

“THE GAZETTE”  
October 2007

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## AMRAC Names Gary H. Schap of Elizabeth, Ill. as Vet of Year 2007



*In an award presentation held in a local ceremony in Hanover, Illinois on September 7, 2007; AMRAC Executive Director Jerry Pionk (far right) presented Gary H. Schap (far left) his award for Veteran of the Year 2007.*

The Association of Military Recruiters and Counselors has selected Gary H. Schap of Elizabeth, IL as this year's Veteran of the Year.

Nominations were solicited from the Association's members and voted upon by the Association's recognition committee. The major criteria for the award are accomplishments after discharge from the military and devotion to making America stronger through community service.

Gary H. Schap served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War from 1960 to 1963. He served in The Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam and various other assignments as a member of the Army Security Agency. In 1965, he was hired as an Illinois State Police trooper and served the State of

Illinois for 36 years, 8 months, retiring as the longest serving State Trooper in the State's history.

Currently a member of the Elizabeth City Police Department, he now has over 43 years in law enforcement. In a long career with many achievements, one notable incident happened in 1967 when on patrol. He was run over by a car and sent flying 65 feet over his patrol car. He was in a coma for 2 weeks and in a full body cast for several months. His pelvis was split; he received three full blood transfusions and was told he would never walk again. Through his own tenacity, he returned to patrol duties on crutches and not only walked again, but was eventually able to compete in numerous running races. The Illinois State Police awarded him with the Purple Heart for his injuries sustained in the line of duty.

*See 'VOY' story page 3*

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# From AMRAC Executive Director Jerry Pionk

I hope as you read this issue of *The Gazette* all of you are in good health and spirits. We've had a busy time with AMRAC this summer and more to come this fall. One issue currently pending is a change in the tax exempt status of AMRAC. AMRAC is a veteran's association formed under section 501c (19) of the IRS code, under the name of our predecessor organization, Not Good Old Boys. We are now moving to the next step, and that is forming under section 501c (3) of the code as a charitable association so we can fully participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and other official fund raisers. This was brought about because of our name change to AMRAC last year. To continue in the CFC, this designation is essential. Once approved, we will retain both designations- charitable and veterans which best describe us and our education grants and other charities. As a result, we will not participate in this year's CFC, but in 2008 expect to attempt a National CFC designation which will allow all of our membership to participate rather than just the Washington DC area.

This issue has a lot of recent events as well. In July, we formally dedicated Terry's Hotrod Lounge in Watertown SD as AMRAC Post #1. The owner of the lounge, **Terry Parrish** has been conducting monthly membership meetings and organizing fund

raisers for AMRAC. In August, we were pleased to confer the *Distinguished Veteran Award* on **Mr. Caesar Fenderson**, a member of the famed Red Ball Express, an African American unit that supported General Patton in the days after the D-Day invasion. The full story is in this issue. In September we converged on Hanover, IL and recognized the 2007 Veteran of the Year, **Gary Schap**. His inspirational story is also in this issue. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, we headed down to Decatur, IL for the wedding of past DC Chairman **John Frazier** and **Elizabeth Wooten**. AMRAC members served in the wedding party. **Dan Hladky** was best man and **John W. Anderson** and **Bob Anetz** served as groomsmen. We wish the bride and groom many years of happiness. We are also pleased to welcome **SFC Michael Beaupre** as a guest columnist in this issue. SFC Beaupre has been recently assigned as the retention operations NCO with the Army G-1 in the Pentagon. We will have rotating guest columnists in future editions to provide different perspectives on various issues. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of retired **SGM John W. Anderson**, currently living in Baltimore and an employee of the Social Security Administration as the new **Director of Veterans Benefits** for AMRAC. His expertise in benefits will greatly aid our

members.

This issue also announces this year's youth essay grant theme and rules. Please encourage young people in your area to enter our essay contest. The Hall of Fame deadline is also approaching. If you know of a deserving nominee, please formally nominate them. Full procedures are on our web site at [www.ngob.net](http://www.ngob.net). Eventually, our goal is to hyperlink the names of all Hall of Fame members, Veterans of the Year and Life Members to the Army registry. If you get a chance, go to the registry web page at: <https://www.usarmyregistry.org/home.aspx>. It's run by the Army historical center and a good place for all current and former Soldiers to place their biography for posterity. We've already entered many names on the site, so if you get the chance check your name, please forward us your biography if it's missing. Navy and USMC veterans can go to the Navy Log at <http://www.lonesailor.org/navylog.php> and follow the same procedures.

The organization has grown steadily and we thank all of you for your support. Please encourage your fellow veterans to join us. They can do so on line at [www.ngob.net](http://www.ngob.net).

## AMRAC Officers Recognized for contributions



During the recent dedication of Terry's Hotrod Lounge as AMRAC National Post #1, Paul Fox, AMRAC member, and the mayor of Watertown, SD recognized three of the event's planners for their long-term contributions to their nation and the work they have accomplished on behalf of veterans and in various youth activities. **Carl Garner**, Commander of the AMRAC Atlantic States Region, **Clem Schroeder**, Commander of the Midwest Region and **Lonnie Mayer**, State Commander of South Dakota were all submitted for an official proclamation by Prairie States Region Commander **Jeff Thronson**. The proclamation was a signed certificate from the mayor that summarized their hard work and accomplishments.

Executive Director Jerry Pionk (far left) Lonnie Mayer, Clem Schroeder and Carl Garner a signed certificate from the mayor of Watertown for their efforts in veteran's causes.



**VOY Gary Schap, cont'd from page one**

In addition to his police duties, he has spent the years since leaving the Army as a productive member of the community. He has received 3 awards for having 100% enrollment at his VFW in Hanover and also obtained about \$45,000 in grants to improve Post #5300. He is active in veteran's affairs, a solid advocate for the military, youth events and community activism. He has four grown children Lisa, Kelly, Rick and Andy. Kelly is currently a Master Sergeant in the Army Reserves, Rick is a Master Sergeant in the Illinois Army National Guard and Andy served 4 years in the US Navy.

The awards were presented before approximately 150 friends of Mr. Schap by Executive Director Jerry Pionk, Awards Committee Chairman **Dan Hladky**, Atlantic States Region Commander, **Carl Garner** and AMRAC Illinois State Commander **Mike Meyers**.



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# Distinguished Veteran Award and Medal of Merit Awarded to Caesar Fenderson

Mr. Caesar Fenderson of Washington DC was recently recognized with the award of the Medal of Merit and the Distinguished Veteran Award by AMRAC. He was also presented with a flag flown over the Pentagon in his honor. The presentation took place on August 29, 2007 in the Pentagon. His daughter and brother along with many Pentagon based AMRAC members were on hand for this special ceremony.

Position: Driver, "Red Ball Express", 3992 Quartermaster Truck Company, Third US Army, Europe, World War II.

Caesar H. Fenderson was born on June 16, 1922. He entered military service in August 1943. He would have joined sooner but they were not taking African-American civilians until that time. Caesar left his hometown of Morehead City, North Carolina under the cover of darkness so that he and a few other boys from his neighborhood could avoid the trouble of being detained and returned to the farms where they were required to work. He made his way to Fort Meade, Maryland after several days of walking and catching rides where he enlisted in to the US Army.

He was inducted and sent to Greensboro, N.C., for basic training and then shipped out to Savanna, Georgia, for three or four months of Anti-Aircraft school. Once that training was completed, he was sent to Kessler Air Force Base at Biloxi, Mississippi, for maintenance training and then on to Fort Lee, Virginia, for truck driver's training. This training consisted of map-reading, compass training and how to read the stars and locate your general position. They were then shipped out to England to prepare for the D-Day invasion. Originally assigned to Omar Bradley's First US Army, he drove 6x6, 2 ½ ton trucks on to the Normandy beach on D-Day +1. Once on shore, his company supported the First US Army by unloading, loading and moving, tons and tons of equipment and rations forward to the front lines to keep our boys



*AMRAC Awards Director, George Taylor (right) presents Mr. Caesar Fenderson the AMRAC Medal of Merit at a local ceremony in the Pentagon.*

"in the fight".

Eventually, his unit attached to General George S. Patton's Third Army and designated as the "Red Ball Express". They continued to provide support services for the forward troops by moving day and night, 24/7 to ensure that the tip of the spear had plenty of bullets and beans. Eventually, the unit was caught up in the Battle of The Bulge and Mr. Fenderson recalls how he "just about froze to death" during several weeks of being tied up and unable to move. Trucks were left running for as long as possible to prevent them from freezing up and to prevent the drivers from freezing up, but to no avail. Eventually, the trucks ran out of fuel and according to Mr. Fenderson: "we got colder than an ice cube". Every time the weather turns cold here in D.C., he thinks of those cold and bitter days in the "bulge". Once the weather cleared and the clouds lifted all that could be seen was hundreds and hundreds of aircraft dropping supplies. He recalls how he never saw so many aircraft in his whole life, and in his own words "they even had B-17 bombers delivering supplies. Now that's what I call service".

Since the unit was going 24/7 and safety risk management hadn't been invented yet they soon became pretty tired out. He recalls how they used to fall a

sleep anywhere and at almost anytime when they could get a few winks between missions. One day he awoke and found that his boots were gone, taken right off his feet while he was asleep. The remedy for that was a statement of charges for one pair of army boots, which he didn't think was very fair, and which he doesn't recall ever paying.

In one of his trips between the Port of Antwerp and the ever moving front lines, they came under attack from enemy fire. He believed it was either a V1 or V2 rocket that hit his convoy and sent him flying through the windshield of his truck. He lost part of my finger and was cut pretty deep above his left eye. He was sent to the 23rd General Hospital near Brussels' where he spent several weeks recuperating. He recalls: "The nicest thing about this hospital, besides the Nurses, was that we could have ice cream anytime we wanted and believe me; I took full advantage of that. I can still taste that sweet creamy strawberry ice cream to this day. Heck we even had ice cream when the rockets were coming in".

Post Script, although Mr. Fenderson did finally receive most of his military medals years after his honorable service, he never received the Purple Heart he should have been awarded for his combat wounds.

## SGM 'Chet' Miller Retires after 23 Years

The good news was that I was retiring from the Army and would be free to do anything that I wanted to do, golf, subject to some new financial constraints; that was also the bad news, since I had spent the last 23+ years working for the Army and was about to take a leap of faith, at the end of which my rope might not be secured.

The "plan," to the extent I had one, was to do human resources (HR) and consulting work with a finance company. The advice I heard from many Army retirees was to take at least a couple months off after retiring before making any decisions related to going back to work in some capacity. I think that was very good advice. Not that I followed it, of course; I didn't take much more than a long weekend off before beginning my "new career" as a National Sales Director for Retention and Recruiting, joining J&A Marketing, a company on the fast track to success and whose main goal is giving Soldiers and their Families a high quality product at a fair price. I knew this was the company I could see myself working for and helping to create a great relationship with the Retention and Recruiting force.

If you are contemplating retirement, I would strongly encourage you to get a very good estimate of your annuity and to figure out, perhaps, with help from a certified financial planner, how much you need to live and, if there is a gap between income and expenditures after retirement, how you plan to fill it.

While it took me no time to appreciate the virtues of working from home, I have come to realize how fortunate I have been. I have had the great opportunity to work for and with some great Americans over my military career—to name just a few, Pionk, Stapleton, Leturno, Farley and McCarthy—who have paved the way for my future



*SGM Chet Miller, seated fourth from the right on the first row and immediately to the right of Army CSM Preston in the above photo taken on a recent deployment to Afghanistan, retires after 23 years of service.*

success. Their leadership and example have encouraged and inspired me as well as others, to think forward and continue to do what I love doing—serving Soldiers!

I loved serving the Army and always want to stay a Soldier, although a "Still Serving" one on the retired roles. I offer the best of luck to every Soldier, Career Counselor, and Recruiter out there, who every day has the role to keep our Army strong and manned to accomplish the mission worldwide. It has been my honor to serve with each of you and if our paths cross again, it will be my pleasure to shake your hand in the job you still do everyday. God bless and God speed.

I have a great wife, Julie and wonderful daughter, Madelyn who I plan to spend more time with than golfing, and you know how much I love that! They have been there for me over the years and sacrificed a lot so that

I could progress in the Army and the success that brought to us. I owe them a lot and plan to make that a priority of mine.

"You never know what you can get away with until you try" Colin Powell and words I have lived by for 23 years, its sits on an eagle plaque on my desk from a great team, you know who you are.

Respectfully and still serving!  
"Army Strong"

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# AMRAC Awards and Essays for FY 2008

**From the desk of George Taylor, Director of Awards and Recognition:**

## Retention Hall of Fame Committee Selections

The Military Recruiting and Retention Hall of Fame Committee will make its annual selections for inclusion in the Military Recruiting and Retention Hall of Fame. The committee will meet in mid October 2007 and announce its selections in late October.

To be considered by the Hall of Fame committee, the individual must be retired from the military for at least one year or meet the criteria as listed on the AMRAC web site at [http://www.ngob.net/hof\\_intro.htm](http://www.ngob.net/hof_intro.htm). Nominations can be submitted by any AMRAC member knowing of a worthy candidate. Voting is conducted by the 10 member Hall of Fame advisory board, comprised of current Hall of Fame members and chaired by the AMRAC Director of Awards and Recognition.

- Eligibility is open to all retired former military or civilian recruiters and counselors from all military services, active or reserve.
- Current Hall of Fame members will comprise the voting committee.
- Awards will be procured and presented by AMRAC.

## 2007 School Year Essay Contest

The Association will again conduct its annual youth essay contest. This year's theme is: *"What is the Role of a Responsible American Citizen?"*

### Rules and Eligibility:

- The essay contest is open to high school or college students between the ages of 14 (as of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2007) and 19 years of age (as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008).
- Essays must be typed, double spaced and at least 500 words in length.
- Total prize money will depend on the number of entries. Winning entries will receive up to \$500.00. Other separate essay endowments are also available in addition to our Association's essay contest. To offer a grant or scholarship in the name of a loved one or special cause, contact the editor at [ngobl@aol.com](mailto:ngobl@aol.com).
- Entries must be post marked no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

**Nominations for the Distinguished Veteran Award, Medal of Merit and International Friendship Award can be made at any time. See our web site at [http://www.ngob.net/awards\\_honors.htm](http://www.ngob.net/awards_honors.htm) for full details.**







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why it's getting harder. "Soldiers aren't getting movement options", "Soldiers are waiting to get paid a bonus", every now and then you even get the one that goes like this; "We need to take care of the Soldier and make sure he gets everything we can give him". I say bologney. We need to stop selling options and start selling Army. I've got an idea that might help most of us do just that.

Did you know the Army is just like most Fortune 500 companies? In fact it's even better. Yep I said it, better. Most Fortune 500 companies have great plans to lure people in. You get medical coverage, dental coverage, vacation time

and retirement benefits. The Army has these too. Here is the difference; in most Fortune 500 companies you will have to pay on average over \$500.00 a month for your medical and dental coverage, and most won't take effect until you've been with the company for at least a year. In the military both are free for all Soldiers and you get them the day you ship to Basic Training. If you have family, you pay a little co-pay and Tri-care takes care of the rest. It gets even better when we talk about retirement benefits.

Most Fortune 500 companies have 401k programs that can be lucrative. Remember though, you have to pay into them. If you stay until 20 years in the military you are guaranteed a percentage of your pay for the rest of your life. That's right, get out at 20 years (you are 39 years old in most cases) and not only are you young enough to start a new career with all your military background and training, but you get a paycheck from Uncle Sam to boot. Turn 50 years old get a paycheck. Turn 60 years old get a paycheck. Turn 85 years old and your still getting that paycheck. To add to that the Army also has the TSP program. Though it doesn't match funds, it pays a higher percentage, and if you really look at it you get two benefits when you retire; a guaranteed pay check for the rest of your life and a nest egg for your retirement years.

Enough ranting for now; I'll save some for next time we chat. Remember that it's your job to sell the Army. It's the Soldiers job, with some help from his family to make an informed decision as to whether or not he wants to stay with this great team. Quit selling options and start selling the great things "OUR" Fortune 500 Company has to offer. Stay safe out there and remember, "Stay Army"!

SFC Michael Beaupre  
HQDA, Retention Operations NCO

As the Global War on Terrorism hits its sixth year, it becomes tougher and tougher to convince young men and women to continue their military careers through reenlistment. This is the first time in recent history that we as Career Counselors are attempting to retain an all volunteer force.

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