

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD
Serving The Classes of the Great '50's Decade. Photos & Stories Welcome!
Published by Jack M. Phillips, Class of '54: jackmp@me.com

**This 2020 O&B Military Edition
Is Dedicated To The Memory of
Colonel Donald O. Knutson '54
USAF Retired**

February 13, 1936 - April 23, 2020



**Don Knutson '54
WHS Senior Photo**

**Don, You will
always be our
Brave Hero.
We now Salute
you one last time.
We will never
forget you and
will always
miss you.**



**Colonel Donald O. Knutson
USAF Retired
2-13-39 - 4-23-20**



The O&B Now Salutes

The Last Known Living WHS Military
Hero From The Great Fifties Decade.



Lt. Colonel Loren Little MD United States Army

Washington High School
Class of 1959



Dr. Loren Little '59
WHS Senior Photo



Lt. Colonel Loren Little MD
United States Army





Bill Lobe '59
WHS Senior Photo

The Dr. Loren Little Story '59

Submitted By William Lobe '59



Loren Little '59
WHS Senior Photo

On Apr 15, 2014, at 3:50 PM, **William Lobe '59**

<bill@wclobe.com> wrote:

Jack,

Now that you have your "land legs" back after your cruise and managed to get out your most recent 21-page newsletter, I'd like you to take the time to read this article, http://www.americanveteransmemorial.org/veterans_day_speech_V78U.html.

The author of this inspiring patriotic speech, Coulby Dunn, makes reference to Dr. Loren Little's courageous actions in saving lives in Vietnam. I first met Loren, class of '59, at WHS as freshmen in Mr. Hutton's home room in 1956 and have remained in contact ever since.

Loren's accomplishments in medicine and music are well documented, but what he did for me when we were WHS freshmen is equally impressive. I was the only child in a relatively uneducated family where getting passing "C" grades was perfectly acceptable with my family. I shared this with Loren at the time. It was Loren Little who opened my eyes when he told me that just getting passing grades was not acceptable because he knew I could do much better than that. He told me to live up to my potential. That advice changed my life into repeated self-satisfying accomplishments rather than just getting by. So, you see, Jack, Loren Little, other than being a lifelong friend, has always been my hero – long before Vietnam.

I feel this Veterans Day speech transcript is worth referencing in the O&B newsletter if not printed. Washington High School has certainly graduated it fair share of students who have gone on to serve our country, many of whom, sadly, have made the ultimate sacrifice. Loren is a retired eye surgeon and accomplished professional musician living in Las Vegas. As you both reside in Vegas, it would be a shame for you two not to meet in person. It would be mutually satisfying, I'm sure. At your request, I'll provide you with Loren's contact info with his permission. And, who knows, he might share with you some of the things we did and got away with when we were WHS freshmen that I hesitate to divulge here!

Thanks again for your dedication and work on the O&B.

Best Regards,

Bill Lobe '59



Coulby Dunn had the distinct privilege of serving in all three Airborne units while with the U. S. Army Paratroopers. He served with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in 1967, with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in 1968 - 1969 and with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam in 1969 - 1970.

VETERAN'S DAY SPEECH

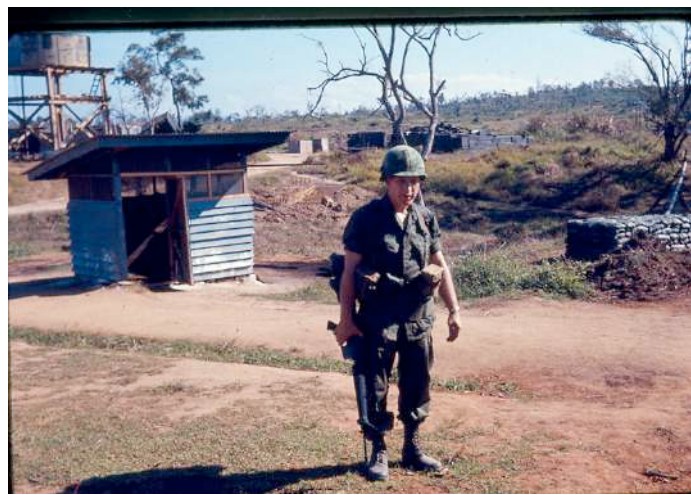
The following is an excerpt from a speech given by Coulby Dunn at the Veterans' Day Program that took place at the Wallenpaupack Area High School on November 9, 2007 with over 1,500 students, parents and veterans in attendance. Click on link above for entire speech.

“Good evening ladies and gentlemen..... and thank you for joining me this evening as we recognize our veterans for their unwavering service to America.....



Dr. Little operating on a local. Not exactly state-side sterile conditions.

While we pay homage to all American Veterans.... I particularly want to thank our Vietnam veterans this evening..... We served in a war that deeply divided our nation, but America is resilient....we are a country of temperance, compassion and reason....and with the passage of time we healed our wounds.



Feb. 6, 1969 Capt. Dr. Loren Little coming in from a fire base. Shows the dirt and grime.

I know many of you have visited the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC..... During the day there...the black granite absorbs all the sunlight of the day....then radiates the heat during the evening hours.....If the evening is cool and crisp... you can see a mist coming off the wall..... For me....Its as if the 58,253 names are breathing life into my body.....and I feel invigorated knowing that these men and women.... gave their lives so all of us can continue to live the American Dream.

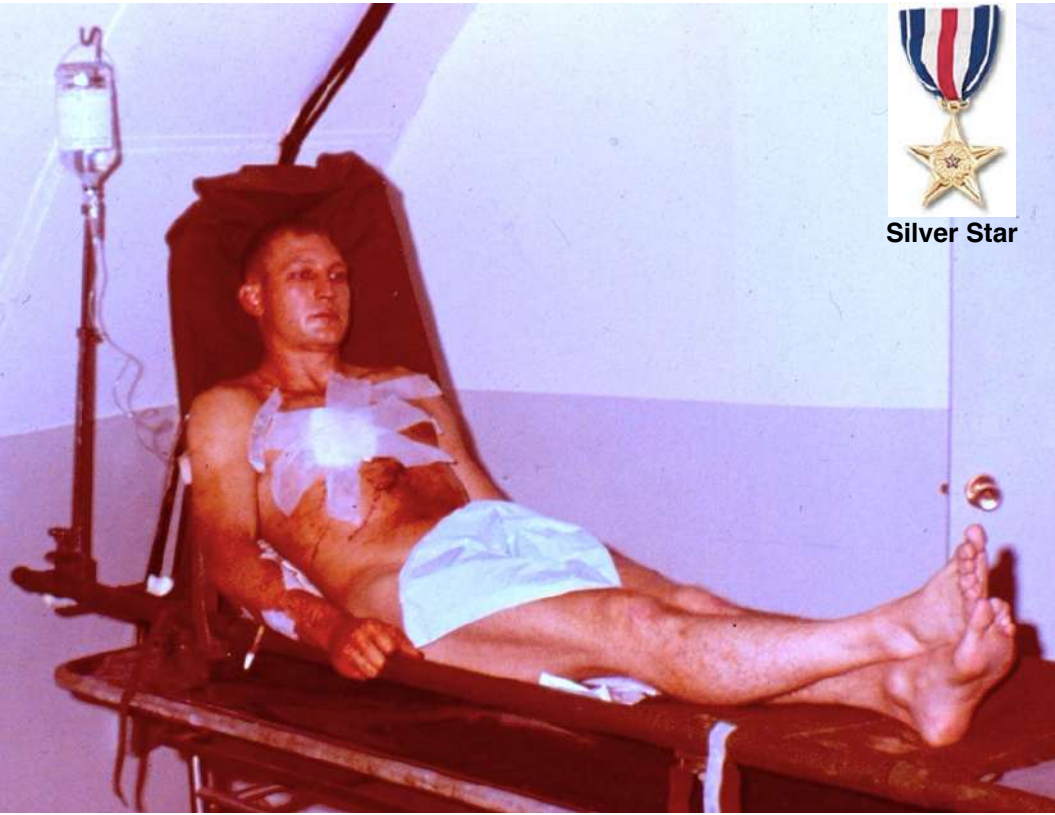
I can tell you a short story of one of my heroes from Vietnam. He was Dr. Loren Little, our Battalion doctor with the 173rd Airborne. Our small 2 acre base camp came under attack with more than 60 rounds of 82mm mortars and 122mm rockets

We had sustained incredible casualties.....more than 90 dead and wounded in a mere 5 minutes..... the carnage and horror was beyond description.....

One of my close friends had sustained multiple fragmentation wounds.....so I ran to the aid station to get a medic or Captain Little....

When I got to the aid station I realized no help would be coming...Men were strewn all over the compoundmany withering and screaming in pain.....It was at that moment I saw the greatest act of courage and heroism and valor.. I would ever witness in my lifetime.....

“Doc” Little was bleeding from both ears, and he had a sunken chest wound.... His bear chest was wrapped in gauze pads. Blood was pouring thru the gauzebut with a total disregard for his own well being.....I saw Doctor Little administering aid



Dr. Little in line to go into surgery 3 hours after the battle and 120 miles south of where his firebase was located.

and he saved the lives of at least 15 or 20 soldiers that night....

Doc Little practiced Triage that evening...a system of treating soldiers according to the severity of their wounds when resources were insufficient to save everyone.....

That evening, Doc Little's best friend, Major Tedd Lewis was severely wounded and alive.....but died several hours later..... Because of triage...Doc Little could not save the life of his best friend.....Sadly, because of this

unbearable experience....Doc Little never practiced medicine ever again. Ladies and Gentlemen.....this is true courage...this is a true American Hero.

Dr. Little received the nations 3rd highest award for heroism and valor that evening of January 9th 1970...

He received a Silver Star.....but I can tell you there are 100's of Doc Littles all across America...as a matter of fact there are probably a few of them right here.... in this building sitting before you....May God bless them all."

Coulby Dunn

4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry

173rd Airborne Brigade, Vietnam



Cleft palate - this little girl from a small village had a bad case. Dr Little helped to partially restore her. Her mom and the district health chief are there. Tam Quan district, City of Quin Nhon in Binh Dinh Province.

Editors note: Loren wrote me the following note regarding Coulby Dunn's speech. *"I never said I wouldn't practice medicine - Dunn got that wrong. What I said was I didn't want to deal with death and blood (on a large scale) hence, Eye Surgery."*



Loren snapped this photo above left from the chopper pad as he took off. Loren kept thinking about the little boy not having a foot on his leg, thus distorting his spine. It took several days for Loren to find him again. Photo above right shows the boy standing straight and proud after Loren got the boy a new leg with a foot.



Loren, being interviewed on TV,

*Loren,
Thank You,
and a Happy
Memorial Day to
you and Christy!*



Dr. Little, left, a most accomplished trumpet player, sitting in with the brigade band with a grenade in his pocket. More on Loren's musical side in the next issue of the O&B.

Dr. Little obtained his MD at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. After obtaining his MD, Dr. Little entered the U.S. Army in 1968 and was the recipient of several awards including: Silver Star, Purple Heart, Bronze Stars, Air Medals, CMB, Parachutist Badge, ARCOM, VSM, VTSM, VCM, V. Cross of Gallantry, JCSC Medal and NDM. He completed his residency in Ophthalmology at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC.

Some of Lt. Colonel Little's Medals Earned During His 7 1/2 Year Military Career.





Loren and wife Christy enjoy life here in Las Vegas, NV where he still works part time as an Ophthalmologist at Nevada Eye Care consulting and seeing patients, but he no longer performs major surgery. Loren has also served 40 years as the senior adjudicator for eye disability for the state of Nevada. Loren has told me many times how much he enjoyed, “playing gigs” (trumpet), all around Las Vegas before the coronavirus shut our town down. Hopefully that will resume soon. He has now taken up golf again and enjoys playing 4 to 5 times a week. Happy Memorial Day Loren and Christy.

Loren E. Little, MD, Ophthalmologist, Trumpet/Flugelhorn):

Dr. Little obtained his MD at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington. After obtaining his MD, Dr. Little entered the U.S. Army in 1968 and was the recipient of several awards including: Silver Star, Purple Heart, Bronze Stars, Air Medals, CMB, Parachutist Badge, ARCOM, VSM, VTSM, VCM, V. Cross of Gallantry, JCSC Medal and NDM. He completed his residency in Ophthalmology at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC.

In addition to his military success, Dr. Little has also had an illustrious music career. He was a soloist for a number of performers including Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis Jr., and Debbie Reynolds. He was the producer of SNL Records, 1996 *Out of the Blue*, the only album ever awarded 5 stars in all four categories by the international Trumpet Guild. Dr. Little did the first HBO shows ever recorded in Las Vegas – Don Rickles and Rich Little. He was also a soloist on 2012 CD “Jimmy Wilkins – Live”.

Dr. Little has had a private ophthalmology practice in Las Vegas for 36 years. He is a published researcher and a Fellow with the American Academy of Ophthalmology and American College of Surgeons.

Sally Taylor '56, originally submitted the following poem to the O&B in 2014. It is so beautiful and moving I feel it is always deserving of being re-printed on Memorial Day. I will never cease being amazed at the unending talent, contributions and accomplishments of our WHS classmates. Thanks again, Sally. Jack

On May 23, 2014, at 4:43 PM, **Sally Taylor Bjorge '55** <sbjorge@comcast.net> wrote:



Sally Taylor '55
WHS Senior Photo

Hi Jack, I live not far from Arlington Cemetery. I live even closer to a little known cemetery called Alexandria National Cemetery where the remains of some identified and some unidentified Revolutionary War soldiers are buried.

In 2003 I was asked to help with the reception after the burial of the remains of a crew of Vietnam vets lost when their plane was flying over Laos. It had been trying to escape enemy fire and climb out of a valley, over the mountain. Instead, it crashed into that mountain and the crew became MIAs. Their remains were finally found and identified, some by the engraving on their wedding rings.

It was a truly humbling experience to attend their burial, then ...serve a light meal after the service. And my heart was torn when I learned that - because so much time had passed - some of those men didn't have family to remember them.

I was prompted to write a poem for those men, and others like them... it was read at the funeral. Then the chaplain asked if he could use it on other occasions. Of course my answer was yes. After reading the recent Orange and Black, it seems like an appropriate occasion to share the poem again. It is titled 'My Name is America.'

Sally Taylor Bjorge '55

Editors Note: Dear Sally, such a beautiful letter and beautiful poem! Thank you for sharing them both with us. And, thank you for the service you give to The Alexandria National Cemetery.

MY NAME IS AMERICA

BY SALLY BJORGE

My Name is America. I have long shores, tall mountains, broad plains and few deserts.

My cities teem with people, my country sides are lush with trees and lakes and crops.

My people came from everywhere to work and smile. I blessed them with bounty.

Their children are so eager to learn and laugh as they dance the rhythms of life.

I teach them my many songs of freedom, and feed them hope for tomorrow.

I teach them lessons on life and liberty, what must be done to preserve it.

I tell them to look beyond themselves to seek justice and peace for all.

I sift all responses and call only those with ears to hear, eyes to see.

I plumb those young bodies to find that extra measure of courage.

I hold my breath as they go on the missions of peace and hope.

I shudder and weep when my precious child dies out there.

I remember each of their smiles, and all of their dreams.

They lived and they died so my hope would live within others.

I am America. I have long shores, tall mountains, broad plains and few deserts.

I am home to all who honor me and my freedom, all who give their lives to maintain me.

Welcome home my child, you were away too long. My green grasses and my trees missed you.

Now you rest deep within my bosom, safely within my peace, and I will cradle your passions forever.

MY NAME IS AMERICA.

Washington High School Heroes

We should always remember and honor these seven WHS military heroes,
all of whom graduated from Washington High School!
All but Major Joe Foss '33, are proudly from our great decade of the Fifties!

I consider it a huge honor to have personally known all of these men.
The O&B now salutes each of them on this 2020 Memorial Day!
We have so much to thank them for!

U.S. Marine Corps. Major Joseph J. Foss '33 Deceased

U.S. Air Force Colonel Donald Knutson '54 Deceased

U.S. Army Captain Ronald Ray Regenmorter '54 Deceased

U.S. Air Force 1st Lt Roger "Whitey" Axlund '55 Deceased

U.S. Marine Corps Captain Eugene W. Kimmel '56 Deceased

U.S. Air Force Captain Samuel Fantle III '57 Deceased

U.S. Army Lt. Colonel Loren Little MD '59 Living in Las Vegas, NV





THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Lyrics written by Francis Scott Key
During The British Bombardment of Fort Morgan
September 14, 1814 In The War of 1812.

As long as I can remember I have always prided myself in being a proud and patriotic American and I am sure most, if not all of you, feel the same about yourselves. Growing up during the World War II years we were raised to honor, respect and cherish our great country, the American flag and our National Anthem. At a very early age we were so happy and proud to collect scrap metal and buy "war stamps" and "war bonds" as our way of helping the war effort. 85 million Americans purchased bonds totaling approximately \$185 billion to help finance World War II.

Since our beautiful flag and our National Anthem, mean so much to all of us I am attaching the link below entitled, "**THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER AS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD IT**", and it is just that, in a way you've never heard it! I promise you that it is moving and beautiful and presents the story of our National Anthem as you have never heard it before. **I implore each of you to right now please click on the link below!** I am confident it will enhance your appreciation of our great and beautiful flag, our National Anthem AND inspire your every Memorial Day from now on.

PLEASE JUST CLICK ON THIS LINK NOW AND BE MOVED.

<https://youtu.be/YaxGNQE5ZLA>



Glen Jamtgaard '55
WHS Senior Photo
Deceased

Europe: Same Spot During and After World II

The attachment below is one of the last items **Glen Jamtgaard '55** submitted to the O&B before his death last Sept. Glen was such a good friend to so many of us and always submitted really good stories and articles to the O&B, but this is, in my opinion, the best thing he ever sent. Before he died he sent me this collection of truly fascinating photos of what Europe looked like during the war and the exact same spot today. I think it is truly captivating.

1944 then 2014

This is one of the most fascinating forwards I've ever received... I kept going back and forth on each picture and was totally mesmerized! Now this is an incredible use of technology. Like traveling back in time!

Directions: Just **click on the photo anywhere and it will become 2014. Click again and it will go back to 1944**; or you can left click and hold on each photo, and then drag your mouse gently from left to right on the original photograph and it will become a photo of the exact same location and view in 2014. Drag it back to the left and you are back in 1944! **Scroll down for more pictures.**

<http://interactive.guim.co.uk/embed/2014/apr/image-opacity-s lider-master/index.html?ww2-dd ay>

[Click or drag to fade between images ...](#)

interactive.guim.co.uk





God Bless America

NATIONAL
MEMORIAL DAY
CONCERT

Sunday, May 24, 2020
8:00 p.m. ET

**Have A Safe and Wonderful Memorial Day and On Sunday Evening
Be Sure To Watch the National Memorial Day Concert On PBS**