

COMMUNITY CORNER

Commander says remember those who served, keep safety in mind

By Col. William Clark
GARRISON COMMANDER

This weekend, Fort Riley Soldiers will have a training holiday, resulting in a four-day weekend over the long Memorial Day weekend.

While you spend time with family and friends, visit the lake, barbecue or participate in a variety of other activities, I want you to remember two things:

1. Memorial Day is a time to honor and remember those who

have served our nation.
2. Keep safety in mind when enjoying the long weekend.

To honor those who have died serving the nation, you may want to attend the post's Memorial Day ceremony that will take place at 11:40 a.m. May 28 at the Fort Riley Post Cemetery on Huebner Road.

Brig. Gen. Donald MacWil-



Col. Clark

lie, senior commander, Fort Riley, will give a speech and place a symbolic wreath at the base of the cemetery's monument, assisted by Fort Riley Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera.

Boy Scout Troop No. 41 will support the 1st Infantry Division in advance by placing miniature flags on each grave. The 1st Inf. Div. Band will play "Amazing Grace" and "American the Beautiful."

This ceremony serves as a reminder that we must never forget the sacrifice of our fallen. I encourage our Soldiers,

families, civilians and all local veteran and veteran organizations to join us for this special ceremony.

On a safety note, Memorial Day often marks the unofficial start of summer time – this may mean outdoor fun and activities for many.

Summer fun may include riding motorcycles, all-terrain vehicle and dirt bikes; playing in the sun; swimming with our children, driving to see the grandparents and many more activities that keep us constantly on the go.

Historically, however, off-duty fatality rates in the Army tend to increase from April to September.

So while you enjoy the warm weather and all the Central Flint Hills Region has to offer, don't forget to take those extra few minutes to make sure you are thinking about safety. Before you begin any activity, evaluate the hazards of your plan. Hazards might include fatigue, weather or distance.

One resource for safety materials is the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center, which

has posters and information available on its website, <https://safety.army.mil>.

Additionally, the Garrison Safety Office is a great local resource for safety information. It can be reached at 785-239-2514.

Let's make this Memorial Day weekend – and this summer – a safe one.

If you would like to comment on this article, or suggest a topic for a future Community Corner, email usarmy.riley.incom.mbx.post-newspaper@mail.mil.



Calun Reece | POST
Maj. Mark Galloway, 1st Sust. Bde., center right, tries a traditional dance with a performer, center left, May 16 at Riley's Conference Center. The dance is called the Tinkling "Bamboo" dance and was performed by the Filipino-American Association of Junction City as part of the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month Observance.

Post celebrates Asian-Pacific heritage during observance

By Calun Reece
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Asian-Pacific American heritage was celebrated with an observance May 16 at the Riley's Conference Center.

The theme for the observance was "Striving for Excellence in Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion." The observance celebrated the accomplishments and achievements made by Asian-Pacific Americans throughout history.

Guest speaker Maj. Gerald Duenas, executive officer, 1st Sustainment Brigade, spoke about the culture, traditions and history of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders.

"We have a history of achievement, advancement

and another history as well – a history of obstacles to advancement that include internment camps, hard labor, discrimination, poverty, and today, we must remember both parts of that history to continue to un-

derstand where we started and to appreciate where we are," Duenas said.

One major obstacle faced by Japanese Americans was their incarceration during World War II. However, despite these obstacles, many Japanese Americans still served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service, he said.

"We are a group of extremely diverse, talented and creative peoples," Duenas said. Indigenous dances also were performed during the observance as a way to celebrate the heritage of Asian-Pacific Americans, presented by the Filipino-American Association of Junction City.

"I am performing Mazurka dancing because I am originally from the Philippines," said Marites Quiroz, member of the Filipino-American Association of Junction City. Quiroz said she has been a

part of the association since it began in 1985.

"We go all over to perform the dances in front of others – it's a Philippine dance, and I enjoy it," Quiroz said.

One of the last dances performed at the observance was called the Tinkling "Bamboo" dance.

In this dance, dancers must jump through and around moving bamboo sticks. After the demonstration, the dancers got a volunteer from the audience to try it out.

"Practice – I will need more practice," said Maj. Mark Galloway, 1st Sust. Bde., after he volunteered to try out the dance.

Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have come a long way in American history and still have further to go, Duenas said.

"Our impact is intertwined in the fabric of America's history, America's present and will continue to impact America's future," he said.

Fort Riley offers comedy nights monthly at Rally Point

By Calun Reece
1ST INF. DIV. POST

For a way to relieve stress from the busy work week and have a few laughs, Fort Riley offers monthly comedy nights at Rally Point. The monthly comedy shows contain adult content, and attendees must be 18 or older to enter.

Each show has three or more different stand-up comedians performing at the event, said Mike Steffen, business manager, Rally Point.

The next comedy night is June 2.

Comedians Brad Ellis with Grasshopper and Schott Shaffer, will be performing at the June event. The comedians come from Funny Factory Comedy, a group based out of Kansas City, Mo., Steffen said.

Sometimes the comedian is successful enough to receive a second invitation to come back to comedy night, she said.

"Grasshopper has been out before – and if they come back a second time that means people liked them," Steffen said.

Comedy Night began back in August 2011 when Steffen saw an unmet need in the area.

"I wanted to bring a different venue to Fort Riley for spouses and adults because there was really no good place for couples to go out on their own," Steffen said.

The customers who come to comedy night are a diverse group as well, he added.

"Oh the customers love it – and it's all ranks – I get anywhere from brigade commanders and on down that come to every show," Steffen said. Child care also is provided

at Warren East Child Development Center until 11 p.m. during comedy nights. To make child care reservations, call 785-239-4510.

"It would be a good ladies night out too – or maybe an (Family readiness group) can come see the show – and for a low price of \$10 you can't beat it," Steffen said.

Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m. A full bar is available.

Tickets can be purchased at Rally Point by cash only. Advanced tickets are \$10. Tickets at the door are \$12.

For more information call 785-784-5733.



Pamela Redford | POST
Assisted by American Red Cross employee Isaac Perez, left, Junction City resident Karen Stuber, center, gives blood May 15 at the Warrior Transition Battalion Clam Shell during the Quarterly Blood Drive facilitated by the American Red Cross.

Soldiers, Families, civilians donate blood during local drive

By Pamela Redford
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Sixty-six units of blood were collected at Fort Riley during the quarterly post blood drive May 15 and 16 at the Warrior Transition Battalion Clam Shell on Main Post.

With a goal of 80 units, the Mid-America Division of the American Red Cross didn't get quite as much as they were hoping for, but every pint counts, said collection operations supervisor Ron Gilmore.

According to the Red Cross, one pint of blood can save up to three lives.

"The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood," Gilmore said, sharing the motto of the Red Cross.

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood, and that blood cannot be manufactured. It can only come from volunteer blood donors like the people who turned up at the recent post blood drive.

"Until I was involved, I didn't really understand the need," Gilmore said.

For more than three years, he has worked for the Red Cross, experiencing firsthand the blood collection and distribution process.

Every year, the Red Cross provides about 40 percent of the nation's blood supply, making blood available to any patient who needs it in more than

3,000 hospitals across the country. About 5 million people a year need a blood donation.

"You have the potential to save lives by donating," Gilmore said. "That's what we try to convey here."

Although the ratio is pretty even between male and female donors, the majority of people giving blood are middle-aged and older, he said. Gilmore and his staff make an effort not only to collect the life-saving blood but also to educate every donor about the need for blood, he said.

"We try to personalize the experience and minimize their anxiety," Gilmore said.

The fear that some people experience is usually dispelled after the first donation, he said, when they realize that the pain of a needle prick is over quickly and the actual blood donation usually takes only 10 to 12 minutes.

But fear or squeamishness is nothing to be ashamed of, Gilmore said.

"I admire the people who are scared to death of needles and give blood anyway," he said. "They're the brave ones – the ones who have to look away. They're here because they want to save lives."

For Junction City resident Karen Stuber, giving blood every 56 days is the right thing to do, she said.

Ever since she turned 18,

Stuber has been a donor – seeking out Red Cross blood drives on the national website and often driving to nearby cities to give blood.

Almost two years later on May 16, she drove from Junction City to Fort Riley to give again.

"Blood is always needed, whether for surgery, an accident or a disease – you just need to do it," Stuber said.

Just a few feet away from Stuber, Spc. Michael Bosco, Company A, WTB, allowed Red Cross employee Kristen Tolkaez to help him give his first pint of blood.

Being a first-time donor wasn't anything to stress about, he said.

"I would absolutely donate blood again. With all the shots the Army gives you, this is nothing," he said.

In rare instances, willing donors are unable to give, Gilmore said, but that's no reason to go home discouraged.

"People that can't donate can volunteer and help in other ways. It's a three-legged race: the donor, the volunteers and the person in need of blood," he said. "Without one another, it wouldn't happen."

To make an appointment to give blood or for more information, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-735-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

