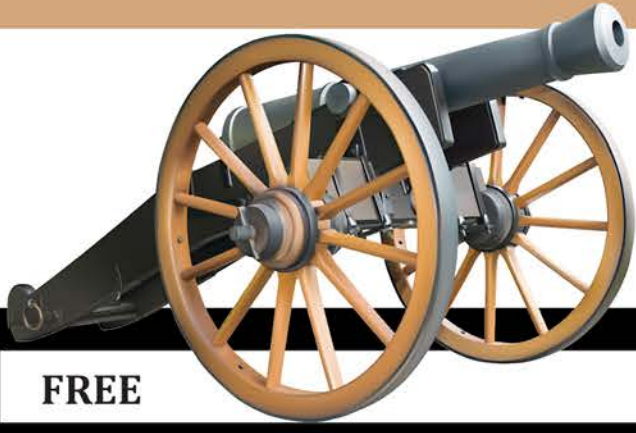


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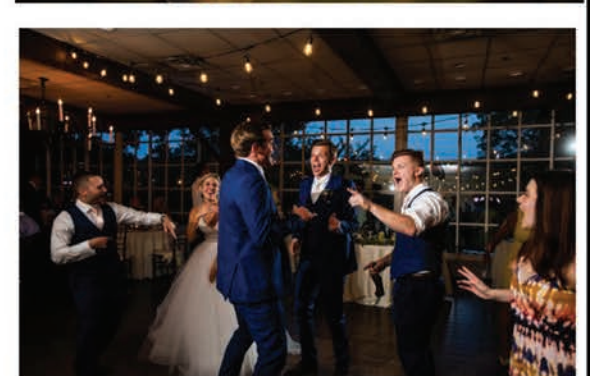
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Chuck Knutson  
Last Salute

## Honoring the Fallen Keeping the Promise

**PLEASE READ !!!!!**

### MEMORIAL DAY 2024

This year in honoring those we carry with us in the Memorial Prayer Box, we want to do something more unique and organic to our AO (Area of Operation). Following this year's Memorial Day parade and ceremony, we will ruck in full gear a couple miles to the Absecon boat ramp. Once we are there, we will launch our "RHIB", Combat Rubber Raiding Craft, and paddle 10 miles across the Absecon Bay for a landing at the Brigantine Elk's Lodge. From there we will ruck another few miles in gear to the VFW Post with supporters walking along to honor the fallen. We will carry the Prayer Box the entire way.

If you would like to participate in part of the ruck to honor our fallen heroes by walking along for a portion of the march or follow us across the bay in your boat, please let us know by emailing us: LastSaluteUS@Gmail.com Find out more at [www.LastSalute.US](http://www.LastSalute.US)

As always, you can purchase a sign that is like a real estate sign with your fallen heroes photo and name on it for \$21. The sign will be placed along the route or in a conspicuous spot. That is basically what the sign costs us including shipping.

We are really hoping this year to have people walk along with us to honor the fallen for the 2 miles in Absecon to the boat ramp or the 2 miles from the Elks Lodge in Brigantine to the VFW.

If you own a boat then you can follow us across the bay as we paddle. We are expecting a Coast Guard ship to follow and a Coast Guard helicopter to fly overhead.

More info will be coming and updates will be posted to [www.LastSalute.US](http://www.LastSalute.US)

*We are always looking for new ways to honor those within our prayer box. From marching 21 miles with it to flying it over Washington DC in a helicopter. We have taken it to many military bases and state capitols. It has been held and prayed over by countless clergy and dignitaries, Governors, Senators and Congressmen but most notably, many Medal of Honor recipients. This includes the Last World War Two Medal of Honor recipient. Hershel "Woody" Williams, who now also has been placed inside this most honored Memorial Prayer Box.*



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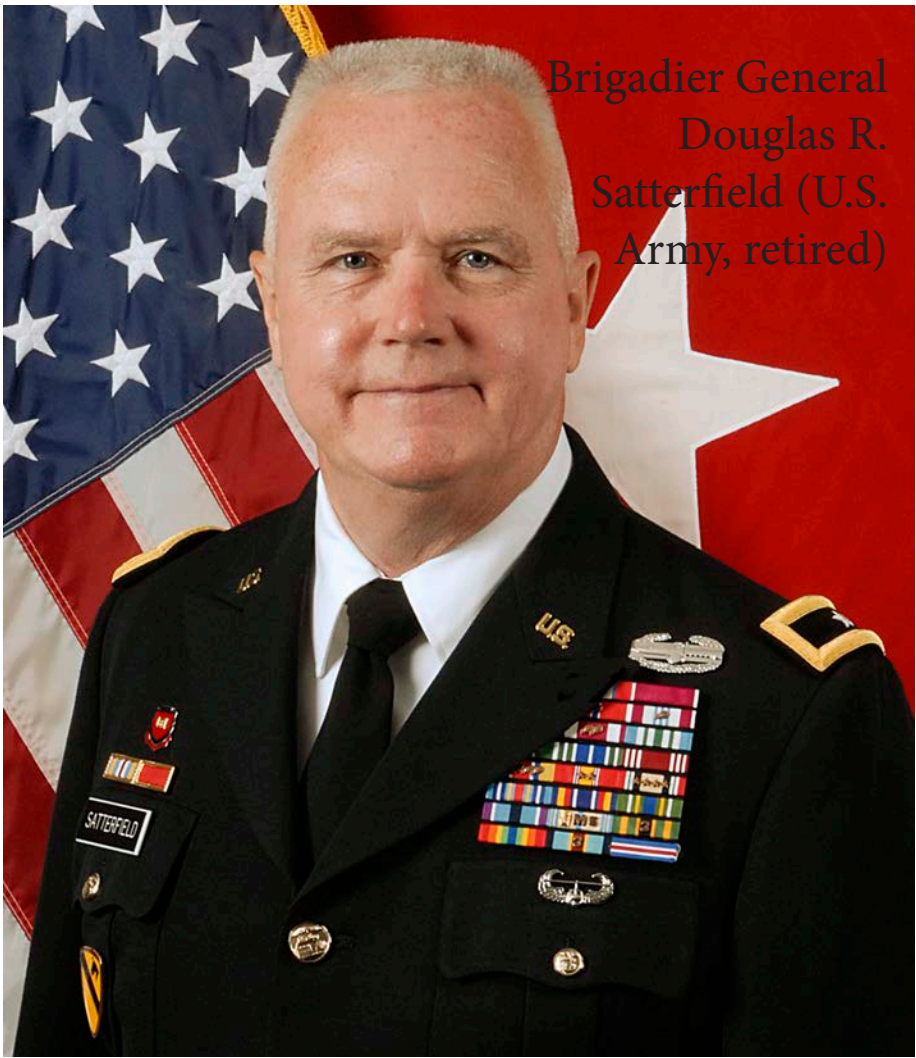
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Brigadier General  
Douglas R.  
Satterfield (U.S.  
Army, retired)


## “Old Red” the Coonhound

by

Brigadier General Douglas R. Satterfield  
(U.S. Army, retired)

“Old Red” was the best coonhound this side of the Mississippi River, and I was happy to know Billy, his owner, and we went hunting together. We were eight years old, regularly went dove hunting together, and we were like glue, always stuck together. All dogs we possess during our lifetimes have a special place in our hearts, as did Old Red. And it was the right thing to do, caring for this hunting dog because he spent so much time with us. If you can love a dog, this was love. And we always hunted with a shotgun. Hit the bird in the air, my dad would say - never shoot a bird on the ground. Not good sportsmanship. Only on command would Old Red fetch the bird, not ever before the command is given. No one wants to shoot their dog accidentally. We were family. Bird hunting with coonhounds was to warm up our excitement for the Big Hunt, hunting for what coonhounds are bred to do: track and tree Raccoons. I went on a single coon hunt, and it is hard to explain how much of an adventure these hunts can be.

We were ready. But, when climbing over a fence to follow Old Red, Billy promptly blew one of his big toes clean off before we could tree a single coon. Billy let out the most blood-curdling scream I ever heard. The hunt was over. The lesson is never to cross a fence with a loaded gun. Rats! I missed out on the big hunt; Billy missed out on his toe. I handled many guns in the Army but never forgot a lesson learned with Billy and Old Red.



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Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs within the Department of State, through funds administered by the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs

**William “Top” Richardson** Born November 14,1944, in Camden, New Jersey, to William D. and Clara V. (Payne) Richardson (both deceased) Bill was just ten-years-old when his father died and the family moved to Pleasantville to be near his mother's family. Bill would attend Pleasantville public schools and enjoyed his younger days camping with the Boy Scouts, playing in the woods and meadows near his home, and as a pretty good homerun hitter playing Little League baseball for a Geisel & Fritch sponsored team. In high school, Bill played football for the Pleasantville Greyhounds, and he proudly wore his high school jersey throughout his life. Bill enjoyed sports all his life and loved cheering for his Eagles and Phillies, and he continued to play organized softball even into his seventies. After the school years, Bill worked for a few years as a cook for the Dennis hotel in Atlantic City, and when the summer season ended he took his talents to Florida to escape the cold northern winter. He enjoyed food and cooking, but despite his connection with good food, the family joke was that every time Bill came home to visit, spaghetti was on the menu. Bill proudly served his country in the United States Army, retiring as First Sergeant after twenty-one years. Among his many military awards and decorations, Bill was awarded four air medals and two bronze stars for valor in combat while serving with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam. Bill's military service also took him to Korea and to Germany, where he collected many beautiful artifacts, which he treasured and proudly displayed in his home. Bill had a heart for serving, and while living in Texas after retirement, he traveled to Tennessee and Kentucky to assist in the recovery efforts following several very destructive tornadoes in those states. Having later moved back home to New Jersey, Bill struck out single-handedly to assist local homeowners following Hurricane Sandy. Bill would continue to demonstrate his military connection and his pride in service by joining the American Legion and the VFW, and by volunteering with the VFW Honor Guard, an all-volunteer military-style unit serving at veterans' funerals. Bill was a very proud and committed Christian and could often be found singing in the church choir or ringing the church's bell calling parishioners to prayer on Sunday morning. Bill leaves behind his loving wife, Leah (Avery), with whom he found so much happiness, whether they made their home in Absecon, Mays Landing, the mountains of North Carolina or, most recently in Tallahassee, Florida. A long-time animal lover, Bill also leaves their dog Babee and Bill's beloved companion, Hello Kitty, to miss his loving huggies. Bill also leaves a daughter, Karyn Harlan (Jim Wolverton) and grandchildren, Lauryn Ciabrone, Kayla Holman, Zachary and Tyler Harlan, and great- grandchildren Aubrey and Brielle Ciabrone, Cassidy Brooks and Logan Holman as well as his siblings, brothers George (Rose) and Michael, two sisters, Pat (Terry) and Tammy (Chris, deceased) and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends, especially his associates and comrades in the military community.







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**Harold Olson** of Egg Harbor Township passed away on Thursday February 22, 2024. He was a retired US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and retired Airline Captain. Born in Millville, he grew up on a farm and went to school in Estell Manor. After graduating from Pleasantville High School and Rutgers College, Harold entered the Air Force as a Lieutenant and attended Pilot Training in Texas. During his military career he served the Air Force in a variety of positions as a pilot, including flight instructor on the T-37 and T-38, C-5 Galaxy aircraft commander, airfield systems manager at the Pentagon, flight safety officer and flight/examiner/instructor. During the Vietnam era, he flew 90 combat missions in Southeast Asia and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals as an electronic reconnaissance pilot. In 1980 he flew to Tehran, Iran and evacuated US Embassy staff members back to the United States. Harold's last assignment was as the Deputy Base Commander and Inspector General at Hanscom AFB in Boston Massachusetts. Harold retired from the Air Force in 1990 and returned to Egg Harbor Township where he worked at the FAA Technical Center as an airport safety specialist. In 1996 he returned to active flying as a Learjet pilot and then was hired by ATA Airlines as a Boeing 757 pilot. Harold was based in Chicago until his retirement at age 60 in 2005. He was an Airline Captain and was an aviation safety investigator. Prior to retirement he was a Captain on the Boeing 737 and 757 airplanes. During his airline career he flew many memorable trips throughout the world including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Mesopotamia, Japan, Korea, Alaska, Sweden and Hawaii. His final trip was to Budapest Hungary and in 2005 he returned to work at the FAA Technical Center as a Director for Hi-Tec Systems. Harold continued to fly as a flight instructor and always enjoyed working with his students. In November 2018 he was awarded the prestigious Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, the highest pilot award from the Federal Aviation Administration for 50 years of contributions to aviation safety. Harold was predeceased by his parents, Harold and Corinne Olson, and a brother, Glenn Olson of Estell Manor. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Jane Olson, and five brothers and sisters, Judy Olesen of Glenwood Springs, Colorado, James Olson, Allen Olson, Linda Janney of Estell Manor and Joy Smith of Marmora. He is the father of four children, daughter Keri (Olson) Viegas (James), of Monument Colorado, son Bryan Olson (Heather) of San Antonio, Texas, daughter Katherine Olson of Atlantic City and son Eric Olson of Egg Harbor Township. His nine grandchildren are Christina, Gianna, James and Joseph Viegas of Monument, Colorado; Evan, Taylor, Chase and Reese Olson of San Antonio, Texas; and Corinna Torres of Egg Harbor Township. He loved spending time with family, flying, fishing and playing golf.



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**David Francis Abbott**, a man of unwavering courage and kindness, passed away peacefully from natural causes on March 9, 2024, in Elizabeth, NJ. David's life was a testament to service, adventure, and the enduring strength of family bonds. David graduated from Neptune High School before furthering his education at Monmouth University and Atlantic Community College. His commitment to brotherhood and service was exemplified by his life membership in the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. A patriot at heart, David's dedication to his country was evident through his distinguished service in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He continued his commitment to national service with the N.J. Air National Guard, serving with both the 108th Fighter Wing at McGuire AFB and the 177th Fighter Wing at Atlantic City International Airport. His military career spanned an impressive 41 years, culminating in his retirement as a respected and decorated veteran. Parallel to his military career, David also served as a civilian Captain with the 177th Fighter Wing Fire Department, where his leadership and selflessness were hallmarks of his tenure. David's adventurous spirit was most alive when he was traveling on his motorcycle, exploring the open road with a sense of freedom and excitement. David's legacy is lovingly cherished by his family, who were the cornerstone of his life. He is survived by his devoted wife, Barbara, his daughter Tracey Abbott Wood, and his beloved granddaughter, Kaitlyn Irene Wood. His stepson, Shawn O'Connor, and stepdaughter, Kelly O'Connor, David's sister, Diane Barbella, her husband, Anthony, and their family, David, Michael, and Anthony.





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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN PART OF THE RUCK TO HONOR OUR FALLEN HEREOS BY WALKING ALONG FOR A PORTION OF THE MARCH OR FOLLOW US ACROSS THE BAY IN YOUR BOAT, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY EMAILING US: [LASTSALUTEUS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LASTSALUTEUS@GMAIL.COM)



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Hudson, Richard John, 92, of Absecon passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 10 after a brief illness. Born in Rock Hall, Maryland he moved to Absecon at the age of eight. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corp on December 16, 1950, graduating from Parris Island as a PFC and was then sent to Camp LeJeune. From there he reported to Camp Pendleton, California for advanced infantry training. Later he was sent to Korea to join up with the first amphib tractor BN. He was awarded six citations before being honorably discharged. During his lifetime in Absecon, he was involved in many organizations. He joined the Absecon Blue Devils and helped form the Atlantic County Football League. During his time as head coach, he won the Atlantic County Championship, seven Eastern Championships and coached the Atlantic County All-Stars in Convention Hall. He also coached Babe Ruth, Howlett Hardware and American Legion Post #28 teams for 17 years. Until his passing he was a member of the American Legion Post #28 and a life member of the Absecon VFW #9462. He was also a charter member of the Cape Atlantic Marine Corp League. He is predeceased by his parents, Charles and Mary Hudson; his siblings, Nebs, Mary Louise, Betty, Phyllis; and his son, Bo Bo Hudson. He is survived by his wife of seventy years, Edie; his son, Richard (Betty Howell); daughters, Lee Ann (Bob McGuigan), Kim (Bud Bradford) and Bev (Jim Fahy); his former daughter-in-law, Gail Schoffeld; 14 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.







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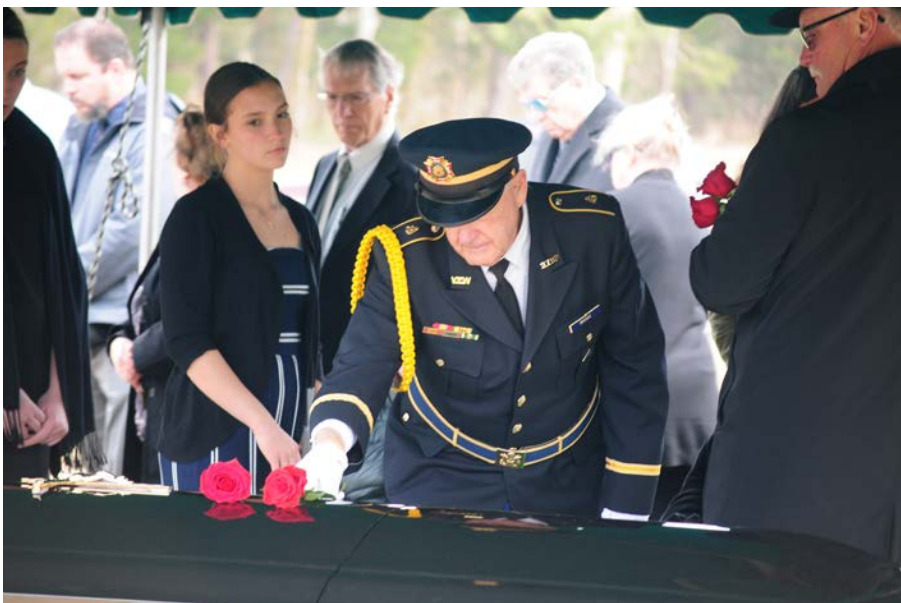
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**ANTHONY (TONY) PAUL DE BELLIS**, -77, of Centreville, VA, went home to be with the Lord on February 18, 2024, after a long and valiant battle. Tony was born on March 10, 1946, in South Philadelphia, PA. Tony was preceded in death by his grandmother, Caroline De Bellis, and grandfather, Anthony De Bellis, as well as his parents, Felice James De Bellis and Esther Carlino De Bellis. Tony will lovingly be remembered by his wife, Joan Wilson De Bellis; his daughter, Angela Joan De Bellis Castillo; his son-in-law, Darwin Tabios Castillo; his sister, Carol F. Howell; in addition to his beloved sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, and many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews, and his furry companions—Fiona and Torrone—and his grand dog, Gary Jenkins. Tony grew up in South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and later moved to South Jersey, where he attended Oakcrest High School. He then enlisted in the Marines Corps, serving in the BRECON division from 1963 to 1967. He was honorably discharged after receiving a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during his service in Vietnam. Soon after his return from Vietnam, Tony enrolled in Gloucester County College, where he received an associate degree in law enforcement. Shortly thereafter, Tony met Joan, and they were later married on November 28, 1970—and most recently celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. Besides being recently married, Tony continued his pursuit of education and enrolled at American University in Washington, D.C., where he completed a bachelor's degree in the Administration of Justice. He then continued with his post-graduate courses at the George Washington University. The year 1970 was busy for Tony, as he also joined the United States Secret Service in the Uniformed Division. He retired from the Secret Service after 27 years and after serving under several presidents, including Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and William Clinton. He loved sharing stories and shenanigans during his time in the White House. During his time with the Secret Service, Tony also developed an interest in gemology. He received a certification from the Gemology Institute of America, enabling him to start a jewelry business he ran for several years. Tony (obviously) enjoyed keeping busy and wasn't quite ready to retire after his time with the Secret Service and other ventures, so he joined the Defense Intelligence Agency and worked there until his final retirement in 2017. In 2018, Tony was diagnosed with PSP (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy) due to his exposure to Agent Orange while serving in the Marine Corps. Even though his service to his country led to this ultimate outcome, he still was so proud and honored to be a Marine. Tony lived a full and beautiful life. He was dedicated to his family, his faith in Jesus, and his friends. Even though the last few years were difficult, he fought tirelessly. Although we mourn today, we will celebrate Tony forever until we see him again.







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American Legion, Department of New Jersey (609)  
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Mays Landing, NJ 08330 (609) 625-2178

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Post 5043 - Mullica Township  
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(609) 867-6560

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Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Passalaqua  
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