



AOSHS TAX INFORMATION

501(c)(3)

FEIN 71-0904488

Public charity status 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) #360748763

Qaoshs Quarterly

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society
704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104

Winter 2018

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR. GAYLE VAUGHN-WILES

As I wrote this, the morning here in Crawford, Maine was 14 degrees with an expected high of 20. The sun was shining; it looked absolutely gorgeous and very calm across the lake. It amazes me how things change so rapidly. Yesterday it was a few degrees warmer, but the wind was quite strong, and the wind chill index was off the chart, it seemed much colder. People here are gearing up for a COLD winter!

I am also gearing up for the continuous mental decline of my Maine man, my husband, **Dr Dean C. Wiles**. I am very thankful that he is ambulatory which permits me to remain active occasionally outside of the home. Life goes on and I am learning how to deal with more and more challenges.

In the AOSHS office, we continue to be aroused and stimulated by our

involvement in various outreach situations, for example:

- On Facebook, we have joined many of the Brat sites to share information.
- During my first term as president I made office calls to community members, mayor, base commander, university presidents, our lawyers, and insurance representatives.
- The board has participated with the **Old Town Restoration Council** on several issues.
- We initiated a "Go Fund Me" campaign" to assist with financial concerns, but it was not as successful as we had hoped. We prefer all donations to go through our office...no service charge.
- A variety of interactions have occurred with Wichita State University, and they provided information on obtaining an archivist as well fundamentals related to book scanners.
- We continue to partner with the **Museum of the American Military Family and Learning Center** in Albuquerque, NM and

the **Museum of World Treasures** in Wichita, KS.

- During 2018 a partnership with **Department of Defense Education Activity** was established which has helped AOSHS tremendously (see the Fall 2018 newsletter for additional details).

All board members are involved in projects. As a 501(c)(3), our AOSHS organization was nominated by AOSHS member **Charles Maack** and awarded a \$500 grant by the law office of **DeVaughn James Injury Lawyers** and ABC affiliate, **KAKE News**, in Wichita. Our Operations Manager, **Monica Tiller**, represented the organization by



Continued On Page 2

accepting the check and providing information to the television audience about AOSHS.

As you know, we own our office space 704 W. Douglas and the adjacent area, 708 W. Douglas. The latter has been occupied by a church for some time. They will move on or before February 1, 2019, at which time we will start the construction of the AOSHS Museum. Ron Harrison, chairman of the Museum committee, will

oversee the project. How exciting! Dr. Drysdale would be proud of our progress.

Just think, all these things are happening because of you, the donors who make contributions to enhance the AOSHS mission. Our mission statement is as follows:

*AOSHS will collect, record,
maintain, and preserve relevant
American Overseas
Schools' memorabilia and*

*historical documents, provide
research opportunities for same,
and establish exhibits to inform
interested persons of the unique
overseas school experience.*

I am truly thankful for the dynamic board with whom I serve and ALL of you who support AOSHS in a variety of ways. It is all about working together to make things happen and we are doing just that.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

Jackie Kelly retired after 43 years of teaching with DoDDS in Okinawa and Germany, the Navajo Reservation and several state-side schools. She was a classroom teacher, reading specialist, and educational technologist. Originally from the Bronx, NY, Jackie earned her Bachelor's in Education and Art from Edgewood College, WI, a Masters in Curriculum and Teaching (Reading) from Fordham University, NY, an Educational Specialist degree in Computer Education, Nova Southeastern University, FL and a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from Boston University, MA.

Now living with her dog, Rosie, Jackie has become a local Vermont artist exhibiting work in Manchester, VT and Bennington, VT. Occasionally she works part-time as an area coordinator for Westat (NAEP) testing in Southern Vermont and the Albany areas and is an elected member of the Bennington School Board, and Southern Vermont Career Development Center as well as a Governor appointed trustee for Vermont State Veterans' Home.



THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE

LINDA CONNELLY, Vice President

With the holiday season here, I am confident that many of us reflect upon the many good things that we've experienced in our lives. Speaking for myself, that includes my time in DoDDS schools. Since my retirement, I also include my membership and participation in AOSHS in these memories.

As of November 1st, our membership was 892 members. These members are the

lifeblood of our organization. The many memories that are shared through articles written for the Q bring a smile to our faces. The hugs and laughter that we share at the DoDDS Reunion can't be matched. The memorabilia that is sent to our AOSHS Headquarters and soon-to-be museum contain a lifetime of stories. What do you have to share?

This holiday season, please consider making a donation to AOSHS! A

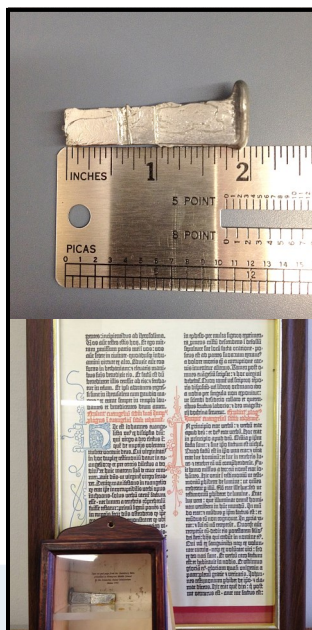
donation doesn't have to be monetary. It can also be something sitting on a shelf in your closet...a trophy, a jacket, a plaque or a picture. If it means something to you, almost guaranteed it would mean something to someone else walking through our museum.

Thank you for your service through DoDEA to our country! Our memories sustain us, and they deserve to be shared!

Happy Holidays!

Mystery Update and More

REBECCA DUNN, Historian



We are solving the mystery of the Gutenberg typeset piece by piece. **Kathy Welter**, a former mathematics teacher at **Wiesbaden High School**, visited the **Gutenberg Museum** in Mainz, Germany to follow up on the information provided in the last newsletter. She learned that the manuscript page we have is a copy of a page from St. John's Epistle from the **Gutenberg Bible**. The typeset is a replica that is era correct for the Gutenberg Bible. The small end of the typeset is the letter that will be placed in the typebar. The larger end of the

typeset was used to place the letter. This end has a curved piece of metal which was removed once the type was in place. Replicas of the page we have are available in the museum's store as are rectangular typesets. Kathy

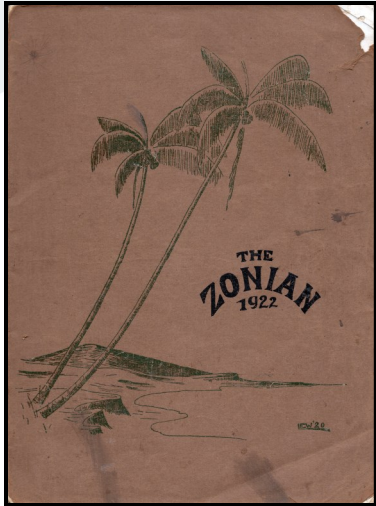
said it was a very informative day at the museum. She also mentioned that it was a beautiful, sunny fall day and she enjoyed visiting the local market and seeing a few of the newly restored buildings. Thank you, Kathy, for all the information. Now, if we can just find someone from **Pirmasens Middle School** in 1991 who can provide information about the presentation to the school.



It has been fun trying to solve this mystery, so I am including a picture from somewhere in the Pacific about which we need information. If you know anything, about this picture, please contact **Rebecca Dunn** at simplydunn@comcast.net.

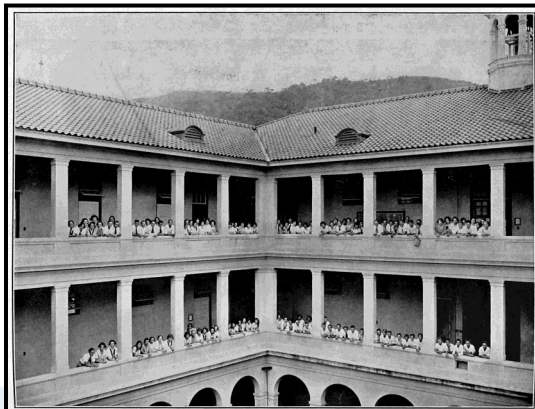
Memories from The Zonian, Our Oldest Yearbook

REBECCA DUNN, Historian



Since we have just celebrated the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, I thought it would be interesting to review the oldest yearbook we have in our collection. The yearbook, The Zonian, is from **Balboa High School** in **Panama** and is from 1922. One of the first articles in the yearbook mentions how the end of the Great War will have an

effect on the future relations with the United States and Latin American. In the article, the student states that more people learning Spanish will help foster trade between the United States and Latin America. The second article is about the influence of the radio on society and questions if the current boom in radio will continue. The yearbook is filled with student writing, particularly allegorical writing, and poetry. It appears that each senior wrote a poem for the publication. There are articles in Spanish, historical maps of the Panama



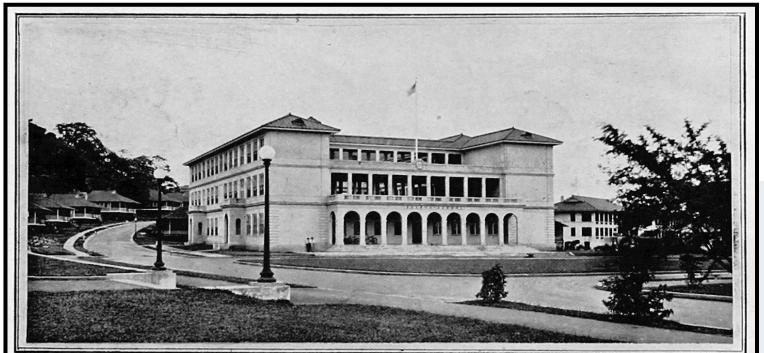
Balboa High School 1922 Student Body

The senior class of 1922 had seventeen students with twenty-three juniors, forty-two sophomores and sixty-four freshmen making up the high school. By 1925, the school had

forty-eight seniors, fifty-six juniors, sixty-five sophomores and 120 freshmen. The yearbook mentioned that a number of new staff had been hired to accommodate the increase in enrollment.

Even autographs have a different focus from future yearbooks. The autograph page has a place for address and future yearbooks have a section for updated addresses of prior graduates. These students kept in touch through letters and previous students wrote to tell about their lives.

Teacher's degrees are listed with their photo and one yearbook tells about a visit from a previous teacher, **Mrs. Jessie Daniels MacFarland**, the first high school teacher in the Canal Zone. Everyone who attended the luncheon for her was listed.



Balboa High School, 1922

In reviewing the yearbook, not only did I get a glimpse of the times, I also learned that the 1922 yearbook was Volume XIII which meant the date we had for the opening of the school was incorrect. Our data reported the opening as 1919 when in fact the school opened in 1909. This was verified from information in other high school yearbooks. Our yearbooks are not just a list of students and school activities; they are a time capsule of the times. The Balboa High School yearbooks have been digitized and will be available on our website in the future. Even if you didn't go to the schools in Panama or teach there, they are certainly worth a look.

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO TO AOSHS

NANCY BRESELL, Secretary

AOSHS wishes to recognize this quarter's donors who support the Archives and our Operating Fund. While membership fees are definitely the backbone of our funding, member donations are vital to carrying out and expanding the work of the Society.

The Board has agreed to once again run the annual recognition program from the beginning of the current DoDDS Reunion (Reunion XXX – July 19, 2018) to the beginning of the DoDDS Reunion the following year (Reunion XXXI – July 17, 2019). The names of donors within the Support Levels will have their names published in the 'Q' the quarter that their donation was received, or if missed, the following newsletter. **All donors for the year will be recognized for a final time in our Fall 2019 issue, and to all of you who found it in your hearts and pocketbooks to support the AOSHS mission, *we thank you.***

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IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD (Eddie) DAVIES

September 26, 1940 - May 23, 2018



We lost a wonderful son, husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend on May 23, 2018. Ed (Eddie) Davies was born on September 26, 1940 to Ed and Caroline Davies in Fresno, California.

Ed was an outstanding athlete throughout high school and college excelling in wrestling with a 99-1 record at Fresno City College and Fresno State University. He graduated from Fresno State University where he was honored as Athlete of the Year in 1963. During his lifetime Ed was a competitive athlete in many other sports—diving, baseball and golf to name a few.

After graduation he started his career in education at Clovis Unified School District in Clovis, California as a teacher and coach. In 1971 Ed accepted an offer from the Department of Defense Dependent Schools. His first assignment was in Okinawa. This began his 25-year career with DoDDS as a teacher, coach, athletic director and school principal in Okinawa, Korea, the Philippines and Japan.

In 1972 Ed returned to Fresno for the summer to marry Kay. He returned to Okinawa for the beginning of the school session with Kay and son Brian and began a wonderful life filled with traveling, making many friends and pursuing a career in which he loved and excelled.

Ed's first assignment on the island of Okinawa was at Kubasaki Nine. K-9, as it was called, was a school for all the 9th grade students on the island! It was quite an experience but a school where he met many friends who would continue to be life-long friends.

After two years at K-9 Ed transferred to Kubasaki High School (KHS) and taught P.E. and coached many sports. However, with wrestling being his passion he started a wrestling program at KHS. There were four teams at the school and they each competed against the other KHS teams. During this time Ed and the other coaches from KHS took an all-star team (for several years) to the Far East Wrestling tournament at Yokosuka Japan where a yearly wrestling tournament with teams from all over the Pacific was held at Nile C. Kinnick High School. Kubasaki was very competitive and took first and second place trophies for many of the years they competed. After several years of teaching and coaching at KHS, Ed was selected to be the Athletic/Activities Director at Kubasaki High. This was a position he held until 1979 when Dr. Killin, Director of DoDDS-Pacific at the time offered Ed a position as Assistant Principal of Seoul American High School. The opportunity was bitter/sweet—leaving Okinawa after eight years of building friendships and programs and living the island lifestyle was difficult. But yet it was exciting to be moving to a new country and new adventure.

Ed's six years at SAHS (one year as Assistant Principal and five years as the Principal) were very rewarding both professionally and personally. As all DoDDS people will agree making friends was one of the highlights of being a DoDDS educator. Again, Ed developed friendships both in the DoDDS community and military community that expanded a lifetime. The adventures continued with the family experiencing the first of two coups (Korea and the Philippines) they encountered in their DoDDS career. During Ed's tenure as principal of Seoul American High School

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the school was awarded the National Distinguished School of the Year Award in 1985. Receiving this award for the school community from Secretary William Bennett in Washington D.C. was a highlight of his career.

In 1985 Ed was selected to receive a sabbatical and the family moved to East Lansing, Michigan where Ed would continue his educational journey at Michigan State University. Throughout his life he achieved many accomplishments, but two significant ones included continuing his education and earning M.A. and PhD degrees through Michigan State University.

After a year of attending Michigan State on campus the family returned to the Pacific and Ed was selected to serve as principal at Kubasaki High School. This stint was a short return to familiar haunts in a different position. But Ed soon found himself being selected to be the coordinating principal for the Kubasaki Area and selected as the principal at Zukeran Elementary School just down the street from KHS. The distance was short but the journey longer. This was Ed's first experience with the "youngsters". Even though his entire educational career had been with middle and high school students he soon learned he enjoyed being with the younger students and adapted quickly to reading to Kindergarten students and cheering on sporting events for the fifth and sixth grade students.

After three years back on Okinawa the family was on the move again. This time the destination was Clark AB, Philippines where Ed spent two great years as principal of Lily Hill Middle School. Even though we were on restriction (could not travel off base because of dangerous conditions) many days during our time in the Philippines it was a very "spoiled" lifestyle. And.....life was great until Mt. Pinatubo blew its top and the rest is history. We were on the move again but this time with only one suitcase and our dog—from Clark AB to Subic Naval Station to Cebu PI to Guam AFB to Hickam AFB to Travis AFB to Fresno California. Our evacuation route which we traveled by car, a frigate, and C141's to await our return to the Pacific in the summer of 1991 was an adventure that was never forgotten and often relived and talked about.

Ed's final assignment with DoDDS was at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Ed was selected to be the Coordinating Principal and was assigned to Yokota High School as the principal. From 1991-96 Ed enjoyed the school community, military community and local communities in this suburb of Tokyo. Ed spent a final year in Japan working as a teacher of English for Urawa Junior College and Time Communications Company before returning to the United States in 1997.

After retiring from DoDDS Ed and Kay returned to the United States where they both continued their careers in education with Fresno Unified School District. In 2006 he finally retired full time to enjoy his days on the golf course, take care of the home front, and continue to travel the world visiting old friends, making new friends and enjoying the culture of each place visited.

Ed was a man filled with an eye for adventure, stories to tell and many passions that he was able to pursue in his 77 years. His greatest love was his family and he spoiled rotten his grandsons—Leo, Isaac, Rhys, his furry companion Bernie and maybe Kay too! He also cherished the many friends he made around the world.

Ed was predeceased by his father Edward Davies and father-in-law and golfing/card playing partner Leo Castle. He is survived by his mother Caroline Davies and mother-in-law Neva Castle, wife Kay, children Ed (Marta), Dan (Kathleen), Julia (Scott) and Brian (Tiffany), brother Bob (Pam) and sister Kathy, brother-in-law Ray and grandchildren Kenny, Nhatale, Leo, Isaac, and Rhys.

Sponsor: Sherry Templeton

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT
Barbara Jean (Whelan) Williams

July 31, 1931 - Oct. 10, 2017

(First announcement in Fall 2018 AOSHS Quarterly)

ULM AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

Nashville, TN October 2018

By Chris Nolte

On Friday October 12, 2018 the Ulm Marauders invaded Nashville for the Oktoberfest. Ulm American High School located on the US Military base in Neu-Ulm Germany had graduating classes from 1982 through 1991.

I was a member and class president of the class of 1988. I had an idea last year that we should try to get as many of us Ulmers together as possible. I thought what better way than to have our reunion coincide with one of the nations' biggest Oktoberfest's in Nashville TN. I mentioned it to a few friends on Facebook and it slowly took off. I started a Facebook event page and pretty soon there were 40-50 people that had joined the group and were very interested. I made a few calls, got a hotel to give us a group discount, and reserved the Bierhaus in Nashville for dinner Saturday night. I wanted this to be an extra special reunion, so I called the Oktoberfest organizers and told them our story. They agreed to let us march in the Oktoberfest parade. Soon after posting this announcement we had offers to make t-shirts and even came up with a banner to carry in the parade. Everything was coming together, and it looked like it was going to be a great time.



Friday Night Gathering

It was the best Ulm reunion ever! We had our initial gathering Friday night and the meeting room soon filled with Ulmers of all classes. There was at least one representative from each graduating class and even some from later classes that graduated elsewhere. As long as



Saturday morning parade

you attended Ulm at some point, you were invited. The parade and other festivities were so much fun to be a part of Saturday morning. We even made the local Channel 5 news that night. There must have been almost 100 people there Saturday night for the big reunion dinner at the Bierhaus in Nashville. This included some family members, but most of us were Ulmers. It was great seeing so many people that I hadn't seen in 30 years. We made a lot of memories in Germany and I think we made some new ones in Nashville.

Being a military brat and overseas school attendee really is something special. There is a bond between us that other people just don't understand. A lot of us went to a lot of different schools growing up. We were never the only new kid at a school. I, for one, was only at Ulm for my Senior Year, 1987-1988. I attended Baumholder American High School the two years before and Fort Knox my Freshman year.

I would recommend the Oktoberfest for other schools in Germany planning reunions. Many of the smaller schools have closed now and the graduates are spread out across the globe. If your school is planning a reunion, you should go, seeing "old" friends and reminiscing about the fun times is worth the trip.

Editor's Note: The following story is being reprinted with the permission of Stars and Stripes, which retains all rights. The story originally ran on November 16, 2018

STARS  STRIPES

Yongsan Garrison Schools to Close In June After Six Decades Of Teaching Military Kids

By **Kim Gamel**, Stars and Stripes Staff Writer



Kim Gamel/Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — U.S. elementary, middle and high schools on Yongsan will close at the end of this school year as the military population shifts to its new headquarters south of Seoul, officials said Friday.

Seoul American Elementary School and Seoul American Middle High School have served the children of soldiers and others stationed in South Korea for decades.

But Yongsan's population has declined sharply as U.S. Forces Korea and the other commands moved to Camp Humphreys, which has its own schools, as part of a long-delayed relocation plan.

"The decision and request by the command to no longer operate schools in Seoul is based on the pace and requirements of the Yongsan transformation efforts," the military said in a press release.

Officials had said they would decide this month on whether to keep the Yongsan schools open beyond the 2017-18 school year for children remaining in Seoul.

The principal of Seoul American Middle High School, Donald "Willy" Williams, said administrators had been informed earlier Friday that the schools would close at the end of the current academic year.

The decision was also announced by U.S. Forces Korea and the Department of Defense Education Activity, known as DODEA.

USFK said eligible children would be transitioned into schools at Camp Humphreys, a sprawling base that resembles an American suburb in the rural area of Pyeongtaek. Others will receive access to international schools and other educational options in the Seoul area as part of what is known as a non-DOD school program, or NDSP.

"We know that there are going to be some kids that are left here," Williams said Friday during a town hall for the community in a chapel at Yongsan. "DODEA will pay for kids to go for local options," he added. "We have let the international schools know that we are closing."

A meeting will be held Nov. 28 to provide more information for parents at the Seoul American Middle High School auditorium.

The military is expected to maintain a presence at Yongsan for at least two more years. A nearby base known as K-16 is also to remain open, but garrison commander Col. Monica Washington said children there would not fall under the NDSP program and may have to be moved to Humphreys.

The schools are part of a system established by the military shortly after World War II to ensure an American education for the children of troops deployed overseas. Then-named Seoul American High School

Continued On Page 10

opened in 1959 when classes were held in Quonset huts. The two-story, brick building that houses the current school was completed in 1982.

The upper classes were combined this year into a Seoul American Middle High School, while the elementary school remained next door.

Parents at the town hall said the writing has been on the wall for a while, but the official announcement still took them by surprise.

“We were pretty shocked,” said Alli Davenport, who transferred to Yongsan with her husband and 6-year-old daughter three months ago. “But we are excited that she’s going to get to have a voucher to go off post so that she can continue to have a really high level of education.”

Davenport said she’ll miss the easy commute as it

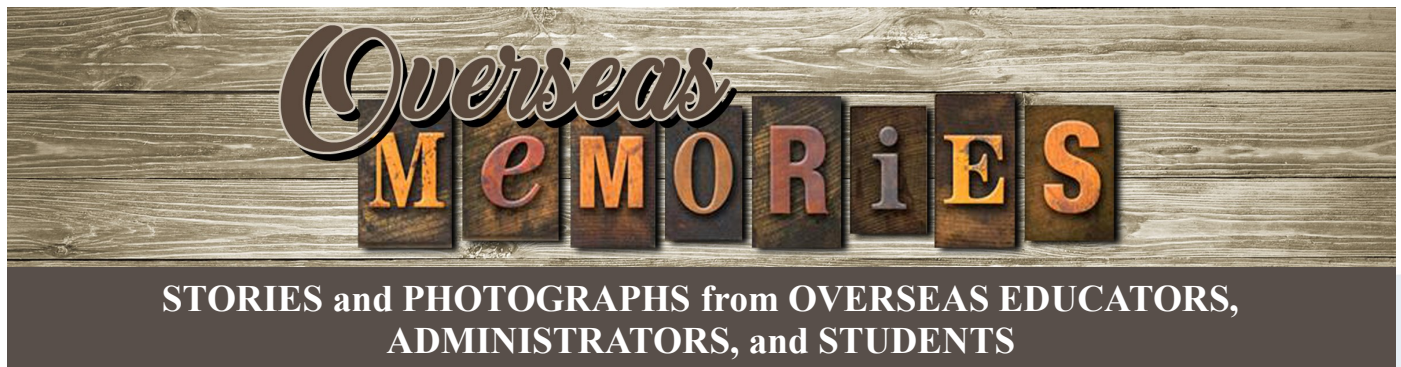
currently takes her less than five minutes to walk her daughter to the elementary school.

“Now it’s going to be the bus or the subway ... but I know that it’s going to be worth it,” she said.

Darryl Brake of Detroit said his 12-year-old daughter had expected to finish middle school on Yongsan then go back to Virginia for high school, but he’s confident she’ll adjust.

“She’s going to have a little curve ball,” he said. “The base is moving so we knew that there would be these kinds of challenges so we’ve just got to work through them.”

*Special thanks to Catharine Giordano,
Supervisory Archivist & Licensing and Permissions
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Tick, Tick, Tick... By Linda Connelly

As an Assistant Principal, part of the job is never knowing what happens next. During one late afternoon at Vilseck High School, things took a very interesting turn...

It was almost time for the activity buses to roll out of the parking area, when a student athlete came into the office to tell me that, “There’s a locker down the hall that’s ticking.” I went down the hall to check it out and sure enough...the

locker was ticking. I decided that I should probably call the MPs to check it out and dutifully, they appeared within minutes. After looking and listening to the locker (but NOT opening it), they decided to call in the “bomb squad” to check it out. This was not easy, as the “bomb squad” had to come from Grafenwoehr. A short while later, they arrived by helicopter.

A K-9 bomb sniffing dog lead the

group. The K-9 leader led the dog up and down the hall several times, before stopping it in the area of the ticking locker. The dog walked up to the locker and sat down. This is not a good thing, as those of you familiar with K-9 sniffers are probably aware. The soldier looked at me and said, “Let’s try this again.” He repeated the exercise two more times. Two more times, the

Continued On Page 11

dog sat down. Then he said, "I've worked with this dog for a long time, and he's never reacted positively unless in a training situation. We need to get out of here."

Next step, the bomb removal team was called in. At this point, I was told to leave the building. By now, I was the only person left in the school, along with the bomb squad folks. An outside perimeter was established around the school. Making these events all the more interesting, the Principal and my other Assistant Principal colleague were on the road, returning from a District Office Meeting. This was before cell

phones, so there was no way to alert them of the situation.

After what seemed like an eternity, the team came out of the building to report to me.

The "ticking" was a Walkman, that was stuck on rewind. It got to the end of the cassette tape and got stuck. Thus...tick...tick...tick.

As for the bomb sniffing dog sitting down, because he smelled explosives...the jacket in the locker belonged to the father of the student who occupied the locker space. The dad worked in ordnance and thus, his jacket had ammunition/explosive residue on it from training

exercises. There was a huge sigh of relief.

So...all was good at Vilseck HS, so far as safety was concerned. The same could not be said for the student who wore his dad's jacket to school, without his permission. Dad was not pleased with the phone call he got from me. I feel safe in saying that the phone call which followed from the Command was less welcome.

The Principal and my AP colleague arrived as things were winding up and the endless paperwork was being signed.

Just another day at Vilseck HS...

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Once these remaining physical tiles have been sold, the Memorials page on our website will then feature digital tiles in the form of a graphic image including an embossed inscription. *Side note: The Memorials page is currently down for maintenance while we update its information.*

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Thomas T. Drysdale, May 4, 1921 - February 28, 2013

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