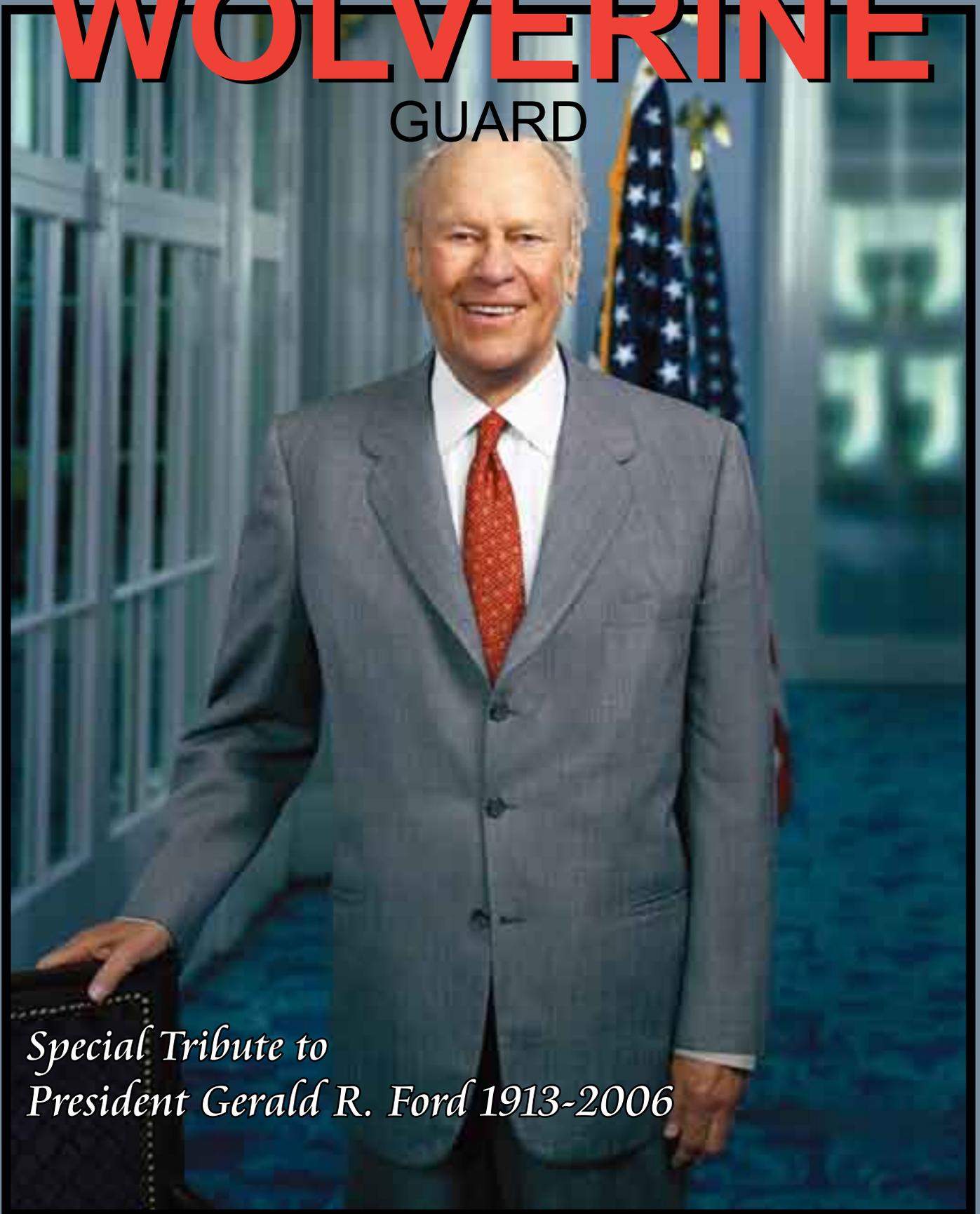


THE

Spring 2007

WOLVERINE

GUARD



*Special Tribute to
President Gerald R. Ford 1913-2006*

A publication of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard
www.Michigan.gov/dmva
WolverineGuard@Michigan.gov



★ ★ *From the desk of* ★ ★
The Adjutant General
TAG
TALK

As we approached the holiday season this past year I was, like most of you, looking forward to a time of relaxation and an opportunity to slow down a bit. We knew that we would be supporting the governor's inaugural ceremony on January 1st, but were confident we could do that without much impact on most members of our Michigan National Guard. All those thoughts of rest and relaxation changed on December 23rd and again on December 26th!

On December 23rd we were notified that we just lost three more soldiers as a result of a roadside IED. We were deeply saddened by the loss of SGT Chad Vollmer, SPC Wilson Algrim, and SPC Bobby Mejia, all members of Company E, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry. As we initiated our efforts to support the families of these great soldiers, we learned that we would not only be supporting these families, but we would also support the family of former President Gerald R. Ford. As most of you know, he passed away on December 26th and we began our funeral support operations the next day. For the next several days, the Michigan National Guard did what it does so well, time after time. Soldiers and Airmen from all over the state stepped up to the plate to ensure that we could support each of these four families in a way that truly honored their service to our country.

As your adjutant general, I had the distinct honor of being a small part of honoring each of these families. I was as proud as I could be as I watched many of you reach out to the families that had lost a loved one. Our entire team to include our headquarters staff, casualty assistance officers, and honor guard, provided outstanding support to each of our fallen Soldiers' families. My wife and I got to know each family very well and they have openly shared how much they appreciated the support of their Guard family.

As we supported these families, we also "mobilized" approximately 630 soldiers and airmen of the Michigan National Guard to support President Ford's funeral. As I observed this team I was tremendously impressed. They performed every task with professionalism, dignity, and honor. This edition of the Wolverine Guard is a tribute to our former president and to each of you who supported his funeral. My thanks to all of you for your outstanding support of all four of these families during your "holiday break"!

As I close, we are again reminded of the cost of our global war on terror. We were notified on January 22nd that we lost another soldier, SPC Brandon Stout, a member of the 46th Military Police Company. Our Guard family has once again stepped forward to provide outstanding support to Brandon's wife, parents, and family. I thank you all for your continuing service to our soldiers and their families. As we reflect on the outstanding soldiers we have lost, I would like to close with a poem that SGT Chad Vollmer's father read at Chad's funeral. I think this poem captures the way each of our soldiers lived their lives, served their country, and loved their family and friends!

Don't grieve too long, but carry on -- the battle isn't over.

I chose to fight and live for the country that I love.

And only those who fought for it can know the treasured secret--that freedom has a flavor the protected will never know.

So when today you feel a void, fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, so many times we didn't miss.

And now, if I could ease your sorrow, I'd wish for you the joys, tomorrow.

My life's been full; I've had so much, good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my days seemed all too brief, don't lengthen them with undue grief.

Lift up your heart and live for me, the gift of life in a land that's free.

The battle isn't over!

Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler

Bullets

Joint Leadership Conference and Military Ball

The Joint Leadership Conference will be held March 17-18 and the Joint Officer Ball will be held March 17 at 6:30 p.m.



NGAM Hires a new Executive Director

The National Guard Association of Michigan hired a new executive director, retired Col. Bill Ewald. He replaces retired Brig. Gen. Roger Allen who held the position as an interim executive director.

Ewald served twenty years in the Michigan Army National Guard. His time was spent as officer in charge of the 125th Infantry Battalion in Flint and as the OIC for the 46th Mechanized Brigade in Wyoming.

Ewald considers it an honor to serve the Michigan National Guard again especially as both NGAM and the National Guard Association of the United States conduct important hearings on the future of the National Guard and its role in the Global War on Terrorism.

Ewald is a life member of both NGAM and NGAUS and is eager to visit with officers, NCOs, Soldiers and Airmen to inform them of the benefits of belonging. He can be reached thru e-mail at ngam@charter.net or by calling 1-800-477-1644. The NGAM website has also been updated to include more information about the organization.



The New Defense Travel System

The Defense Travel System is a fully integrated, electronic end-to-end financial management system that automates the Department of Defense temporary duty travel process. DTS automates authorization, travel arrangements and reservations, voucher processing, payment, reconciliation, accountability and archiving of DOD travel transactions. DTS speeds up travel processing, reduces costs, increases security and provides superior customer service. DTS enables travelers to create authorizations (travel orders) from their desktop, make travel reservations and arrangements, obtain approval, submit travel vouchers after completing travel, and receive timely payment via electronic funds transfer with split disbursement to their government charge card and individual bank account. This is all accomplished via a single web portal that is available 24/7. DTS also provides for electronic archival of all travel documents, to include receipts, protects system access utilizing DOD Public Key Infrastructure and ensures a legally binding digital signature capability.



This is the last formal portrait President Gerald R. Ford posed for. Taken August 1, 2003 in Grand Rapids, Mich., by David J. DeJonge.

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Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

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Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler

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Col. James R. Anderson

Assistant Adjutant General, Air

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Assistant Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs

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Readers are encouraged to submit comments, articles, and information for publication to:

Tell the truth, work hard, and come to dinner on time

By Staff Sgt John D. Goodrich

His life had a dedication to it that is hard to equal. President Gerald R. Ford began service as a Boy Scout. One might think... a Boy Scout always does the right thing, always escorts the lady across the street, always thinks of someone else first. This is an excellent beginning of leadership and service.

As a Boy Scout Ford achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. There is so much involved in earning the Eagle Scout rank that only five percent of all Boy Scouts earn it. Determination, hard work and perseverance are required. Gerald Ford learned these values early in his life while growing up in Grand Rapids.

While in high school he excelled on the athletic field in both football and basketball. He later wrote that he grew up with three cardinal rules, "Tell the truth, work hard, and come to dinner on time." These values are frequently lost today. His example must be retold and taught to our generation.

He continued to work hard in college at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He demonstrated leadership on the football field where his heart for fairness and equality stood out. A teammate was told he would not play football against an opposing team because he was black. Ford, disgusted with the opposition and the University's request to his friend, was determined not to play. It was not until his friend insisted on putting the team's needs before his personal feelings did Ford give in and take the field.

While the story has been told many times that Ford was a football star and was named the most valuable player in 1934, it is rarely mentioned that he graduated from college with excellent grades and an ambition for continued education.

Ford's education did not continue in the classroom however; it began at Yellowstone National Park while he interned as a park ranger. It makes

sense that his resume as a leader in Boy Scouts and in college earned him a job in 1936 when jobs were scarce.

In 1937 Ford returned to his alma mater, the University of Michigan, where he began taking law classes. From there he was accepted to the



Gerald R. Ford as a ranger at Yellowstone National Park, June 1936. Photo courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Library.

Law School at Yale University where he graduated in 1941. He returned to his hometown of Grand Rapids and practiced law. His interests turned to public office as he became active in local politics. While his interest in politics was to be his career, duty called first. War erupted in Europe and in the Pacific and Ford volunteered to answer the call.

Commissioned in the Navy as a lieutenant he trained to be an athletic officer then trained other naval officers for a more physically fit Navy. He was

promoted to lieutenant commander in 1945 after serving in the Pacific aboard the USS Monterey. In 1946 after four years of distinguished service he was honorably discharged.

Within two years of returning to Grand Rapids Ford's political career began as he made the first of 13 successful bids for election to the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Michigan's 5th District. He married Betty Warren and they raised four children. He made a personal goal to be elected the Speaker of the House, a goal he never achieved. He was urged numerous times to run for the Senate and for governor. He declined each time with the premise that his work in the House was not done.

While a member of the House it may come as a surprise that Ford never authored a bill for consideration. In Congress, congressional leaders are expected to author, debate and vote on bills to become law. While it is surprising, there was justification for his lack of authoring. In 26 years in the House, he sat on many committees but a majority of those committees involved appropriations. An unwritten rule of ethics inside Congress is that members of appropriation committees do not write bills to avoid the appearance of bias.

Ford earned a reputation as an honest and fair man. He was well respected by both his fellow Republicans and the Democrats. He is quoted as saying he did not have enemies in Congress, only adversaries that might vote on his side at the next roll call vote. This reputation made his nomination to the office of Vice President and subsequent approval by Congress one of the most remarkable bi-partisan votes in history.

President Nixon chose Gerald Ford deliberately. He knew Ford was well respected and his confirmation would be easy. What he did not know was that Ford's confirmation vote would be so commanding: of 517

members of Congress, only 38 members voted no on Ford's confirmation.

When Nixon became entangled in the Watergate Scandal, Ford saw the need to distance himself from the president. As Watergate scrutiny intensified, Ford was questioned. Ford had no answers for these types of inquiries, nor a taste for what was coming. He noted an overwhelming dissension among the American public with the Nixon administration; but Ford knew the nation needed to heal. When Nixon resigned and Ford had been in office for 30 days, he made a choice to pardon Nixon. This choice, while shocking and riddled with accusations of personal bias, turned out to be one of the greatest decisions of Ford's political career.

The pardon ended the investigative inquiry and criminal indictment. While crimes of obstruction of justice were evident and substantiated, the pardon allowed the nation to heal.

Ford made several more controversial moves while in office, many which startled the nation. In an unprecedented move, Ford visited Japan, China and the USSR. His trips established movement on a political front that no other



Gerald R. Ford Jr. and Betty Ford walk out of Grace Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Mich., following their wedding. Photo courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Library



Gerald R. Ford as a naval officer, June 1945. Photo courtesy of Gerald R. Ford Library

president had ever begun.

Ford knew his decisions would be called radical and controversial. He knew his reputation of fairness in the political arena would be questioned. He knew his decision might have political ramifications that could (and in fact would) end his political career.

Jimmy Carter defeated Ford in the 1976 election by a slim two percent of the popular vote. At President Carter's inauguration in January 1977, his first comments were to thank Ford for beginning the nation's healing process.

Gerald Ford was not a perfect man. He readily admitted to that. What he hoped was he could work hard, be honest and not be late... to act. It was in his character to make things right, regardless of personal gain or loss. His faith guided him as well. Both he and Betty were active members of the Episcopalian Church.

Boy Scouts, football, academics, military service, civil service, and faith: these values demonstrate leadership. Two or three of these values would greatly benefit our world. But to know that one man had all of them shows true greatness.



HISTORY MADE-- MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD PARTICIPATES IN FORD FUNERAL

With the passing of former President of the United States Gerald R. Ford, The Michigan National Guard put into play, a plan that had been in the works for more than 20 years. This plan was carefully developed based on the wishes of President Ford and his family.

For the first time in its history, the National Guard performed the military support role for a state funeral. Previously, active duty personnel fulfilled the the mission.

The Michigan Guard was chosen because there are no active duty bases in Michigan.

More than 600 Michigan Guard members supported the funeral in various roles. The 126th Army Band played, the 119th Salute Battery fired, and the 1775th Military Police secured. Members from Joint Force Headquarters formed a Forward Joint Operations Center and a Forward Joint Information Bureau.

126th Army Band on Worldwide Stage

By Sgt. Jeremy Pitcher

During the State Funeral for former President Gerald R. Ford, members of the Michigan Army National Guard's 126th Army Band honed their skills at the historic event.

The 126th Army Band was tasked to provide the instrumental music for three ceremonies. For each ceremony, the Ford family chose what numbers they would like to have played, and when. The song lists for the events were composed of expected melodies, common at any presidential funeral, along with family favorites meant to remember and honor Ford.

1st Sgt. James Zwarenstejn, a member of the 126th for his entire 37-year military career, has played at many events for the former president.

"We played for Ford's 90th birthday and the dedication and rededication of Ford's museum and library," he said. "This is bigger, though. We are all acutely aware of how important these ceremonies are going to be."

When not working with the National Guard, Zwarenstejn is a band teacher in his local school district.

The 126th Army Band is made up of 35 musicians, a director and Zwarenstejn, who serves as the drum major.

"Being a part of this ceremony is a real honor for all

of us," Zwarenstejn said. "For it to be on a worldwide stage, and for someone so important to this state, it is just a tremendous honor for us to be involved."



Top photo-The 126th Army Band approaches the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum to rehearse for the funeral ceremonies. Bottom photo-The 126th Army Band awaits drum major 1st Sgt. James Zwarensten's signal to start Photos by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

Military Police help local law enforcement with security

By Sgt. Arlea Swager



Spc. Matthew M. Boyd and Sgt. Darrin T. Alexander, both with the 125th Infantry Company, credential a Grand Rapids Police officer before allowing him access to the Forward Joint Information Bureau where the Michigan National Guard's press area was held. Photo By Sgt. Arlea G. Swager

The 1775th Military Police Company from Pontiac headed up a Michigan National Guard combined security element for President Ford's funeral services held in Grand Rapids January 2 and 3, 2007. Other units throughout the Michigan Army National Guard (1776th Military Police Company from Taylor, the 144th Military Police Company from Owosso, and 125th Infantry Company D, from Wyoming) worked together to assist local officials in crowd control, area observation and security.

Originally the mission was assigned solely to the 1775th, however with many of its troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, a decision was made to incorporate the four units. Even with the varying backgrounds of the infantry versus the military police the different entities worked hard to get the mission accomplished. "Sometimes it can be difficult to merge multiple units and work together as a team, but these Soldiers did exceptionally well with the small amount of time they were given," said 1st Sgt. David L. Folsom the noncommissioned officer in charge during the mission and 1st Sergeant for the 1775th MP Company.

"I personally think the operation went really well with almost seamless efficiency. I have nothing but good things to say about the infantry I worked with," said Sgt. 1st Class Dan Alsobrook, a platoon sergeant with the 1775th MP Company.

"About 11 Soldiers involved in this operation graduated from (Military Police) school within the last three months," said Folsom. "For many it was first contact for them (in a real-life mission). The Soldiers have done very well. They were eager to do the mission and get involved in the company."

Most of the Soldiers had less than 48 hours to gear up and arrive at the mission site. For many this meant

abruptly notifying their civilian employer they would not be available for work and to cancel plans with friends and family during a holiday.

"My employer wasn't very happy, we had two people already out on vacation when I got the call. All in all though, he was very supportive," said Gery L. Reager, a Soldier with the 1775th MP Company. Reager was part of the advanced party and had only five hours notice before he was set to be on-site.

Sgt. Darrin T. Alexander, with 125th Infantry had to leave his six-month-pregnant wife, Crystal, home alone for the holiday season. He said she was disappointed because he would not be there for New Year's but she is supportive of his military career. Even with these set backs many Soldiers were proud to be able to participate.

"I feel honored, it's a once in a lifetime experience," said Alexander.

"It's an honor to have been part of such a historical event," said Alsobrook.

Now that the funeral is over these Soldiers will go back to their families and business as usual, only now they take back with them the experience they had gained during their time in Grand Rapids and the memories that come with it.



Sgt. 1st Class Dan Alsobrooks and Sgt. Emilee Thren, both from the 1775th MP Company, stand guard with Officer Jason Bradley from the Grand Rapids Police Department. The three guided traffic in the neighborhoods around the church where the funeral was held. Photo by Officer Terry Dixon, Grand Rapids Police Department



*Stand tall
Look sharp
Tell 'em!*

Welcome home



President Ford



*Michigan
National
Guard
honored
to
serve*





Get it right

Be prepared

This is not a training exercise

... Many lessons learned



Joint Force Headquarters stands up funeral operation center

By Staff Sgt. Alec Lloyd



Lt. Col. Edward Kluk briefs the staff in the FJOC during the daily commanders update brief. Each section gave an update on the status of their respective tasks. Photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

Members of the Michigan National Guard were busy at the Forward Operations Center, helping ensure that all was ready for the final phase of the nation's farewell to former President Gerald R. Ford.

An otherwise unremarkable conference room in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel had been transformed into the high-tech nerve center for the Michigan Guard's contribution to paying final respects to the former commander in chief.

Two dozen officers and troops coordinated the activities of more than 600 Army and Air National Guard members serving in various capacities, from manning the Forward Joint Information Bureau also in the hotel to performing duties at Grace Episcopal Church, the Grand Valley Armory and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum.

"Our main job here is communication," said Lt. Col. Sean Sullivan, the day shift supervisor for the FJOC. "It is a significant emotional and historical event. We are doing the best job we can for the Ford family and the country. I'm proud to be part of this organization and this event."

Rendering the proper honors due to a former president required meticulous preparation that incorporated

appropriate protocols, longstanding traditions and the wishes of the president's family. Sullivan said the National Guard has been preparing and updating its plan for carrying out this role as far back as 1986.

Sullivan, who grew up in nearby Lowell, Mich., and serves as the Army National Guard's state training officer, shares the affection many Michigan residents have for the only U.S. president to come from their state. This, he said, gives the Guard's support for the funeral an added emotional impact for many of the participants.

Although most of troops supporting the mission come from the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard has a significant contribution as well.

"We have really operated as a 'purple' team; we have really integrated," said Col. Frank Walker, director of mission support for the Michigan Air National Guard and senior Air National Guard liaison in the FJOC. "We look at ourselves as a total force."

Walker said National Guard troops supporting the mission recognize that the eyes of the nation and world will be upon them. "We are representing all of the Guard," he said. "This is a significant emotional event. It is a solemn

Continued on next page

occasion, but it is also the celebration of a great person and a great Michigander.”

Pfc. Timothy Logan and Pvt. Christian Fricke both volunteered to help provide security. Both members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, they were assigned to check identification outside the FJOC and help direct visitors. Both have been in the Guard for two years.

“My mom was the one who got the phone when I got the orders,” said Fricke. “My dad said, ‘You should be really proud; you are making history.’”

Logan agreed. “I’ve never met any president before, so this is really a great honor,” he said.

For Maj. Andrew Roman, assistant day supervisor of the FJOC, the biggest challenge is logistical. Organizing unit requirements and getting the assets in place present their own difficulties, but the New Years holiday added a new

wrinkle: finding billeting for 650 Soldiers and Airmen on a holiday weekend when most hotels are already booked solid.

Despite these challenges, Roman said things have gone well. “Most people understood their initial roles in the plan,” he said. He called the funeral activities an opportunity for the Michigan Guard to demonstrate its mission capability to outside agencies.

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Conley, the assistant operations noncommissioned officer, summed up mixture of pride, excitement at taking on a challenging mission, respect for Ford and grief over his passing, that many of his fellow Guard members supporting the mission share.

“This is an historic event,” Conley said. “I’m proud to be involved.”



Spc. Christopher Oposnow of the 126th Press Camp Headquarters and Master Sgt. Scott Liebhauser of the 110th Fighter Wing work on media credentialing in the Forward Joint Information Bureau. Photo by Master Sgt. Aura Ulm

“I am not a saint, and I am sure I have done things I might have done better or differently, or not at all. I have also left undone things that I should have done. But I believe and hope that I have been honest with myself and with others, that I have been faithful to my friends and fair to my opponents, and that I have tried my very best to make this great government work for the good of all Americans.”

- Gerald R. Ford, vice-presidential confirmation hearings, Nov. 1, 1973

119th Salute Battery perform final tribute



By Sgt. Gabriel Morse

As the gentle prayers of the gathered mourners floated heavenward on the brisk, wintry breezes, three cannons began to pound out a perfect, 21 beat rhythm on the door of Heaven. Together, with the plaintive wail of the final bugle, they sounded the notes of a grieving nation's hymn for a beloved president; each note finely orchestrated to blend into a heart rending melody. It was as if the lights dimmed above the orchestra as the nation's prayers formed the melancholy groans of a base cello, their tears – the faint tinkling of the chimes, the cold winter wind – the whispering of the flutes, and the cannons – the faint, deep booming of the great bass drum.

The theater for this final song lay not in the glittering façade at the nation's capitol, where tombs of great leaders line the way, but on a quiet stage in the hometown where a close neighbor, a dear friend, and hometown boy once played – our President Gerald R. Ford.

A drummer in this final song, 119th Field Artillery Battalion and Ford funeral Salute Battery Officer in Charge, Maj. Greg Cooper expressed his thoughts on the part he and the rest of the Salute Battery team played in the farewell to "Michigan's President."

"It was an honor for all of us on the firing team to play a part in this final farewell, and to do this for the president and his family. And we feel like we represented not only the whole 119th FA, but the whole Army National Guard," Cooper said. "This was bigger than just the 119th doing a cannon salute."

"It was a very intense experience," Sgt. 1st Class

Mark Kraus, gun number one gunner said. "We wanted to perform to 100 percent, not just because people were watching, but because we wanted to give all that honor and pride to the Ford family. It was important to get it right, and there was no way we could just 'take it back and try again.'"

And despite the long hours, the wind, the cold and the crowds, the 119th got it done right. According to both Cooper and Kraus, the long hours practicing were well worth it during those long seconds when the cannon smoke rolled across the Grand River and the throaty roar rolled forever down the city streets.

"People took notice," said Kraus. "Our M101A11 105mm Howitzer cannons were laid out perfectly straight and shined; and when the order to fire came, I pulled the lanyard and fired the first round. I couldn't believe how long the thunder rolled through the city, even as the next round fired – five seconds later. At the 21st shell and the arrival of the Air Force jets, all the streets in Grand Rapids erupted in applause. You could see on everyone's faces that our 27 member team accomplished its mission, which included our support team who were behind the scenes making sure everything was exactly right."

Not only did the 119th represent the Michigan National Guard, but they trained with the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment Salute Battery, better known as the "Old Guard", just for this event. And the 119th Salute Battery team knew the Old Guard was watching to see how they would perform.

"We traveled twice to Arlington, Va., to train with the

Old Guard Salute Battery Honor Team, then rehearsed what we learned at the Albion Armory once a month to keep working on our timing, firing and facing movements,” said Master Sgt. Robert Atkinson, 119th Salute Battery Watchman.

“The Old Guard told us that if we looked good,” joked Kraus, “that they’d brag to their friends and take credit for training us, but if we looked bad, they’d pretend they didn’t have any idea who we were.”

“But on a serious note,” added Kraus, “they gave us the tools we needed to do this, we put in the practice time, and everything looked great.”

“This event showcased what the National Guard is capable of when called to duty, and it was a huge benefit that we were able to train with the Old Guard,” said Cooper. “I received a call from them. They watched it on television, and wanted us to know how proud they were and that we’re part of their family now. The 119th Field Artillery will carry the honor of that and of this ceremony with us forever.”



Members of the 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery offer a flawless 21-cannon salute in honor of former president and Michigan native, Gerald R. Ford, at the Gerald R. Ford airport and here, at the presidential museum in Grand Rapids.



“The length of ones days matter less than the love of ones family and friends...I thank God for the gift of every sunrise.”

-Gerald R. Ford, 93, in a November 2006 statement on becoming the longest living U.S. president



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ron Raflik

Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

From November 17, 2006 through January 8, 2007

Col.	Marvin, Abram	Stephens, Michael	Reynolds, Craig	Mason, Amy	Szymanski, Kenneth M.
Demps, David	Marvin, Michael	Stout, Brandon	Richards, Thomas	Mccaskey, Aaron	Master Sgt.
White, Michael	Nalley, Joseph	Strong, Faith	Riesenberger, Darrell	Metcalf, Joshua	Douglas, Michael D.
Lt. Col.	Newman, Michael	Valkner, Courtney	Royal, Tyran	Metz, David	Folsom, Edward R.
Rusher, Leonard D.	Runyan, Kirt	Varoni, Caleb	Sampson, Andrew	Meyer, Russell	Harvey, Angela L.
2nd Lt.	Skabardis, Markus	Williams, Reginald	Smith, Zebulon	Mitchell, Gregory	Phillips, Timothy W.
Vergowven, Sean	Smiles, Michael	Yousif, Fadi	Stamm, Jonathan	Mogg, Brandy	Reyes, Melvin D.
Warrant Officer 1	Stitt, Wesley	Pfc.	Strang, Kurtis	Morsi, Joseph	Schuckman, Matthew J.
Laliberte, John	Taylor, Beverly	Acosta, Angel	Sturdivant, Izaak	Mortensen, Dale	Shepard, Craig R.
Master Sgt.	Taylor, Emily	Andriessen, Matthew	Thomas, David	Neeld, Michael	Stapel, Dale D.
Jacobs, Bryan	Webber, Edward	Baydoun, Terrif	Thompson, Jacob	Olney, Daniel	Wilkinson, Ricky A.
Smith, Troy	Spc.	Bilich, Anthony	Vanderweide, Paul	Oshea, Jessica	Tech. Sgt.
Touchinski, Michael	Abbas, Faridon	Bishop, Cathi	Wells, William	Pirlot, Michael	Alves, James M.
Sgt. 1st Class	Baker, Cory	Bos, David	Williams, Michael	Polifroni, Zachary	Bauzon, Harold V.
Baez, Rose	Buckerfield, Christopher	Bouman, Shelly	Williamson, Stephen	Pollack, Karl	Begley, Jason M.
Blackburn, Kurt	Burns, Ronnie	Bowers, Tracy	Wright, Pete	Rainwater, Rachiel	Birchmeier, Martin D.
Britton, Douglas	Carley, David	Breisacher, Robert	Yelding, Michael	Renshaw, Terence	Dittenber, Adam G.
Burke, Laura	Carter, Ray	Chapman, Eric	Pvt. 2	Richardson, Melissa	Frisch, Brian M.
Bykonen, Jeffrey	Cochran, William	Cherry, James	Aikens, Joshua	Riggie, Christopher	Hatton, Charles W.
Cleveland, Brian	Cooley, Jay	Collison, Justin	Alexander, Alexeis	Sevilla, Kenneth	Jobin, Margaret J.
Gordon, Charlie	Cornielle, Franklin	Conley, Joshua	Alexander, Joshua	Shankel, Jason	Kozminske, Garrett L.
Mallison, Jeffrey	Davey, Chad	Demeere, Jonathon	Alexander, Justin	Skibbe, Nicholas	Laskey, Cortney A.
Minock, William	Douglas, Michelle	Dykstra, Joshua	Alquist, Joshua	Smith, Matthew	Mullins, Joseph P.
Nault, Robert	Earls, Steven	Evans, Charles	Archambault, Natalie	Stoinski, Scott	Olson, John C.
Riley, Lonnie	Esters, Chermese	Fiedler, Jason	Ball, Jonathan	Tatro, Joshua	Shick, Ryan Z.
Staff Sgt.	Fennema, Kody	Geister, Stephen	Barker, Brittany	Tester, Joshua	Staff Sgt.
Banfill, Ronney	Fricke, Craig	Haataja, Matthew	Barnett, William	Thonnissen, Michael	Adair, Stephen L.
Bayer, Christopher	Giuchin, Alonso	Hibma, Cody	Bauer, Steven	Tidswell, Jamie	Ballard, Danny N.
Beagle, James	Gizicki, Creg	Hobdy, Deangelo	Beattie, Dinielle	Tomczak, Miranda	Blevins, Jody G.
Fabus, Meranda	Hazlett, Jacob	Hoekstra, Allen	Beaudoin, Michael	Towns, Cail	Blumline, Brian G.
Floer, Douglas	Heinlen, Megan	Horan, Russell	Benally, Starlite	Vandrunen, David	Bowden, Adam A.
Freed, Steven	Herriman, Andrew	Humphrey, Cecilia	Brooks, Nathan	Vanmaldeghem, Steven	Clark, David D.
Golec, Derek	Hoolsema, Eric	Javinsky, Joshua	Brown, Joshua	Varadi, Raul	Denryter, Nathan W.
Gray, Tonya	Hord, Jason	Jayne, Stephen	Butcher, Jonathan	Webster, Garrett	Genereaux, Bryan M.
Hall, Steven	Hovinga, Andrew	Johnson, Justin	Caruso, Frank	Williams, Adam	Haven, Steven D.
Johnson, Andrew	Hunter, Ramal	King, Jami	Casebolt, Michelle	Winter, Justin	Houchins, Jerome J.
Knappen, Ryan	Johnson, Anthony	Klopf, Amber	Clark, Matthew	Wodarek, Andrew	Jenney, William K.
Korson, Duane	Kemp, Daniel	Kroll, Daniel	Cox, Andrew	Worthing, Kevin	Johnson, Jeffrey L.
Lange, Ryan	King, Alfred	Kubiak, Christina	Daleiden, Kyle	Wright, Travis	Koras, Sarah A.
Pederson, Lee	Lemus, Christopher	Lacasse, James	Davis, Jason	Zimmerman, Marty	Leveque, Anthony Y.
Rammidi, Godfrey	Lewis, Timothy	Laux, Robert	Deacons, Jesse	Lt. Col.	Medaugh, Christine J.
Robarge, David	Matelski, Matthew	Love, Kyle	Deters, Zachary	Galloway, Lisa A.	Nitz, Jody J.
Smith, Walter	Mccreary, Billee	Lumbert, Matthew	Fanti, Maxwell	Henry, Donald F.	Pawloski, Matthew D.
Stacy, Stephen	Mclarahmore, Abraham	Lumsden, James	Flipse, Charles	Nicholson, Alfred M.	Poppy, Suzanne R.
Stitt, Bradley	Mendoza, Dennis	Maki, Ryan	Gagne, Thomas	Whipple, Daniel J.	Powell, Jesse L.
Swanson, Steven	Miller, David	Mcclure, Tyson	Garner, Lydia	White, Jeffrey C.	Preston, Matthew R.
Wallner, Jason	Miller, Mark	Mckenzie, Jacklyn	Gary, Gene	Maj.	Romanosky, Sarah A.
Wells, Jackson	Montague, Nicholas	Meshane, Garret	Gygi, Fredric	Flynn, Kristin M.	Short, Zachary S.
Sgt.	Montani, Thomas	Morales, Ronald	Haines, Brandon	Petterson, David H.	Tennant, John T.
Bowen, Daniel	Moore, Paul	Nalette, Richard	Henry, Andrew	Rosbolt, James P.	Tumidajewicz, Randy J.
Carlson, Charles	Moore, Stacy	Nevenhoven, Steven	Herring, Kyle	Svinarich, Laura M.	Vlasic, Christine J.
Cooper, Charles	Nelson, Sean	Nichols, Robert	Hills, Matthew	Vanwormer, Sandi J.	Senior Airman
Fenwick, Thomas	Nelson, Stacey	Obholz, Jason	Hotsinpiller, Jonathan	2nd Lt.	Burgess, Eric J.
Fisher, Darren	Noe, Christopher	Parske, Jacob	Houghtaling, Andy	Ahrens, Sharon M.	Josefosky, Jacob A.
Fout, Luke	Olsen, Kate	Patino, Jeffrey	Kalm, Jordan	Charlebois, Jay A.	Perkins, Keith L.
Hammond, Benjamin	Owens, Anthony	Perry, Jacob	Kemler, Jack	Charlebois, Jay A.	Strom, Aaron D.
Houghteling, Alan	Paulian, Mathew	Polk, Nartino	Kurmas, Danielle	Devries, Bryan J.	Airman
Kasten, Cory	Ripplinger, Peter	Pollard, Jenna	Levesque, Trevor	Freudenburg, Lucas A.	Gilbert, Nicky L.
Lewis, Joel	Saelens, Chris	Proulx, Richard	Librojo, Anthony	Totsch, Daniel A.	Henderson, Valencia S.
Lyles, James	Sanscrainte, Caleb	Rajacic, Alan	Lintemuth, Roman	Voss, Thomas S.	Hoppenrath, Nicky L.
Mack, Daniel	Shanks, Jeremy	Reed, Glenn	Long, Casey	Command Sgt. Maj.	Perrow, Michelle L.
Marceau, Christopher	Spencer, Mark	Rench, Andrew	Majeski, David	Humphrey, Roddy L.	Sines, Ciara A.
Marrell, Steven	Stephens, Christopher	Rennells, Christa	Mann, Bradley		

Fallen Heroes



Spc. Wilson A. Algrim, 21, of Howell, Mich., died on Dec. 23 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Salman Pak, Iraq, from wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. He was assigned to Company E, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, Big Rapids, Mich.

Algrim was a graduate of the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy, and is among the first MYCA graduates to join the Michigan National Guard in October 2004.

He was one of four children that were adopted from South America, his country of birth. He is survived by his parents, Don and Judy Algrim of Howell, Mich., and siblings, Janet, Jason and Lisa.



Sgt. Chad J. Vollmer, 24, of Grand Rapids, Mich., died Dec. 23 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Salman Pak, Iraq, from wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. He was assigned to Company E, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, Big Rapids, Mich.

Sgt. Vollmer previously deployed to the Sinai Dessert in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from October 2003 to August 2004. He is survived by his parents Sandi K. Vollmer and Terry L. Vollmer, both of Grand Rapids.



Spc. Bobby Mejia II, of Saginaw, Mich., died Dec. 23 in Salman Pak, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. He was a member of Company E, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, Big Rapids, Mich.,

Mejia joined the Guard in July 2004. He completed the required courses and received his high school diploma after enlisting in the Michigan National Guard. He is survived by his mother, Loueva Hernandez, his father, Bobby Mejia Sr., both of Saginaw, Mich., sisters Sparkle and Crystal and brother, Christian.



Spc. Brandon Lee Stout, 23, of Kent City, Mich., died from wounds suffered when an explosive foreign projectile detonated near his vehicle. He was a member of the 46th Military Police Company, Kingsford, Mich.

Stout also served in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina where he earned the Louisiana Emergency Service Medal.

Stout is survived by his wife, Audrey, his mother Tracy Anderson and father William Stout.

“I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your president by your ballots, and so I ask you to confirm me as your president with your prayers. I hope that such prayers will be the first of many. If you have not chosen me by secret ballot, neither have I gained office by any secret compromises. I have not campaigned either for the presidency or the vice presidency. I have not subscribed to any partisan platform. I am indebted to no man, and only to one woman-my dear wife-as I begin this very difficult job. I have not sought this enourmous responsibility, but I will not shirk it.”

-President Gerald R. Ford's, speech following Oath of Office, Aug. 9, 1974

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