

PERRY TWP MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE



**“We are all ordinary. We are all boring. We are all spectacular.
We are all shy. We are all helpless. We are all bold. We are all
heroes. It just depends on the day.”**

-Brad Meltzer

SPONSORSHIP SALUTE

2019 – HERO 5K Run/Walk

Platinum Sponsor

McKinley Eagles 2370

Gold Sponsor

Aqua Ohio

Renee Martin

Waikem Auto Family

Silver Sponsor

Rick Dobbins

Ohio Grating

Young Truck Sales

Perry Chiropractic

Orion Construction

Burnham & Flowers

Mr. Dan Ford – Edward Jones Investments

Bronze Sponsor

Akron Uniform

B & C Communications

Hosner Carpet

Falcones Tavern

HRN Restoration

Design Restoration

Central Auto Sales

Matt and Rachel Barker

Special Thanks

Superior Dairy

Anytime Fitness

The Engravers Edge

Performance Health Inc - Biofreeze

Grand Marshal

Mr. Ralph Dunnerstick

(Retired) United States Marine Corps – World War II

HISTORY OF THE MARINE CORPS HYMN

Following the war with the Barbary Pirates in 1805, when Lieutenant Presely O'Bannon and a small force of Marines participated in the capture of Deme, the Colors of the Corps was inscribed with the words: "To the Shores of Tripoli." After the Marines participated in the capture of Castle of Chapultepec, otherwise known as the "Halls of Montezuma," the words on the Colors were changed to read: "From the Shores of Tripoli to the Halls of Montezuma."

The author of the lyrics is unknown. Legend has it that a Marine on duty in Mexico penned the hymn. For the sake of euphony, the unknown author transposed the phrases in the motto on the Colors so that the first two lines of the hymn would read: "from the Halls of Montezuma, to the Shores of Tripoli."

John Phillip Sousa once wrote: "The melody of the "Halls of Montezuma" is taken from the comic opera 'Genevieve de Brabant' and is sung by two gendarmes." The melody was composed in 1859.

The first version of the hymn was copyrighted, published and distributed in the 1919 Leatherneck – a Marine Corps magazine. On November 21, 1942, the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps approved a slight change in the words of the first verse, to read: "In air, on land, and sea" instead of the earlier: "In the air, on land, and sea."

The Marine Corps hymn is the oldest official song in the United States military. Western Illinois University uses the hymn prior to all football games. They are the only non-military academy allowed to use the hymn. The university has had permission to use the official nickname, mascot, and hymn of the Corps since 1927

COINS ON A GRAVESTONE: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Have you ever noticed coins on a gravestone and wondered why they are there?

In Greek mythology, Charon, the ferryman of Hades, required payment for his services. A coin was therefore placed in the mouth of the dearly departed to ensure Charon would ferry the deceased across the rivers Styx and Acheron and into the world of the dead rather than leave him to wander the shore for a hundred years.

While visiting some cemeteries, you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave. The tradition of soldiers leaving coins of varying denominations on the headstones of fallen comrades denotes their relations with the deceased.

These coins have distinct meaning when left on the headstones who gave their life while serving in the military and the meaning varies depending on the denomination of coin. A coin left on a headstone or at the gravesite is a message to the family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect.

Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited.

A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together.

A dime means you served with them in some capacity.

By leaving a quarter at the grave site, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed.

The money left at graves in national and state veteran cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Corporal Hershel W. Williams, USMC

Hershel Williams was born on a dairy farm in 1923 in West Virginia. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in May 1943 and was shipped out to the Pacific Theater 3 months later. Corporal Williams was trained to be a demolitions sergeant, which meant he knew how to use flamethrowers and detonate explosives.

The Battle of Iwo Jima began February 19, 1945. Taking Iwo Jima was critical because the U.S. needed the island's airfields. The fighting on Iwo Jima was brutal because of the numerous steel-reinforced bunkers and buried mines that were protecting the Japanese airfield. Initially, Williams had been one of several demolition sergeants; however, by Feb. 23rd, he was the only one left.

Corporal Williams volunteered to go forward alone to attempt to quell the devastating machine-gun fire from the bunkers. Covered by only 4 riflemen, Williams fought desperately for 4 hours under terrific enemy small-arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare demolition charges and obtain flamethrowers. Williams would then make his way back to where the enemy was and set the charges off.

On one occasion, Williams daringly mounted a bunker to insert the nozzle of his flamethrower through an air vent, killing the occupants and silencing the machinegun. At one point, Williams charged enemy riflemen who were attempting to stop him with bayonets and killed the enemy soldiers with a burst of flame from his flamethrower.

His unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most fanatically defended Japanese strong points on the island. For his actions, Williams received the Medal of Honor from President Truman on October 5, 1945. Ten other Marines and two sailors received the Medal of Honor that day.

Hershel "Woody" Williams, is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient to have fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

THE RIDERLESS HORSE: EMPTY BOOTS REVERSED IN THE STIRRUPS

The Caparisoned horse is the riderless horse who follows the caisson, (6 horses pulling the cart) which carries the casket of the fallen. The Caparison horse represents the soldier who will no longer ride in the brigade. The Caparisoned horse wears the cavalry saddle, the sword and backwards boots in the stirrups. The simple black riding boots are reversed in the stirrups to represent a fallen leader looking back on his troops for the last time.

The custom is believed to date back to the era of Genghis Khan, when a horse was sacrificed to serve the fallen warrior in the next world. In the United States, the Caparisoned horse is part of the military honors given to an Army or Marine Corps officer who was a colonel or above; this includes the President (Commander and Chief) and the Secretary of Defense. Alexander Hamilton was the first American to be given the honor.

In 1865, Abraham Lincoln was honored by the inclusion of a Caparisoned horse at his funeral. When Lincoln's funeral train reached Springfield, Illinois, his personal horse "Old Bob" was draped in a black mourning blanket, followed the procession and led mourners to Lincoln's burial spot. The tradition of the riderless horse in the funeral of American Presidents was not observed for the next eighty years. In 1945, when Franklin Roosevelt died, the horse appeared once more.

The riderless horse who took part in JFK's funeral procession would become the most renowned of all the horses. "Black Jack", who would represent the mount of a fallen leader in the processions for Kennedy, Presidents Herbert Hoover and Lyndon Johnson, as well as General Douglas MacArthur.

The Kennedy funeral procession would set the standard for riderless horses from 1963 to present day. A black modified English riding saddle and black bridle, black, spurred cavalry boots faced backwards in the stirrups and a scabbard with sword hung from the rear of the saddle's right side. Positioned beneath the saddle, a heavy saddle cloth, or saddle blanket, with ornamental design. The "Caparison horse" refers to the ornamental design on the horse's saddle cloth or saddle blanket. The soldier who leads the riderless horse is called the cap walker.

WHY ARE MILITARY HELICOPTERS NAMED AFTER NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES?

The Army's helicopters have a number of names that you recognize immediately: Apache, Black Hawk, Kiowa, Lakota and Comanche. These are also the names of Native American tribes. This is not a coincidence.

Early Army helicopters had names like Hoverfly. The benign nature of the name did not sit well with General Hamilton Howze, a pioneer of air-mobile warfare. General Howze envisioned the helicopter as a fast, mobile, stealthy machine on the field of battle using terrain and vegetation to an advantage similar to the Warrior Tribes. Shortly thereafter, the next helicopter became the H13 Sioux, the Korean War aircraft most famous for its appearance in the television show M*A*S*H*.

Although not an official policy, Army officials typically name attack aircraft for tribes that historians have noted for their prowess. There is an actual process to picking a name for new aircraft. The Bureau of Indian Affairs keeps a list of names for the Army to use. When the Army gets a new helicopter or other aircraft, the commanding officer of the Army Materials Command comes up with a list of five names.

The names must promote confidence in the abilities of the helicopter or plane. The names cannot sacrifice dignity and it must promote an aggressive spirit. The names are then submitted to the United States Patent Office. After a lot more bureaucratic paperwork, eventually a name is picked.

Then comes something unique. The helicopter or aircraft is then part of a ceremony attended by Native American leaders, who bestow tribal blessings. In other words, the Army's helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft bear the names that reflect fierce and courageous warriors.

SAILOR'S CREED

I am a United States Sailor.

I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America
and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me.

I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before
me to defend freedom and democracy around the world.

I proudly serve my country's Navy combat team with Honor, Courage, and
Commitment.

I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.