mahoney - Editor Emeritus

Pride is part of the human condition. We all have it, in small or large doses.

Some folks flaunt it, usually in some harmless way.

You younger readers may recall entering a bar during WW II and finding it populated by Texans. Some among them insisted upon feeding nickels into the juke box for a constant playing of "The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You." The tune was hard enough to handle. What was really obnoxious was the Texans demanding that everyone stand during the song as a tribute to their great state. Pockets of violence often resulted.

As a distinguished member of the community, you may have been invited to an ethnic wedding at which you expected to enjoy the cultural differences, the food, the toasts, the music, the dancing. It wasn't until you were cornered by an inebriated relative of the bride that you heard the sneer in "You aren't Iranian, are you?" You were welcome, of course, but you were deemed not worthy of the chieftain's daughter.

Where religious differences exist between you and the group at the moment, the expression of intolerance laced with pride is likely to be more subtle, less robust. No welt is felt.

These snippets are relatively harmless, even enjoyable if you are loose enough. What is not enjoyable is the inordinate pride that shackles clear thinking, pride that is accompanied by touchiness. You find such among those who

were taught that a particular ethnic group or race or religious group is superior to all others, individually or combined. That is the stuff of bigotry and prejudice. It is what keeps the lumps in the melting pot.

Each of us is an accident of birth.

The color of our eyes or hair or skin, the strength of our skeletal frame, the capacity of our intellect, all of these come from afar and give no cause for declarations of pride. What we are blessed with, we give thanks for; what we are lacking, we try to compensate for.

Folks who rattle around with a showy pride in ancestry or heritage or affiliation dependent upon material wealth do not often find the true respect that they seek.

Justifiable pride is ours to express only if we have learned to respect our fellow man, if we have learned to discipline ourselves, if we have developed our skills, if we have arrived at an awareness of our frailty and of our transitory state.

Education does not belong to the churches and schools alone. It is in the family that our character is molded chiefly. That's where humility begins and where pride should find its minor role.

We have a national election coming up. Pride is running amok as campaign rhetoric becomes gibberish. Now is the time to harness one's pride in the discipline of the mind.



## General Patraeus speech to Veterans

Thanks to my fellow veterans: I remember the day I found out I got into West Point. My mom actually showed up in the hallway of my high school and waited for me to get out of class. She was bawling her eyes out and apologizing that she had opened up my admission letter. She wasn't crying because it had been her dream for me to go there. She was crying because she knew how hard I'd worked to get in, how much I wanted to attend, and how much I wanted to be an infantry officer. I was going to get that opportunity.

That same day two of my teachers took me aside and essentially told me the following: "David, you're a smart guy. You don't have to join the military. You should go to college, instead." I could easily write a theme defending West Point and the military as I did that day, explaining that the USMA is an elite institution, that separate from that it is actually statistically much harder to enlist in the military than it is to get admitted to college, that serving the nation is a challenge that all able-bodied men should at least consider for a host of reasons, but I won't.

What I will say is that when a 16 year-old kid is being told that attending West Point is going to be bad for his future then there is a dangerous disconnect in America, and entirely too many Americans have no idea what kind of burdens our military is bearing. In World War II, 11.2% of the nation served in four (4) years. During the Vietnam era, 4.3% served in twelve (12) years. Since 2001, only 0.45% of our population has served in the Global War on Terror. These are unbelievable statistics.

Overtime, fewer and fewer people have shouldered more and more of the burden and it is only getting worse. Our troops were sent to war in Iraq by a Congress consisting of 10% veterans with only one person having a child in the military. Taxes did not increase to pay for the war. War bonds were not sold. Gas was not regulated. In fact, the average citizen was asked to sacrifice nothing, and has sacrificed nothing unless they have chosen to out of the goodness of their hearts

The only people who have sacrificed are the veterans and their families. The volunteers. The people who swore an oath to defend this nation. You stand there, deployment after deployment and fight on. You've lost relationships, spent years of your lives in extreme conditions, years apart from kids you'll never get back, and beaten your body in a way that even professional athletes don't understand. Then you come home to a nation that doesn't understand. They don't understand suffering. They don't understand sacrifice. They don't understand why we fight for them. They don't understand that bad people exist. They look at you like you're a machine - like something is wrong with you. You are the misguided one - not them. When you get out, you sit in the college classrooms with political science teachers that discount your opinions on Iraq and Afghanistan because YOU WERE THERE and can't understand the macro issues they gathered from books, because of your bias.

You watch TV shows where every vet has PTSD and the violent strain at that. Your Congress is debating your benefits, your retirement, and your pay, while they ask you to do more. But the amazing thing about you is that you all know this. You know your country will never pay back what you've given up. You know that the populace at large will never truly understand or appreciate what you have done for them. Hell, you know that in some circles, you will be thought as less than normal for having worn the uniform. Just that decision alone makes you part of an elite group. "Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few."

-Winston Churchill

Thank you to the 11.2% and 4.3% who have served and thanks to the 0.45% who continue to serve our Nation.

**Gen (Ret) David Patraeus, West Point Class 1974  
Current Director of the CIA**

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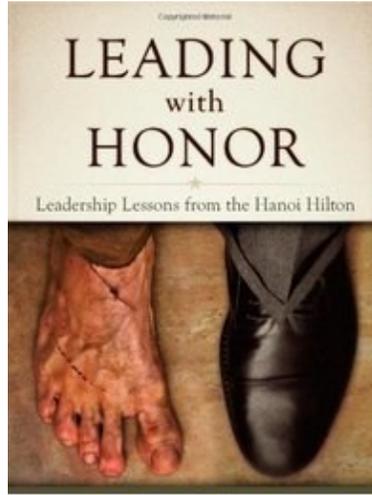
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Victor Mahoney  
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**Next Meeting — Oct 11, 2012**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	EC	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



[EbooksFreeDownload.org](http://EbooksFreeDownload.org)

**OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER**

Col (Ret) Lee Ellis served as an F-4 pilot and is a Vietnam veteran of 53 combat missions. In 1967 he was shot down and held as a POW for more than five years in Hanoi and surrounding camps. He has also served as the Professor for Aerospace studies at the University of Georgia. His newest book is based on his personal experience with exceptional leaders in Vietnam POW camps.

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