



Association of Army Dentistry (AAD)

AAD 2024 Fall Newsletter

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Greetings AAD Members and Friends of Army Dentistry,

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well and hope you enjoyed your summer recharging your batteries. I know you all are working hard in your individual jobs, official and unofficial, and summer is always an opportune time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends.

AAD team members were busy during the summer, particularly the website development team of Frank Nassar and Susan Allen who have been working feverishly with RedSpot. We anticipate the launch of the new website before the end of the year, and we think you will be quite pleased with the result. Bob Stieneker and other Army Dentistry Monument volunteers have finalized the monument's completion, and we plan to dedicate the last monolith in November. Others have been engaging with new dental officers and enlisted Soldiers attending various courses at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence. The addition of new officers and enlisted Soldiers reminds us of the importance of people as an organization's most valuable resource.

Our government has long recognized the significance of maintaining a steady source of qualified and talented Service Members. In September, we honored the victims of 9/11 and reflected on the decades of service, sacrifice and achievements by hundreds of thousands of patriots who answered the Nation's call to service. One of the Post-9/11 changes was modification of the Immigration and Naturalization Act that designated the War of Terrorism (2001-present) as qualifying as an "armed conflict with a hostile foreign force, thereby making non-citizen U.S. Service Members who served honorably eligible for expedited naturalization during this period. In addition, during times of peace, a noncitizen in the military must now only serve for one year, rather than three years. Various citizenship benefits were also extended to family members of Service Members. According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, an estimated 170,000+ members of the military became citizens through naturalization since 2002. One example of this program is Specialist Daniella Hall, whose inspiring story you can read later in this newsletter.

We recognize that people are also a very valued resource for the AAD. We encourage our members and friends of Army Dentistry to volunteer their time, talents, and treasure in supporting the AAD and in turn, Army Dentistry.

With warmest regards,

M. Ted Wong, MG, USA (Ret)
President and Chairman of the Board,

Membership



Who's Eligible:

- All persons past, present, and future members of the Army Dental Care System
- All friends of Army Dentistry

Why Join:

- Be a part of our proud History
- Provide support to the Army Dental Corps
- Continuing Education opportunities
- Networking and Career Development
- Social activities

Send this link of the Membership Form* to your friends and associates and encourage them to join (or rejoin!) the AAD. Any person paying membership dues in the final quarter of this year (2024) will be credited for the entire next year (2025).

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/c4qcbsenwoko76fprwrru/NewAddress_Membership-Form-Rev.090924.docx?rlkey=cd9kc31kguhrm1lz1tkgcym6t&st=fcjn4a3l&dl=0

*If you experience problems downloading this form, contact us by email (assoc.army.dentistry@gmail.com) and we will send the form. Good News...the membership process can be conducted totally online when the new website launches (coming soon).

This is YOUR Organization!

AAD Website

AAD Website Update

Frank Nasser, Jr. & Susan Allen

We are happy to report that the long and arduous process of developing the new website for the organization is nearing completion. With the help of a professional web developing company, more than 30 individual pages have been completed. The level of detail that goes into building each of these pages is extensive. In the end, our website will be a clear and voluminous projection of AAD goals, objectives and actions. The potential importance this has for present and future operations by the organization is far reaching. We envision the website becoming a key resource for information about Army Dentistry. We have entered the full-scale testing phase, with a team conducting their own review of the website and all its functions. Soon, the Project Team and a group of AAD Advisors will undergo programming training that will allow us to make timely updates to keep the site both current and fresh.

We thank the entire membership for your patience. In the end, we feel members will have a website that accurately and proudly represents the Association of Army Dentistry and provides a solid platform for ongoing and future organizational activities.

Down a Rabbit Hole for a Good Cause

By Susan (Sue) Allen

It started quite innocently. Frank Nasser asked if I'd be willing to help him with the AAD website redesign. Because I'm genetically incapable of definitively saying "no," I said sure. I'm certain Frank will agree that it has been a wild and wonderful ride as we worked together on overall design, navigation, function and content.

Along the way, we realized that we were creating a valuable repository of information about Army Dentistry that could be further enhanced by the addition of an interactive timeline. Using multiple resources, including the extraordinary work of COL (Ret) John King, and various manuscripts and publications, we began compiling the highlights of Army Dentistry from 1776 to the present. That's where the rabbit hole drew us in ... deeper and deeper.

Many of the timeline entries are common knowledge. Some, however, may be less well known. As an example, here are a few tidbits we found down that timeline rabbit hole:

- Paul Revere performed the first recorded case of military forensic identification in 1776 on the remains of Major General Joseph Warren about 10 months after Warren's death during the Battle of Bunker Hill.

- In 1884, Congress authorized Army personnel to provide dental services to families of military personnel and military retirees, and then eliminated family dental care in 1923.
- During the Civil War, and despite the American Dental Association advocating for commissioning military dentists, Union soldiers had to rely on civilian dentists and pay for their dental care. The Confederate Army, however, commissioned its first dentist on May 13, 1861.
- During World War II, CPT Stanley F. Erpf is credited with developing the acrylic prosthetic eye, and dental personnel were involved in developing custom hearing-aid adapters and fabrication techniques for tantalum plates used to repair skull defects.
- Due to supply-chain challenges in Vietnam in 1962, LTC John W. Rudisill developed a method of attaching a handpiece directly to an air compressor line. The dentist signaled the dental assistant who opened or closed the valve connecting the handpiece to the air line, which started or stopped the bur action. They dubbed the contraption the "voice-controlled high-speed dental system."

Because of time constraints and our desire to get the new site launched, we had to draw a line on what we would include in the initial timeline. We anticipate, however, that the AAD's online Army Dentistry Timeline will continue to expand as additional key accomplishments come to light.

The new website is in the final stages of testing and fine tuning. Watch for an announcement about its public launch date.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – From the Executive Committee

The AAD will soon have a new address and phone number. Be on the lookout for the formal announcement. The new address and phone number will be exclusively for use in conducting affairs of the organization. This will alleviate depending on otherwise personal addresses and phone numbers. More to follow.

Colorado Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons

U.S. Army Oral Surgeons reunite at the Colorado Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Meeting. From the left: COL Dan Escalante, COL(Ret) Karen Keith (Vice President of the AAD), LTC(P) Marc Serra, COL(Ret) John Mitchell, LTC Clint Shelley and COL Julia Plevnia.



Give Veterans a Smile Celebration

Posted @withregram • [@american dental association](https://www.instagram.com/american dental association) Honor those who have served and learn about the oral health needs of our Nation's veterans at the Give Veterans A Smile Celebration on Saturday, October 19, in New Orleans. To learn more and to purchase tickets go to the link in bio.



Active Component News



Updates from the Dental Corps Chief's Office

This update is provided by the Army Dental Corps Chief's office, which is staffed by the Corps Specific Branch Proponent Officer (CSBPO), COL Tamer Goksel, the Executive Officer, MAJ Charles Mazai, and the Executive Fellow, CPT (P) Caitlyn Menicucci.

It has been a busy few months with the end of the fiscal year end approaching in the Corps Chief Office. The dedicated team has been actively engaged in a multitude of initiatives aimed at enhancing both the quality of life and the dental care services available within the Corps.

One significant highlight has been the meticulous planning for Iron Majors Week 2025, a key event that fosters leadership and professional development as the Dental Corps takes the lead on the event this year. Alongside this, the team is preparing for the Operational Dentistry Symposium and the Senior Leader Summit (SLS/SLF), both of which serve as platforms for sharing knowledge and advancing dental practice within the Corps. Additionally, we are continuing to engage at international levels as our leaders recently attended the Section of Defense Forces Dental Services (SDFDS) Conference, which is part of the FDI World Dental Federation, in September 2024. The attendance strengthened our international relations and provided valuable insights into emerging dental technologies and methodologies as well as how we can prepare for the type of military dentistry needed in the future.

The Operational Dentistry symposium is 04 and 05 March 2025. The SLS/SLF is 05-07 March 2025. Immediately following the Forum on 07 March, there will be the 114th Dental Corps Birthday Ball in San Antonio. Iron Majors Week is 17-21 March 2025.

Dental Corps Chief

Sept. 22, 2024

The Army Dental Corps recently attended the FDI Section Defense Forces Dental Services meeting in conjunction with the 2024 FDI Dental Congress in Istanbul, Turkey. LTC Andreas Mendoza spoke on Ukrainian Dental Emergencies and LTC Mike Hoffman spoke on Training Platforms for Operational Dentistry.

[#DentalCorps](#)



Group photo of the military forces in attendance at SDFDS 2024



From L to R: CPT Caitlyn Menicucci, COL Tamer Goksel, COL Stephen Tanner, LTC Andres Mendoza, LTC Michael Hoffman



COL Goksel received the Dental Corps Medallion from COL Tanner for his efforts in planning the Cultural Day at SDFDS.



LTC Mendoza during his presentation on *Ukrainian Dental Emergencies*



LTC Andres Mendoza after his presentation



LTC Michael Hoffman after his presentation



From L to R: COL Stephen Tanner, COL (Ret) Linda Edgar (outgoing American Dental Association president), COL Goksel, Dr. Brett Kessler (incoming ADA president), and CPT Menicucci at the Welcome Ceremony for SDFDS

Jamaican Native Joins U.S. Army - Earns U.S. Citizenship

Introduction by MG (Ret) Ted Wong

The following article, *Jamaican Native Joins U.S. Army – Earns U.S. Citizenship*, was recently published by Medical Readiness Command, Europe. It highlights Specialist Daniella Hall, a 91E serving in Germany, who recently became a naturalized citizen. She joined the Army to build a solid foundation while deciding a career path. SPC Hall chose the dental field because she wanted something in healthcare and dental suited her needs best. While she did not specifically join the Army for the citizenship program, she views it as a good opportunity for non-citizens. In the future, SPC Hall is planning to go back to school and study architecture, but she's keeping all options on the table and open to staying in the military. She also learned that interested Soldiers in dental can apply for the Health Professions Scholarship Program, which pays for dental school while staying connected to the military.

Read on to find out more about SPC Hall.



Medical Readiness Command, Europe

Aug. 2024

Jamaican native joins U.S. Army - earns U.S. Citizenship

By Kirk Frady, Medical Readiness Command, Europe Public Affairs

Growing up in a small rural town in the parish of Trelawny, Jamaica, U.S. Army SPC Daniella Hall had always dreamed of living and working in the United States. That dream finally came true when she moved to the United States in 2017 with her mother.

"Shortly after arriving in the United States, I enrolled in college and worked at an Amazon warehouse part time in Florida," said Hall. "After working there for a while, I decided that I wanted to further my career and become a dental specialist. So, I joined the Army in February 2022."

In 2022, Hall enlisted in the U.S. Army from Lakeland, Florida.

"I attended basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and then moved on to Advanced Individual Training (AIT), at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio Texas," added Hall.

For many young adults, joining the U.S. military offers them an opportunity to learn a technical skill or trade, and become part of a team. And that's exactly what the Army provided SPC Hall.

"Not only did I want to expand my horizons and learn new things, but the Army also gave me the opportunity to meet new and like-minded people," Hall added. "I am very grateful for the opportunities the Army has given me thus far, and I am also extremely proud to now call myself a U.S. citizen."

After completing Advanced Individual Training in early 2023, Hall arrived at her first duty station at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy where she currently serves as a dental specialist at the Vicenza Army Dental Clinic.

"SPC Hall is a great asset to our team," said U.S. Army Colonel (Dr.) Kevin Parker, commander of Dental Health Activity-Italy. "Her calm and direct approach to life in general is very refreshing as she has a great attitude, is willing to learn, and creates a positive environment which is experienced by those working with her."

On August 19, 2024, Hall was finally able to make the second part of her dream come true. She successfully passed her U.S. Citizenship interview and was sworn in as a citizen of the United States.





Spouses' Corner

Presented by The Spouses and Surviving Spouses Committee

Remembering 9/11

By Susan (Sue) Allen

Sept. 11, 2001, began like any other workday for two long-time friends who live on opposite sides of the country. I was living in Portland, Ore., and, at the time, was working for Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). In Washington, D.C., Sterlene Hapner, a dear friend since 1973, was at work as a dental assistant at the Pentagon Dental Clinic. Sterlene has been part of Army Dentistry for years – first as a Red Cross Volunteer Dental Assistant and then as a Department of the Army Civilian Dental Assistant. She is the wife of Art Hapner, a retired Medical Service Corps (MSC) officer and dustoff helicopter pilot. She was also a founding member and past member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Army Dentistry and is a recipient of the Order of Military Medical Merit. The Allens and the Hapners first met in Augsburg, Germany. Over the years, our paths continued to cross, and we have remained close friends for what is now more than 51 years.

On the West Coast, I arrived at my office in the News & Publications office extra early so I could crank out some projects while the office was quiet. As was customary for the first to arrive, I switched on the T.V., which was routinely on in the background to catch any breaking news that might affect our media relations team. It was 6 a.m. and news outlets were already covering the plane striking the North Tower at 8:46 a.m. East Coast time. As I sat stunned watching the news, the second plane crashed into the South Tower. About 30

minutes later the plane hit the Pentagon. I knew this was not going to be a day for routine projects.

Prior to moving back to Oregon after Gary retired, I was director of marketing for the DeWitt Army Health System at Fort Belvoir, Va. My key responsibility was to prepare active duty and retired military personnel and their families for the advent of TRICARE. I gave numerous group and one-on-one briefings for general officers and other personnel at the Pentagon and around the region. It had been just a couple of years since I had walked the floors of the Pentagon, including those in the area destroyed by the plane crash and subsequent fire.

On that terrible morning, my mind quickly turned to thoughts of Sterlene, who I assumed was at work. I immediately started calling her cell phone. But the cell towers were overloaded, and I could not get through. I continued calling throughout the day, leaving messages and hoping to hear from her. It was not until late afternoon that I was finally able to hear her voice and know that she was ok.

On the East Coast, Sterlene was indeed at work that morning. Fortunately, the medical and dental clinics were not in the path of the plane; however, Sterlene and other members of the Dental Clinic were involved with the rescue mission. After working many hours transporting victims to the triage area, Sterlene finally was able to return home late in the afternoon. That night and on subsequent days she composed the following letter to MG Patrick Sculley, chief of the U.S. Army Dental Corps at the time, and to LTG James B. Peake, Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Command/The Surgeon General. Her letter is a testament to her strength, and to her pride and loyalty to the U.S. Army Dental Corps and the great people who comprise the Army Dental Care Team, and to the U.S. Army Medical Department and the U.S. Army.

First-Person Account of 11 September 2001

Written by V. Sterlene Hapner from home on the evening of 11 September 2001 and on subsequent days

It has been such a long and weary week. Like so many others, I am mentally, physically and emotionally exhausted. With that said, I am also grateful to our Lord that I was able to return home Tuesday evening to Art, to hear our sons, daughter-in-law and granddaughters' voices on the phone. And to talk with so many relatives and friends who called to check on me. I know you are both so very busy right now, but I feel compelled to send you a message – a message to let you know what a "Ready" and "Professional" service we are part of – The Army Medical and Dental Team here at the Pentagon.

While EVERYONE did what they could in such a surprise of terror and destruction, it was the Army personnel who took control of the leadership and gave the staff a sense of direction. I think this is important for you to know. We needed the confidence of a strong leader at that time. In the Dental arena it was our Army staff, and in the Medical, once again, Army.

On Tuesday morning, 11 September, at approximately 0930 a co-worker came in to tell us that a plane had just run into the NY Trade Center. Within a few minutes, the Navy captain that I work with, and I walked down to the break room to look at the television. I thought I'd call Art just to let him know what had happened since he usually doesn't have his TV on. After talking with him I hung up and continued to the break room. It must have only been after 5-7 minutes, as we were standing there, that a "Special Report" broke in over the Trade Center story saying an aircraft had just flown into the Pentagon, too.

At that point there was no fear, just bewilderment, mostly because we neither heard nor felt anything. That emotion changed rapidly as they started calling for all doctors to report to the front immediately. I quickly moved back to my room to once again call Art to tell him I was OK. Within the 15 seconds it took me to get to my room, a very loud and panic-filled voice was on the intercom again ordering EVERYONE to evacuate the building. My phone was ringing, and it was, of course, Art. I told him we were on our way out and that "I Loved Him."

However serious any of us thought the situation was, no one was prepared for what we saw as we made our way to the corridor doors. Smoke had already reached our side of the Pentagon and into our area (am sure much had come through the vents, too). It was extremely difficult to breathe. We made a right out of the Medical/Dental Clinic with only 10-15 feet to exit the building and onto the POAC (Pentagon Officers' Athletic Club) bridge. There were already injured on the ground, and many were being attended to.

You can imagine the fear and chaos that was everywhere. People were stopping at the POAC doors and looking back toward the building at the huge billows of black smoke – just unbelievable. My times have all run together, but I think we were only out there about 5-10 minutes before all medical personnel were called back into the building to form support and relief teams for those who had gone into the Center Courtyard.

Once inside, our stay was short. We were evacuated again within 15 minutes. Announcements that yet another plane was inbound were being yelled and we moved out. As I got midway on the bridge, to my right a group was running with a litter. I looked over and saw one of our dentists at the right lead, one of the guys tripped and for whatever reason I moved right in and took his place. I will tell you I have NO IDEA where the strength or sense came from at that moment, it just came. That patient was a lady who was burned severely on both of her arms. After attending to her, there were others. This time no one stopped until they reached the water's edge.

Some ambulances had arrived on the North Side and were taking the injured to nearby hospitals. Since all the injured were originating from the Center Courtyard, we had the task of moving some of the medical supplies from the North Side into the Courtyard. Once we got back into the building the smoke was even thicker and although wearing masks, breathing was extremely

difficult as we ran. I do remember being so out of breath and trying to prepare myself for what I might see once I reached the Courtyard. Almost immediately, once we were there, the firefighters refused to let anyone move in closer because of the flames and smoke. All we could do from that location, at that time, was to wait. We set up IV bags to have ready for whenever they gave the go ahead to retrieve patients. That never came. We had yet another call to evacuate – first “run to North Side,” then “NO don't go into the building” and finally “Stay Here in the Courtyard where you are. It's a False Alarm.” Not too many of us were put at ease by the fact it was a false alarm.

We remained in the Center Court for about an hour (I think) and then we were led out through the tunnel under the old dental clinic area. We carried medical supplies, blankets, even umbrellas from the tables to use for the injured since the tents had not been set up at that point and it was so hot – ironically, a beautiful day in Washington on the 11th. Once again, the sight as we cleared South parking was just horrific. After seeing the West Side and all the destruction so many times on TV, I will still never forget the first time I looked there and saw the damage. It was totally unbelievable. We remained there for several hours and finally were told to leave because the FBI had taken over and there would be no bodies removed until the next day at the earliest. I talked with Art once during the day. Cell phones were at a premium and most were not working.

I got home about 5 p.m. It was as though the day had been a nightmare and wasn't real.

On Wednesday (12 September), the Pentagon was open, and I was there at 0530, as usual. But the timing was all that was routine. There was yet another evacuation and in some ways that was worse than the day before because now the picture was etched in all our minds as to what could be happening. We returned to the clinic, spent the day restocking supplies and of course pulled dental records as lists were put together. That morning all the military showed, of course, and besides me, two other GS employees.

Thursday (13 September), we had a bomb threat and continued to recover. Only one or two patients were seen in the dental clinic. More staff started to come into work.

Friday (14 September), a few more patients were in, but it was still a very quiet and somber day.

I am not sure what tomorrow will bring, it will never be the same.

Thank you for the quality of people you foster, for the training you provide and for the support that is always there whether an active-duty person or Department of the Army Civilian. I am so Proud to be Army, I am Proud to be Dental.

I know there were guardian angels over me this week and I am forever grateful to be given more time.
Hope I haven't overloaded you with information. It feels good to talk right now. And perhaps this will be but one of many letters you receive letting you know you are doing the RIGHT thing.

In Service and In Friendship – Bis Bald
V. Sterlene Hapner
Pentagon Dental Clinic

In conclusion, this quote from the "Defense Studies Series, Pentagon 9/11," produced by the Historical Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense in 2007, seems to best describe the contributions Sterlene and so many others made that day: "There could not have been as many survivors of the attack on the Pentagon without the persistent and selfless acts of others – military and civilian who were themselves caught in the maelstrom or came unhesitatingly from elsewhere in the building to respond to the desperate circumstances facing the many victims trapped in the wreckage."



For their actions on 11 September 2001, the Army awarded Sterlene the Army Commendation Medal for Civilians and Navy Captain (Dr.) Gerald A. Santulli the Army Commendation Medal in a ceremony in June 2002.

AAD Vision and Strategic Pillars

Honoring Service

COL (Ret) Ron Lambert



*"BJ" Ganem receives a visit from
President George W. Bush*

Bob Burns of Appleton, Wis., has dedicated his life to helping others, particularly those with disabilities. He is one of only two hundred Professional Golf Association (PGA) Master Professionals in the world and the only one living in Wisconsin. In 2014, he was recognized as one of the top 50 Golf Instructors in America. In the Fox Valley of Wisconsin, Burns is best known for his driving range, pro shop, club making and repair service, and golf instruction business in Appleton. The Bob Burns Golf Learning Center, which he founded in 1975, is recognized as one of America's top one-hundred golf learning centers. Burns has been the recipient of many awards, including the Wisconsin PGA Teacher of the Year in 2007, the Patrick Henry Award in 2014 and the PGA Patriotic Award in 2019. Although he has been the PGA Teacher of the Year and a top-fifty elite teacher, the Patrick Henry Award, presented by the National Guard Association of the United States, for instructing U.S. Armed Forces Wounded Warriors, and the PGA Patriot Award mean the most to him. Burns has published articles in *Golf Digest*, *Golf Illustrated*, *Mountain West Golf*, *Golf Range Times*, and *Wisconsin Golfer*, among others.

It was my great fortune to meet Bob when I sought improvement in my golf game and started taking lessons from him several years ago. Although not an apt student, I enjoyed each lesson as an opportunity to connect with him and discuss matters greater than golf. I was immediately impressed by his love for the game of golf and his passion for teaching. As I got to know him, his patriotism, compassion and spirit of giving back to the game of golf and support for our wounded warriors became evident. Bob is a fellow member of the Military Officers Club of Northeast Wisconsin and a staunch supporter of the annual Fred White Memorial Golf Outing, sponsored by the club each summer. One of the prized items of the silent auction is a set of Bob Burns custom clubs, which he donates each year. The event raises more than \$100,000 annually for veterans in the local communities.



COL (Ret) Lambert, Bob Burns

Burns, MG (Ret) Jim Cuddy

In a lifetime dedicated to the game of golf, Burns is most proud of his work helping Wounded Warriors and other disabled golfers learn how to overcome their handicaps to golf again. His passion for assisting veterans and assisting those with disabilities had its roots in his early childhood growing up in northwest Indiana. His father survived the D-Day beaches of Normandy but returned home with life-long injuries and what we now know as post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Burns became a caddy at age 10 at Innsbruck Country Club in Merrillville, Ind., where he was taken under the wing of club pro Dick Dodd, who became a father figure to him. He met Arnold Palmer in 1967 while caddying at the Gary Country Club. Palmer, playing in an exhibition match, made a deep impact on young Bob that day. What impressed Burns most and inspires him today, was Palmer's charisma, sincerity, philanthropic personality and desire to give back to the game of golf.

A master in golf club fitting, making and repair, Bob authored "Accessible Golf." After his testimony to the 8th Congressional Congress on Disabilities, he

returned to Appleton and sought ways to assist the military's wounded warriors and their families. At the conclusion of Desert Storm and again in 2007 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, he consulted with more than one hundred severely wounded warriors at Walter Reed and Brooke Army Medical Center. At Walter Reed, he worked with amputee Soldiers, helping them learn to play golf again. Back in Appleton, his experiences led him to provide lessons to veterans and others with disabilities free of charge. He incorporated notable changes to his teaching methods, inventing appropriate teaching aids and devices for those missing digits and limbs. His work with wounded warriors led to his selection as the State of Wisconsin's 2007 PGA Teacher of the Year. The Bob Burns Golf Learning Center fabricates golf clubs to fit each wounded warriors' physical condition and disability. Furthermore, Bob developed a stimulating learning atmosphere specifically designed for golfers with disabilities, including wounded warriors.



For more than 50 years Bob Burns has been a resolute philanthropist, generously giving his time, expertise and resources to make a difference in the lives of those with disabilities. His work with wounded warriors has improved their quality of life and helped them recover from the physical and emotional wounds of war. His is a life of patriotism and service to our country.

Please follow the link below to Bob Burns' tribute to our Wounded Warriors. As you read the case histories of wounded warriors and their journey to play golf again, you may even learn something about improving your game.

[Wounded Warriors - Bob Burns Golf Learning Center](#)

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<https://www.bobburnsgolf.com>

In Memoriam

Akiyama, Dennis P., COL, USA (Ret)

10-19-1950 – 06-03-2024

After graduating from the University of Maryland Dental School in 1976, COL Akiyama first served his country with a 2-year tour in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps. After leaving the Navy, he entered private practice in Maryland for four years prior to joining the U.S. Army Dental Corps. A board-certified periodontist, Dennis worked for Kaiser Permanente in Oregon for 15 years after retiring from the Army in 2000. The link to his obituary is provided below.

[**Akiyama, Dennis P. COL USA \(Ret\)**](#)

Holmes, Robert Lewis, COL, USA (Ret)

10-29-1961 – 07-22-2024

The Army Dental Care System mourned the loss of COL Rob Holmes on July 22, 2024. Rob joined the Army in 1988 after graduation from the Southern Illinois University College of Dentistry. During his stellar career, he attained board certification in periodontics and served in a variety of overseas and stateside assignments. He retired from the Army in 2018 after 34 years of service to his country. Please follow the link to his obituary.

[Holmes, Robert Lewis, COL USA \(Ret\)](#)

Obituaries that are brought to our attention are published in the newsletter. Additionally, the "In Memoriam" searchable database will soon be available on the AAD website.

Social Media

LTC Mike Hoffman, the AAD's Facebook page administrator, recently spoke at the FDI World Dental Federation Section Defense Forces Dental Services meeting in conjunction with the 2024 FDI Dental Congress in Istanbul, Turkey. He spoke on Training Platforms for Operational Dentistry

Mike keeps the Army dental community informed about current news throughout the Army Dental Care System (ADCS). Visit the AAD's Facebook and Instagram pages for the latest information about the ADCS and AAD.

[AAD Facebook Page](#)

[AAD Instagram Page](#)

Conclusion

If any of our members would like to share articles and/or vignettes about memorable events from their careers, either before or after retirement, please forward them to the email address below. Furthermore, if anyone is interested in assisting with the AAD's media content and/or serving as an editor of the newsletter, please contact the AAD.

A special thank you once again to Susan Allen for her sage advice and assistance in editing and finalizing the newsletter.

As we approach Veterans Day in November, we again salute all who have served this great Nation. Please keep the young men and women in uniform serving our Nation today in your thoughts and prayers as they serve around the globe. Freedom is not free.

Editor, AAD Newsletter, Ron Lambert, COL, USA (Ret)

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The AAD is your organization!

The Association of Army Dentistry is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We are a philanthropic organization dedicated to honoring the past, supporting the present, and inspiring the future of Army Dentistry.



The Association of Army Dentistry

VISION

"The Association of Army Dentistry honors our past, supports the present, and inspires the future of Army Dentistry."

MISSION

"The mission of the Association of Army Dentistry is to advance Army Dentistry by promoting morale, esprit de corps; supporting activities focused on recruitment and retention; providing dental education, and coaching/mentoring; recognizing those who serve and have served the Nation via Army Dentistry; and fostering an appreciation of the history and accomplishments of Army Dentistry."

STRATEGIC PILLARS

1. Morale and Esprit de Corps
2. Recruitment and Retention
3. Dental Education
4. Coaching and Mentoring
5. Honoring Service
6. Army Dentistry History