



An organization of past and present, military and civilian, staffers and employees, their families and friends of the U.S. Armed Forces daily newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*.

NEWS

Fall 2017

MORE STORIES FROM EX-EUROPEAN STRIPERS

The Stars and Stripes proudly lives on

By Bucky Fox (ESS 1980-1999)

The Stars and Stripes' modern age celebrates its 75th birthday this year, with no letup on its heroic march. Headlines and stories flashed Anzio, Inchon, Khe Sanh, Medina Ridge, Fallujah. Now Stripes spearheads coverage at Bagram Air Field and other points in Afghanistan.

S&S goes where America's troops go, these days online to complement the paper form.

Stripes' birth really was in 1861, first year of the Civil War, with a reincarnation during World War I, featuring Harold Ross as editor before his New Yorker magazine co-founding and Grantland Rice on the sports page ahead of his Golden Age domination.

The continuous version of Stripes started in London in April 1942, a few years before the Pacific edition set sail. While WWII raged, Bill Mauldin cracked up his fellow soldiers with sardonic Willie & Joe cartoons. Gen. George Patton was so ticked at the belittling of officers, he threatened to toss Mauldin in jail. Didn't happen, thanks to Patton's boss, Dwight Eisenhower, who underscored, "Stars & Stripes is the soldiers' paper, and we won't interfere." Mauldin got the last laugh, winning two Pulitzers.

Another Striper in the European Theater was Andy Rooney, who covered D-Day decades before grumbling on "60 Minutes." That snarl



Two members of the 34th Infantry Division look at the first Stars and Stripes issue published in World War II. The London edition issue rolled off the presses April 18th, 1942.

on CBS was no act. Upon S&S' 50th birthday party in 1992 at the paper's office in Griesheim, Germany, I let on that while editing his column, I changed his copy to reflect the subjunctive mood: If I were, not if I was. Rooney had a fit, telling me that his work was already edited and to lay off. That night at the shindig he joked about it, and I continued to tweak his grammar.

Meanwhile, more talent stepped to the fore at S&S: John Windrow, a hi-

larious writer who went on to teach journalism at Hawaii Pacific University; John Kominicki, a brilliant scribe who became publisher of Long Island Business News; and Bill Sammon, whose cutting-edge reports on the military's mission in Bosnia preceded his rise as White House correspondent for The Washington Times and now a top editor at Fox News.

Then there was Ed Reavis. This was a giant of man who lived large –

SEE PROUDLY ON PAGE 7

Stars and Stripes Association Inc. is a California non-profit corporation with more than 300 members worldwide. Address, 1510 West Nottingham, Anaheim, CA 92802

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICES: Calvin Posner, membership manager, 4440 Strathmore Drive, Lake Wales, FL 33859 or calposner@aol.com

In memory of Maurice (Maury) Martin, Col., USAF (Ret.), whose efforts as co-founder made this association possible.

OFFICERS

President: Mike Mealey, 337 Applebrook Drive, Malvern, PA 19355, phone 610-722-0783, Fax 610-722-0784, e-mail michaelmealey@aol.com

Vice President and Secretary: Lorrie Goben, P.O. Box 502, Camino, CA 95709, phone 530-647-0511, e-mail lorrieandrong@gmail.com

Membership Manager and Treasurer: Calvin Posner, 4440 Strathmore Drive, Lake Wales, FL 33859, phone 863-662-4410 or e-mail calposner@aol.com

DIRECTORS

Chairman Emeritus: Toshi Cooper, 15 Possum Hollow Road, Newark, DE 19711, phone 302-454-6488, e-mail tgmcooper@comcast.net

Jim Hummel, 3023 Delta Road, San Jose, CA 95135, phone 408-270-2349, e-mail k2it@pacbell.net

Max D. Lederer, Jr., Publisher, Stars and Stripes, 529 14th St., NW, Washington, DC 20045 lederer.max@stripes.com

Walt Trott, P.O. Box 477 Madison, TN 37116-0477, phone 615-868-3248, e-mail trottaboutmusic@aol.com

Bob Trounson, 446 Theresa Lane, Sierra Madre, CA 91024, phone 626-355-0570, e-mail mbtrounson@aol.com

Newsletter editor: Joe Schneider, 4053 Mount Brundage Ave., San Diego, CA 92111, phone 858-278-0394, e-mail aztecjoes@aol.com

ALLIED WITH

The Stars and Stripes Museum/Library Association Inc.®, P.O. Box 1861, Bloomfield, MO 63825. Phone/Fax 573-568-2055. Philip Tippen, President; Sue Mayo, Librarian, e-mail stripes@newwavecomm.net, website starsandstripesmuseum.com

Stars and Stripes Association News

Editorial matter about The Stars and Stripes and Stripers should be sent directly to the editor, who reserves the option to edit copy. Neither the association nor the editor attests to the accuracy of submitted articles published. Views expressed by authors are their own.

Newsletter edited and designed by Douglas Gillam, Chris Carlson and Chris Verigan.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings from sunny Florida.

I'm pleased to announce that your Board of Directors has voted to adopt a plan that will eliminate member dues payments after 2018. Members who are paid through 2018 will not pay any more dues and will continue to receive the newsletter via snail mail and email. New members will make a one-time dues payment equivalent to one year's dues and then not pay any more dues. I encourage you to pay your 2018 dues as quickly as possible, so this plan can be implemented not later than January.

As of November 30, 2017,
our **business checking account** balance is **\$4,092.73.**

As of November 30, 2017,
our **money market account** balance is **\$19,487.47.**

As of November 30, 2017,
our **total** balance is **\$23, 580.20.**

As always, our complete monthly combined bank statement is available by emailing me at: calposner@aol.com. The 2017 annual bank statement will be posted in the next newsletter along with the proposed budget and audit statement.

Have a happy and safe Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa or Festivus.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of November 30, 2017, The Stars and Stripes Alumni Association totals 225 members and includes both U.S. and foreign members. There are 108 current paid members and 117 current dues- delinquent members

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If you are one of the 117 dues-delinquent members, this is a terrific, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to catch up for only \$20 and not have to pay any more dues ever. Of course, donations are always welcome at any time.

NEWS FROM THE STARS AND STRIPES MUSEUM/LIBRARY

Membership Drive

January begins the annual membership drive here at the museum and we encourage all present and former Strippers to either renew or establish their membership. The levels of membership are: Friend \$25, Family \$50, Advocate \$75, VIP \$100, Business/Organization \$150, Corporate \$500, and Caretaker \$2000. Payments may be made by sending a check to: Stars and Stripes M/L, P.O. Box 1861, Bloomfield MO 63825 or with a Visa or Master Card or PayPal at stripes@newwavecomm.net.

Volunteer Lynn Robey has been us-

ing her artistic talents to benefit the museum. She has painted the *Stars and Stripes* logo on ornaments that we are selling for \$10 plus \$3.50 for postage. Lynn is also painting a mural on the wall of the Civil War exhibit.

On January 27, the museum will have a 2nd annual Trivia Night Fundraiser. Each competing table can have up to eight participants at a cost of \$10 per person. Items have been provided by local merchants for a silent auction and food will be available for purchase.

Liberty Days

The Stars and Stripes Museum/Library hosted its 5th annual Liberty Days Event October 20-21st 2017. Included in the event were reenactors from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I and World War II and Korea. Veterans were present from the Vietnam War, Cold War and the Gulf War. They talked with the students and offered time for questions. Demonstrations of the Civil War cannon and the World War II flame thrower were also shown to the visitors.

The event was attended by over 725 school children from 11 different schools, along with many other visitors from the public venue. The events included a talent show, and a beauty pageant with prizes for levels one to three. There was a Liberty Days' parade to top off the events with thirty-one entries on the evening of October 20, 2017. The parade included candidates from the democratic party and republican party along with floats from various businesses in Bloomfield and Dexter. There were also prizes for the float entries and all appeared to enjoy themselves.

HELP THE MUSEUM

Do you shop at Amazon? If you do, you can help out the Stars and Stripes Museum Library. Instead of going to Amazon's regular website, go to smile.amazon.com. Then select the Stars and Stripes Museum – Library Association Inc. as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of your purchase price to the museum.

Her Story

On loan from the John J. Pershing VAMC, *Her Story* features Southeast Missouri Women veterans and their poetry, artwork, crafts and more. The exhibit will be at the Museum until January 22, 2018. Please come in and view the exhibits.

Will Bucky be giving me a call?

By Mark Swearngen
(ESS contributor 1982-1991)

The Stars and Stripes 75-year celebration in Germany this year let me meet current staff members and reconnect with the paper.

Shortly after arriving home, I heard from the Publishing and Media Design team at Stars and Stripes, asking if I could provide some occasional articles. What a pleasant surprise. Things are beginning to feel like old times when I contributed stories to the European Stars and Stripes for nine years.

So I'm back to writing, and wondering if Bucky Fox will be calling me on a Thursday afternoon asking if I'm going to meet deadline.

Back in the 1980s, I would often get a call from Bucky asking, "Hey Mark, will you be sending us another Pulitzer tonight?" Over the years, his calls would lead to talk about interests we shared.

Bucky and my daughter had attended Heidelberg American High School, although at different times, and they had both had Mr. Moore as their English teacher. Bucky often reminisced about Mr. Moore's superb teaching.



As best I can recall, Bucky was a Mizzou J-School graduate, as was my daughter. I was also a Mizzou grad, and we often talked about Mizzou football, past and present.

Then there was Bucky's dog. A Beagle, if I remember. I never met the dog, but Bucky told me all about him.

The story went something like: "Mark I am not a hunter, but I have this Beagle. I often take him for walks in a nearby field. Now and then he'll pick up the scent of a rabbit or other wild game; his hunter instinct kicks in and he completely loses it. Then I can hardly control him."

So, a new opportunity to write for the Stars and Stripes, and recollection of calls from Bucky Fox, have me hopeful about what will happen next.

Dream job put stars in Trott's eyes



Trott welcomes Hollywood's "Toastmaster General" George Jessel on USO tour at Rhein-Main AB in this Chuck Dees photo, along with Col. Tom Sadler, base CO, and USO-Frankfurt director Bob Meador, in December 1971.

By Walter Trott
(ESS 1969-1976)

With all due respect to Charles Dickens, this is my tale of two Sidneys. Each offered some encouragement in writing that gave me greater satisfaction as a journalist. It was via my seven-year association with the *European Stars & Stripes* that I came to know Sid Whipple and Syd Silverman. Sad to say, Silverman, 85, died in Boca Raton, Fla., Aug. 27, 2017. He was owner-publisher of "showbiz bible" *Variety*, devoted to all facets of entertainment.

Stripes' columnist Sid Whipple died in November 1975 at age 87, in Griesheim, Germany. We all relished his nostalgic column "Stop Me, If You've Heard This Before . . ." Like that other Syd, his career shifted into high gear in the Big Apple, only Silverman had inherited his domain, founded by granddad Sime Silverman in 1905, finally from dad Sidne (cq), nicknamed "Skignie," upon his 1950 death. Though Syd was just 18, the tabloid boasted a loyal staff.

The year before coming to Germany was memorable for different reasons, I was press chief at Force Logistic

Command near DaNang, feeding copy to Marines' hometown papers, also to *Sea Tiger*, *Navy Times* and *Leatherneck* publications. We also guided civilian correspondents into combat areas, including freelancer Jurate Kazickas, whose \$500 winnings on the game-show *Password*, bought her a one-way ticket to Saigon; and Bob Miller, renowned UPI reporter, who had covered World War II and Korea. More enjoyable was reviewing the likes of USO shows headlining Bob Hope, who introduced us to dancing dynamo Joey Heatherton; and can't forget Mrs. Miller (Elva Ruby Miller), an aging, amateurish phenomenon famed for off-key singing, performing in combat boots, while warbling her "Downtown" parody for us. Then there were walk-thru tours, meeting curious celebrities like Hollywood-en actors Robert Stack, Wendell Corey, Bill Tallman, and even real-life, WW-II hero Omar Bradley made the rounds.



WALTER TROTT

After 'Nam, just before Thanksgiving '67, I was discharged, then spent six months in Maine writing for the *Portland Press Herald*, until an Army recruiter over a brew came up with the idea of signing up again, sparking the thought of Europe - and maybe *Stripes* - for me. Indeed orders came through fast at Fort Dix, N.J.; however, my destination was V Corps in Germany. After several months, I applied for *Stripes*, and so over Labor Day weekend 1969, reported to Mert Proctor, M.E., for duty. My first assignment was covering 3rd Armored Division in Frankfurt. Man, I was pleased putting away the Army greens, and getting to work with the pros, such as Herb Scott, Homer Cable, Mary Neth, Bob Wicker, John Krueger and Don Bennett.

Sid Whipple was a horse of another color. A UP reporter before I was born, he covered the notorious 1930s' Lindbergh baby kidnap case that led to Sid's book "The Lindbergh Crime," and a sequel "The Trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann." What interested me more were his tales, from years as a drama critic at the *New York World Telegram*.

One amusing anecdote had Sid backstage after a play, chatting with colorful Southern belle Tallulah Bankhead, Broadway's original free spirit ("The Little Foxes," "The Skin Of Our Teeth"), who'd stepped into the shower, then sauntered back into the dressing room stark naked! Sid smiled, recalling he tried acting nonchalant, peppering her with questions, as she reached for her dressing gown. Did the dramatic Tallulah keep a diary of her goings on? "*Dahling, it's the good girls who keep diaries; the bad girls never have the time.*"

Sid said he was also Ernie Pyle's Scripps-Howard successor, following the Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent's death by a Japanese sniper in April 1945. Already past

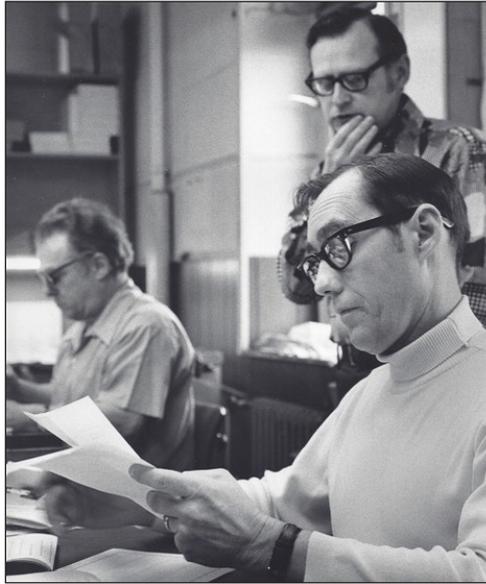
retirement age, Sid came to Stripes in 1965, serving as Garmisch bureau chief, before finally concluding his contract at Griesheim, Stripes' home base near Darmstadt.

At S&S, I was soon writing reviews of new AAFES-procured films in off-duty hours. (After all, Stripes paid \$25 per film, helpful to a father of five, sometimes viewing three on a Saturday.) Meantime, *Stripes'* civilian entertainment editor Dave Iams, an opera-prone Princeton grad, was also receptive to my covering concerts by country, soul and rock artists. I liked Dave, not just because he gave me the OK for these, but was my age and obviously a man of some sophistication, playing piano, composing songs and conversing in German, French and Italian. Now that's class.

Iams' dad Jack Iams was a writer for *Newsweek* and *New York Daily News*, and a novelist of note, thanks to "A Shot Of Murder," and "Girl Meets Body" mysteries. David's first journalist gig was editing his college's periodical *Princeton Tiger*, also dad's alma mater. Dave served in 1962 with Army intelligence in Verona, Italy. In the mid-'60s David began as a Stripes copy editor, before landing that plum entertainment post. (We GI's wondered if he were CID, merely working there as a cover.)

Well Whipple liked my reviews and celebrity pieces, and encouraged me to do more of this, but obviously that was up to Iams. When Dave suddenly split, my main worry was would the new civilian editor OK my extra-curricula gigs? That is until Mert Proctor took me aside to tell me I was the choice to succeed Iams. Wow! That was a surprise, especially me being a GI.

Little did I know all that entailed, because having been an entertainment buff since childhood, I was thrilled to learn my assignments were many and varied, subsequently including covering anything with an American connection to interest readers. In retrospect, I



Walt gets edited by newsroom editor Don Bennett (that's Dexter Freeman on Don's left) at S&S in '75. Photo by Regis Bossu.

attended four successive Cannes Film Festivals and selected plays openings on London's West End.

It was at Cannes that Syd Silverman engaged me as Munich "stringer" (correspondent) for weekly *Variety*. Having been an Army lieutenant, Syd was aware of *Stripes*, so that credit convinced him. He was patient as I learned a whole new lingo, using showbiz terms coined by *Variety*, like "boffo" (big box office), "legit" (legitimate theatre), "flack" (publicist), "sitcom" (situation comedy) and "flick" (movie). All of these were *verboten* in Stripes, though our M.E. did give an

OK to free-lance for Syd.

While at S&S, I also covered on-location films shooting abroad, such as "Cabaret," "Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory," "The Odessa File," "Steppenwolf," "Rollerball," "Twilight's Last Gleaming" and "Dollars," appearing briefly in the latter, as what else, a reporter! All this provided opportunities to interview childhood heroes, including Melvyn Douglas, Joseph Cotten, Kirk Douglas, and Scott Brady and then current cinematic players like Jon Voight, James Caan, Liza Minnelli, Joel Gray, Goldie Hawn and Warren Beatty. Among the directors were Richard Brooks, Ronald Neame, Norman Jewison, Bob Fosse, and Robert Aldrich. I kept pinching myself wondering if this was all really happening.

Needless to say, Cannes attendance afforded added opportunity to meet a wider range of celebs including Dean Stockwell, Cecily Tyson, Ingrid Bergman, Otto Preminger, Jeanne Moreau, Francis Ford Coppola, and even Tennessee Williams. In London, we saw such stage offerings as "Applause," starring Lauren Bacall; "Scarlett" (a musical version of "Gone With The Wind") with Harve Presnell and June Ritchie; and "Let My People Come," a spicy Earl Wilson, Jr. concoction. Those enlivened my *Scene Stealers* column at

SEE DREAM ON PAGE 7



Trott interviews Dean Stockwell at Cannes Film Fest. Stockwell was there for the 1976 Henry Jaglom film "Tracks", co-starring Dennis Hopper. Photo by Mike Conway

Former Pacific Stars & Stripes editor Ralph Otwell dies at 90

By Stars and Stripes

Ralph Maurice Otwell, 90, of Evanston, Ill., native of Hot Springs, Ark., passed away peacefully March 8, 2017. Otwell was editor of Pacific Stars and Stripes during the Korean War before going on to work at the Chicago Sun-Times. He was the host of our very successful Chicago reunion in 1991.

The following was printed March 14 by the Chicago Tribune:

Ralph Otwell was managing editor and then editor of the Chicago Sun-Times during a period when the tabloid newspaper won six Pulitzer Prizes.

“He was a terrific editor and, philosophically, he was a man of great and consistent character about, shall we say, fake news and other such things that you have to deal with from time to time or pressures from some people who didn’t like what we were reporting,” said former Sun-Times Publisher Jim Hoge, who oversaw Otwell. “And we did a lot of investigative reporting.”

Otwell, 90, died of heart failure March 8 while in hospice care at Evanston Northwestern Hospital, said his son, Brian. He had been a

longtime resident of Evanston.

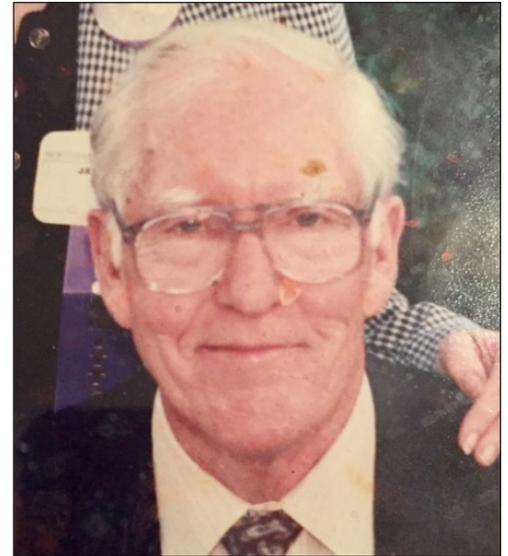
Born Ralph Maurice Otwell and raised in Hot Springs, Ark., Otwell took an early interest in journalism, writing articles from the age of 16 for the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record newspaper. He served in the Army from 1944 until 1947.

After attending the University of Arkansas from 1947 until 1948, Otwell transferred to Northwestern University, from which he graduated in 1951. Otwell then returned to active military duty and was the editor of the Pacific edition of Stars and Stripes from 1951 to 1953.

Otwell took a job with the Sun-Times in 1953 as a copy editor. He was named assistant city editor in 1957, news editor in 1960, assistant managing editor for weekend news in 1963 and assistant to the editor in 1965.

In 1968, Otwell was named the Sun-Times’ managing editor, and he was elevated to editor in late 1976. On Otwell’s watch, the Sun-Times won six Pulitzer Prizes. The paper also published the 25-part Mirage Tavern series in 1978, which employed hidden cameras to detail the way that establishments were shaken down by state and local officials.

“He was a newsman through and through,” said University of Illinois Springfield professor and public affairs reporting program director Charles N. Wheeler III, whom Otwell hired in 1969 as a reporter. “He was a mentor for me and a guide, and



someone I always looked up to. He was everything you’d look for in a newspaper person.”

“Ralph was absolutely essential in checking my judgment and coming up with his own, and then running on the floor anything as big as a major investigation,” Hoge said. “He was my safety valve, if you will, to know that if Ralph kept up on it, you were in good shape. And he was a man of real convictions and real beliefs that journalism was an important factor in a democratic society, and he ran the newsroom that way.”

Otwell was a Pulitzer Prize juror and, in 1973, served as the president of the national Society of Professional Journalists.

In 1984, Field Enterprises sold the Sun-Times to Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp. The sale caused much hand-wringing among local journalists, who feared — correctly, as it turned out — that the tabloid would take a more sensational approach. Otwell and Hoge were among the most prominent individuals to resign from the Sun-Times in the wake of the sale, along with several business executives and columnist Mike Royko.

Otwell’s exit from the Sun-Times in his late 50s turned into a retirement



Otwell, with back to camera, is slot editor and works with, from left, Sgt. Warren Kraft, Pfc Bill Quinn and Sgt. Hal Morris.

of sorts, although he remained busy, his son said. He mulled starting a new daily newspaper in Chicago, and became very involved with Northwestern University's Institute for Learning in Retirement, which now is known as the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Otwell taught several subjects at the institute, and also was involved as a student.

Otwell also had a longtime interest in editorial cartoons. He was an editor with the Sun-Times in 1963 when legendary cartoonist Bill Mauldin drew his best-known cartoon, Abraham Lincoln weeping after John F. Kennedy's assassination. After publication, Otwell rescued the original printing plate of the cartoon from a trash bin. He later displayed the printing plate on his wall and loaned it out to a museum, his son said.

Otwell's wife, Janet, led the Illinois Department on Aging in the 1980s. She died in February 2015.

Otwell is survived by two other sons, Douglas and David; five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

DREAM: From page 5

S&S, simultaneously serving as *Variety* tidbits.

As Dickens has written, it wasn't all *beer and skittles!* There were some downers, like a double-accident on the narrow streets of Cannes, as *Stripes'* mighty maroon Maverick bumped another car, and while attempting to back into a tight spot, got struck by yet another vehicle! Standing there distressed, trying to talk to a frantic Frenchman and an irate Italian seemed hopeless, while awaiting the law, until along came an American-born damsel, stepping up to translate for all concerned - indeed eloquently, in all three languages. With that settled, I had only to anticipate *Stripes'* transpo chief Joe Penner's wrath once back in Darmstadt! On a positive note, however, the gal turned out to be Romina Power,

then a popular singer in Italy, and daughter of actors Linda Christian and the late Tyrone Power. Before bidding adieu, she invited me aboard a yacht to an evening reception, a pleasant pick-me-up (no pun intended).

There was also that time I wrote about Greek exile Mikis Theodorakis ("Zorba The Greek"), resulting in a Barney Kirchoff center-spread feature. Never guessed it proved politically sensitive, until *Stripes* Editor-in-Chief, Air Force Col. Dave O'Hara's farewell fete, when he presented the layout negative depicting my article, recalling that a Greek diplomat spotted it on a newsroom tour. At the time, Mikis and his music were banned in Greece; O'Hara said that the Greeks had a word for it alright!

As *Mr. Showman* himself, Bob Hope, might say, thanks for the memories *Stars & Stripes!*

PROUDLY: From page 1

— whether devouring exquisites lunches or covering the president of the United States. Ed went to great heights for the latter on June 6, 1984. This was one of the greatest days in S&S history. Celebrating the 40th anniversary of D-Day, *Stripes* sent a Reavis-led team to France to dig into crevices from that triumphant invasion. The towering moment came when President Reagan landed atop the cliffs for his "Boys of Pointe du Hoc" speech. While awaiting the presidential helicopters, Reavis delivered a classic phone check back to headquarters: "Yeah, this is Ed with a 50-inch thought piece on Normandy." Ed died two decades later at age 73.

The absolute Star at *Stripes* will forever be Bob Wicker. His name is about as nationally known as his hometown, Dothan, Alabama. No matter. In the last half of the 20th century, he was a soldier, writer, editor and simply the paper's bulwark.

Bob was my sports editor at *Stripes* in the 1980s and '90s. He directed coverage of troops at air bases in England and Holland, barracks in Germany and Belgium, naval stations in Spain and Italy. He inspired a staff that included Ben Abrams, whose legend lives on among military brats recalling his prolific high school columns, and Rusty Bryan, a maestro whose 1998 Wimbledon headline sang after Jana Novotna finally shed her choke tag: Novotna Czechs her baggage.

Now 80 and living near Reno, Nevada, Bob Wicker stands as a pillar in the history of journalism. He was a rock of a newspaperman, solidified with creativity and integrity. Think NCIS' Gibbs with a laugh.

Superb people, super paper.

RECENT LOSSES – WE ALL MISS YOU

Carolyn Tierney, 84,
(PSS 1956-1959 Art Room) Jan. 1, 2017

Kayoko Hasegawa, 83,
(PSS 1959-1963 Supply Room)
Aug. 20, 2016

Yasuharu Saeki, 91,
(PSS 1953-1990 Circulation Dept.)
May 12, 2017

Katsumi Yonenaga, 74,
(PSS 1961-2003 Press Room) Aug. 4, 2017

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StarsAndStripesAssociation to stay up to date on the latest news and reunion announcements, to share photos or just to catch up with old friends!

Membership Renewal/Change of Address Form

Below is the form needed to renew your membership, activate a new membership, or report a change of address.

Current members wishing to renew their memberships should complete the form below and mail to:

Association Treasurer Calvin Posner 4440 Strathmore Drive, Lake Wales, FL 33859, along with a check for \$20.

New members should also complete the form and mail to Association Treasurer Calvin Posner with a check for \$20.

Make your check payable to Stars and Stripes Association.

New members are asked to include a short biography and current members are encouraged to add any updates to their bios.

The bios will be included in our membership directory.

Change of address, e-mail, phone, fax notifications should be sent to Membership Manager Calvin Posner with no check.

Note: Dues are NOT tax deductible.

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Country _____

Phone _____

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Years with Stars and Stripes (CSS, ESS, PSS) _____

Circle any of the following that you do **NOT** wish to be published in the Assn. Directory

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Change Services Requested

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