

Blanchet Catholic School *Cavalier Magazine*

Fall 2015

Salute to Veterans Edition



Home of the
FREE



Because of the
BRAVE

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*God of peace,
we pray for those who have served our nation
and have laid down their lives
to protect and defend our freedom.
We pray for those who have fought,
whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war,
whose nights are haunted by memories
too painful for the light of day.
We pray for those who serve us now,
especially for those in harm's way.
Shield them from danger
and bring them home.
Turn the hearts and minds
of our leaders and our enemies
to the work of justice and a harvest of peace.
Spare the poor, Lord, spare the poor!
May the peace you left us,
the peace you gave us,
be the peace that sustains,
the peace that saves us.
Christ Jesus, hear us!
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer!
Amen.*

(Prayer written by Concord Pastor)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

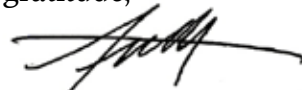
Dear Blanchet Catholic School families and friends,

This edition of our Cavalier Magazine features those who have given so much for us...our military service veterans and current service personnel. I have always found it to be appropriate that the theme of "gratitude" permeates both Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving holidays this month. In these pages you will read about just a few individuals who served and sacrificed to preserve our freedoms and opportunities.

This sense of gratitude extends in a very special way to our Blanchet community. Many have given so that the young people we serve can have all the blessings of being Blanchet students. These founders, benefactors, teachers, staff, administrators, families and alumni are the shoulders upon which we stand now. Many of them continue their efforts today.

Service, leadership, and giving to benefit others have been the pillars upon which Blanchet Catholic has been built. These same values are what a Blanchet education seeks to foster in the hearts and minds of our students. Thanks to many, we are succeeding!

With deepest gratitude,



Anthony Guevara, President



LAWRENCE THOMAS EPPING (1921 - 2015)



On October 22 we lost a dear friend and generous supporter, Blanchet founding partner Mr. Larry Epping.

During World War II, Larry Epping served as an officer in the U. S. Navy where he survived a sinking aircraft carrier, spending roughly two days hanging on to an overcrowded life raft in the Pacific Ocean. Larry received the WWII Presidential Award for Extraordinary Heroism. In 1946, he returned to Oregon, started his building and development business, married his wife Jeanette and raised their five children in Salem.

When Larry was named Salem's First Citizen of the Year in 1993, he was cited in the U.S. Congressional Record for his outstanding contribution to Salem and the State of Oregon, serving on over 25 boards, commissions, and volunteer agencies. In particular, he was cited for founding the Salem Catholic Schools Foundation. Through his family foundation, Larry quietly supported many projects in Salem and elsewhere in Oregon—a legacy that will continue for generations to come.

Larry Epping was a founding partner in the purchase of property to establish Blanchet Catholic School and, over the years, continued to generously support our school in many ways. Without Larry Epping and his family foundation, Blanchet Catholic School would not be the success that it is today. Last spring, Larry Epping was one of six inaugural inductees into the Blanchet Hall of Fame, a program honoring those who have been foundational to our success and upon whose shoulders Blanchet Catholic has been built.

Mr. Epping received full military honors at his burial on October 26 at Calvary Cemetery. He will be greatly missed.

HOME OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF



DAVID GREENWOOD, COLONEL, UNITED STATES ARMY
1981-2011

David Greenwood is the parent of Blanchet seventh grader Kayla Greenwood. David served as an Army aviator and Aviation Officer with overseas assignments in the Republic of Korea, Iraq, and multiple locations throughout Central America and the Caribbean Basin.

David recalls that one of his most interesting and rewarding assignments took place in 2010-2011 when he served as a Combat Advisor Team Chief working directly with Iraqi infantry forces and serving as the primary advisor to an Iraqi three-star corps commander. His team consisted of 26

personnel, each with different areas of expertise. Their primary responsibility was to enhance the safety and security of citizens and military forces in the mid-Euphrates region. This included preparing and executing security operations to defeat violent extremist networks in the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala. To prepare for this assignment, David and his team went to Fort Polk, LA for four months of Combat Advisor Training which included combat skills and Arabic. The team was together for 14 months, and by the end of the tour, they were family.

OF THE BRAVE



EVAN CHARLES, SP4
UNITED STATES ARMY
THREE YEARS OF SERVICE

Evan Charles is a Blanchet class of 2010 graduate. He served for three years stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and deployed to Afghanistan. Evan was permanently injured in an IED explosion while serving in Afghanistan. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his combat injury and the Army Commendation Medal for his bravery. Although he was wounded, he continued to call artillery fire on the enemy until he was relieved by another forward observer.



IAN CHARLES, SP4
UNITED STATES ARMY
THREE YEARS OF SERVICE

Ian Charles is a Blanchet class of 2011 graduate. He served for a total of three years until he was injured while training for deployment to Afghanistan. Ian was stationed in Fort Stewart, Georgia as a crewman on an m1a2 Abrams Main battle tank. He is currently attending Chemeketa Community College.

**NOLAN COBB, CORPORAL,
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE**



Nolan Cobb is the father of Blanchet freshman Sophia Cobb. During his five years in the United States Marine Corps, he was stationed at San Diego, Fort Knox and Boise with deployments to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Nolan worked primarily as Tank Gunner and Tank Commander in the field, and Training NCO in the unit. His Marine Corps company was the first USMC tank company to take possession of the newest version of the M1A1 "Common" tank. This main battle tank was the only M1A1 version that was suitable for the amphibious needs of the U.S. Marines and was the main battle tank that upgraded the Marines from 1960's technology to the then-current technology on the battlefield. Nolan's company took possession of the M1A1 tanks merely days before the start of Desert Storm (the assault into Kuwait to drive the Iraqi military out). They then led the 2nd Marine Division into Kuwait City to rout out the Iraqi military. Once the city operations were mostly finished, they were requested to remain just outside of the city to provide heavy armor support to the Egyptian military who went from building to building to ensure the threat was immobilized and that the country of Kuwait was free from Iraqi occupation.

**JOE SALTARELLO, SERGEANT
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE**

Joe Saltarello is the parent of 6th grader Anthony and is Blanchet's mid high soccer coach. His stations included 29 Palms, CA and Naples, Italy.

**GLENDA SERNACH, SERGEANT, UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS**

FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE

Glenda Sernach is the parent of Blanchet class of 2002 graduate Kenneth Sernach. She served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps stationed at Quantico, Virginia and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina.

**AMERICA ARANDA, SPECIALIST
UNITED STATES ARMY**

TWO YEARS OF SERVICE

**FORTUNATO ARANDA, SPECIALIST
UNITED STATES ARMY**

EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE

America and Fortunato were stationed at Ft. Benning, GA where they met. They are the parents of Blanchet freshman Bianca Aranda.

**PETER REZAC, SERGEANT - E5, UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS**

EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE

Peter Rezac graduated from Blanchet in 2005. He has deployed numerous times including to Afghanistan, Farah Province in 2008, with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in 2010 to Okinawa, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore, Unit Deployment Program in 2013 to Okinawa and Korea, and Black Sea Rotational Force 2015 to Romania and Bulgaria.

Peter has been stationed at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, CA, Camp Pendleton, CA and Camp Lejeune, NC.



SHAWN LONERGAN, MAJOR
UNITED STATES ARMY
CURRENTLY SERVING



Shawn W. Lonergan is a Blanchet class of 2001 graduate. He is an active-duty major in the United States Army and a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science at Columbia University where he researches state interaction in cyberspace, Internet governance, cyber security, cyber arms control, and cyber ethics. Before enrolling at Columbia, he worked in cyber operations for the U.S. government. Following a 15-month deployment to Iraq in 2008, he was recruited to help the U.S. Army stand up its first provisional cyber battalion. In this capacity, he commanded two of the unit's expeditionary cyber operations companies. Major Lonergan holds two master's degrees from Columbia and is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he is an instructor in the Academy's distinguished Department of Social Sciences. For his service, he has been awarded the Bronze Star, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command MacArthur Leadership Award, given annually to a single officer for superb leadership. Additionally, he won the 2013 Atlantic Council's Cyber 9/12 national collegiate competition. He is a term-member to the Council on Foreign Relations and a former fellow

of the Madison Policy Forum and the Fordham Law School Center on National Security Law.

Shawn Lonergan recounts one of his fondest memories during his service:

When I was a First Lieutenant, I was deployed to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Liberty in Baghdad, Iraq in the summer of 2007. While there I ran into another Blanchet alumni- Mark Walker, in the division dining facility. It was a rather odd coincidence since we were both former student body presidents (Mark in 1998-1999 and myself in 2000-2001), but also because he was a Navy officer. After I appropriately chided him for being far away from the sea, we were able to collaborate on several projects. Running into Mark was one of the best moments of my deployment and reminded me that even in Baghdad the friendships that start at Blanchet can make a difference much later in life.

PATRICK GRAINEY,
CAPTAIN
UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS
2008-PRESENT

Patrick Grainey is a Blanchet class of 2004 graduate currently serving as Company Commander and Communications Officer. Patrick has served tours of duty in Okinawa and Iraq including six months aboard ship. He participated in the tsunami relief efforts in Japan and also spent three years with a disaster response unit near Washington D.C. as a company commander.



TIMOTHY KELLY - E4
UNITED STATES ARMY

THREE AND 1/2 YEARS OF SERVICE



Timothy G. Kelly is the parent of Blanchet sophomore Christopher Kelly and class of 2015 alum Vincent Kelly. He was stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska in the Combat Engineers Unit as a heavy equipment operator.



One exercise that Tim remembers vividly was to breach a river up near the Alaska Russia border. Tim's unit was assigned to move heavy equipment across the river of ice. While they were working on the exercise, one of the bulldozers broke through thin ice. In trying to get the one bulldozer out of the water and ice, two more broke through, making the total three stuck and frozen in place. Each dozer that came and tried to pull out the first dozer got stuck in the river. The exercise quickly turned into a mission of recovery. Tim and his unit of men finally got them all out using a fourth bulldozer and were able to finish their mission.

ROBERT D. GENTZKOW, SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

TWENTY-SIX AND 1/2 YEARS OF SERVICE

Robert Gentzkow is a Legacy Alumni member of Serra Catholic High School class of 1958. He served his country for over twenty-six years with assignments in Germany, Thailand, Viet Nam, Okinawa and eight United States locations.

TIMOTHY W. HOPPER, E5
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE

Timothy Hopper is the alumni parent of Candice Hopper, class of 2009. He served for four years stationed at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Miami.

RON MILLER, SP4
UNITED STATES ARMY

TWO YEARS OF SERVICE

Ron Miller has been with Blanchet from its beginnings and has served in many capacities. Today he is the school's Facilities Director and is the parent of class of 2015 alum Elise Sullivan Miller. Ron was stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas with the 78th Engineers.

FRED THOMPSON, SEARGENT
UNITED STATES ARMY

1968 TO 1971

Fred Thompson is the proud father of Blanchet senior Sean Thompson and class of 2014 graduate Connor Thompson. Fred served his country for three years with tours in Hanau, Germany 1/32 Field Artillery, C Battery Section Sergeant and Vietnam, 101st Airborne Division, A Company 101st Assault Helicopter Company, Comancheros, Headquarters Platoon Sergeant. His jobs included first flight platoon, graves and registration, control of arms and ammunition supplies, gunner on helicopter, ambush duty. His story in his own words follows:

I was drafted into the Army at the tender age of 18. I was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington for basic training, then to Fort Ord, California for additional training. From California, I was sent to Germany for 13 months. During

my tour in Germany, I was given a top secret clearance and was charged with readiness of 10 atomic missiles in our battery.

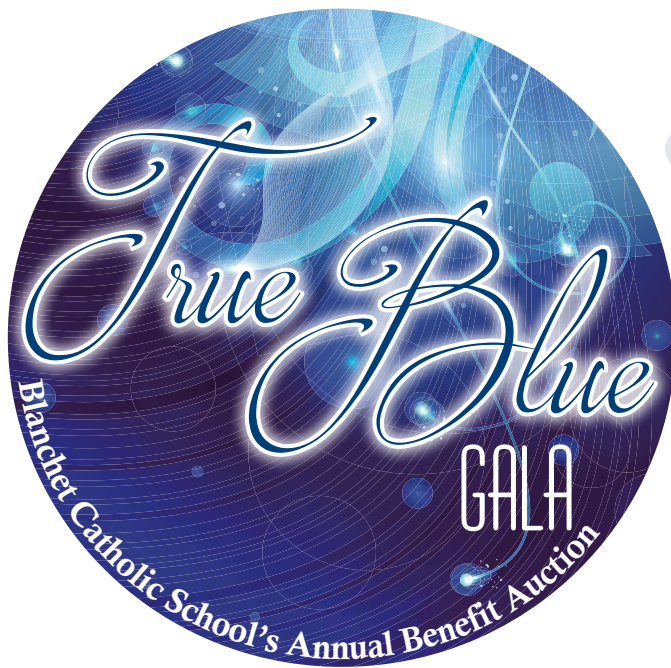
When my tour in Germany ended, I was sent to Vietnam and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, helicopter company nicknamed the "Comancheros." Little did I know they were an elite bunch of helicopter pilots and crew (who were a little crazed). The Comancheros supported the Special Operations Group, (SOG.) Their missions were classified for 30 years. My commanding officer, Bob Clewell, appears in the History channel's "VIETNAM HD." The Comancheros story is played in the 3rd hour of that documentary, including the story of one mission: LAM-SOM 719. You will see from that what we did the year I served in Vietnam.

One of my "extra" jobs was graves and registration: it is one of the toughest jobs I have ever performed.

This assignment was to secure the bodies and personal belongings of those killed in action and to send everything back to their respective families. In all, I put nine men in body bags, and five in one day: May 4, 1970 (the same day the Kent State University shootings happened). That day, 19 men lost their lives in Vietnam: the Comancheros lost 5. It was one of the saddest days of my life, and I was responsible for sending those boys home to their families.

Vietnam was my last duty assignment. Before Vietnam I was considering the Army for a lifelong career, but after that experience I wanted to get out of the Army, to go to college, to have a career, and to look for Stephanie. We have two sons: Connor ('14), who is currently a sophomore at Montana State University majoring in chemical engineering, and Sean ('16), who is smart enough to do whatever career he chooses. We are grateful for their Catholic education and their preparation for college at Blanchet.





Thank You AUCTION UPDATE

Blanchet held its 19th annual benefit auction on Saturday, October 10. The theme of this year's auction was "True Blue Gala." We've officially adopted this theme to use for all future auctions as well. True Blue is representative of our school colors, royal blue and silver, and of our loyal and faithful supporters.

This year's auction appeal, 'Embrace the Potential,' was dedicated to raise money for tuition assistance and to implement S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and math) initiatives. Our need for tuition assistance has never been greater with over 38% of our students needing significant financial aid. Additionally, we are striving to advance our science and technology programs by providing equipment for our robotics team competitions, new microscopes, digital balances and sensors, and new vent hood systems for science classrooms. Thanks to the generous matching fund challenge from Mountain West Investments of \$25,000, and all of the amazing donors, we raised over \$100,000 to continue helping Blanchet students achieve their potential as educated, faithful and service-oriented individuals.





Our goal for the auction overall was to raise \$160,000 and we're pleased to announce that we reached and exceeded our goal thanks to the many donors, sponsors, volunteers and guests who supported this fantastic event! Without you, there would be no auction.

We would like to recognize a few of those who helped us reach our goal...

Blanchet Table Sponsors

*Hope Orthopedics – Sewell & Coen families
Pacific EMS, LLC – Foster family
Seaman & Pollard families*

Cavalier Table Sponsors

*Al's Garden Centers – Ruef family
Discovery School of Dance
Hillwood Properties – Smith family
Nanneman Farms
Salem Catholic Schools Foundation
Salem Radiology Consultants – Hopkin & Kennedy families
Skyline Ford – Fountain family
Suburban Garbage – Buchheit family*

We'd also like to thank our underwriting and in-kind sponsors, *Saalfeld Griggs, Capital Rental, Pepsi Beverage Company and Scenic Valley Vineyards.*



And last but certainly not least, we want to thank the hundreds of student and parent volunteers who helped set up and worked the night of the auction. Thanks especially to the auction leadership team who helped plan every detail of this event to ensure its success. They include:

*Best of Live Raffle Coordinator – Deborah Unger
Clean-Up – Nancy Duvall
Decorations – Melony Handran , Megan Johnston,
Lisa Phillips
Item Distribution – Ron Beyer,
Sarah & Steve Geisler
Procurement – Jessica Ickes
Registration / Cashiering – Bill Kelm,
Shaire Santibanez
Silent Auction – Beth Kowalski,
Christina Kosiewicz
Student Volunteer Coordinators – Ben Collier,
Charlie Marik, and Ryan Scanlan*

SAVE THE DATE!

True Blue Gala 2016

The 20th annual benefit auction will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2016.



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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

JOIN THE ARCHBISHOP
BLANCHET SOCIETY

Archbishop Blanchet Society donors contribute a minimum of \$1,000 annually for five years. Contributions help to fund tuition assistance giving more students the opportunity to achieve their academic and spiritual goals at Blanchet.

Please consider becoming a member.
www.blanchetcatholicschool.com/ABS

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 19-21 ~ High School Drama Production
- November 23 ~ 2015 Annual Fund Kick Off
- December 17 ~ Christmas Concert
- January 14-16 ~ Mid High Drama Production
- January 28 ~ Father Daughter Date Night
- February 5 ~ Jazz Night
- February 24 ~ Mid High Science Fair
- February 25 ~ Grandparents & Special Friend Day

DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON BLANCHET'S
ONLINE CALENDAR