



**The Association of
Aviation Ordnancemen
[Http://aaoweb.org/AAO](http://aaoweb.org/AAO)**

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Moving ?

Your Change of
Address is
Important . . . Please submit
one to the
national treasurer

*Chapter 1 - Lemoore, CA
President: AO1 Laura Colby
559-998-9320
Fleet Reserve Club, D Street, Lemoore
3rd Monday, 1730*

*Chapter 3 - Whidbey Island, WA
President: AO2 Carracciolo
301-240-9921
VFW Post 7392 (Whidbey)
2nd Wednesday, 1830*

*Chapter 4 - Virginia Beach, VA
President: LTJG Michael Gaar
Michael.gaar@navy.mil
757-433-9526
VA Beach VFW #392, 2408 Bowland Pkwy
3rd Wednesday, 1900*

*Chapter 5 - China Lake, CA
President: Greg Paulsen
760-384-1810
VFW 4080, 117 N. Alvord
3rd Thursday, 1800*

*Chapter 7 - Naval Base Ventura County, CA
President: UNKNOWN
805-989-9811
Weapons Dept. Conf Room Bldg. 68, NBVC
2nd Wednesday, 1130*

*Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA
President: AO1 Nanise M. Schroeder
619-545-6221
Fleet Reserve, Chula Vista
1st Thursday, 1900*

*Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL
President: Lt. Jack Elrod USN (Ret)
904-655-2211
enavldo@aol.com
Fleet Reserve, Collins Road
3rd Thursday, 1900*

*Chapter 11 - Kaneohe Bay, HI
President: Unknown
808-839-2226
Call for Meeting Time and Place*

*Chapter 21 - Fallon, NV
President: AO2 Gina Middaugh
775-217-3457
American Legion Post 16 Fallon, NV.
1st Wednesday, 1900*

*Chapter 22 - Patuxent River
President: AO1 Mark Walk
Mark.walk@navy.mil
301-997-0036
VFW, Post 2632 California, MD
3rd Wednesday, 1900*

*Chapter LHD-4 Gator Chapter
President: AO1 Neely
On Board*

*Chapter LHD-8 - USS Makin Island
President AO1 (AW/SW) Travis R. Steele
steetr@lhd8.navy.mil
On Board*

*Chapter 39 "Dude Gilbert" - Beaufort, SC
President: Del Tingley
843-228-2827
Delroy.d.tingley@usmc.mil
Hard Corps Café Dude Gilbert Room
1st Thursday 1645*

*Chapter 65 - USS Enterprise
CVN 65 President: AO1 Julius Carter
On Board*

*Chapter 68 - USS Nimitz
CVN 68 President: AO1 John Hardy
On Board*

*Chapter 70 - USS Vinson
CVN 70 President: Ryan P. Burton
On Board*

*Chapter 72 - USS Lincoln
CVN 72 President: AO1 Sobieski
On Board*

*Chapter 73 - USS George Washington
CVN-73 President: Unknown
Forward Deployed*

*Chapter 74 - USS Stennis
CVN 74 President: AO1 Brown
On Board*

*Chapter 75 - USS Truman
CVN 75 President: Unknown
On Board*

*Chapter 76 - USS Ronald Reagan
CVN-76 President: AO1 Sheila Brown
On Board*

*Chapter 77 - USS George HW Bush
CVN-77 President: AO1 Ronald W Lee
On Board leerw@cvn77.navy.mil*

*Chapter Key West,
Southern Most President: Unknown
305-294-2892
Navigator Bar and grill
2nd Friday 1300*

*Chapter 34 - Pensacola, FL
President: Sgt Joshua M Peterson
850-452-7385 x4762
Chapter34ordie@gmail.com
Beef O Brady's
1st Wednesday, 1830*

*Chapter Desert/Southwest - El Centro, CA.
President: Unknown
760-337-4986
Call for Meeting Time and Place*

*Chapter CVW 5 - Deployed
President: AO1 Corey Hester
Forward Deployed*



SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

Robert & Denise Tom
 CAPT Tom & Gay Wimberly USN Ret.
 CWO4 Frank & Naia Williams USN Ret.
 Patricia Huntington Biagini in memory of
 her father Thomas Huntington & John W.
 Finn
 AOC James Poulin USN Ret.
 CWO4 Bob Jackson USN Ret.
 LCDR Joe & Delores Manley USN Ret.
 Chapter 5
 Chapter 8
 Chapter 22
 Chapter 34
 CWO4 Ron Ross USN Ret.
 Chapter 39
 Chapter 77
 AO2 Rick & Pamela Nelson
 GMG(SW/AW) Kirt & Jessi Bunn
 AOCM Stanley & Babs Chambers
 USNR Ret.
 AOCM Edward & Penny Hannifan
 USN Ret.
 Chapter 4

AAO Chapter 9
 LCDR Edward & Ann Budway USN Ret.
 CWO4 Kevin Marks
 Mary K. Feldman
 AO1 Chester L. Estrada USN Ret.
 Architectural Metal Products (Gary
 Mullins)
 AOCM Bill Foote USN Ret.
 LCDR Chuck & Beverly Onken USN Ret.
 Chapter 1
 Chapter 9 (In Memory of Cdr Floyd
 English)
 Chapter 21
 Chapter 65
 Phone Ringing Fine (Linda Neal)
 Phone Ringing Fine (Walecki/ Dowd)
 AOC Rick & Gracie Baxla USN Ret.
 AO2 George & Julie Grundy
 AOCM Donald & Thelma Sanders
 USN Ret.
 CWO4 Leon Slegler USNR Ret.
 AOC Christopher & Shawna Hathaway
 Chapter 72

AO HALL OF FAME INFORMATION

INFORMATION ON SUBMITTING INDIVIDUAL(S) FOR
 THE AAO HALL OF FAME CAN BE FOUND ON THE
 ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN WEB-
 SITE (<http://aaoweb.org/AAO>). THE GUIDELINE
 FORMMATHAS BEEN UPDATED AND THERE IS A
 SAMPLE NOMINATION PACKAGE TO FOLLOW.
 INFORMATION REQUESTED IN GUIDELINES "MUST"
 BE WITH PACKAGE OR IT "WILL" BE RETURNED.
 PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO
 WORK ON PACKAGES, GET STARTED "NOW" AO
 HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, CHUCK
 ONKEN 559-998-3568: E-mail
charles.onken@navy.mil

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<http://www.aaoweb.org/AAO/>

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

FIRST TIME MEMBERS \$20.00 PER YEAR OR \$30.00 FOR TWO YEARS

PREVIOUS MEMBERS AND ANNUAL RENEWALS \$20.00 PER YEAR

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____
 LAST FIRST MI

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

PHONE: home: () _____ - _____ cell: () _____ - _____

RATE/RANK: _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____ Active () Retired ()

DATES SERVED: _____ TO _____ Last SSN: - _____

Marine Corp MOS: _____

Type of membership: Regular () Associate ()

SPONSOR: _____

I elect to receive my Red Shirt by downloading it from the Website only. () Please Initial.

I do / do not authorize release of my name, address and telephone number to other members or prospective members of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

MAIL TO: AOCM Thomas Lord USN Ret.
 2888 Iris Ave., #122
 San Diego, CA 92154

September 2011

GIVE THIS FORM TO A FELLOW ORDNANCEMAN

SPECIAL !!!!!!!!!!!!!

FIRST TIME RE-ENLISTEES SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION
 ALONG WITH A SIGNED COPY OF YOUR RE-ENLISTMENT
 CONTRACT FOR A ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP.

IF YOU ARE ALREADY A MEMBER YOUR EXPIRATION DATE WILL BE EXTENDED ONE YEAR.



Letters To The Editor

I started a Facebook page called "The Red Shirt". If you have access to a computer look us up and LIKE us!



Dear Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Educational Foundation Committee,

I would like to thank you very much for the generous scholarship that you have given me to assist in furthering my education. I truly appreciate this award and know that it will be a tremendous help to me in the continuation of my academic success. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of the Raytheon Corporation Missile Division scholarship.

I am currently majoring in Kinesiology with hopes of pursuing a career in Sports Medicine. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

Kwaminique A. Brandon



I would like to express my deepest gratitude for being selected to receive the Robert L. Crow Scholarship Award. It is an honor to be chosen among so many. This award holds special meaning since it comes from an organization that is extremely important to my dad. Additionally, this allows me the opportunity to continue my education at Marywood University as this award reduces my educational fees and lifts a load off of my parents' shoulders.

I am extremely grateful for all those who have contributed and continue to contribute to the scholarship program. I am committed to representing my family, the military community (and the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen) in a

positive and respectful manner and to give to other people as you have given to me.

Again, I would like to thank you for choosing me for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Ryan E. Jones



Thanks to everyone who had a part in choosing me to receive the Newport News Shipyard Scholarship. I am increasingly thankful to the support shown to me by the Association. I will continue to do all that I can to repay your generosity with hard work in my classes. I am taking more credits than I have in past semesters, so my nose will be perpetually in the books till final exams come round. Thanks once again to everyone.

Adam Swygert



Dear AAO Educational Foundation,

Thank you so much for deeming me a worthy investment. I am grateful to be awarded a scholarship by an organization that has been a part of our family for so many years. A lot of my favorite memories include Ordie picnics and conventions with AOs who I look up to and respect.

I am attending Sierra Valley College of Court Reporting in Fresno, California. I am 6 months into the 3 year program and I am on track and loving it. I look forward to completing the program and this scholarship award will help me get there. You have helped to lighten my financial burden allowing me to focus more of my time on progressing toward my goal.

Thank you again for your support. I promise to continue to work hard and make you all proud.

Sincerely,

JeanAnn M. DeWees



To the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Committee,

Finally, I was fortunate enough to attend the AAO Convention this past August and personally thank each member who has played a massive part in financing my education. Firmly shaking some of the member's hands was closure to how thankful I am. I am truly honored to be one of the recipients of the 2011 Robert L. Crow Memorial Scholarship Awards. The generosity of this award is unfathomable and greatly appreciated.

This is my fourth and final year at James Madison University. After graduating, I will have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Media Arts and Design with a concentration in Journalism and a minor in French. While studying and interning in London for the fall semester, this award will go directly to my educational funds. Not only will it help me experience the world, it will help me experience working internationally as well. The opportunities presented are endless and this scholarship has helped me get here.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone that makes up the AAO for his or her generosity, support and confidence in me to further my education. It was surreal to finally put a face to the members at the convention in Reno, NV. Again, I thank you for your investment in my future.

Sincerely,
Megan Harman



Dear Scholarship Committee,

The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Educational Foundation Scholarship Committee has helped me to continue my higher education and work towards academic success over the past few years. This year I am thankful for being selected as a recipient of the 2011 Newport News Shipbuilding Division Award. I cannot express enough about how thankful I am for the continuous support and generosity of this foundation. I am grateful to have this award which enables me to continue working towards my educational goals. This award is greatly appreciated!

Thanks again,
Katrina E. Cervera



To the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen,

I am so excited to have been selected for the Robert L. Crow scholarship. Receiving this scholarship means so much to me. First, it means that I am able to spend more time studying and leading and participating in clubs on campus. I can't express how important it is to me to be a leader and active member in the clubs I am a part of. Second, it means that as I begin to apply to dietetic internships, I am able to apply to the internships I am most interested in, even if they are more costly. This dietetic internship is extremely important to my career and being able to apply to the internships that focus on my interests is key. Finally, this scholarship means that I am able to save some money for my dietetic internship, which will be a great expense in the coming year.

I am very grateful for receiving this scholarship. It has, and will continue to, provide me with the opportunities to make the most out of my education and future career as a Registered Dietitian.

Sincerely,
Nicole Famularo



Dear Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Educational Foundation:

I would like to express my extreme gratitude for this year's scholarship award. It will help me tremendously in furthering my education.

I will begin my junior year of college at Utah State University this fall and I am excited to be finished with all of my general classes, which means I get to work on classes directed more towards my major area of study. I am also excited to continue studying music, as I have signed up for a few guitar classes as well!

I will continue to work at my current job at American Eagle Outfitters and I will also be starting my new job as a teacher's assistant for the general public speaking class on campus. Again, the award is extremely appreciated and makes paying for school so much easier for myself and my family. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Danielle Manley



Bob,

I thought I'd share this with you. I went to the Navy Memorial to dedicate the squadron plaque but found out on arrival that the Memorial I was going to be a part of was a ceremony with 6 other Midway survivors. I have never been so amazed at the amount of ceremony and just being a small part of it, next to being honored on the Yorktown this was one of the high points of my life.

In the dedication of the plaque I gave a little talk and it was about the great effort our Ordnancemen did at Midway. They installed the bomb racks on 4 B26's and loaded four mark IV aerial torpedoes on board. On the 4th of June AOM3c George Newcombe volunteered to fly in a VP-23 plane as bow gunner, AOM3c Lyonel Orgeron volunteered to fly as turret gunner on one of VT-8's TBF's flown by NAP Darrel Woodside, they never returned. They also had to take care of all the squadron weapons as we were being attacked every day by Japanese Betty's. Their leader ACOM Arcia O. Turner, A.O. we called him, was a Master Bomber, one of three men in the navy that could service the Norden Bomb sight. He had trained his men to perfection. Some of them worked 36 hours without sleep. While he was not flying he set up a 50 cal machine gun between the ship service and the chow hall looking straight down the runway and on the 4th he shot down one Japanese plane that tried to strafe the field. He was promoted to Ensign and went on to flight school and then on to another P boat squadron.

Most of those guys didn't get the credit they deserved. They also helped the Army B17 boys load their bombs.

I have been remiss, I almost forgot the most important member our "Ordie gang", Phillip Fulghum AOM2c. When his plane was attacked and shot down he shot one of the attacking Zeroes down and before the plane hit the water went forward and disarmed the bombs. After the plane hit the water he inflated one of the life rafts and aided the two wounded members of the crew into the boat. Both pilots were dead and only he and three others made it. I saw him receive the Navy Cross from ADM Nimitz at the punch Bowl in Honolulu, I've forgotten what month. He went on to flight school in July and sadly was killed during primary training

Dick Watson
AAO Associate Member

This e-mail was forwarded to me from Bob Holdman. Thanks for the write-up Dick, please see Pictures on Pg 4!

Billy,

We celebrated our "Taste of Home" today. We have thank you pics of the ship coming your way for Mary, James and Ashley.

Thanks for all they are doing. Please send them our best. I will be sending you some emails one at a time due to size.

Passing to you and to Kevin, maybe we can get a few in the next Redshirt..."USS BUSH GETS "A TASTE OF HOME" ON DEPLOYMENT.

See y'all soon brothers.

R/LCDR Dave Fowler
OHO USS George Bush CVN-77

Thanks Dave! Be safe out there and enjoy the pics on Pg 30

Kevin,

Attached is the picture of 103 year old Bill Kamm AOM1/C. He's the one with the wrench. Ken Sizemore is the other instructor. I don't think he is with us now.

The picture is of a class in what was then called AOM School, shortly after it had moved from Great Lakes to Jacksonville it became AO "A" School.

I hope you can find room in an upcoming Red Shirt for the picture. He turns 104 in December.

Thanks
Bob Holdman

The following is the letter from Bill Kamm to Bob

Dear Bob,

Just came across a picture that shows just one class in our school. I found this to be the most interesting and the most fascinating of any of the subjects in our school.

Sincerely
Bill Kamm

Thanks Bill and Bob!! Awesome picture and its on the back page! If anyone would like to have Bill's address and wants to shoot him a letter please contact me for the address.
Kevin



On the Cover; Chapter 21 teamed up with the American Legion and the VFW in the Planting of the flags at Churchill County Cemetery

Back Page; AOM School, 26 July 1944, MK-13 Torpedo lecture Jacksonville, FL.

W.A. Kamm, AOM1/C—Instructor

Duke Munsey, Chief Warrant Torpedoman

Ken Sizemore, AOM1/C—Instructor

EDITOR: AOC Kevin P. Meagher, USN/Ret.

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Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

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(W) 850.883.0187

kevin.meagher@eglin.af.mil

To all chapters,

Please review your information on the Chapter Meetings - Places - Times - Dates section on page 3. E-mail your changes to me and Dennis Costa. I know some of the phone numbers don't match up and I also need a few E-mail addresses. I get the occasional call from AO's inquiring about a meeting in a certain area and its nice to give them up to date information. If you don't see your chapter on here let me know that also please.

Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Educational Foundation Election Notice

At the 2012 Convention, during the first Association Board of Directors meeting, the AAO's Board of Directors will hold elections for a Board of Director Position in the AAOEF. I, as Foundation President, am soliciting advance nominations for the following offices:

Office	Incumbent
Board of Director	Jim Irwin

Eligibility requirements for these offices and the duties of the office are in the AAOEF Bylaws, which you can find by going to: <http://aaoweb.org/AAO> then clicking on Scholarship Information then scroll down to and click on the Bylaws section. All individuals seeking election should familiarize themselves with this information and then have a Regular Member of the Association nominate them. All are reminded of scholarship application or sponsor restrictions imposed to all officers within IRS directives.

I, as President of the Foundation, will be accepting advance

nominations by U.S. Mail or E-Mail for collection and presentation to the Associations President. The deadline for submitting advance nominations is 30 days prior to the first AAO Board Meeting. To make a nomination you must be a Regular Member of the Association and a written acceptance by your nominee must accompany your nomination. All nominations of individuals received will be verified as current Regular Members of the Association through the National Treasurer.

Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the first meeting of the Association's Board of Directors.

Mail advance nominations to: 35 Palmyra Lane, Palm Coast, FL 32164-7517 or E-Mail them to: egunner@att.net.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (386) 445-0968 (H)/ (386) 405-6940 (Cell).

Edward C. Scott
AAOEF President

In Search of Information for the AAO Hall of Fame

I have been working with CAPT Lepard, JJ LaMaitre, Dennis Costa, and Chuck Onken to try and collect information on certain individuals personal information for the Hall of Fame. Out of 60 we have narrowed it down to the following:

Robert W. Branum - AOCM, USN - Inducted 1988 - Need Date of Military Service (From 19XX to 19XX)

Kirby P. Hunt (Deceased) - CDR, USN - Inducted 1988 - Photo (Military if Possible)

Weldon E. Maki (Deceased) - LT, USN - Inducted 1988 - Photo (Military if Possible)

Alvin R. Kall - LT, USN - Inducted 1989 - Need Date of Military Service (From 19XX to 19XX)

If anyone has the information we are searching for contact me via e-mail [wtcarroll@cox.net](mailto:wtc Carroll@cox.net) or my cell phone 850-572-5317

Thanks
Tim Carroll



ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
<http://aaoweb.org/AAO>

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____
 LAST FIRST MI
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP + 4: _____ - _____
 PHONE: home () - _____ Cell () - _____
 RATE/RANK: _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____ Active () Retired ()
 DATES SERVED: _____ TO _____ MARINE CORPS MOS: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____
 LAST 4 SSN: _____ MEMBERSHIP NO. _____
 Type of membership: Regular () Associate ()
 SPONSOR (required for Associate only): _____

Life Membership cost is based on your age and is:

29 and Below	\$345	45 – 49 inc.	\$230	65 – 69 inc.	\$155
30 – 34 inc.	\$315	50 – 54 inc.	\$210	70 – 74 inc.	\$130
35 – 39 inc.	\$285	55 – 59 inc.	\$190	75 and over	\$50
40 – 44 inc.	\$260	60 – 64 inc.	\$170		

You may pay the full LIFE MEMBERSHIP fee in one payment or in ten (10) equal monthly installments. If you prefer to pay monthly, you should send an initial installment of one-tenth of the total cost for your age group with this application. We will enter your LIFE MEMBERSHIP, send your temporary Life Member card and bill you each month until the full fee is paid. You will then receive your permanent Life Membership card.

In the event a member paying on the installment plan finds that they are unable to complete full payment within the time allowed, all monies paid will be credited toward paid-up annual membership at the standard annual rate (presently \$20.00).

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ representing one-tenth of the total fee for my age group, as the first installment toward Life Membership in the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen. Please bill me for the remaining installments on a monthly basis.

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ in full payment for Life Membership in the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

I elect to receive my Red Shirt by downloading it from the Website only. () Please Initial.

I do / do not authorize release of my name, address and telephone number to other members or prospective members of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

MAIL TO: AOCM Thomas Lord USN RET.
 2888 Iris Avenue #122
 San Diego, CA 92154-3352

September 2011

By Paul Fattig

Mail Tribune

A historic Colt .45-caliber, semi-automatic pistol stolen more than 30 years ago from a Medal of Honor winner in South Carolina has been returned to its rightful owner.

The gun and owner were reunited after a history buff in Medford, who bought the old handgun in an online auction last month, tracked down the retired Marine whose name is engraved on it.

Marine John J. McGinty's brave act on March 12, 1968
 President Lyndon Johnson presented John J. McGinty with

the Medal of Honor during a ceremony at the White House on March 12, 1968. In the presentation, then Marine Staff Sgt. McGinty was cited for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" during Operation Hastings in July of 1966.

The troops had been battling toe-to-toe with a larger force of North Vietnamese army troops attempting to push south near the demilitarized zone. McGinty was commanding a 32-man platoon serving as a rear guard as the Marine battalion withdrew at the end of a three-day battle.

For four hours, his platoon was attacked by small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire, the citation reads. At

(Continued on page 12)



one point, two squads became separated from the main body of the platoon.

"With complete disregard for his safety, McGinty charged through intense automatic weapons and mortar fire to their position," it read. "Finding 20 men wounded and the medical corpsman killed, he quickly reloaded ammunition magazines and weapons for the wounded men and directed their fire upon the enemy.

"Although he was painfully wounded as he moved to care for the disabled men, he continued to shout encouragement to his troops and to direct their fire so effectively that the attacking hordes were beaten off," it continued.

The citation mentions his Colt .45 pistol.

"When the enemy tried to out-flank his position, he killed five of them at point-blank range with his pistol," it concluded.

"I knew if I found him and it was his gun, I couldn't keep it," said George Berry, 71, who knew little about the history of the gun when he purchased it from an auction house in Pennsylvania.

The story begins when Berry, a retired Navy warrant officer who also served in the Marine Corps, decided this summer to fulfill a lifelong dream of owning one of the historic handguns.

"I've always wanted to own a Colt Model 1911 .45 automatic — always wanted one," he says. "John Wayne had one in every World War II movie I've ever seen him in."

Early in July, he began searching the Internet and discovered that Alderfer Auction, a well-known auction firm in Hatfield, Pa., would be offering three of the Colt .45s in a July 12 auction.

In particular, lot No. 78 caught his eye: "Colt 1911 A1 semi-automatic pistol. Cal. 45. 5" bbl. SN 0103889. Reblued finish on all metal, plain walnut Colt grips, after-market rear sight, no magazine," the description read.

"Faint 'USMC' stamped on right side of slide, partial 'United States Property' wording is visible," it continued. "The name 'John J. McGinty USMC' stamped on left side of slide. Very good."

Berry was hesitant because it had been "reblued" and no longer had its original sights or grips, all factors decreasing its value.

"And it had somebody's name engraved on the left side of

the slide," he observed.

He had no idea that McGinty was a war hero, let alone a recipient of the nation's highest military medal for valor.

Still, the gun was manufactured in 1914, making it an early model. And there was the USMC stamp he coveted.

"I decided to buy it in spite of the knocks against it," Berry said. "It was the only one I knew of with 'USMC' stamped on it."

Berry paid less than \$1,000 for the pistol. The two other Model 1911 Colt .45s in the auction went for roughly \$4,000 and \$6,000 each, he noted.

Curious about who this McGinty fellow was, he began an Internet search. Up popped numerous articles on a John J. McGinty, a retired marine who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his courage in South Vietnam in 1966.

"The value of the gun just went up five-fold — that was my first thought, anyway," Berry recalled.

As he read more about McGinty and his story, he knew he had to locate him to see if he was the same man who once owned the gun. He also wanted to find out how he parted with the pistol, and whether the former Marine wanted it back.

"His medal citation actually mentions the pistol," Berry observed, referring to the fact the wounded McGinty used it to kill five enemy soldiers attacking his position.

However, Berry did not yet know whether it was the same McGinty associated with his newly acquired pistol. He used the Internet to track down McGinty, 71, in Beaufort, S.C. McGinty had retired from the corps as a captain in October 1976.

The retired Navy warrant officer called the retired Marine Corps officer and asked him if it was his pistol.

"He said, 'Do you mean 0103889?' " Berry recalled, noting McGinty had just recited the gun's serial number.

That's when McGinty informed him the pistol had been stolen in 1978 when it was on display along with his uniform and sword. It was the very same pistol McGinty had used in Vietnam to repulse that final assault.

Berry sent the pistol to Beaufort. After receiving it, McGinty called and wanted to pay Berry for all his expenses.

(Continued on page 26)