



2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter,
Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)
WEBSITE: www.b-2-1-196lib.com



Volume 2

"A Soldier's Footsteps"

June 2012

Commander's Corner: : I hope you all had an enjoyable Memorial Day and remembered to honor our brothers in arms that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our wonderful nation. The month of May is always pretty exciting around Indianapolis with the Indy 500 Mile Race and all the festivities that surround it. As usual, I was joined for the race by my old "Nam" buddy, Bruce Nielsen, his cousin Bill and our friend Bernie. I don't even remember when we all started this tradition of going to the race together but, it's always been an adventure; especially their trip down from Michigan. We have stayed at the same friend's house near the track for all these years but, they still seem to be navigationally dysfunctional; as soon as they get in the general area of the house they seem to go astray.. Eventually, they find it after discovering new places in the area each year. This year, the race was won by Dario Franchitti, his 3rd, and the NASCAR race was won by Kasey Kahne; as usual I fell asleep before the end of the NASCAR race.. The 500 was a good race and went down to the last lap; as usual it was hot (in the 90's). We had our normal great time and, needless to say, some beer was involved. While I was in Vietnam, I had the privilege of visiting a cousin that resided in Saigon for 3 days on TDY (temporary duty). She was a civilian and her husband, a former Marine Corps pilot, flew for Air America. She, in my estimation, was one of the unsung civilian heroes that gave their time, effort and soul to helping the cause in Vietnam (in my day it was heroine, but somehow that term got lost along with the word actress). I am going to attempt to put together an article for next month's newsletter regarding this brave lady and her exploits in Vietnam. Hopefully, I'll get all of my ducks in a row by then; otherwise it may be delayed until the August issue. I want to welcome the newest members of the chapter as of this writing; they are Jose Luis Rodriguez (A Co.) and Michael Stout (E Co.) Remember 2012 dues go to Don Hicks, 909 Maple Leaf St., Franklin, KY 42134.

Thanks, Chuck

Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!

Happy Birthday, Army: June 14th, 1775, is the birthday of the United States Army. That year the Continental Congress, recognizing the value of military power as important to the quest for redress of laws, taxes, restrictions and demands of the British government, authorized the forming of 10 companies of Infantry. In short order that first soldier organization of about 1,000 began an evolution that 170 years later during World War II, reached strength of about 8 million soldiers and civilian employees and today is the 1-million-strong professional force that is the envy of all other nations. This year is not a time to celebrate. We have not won the wars we are engaged in. It is, rather, a time to acknowledge and appreciate what the Army has accomplished in its 237 years and to encourage its leaders and rank and file to remain dedicated and resolute as they guarantee the future freedom of our nation. It is a noble cause and an honorable pursuit, time tested and rewarding principally because of the personal satisfaction of being a contributor to a successful effort in a vital mission. Happy Birthday, Army, and best wishes for an unlimited returns of the day still at the acme of the military profession, still Army Strong.

Celebrate Flag Day by protecting Old Glory:

I'm sure most of us have attended the funeral of a servicemember killed in the line of duty. At one time or another, you have stood at the graveside of an American who wore the uniform, rendering a final salute. Every moment of such a ceremony is moving, but perhaps the most powerful is when a servicemember steps forward to present the U.S. flag to the surviving family. Every time, that flag has been folded, usually by two representatives from the deceased's branch of service, and gently placed in the hands of the widow, the parent or the children, on behalf of a grateful nation. Even the most stoic of men labor to keep their emotions in check as Old Glory – folded smartly so that only the blue stars are showing – is received by the surviving family members. There is no greater send-off to Americans who in wartime put our country first, and no better way to thank the loved ones who supported them. There is no more potent symbol in our nation, yet because of a 1989 Supreme Court decision, that symbol remains unprotected against physical desecration. Every time the U.S. flag is burned or ripped, it's an affront to those who know that it's more than a piece of cloth. Since that tragic day there has been a campaign against flag desecration people have been lobbying Congress on behalf of the millions of Americans who support a constitutional amendment that would return to the people the right to protect their flag. Currently, two pieces of legislation – H.J. Res 13 in the House and S.J. Res 19 in the Senate – await action. They say simply: "The Congress shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." As we celebrate Flag Day this month, now is the time to contact your elected senators and representatives to ask them to co-sponsor or support the legislation. There is no symbol more powerful, or more worth protecting, than our flag.

ADVENTURES WITH HOLIDAY

1st guy I met when I arrived in Bravo company 2/1 Infantry on LZ Baldy was Chuck "Holiday" Holdaway. New guy and a bit apprehensive about the situation I was about to get into, like I'm sure we all were when we were new guys, Chuck somehow made it all seem normal and ok right off the bat. He was my squad leader at the time. Wasn't long before I discovered that Holiday had a sense of adventure like no guy I have ever met. A few months after my arrival and with a little seasoning under my GI grunt belt the company was sent out to "The Sands" Barrier Island or Cigar Island. It was called by all three names and it is my understanding that that is where the NVA took their R&R and that we were sent there to sorta stir the hornet's nest every now and then. Needless to say there were a lot of NVA running around out there. Vegetation was a bit sparse, just scattered here and there, and the ground was just plain sand. Easy digging for a foxhole. Many of us were out there so I will leave my description of the place at that. So, I'm in "The Sands" with the rest of the company and Holiday. He decides me and him should go poking around a bit, just the two of us, to see what we can find. Not too far from our position we both just happen to see a sniper up in a tree and the sniper sees us at the same time. Sniper decides right away he'd better get outta the tree or he's toast, promptly unasses the tree and heads out before we can get a shot at him. Holiday says let's get him so the two of us, just the two of us, go off chasing the sniper in what was pretty much enemy territory. Every now and then we spot him behind a tree or some brush, he spots us and takes off again. We are always to far away and moving to fast to get off a shot, same same for the sniper. Not to mention I gotta figure he thought we were both nuts for chasin him in the 1st place. After what seemed way too long for the two of us to be out there alone chasing this guy I just stop. I tell Holiday this is stupid, we are gonna get lost. He says no we're not. I say ya probably don't even know where we are by now. Holiday's response was "I know exactly where we are". Next question from me was oh yeah? Where the hell are we? His response----VIETNAM! I think I almost fell down laughing. We obviously made it back to safe and sound. Sniper is still probably thinkin we were both crazy.

Bruce "Nelson" Nielsen

VOW to Hire Heroes Update: The House VA Committee this week discussed progress being made by VA and Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training in meeting the goals of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act. A critical provision of the law, the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, or VRAP, is set to launch on July 1. VRAP allows qualifying veterans to receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill active duty rate. Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL) asked senior officials from VA and DOL/VETS to testify on VRAP and how they intend to reach eligible veterans and promote the program for maximum enrollment. The VOW Act authorized 99,000 training positions for veterans under the program. VFW played a critical role in getting this employment legislation passed into law and will continue monitoring its progress. To learn more about the hearing and to learn more about VRAP, click here: <http://www.vfwonthehill.org/2012/06/va-and-labor-officials-update-congress.html>

Bronze Star Recipient Asked to Prove Citizenship: Florida has asked a 91-year-old veteran who earned a Bronze Star during World War II to prove he's a U.S. citizen, two Democratic congressmen said. U.S. Reps. Ted Deutch and Alcee Hastings, both from Florida, told the South Florida Sun Sentinel that Bill Internicola of Davie received a letter from the Broward County election office accusing him of not being eligible to vote. The letter Internicola received was one of 2,600 sent to voters throughout Florida recently as part of a state purge of voter rolls. Another 52,000 people, believed to be dead, were identified by the state as active voters. The two Florida Democrats accuse Gov. Rick Scott of using the cleanup as a ruse to disenfranchise voters before the November presidential election. Internicola, an Army veteran and lifelong Democrat, was given 30 days to prove his citizenship or have his right to vote canceled.

Hanoi Opens 3 New Areas in Search for MIAs: The Vietnamese government has agreed to open three new sites in the country for excavation by the United States to search for troop remains from the war. The announcement came as U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta held a meeting with Vietnam Defense Minister Phung Quang Thanh. They exchanged long-held artifacts collected during the war -- including letters written by a U.S. soldier who was killed that had been kept and used as propaganda, and a small maroon diary belonging to a Vietnamese soldier. A U.S. servicemember took the journal back to the U.S. During a press briefing, where the two defense chiefs formally handed over the papers, both said their countries want to work together. Defense officials reviewing the packet of papers given to Panetta said it appears there are three sets of letters, including a set from the soldier, U.S. Army Sgt. Steve Flaherty, who was from Columbia, S.C. It was not clear how many other servicemembers' letters were there, but officials were going through them Monday. Officials said this is the first time such a joint exchange of war artifacts. During the meeting with Panetta, Vietnamese officials said they would open three previously restricted sites that the Pentagon believes are critical to locating troops missing in action.

Editors Notes: Newsletters are uploaded to the 2nd Battalion Chapter ADVA Website. If you missed an issue or would like to look at one from the past look on the Website. The Web address is identified in the heading of the N/L. If you have anything relating to this N/L, email or write them to the following addresses; Email: rheroux1@nc.rr.com or gcarder@columbus.rr.com. Snail mail: Rich Heroux, 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525-7300 or Gary Carder, 1725 Demorest Road, Columbus, OH 43228.

Dues Notice: January starts the Chapter's fiscal year. Dues are \$5.00 per year. Dues are payable during January every year. If you forgot to send your dues to the Treasurer please do so now or you can wait until the reunion in September. The funds will help offset the cost and maintenance of the Chapter WEBSITE, and mailing of the N/L. If conditions prevent you from paying the dues, please let me know. You will continue as a member until conditions change. Make your check payable to: **2/1, 196th LIB Veterans Chapter**. Send your payment to: Don Hicks, 909 Mapleleaf Street, Franklin, KY 42134. It would be most helpful if you would include the full name, address email address, & phone number.

Don Hicks

Ten New Names, Ten Brothers in Arms, Ten Legacies of Courage.

Ten new names were added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, including CPL Frank A. Neary of the United States Marine Corps. With these additions, 58,282 names are now etched in granite on The Wall. In 1967, CPL Neary was shot in the leg while on patrol in Vietnam. He was just 18. Upon returning home, like too many who have seen the theater of war, he struggled to cope with his memories. He was able to use the memories of his fallen brothers for good: The opportunity to see and raise a family was an opportunity to educate that family about respecting and honoring our veterans. The opportunity to work to support his family was an opportunity to hire and train dozens of returning veterans from battles all around the globe. The opportunity to volunteer time and effort was an opportunity to help construct the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel, NJ. Fifty of CPL Neary's family members gathered at The Wall to honor his life and the legacies of nine other fallen service members. We're proud to ensure their stories will live on for generations through our plans for the Education Center at The Wall. Also honor and remember the nine names added to The Wall in addition to CPL Neary. They are: PFC Johnny Owen Brooks, U.S. Army, Stockton, CA; PFC Larry Morgan Kelly, U.S. Army, Akron, OH; SP4 David Lawrence Deckard, U.S. Army, Louisville, KY; ATC Joseph William Aubin, U.S. Navy, Bridgeport, CT; ATR3 Richard Carl Hunt, U.S. Navy, Guys Mills, PA; LT Walter Allan Linzy, U.S. Navy, Nashville, AR; ATR3 Richard Dwaine Stocker, U.S. Navy, Jacksonville, AR; LTJG David McLean Desilets, U.S. Navy, Palm Desert, CA; AN Albert Kalahana Kuewa, U.S. Navy, Honolulu, HI.

Almost Half of New Vets Seek Disability: A staggering 45 percent Almost Half of the 1.6 million veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are now seeking compensation for injuries they say are service-related. That is more than double the estimate of 21 percent who filed such claims after the Gulf War in the early 1990s, top government officials told the public recently. What's more, these new veterans are claiming eight to nine ailments on average, and the most recent ones over the last year are claiming 11 to 14. By comparison, Vietnam veterans are currently receiving compensation for fewer than four, on average, and those from World War II and Korea, just two. It's unclear how much worse off these new veterans are than their predecessors. Many factors are driving the dramatic increase in claims - the weak economy, more troops surviving wounds, and more awareness of problems such as concussions and PTSD. Almost one-third have been granted disability so far. Government officials and some veterans' advocates say that veterans who might have been able to work with certain disabilities may be more inclined to seek benefits now because they lost jobs or can't find any. Aggressive outreach and advocacy efforts also have brought more veterans into the system, which must evaluate each claim to see if it is war-related. Payments range from \$127 a month for a 10 percent disability to \$2,769 for a full 100 percent. The Department of Veterans Affairs is mired in backlogged claims, but "our mission is to take care of whatever the population is," said Allison Hickey, the VA's undersecretary for benefits. "We want them to have what their entitlement is." More are from the Reserves and National Guard - 28 percent of those filing disability claims - rather than career military. Reserves and National Guard made up a greater percentage of troops in these wars than they did in previous ones. About 31 percent of Guard/

Reserve new veterans have filed claims compared to 56 percent of career military. More of the new veterans are women, accounting for 12 percent of those who have sought care through the VA. Women also served in greater numbers in these wars than in the past. Some female veterans are claiming PTSD due to military sexual trauma - a new challenge from a disability rating standpoint, Hickey said.

AWOL Soldier Guilty in Ft. Hood Plot: A federal jury on Thursday convicted an AWOL Muslim soldier of attempting to blow up a Texas restaurant full of Fort Hood troops. The Waco jury convicted Pfc. Naser Jason Abdo of the most serious charge, attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction, which could land him in prison for life. Abdo also was convicted of attempted murder of U.S. officers or employees, and four counts of possessing a weapon in furtherance of a federal crime of violence. Authorities arrested Abdo at a Killeen motel last July while he was AWOL from Fort Campbell, Ky. Prosecutors say he had begun making a bomb and was angry about the U.S.-led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. In a recorded police interview, Abdo said he was planning to pull off an attack in the Fort Hood area "because I don't appreciate what my unit did in Afghanistan." Abdo said he had begun making an explosive device in the Killeen motel room where he was staying before he was detained in July, after he went AWOL.

Long Awaited Stand-Down: After Tet, Bravo went to the QueSon Valley and then was shipped off to someplace or another whenever and where ever. In the summer of 1968 we found ourselves in a "someplace" (someone else will have to remember). We followed a stream bed for several day that had been cut through a narrow valley. We ran into one ambush and killed one VC, one got away. After returning to the LZ maybe 10 days later, we were told we were getting a long overdue stand down - four months since the last break.

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Memorial Day 2012: Rolling Thunder, Parade Honor Veterans, Fallen Soldiers In Nation's Capital:

As the sounds of motorcycles continue to reverberate throughout the nation's capital following Sunday's 25th anniversary of the [Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Run](#), events honoring veterans and fallen soldiers are continuing Monday as Memorial Day is officially observed around the nation. Monday afternoon, thousands of people will line Constitution Avenue NW to watch the annual [National Memorial Day Parade](#). That event, honoring those who served and gave their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, will start at 2 p.m. at 7th Street NW and end at 17th Street NW, near the World War II Memorial. The parade will cap a long weekend of events and activities honoring veterans and fallen soldiers, where visitors from across the United States and beyond swarmed the National Mall and paid tribute to the nation's military heroes at monuments like the World War II Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall. This Memorial Day also marks the 25th anniversary of the [Rolling Thunder Run](#), the great 500,000 motorcycle promenade meant to honor prisoners of wars and soldiers missing in action and raise awareness around issues facing the nation's veterans.

Forgotten Vet is 1,000th Buried with Dignity and Military Honors:

The Dignity Memorial network is a proud partner of VFW On a rainy winter day in Portland, Ore., veterans, active-duty military personnel, local leaders and community members gathered to honor the life and service of Navy Chief Petty Officer Stevenson Roy. Few of those in attendance knew Roy. He passed away with no family and no place to call home. Despite Roy's challenges in life, the Dignity Memorial® Homeless Veterans Burial Program made sure his service to his country was remembered with full military honors. Roy, who served in the Navy, was the 1,000th veteran to be served by this program. Without assistance from the Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program and similar efforts, Roy and the scores of America's forgotten veterans who pass away without a home, money and family would risk burial in pauper's graves, without services or military honors. Since its inception in 2000, the program has provided qualified homeless veterans with honorable burials in VA or state cemeteries. The program is a cooperative effort among Dignity Memorial funeral, cremation and cemetery service providers, local medical examiners and coroners, VA, VFW and other veterans advocates.

Pentagon: US Doing All It Can to Find POW Soldier:

The military and the intelligence community are doing everything possible to find 26-year-old Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was taken prisoner in Afghanistan almost three years ago, Pentagon leaders said in the aftermath of criticism from the soldier's family. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has met with Bergdahl's parents in his office and corresponded with them several times. Bergdahl's parents went public this week with secret U.S. attempts to trade their son for Taliban prisoners in U.S. hands. They say they are frustrated by what they believe are stalled efforts to free him. He is the subject of a proposed prisoner swap in which the Obama administration would allow the transfer of five Taliban prisoners long held at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The proposal has been in limbo for months, however, and faces serious opposition in Congress. The Taliban walked away from talks in March, saying the U.S. had reneged on several promises. Asked about the swap, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said he would take such steps only in accordance with the law, which requires that he ensure that any detainees released from Guantanamo will not return to the battlefield.

Korean War Vet, 84, Shoots Intruder Inside Home:

An 84-year-old western Pennsylvania man and Korean War vet shot and wounded a home invasion suspect, and then forgave the man's family when they came to apologize. Police said Raymond Hiles, 25, was captured Tuesday not long after trying to break into Fred Ricciutti's Elizabeth Township home, about 15 miles south of Pittsburgh. "My wife and I were asleep. We were staying downstairs because my wife is ill," Ricciutti told The Associated Press on Wednesday. Ricciutti said he heard a noise at about 4:30 a.m. and could see someone coming into the room. He pulled a gun out of a drawer, yelled a warning at Hiles and then fired once, hitting him in the neck. Ricciutti, who was born in Italy, said he came to the U.S. in 1937, and later served in a tank battalion during the Korean War. "In the war I experienced a lot of bad things, but I had never experienced that in my own house," he said of the invasion. Ricciutti said the suspect lives across the street, and he's never faced any hostility in the town. "I know the family. They're good people," he said, adding that they came over in tears to apologize for what Hiles allegedly did. "I forgave them," he said, adding that he couldn't hold them responsible for Hiles' actions. WPXI-TV first reported that investigators said Hiles was arrested a few blocks away, carrying a screwdriver and a stun gun. He's being held on \$100,000 bail on charges including criminal trespass and burglary.

House Passes Veterans Funding Bill: Legislation Was Passed On May 31, 2012.

By a vote of 407-12, the "Republican-controlled House approved legislation to boost health care spending for veterans and provide more money to compensate record numbers of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans claiming service-related disabilities as they return home." The measure "boosts spending for Veterans Administration medical services in 2014 by \$2.2 billion, a 5 percent increase that came even as the VA revealed earlier this year that it had overestimated medical care costs by \$3 billion for this year and \$2 billion for next. VA medical programs are budgeted more than a year in advance to insulate them from the ups and downs of the budget process."



Time to Make Arrangements for the 2012 ADVA Reunion:

Times *awaistin* for making plans for the 2012 ADVA reunion in Atlanta, GA. This note is intended to alert you to join us for a most anticipated "Hot" time in *"HotAtlanta"*. Atlanta is chock-full of fun things to do and see. It is the capital city of the South making it a well traveled tourist adventure land. The ADVA staff is working to make this year's event one that everyone will long remember. We are scheduled to participate in the dedication of the Americal Division monument in the "Walk of Honor" near the newly opened National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning. As part of this memorable event the attendees are invited to eat lunch at the 2/46th Infantry Regiment Mess Hall. What a treat this will be for the ladies who have seldom had the opportunity to dine in this fashion. The lunch may even be an experience for all of us "Grunts". An application is part of your latest Americal Journal. You can also find an application via our Chapter and ADVA WEBSITES. Make your reservations early. Let's make this another banner reunion. Our annual membership meeting will also be conducted at this time. We're adding a "Hospitality Room" for Chapter's use during the reunion. We have asked the ADVA leadership to refrain from scheduling the ADVA Reunion during the same period as another major reunion such as Kokamo. In prior years this was the case however with the dedication of the Americal Division monument this could not be avoided.

The Deepest Cut: Our duty to never leave a soldier behind does not end with the current conflict. More than 83,000 Americans remain unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War, though many thousands of that number are considered buried at sea and unrecoverable. We have a duty to honor their service every bit as much as we honor those who most recently served or are still serving today. The U.S. government makes strong attempts to recover and account for those who are missing or are prisoners of war. DoD follows up on every credible report about possible missing Americans sending teams worldwide to return U.S. personnel to their loved ones at home - all to keep America's promise to those who serve. Fiscal Year 2011 DoD's budget was substantially reduced by the actions of the Congress. Without the funding requested by JPAC the chore previously stated to return 200 POW/MIAs annually by 2015 cannot be accomplished. The United States has a sacred duty to honor those who serve and return them home. Threatening the military budget clearly damages our nation's ability to do so.

Nearly \$2M in Guns, Combat Gear Sold to Gangs: A wide-reaching investigation by military and civilian authorities has uncovered a criminal conspiracy within the Armed Forces to steal and sell nearly \$2 million in guns and combat gear to gangs in the U.S. and foreign countries including China, military officials have confirmed. The probe began more than a year and a half ago when agents with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service began to conduct undercover operations to disrupt and reduce the theft, transfer, sale and possession of stolen U.S. Government property. With the aid of Marine and Naval authorities, NCIS has recovered \$1.8 million in stolen guns and combat gear to include assault rifles, night-vision goggles, flashlights and other items, military officials said. Those involved are accused of stealing, over-ordering or otherwise obtaining equipment and selling guns locally and other gear over the Internet to people in foreign countries including China and Russia, officials said. Those involved in the criminal enterprise did so for a multitude of reasons including but not exclusive to human greed and the ease by which the material could be pilfered, according to a government official familiar with the operation. "We're talking about sophisticated, hi-tech flashlights that cost the government up to \$800 per unit. The temptation and ease with which to steal and sell them, for some, is irresistible," the official said. The commanders from Camp Lejeune and II Marine Expeditionary Force have been working closely with NCIS during the investigation, said Nat Fahy, deputy director of public relations for Marine Corps Installations East. With cooperation from Marine and Navy officials, NCIS has been able to conduct 66 investigations involving 47 active duty Marines and sailors to include enlisted and high-ranking officers and 21 civilians who are now in various stages of prosecution.

The War of 1812 at 200: June 19th marks the 200th anniversary of the US Senate's approval of a declaration of war against Great Britain. Many speak of the War of 1812 as our "second war for independence," with good reason. Great Britain's Navy ruled the waves, having crushed continental rivals and deploying 175 mighty ships of the line and more than 600 vessels overall. British enforcement of their Orders in Council led to contentious confrontations with and seizures of American merchant vessels. The sing was soon suppressed by the issue of impressments. The United States suffered defeats and secured victories but in the end would assert itself on the land and sea. Iconic battles such as the Thames (1813), Chippewa and Lundy's Lane (1814), and New Orleans (1815) reshaped the eventual results. Two nations that had every economic and pragmatic reason to get along went to war because of the priorities and indifference of the one, and the aspirations and sensitivities of the other. The United States is now the superpower. It should remain careful not to treat others now as Great Britain treated the U.S. then.

The greatest threat of danger to our security arises from historical amnesia among our population!

The Emergence of “Uncle Sam”: I’m sure all of you have made a reference to “Uncle Sam” at one time or another. Actually, “Uncle Sam” was personified after a real person, Samuel Wilson, who was born on September 13, 1766 and died on July 31, 1854.



In 1789, Wilson and his brother Ebenezer moved to Troy New York where they set up the business E. & S. Wilson which, among other things, dealt in meat packing.

By the war of 1812, his business was fairly prosperous and E. & S. Wilson obtained a contract with the U.S. government to provide the army with beef and pork. Their meat was shipped in barrels and because the meat was now considered the property of the U.S.

Government; the barrels were marked with “U.S.”. The teamsters and eventually soldiers took to saying that the “U.S.” stood for “Uncle Sam”, referring to the co-owner of the supplying company, Samuel Wilson. Eventually, they took to referring to all U.S. branded property as “Uncle Sam’s”, even though E. & S. Wilson had only supplied the beef and pork. This evolved into calling the federal government itself “Uncle Sam”. Widespread use of this personification of the U.S. government later became popular among the masses through various political cartoons; often depicted versus the English equivalent “John Bull”.



Uncle Sam was first mentioned in public print as early as 1813 and was connected to Sam Wilson by the New York Gazette on May 12, 1830. Uncle Sam was first portrayed in human form by cartoonist Frank Bellew in the March 13th, 1852 issue of the New York Lantern. The famous recruiting image of the Uncle Sam during WWI depicting a stern Uncle Sam pointing his finger and saying “I want you” was drawn by artist James Flagg in 1917 and is now the standard image used to depict Uncle Sam.

The earliest personification of what would become the United States was Brother Jonathan a fictional character created to personify the entire United States, in the early days of the country's existence. In editorial cartoons and patriotic posters, Brother Jonathan was usually depicted as a typical American revolutionary, with tall hat and long military jacket. Originally, from 1776 to 1783, "Brother Jonathan" was a mildly derisive term used by the Loyalists to describe the Patriots. Brother Jonathan was replaced by the female personification "Columbia" who first appeared in 1738 and sometimes was associated with Liberty and the United States of America. Columbia was largely displaced as the female symbol of the U.S. by the Statue of Liberty after about 1920. *Article compiled and submitted by Chuck Holdaway.*

