



Roy & Linda Ayers

by LINDA AYERS TURNER KNORR

“America, America, God shed His grace on thee...” How blessed we are to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave! Having freedom of choice to participate in the sports of our American Kennel Club is one of our great blessings. As we celebrate Independence Day this month, let us pay tribute and give thanks to a few members of our sport who have served our country’s armed forces. We remain a free country today because of the sacrifices of US servicemen and women.

How ironic that the only living War Dog Handler from World War II is one of our sport’s greatest achievers. Long before Bob Forsyth married his sometimes-rival, AKC confirmation professional handler Jane Kamp, and before they went on to become two of our most beloved All-Breed judges, he entered WWII as a private in the United States Marine Corps.

Bob served with the first Marine War Dog unit that was attached to the 2nd Marine raider battalion. In Guam, Bogan Ville and Okinawa, 2nd Lt. Forsyth and his dogs were valuable assets as they were used for searches, as messengers and as guards. Later Bob served as an executive officer for a tank unit in Korea.

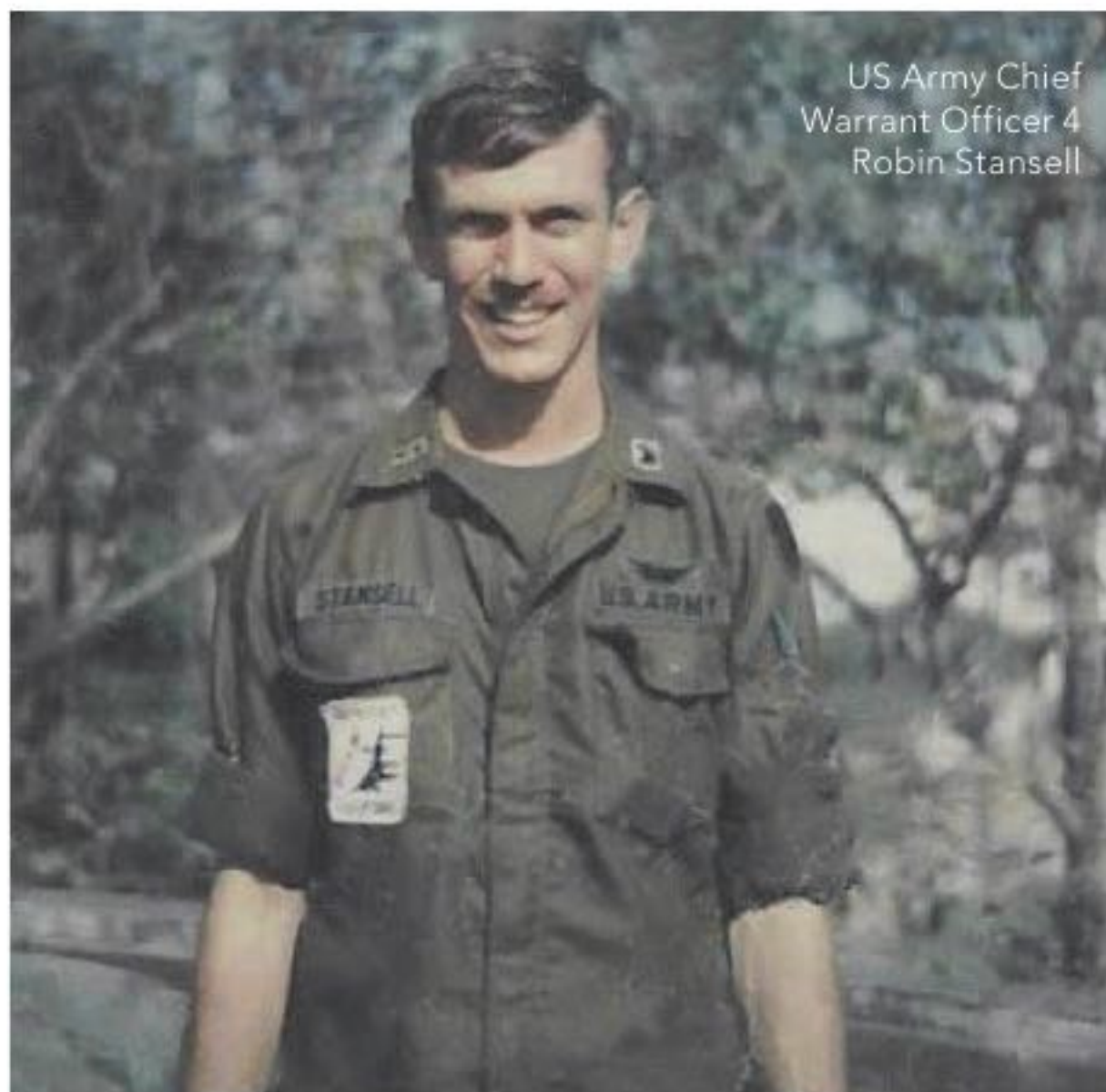
Sadly, on July 3rd of last year Jane passed away. Now Bob’s greatest joy comes as their daughter Sioux Forsyth-Green is in the midst of becoming an AKC judge. The Forsyth legend continues!

“...LET US PAY TRIBUTE AND GIVE THANKS TO A FEW MEMBERS OF OUR SPORT WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY’S ARMED FORCES.”



US Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenant Robert S. Forsyth

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US Army Chief
Warrant Officer 4
Robin Stansell

ROBIN STANSELL

US ARMY CHIEF
WARRANT OFFICER 4

Robin enlisted in the Army in December 1964. The first three years he served as an x-ray technician and medic in Germany, achieving the rank of Specialist 5. During a medevac helicopter flight, he met a new pilot who explained flight training. Since his job as x-ray technician offered little excitement he applied to attend flight training, and in 1968 his flying career began.

Like most new helicopter pilots in 1969, Robin was immediately assigned to the Republic of Vietnam. Needless to say, his life was no longer lacking excitement. He was assigned to a flight detachment supporting a Military Intelligence Group. Robin flew on a variety of missions throughout Vietnam and neighboring countries. Following his tour in Vietnam, Stansell was again assigned to Germany as a scout helicopter instructor pilot. An assignment to Fort Ord, California gave him experience as an attack helicopter pilot and instrument flight examiner, as well as a great depth in warfare flying in the Mojave Desert. His third tour in Germany was spent as a Cobra pilot and flight examiner. Upon returning to the US, he was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas where he attended flight training in the Apache attack helicopter. Working in conjunction with the Marines, Air Force and NATO forces, they developed tactics using the Apache night fighting capabilities in missions around the US Engineering from Embry-Riddle University.

After retiring in 1989, Robin worked as an engineering test pilot for various divisions of Rockwell International, where he was responsible for developing advanced fire control and communications systems for the Apache. In addition to his test pilot duties, Robin was a program coordinator for a variety of military programs for the US Army and South Korean military. This included

overseeing the installation of equipment in worldwide military bases and providing ground and flight instruction for the pilots. When Boeing purchased our division of Rockwell, Robin was responsible for modifying helicopters for US special operation forces and the UK until his retirement in 2001.

In 2001, Robin Stansell became an AKC Executive Field Representative. Although he enjoyed working with Clubs, exhibitors, judges and attending shows, in 2003 he accepted a position in Raleigh as Director of Conformation, Rules and Policies. His duties at AKC continued to grow into Vice President of Event Operations.

Since his retirement in 2012, Robin enjoys judging and exhibiting dogs with his wife Cindy, who is also a judge and popular AKC Delegate.

JEAN HEATH

US NAVY CAPTAIN

In 1951, Jean enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve Officer Candidate Program while she was a freshman at the University of Illinois. By 1954, Jean had



US Navy
Captain
Jean Heath

graduated from college and transferred to the Medical Service Corps where she would serve as a physical therapist. While studying at the Mayo Clinic School of Physical Therapy Jean began training for Navy Active Duty in the fall of 1955. She was soon promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade, 2.

From September 1956 until December 1961, Jean was a staff physical therapist at the US Naval Hospital's East Coast Amputee Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her main duties included lower extremity amputee training and other life saving rehabilitation. During this time Jean was promoted to Lieutenant.

Achievements such as Head of the Physical Therapy Department at the US Naval Hospital in Illinois, the first Navy medical specialist in physical therapy to be selected for a full time position postgraduate school and a promotion to Lieutenant Commander allowed Jean to become a master in her field. In the late 1960s Jean shaped the world of Physical Therapy by being apart of a curriculum development team for the Physical and Occupational Therapy Tech School. Jean went on to become a Clinical Professor for Stanford University and the University of California in the 70s. She was soon promoted to Captain before her retirement in 1977.

Excelling in everything she does, Jean represented commands in All Navy sports such as basketball, softball and bowling. In 1968, Jean was Captain and Champion of the All Navy championship women's bowling team. And don't even think beating her on the golf course today. Jean Heath is always a winner!

Jean is also known for her unforgettable top-winning Black Watch Terriers. During a visit in her California home, I will always remember playing on the floor with my favorite of her dogs, Ch. Black Watch Awesome Blossom. The name truly described that little Lakeland Terrier that was the top-winning Lakeland in the history of the breed and the 16th dog in AKC history to win 100 All Breed Bests in Show—Blossom was awesome!

JOE B. PURKHISER US AIR FORCE LIEUTENANT COLONEL

A very handsome young Joe Purkhiser enlisted in the US Air Force right out of Indiana University as an Airman Basic. During Basic Training, he qualified for the Aviation Cadet Program and won his wings and commission a year and a half later. During his Pilot training days, he met Murrel and they were married soon after graduation. Joe's first assignment was as a Flight Instructor, which was very fortunate as it allowed him to gain many flying hours and much experience in a very short time.

Over the years, Joe flew the Air Force version of the Boeing 707, as an Aerial Refueling Tanker, Airborne Command Post and Reconnaissance Aircraft, as well as the Air Force version of the Boeing 747.



After being promoted to Lt. Colonel, Joe became Operations Officer and then Commander of the 2nd Airborne Command and Control Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base and Commander of Detachment 1, 6th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing in Shemya, Alaska. Following promotion to Colonel he was appointed Deputy Commander for Operations, 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, Offutt Air Force Base with responsibilities for World Wide Airborne Reconnaissance, Airborne Command and Control and Airborne Presidential communications. Joe ended his career with a four-year tour as the United States Defense Attaché in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Col. Purkhiser and his wife Murrel are both AKC judges, with Joe being among the elite few judges recognized as an All-Rounder.

HARRY "BUTCH" SHULMAN US AIR FORCE LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Lt. Col. Butch Shulman is retired from the United States Air Force with over 22 years of service to our country. He is the recipient of the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal (Second Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Force Commendation Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and many others





US Air Force
Lieutenant
Colonel Harry
"Butch"
Shulman

including the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Award. Butch is a graduate of Air War College and Air Command and Staff College. He was a Wolcott Foundation Fellow and has an MPA degree from George Washington University. Butch served as a Medical Service Corps officer and is an alumnus of the Healthcare Administration program in the Air Force School of Healthcare Sciences at Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, Texas where he later taught courses in Medical Group Practice Management and Specialty Care Optimization. He worked in numerous Air Force hospital facilities and clinics, flew tactical aeromedical evacuation missions as an Operations Officer, and gave seminars at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Butch is a Gulf War veteran along with multiple deployments to his credit throughout his military career. He completed his final tour of duty at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio where he worked as the resident TRICARE expert and Executive Officer to the Vice Commander.

Butch now works in the School of Medicine at his undergraduate alma mater, the University of Louisville. He is a member of the Collie Club of America and currently serves as the Chairman of their Ethics Committee. He is also a member of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America. Butch is a lifelong historian and is presently completing a second Masters in Teaching degree with a focus in American history from the colonial period through the Civil War and a special interest in United States military history. He plans to retire from his current position within the next few years to teach High School social studies. Butch said, "Our next generation

of young people must understand the sacrifices of those that came before them and cherish the freedoms and love of our country that is so sacred and precious to the preservation of our great nation."

Butch has been married for 25 years to his wife Robin and they have four grown children. He enjoys judging the Herding Group, Best in Show, the majority of the Working Group, five Sporting breeds and one Terrier breed.

LISA BOYER

US AIR FORCE MAJOR

Lisa Boyer graduated college and obtained commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Air Force upon graduation. Her first duty assignment was as an Air Weapons Director in West Germany in 1985. Lisa was one of the first women to be assigned to a combat unit in the Cold War era. After two years in Germany, she was reassigned to Beale Air Force Base in northern California. Her first job there was the Executive Officer for the SR-71 Spy plane unit. When the program was closed, Lisa then moved into the position of Section Commander for the Civil Engineering unit until 1990. She was then recruited



US Air
Force Major
Lisa Jarrett
Boyer





into the FBI and spent 6 years as an FBI Agent in San Francisco, California. During that time, she served in the reserves as an Admissions Liaison Officer for the Air Force Academy and was promoted to the rank of Major.

Lisa Boyer is now a veterinarian. She serves as the AKC Delegate for the American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association.

CARY MANATON

US AIR FORCE

Dog Show photographer (CC Photography) Cary C. Manaton served active duty in the US Air Force from 1976-1980 and then two additional years inactive on call emergency duty.

He trained as a Flight Control and Power Plant Specialist and was classified as an "Aero-Repair and Reclamation" specialist. His military shop also handled Crash Recovery for Davis Monthan Air Base in Tucson, Arizona. This is where the military bone yard of retired aircraft is located. His duties involved removal/replace and repair of all flight control surfaces along with the rigging of throttle quadrants, landing gears and cable assemblies on A10A and 7D Attack Aircraft. He went through special training and security clearances for Crash/Recovery. He can recall traveling into the mountains of Arizona to recover a Marine helicopter that crashed with five personnel on board, unfortunately there were no survivors and his team was assigned to recover the aircraft and personnel. Cary recalls, "In 1978, an A7D Attack Aircraft went down in the city of Tucson, Arizona that took out several civilian vehicles with only one casualty. The pilot did a tremendous job to divert the aircraft from heavily populated areas." Cary traveled TDY (temporary Duty) to the Azores on numerous occasions as part of a support team of military aircraft traveling to the Middle East.

While stationed at Davis-Monthan he also worked for a company called Westair International. The company would buy old cargo planes from the military bone yard and repurpose them as fire bombers for the forestry departments. His job was to remove flight control cables and linkages as well as bell cranks, and reroute them to make room for Bombay doors and chemical tanks. C-54s were the choice aircraft to be fitted as fire bombers at the time. After the military Cary went to work at a company called Reflectone in Tampa, Florida where they built flight simulators for the military. He has flown (all in simulators) everything from a Harrier fighter, to helicopters and even a C5—the largest military cargo jet in the world. He's sad to say he crashed them all at least once, but sure had fun doing it.

Cary's wife Pamela is the AKC Director of Obedience, Rally and Tracking. The Manatons co-exist with Australian Shepherds and have participated in conformation, obedience, rally, agility, herding and most recently dock diving.



US Air
Force
Cary
Manaton

LARRY WILSON

US ARMY ENGINEER



US Army Combat Engineer
Larry Wilson; Phan Rang, Vietnam

Larry was an Army combat engineer from 1966 to 1968. He spent one year in Vietnam, at an Army and Air Force base called Phan Rang, which was south of Cam Ranh Bay. Larry was a squad leader of 11 men and their primary mission, besides keeping their heads down, was to maintain the area roads, bridges and pipeline from the beach to

air base. They worked with the infantry in maintaining the area. Larry also has fond memories of taking care of the company dog during this time. He is now serving as the AKC Delegate representing the Philadelphia DTC.



RIGHT: US Army
Chris Sweetwood

US Marine Corporal Ted Hollander



CHRISTOPHER L. SWEETWOOD

US ARMY

In 1979, Christopher Sweetwood entered into the Army's Military Police Corps and eventually moved to the Criminal Investigation Division as a Special Agent. Sweetwood's original time in the service lasted 20 years with 10 years in active duty. He retired in 1999 until 2003 when he was talked into training up a National Guard Military Police Unit. In January of that year he was deployed into active duty to Iraq where he served until April of 2004.

Sweetwood is now active in the dog world by being a delegate for the Trap Falls Kennel Club in Stratford, Connecticut and serving on the advisory committee for the Delegate Field Trail/Hunting Test. He has been involved with purebred dogs since the age of eight with his father, who bred German Shorthair Pointers. After completing a military/law enforcement career, Sweetwood discovered the Spinone Italiano in the 1990s. As an avid hunter he fell in love with the breed. He is an AKC pointing breed hunting test judge, CGC Evaluator, Canine Ambassador, co-owner of Drago, the 2013 AKC ACE award winner for therapy and he participates in the AKC Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Hunting Tests (Pointing and Retriever) and Field Trials.

Sweetwood has served as a board member of the Spinone Parent Club, newsletter editor and presently serves as the Treasurer of the Southern New England Pointing Dog Club. He is active in the Boy Scouts of America, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Currently, he is working with numerous police departments to promote AKC and AKC Reunite through funding the purchase of trained police K-9s and the placement of the AKC Reunite logo on the police patrol vehicles.

TED HOLLANDER

US MARINE CORP CORPORAL

After graduating from Harvard University Ted Hollander served in the Marine Corps from 1957-1959 with the Sixth Fleet to the Mediterranean. The time was after Korea and before the Vietnam War heated up.

Ted is currently the AKC Delegate of the Eastern Dog Club just as his father, a former WWII Pacific Naval officer, was before him. Recently, his interest in national service has prompted Hollander to write a book called *Step Forward America: A Case For A National Service Program*, which is available on Amazon.com. Ted currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Presray Corporation.



LARRY L. SORENSON

US NAVY
MASTER CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER

Masters Chief Petty Officer (AWC) Larry L. Sorenson (Naval Air Crew) served 30 years in the Navy, spanning from Vietnam to the Persian Gulf. Larry was Naval Air Crew qualified for three different naval aircrafts: P5 sea-plane Martin Marlen, P2V Neptune and the P3 Orion. He also served as Command Master Chief for four different aircraft squadrons and as Force Master Chief for the Commander Navy Reserve force.

After retiring from the Navy, Larry went to work for the AKC as Director of Club Education and Public Education. For over 55 years, Larry Sorenson has been involved in the sport of purebred dogs, primarily for Dachshunds, as a breeder, exhibitor and handler. He has also competed in Conformation, Obedience, Field Trials and Earth-dog. He is currently the AKC delegate for the Dachshund Club of America and lives with his lovely wife Deedy in Clayton, North Carolina.



US Naval Air Crew
Master Chief Petty Officer
Larry L. Sorenson

"GOD BLESS THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA!
**HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY!"**

ROY AYERS

US NAVY

I am a WWII Navy baby born in an Atlanta Naval hospital while my father, all-Rounder Roy Ayers, served overseas. He did not get to see me until I was going on two years old! Imagine the fears my young mother, Hazel, endured not knowing when or if my father would return home. Unfortunately, those same fears exist today with our own military families.

For all of these heroes amongst us, we at *Showsight* pay tribute and give special thanks for your service to this great country. God bless the United States of America! Happy Independence Day! ■



Upon his
return from the
Pacific in WWII,
my mother
introduces me to
my father for the
first time—Hazel
and Roy Ayers
and your author
Linda Lee Ayers.

