

Update - January 27, 2010

Ohio State moose association

O.S.M.A. # 1 MISSION
growing the
Moose program



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This Ohio Moose Update is published on the website by noon each Wednesday and meets the approval of the publisher, the Ohio State Moose Association, John R. Sipes, Secretary.

Updates Editor is Jim Grandy.

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Let's kick this off right, with a report from Danny Albert!



Well, it's not exactly a report, but it is a kick-off idea for your Lodge's golfers. Let's continue to promote the 'Gimme 5' Program by supporting 'Gimme 5' with your opening league scramble this spring!

Every foursome ought to be encouraged to chip in nine bucks to make up a \$36.50 check that represents one annual gift to Moose Charities, the equivalent of two nickels per day for a year (Yeah, I know. . . someone's got to kick in fifty cents



to make it come out right!). My point is that if you could create any kind of incentive to get at least ten teams for your opening scramble, you could generate almost \$400 for the Gimme 5 program. One incentive, for example, could be this: if your foursome generated \$36.50, your foursome would get nine mulligans to be used any where in the 18 holes. Or you could allow each foursome to have a 50/50 drawing between now and spring to gener-

ate the moneys. The point is to be creative and use the challenge of golf to generate support for our Gimme 5 Program

gimmefive!

What's Your SHOOT Number?

How many new
members ...

+ *Do You Need?*

+ *Can you stand?*

BE A PART OF
THE SOLUTION!

Dayton 73 Moose Legion Honors Deputy Supreme Governor Ken Ourant and Recognizes Others' Efforts



Moose Legion Secretary Ted Haas recognizes Nancy Caserta (top), Heather Preston, (center right), and Jerry Swim (Right), Moose Legionnaire of the month for December), and Anita Farish (far right) for outstanding contributions to the efforts of the Dayton 73 Moose Legion. (Above) Heather Preston dances with ted's grandson K.C. at the annual Christmas Party.





5 Club

Jerry Shorter, Columbus 11
William D Wahrer, Columbus 11
Richard Hill, Dayton 73
Keith E Wilson, Dayton 73
Jim Souders, Findlay 698
Terry Ray, Ravenna 1234
Floyd Mason, Newcomerstown 1337
Michael J Binkowski, Sylvania 1579
Henry J McCartney, Defiance 2094
Kevin S Davis, Woodsfield 2247
John Howard, Waverly 2263
Raymond Fisher, Wapokoneta 2654

25 Division

John Lukens, Cincinnati 2

50 Division

Sharon Hildreth, Bucyrus 741

150 Division

David W Sloan, Bucyrus 669

250 Division

Larry Wilfong, Barberton 759
Donald Lazenby, Port Clinton 1610

300 Division

Henry J McCartney, Defiance 2094

Director General's Circle of Distinction

Brian D Cox, Celina 1473

Congratulations are in order to the latest member-sponsors who have won a \$50 gas card from the Association. These four people are . . .

Cindy K Moler, Middletown 183
Rick Ponasak, Bryan 1064

Evelyn Zeller, Tiffin 1001
Dennis A Reeves, Galion 303

Give Gifts That Save Lives

That illusive idea for community service project that won't cost a fortune often plagues the Committee that is seeking the 'right' kind of thing to do for needy persons in their communities.

As you know, a gift can be for a special occasion or given as a random act of kindness to surprise another. What if your gift could help save a person's life?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends showing how much you really care by giving emergency preparedness items as gifts, including:

- Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors
- Appropriate fire extinguishes
- Foldable ladders for second-story escape routes
- Disaster kits for home and vehicle
- NOAA

Weather radios and extra batteries

- Enrollment in a CPR or first-aid class

Visit fema.gov or floodsmart.gov for additional ideas on disaster preparedness.



Let's Keep Ohio's Veterans Close To Our Hearts!

In the January 13th update, we featured the latest effort of VAVS Co-Chairmen Jim Gibson and Ross Miller, along with OSMA President Bob Halley in their continued support of Ohio's veterans at Chillicothe. We are certain that others across the state similarly support the veterans' hospitals in their areas (The Sandusky VA Hospital immediately comes to mind, for example.), but we don't get pictures and accounts of the efforts of those units--Lodges, Moose Legions, and Chapters for the veterans in the hospital in their areas.

We need your cooperation in getting stories and pictures for our weekly updates. Send them to Updates Editor Jim Grandy, 8927 Columbus Road #4, Mt. Vernon 43050 or to Webmaster Steve Speaks, who will forward them to Grandy.

Accordingly, we have pulled a story from the military publication "Stars and Stripes," written by Monte Morin, the Sunday, January 15, 2006, Mideast edition and a single picture to stress once again this important community service function of Ohio Moose and to inspire Ohio units with that sense of defiance on the part of Gunnery Sgt. Michael Burghardt, hero of both the story and the picture. Article follows:

"RAMADI, Iraq--For Marine Gunnery Sgt. Michael Burghardt, the business of hunting down and defusing roadside bombs is something of a deadly chess game.

"Burghardt, 36, of Fountain Valley, Calif., is probably one of the best-known and most well-respected improvised bomb experts in Iraq, where his skills are in constant demand.

"Last September, an embedded journalist snapped a photo of Burghardt moments after a roadside bomb exploded on him in a notoriously troubled corner of wester Ramadi--a city that Burghardt describes as 'the

scariest place on Earth.' The image shows Burghardt with bloodied legs and shredded uniform, flipping the bird to an unseen insurgent who triggered the bomb. *[Picture appears on next page.]*

"The photo has circulated widely among military personnel in Iraq, who view it as a power symbol of resolve and fighting spirit.

"It's one hell of a picture,' said Col. John L Gronski, commander of U.S. troops in and around Ramadi.

"The 2-28 Brigade Combat Team commander keeps an enlarged, autographed copy on his office wall.

"Whether Burghardt is using a Mars rover-type robot or a knife blade to probe for bombs, or searching for them in a heavily armored Buffalo mine-clearing vehicle, his goal is to outmaneuver the fertile yet deadly imagination of the unseen bomb-maker and, he hopes, save the lives of fellow soldiers and Marines.

"Now, with roughly two months remaining in his third Iraq tour, Burghardt shakes his head in wonder at the variety and evolution of the roadside bombs he has encountered and the relentlessness with which they're planted.

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Washing machine timers, cordless telephone docking stations, battery acid, shaped charges and artillery rounds seemingly scrounged from all corners of the globe are the insurgents' currently preferred tools. Yet Burghardt said it's only a matter of time before they move on to newer and deadlier devices.

"It's a big game of chess,' Burghardt said. 'They're thinking their steps through on how to beat us, and we're doing the same thing.'

"In the hierarchy of roadside bombers, Burghardt said insurgents are divided into three groups; those who plant bombs; those who design them; and those who finance the process.

"The lowest rungs, those who plant the improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, are most likely doing it for financial reasons as opposed to any ideology, he said.

"It's almost like a drug habit,' Burghardt said. "There are the guys on the top who have the money and do the planning, and then there are the crack addicts down below. They make their living planting IED after IED until somebody puts a bullet in them.'

"While roadside bombs remain the No. 1 killer of U.S. troops in Iraq, aggressive efforts at finding improvised explosive devices in and around Ramadi have reduced the number of attacks here from a September high of 45 a week to fewer than 15 currently, the U.S. military reports.

"Burghardt earned the Bronze Star for disabling 64 roadside bombs and destroying more than 1,500 pieces of ordnance during his second Iraq tour.

"But he and his fellow explosive ordnance disposal technicians do not always beat the bomb-makers and planters.

"Already, five EOD technicians Burghardt has worked with have been killed, the most recent death occurring three weeks ago when the technician sunk his knife into

a dirt berm and activated the pressure switch on a buried bomb.

"'Pink mist,' Burghardt said gravely, using the term familiar to Marines to describe the aftermath of a person being blown up.

"The day Burghardt found himself checkmated by a roadside bomber was Sept. 19. He was in Ramadi's wild Tammim neighborhood as part of a team of bomb technicians responding to the scene of a chaotic ambush in which four U.S. personnel were killed.

"Burghardt, who was looking to clear an evacuation route for the vehicles, hopped into what he thought was a recent bomb crater. He said he saw an interesting piece of shrapnel in the 4 1/2-foot-deep hole and wanted to investigate. As he took a closer look, the shattered gravel beneath his foot suddenly shifted, revealing a package wrapped in orange plastic and a cordless telephone base station.

"Realizing that he had just stumbled onto a primed explosive, Burghardt stuck his knife in the dirt and dredged up a red detonating cord that led to a pair of 122 mm artillery shells. He cut the cord with scissors and told the rest of his team to stay back.

"'I thought I had done good,' Burghardt said.

"But what he didn't realize was that a second detonating cord ran from the base station to a third artillery shell buried behind him. The triggerman, figuring perhaps that he wouldn't lure anyone else into the trap that day, placed a telephone call to the base station.

"That's when I heard the distinct crack of that artillery shell,' Burghardt said.

"The explosion sent Burghardt 10 feet into the air and dropped him in a heap on the road as his team watched in horror.

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“All I remember is opening my eyes and hearing a ringing in my ears,’ he said. ‘They all thought I was dead, but when I started to move, I could hear them yell, “He’s alive!””

“Burghardt could not feel his legs. Trying not to look below his waist -- afraid of what he might see -- he was struck by an image of his father. The retired Marine spent three tours in Vietnam, earning three Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts by the time he was shot by a sniper and paralyzed from the waist down.

“I didn’t want my dad to see me in a wheelchair next to him,’ Burghardt said.

“But relief came quickly. Burghardt

Burghardt said, he felt a wave of anger and adrenaline flow through his system. He had just extended his Iraq tour that morning and he was livid that he had been bested by the bomber.

“I was really pissed off that they got me, that all this time, they got me,’ Burghardt said. ‘I figured the triggerman was still watching, so I flipped him off. I yelled, “[Expletive] you! I’ll be out here next week!’

“It was at this moment that photographer Jeff Bundy of the Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald snapped the photo that would be seen on office walls, refrigerators, screensavers, Web sites and newspapers throughout Iraq and the U.S.

“Since then, Burghardt has had plenty of other experiences with exploding roadside bombs, but they’ve been from the relative safety of a heavily armored mine-clearing vehicle called a Buffalo.

“The vehicle, which deactivates explosives using a long, hydraulic arm, is also outfitted with large ballistic glass windows that give occupants an up-close view of the explosives. Burghardt rides along with other technicians to give advice to the arm operator on how to deal with the explosives.

“He describes the experience of riding in a Buffalo and getting close to bombs as something akin to visiting an

‘IED petting zoo.’ The excitement of watching an explosive being dismantled -- or of watching it explode in a fiery blast -- from the protection of a Buffalo is beyond compare, Burghardt said.

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was able to wiggle his toes.

“Medics cut away his bloody pants to reveal that the backs of his legs had been studded with shrapnel and bruised from the top of his boots to his waist. As they prepared to place him in a stretcher, Burghardt shouted, ‘No.’ He didn’t want his teammates or the insurgents to see him carried from the scene. He was going to walk.

“As he was helped to his feet,

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“There will be no amusement park ride back in the states that can compare with the Buffalo,” he said. “You will never get a chance to get that close to an IED and feel all of those emotions, happiness, suspense, adrenaline.”

“So far, Burghardt has seen at least 20 roadside bombs explode while riding in the Buffalo. Each time the vehicle rolls up to a

suspected IED, Burghardt said, the emotions are the same. It’s back to the chess game.

“You’re in suspense--what’s gonna happen?” Burghardt said. “You have control, but you don’t know what the bomb builder has in store for you. You don’t know what else he’s put out there.

“That’s where it’s a chess game. You’re out there and you’re waiting for that queen to come sliding across the board.”

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EDITOR’S NOTE: Although the article and picture are dated, the spirit of that defiant gesture of Gunnery Sgt. Burghardt, accompanied by his rush of resentment and being livid with the sense of having been bested by the bomber, is the kind of attitude that we hope that Ohio Moose who have waded through this lengthy article will share when they see the picture and finish the article.

Our point from the beginning has been to underscore the following:

1. We need to continue to do all we can for Ohio veterans.
2. We need to share our collective experiences through stories and pictures.
3. We need to remember that one of ours --like Burghardt’s father--could similarly be in a wheel chair.

GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!