

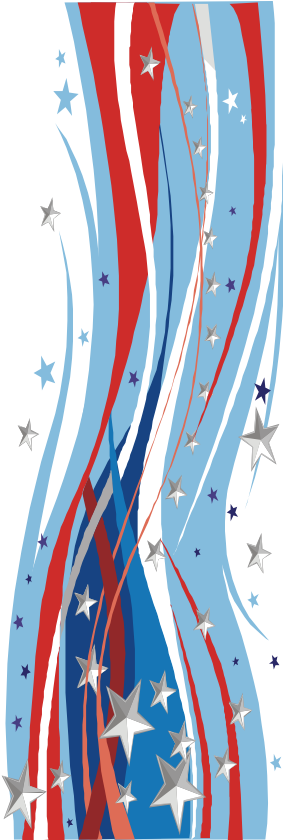


# The Denton County Veteran

Denton County, Texas

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Flag Day June 14, 2008



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### Properly Display Our Flag

There is a right way and a wrong way to display the flag. The American flag should be held in the highest of regards. It represents our nation and the many people who gave their lives for our country and our flag. Here are the basics on displaying the American flag:

- The flag is normally flown from sunrise to sunset.
- In the morning, raise the flag briskly. At sunset, lower it slowly. Always, raise and lower it ceremoniously.
- The flag should not be

flown at night without a light on it.

- The flag should not be flown in the rain or inclement weather.
- After a tragedy or death, the flag is flown at half staff for 30 days. It's called "half staff" on land and "half mast" on a ship.
- When flown vertically on a pole, the stars and blue field, or "union", is at the top and at the end of the pole (away from your house).
- The American flag is always flown at the top of the pole. Your state flag and other flags fly below it.

- The union is always on top. When displayed in print, the stars and blue field are always on the left.
- Never let your flag touch the ground, never...period.
- Fold your flag when storing. Don't just stuff it in a drawer or box.
- When your flag is old and has seen better days, it is time to retire it. Old flags should be burned or buried. Please do not throw it in the trash.

# The Denton County Veteran

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*Remembering  
Their.....*

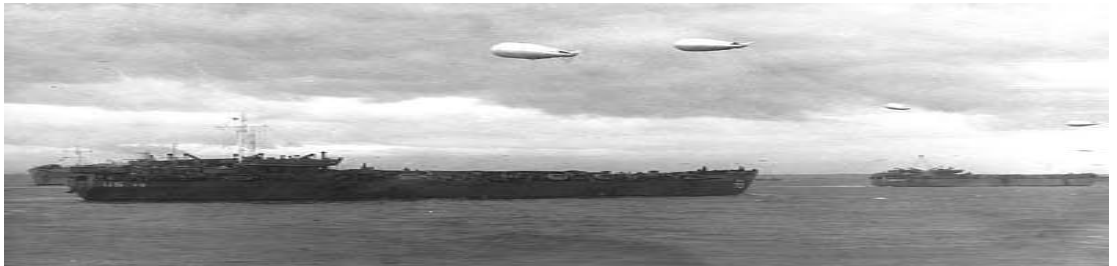
*Valor,*

*Fidelity*

*and Sacrifice*

## D-Day, Normandy, France June 6, 1944

June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied Troops landed long a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end on June 6, the Allies gained a foothold in Normandy. The D-Day cost was high -more than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded -- but more than 100,000 Soldiers began the march across Europe to defeat Hitler.



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## The Bald Eagle



The Eagle became the National emblem in 1782 when the great seal of the United States was adopted. The Great Seal shows a wide-spread eagle, faced front, having on his breast a shield with thirteen perpendicular red and white stripes, surmounted by a blue field with the same number of stars. In his right talon the eagle holds an olive branch, in his left a bundle of thirteen arrows, and in his beak he carries a scroll inscribed with the

motto: "E Pluribus Unum." The Eagle appears in the Seals of many of our States, on most of our gold and silver coinage, and is used a great deal for decorative patriotic purposes.

The Bald Eagle was chosen June 20, 1782 as the emblem of the United States of American, because of its long life, great strength and majestic looks, and also because it was then believed to exist only on this continent.

In 1982 President Ronald Reagan, proclaimed June 20, 1982 as National Bald Eagle Day and designated the year 1982 as the Bicentennial Year of the American Bald Eagle. President Reagan called upon the people of the United States to join in these observances with appropriate activities in their homes and communities.

## HAAS vs. PEAKE

AGENT ORANGE LAWSUITS UP- which Commandeer Haas has DATE 12: On 8 MAY the said he will do. You can U.S. Court of Appeals for find the full 57 page deci- the Federal Circuit un- sion in the list of deci- fortunately reversed the sions at <http://www.cafc.uscourts.gov/dailylog.html> Court of Appeals for Vet- erans Claims in Haas v. Peake. The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims had previously found that Vietnam War blue water veterans who had served on ships off the coast of Vietnam but had never set foot within the land borders of Vietnam were entitled to a presumption of service connection disability if they suffer from one of the listed diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure. Also, they had ruled that the VA's regulatory interpretation that the veteran needed to have "set foot within the land borders of Vietnam" was unduly restrictive. The higher Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit reversed and ruled: "We hold that the agency's requirement that a claimant have been present within the land borders of Vietnam at some point in the course of his duty constitutes a permissible interpretation of the statute and its implementing regulation, and we therefore reverse the judgment of the Veterans Court." This was a 2-1 decision with a thoughtful dissent by Judge Fogel so the Claimant may attempt to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court

which Commandeer Haas has said he will do. You can find the full 57 page decision in the list of decisions at <http://www.cafc.uscourts.gov/dailylog.html>

Most likely VA will now move quickly to resolve (decide) claims that have been placed on hold awaiting this decision. These claims will almost certainly be denied unless they can show that their ship operated within the inland waterways of Vietnam or entered port in Vietnam. While ships logs do not routinely show crewmembers leaving their ship, they will show whether the ship entered an inland waterway (e.g. the Saigon River) or put into port. VA will generally concede the issue if service records show a veteran was attached to a ship during the period that the ship put into port in Vietnam. The negative decision in the Haas case does not relieve VA from the responsibility of making a legally correct decision that discusses all pertinent evidence and the reasons and bases for the decision. The VA in their written decision should specifically address the evidence of service in or visitation to Vietnam. They must discuss ships' movements either shown by ships' history or logs. If the veteran has admitted never setting foot in Vietnam, VA must also

discuss whether evidence shows that the ship operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam.

The Haas decision does not apply if a claimant has alleged exposure to herbicides on a direct basis, such as loading drums of defoliant on board helicopters or decontaminating aircraft or helicopters, VA must discuss such allegations and resolve them. Claimants who are denied have several legal moves available to them. They can ask the Court of Appeals to review the case using all the judges on the Court. While the Court may decide to conduct an en banc review it does not have to. Failing that, they could appeal to the Supreme Court. During any given year the Supreme Court takes up only about 1 in 20 cases to decide. Success at the Supreme Court is a long shot. [Source: TREA Washington Update & NVS Update 9 May 08 ++]

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Monday - Friday

8AM— Noon & 1— 5PM



## Remote Sites Re-open July 10th/The Colony July 11th/Carrollton & Lewisville

*We're on the web!*

*[www.dentoncounty.com](http://www.dentoncounty.com)*

Veterans Service Officer

**Roger Cortez**

Assistant Service Officers

**Paul Bastaich**

**Don Phillips**

**Barbara Nance**

Office Support Specialist II

**Myllinda Taylor**



The Colony Government  
Center

6301 Main Street

The Colony, TX 75056

Thursday: 9:00 to 11:00



Sandy Jacobs Government  
Center

1029 W. Rosemead Pkwy

Carrollton, TX 75007

Friday 10:00 to noon



Barbara Nance celebrates  
her 18th year with our Vet-  
erans Service Office this  
month!

Thank you Barbara for your  
commitment and loyalty!



Lee Walker Government  
Center

190 N. Valley Parkway

Lewisville, TX 75067

Friday: 1:00 to 3:00