



Association of Army Dentistry (AAD)

Summer 2020 Newsletter

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The summer season holds several holidays of significance for the military and our country: Memorial Day, honoring those men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country while serving in our Armed Forces; Armed Forces Day celebrated on the third Saturday of May; Flag Day celebrated on 14 June; and Independence Day on the Fourth of July. The U.S. Army, America's First National Institution, was officially established on June 14, 1775 and has played a vital role in the growth and development of the American nation over the last 245 years.

Armed Forces Day is a joint celebration of all six branches of the U.S. military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and the newly created Space Force. The day honors all people currently serving in the U.S. armed forces, including the men and women who have served or are serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard, and the National Guard and Reserve components.

Flag Day is a celebration of the American flag that occurs each year on the anniversary of the flag's official adoption. What is fondly known as the "Stars and Stripes" was adopted by the Continental Congress as the official American flag on June 14, 1777, in the midst of the Revolutionary War. Previously each colony had its own flag, with colonial troops fighting under many different flags with various symbols—rattlesnakes, pine trees, and eagles—and slogans, including "Don't Tread on Me," "Liberty or Death," and "Conquer or Die" among others.

The Declaration of Independence in 1776 made the adoption of an American flag necessary. On the 14th of June 1777, Congress made the following resolution: "The flag of the United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white on a blue field ..." Official announcement of the new flag was not made until Sept. 3, 1777.

As we slowly emerge from the restrictions precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, I wish each of you good health. On the 244th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, thank each of each of you for your service to our Nation.

Ron
Ronald J. Lambert, COL, USA (Ret)
President and Chairman, Board of Directors

Army Dental Corps Monument Update

On 2 June 2020, the AAD Board approved the Phase 1 Sculpture renderings prepared by Jorden Pao, which are depicted below. The next step in the process is to receive bids for proposal from bronze foundries which could execute the Monument project. The Monument Committee will then evaluate the various proposals on the basis of design and cost and make a recommendation to the board.

Phase 2. Monument Committee member Bob Stieneker, COL, USA, Ret, visited San Antonio, last week to conduct a site visit at the AMEDD museum and conduct office visits with several key players in planning and completing the initiative. Once site approval at the AMEDD Museum is received and the exact size of the site is known, the Phase 2 design can be completed. Formal fund raising for the project will commence this fall.

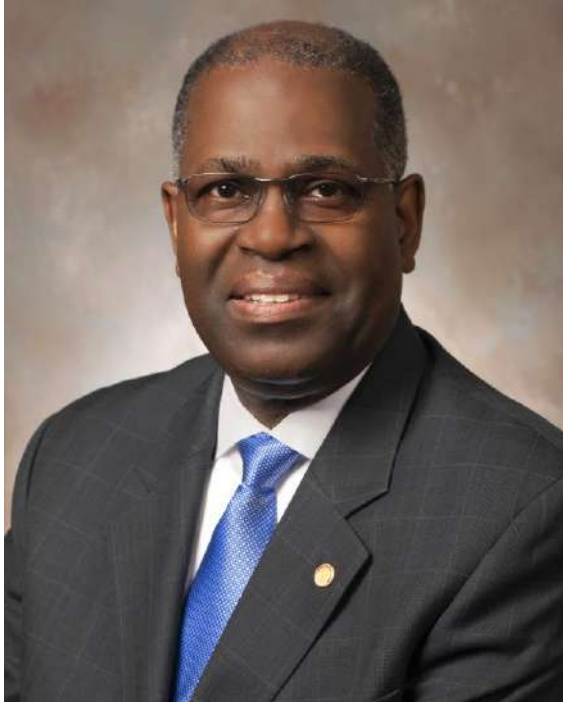
Phase 3. The dedication of the AAD's Dental Corps Monument at the AMEDD Museum at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, will be announced to our membership well in advance. Preliminary planning includes plans for a reunion in conjunction with the dedication.

Artist's Sketch



Membership

A Lifetime of Service to the Dental Profession



AAD life member Leo Rouse, COL, USA, Ret, is the 2020 recipient of the American Dental Association's (ADA) Distinguished Service Award. This is the highest honor conferred by the ADA Board of Trustees and is presented in recognition of his many years of service and dedication to the dental profession. Dr. Rouse was scheduled to receive the award at the ADA 2020 Meeting in Orlando, Florida, in October. However, the ADA and the Florida Dental Association have decided not to move forward with the Annual Meeting as an in-person convention in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The official announcement of the ADA's 2020 Distinguished Service Award is scheduled to be made in the ADA News on 13 July 2020. To go to the ADA website and the ADA News after that date for the announcement, please click on the link below and then click on "ADA News" on the left side of the column.

<https://www.ada.org/en>

COL Rouse concluded his distinguished 24-year career as Commander of the U.S. Army Dental Command. After starting a second career in academic dentistry, he was appointed Dean of Howard College of Dentistry in 2004. He

has also served as Chair of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Council of Deans and as one of the four ADEA Commissioners on the Commission of Dental Accreditation (CODA). On March 16, 2011, he was installed as the first African-American President of the ADEA. COL Rouse was awarded Emeritus Status as Professor and Dean from Howard University. Additionally, he is currently the President Elect of the American College of Dentists.

Oscar Ramos-Rivera, SGM, USA, Ret, was recently appointed by the AAD Board as the AAD's Senior Enlisted advisor. Expanding enlisted membership and capturing our enlisted history is vitally important for the vitality and success of our organization. Our enlisted comrades contributed immensely and were key to the success of the Army Dental Care System. Following is his brief introduction to the AAD:

"Stray rounds" from the AAD SDNCO SME/ Consultant

"Greetings from Fort Living Room, San Antonio! It's a distinct pleasure to be a member of the AAD, after nearly 20 years of my retirement from the US Army Dental Care Delivery System. Firstly, I must thank COL Lambert for reaching out to me to support his dental [enlisted] historical initiative. Likewise, I welcome the opportunity to collaborate with COL "Bob" Steinecker, after our many years supporting dental enlisted education, training and professional development at the [then] US Army Academy of Health Sciences. We were both trained as Medical Corpsman in the 1970's.

From an AMEDD historical perspective, there is a 20 year gap from 1980-2000 recognizing contributions of a low density MOS like the 91E (later 68E) and its derivative specialty ASI's. We experienced numerous Low Intensity Conflicts (LIC) in the 20 years referenced. In 1980, Desert One involved the hostage rescue mission in Iran. No dental capabilities. In 1981, we saw the first ever MFO in the Sinai. Dental support definitely went with the TF, organic to the Task Force (likely a couple of chairs and 1 dentist 2 techs- one was an X2). Lest not forget, years later we lost the entire aircraft passenger manifest in the Gander Crash. Dental personnel played a key role in post mortem ID's of casualties. In 1983, we deployed to Beirut with the Marines—there were Soldiers amidst the Marine Expeditionary Force but the USN provided most of the dental services. We deployed to Grenada also in 1983 and deployed 2 Brigades from the 82nd Airborne Division and 2 companies from the 307th Med Battalion, some members of the 257th Med Co. During 1984-1989, several dental NCOs were deployed as SMEs/ Advisors to the El Salvador Armed Forces Medical Services during the country's civil war. Also during that period, some dental technicians were deployed in support of Task Force Bravo, Honduras (an

on-going mission to date.) In 1989, we deployed to Panama. The entire 82nd along with brigades from other divisions deployed (with dental support provided by the USA DENTAC in Panama.) Then in 1990 we deployed to the KSA to fight Saddam and liberate Kuwait. Many of you were there to witness the Scud Missiles (missing most intended targets.) In 1992-95 we deployed assets to former Yugoslavia. There were dental assets, for the most part, supporting the use of USAF sorties. In 1992, we also went to Somalia as a peacekeeping/humanitarian mission that turned sour Oct 3-4, 1993. In 1994, we deployed on a peacekeeping mission (it was supposed to be war) to Haiti. There were 82nd troopers and 44th Med Bde, to include assets assigned to the 257th Med Co...".

These are just some random "stray rounds" from this old dental SGM's foxhole (or Pandemic TOC.)

I look forward to everyone's feedback, as you recall pertinent operation(s) Vignettes about enlisted members of your respective organizations, both former and current. Those will [in-turn] be shared with the AMEDD Museum."

Buenas noches... Oscar

I would like to thank each of our members for renewing your memberships. As we increase the number of members in the AAD, our ability to support our 501(c)(3) mission improves. I would like to actively grow our membership, but I need your help. Please reach out to your colleagues or friends who may not be members and encourage them to consider membership in the AAD. Share the AAD newsletter with them. The link to apply for membership is below to renew on the website or to download the membership form if you wish to renew by mail at the address on the membership form or at the end of this newsletter:

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/memberships/>

Active Component News

The AAD's primary conduit to the active component is through COL Dave Ferguson, the Corps Specific Branch Proponent Officer at the Corps Chief Office, US Army Dental Corps, Joint Base San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. As the Corps Chief's representative, COL Ferguson attends AAD virtual meetings as a non-voting member. MAJ Alyson Lasater, the Executive Fellow, functions as the primary liaison with the Association of Army Dentistry. The April, May, and June 2020 editions of *The Dental Corps Bulletin*, have been added to our website since the last edition of the newsletter. Each of the Bulletins is placed

on our website when received from the Corps Chiefs office and can be found at the following link or under the *News* header on the AAD website.

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/news/>

The 2020 Corps Chief's Awards of Excellence were recently announced. Each of the recipients received a letter of congratulations from the AAD, an AAD challenge coin, a one-year membership in the AAD, and a gift card. Awards of Excellence 2020 winners follow:

Exceptional Service and Leadership. COL Christensen Hsu, Defense Health Agency, Falls Church, Virginia.

Dental Education: LTC Charles Lambert, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Junior Officer: CPT Andrew Jenzer, Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Reserve Component Officer: COL Don Gundlach, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri

Non-Commissioned Officer: SFC Shannon Newsome, 502nd DCAS, Fort Hood, Texas.

Junior Soldier: SPC Janell Cortina, Fort Bliss, TX.

Civilian-Category I: Ms. Lisa Kohler, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Civilian-Category II: Dr. William Martin, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington.

Reserve Components News



I am Cpt. H.D. Luong, a dentist in Pitman, NJ. I am the father of two beautiful kids, Lilliana and Nathaniel. I am married to the best human being on earth and her name is Felicia. I am a Soldier in the United States Army Reserves as a 63A. I was born in the Philippines, though my parents are actually Vietnamese. I speak five different languages. I call this country my home and plan on defending her to my last breath.

I found myself joining the Army out of a profound gratitude towards this country. As the son of refugees post-Vietnam, I owe this country more than I can verbalize in this letter. My obligation as a Dentist in the Army is the very least I can do as a patriot. I think that is a very common theme among my peers in the reserves.

I am attached to the 7301st out of Fort Dix, New Jersey. We are an overseer medical unit. Our unit functions as guides for other medical units in the reserves, essentially observing and critiquing the functions of other medical related units in their duties. This allows for a more united and competent Army medical reserves for the many scenarios that this country might demand of us. For example, a Dental Officer in my unit would be responsible for making sure that other dental reserves units are equipped and trained for a mass casualty scenario during a homeland attack. Dental officers are used as triage officers to help treat the most amount of folks with resources available.

In my civilian life, I am a practice owner in Pitman, NJ. I run a six chair practice with five of the most hard working and caring staff members. I am a general dentist with further training in dental implants, root canal treatment and orthodontic clear aligners. With this extensive skill set, I am able to provide a more comprehensive treatment planning service to my patients.

I am truly blessed to be able to be of service to my patients and be able to give back to my country of choice at the same time. The flexibility of the Army reserves has allowed me to thrive as a father, husband, clinician and practice owner.

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The Mobilization Designee (MOBDES) Program for reserve Dental Corps Officers was implanted on May 27, 1976. These officers trained for a wartime role and served as the advisor for all reserve activities related to their unit.

Retirees

The link to the latest edition of Army Echoes, the Official Newsletter for Retired Soldiers, Surviving Spouses, and Families is provided below. The June – September edition provides a wealth of information for retirees and their families, including the new Soldier for Life sticker and shoulder sleeve insignia; Army Material Command involvement with Operation Warp Speed to find a vaccine for the COVID-19 virus by 1 January 2021; Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) assistance, Retiree Pay Account Checkup, etc. You may get a virus warning when you control/click on the link below, but click “OK” and it will take you to this edition of Army Echoes.

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/echoes/latest.pdf>

The Expert Field Medical Badge

**The U.S. Army Medical Department Center of History and Heritage:
Facebook, 18 June 2020**



The Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) was established on 18 June 1965 to recognize successful completion of a series of qualifications used to measure a Soldier's professional skill and proficiency in Army medical treatment standards. All participants must be an officer or enlisted Soldier within the Army Medical Department.

Prior to the establishment of the EFMB, some medical units devised their own tests to gauge skill proficiency. The tests would often last for a couple of days and would consist of both written and practical exams designed to test aptitude in identification and treatment of basic wounds, evacuation, navigation, and equipment maintenance. Successful completion of the tests would earn the Soldier an "Expert Medical Soldier Certificate." It was not, however, until 1963 that the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel was first petitioned to create a dedicated special skill award for AMEDD professionals.

Like its predecessor, the current EFMB tests include both written exams and simulated combat lanes designed to represent real-life combat scenarios. Now, however, testing lasts for several days and includes both day and night land navigation, combat testing lanes designed to gauge general Soldier knowledge and medical proficiency, and a 12-mile foot march that must be completed within 3 hours. Although the EFMB is a non-combat badge, it serves to provide recognition to Soldiers who have proven themselves experts in the doctrines of basic combat-oriented, medical care.

The initial design for the EFMB was submitted on 2 February 1965, but was not approved until 8 December 1965. Made of oxidized silver, the EFMB pin features a horizontal stretcher overlaid with a caduceus and a Hellenic Red Cross. There have been no design element changes to the EFMB pin since its inception.

Dental History Corner with John King, COL (Ret), Dental Corps Historian, Emeritus

[J Hist Dent.](#) 2007 Summer-Fall; 55(2):85-90.

Theodore Roosevelt's "presidential smile" and questionable dental health.

[Christen AG](#)¹, [Christen JA](#).

Author information

Abstract

Theodore ("TR" or "Teddy") Roosevelt (1858-1919), who served as the twenty-sixth President of the United States from 1901 to 1909, was an "Icon of the American Century." Characterized by immense energy, numerous skills, zest for life, and enduring accomplishments, he made an impressive ascent to political importance. However, he also experienced serious, chronic, oral and systemic health problems. In spite of these significant health obstacles, he chose "the strenuous life," and cultivated a lifetime of joy, laughter and humor. TR was known as "the first president that smiled," and he was typically photographed and illustrated grinning from ear to ear. His flashing white teeth, wide smile, and engaging openness became welcome symbols of national and international acceptance. When Roosevelt died, suddenly and prematurely at the age of 60, dentists and physicians of that time began to investigate the probable medical causes of his untimely demise. The "focal infection hysteria" of the early 1900s convinced some of these health professionals that "a bad tooth", that previously had been endodontically treated, was the probable cause of death. Much of the early 20th century evidence-supporting the notion that oral sepsis was a "cause" of local or systemic disease-has now been proven, on closer inspection, to be anecdotal or of questionable scientific merit. Nevertheless, during those early days, it was common practice to extract all endodontically or periodontally involved teeth to eliminate any possible foci of infection that many clinicians believed could cause disease.

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[Indexed for MEDLINE]

Healthcare Corner

For the latest information on COVID-19 and guidelines for dental care, please go to the American Dental Association's website:

https://success.ada.org/en/practice-management/patients/infectious-diseases-2019-novel-coronavirus?utm_source=adaorg&utm_medium=covid-resources-lp&utm_content=virus-updates&utm_campaign=covid-

Military History

The Story of Technician Fifth Grade James K. Okubo, U.S. Army and The Congressional Medal of Honor

James Okubo lived in Bellingham, WA, the son of a restaurateur, when Pearl Harbor was attacked on 7 December, 1941. He was Nisei, or second generation Japanese-American. In 1942, an executive order directed the government to confine Japanese Americans in internment camps scattered throughout the West. Okubo and his family were first sent to Tule Lake, California, and then to Hart Mountain, Wyoming. A year later in 1943, the government reversed its policy and allowed Japanese Americans to enlist in the military. Okubo, his two brothers and two cousins volunteered to serve and were assigned to the all-Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Okubo enlisted 10 days prior to his 23rd birthday and was sent to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, for basic training. James trained as a medic, was assigned to K Company, and sent to the European Theater. The 442nd Regimental Combat unit earned more than 18,000 individual medals and was one of the most decorated units in World War II.

On 28 October of 1944 in a battle near Biffontaine in eastern France, Technician Fifth Grade Okubo crawled 150 yards through a field under enemy fire to save and treat more than 17 Soldiers. The next day, he rescued another 8 Soldiers. On 4 November, he ran 75 yards through enemy fire to rescue a wounded Soldier from a burning tank. He was completely exposed and became the main target although his brassard was marked with the Red Cross. Okubo climbed up on the tank and pulled the wounded crewman to the top of the tank and then to the protected side of the tank where he applied first aid. His prompt and heroic actions saved the Soldier's life.

Okubo's commanding officer subsequently recommended him for the Medal of Honor. However, in a Review Board action of 21 April, 1945, Technician Fifth Grade Okubo was recommended for the Silver Star. A record of the 21 April report of the five officer-review board reveals a hand written scrawl, "Medical Man" at the bottom of the page. Okubo, himself, was pleased and honored to earn the nation's third-highest medal for valor.

Following the war, the Okubo family settled in the Detroit area, an approved location for those released from internment camps. After finishing his tour of duty, James Okubo attended Wayne State University, where he met and married his wife, Nobuyo, in 1951. He then attended the University of Detroit

School of Dentistry, where he earned his dental degree in 1954. He practiced dentistry in Detroit part-time and was a professor at the dental school, where he taught anatomy and conducted research from 1954 to 1967. Tragically, on 29 January 1967, Dr. James Okubo, his wife and three children were headed north for a ski outing when his car hit a patch of ice on I-75. He was killed instantly in the resulting crash and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan.

Dr. Okubo was fondly remembered by former students for his dry sense of humor. A dental student once asked for his help in seating a gold inlay, stating that it fit the die perfectly but would not seat intraorally. Okubo's advice was clear: simply cement the inlay on the die. When students' attention would drift during anatomy lectures, he would turn off the air circulation fans in the cadaver room to recapture their responsiveness. Invariably, Dr. Okubo had a pop quiz on December 7th. While some of his students had heard of Okubo's heroics, he rarely spoke of his war experience.

In 1996 Congress directed the Secretary of the Army to conduct a review of all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who were awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in World War II "to determine whether any such award should be upgraded to the Medal of Honor." On 21 June 2000 President Clinton awarded the Medal of Honor to 22 Asian-Pacific Americans.

A Medal of Honor was favorably considered for Technician Fifth Grade James K. Okubo, under a separate provision of the law. The decoration could not be formally approved, however, until Congress waived the statutory time restriction in his specific case. In 1999, at the request of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Veterans Club, Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii requested a review of Okubo's records by the Senior Army Decoration's Board. Senator Akaka recommended a special waiver for Okubo and other Asian and Pacific Islander Americans for medal upgrades. Included in this group of heroes was Senator Daniel Inouye, Hawaii. On Wednesday, 21 June 2000, Technician Fifth Grade Okubo received his due recognition along with 22 Asian-American Soldiers. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in a ceremony at the White House in which the award was presented by President Clinton to his widow, Nobuyo. President Clinton recounted the following: "They risked their lives above and beyond the call of duty, and in so doing they did more than defend America – in the face of painful prejudice, they helped define America."

Medal of Honor

Citation: Technician Fifth Grade James K. Okubo distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on 28 and 29 October and 4 November 1944, in the Foret Domainale de Champ, near Biffontaine, eastern France. On 28 October, under strong enemy fire coming from behind mine fields and

roadblocks, Technician Fifth Grade Okubo, a medic, crawled 150 yards to within 40 yards of the enemy lines. Two grenades were thrown at him while he left his last covered position to carry back wounded comrades. Under constant barrages of enemy small arms and machine gun fire, he treated 17 men on 28 October and 8 more on 29 October. On 4 November, Technician Fifth Grade Okubo ran 75 yards under grazing machine gun fire and, while exposed to hostile fire directed at him, evacuated and treated a seriously wounded crewman from a burning tank that otherwise would have died. Technician Fifth Grade James K. Okubo's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.

Honoree ID: 1557

Okubo left the Army as a Technician Fifth Grade. His medals and awards included the Medal of Honor and the Silver Star Medal. Moreover, he was the first Army medic to be awarded the Medal of Honor. The Okubo Medical and Dental Complex at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, is named after Technician Fifth Grade Okubo. On 21 February 2002, a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony was held opening the new multi-million dollar, state of the art, family medical and dental complex with Okubo's widow, Nobuyo Okubo, in attendance. In 2003, the U.S. Army named a barracks at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, after Okubo in a ceremony which featured his widow.

A special thank you to the following: COL (Ret) John King for pointing me in the direction of Army Technician Fifth Grade Okubo, who earned the Medal of Honor as an Army medic, later becoming a dentist.

Nolan A. "Andy" Watson of the AMEDD Center of History and Heritage for providing research material for this story.

Documents that provided material for the Okubo story included the following:

- "James K. Okubo, D.D. S., The Medal of Honor: A Hero Walked Among Us," The Leading Edge, An Alumni Publication of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, Winter/Spring 2001. (Reprint of the article from American Dental Association Publishing)
- An Extract from "Silent Valor: The Story of the 442nd Medics," published in 2002 in Honolulu, Hawaii.
 - X. A Medal of Honor for Saving Lives – T-5 James Okubo, Medic.
- "United States Army in World War II: The European Theater of Operations – Riviera to the Rhine, Jeffrey J. Clarke and Robert Ross Smith, Center of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., 1993.
- www.army.mil/medalofhonor >
<https://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/citations22.html#O>

- <https://www.mamc.health.mil/dental/clinics/okubo-dental-clinic.aspx>

Website Administrator

The Association of Army Dentistry is in need of a volunteer with computer skills and website familiarity to help administer our website. The work would involve posting newsletters, obituaries, The Dental Corps Bulletin, and other items to our website. Additionally, we would like to modernize our website and focus on making it more user friendly. Please contact the AAD at assoc.army.dentistry@gmail.com or call COL (Ret) Ron Lambert at the number provided at the end of the newsletter if you are interested in helping us out.

Social Media

LTC Mike Hoffman, the administrator for the AAD's Facebook page, was promoted earlier this month to Lieutenant Colonel. Congratulations Mike!

Please go to the ADA's Facebook page to check out the latest posts and news from throughout the Army Dental Care System.

<https://www.facebook.com/AssociationofArmyDentistry>

In Memoriam

The AAD is saddened to announce the passing of Jim Duke, COL, USA, Ret, on May 3, 2020 in Huntsville, Alabama. Jim earned his DMD at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, and completed his oral and maxillofacial surgery residency at Fort Gordon, Georgia. After a distinguished military career, his public service continued in his community. Please follow the link below to his complete obituary.

- Jim Brooks Duke, COL, USA, Ret 5/18/1952 – 5/3/2020

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Duke%2C%20COL%20Ret%20Jim%205-18-2952%20--%205-3-2020.pdf>

We post the obituaries that are brought to our attention; if there are others that you wish to share with our membership, please forward them to the AAD. The link to all of the obituaries on our website is at the following web address:

<https://www.associationofarmydentistry.org/about/in-memoriam/>

Conclusion:

As we approach the Fourth of July holiday, I wish each of you good health and continued perseverance during this eventful year. Our military careers have taught us how to endure these troubled times as we have served to protect America's freedoms.

The AAD would like to thank each of you for your continued membership and support of our charitable mission. If anyone has an interest in serving on our board of directors or assisting in another capacity, please contact the AAD at assoc.army.dentistry@gmail.com

Please keep our men and women serving in harm's way in your thoughts and prayers. May God Bless America!

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