



Florida State University

ARF News Special Feature

February 2022



Member Spotlight

Association of Retired Faculty and Staff

Dr. Heinz H. Luebke



Photo taken by Congresswoman Gwen Graham
an Honor Flight Tallahassee Guardian
May 2, 2015

HONORING

HEINZ H. LUEBKEMANN, H.A. 2ND CLASS
U.S. NAVY, RETIRED

HOSPITAL CORPSMAN

WW II VETERAN
JUNE 22, 1945 - FEBRUARY 15, 1947

By
Fanchon F. Funk, Guardian

What an honor to write this feature story of an outstanding man, Dr. Heinz H. Luebke. Heinz embodies excellence in all that he does. He always has.

Meet an incredible man:
Dr. Heinz H. Luebke

Heinz H. Luebke, the oldest of four siblings, was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey and grew up in Trenton, where the railroad was the biggest industry. Throughout his young life, Heinz always loved education, enjoyed reading, and knew he was headed for 'more learning' somewhere, somehow.

Heinz heard that if you joined the Navy you would get an education, the G.I. Bill, experience, and see the world. So, beginning his tenth grade school year in "Jersey" he stopped by the local Navy Recruitment Center to join. The Recruiter asked him his age and his grade in school. When Heinz shared that he was in the tenth grade, the Recruiter said... "...You finish the 10th grade, make good grades, and then come back to talk with me." He completed high school with dreams of attending a College or University. After completing his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Temple University, his journey took him to Penn State for his doctoral degree.

Before we talk about that phase of his life where he joined the Navy and became a WW II Veteran – a member of the Greatest Generation (June 22, 1945 – February 16, 1947), let's look at the path that got him back to that Recruitment Center where the same Recruiter who was on duty the day he went to the Center to join the Navy as a tenth grader was again on duty. Best yet, the Recruiter even remembered the young tenth grader who wanted to join the Navy that day.

Student, Educator, Husband, Father, and Friend

There was another life before Heinz had the great fortune to meet a beautiful lady named Johnnie, whom he married.

Lots of good stories are wrapped around these years. For example, a good friend of Heinz's named Adolph "Dutch" Koenig taught Heinz how to smoke a pipe. Another school buddy, Jack Boscarel, whose father was Italian and an attorney and whose Mother was German, provided Heinz with opportunities to meet people in the community with different career interests.

Heinz and Johnnie met as first year teachers: Johnnie, a Middle School teacher of Music and Heinz, English and Social Studies. The school district was on double sessions. Heinz shared that they had meetings from 10:00 a.m. to noon and then would teach all afternoon. Heinz was living with his parents in Trenton, N.J. and Johnnie lived in a private home, one block from school, with the woman who became Heinz's Department Chair. According to Heinz, this made for an interesting situation when he and Johnnie began 'dating.' They loved the snow days. Johnnie paid the toll to call Heinz to tell him about school closing days. Many a snow day found this happy couple at Asbury Park swimming in an indoor pool.

Not wanting to waste any time, in March of their first year of teaching, Johnnie called her parents to tell them she was getting married. To which her Mother said, What! Don't do anything. We are coming down Friday. When her Mother asked what her boyfriend did, Johnnie replied that he taught English and Social Studies and worked on the weekends in a "piss-pot" factory... (a.k.a., bedside potty factory).

When her parents arrived and after interviewing Heinz, Johnnie's Mother asked what they should do next? Heinz replied: Play Cards-bridge. By the way,

Heinz had never played Bridge in his life. What an introduction to his future in-laws. Yes, they played cards and during the game, Johnnye again said, we are getting married! Her parents agreed with one request, that they marry in a Presbyterian Church in State College, PA. Heinz and Johnnye met in September were engaged in March and married June 25, 1955 - sixty years ago.

Heinz enrolled at Penn State after their wedding. Son Geoff was born in 1961. Heinz graduated with his earned doctoral degree in 1965 and taught at Penn State for three years. A colleague, Dr. Garth Blake, told Heinz about an opening in teacher education in the College of Education (COE) at Florida State University. It wasn't long before the Luebkmanns were on the road to Tallahassee to his new job as Director of Field Experiences in the COE. What an impact Heinz made, not only in teacher education, as a faculty member in the Department of Educational Leadership, but also in the College itself and throughout the University.

Heinz retired from Florida State University in 1993. Knowing of his great love for sailing, a beautiful painting titled: "Origin of the Sailboat" was given to him by the College at his retirement party. He cherishes that painting and the wonderful memories that framed his years of employment at FSU.

Heinz remains active in his retirement. One very important commitment was the year he served as President of the Florida State University Association of Retired Faculty (ARF), 1997-1998. If you want a great laugh, get Heinz

and Johnnye telling you about the early years of the social gatherings for ARF. One previous president had the Board cutting up potatoes for potato salad, and on and on. Everything was made from 'scratch.' WHEW! ARF has come a long way. Thanks, Heinz!

Twenty years ago, Heinz formed a group that gets together once a month for lunch, tells stories, and catches up with each other. Because of the place where they now gather, they refer to themselves as The Eggers. The storytellers at these gatherings are considered as some of Tallahassee's finest poker players...according to Heinz. In fact, when the Eggers learned that their colleague, Heinz, had been selected for the 2015 Honor Flight Tallahassee, they were the first ones to respond with an email of congratulations sharing how much he means to them and that they expected a full report when he returned.

Honor Flight Tallahassee 2015



May 2nd is a day that will be remembered by each of the 78 Veterans, the 78 Guardians, the medical team, the EMS team, and the Honor Flight Team. What a story Heinz has to tell. Just ask him!

It's 3:20 a.m., May 2nd, when I, as Guardian, arrived at the Luebkehome home to pick up Heinz for transfer to a bus from Westminster Oaks & Village Retirement Community to the TLH Flightline Terminal, next to the Tallahassee Airport, for a 5:00 a.m. breakfast. Staff from Chick-Fil-A had been at the Terminal since 1:30 a.m. preparing a delicious breakfast for all persons participating in Honor Flight Tallahassee.



4:00 A.M. LEAVING FOR THE TALLAHASSEE FLIGHTLINE TERMINAL

As Heinz and I left his home to meet the bus for transportation to the TLH Flightline Terminal, little did we know that his wonderful wife, son and his fiancée were secretly waiting for us to leave, and then they departed for the Terminal as a surprise to Heinz. No way was wife Johnnye going to miss this wonderful event in her husband's life. Imagine the expression on Heinz face when he saw his wife. What a tribute from this loving family.

After breakfast, we cleared Security in the Terminal and headed for the Miami Air Chartered Plane. WHEELS UP at 7:00 a.m.

Please know that throughout this incredible trip there were lots laughs as well as tears. Memories these incredible WW II and Korean Veterans carried with them were enhanced by the memorials visited, which allowed for personal remembrances, gratitude and thankfulness.

Lots of laughs, joking, kidding and expressions of gratitude took place as well. For example, when we landed in Baltimore and entered the concourse, travelers waiting for departing flights were on their feet, waving and applauding as the Veterans came through the door. The Baltimore Ravens national team cheerleaders were also part of the welcoming party.



HEINZ LUEBKEMANN AND BALTIMORE RAVENS CHEERLEADERS

Regarding the Itinerary for the day, one buddy laughingly asked Heinz: "You mean we are scheduled when to go to the bathroom?" Yep! was the reply. They laughed.

HONOR FLIGHT TALLAHASSEE ITINERARY

Honor Flight Tallahassee Itinerary
May 2, 2015

Time	Event
4:30 AM	HFT Board and volunteers inside TLH Flightline terminal
5:00 AM	Veterans and Guardians inside TLH terminal; Team check in, registration, breakfast
5:45 AM	Wheelchair VET's (all teams) process TSA with Guardian, followed immediately by all others
7:00 AM	Flight departure from TLH
8:00 AM	Arrival at BWI Airport, unload, bathroom break
8:45 AM	Load buses
10:00 AM	Depart BWI for WWII Memorial
11:00 AM	Arrive WWII Memorial, photo, bathroom break
11:00-11:45	WWII Memorial, Lay Wreath
12:45 PM	Load buses for Korean, Vietnam, Lincoln Memorials, lunch on buses
1:30 PM	Arrive Korean, Vietnam, Lincoln Memorials
2:45 PM	Load buses for Iwo Jima Memorial
3:00 PM	Depart for Iwo Jima Memorial
3:15 PM	Arrive Iwo Jima Memorial
3:30 PM	Load buses for Arlington National Cemetery
3:45 PM	Depart for Arlington National Cemetery
4:00 PM	Arrive Arlington National Cemetery
4:30 PM	View Tomb of the Unknowns, Bathroom break
5:30 PM	Load bus for BWI
6:30 PM	Arrive BWI, bathroom break, TSA clearance process
7:30 PM	Flight departure from BWI
9:40 PM	Arrival TLH, Welcome home with friends and family

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We were soon on three Motor coaches to Washington, D.C. with a police escort that stayed with us the entire day.

Our first stop was at the World War II Memorial which was funded primarily by private contributions. National Chairman Senator Bob Dole and National Co-Chairman Frederick W. Smith led the fund-raising campaign. The Memorial received more than \$197 million in cash and pledges and included \$16 million provided by the federal government and was dedicated May 29, 2004.

Waiting for the Motor Coaches to arrive, as he does for every Honor Flight, was Sen. Bob Dole. The Senator was so gracious and willing to sit in the hot sun until all Veterans who wished to do so were able to speak with him and have photos taken. A group photo was taken along with plenty of time allocated for Veterans and their Guardians to enjoy the Memorial.



THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL



HEINZ LUEBKEMANN AND SEN. BOB DOLE



HEINZ LUEBKEMANN AT THE FLORIDA PILLAR

After a delicious boxed lunch on the bus, we motored to a central location to see the remaining Memorials: Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, Korea War Memorial, and the Marine Corps Memorial - Iwo Jima. This was followed by the Changing of the Guard ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery Tomb of the Unknowns. When an Honor Flight is attending this Ceremony, an honor wreath is so designated. The lowering of the Flag Ceremony followed.



HONOR GUARD AND HONOR FLIGHT WREATH.

When we were at the Vietnam War Memorial Wall, a young couple from Italy came up to Heinz and the female asked if her partner might have his picture taken with Heinz? Heinz, realizing that the young man spoke no English, looked at him with his special smile and said, "Sure. Two for \$35.00!" We thought the lady friend was going to lose it laughing so hard. She understood. Although the young man did not, he loved having his picture taken with Heinz.



HEINZ LUEBKEMANN AND YOUNG MAN FROM ITALY

This incredible day was quickly drawing to a close and it was time for our motor coaches, with our police escort, to head back to the Baltimore airport. Soon after departing Baltimore, a delicious dinner was served and the chatter among the Veterans, Guardians, and others was light and fun-filled with expressions of what an unforgettable day this had been.

About 50 minutes outside Tallahassee, a remarkable event occurred, one that every military person longed for each day of his/her service career:

MAIL CALL!



The entire length of the aisle was quickly filled with Medical, EMS and Honor Flight Staff. One-by-one each of the 78 Veterans heard his or her name called and a large envelope was personally handed to the Veteran that was filled with notes, cards, and emails expressing congratulations and thanks for their service to our wonderful country. The Honor Flight Guardians had gathered these expressions from the Veteran's family, friends, the Governor, Florida dignitaries, organizations, associations, and elementary school children.

The conversation level in the plane fell silent as these remarkable Veterans began reading the contents of their envelope. Tears, you bet! Heinz has shared that the letters, cards, emails, etc., in his packet meant so much to him that he wants to ensure that they are passed along in his family.

Dr. Carol Darling, ARF Vice President/President-elect, wrote the following expression to Heinz on behalf of the ARF membership:

April 19, 2015

Dear Heinz,

Many thanks for your contributions to keeping us secure during World War II and helping to make our country safe for future generations. Past experiences as a hospital corpsman were a precursor to maintaining the well-being of students and student teachers during your distinguished career as a Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Director of the Office of Field Experiences for the College of Education. Your path in life was greatly influenced by strong ties to your family and especially your wife Johnnye with whom you have had sixty years of marriage and doing things together. Your service to our country, Florida State University, the College of Education, and the Association of Retired Faculty (President 1997-1998) is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carol Darling, Ph.D., CFLE, CFCS
Vice President
Association of Retired Faculty
Professor Emerita, Florida State University

When we arrived in Tallahassee, two fire trucks were present to perform the ceremonial Water Cannon Welcome as a sign of honor. The same honor also occurred when the plane arrived in Baltimore.

What a memorable experience it was for the Veterans as they began deplaning. Just looking down at nearly 2,000 grateful residents from throughout the region forming a Welcome Home Archway, each waiving American flags, created another lifelong memory for this unforgettable day. The fantastic Tallahassee Swing Band was playing music to welcome this very special flight. In fact the Band got the Welcome Home Party started about 7:30 p.m. Announcements increased in frequency as the tracking of the plane became the focus of the crowd gathered to welcome these special Veterans home. Heinz was thrilled to see his family and numerous friends among the crowd as he deplaned and walked the red carpet to the inside of the Terminal.



THE WATER CANNON WELCOME



THE TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND



THE VETERANS VIEW THEIR WELCOME

“Thanks so very much to the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff for this wonderful honor. I am deeply touched. I would certainly like to encourage any Veteran who has never been on the Honor Flight Tallahassee to do so. It is truly a day you will never forget.” - Heinz Luebkekmann

Heinz H. Luebkekmann, we salute you and honor you as a friend, colleague, mentor, leader, and one of the Greatest Generation.

Addendum: We are sad to report the passing of Johnnye Luebkekmann on August 12, 2015. She was supportive of FSU, The Docent program, and the Association of Retired Faculty.