

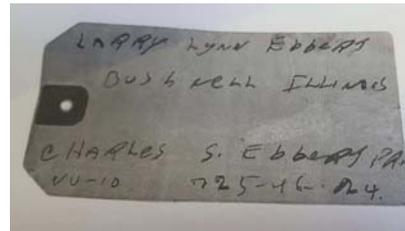


A Blink Away Cuban Missile Crisis

In October of 1962, the United States and the Soviet Union were in the midst of a cold war. That month John Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev stared across the seas at one another to see who would blink first. On October 14th, American spy planes took pictures over Cuba that showed Soviet nuclear missiles were under construction on that island, only 90 miles off the coast of the United States. The President and his advisors considered their options and decided on a blockade of Cuba to prevent Soviet ships from bringing in additional nuclear weapons.

In the middle of this crisis were American military men and women and their families stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. It was a dangerous place to be at that time. Some of Bushnell's own were stationed at Guantanamo Bay. Larry Ebbert, his step-dad, Charles Ebbert, who was in the Navy, his mom, sister Becky, and one-year old Chuck were all on that base.

Larry, who was only 12 years old at the time, said that he was out playing by the Bay, and he remembered that his younger sister ran up and told him that "We got to go!" Larry said they had to leave within an hour. The evacuation order stated that "Higher authority has directed the immediate evacuation of all dependents from . . . the Naval Base . . . Pick up your prepacked suitcases, not more than one per



person . . . Do not proceed by car . . . Tie up pets in the yard. You may not take pets with you. Leave house keys on the table in the living room." Larry stated that the Navy had an "evacuation tag" that they literally tied to his shirt for the evacuation. Larry's stepdad stayed on the base.

CRISIS

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The Navy flew them out by airplane to Norfolk, where the first 300 people arrived and were taken by bus to the Amphibious Base at Little Creek, VA. Military personnel helped with the moms, kids and babies, and local navy wives arrived to take over child tending chores. On Thursday of that week, a troop transport ship called the "Upshur" brought more than 1,700 additional Guantanamo refugees, mostly women and kids, to Norfolk. Later that night, three more ships brought in an additional 729 evacuees.

The evacuation order was given prior to President Kennedy's address that evening, when President Kennedy told Americans about the presence of Soviet missiles and explained his decision to place a naval blockade around Cuba, and made it clear that the United States was going to use military force if necessary to ensure national security.

Many Americans thought the United States was on the brink of nuclear war. On October 24th, Soviet ships bound for Cuba, neared the line of United States ships that were enforcing the blockade. If the Soviet ships had attempted to avoid or breach the blockade, a Naval confrontation

could have caused a nuclear exchange, but the Soviet ships stopped just short of the blockade. On October 27th, an American reconnaissance plane was shot down over Cuba, and a U.S. invasion force was preparing in Florida for an invasion.

Many Americans and leaders thought that we were certainly going to war.

Khrushchev sent a message to Kennedy offering to remove the Cuban missiles, in exchange for a promise from the United States not to invade Cuba. The following day, Khrushchev sent a letter proposing that the U.S.S.R. would remove its missiles from Cuba, if the Americans removed their missile installations in Turkey.

On October 28th, the crisis was over. The year afterwards, a "hotline" was installed between Washington and Moscow to help avoid similar situations in the future, and treaties were signed regarding nuclear weapons.

So, the families evacuated from Guantanamo Bay, now at the military base at Little Creek, VA, were given apples, oranges, bananas, and comic books. The wives were allowed to make phone calls to families, and given travel allowances so they could

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go on to other cities. One wife said she “left clothes on the clotheslines at Gitmo,” she said “I wonder if my husband will think to take them in.” Many of the evacuees were still in summer clothes, and it was late October in Virginia, so winter clothes were provided for the evacuees. Six weeks after the crisis was over, the evacuated families were allowed to return to Guantanamo. The Navy wives eventually received a keepsake: A ceramic ashtray was imprinted with a miniaturized copy of the evacuation order.

Larry and his family returned to Cuba, and Larry got back into his routine of taking the Ferry across the Bay to the American school. Life as we know it had been closely tested. Thanks to our American military men and women, and their families for the sacrifices they have made for all of us.

M. Steelman

Thanks to Larry Ebbert for the information regarding his family's time and evacuation from Guantanamo Bay, and the U.S. Military News Information, from Kate Wiltrout, of November 5, 2012.

Friends in Motion

Anniversaries being celebrated include: **John and Sharon Butler** (54 years) of Greenbush, **Dwight and Ethel Loy** (63 years) of Roseville, and **Wilma and Leland Worthington** (67 years) of Marietta. Happy Anniversary to all!



Birthday celebrations include: **Jim Bucher** (85) of Macomb, **Leona Yocum** of Avon, **Barbara Spiker** of Edwards, Co., **Verna Everly** (91), **C. Eugene McGrew**, **Norma Pigg**, and **Dale Walters**, all of Bushnell. Happy Birthday to all!



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Oct. 5 - VFW breakfast, 7 to 10 am.

Oct. 8 - Columbus Day

Nov. 4 - Daylight Savings Ends

Dec. 7 - Free blood pressure, pulse/oxygen, cholesterol and blood sugar checks at F&M Main Bank, 9 to 10 am.

Who's Hungry?

WATERGATE SALAD

Kathy Danner

1 can (20 oz) crushed pineapple in juice, undrained
1 pkg. (3.4 oz) pistachio flavor instant pudding
1 cup miniature marshmallows
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 1/2 cups thawed whipped topping

Combine first 4 ingredients in large bowl. Stir in whipped topping. Refrigerate for 1 hour.



CHICKEN CORDON BLEU

Rachel Hyde

4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
4 slices deli mozzarella cheese
4 slices deli ham (Virginia Baked is best)
8 slices bacon
1 (10 3/4oz) condensed cream of mushroom soup
1 container (8 oz) sour cream

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Place 1 slice cheese and 1 slice ham on each chicken breast. Roll up and wrap each with 2 slices bacon. Secure with toothpick. Place chicken in baking dish. Combine soup and sour cream, pour over chicken. Cover and bake for 45 min. or until chicken is done.



GINGERBREAD PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE BARS

Sherry Pico

1/2 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup packed dark brown sugar
1 large egg
1/4 cup molasses
1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
1 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

Cheesecake Batter:

1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar, divided

1/2 cup canned pumpkin
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
1 large egg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In large bowl, cream butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and molasses. In a small bowl, whisk flour, cinnamon, baking soda and cloves; gradually beat into creamed mixture. Reserve 1 cup dough for topping; press remaining mixture onto bottom of greased 9 in. square baking pan. For cheesecake batter, in a small bowl, beat cream cheese and 1/4 cup sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in pumpkin and spices. Add egg; beat on low speed just until blended. Pour over crust. Drop reserved dough by tablespoonfuls over cheesecake batter. Sprinkle with remaining sugar. Bake 25-30 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool for 1 hour. Refrigerate at least 2 hours. Cut into bars.

