

# The Bulletin

President, P.A.L.S. Renslar R. Keagle

L'Editeur



## THE PRESS ASSOCIATION OF LA SOCIETE

Public Relations

Press Association of La Societe



Blue Chevaliers



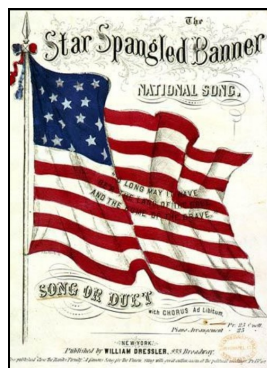
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Vol. 41 No. 07 Supporting and Encouraging La Societe Public Relations for 41 Years February 2026

STORYTELLING

• AMBASSADORSHIP

• PERSUASION



From an 1814 poem to becoming official in 1931—our National Anthem is 95 years old on March 3rd. More inside...

Hope all are well, it has been some pretty terrible weather depending on where you live. I grew up with a lot of snow and now live in a nice warm desert area—with infrequent cold weather.

Another election cycle is coming up with primaries all across the country. Please do your civic duty and express your voice at the ballot box. Take advantage of early voting if you can.

Not too early to register for Nationale—having gone last year it was a great experience and one of the best I've attended. Safe travels to all. L'Editeur

“And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave, O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.” F. Scott Key

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P.A.L.S. since 1984—Past L'Editeurs

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Don Collins  
Paul Chevalier

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## P.A.L.S. Page

### THE BULLETIN IS MORE THAN A NEWSLETTER

**The P.A.L.S. newsletter and our association has been around for 41 years. I have been L'Editeur full time since 2007 about 19 years. That comes to 228 issues and 2,736 pages of content—and growing. Early issues were typewritten and mailed and literally put together with a lot of scissor cutting and pasting. Did a lot of that myself.**

I often wonder what our members and readers do with the Bulletin after reading it. At the least, I hope it is thought provoking, adds some knowledge of public relations and might elicit a smile or two for your day. I compare this to my reaction to the many newsletters I receive from across many Locales and Grands. I read and learn something from every one I read.

The original concept and ultimate purpose of the Bulletin was to provide Locale and Grand L'Editeurs content, ideas and motivation for their own newsletters. Content in the Bulletin was rotated among Sous L'Editeurs with articles contributed by Directeurs and guests.

So what does the Bulletin and its content provide to the many Publicists and L'Editeurs in La Societe?

The newsletters that I receive do a good job of filling what I refer to as “white space”. I do not prefer a lot of white space. White space, also known as negative space, refers to the areas within a newsletter design that are unmarked and free of text, images, or any other elements. For large white space areas that might need some additional content, the Bulletin may provide the filler needed for that space.

More is not necessarily better, the Bulletin is 12 pages for a reason—we have a specific purpose beyond the ultimate goal of promoting and educating on public relations and Blue Chevaliers. All of the content is to promote reading and looking forward to the next issue. Our goal is to take a grass roots approach to public relations, and how to use it within the context of La Societe in our storytelling and ambassadorship.

One of our purposes and goals is to create more involvement in public relations—and an understanding of the many benefits as a resource the Bulletin may provide. Increasing active participation in PR and to provide some kind of value to the reader.

All we ask from our readers to take from the Bulletin is what matters to you. • President Renny

### Let's define storytelling...

**You can hand someone a Forty and Eight Brochure— it provides information and facts, but does little to visually describe all of the important facets of La Societe. For that we need storytelling.**

Storytelling has the power to create and spread the Forty and Eights charisma and impact while attracting new members and even financial donations. Stories and storytelling creates a connection emotionally. It creates a bridge between your message and the person or group receiving it. It is very motivational.

Making a speech or addressing a community group or another group of veterans is a different type of storytelling beyond a simple one on one contact with a potential new member. Both are important but your audience is different.

We will discuss storytelling in more detail down the road but using salesy, clinical, or too much of an organizational-specific language can impede individuals from understanding, connecting, and empathizing – almost defeating the purpose of storytelling. It's important to make sure your story is easily understood and digested by your listener. Most are offput by a typical “sales pitch”. More inside... • L'Editeur



## The Watercooler

**We're only a few days into the Winter Olympics, and there are already problems with the medals, some of which have fallen from their ribbons while athletes jumped, danced and celebrated their victories.**

While this is a PR nightmare for the games organizers, who said they're "paying maximum attention to this matter," it's become an opportunity for social media virality among some athletes. German athletes were captured on TV trying to fix a bronze medal during a delirious celebration, while American figure skater Alysa Liu wrote on Instagram that, "my medal don't need the ribbon" while flashing her gold. Rather than complaining, these athletes chose to celebrate their victories despite the snafus — which can gain more engagement and popularity in the long run. •



- **An AI resume writer** actually did this! How would you write "I changed a light bulb" on your resume? "Single-handedly managed the successful upgrade and deployment of new environmental illumination system with zero cost overruns and zero safety incidents."
- **Hands on the wheel:** Looking down at your phone while driving is a great way to ruin your day and everyone else's. Let your car read messages to you instead. iPhone with CarPlay: Go to Settings > Notifications > Announce Notifications and turn it on. Siri will read incoming messages out loud. Android Auto: Open Settings > Android Auto > Messaging and turn on notifications. When a message comes in, say, "Hey, Google, read my messages." Now you can ignore that group chat safely.
- **WhatsUp in WhatsApp**—WhatsApp introduced a new privacy and security option called Strict Account Settings. This is a "lockdown-style" feature users can turn on by going into Settings, then Privacy, then Advanced, and it makes accounts more secure by setting many features to the app's most restrictive options. This means it blocks attachments and media from people not in your contacts, silences calls from unknown numbers, turns off link previews and limits who can see your profile info or add you to groups. These are all optional and designed to reduce the risk of sophisticated cyberattacks, WhatsApp said. •

**A speech should be storytelling... Below are some sure ways to lose an audience during a speech:**

**Lack of Relevance**—Why it happens: If the content doesn't resonate with the audience's specific needs or interests, they mentally drift away. Is it a veterans' group, a community organization or maybe a group of students?

**Information Overload**—Why it happens: Bombarding people with too many facts or complex ideas overwhelms them. Simplify. Focus on three or four key points. Break complex ideas into digestible chunks. Use analogies and visuals to make difficult concepts easy to grasp.

**Monotonous Delivery**—Why it happens: A flat tone or lack of energy can turn even exciting content into a snooze fest. Inject energy into your speech! Vary your tone, pace, and volume. Use strategic pauses for emphasis. Raise your voice for impact on key points.

**\*\*\* Overly Long Presentation**—Why it happens: Lengthy speeches with no clear breaks can leave audiences disengaged. Keep it concise. Respect your audience's time. Structure your presentation into clear, manageable sections. Signal transitions between topics to help maintain focus. The younger the crowd, the shorter the presentation!

**No Emotional Connection**—Why it happens: Facts alone aren't enough. If you're not connecting emotionally, you'll lose them. How to keep their attention: Use storytelling to build emotional bridges. Share personal anecdotes that relate to your main points. Paint vivid pictures with your words to evoke feelings.

**Lack of Clear Purpose**—Why it happens: If the audience can't figure out why they should care, they'll check out. How to keep their attention: Clearly state your purpose and objectives early on. Set expectations so the audience knows what's in it for them. Reinforce the "why" throughout your presentation. • *From [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)*

**The next time you need to print something, don't dig through menus. On Windows, press Ctrl + P to open the print menu instantly. On Mac, press Cmd + P. This works in most documents, spreadsheets and web browsers.**

## Blue Chevaliers—Badges of Courage

Every day, federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers engage in exceptional acts of bravery while in the line of duty. Often, such acts place the officers involved at personal risk of injury or result in their sustaining a physical injury.



To honor these acts of bravery, Congress passed the **Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-298)**, creating the Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery and the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery. The act establishes an award to honor exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers. The medals are awarded annually by the U.S. Attorney General and are presented by the recipients' Congressional representatives.

To meet the definition of an act of bravery, nominees for the Congressional Badge of Bravery must have either:

- Sustained a physical injury while engaged in the lawful duties of the individual, and performing an act characterized as bravery by the agency head who makes the nomination, and being at personal risk; or
- Although not injured, performed an act characterized as bravery by the agency head who makes the nomination that placed the individual at risk of serious physical injury or death.

**The National Police Bravery Awards include several prestigious honors for acts of bravery performed by law enforcement officers. Key awards include:**

- **Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery:** Established by Congress in 2008, this award recognizes exceptional acts of bravery by federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers.
- **National Police Bravery Award:** This award honors officers for their remarkable courage in responding to emergencies, such as the recent Southport attack, where Sergeant Gregory Gillespie, Constable Luke Holden, and PCSO Timothy Perry were recognized for their bravery.
- **Medal of Valor:** The highest law enforcement medal, awarded for individual acts of extraordinary bravery or heroism in the line of duty.

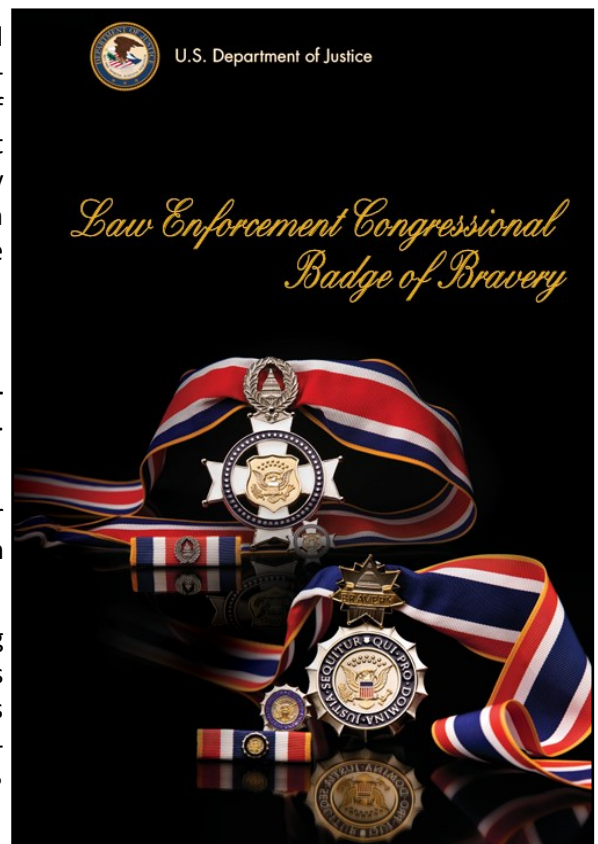
These awards are presented annually and highlight the dedication and courage of law enforcement personnel in protecting their communities. The opening date for nominations is on or about December 15 of each year. When the nomination period is open, all nominations must be submitted through the online Congressional Badge of Bravery Nomination System. All nominations must be received no later than February 15, at 5 p.m. eastern time of the calendar year following the date on which the nominee performed the act of bravery.

### Why this matters:

**It matters because all awards and recognition for our law enforcement officers is important. You can see it on the face of our own Forty and Eight Law Officer of the Year recipient.**

Whether it be this congressional award, our own special award for Law Officer of the Year or a Blue Chevalier award—it instills pride in not only that officer but in those seeing it awarded.

Recognizing our law enforcement boosts their morale by honoring their hard work, dedication and sacrifice. Every officer who serves their community deserves to feel appreciated. Recognition programs reinforce that commitment, leading to higher morale, better performance and a positive impact on both the department and the public. •



# Potpourri



## Special Holidays and Observances—March 2026

**3rd—National Anthem Day**—On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a congressional resolution officially making “The Star Spangled Banner” the national anthem of the United States of America.

**4th—Hug a GI Day**—On this March 4 holiday, give a great big hug and show of support to any and all GIs you see today. This includes both active and retired army military personnel. The men and women in our armed forces deserve our thanks and appreciation.

**5th—Ash Wednesday**

**12th—Girl Scout Day—Popcorn Lover’s Day**

**13th—It’s a Friday!!!**

**14th—National Pi Day (3.14)**

**15th—(Beware) Ides of March**—First day of the Roman New Year. It also marks the first day of spring in the Roman calendar. And, it marks the assassination of Roman Emperor Julius Caesar. Consequently, this day is associated with doom and misfortune. Many people consider this an unlucky day.

**16th—Freedom of information Day**

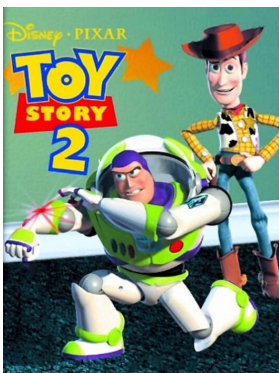
**17th—St. Patrick’s Day**

**24—National Cheesesteak Day**



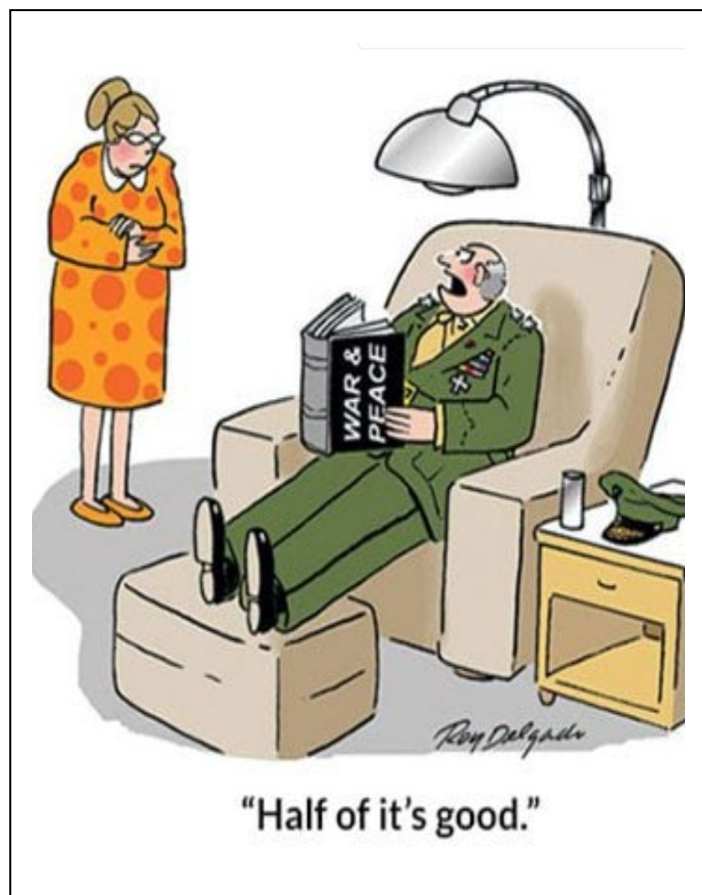
## Ever hit delete and instantly regret it?

Imagine doing that with an entire movie. During Toy Story 2’s production, someone ran a rogue command and wiped out 90% of the film’s files. We’re talking two years of character models, scenes, animations, poof! Gone in a split second. Work worth 100 million dollars.



Technical Director Galyn Susman, freshly back from maternity leave, had been working remotely and happened to have her own version of the entire film.

When the studio found out their servers had casually erased 90% of the movie, Galyn’s computer was hustled back to Pixar HQ, strapped into a car seat, wrapped in blankets and treated more cautiously than a newborn baby on a bumpy road trip. Otherwise, it would have been total “buzzkill”.



## PR Editorial— “For Better or for Worse”

In our daily living, we hear the term “for better or for worse” often in conversation. Most commonly it is a tradition in wedding vows. By definition it basically refers to the idea of accepting the good and the bad aspects of a situation, typically in the context of a commitment or relationship.

It signifies a promise to remain loyal and supportive regardless of the circumstances, whether they are positive or negative.

Let us consider our relationship with La Societe in the “better or for worse” context. It does not matter if you are a new Voyageur Militaire, an Officer, Directeur or a seasoned member for many years—we have all had our better or for worse moments. It all boils down to commitment.

When we stood in front of our fellow veterans and took our oath of obligation and became a Voyageur Militaire—we made a commitment, pledge and promise to be loyal and supportive. For better or for worse.

With that commitment comes an expectation of loyalty—a feeling of allegiance, especially in difficult times such as struggling with membership, finances or differences in opinion. We must be devoted to not giving up and to face obstacles that may appear from time to time.

One of the things I have observed in my Locale and Grand is a type of resilience to recover quickly from difficulties - toughness in facing challenges. This comes through support and perhaps a bit of encouragement from time to time and a positive attitude.

Charles Swindoll (author and minister) compares working through difficulties to remodeling a house: “It takes longer than you planned. It costs more than you figured. It is messier than you anticipated. It requires greater determination than you expected. Sometimes the only thing that keeps us going is hope!”

The approach I like is to say that “we are all in this together”. It does not work for us to think that in trying times, it is only the problem of those in leadership roles. Membership in the Forty and eight is a shared journey with a common bond we all share by virtue of our membership and being fellow veterans. The attitude of “it is not my problem” is not going to make anything better.

Where does your commitment stand in paying your dues timely, attending promenades, being supportive in the best way you can?

Finally, are you better or worse for being a member of La Societe? • L'Editeur



- Just when you think it can't get any worse, it can. And just when you think it can't get any better, it can.— Nicholas Sparks
- The reason people find it so hard to be happy is that they always see the past better than it was, the present worse than it is, and the future less resolved than it will be.—Marcel Pagnol
- A 'No' uttered from the deepest conviction is better than a 'Yes' merely uttered to please, or worse, to avoid trouble.—Mahatma Gandhi
- Where did we ever get the crazy idea that in order to make children do better, first we have to make them feel worse? Think of the last time you felt humiliated or treated unfairly. Did you feel like cooperating or doing better? - Jane Nelsen
- You are in a partnership with all other human beings, not a contest to be judged better than some and worse than others.—Wayne W. Dyer
- Life doesn't come with an eraser. Experiences leave their mark, for better or for worse. Anyone who tells you otherwise has never been hurt. — Nenia Campbell

# Nostalgia—Army Laughs

“Army Laughs” is a military-themed comic series that began publication in 1941, featuring humorous cartoons and stories aimed at entertaining servicemen during WW II.

“Army Laughs” was published by Prize Comics and ran for a total of 164 issues. The series is known for its lighthearted take on military life, providing comic relief to soldiers in challenging times.

The comic featured a variety of gag cartoons, often created by notable artist like Henry Boltinoff, who contributed significantly to the humor and style of the series. The content typically included jokes, parodies, and illustrations that resonated with the experiences of military personnel.

The series started in 1941, during the early years of World War II, and continued to be published throughout the war and beyond.

It served as a morale booster for troops and their families, reflecting the humor and camaraderie found in military life. The numbering of the series experienced some irregularities, with a leap in numbering between 1963 and 1965, skipping several volumes. This reflects the nature of comic publishing during that era.

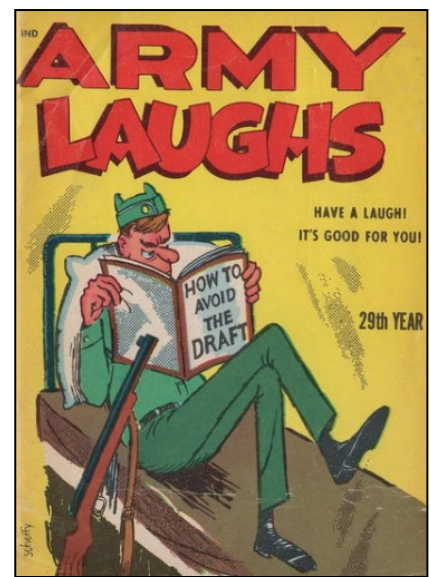
“Army Laughs” played a crucial role in providing entertainment and a sense of normalcy for soldiers during war-time. Its blend of humor and military themes helped foster a sense of community among servicemen, making it a notable part of comic history related to military culture.



1943



1945

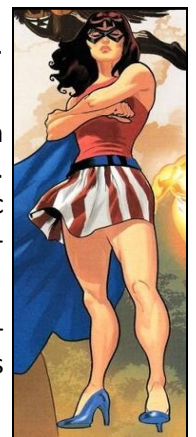


1970

**Note:** By today's standards, these comics would never fly and would create quite the controversy. They were obviously risqué and in most cases sexist by today's standards.

Shortly after the birth of the modern comic book in the mid- to late 1930s, comic publishers began including stories of wartime adventures in the multi-genre omnibus titles then popular as a format. Even prior to the U.S. involvement in World War II after the attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, comic books such as Captain America Comics #1 (March 1941) depicted superheroes fighting Adolf Hitler and the Nazis.

Military Comics, later Modern Comics, was a comic book anthology title published by Quality Comics during the Golden Age of Comic Books from 1941 until 1950. The first issue of Military Comics is notable for featuring the debut of Blackhawk, Blue Tracer, and **Miss America**. •





# Spotlight on Public Relations



## Your font can effect your readability... and is PR

It has been a while since we discussed fonts in any detail, lets review...

**Serif font types**—The word ‘serif’ comes from an old Dutch word for a dash or line, so serif fonts are defined by the ‘serif’ at the end of letters. This typeface classification gives off a more traditional aesthetic. The identifying feature of serif fonts is the tiny strokes or projections on every end of a letter.

Serifs improve readability by making it easy to distinguish the difference between a lowercase L and a capital I. Some of the most used serif fonts include: **Times New Roman, Georgia and Courier New.**

*What’s it good for?* Serif fonts have long been considered the most readable fonts. They’re commonly used in print newspapers, magazines, and books.

**Sans-serif types**—Sans-serif fonts are what you’ll see most commonly in your day-to-day life. These fonts are aptly named as they don’t have the serif projections on the letters (sans means without). You’re probably familiar with some of the most common sans-serif fonts, which are: **Arial, Calibri and Verdana**

*What’s it good for?* Search engines, websites, and social media platforms prefer sans-serif fonts because of their improved readability on a digital screen. Sans-serif fonts are the simplest fonts available and provide clean text that can be used across many platforms.

**Script**—What does it look like? Script fonts are inspired by handwriting and calligraphy. You’ll notice that most script fonts will look like they’re in cursive, but not every letter will connect or flow the same as if someone had written it in cursive. Letters will include swooping letters and curls, called swashes. Script fonts typically come in one of two styles in casual and formal fonts. Casual scripts are simpler and easier to read, while formal fonts are more embellished. Common script fonts you might see are: **Harlow Solid Italic, Brush Script MT and Fairwater Script**

*What’s it good for?* You’ve likely seen script fonts on wedding or baby announcements, event invitations, and award certificates. Overall, script fonts aren’t considered easy to read but can look great and enhance your print when used in the appropriate setting.

**Monospaced**—What does it look like? Monospaced fonts are fonts that utilize letters that take up the same amount of space. For example, the space for capital A and capital I will occupy the same amount of space on a line as one another. Typically, the A and I don’t take up similar space on a line, but a monospaced typeface will format your text in this way. It also conveys a typewriter feel with its consistent spacing. You’ll also see that some serif or sans-serif fonts fit into a monospaced format as well. Examples of some monospaced fonts include: **Courier New, Lucida Sans Typewriter and Consolas.**

*What’s it good for?* While monospaced fonts aren’t always the most appealing to a designer, they do have their place. Monospaced fonts make it easy to create a proportional block of text based on the number of characters you want to use. For instance, if you’re making a sign and have space for 20 characters on each line, monospaced fonts make it easy to count characters without trying to compensate for narrow letters like I and a lowercase L. •

From [microsoft.com](http://microsoft.com)



### Spring training is about here!!! Opening Day March 25th...

The unofficial anthem of American baseball, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," is traditionally sung during the middle of the 7th inning. It was written in 1908 by Jack Norworth and Albert von Tilzer, both of whom had never been to a baseball game.

The life span of a major league baseball is 5–7 pitches. During a typical game, approximately 70 balls are used.

In 2008, Dr. David A. Peters found that sliding headfirst into a base is faster than a feet-first slide.

The New York Yankees were the first baseball team to wear numbers on their backs, in the 1920s. They initially wore numbers based on the batting order. Babe Ruth always hit third, so he was number 3.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was performed for the first time at a sporting event on September 5, 1918, in the middle of the 7th inning of Game 1 of the World Series between the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago Cubs at (rented out) Comiskey Park.

Visiting teams wear (at least mostly) gray uniforms so fans can easily distinguish between the visiting team and the home team. The tradition dates back to the late 1800s when travelling teams did not have time to launder their uniforms and, consequently, wore gray to hide the dirt.

When baseball great Lou Gehrig retired from the game due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), he said in his farewell speech that he was "the luckiest man on the face of the earth." His speech has been called the "Gettysburg Address of Baseball."

Throwing a baseball significantly faster than 100 mph is nearly impossible. Speeds over that would create too much torque in a pitcher's arm, leading to snapped tendons and ligaments. The fastest baseball ever thrown anywhere is usually credited to Cleveland Indian pitcher Bob Feller. In 1946, he threw a fastball at 107.9 mph during a pitching display at Griffith Field. The Guinness Book of World Records sites a 2010 pitch by Aroldis Chapman as the fastest, at 105.1 mph during a Reds' game against the San Diego Padres.

Baseball was a full medal sport in the Olympics from 1992–2008. However, a vote by the International Olympic Committee took baseball off the calendar starting in 2012. World baseball groups continue to try to return the sport to the games. •

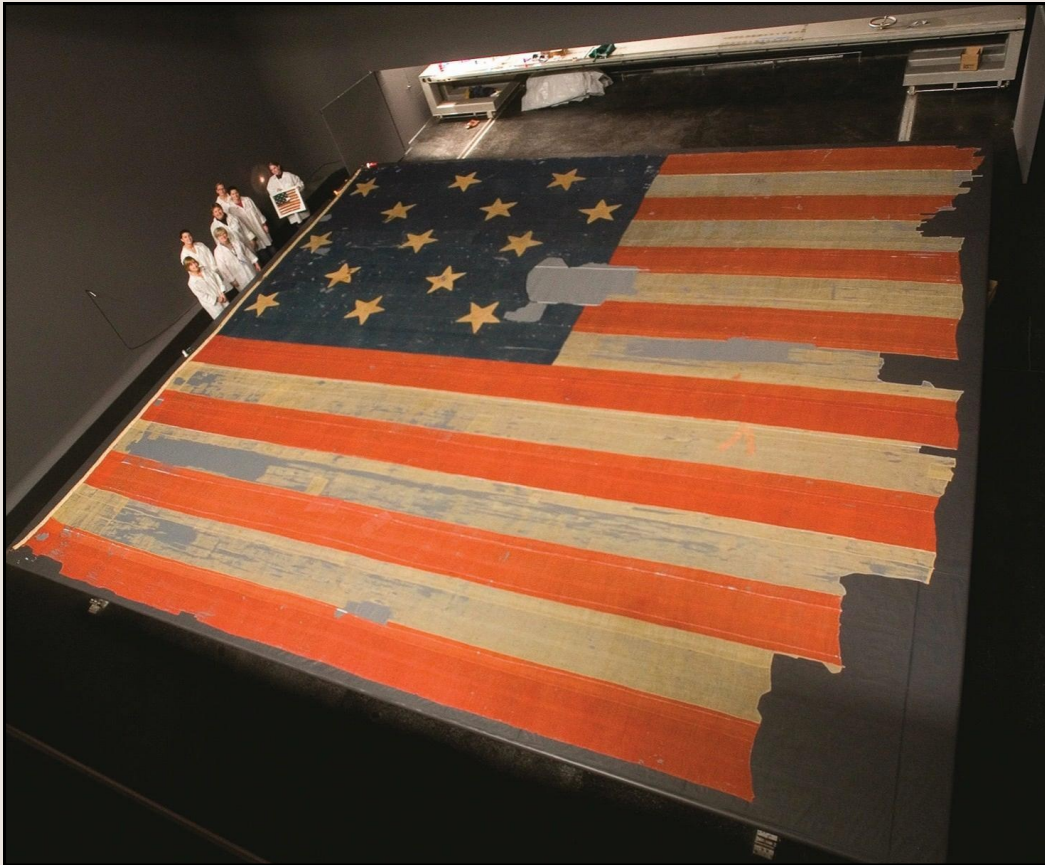
Microbiologists have identified air blown from a running vacuum cleaner as one of the five places in the home that has the highest numbers of germs. Other places include dish sponges, washing machines, bathroom toilets during a flush, and kitchen trash cans.



In 1912, the mayor of Tokyo gifted Japanese cherry trees to the city of Washington, DC, as a gesture of friendship. Today, over 1.5 million people attend the National Cherry Blossom Festival each year. In the spring of 1999, officials investigated reports that vandals had cut down four cherry trees and five white cedars in Washington, DC. The "vandals" turned out to be a pair of beavers.

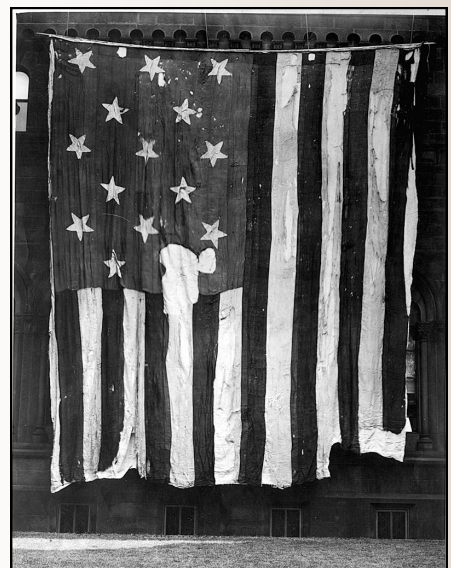
These trees produce ornamental cherries, not edible ones and are bred for their aesthetic qualities rather than fruit yield—they are bitter and not suitable for humans. They are very appealing to local birds and wildlife. •

# POSTER OF THE MONTH



**Fashion designer Ralph Lauren donated US \$13 million to a project to restore the decaying remains of America's oldest and most cherished icon - the Star Spangled Banner which inspired its national anthem. (Picture right) A photo of the flag when it first arrived at the Smithsonian.**

In 1998, the flag was taken down from the wall where it had hung since 1964. A lengthy evaluation process involving 50 international experts—conservators, curators, historians, engineers, and organic scientists—helped determine how best to proceed. Technicians began by clipping 1.7 million stitches to remove the linen backing that had been sewn on in 1914. Next, debris was removed with the aid of cosmetic sponges, and the surface was bathed in a mixture of water and acetone to clear away harmful residues. Finally, a new backing, made from a silklike fabric called Stabiltex, was sewn on. The end result has been viewed by millions of visitors to the museum since 1999.



## L'Editeurs Back Page— Our National Anthem...

**Our national anthem exists because of a cartoon.**

America didn't have a national anthem until 1931—and it could have taken longer if not for a cartoon. In 1929, Robert Ripley published an item in his syndicated "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" cartoon pointing out the fact that America did not have a national anthem. After Ripley received many letters of backlash, he told these upset patriots that their efforts would be better spent writing their congressmen. This led to a 5-million-signature petition asking Congress for a national anthem.

It worked. In 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed a law making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the official national anthem of the United States of America.



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE BLUE CHEVALIERS**

**INITIAL MEMBERSHIP**

NAME:

40ETB  
MEMBER

LA FEMMES  
MEMBER

NON MEMBER  
SUPPORTER

ADDRESS: STREET:

CITY:

ST:

ZIP:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

**NEW MEMBERS—\$20.00 ANNUAL RENEWAL—\$5.00 TEN YEAR RENEWAL—\$45.00 PUFL—\$75.00**

**Checks payable to P.A.L.S. - Remit to:**

**Renslar R. Keagle, 8714 Marble Drive, El Paso, TX 79904**

**P.A.L.S./Blue Chevalier - please note new renewal fees!!!!**

**P.A.L.S. APPLICATION—RENEWAL or NEW MEMBER**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ New Member  Renewal

Email \_\_\_\_\_ **PUFL \$100.00**

Voiture Locale \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks made out to P.A.L.S.**

ANNUAL DUES MAIL ONLY: \$20.00

MAIL AND DIGITAL: \$20.00

DIGITAL ONLY: \$10.00

**PUFL down payment (minimum \$25)**

**Remit to:**

Renslar R. Keagle

8714 Marble Drive

El Paso, TX 79904-1710

rennykeagle@gmail.com



## POW/MIA Remembrance Page

The below reflects recoveries since the first of October 2025. DPAA's year begins on October first and ends September 30th the following year—same as our federal fiscal year.



Note: No recoveries reported since December 15, 2025.

In 2025, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified 231 service members from past conflicts, surpassing its congressionally mandated goal of 200 identifications per fiscal year. This includes 165 from World War II, 58 from the Korean War, and 8 from the Vietnam War.



**Dan Bullock was born on December 21, 1953, in Brooklyn, New York, Bullock grew up during a period of intense social and political upheaval.** At just 14 years old, he falsified his birth certificate to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in September 1968, exploiting gaps in verification during a time when the military was under enormous pressure to supply troops for Vietnam.

Bullock was assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. Despite his age, he served as a rifleman in active combat operations. On June 7, 1969, during a mission near Da Nang, an enemy rocket-propelled grenade struck the bunker where Bullock was positioned, killing him instantly. He was 15 years old.

During the Vietnam War, more than 58,000 Americans were killed, and while the official minimum enlistment age was 17 with parental consent, underage enlistments were not uncommon due to document falsification and rushed recruitment procedures. Bullock was posthumously promoted to lance corporal and awarded the Purple Heart. He is buried at Long Island National Cemetery.

Added fact: In 2018, the New York City Council officially honored Dan Bullock, recognizing him as the youngest American casualty of the Vietnam War. Bonus Fact: By 1968, nearly 40% of U.S. troops in Vietnam were under the age of 20.

**We're remembering and honoring 1st Lt. Laura Margaret Walker, a courageous West Point graduate and dedicated engineer officer who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.**

On August 18, 2005, Laura was killed in action in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device detonated under her Humvee during convoy operations. As the first female West Point graduate to fall in combat, she led with unwavering resolve, building bridges—both literal and figurative—while protecting her platoon and advancing freedom abroad.

Laura's spirit of service ran deep in her family. Both of her grandparents served honorably in combat, instilling in her a profound legacy of duty and bravery that she carried forward with grace and determination.

God bless this hero, always.

