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## Meetings

The Chapter 120 membership meeting will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Machinists Union Hall, 357 Main St., East Hartford.

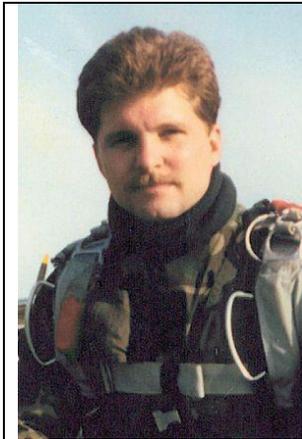
The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday, May 31 at 7:00pm. Call the Chapter office for any changes in schedule. Chapter members are welcomed to attend.

## Notice

If you have moved or changed your address, PLEASE notify us immediately. Call the Chapter office at (860) 568-9212, mail us at the address on the back of this newsletter or e-mail the Newsletter editor at [ctchapter120@aol.com](mailto:ctchapter120@aol.com).

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## Connecticut Native to posthumously receive Medal of Honor



TSgt. John Chapman

*John Chapman died alone on a mountaintop fighting Al Qaeda. Now he's getting The Medal Of Honor.*

It was March 4, 2002. American special operations forces were fighting to establish observation posts high above Afghanistan's Shah-i-Kot Valley, as conventional troops continued their push through the valley floor below.

One of those men, Air Force Technical Sgt. John Chapman, was alone in the pitch-black, wounded and slowly regaining his consciousness in the thigh-deep snow of a 10,469-foot peak known as Takur Ghar, as scores of Al Qaeda fighters closed in.

For his actions earlier in the battle and for his incredible bravery on that peak, according to sources familiar with the matter, Chapman will be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor later this year. He had received the Air Force Cross posthumously in 2003 for his heroic actions.

And "Chappy" — as he was known by his teammates — will be the first Air Force service-member to receive the nation's highest award for valor since the Vietnam War. That Vietnam War veteran was Connecticut's USAF Sgt. John Levitow.

Chapman's family was notified in March that he would be awarded the Medal of Honor, according to several sources familiar with the matter. A source familiar with the Medal of Honor awards process said the time between family notification and the award ceremony in Washington is typically a matter of weeks.

Born on July 14, 1965 in Springfield, MA, Chapman grew up in Windsor Locks, CT.

For the full story of John Chapman's bravery, see <https://taskandpurpose.com/john-chapman-medal-honor-afghanistan/>

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*Chapter/State News*

**Chapter Election Results**

Chapter elections for officers, directors, state council delegates and the election committee were held at the April membership meeting on April 5, 2018. Results of the elections are:

**Officers:**

President: Frank Mello  
 Vice President: Philip Morneau  
 Secretary: Peter Lund  
 Treasurer: Roger Anderson

**Board of Directors:**

Paul Barry, Bob Burgess, Bill Chiodo, Peter Galgano, Frank Zizzamia

**State Council Delegates:**

Paul Barry, Bob Burgess, John Cutler, Ken Lewis, Frank Mello, Frank Zizzamia

**Elections Committee:**

Bill Chiodo, Ken Lewis, Tim Siggia

*Congratulations to All!*

**Vietnam Veterans Day at the Capital**



Chapter 120 members attended the annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day at the Capital on March 29, 2018

**Birthday Wishes**

Birthday wishes go to our members born in May. May you have many more!

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| John P. Burns     | Michael J. Coyne        |
| John R. Cutler    | Robert N. DeRosa        |
| William S. Ehlert | Robert Fulco            |
| Peter Galgano     | Normand R. Girardin     |
| Frank T. Jodaitis | James V. Laviana III    |
| Kipp O. Miller    | Raymond R. Samolis, Jr. |
| James Stevenson   | David Taylor            |
| Roland Wolf       |                         |

***Happy Birthday!***

**10th Annual W.R.A.P. Luncheon to Honor Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz**

Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz will be honored at the 10th Annual Women Raising Awareness Philanthropically (W.R.A.P.) Luncheon on May 3, 2018, 11am to 2pm. Dr. Schwartz is a former U.S. VA Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, former Commissioner of the CT Dept. of Veteran’s Affairs, and Life member of Connecticut Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 270.

Lieutenant Commander Bashon Mann, U.S. Navy and author of Daddy’s Love Notes, will be this year’s keynote speaker.

The Annual W.R.A.P. luncheon was created to help build positive networking opportunities while honoring the work of a woman for notable philanthropic contributions in her field and community.

For details, go to: <https://www.channel3kidscamp.org/wrap2018>

## Fisher House Dedication at West Haven

On Friday, May 4, VA Connecticut Healthcare System, the Friends of Fisher House Connecticut and the Fisher House Foundation will officially dedicate the 16-suite house that will provide temporary accommodations for the eligible family members of veterans receiving inpatient treatment.

The 11am ceremony will be adjacent to the house near the Campbell Avenue entrance. Attendees must park at the Vertical Church, 225 Meloy Road in West Haven. VA will provide handicap-accessible shuttles from the lot to the Fisher House.

"We are honored to have the first Fisher House in the state of Connecticut," said Gerald Culliton, Director of VA Connecticut Healthcare System. "Our West Haven campus is the only full service inpatient VA facility in the state.

The Fisher House will provide the families and caregivers of our veterans with a safe, comfortable, supportive environment while their veteran receives care."

In addition to the suites, there is a common kitchen, laundry room, dining area, living room and space for children to play. Funding for the house was made possible through the fundraising efforts of the Friends of Fisher House Connecticut, the Fisher House Foundation and the local community. The completed house was gifted to the VA to operate and maintain in perpetuity.

### Shad Derby Parade

Chapter 120 will march in the Shad Derby - Armed Forces Day Parade on May 19, 2018. Please form up at 10:30am for the 11:30am step off from Windsor High School. Sponsored by the Windsor Jaycees the Shad Derby Parade features some of New England's most popular bands, schools, marching units, local entertainment acts a long with the region's finest local civic organizations and festive businesses marching down Broad Street in Windsor Center.

*From The New London Day*

## Employers directed not to discriminate based on military discharge status

The state's Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities is directing employers in Connecticut not to discriminate against job applicants on the basis of their military discharge status.

The new guidance, announced Thursday April 19 at a news conference at the agency's headquarters in Hartford, clarifies that individualized consideration should be given regardless of an applicant's discharge status, ensuring a fair hiring process for all veterans, officials said.

"Employers should consider the nature of an applicant's offense, how long ago the offense occurred and whether it has any bearing on the duties relevant to the job in question," Cheryl

Sharp, deputy director of the commission, said in a news release announcing the new guidance.

The agency has been working with the Connecticut chapter of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and its counsel Yale University's Veterans Legal Service Clinic, to address what they say is a systemic discrimination against veterans with "other than honorable" discharges, often referred to as "bad paper." Some private employers have hiring policies that only apply to veterans with honorable discharges.

There are five types of military discharges. An "other than honorable discharge" is the most severe form of administrative discharge, often given as a result of misconduct. Since 9/11, the military increasingly has discharged service members under "other than honorable" conditions, according to a 2017 report from Brown University. Those who receive this type of discharge generally are ineligible for federal and state veterans' benefits, and it can be a barrier to securing employment.

"It's treated like a criminal record even though for bad paper vets a lot of the conduct isn't criminal in nature," said Alyssa Peterson, a law student intern at Yale University's Legal Veterans Service Clinic, which has represented veterans seeking to upgrade their discharges.

Other-than-honorable discharges are given out with little to no process, she added, noting the new guidance also seeks to educate employers about the military discharge system.

Peterson offered as examples a veteran who missed his flight for deployment after a suicide attempt and service members receiving bad paper discharges for being gay as a result of discriminatory practices and procedures before the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy was repealed.

There are efforts at the national level, and here in Connecticut, to get benefits for veterans who received bad paper discharges due to behavior allegedly attributed to post-traumatic stress disorder or other mental health issues. In some cases, vets have sued the individual military service branches in an effort to get their discharge status upgraded.

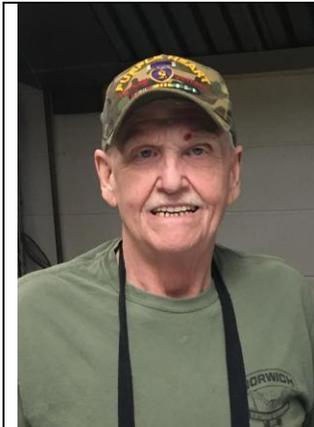
A bill in the General Assembly to provide state veterans benefits to those with other than honorable discharges who have PTSD, a traumatic brain injury or experienced sexual trauma during their military service, received approval from the state Senate on Wednesday evening. The Senate voted 33-0 in favor of Senate Bill 284. Three senators were absent.

Critics of the effort say it's hard to discern whether a person was a bad soldier or was acting out because of PTSD or other mental health issues.



From The Norwich Bulletin

## Meet a Veteran: Vietnam War still scars Oakdale man



Morris Bodine

**In the military:** Morris Bodine spent a year and a half in Vietnam. Although about 50 years have passed, he still feels the effects. A wound the Purple Heart recipient got there has required two knee replacements, an ankle replacement and the insertion of rods in his legs. Bodine said he visits the Veterans Administration hospital in West Haven “two or three times a week.” The psychological effects of the

war have left severe scars as well. “It’s the return home we have to battle every single night,” Bodine said. Bodine joined the Army in 1968 on his 18th birthday and trained as a heavy equipment operator. He landed in Vietnam on Thanksgiving Day and was stationed with the 73rd Engineering Company. Bodine mostly drove a bulldozer, using it to sweep landmines, dig graves for mass burials and clear landing zones for helicopters. “It was Hell on Earth,” Bodine said. “I can’t tell you how many nights I was saying the 23rd Psalm: ‘Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...’ ” When he was wounded, Bodine was riding in a 10-ton truck that went over a landmine. He was evacuated by helicopter to a base at Cam Ranh Bay. “From there, I was shipped to Germany,” Bodine said. Recovering from his wound, Bodine came home to Fort Devens in Massachusetts, and was discharged after spending almost three years in the Army. His final rank was sergeant.

**After the military:** Bodine, 67, said he has held many jobs, but not any for very long. Currently, “I’m probably the oldest DJ in Connecticut,” he said. Bodine can be booked under the name “Purple Heart Sounds.” He lived in Massachusetts when he returned from Vietnam, then moved to the Norwich area in the 1990s and now lives in Oakdale. He is a member of many veterans’ organizations including VVA Chapter 270, and has been a past commander of the Norwich Veterans of Foreign Wars post. For 18 years, Bodine served as commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart’s Eastern Connecticut chapter. With three other veterans, Bodine organized a local Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony.

**Quotable:** “All veterans that come home from a war just never forget. It just doesn’t go away,” Bodine said.

## Membership Renewals

Is your membership renewal about to become due? Please renew today so you can continue to receive the Chapter newsletter, as well as the VVA Veteran! And as you renew, please consider joining the other 221 members who have chosen Life membership for \$100. You must submit a copy of your DD214 to qualify for Life membership.

## POW/MIA News



From Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

## U.S. Army Spc. Brings Great-Grandfather Home

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, April 19, 2018 — He finally returned home from a deployment and wasn’t anticipating being sent anywhere else since he

had just gotten back. He called his family, told them to pack because they were moving to settle down permanently someplace else. Then, he received a call informing him he was getting deployed to Korea. He would soon be listed as missing in action and never return home to his family.

U.S. Army Master Sgt. Finley James Davis was returned to his family following a Chain of Custody ceremony at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on April 16, 2018. Davis’ great-grandson, U.S. Army Spc. Zachary Boney, traveled to DPAA to receive the remains of his great-grandfather and escort him home to his final resting place.

“I feel, after going through the tour today and watching the agency video, a great deal of respect for the people who work at DPAA,” said Boney. “Now knowing the process you all have to go through, it’s very comforting to know you all put your time and patience into making sure other families have comfort for whenever you are able to make an identification.”

Davis was listed as missing in action in late 1950. He served in Delta Company, 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division when he was captured and became a prisoner of war in Kunu-ri, Camp 5, North Korea. It was a truly special and emotional moment for Boney, who felt honored that his grandmother chose him to escort Davis home, he said. Boney understood just how much this would mean to his family.

“He was very important to my grandmother because she was only 12 years old when he went missing,” said Boney. “My grandma would always talk about how much she missed him, and I know just how important this is for her. She is 78 years old and it warms her heart knowing that he’ll be coming home before she passes.”

Even though Boney’s great-grandmother is not around today he understands just how monumental this moment would have been for her as well.

“I first found out about all of this in early September after my mother had called me,” recalled Boney. “It was after talking to my mom and grandmother that we felt that this was a bit of a unique love story. My great-grandmother never remarried after him because she told my grandmother how he was the only man she wanted to be with and didn’t ever want to be with anyone else.”

Even though it took decades for Davis to return home, Boney had some encouraging words to offer those who are currently have loved ones missing.

“Just don’t lose hope,” said Boney. “It’s a long process, but eventually you will find the individual you’re looking for.”

Boney and his family finally have closure after many years of uncertainty. Most importantly, after 66 years of being separated, his great-grandparents finally get to be together again.

*Question about a POW bracelet you still have or simply want to know if a certain POW/MIA has ever been returned? Mary Beaulieu has that information. Mary's email address is mbeaulieu2@cox.net*

**At The Capitol**



**Clock is ticking for Important Veterans’ Bill**

SB 289, AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, has sat silently on the Senate calendar since it was reported out of the VA Committee. The bill is of significant importance to the CT Department of Veterans Affairs’ Healthcare Center, as it reinstates \$2 million to maintain the Sgt. John L. Levitow Veterans Healthcare Center as a licensed Chronic Disease Hospital.

With other important issues being debated within the Connecticut General Assembly, this bill may die on the Senate calendar by the time this year’s session ends on May 9, 2018.

Connecticut Veterans & Military Coalition scheduled a Veterans Day at the Capital on 24 April in an attempt to show legislators how important this bill is to our veterans. We only hope legislators will listen.

We ask that you contact your State Representative and State Senator and request that they support and pass this important bill.

**Receive “The Connection” by E-Mail**

The monthly Chapter 120 newsletter, The Connection, is available by e-mail. Currently, 98 members receive the newsletter by e-mail, saving the Chapter over \$600 in postal fees annually. The newsletter is available in Adobe format (.pdf), attached to your e-mail. If you wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please e-mail the newsletter editor at ctchapter120@aol.com

**On The Hill**



**Committee approves nominees for VA undersecretary for benefits, judge on U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims**

U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, applauded the bipartisan committee approval of Paul R. Lawrence, nominated to serve as undersecretary for benefits of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Joseph L. Falvey, Jr., nominated to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Following the April 18 unanimous vote by members of the committee, the nominations now move to the full Senate for a vote on confirmation.

“I’m proud to send two accomplished nominees to the full Senate for confirmation,” said Isakson. “Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Falvey each bring unique experience to the positions for which they have been nominated, and I am confident that they will do well in their future roles. I urge the full Senate to quickly approve these nominees so they can get to work serving our nation’s veterans.”

The VA has been without a permanent undersecretary for benefits since October 2015. The undersecretary for benefits is the senior official within the Veterans Benefits Administration who oversees a variety of benefits and services to service members, veterans and their families.

Lawrence is currently vice president at Kaiser Associates and has three decades of experience solving management problems in federal government organizations.

Falvey, nominated to a 15-year appointment as a judge on the VA claims court, is a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and is currently serving as district counsel for the Detroit District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has three decades of experience in academia and the practice of law.

If Falvey is confirmed, the bench of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims will be full for the first time in nearly three years, improving the court’s ability to manage its caseload and provide veterans with timely resolution of cases.

*As we went to press, the nomination hearing for VA Secretary was scheduled for April 25, 2018.*

## Veterans Affairs News



From Federal News Radio

## VA cuts central office positions by 10 percent

The Veterans Affairs Department says it cut positions at its central office in Washington, D.C. by 10 percent, while also consolidating

mental health, primary care and geriatrics policy, and operations functions.

It's part of the department's efforts to eliminate bureaucracy and streamline decision-making — and remove itself from the Government Accountability Office's biennial High-Risk List, VA announced Monday April 16.

The agency said it recently submitted a comprehensive plan to GAO, which outlined VA's efforts to address five specific risk areas when it added VA health care to the High-Risk List back in 2015.

The 10 percent figure makes sense, as former VA Secretary David Shulkin had kept a hiring freeze in place for senior positions at the department's central office and required undersecretary approval for administrative positions at the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

The department also closed the central office's human resources function last year, as VA attempts to move more customer-facing positions out of Washington and to consolidated offices in the field.

And amid a troubling inspector general report about the department's systematic failure to address problems at the D.C. medical center, Shulkin had called on the agency to develop a plan by May 1 to reorganize the central office.

In addition to VA's efforts to cut unnecessary positions and functions from its central office, the department said its High-Risk removal plan includes four other broad areas:

- Reducing ambiguity and red tape,
- Strengthening internal oversight and accountability,
- Modernizing information technology support, and
- Clarifying resource needs and priorities.

To rid the agency of unnecessary red tape, for example, VA said it's already eliminated 235 expired directives and 85 percent of outdated manuals.

VHA also stood up a new Office of Integrity to improve accountability, the department said. The new integrity office is consolidating its compliance, ethics and oversight programs into one, and it will also lead a governance committee to advise the VHA undersecretary on best practices for evaluating current operations.

Much of VA's efforts to address its high-risk challenges stem from its reorganization plan.

Paul Lawrence, the president's nominee to lead the Veterans Benefits Administration, helped an agency craft its official response last year to the administration's reorganization executive order as a key principal at Kaiser Associates.

"This [experience] helped me enhance my perspective on driving change and collaborating with the Office of Management and Budget," Lawrence told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee at his nomination hearing last week. "What is differentiating about my experience as a consultant to the federal government is I've conducted extensive research into how government is managed by senior leaders."

Lawrence said he's collected best management practices from his interviews with senior agency leaders, and he plans to apply those lessons to the job at VBA.

He said one of those lessons will inform how he plans to manage his workforce: identify the root cause and a solution, spread that message to a large number of employees and reinforce the message with training.

Veterans' service representatives use a specific manual to calculate a veteran's benefit determination. The work is complex and often confusing, and VSRs have said it often takes at least two years to become truly proficient at the job.

"Leading the VBA can be a challenge, even for those who have the best skill set for managing a complex administration," committee Ranking Member Jon Tester (D-Mont.) said. "Challenges such as leading the more than 23,000 personnel in the critically important division of the VA where morale has been a concern and firing folks cannot be one of the first instincts when dealing with employee matters."

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), which represents about 250,000 VA employees, is also concerned about those challenges. It wrote to the committee's leadership about VBA's "unreasonable and counterproductive performance standards," which as Federal News Radio previously reported, is seriously impacting employee morale.

"These standards harm veterans by grossly valuing quantity over quality and do not accurately measure employee performance," Thomas Kahn, AFGE director of legislative affairs, wrote in an April 10 letter. "These standards force employees to treat veterans like widgets instead of the warriors they are."

From Federal News Radio

## VA loses its CIO, creating further uncertainty for EHR modernization

The Veterans Affairs Department is losing another top leader.

Scott Blackburn, the executive in charge of VA's Office of Information and Technology, is resigning, effective April 17, 2018.

Blackburn had effectively been serving as the department's acting chief information officer since October 2017. As acting CIO, he served as one of the leading figures behind VA's electronic health record (EHR) modernization.

A VA spokesman confirmed Blackburn's resignation. The department has not yet named a replacement, the spokesman told Federal News Radio. Bill James is the current acting principal deputy assistant secretary at VA OI&T and could take Blackburn's place as the acting head of the office.

In his resignation letter, Blackburn gave no specific reason for his departure. He praised both former VA Secretaries Bob McDonald and David Shulkin for the opportunity to serve as an interim deputy secretary, senior adviser on transformation and executive director of McDonald's MyVA Task Force.

"My effort has always been about better caring for veterans regardless of presidential administration, Republican or Democrat, and I have been honored to serve alongside both in a bipartisan way," Blackburn wrote.

From *FEDWeek*

## Court Rules in Favor of Pain-Stricken Vets

More veterans who suffer from chronic pain related to injuries or conditions they received while in the service now qualify for treatment and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled April 4 that pain-stricken veterans should get VA benefits, even if their conditions are not directly linked to a medical diagnosis. The ruling overturns a 19-year precedent that barred VA from providing such benefits without a clear diagnosis.

"What this ruling means is that if a physician cannot diagnose the cause of the pain the veteran is experiencing, but the pain is related to an event, injury, or disease that occurred during the veteran's military service, the veteran should now win disability benefits," said Bart Stichman, executive director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program, an advocacy group. Stichman represented veterans' interests as the case was under consideration by the Federal Circuit.

In 1999, a lower federal court had ruled that VA had no authority to act in such veterans' behalf. The Federal Circuit decision effectively overturned the older ruling.

This latest decision stemmed from the case of a soldier named Melba Saunders, whose service from November 1987 until October 1994 included action during the Persian Gulf War. After leaving the military, Saunders sought VA disability compensation for bilateral knee disorders she sustained while in uniform. When VA rejected her claim, she appealed to the Board of Veterans Appeals.

In 2011, even after a doctor diagnosed her disorder and agreed that it likely was caused by military service, the appeals board again said no – citing an earlier court precedent. At that point,

Saunders appealed to the Court of Veterans Appeals and later the Federal Circuit, where she ultimately gained legal relief.

"The Federal Circuit's ruling is a significant victory for disabled veterans ... like Melba Saunders, who have served their country in wartime and are now unable to work to their full capacity as a result," said Mel Bostwick, a private attorney who also represented the former soldier during the legal process.

## 50 Years Ago

- May 2 - JAMES E. LIVINGSTON, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 2 - ROY P. BENAVIDEZ, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 3 - PRESIDENT JOHNSON ACCEPTS OFFER TO BEGIN PEACE TALKS IN PARIS. President Johnson accepts North Vietnamese offer to conduct peace talks in Paris. The talks begin between the U.S. and North Vietnamese delegations one week later in Paris..
- May 4 - DOUGLAS B. FOURNET, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 6 - ROBERT MARTIN PATTERSON, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 8 - RAY MCKIBBEN, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 12 - JOE M. JACKSON, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 13 - KENNETH L. OLSON, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 14 - FINNIS D. MCCLEERY, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 14 - JAMES W. FOUS, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 16 - ANUND C. ROARK, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 16 - DONALD E. BALLARD, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 17 - ROBERT C. BURKE, MEDAL OF HONOR.
- May 18 - PETER M. GUENETTE, MEDAL OF HONOR.

From *The Associated Press*

## 'Full Metal Jacket' actor R. Lee Ermey dies at 74



R. Lee Ermey, a former Marine who made a career in Hollywood playing hard-nosed military men like Gunnery Sgt. Hartman in Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket," has died. Ermey's longtime manager Bill Rogin says he died Sunday morning, April 15, from pneumonia-related complications. He was 74.

The Kansas native was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for his memorable performance in "Full Metal Jacket," in which he immortalized lines such as: "What is your major malfunction?"

His co-stars Matthew Modine and Vincent D'Onofrio tweeted their condolences Sunday evening.

*"#SemperFidelis Always faithful. Always loyal. Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the*

light," Modine wrote, quoting the Dylan Thomas poem. "RIP amigo. PVT. Joker."

Vincent D'Onofrio added: "Erme y was the real deal. The knowledge of him passing brings back wonderful memories of our time together."

Born Ronald Lee Erme y in 1944, Erme y served 11 years in the Marine Corps and spent 14 months in Vietnam and then in Okinawa, Japan, where he became staff sergeant. His first film credit was as a helicopter pilot in Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now," which was quickly followed by a part in "The Boys in Company C" as a drill instructor.

He raked in more than 60 credits in film and television across his long career in the industry, often playing authority figures in everything from "Se7en" to "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" remake.

The part he would become most well-known for, in "Full Metal Jacket," wasn't even originally his. Erme y had been brought on as a technical consultant for the 1987 film, but he had his eyes on the role of the brutal gunnery sergeant and filmed his own audition tape of him yelling out insults while tennis balls flew at him. An impressed Kubrick gave him the role.

Kubrick told Rolling Stone that 50 percent of Erme y's dialogue in the film was his own.

"In the course of hiring the marine recruits, we interviewed hundreds of guys. We lined them all up and did an improvisation of the first meeting with the drill instructor. They didn't know what he was going to say, and we could see how they reacted. Lee came up with, I don't know, 150 pages of insults," Kubrick said.

According to Kubrick, Erme y also had a terrible car accident one night in the middle of production and was out for four and half months with broken ribs.

Erme y would also go on to voice the little green army man Sarge in the "Toy Story" films. He also played track and field coach and Nike co-founder Bill Bowerman in "Prefontaine," General Kramer in "Toy Soldiers" and Mayor Tilman in "Mississippi Burning."

Erme y also hosted the History Channel series "Mail Call" and "Lock N' Load with R. Lee Erme y" and was a board member for the National Rifle Association, as well as a spokesman for Glock.

"He will be greatly missed by all of us," Rogin said. "It is a terrible loss that nobody was prepared for."

Rogin says that while his characters were often hard and principled, the real Erme y was a family man and a kind and gentle soul who supported the men and women who serve.

### Newsletter articles/stories/photos

Any articles, stories and/or photos submitted for the newsletter must be received by the "cut off" date for any given month. Photos must be accompanied by text which describes the event, names, dates and any other pertinent facts so our readers understand the story behind the photo(s). The newsletter editor will announce the "cut off" dates at each Chapter meeting. The "cut off" date for our May newsletter is 20 April 2018. Due to space availability, the editor reserves the right to include or not include photos for a given month.



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