



## Things to do

### Spouse spectacular

Online registration for Military Spouse Appreciation Day, "Spouse A Palooza," continues at [www.sillmwr.com](http://www.sillmwr.com). The free wellness-themed event is May 9 from 6-8 p.m. at the Patriot Club and is open to active duty spouses with ID cards. Dress comfortably and enjoy Zumba and yoga demonstrations, well-deserved pampering and door prizes. Refreshments will be served. More information is available on the website or by calling Army Community Service at 580-442-4916.

### Polo match

Fort Sill's 4th Annual Polo Classic is May 11 on Polo Field at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Enjoy entertainment by the 77th Army Band and a divot stomp. Divot stompers receive a free drink for stomping divots.

For more information visit [www.sillmwr.com](http://www.sillmwr.com).

### PSC luncheon

Join the Fort Sill Patriot Spouses' Club for its next luncheon which includes the induction of the new PSC Executive Board and presentation of scholarship awards May 13 at 11 a.m. at the Patriot Club.

### Strong BANDS

Buy a combo meal at the Strike Zone (inside Twin Oaks Bowling Center, receive a free game and get Strong BANDS. The Army "Strong BANDS" campaign promotes physical fitness, nutrition, optimal health and resilience by focusing on balance, activity, nutrition, determination and strength.

### Story walk

Exercise the mind and body at Nye Library's walk and read event at Martha Songbird Trail. Take a stroll together from one page to the next and enjoy a story in a new and meaningful way. Sign-up at Nye Library. For more information call 580-442-2048/3806.

### Armed Forces Day

The 50th anniversary of Lawton-Fort Sill Armed Forces Day, a free event, is May 17 from noon to 4 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. at Elmer Thomas Park in Lawton. The event includes military vehicle displays, a car show, inflatable bounces houses, a climbing wall and other

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# WWII vet shares his wisdom

Story, photo  
By James Brabenec

May 8, 1945, Allied forces celebrated victory over the German army; after four hard years of war American service members were ready to go home and get on with their lives.

Pfc. Hall Duncan was one of those GIs, but wasn't eligible to return stateside as he didn't have enough points to qualify to leave.

Undaunted, he chose to put that time to good use. The Oklahoma City native enrolled in college classes in what became a lifetime pursuit of self-improvement. Having just eclipsed 90 years of life, Duncan encouraged today's Soldiers to prepare for the future.

"Wherever you are take advantage of the opportunities to learn," he said. "Try to tie them in with things that you believe might be [job or career] possibilities for you later in life."

Like many of today's Soldiers, Duncan's enlistment included combat. He arrived in France as a combat engineer in 1944, but fighting was so fierce, he was soon pressed into service as an

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Dr. Hall Duncan, a 90-year-old World War II veteran, talks about his cartooning, just one of many skills he developed and taught to other people. Duncan has always advocated the importance of self-improvement and encourages today's Soldiers to do the same to best prepare for their future.

# Post celebrates 145 years in frontier style

Story, photos  
By Ben Sherman

Students from a number of schools around Southwest Oklahoma experienced frontier life 145 years ago at the Fort Sill Frontier Army Days May 2.

"This event is a great chance for us to continue the Frontier Army Days event. We have eight groups of students ranging from 22 to 60 from Walters, Sterling, Lawton and other area schools. We're expecting about 640 students today," said Frank Siltman, Fort Sill museum services director. "They are rotating through each of our demonstration stations: infantry, artillery, cavalry, surgeons, laundry and the guardhouse. We also have a new event, a schoolmarm demonstrating how frontier games were played."

One of most popular demonstrations was the firing of a Civil War-era cannon. Zane Mohler, Army FA Museum display specialist, was part of the four-man gun detachment.

"We're shooting blanks out of a reproduction 1841 six-pound smooth bore cannon. The crew functions just like today's gun crews, except we're loading from the front, and modern guns load from the back," Mohler said. "I think the kids are getting a lot out of the demonstration, because they see how we operate. They have many



Gregory Henry portrays a Buffalo Soldier from the 9th & 10th Horse Cavalry regiments May 2. He let students from Sheridan Road Elementary School on Fort Sill pet his horse while explaining the role Buffalo Soldiers played at Fort Sill in the late 1800s.

questions about what things are and why we do certain things. Many kids aren't familiar with Fort Sill and don't know much about artillery."

Another popular event was the Buffalo Soldier demonstration in front of the cavalry barracks. Students saw how the all-black 9th and 10th horse cavalry regiment lived, on post and on the plains. The students were especially interested in the horses the Buffalo Soldiers

rode when they were on patrol, which could last seven to 10 days.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Cherry, dressed as a corporal in a Buffalo Soldier uniform, explained to the students how Soldiers lived when they were out on patrol.

"This is how they set up their tents, and what kind of weapons they carried. These weapons you see were specifically designed for the cavalry. They were lightweight with short barrels and were easily man-

aged from the back of a horse," Cherry said.

"I like being able to talk about the Buffalo Soldiers, whom a lot of these kids aren't aware of. We're here to portray the Soldiers who were part of this period and helped shape life on the frontier."

The infantry demonstration station showed how regular Soldiers lived. Cal Kinzer, a museum volunteer, explained to students from Walters Elementary School the essential equipment of frontier-era Soldiers.

"The rifles that Soldiers had during this time were not as accurate as modern weapons, but they were a great improvement over what they had in the War of 1812, a little over 55 years earlier," Kinzer said. "The earlier muskets fired round ammunition and weren't as accurate as rifles after the Civil War, which used bullets more like modern ones."

He also explained how a rubberized poncho served many purposes, from being half of a waterproof tent, to a tarp that protected all of a Soldier's equipment. With their rifle, blanket and other supplies, a Soldier would carry about 35-40 lbs. of equipment, said Kinzer.

Next to the infantry demonstration was one that showed an everyday part of frontier life, doing the laundry. Lori Siltman portrayed a

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# Chaplains prep for commemorative walk

By Sgt. Joe Dees  
214th Fires Brigade

Staff Sgt. Braden Meyer, 214th Fires Brigade chaplain assistant, and Fort Sill installation chaplain (Col.) Matthew Pawlikowski, are working together to organize a team of chaplains and chaplain assistants to participate in the annual Pilsen Pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage is a three-day, 60-mile walk that honors Army Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Kapaun, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Korean War, who following capture by Chinese forces in 1950 selflessly assisted and carried for wounded comrades during an 87-mile forced march to a prison camp.

"This is an event to honor one of our fallen heroes, the very embodiment of an Army chaplain, and we want to raise awareness about the valor and duties of the Army's chaplain corps," said Meyer, the Fort Sill group's noncommissioned officer in charge.

The idea to participate in the pilgrimage came from Pawlikowski following a widely enjoyed installation unit ministry team ruckmarch in January. Since then, a group of 16 Soldiers



Photo by Capt. Charlie Dietz

**Chaplains, chaplain assistants and friends carry a 120-pound stretcher during a 20-mile march May 3 at Fort Sill. The group of 16 has been training since January for the upcoming Pilsen Pilgrimage, a three-day, 60-mile walk from Wichita to Pilsen, Kan. in remembrance of Chaplain (Capt.) Emil Kapaun, a Medal of Honor recipient.**

and civilians from across post train with Crossfit-style workouts and ruckmarches three times a week to prepare their legs and minds for the grueling event. To make the task more difficult, the group intends to carry a 120-pound stretcher the pilgrimage's entire 60 miles to honor of Kapaun's heroic deeds in Korea.

"We've had to develop

new types of carries to keep from wearing out," explained Meyer. "By changing carries and socks often, we keep ourselves fresh, helping to prevent dehydration and other injuries."

Organizing the team has been no small task for Meyer and Pawlikowski, who keep abreast of their daily duties on top of watching the weather for training

opportunities, updating risk management assessments for training and keeping their team motivated for what is a long and difficult road ahead. Organizing the group is no easy task either. Some participants, such as Maj. Jerrod Glenn, incoming 214th Fires Brigade chaplain, have yet to arrive in person and others are at new duty stations.

In their history, only nine chaplains have been awarded the Medal of Honor while countless Soldiers have benefited from their services. The Fort Sill participants in the Pilsen Pilgrimage wish to draw attention to the heroism and selfless service of their branch's history. The also hope to attract the attention and interest of chaplains and chaplain assistants to make the annual event an Armywide recognition of Kapaun's actions and those of all unit ministry teams.

Walking twenty miles is an accomplishment all on its own [doing so] miles while carrying a weighted stretcher kicks it up to a whole new level," said Pawlikowski. "I'm now confident that everyone who walked with us this past Saturday can complete the entire event at the end of the month."

In addition to honoring Kapaun, Pawlikowski said the pilgrimage also honors a whole group of men who became POWs during the Korean War and endured hardships most would find hard even to imagine.

"I hope to give a good showing to the American public that Soldiers remember and honor those who have gone before us," he said. Kapaun was born to

Czech immigrants in Pilsen, Kan. in 1915. After attending seminary at Conception Abbey Seminary in St. Louis and Catholic University and a stint as a priest in his hometown, Kapaun joined the Army as a chaplain in 1943. He served in the Chinese-Burma Theater in World War II and then in Korea in 1950.

It was there that he became famous for his heroics of tending to wounded Soldiers under fire and performing Mass from the hood of his Jeep. As with all heroes, Kapaun's heroism was displayed under the most adverse conditions, namely his time spent enduring torture and starvation in the POW camp where he died following his capture in the Battle of Unsan. The Catholic Church is in the process of canonizing Kapaun and endowing sainthood upon him.

"It is important to recognize the past and understand that the actions and experiences of those before us are sometimes unfathomable," said Meyer. "I think there is a part of all of us that look at Chaplain Kapaun's deeds and want to know that if we faced what he faced, would we have the will to do so."

## WWII

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infantryman. His unit, 3rd Battalion, 101st Infantry Regiment, was helping to clear the way for Lt. Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army just prior to the Battle of the Bulge.

"We were put into combat as quickly as they could get us there; so quick, you didn't know the buddy next to you," he said. "I didn't know my officers; the Germans were very good at picking out and eliminating them."

Fighting to liberate Bourgaltruff and Guebling, France, his unit was wiped out nearly three times. He said German machine gunners mowed down men like ducks at a county fair shooting gallery.

"I don't know how many

Beethovens, Bachs, scientists and counselors were killed that day," said Duncan who estimated he was one of five or 10 survivors out of hundreds killed.

Barely a week into the fighting, Duncan was carrying a wounded battle buddy out of harm's way when he too was wounded and sent to an Army Field hospital. His brief combat time earned him a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. While under medical care, he met the "Old Man" as Soldiers in the 3rd Army called Patton.

"He came around, I'm almost sure, to find out why the losses [were so great]," said Duncan.

He remained in France to recover from his wounds, and in time, became friends with a couple French families that continue today.

When the war ended in Europe, he applied for and was accepted to study at Edinburgh and Aberdeen, Scotland. Following two brief terms, he'd accumulated enough points to return to the United States where he was discharged in April 1946. He then employed a benefit many veterans tapped into.

"I would never be where I am today without the GI Bill," said Duncan, who also studied in China, Scotland, Ireland and Belgium.

Even as he studied for his future, his mind continued to wrestle with the intensity and carnage he witnessed in battle. For the next eight years, he suffered from what today is known as post traumatic stress disorder. Then, he discovered peace within and a way to cope with the images and incidents that

still occupied his mind — "It's helping other people," he said emphatically.

Initially he thought his cartooning would be his best ticket to make a difference in the world via newspaper editorial pages. Though this proved successful, his combat time compelled him to do more with his life than make money.

He found meaning doing mission work in the Congo and in South Africa where he taught literacy and art.

Education remained a centerpiece of his service to others. He completed master's degrees in anthropology and education, taught college classes at Oklahoma State University for 17 years and finished a doctoral degree in cross cultural communication in South Africa.

Victor Driver is one of the many people Duncan helped along the way as he recruited him to attend Central State University with a personal letter and a phone invitation to visit the art department.

"As a student, I had great respect for [Dr. Duncan] without knowing about his life experience in World War II or as a missionary in Africa," said Driver, who refers to his mentor as Dad. "I get to see a man who practices what he believes in: the Golden Rule."

Recently, Duncan's life returned full circle back to France, where, in a sense, events long ago shaped what would become his life's work. Through contacts with French friends, he learned about a program to present the nation's Legion of Honor to World War II service members who aided French efforts to shed the yoke of Nazi tyranny. Duncan sent in paperwork, and returned to France in November to receive his medal.

The ceremony, Nov. 19, included active duty French soldiers, citizens of Guebling and Bourgaltruff, and the commandant of the French army in northeastern France who pinned the medal on him.

"I received that medal on behalf of all who fell the day I was there; it's not about me at all," he said. "Where it should be is with those who have gone before they are the ones who deserve the awards."

Living in a modest, orderly apartment, Duncan is surrounded by manuscripts, cartoons he's drawn and partially completed projects that vie for his attention. At an age when many people sit back and relax, he continues, with Driver's assistance, to look to the future and new ways to help others. Recently, he published a youth novel, "Escape to Macaya," about a teen kidnapped and sold into slavery. That issue caught Duncan's attention and he expects it will keep him busy for however long he has left in his lifetime.

*(Editor's note: Duncan will visit the Fort Sill Main Exchange, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to sign copies of his latest book.)*



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