

SPECIAL

EDITION



Admiral Farragut Academy North Association

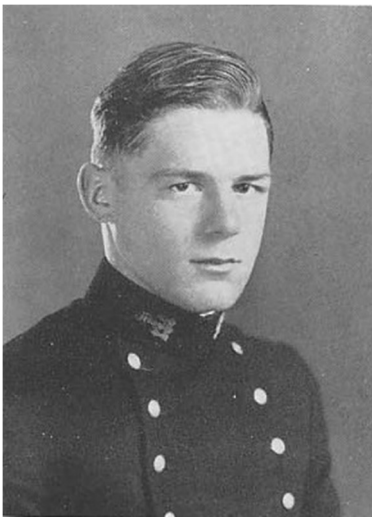
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Serving Admiral Farragut Academy Pine Beach Alumni

Capstan Version 1 - April, 2018

Over the past year the Pine Beach Reunion Committee has been diligently working to reach out to alumni to ensure **no** AFA Pine Beach Alum is left behind. We've mailed invitations, corrected addresses contact information, email addresses, many times the old fashioned way of calling and sending letters.

Frank Porcellini 80N has been on the phone contacting and meeting our most senior alumni to capture their stories for historic preservation purposes noting each of their experiences while at AFA Pine Beach. Below are a few of those stories from their phone conversations and meetings with 1930's and 1940's alumni.....



A common blessing says "May you live in interesting times." Certainly in one way or another we have all have lived in those times. Some just seem to take more intriguing turns than others.

John Henry "Budge" Blake entered AFA in September 1935 as a Third Classman. Hailing from a hard working farming family from Freehold, NJ, he was assigned to 3rd Company upon joining the Corps of Cadets. He remained in "Thundering Third" throughout his more than 3-1/2 years at the school. He really hated his first year there because he was homesick. His family also owned a house in Seaside Park and during the summers he was a lifeguard.

His favorite teachers were Mr. C.H. Lewis, LT F.X. Carmody(Ex Coast Guard), LT H.D. Hill, and LT C.G. Wadbrook. LT Wadbrook was a Marine who coached the Rifle Team. LT Lahn, Commandant of Cadets, was called the "Wolf" by the Cadets. He was a hard taskmaster while at the Academy as Commandant.

Admiral Robison gave Cadet Blake many fatherly lectures due to his lack of following regulations. The Admiral must of realized that "Budge" was different and pretty bright. There seemed to be a special bond between the Admiral and "Budge". "Budge" commented that "he was a wonderful man" and seemed to have a genuine affection and respect for the Admiral. "Budge" spoke with a reverence whenever he mentioned Admiral Robison. You could hear it in his voice and see it in his eyes. The Admiral seemed to go out of his way to give Cadet Blake commendations.

During his first year, a memorable incident occurred involving a fire alarm at 0300 (3 am for the rest of the world). The alarm in question brought the entire Corps of Cadets including officers and resident staff out onto the parade grounds. All hands were certain that this must have been a real fire as no one could believe that a drill would be scheduled for the ungodly hour of 3 o'clock. Alas, it was indeed a false alarm and the bleary eyed cadets returned to their beds none the worse for the interruption of their slumbers.

In spite of exhaustive investigation the Commandant of Cadets, the "Wolf" was unable to determine who the perpetrator of the false alarm was. The 1938 yearbook speculated that the blame was to fall on Cadets Bill Colepaugh and Randy Harris. Budge admitted "it was a dumb thing to do." as he reflected on the incident. It seems that pranks were a timeless tradition at Farragut. Each and every student can certainly relate to at least one incident of a cadet led prank during their time at AFA.

Cadet William Curtis Colepaugh was infamous for a different and much more serious reason. He is remembered by Budge as “not to bright.” After graduation from AFA Colepaugh attended MIT for a semester but, returned to AFA in February 1939 because he lacked sufficient knowledge in chemistry and physics.

WILLIAM CURTIS COLEPAUGH
“Bill”
Old Black Point
NIANTIC, CONNECTICUT
2 P. O.
1st Co.
Aim: MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY

Introducing the little, obscure gentleman with big “castles in the air”. Surely a person is such if he aspires to go to M. I. T. The reason that we say he is obscure is that he spends so much time studying to be an engineer that we see very little of him in the common time-killing haunts. Nevertheless, his sterling qualities have come to our attention without close examination. He is a swell fellow, who is persistent in seeing his dreams come true. So here’s to M. I. T., fellow, may you be the best of engineers.



During the war Colepaugh defected to Germany and was actually involved in a Nazi plot to attempt to land himself and a Nazi Saboteur (Erich Gimpel) on the Maine Coast near Bar Harbor. (This incident is possibly a prime factor in the “Not to bright” assessment.) After landing in Maine, Colepaugh used the name of a former roommate at Farragut: H.H. Williams. Colepaugh lost his nerve or interest in the whole treasonous endeavor and contacted another AFA Classmate: Edmond Francis Mulcahy. Colepaugh asked his old friend for help in turning himself in.

All in all, a rather infamous claim to fame. The entire sad affair is documented in Robert A. Miller’s book; “A True Story of an American Nazi Spy: William Curits Colepaugh.” Colepaugh was friends with Mulcahy at AFA along with Jay D. Boone, AFA ‘37. All are mentioned in Miller’s book. Jay D. Boone, AFA ‘37, received a Silver Star during World War II while in the Army as a Lt and was a President of the Alumni Association at one point. Budge stated “He was crazy enough to lead an attack to earn that Silver Star.”

“Budge” enjoyed the sports programs at AFA. He participated in Football in the fall, Wrestling in Winter, and Crew in the Spring. Each Varsity team enjoyed the benefit of his participation. He recalled a love for rowing the cutter on Spring afternoons.

In the Spring of 1936, while he was rowing, his oar got stuck in the oarlocks. The expression is called “Catching a crab” and causes the boat to slow down due to the resistance of the oar in the water. He “broke the oar lock”(freeing the oar of the water) and “Budge” jumped into the water to lighten the load of the boat and make it faster. This was the custom when “Catching a crab”. Admiral Robison later wrote a citation to Cadet Blake for his actions that day. LT Carmody (the Crew Coach) stated that if “Budge” didn’t jump into the water, the rest of his cutter crew would have given him hell.

He remembers Elmer Crock, Class of 1937, who was in the Band. “Budge” stated he was the best at blowing taps with the trumpet at night. The other Cadets also talked about Cadet Crock’s ability as well. He also remembers ‘38 Classmate Teddy Speck, known as the “Tuckerton Terror”. He was known for doing a crazy dance at the hops where he would put his hands up by his head and move his knees. Teddy was the brother of CDR Lewis Speck, known by many later Cadets of the 1950’s, 1960’s, 1970’s, and 1980’s.

At the end of his first year at the Awards Ceremony they called out the winner of 1st Place in Academic Rank for the whole school. The name called out was “Cadet Blake”, Budge was shocked! He never thought he would win that award.

He played football with the Ward brothers. They hailed from Ridgely Park, N.J. William Ward was in the Class of 1938 and returned for a PG year in the fall of 1938. James Ward was in the Class of 1939. James was the better athlete of the two, but was injured during football and did not see much action. Both brothers and “Budge” are listed in the 1938 Little-Army Navy Program.



Cadet Blake’s Mom told him of a story where she was outside the Admiral’s office. Mrs. Ward was visiting Admiral Robison with her two sons. The Admiral often did social visits with the parents. Mrs. Ward was a bit impulsive and when addressing the Admiral, she said Mr. Farragut. The Admiral responded to her by saying “Now Mrs. Ward, do you think I look half as dead as Admiral Farragut?” Both Ward brothers were sitting down and were quite embarrassed.

He was on the football team three years. The first year at Farragut he arrived too late to play football. His Junior year he did not play much. He was a tackle on the Undefeated Teams of 1937 & 1938. He returned to AFA for a PG Year and played in the 1938 Little Army-Navy Game.

Cadet Blake’s father wanted his son to attend the United States Naval Academy, but he was near sighted. Budge decided to leave AFA in the Second Semester of 1939 to see if his eye sight would improve. He took a year off and worked on the family farm. Poor eyesight would keep him out from the Naval Academy. He left the farm and entered Princeton to study engineering. He stayed there three years.

When he received news of Pearl Harbor, "Budge" was at home in Freehold. When his father drove him back to Princeton, he asked him to do two things. One was to finish out his Second Semester of his 3rd year at Princeton. The second was that he would return to college and finish his degree.

After leaving Princeton, "Budge" looked up LT Lahn when he was stationed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard to get his assistance in joining the Navy. LT Jackson Lahn was much more personable than he was at AFA.

Sadly, he still could not get into the Navy due to his eyes. He turned to the Army and he received a commission in the Army Air Corps during WWII.

He travelled over to Europe on the "RMS QUEEN ELIZABETH" operated by the Cunard Line. His stateroom had been a First Class Suite, now converted into a living quarters for 25 officers with wooden double bunks. The bunks were all made up with clean sheets, and each morning someone made them up again. "Budge" inquired as to how many people the ship carried and was told 25 thousand. The vessel travelled by herself during the voyage due to her high speed, about 30 knots. To avoid enemy U-boats, the vessel used her speed and never sailed on any one course too long, turning about every 15 or 20 minutes it seemed. Destination was unknown until they arrived in England.

He was assigned ground duty at the Strategic Air Depot in England dealing with recovered aircraft that had forced landings and their salvage and repairs. Budge turned down a promotion to Captain and was assigned to driving around in a jeep and saw most of Europe during this time. He did this for two years from 1943 to 1945. He witnessed many strange crash sites.

After retiring as 1st LT from the Army in 1946, he went to California to marry his girlfriend, Marilyn Morshead. He spent a year in college at New Jersey and a horrible winter in NJ. They then moved back to California. They had three kids and had a nephew come live with them after Marilyn's sister died. He now lives alone and is cared for by his caretaker, Vanessa. She assists and cares for him with everything.

Yes indeed, a colorful set of circumstances young "Budge" Blake, AFA '38 found himself in. Thanks to our brother for the reminiscence and the service to your great Nation.

Anson D. Geiger, aka "Bill", entered AFA in September 1940 from Lafayette High School. He was from St. Joseph, Missouri. He was in the First Company and selected as a Second Class Petty Officer. He played Varsity Football in the Fall and Varsity Track in the Spring.

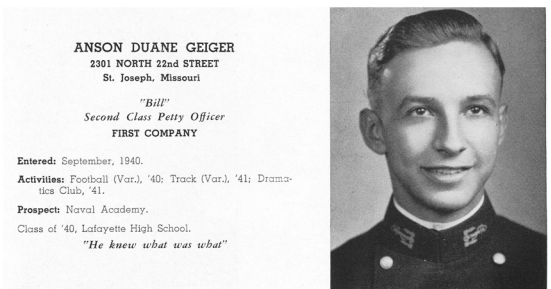
He also was in the Drama Club while at AFA. Anson was an Eagle Scout and was good with the 12 foot Bull Whip, that were used in rodeos at the time. During a Drama Club meeting, Bill volunteered the information that he could handle a bullwhip. He showed what he could do and they wanted Bill to demonstrate that for a show that was being put on. A fellow classmate, Davis King, from Hawaii, volunteered to hold a piece of paper while Bill used the 12 foot Bull Whip to slice the paper. They practiced for a week before the show in the auditorium. He received a lot of praise from other Cadets after the performance. It was remembered by others when he went to the Naval Academy. He also repeated this performance at the Naval Academy while there.

He was a member of the Naval Reserve while at Farragut and attended extra drills once a month for the entire year. They would leave in the late afternoon for a drill at the Naval Reserve Unit in Perth Amboy, NJ. The drill would last a couple hours. On the return trip back, they would stop at a diner and get a burger. Then they would continue their drive back to Farragut and return by midnight.

Bill did not see much action while on the football team as a running back, but he was a pretty good track star. He remembered staying at Columbia University's Visiting team dormitory the night before the Little Army-Navy Football game held at Randall's Island against LaSalle Military. This was arranged most likely by Coach Stanczyk who had attended Columbia and played football there. Coach Stanczyk was both the football coach and track coach, but he knew little of track compared to his football prowess.

During one track meet at a Prep school in Pennsylvania where he was jumping hurdles Bill banged his right ankle on one of the hurdles. This injury resulted in an infection in his right ankle and right leg. The infection got worse about a week after the injury.

During the entrance exams for the Naval Academy, taken in the Trenton Post Office, he was in pain from his track injury. The examiner asked him if he wanted to stop and take the exams later, but Bill was determined to finish the exams, which were 3 days long. There were a half dozen Farragut classmates who took excellent care of him while taking these exams. They even carried



him to the Post Office each day from the YMCA where they were staying. Bill could not walk. The cadets found a doctor to check Bill out and give him medicine. He finished the exams and returned to AFA by ambulance.

At AFA they placed him in the infirmary and then sent him to the hospital. At the hospital they operated on his ankle and used sulfur drugs to kill the infection. He returned to Farragut on crutches and was sent home after a couple days and missed graduation. On the train ride back home, he was in uniform and the ladies kept offering him seats when he changed trains.

He was worried when he was home about his acceptance to the Naval Academy. He was admitted to Annapolis on an appointment from the Naval Reserve and one from a Senator from Missouri. About the same time, he received orders to report to Perth Amboy on Active Duty orders. When he reported there, he showed them his appointment letter to Annapolis. They changed his orders sending him to the Naval Academy. He did not go with his Perth Amboy Unit.

While at the Naval Academy, Bill was a big track star. As a freshman he tied the Navy Academy Freshman Record for the 120 High hurdles. He set the record for the 220 Low Hurdles in the Army-Navy track meet at West Point in the Spring of 1943. The next year he could not compete because of Scarlet Fever.

He attended the Naval Academy for three years with Alan Shepard graduating June 7, 1944. He attended Flight School with Alan Shepard also. Both he and Shepard were friends. Their wives (Doris Geiger and Louise Shepard) knew each other and went out to dinner many times.

A total of 13 1941 AFA graduates attended the United States Naval Academy. Other Farragut Classmates that attended the Naval Academy were:

Douglass Berry-1945 N

Donald P. Hoffman-1945 N

Robert B. Mack-1945 N

William L. Robbins-Attended. Non-Grad

James T. Smith-Attended. Non-Grad.



George L. Fuller-Attended. Non-Grad

Lloyd J. Kiernan-1945 N

Herbert F. Mills-1945 N

Clayton H. Shoemaker-1945 N

John L. Sullivan-1945 N

John W. Viele (USN, CDR, Ret-21 years, Submarines) -1946 N

His brother, Robert K. Geiger, also attended the Naval Academy. He entered the Naval Academy shortly after Anson graduated. Robert graduated in 1947 as a member of the Class of 1948A and attained the rank of Rear Admiral earning two stars. He was involved in the early days of the Navy Space program. He retired as Chief of Naval Research.

While in the Navy, Bill was on nine deployments. While he was on the carrier USS KEARSARGE, CV-33, and Shepard was on another, the USS ORISKANY, CV-34. Neither Bill nor Alan knew that the other was on the other carrier. It was towards the end of the Korean War in January 1954 and the movie "The Bridges of Toko-Ri" was being filmed on the ORISKANY off the Sea of Japan between Japan and Korea.

There were problems with the Catapults aboard the USS ORISKANY and filming had to be switched over to the USS KEARSARGE. They even painted over the numbers of the USS KEARSARGE to match that of the USS ORISKANY for the film. The USS ORISKANY used McDonnell F2H-Phantoms and the USS KEARSARGE used Grumman F9F-5 Panthers. Aircraft needed to be transferred between the carriers for the filming. LT Anson Geiger had to fly one over to the USS ORISKANY.

After he landed, he went into the island. LT Alan Shepard met him as he came in the island and gave him a hug. Al invited him to his stateroom later to catch up and talk before dinner.

When he arrived at Shepard's Stateroom and entered, he noticed a small table with a white tablecloth and cheese and crackers on it. Shepard also was serving Martini's to his classmate and himself. A knock occurred and Shepard said "Enter." In came Mickey Rooney. Shepard introduced Bill Geiger to Mickey Rooney. Mickey said to Bill "Shake the hand that held the breast of Ava Gardner." She was Mickey's first wife from 1943-1944. He would have eight wives.

Towards the end of his Naval career, Captain Geiger was invited by Bill Masiangelo to interview for the job of Office of the Headmaster. During the interview process, he attended a dinner and entered a drawing. He won a set of Wedgewood 25th Anniversary "Farragut" plates. He is still proud of those plates today almost 50 years later.

He was waiting for Captain Dodge to retire, but Captain Dodge put it off. Upon his retirement from the Navy, Captain Geiger found a job with Honeywell in 1969. He and his wife bought a townhouse in Falls Church, Virginia.

They moved out to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1977 for Honeywell and when he retired from Honeywell in 1984, they moved back to Falls Church, VA. Anson's wife passed away in December of 2009. He has been living with his disabled daughter since.



I had called Allen Breed, AFA '39N a few times before I met him with David Lipsky, AFA '75N. Allen was anxious to meet me. I was just as anxious to meet him as well. The last time I had seen Alumni from the 1930's was when I was a cadet at AFA in the 1970's in Pine Beach. When we arrived, John "Budge" Blake, AFA '38N, was getting out of the vehicle to go inside. Budge was slow at it. I immediately went to Budge and introduced myself to him and gave him a hearty handshake. He needed a wheel chair to get inside, which his caretaker was getting for him.

I proceeded to the door of Allen's house. I knocked on the door and rang the door bell. The door opened and a spry healthy man met me and introduced himself. I was amazed at how he got around for being 96 years old. We brought Budge inside and everyone got settled in

Allen's den. Allen placed 4 year books on the Den table. They were the Tridents from 1936, 1937, 1938, and 1939. He also had a book about Savo Island. He had paintings of ships on the wall and even a few his late wife had painted. The inside of the house was definitely a New England accent. There were old nautical books on the shelf. He even had a Bowditch from 1855. Bowditch is the bible for sailors and navigation.

Allen "Bottle" Breed entered Admiral Farragut in September of 1935, two years after the school opened. He hailed from Boston and was a typical New Englander. He lived in Farragut Hall and was in the Second Company. Allen was on watch in Farragut Hall when Bill Masciangelo arrived at the Academy for the first time. Allen was assigned to take Bill to the Uniform shop, run by Al Bertie. He decided to show Bill around campus before taking him for his uniforms. He caught hell for taking so long. Later in the year, the Second Company would move into the partially finished brand new Dupont Hall. Half was finished before the 1935-1936 School year was over. The other half would be finished in the fall of 1936. The Battalion Commander that year was Cy Radford, the General's son.

He had the same roommate the last two years, Leo Corboy, AFA '40. Leo would later become a Marine Aviator.

The Commandant of Cadets, LT Jackson Lahn, known as the "Wolf" was a hard taskmaster on the cadets. One morning before reveille, LT Wadbrook woke the Band up and assembled them outside the room of the "Wolf" in Dupont Hall. He had them play "Who's Afraid Of The Big Bad Wolf?" When the "Wolf" opened his room door, he viewed LT Wadbrook busting out laughing. So the Cadets were not the only ones to play practical jokes.

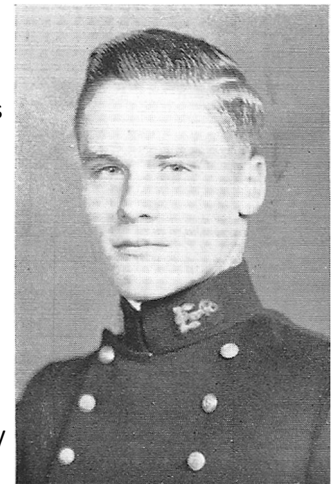
In his Senior year, Allan was CPO for Second Company. The night before the Little Army-Navy game in 1938, some cadets decided to hide the Pet Mascot, the goat, under Farragut Hall. They added onto the prank, making the Corps think the kids from Toms River High stole the goat. The Cadets wanted to go and rescue the goat. Rumors spread fast and before you know it the Corp was marching into Toms River to retrieve the goat.!

The football team was left out from this endeavor so they would not get into trouble before the game. They even let the air out of the car of the duty officer and hid the Farragut service truck. They made their way along Riverside Drive and were about a mile from the school when LT Carmody caught up with them and persuaded them to return to the Academy. The Football team would defeat LaSalle Military 15-0 in the 5th game of the Little Army-Navy Series.

Breed joined the Navy in July of 1940. He was assigned as a yeoman on a Tin Can, (destroyer), the USS OVERTON sailing between the US East Coast and Iceland. He was later transferred to the Cruiser USS QUINCY. He received his Blue Nose Certificate Sept 22, 1941. This Certificate is given out for those sailors passing Latitude 66 degrees 33 minutes North and completing the Ceremony. He was on the USS QUINCY when it was sunk at the Battle of Savo Island during the Battle for Guadalcanal. He got off the vessel and was in the water at night for three to four hours before being rescued. They had to watch out for Japanese ships and sharks in the water.

Allen was aboard the repair ship USS ARGONNE after being rescued. He saw a friend in a passageway and the friend asked him what he was doing there. Through this friend he was assigned to the staff of Vice Admiral Robert Lee Ghormley. Vice Admiral Ghormley was later replaced by Vice Admiral William "Bull" Halsey.

Mr. Breed later attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute after his discharge from the US Navy. After college he worked for General Electric for 17 years. Four years he worked with Naval Nuclear Reactors Program. This program was headed by Admiral Rickover. GE supplied Nuclear Reactors and equipment to the US Navy. He was married to his wife Rebecca(Becky) for 64 years before she passed away. They had 3 children, two boys and a girl. They had three grandchildren. Two girls and a boy. He lives with his son and daughter in law.



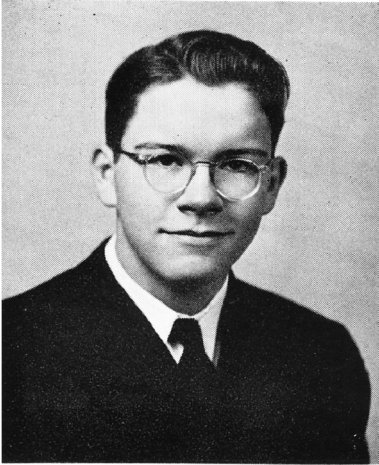
ALLEN BREED

"Bottle"

120 Beacon Street
Boston, Mass.
Second Company

SNAPSHOTS FROM FARRAGUT (NORTH) DURING WORLD WAR II

WALLY SHUGG AFA'46 N



WALLACE SHUGG
24 Pine Terrace West
Short Hills, N. J.
'Wally' Batt. Staff Ensign
Third Company

When I entered Farragut in the fall of 1942, the nation was still reeling from the attack on Pearl Harbor. Names like Guadalcanal, Coral Sea, and Midway were still on our lips. Gas and food rationing was in place, as were drives to collect aluminum pots and pans. At the sea-shore, cans of kerosene stood at the top of stairs leading to the boardwalk for bathers to remove the clots of crude oil from their legs, courtesy of the U-Boats sinking our oil tankers silhouetted against the lights ashore.

My room in Farragut Hall, #224, overlooked the flagpole and waterfront about 100 yards away. I arose one dark November morning at 06:30 and heard a soft rumble approaching from the left, from the towns of Toms River and Lakehurst. Into view came a blimp, an early L-type with its navigation lights blinking, mooring rope dangling from its nose. The small gondola had room for only depth charge and several crew. As it glided over our flagpole, I stood at the lighted window and waved my arms. The blimp's nose dipped sharply in greeting, then rose again as it continued its patrol. It was a great moment for yours truly.

When we gathered at noon formations, we exchanged the latest scuttlebutt. Have you heard?

****Former CPO, 1st Company, F.X. Burgmeister is now a B-17 tailgunner?**

We were a bit envious (the young believe themselves immortal).

****Marine Pvt. Jim Hanlon ran down a Jap with his truck on Tarawa.**

****Marine Pvt. Dick Trager's letter praising his Farragut years was read out to us by the staff adjutant.**

Then we marched to a drumbeat to the mess hall for what might be called "rude plenty"
(the retired Filipino CPO had already clipped the coupons from our ration books held in his office).

As I remember, the teaching was quite good.

My favorites: David Elms (Spanish and German), Frederick Kaufolz, and Kenneth Sheesley (English).

Our lives were strictly scheduled and so the years rolled by quickly. Many more planes flew overhead on their way to patrol the coast. A Navy crash boat was stationed at our waterfront, the crew lounging on what seemed to be a permanent smoke break. Many new blimps appeared, greatly enlarged into the K-ship, the gondolas carrying several depth charges and even a machine gun. And no doubt something better than a coffee can for their natural needs.

The end of the war was at hand, but Admiral Farragut Academy would continue to serve its country well.



1933-2018