

PERRY TWP MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE



Heroes are never perfect, but they're brave, they're authentic, they're courageous, determined, discreet, and they've got grit.

-Wade Davis

SPONSORSHIP SALUTE

2017 – HERO 5K RUN/WALK

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Flowers by Pat
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SPECIAL THANKS

Anytime Fitness – Perry Township
Performance Health Inc. – Biofreeze

A DEBT THAT CANNOT BE REPAID

In a country that most would struggle to find a map, in a compound that few possess the courage to enter, men from my previous life took the fight to our enemy.

In that compound, they found men that pray five times a day for your destruction. Those men don't know me, they don't know you, and they don't know America. They don't understand our compassion, our freedoms, and our tolerance. I know it may seem as if those things are currently missing, but they remain, and I know they will return. Our capacity for them is boundless, and is only dwarfed by their hatred for you. They don't care about your religious beliefs; they don't care about your political opinions. They don't care if you sit on the left or the right, liberal or conservative, pacifist or a warrior. They don't care how much you believe in diversity, equality, or freedom of speech.

I'm sorry that you have never smelled the breath of a man who wants to kill you. I am sorry that you have never felt the alarm bells ringing in your body, the combination of fear and adrenaline, as you move toward the fight, instead of running from it. I am sorry you have never heard someone cry out for help, or cried out for help yourself, relying on the courage of others to bring you home. I am sorry you have never tasted the salt from your own tears, as you stand at flag draped coffins, burying men you were humbled to call your friends. I don't wish those experiences on you, but I wish you had them. It would change the way you act, it would change the way you value, it would change the way you appreciate. You become quick to open your eyes, and slow to open your mouth.

Most will never understand the sacrifice required keeping men from the compound away from our doorstep, but it would not hurt you to try. It would not hurt you to take a moment to respect the sacrifices that others make on your behalf, whether they share your opinions or not. It would not hurt you to take a moment to think of the relentless drain on family, friends, and loved ones that are left behind. Ideas are not protected by words. Paper may outline the foundation and principles of this nation, but it is blood that protects it.

In that compound, a man you have never met gave everything he had, so that YOU have the freedom to think, speak, and act however you choose. He went there for all of us, whether you loved him, or hated what he stood for. He went there to preserve the opportunity and privileges to believe, to be, and to become want we want. This country, every single person living inside of its borders and under the banner of its flag, owes that man. We owe that man everything. We owe him the respect that his sacrifice deserves.

Thank you, is not saying enough. We send our best, and lose them, in the fight against the worst this world has to offer. If you want to respect and honor their sacrifice, it needs to be more than words. You have to live it.

Take a minute and look around. Soak it in, all of it. The good, the bad, and the ugly. You have the choice, every day, as to which category you want to be in, and which direction you want to move. You have that choice, because the best among us, the best we have ever had to offer, fought, bled, and died for it.

Don't ever forget it.

Unknown Navy Seal

THE U.S. MARINE CORPS DRESS BLUES UNIFORM

With the raising of two battalions by the Continental Congress, the United States Marine Corps came into existence on November 10, 1775. Throughout its long history, the USMC has distinguished itself in part with distinct uniforms.

The iconic dark blue cloth associated with the modern day Marine Corps didn't appear until 1798. The first official uniform guides required coats made of dark blue broadcloth with red facing. Instead of regular buttons, the coats featured brass naval buttons.

One of the most iconic features of the blue dress uniform is the scarlet blood stripe that runs down the outer seam of each pant leg. This style is reserved for Marines at the rank of corporal or above; the stripe increases in width for officers and general officers. The stripe is subject to much speculation in regards to its origin. The story most commonly handed down from drill instructors to recruits is that it signifies a great sacrifice in the Marine Corps' history. Supposedly, in 1847, the majority of a force of Marines was cut down attempting to storm Chapultepec, a castle in Mexico City. The first truly red trouser stripe for officers and noncommissioned officers were added to the uniform in 1892.

The gold buttons worn on the dress blue coat feature one of the earliest Marine Corps emblems – the eagle and anchor with an arc of 13 stars – and have been a part of the uniform since 1804, making them the oldest military insignia in continued use. In 1868, the current emblem of the Marine Corps – the eagle, globe

and anchor was adopted. The eagle does, in fact, represent the proud nation the Corps defends. The globe represents its worldwide presence; and the anchor points to the Marine Corps' naval heritage and its ability to access any coastline in the world. Together, the eagle, globe and anchor symbolize the commitment of the Corps to defend this nation, in the air, on land and at sea.

The standing collar worn by both officers and enlisted represents the high leather stock, or collar, worn by Marines throughout the early 19th century. This stock did inspire the nickname "leatherneck."

Embroidered into the top of a Marine officer's hat, called a "cover" by Marines, is an ornate cross-shaped braid. The quatrefoil dates back to the early 19th century. Marine lore has it that during ship-to-ship fighting in the War of 1812, Marine officers wore a rope cross on their covers to distinguish themselves to their own sharpshooters high in the ship's riggings.

Whether you want to call it a sabre or a saber, the sword is the oldest weapon still in use by the U.S. Military. Marine sergeants have carried swords from the earliest days of the Corps, and used them in the field through the Civil War. The current Marine NCO sword, carried for parade and ceremony by enlisted Marines above the rank of corporal, was authorized by the sixth commandant of the Marine Corps, Colonel Harris.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Staff Sergeant Leroy A. Petry - United States Army Ranger (Retired)

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy in the vicinity of Paktya Province, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2008. As a Weapons Squad Leader with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger regiment. While crossing a courtyard, Staff Sergeant Petry and another Ranger were engaged and wounded by automatic weapons fire from enemy fighters. Still under fire, and wounded in both legs, Staff Sergeant Petry led the other Rangers to cover. The enemy quickly responded by maneuvering closer and throwing grenades. The first grenade explosion knocked his two fellow Rangers to the ground and wound both with shrapnel. A second grenade then landed only a few feet away from them. Staff Sergeant Petry, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his safety, deliberately and selflessly moved forward, picked up the grenade, and in an effort to clear the immediate threat, threw the grenade away from his fellow Rangers. As he was releasing the grenade it detonated, amputating his right hand at the wrist and further injuring him with multiple shrapnel wounds.

Staff Sergeant Petry was born in New Mexico in 1979. In September 1999, Petry enlisted in the United States Army. He has deployed eight times in support of overseas contingency operations with two tours to Iraq and six tours to Afghanistan.

Petry has been awarded two Bronze Star Medals, a Purple Heart, three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, Valorous Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Combat Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with Combat Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. Petry and his wife have four children.

ORIGIN OF THE MILITARY HAND SALUTE

No one knows the precise origin of today's military hand salute. Most sources speculate the roots to this time honored tradition date as far back as the Roman Times when assassins were common. It is believed the raising of the right hand (weapon hand) was a gesture to show that you were not shielding any type of weapon.

One romantic legend has it that today's military salute descended from the medieval knight's gesture of raising his visor to reveal his identity as a courtesy on the approach of a superior. Another version is that it symbolizes a knight's shielding his eyes from the dazzling beauty of some high-born lady sitting in the bleachers of the tournament.

The following explanation of the origin of the hand salute is perhaps closest to the truth: it was a long-established military custom for juniors to remove their headgear in the presence of superiors. In the British Army as late as the American Revolution, a soldier saluted by removing his hat. But with the advent of more cumbersome headgear in the 18th and 19th centuries, the act of removing one's hat was gradually converted into the simpler gesture of grasping the visor, and issuing a courteous salutation. From there it finally became conventionalized into something resembling our modern hand salute.

A salute is a privileged gesture which shows a sign of trust and respect among soldiers. In the military, the subordinate always salutes first. In the military, salute is always rendered for the following:

- US National Anthem, "To the Color", "Hail to the Chief", or playing of any foreign national anthem
- When national colors are uncased outdoors
- Ceremonial occasions
- Ceremonial reveille and retreat
- Raising and lowering of the flag
- When honors are sounded
- Pledge of Allegiance - outdoors
- When rendering reports
- When turning over control of formations

Individuals entitled to a Salute:

- Presidents of the United States
- Commissioned and Warrant Officers
- All Medal of Honor Recipients
- Officers of Allied Foreign Countries

SEMPER FI

The Marine Corps adopted “Semper Fidelis” as its official motto in 1883 on the initiative of Colonel Charles McCawley, the 8th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Translated from Latin, “Semper Fidelis” means “Always Faithful”. U.S. Marines use an abbreviated verbal version, “Semper Fi”, to voice loyalty and commitment to their Marine comrades-in-arms.

The earliest definitively recorded use of Semper Fidelis is as the motto of the French town of Abbeville since 1369. The Marine Corps shares its motto with England’s Devonshire Regiment, the 11th Foot, one of the senior infantry regiments of the British Army, whose sobriquet is the “the Bloody Eleventh” and whose motto is also Semper Fidelis.

What is left unsaid in the motto is also notable. The phrase is “Always Faithful.” It isn’t “Sometimes Faithful.” Nor is it “Usually Faithful,” but Always. It is non negotiable. It is not relative, but absolute.

“Semper Fi. This does misrepresent the phrase; it simply symbolizes the ability of common people to become part of a brotherhood that demands more of its members than any other comparable group in the world.

There were three mottos prior to Semper Fidelis including *Fortitudine* (meaning “with courage”) antedating the War of 1812, *Per Mare, Per Terram* (“by sea, by land”; presumably inherited from the British Royal Marines), and, up until 1848, there was also the Marine Hymn motto “To the Shores of Tripoli”. However, after the return to Washington of the Marine battalion that took part in the capture of Mexico City, this motto was revised to “From the Halls of the Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli”. “Semper Fidelis” is also the title of the official march of the United States Marine Corps, composed by John Philip Sousa in 1889. On the United States Marine Corps Seal, the symbols of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor emblem holds a ribbon emblazoned “Semper Fidelis”.

RANGER CREED

Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of the Rangers.

Acknowledging the fact that a Ranger is a more elite Soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle, by land, sea, or air, I accept the fact that as a Ranger my country expects me to move further, faster and fight harder than any other soldier.

Never shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong and morally straight and I will shoulder more than my share of the task whatever it may be, one-hundred-percent and then some.

Gallantly will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well-trained Soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, neatness of dress and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow.

Energetically will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

Readily will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission though I be the lone survivor.

Rangers lead the way!