



Newsletter  
January 2026  
Issue -27

**In Remembrance and Honor of all those U.S. military personnel who died while serving and for those that served or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in conflicts around the globe.**

By: Bill Raulerson



**Inside This Issue:**

- 2 Judge Us By -
- 3 It's Not Everything -
- 4 Educational-
- 4 Collaborating
- 5 Cont. From Pg 4
- 6-21 Cont. From Pg. 1
- 22 Retirement

Although January is not the typical month you would expect someone to write an article regarding Memorial Day (last Monday in May) or Veterans Day (November 11), this is the month that I chose because (1) the subject has burdened my heart for some time, (2) I am grateful that God reared up individuals whom were drafted or either volunteered and sacrificed themselves to serve and protect our country's values, freedoms, and U.S. citizens from harms way, (3) I selfishly wanted to memorialize, honor, and recognize family and friends that have fallen or served, and (4) anytime is a good time to remember or honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. These soldiers have or will provide protection for us and people around the globe that they will never meet, which, at some level, emulates God's decision to sacrifice His own son whom suffered and died for our trespasses on the cross. We haven't always been worthy or grateful for the military's contribution or their sacrifice to defend our values.

We all have regrets in life, but usually get past it. The Vietnam War ended April 30, 1975, and the draft expired January 27, 1973. I graduated high school in 1979. My entire family, men on both sides, Barnwell's (maternal) and Raulerson's (paternal), have all served in the U.S. Military for which I am proud. The Barnwell family had included military men in each of the eight generations since Colonel John "Tuscarora Jack" Barnwell came from Ireland to Charles Town (Carolina) around 1700 and won his nickname defending the fledgling Charles Town (Carolina) settlement against Indian marauders. While I was not looking for war, I should have volunteered and served my country.

Memorial Day origins (originally known as Decorating Day)-Although placing flowers on graves is a very old tradition, the modern Memorial Day observance began with the end of the Civil War. During the four years of fighting, approximately 622,000 Americans, from the North and South, had died. The country had established national cemeteries for the **Union** fallen, while other public cemeteries were established in cities and towns across the country. With the conclusion of the divisive Civil War of 1865, there was a yearning for a remembrance of those lost-for healing the wounds of war. While several areas across the U.S. claim to be first in observing Memorial Day (Columbus, Ga was one of them), a pharmacist from Waterloo (village), in New York, Henry C. Welles, was credited with the inspiration that **"it would be honorable and appropriate to recall the sacrifices of the patriotic dead by displaying floral tributes on the gravestones of the fallen."**

Continued on Page 6

**On-Call / After Hours Helpline (24/7)**

L&R Carrier Group  
After Hours :  
1-912-288-3025

Thomasville Division:  
Clay Parker  
912-387-8706

PSG After Hours:  
1-866-291-6606

Bill Raulerson:  
912-286-0010



Arlington National Cemetery



The 1870 Decoration Day parade in St. Paul, Minnesota



Orphans placing flags at their fathers' graves in Glenwood Cemetery in Philadelphia on Decoration Day



The March of Time, by Henry Sandham depicting Civil War veterans parading during Decoration Day, 1896

OUR FOUNDERS...OUR HISTORY

Ernest Lewis, Founder 1898-1978	Bill W. Raulerson, Partner 1915-1987	Carl Howard Lewis, 2nd Generation 1930	Grady Carl Lewis, 3rd Generation 1962-2012

# Judge Us By The Company We Keep!

By: Casey Hall  
Director of Light Products



The suggestion that one's character shines through their companions and associates is as old as written language. There is a biblical parable that states that a tree may be known by its fruit. We tell our children to avoid "hanging around" with the wrong crowd as it can lead to negative consequences; and if you were raised in the South, your mother or grandmother likely (repeatedly) warned their children that "If you lie with dogs, you'll get fleas". Though these sayings may be somewhat cliché, they underscore a valid central message: if you want to take the measure of a man, take stock of who he surrounds himself with and where he spends his time.



AL Retention Offers Signed: Andy Gardner, Ali with Beltline Shell, Matt with Royal Shell, Casey Hall and Nari with Danville Park Shell and Corner Shell.



Amoco Grand Opening (Casey Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Patel and Bill Raulerson)

In our company, there is much emphasis on making the sale and closing the deal. Everyone, no matter whether they are site owners or suppliers, wants to get through the negotiation process and get to the firm handshake and signing of the contract. However, following through on your promises and making sure that all parties are satisfied is what separates genuine people with integrity from imposters. If acquiring new customers is a test to our "Sales Skills," retaining existing customers is a testament to our "Service."

Customer retention is a critical aspect of business success, and it is predicated on taking care of your customers, going the extra mile, and always ensuring that, no matter what the customer faces, they do not face it alone. Lewis & Raulerson, Inc., believes in delivering quality products while providing top-tier customer service that includes quick response times, proactive support, problem solving and follow-up. We believe in consistency, transparency and putting our customers first. When things go wrong, or when there is a snag in daily operations, our customers look to our team for decisive, measured responses. Consistent delivery on service inspires confidence and breeds loyalty.

### Cleaning Project



Casey Hall  
Director of Light Products



Michelle Harris  
Area Manager

At Lewis and Raulerson, our standard of customer service goes beyond a merely transactional relationship with our customers. We find a way to have an emotional relationship with them. One of my favorite moments from the past year was visiting with a new customer and they brought their new baby to meet me. This is why I love my job! Those moments encourage me to work hard every day for our customer base. Our customers become our family, and we believe in celebrating life together. When our customers become more than names and numbers on a spreadsheet, when we become involved in their lives, meet their families and celebrate their successes together, exceptional customer service and commitment become more than a catchphrase; these practices become an obligation among friends.

I'm happy to report that our team had a great third and fourth quarter. We were able to sign four new accounts in our Georgia Division, celebrate two amazing Grand Openings and sign six retention offers (five in Alabama and one in Georgia). Customer retention is more cost-effective than customer acquisition and plays a vital role in driving business stability and profitability. I am confident that the tangible results of our efforts as a team confirm that we are doing something right!

Our team also dedicated several days in the fourth quarter to cleaning and maintaining some of our more well-worn points of service. You may have seen some of us out and about wiping down pumps, picking up trash and lending a helping hand. The Cleaning Project has provided time for us to grow as a team and visit with you and your customers; this has been a positive experience for our team and has given us all a chance to touch base with our customers. A big shout out to Michelle, Clay and Andy. I appreciate your positive attitudes when I send out crazy ideas for us to try, and your willingness to always jump in with both feet.

In closing, I want to thank our customers for choosing Lewis & Raulerson, Inc. as your fuel supplier. Whether you are a new customer or an old friend, we thank you for your trust and confidence. "Thank You" for keeping us around and allowing us to play a part in your story. We hope you enjoy our "company" as much as we enjoy yours.

# It's Not Everything, but It May Be the Difference!



By: Clay Parker, Thomasville Division—General Manager

I once heard it said that “*Attitude determines Altitude*,” or another way of saying that "with the right attitude, you can do anything." I don't believe that anymore. Business today is a complex matter that has many components that have to come together for a person to be successful. So, just telling someone to have a good attitude and everything will be alright, is really a disservice to that person.

Does “*Attitude*” matter? Absolutely, it is not the only key to succeeding, but attitude can be the difference between reaching your goals, surviving or failing. The simple fact is that you have to have the skill set and operational expertise to meet or exceed what you want to do. The increasingly competitive environment is forcing all of us to use our experience and resources to develop a business plan to succeed against new competitors coming into the South Georgia market.

Your attitude is developed and maintained by decisions that you make throughout each day. Every day your employees are looking for you to inspire, motivate, and monitor their performance. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th President of the United States and Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in Europe once said, “You can't lead by hitting someone over the head—that's assault, not leadership." If a leader is panicked, worried or angry, it will be reflected by that leader's team.

In John C. Maxwell's book “The Difference Maker,” he makes a point of saying that your attitude is a choice and the first step to having a better attitude is taking responsibility for your attitude. He goes on to say that we have to understand how this attitude developed or formed and that it is our responsibility. How well we related to the individuals we work with is a key concept in developing a winning attitude. I think the most important trait to possess when trying to improve is the desire to change. Have you ever met someone who states this is who I am and I'm not going to change? Finally, to change your attitude, change your thoughts. What we think, flows from our heart. Proverbs 4:23 says, “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything flows from it.

We are right back to where we started, Attitude determines Altitude (success). Hopefully, we recognize it isn't the only thing, but it can be what separates us from our competition and our attitude determines that attitude of our team. This is true not just for business owners, but each and every member of our organization.

What's your plan? How are you going to make your customers see that difference in you and your competition?

## Lewis & Raulerson, Inc. New Business and Retention Deals

Danville Grocery, Danville AL- Marathon  
K Grace, Kingsland, GA - Shell  
Beltline Shell, Decatur, AL - Shell  
Danville Park Shell, Decatur, AL - Shell  
Corner Shell, Hartselle, AL - Shell

Royal Shell, Decatur, AL - Shell  
EZ Stop, McRae, GA - Shell  
Fastrac 4, Moultrie, GA - Shell  
Jack Rabbit Food Mart, Blackshear, GA- Chevron  
SQ 35, Moultrie, GA - Shell

### Family of Light Product Brands



### Family of Lubricant Brands



# Educational Alliance

By: Michelle Harris, Area Manager, Light Products, Waycross Division



ExxonMobil is fueling young minds and helping create “aha” moments through the Educational Alliance Program. ExxonMobil’s Educational Alliance Program provides assistance to Branded Wholesalers to support schools in their local area through \$500 grants.

ExxonMobil gives students the tools and technology they need to connect what they learn in the classroom with what they see in the real world. It’s part of the ongoing effort to support science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education within the communities we serve.

Lewis & Raulerson has been participating in this program for decades. We are grateful for the partnership with ExxonMobil and the opportunity to provide grants to local schools in areas where we service. This year we were able to present grants to two schools.



**Dougherty High School Albany, GA:**  
Jerry Sanders, Principal  
Rao Naem, Owner, Rao’s Exxon  
Michelle Harris, Lewis &  
Raulerson, Inc., Area Manager



**Sunset Elementary School Moultrie, GA:**  
Brian Beaty, Principal  
Clay Parker, Lewis  
Raulerson, Inc., General  
Manager  
(Thomasville Division)

## Collaborating and Learning with Industry Friends

By: Amy Wood, Director of Enterprise I.T.

Recently, we had the opportunity to spend two inspiring days collaborating with Brijesh Patel of Creekside and Sagar Patel of Susie Q’s. Both were incredibly gracious hosts, welcoming us into their operations and giving us a firsthand look at their impressive stores. It was a day full of shared ideas, innovation, and great conversation!

Our day with Brijesh began in Albany at his beautiful new Creekside location. Much like Friendly Express, food service plays a key role in his operations, featuring Planet Smoothie and a proprietary coffee program. Brijesh also shared how adding a drive-through has enhanced customer convenience and streamlined service.



Raul Buenrostro, Brijesh Patel, and Gabe Manning



Outside, the site features new Anthem fuel pumps, offering an improved customer interface and the capability to run DX Promote media. This technology allows Creekside to engage customers with customized offers and advertisements right at the pump—an impressive way to stand out from the competition!

We then visited another Creekside site alongside Temp Coffee + Brew, an adjacent café where the aroma of fresh coffee greeted us at the door. We toured both locations and exchanged valuable insights on everything from operations and marketing to IT and technology. One standout observation was Creekside’s expansive packaged beverage selection—supported by generous cooler space we couldn’t help but admire.

Continued on Page 5

We also had the pleasure of spending time with Sagar Patel of Susie Q's. We began at their corporate office before visiting several stores, starting with one of their newest locations in Thomasville. Our conversations ranged from ordering practices to new product trends, and the store managers at each site were welcoming and eager to share their own experiences.

Much like Friendly Express, Susie Q's has developed a strong loyalty program and mobile app. I even downloaded the app during our visit—it was quick and easy to join, and the exclusive deals were impressive! If you're ever near a Susie Q's, it's worth checking out.



Fountain Drink Machine - Susie Q's



Sagar Patel, Raul Buenrostro, and Gabe Manning

Both Brijesh and Sagar exemplify innovation and leadership in our industry. While each of their operations differs from ours at Friendly Express, we share the same passion for exceptional customer service, cutting-edge technology, and continuous improvement. These collaborative visits were not only insightful but truly inspiring—proof that when industry peers come together to share ideas, everyone benefits.



Gabe Manning, Raul Buenrostro, Sagar Patel, and Clay Parker



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The holiday was proclaimed by Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) to honor the **Union soldiers** who had died in the American Civil War. The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Major General Logan (grave site) stated, **“Let no neglect, no ravage of time, testify to the present of the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.”** FDR-**“those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them.”**



Did you know that Memorial Day was originally a holiday for **Union** soldiers? Southern states had separate Confederate remembrances. After WWI, it was changed to encompass all who died in the country's various conflicts around the globe.



President Lyndon B. Johnson and Congress-1966-Memorial Day was originally designated as a federal holiday in the U.S. to encourage U.S. citizens the opportunity to mourn the U.S. Military personnel who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is supposed to be a time for visiting cemeteries and memorials to mourn the military personnel who died in the line of duty. However, the West (America) has morphed Memorial Day into evolving into the beginning of summer, parades, and dusting off the grills, when we are supposed to remember soldiers who fell in combat and risked their lives for their country. **It is about gratitude.** When the date of celebration was moved in 1968, the VFW stated, **“moving it to a three-day weekend undermined the very meaning of the holiday.”** Result, sadly, the same number of people (5,000) celebrate today, which is the same number of people that celebrated that first day nearly 160 years ago.



I thought this was of great importance and worth mentioning. One of the largest ceremonies ever held occurred in Charleston, SC, in 1865, where newly freed African Americans reburied 257 Union soldiers, who had died in a prison camp and were hastily buried, in order to give them the proper honors in death. African Americans were loyal to Abraham Lincoln and the north's war effort to emancipate the slaves.



Andersonville Prison, Andersonville, Ga 1864- Union Prisoners many starved or died of diseases



The clubhouse at the Charleston racetrack where the 1865 Memorial Day events took place.



Celebrating in NYC- Memorial Day early 20th century

Veterans Day, (originally known as Armistice Day), is a federal holiday in the U.S. observed annually on November 11, for honoring military Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, alive or dead, but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime. It was created to mark the Anniversary of the end to WWI, "The Great War", the war to end all wars. It was changed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954 to Veterans Day. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs states that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling "**because it is not a day that belongs to veterans, it is a day for honoring all veterans.**"-A celebration to honor American's Veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

While the federal government has, at some level, tried to memorialize or honor its fallen, active, and retired Armed Forces Personnel, we as American citizens should also respect, thank, fund memorials, housing, mental healthcare facilities, retirement, buy meals, and support military charitable organizations in memory, honor and gratefulness for the service that these men and women have or will provide. **They protect us so we can work, worship, and sleep at night. A society cannot function and will collapse if it does not feel safe. The next time you see a uniformed military personnel or recognize a civilian (retired veteran) walk up to that individual shake his/her hand and thank them for their service.**

Throughout America's history, the U.S. has been fortunate to have citizens from other ethnic groups, cultures and races that were either bought and brought over or that migrated to this country to have honorably served in the military, even when they did not have or enjoy the same privileges at home; ie, **the American Indians and African Americans.** During the American Revolutionary War, some American Indians fought on either the loyalist or Patriots side for a promise of freedom, as did African Americans who either fought on the north or south, and WWII in hopes of a better life at home in the U.S.; however, this did not end well for either minority. The American Indians continued to lose land and were pushed further west, while African Americans, although freed, continued to face discrimination and segregation.

The **Tuskegee Airmen** were the first black military aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps (ACC), a precursor of the U.S. Air Force. Trained at the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama, they flew more than 15,000 individual sorties in Europe and North Africa during World War II. Their impressive performance earned them more than 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and helped encourage the eventual integration of the U.S. Armed Forces. They continued, however, to endure hardships until the mid-1960s. They were also given less resources and older equipment than their white counterparts.



Eisenhower signing of HR7786, June 1, 1954, this ceremony changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day.



U.S. World War I veteran Joseph Ambrose (1896-1988) attends the dedication parade for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982, wearing his original Brodie helmet and doughboy uniform and holding the flag that covered the casket of his son, Clement, who was killed in the Korean War.



99th Pursuit Squadron-1st Combat mission June 2, 1943



Tuskegee Airmen in front of a P51C Mustang "Skipper's Darlin' III" Ramitelli, Italy-August 1, 1944

In the 1940's, the U.S. Military, like so much of the nation, was segregated. The so-called Jim Crow laws kept African Americans from entering public place such as libraries, restaurants, and movie theaters. Although African Americans served in the Armed Forces, they were restricted in the types of jobs and positions they could hold. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was very interested in the work at the Tuskegee Institute, particularly in the aeronautical school. During her highly publicized visits to the Tuskegee Army Airfield, she asked to take a flight with one of the Tuskegee pilots, Chief Civilian flight instructor Charles Alfred, known today as the "Father of Black Aviation". He piloted Mrs. Roosevelt over the skies of Alabama for one hour. Because of the depth of her support and the need for more pilots, the War Department announced the creation of the 99th Pursuit Squadron. This was to be an all Black Flying unit trained at the Tuskegee Institute founded in Tuskegee, AL by Booker T. Washington in 1881.



Tuskegee Airmen in the classroom



Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt with C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson of the Tuskegee Airmen

#### Six Facts

1. Tuskegee Airman once shot down three German jets in a single day.
2. Thurgood Marshall, the future Supreme Court Justice, got his start defending Tuskegee bomber trainees.
3. The Airmen may have never been established without Eleanor Roosevelt's support.
4. Former Tuskegee Airmen almost shot the late Libyan leader Muammar al-Qaddafi.
5. Three Tuskegee Airmen went on to become Generals.
6. Did you know that Lionel Richie (lead vocalist-Commodores) was born in Tuskegee, AL.



### Major Wars Since the USA Was Formed

The United States has been involved in numerous military conflicts since its formation, each with its own unique causes, consequences, and impact on the nation's development. Here are some of the major wars and military engagements that have defined the United States from its founding to the present day:

- **American Revolutionary War (1775-1783):** A conflict between the American colonies and Great Britain over issues like trade restrictions and impressment of American sailors. It led to the formation of the United States and the establishment of key democratic principle. This war, **The Great Experiment**, was probably the most life changing one for it birthed a new nation and proved that when Government serves it's people; and it is not self-serving, a capitalistic society will thrive. Furthermore, if the British empire had not been preoccupied with protecting other assets around the world (Mediterranean) that were more profitable, the outcome may not have been favorable for the U.S.
- **War of 1812 (1812-1815):** A conflict between the United States and Great Britain over maritime rights and territorial expansion. It resulted in the U.S. acquisition of vast southwestern territories, including California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

- **Civil War (1861-1865):** A conflict between the Union (North) and the Confederacy (South) over issues of slavery, states' rights, and secession. It led to the Union's victory, the preservation of the nation, and the abolition of slavery. While the South enjoyed early success during the war, it did not end well because it ran out of resources: food, clothes and shoes (many did not have jackets and walked barefoot in the snow), minors fought alongside adults, and Sherman burned their towns. When the North burned entire communities, it collapsed civilization as the South knew it, which I'm sure was devastating. This was similar to the British burning New York City.
- **Spanish-American War (1898):** A conflict between the United States and Spain over the acquisition of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. It marked the beginning of the U.S. as an overseas colonial power.
- **World War I (1914-1918):** A global conflict involving the United States and an Allied member. It resulted in the U.S. joining the Allies late in the conflict, contributing to the defeat of the Central Powers.
- **World War II (1939-1945):** A global conflict involving the United States as an allied member. It introduced the U.S. as a major global military force and led to the U.S. as a superpower.
- **Cold War (1947-1991):** A period of geopolitical tension between the United States and the Soviet Union. It included military operations authorized by Congress.

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- The Army Historical Foundation
- Assembly-Associate of Graduates/United States Military Academy, March 1977
- Jim Doyle-West Point U.S. Military Academy Graduate 1974

## Soldiers-In Memory

(listed in order of date enlisted)

### Ernest Lewis -(Founder of Lewis Oil Company 1938-now Lewis & Raulerson, Inc.)



Ernest Lewis

- United States Army-1918
- Drafted during WWI, he got the Spanish flu before he could be sent overseas. Once he recovered from the flu, he was on a ship going to Europe when the war ended. The ship turned around and came back to the US, and he was discharged.

### W.G. Barnwell Jr. (Bill-my grandfather-maternal)



Bill Barnwell

West Point Cadet-1930

- Honor Student at Porter Military Academy, Charleston, SC-graduated 1927-by September of that year, he was a regular Army enlistee 929th Infantry, Fort Benning and already applying for the West Point Prep School at Fort Mcpherson.
- West Point Graduate-1930-1934-upon graduation went first to the 5th Infantry at Fort Williams, Maine. In 1938 left for Fort Benning, graduating from Infantry school. In 1939, married Mary Frances Mullins (my grandmother-maternal) from Newnan, GA.
- 1939-1942-served at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii-19th Infantry
- 12/7/41-After Pearl Harbor plunged us into war, Mary Frances, Bill's (W.G.) wife, was flown stateside to Newnan, where Mary Mullins Barnwell, (my mother) was born (April 26,1942). Bill was at Schofield Base the day Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese.
- Fall 1942-Bill joined the 3rd Armored Division in intensive, round-the-clock training in the Mojave Desert. He remained with this division throughout its five (5) major campaigns in Europe and into the post-combat occupation period.
- June 29, 1944-the now-famous "Spearhead" Division crossed the channel shortly after D-day with Bill (Combat Command A) being the first to engage the enemy. 221 combat days later, Combat Command A was far to the east at a place called Dessau, on the soil of a beaten enemy. Bill went with the "Spearhead" all the way, in the same job-Executive Officer, Combat Command A.
- Late 1945-Back home at Fort Benning
- 1947-he graduated from Command and General Staff College and in 1948 from Armed Forces Staff College. **Anyone that is appointed to this college is being groomed to become a General.**
- 1948-Bill's next and last assignment was a job at the Pentagon.
- June 10, 1949-Bill Barnwell's tragic and sudden death at 39 years old.



Bill's Class-1930 West Point



Bill's graduating class  
West Point 1934



Bill-1935 joins the US Army



Bill & Wife Mary 1939 at  
their wedding ceremony



Company M-Scholfield  
Barracks, Hawaii-1939



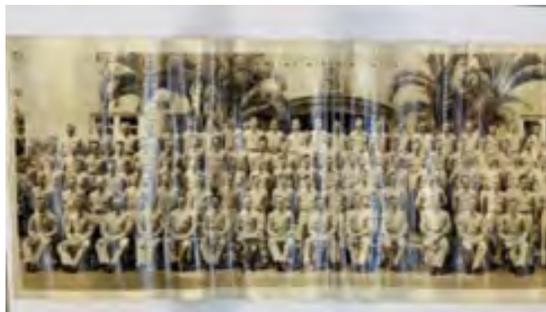
Bill-receiving his diploma West  
Point graduation 1934

- Decorations and Medals of Lieutenant Colonel; W.G. Barnwell, Jr. 019 589 Calvary:
  - Silver Star-10/15/48-For gallantry in action-Mons, Belgium, 9/5/44
  - Legion of Merit-10/15/48-Meritorious conduct and outstanding service, European theatre of Operations-9/15/44-4/25/45
  - Bronze Star Medal (3) with 2 bronze oak leaf clusters: 1st-Meritorious achievement in ground operations against the enemy European theatre of Operations-8/20/44-3/7/45; 2nd-Heroism in ground combat France 8/18/44
  - Purple Heart-10/15/48-For military merit and for wounds received in action, France 9/1/44
  - American Defense Service Medal
  - American Campaign Medal
  - Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 1 bronze service star
  - European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 1 silver service star
  - World War II Victory Medal
  - Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII
  - French Croix De Guerre Medal-Liberation of France (Juin-Decembre 1944)-Janvier 29, 1945
  
- "Spearhead" Major General Franklin M. Davis Jr-He would not compromise his professionalism. I remember some truly violent arguments he had with my battalion commander over operational instructions. He would not conform to the traditional stereotype of Lieutenant Colonels of that era (referring to Bill Barnwell).

**Miscellaneous photos of Bill Barnwell while serving in the U.S. Military (Army) and WWII**



Mr. & Mrs. W.G. Barnwell Jr  
Hawaii 1940



Company K-Schofield Barracks, Hawaii 1941



1942-training in the Mojave Desert



Members of an American landing party lend helping hands to others whose landing craft was sunk by enemy action off the Coast of France. These survivors reached Utah beach using a life raft, June 6, 1944



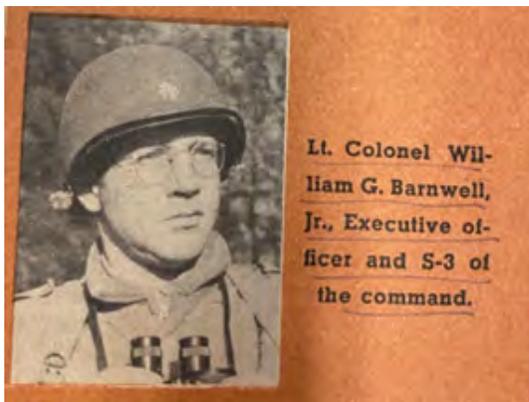
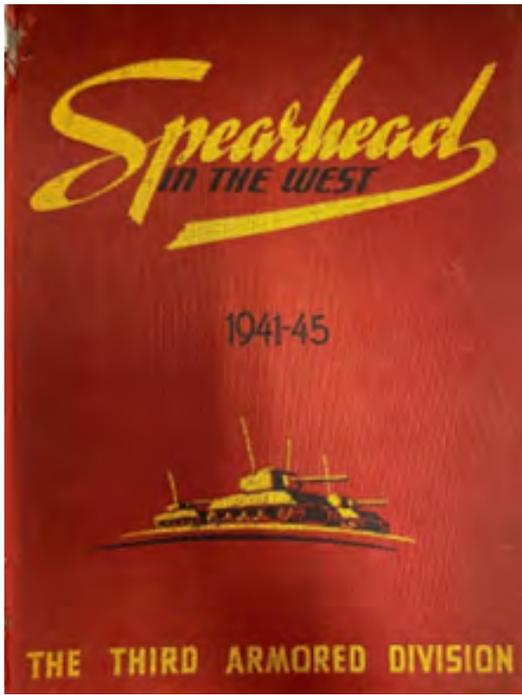
General route taken by (Combat Command A) 3rd Armored Division in attachment and the area covered.



U.S. Sailors stand amid wreckage watching as the USS Shaw explodes December 7, 1941 on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii during the Japanese attack.

Bill Barnwell was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii-1939-1942

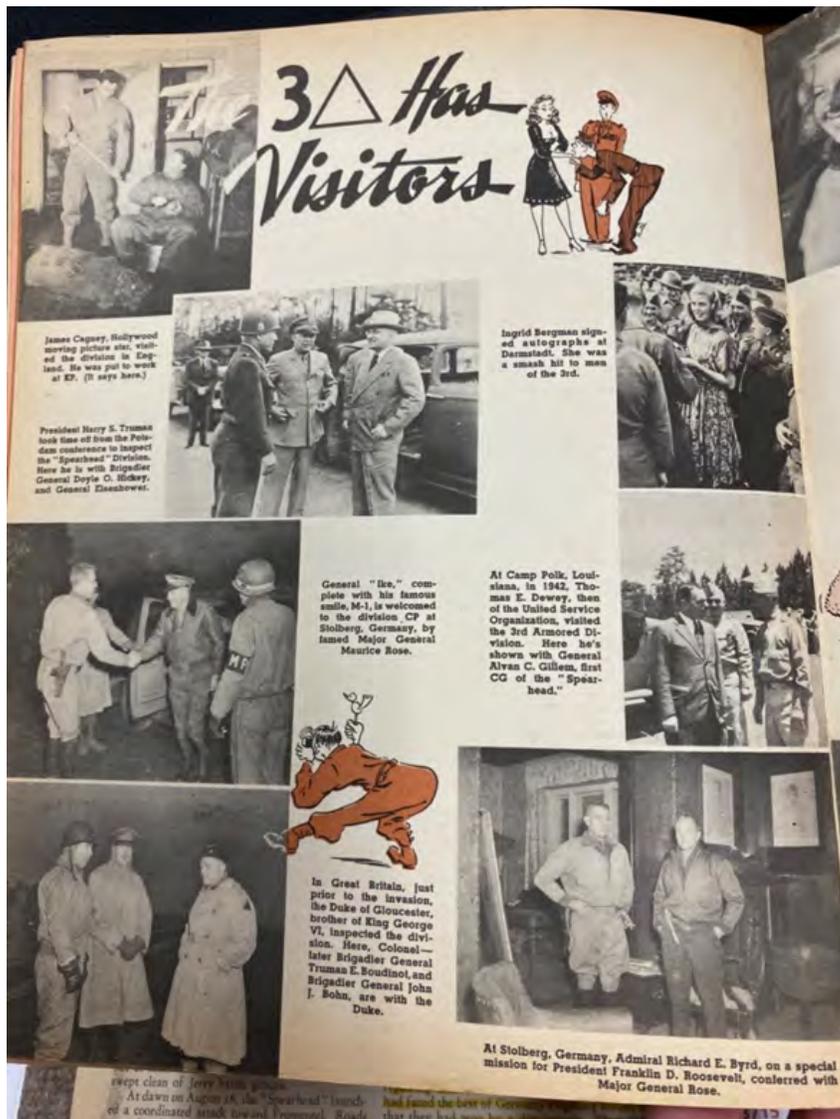
Miscellaneous photos of Bill Barnwell -continued



General George S. Patton (left)



Miscellaneous photos of Bill Barnwell -continued



3rd Armor division visited by Hollywood actors-James Cagney, Ingrid Bergman, President Harry S. Truman, General Ike, Thomas Dewey



Bill Barnwell  
Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, & Citations



Arlington Cemetery-my grandfather-  
(maternal) W.G. (Bill) Barnwell

# In Memory-Continued

## Tom Raulerson (Great Uncle)

- United States Air Force Pilot: Active Duty-28 years 1937-1965
- Reserves- 8 years
- Retired as Lieutenant Colonel
- Flew combat missions in WWII (Germany), Korean War, Vietnam and the Cold War.
- Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations , AFLSA W14 Br OLC, AFR 900-10, DFC W11 OLC-GO-515, HQ FEAF, 1952 AF W14 OLC-GO-521, Hq FEAF, 1952 AFRM-GO-14, FEAF, 1952, AFOUA-GO-111, DAF, 1961



Tom Raulerson-late 30's



Tom Raulerson



S.O.D. 7-Class 44C  
10-11-43-Douglas, GA  
Tom trained here to fly aircraft in WWII



WWII-B-51  
Tom flew Sorties over Germany



Korean War Aircraft 1950-53  
Tom flew during Korean War



Tom flew A-1 Skyraider- a bomber/ground attack aircraft used during the Vietnam War.

## B.W Raulerson (Bill) -partner at Lewis & Raulerson, Inc-54 years.(my Grandfather-paternal; Father to Wade, Harmon, Jimmy; older brother to Tom)

- United States Army: Active Duty-May 24, 1944-December 22, 1945
- **Special Note-volunteered at age 29-had (3) children plus (1) on the way.**
- Gun Crewman light Art 844.
- Battle-Rhineland Central Europe GO105WD45-September 15, 1944-March 21,1945
- Decorations and Citations-EAMET service medal, Good conduct WWII Victory medal, Combat Infantry Badge rifle MISS MG 1st class gunner.
- Rank-Private First Class-Battalion Company Cannon Company F 314th Infantry (reborn from WWI Rainbow Division)-Douglas MacArther, then Colonel was named Newly Chief of Staff
- Fought at Normandy, Austria-Battle of the Bulge
- Freed the Jews-Dachall, Germany
- Notes-told me, "more concerned with cold weather than being shot."
- Other-U.S. soldiers tried to make dead German soldiers smoke cigarettes.



B. W. (Bill) Raulerson  
29 years old  
(soldiers called him Pop)



Battle of the Bulge



You'd never forget the look in their eyes. They were so thankful for the liberators.



Anti-aircraft gunners of the 486th had a reputation for accuracy. From top to bottom: a gun crew marks up one German plane downed; an AA gun crew covers a Rhine crossing; and a wrecked ME-109 testifies to the shooting ability of the "Anti-Anything" soldier.



## Soldiers-In Memory Continued

### Jack Jones-Founder Petroleum Products Company-Thomasville-1972

- United States Navy
- Served during WWII



Jack Jones

### Clay Parker Jr.-Clay Parker III's Father

- United States Navy
- Active Service-27 years
- Served at least 4 tours in Vietnam aboard different ships.
- Served on the FDR and Ticonderoga Aircraft Carriers.
- He was a recruit trainer.
- Clay when asked about his dad said, "He has always been my hero."



Clay Parker Jr

### Thomas Bragg, Sr-personal friend, Christain-Nankipoo Ranger

- United States Army
- Active service-24 years
- Trained at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga
- Served two tours in Vietnam
- He was awarded the following medals, awards, commendations: Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Vietnam Gallantry Military Ribbon, Vietnam Service Ribbon, National Defense Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Bronze Star. Expert hand-to-hand combat.
- He was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame, Recruiter's Hall of Fame and is a member of the Elite Ranger Brigade.
- Published Author-Nankipoo Ranger



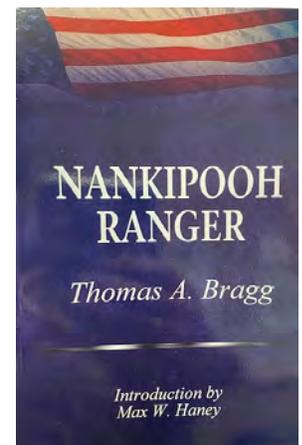
Thomas Bragg, Sr.



Soldiers take cover behind a line of shrubbery as helicopters fly overhead.  
Vietnam War



Soldiers load into a Chinook helicopter as they prepare to be airlifted to their next position-April 1966  
Vietnam War



*The Elite Ranger Brigade is an elite light infantry unit within the United States Army Special Operations Command. It is known for its specialized training and capabilities, including direct action raids, counterterrorism, and airfield seizure operations. The Rangers trace their lineage back to colonial times and have been involved in various conflicts, including the Korean War and the Vietnam War. They are recognized for their rigorous training and commitment to serving as a premier force in the Army.-Wikipedia*

**Thomas William Kish-personal friend**

- United States Marine Corp-enlisted at 17 years old
- Trained in Paris Island and Camp Lejeune
- Active service-1967
- Special Forces Cambodia, Japan assigned to the 11th Assault Group, 1st Marine Division deployed to Vietnam-served two tours in Vietnam. 1st -He was stationed at a Fire Base in 1 Corps-he served as artillery man at the base for one year. Instead of returning to the U.S. as the end of his 12 month tour, Tom volunteered to stay in Vietnam and became a forward observer with his marine unit. He did this for 6 months.
- He was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, a Navy Unit Commendation, and the Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars.
- Employment-ExxonMobil Lube Engineer-30 years
- Lewis & Raulerson, Inc. lube consultant-10 years



Tom Kish



U.S. Marine Corps shooting artillery in a Shau Valley  
Vietnam War



Troops & tanks moving into war zone-February 1968  
Vietnam War



# Soldiers-In Honor

(listed in order of date enlisted)

**Carl Lewis-** Grady Lewis' father (my partner at Lewis Oil Company)-Carl's father, Ernest Lewis, founded Lewis Oil Company.

- United States Army-1950-1952
- Occupation Army, Stuttgart, Germany



Carl Lewis

**\*Harmon Raulerson (my Father)**

- United States Army- June 27, 1958-May 16, 1961, basic training and advanced infantry- Columbus, Ga, Fort Benning
- Deployed to South Korea-December 1958-served at Camp Casey, a base north of Seoul, came back to the States December 1959, honorably discharged May 1961.
- Stayed in the reserves (3) more years.
- 2nd Infantry Division, 7th ID Honor Guard.
- Sharpshooter (rifle), Expert (BAR), Sharpshooter (carbine), Good Conduct Medal.
- Accepted to Officer training school-wanted to fly helicopters, but plans changed. We know where he would have flown-Vietnam.
- Soldiers were involved in critical, often quiet, work of safeguarding U.S. forces in Korea during the Cold War, facing potential threats from the north. President Harry S. Truman should have allowed General Douglas McArthur to push the North Koreans into China and nuke them.
- Soldiers lived in Quonset huts and had no running water. At night, temperatures would drop below 15°. Their drinking water (gallon jugs) would freeze at night.
- Repple Depple-military slang for replacement depot-a facility where new troops were received, processed, and assigned to combat units during WWII and the Korean War.
- The Korean Defense service medal was authorized for service after July 28, 1954, but wasn't widely issued or even created until much later, with entitlement verified retroactively for those serving in the defense of the Republic of Korea. Those that served during 1958-59 would likely qualify for the Korean Service Award, with United Nations Service Award Medal as a common companion award, reflecting the ongoing commitment to defending South Korea. Unfortunately, they never sent Dad (Harmon) one.
- Pay-\$70.00 per month plus \$13.00 per month hazard pay.
- Cigarettes \$.10 per pack, Heineken beer \$.25 can, Liquor \$.99 per pint.
- Rank-SP4 (T) E-4 when discharged



Harmon Raulerson



Harmon in South Korea



Drinking and bathing water came from this river-no running water



Supplies issued for each soldier



Military Police vehicle



Enemy Tactics, Techniques and Doctrine



Harmon with South Korean children



Sitcom MASH based on Korean War

## Soldiers-In Honor

### \*Wade W. Raulerson (Uncle)

- United States Army-11/3/1958-5/7/1962
- Coleman Barracks/Coleman Army Airfield, 102nd Signal Battalion, Manheim, Germany
- The Berlin Wall was constructed on August 13, 1961, by the German Democratic Republic (GDR) to prevent East Germans from fleeing to West Berlin, symbolizing the division of East and West during the Cold War. Of course, the USSR was controlling East Germany. The Berlin Wall stood until November 9, 1989, when political changes in Eastern Europe and mounting pressure from East German citizens led to the fall. Remember, Ronald Reagan, U.S. President 1980-1988 requested that Gorbachev tear down the wall and he did.
- Rank-SP5 E5 (T) when discharged



Wade with his new bride & her family

### \*Jimmy H. Raulerson (Uncle)

- United States Army-Active-1959-1962
- United States Army Reserves-1962-1965
- 175th Engineer company, Ettlingen, Germany, Rhineland Kaserne
- Rank-SP4 (E4) when discharged.
- B.W. Raulerson (his father & my grandfather) signed for him at 17 years old.

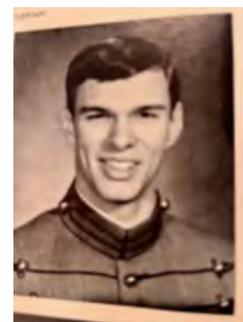
\*(3) Brothers served at the same time, their father-B.W. Raulerson (my grandfather-paternal) whom served in WWII, was a partner at Lewis Oil Company for 54 yrs. Two brothers, Wade & Jimmy married and brought home two German brides. While their reception was never discussed, their Father, B.W. had fought the Germans during WWII less than two decades earlier. Of course, many other soldiers followed suit.



Jimmy Raulerson

### Jim Doyle

- US Military Academy at West Point-graduated June 1974
- US Army (Infantry)-June 1974-November 1981
- First assignment-1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. While serving with the 25th Infantry Division, deployed to Honshu, the main Island of Japan, for 6 months as a Military Advisor to the 12th Infantry Division, Japanese Army.
- Special Forces assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, NC. While serving with this unit he was deployed to: Seongnam, South Korea for 4 months, Gwangju, South Korea for 2 months, Perth, Australia for 4 months (Joint training with Australian Special Forces), Mak Mun, Thailand for 1 month (border between Thailand and Cambodia), Missoula, MT for 3 months (winter training), anchorage, Alaska for 3 months (winter training), Eglin AFB, Florida for 5 months (Jungle training)
- Rank- Captain (O-3) when discharged
- Retired from ExxonMobil-30 yrs
- Personal friend and Lubricant consultant for Lewis & Raulerson, Inc. for 10 years



Jim at West Point 1974



Jim in 1976-25th Infantry Division

**Soldiers-In Honor**

**Chris Rentz-PSG-General Manager**

- United States Army
- Active Duty-January 2004-January 2009
- 2004-2007: 2-22 Infantry Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York
- 2005-2006: Deployment to Baghdad, Iraq
- 2007-2009: 305th Military Intelligence Battalion, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Huachuca, Arizona
- Rank-Sergeant (E5) when discharged



Chris Rentz

**Daniel Stewart-Lewis & Raulerson, Inc.-Director of Commercial Division  
Waycross & Thomasville**

- United States Airforce
- Active Duty-October 2009-November 2015
- Duty stations: Elmendorf AFB (Anchorage, AK), Langley AFB (Hampton, VA)
- Duties: Crew Chief over F-22 Raptor Stealth Fighter
- Deployment: Kadena Air Base (Okinawa, Japan) August 2010-April 2011
- Air National Guard-November 2015-November 2019
- Duty Station: Savannah ANG (Savannah, GA)
- Duties: Aerospace Machinist on C-130 heavy aircraft
- Rank- Senior Airman when discharged



Daniel Stewart



Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan

**Wade Courson-PSG- Service Tech**

- United States Navy
- Active Duty: October 2014-October 2019
- 2014-2017 Port Operations
- 2017-2019 Sea Duty Deployments
- Rank- Petty Officer Second Class (E-5) when discharged



Wade with daughter at Naval Station Everett, Washington



**LT Viraj Patel-Son of Tommy & Rina Patel & Brother of Sagar Patel (Susie Q's)**



LT Viraj Patel

- Raised in Thomasville, Ga. Commissioned from the U.S. Naval Academy in May 2019, earning a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and graduation with distinction at the top of his class.
- Upon commissioning, LT Patel reported to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, PRC, where he studied at Tsinghua University as a Schwarzman Scholar and earned a Master's of Global Affairs.
- Following graduate studies, Viraj reported to the National Security Agency. While at the NSA, he served as Radio Frequency Mission Director at the National Security Operations Center and as a military deputy within the Computer Network Operations division.
- December 2022-qualified as a military cryptologist
- Currently: serves as the lead intelligence officer aboard USS Sterett (DDG-104) in San Diego, California. Since the beginning of 2024, he has deployed for more than 330 days at sea.
- August 2025: awarded the Combat Action Ribbon for his service and leadership in support of Operation Rough Rider.

## Happy Retirement, Randy!



By: Daniel Stewart Director of Commercial Division-Waycross & Thomasville

Lewis & Raulerson, Inc. proudly recognizes the retirement of Randy Stringer, whose years of dedication and hard work have left a lasting mark on our company. Randy's journey with Lewis & Raulerson began in the early 1990s as a transport driver. After time away, he returned to the company in 2014 and went on to serve as Warehouse Manager, a role in which he quickly became known for his reliability, leadership, and willingness to step in wherever needed. Later, Randy transitioned into Sales, becoming sales manager for several years and specializing in the industrial sector.

Throughout his career, Randy exemplified what it means to be a team player. His strong work ethic, attention to detail, and positive attitude helped keep operations running smoothly and supported the high level of service our customers expect. Colleagues admired his steady presence and commitment to doing the job right. In 2022, when Randy brought me onboard in the sales department, it was clear that he loved what he did. He poured into me like it was his own business and for that I will forever be grateful!

As Randy steps into retirement, we extend our sincere gratitude for his many contributions and years of service. He leaves behind a legacy of professionalism and dedication that will not be forgotten.

Please join us in wishing Randy and his family all the best in this exciting new chapter. Thank you, Randy, for everything you've done for Lewis & Raulerson, Inc. — you will be missed!



**"Feeding Families on Friday"**

Buy any fountain drink or coffee on Friday at Friendly Express and we'll donate \$.10 for every cup sold!

**MONEY BENEFITS LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES.**

Total donations as of  
December 2025: \$318,954.43

LEWIS & RAULERSON, INC.  
P.O. BOX 59  
WAYCROSS, GA 31502

## 2025 MYSTERY SHOP SHOUT OUTS!

2025 mystery shop results are in. We want to congratulate each of the sites below for achieving a perfect score on one or more of their 2025 mystery shops! This is not an easy task. It takes hard work and dedication. Your excellent customer service and commitment have earned you this honor! Thank you all for your great efforts!

### EXXON AND MOBIL

Friendly Express 78  
Friendly Express 86  
Darien Quick Mart  
Country Store  
Pig Jig  
H&H  
Kumar Food Store  
Rao's Exxon

### MARATHON

Stop N Shop 2  
Lotto Express

### CHEVRON AND TEXACO

Friendly Express 79  
Friendly Express 73  
Chevron Food Mart  
Quick Stop 2  
M&M  
Xpress Food Mart  
Fosters Fast Stop  
First Choice

### BP AMOCO

One Stop 44  
Davey's BP  
BP Food Mart 1  
BP Food Mart 2  
Liberty 7  
Quick Change 8  
Fastrac 1  
Fastrac 9  
Susie Q's 10  
Susie Q's 22

### SHELL

Friendly Express 23  
Friendly Express 77  
Friendly Express 50  
Friendly Express 101  
Friendly Express 72  
Friendly Express 24

**CONGRATULATIONS!**