

President
"JJ" Justice



Vice President
Cindy Flowers

VOLUME IV ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2020

Our Rolling Thunder® election of officers for the next two years is over, and I want to congratulate all the new officers and thank our out-going officers. It has been a pleasure working with you these last two years, and I look forward to working with our newly elected officers.

I am so sad that we have lost two of our members - Mario Esposito, and Thomas Mann - they will be missed and our condolences go out to their families.

I would especially like to thank Bob Ericson, Cindy Flowers, and Tommy Hembree for the help and hard work with the scooter for our disabled member Tommy Clayton, who is now home from rehab. We pray for a speedy recovery. I would also like to mention member Wendy Paul who is recovering from surgery.

Be safe, remember our veterans and never forget our POW/MIA's. We want full accountability - that is our mission.

JJ

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We are about to choose the leadership of the United States of America, in the 2020 National election. Please take the time to vote for the candidate of your choice. If you do not vote then do not complain about how our Country will be run.

From the Chaplin: I found this article on edhelper.com about the history of party voting.

Throughout the history of the United States, there have been two main political parties. Starting with the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, the parties have developed over the years to the current system - Democrats and Republicans. Although the freedom to create new political parties exists, no other party has been able to gain the support they need to develop. These minor parties usually focus on specific issues and lack the following to win a national election. The majority of the voters believe their vote will count only when it is used to select a candidate from one of the two major parties.

Many of the Founding Fathers had a negative view of

VOTE

POW * MIA

NEVER

FORGET

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Florida Chapter 1 is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (4) organization, and everyone donates his or her time because they believe in the POW/MIA Issue.

political parties. Despite their objections, many of these men found themselves affiliated with a political party during their careers in government. As parties came into being, one would gain and hold prominence for many years. In our history, five major party eras have emerged.

From 1796 to 1828 the first political parties were formed. During the time when our country was in its formative years, two opposing factions arose. Each was concerned with how the new government was to be organized. The Federalists believed in a strong central government and supported the ratification of the Constitution. Additionally, they supported industrialization, a national bank, and government aid to build roads and canals. The Anti-Federalists - who were eventually called the Democratic - Republican Party, held the opposite views. The Anti-Federalists strongly supported the rights of the states. They were opposed to a national bank and favored farming over manufacturing. They were firmly against the government helping to further industrialization by building roads and canals. The Federalists won their cause for the Constitution. However, efforts by the Democratic-Republican Party to influence people to the Anti-Federalist cause eventually weakened the Federalists. By 1824, the party was virtually non-existent.

existent.

“Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.” - Abraham Lincoln

For many are called, but few are chosen.

Mathew 22:14

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Chaplain Chip Hanson

The Chapter said their farewell to member Mario Esposito in October. His service was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will miss him. His wife Linda remains a loyal member of the Chapter, and her presence will always remind us of Mario.

Best wishes to the following members who have birthday's this month:

Sheliah Fritz	11/05
Joe Capraro	11/11
Walt Marshall	11/18
Flo Walter	11/20
Dave Richards	11/21
Ronnie Jones	11/22

The Chapter also escorted Tom Mann and his family to his final resting place at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. Tom was an Air Force veteran who also served in Vietnam. His legacy is his music which he shared with us, and he will be missed.



Photo courtesy of Nick Gehlman

THE MAJOR FUNCTION OF ROLLING THUNDER® INC. IS TO PUBLICIZE THE POW/MIA ISSUE: TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC THAT MANY AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR WERE LEFT BEHIND AFTER ALL PREVIOUS WARS, AND TO HELP CORRECT THE PAST AND TO PROTECT FUTURE VETERANS FROM BEING LEFT BEHIND SHOULD THEY BECOME PRISONERS OF WAR-MISSING IN ACTION. WE ARE ALSO COMMITTED TO HELPING AMERICAN VETERANS FROM ALL WARS.

Notice: Views and opinions expressed in The Mission Newsletter are those of the editor, and do not necessarily reflect those of Rolling Thunder® Inc. or Florida Chapter 1. If you have any concerns about any material presented in this newsletter, please contact the editor at TheMissionEditor@cfl.rr.com.

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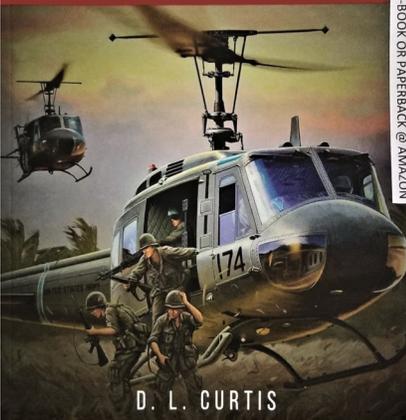


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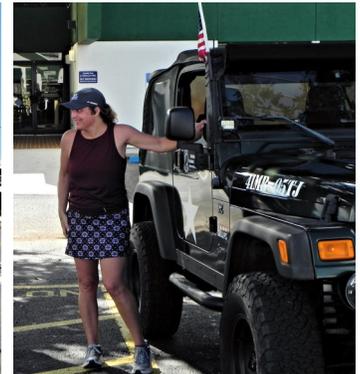
D. L. CURTIS

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We welcome a new sponsor this month - Don Curtis, CW3, U.S Army (Ret), from Texas, who authored the above book. He and JJ served together in the early years of their military careers.



Chapter members at Junior Member Birthday party drive-by celebration



We had the honor of escorting Amanda Herrnkind of St. Francis Reflections, Veteran Outreach, during her final leg of the Marine Corps 26.2 mile marathon. Amanda is also a Chapter 1 member

If you have a need, please seek the advice or service of those who support and sponsor this newsletter.



We also escorted a contingent of Young Marines



Amanda on her last 1.2 miles



At our last general membership meeting, Taylor Paloscio, of SkyMed gave a presentation about providing transportation if medical attention is necessary and how her company can eliminate the bills of air transportation

November 1, 1848 - The first medical school for women opened in Boston. The Boston Female Medical School was founded by Samuel Gregory with just twelve students. In 1874, the school merged with the Boston University School of Medicine, becoming one of the first co-ed medical schools.

November 1, 1963 - South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu were killed in a military coup.

November 2, 1947 - The first and only flight of Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" flying boat occurred in Long Beach Harbor, California. It flew about a mile at an altitude of 70 feet. Costing \$25 million, the 200-ton plywood eight-engine Hercules was the world's largest airplane, designed, built and flown by Hughes. It later became a tourist attraction alongside the Queen Mary ship at Long Beach and has since been moved to the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Oregon.

November 10, 1775 - The U.S. Marine Corps was established as part of the U.S. Navy. It became a separate unit on July 11, 1789.

November 11, 1918 - The Allied powers signed a ceasefire agreement with Germany at Rethondes, France, at 11:00 a.m., bringing the war now known as World War I to a close. Beginning in 1954, the United States designated November 11 as Veterans Day to honor veterans of all U.S. wars.

November 13, 1942 - The five Sullivan Brothers from Waterloo, Iowa, were lost in the sinking of the cruiser USS Juneau by a Japanese torpedo off Guadalcanal during World War II in the Pacific. Following their deaths, the U.S. Navy changed regulations to prohibit close relatives from serving on the same ship.

November 17, 1800 - The U.S. Congress met for the first time in the new capital at Washington, D.C. President John Adams then became the first occupant of the Executive Mansion, later renamed the White House Mansion, later renamed the White House.

November 22, 1963 - At 12:30 p.m., on Elm Street in downtown Dallas, President John F. Kennedy's motorcade slowly approached a triple underpass. Shots rang out. The President was struck in the back, then in the head. He was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital where fifteen doctors tried to save him. At 1 p.m., John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, was pronounced dead. On board Air Force One, at 2:38 p.m., Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President.

November 26, 1789 - The first American holiday occurred, proclaimed by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American republic.

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We thank all our sponsors of this publication. Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue our mission of "educating the public" about our prisoners-of-war, and missing-in-action, while at the same time, promoting your cause or business.

**CPL Anthony C. Acevedo, US Army
Medical Corps, POW**



Tony Acevedo ca 1944

Tony was born July 31, 1924, in San Bernardino, California. His parents, Francisco Acevedo and mother Maria Luisa Contreras Acevedo were originally from Mexico. They had come to the United States illegally.

His mother passed away when Acevedo was only about two years old. His father, who was an architectural engineer,

remarried after Acevedo's mother's passing.

Acevedo grew up in Pasadena, California with his cousins and half-cousins. During his childhood, Acevedo and his cousins slept in the garage outside of their home. With him being born from Mexican parents, it made him subject to plenty of discrimination, as segregation at the time was the norm, and he ended up attending segregated schools with African Americans, Asians and other Latino students.

Acevedo along with his five siblings lived in the United States until he was 13 years old. In 1937, during the Great Depression, his father and stepmother were expelled from the United States and sent back to Mexico due to the lack of the proper immigration documents. With his parents deported, nobody was willing to take Acevedo and his siblings into their homes, so they too had to leave the life they knew in the United States. After arriving in Mexico, he and his family settled in Durango. His father would eventually become the director of public works.

Acevedo suffered abuse at home by the hands of his father. He would stutter frequently and was punished physically by his father. In addition, Acevedo's father would pistol-whip him, call him many names and tell him that he should not have been born. He would also be compared to other kids in his neighborhood, but Acevedo's response was always tolerance and compassion. In spite of the strain in his relationship with his father, he was able

to connect with him through his drawings.

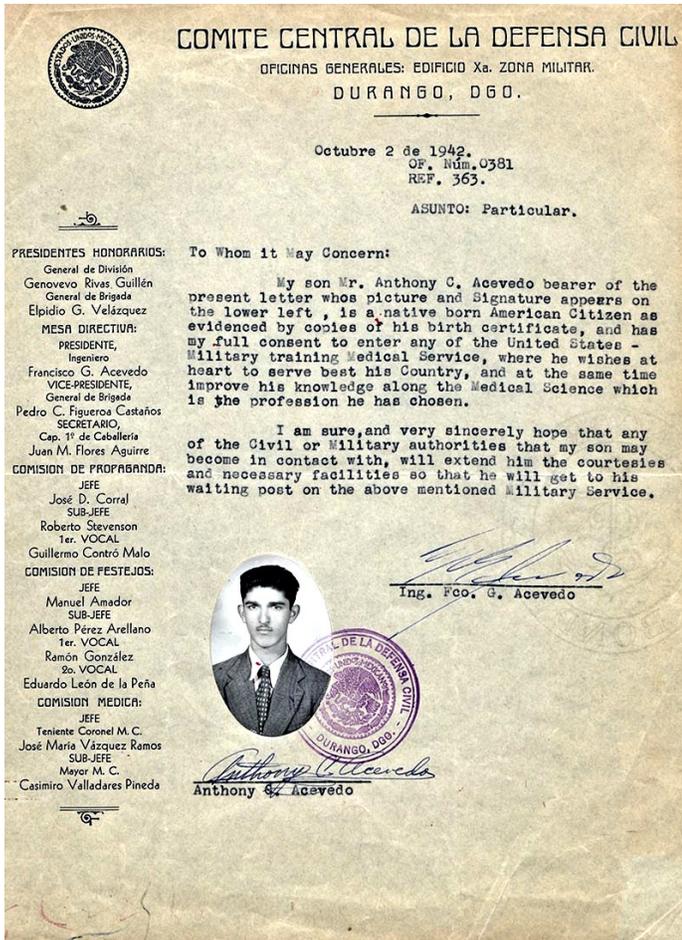
While growing up in Durango, Acevedo and a friend once caught Germans conducting espionage. "Two friends and myself discovered that two of my father's employees were spying for German U-Boats docked in the Sea of Cortez, Baja California, Mexico. One of my friends had studied Morse code and had detected the messages while we swam next to a building where the code was coming from. When my father made the discovery, he had them immediately arrested."



Morse code is a technique for transmitting telegraphic information, using standardized sequences of short and long elements to represent the letters, numbers, punctuation and special characters of a message.

From an early age Acevedo desired to become a physician, graduating from Durango Institute of Technology. As an American citizen by birthplace, he was drafted into the United States Army on August 9, 1943, and age 18. He left Mexico to report for the draft, partly out of American patriotism awakened by the Pearl Harbor bombing, and partly to distance himself from his father. After reporting to an induction center in Pasadena, California, he was informed that his Durango schooling was insufficient to become a doctor... he lacked an additional semester.

He was therefore assigned to Fort MacArthur in San Pedro, Los Angeles, California. Meanwhile, the Governor of Durango had sent papers informing the U.S. Armed Forces of Acevedo's desire to become a doctor. Apparently the Army was impressed, and Acevedo was then sent to O'Reilly General Hospital, an army hospital in Springfield, Missouri to receive medical training. After 6 months of training he was sent to Camp Adair in Oregon and attached to the 91st Infantry Division.



Letter from Durango Governor to U.S. Army

When this unit shipped out to Italy, Acevedo was left behind because of a case of the measles. Instead, he was reassigned to Company B of the 70th Infantry Division, which was also at Camp Adair. In December of 1944, now Corporal, Acevedo was one of 15,000 American troops to board the SS America at Camp Myles Standish in Massachusetts, bound for Europe. They got to Marseilles, France, about two



SS America before becoming USS West Point (AP-23)

weeks later. "It was a hell of a trip," Acevedo said. "I couldn't stand the waves - seasickness."

After arriving in Marseilles, Acevedo and the other men were taken to Phillipsburg, Germany, a small wire-factory town on Germany's western border. There, he was assigned as medic to the 275th Regiment, Company B. His job responsibilities consisted of administering emergency medical treatment to battlefield casualties, assisting with outpatient and inpatient care and treatment, managing soldier's medical readiness, medical supplies, and equipment.



Acevedo during medical training ca 1943

On January 6, 1945, Acevedo and a group of men from his unit had been heading back to their company after performing a special assignment when they were attacked by Germans troops. The 70th infantry he was a part of suffered many casualties and he was struck in the leg by shrapnel. German soldiers surrounded and captured the surviving Americans near Phillipsbourg, France, forcing them to remove their boots and walk on the snow so they could not escape.

After being captured, he was sent to the Stalag IX-B prison camp - a camp for prisoners of war in Bad Orb, Germany, where he became prisoner number 27016. While at Stalag IX-B, Acevedo was given a blank diary, and this is when and where he wrote his first journal entry - "Was captured the 6th of January 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge". Acevedo used a fountain pen to record the atrocities in this diary, noting every U.S. soldier's death that he saw.



Aerial view of Stalag IX-B

The guards in the prison allowed him to keep his medic kit to treat those who were wounded and sick. After a few days in the camp, he was singled out by a Gestapo Field Marshall. He was interrogated about his family's supposed connection to the US Government. He was tortured with needles inserted in his fingernails, and raped. Part of the reason for his torture was the role he had played in the capture of German espionage agents when he lived in Mexico as a teenager back in 1937.

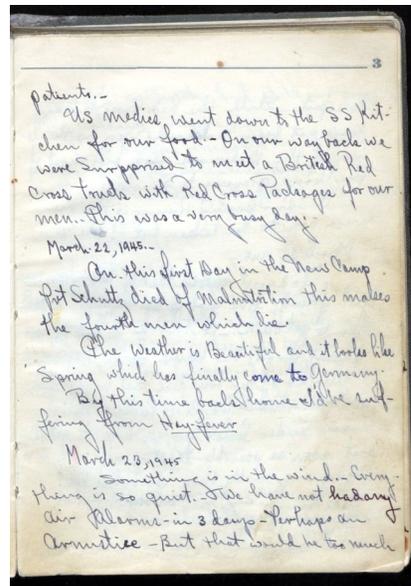
On February 6th, 1945, German soldiers lined up and divided the prisoners into several groups to move them into different areas. The intention was to segregate the American Jews from other prisoners. These selected prisoners were led to believe that they will be moved to a better location, with better living conditions. Since the Nazis were unfamiliar with Latin Americans, Acevedo was classified as Jewish, an "undesirable", and was included in this group.

They marched from the prison compound to an awaiting boxcar. The men were packed inside, 60

to 80 standing shoulder to shoulder. After sometime on the tracks, Acevedo and his group arrived at the new camp on or about February 8th, 1945. It was the Berga An der Elsterand camp, a subcamp of the Buchenwald concentration camp. They soon realized that this place was not at all what was promised to them. The camp was a slave labor camp where prisoners were forced to work to death excavating tunnels. The prisoners were also being murdered and tortured by the Nazis.

The U.S. soldiers worked 12-hour days in the final weeks of the war, digging tunnels for a sophisticated V-2 rocket factory. Soldiers were starved and brutalized with rubber hoses and bayonets. Some were fatally shot in the head with wooden bullets. The Nazis forced Acevedo to fill the holes in the heads of his fellow soldiers with wax to cover up the killings.

Throughout his ordeal as a slave laborer, Acevedo kept a secret diary of his experiences in the margins of his medical books. It was ingrained in him as a medic and a soldier to honor the Army Warrior Ethos:



A page from a 1945 entry

In his diary, he felt it was his moral obligation as a medic to record the names of his fellow prisoners who died, as well as the manners in which they died. He kept the diary secret from the Nazi guards by hiding it variously in his pants or in the barracks. To make his pen last, he would mix snow or urine with the ink.

Acevedo also documented the horrendous living conditions he and his fellow prisoners experienced inside the camp. They were given bread made with saw dust red wood, grounded glass sand, and some barley. Their soup was made from cats

and rats. Their tea was made with dry weeds and shrubs boiled in water. They were fed just enough for them to barely stay alive.

Acevedo also drew illustrations in his diary that depicted how the Nazi soldiers treated them. One illustration portrayed how one of the guards hit him and a fellow medic on the jaw with the butt of a rifle when they asked to treat a fellow prisoner who was dying from diphtheria.

Living conditions at Berga were so poor and deprived that many prisoners succumbed to starvation, infection, and disease. Berga had been designed to work the prisoners to death through a program the Nazis called "Vernichtung Durch Arbeit." However, Acevedo attempted to keep his fellow prisoners alive in any way he could. He did this by "cooking", adding cats, grass, rats, sand, wood shavings and other material to the 0.12 oz of bread they received on some days. He also kept up morale with his genial attitude, mixed with jokes.

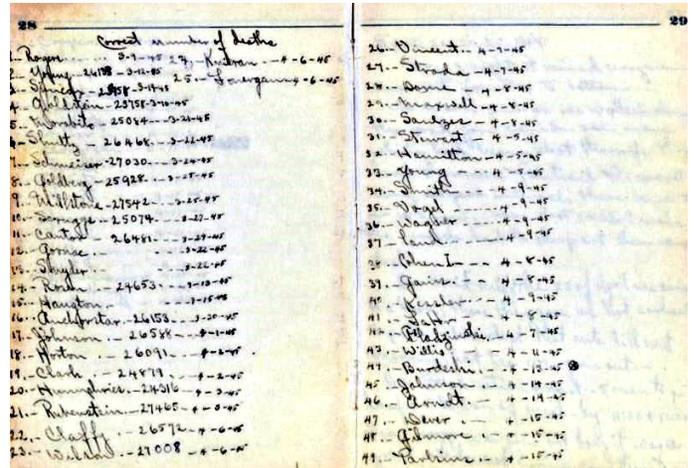


Illustration depicting being hit by Nazi guard

Acevedo had to come up with resourceful ways to treat those who were injured and ill, because he didn't have any medical kits or any medications to use. Once he had to amputate the leg of a man and remove a finger of another without the use of pain killers. In one account, he and his fellow prisoners had to melt snow in order to have water to clean wounds and infections.

Acevedo himself was subject to abuses at the hands of the Gestapo, including being raped as part of his torture - partly because of his role in the capture of German espionage agents when he lived in Mexico as a teenager.

Despite the horrific conditions in the camp, Acevedo did receive correspondence and care packages from a woman named Maria Dolores.



Acevedo kept detailed notes in his diary - including the names of those prisoners who had died

He established a romantic relationship with her, and they became engaged to be married, having never met in person.

Then, on April 3, 1945, the day after the main camp of Stalag IX B was liberated, German soldiers prepared to evacuate the American prisoners at Berga. Acevedo and his group were then subjected to a 150-mile death march southward toward Bavaria which began on April 6, 1945. Their route took them through the towns of Hof and Fuchsmühl before coming to an end at Rötze, where they were liberated by the U.S. Army.

While on this march, Acevedo witnessed German soldiers machine-gunning down political prisoners, women, and even children on the road. Many of Acevedo's fellow prisoners were seriously ill, starved, and unable to walk, so he and several other prisoners took turns pushing and pulling a cart of 10 to 20 injured and sick soldiers. During this march, many of the prisoners died very quickly.

The march lasted for 16 days, up until April 22, 1945, when Acevedo and his group was liberated by the 11th Armored Division. Of the original 352 POW's from Berga, only 170 survived, including Acevedo. Seventy three Americans died during that march, the highest number of Americans who perished in any such march in the European theater of the war.

After liberation, Acevedo was sent to Camp Lucky Strike, located northeast of Le Havre, France. He only weighed 85 pounds when he was rescued.

Acevedo tried to explain how he and other American POWs were treated by the Nazis during their incarceration, but he was rejected and told to keep this information to himself. In fact, the Army had threatened to jail him if he ever mentioned what happened to them under the Nazis. Acevedo, along with the other survivors, were forced to sign a gag-order.

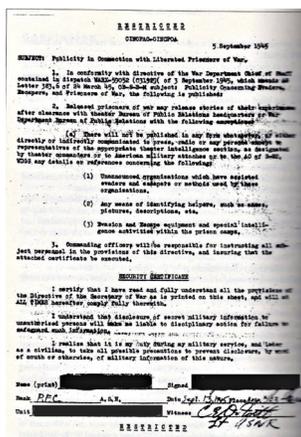


Survivors of Berga Death March

A copy of the document signed by soldiers at the camp before they were sent back home stated that the soldiers must be particularly on their guard with persons representing the press. It also said that they must give no account of their experience in books, newspapers, periodicals, or in broadcasts or in lectures. The document ended with: "I understand that disclosure to anyone else will make me liable to disciplinary action." According to the chief

archivist at the U.S. Army Center for Military History, the information was kept secret to protect escape and evasion techniques and the names of personnel who helped POW escapees.

After the war, Acevedo, then 20, returned home and worked as a surgical technician in an ear, nose and throat clinic in Pasadena. Around that time, he took a trip to Durango, Mexico to visit his father — who didn't believe his account of being held in a slave labor camp. "You're a coward for allowing yourself to be captured," his father told him. "You should've killed yourself." Acevedo left his father's home the next day



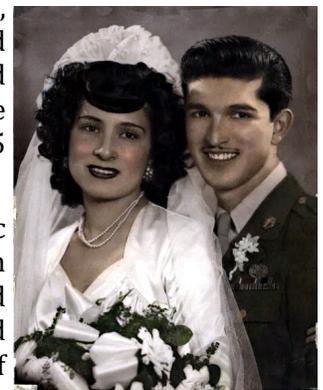
"Gag-Order", similar to this one used in the Pacific



Camp "Lucky Strike" near Le Havre, France

with only a duffel bag and set off on his own. The two didn't speak for years. On the train ride back to California he met the woman of his dreams, Amparo Martinez. Eight months later, they were married. Acevedo then settled into a successful aerospace engineering career, working for North

American Aviation, McDonnell Douglas and Hughes Space and Communications, where he retired in 1987 after 35 years as a design engineer.



Amparo and Acevedo

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder affected him considerably; he would wake up sweating and screaming in the middle of the night among other effects. He spent most of his retirement focused on volunteering at the VA to help those with PTSD, in part to help himself cope with the same issues.

On June 1, 2004, Acevedo was recognized in the US House of Representatives. In 2008, an investigative report by CNN based on interviews with Acevedo was the catalyst for the U.S. government to finally acknowledge the experiences of the American soldiers held in the Berga concentration camp. In 2009, the US government recognized that the former Berga POW's had been slave laborers as well as prisoners of war.

Anthony Acevedo became the first Mexican American to register on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors. His diary is housed at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the first such document created by an American captive to be included. The museum also took oral history from Acevedo in both English and Spanish. He became the first Mexican-American to be

registered, in 2010, as a survivor at the museum's database. His personal experiences enhanced Mexican-American understanding of the Holocaust.

The last year of Acevedo's life was spent living with family members in Rancho Cucamonga, California. Acevedo died on February 11, 2018 at the Loma Linda Veterans Affairs Medical Center of congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.



Family members carry the casket of Acevedo after his funeral services at Transformation Calvary in Rancho Cucamonga, CA.

Acevedo's story is one that was never supposed to be told. They were forced by the US Army to sign an affidavit saying that they never went through what they went through.

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It took more than 50 years before Acevedo received 100 percent disability benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Decades later, the memory of liberation could still bring Tony Acevedo to tears. The excitement, he said, literally killed some of his friends just at the moment of liberation. Others died in the following days, their bodies too weakened to survive.

Later in life, Tony Acevedo was a frequent guest speaker at schools and colleges across southern California. He wanted to raise awareness, to help prevent anything like the horror he experienced from happening again. He warned students who scoffed that "it could happen."

He told the students that that there is only one way to fight hate. "They must learn to be able to love more, to understand, and to be to get along with each other, and respect each other, and respect others." "Kill them with kindness," he said. "If they treat you wrong, kill them with kindness."

Acevedo is survived by his four children, Tony, Ernesto, Rebecca, and Fernando, as well as his six grandchildren.



Tony Acevedo in 2010 in Pasadena, CA

The Defense Health Agency has extended the grace period from 90 days to 180 days for disenrollment from TRICARE Select. This was done in response to a request from the FRA and several other groups to increase the enrollment period for Group A retirees (Joined the service before Jan. 1, 2018) to set up a payment plan for the new TRICARE fee enacted 4 years ago that takes effect Jan. 1, 2021. **FAILURE TO PAY WILL MEAN LOSS OF COVERAGE** until the following open enrollment period. The fee does NOT apply to TRICARE-for-Life beneficiaries and Chapter 61 retirees (military retirees with 20 or more years of service and a 50% or higher service-connected disability.)

TRICARE Select beneficiaries under age 65 that joined the military before Jan. 1, 2018 (Group A) will be required to pay a monthly fee beginning Jan. 1, 2021. The monthly fee for an individual is \$12.50 and \$25 for a family. This must be done via allotment, where feasible. To maintain health care coverage, TRICARE Select Group A retired beneficiaries must take action and pay their TRICARE Select enrollment fees.

Beneficiaries who fail to set up their TRICARE Select enrollment fee payment by Jan. 1, 2021 will be disenrolled from TRICARE Select due to non-payment. Those beneficiaries will have 180 days (originally 90 days) from their termination date to request reinstatement. If a beneficiary does not act, they will only be able to get care from a military hospital or clinic if space is available (i.e. all civilian healthcare costs will be their full responsibility).

Fees are waived for Chapter 61 retirees and their family members and survivors of deceased active duty service members.

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act enacted in 2019 required the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to consider new and previously submitted Blue Water Navy claims. Now, thanks to collaboration with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the VA and NARA are helping to determine ship locations and to digitize more than 1,800 vessels' deck logs.

The data contained in these ships' deck logs are critical in determining qualifying ship locations in accordance with the law. For the first time, the VA will have each of these ships mapped with precision, providing a comprehensive view of their locations.

VA estimates that there are between 420,000 and 560,000 Vietnam-era veterans who may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans. The law also extends benefits to survivors and dependents of those veterans with confirmed service and whose claims would have been granted as a result of the new law.

The collaboration between the VA and the NARA has already assisted in granting more than 22,524 claims since Jan. 1, 2020. The effort digitized more than 29 million images from U.S. Navy and Coast Guard deck logs. It has also provided data, such as ship name, date, and coordinates to feed an internal claims-related technical processing system that identifies the vessels that may have traveled within the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam. This approach ensures that VA claims adjudicators have the evidence needed to render a decision the first time a case is reviewed.

President Trump recently signed into law, S.2661, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, which designates 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system. The new three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, is to be completed by July 2022. In the meantime please continue to share 1-800-273-TALK (8255) with anyone wishing to connect to the Lifeline. 988 is NOT CURRENTLY ACTIVE nationally and may not connect callers to the Lifeline.



The game of Sudoku is an individual and self-rewarding game. It is a chance to put your skills and mental capacity to the test, without external interference. The benefits of Sudoku are the reason behind the popularity of this game. In essence, it is a simple puzzle, with a simple design and easy and straightforward rules without hidden pitfalls.

Playing this game improves concentration; helps to reduce anxiety and stress; promotes a healthy mindset; improves thinking skills; improves memory; improves logical thinking; and gives a sense of accomplishment.

The puzzle is 9x9, equaling 81 cells. There are 9 blocks of 9 cells each. The shaded cells are clues.

EASY SUDOKU PUZZLE

	2	8	9	5	1	4		
		9			4	7	8	
		6	7					9
			2	8		5		1
		3				6		
2		5		4	6			
3					2	9		
	4	7	8			1		
		2	3	1	7	8	6	

To play the game, simply fill in the blank cells using all of numbers, 1 - 9 just once. And to make it more challenging, each 3x3 block must also contain the numbers 1 - 9 used only once.

TIP: Use a pencil

Six constitutional amendments will be on the November 3rd ballot in Florida, but one raising the minimum wage to \$15 will probably garner the most attention. Four of the amendments were initiated by citizens and two by the Legislature.

Amendment 1: Would require changing the language in the state Constitution to “only” U.S. citizens who are 18 years old or older can vote in federal, state, local or school elections.

Amendment 2: Raising the minimum wage incrementally until it reaches \$15. It is currently \$8.46 per hour and estimates show it could go up to \$8.56 an hour January 1, 2021. This amendment will raise the minimum wage to \$10 per hour effective September 30th, 2021. Each September 30th thereafter, minimum wage shall increase by \$1 per hour until the minimum wage reaches \$15 per hour on September 30th, 2026.

Amendment 3: Requires voter-approved constitutional amendments to be approved by voters at a second general election. Allows all registered voters to vote in primaries for state legislature, governor, and cabinet regardless of political party affiliation. All candidates for an office, including party nominated candidates, appear on the same primary ballot. Two highest vote getters advance to general election. If only two candidates qualify, no primary is held and winner is determined in the general election. Candidate’s party affiliation may appear on ballots as provided by law.

Amendment 4: Requires all proposed amendments or revisions to the state constitution to be approved by the voters in two elections, instead of one, in order to take effect. The proposal applies the current thresholds for passage to each of the two elections.

Amendment 5: Increases the period during which a person may transfer "Save Our Homes" benefits to a new homestead property from two years to three years - the period of time during which accrued Save-Our-Homes benefits may be transferred from a prior homestead to a new homestead.

Amendment 6: Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans who had Permanent, Combat-related Disabilities. This would amend Section 6 of Article 7 of the Florida Constitution to allow a homestead property tax discount to be transferred to the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran. This would be in effect until the spouse remarries, sells or disposes of the property.

CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Do you have something you'd like to share with our world-wide readers? If so, just send a note to the editor along with a picture or two, and we'll be happy to include it in an upcoming issue.

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