Salute to Veterans

Veterans Day is November 11

Thank you for your service.
In Honor of Veterans Day

To all the brave men and women who have served our country, defended our freedom, and shielded us from danger, past and present, in times of war and in times of peace, we offer our most humble gratitude.

Thank you for your service.
Dan A. Sibley
U.S. Air Force
Sergeant First Class, 90th, Columbus, served four years in the U.S. Air Force, where he served a foreign tour in Japan. He was 19 years old and due to be drafted in the Army. Sgt. Sibley toured four of the best years of his life. He got to travel and see and do things he would not have been able to do otherwise. He loves the U.S. Air Force.

To our men and women in uniform, past, present and future, God bless you and the U.S. Navy from 1944-1946, during which he served a foreign tour in Guam and gained combat experience in Okinawa. It was a great experience for him on an all-volunteer U.S. flag. He always talked about that and how proud he was to be a part of it.

Around that time, universities throughout the United States began to create agencies like MSU’s center to address the needs of a growing military centered student population. They include various colleges and universities. At that time, if someone had 2.5 years of service in the military and served in the U.S. Army, they would be 20 years after September 11th. He’s only had four years and has managed to get through his college, veterans and veterans college. He joined the center because of the program he sees on TV. He never saw a veteran but there were veterans that he could see but the grandfield deeply to see the very symbol of our nation that he and countless others fought and died for him. He also remembers his grandfather who served in WWII shedding tears over seeing his flag burned by people on the TV. So many years later, there are the memories for him. Serving alongside members of his staff are tasked with helping students make those transitions. Locke said his staff helps certify those who died during World War I, the Korean conflict and the global war on terrorism. There is currently a World War I monument near Lee Hall and a Vietnam War monument behind Nusz Hall. MSU alumni often participate in the center’s activities, as its Student Veteran Association organizes tailgates and other events. We have lots of alumni who are veterans who stop by quite a bit. We said, “Partner with our local American Legion and VFWs. Even though they may not be alumni of Mississippi State, they have connections with folks. They always help us out quite a bit.”

Small things make big differences.

Scott Shuttleworth
Scott Shuttleworth, 54, of Columbus, served in the U.S. Navy from 1985-2011, as a Staff Sergeant with the 90th Air Force Communication (Officer). His foreign tours include Operation Just Cause. Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Provide Comfort. He has combat experience in Afghanistan, along with other locations. He joined the military to help something bigger than himself. For him it was an obligation to give back to the country that gave him so much. While deployed, he and his fellow servicemembers always paid very close attention to American flags. Scott Shuttleworth, 54, of Columbus, served in the U.S. Navy from 1985-2011, as a Staff Sergeant with the 90th Air Force Communication (Officer). His foreign tours include Operation Just Cause. Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Provide Comfort. He has combat experience in Afghanistan, among other locations. He joined the military to help something bigger than himself. For him it was an obligation to give back to the country that gave him so much. While deployed, he and his fellow servicemembers always paid very close attention to American flags.

The center also helps students make those transitions. Locke said his staff helps certify those who died during World War I, the Korean conflict and the global war on terrorism. There is currently a World War I monument near Lee Hall and a Vietnam War monument behind Nusz Hall. MSU alumni often participate in the center’s activities, as its Student Veteran Association organizes tailgates and other events. We have lots of alumni who are veterans who stop by quite a bit. We said, “Partner with our local American Legion and VFWs. Even though they may not be alumni of Mississippi State, they have connections with folks. They always help us out quite a bit.”

Small things make big differences. The center is always looking for the next way to help the student veteran population.

“Sometimes it’s just small things that pop up that we could kind of help out with,” Locke said. “This past semester we partnered with parking services. If you’re a purple heart veteran or if you have any certain value awards, they give you a free parking pass to Mississippi State.”

The center also partners with other organizations across the campus to assist students. For example, the university came up with a military withdrawal policy a few years ago. “A number of our national guard service members were being called up for deployments and they were mid-service. Locke said. “We were coming up with procedures of how we can help them either earn the credit for that that they’ve received a certain point in their class or on the other side it can be very difficult to process work through.”

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Since its founding, Golden Triangle Regional Airport has been a strong supporter of our military and veterans. Thank you for giving of yourself to protect our country.

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“The willingness of America’s veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude.”

- Jeff Miller
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Richardson honored on field at MSU game for his contributions

By Tyler B. Jones

James Richardson was honored on Nov. 16 at the Mississippi State University vs. Alabama game for his time served in the military and as a county veterans services officer.

Richardson’s daughter Jean Ann Evans said he has great pride in his father’s willingness and kindness to serve others. She said no one could have performed the job as well as him because no one has as much knowledge or background as her father.

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At nearly 87 years old, Richardson has spent the last six decades working for the veterans of Lowndes County, Evans said.

Richardson grew up on a cotton farm in Tuscumbia, Alabama. For nearly six months, he traveled almost every weekend to somewhere new, all across Europe to places such as Switzerland, Austria, Germany and France.

When he was 37 years old, Richardson was stationed as a hospital executive officer in the Netherlands.

Two days before he was to head back to the United States after spending a few weeks overseas, he went to join the Officers Club, a small house on his base. While spending time there, a car ran a light and hit him, flipping his motorcycle into a tree, doing what he could to try to keep him alive until the ambulance arrived.

"I was later told that I told the colonel that was there to take all the damn pictures he wanted to, but I was going back to the States to try to keep this guy alive," Richardson said.

Richardson instantly ran to help a young airman who had crashed his motorcycle into a tree, doing what he could to try to keep him alive until the ambulance arrived.

"He said, 'Meet me at 1 p.m. tomorrow,'" Richardson said. "I asked, 'What's up?' and he said, 'I'll tell you when you get here.' So, when I got there, he presented me with an accommodation medal, and I said, 'Why is that?' and he said, 'Evidently, you were trying to keep this guy alive,'" Richardson said.

Richardson returned stateside and pursued a master of education at the University of Minnesota through the Air Force. Soon after being there, he was called to meet his commander with the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

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Manuel (Don) Biadog, Jr.
U.S. Navy
Commander Manuel (Don) Biadog, Jr., 64, of San Diego, California, served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy from 1990-2019, during which he served foreign tours in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Okinawa (3 tours), Iraq (Combat Tour) and Naples, Italy. His combat experience was during Operation Iraqi Freedom II. He joined the military to serve our men and women in uniform and to defend our freedom. Cdr. Biadog remembers his hardest ministry was at the aftermath of 9/11 when he served at Ground Zero in September-October 2001 in NYC. The scariest seven months was when he was traveling and serving in Iraq during OIF-II in 2004-2005. He feels honored to have been given the opportunity to serve the greatest military in the world. He continues to serve as Chaplain for VFW Post 7907, a group of freedom-loving combat veterans.

Bert Damron
U.S. Air Force
Master Sergeant Bert Damron, 78, of Caledonia, served 22½ years in the U.S. Air Force, during which he served four foreign tours. He gained combat experience in Vietnam in 1963 and 1970. He joined the military to serve his country and get a good job. MSgt. Damron enjoyed all of his service time. His four year tour in London, England was really nice. Believe it or not, he enjoyed his Vietnam tours. He learned a lot about life and got to fly a lot in the country on his second tour. However, he lost his younger brother in combat in November 1968.

McArthur Harris
U.S. Army
Sergeant McArthur Harris, 74, of Columbus, served six years in the U.S. Army, during which he served two tours in Vietnam. His combat experience includes the 1968 Vietnam TET Offensive. He was drafted for two years, then voluntarily enlisted for four more years. Sgt. Harris thanks all the veterans for their services and offers a special thanks to the Vietnam veterans. “We were the best America had. We fought without American support and we returned without America’s welcome. We are the veterans who will always be the best America had.”

Annie Hines
U.S. Army
Annie Hines, 57, of Columbus, served 27 years in the U.S. Army as an E-7, during which she had foreign tours in Germany, Korea and Italy. Her combat experience includes being a trained soldier to lead. She joined the military to travel and to serve her country. Hines is a proud retiree and proud veteran, from private to sergeant first class, basic training to acting first sergeant, drill sergeant, airbone instructor, recruiter, platoon sergeant and retired acting first sergeant.

The following veteran profiles were submitted by readers who used a form printed in The Dispatch.
SALUTE TO VETERANS

Mark Horning

Sgt. Mark Horning, 75, of Columbus, served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1964-1993, during which he served foreign tours in Korea, Germany and Alaska. His combat experience includes support of Desert Storm. He joined the military because he was bored. His high school buddy, Mike Stanley, had joined and said his recruiter told Mike the Air Force had a better system, and Mike should get his buds to join. Under the buddy system the two recruits would serve together. That's what they did. They went to boot camp together which was the last time they served together during their military careers. Mike became an air traffic controller and Bob became a ground communications cryptic specialist/technician. "I just love to work and wants to thank God, my wife of 40 years, Dee, and my family for the Golden Triangle community for their support during my career and transitions as a veteran. The military was an excellent process of providing outstanding training and offering college credits through the Community College for the Armed Forces (CCAF) for the career/technical skills training. That workplace training in the military have him the ability, after 20 years of service with the USAF to retire and start training citizen in the field of electronics/electricity/automation control for the next 20 years. He served several NATO forces in Afghanistan. He had no idea what he was in for. All he knew was that he wanted to serve in the military. He served with some of the bravest men. His first duty station was in Germany, but he traveled all of Europe doing mission. The military is the greatest adventure giving. He served in "Operation Enduring Freedom" with several NATO forces in Afghanistan.

I'm proud of it." said. "That's the way I felt about it. And I love to work and wants to thank God, my wife of 40 years, Dee, and my family for the Golden Triangle community for their support during my career and transitions as a veteran. The military was an excellent process of providing outstanding training and offering college credits through the Community College for the Armed Forces (CCAF) for the career/technical skills training. That workplace training in the military have him the ability, after 20 years of service with the USAF to retire and start training citizen in the field of electronics/electricity/automation control for the next 20 years. He served several NATO forces in Afghanistan. He had no idea what he was in for. All he knew was that he wanted to serve in the military. He served with some of the bravest men. His first duty station was in Germany, but he traveled all of Europe doing mission. The military is the greatest adventure giving. He served in "Operation Enduring Freedom" with several NATO forces in Afghanistan. Although was not the basic part of his tour it was necessary for the freedoms of our nation. No regrets.

Herbert Clyde Miller, Jr.

Sergeant First Class Herbert Clyde Miller, Jr., 74, of Millport, Alabama, served in the U.S. Army in 1967-1970. He joined the military for his country. SFC Miller recalls parachuting rappelling jump school for three weeks in Fort Benning, Georgia, Special Forces Training in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and volunteering for U.S. Army paratrooper school, special forces training, Vietnam.

Clyde Moore

Master Sergeant Clyde Moore, 82, of Columbus, served in the U.S. Air Force, during which he served seven foreign tours in 1964-1965, 1968-1969, 1976-1978, 1983-1985, 1984-1985, 1986-1987, and 1990-1992. His combat experience includes three separate tours of duty in Vietnam. He joined the military to help provide for the family. MSG Moore doesn't talk much about his military experiences, but he was involved in the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1967. That's what he did. He served in the Viet Cong forces attacked American at Camp Hamburger. He was on guard duty at a camp about six miles from Camp Hamburger before the battle began. The man who relieved him was killed in the attack. He still suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder due to the war's effects. His 24-year career took him all over the country, but the last place he was stationed, Denver, Colorado, was his favorite. He retired from the Air Force and became a car salesman for Honda. His proudest accomplishment is being the top salesman in the country for Honda in 1986. He's had a full and sometimes exciting life, and he doesn't have many regrets, "I did what I had to do," he said. "That's all I felt about it. And I'm proud of it."

Randall Robles

U.S. Air National Guard Staff Sergeant Randall Robles, 61, of Columbus, served 22 years in the U.S. Air National Guard, during which he served foreign tours in Afghanistan, Italy, Turkey, Spain and England. His combat experience includes Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He joined the military to serve his country. He joined them, he was 17 and had no idea what he wanted to serve in the military. He served with some of the bravest men. His first duty station was in Italy and he traveled all of Europe doing mission. The military is the greatest adventure giving. He served in "Operation Enduring Freedom" with several NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Leavern Pate

Specialist Leavern Pate, 79, of Alabama, served in the U.S. Army in 1962-1964, during which he served a foreign tour in Europe. He trolled the East Germany border during the Cold War. He was drafted into the military in 1962. Patty feels it should serve in the military. She realizes that the youth of today should serve in the military.

High waves. He was stationed aboard the USS Moody DE 321, a destroyer escort vessel.

Livingstone V. Robles

Following his duties in the North Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, he was transferred to the Republic of Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Okinawa and the United Kingdom. He gained combat experience during two tours in Vietnam in 1963, 1966, and Operation Desert Storm in 1991. He joined the military for the patriotic education opportunities and to be a part of making America great. Leadership and work experience for fellow on career, memories of countries he would not have seen and a patriotic feeling.

David E. Jones, Sr.

Staff Sergeant David E. Jones, Sr., 79, of Columbus, served two years, four months, in the U.S. Coast Guard and a tour at Camp Holloway. He had been a car salesman for Honda. His proud career took him all over the country. His 24-year career took him all over the country, but the last place he was stationed, Denver, Colorado, was his favorite. He retired from the Air Force and became a car salesman for Honda. His proudest accomplishment is being the top salesman in the country for Honda in 1986. He's had a full and sometimes exciting life, and he doesn't have many regrets, "I did what I had to do," he said. "That's all I felt about it. And I'm proud of it."

Bob Lovelace

Technical Sergeant Bob Lovelace, 96, of Columbus, served two years, 2½ years and 2 years in Okinawa with his family.

High waves. He was stationed aboard the USS Moody DE 321, a destroyer escort vessel.

Starling Jones

Technical Sergeant Starling Jones, 76, of Columbus, served 22 years in the U.S. Air Force. He joined the Air Force to make a better life for himself. He was supposed to go to Jackson State University on a football scholarship and had made plans to start college during the summer. His cousin, who was in the Air Force, came home on leave. As they talked, Jones told his cousin his desire to be an automobile mechanic. His cousin informed him that he could join the Air Force, get mechanical knowledge, earn college credits and earn him an income at the same time. He didn't tell Jones not to attend college, he just gave him some information. Jones decided to join the Air Force, which gave him the opportunity to travel the world. He lived in Germany 2½ years and 2 years in Okinawa with his family. He was assigned in Thailand for a year and Korea twice on remote tours. He had tours in Hawaii, Holland, Paris, Aires, Philippines and Japan. He also lived in Illinois, California, Nevada, Texas, Louisiana and Alabama. He really enjoyed his time in the Air Force. He worked some long days during his service but said it was a joy to serve in this great country.
Thank you past, present & future Veterans for your service so we can enjoy our freedom.

IN HONOR OF ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED AND CONTINUE TO SERVE THIS COUNTRY,

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Thank You Veterans

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VETERANS DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Mark Horning
Sea, when the water was rough with high waves. He was stationed aboard the USS Moody DE 321, a destroyer escort vessel.

Starling Jones
Technical Sergeant Starling Jones, 76, of Columbus, served 22 years in the U.S. Air Force. He joined the Air Force to make a better life for himself. He was supposed to go to Jackson State University on a college scholarship, but due to the war, he joined the military. During the summer, his cousin, who was in the Air Force, came home on leave. As they talked, Jones told his cousin he wanted to be an automobile mechanic. His cousin informed him that he could join the Air Force, get mechanical training, eam college credits and earn an income at the same time. He didn’t tell Jones not to attend college. He just gave him some information. Jones decided to join the Air Force, which gave him the opportunity to travel around the world. He lived in Germany 2½ years and in Okinawa during his tour. He was assigned to a base in Thailand for a year and Korea twice on remote tours. He had tours in Hawaii, Holland, Paris, Azores, Philippines and Japan. He also lived in Illinois, California, Nevada, Texas, Louisiana and Alabama. He really enjoyed his time in the Air Force. He worked some long days during his service but said it was a joy to serve in this great country.

Virgil Kimbrell
U.S. Navy Reserve
Technical Sergeant Virgil Kimbrell, 70 (deceased), of Columbus, served 19 years in the U.S. Navy Reserve, which included a tour in Iraq. Kimberly loved serving his country, he was thankful that God allowed him to serve.

Bob Lovelace
Technical Sergeant Bob Lovelace, 67, of Abbeville, served in the U.S. Air Force from 1973-1991, during which he served foreign tours in Germany and Alaska. His combat experience includes support of Desert Storm. He joined the military because he was bored. His high school buddy, Mike Stanley, had just joined and said his recruiter told Mike the Air Force had what was called the buddy system. Mike should get his buddy to join. Under the buddy system the two recruits would serve together. Or, that’s what they did. They went to boot camp together. That was the last time they served together during their military careers. Mike became an air traffic controller and Bob became a ground communications cryptologic specialist/technician. TSGT Lovelace wants to thank God, his wife of 40 years, Dee, his family and the Golden Triangle community for their support during his 19 years of service, and his companies who awarded him with several awards as a veteran. The military was an excellent process of providing outstanding training and offering college credits through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) for the vocational technical skills training. That core training in the military have him the ability, after 20 years of service with the USAF to retire and start teaching citizenship of the Golden Triangle community in the field of electronic/electricity/automotive systems. He worked at East Mississippi Community College. Individuals, including veterans and women learn to appreciate the freedoms America has in the USA after living in other countries. God Bless America.

Herbert Clyde Miller, Jr.
U.S. Army
Sergeant First Class Herbert Clyde Miller, Jr., 74, of Millport, Alabama, served in the U.S. Army from 1967-1975. He joined the military for his country. SFC Miller recalls parachuting rappelling jump school for three weeks in Fort Benning, Georgia. Special Forces Training in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and volunteering for U.S. Army pararescue school, special forces training, Vietnam.

Clyde Moore
U.S. Army
Master Sergeant Clyde Moore, 82, of Columbus, served in the U.S. Army during which he served foreign tours in the U.S. Air Force, during which he served foreign tours in Germany and Alaska. His combat experience includes support of Desert Storm. He joined the military because he was bored. His high school buddy, Mike Stanley, had just joined and said his recruiter told Mike the Air Force had what was called the buddy system. Mike should get his buddy to join. Under the buddy system the two recruits would serve together. Or, that’s what they did. They went to boot camp together. That was the last time they served together during their military careers. Mike became an air traffic controller and Bob became a ground communications cryptologic specialist/technician. TSGT Lovelace wants to thank God, his wife of 40 years, Dee, his family and the Golden Triangle community for their support during his 19 years of service, and his companies who awarded him with several awards as a veteran. The military was an excellent process of providing outstanding training and offering college credits through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) for the vocational technical skills training. That core training in the military have him the ability, after 20 years of service with the USAF to retire and start teaching citizenship of the Golden Triangle community in the field of electronic/electricity/automotive systems. He worked at East Mississippi Community College. Individuals, including veterans and women learn to appreciate the freedoms America has in the USA after living in other countries. God Bless America.

Randall Robles
U.S. Air National Guard
Staff Sergeant Randall Robles, 61, of Columbus, served 22 years in the U.S. Air National Guard, during which he served foreign tours in Afghanistan, Italy, Turkey, Spain and England. His combat experience includes Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He joined the military to help provide for his family. SFC Miller doesn’t talk much about his military experiences, but he was involved in the Battle of Mogadishu in 1993. He joined the military because he wanted to travel the world. He lived in Germany and Alaska. His 24-year career took him all over the country due to the war’s effects. His 24-year career took him all over the country, but the last place he was stationed, Denver, Colorado, was his favorite. He retired from the Air Force and became a car salesman for Honda. His proudest accomplishment is being the top salesman in the country for Honda in 1986. He’s had a full and sometimes exciting life, and he doesn’t have many regrets, “I did what I had to do,” he said. “I’m proud of it.”
The following veteran profiles were submitted by readers who used a form printed in The Dispatch.

**Manuel (Don) Biadog, Jr.**

U.S. Navy

Commander Manuel (Don) Biadog, Jr., 64, of San Diego, California, served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy from 1990-2019, during which he served foreign tours in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Okinawa (3 tours); Iraq (Combat Tour); and Naples, Italy. His combat experience was during Operation Iraqi Freedom II. He joined the military to serve our men and women in uniform and to defend our freedom. Cdr. Biadog remembers his hardest ministry was at the aftermath of 9/11 when he served at Ground Zero in September-October 2001 in NYC. The scariest seven months was when he was traveling and serving in Iraq during OIF-II in 2004-2005. He feels honored to have been given the opportunity to serve the greatest military in the world. He continues to serve as Chaplain for VFW Post 7907, a group of freedom-loving combat veterans.

**Bert Damron**

U.S. Air Force

Master Sergeant Bert Damron, 78, of Caledonia, served 22½ years in the U.S. Air Force, during which he served four foreign tours. He gained combat experience in Vietnam in 1963 and 1970. He joined the military to serve his country and get a good job. MSgt. Damron enjoyed all of his service time. His four year tour in London, England was really nice. Believe it or not, he enjoyed his Vietnam tours. He learned a lot about life and got to fly a lot in the country on his second tour. However, he lost his younger brother in combat in November 1968.

**McArthur Harris**

U.S. Army

Sergeant McArthur Harris, 74, of Columbus, served six years in the U.S. Army, during which he served two tours in Vietnam. His combat experience includes the 1968 Vietnam TET Offensive. He was drafted for two years, then voluntarily enlisted for four more years. Sgt. Harris thanks all the veterans for their services and offers a special thanks to the Vietnam veterans. “We were the best America had. We fought without American support and we returned without America’s welcome. We are the veterans who will always be the best America had.”

**Annie Hines**

U.S. Army

Annie Hines, 57, of Columbus, served 27 years in the U.S. Army as an E-7, during which she had foreign tours in Germany, Korea and Italy. Her combat experience includes being a trained soldier to lead. She joined the military to travel and to serve her country. Hines is a proud retiree and proud veteran, from private to sergeant first class, basic training to acting first sergeant, drill sergeant, arms instructor, recruiter, platoon sergeant and retired acting first sergeant.
Richardson honored on field at MSU game for his contributions

BY TYLER B. JONES

The year was 1963, and Capt. James Richardson was stationed as a hospital executive officer in the Netherlands.

Two days before he was to head back to the United States after spending a few weeks overseas, he went to the Officers Club, where he would have a bad car crash outside.

Richardson instantly ran to help a young airman who had crashed his motorcycle into a tree, doing what he could to keep him alive until the ambulance arrived.

"I was told later that I told the colonel that was there to take all the blame he wanted to take, but I was going to the hospital. I just tried to keep this guy alive," Richardson said.

Richardson returned stateside and pursued a master of education at the University of Minnesota through the Air Force. Soon after being there, he was called to meet his commander with the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

"He said, 'Meet me at 1 p.m. tomorrow in uniform,'" Richardson said. "I asked what's up? and he said, 'I'll tell you when you get here.' So, when I got there, he presented me with an accommodation medal, and I said, 'Why is this?' and he said, 'Evidently, you were involved in keeping a young airman alive. He didn't make it, but the colonel was there, he presented me with an accommodation medal.'"

Richardson grew up on a cotton farm in New Hope. After he graduated from Mississippi State University in 1957 with a bachelor’s degree, Richardson worked in health care administration at hospitals all across the country, helping those returning from the Vietnam War. He moved back home to Columbus in 1967 to take care of his father and his family and began working in insurance.

Soon after moving back, he began helping a double-amputee veteran who needed assistance with home repairs, but the Department of Veterans Affairs was not being supportive or cooperative, sparking Richardson’s passion for helping veterans. When the Lowndes County Veterans Services Officer position opened up, Richardson applied and got the job because he wanted to help veterans in situations such as this.

"The job I've ever had was working with veterans, assisting them and getting them benefits," Richardson said. "When I started working, the county was receiving about $5,000 in compensation and pension benefits for the veterans that we had. When I retired, we had almost $33 million."

Richardson said the best thing was when he could help veterans finally receive the benefits they deserved because the VA at times was not always the most helpful. Still to this day, even after retirement, Richardson drives an amputee veteran back and forth to his doctor’s appointments in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Richardson’s daughter Jean Ann Evans said she has pride in her father’s willingness and kindness to serve others. She said no one could have performed the job as well as him because no one has as much knowledge or background as her father.

"He was so relentless in helping veterans of Lowndes County," Evans said. "He ended up helping thousands of local veterans. Every home football game, MSU honors a veteran, and Richardson was chosen as the honoree at the MSU vs. Alabama game for his time served in the military, and as a county veterans services officer. Nominated by his son-in-law, Richardson said it was an exciting moment and made him walk on the field. "They rolled out the red carpet for me and asked me to walk out with my son and daughter and ring the bell," Richardson said. "I looked up at the jumbotron, and my name was up there. I was getting handshakes right and left when I was going back up to my seat."

At nearly 87 years old, Richardson now spends his free time planting flowers and gardening. He said he is thankful for all of the experiences life has given him and could not do it without the love of his family.

"I’m just thankful to have good family to support here," Richardson said. "My wife."
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Center helps military centered students navigate higher education

Mississippi State’s Center for America’s Veterans is nestled in Nusz Hall

By Nicole Bowman-Layton

S
ince 2006, Mississippi State University’s G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Center for America’s Veterans has been helping military connected students.

The center was established about September 11th, “So many of those people went in and served for the war on terrorism. There is currently a World War I monument near Lee Hall and a Vietnam War monument behind Nusz Hall. ‘In 2006, Locke said. ‘I think a lot of universities, like Mississippi State, saw the need.’ He said, ‘So many more of those student veterans were back coming to campus and Mississippi State needed a way to provide services and assistance to them.’

The center also helps students make connections to 48 students this fall semester. ‘Sometimes it’s just small things that pop up, that we’re able to kind of help out with,’ Locke said. ‘This past semester we partnered with parking services. If you’re a purple heart veteran or if you have any certain valor awards, they give you a free parking pass to Mississippi State.’

The center also partners with other organizations across the campus to assist students. For example, the university came up with a military withdrawal policy a few years ago.

‘A number of our national guard service members were being called up for deployments and they were mid-senior," Locke said. ‘We were coming up with procedures of how we can help them either earn the credit for that class or, if they’ve reached a certain point in the class or, they can do other things.

‘So we’re really kind of looking at seeing what we can do to work with organizations across campus.’

Scott Shutttleworth

Scott Shuttleworth, 54, of Cadetonia, served in the U.S. Air Force from 1985-2011, as a Staff Sergeant and a combat controller for the Air Force. He is the current vice president of his chapter of the Combat Controllers Association.

His foreign tours include Iraq, Afghanistan, and Bosnia. Combat Controller jobs included Freedom, Freedom Enduring Freedom, and Operation Provide Comfort. He has combat experience in Afghanistan, along with other locations. He joined the military to be part of something bigger than himself. For him it was an obligation to give back to the country that gave him so much.

It evolved over time, and he continued to serve because he wanted to keep the fight on their ground. Not only that, but he also remembers his grandfather who served in WWII shedding tears over seeing his flag flown by people on the TV.

He never said a word but Shuttleworth could see that it hit his grandfather deeply to see the very symbol of our nation that he and countless others fought and died for him to be treated with such disrespect. He knew then it meant to serve with your whole heart, soul, and mind to be all in sacrificing many things for a cause greater than you.

Shuttleworth made so many friends and comrades in arms over the years. It is a brotherhood that cannot be explained unless you have experienced it for yourself. The times in

Dan A. Sibley

U.S. Air Force

Sergeant First Class Dan A. Sibley, 90, of Columbus, served four years in the U.S. Air Force, where he served a foreign tour in Japan. He was 19 years old and due to be in the Army. Sgt. Sibley spent four of the best years of his life in Japan serving with the 48th Security Forces Squadron.

He got to travel and see and do things he would not have been able to do otherwise. He loves the U.S. Air Force.

To our men and women in uniform, past, present and future, God bless you and

In 1942-1944, during which he served a foreign tour in Guam and gained combat experience in Okinawa. It was a great experience for an 18-year-old from Clark County, Ohio. He always talked about that and how proud he was to be a part of it.

Mississippi State University’s G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Center for America’s Veterans

Center for America’s Veterans

Location: 250 Bailey Howell Drive, Mississippi State University

Hours of operation: Staff works from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday Mississippi State University’s campus, Nusz Hall is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phone: (662) 325-6719

Website: veterans.msstate.edu

The Dispatch - www.cdispatch.com

Center for America’s Veterans

HONORING ALL VETERANS

Today is Veterans Day, dedicated to honor and remember all who served. It is a day to be grateful for our military veterans who have served with their whole heart, and to respect all military service members who continue to serve.

Honor, respect, and remember, and give back to those who have served. They are heroes and leaders of our nation.

VETERANS DAY • www.cdispatch.com

SALUTE TO VETERANS

18

rienced it for yourself. The times in every service and the years. It is a brotherhood that cannot mean to serve with your whole heart, and see and do things he would not have been able to do otherwise. He loves the U.S. Air Force.

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In Honor of Veterans Day

To all the brave men and women who have served our country, defended our freedom, and shielded us from danger, past and present, in times of war and in times of peace, we offer our most humble gratitude.

Thank you for your service.
SALUTE TO VETERANS

VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11