



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield and Franklin, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are held the Second Thursday of each month except July and August.

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## PAGE ONE

### MOTHER NATURE TRUMPS VCOC 2016 "STORMING THE HILL" EFFORT

Unfortunately, due to the blizzard that started on 22 January, both the VCOC quarterly meeting and "Storming the Hill" were canceled after the governor declared a state of emergency. As part of our recovery Karl Wilson, the PACMOAA VCOC representative sent the following email to legislators scheduled for a PACMOAA visit:

'Unfortunately weather conditions prevent members of the Portsmouth Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) from coming to Richmond to meet with you on Monday, January 25, 2016. Had we met I would have encouraged you to support legislation and budget amendments addressing issues important to the some 800,000 veterans in Virginia and their families. The issues involved this year were adopted and



prioritized by the Virginia Joint Leadership Council of Veteran Service Organizations and supported by the Board of Veteran Services . See attachments for a summary and status specific bills and budget amendments on these issues. Individual position papers on these important issues may be found at: <http://www.virginiamoaa.com/legislativestate/2016objectives.html>

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kathryn A Doxey

Joyce Janke

John M Johnson

June Leckrone

Robert C Parker Jr.

Lynn M Terry

Pearl Anne Carroll

Specifically we ask that you indicate support for these issues by signing on as a bill co-patron, if you have not already done so. Thank you if you have already. Since several of the issues are addressed in budget amendments, addressing your support to your colleagues on the issues to the House Appropriations Committee or Senate Finance Committee is greatly appreciated.'

PACMOAA members are tasked to look at the issues prioritized by the Virginia Joint Leadership Council and contact your legislators in support of them! Use our [website](#) to locate contact information.

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## Chapter Happenings

[Click Here for  
DIRECTORY](#)

<b>Feb 02 Ground Hog Day</b>	<b>Feb 11 PACMOAA Dinner</b>
<b>Feb 07 Super Bowl 50 and the last day for dinner reservations</b>	<b>Feb 14 Valentine's Day</b>
<b>Feb 09 Fat Tuesday</b>	<b>Feb 15 President's Day</b>
	<b>Feb 29 Leap Day (Monday)</b>

### FEBRUARY DINNER

Our dinner will be held on **Thursday, 11 February** at the Hilton Garden Inn (HGI) Ballroom at 5921 Harbour View Boulevard in Northern Suffolk. [LINK TO HGI](#) for an excellent map, GPS information and HGI contacts. Social hour will begin at 1800 with dinner at 1900.

#### MENU

Spinach Salad with Mushrooms, Hardboiled Eggs, Bacon  
and Vinaigrette Dressing  
Ham Steak with Pineapple Slice Glaze  
Smashed Sweet Potatoes and Green Bean Almondine  
Dinner Rolls and Chef's Choice Dessert  
Water, Ice Tea, Coffee, and Hot Tea Station

Cost is **\$30.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, 7 February** with Sherry Ferki. Come join us for good company, good food and a good time. **REMEMBER A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.** Please request any special diet requirements when making your reservation.

### FEBRUARY SPEAKER

#### [COL Peter Youngblood USA \(Ret\)](#)

Peter Youngblood began his military career as a draftee serving as a combat medic from 14 Feb 1966 through 1 August 1974 with 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 8<sup>th</sup> Cav, 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div. Republic of Vietnam and medical corpsman with the 229<sup>th</sup> Avn Bn, Richmond, VA.

Peter was commissioned on 2 August 1974 as an artillery officer and served through 1 August 2003 during which time he was the Commanding Officer A Battery 2/111 Field Artillery; Operations/Training Officer, 80<sup>th</sup> Maneuver Training Command; Logistics/Plans Officer, Southern European Task Force, Vicenza, Italy; Executive Officer, Office of Senior USAR Advisor, Europe, Heidelberg, Germany; Chief, Reserve Land Forces, U.S. Central Command; Joint Training Requirements Analyst, U.S. Joint Forces Command; Training and Doctrine Command Liaison Officer to Joint Forces Command

Peter received the following awards and decorations: Combat Medical Badge, Air Medal, various commendations and service medals; several Joint Meritorious Unit Awards. COL Youngblood was awarded the Le-



gion of Merit at his retirement.

Since COL Youngblood's retirement, he has never stopped serving and is active in the community, serving as president of the local Civic League, Chairman of the Portsmouth Historic Preservation Commission, member of the Mayor's Commission to re-write the City Charter, member of the Portsmouth Mayor's Military Affairs Committee, and member of the Portsmouth Planning Commission.

COL Youngblood is going to speak of his service as a combat medic Vietnam.

## WELCOME ABOARD

*The Salute* extends a hardy welcome to **CDR Scott Dickinson, USN and his wife Heather from Chesapeake.**

Welcome back returning member **MAJ Robert (Bob) Alexander, USA (Ret) and his wife Tricia from Suffolk.**

## MEMBER DUES REMINDER

Dues are due and only about 20 of our 84 2015 membership have renewed. Remember this is a good time to donate to the scholar-

*(Continued from page 1) MEDICS*

## FORMER MILITARY MEDICS NEED YOUR HELP

With the large contingent of medical personnel in our chapter, we should give serious consideration to muster in support of the Bridge to Health Care Careers. please look at the [Bridge to Health Care Careers for Former Military Medics and Corpsman](#) (JLC 2016-06) - Recommendation : That the Governor and General Assembly authorize three positions and appropriate \$400,000 (GF) in FY17, continue at these levels in FY18, and pass the legislation necessary to assist former military

medics and corpsmen in continuing to use their skills learned in the service and to place them on a path to careers in Virginia health care industry.

## SUPPORT OUR 2016 SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE

By Sherry Ferki Committee Chair

The PACMOAA scholarship program was started by COL Frank Robertson, USA (Ret). He rose to a point of order at one of our early meetings last century as a TROA affiliated chapter and said 'we should be more than a supper club; we should have an impact on the community.' This right in line with today's MOAA motto, Never Stop Serving. To this end, he proposed the establishment of a scholarship fund. On the spot he wrote a check for \$500 and dared anyone to match it. He found his match in LTC Ruth Sweet. She matched his check and continued to contribute \$500 annually to the fund for several years, almost until her demise.

Why such interest in the June scholarships in February? The number of scholarships to be awarded for the year is voted on at the February Board Meeting (25 February this year) and is based on available donations from PACMOAA members. We would like to award 2 scholarships for \$1500 each this year. Most donations are made with membership renewal. As of now, 25 percent of our membership have renewed and donated \$1000.00 to the fund! We can easily meet our goal if the rest of us donate an average of \$40 each at renewal or by incremental adds to dinner checks plus playing 50/50 during the year.

PACMOAA has awarded 25 scholarships, 23 of which were completed since Sherry Ferki has been the chair of the Scholarship committee That is a success rate over 90 percent. Congratulations to the Scholarship committee.

One to two scholarships have been awarded each year, ranging from \$1000 to \$2000 depending on donations. The scholarships are

not supported by any outside organizations. The scholarship funds are dispersed in two payments over the first year in school and contingent upon continued enrollment in ROTC. Money may be used for tuition purposes, room and board, and other school related expenses. Unlike the MOAA scholarships, the students do not have to come from a military family.

Scholarship information packets have gone to high schools in Portsmouth, Suffolk, Franklin, Chesapeake, Southampton and Isle of Wight this week. That includes more than 30 high schools and 13 JROTC units.

Please consider a donation to help these students in their quest for a career in the military. This can easily be done by adding \$10 or \$20, or more, to your dues check or adding \$5, or more, to your dinner check. All donations are greatly appreciated and most helpful! Thank you for your generous support over the years which made our program so successful! The scholarships are presented at our June Scholarship Banquet. It is always a pleasure to meet the recipients and hear of their accomplishments in school and their goals.

### **SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER**

By Kathy Prout, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee chair.

Once again, 2015 was a very busy year. Last April, during the annual Council Presidents' Seminar, members of the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) voted to change our name to the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC). We believe the name change will bring a better understanding of who we are within MOAA. During the seminar, SSAC members also participated in Storming the Hill and advocated on issues that impact active duty and retired servicemembers and their survivors and families. Our advocacy efforts focused on:

- active duty military compensation;
- TRICARE increases;

- concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation; and
- the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset.

In October 2015, during MOAA's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., the committee's name change became official. The AMAC is now the SSAC. Council and chapter leaders should note that their auxiliary members now should be classified and identified as surviving spouses.

The Levels of Excellence Award dinner also was held during the 2015 annual meeting. The awards dinner started with the presentation of the 2015 Auxiliary Liaison/Surviving Spouse Excellence Award to Joan Perry, Surviving Spouse Liaison (SSL) for the Grand Strand (S.C.) Chapter, who was recognized for her outstanding efforts to support surviving spouses and her volunteer work. She beat out seven other outstanding nominees.

Last year, SSAC members worked to increase the number of SSLs in MOAA's councils and chapters. Forty-one new SSLs were added, with the goal to have surviving spouse representation in every council and chapter.

On the legislative front, SSAC members again focused on eliminating the SBP/DIC offset. At press time, bills to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset, [H.R.1594](#) with 176 cosponsors and [S.979](#) with 15 cosponsors, were stalled in the House and Senate Armed Services committees. On Dec. 11, 2015, MOAA's Director of Government Relations Col. Steve Strobridge, USAF (Ret), testified before the House Armed Services military personnel subcommittee on the SBP/DIC offset. (Read, "[MOAA to Congress: Repeal 'Widows' Tax.](#)")

To drum up additional support, SSAC Chair Kathy Prout started a petition on Change.org to increase public awareness and support for eliminating the SBP/DIC offset. The petition is titled, "[Stop denying earned survivor benefits to military surviving spouses.](#)" Many MOAA council and chapter presidents and our SSLs already have signed and shared the petition,

which contains nearly 75,000 signatures and will be sent to every member of Congress. If you haven't done so already, please [sign and share the petition](#) with your family, friends, and fellow council and chapter members.

SSAC members also developed a [resource list](#) of organizations that support military surviving spouses, surviving children, and caregivers. If you know of an organization that's not included on the resource list, please email that information to [auxcomm@moaa.org](mailto:auxcomm@moaa.org).

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Bob Steorts, Chaplain

### THE ALTAR BOY

We had made a rapid advance across Northern France from the Normandy beachhead. (Historians say it was the fastest opposed advance in the history of modern warfare.) Now, our 105-millimeter howitzer battalion was bivouacked in an abandoned castle on the outskirts of a small Belgian town. The exact locations of occupied and unoccupied territory were not well known, and due to an error in map reading, we learned at daybreak that we were close to a German infantry unit. Watching our artillery battalion attempting to act as infantry close range was laughable, but we had no choice. Using our pieces at close range with time bursts, we caused the enemy to retreat.

Later that morning, I ventured away from the castle and observed local townspeople walking to the center of the village to the sound of church bells. I realized that it was Sunday and people were on their way to a Catholic mass. I followed them.

Inside the church, the priest appeared from the sacristy, I saw he was without an altar boy. I was only nineteen years old, not too far away from my own altar boy days in Philadelphia. So almost by rote, I went into the sanctuary, knelt down next to the priest and, still in my uniform, started to perform the normal functions of an acolyte:

*"Ad deum qui laetificat juventutem meam"*  
(To God, the joy of my youth);

*"Qua to es Deus fortitudo mea"*  
(For Thou, O God, art my strength);

*"Confiteor Deo omnipotenti"*  
(I confess to Almighty God).

The priest and I went through the whole mass as if we had done it together many times before: water and wine; *lavabo* (the ritual of washing hands after the offertory); changing the book; *suscipiat* (a five-line prayer of acceptance); and the final blessing.

As prescribed, I preceded the priest into the sacristy and, as is the custom, stood apart from him with my hands in the prayer position while he divested. He removed the chasuble, then the cincture. When his arms lifted the alb, I saw that he was wearing a German uniform. My heart stopped: the priest was a German officer!

The man was a German chaplain and though he had realized immediately that he had an American sergeant as an altar boy, during the entire twenty minutes of the mass, he had given no outward sign of recognition. My German was rather rudimentary, and the only thing I could put together was, *"Gut Morgen, Vater"* ("Good morning, Father"). Evidently, his English was nonexistent, for somewhat flustered, he only smiled at me. Then we shook hands, and I left.

I walked back to the castle strangely exhilarated. Two strangers, enemies at war, had met by chance and for twenty minutes, without any direct communication, had found complete unanimity in an age-old ritual of Christian worship.

The memory of this incident has remained with me for over fifty years. It still brings elation, for I know firsthand, that even in war, our common humanity - under the same God - can triumph over hatred and division.

***From: Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul***  
May we always serve where duty and God calls us.

# PACMOAA 2016 EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
14 JANUARY	DINNER MEETING with DVA Deputy Secretary Jaime Areizaga-Soto
25 JANUARY	<b>STORMING THE HILL IN RICHMOND canceled due to weather</b>
11 FEBRUARY	DINNER MEETING with COL Peter A. Youngblood, USA (Ret)
24 FEBRUARY	<b>Rescheduled VCOC MEETING</b>
25 FEBRUARY	<b>BOARD MEETING</b>
10 MARCH	PROGRAM/DINNER MEETING
14 APRIL	PROGRAM/DINNER MEETING
TBA	CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON
12 MAY	PROGRAM/DINNER MEETING
26 MAY	<b>BOARD MEETING</b>
30 MAY	ANNUAL PORTSMOUTH MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
9 JUNE	JUNE SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET
TBA JULY	JOINT BRUNCH WITH HRC AND PENINSULA CHAPTERS
25 AUGUST	<b>BOARD MEETING</b>
8 SEPTEMBER	PROGRAM/DINNER MEETING
13 OCTOBER	PROGRAM/DINNER MEETING
TBA OCTOBER	<b>VCOC MEETING</b>
3 NOVEMBER	<b>BOARD MEETING</b>
10 NOVEMBER	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
8 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS GALA

## **THIS YEAR IS THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)**

Yes, the same month we award deserving high school students one or more of our scholarships. President Wilson signed the National Defense Act of 1916 into law on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June that year, part of which established the [Reserve Officer Training Corps](#) for both high schools and undergraduate institutions. Military officers have long been a rich national resource of leadership for the United States. As PACMOAA has a scholarship requirement that the recipient participate in the ROTC program, it is time that we take a closer look at the program, learn the rest of the story, and see how Virginia and Hampton Roads have been affected. With this in mind, *The Salute* research staff went to the internet “card catalogue.” The result is this brief history produced after considerable cut and pasting, intermingling, and blue penciling of several sources. Also resulting is some slight inconsistencies in dates that were not resolved and proper academic foot noting and credits became quite impractical, but basic sources are hyperlinked and URL addresses are available on request by hardcopy readers.

Formal federal training of military officers began with the US Military Academy at West Point, established in 1802. In 1819 Captain Alden Partridge, a military educator and former superintendent of West Point founded an academy with a curriculum of American traditional liberal arts, civil engineering (the first in the nation) and Military Science. He believed that a well-trained militia was an urgent necessity and developed the American system around that idea. The thought of an elite social class of military officers was not received well by all. In 1834 Vermont finally granted the academy a charter that recognized the institution as [Norwich University](#). His academy became the inspiration for a number of military colleges throughout the nation. Partridge founded six other military institutions during his quest to reform the fledgling United States military to include The Virginia Literary, Scientific and Military Academy at Portsmouth, Virginia (1839–1846). Norwich graduates and Corps Cadets saw considerable action.



Norwich University turned out hundreds of officers and soldiers who served with the federal armies in the American Civil War, including four recipients of the Medal of Honor. One graduate led a corps, 7 more headed divisions, 21 commanded brigades, 38 led regiments, and various alumni served in 131 different regimental organizations. The Confederate raid on St. Albans, Vermont precipitated fear that Newport, Vermont was an imminent target. The Corps of Cadets quickly boarded an express train for Newport on October 19, 1864 to the great relief of the inhabitants. In the 1890s the United States Army and Norwich expanded their collaboration, including the two-year appointment of career officer as an instructor and Commandant of Cadets. Partridge is considered the founding father of ROTC and the Citizen-Soldier concept; men trained to act in a military capacity when his nation required, but also capable of fulfilling standard civilian functions in peacetime.

Following the end of the Civil War Norwich went through some lean years relocating, renaming, and realigning with other institutions. Some classes had as few as a dozen cadets, proba-

bly due to graduates participating on both sides of the conflict. The citizen soldier concept and Norwich received a financial boost with the [Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890](#), which established the land-grant colleges. Part of the federal government's requirement for these schools was that they include military tactics as part of their curriculum thus forming a decentralized precursor to the ROTC. Although every state established land grant institutions, six developed into the senior military colleges of University of North Georgia, Norwich University, Texas A&M University, The Citadel, Virginia Military Institute, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). The mission of the land-grant universities was expanded by the [Hatch Act of 1887](#) by providing federal funds to establish agricultural experiment stations. Ultimately, most land-grant colleges became large public institutions; however, some colleges became private schools, including Cornell University, the University of Delaware, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

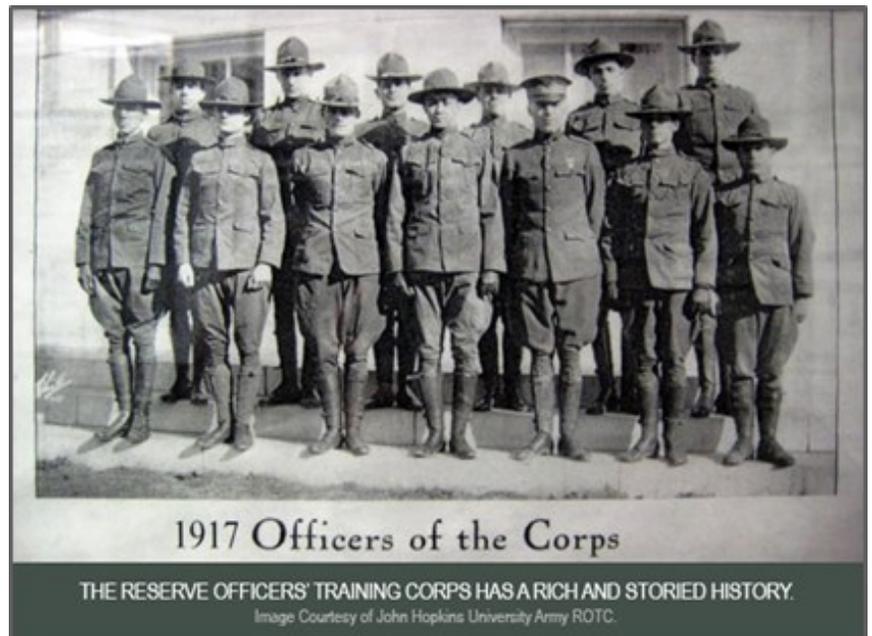
Another root of the modern ROTC program comes from the "[Plattsburg Idea](#)." In 1915, Major General Leonard Wood instituted the Citizen's Military Training Corps, the first series of training camps to make officers out of civilians. For the first time, an attempt was made to provide a condensed course of training and commissioning competent reserve line officers, which eventually led to the formation of Reservist and National Guard units with regimented training in place of local militia forces. Over 5,000 men arrived at Plattsburgh in May 1917, for the first of the large training corps. By the end of 1917, over 17,000 men had been trained. By the eve of its entry into World War I the US had a prepared corps of officers. One of the earliest Plattsburgh graduates, Roosevelt III, generally known as Theodore Jr..

Again, undaunted by unpopular initiatives, Norwich University led the way to correct social inequities in the system. First by enabling African-American, Harold "Doc" Martin, to matriculate in 1916 and again during the 1974 school year by admitting women into the Corps of Cadets, two years before the federal service academies.

Finally the training of civilian soldiers was centralized by President Wilson signing the [National Defense Act of 1916](#). The Act brought training under a single, federally-controlled entity: The Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The Army is the largest officer-producing organization with the American military, having commissioned more than half a million second lieutenants since its inception.

The National Defense Act of 1916 also established the Junior ROTC. Under the provisions of the Act, high schools were authorized the loan of federal military equipment

and the assignment of active duty military personnel as instructors. The [1964 Vitalization Act](#) opened JROTC up to the other services and replaced most of the active duty instructors with retired members of the armed forces, who worked for and are cost shared by the schools. [Title 10 of the U.S. Code](#) declares that "the purpose of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps is to

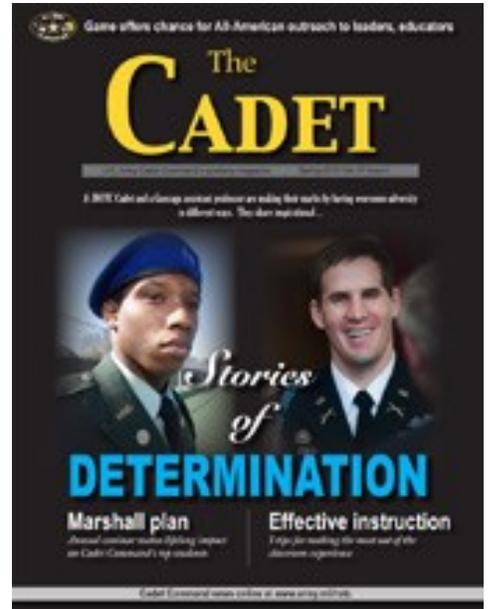


instill in students in United States secondary educational institutions the value of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment." Air Force and Navy ROTC programs were established in 1972 and 1984 respectively.

In April 1986, the [U.S. Army Cadet Command](#) was formed. [video with GEN Colin Powell, USA (Ret)] Cadet Command with its headquarters at Fort Monroe, Virginia, assumed responsibility for more than 400 senior ROTC units, four regional headquarters, and the Junior ROTC with programs in more than 800 high schools. Cadet Command transformed the ROTC from a decentralized organization turning out a heterogeneous group of junior officers into a centralized command producing lieutenants of high and uniform quality. Cadet Command moved its headquarters from Fort Monroe, Virginia to Fort Knox, Kentucky in 2010 as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act.

The Army ROTC has a total of 275 programs located at colleges and universities throughout all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam with an enrollment of more than 30,000. It produces over 70 percent of the second lieutenants who join the active Army, the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve. More than 40 percent of current active duty Army General Officers were commissioned through the ROTC. Cadet Command is also responsible for the Junior ROTC. JROTC has an enormously positive effect on our youth, helping young people from across the socio-economic spectrum. Cadets graduate from high school at a higher rate, have higher GPA's, and get in trouble less frequently than their classmates. Although the JROTC is a citizenship program, not a recruiting tool, JROTC graduates enter the armed forces at a much higher rate than their peers.

This brings us to PACMOAA today and I offer the following snapshots of JROTC students who received PACMOAA Scholarships as examples of the apparent quality and future potential of these young people.



I also offer before and after shots of a PACMOAA Scholarship recipient, first receiving her scholarship opening a path to her future on left and on the right after some time in the ROTC.



AFJROTC team with Military Child of the Year, Cadet COL Caleb Parsons (far right).

Remember these young people represent your future. Ensure they are ready by donating to our scholarship fund.

**SOME THOUGHTS ON 14 FEBRUARY**

St Valentine's Day history goes back to Roman times. The emperor Claudius II was a student of human nature and way back in AD 287 he calculated that single men made braver soldiers than married men. Therefore, as Claudius had absolute power, he dictated that no soldier should marry. Do you remember, 'if the army wanted you to have a wife, you would have been issued one?' A Roman called Valentinus thought that this was rough justice and secretly married soldiers who had a sweet-heart.

When Claudius discovered that Valentinus had defied his decree he threw Valentinus into jail. While incarcerated, Valentinus fell in love with the gaoler's daughter and sent her the first ever card - from your sweet Valentinus.

Much later, in 496 AD Pope Gelasius chose 14 February as the day to honor and remember Saint Valentine. Unfortunately, tantalizingly little is known about these early origins of St Valentine.

The youth of Medieval times would draw names from a hat and pin them to their sleeves on February 14th. Hence the expression 'to wear your heart on your sleeve'.

If a young lady sees a sparrow on February 14th flying overhead, it means that she will marry a poor man and be extremely happy. If she saw a robin she would marry a mariner. A goldfinch seen by a woman meant that she would marry into riches.

**THAT'S A WRAP FOR FEBRUARY**