

BRIDGING

THE GAP



ISSUE 35: FEBRUARY - MARCH 2013



EMIKO BRASE (WITH
HUSBAND STEVE)
CITIZENSHIP STORY

GUARD
MEMBERS
RECEIVE
LIVE
HISTORY
LESSON
(JIMMY
TONG
NGUYEN)



2012 NATIVE
AMERICAN
HERITAGE
MONTH
CELEBRATION
(JOYZELLE
GINGWAY-
GODFREY)



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NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT

DIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN:

SERVICE, INCLUSION & STRENGTH

By LaVonne Rosenthal

Over the last five years, the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Council has designed and updated our Diversity Strategic Plan (DSP) for the Nebraska Military Department. Many people may not even be aware of the fact that we have a strategic plan, and we want to get the word out so that employees and members can better understand and support the many activities related to celebrating diversity that are offered.

The cover of the plan reads: *"The intent of this strategic plan is to substantiate, validate and support efforts that focus on the development of a diverse workforce in the Nebraska Military Department."* Three key words written on the bottom of each page of the plan summarize its overall intent: Service, Inclusion and Strength.

MG Judd H. Lyons, The Adjutant General, begins the plan with this foreword: *"Diversity continues to be a key priority for the Nebraska National Guard as it impacts mission readiness. The key to success is to maintain individual diversity within the framework of our military and state values and ethos. Our organization belongs to the citizens of Nebraska and must reflect our heritage and diversity. Due to globalization, immigration and*

demographic changes, Nebraska looks different today than it did 30 years ago and it will look different 30 years from today. We must be agile and flexible in our organizational philosophy to embrace this

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THE NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT VALUES

DIVERSITY

The purpose of the SEP Group is to work with leadership and management in carrying out their joint responsibility to identify barriers to the recruitment and advancement of special emphasis groups, devise solutions, and draft plans to implement the solutions.

In addition, the SEP Group provides opportunities for positive exchange among diverse groups through community outreach, education and cultural diversity awareness.

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*Interested in becoming a member of the SEP Group?
Please contact LaVonne Rosenthal at the email address listed above.*



DISABILITY AND DIVERSITY

By CW5 John Regan
State Command Chief Warrant Officer

I have been around the diversity and equal opportunity business for a while, and one perspective that the military seems to often overlook, at least from my point of view, is of someone with a disability. I don't recall many instances in either training or discussion of the idea of a "disability perspective" or "disability experience" being seriously considered. But the socialization of those with disabilities, their perspectives and experiences, are probably different from those who aren't defined as "disabled." Those who live with or have had a disability have something to say, something to add to our discussions, something to share that might impact the decisions we make in the military.

One thing I have learned in my years of work within the equal opportunity and diversity business, is that you need to be careful when making sweeping generalizations about any protected class or group (legally defined or not). It's somewhat ironic that we have people who may or may not define themselves as members of a particular group and may or may not hold an opinion that is regarded as essential to a group. I

can sometimes fall prey to the tendency to view a group as having a homogenous view about how they see the world and how they define themselves. You don't have to

deliver too much diversity training to step on a verbal land mine or two by making generalizations about groups or classes of people and their views. There may not be a better group than the class we define as disabled to make this point.

I have a strong sense that I have to educate people about disability.

*-Oscar Pistorius
(Paralympian)*

What I term as disabling and what you term as disabling may be very different. Some who are disabled may view themselves as completely "normal" but in need of a few accommodations like a wheelchair ramp. Others may be disabled and unable to relate to most of the things the majority takes for granted, like emotional stability, psychological integration or freedom from debilitating depression. The separation from the majority that some in a group feel may be far more profound than the separation from the majority felt by others in that category.

I feel the ground becoming unstable as I try to make this point: if there is great diversity of thought just within the class that we define (legally or otherwise) as disabled, then there is no doubt some diversity of thought within any group or class we can think of. Having said this, it is important to realize the great value in seeking input from different classes

of individuals, none of whom speaks for that whole class or group. The value is the experience and perspective that the person from a particular class or group might bring compared to others who by definition do not fit in that particular minority group.

One challenge we have in the military is a very understandable disability bias. I



will call it my bias, since we all need to evaluate and own our biases individually. I think my bias stems from a somewhat selective memory that operates on the unconscious assumption that the military's medical standards have precluded service for some disabling medical conditions. In fact, I believe about two of three potential recruits we send up for physical examinations are disqualified from service for medical reasons. Therefore, my tendency is to think of our force as healthy and free of medical issues and disabilities. If serious medical issues develop for one of our military members I tend to think that these issues, if not cured or improved, will ultimately result in separation from service. My disability bias is reinforced.

I often forget that I am part of the Military Department of Nebraska which

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Disability and Diversity by CW5 John Regan continued from Page 3

is comprised of over 170 State employees and over 20 non-uniformed Federal technicians. I could actually write this entire article about how our State employees and non-uniformed technicians sometimes feel like second-class citizens merely because they don't wear the uniform, aren't on the front lines of deployments, or aren't as recognizable on the front line of State emergencies.

But they are there. They serve. They are critical to our success. We couldn't do what we do without them. I digress – this is fodder for a future article. The point I really want to make is I have a disability bias in my normal unfiltered thought process. I own it. What can I do about it?

Like all biases, the key to overcoming them begins with their recognition. I have to make a mental effort to get beyond my typical thought processes that have been formed from 19 years of education, socialization (mostly in the culture of Lincoln, Nebraska) and all the other myriad of influences that has brought me to this day with my unique set of biases. I'm reminded of one of my diversity mentor's words: *"We all have unbalanced views about one another.*

Not because we are bad but because we are normal."

So I need to remember to adjust my sight picture to balance my perspective and remember to check my assumptions about someone missing a limb, someone who is mentally ill or why someone has



Adam Regan

lost their hair.

I can provide a personal example of how these assumptions work. My son Adam has a condition called Alopecia. He is 15 years old and until recently, he did not have one hair on his entire body. No scalp hair, no eyelashes, no eyebrows, nothing. This condition started right before I returned from Iraq in 2007 and progressed to complete hair loss in 2009.

Our family learned many things going through this experience with Adam. First, when you look different, people tend to stare at you in public places. Not because people are bad but because people are naturally curious. Adam looked like, well, I think his sisters called him...a mole rat. It is unusual to see a bald teenager. It is unusual to see a teenager without eyebrows and eyelashes. Add to that the fact that Adam is skinny as a rail and without more information you might conclude this teenager has cancer and is going through chemotherapy.

I don't make this point to elicit any particular sympathy – Adam's hair has grown back, he's fine (for now) – just to make the point that we make so many

assumptions about what we see that are often wrong. How easy we forget what we learned in science class: that visible proof is usually the weakest of all proof. We need to remember this lesson at the grocery store and the mall and check our assumptions.

On the other hand I have a good friend and co-worker who did lose her hair as a result of chemotherapy. Her (I'm happy to say) temporary disability gave her yet another perspective on her life and the tenuousness of our well-being. I know she views the experience as extraordinarily valuable for what it has brought to her role as the Nebraska State Equal Employment Manager as well as our State Diversity Initiatives Coordinator. She learned the lessons about how looking different can attract attention (not always bad) and how physical health can affect emotional health. These kinds of circumstances are challenging but we can overcome them and benefit from the experience. My son Adam overcame these challenges and so did my friend LaVonne.

The important lesson from all of this for me is the need to tap those who live or have lived with disabilities for their enriched perspective. Sometimes the input we receive might be exceedingly practical – like a wig or hearing aid. Other times it might be a need for greater sensitivity to the challenges some face emotionally or psychologically. If nothing else, I think it is almost always beneficial to hear the voice of someone whose socialization is not just different but radically different from the majority of us. Their perspective can fill in gaps in a perception we didn't even know we had. We can continue to be surprised and

challenge our assumptions if we remember to include and listen to the perspective of someone whose experience and circumstances are different than our own. We need to remind ourselves of this on a regular basis, not because we are bad, but because we are normal.

Congress acknowledged that society's accumulated myths and fears about disability and disease are as handicapping as are the physical limitations that flow from actual impairment.

William J. Brennan, Jr. (Judge)





LINCOLN BRANCH 2012 NAACP BANQUET

By MSgt Sharon Okra-Goll

For those of you who are not familiar with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), here's a brief history. The NAACP was founded in 1909, shortly after the 1908 race riot in Springfield, Illinois. The founding principles of the NAACP were to unite those who believed in democracy and fight against various forms of oppression (both civil and political). The founders of the NAACP believed that all men and women were equal and deserved to have equal rights and protections under the law. W.E.B. Du Bois, along with approximately 60 other people from various ethnic, racial, national and religious backgrounds founded the NAACP on February 12, 1909. The significance of the date correlates with President Abraham Lincoln's centennial birth date.

Over 100 years later, the Lincoln Branch of the NAACP hosted its annual Freedom Fund Scholarship Banquet. The banquet took place on November 3, 2012, at The Cornhusker Hotel. The Mistress of Ceremony was Catherine Wilson and the keynote speaker was Frank LaMere. The banquet opened with everyone being asked to sing *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (words by James W. Johnson, 1899). This song is often called the *Negro National Hymn* or the *African-American National Anthem* and has had a significant meaning in the African-American community for many

years, so I found it a very fitting song to begin the program. This year's sponsors included many different corporations, businesses and community-based organizations, including Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln High School, the Nebraska National Guard and Runza restaurants, just to name a few.

The Lincoln Branch NAACP President, Jareldine Mays is a very gracious spokesperson who proudly spoke about the accomplishments of the Lincoln chapter of the NAACP and the students who received NAACP scholarships. She highlighted the new Lincoln branch website (www.naacplincolnbranch.org) followed by her introduction of the keynote speaker, Frank LaMere. Mr. LaMere is a member of the Winnebago Tribe and a very dynamic political activist from South Sioux City, Nebraska. He focused a majority of his speech on this year's banquet theme, *Your Power, Your Decision. VOTE*. Mr. LaMere spoke extensively of campaigns he was involved in, convention meetings he has attended and the vote he cast (for President Barack Obama) as a super delegate in the 2008 Presidential race. He also spoke of his involvement on many boards and commissions throughout Nebraska. He was awarded the 2001 Peacemaker of the Year Award (by Nebraskans for Peace) and was featured in the documentary, *The*



W.E.B. Du Bois

Battle for Whiteclay (an award winning documentary). Mr. LaMere's passion for politics and equality was evident when he spoke of his travels, trials and tribulations. His speech ended on a very positive note and encouraged everyone to use his or her voice and vote.

This was my first experience with the Lincoln Branch NAACP organization. I really enjoyed the thoughtful planning and careful consideration that went into this event. The people in attendance represented a wide range of political, social, economical, generational, racial, national, religious and ethnic backgrounds. It was encouraging to see everyone there dedicated to carrying on the effort of the original founding members of the NAACP. The evening included a very nice meal, a great keynote speaker, sincere awards ceremony and a powerful message to encourage everyone to remain vigilant about making strides towards equality for all. *Your Power, Your Decision. VOTE*.



Catherine Wilson



Frank LaMere

NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP SERIES PART 5

6

*Bridging the Gap is proud to continue our series focusing on
Naturalized Citizenship in the United States.*

EMIKO BRASE – CITIZENSHIP

Interviewed by Maureen Brase-Houchin

Maureen Brase-Houchin is the director of the Kokyo Taiko Drummers who performed in 2006 and 2009 at the Nebraska Military Department's Asian/Pacific American Heritage Luncheons. She learned Taiko Drumming in Japan and came back to Nebraska bringing an exciting element of the Japanese culture to Nebraskans. She says that drumming reconnects her and others to the Japanese culture.

Maureen has kindly given her time to interview her mother, Emiko (Yamashita) Brase, for our Naturalization Series, and to share a glimpse into the life of Emiko and her journey to become a citizen of the United States. Maureen's personal biography can be found in Bridging the Gap (BTG) Issue 3 (which is only available from the Creative Director – see page 2). She has a unique perspective as she grew up Japanese/Caucasian-American in Nebraska. It wasn't until college that she began to understand the richness and importance of her Japanese heritage. After living in Japan for two wonderful years, she has visited Japan a dozen times in the last decade and a half, taking her children to meet their family and friends and to get a chance to experience the country, people and culture she has grown to love. Emiko often says that Maureen is now more Japanese than herself.



Maureen Brase-Houchin

My mom, Emiko (Eh-me-koe) Brase, is from Omura, Nagasaki, Japan and has only returned there five times since she came to live in the United States of America in 1970. She met my father, Steve, when his U.S. Navy supply ship was based in Yokosuka, Japan during the Vietnam War. Her first airplane flight and first trip abroad was to come to live in America. She has raised one daughter (me!) and five sons, and now has nine grandchildren and one on the way.

While interviewing my mom for BTG's series on citizenship, I was reminded of National Public Radio's (NPR) StoryCorps interviews, featured every Friday on their Morning Edition. I have enjoyed many of these endearing, heartbreaking, amazing and funny stories, which you can also find on their website. I wish I could relay to you the exact manner and tone of voice with which with my mother responded to these questions, so you could hear her words, catch her sweetness and appreciate her charm.

Here is our conversation:

Maureen: Where were you born?

Emiko: At home, through a mid-wife, which everyone was in those times.

M: What job did you have?

E: Before I met your dad, I was working at a restaurant in Omura, "Miyazaki" - they served oden (fish cakes, tofu, hard boiled eggs, daikon radish and seaweed boiled in fish stock)... not [sure it is] there anymore? It was just the mister and missus owners and me, a small restaurant, like many in Japan are.

M: What brought you to the U.S.?

E: Because I met your dad at a friend's party. We both liked each other. We went on a date to watch a movie, because we couldn't talk [communicate due to the language barrier]. It had subtitles on the bottom, in Japanese, I think, because American people laughed first, then Japanese people. We always went to movies,

and we tried talking through an English dictionary. Lots of movie theatres [in] those days, so we could go to lots of movies.

Then I took one year English school, and I liked it after I went; that teacher was better, he didn't have an accent, even though he was Japanese. I didn't like it (English) when required for one year in junior high - that teacher had a strong accent.

M: How did you end up near Tokyo, where you met dad?

E: I went to visit a friend Toki, she loved to have parties all the time. My friend Sachiko and I went to her party in Yokosuka by train (over 700 travel miles away). Took a long time, was like forever. I like adventure, though. That's probably why it didn't bother me to come here (Nebraska), a long way (from Japan). I wasn't even homesick, just food sick, I missed the food. Good thing I went (to Yokosuka/the party). I wouldn't have had such a good life (if stayed in Japan).

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NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP

SERIES PART 5



Emiko Brase continued from Page 6

Then we stayed in Yokosuka, we rented an apartment, Sachiko and I. It was ok. It was tiny. I don't remember how long I stayed. Then after we rented, Sachiko found a boyfriend, and she got married before me, and divorced already, before I got married. He was too possessive. He was American. Then we had two different apartments; I lived by myself.

M: You didn't go back to Omura? Did you plan on staying, bringing your things?

E: We just suddenly decided to stay (in Yokosuka) because I met some boy, boyfriend (dad), and I decided to stay. We had only come with our suitcases. Our apartment didn't have a bath, so we had to go to a bathhouse. I didn't have anything. My apartment was empty; we bought stuff little by little. I had a flushing toilet – my parents didn't have any. That was neat.

M: Were your parents surprised you were going to stay there?

E: Yes. My mom wanted me to get married, but they wanted me to marry a Japanese guy...yeah, I think so... because I am, was Japanese.

M: How long did you date?

E: One year? I don't know. Daddy was there two years...maybe more than a year...{laughter}. Daddy decided to get married.

M: Daddy?

E: We. Then I took to him my parent's house. It was June. Rice was already planted, but my mom was planting the rice that didn't make it, the machine didn't plant. That's when dad met Sanae-chan (mom's neighbor, whose son recently had a summer homestay with my family). My brother was so young. That was the first time I took him home, after we were engaged, but they already knew about him. My mom said he's a long way from Japan. My mom wanted me to marry, but not that far. My dad knew where Nebraska was when your dad showed him (a map of America). Steve was surprised my dad knew where Nebraska was. It was a very good relationship. They were very nice to him. My dad made kujira (whale), grilled it. Steve loved it. He really didn't care for the frozen, raw whale meat. But he liked the sumi (charcoal), hibachi grilled whale. I loved kujira.



Emiko Brase

Miyoko's (mom's friend and neighbor) family also invited him for dinner. Miyoko's older sister, Kayoko, just kept looking at him and giggling. They all thought he was sooooo handsome. Skinny, young, lots of hair, no eye glasses....good thing I met your dad when he was young! Daddy was like Jeremiah's size (my youngest brother)!

Dad just came to visit a short time because he was on a ship.

M: How did he communicate with your family/Miyoko's?

E: Just little gestures...I could speak a little English by then. It was half a year before I came to the states.

M: When did you leave Japan?

E: The year before I had you. Dad (Steve) was back before me. He was waiting for me in San Francisco with his Aunt Peggy and Uncle Delbert. Your dad and his uncle picked me up from the airport. We spent the night there, then we flew to Omaha. We stayed with your grandparents, one or two months until we found an apartment. It was nice; I never had any bad experience. Probably was a good thing I never got homesick. I was busy getting used to American things.

Everybody (dad's siblings) was there except Barbara (dad's older sister); she was already married. Michelle was high school, Bunny was junior high, Rodney grade school. They were so nice to me - Grandma was so nice, she would drive me here and there. His dad was nice too. We were in an apartment just a few blocks away, very close. You could walk. I was alone in the apartment... it was wonderful – there was a pool, I had never been to a pool. I couldn't swim, but I was skinny...[laughter]... It was a long time ago. It's still there, still looks good.

M: What did you do that first one or two months?

E: I don't know. Probably visited with his mom, drank coffee. My mother-in-law was a wonderful person; she helped me out a lot. We also went out. Mrs. Polish (neighbor) had us for lunch; we were there once. Daddy went to work for his father. That's the way he started. Just like your siblings. They all work for dad now. It's a really family business. He was a hard-working man - oh my gosh. He wasn't a big spender either.

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NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP SERIES PART 5

Emiko Brase continued from Page 7

M: When did you learn to drive?

E: I took driver's ed when we moved to the farm at 180th Street. You were first grade, and Bob (my brother) kindergarten. Before that Grandma always picked us up, you, Bob and me, for everything, take here and there. You always called her Pinocchio when you flew into the gap between the driver's seat and front seat when she stopped suddenly...kids didn't have to wear a belt back then. I don't know why you called her that. Grandma always laughed, she thought it was funny.

M: I guess it was the only 'bad' word I knew.... How did you learn cooking and shopping, with everything here being so foreign?

E: I don't think Grandma taught me, but I liked to watch a lot. She taught me canning. Daddy and I used to shop, with you guys, the grocery shopping, once a week.

M: What did you think about American groceries?

E: Wonderful! Aaahh, so wonderful! Clean and lots of stuff, huge, and parking lots so big. Japan, oh my golly, usually lots of small stores. I basically used the stuff I was used to in Japan, because daddy wasn't cooking. We buy the steak, and we share. We had a tiny hibachi grill, only one steak would fit.

I liked cereal, raisin bran - that's all I liked. In Japan, daddy got it from American people... could buy groceries on base...first time he introduced me, it was different, I thought, wow! They eat such different things. I thought what a strange food; we eat a hot meal for breakfast [in Japan].

[Omaha] used to not have Asian food, not a thing, they didn't have it. Now they do, which is nice.

M: Did anyone think you were Vietnamese or did you experience any prejudice when you came here?

E: No, I don't think so. No prejudice, I didn't feel that way. I guess I was very lucky.

M: I remember you told us about a guy who thought your kimono was beautiful, and reaching out to touch it, his cigarette ashes burned black holes in the silk....



Emiko and Steve Brase

E: That was an accident....I can't exactly remember now. I don't think I would wear it to a store because it was very fancy, maybe it was a party...

M: Were there any customs you had to get used to?

E: No, I was very easy to be adapted... lucky I guess. Also I was young, so that helps, I think.

M: When did you become a naturalized citizen?

E: 2008, summer...August 11.

M: Why did you want to become an American citizen?

E: Probably because it's easy, it's good, it's nice to be in the United States - my children are United States citizens. I would like to be buried here, not in Japan.

I like the openness here, it's wonderful.

It doesn't feel all squashed in, everything is big; it's kinda nice. I like here a lot. I enjoy here a lot. Our yards are bigger. Japan is too cramped up. Everything is too close together. Daddy told me once that Japan would fit in Nebraska and Kansas, so that is huge.

M: Was it hard to give up your Japanese citizenship?

E: NO.

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NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP

SERIES PART 5



Emiko Brase continued from Page 8

M: Not at all?

E: No.

M: What challenges did you have getting through the naturalization process?

E: Challenge was taking the test, studying for the test... history.....that was worth it though. And daddy's happy. Really happy, so.....which is good he's happy [laughter]. You know? I am glad to be a United States citizen.

M: What's something unique about the American culture in comparison to Japan?

E: So open hearted, I think. They are so helping other people, especially our church, St. John's. They do so much for others. We work for a lot of stuff - donations for the hurricane victims, donate cookies/cookie drive, donate money, divide to many organizations, food drive...many different things.

M: You don't think Japan does those things?

E: I was young when I left. Well, I am a lot older now - remember, you don't do those things when you are young... volunteer food, funeral service, it's kinda nice. I like doing that.

M: At what moment did you feel you were truly a naturalized-citizen?

E: When I can vote. That was so exciting!...too bad Obama won (2008 Presidential Election). I was so excited I got to vote!!... too bad he (McCain) lost! [laughter] I was so disappointed he (Obama) won again this year. Mitt Romney is an honest business man, even though he's Mormon.

The important thing is I'm happy here. What a life! Well...it wasn't always wonderful....yeah, but I told you, nobody's perfect. We were trying to build a comfortable life, and now we can. We didn't spend it when we got money, so now we can afford to go [on vacations]. If you think about it, now we are 64 - it is nice to go on vacation. It is a good life. I am very lucky.

Thank you Mom, for all your sacrifices and all the years you didn't get to take a vacation while raising six kids. The very kids who, because you spoke with an accent, had many laughs at your expense ("how old are you mom?"... "turdy tree") and doubted you could help with math homework (instead, waiting for Dad to get home, only to have him give the same answer that you did). I wonder if other "foreign" moms have to write down unknown words spoken by their children, to ask the dad later whether or not it is a "bad word." So many good memories! I am proud of your accomplishments and feel lucky myself to have such a loving, wonderful mother, who also happens to have shared with me her rich heritage.



U.S. CITIZENSHIP QUESTIONS

On October 1, 2008, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) replaced the set of questions formerly used as part of the citizenship test with the questions listed here. All applicants who filed for naturalization on or after October 1, 2008, are required to take the new test.

In the citizenship test, the applicant for citizenship is asked up to 10 of the 100 questions. The interviewer reads the questions in English and the applicant must answer in English. In order to pass, at least six of the ten questions must be answered correctly.

This test is broken down into different categories as shown below.

Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
3. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

System of Government

4. Name one branch or part of the government.
5. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
6. Who signs bills to become laws?
7. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?

Rights and Responsibilities

8. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?
9. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

American History

Colonial Period and Independence

10. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
11. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

1800s

12. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

13. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.
14. Who was President during World War I?
15. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?

WEBSITE REVIEW:

Review by SPC Lacey J. Bromley

WWW.NEWCITIZEN.US

This website was formed by a patriotic group of both naturalized and native-born Americans. It is run by a man named Richard R. Weston who is originally from Canada and received his naturalized citizenship in February 2002. Richard is assisted by his naturalized American friends and his natural-born American wife and daughter. The Home page welcomes you to the site:

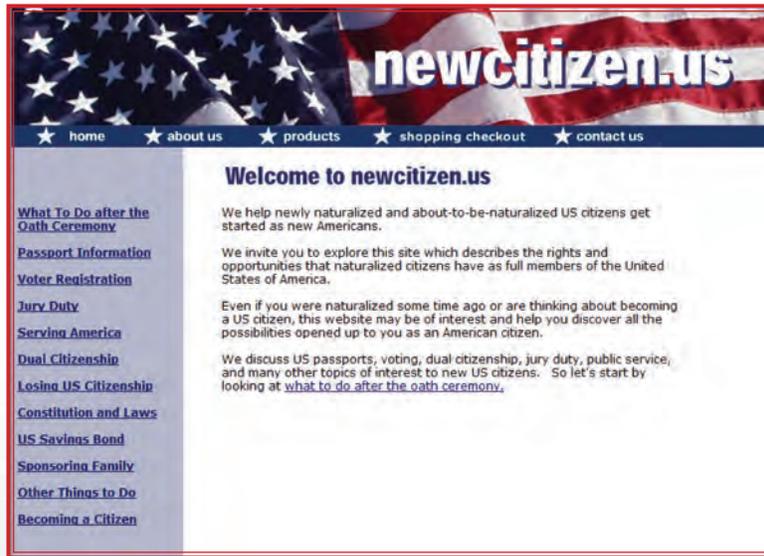
“We help newly naturalized and about-to-be-naturalized U.S. citizens get started as new Americans.

“We invite you to explore this site which describes the rights and opportunities that naturalized citizens have as full members of the United States of America.

“Even if you were naturalized some time ago or are thinking about becoming a U.S. citizen, this website may be of interest and help you discover all the possibilities opened up to you as an American citizen.”

My first impression of this website is that it is very simple and easy to navigate. An American flag is the banner across the top of each page.

There are twelve links on the left side of the Home page. The first link is titled



What to Do after the Oath Ceremony. This section includes steps to take after you’ve become a newly naturalized citizen. Such instructions include things like sign your certificate, make backup copies, store your certificate securely, get a passport, report your change

Full participation in government and society has been a basic right of the country symbolizing the full citizenship and equal protection of all.

~Charles Rangel

in citizenship to the social security administration, register to vote and explore the other opportunities you now have as a citizen.

The second link deals with Passport Information. In this section there is

information regarding travel and proofs of U.S. citizenship. The other links are for Voter Registration, Jury Duty, Serving America, Dual Citizenship, Losing U.S. Citizenship, Constitution and Laws, U.S. Savings Bonds, Sponsoring Family, Other Things to Do and Becoming a Citizen. One thing I would suggest to the builder of this site is to have all of these sections available on each page you click on. As it stands now, you have to go to the Home page after reading each section in

order to go to another section.

One of the headings along the top of the page is for products, except when you click on the icon, it states that there are no products for sale at this time.

There is also a shopping checkout, which is unnecessary considering there are no products to purchase.

If you click on the Contact Us link an email submission form opens up where you can make comments or ask questions.

I think the website accomplishes its mission, even in its simplicity. It is informative and would be helpful to a newly naturalized citizen.





*Directed by Xavier Beauvois;
Written by Xavier Beauvois &
Eienne Comar*

*Starring: Lambert Wilson,
Michael Lonsdale & Olivier Rabourdin*

Release Date: 2010

Rated PG-13, in French and Arabic

MOVIE REVIEW: OF GODS AND MEN

Review by TSgt Kevin Krausnick

During the early hours of March 27, 1996, seven Trappist monks (Brothers Christian, Luc, Christophe, Michel, Célestin, Paul and Bruno) were kidnapped from the Notre-Dame de l'Atlas monastery near Tibhirine, Algeria in the midst of the bloody Algerian Civil War. Their bodies were found two months later, casualties of a failed negotiation between the extremist Armed Islamic Group and the French government. *Of Gods and Men*, the award-winning French film directed by Xavier Beauvois, tells their story.

Rather than focusing on the French monks' kidnapping and imprisonment, about which little is known and much remains controversial, this remarkable film instead tells the story of their lives during the months leading up to their tragic end.

As the film opens, we see the Christian monks living in harmony with their Muslim neighbors; they are clearly deeply integrated into the life of the surrounding village. They employ local workers, sell goods in the market, provide medical treatment to the sick, and are even invited to attend local religious celebrations. Despite coming from very different worlds, a deep love and respect exists between the monks and the villagers.

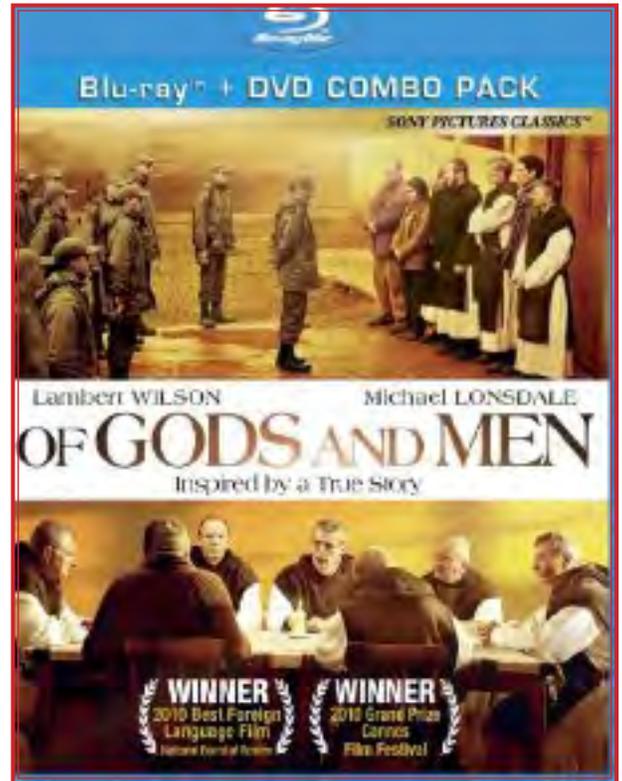


All of this is threatened when an Islamic fundamentalist group massacres a crew of foreign construction workers. Violence is spreading across the nation, and fear is spreading with it. Their lives at risk, the monks are forced to make a decision: should they stay or should they go? For these men, the decision is far from easy, and their struggle with this question forms the central drama of the film.

Shot in a naturalistic, almost documentary style, the film quietly draws you into the lives of these monks simply by showing them at work. We see them cleaning floors, tending the garden, harvesting honey to sell at market, studying, and of course singing prayers and mass. At the very least, the film has value as a window into the routines, challenges and joys of the monastic life, a kind of life few of us get to witness first hand.

We also see them in relationship with each other and with the community.

In one touching scene early in the film, Brother Luc, the monastery's elderly doctor, gently responds to a young Muslim woman's questions about love. It's a scene full of humor, warmth and wisdom, and



effortlessly reveals the heart of Brother Luc's faith and vocation. Asked whether he's ever been in love, he responds that yes he has, several times. "And then I encountered another love even greater. And then I answered that love."

There are many scenes like this, outwardly simple interchanges that are somehow charged with weight and significance. The actors deserve much credit for embodying these characters so thoroughly. The performances are outstanding, top to bottom, even amongst the supporting players. The film never rings a false note, and as a result we are slowly but surely drawn into the drama surrounding these men, as well as the drama raging within them.

Continued on Page 24



GUARD MEMBERS RECEIVE LIVE HISTORY LESSON

FROM VIETNAMESE SPECIAL FORCES VETERAN JIMMY TONG NGUYEN

By LaVonne Rosenthal and Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez

Over 30 National Guard members and employees were fortunate to hear first-hand the stories of Jimmy Tong Nguyen, Vietnamese Special Forces veteran, as a guest of Brigadier General (Brig Gen) Daryl Bohac during a recent brown bag luncheon. In honor of the 50th anniversary of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen shared his experiences during the Vietnam War as he served alongside United States service members. He recalled how the outcome of the conflict was more confusion of all parties involved. One of the lessons learned was that the U.S. shouldn't get involved in any war we don't intend to finish and win. He felt his countrymen were left behind with empty hearts and a country to defend on their own. Mr. Nguyen was airlifted out of his country by the U.S. in his late 20s and was left country- and home- less. His biggest consolation was that he was a free man.



Jimmy Tong Nguyen and Brigadier General Daryl Bohac

Because of the frustration of American citizens at home, Vietnam War service members were looked down upon when they returned home. As a result, a number of years after the end of the war, Mr. Nguyen organized a parade for American Soldiers and Vietnamese veterans in New Orleans. General Westmoreland was a guest of Mr. Nguyen at the parade and apologized to attendees for the U.S.'s negative reaction to veterans and for the U.S. abandoning their country.

During an open discussion of questions and answers, Mr. Nguyen was asked what he saw as some of the differences

in the Vietnam War and the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. He said one difference is that in Vietnam there weren't any friendly fire attacks in the entire 10-year conflict. Respect was mutual between the South Vietnamese and the Americans. Another of the key differences in the comparison of the conflicts was related to culture and religion. Also in Vietnam, the American Soldiers weren't as well-trained as they are today. During the Vietnam conflict, the young men were forced into service; today they are an all-volunteer team.

When asked his impression of the American Soldiers when he first encountered them in Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen commented on their height as well as how well equipped and well prepared they were. In speaking of those missing in action (MIAs) and prisoners of war (POWs) of the Vietnam War, he said that efforts to retrieve these heroes will continue; they shall never be forgotten.

Our appreciation for Mr. Nguyen's willingness to speak with us was symbolized by the giving of a coin by Brig Gen Bohac. As he began his presentation, Mr. Nguyen maintained the spirit of respect for today's military member by thanking everyone for their service to our country. At the end of the program Brig Gen Bohac presented his coin to Mr. Nguyen who stated, "My heart is truly touched by this gift." 

*It's the first war we've ever
fought on the television screen
and the first war that our
country ever fought where the
media had full reign.*

-General William Westmoreland



PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION
COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VIETNAM WAR
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION
MAY 2012

As we observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we reflect with solemn reverence upon the valor of a generation that served with honor. We pay tribute to the more than three million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved. From Ia Drang to Khe Sanh, from Hue to Saigon and countless villages in between, they pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans. Through more than a decade of combat, over air, land, and sea, these proud Americans upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces.

As a grateful Nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots --their names etched in black granite -- who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know. We draw inspiration from the heroes who suffered unspeakably as prisoners of war, yet who returned home with their heads held high. We pledge to keep faith with those who were wounded and still carry the scars of war, seen and unseen. With more than 1,600 of our service members still among the missing, we pledge as a Nation to do everything in our power to bring these patriots home. In the reflection of The Wall, we see the military family members and veterans who carry a pain that may never fade. May they find peace in knowing their loved ones endure, not only in medals and memories, but in the hearts of all Americans, who are forever grateful for their service, valor, and sacrifice.

In recognition of a chapter in our Nation's history that must never be forgotten, let us renew our sacred commitment to those who answered our country's call in Vietnam and those who awaited their safe return. Beginning on Memorial Day 2012, the Federal Government will partner with local governments, private organizations, and communities across America to participate in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War -- a 13-year program to honor and give thanks to a generation of proud Americans who saw our country through one of the most challenging missions we have ever faced. While no words will ever be fully worthy of their service, nor any honor truly befitting their sacrifice, let us remember that it is never too late to pay tribute to the men and women who answered the call of duty with courage and valor. Let us renew our commitment to the fullest possible accounting for those who have not returned.

Throughout this Commemoration, let us strive to live up to their example by showing our Vietnam veterans, their families, and all who have served the fullest respect and support of a grateful Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 28, 2012, through November 11, 2025, as the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families, and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA

*For more information on the 13 year commemoration,
and to sign up to receive updates please see www.vietnamwar50th.com* 



32ND ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DISABILITY AWARDS CEREMONY

LA VONNE ROSENTHAL NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU (NGB) AWARD RECIPIENT

On December 4, 2012, I was one of 17 recipients of the Department of Defense (DoD) Outstanding Employee With a Disability Award. The theme for this year's ceremony was "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What can YOU do?" Opening remarks centered on this premise: that to be a model employer, DoD managers at every level are to constantly strive to attract, retain and empower these citizens who have so much talent to offer. An Executive Order by President Barack Obama was issued in 2010 that called on Federal agencies to increase recruitment, hiring and retention of people with disabilities. Four agencies were recognized for their successful efforts in those endeavors: Department of the Air Force, Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Technical Information Center and National Security Agency.

To put the executive order in action, President Obama selected Mr. Kareem A. Dale to serve as Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy. We were honored to have Mr. Dale as our guest speaker for the award ceremony. He relayed to us the charge he received from the President that this was not to be a program as a namesake only; "let's get some big things done." There are 54 million people with disabilities. This program is to provide a level playing field for everyone who enters the workforce. Persons with disabilities don't want



Frederick E. Vollrath, LaVonne Rosenthal and Brigadier General Michael Navrkal

anyone to feel sorry for them; they want to succeed. According to Mr. Dale, the number of people with disabilities hired by the Federal government has been more under President Obama than any other president.

Accompanied by Brigadier General (BG) Navrkal and Chief Warrant Officer 5 (CW5) Regan, I was humbled to be among the group of awardees who have faced many more challenges than me. Captain Ryan McGuire became the first amputee to complete pilot training, as well as the Air Force's rigorous Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape (SERE) and Water Survival Training. He began his first operational flying assignment in February 2012, piloting the C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft.

Mr. Billy W. Bowens, a Vietnam veteran, was wounded by shrapnel from a rocket explosion that affected his spinal cord and

hips. Mr. Bowen is a store associate for the Defense Commissary Agency, along with providing assistance to fellow veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

My hat is off to all the other award recipients. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share these moments of recognition with you.

My nomination came from a casual conversation with the past director of NGB Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights at an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) training conference. I

shared with her that according to Office of Personnel Management standards, someone who has or had cancer is considered to have a disability, and as such, I had a disability as a recent breast cancer survivor. Of course, the wheels started turning in this director's head that they could submit a nomination package for the award with my name on it. And the rest, as they say, is history.

How do I explain to people who see me walking and talking without any assistance, that I have a disability? The most difficult part for me was to tell my very close friend who uses a wheelchair that I received a disability award. My fear was based on the fact that her disability is permanent and mine (for the most part) is not. I don't need special devices or assistance to take care of daily tasks.



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HOLDS ANNUAL DISABILITY AWARDS CEREMONY

*The Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)
requests the pleasure of your company
at the Department of Defense's
32nd Annual Disability Awards Ceremony*

The following 17 DoD employees with disabilities and wounded, ill or injured service members received Secretary of Defense awards for their outstanding contributions to national security:

David L. Miller, Department of the Army
Staff Sergeant Alexander Shaw, United States Army
Staff Sergeant Donald G. Sistrunk, United States Army
Bruce Baraw, Department of the Navy
Sergeant Julian P. Torres, United States Marine Corps
Captain Ryan McGuire, United States Air Force
LaVonne Rosenthal, National Guard Bureau
Grayson J. Colegrove, Army and Air Force Exchange Service
Billy W. Bowens, Defense Commissary Agency
Thomas G. Pisoni, Defense Contract Audit Agency
Samson Isaacs, Defense Contract Management Agency
Edward L. Bright, Defense Finance and Accounting Service
Sarah E. Gunn, Defense Intelligence Agency
John A. Clark, Jr., Defense Logistics Agency
Carl Doeler, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

The 32nd Annual Department of Defense (DoD) Disability Awards Ceremony was hosted today by Frederick E. Vollrath, performing the duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and Force Management, in the Pentagon Auditorium. This annual event provides an overview of DoD disability policy and initiatives, recognizes DoD organizations for their efforts in the employment of individuals with disabilities and highlights the accomplishments of DoD employees with disabilities and wounded, ill or injured service members.

"Diversity is essential and has been a key to the success of our Armed Forces and civilian workforce," said Vollrath. "When we embrace a range of talent and perspective, our ability to defend our Nation grows stronger."

Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy, Kareem A. Dale, was the Keynote Speaker and expanded upon this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month's theme, *A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?*



*Front to back; left to right:
Judith Davis, Colonel Shirley Raguindin and
LaVonne Rosenthal;
Lieutenant Colonel Al Durr,
Brigadier General Michael Navrkal,
Lieutenant Colonel Judith Mathewson and
CW5 John Regan*

*The following four DoD components
received Secretary of Defense awards
for their outstanding achievements
in the employment of individuals
with disabilities:*

Department of the Air Force
Defense Logistics Agency
Defense Technical Information Center
National Security Agency

DoD's Director of Disability Programs Stephen King also spoke at the ceremony. "The bottom line is America must employ the talents, skills and capabilities of incredibly bright and productive citizens -- both in and out of uniform -- who want to serve our country. People with disabilities often face unique challenges; we need that type of problem-solving ability and skill in the workplace."





2013 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH THEME: WOMEN INSPIRING INNOVATION THROUGH IMAGINATION

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

By Pam Makovicka

In my research on women in science in Nebraska, I found that the schools in Nebraska promote the study of science. Nebraska has a Young Nebraska Scientist Initiative (YNS) which provides middle and high school students an opportunity to learn science through doing science, and to explore the intersections of science, technology and society, with the guidance of scientific and education experts.

The original funding for YNS was provided by a \$9 million research infrastructure improvement award from the National Science Foundation given to the Nebraska Office of Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) in 2007. Continued funding for YNS is now provided by the new Nebraska EPSCoR \$20 million award which began in October 2010.

Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.

~Marie Curie

Another interesting venue I found was a Women in Science (WIS) Conference sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Science, Mathematics and Computer Education and Nebraska

It is not the fact that women cannot get support for research, but that they are not encouraged to go into research in the first place.

~Dr. Peggy Rismiller

EPSCoR to encourage young women students to pursue careers in science. Women in Science offers students the opportunity to meet and interact first hand with women who are career and academic professionals in science along with graduate and undergraduate university students. Participants discover the vast number of career opportunities open to them in countless professions as diverse as biologists, engineers, pharmacists and the medical fields.

Students from across the state of Nebraska along with others from Kansas, Oklahoma and South Dakota have attended WIS in the past. Young women in high school are selected based on their teachers' recommendations.

The two-day conference begins with a Friday night banquet featuring a woman keynote speaker actively involved in a scientific profession.

On Saturday the girls attend panels of professional women discussing their educational and career backgrounds. Graduate and undergraduate students relate their career goals and expectations for future employment in another panel. Tours or workshops introduce participants to the challenges and opportunities of career options open to women who study science.

Evaluations given by the young women following their participation in WIS have indicated the conference encouraged them to follow their interests and inspired them to pursue scientific careers. Learning and knowing that countless women before them have explored these options and accomplished their goals is very reassuring.

The Nebraska Women in Science Conference held its 14th annual gathering in February of 2012. At this conference Valery E. Forbes, Ph.D., Director of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska – Lincoln opened the conference with a presentation titled "What's a nice girl like me doing in a job like this? The unexpected adventures of a biologist."

Valery E. Forbes has her Ph.D. in Coastal Oceanography from the State



Women's History continued from Page 16

University of New York at Stony Brook. In January 2011, Dr. Forbes became Director of the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. From 1989 to 2010, she lived in Denmark where her latest position was Founding Chair of the Department of Environmental, Social and Spatial Change and Professor of Aquatic Ecology and Ecotoxicology at Roskilde University, Denmark.

Specific topics researched by Dr. Forbes include population ecology and modeling, fate and effects of toxic chemicals in sediments and ecological risk assessment. Dr. Forbes has published more than 100 internationally peer-reviewed articles and two books on these topics. She is on the editorial board of several international journals and provides scientific advice to the private and public sectors. She is currently supervising seven Ph.D. students and four postdoctoral researchers.

The 15th Annual Nebraska Women in Science

Conference is set for February 15-16, 2013, at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jane Meza, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Biostatistics, College of Public Health; University of Nebraska Medical Center. As a statistician for the

Children's Oncology Group, Dr. Meza has been involved in a National Cancer Institute funded study investigating the treatment and symptoms of rhabdomyosarcoma, a cancerous tumor of striated muscle that is the most common soft tissue sarcoma in children and adolescents.

Thirty years ago the field of women's history did not exist. People didn't think that women had a history worth knowing about. Today almost every college offers women's history courses and most major graduate programs offer doctoral degrees in the field. Two significant factors contributed to the emergence of women's history. The women's movement

of the sixties caused women to question their invisibility in traditional American history texts. The movement also raised the aspirations as well as the opportunities of women, and produced a growing number of female historians. In 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman to earn a medical degree from the Medical Institution of Geneva in New York. In 1945, the first class of women

was admitted to Harvard Medical School in Massachusetts. Now universities are encouraging young women to seek degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We have come a long way!

As I was brought up almost entirely by women, it did not occur to me that there was anything strange in wanting to become a mathematician or physicist.

-Bertha Swirles, Lady Jeffreys

<http://yns.nebraska.edu/about.shtml>

<http://scimath.unl.edu/csmcelwis.php>

http://www.math.unl.edu/~jump/Center/WomenInScience/WomenInScience_2003.html





MOVIE REVIEW:

14 WOMEN

*Documentary
Vertical Films*

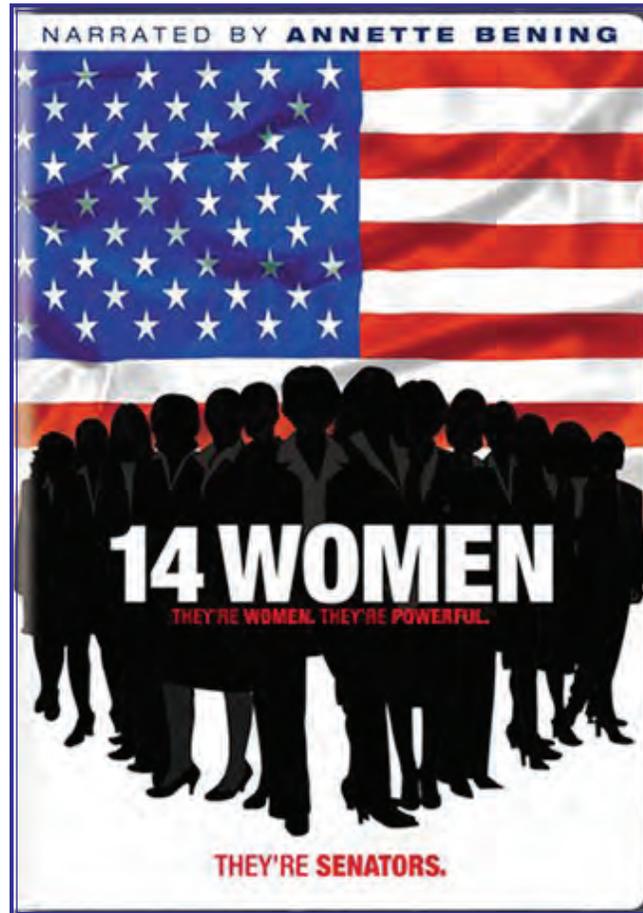
Director: Mary Lambert

Review by LaVonne Rosenthal

Between 1789 and 2006, only 35 of the 1,875 people elected to serve in the United States Senate were women; so 2006 became a banner year when 14 women held seats in the Senate (and two more were elected in the mid-term elections held that year). Director Mary Lambert and producers Nicole Boxer and Sharon Oreck profile these women who've risen to the highest echelons of power and service in America in this video documentary. *14 Women* received its world premiere at the 2007 Silverdocs Film Festival, a festival for documentary cinema sponsored in part by the American Film Institute.

The focus of the movie is on senators Elizabeth Dole, Barbara Boxer, Maria Cantwell, Susan Collins, Dianne Feinstein, Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Mary Landrieu, Blanche Lincoln, Barbara Mikulski, Lisa Murkowski, Patty Murray, Olympia Snowe, Debbie Stabenow and Hilary Clinton. Narrated by Annette Bening, *14 Women* is interspersed with questions posed to elementary-aged girls about American government and the women senators. Their answers are sometimes quaint and often on target. Vignettes featuring the various senators move briskly between their stories, keeping the viewer engaged. However, I often lost track of which senator was which, even with frequent subtitles containing their name, political party and state (except for Hilary Clinton, Elizabeth Dole and Dianne Feinstein, of course).

By combining sit-down interviews with fly-on-the-wall footage, the video sketches engaging portraits of life in the Senate and the rigors of being a



female in a male-dominated hierarchy with topical headings of Inspirations, Campaign, Home, A Day in the Capitol and Winning. Senators' family members are included (husbands, children and parents) to paint a slightly more rounded portrait of the residual effects the office can have on those not in power. When a husband and daughter of one of the senators were asked if their feelings for their wife/mother would change if she didn't win reelection, the response was "winning or losing doesn't determine the love of family."

I became exhausted watching the clips of these women waltzing between the senate floor, the various meetings they attend and hold, along with their quick weekend

visits home. One senator spoke about how she and her husband work hard at keeping their children's lives as normal as possible. The motto is "control your schedule or it will control you." These women set priorities based on what's important in peoples' lives; i.e., health care, global warming, etc. They are more than cheerleaders for their states; they are take-charge leaders.

Young women were advised to start thinking about serving their nation in this way today. They need to continue the path, forging ahead to maintain the advancements in politics.

None of the women featured in the documentary harbor any illusions about the challenges female politicians face -- whether it's being away from home frequently, running for office in the first place or the difference they make on the legislative floor. They candidly share the rewards and challenges of being a woman senator. Some viewers may take offense at the notoriety of the women senators who are featured.

I don't see them asking for or expecting any special treatment. I see them making some additional arrangements in their lives because of traditional gender roles that they willingly accept. There are no hysterics, no quickly flung accusations of sexism here. Rather, these 14 women simply dig in and get the job done. Something persons of either gender should celebrate.

Sources:

www.moviefone.com/movie/14-women/1353865/synopsis

<http://www.dvdtalk.com/reviews/34619/14-women/>





2012 NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION RECAP

By TSgt Lindsay M. Bustamante



On Tuesday, November 27, 2012, I had the privilege of attending the Native American Heritage luncheon at the new Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) building. The speaker was Joyzelle Gingway-Godfrey, a woman who has lived and studied Native American history through manuscripts, books and through the spoken word.

The presentation was very unique. Joyzelle sat in front of the audience and began speaking to two imaginary children, while playing the part of Sitting Bull's daughter. The entire presentation was a series of stories as told to the children by their mother. Through these stories, she took us through the events leading up to the Wounded Knee massacre from the viewpoint of Sitting Bull's family. This unique way of presenting history displayed the emotion, fear and loss that took place during these historical events, in a more powerful way than the written word. As I looked around the room, I noticed many viewers being pulled into her stories.

As a mother, one thing I took away from this experience was an appreciation for the Native American parenting heritage. I realized that my family did not spend much time sitting around telling stories, and that I also do not do this with my children. As a single mother, it is often difficult to make time for such things, but I feel this is a very valuable way to grow stronger as a family. I also noticed a difference between my culture and the Native American culture in terms of how we speak to our children. The stories told to the children during the

presentation were very detailed. The information given was often very sad, and I noticed that in the Native American culture, rather than shelter their children from bad news, they equipped them with knowledge of upcoming events, good and bad, in order to teach and prepare them to survive.

The Native American Heritage luncheon was an interesting look into the history of Sitting Bull, the Wounded Knee massacre and Native American history in our country. These events had a huge impact on the United States as we know it today. Many asked questions following the presentation and became engaged in conversations with our speaker. The luncheon successfully delivered a look into Native American culture, and shared a view of historical

events not commonly heard - history told from the viewpoint of the oppressed rather than the victor. In addition, this telling of the story didn't come from the newspapers of the day as the content of the story tended to change with the publication of each newspaper as it went further east.

Thank you Joyzelle for your wonderful storytelling abilities and for educating us about the history of your people.

Ms. Godfrey's Biography

A resident of the Crow Creek Reservation for most of her life, Joyzelle Godfrey had the opportunity to study the Ella Deloria Papers that are housed at the Dakota Indian Foundation in Chamberlain, South Dakota. The Foundation generously funded two research grants to Joyzelle, which allowed for her uninterrupted, focused study of the historical society of the Dakota Indian people. The material in the Ella Deloria Papers consists of first person accounts of how the tribes lived, their social structure and pre-Euro American contact. Ella's book, *Waterliby*, has been translated into several languages and is recognized worldwide as an authentic, as well as entertaining, insight into the daily lives of the Sioux of the 18th century.

Ms. Godfrey's undergraduate and graduate work in the social sciences prior to her study of the historical society of the Sioux provided a solid foundation from which to make comparisons of cultures with the ultimate goal of understanding the differences in cultures and how that affects the society we live in today. She was a graduate student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Sociology department and was a research assistant on a grant to develop a culturally specific alcohol/drug prevention program for children on the Crow Creek, Lower Brule and Sisseton Wahpeton Reservations in South Dakota. 





BOOK REVIEW:

A DOG'S PURPOSE

A NOVEL FOR HUMANS

Written by *W. Bruce Cameron*

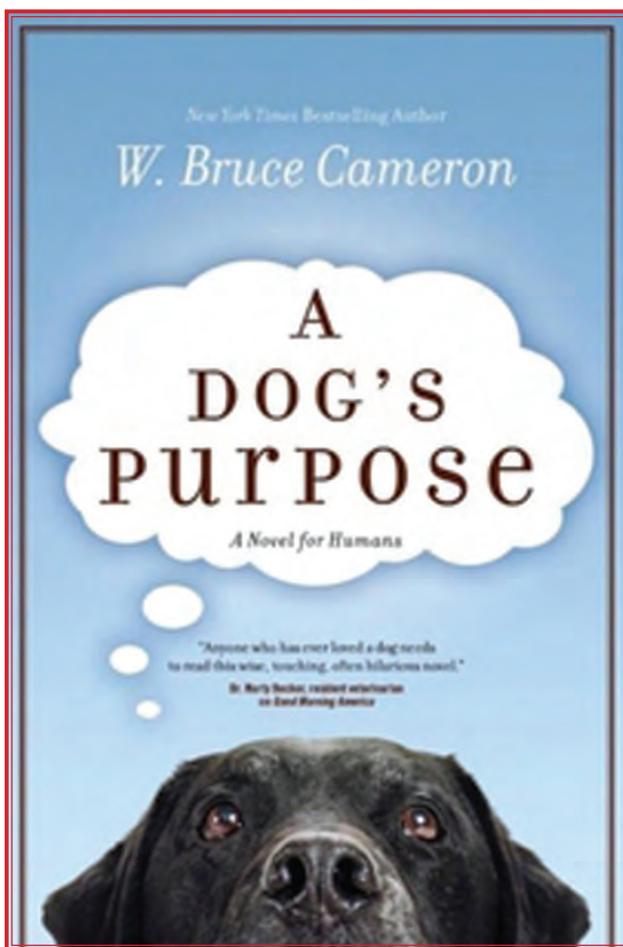
A Forge Book, Published by Tom Doherty Associates LLC, New York

Review by *CW2 Jennifer Fotinos*

You are probably wondering why someone would write a book review on a book titled *A Dog's Purpose* for a diversity publication. I figure, if you're into diversity that means diversity of all living things! If you currently own a dog, have had a dog or wanted a dog, even if you never wanted a dog, but have ever wondered "What in the world are they thinking?" when they tilt their head, lift their ears or wag their tails, then this book is for you. Since this book also deals with reincarnation, if you have ever wondered if memories are passed on from one life to another, this book will be doubly fun for you. As you turn each page, I must warn you that once you start reading this book, you will be captivated by each character, and each life the dog lives.

The main character, Toby, is a dog who in his first incarnation lives a full life and eventually dies, only to find himself reborn again and again. Eventually he comes to understand that he has learned something from each life which helps him discover his ultimate purpose.

In each life Toby has a new family, friends and a new name, and through each adventure he captures your heart. With each turn of the page you become



more attached to Toby, even though he has different names and genders (yes, he is even reborn as a girl dog) as he takes you along on his journey of discovery.

There was one incarnation of Toby who completely took over my emotions and thoughts. This was Bailey. Bailey brought out in me laughter and tears throughout the rest of the book because once I had read Bailey's journey, I kept thinking

about Bailey during each subsequent incarnation.

Growing up we always had a dog and now as an adult I have two in my home. These canines are not just animals, they are family members. We have a 100-pound German Shepherd, Kosmo, and a seven pound Miniature Dachshund, Lola. After reading this story, I can better relate to their actions, their barks and their excitement. Dogs do not understand how big or small they are, but they definitely understand when you are sad, excited and when you put your shoes on to go for a run. I am often reminded of the following paragraph when I look into my dog's eyes:

"The job of a good dog was ultimately to be with them, remaining by their sides no matter what course their lives might take. All I could do now was offer him comfort, the assurance that as he left this life he was not alone but rather was tended by the dog who loved him more than anything in the whole world."

This past year, I had a very dear friend who needed a foster home for her Beagle, Nash. He was seven years old and had a freak accident with his girl (human sister). As much as my friend loved Nash, due to some unforeseen reactions from family members, she knew it best to find him a new home. I fostered Nash for almost one and a half months. He started to become part of our family, but I knew he had another purpose. I received a call one day that a woman recently retired was looking for a companion of his size. As my heart broke seeing him leave, I knew he would be loved. A recent update from the fostering agency assured me that I had played my part well. Nash is now with a lovely woman who loves him, along with her grandson, who is autistic and cannot wait for his visits to grandma's house!

I've learned over the years that each family has diversity within their own homes. Whether it be different races, religions, values, or even a simple animal companion, we should cherish those times spent learning and listening so we can appreciate the diversity within our family, friends and community. I do recommend this book as a good read. 



RESTAURANT REVIEW: PEPE'S BISTRO

Indian Village Shopping Center
3227 South 13th Street (new location); Lincoln, Nebraska
402-805-2588; <http://pepesbistro.wordpress.com/>
Tuesday – Saturday from 11:00 am – 8:00 pm

Review by SPC Lacey Bromley

Pepe's Bistro offers gluten-free American, Latin American, Mexican, Tex-Mex, Soul, Vegan and Vegetarian food. Pepe's is a cash-only eatery and is very reasonably priced. The daily menu can be found on their website, along with their Facebook page displaying photos of various dishes prepared at the restaurant. In addition, Pepe's operates a food truck in Lincoln's ever-growing food truck population.

The ingredients used in preparing the daily menu are purchased locally from co-ops which ensures no genetically modified organisms are found in the food. The cucumber lemonade is quite refreshing, and the desserts are always delectable.

When my roommate, Michaela, and I ate dinner at Pepe's, we chose the sweet potato quesadilla (vegan-friendly), which

was made with organic wheat tortillas layered and grilled with roasted sweet potato, butternut squash, chipotle black beans, onions,

sweet pepper, garlic, herbs and spices, and served with curried cilantro rice and fresh organic greens for \$8. For dessert, we opted for the avocado cheesecake, which was packed with healthy poly- and monounsaturated fats, 20 vitamins and minerals, and low in sugar, yet it was perfectly creamy and delicious.



I highly recommend Pepe's to anyone who is health-conscious or has food allergies, because only the finest ingredients are used. However, I believe anyone could thoroughly enjoy a meal at Pepe's, where the atmosphere is always very friendly and welcoming!



*Diversity Strategic Plan continued from Page 2
change and grow with it."*

Three focus areas are articulated in the plan:

- 1) Community outreach and partnerships;
- 2) Recruitment and retention; and
- 3) Education and training.

These basic areas allow leaders to easily implement the plan and find connections to their specific organization where they can influence the diversity of our individualized human assets.

Within the area of community outreach and partnerships, one of the intentions of the plan is to include diverse individuals and groups in creation of heritage month celebrations to enhance shared knowledge of the Nebraska Military Department employees and the respective culture. This is not limited to having the SEP

Group host an event during the week. We are constantly looking for units who want to host an event on a drill weekend, and not necessarily a luncheon. One option is to have a cultural education slide presentation running in the background while people are eating lunch. Perhaps have the caterer provide a meal that represents a unique community; i.e., Mexican or Asian foods.

Under the heading of recruiting and retention, a key element is to identify and involve community partners and centers of influence to enhance communication between the Nebraska Military Department and diverse communities. If you know someone who would willingly represent their culture during a special event, please let me know. We are constantly on the lookout for guest speakers and ways to highlight our community leaders.

Providing annual opportunities for education and training for all members and employees of the Nebraska Military Department has been the goal of specially designed diversity training days, augmented by bi-monthly or quarterly heritage events. Attendance at community celebrations like Juneteenth is an opportunity to learn through personal involvement. When someone attends such an event, the experience is enhanced when they write a story about their experience for publication in this newsletter.

Active participation by individuals at all levels of the organization will satisfy the intent of this strategic plan. Every one of us shares the responsibility of sustaining an inclusive organization that embraces individuals' unique cultural backgrounds and builds on shared experiences.

For a complete copy of the diversity strategic plan, please contact me (see page 2).



NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP

SERIES PART 5

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U.S. Citizenship continued from Page 9

U.S. CITIZENSHIP TEST ANSWERS

Some questions have more than one correct answer. In those cases, all acceptable answers are shown. All answers are shown exactly as worded by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

1. The Constitution
2. The Bill of Rights
3. Twenty-seven (27)
4. Congress
Legislative
President
Executive
The courts
Judicial



5. The President
6. All people of the state
7. John Roberts (John G. Roberts, Jr.)
8. Serve on a jury
Vote
9. Give up loyalty to other countries
Defend the Constitution and laws of the United States
Obey the laws of the United States
Serve in the U.S. military (if needed)
Serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed)
Be loyal to the United States

10. Native Americans
American Indians
11. U.S. diplomat
Oldest member of the Constitutional Convention
First Postmaster General of the United States
Writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac"
Started the first free libraries
12. The Louisiana Territory
Louisiana
13. World War I
World War II
Korean War
Vietnam War
(Persian) Gulf War
14. (Woodrow) Wilson
15. World War II



Benjamin Franklin



General Dwight D. Eisenhower



Woodrow Wilson



NATURALIZED CITIZENSHIP

SERIES PART 5



NATURALIZATION OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=facd6db8d7e37210VgnVCM10000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=dd7ffe9dd4aa3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD>

“I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.”

Disability Award continued from Page 14

I had the misconception that she would be upset that I got recognition for something “simple” like cancer. This wise and compassionate friend said, “Having a disability means dealing with the cards you are dealt in life with dignity and grace, and you did that.” Wow – what a wonderful, supportive friend! She reminds me that we should not compare our lot in life to others, either for better or worse.

From September 2011 to March 2012 my life was altered by the cancer diagnosis and surgery followed by chemotherapy treatments and close monitoring of blood test results. Today

I mostly feel the “normal” aftermath of fatigue caused by chemotherapy. As do many breast cancer survivors, I am taking medication for the next five years to prevent recurrence. On November 29, 2012 I saw my oncologist for a six-month checkup, which I’m happy to report was good.

The title of the award – Outstanding Employee With a Disability – emphasizes the person/employee first and foremost, with the disability being secondary. Those who may be blind or unable to hear or unable to walk without assistance have learned to live with their disability. Obvious physical disabilities may bring sympathy from others who are able-bodied. Sympathy is unwanted; support

and encouragement and equal treatment is what can be offered.

Being escorted to the award ceremony by BG Navrkal and CW5 Regan is evidence of the support I have received from the Nebraska National Guard. Also in attendance at the ceremony were special friends I have made throughout the years from NGB. The saying “Guard is Family” reverberates throughout my mind, even for me as a Federal civilian employee.

Thank you to Mr. Regan for being a great D.C. tour guide and Metro traveler. I greatly appreciate the time BG Navrkal took out of his busy schedule to attend the ceremony, reinforcing the consistent support I’ve received from the Nebraska National Guard.

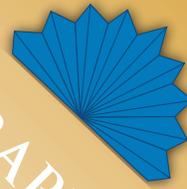




BTG
DIVER-CIPE
CORNER

Submitted by
MSgt Jennifer Eloge

SCRAPPLE



Scrapple is a dish introduced to me a few years ago by my boss. Her family has been enjoying this for years. After doing some research I discovered that the original Scrapple recipe was developed by the Pennsylvania Dutch in order to stretch their meat further. The original Scrapple was a bit different than this recipe (which is made with sausage) though, as it was made from boiled pig scraps such as heart, liver and other extra pig parts. The filler in traditional recipes can be cornmeal, grits, oatmeal or even buckwheat.

My family just loves Scrapple and I hope yours does too.



Ingredients

3 pounds ground sausage (i.e.: Jimmy Dean. My personal favorite combination is 2 pounds Jimmy Dean natural and 1 pound Jimmy Dean sage)	2 cups oatmeal
	3 ¾ cups water
	Red pepper flakes to taste (a few shakes)
	1 tsp sage
	Salt to taste (I don't add any salt)

Cook the spices, oatmeal and water together until oatmeal is cooked and remove from burner.

At the same time brown the sausage and drain the fat (optional to drain the fat). I prefer to drain the grease.

Next, mix the sausage and the oatmeal together and dump on a large cookie sheet or 2 smaller ones and press flat as if you were making *Rice Krispie* treats.

Place this mixture in the freezer for 20-30 minutes. No more than this, you want it firm, not frozen.

Take the mixture out of the freezer and slice into squares (I use a pizza cutter). Place into freezer bags and freeze.

Scrapple tastes best when you let it freeze overnight.

This recipe makes a lot, so you will have many meals.

One thing that makes this dish so great is that you can serve it in many different ways. You can take them out of the freezer and cook them like sausage patties. You can then place them on egg sandwiches or eat as a side. You can also cook Scrapple like ground sausage and serve in breakfast tacos. You can even drizzle maple syrup over the scrapple for a sweet and peppery taste.

Scrapple is a good staple to have in your freezer for days you just don't feel like making a difficult meal.

Movie Review: Of Gods and Men continued from Page 11

In keeping with the film's simple, elegant direction, there is no surging soundtrack telling you when you should feel an emotion and what that emotion should be. There is no musical score at all; the only music in the film comes from the monks themselves, from the hymns they sing during their worship. This gives the music greater depth than the typical musical score, because the words they are singing matter to these men. Indeed, the lyrics of their hymns are perhaps the deepest expression of the ideal they feel called to embody, and undergird the decision they ultimately make.

The heart of the film is the debate the monks have with each other and within themselves. The film seems to build its structure upon three conversations that take place around the same table. Rarely have I been so riveted watching a group of men sit at a table and talk. The tension in these scenes is palpable and the issues they explore are deep and complex. That they are handled with such subtlety and finesse is a great achievement.

The film holds the monks of Tibhirine up as heroes, but not the sort of heroes we're used to seeing. These men wield no guns, brandish no swords, seek no retribution. The only enemy they fight is the enemy within themselves, and the only side they choose is the side of love. Love for the villagers they've come to serve and love for the One in whose steps they seek to follow. This is manly courage of a different kind, the kind that seeks to heal the very ones who threaten, and prays over the body of a fallen enemy.

Many may think the monks' decision to stay in their adopted country foolish, or even wrong, a senseless waste of life. And the film doesn't wrestle with some of the larger historical and political issues surrounding France's history in and with Algeria. But this is the monks' story, and regardless of where you stand, watching each of these men wrestle with their faith and their doubts, their fear and their hope, is fascinating. That *Of Gods and Men* tells their story with such skill and care is a fitting tribute to their memory.