

MILITARY MUSINGS



National Society Descendants of American Farmers – #1, Nov 2022

By Glenn D. Martin, Military Ambassador

Farmer salutes to all our military veterans, and anyone else who might be inspecting our very first newsletter specifically created for those members of NSDOAF who have worn the uniform of our Armed Forces. Please be patient with your Military Ambassadors as we try to make this into a fun and informative part of NSDOAF membership. Let us know what you'd like to see, and just as importantly, what you don't.

Most of you probably know me from my other role as NSDOAF National Toastmaster, but I'm also honored to serve as a Military Ambassador. I proudly served both in the US Navy from 1987 to 1996 as a nuclear operator on board a cruiser, and then in the Army National Guard from 1996 to 2002 as a gun chief in a self-propelled howitzer battery. It's been a pleasure to discover a bond of friendship in NSDOAF that approaches those formed in the military.

The plan is to work with my friend and fellow Military Ambassador Renee Hamilton to produce two issues of Military Musings a year, around Memorial Day and Veterans Day. We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue, and we look forward to your input!

By Renee Hamilton, Military Ambassador

Hello to all our Farmer military members. As we approach Veteran's Day, we hope that you know how much we appreciate you and your service to our Country and the military.

It is great fun to get to work with Glenn in our nearly bi-coastal rolls—He's out west in California, and I'm in the east in Tennessee. I'm very thankful to have all the electronic tools we have to keep everyone connected and up to date on what's happening in our Society.

Glenn asked me to tell a little about my military background. I come from a long line of military veterans, and my family has had a soldier in every campaign going back to the American Revolution. I served in the US Air Force Nurse Corps as a critical care nurse from 1987-1991, then I did four years of inactive reserves before I hung up my uniform. I did deploy for Operation Desert Storm two months after I got married.

Steven and I have been married for 32 years, and we have three children—Alexis, David and Jessica—all members of NSDOAF.

If Glenn or I can be of any help while you navigate your membership, just reach out to us. Be looking for the release of our new military pin soon.

Military Service Pin

All members of the NSDOAF are greatly encouraged to purchase and wear the Military Service pin on their insignia. The Society is proud to honor its Veterans with this gorgeous pin designed by your Military Ambassadors. Please cut and paste the link below and pre-order yours today – and another for your lapel!



<https://www.hamiltoninsignia.com/products/%2ANEW-NSDOAF-Military-Service-Pin.html>



SPREAD THE WORD!

The NSDOAF is always looking for new members, and veterans' organizations are a great opportunity to share how much enjoyment you get from being a member. Members of organizations such as the VFW, American Legion, or Navy League (to name just a few) are likely already interested in history, and probably have a tradition of military service in their families. It's not a stretch to think they'd be eager to honor the hard work of any farmer ancestors that might be in their familial line. The frequent Zoom presentations, the striking insignia, and the amazing work done by our Scholarship folks are some of the many selling points – we're much more than just a membership card and a handshake. Carry a few trifold brochures with you next time you raise a cold one with your brothers and sisters from the service and keep Janisue and Davena busy!

From Renee:



Not that I am advertising for anyone, but I did want to share this just as an FYI. I found this really neat website years ago & recently had the

occasion to reach out to them again for some more work. They have a new offering on their site that I wanted to pass on—the theme of the cutting is “Farm.” It's a fun way to really display your “family tree.” Check it out: www.foxbairn.com.

Honoring Our Veteran Farmers

Our Nation owes so much to both its veterans and its farmers, so this is the first of what we will endeavor to make a regular part of our newsletter. Each issue, we will feature an American hero of both farm and battlefield. For our first article, we are proud to discuss the service of William H. Paul, a Sergeant in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Born in Philadelphia on October 3, 1844, William H. Paul was a son of Pennsylvania natives George and Barbara Paul. During the 1850s, he resided in Philadelphia's Spring Garden neighborhood with his parents and five sisters. His father supported their family on a carpenter's wages. Sometime before or during early 1860, Paul and his family relocated to Hammonton, New Jersey, where his father had obtained work as a carpenter.

Two years later, on January 22, 1862, Paul enrolled for Civil War military service in Philadelphia. He then officially mustered in at Camp McClellan in Philadelphia's Nicetown-Tioga neighborhood as a Private in Co. E, 90th Pennsylvania Infantry. In the six months after basic training, he saw action in numerous battles, including Cedar Mountain, First Rappahannock Station, Thoroughfare Gap, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, and South Mountain.

Three days after the Battle of South Mountain, while fighting with his regiment in the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862, Paul performed the act of valor which later resulted in his being awarded the U.S. Medal of Honor. When the 90th Pennsylvania's color-bearer and two other members of his regiment's color guard unit were killed in action "under a most

withering and concentrated fire," according to his award citation, he retrieved the regiment's colors and continued to carry and protect that flag for the remainder of the intense fighting which raged that day.



Following injuries sustained in the Battle of the Wilderness and his honorable discharge from the military, Paul returned north, and resumed life at home with his parents and younger sister, Ida. In 1870, they resided in Havre de Grace, Maryland, where family patriarch George worked as a carpenter. During this decade, William began raising chickens and became active in farming. Residing alone with his parents in Harford County and still employed as a farmer while his father worked as a carpenter during the opening months of 1880, Paul then married Annie Mitchell in Harford County on June 5 of that same year. Daughters Mary and Barbara were born, respectively, in April 1881 and October 1883.

William H. Paul died on February 23, 1911. Following funeral services, Paul was interred at the Wesleyan Chapel Cemetery in Aberdeen, Maryland.

The NSDOAF thanks William H. Paul for his service as an American soldier and farmer.