



2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter, Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)

WEBSITE: www.2-1-196th.com



Volume 5

"A Soldier Once... And Always"

March 2015

Commanders Corner: Time to start working on the ole' taxes again. Sure came around quick this year. I don't know about all of you but, time really flies for me now. Our Vice-commander, Rich Heroux, recently attended a ceremony at Fort Benning to celebrate the engraving of Sp4 Donald Sloat's name on the Americal Division Memorial's Medal of Honor pedestal on the Walk of Honor on the grounds at the Infantry Museum. Col(R) Alton Coleman, former Commander of 2/1 Infantry and a member of our chapter, gave an inspiring talk about the valor and professionalism of the battalion during the Vietnam conflict. Les Hines, ADVA historian, recorded a DVD of the event and Rich has copies available for any member who wants one. Please contact Rich if you'd like to have one. It has come to my attention a couple of our members need our support and prayers; Si Nerone, former 2nd Battalion Commander has been ill of late and Don Hicks, our Secretary/Treasurer is looking at possibly undergoing back surgery. I'm sure we all wish them our best. Last month, I mentioned I had been fooling around with our web site; trying to set up an area where members can send in photos and have them put on the site. After much frustration and an unexpected learning curve I have the "Video Gallery" page started. It currently contains a DVD presentation (Dwight Sypolt B-C 2/1), a video (Pete Vander Haeghan B 2/1), and slide presentations (Jerry Kominick B 2/1) and Carl Jacob (D 2/1). Check 'em out and let me know what you think. Anyone wanting to submit some pix can email or snail mail them to me. I would prefer .jpg format if possible because it takes up less space on our web site server (and my storage). Otherwise, I have to convert them which takes quite a bit of time. Remember to check out our home page for Americal reunion information (also in last month's Commanders Corner). Don't forget about dues. Wherever you go, there you are!

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

Chuck



Senate Approves Carter as Defense Secretary: The Senate yesterday overwhelmingly approved Dr. Ash Carter to become the new Secretary of Defense. He was deputy secretary of defense from 2011 to 2013, and before that, he oversaw the buying of the military's newest weapons systems and technologies, as undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics. During the Clinton Administration, he was assistant secretary of defense for international security policy.

"Flexibility is the key to tactical success, indecision is the key to flexibility"



SAV Act Now Law: Veteran organizations were at the White House recently to witness President Obama sign the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act into law. The new law allows the VA to hire more psychiatrists, collaborate with local non-profit mental health organizations, and expand its successful peer support networks. It strengthens and expands the mental health programs and services currently available to service members and veterans. What the SAV Act doesn't do is go far enough, according to VFW National Commander John Stroud, who said dropped provisions from the final bill would have improved mental health partnerships between VA and the Reserve Components, and required DOD to review less-than-honorable discharges that may have been associated with undiagnosed PTSD. The VFW will work with Congress to insert those critically important issues into the next suicide prevention legislation.

Army Revokes Green Beret's Silver Star - Starts Separation Proceedings: The Army has revoked a Silver Star and initiated separation proceedings for a Fort Bragg Green Beret following an investigation into whether he committed a war crime while serving in Afghanistan, according to a California congressman advocating on his behalf. The Army's criminal probe began two months after the Silver Star ceremony for Maj. Matthew Golsteyn, a decorated 3rd Special Forces Group officer. During the 2011 ceremony at Fort Bragg, he was lauded for his battlefield heroism -- exposing himself to enemy fire while commanding a patrol of 80 men and five vehicles on a muddy poppy field. But now Golsteyn has lost the Silver Star, and the Army has stripped him of his Special Forces tab. He learned last week that separation proceedings have been initiated by Human Resources Command, documents show. Few details are known publicly about what the Army accuses Golsteyn of doing. What is known has come from U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter's office, which says the Army alleged Golsteyn was involved in the 2010 death of an insurgent bomb maker outside the rules of engagement. A spokesman for Secretary of the Army John McHugh declined to comment about the case, citing privacy issues. He did confirm that the Army completed a criminal investigation.



New SecDef Pledges 'Candid' Advice to White House at Swearing-In: New Defense Secretary Ashton Carter pledged Monday to give candid military and strategic advice to President Obama and a White House staff often accused of attempting to "micromanage" the military. After his swearing-in ceremony at the White House, Carter used the word "candid" twice in describing how he and the Joint Chiefs would carry out the statutory mission to give their best military advice to the White House. In a message to all Pentagon personnel, Carter said: "I have pledged to provide the president my most candid strategic advice. I will count on your experience and expertise as I formulate that advice. I will also ensure the president receives candid professional military advice." Carter rattled off a list of crises that must be faced from the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) to the ongoing fighting in Ukraine but also pointed to the opportunities for the U.S. to make the world safer. "While we deal with the challenges to our national security, I also want to make sure that I help our leadership grab hold of the wonderful opportunities that lie before this great country," Carter said.

Fort Hood Soldiers Killed and Wounded By Hasan to Get Purple Hearts: The Army has approved the award of the Purple Heart and its civilian counterpart to the victims of Army psychiatrist Nidal Hasan in the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas. Thirteen people were killed and more than 30 wounded in the shootings that had been treated as an incident of "workplace violence" rather than a terrorist act. Hasan, who was convicted in 2013 of 13 counts of murder and 32 counts of attempted murder, has admitted to being influenced by the late Anwar Awlaki, chief propagandist for the al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula terrorist group. A major at the time of the shooting, Hasan was stripped of his rank and dismissed from the Army after his conviction. The Army had denied the Purple Heart awards and the benefits that go with them, but Congress passed an amendment included in the National Defense Authorization Act last year clearing the way for the award of the Purple Heart to soldiers killed and wounded by Hasan and the Defense of Freedom Medal to the civilians. The amendment changed the rule to allow for an event to be deemed an attack by a "foreign terrorist organization" if the perpetrator "was in communication with the foreign terrorist organization before the attack" and "the attack was inspired or motivated by the foreign terrorist organization."



First Five Women Green-Lighted for Ranger School: Five female soldiers have passed the pre-Ranger course at Fort Benning, Ga., making them the first women who will attend U.S. Army Ranger School this spring. The five females successfully completed the Ranger Training Assessment Course, or RTAC, Jan. 30 alongside 53 males at the Army National Guard's Warrior Training Center at Benning. "This first iteration of an integrated RTAC composed of 96 men and 26 women has provided significant lessons-learned as we conduct a deliberate and professional way forward to the integrated assessment in April," Maj. Gen. Scott Miller, CG of the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, said recently. Three other RTAC classes will be held prior to the Ranger Course Assessment, which begins April 20. This historic pilot program and assessment comes amid increasing demand to open up to women all military specialties, including infantry. Army leadership is open to the idea, but insists there will be no lowering of standards. The effort is the result of former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta's January 2013 directive that all services open combat-arms roles to women that so far have been reserved for men.

COMBAT STORIES:

HOE CHOI MIEN Sandals. Sgt. Ngoc & I went on what I thought would be a relatively easy & quick shopping trip to buy a pair of VC sandals- the ones with inner tube straps & tire tread soles. We were wrong. It was a long search & only partially successful, but it was interesting nonetheless. Saigon has hundreds, if not thousands of shoe stores, selling anything from high end expensive designer shoes to basic flip flops in different colors and shapes. Whenever we were in Saigon, we stopped into stores, inquiring whether they sold them or not. I mistakenly thought that they would be sold in all the tourist shops & street side carts lining the streets. No - go. No one even knew what I was talking about. I was a relic of the war looking for something that didn't exist any more. Vietnam had moved on. Souvenirs from Vietnam are mainly trinkets, t shirts, hats, sunglasses, postcards; anything appealing to a much younger tourist than I. The war was ancient history: irrelevant unless you went to a museum or visited a battlefield, which is big business. Sgt. Ngoc & I continued our search in Cao Lanh with similar results. Even though we were out of the fast paced, modern life of Saigon, the shoe stores were the same in this relatively quiet corner of the Mekong river delta. Ngoc even put over 20 people to work looking for the sandals. Finally, one of her employees mentioned a small shoe store, out of the downtown area, near Dong Thap University, that sold older style shoes. We rode out there & had spent about 5 minutes, just looking around when the owner came up and asked Ngoc what were we looking for? He was older-close to my age, & was really looking me over while Ngoc was explaining what I needed. He was listening, nodding, still looking at me, so I knew he at least knew what I was talking about. He said the name of the VC sandals was "Dep Rau". Handmade, inner tube straps, automobile tire tread soles. Most VC, NVA, & even peasants wore these shoes. They were cheap & one step above going barefoot. The shopkeeper was smiling at me now & asked where I was from. He used the term "Dong Chi" when addressing me. I could tell with almost absolute certainty that he had been a soldier once, most likely on the other side. Old, handmade tattoos on his arms- common to all VN soldiers. "Dong Chi" is not in the present VN lexicon any more. It's a term used among battlefield friends & former soldiers. Ngoc says it roughly translates to "buddy". He went to a sewn up green burlap bag, cut it open & pulled out the closest thing to the sandals I had seen. They were hand made, but more fashionable than the ugly, more durable ones I had been looking for. 50,000 Dong was a good price, so I didn't quibble. Didn't want to offend my new found "buddy".

Pete Vander Haeghen

President Again Calls for Another BRAC Round : "Buried in President Barack Obama's proposed 2016 budget, released Monday, is a call for a new round of Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, the Pentagon restructuring process that can lead to the shuttering of entire military bases." House Armed Services Committee member Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Ala., said, "The reason we're not authorizing a BRAC is that we're too broke to close anything." While the goal of realignment is to save the Pentagon money long-term, experts agree that closing bases actually costs money in the short term. Rogers said the government has yet to see significant savings from the 2005 [BRAC] round, something that left lawmakers unwilling to try again for some time."

Why are we cutting benefits for our veterans, no pay raises for our military and cutting our army to a level lower than before WWII, but we are not stopping the payments or benefits to illegal aliens.

Wounded Warriors Treated as 'Slackers' at Hood, Bliss and Brooke: A top Army official confirmed to Congress on Tuesday that hundreds of wounded warriors at three Texas treatment centers had been harassed and abused by staff who considered them "slackers" as was reported by the Dallas Morning News and a local television station. Col. Chris Toner, head of the Army Transition Command, acknowledged that there had been incidents of "disrespect, harassment and belittlement of soldiers" at Warrior Transition Units (WTUs) at Fort Bliss, Fort Hood and the Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas from 2009-2013. Toner singled out abuses at the WTU at Fort Bliss during a hearing before the House Armed Services' subcommittee on military personnel. "There were challenges at Fort Bliss without a shadow of a doubt," Toner said. The abuses were limited to the 2009-2013 time frame, Toner said, and he was now "confident that we have the programs going in the right direction" at Hood, Bliss and Brooke. The mistreatment of wounded warriors at Texas bases was first reported in a joint investigation by NBC 5 and the Dallas Morning News relying on Freedom of Information Act documents detailing the official complaints of soldiers and others involved in the WTU programs. The documents quoted Dr. Stephen Saul, a psychiatrist hired to train staff at Fort Hood's WTU, as saying that many leaders at Fort Hood lacked an understanding of mental health issues and refused to believe that post-traumatic stress disorder was real. Those suffering from PTSD were told to "man-up and move on," Stahl said. "The idea is that you're weak, you're cowardly, you're worthless, you're not strong and it's your fault." The result was that those with PTSD would doubt the worth of the treatment prescribed, Stahl said. "The same Army that's telling you you're a slacker or a dirt bag gives you treatment and medication. Are you going to take it?" he told Congress. Toner and representatives of each military service testified at the first hearing called by Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nevada, the new chairman of the military personnel subcommittee.

Air Force Launches a Big Change to Basic Training: Years after the Air Force increased the length of basic training by two weeks during the Iraq War, commanders have scaled back the core program and added a week of character development to raise awareness about sexual misconduct. Recruits just starting out at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland will be the first in memory to not finish training with a formal graduation ceremony on the parade grounds after 7.5 weeks. Instead, they'll receive five extra days of instruction designed to help them cope with the stresses of life as fledgling airmen. "Capstone," as it's called, will emphasize core values and skills the Air Force believes airmen will need in their personal lives and careers. It is part of a makeover in basic training prompted by a scandal at Lackland that sparked an Air Force investigation and congressional hearings. "I think it is truly revolutionary, what we're doing," said Col. Michele Edmondson, commander of the 737th Training Group at Lackland, the home of Air Force basic training. "It's a totally different form of learning for these airmen, it is an investment in their future as airmen." The recruit class began training in earnest last week. After physical and other training ends the members' first stage, they'll begin studies in mid-March in 16 focus areas, starting with core values, morals and ethical decision making. The week will end with a low-key graduation ceremony on March 20. Capstone program manager Kevin Adelsen said the final week would be different from the rest of basic military training, or BMT, which he described as "relatively constricted."

"Life is a gift, Freedom is a responsibility."

ISIS Militants Reportedly Burn to Death 45 People in Iraqi Town: Islamic State militants reportedly have burned to death 45 people in the western Iraqi town of al-Baghdadi on Tuesday, just five miles away from an air base staffed by hundreds of U.S. Marines. The identities of the victims are not clear, the local police chief told the BBC, but some are believed to be among the security forces that have been clashing with ISIS for control of the town. ISIS fighters reportedly captured most of the town last week. Col. Qasim Obeidi, pleading for help from the Iraqi government and international community, said a compound that houses families of security personnel and officials is now under siege. The reports come days after ISIS released a video purportedly showing the beheadings of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians along a beach in Libya, sparking an international outcry, including commendation from Pope Francis, who called the killings "barbaric." On Friday, a media group linked to ISIS released a four-minute video titled "Peshmerga Captives in Kirkuk Province," which purportedly showed Kurdish prisoners -- imprisoned in iron cages -- being driven around on trucks in Iraq, according to the Middle East Media Research Institute.

Fort Carson Wounded Warrior Abused by Doctor and Social Worker: *Editor's Note: The following article updates the previous one to include Army corrections to misstatements made by Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho on the mistreatment of a soldier at the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Carson, Colo. A correction was also made to the soldier's status when the mistreatment occurred.*

A soldier currently at the Fort Carson, Colo., Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) suffered mistreatment by a doctor and a social worker for several months last year, an Army investigation concluded. The soldier was mistreated at the Embedded Behavioral Health clinic while he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment before he joined Fort Carson's WTU. The fact-finding investigation under Article 15-6 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice found that the two health care providers engaged in "problematic encounters" with the soldier between February and May of 2014, the Army said. At a roundtable session with Pentagon reporters Friday, Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho said that the doctor and the social worker "showed a lack of dignity and respect to one soldier" and had been disciplined. Horoho said the mistreatment at Fort Carson was limited to the two health care providers and "we did not find that there was a systemic issue."

Veterans, Independent Budget Testify Before House VA Committee: Ray Kelley, Director, National Legislative Service, accompanied the Independent Budget partners at the House Veterans Affairs Committee's budget hearing. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Bob McDonald, opened the hearing by laying out what VA's current budgetary need is and that the cost will continue to increase for years to come as Vietnam veterans age and more current conflict veterans enter the system with complex, multifaceted medical conditions -- noting that historically, VA sees the usage and cost for care peak for each generation of war fighters 40 years after the conflict ends.

WWII Facts:

The first German serviceman killed in WW II was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), The first American serviceman was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940). The highest ranking American killed was Lt Gen Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps.

Troops to Share Millions in SCRA Violation: The Justice Department announced this week that under a settlement with five of the nation's largest mortgage servicers, 952 service members and their co-borrowers are eligible to share \$123 million for non-judicial foreclosures that violated the Service Members Civil Relief Act. Section 533 of the SCRA prohibits non-judicial foreclosures against service members who are in military service or within the applicable post-service period, as long as they originated their mortgages before their period of military service began. The five mortgage servicers are JP Morgan Chase Bank N.A.; Wells Fargo Bank N.A. and Wells Fargo & Co.; Citi Residential Lending Inc., Citibank, NA and CitiMortgage Inc.; GMAC Mortgage, LLC, Ally Financial Inc. and Residential Capital LLC; and BAC Home Loans Servicing LP, formerly known as Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP (Bank of America).

Marines Destroyed All Weapons in Yemen Evacuation: U.S. Embassy Marines in Yemen destroyed all of their weapons as they evacuated the country with diplomatic personnel under orders from the State Department, the Marine Corps said in a statement Wednesday night. "To be clear, no Marine handed a weapon to a Houthi, or had one taken from him," the Marines said in the statement distributed by the Pentagon. Earlier Wednesday, a Pentagon spokesman, Col. Steve Warren, said that the Embassy Marines had destroyed their crew-served weapons at the Embassy but had "left behind" their personal weapons such as M-9 pistols and M-4 carbines at the airport in the capital city of Sanaa. "The Marine Security Force left the American embassy in Yemen for the movement to the airfield as part of the 'ordered departure' with only personal weapons. All crew-served weapons were destroyed at the Embassy prior to movement. None of them were 'handed over' in any way to anyone," the Marine Corps said. "Upon arrival at the airfield, all personal weapons were rendered inoperable in accordance with advance planning," the statement said. "Specifically, each bolt was removed from its weapons body and rendered inoperable by smashing with sledgehammers. The weapons' bodies, minus the bolts, were then separately smashed with sledgehammers."

Congresswoman to Colleagues: 'Man Up' and Overhaul Military Benefits: A U.S. congresswoman implored her colleagues to "man up" and accept the recommendations from a blue-ribbon panel to overhaul military benefits. Rep. Jackie Speier, a Democrat from California and a member of the House Armed Services Committee, praised the recent work of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission. The panel called for offering troops 401(k)-like retirement plans and military families a choice of commercial health insurance plans in lieu of Tricare, among other proposals. "We've just now have got to inject a little guts into all of us to do the right thing," she said Wednesday during a hearing of the committee's military personnel subcommittee, which received testimony from commission members. The hearing was the latest in what will be a series of debates on Capitol Hill over the future of military compensation. Members of the congressionally mandated panel have said their 15 recommendations were designed to give troops, military families and retirees more benefits choices while saving the Pentagon an estimated \$12 billion a year in personnel costs by 2040. While the hearing touched on many of the proposed reforms, including retirement, much of the discussion focused on health care. Speier, in particular, sought to downplay the financial impact of the health care proposals to working-age retirees.

National Guard Plans to Transform Engineer Battalion into Infantry: The Army National Guard is planning to change the role of Maine's oldest and largest military force in order to save as many jobs as possible amid federal defense belt-tightening, according to officials. Under the plan, the 133rd Engineer Battalion and other units would become the 1st Battalion, 103rd Infantry Regiment. The plan has been submitted to the Department of Defense, but it is not set in stone, Brig. Gen. James D. Campbell said Wednesday. "This is not a done deal. That is the worst-case scenario,"

Campbell, adjutant general of the Maine National Guard, said. "We are fighting this." The transformation plan was drafted by the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., to address a reduction in National Guard forces proposed in the Pentagon's 2016 budget request. When Maine Army Guard leaders learned last year that 200-plus jobs out of the state's 1,600-member force were on the chopping block, they started drafting a proposal to convert the 133rd -- a five-company battalion with roughly 560 soldiers -- into an infantry battalion. "By restructuring [units in] the state of Maine, by expanding the infantry or transforming units to the infantry, it better meets the operational needs of the Department of the Army at this time," Capt. Norman Stickney, spokesman for the Maine National Guard, said Wednesday. The 2016 budget calls for only a small cut for Maine thanks to the planned restructuring, Stickney said. "We are going to effectively lose approximately 20 soldiers based on today's force strength," the captain said of the projected Maine Army Guard decrease set to go into effect Sept. 1, 2016. "Had we not taken efforts to restructure, it would have been upwards of 200 (jobs lost). "The impact would have been much more significant," Stickney said.

Americal Division Veterans Association Pays Tribute to Sp4 Donald Sloat: A gathering of ADVA members, family and friends stood at the ADVA Memorial on the grounds of Fort Benning, GA Infantry Museum on February 6, 2015 to honor Sp4 Don Sloat, a member of the 2d Battalion 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade who recently received, posthumously, the Congressional Medal of Honor. The simple ceremony included the unveiling of his name on the Medal of Honor pedestal, along with 11 other names of distinguished soldiers who gallantly served while assigned to the Americal Division. Colonel (Ret) Alton Coleman, and former 2/1 battalion commander, presented the main address stressing the importance of remembering our service and of all the soldiers whose loyalty and patriotism were exhibited each and every day. Service to the Nation is the most honorable virtue a soldier can experience. Never forget those who gave much and asked little in return. Also presenting at this event was SGM Jesse Atkins who also received the MOH for gallantry in combat in RVN in 1966.



A Selfless Hero: The Story of Donald Sloat

Written by Communications Intern, Kalli McCoy

On January 17th, 1970, Donald Sloat went above and beyond the call of duty when he unhesitatingly covered an enemy grenade with his body, shielding and saving soldiers in his patrol. Sloat was finally recognized for his valor and selflessness in 2014 when he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Donald Sloat was born in Coweta, Oklahoma on February 6th, 1949. After attending Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Oklahoma, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in March of 1969. Sloat was assigned as a M60 Machine Gunner with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division after completing initial training at Fort Polk in Louisiana. Sloat was no stranger to bravery on the battle field. He was awarded the Bronze Medal for Valor twice during his time “in country” because of acts of heroism when his patrol was ambushed. On January 17th 1970, a month shy of his 21st birthday, Sloat performed a final courageous act and gave his life to protect his fellow soldiers. On the morning of January 17th, Sloat and his squad were conducting a patrol in the Que Son valley while simultaneously



serving as a blocking element for armored personnel and tanks. The area was heavily fortified with enemy booby traps, one of which was tripped by the lead soldier. As an enemy grenade rolled down the hill, Sloat bravely picked it up, looking for a safe place to throw it. When he realized that throwing the grenade would endanger other American soldiers, Sloat drew the grenade close to his body and bent over it before it exploded. Sloat fatally absorbed much of the impact of the blast and saved the lives of his platoon.

Sloat's incredibly heroic actions saved the lives of his fellow soldiers Bill Hacker, Elwood Tipton, Michael Mulheim, and Dewayne Lewis. Elwood's widow, Shirley, tells of the moment she learned of the sacrifice that saved her husband: *“He [Elwood] told me he had been hurt in a grenade ambush and his best friend was killed. He started crying and said Don saved everybody else's life because he picked up the grenade and it went off while he was holding it. We talked about that a lot over the years and always knew that we owed our life together and our family to Don and his bravery.”*

Shirley and these veterans worked with Sloat's family, especially his mother, Evelyn, for years to get him awarded the Medal of Honor.

Evelyn Sloat campaigned for years to have her son awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Vietnam. Evelyn died in 2012. Sloat is remembered by family and friends on his Wall of Faces page as a “gentle giant” and a lover of football. Isaac Mitchell writes, *“The big Dutchman and I had lots of conversations about life. He truly had a love for football. If memory serves me right he played some college ball. I still remember that morning when I was returning from a night mission and he was headed out on patrol. Our last words to each other were ‘Check you later.’ This is a quote from Don that has lingered in my soul for years. As we talked about our plan when returning to the World, he pointed to his watch and said to me ‘each tick of the watch places me closer to home.’”*



Brother William looks for Don's name at Vietnam Memorial



Mother Evelyn holds Don's picture.



On September 15th 2014, a ceremony was held at the White House awarding the Medal of Honor posthumously to Sloat, as well as to living veteran Bennie Adkins. The Official Citation for Sloat's Medal of Honor notes his, “extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty.” Sloat's brother, Dr. William Sloat, accepted the award on his behalf. Members of Sloat's family, as well as the soldiers he saved and their families, were also in attendance. Donald Sloat is just one example of gallantry, valor, and sacrifice that exemplifies the tradition of the U.S. military.

His incredible story is an inspiration for others and his legacy lives on through those he saved.