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1972



THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

Published to perpetuate the memory of USS BANG (SS-385) and her Crew

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GET READY FOR FUN IN THE SUN!
THE 76TH USS BANG (SS 385) REUNION
 SEPTEMBER 30TH-OCTOBER 3RD 2019
 OCEAN REEF RESORT
 7100 North Ocean Blvd
 MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29572



FPO



This column is dedicated to all the letters we receive from you. Any info about yourself or others you want to share with your shipmates will be published here. Think of this as a combination of the bulletin board in the Crew's Mess and the IMC.

Hello once again, Shipmates! Greetings from sunny Ft. Pierce, Florida, home of the Florida Symphony, AKA car alarms. First of all I would like to apologize to Chuck and Pat Archer for inadvertently placing them in the Witness Protection Program, along a couple other people I'm sure. Not knowing everyone by sight and not having a list of the names of people in the pictures contributed to this oversight. I have devised a solution for this year's reunion. I'd also like to also apologize to Michelle Ostapiej for renaming her Marilyn. Senior moment on steroids. Well with the Mea Culpas out of the way, it's time to turn our attention to this year's reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC. Under the very capable direction of Paul Schramm and Jennifer Wilson, the same dynamic duo who brought you the New Orleans reunion, this should be a very enjoyable and fun filled week. Be sure to fill out the registration form as soon as possible. It can be found further on in the newsletter. I had stated that letters to the editor were rather thin last time, as in non existent due to the editor change, well you've solved that problem as we have quite a few to share with the Bang Gang. So without further adieu here is mail call:

HMCS ANDREW B McKAYE Dear Eric, I don't believe we've met, however thanks for taking over the task of putting out the newsletter. I went aboard the BANG in February 1954 and left in March 1957. Sadly, I've been losing contact with the "Gang" since I've not attended a reunion Cleveland, but my wife Jean and I hope to be on board in Myrtle Beach. Enclosed is a small contribution to the slush fund.

Thank you Senior chief for your kind contribution to the slush fund. I sincerely hope you can make it to the Myrtle Beach reunion, I'm sure all the shipmates would be pleased to see you again. I'll even take a picture of you, so you won't end up in Witness Protection! Thanks again for your letter.

LARRY HULL (SKSS) Dear Eric, Please change my email address to Hullman@ca.rr.com, you said your son and grandkids lived in Portsmouth, that's where I went after the '68 Spring Board. I commissioned the 646 boat, SSN Grayling in Kittery, spent 2 years there, GREAT TIME!! Myself and two others rented a place in York Beach, Me. Called the Manor House (winter rental) next to the Ocean House. Great parties there. Paid 55 a month for it. Grayling went to sea in Charleston Dec 69 and I got out in January 70. That was 49 years ago, Wow!

Thanks Larry for you letter, it was great seeing you again at the San Diego reunion, hopefully we'll have one back on the Left Coast in the near future. I remember shortly after I reported on board BANG, we were called topside one night for line handling duty. It was there you not too subtly taught me the meaning of the Naval term "Smartly". We had some good times on our Sunday afternoon "Pub Crawls" BTW I don't think the Manor House is renting at 55 a month any more.



From Commander Submarine Force Atlantic— Members of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI) held the annual World War II Memorial and Submarine Hall Of Fame ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk on May 16. The ceremony is held each year to remember and honor the submarine veterans who served during World War II and to recognize a submarine that performed above and beyond the call of duty. “Service above self” was what submariners then and now display and with that the sacrifice of time and family, hardship at sea, and the risks inherent to undersea operations, “ said retired Capt. Kenneth R. Karr, the ceremony’s guest speaker. The service opened with a solemn observance known as “The Tolling of The Boats”, during which a bell is rung once for each submarine lost as its name is read aloud. Following this time-honored tradition, Master Chief Logistics Specialist (Submarine) Brett Adams, USS Helena’s (SSN 725) Chief of the Boat, **presented a wreath to Ed Kracker and his wife June. Kracker qualified on the USS Bang (SS 385) during World War II and is the oldest submarine qualified veteran in the Hampton Roads area.** *Bravo Zulu Ed and June! It couldn’t have happened to a nicer and more rewarding couple! The question still remains...What took them so long? I hope we see you in Myrtle Beach!*

From our own CO, Bill Fenton- During our Med cruise 1970-71 the 6th Fleet and Bang spent the Christmas/ New Years holidays in Athens. That year the Navy chartered two 747’s to fly dependents from Norfolk to Athens and sailors on leave back to Norfolk. Return trips after the holidays were included. It wasn’t free but the price of tickets was very attractive. Jim Kronzer and I both took advantage of this package. However things didn’t work out as planned and we had a real odyssey getting back to the boat. Our plan was to catch a military hop from Quonset Point to Norfolk to meet the chartered 747. When we got to Quonset Point it was fogged in and nothing was going anywhere. Not good. We called Squadron 8 and got them to write orders for us to accompany an FBM crew flight to Rota and spent the night at Quonset. Arriving at Rota late the next day we spent the night on the tender with no idea how we were going to get to Athens. Not good. Next morning we caught a Navy plane to Naples and after only 20 minutes on the ground hitched a ride on a Navy mail run to Athens. This was before cell phones and the internet so we had not been able to communicate our status to the boat. We landed in Athens around 6PM (it was winter, so it was dark). There was a Naval Attaché office in a trailer at the airport where we were told Bang had pulled out with rest of the fleet that morning. Not good. We were told they could get us a ride by helo to the carrier JFK and the next time the Bang operated near her we could high line or small boat transfer over to Bang. NOT GOOD! We had visions of what the penalty is for missing movement!

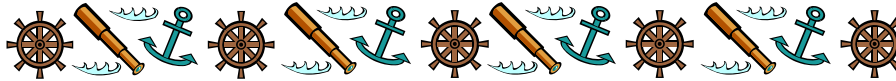
On the chance Bang had not yet left, we decided to take a cab to Piraeus (the port for Athens) just to be sure and when we arrived at the pier around 8PM there was Bang with line handlers on deck, engines running and the maneuvering watch set. I guess Captain Joe Taff (great guy) had waited as long as he could not wanting to go to sea without his OPS/NAV Officer (Jim) and Engineering Officer (me) but couldn’t wait any longer. We hitchhiked half way around the world for free arriving 12 hours late. Thankfully nothing was ever said about the incident!

Whew! I’m tired just reading this! This proves the old Navy adage, “Nothing good happens in Quonset after midnight” I also remember when you arrived early to report aboard Bang, this time in Barcelona. So Europe holds some great memories for you. By the way, the penalty for missing movement is NOT GOOD!

From Barbara Gallagher-daughter of Wade Eichorn- My father Wade, designer of the first battle flag has moved to the Texas Veterans Home in Bonham Texas. Wade is doing fairly well, he is 94 yrs old, has dementia along with his long standing PTSD. He did not want to come to the reunion last year because he was sure he would not know anyone. This year I will be in Europe (missing my 24th Evac reunion as well) Please send the newsletters to the new address, hopefully some in the facility will read them to him, other members of the Veteran’s home may enjoy them when he is finished. I found the page that has the hats and pins of Wades flag. I will send a note to Ike Cohen and order them.



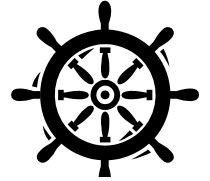
LOST AND FOUND



This page is dedicated to informing you of any additions, deletions, or corrections to our active roster.
It has been brought to our attention that the following shipmates have passed away and will be placed on Eternal Patrol.



Willam King RM (8/62-10/62)



William Von Der Leith IC (52-57)

Dennis Kelly YN (63-64)

John Mumford YN (64-66)



SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS!

The following shipmates are new (found) additions to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all who helped in locating them and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.

Charles T. Shelly, 95 MacArthur Road . Northbridge, Ma. 01534-1260



THANK YOU!

Since our last publication, the following shipmates have generously donated to our slush fund.



**Dick Flanagan
Richard Petriyo
Iassc Cohen**

**James Andree
Charles Archer
Jennifer Wilson**

**Roe Granger
John Gaines
Dave Smith**

**Ed Schovajsa
Rose Jarvies
Allen Thole**

**Dave Blaha
Andy McKay**

THE INTERNET
CHANGES SINCE LAST

CONNECTION
PUBLICATION

Larry Hull –Hullman@ca.rr.com



William (Bill) Carlton King-Shipmate Bill King deployed on Eternal Patrol 13 April 2019, Bill served aboard BANG for two months as a Radioman First Class from 8/62 to 10/62 he reported to Bang from USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN598) and left for USS TIGRONE (SS 419). He retired from the Navy where he served during World war II, Korea, the Cold War and Vietnam.



William Von Der Leith-Shipmate Bill Von Der Leith deployed on Eternal Patrol on March 23, 2019 . Born on April 5, 1927 in Ridgefield New Jersey he attended and graduated from Jeffersonville High School in New York. Bill was a member of BANG's third Commissioning Crew 10/52 and while aboard he changed his rate from EM to IC. He was promoted to ICC 1/55. He retired as an ICCS. Bill also served on USS GREENFISH (SS351), and USS SEA ROBIN (SS407). Bill was a regular attendee to our reunions, his last being Detroit 2015. At one of the reunions, he participated in an interview which you can access at :

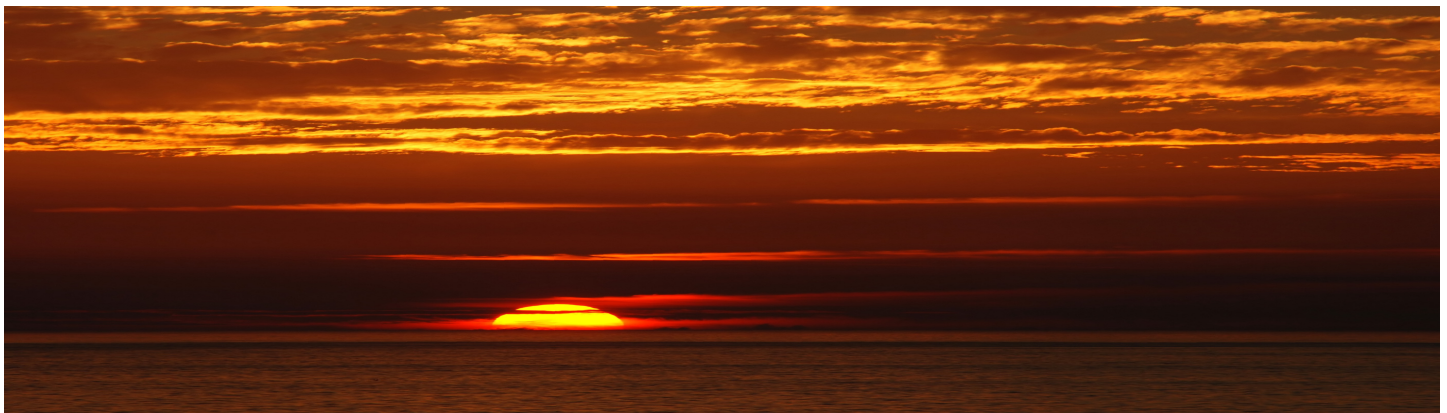
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOReoBUYiA>. In the interview there is an interesting part where Bill relates that the Enlistment Office was somewhat reluctant when he tried to enlist

because of his German name.

Bill left BANG for Nuclear Power school in 1/57. After retirement Bill worked Basic American for 20 years in Research and Machinery Development. Bill was a member of American Legion Post 23, Blackfoot Idaho, and the United States Submarine Veterans (Idaho Spuds Chapter).

John Mumford-No Photo Attached-John Mumford went on Eternal Patrol August 14, 2017. A resident of Preston CT. Jon served on The BANG as a YN1 from 1964-1966. John qualified aboard USS TUSK (SS426) and after 20 years service retired as a Master Chief Yeoman in 1975. He was a Life and Holland Club Member of The United States Submarine Veterans Inc. Groton Base

Dennis F. Kelley-No Photo Attached-Shipmate Dennis F Kelly of Ball Ground, GA. Deployed on Eternal Patrol on February 8, 2019. He qualified aboard USS TRITON (SSRN-586), and served aboard KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN642), HALBUT(SSGN587), PARGO (SS650, and SNOOK (SSN592). Dennis served



U. S. S. BANG (SS - 385)

76th Anniversary Reunion

Myrtle Beach, SC

Monday - September 30th 2019

through

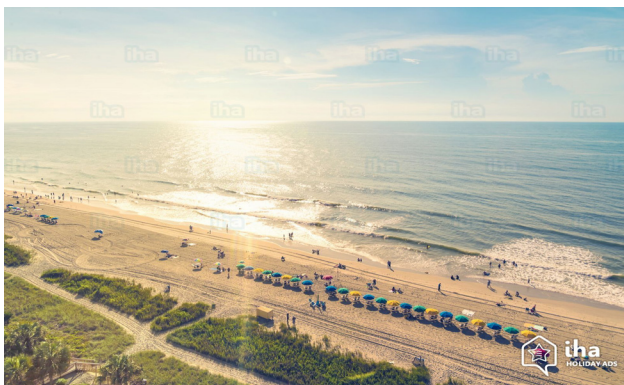
Thursday - October 03rd 2019

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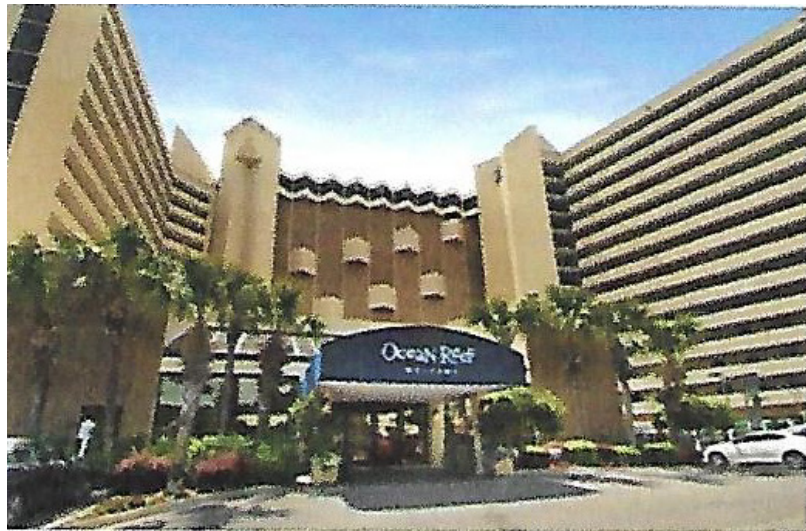
H
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Paul Schramm and Jennifer Wilson



HEADQUARTERS



Ocean Reef Resort
7100 No. Ocean Blvd
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
Room Rates per night
Standard \$94.92
Efficiency \$100.57

All rooms are Ocean front and rates include tax and resort fee, rates are good three days before and after the reunion

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel (855) 842-6556, indicate you are with the Bang Reunion Group to obtain the special rate

Well Shipmates as you can see, this year's reunion is looking like it will be a great one! I urge all of you to reserve early to make sure you'll be part of the fun. As always, all the info is also on the website, www.ussbang.com, including a registration form and activities page. Also, if you're a golfer, Myrtle Beach is one of the best golf destinations on the East Coast! There's going to be a lot to do and enjoy, so register early and often.

While I'm here, I'd like to clear up some housekeeping stuff. I haven't put in a Sick Bay column yet as I'm not sure if the situations have changed since I took over. I'd hate to publish notices that were outdated or wrong. So send me all your sick bay info, and it will be in the next issue. Thanks! Also in the interest of space, for this issue only, changes of address will be here:

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Wade Eichorn—Clyde W Casper TSVH, 1330 Seven Oaks Rd. Bonham, TX 75418

Laurel Major—37107 Carolina Drive, Frankford, DE 19945

Robert Vogel—946 SW Veterans Way #102-508, Redmond, OR 97756-2700



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 76TH USS BANG REUNION 29SEPT-3OCT 19

1.) SUNDAY, September 29th-Early Birds Hospitality Room opens at 1:00pm

2.) MONDAY, September 30th-Arrival Day-Today is a day to check-in to the hotel and renew old acquaintances. Hospitality room opens at 10:00am

3.TUESDAY, October 1st \$55 per person 10:00am departure-All aboard our luxurious motor coach which whisks us to Georgetown, SC for Captain Rod's low country riverboat cruise and plantation tour.

11:00am-12:45 pm-Lunch is on your own at one of the many fine restaurants in picturesque Georgetown along the Harbour Walk. We'll meet at the boat dock at 12:45pm for a 1:00 to 4:00pm tour and return to the hotel around 5:00pm.

4.) WEDNESDAY, October 2nd \$45 per person. 5:00pm departure for Barefoot Landing where there are numerous waterfront restaurants for dinner on your own. After a great meal we will meet at the Alabama Theater.

Country music stars ALABAMA had a desire to return to their musical roots in Myrtle Beach where they honed their impressive three part harmonies while playing for tips at The Bowery, a local night club. They wanted to bring their unique perspective to the rising entertainment industry on the Grand Strand and the Alabama Theater was born. Tonight's show, "ONE", brings audiences an incredible entertainment experience featuring everything from Country, Gospel, Broadway, Pop and Rock to plenty of hilarious family comedy. The talented entertainers, extravagant costumes and extraordinary scenery will make you feel like you are in New York or Las Vegas— at a fraction of the price! As always, the charm of emcee and featured vocalist Greg Rowles will make audiences feel at home while crowd favorite Grant Turner, one of the funniest comedians in the country returns as Ricky Mokel with new jokes and antics to entertain and delight everyone. As one theatre patron said, "three generations my family laughed until we cried."

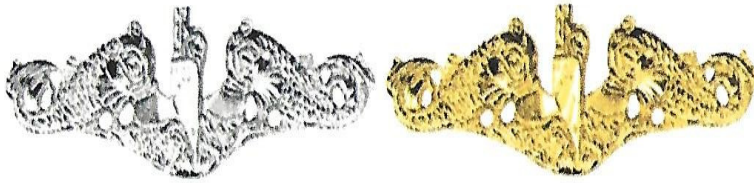
Thursday, October 3rd

9:00am-Business meeting for all shipmates

9:00am-Ladies Brunch-\$14.00 per person

5:00pm-Banquet tonight-\$55.00





-----Complete form, print and mail to:-----

Paul Schramm-----3402 Onondaga Avenue-----Kalamazoo, Michigan-----49004-1636

YES! I/we plan to attend the reunion!

RANK/RATE:

FIRST NAME: LAST NAME: YEARS ON BANG: TO

ADDRESS: CELL PHONE: () IMPORTANT IF YOU ARE USING THE SHIPMATE SHUTTLE!

CITY: ST: ZIP: E-MAIL:

SPOUSE'S/GUEST'S NAME(S):

ARRIVAL DATE: ARRIVAL TIME AND FLIGHT NUMBER:

DEPARTURE DATE: DEPARTURE TIME AND FLIGHT NUMBER:

NUMBER REQUESTING THE SHIPMATE SHUTTLE: KEEP PAUL'S CELL PHONE NUMBER WITH YOU: (269) 345-0859 FREE!

NUMBER ATTENDNG CAPTAIN ROD'S RIVER CRUISE/PLANTATION TOUR: @ \$55 PER PERSON. TOTAL COST

NUMBER ATTENDING ALABAMA THEATRE: @ \$45 PER PERSON. TOTAL COST

NUMBER ATTENDNG WOMEN'S BRUNCH: (DURING SHIPMATES BUSINESS MEETING) @ \$15 PER PERSON. TOTAL COST

NUMBER ATTENDING BANQUET (BUFFET): @ \$55 PER PERSON

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:

HOSPITALITY ROOM STIPEND PER ADULT: @ \$25 PER ADULT.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Paul J Schramm

TOTAL: \$

MUST BE IN BY AUGUST 30TH

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE - WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE HOSPITALITY ROOM?:

BEER BRAND

LIQUOR/WINE TYPE

MIXERS

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SOFT DRINKS

SNACKS

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Note: print this form in "landscape" layout rather than "portrait".

[Print This Page](#)

[Reset To Blank Form](#)

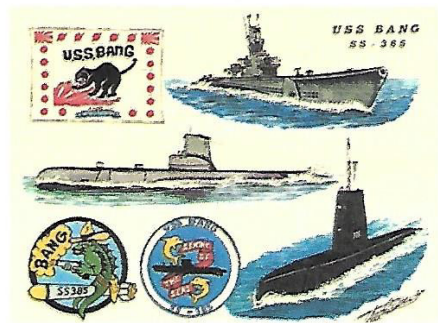
[Return to Schedule of Events Page](#)

[Return to Hotel Page](#)

**AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR SO YOU WILL
BE IN CORRECT UNIFORM OF THE DAY FOR OUR REUNION**



Navy Blue Ballcap - \$8.00 ea.
Solid or Mesh top State Your Choice



6" Window Trilogy Decal
 \$5.00 ea.

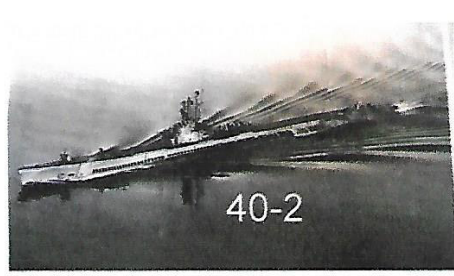
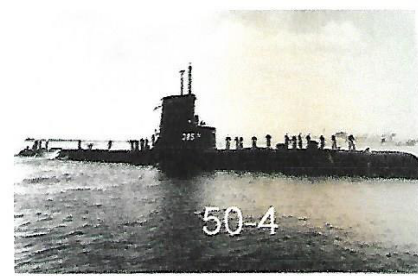
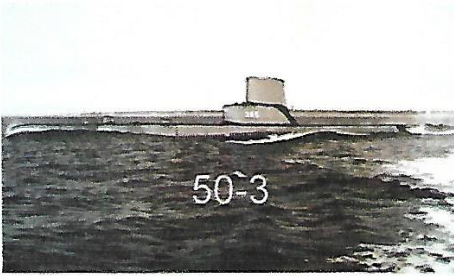
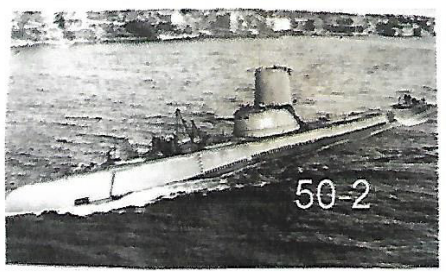
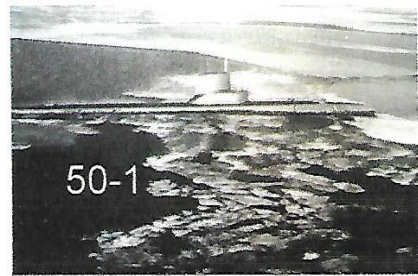
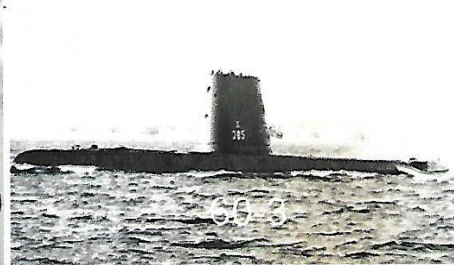


5" Jacket Patch - \$5.00 ea.
 State Your Choice



1" Lapel/Hat pins - \$5.00 ea.
 State Your Choice

11x14 BANG Photos - 40's, 50's, 60's - \$3.00 ea. State Your Choice



ERIC H ERICSON, III
USS BANG SS-385 NEWSLET-
TER



FIRST – CLASS MAIL
FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED



GOD BLESS OUR TROOP - PRAY FOR THEM TOO

