

# Whiting Tower

NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.

"THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT NAVAL AIR COMPLEX"

Vol. 65 No. 47

Wednesday, November 25, 2009

## Len Keller Remembered/Laid to Rest in D.C.

*Editor's Note: This is a reprint of a letter in Congressman Jeff Miller's public newsletter dated Dec. 1. It recounts his thoughts of Len Keller's burial yesterday and his service to country.*

Many Americans woke up this morning and turned on the television or searched the internet to find out the latest on Tiger Woods and his wrecked black Cadillac Escalade. However, on this rainy morning in Northern Virginia, another black Cadillac meandered through rolling hills on hallowed ground. This vehicle carried Medal of Honor recipient, Sergeant Leonard B. Keller, to his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery.

While a high profile athlete remained ensconced in his luxury mansion behind the walls of his gated community, a caisson with six black horses slowly walked along the rain soaked asphalt. Family members followed,

huddled close to each other beneath umbrellas trying to shield themselves from the rainy and dreary cold morning. They came to pay tribute to a father, grandfather, brother, and friend.

As the cars drove past on State Road 110 and planes flew overhead leaving Reagan National Airport, I am sure no one knew who was being buried, their name, age, or hometown. On this day it was a man who showed uncommon valor in the jungles of Vietnam.

On May 2, 1967, Sergeant Leonard B. Keller and his unit were sweeping through an area in Vietnam where an enemy ambush had occurred



Medal of Honor recipient Len Keller prepares to walk through the sideboys during his retirement ceremony at NAS Whiting Field Nov. 2008. Keller was interred in Arlington National Cemetery Dec. 1. U.S. Navy file photo.

earlier. The unit suddenly came under intense automatic weapons and small-arms fire from a number of enemy bunkers and numerous snipers in nearby trees. Sgt. Keller quickly moved to a position where he could fire at a bunker from which automatic fire was received,

killing one Viet Cong who attempted to escape. Leaping to the top of a dike, he and a comrade charged the enemy bunkers, dangerously exposing themselves to the enemy fire. Armed with a light machine gun, Sgt. Keller and his comrade began a systematic assault on the enemy bunkers. While Sgt. Keller neu-

## An Employer of Choice, Navy Stands Alongside Google, AT&T



Sailors, from the Center for Information Dominance Detachment Monterey, stand in formation outside the detachment headquarters on the Presidio of Monterey during a personnel inspection. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Steven L. Shepard.

### From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

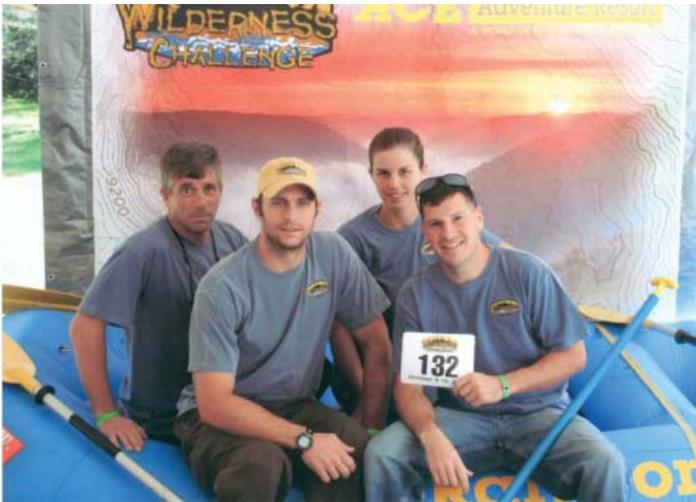
WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Navy is the first in the Department of Defense and the second government agency in 19 years to earn recognition as Workforce Management Magazine's Optimas Award winner in "General Excellence."

The award recognizes achievement in at least six of nine areas including competitive advantage, financial impact, global outlook, innovation, managing change, partnership, ethical practice, service and vision. Navy joins past winners such as Google, Intel, Hewlett Packard and AT&T as employers who are leaders in developing management initiatives that directly affect business results.

"Earning the award is truly a tremendous achievement," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, the chief of naval personnel. "However, it isn't the recognition that is most important -- it is the opportunities and benefits these programs offer our Sailors in areas that are important to their personal

- (Cont. on Page 5)

# Squadron Members Conquer Wilderness Challenge



**Team HT-18 poses for their team photo prior to the MWR Wilderness Challenge. The team consisted of Maj. Robert Stork, USMC; Lt. Cmdr. Thaddeus Smith, USN; Cmdr. John Quillinana, USN; and Capt. Kimberly Narvid, USMC.**

**By Ens. Joanna Clark, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs**

Four Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN instructors competed in the Navy MWR Wilderness Challenge Oct. 10 and 11. The two day event covered 50 miles of running, hiking, white water rafting, and biking in Fayetteville, W.Va.

The team members completed an eight kilometer run and 13 miles of white water rafting the first day and 10 miles of mountain biking, a seven mile “duckie” race, and a 15 mile hike the second. A “duckie” race involves team members traveling down a

river in a two person inflatable kayak.

The team, comprised of Maj. Robert Stork, USMC; Lt. Cmdr. Thaddeus Smith, USN; Cmdr. John Quillinan, USN; and Capt. Kimberly Narvid, USMC, called themselves simply “Team HT-18.”

They designated themselves a US Marine Corps team and finished third in their category. The team didn’t expect to place in the event, but wasn’t completely caught off guard by their finish either. Stork explained “the team was very tenacious.”

“We made sure everyone stuck together and we finished on a high note.”

The squadron plans to send another team next year and has intentions of placing higher. Stork believes they will have a good chance of improving since this was the first year the squadron has competed in the event.

“Elements had a lot to play. The first day was cool, but the second day you become fatigued. It was a challenge.”

The team did not get much of a chance to train together as a whole with the exception of their practice utilizing MWR kayaks on the Blackwater River and riding the mountain bike trails the day prior to the event since Narvid, who fulfilled the required female component on their team, had already established a workout routine of her own.

The team formed when the squadron Executive Officer, Lt. Col. Shawn Coakley, approached Stork with the idea. “The awareness of physical readiness is a priority in HT-18, and this event allowed the leadership in the squadron to the example,” said Stork. “We want to show the students it’s not just about staying in the books.”

## Len Keller

*- (Cont. from Page 1)*

tralized the fire from the first bunker with his machinegun, the other soldier threw in a hand grenade, killing its occupant. Then he and the other soldier charged a second bunker, killing its occupant. A third bunker contained an automatic rifleman who had pinned down much of the friendly platoon. Again, with utter disregard for the fire directed to them, the two men charged, killing the enemy within.

Continuing their attack, Sgt. Keller and his comrade assaulted four more bunkers and eliminated the enemy threat. During their furious assault, Sgt. Keller and his comrade had been almost continuously exposed to intense sniper fire as the enemy desperately sought to stop their attack. The ferocity of their assault had carried the soldiers beyond the line of bunkers into the tree line, forcing snipers to flee. The two men gave immediate chase, driving the enemy away from the friendly unit. When his ammunition was exhausted, Sgt. Keller returned to

the platoon to assist in the evacuation of the wounded. The two-man assault had driven an enemy platoon from a well prepared position, accounted for numerous enemy dead, and prevented further friendly casualties. Sgt. Keller’s selfless heroism and indomitable fighting spirit saved the lives of many of his comrades and inflicted serious damage on the enemy.

People fall from grace from time to time - politicians, athletes, pastors, and others. We are human and far from perfect. Why is it that so many are more interested in the tabloid news of today than the true life stories of real Americans, real heroes? Those who always give more than they take. Those who are determined to leave this world a better place than they found it.

This morning a man was buried in the hallowed ground of Arlington National Cemetery. A man of simple means. Not a billionaire or a star athlete. Too often

we put more attention on worth or the material things a person has rather than the things a person does.

As I stood at the gravesite this morning and watched the four other Medal of Honor recipients in attendance salute as soldiers slowly folded the American flag that draped Sgt. Keller’s casket, I was reminded of the thousands of men and women who make tremendous sacrifices defending this great nation. Sgt. Keller and the 92 living Medal of Honor recipients are heroes in every sense of the word. They have all answered the call of duty, but more than that, they have placed the lives of others and the liberty of an entire nation above their own lives. They were all willing to make the ultimate sacrifice so that we may all enjoy the fruits of freedom.

On this week after Thanksgiving, I am thankful for heroes like Sgt. Leonard B. Keller. May God Bless Sgt. Keller and his family.

## News and Notes

**Milton Christmas Parade** - Come support the Naval Air Station Whiting Field participants in the 2009 Milton Christmas Parade Saturday, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. The parade will form at King Middle School and travel south on Stewart Street to Elva where it will disband. Floats, marching units, fire trucks and more will be seen.

**Branch Health Clinic Upcoming Closings** -The following clinic closures will be observed during the rest of this week and the holiday season for the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Branch Health Clinic - Thursday & Friday, Dec. 24 & 25 and Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 for Holiday/base closures

**Golf Lessons** - A.C. Read golf Club is offering free golf lessons to authorized military dependents between the ages of 8 and 13. Registration is being held at the youth center, Bldg. 3690. Lessons will be provided between Nov. 3 and Dec. 19 on the following schedule. Ages 10 & 11 - Tuesdays 3 to 4:30 p.m.; Ages 8 & 9 - Thursdays 3 to 4:30 p.m.; and Ages 12 & 13 - Saturdays 10 to 11:30 a.m.. Call 452-2417 for more information.

**Christmas Productions** - The Panhandle Community Theatre will present two Christmas plays Dec. 4-6 & 11-13 at the Woodbine Storefront Playhouse in Pace. "The Gift of the Magi" and "Angels and All That Stuff" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$12. Call 450-2566 for reservations.

**Allied Forces Soccer** - The area military soccer team is reforming to provide service members at NAS Whiting Field, NAS Pensacola, Corry Station, and Naval Hospital the opportunity to play competitive and recreational soccer. The team previously won many league titles and made it to the Military Club National Championship game. All Active-Duty members from any service or international military program as well as dependents, contrac-

## TRICARE Notes

### OUTREACH PROCESS MAKES SCHEDULING SPECIALIST APPOINTMENTS EASIER

If your military treatment facility primary care manager refers you to a civilian network provider for specialty care, the appointment outreach system from Humana Military Healthcare can help with the process.

Upon being referred to a civilian specialist, a Specialty Appointing Team member will contact you, confirming that you have scheduled an appointment. If the appointment has yet to be scheduled at the time of the call, the Specialty Appointing Team member will initiate a three-way call to the provider's office. The team member will also provide you with a toll-free number to call back in case you need additional assistance.

The Specialty Appointing Team calls on more than 2,200 evaluation referrals each month. For assistance with scheduling your next civilian specialist appointment, call the Specialty Appointing Team's toll-free number at 1-877-489-7961.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. at 1-800-444-5445 or visit <http://www.tricare.mil/bcaadca/>.



### Taking a Byte Out of Electronic Waste

Ron Cherry, Public Works Environmental Manager and James Lampru tuck a computer monitor away in a trailer. The Environmental team used Nov. 19 as a day to collect and dispose of unneeded electronic devices at no cost to the NAS Whiting Field team. U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Joanna Clark.

tors and government employees 18 and over are welcome to participate. Competitive, recreational and coed teams are planned. Tryouts and training will be Thursdays, 1700-1900 at Barrancas Field on NAS Pensacola near the USCG facility beginning in December. For more information or to sign-up, contact Lt. Cmdr. David Toellner at 382-5494 or [kiwi\\_soccer@yahoo.com](mailto:kiwi_soccer@yahoo.com)

**Polar Bear Run** - Naval Air Station Whiting Field Morale Welfare and Recreation is sponsoring a Polar Bear 5K Fun Run/Walk Saturday, Dec. 12. Runners/walkers should meet at the sports complex pavillion at 6:30 a.m. for instructions, with the run beginning at 7 a.m. The event is free and open to all authorized patrons. Pre-registration by Friday, Dec. 11 To register or for additional information call 665-6102.

**Santa Claws Photo Shoot** - The Pet Nation at 1890 Andorra St. Navarre will take holiday photos of furry friends with Santa Claus Dec. 12 from 1 to 3:45 p.m. The cost is \$5 per photo which will benefit the Hungry Hounds/Famished Felines holiday food drive. Call 936-8201 for additional information.

**Christmas Boat Parade** - Watch decorated vessels parade on the water atainst a dark sky Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. The boats will travel from the Pensacola Beach Marina to the boardwalk. The flotilla will officially deliver Santa Claus to the island where he will listen to children's holiday wishes. For more details call 932-1500.

**Zoo Lights on Display** - Throughout the month of December, Pensacola Beach will display holiday lights from the Zoo of Northwest Florida. More than three dozen displays are included. Come between 5 and 9 p.m. for the free event. Call 932-1500 for more information.

**Surfing Santa** - Children can bring their wish lists for a visit with Surfing Santa from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Dec. 5 at the Surf Burger on Pensacola Beach. Free mimosas will be served to parents. Call 932-1417 for details.

**Christmas in the Park** - The Navarre Beach Chamber of Commerce will feature a Christmas parade at 3 p.m. Dec. 5 at Navarre Park. Food and beverages will be available and the event will include photos with Santa, a tree lighting and entertainment- Visit [www.navarrechamber.com](http://www.navarrechamber.com) or call 939-3267 for details.

## Upcoming Events

Dec. 4, 1300 - HT-28 Change of Command - Atrium  
Dec. 5, 1700 - Milton Christmas Parade - Stewart Street  
Dec. 8, 1430 - Tree City Designation - Bldg. 1401 Lawn

Dec. 8, 1500 - Christmas Tree Lighting - Bldg. 1401 Lawn  
Dec. 12, 1800 - NASWF Christmas Party - Sikes Hall  
Dec. 18, 1100 - VT-2 Change of Command - Atrium

# Fleet and Family Support Center Classes

## **Time Management - Wednesday, December 2, 1300 - 1400**

At the end of the day, do you ask yourself “where did the day go?” and feel like you have accomplished very little on your list of “things to do?” If you answered “yes” to these questions, this class is for you. This class will help provide you with tools to make the most of your demanding days. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, call 623-7177.

## **Ten Steps to a Federal Job - Monday, December 7, 1000 - 1200**

“Is it worth your while to invest your time and effort in searching and applying for a Federal Job?” Then you need to attend this class. You will learn how to read an announcement, analyze core competencies for language, analyze vacancy listings for keywords, and how to apply for jobs. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, call 623-7177.

## **Deployment Support Group for Children - Monday, December 7, 1800 - 1930**

Kids and youth ages 5-18 who are children of deployed service members are invited to meet for fun and fellowship! Creative activities engage the mind and promote conversation. Share experiences and feelings with others who are also dealing with the absence of a parent due to deployment. For more information, please contact the FFSC at 850-623-7177. Hope to see you there!

## **Car Buying Strategies - Tuesday, December 8, 1300 - 1500**

Many people begin the car buying process by visiting a dealership, which should be one of the last things you do. Come find out how to research and compare for the best prices, when and how to negotiate your trade-in, how insurance fits in, and your best option for financing. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, call a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

## **Ten Steps to a Federal Job - Monday, December 14, 1000 - 1200**

“Is it worth your while to invest your time and effort in searching and applying for a Federal Job?” You will learn how to read an announcement, analyze core competencies for language, analyze vacancy listings for keywords, and how to apply for jobs. Class will be held at the FFSC conference room. For more information, contact a Work and Family Life Specialist at 623-7177.

# BBB®: Layaway Tips for Holiday Purchases

**Pensacola, Fla. (Nov. 25, 2009)** – This holiday season, retailers are trying to make it easier to pay for holiday gifts by offering layaway options. With layaway experiencing a comeback, your Better Business Bureau offers guidance on using this old fashioned payment plan in lieu of credit cards.

Many businesses are reviving their layaway programs. Kmart’s layaway program saw double-digit increases in customers and sales in 2008. And according to The Record newspaper in New Jersey, consumers even used layaway to purchase school supplies and clothes—rather than just big-ticket items like TVs.

“Retailers are looking to entice customers by making it easier for them to make purchases this holiday season,” said Norman Wright, president/CEO of BBB|Northwest Florida. “Consumers are reporting that they’ll use layaway for everything from basic necessities to gifts and decorations this holiday season.”

Buying items on layaway is different from using a credit card; buyers aren’t charged interest and can’t take the item home until it is paid off. When utilizing layaway, buyers must typically make a down payment of 10 to 20 percent and pay any service or plan fees for the store to hold the item for them. Customers then have typically 30 to 90 days to make payments to pay off the balance. Once it’s paid off, customers can take the item home.

As a complement to in-store layaway, some stores



provide layaway services through the retailer’s Web site. And now third-party businesses have set up layaway plans online between customers and retailers that don’t have a layaway program. Customers make periodic payments to the third-party layaway service provider. Once the item is fully paid for, the business buys the item from the retailer and ships it to the customer.

BBB advises consumers to get layaway details in writing and offers the following checklist of questions to ask: 1) How much time do I have to pay off the item? 2) When are the payments due? 3) How much do I have to put down? 4) Are there any storage or service plan fees? 5) What happens if I miss a payment? Are there fees? Is the item returned to inventory? 6) Can I get a refund if I no longer want the item after making a few payments? 7) What happens if the item goes on sale after I’ve put it on layaway? 8) Does the retailer or third-party layaway service have a good BBB rating?

BBB provides BBB Reliability Reports on nearly four million businesses across North America, both online merchants and brick-and-mortar stores. BBB Reliability Reports offer BBB’s unbiased evaluation and include a rating and complaint history. Free Reliability Reports are available at [bbb.org](http://bbb.org).

For additional advice you can trust on being a savvy consumer, start with [bbb.org](http://bbb.org).

# Navy Top Employer

- (Cont. from Page 1)

and professional success.”

In announcing the 2009 Optimas Awards, the editors of Workforce Management Magazine highlighted Navy’s Assignment Incentive Pay Program (AIP), an online assignment process through which Sailors are encouraged to volunteer for hard-to-fill assignments through an incentive pay bidding system.

Editors also praised Navy’s efforts to recruit and develop a skilled and diverse workforce noting “[Navy’s] portfolio of workforce initiatives showed the range of its efforts to attract, train and retain a skilled, diverse workforce of 300,000 that increasingly encompasses women and minorities.”

To be considered for the award, Navy submitted descriptions of AIP and seven other programs:

- Crisis Action Organization (CAO) informs personnel readiness by assisting commands in effectively accounting for Navy personnel and their families following catastrophic events such as severe hurricanes, tornadoes or wildfires using a Web-based system, Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System. CAO also provides a venue to address post-incident needs to assist families during their period of re-stabilization.

- Global War on Terror Support Assignment Process Initiative allows Sailors to plan and volunteer for combat-zone assignments, improving morale and assignment predictability;

- Center for Language, Regional Expertise and Culture Program prepares Sailors for mission success overseas by strengthening communication and cultural awareness;

- Credentialing Opportunities Online, (COOL) allows Sailors in each of Navy’s 64 enlisted career fields to receive independent occupational certification for skills learned in the military;

- Advancement Exam Development Conference Initiative enables subject-matter experts from the fleet to convene and author annual advancement examinations, allowing 85 of 100 full-time exam writers to be released for high-priority assignments and saving \$7 million per year;

- Navy College Program Distance Learning Partnership partners with 32 institutions, offering 240 online degree programs to Sailors, with no out-of-pocket expense;

- Task Force Life Work aims to improve life work integration across Navy’s Total Force through innovative life work programs and policies.

In evaluating candidates for the Optimas Awards, Workforce Magazine editors considered information from published reports, conferences, interviews with leadership and demonstrated performance.

“For nearly two decades, Workforce Management has been honoring organizations with exceptional workforce initiatives that clearly show a measurable, bottom-line success in response to the organization’s business needs, issues or challenges,” said John Holton, a Workforce Management Magazine editor. “The 2009 winners uphold this standard yet again.”



**2009 Christmas Party**  
Saturday December 12th  
1800-2400 at Sikes Hall

Please join us  
for a festive  
evening of  
**FUN, FOOD  
DANCING  
& PRIZES**

*Sampling of Menu*  
*Lumpia Rumaki Sliced Meat Trays*  
*Chicken Tenders Bacon Wrapped Sea Scallops*  
*And many other items ...*

Tickets available through  
division representatives and  
Lori Howell in Admin, bldg 1401.

Ticket Prices:  
E7 / GS7 & above \$25.00 \* E5 / 6 / GS6 & below \$17.00 \* E4 & below \$12.00



Morale, Welfare & Recreation



NAS Whiting Field

# Holiday Hours 2009

## FITNESS CENTER

Nov 26 0600-1400  
 Nov 27-29 1030-1800  
 Dec 21-23 1030-1800  
 Dec 24 1200-1800  
 Dec 25 CLOSED  
 Dec 26-31 1030-1800  
 Jan 1 CLOSED  
 Jan 2-3 1030-1800

## LIBERTY CENTER

Nov 26 CLOSED  
 Nov 27-29 1200-2000  
 Dec 21 1100-1900  
 Dec 22 0900-1900  
 Dec 23 1100-1900  
 Dec 24 0900-1700  
 Dec 25 CLOSED  
 Dec 26-31 1200-2000  
 Jan 1 CLOSED  
 Jan 2-3 1200-2000

## WINGS CLUB

Nov 26-29 CLOSED  
 Dec 21-23 0600-1500\*  
 Dec 24-27 CLOSED  
 Dec 28-30 0600-1500\*  
 Dec 31 CLOSED  
 Jan 1-3 CLOSED  
 \* (breakfast sandwiches available until 1000; lunch menu service 1000-1500)

## COFFEE SHOP

Nov 26-29 CLOSED  
 Dec 21-Jan 3 CLOSED

## INFORMATION TICKETS & TOURS

Nov 26-27 CLOSED  
 Dec 21-23 0900-1700  
 Dec 24-27 CLOSED  
 Dec 28-30 0900-1700

## WHITING PARK RECREATION AREA

Nov 26 CLOSED  
 Nov 27 0630-1700  
 Dec 21-22 0630-1700  
 Dec 23-25 CLOSED  
 Dec 26-29 0630-1700  
 Dec 30 CLOSED  
 Dec 31 0630-1700  
 Jan 1 CLOSED  
 Jan 2-3 0630-1700

## GOLF COURSE

Nov 26 CLOSED  
 Nov 27 0630-1700  
 (Snack bar 0630-1400)  
 Dec 21 0630-1700  
 (Snack bar closed)  
 Dec 22-23 0630-1700  
 (Snack bar 0630-1400)  
 Dec 25 CLOSED  
 Dec 26 0630-1700  
 (Snack bar closed)  
 Dec 27-Jan 3 0630-1700  
 (Snack bar 0630-1400)

## BOWLING CENTER

Nov 26-27 CLOSED  
 Dec 21 CLOSED  
 Dec 22-23 1500-2300  
 (Snack bar 1500-2130)  
 Dec 24-28 CLOSED  
 Dec 29-30 1500-2300  
 (Snack bar 1500-2130)  
 Dec 31 CLOSED  
 Jan 1 CLOSED  
 Jan 2 1500-2300  
 (Snack bar 1500-2130)  
 Jan 3 CLOSED

# Happy Holidays!!

# TREE CITY USA 2009

Tree Awareness Week  
December 7-11, 2009

BRING LIFE TO YOUR COMMUNITY



PLANT TREES

All station personnel are invited to attend:

## Naval Air Station Whiting Field's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Planting Ceremony

Where: **North side of Bldg 1401**

When: **Tuesday, 8 DEC 09**

Time: **1430 (2:30pm)**

The live oak being planted will serve as a symbol of NAS Whiting Field's commitment to a healthy environment, in addition to providing aesthetic beauty.

\*\*The planting will coincide with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting taking place in front of Bldg 1401 at 1500 (3:00pm), 8 DEC 09.

## *BVPA Inc. to Host Tour of Antebellum Bagdad*

Venture back into history with the Bagdad Village Preservation Association's celebration of a Civil War period Southern Christmas furlough in Bagdad, Fla. Visit homes from that period as well as more "modern" ones constructed circa 1910. Share music and memories as well as some authentic desserts and beverages as you stroll the tree-lined main street of this National Register Historic Village. Fair warning - there will be authentic troop inspections of these homes for conscripts and runaways, but all guests are invited to visit the military headquarters located next to Mr. Brown's Barber Shop.

Guests will receive a tour ornament to wear on their lapel, tour entry ticket and program. After parking their cars and checking in at one of the Ticket tents, they are free to begin at any of the stops listed on the five-block length. Tickets will be stamped or punched at each stop. Tour guides will be on site to answer questions. Homes will open at 2 p.m. and close at 7 p.m.

Music from the Bagdad Elementary School choir and Bagdad Methodist Church organist will set the season,

## President Signs Military Spouses Relief Act

Statement by the President  
on S.475



President  
Barack Obama

Today I have signed into law S. 475, the "Military Spouses Residency Relief Act". This Act, among other things, would provide that when a service member leaves his or her home State in accord with military or naval orders, the service member's spouse may retain residency in his or her home State for voting and tax purposes, after relocating from that State to accompany the service member.

When the military orders service members to move, spouses who move with them often have to pay taxes in a new State or locality and lose the right to vote in the place considered to be home. This legislation will alleviate these and other burdens on our military families. As the Congress has recognized, and as the legislative history reflects, this legislation is an important means of maintaining the morale and readiness of our Armed Forces and significantly enhances the ability of our military to effectively recruit and retain these highly valued service personnel.

as will assorted holiday treats at each of the Tour homes.

Parking at either end of Forsyth Street makes it convenient for guests (handicapped parking is available along the route, however, not all the home have wheelchair ramps.) Continue the tradition enjoyed by so many over the past 25 years and start your holidays with the Blackwater Heritage Tour, Sat., Dec. 5, 2009.

Tickets for the event are available in advance or at the ticket tent the day of the tour. Guests must have a ticket to take the tour and tickets will be stamped at each historic home. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at Top's Appliance, Hwy 90 at Stewart St.; Copper Possum Antiques, Hwy 90 East Milton; Village Homes & Land Office, Forsyth St, Bagdad; Bagdad Village Museum, Church St.; Santa Rosa Chamber Office, Stewart St. Milton; Navarre Chamber of Commerce, Hwy 98 Navarre.

For more information, call 850-981-2623 or 850-983-3005 or visit [www.BagdadVillage.org](http://www.BagdadVillage.org).