



# KENNYLETTER



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## Congressman-elect makes first visit to LEAD

By LEAD PAO



LEAD hosted US Congressman (Elect) Dr. John Joyce, R- PA 13<sup>th</sup> District on December 11. He was accompanied by his Chief of Staff, Jeremy Shoemaker. Depot Commander, COL Stephen Ledbetter briefed Dr. Joyce on depot operations which was followed by a tour of the depot's production and missile facilities.

Joyce was very inquisitive about the skillsets within LEAD's workforce, its workload picture and overall modernization efforts.

"He was amazed by the maintenance capabilities and the level of work that goes into the Recap level maintenance programs," Ledbetter said.

Joyce committed to be an advocate for LEAD and to help any way he possibly can. This successful visit left the Congressman with a tremendous appreciation for the role of the Organic Industrial Base, LEAD's dedicated workforce and its posture to continue to impact readiness and to support emerging Army requirements.

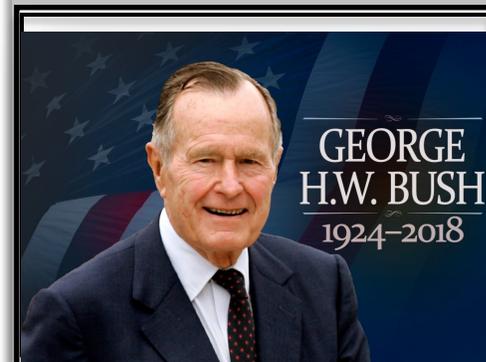
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**Commemorating George H.W. Bush**

**Spotlight On...**

**Annette Polk**  
*Business Operations Division,  
Directorate of Public Works*



LEAD employee, Annette Polk of the Directorate of Public Work Business Operations Division has a passion for dogs and Soldier support. When she found out she could volunteer to help service dogs in training for U.S. Veterans, she was eager to get involved.

The prison puppy program was created through America's VetDogs, which was founded in 2003. In the prison puppy program, inmates in correctional institutions from Maine to Florida are granted the unique opportunity to raise and train puppies who will one day work as service dogs for wounded veterans.

Once an inmate is screened and established as a "puppy handler," the puppies live in an inmate's cell and learn the fundamentals of service dog training, as well as housebreaking, crate training, and other basic skills. The pups also begin to learn service dog tasks that include retrieving dropped items, opening doors, and providing balance on stairs. During the week, the pups spend most of their days attending classes and programs outside of the cell.

In September 2017 Polk began her volunteering as a weekend puppy raiser. She met her service pup in training, a 12-week-old black Lab named Balto. Every weekend Polk would pick Balto up from the Institution for a sort of "furlough." She and her daughter, Jenna, would teach him house manners and accustom him to a life that would include car rides, traffic noises, and public outings to stores, restaurants and church. He also learned to be around other pets and animals during this time, like their Maltese puppy, Willow.

Balto and Polk clicked immediately, and she said he was instantly part of the family. For about a year, Balto would spend weekends and holidays with Polk.

"I did get attached to him, so it was hard to say goodbye," Polk said. "But when you see what good he's going to be doing, it makes it all worth it."

In August, Balto returned to the VetDogs training center where he would spend three months training with professionals in preparation for his new owner, a disabled veteran who required a dog that could perform service dog tasks and guide support. Balto met his new owner at the end of November, and during the intense two-week training period, the veteran learned the requirements and commands he would need with his new aide.

In early December, Polk and her daughter traveled to Long Island, New York, for Balto's official graduation ceremony from America's VetDogs. She met Balto's sponsor family and the veteran Balto now lives with. It was a very emotional day for everyone.

"It was so amazing to see Balto doing what he was born and trained to do and to know I got to be a part of it," Polk said.

One new command Balto learned since leaving Polk's care was "rest." This helpful command is used when his owner is feeling anxious. Balto will sit very close to him and place his head on his owner's lap to provide comfort.

The process of raising and training a service dog takes a lot of time, finances and support. Veterans wait years to be paired with a service dog. America's VetDogs is always looking for volunteers, and there are many ways to help through volunteering, sponsorships, community fundraising and more. If you or someone you know is interested, visit [www.vetdogs.org](http://www.vetdogs.org).

Federal employees may support America's VetDogs through the Combined Federal Campaign through January 11, 2019.



Balto is pictured here with his fellow "classmates" for graduation in December.

# Depot hosts annual Hunt of a Lifetime and Wounded Warrior weekend

By Craig Kindlin, LEAD Natural Resources

LEAD held a special hunt November 29-30 for 10 individuals including 6 Wounded Warriors from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), 2 Warriors from the National Whitetail Warrior Project, Inc. and 2 gentlemen from Hunt of a Lifetime (HOAL), a non-profit organization providing outdoor opportunities for children with life-threatening illnesses.



Hunters included: SPC Kyle Bankenship, SGT Matthew Chrobocinski, SGT Casey Clark, SGT Destiny Farr, PFC Kenneth Thomas, PVT Clay Armstrong (ret), LCPL David Hollis (ret), CW4 Russel Owens (ret), Aaron Amon and Jarret Bankes.

The 2-day hunt was a success with all 10 hunters harvesting a buck, 4 of the hunters also harvested a doe, and 1 coyote was harvested.

The hunt was under the direction of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Natural Resources and in coordination with Letterkenny Munitions Center (LEMC) and the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES). Coordination between DES, LEMC and DPW occurred quickly to ensure a successful hunt without impeding LEMC’s mission of supporting the Warfighter.

The hunters were able to enjoy their time in the field from heated hunting blinds which came in handy since it was a little cold and wet during the two day hunt. Volunteers from the Natural Resources Program assisted by escorting the Soldiers throughout their hunt, field dressing the deer, and aiding in transportation. All of the Soldiers were very grateful for their time spent at LEAD and all had a safe and enjoyable hunting experience.



Depot Commander, COL Stephen Ledbetter, SGM Rich Huff and Command staff from LEAD and LEMC had lunch with Warriors, volunteers and hunters on Thursday wishing them success on their hunt.

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## Nation bids farewell to George H.W. Bush

By John Wagner and Felicia Sonmez, the Washington Post

WASHINGTON - Mourners from across the nation gathered Wednesday morning to pay their respects and celebrate the life of former President George H.W. Bush at a state funeral at the Washington National Cathedral.

With President Donald Trump and four living former U.S. presidents in attendance, Bush was remembered by his son former President George W. Bush who said that his father had “showed me what it means to be a president that serves with integrity, leads with courage and acts with love in his heart for the citizens of our country.”

He also remembered his father as someone who “valued character over pedigree,” who “showed us how setbacks can strengthen,” and who, with his optimism, “made his children believe anything was possible.”

George H.W. Bush “could tease and needle but never out of malice,” his son said, with Trump sitting in the front row.

He elicited a few laughs from the crowd, particularly when he recalled his father’s longtime friend, James Baker, sneaking him Grey Goose vodka and steak when Bush was in the hospital in his later years.

His father also enjoyed a good joke and had an email list where he and others would share their favorites - including some off-color jokes, Bush said.

“To us he was close to perfect, but not totally perfect. ... The man couldn’t stomach vegetables, especially broccoli,” Bush said, in a reference to the food famously loathed by his father. “And, by the way, he passed these genetic defects on to us.”

He also referenced Bush’s service as a Navy pilot, saying “one reason Dad knew how to die young was that he almost did it - twice,” Bush said, referring to his father having had a staph infection as a teenager and later being shot down in World War II.

“For Dad’s part, I think those brushes with death made him cherish the gift of life,” Bush said.

Bush broke down at the end of his remarks as he recalled his father as the “best father,” and prompted applause from the crowd after saying that he smiles “knowing that Dad is hugging Robin and holding Mom’s hand again.”



Former President George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush follow the casket of former President George H. W. Bush as it is carried out following a State Funeral at the National Cathedral in Washington, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018. (Susan Walsh-AP)

Robin was George H.W. and Barbara Bush’s daughter, who died of leukemia at age 3 in 1953.

Bush was also remembered as “America’s last great soldier-statesman” by biographer Jon Meacham, one of four people delivering eulogies.

“An imperfect man, he left us a more perfect union,” Meacham said of the 41st president.

His remarks included some gentle ribbing of Bush for what the former president had acknowledged wasn’t his strongest suit: public speaking.

“‘Fluency in English,’ President Bush once remarked, ‘is something that I’m often not accused of,’ “ Meacham said, adding: “His tongue may have run amok at times, but his heart was steadfast.”

Meacham also recounted Bush being shot down as a Navy pilot in 1944 and barely escaping death.

“And so we ask, as he so often did: Why him? Why was he spared?” Meacham said. “The workings of Providence are mysterious, but this much is clear: the George Herbert Walker Bush who survived that fiery fall into the waters of the Pacific made our lives, and the lives of nations, freer, better, warmer, nobler.”

The second eulogy was given by former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, whose last four years in office overlapped with Bush’s term as president.

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“Fifty or 100 years from now, as historians review the accomplishments and the context of all who have served as president, I believe it will be said that in the life of this country, the United States - which is, in my judgment, the greatest democratic republic that God has ever placed on the face of this earth - I believe it will be said that no occupant of the Oval Office was more courageous, more principled and more honorable than George Herbert Walker Bush,” Mulronev said.

He hailed Bush’s foreign and domestic policy achievements, including the NAFTA agreement, which he said had been “modernized and improved by recent administrations,” in what appeared to be veiled swipe at Trump’s efforts to terminate the deal.

Mulronev said that when world leaders dealt with Bush, they “knew that they were dealing with a gentleman, a genuine leader, one that was distinguished, resolute and brave.”

Former Sen. Alan Simpson prompted some laughs from the crowd with a self-deprecating speech in which he celebrated his friendship with Bush, which began more than five decades ago in 1962. Bush stood by him through his darkest times, Simpson said.

“My life in Washington was rather tumultuous,” he said. “I went from the ‘A’ social list to the ‘Z,’ and never came back to the ‘A.’ In one dark period I was feeling awful low, and all my wounds were self-inflicted.”

When he questioned Bush about his decision to stay by him, Simpson said Bush responded, “This is about friendship and loyalty.”

Bush loved a good joke, Simpson added, but he “never, ever could remember a punchline - and I mean never.”

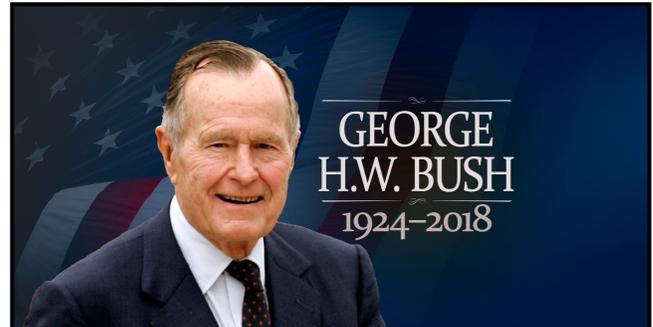
The Rev. Dr. Russell Levenson, rector of St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston, delivered the homily, drawing tears from some in the crowd.

“My hunch is heaven just got a bit kinder and gentler. ... Welcome to your eternal home, where ceiling and visibility are unlimited, and life goes on forever,” Levenson said.

As the service ended, Bush’s coffin was carried from the church to the sounds of “Hail to the Chief” and placed in a hearse that driven to Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, where Bush was given another 21-gun salute as part of a departure ceremony.

Family members looked on from the tarmac as Bush’s coffin was loaded onto the plane, which was dubbed called “Special Airlift Mission 41” in honor of the 41st president, headed to Houston.

George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, among others, stood with hands over their hearts, before walking over to board themselves.



On December 1, President Donald Trump appointed December 5, 2018 a National Day of Mourning throughout the United States in memory of President George H.W. Bush.

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## Managing holiday blues

By Roderick Johnson, CADAC, AMC

Think for a moment about an average half hour in your life. You might take out the trash, get your kids ready for school, workout at the gym, or prepare a nice dinner.

But sadly, in America every 18 minutes there will also be someone who commits suicide.

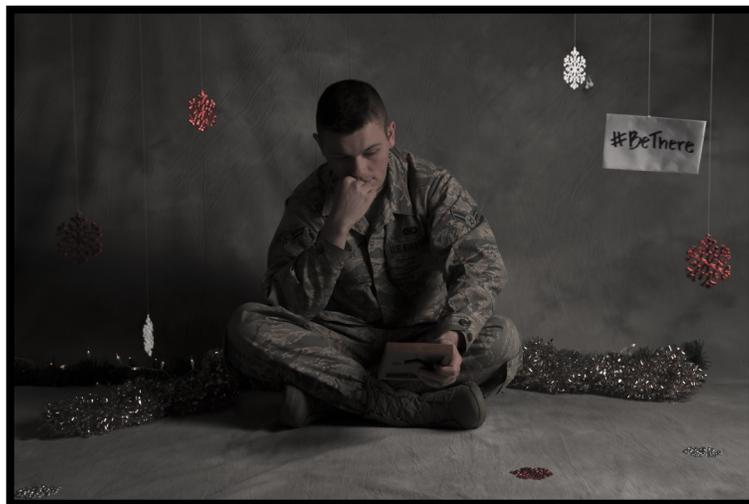
Suicide was the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States. It was the 8<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for males, and 19<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for females.

The Army's suicide rate has been much lower than the civilian populations. But the Army's rate began increasing in 2004 and surpassed the national average in 2008. That year, the suicide rate in the Army was 20.2 per 100,000, compared with a typical civilian rate of 19.2. The Department of the Army recognizes we have lost many great warriors. Health promotion(s) (HP) is the science and art of helping people change their lifestyle to move toward a state of optimal health.

Optimal health is defined as a balance of physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual health. Lifestyle change can be facilitated through a combination of efforts to enhance awareness, change behavior and create environments that support good health practices. Providing supportive environments has the greatest impact to produce lasting change.

Commander's Ready and Resilient Council (CR2I) is designed to promote cross-organizational collaboration in addressing individual, family, and community concerns. It outlines the requirement for consolidating these concerns into a Community Action Plan (CAP) and addressing issues at the appropriate level through tools such as the Community Assessment and the Caring for People process. It outlines requirements for the Installation Prevention Team (IPT) at each level of the organization.

By embracing the Commander's Ready and Resilient Council (CR2I) which marks a new era for the Army by comprehensively equipping and training our Soldiers, Family members and Army Civilians to maximize their potential and face the physical and psychological challenges of sustained operations.



The fact is that anyone can get depression. It is a treatable condition and there is hope. Recognizing the need for treatment can bring new meaning to someone struggling with these circumstances. If you or someone you know is struggling with emotional distress, you are not alone. Feeling sad, blue or hopeless? Lost interest in things you used to enjoy? Do you suffer from body aches and pains with no known physical cause?

If you suspect a family member or friend may be in trouble, learn the warning signs and know what to do. Up to 70% of people who commit suicide tell someone first, so don't be afraid to ask if your loved one has thought about suicide. Give hope, but take **action!** With nearly 30,000 Americans committing suicide every year, do not be bystanders.

If you know anyone who might be experiencing signs of depression or have concerns about their wellbeing, contact your local Mental Health Professional or go to **[www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org](http://www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org)** to take an anonymous mental health self-assessment. The program is sponsored by the DoD Office of Health Affairs and is offered 24/7, without charge to military families and service members affected by deployment.

After you complete the assessment, you'll receive immediate, customized feedback as well as the opportunity to schedule an appointment for further evaluation if necessary.

# LEAD supports US Air Force and Navy with W-17 Cable Program

By April Helman, Logistics Management Specialist, DOPS

W-17 cables are used to reprogram operational software into the Advanced Medium Range Air to Air Missile (AMRAAM); the premier air superiority missile for United States Air Force and Navy. Specifically the cables being produced at Letterkenny Army Depot (LEAD) are in support of the newest AMRAAM variant, the AIM-120D.

The AIM-120D is an upgraded version of the AMRAAM with improvements in almost all areas, including 50-percent greater range (than the already-extended range AIM-120C-7) and better guidance over its entire flight envelope yielding an improved kill probability.

The cables are provided to the AMRAAM manufacturer as government furnished material. The cable is used to allow "in-the-container" reprogramming and built-in (BIT) testing of the AMRAAM.

AMRAAM is a modern American beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) capable of all-weather day-and-night operations. Designed with a 7-inch diameter form-and-fit factor, and employing active transmit-receive radar guidance instead of semi-active receive-only radar guidance, it has the advantage of being a fire-and-forget weapon when compared to the previous generation Sparrow missiles.

The in container testing allows the four missiles in a CNU-431(V)4/E container to be tested by accessing a port on the side of the container to access the end of the cable without having to break out or unstack containers in storage.

This saves the government money and increases readiness by not having to break out every missile when an updated program is released. It also reduces the movement of explosive items around the base, reducing risk to Airman and Sailors.

The production of W-17 cables by LEAD will support procurement & fielding of ~4,000 new AIM-120D missile variants & help ensure US warfighters maintain control of the air space.

LEAD currently has three funded WBS's for a total of 306 cables to fabricate in the Cable and Harness Shop.



# LFC drops in on LEAD

By LEAD PAO

Leaders from businesses throughout the community toured LEAD's maintenance facility on November 14 as part of their "Overview of Franklin County Tour" through Leadership Franklin County (LFC).

Local businessmen and women with backgrounds ranging from supply chain and manufacturing to finance management and community relations and non profit organizations.

The LFC Program mission is to advance the free enterprise system through education by promoting citizenship and leadership. It improves the quality and effectiveness of leadership in the Franklin County area by bringing together current and emerging leaders, creating awareness and building and maintaining networks throughout the community.



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