

Three generations of native's family serves in the military

Ed's Note: LaMar Doutaz, a former resident of Spiro, and his descendants were the subject of a July 6th feature article in the News and Record in Greensboro, NC. Mr. Doutaz, the son of the late Roy and Cleo Gentry Doutaz, joined the Navy when he was 17 and served in WWII. He returned after his service and married Elizabeth Hunt, daughter of Virgil and Mary Hunt of Maretburg, who was a teacher at Poplar Grove at the time. They moved to Richmond, Indiana in 1948 and he now lives in High Point, NC. This feature, by Harry Theford, is reprinted below.

Unusualness does not stop with La Mar Doutaz's name. A street-level glance at his High Point lawn, garden, landscaping, garage and workshop signals he takes unusual neatness to a new level. His idea of pre-mises could be pre-covenanted out in lesser neighborhoods.

Once past the neatness crevasse, Doutaz grades out as an unusually wonderful and terribly compatible neighbor. Disarmingly humble, he is trim and fit, dresses neatly, converses engagingly and offers you the best chair on his shady and

friendly front porch.

That is not to say Doutaz is unexcitable. He can become unusually animated when it comes to freedom, patriotism and cross-generational members of his family who have answered the call to serve his country.

Suprisingly, Doutaz's personal World War II Navy story begins at Glenn High School with Matthew Gentry Seman. Seman is a ROTC student and La Mar's great grandson. Seman is "leaning Air Force upon graduation," his great grandfather said.

Tyler Manning, another Doutaz great grandson, is an Army medic now serving in Japan after completing a one-year deployment in Afghanistan.

The zip in Doutaz's conversation continued on the grandchildren level, too. Grandson Jeffrey Doutaz and granddaughter Angela Beth Seman Nance, both served in the Navy.

Keith Doutaz, the only son of La Mar Doutaz, served in the National Guard during the Vietnam era. Karol Seman, the only daughter of Doutaz, was a Navy reservist.

July 4th is a 365-day event for Doutaz households. Ever the neatnik, La Mar has one son and one daughter, two granddaughters and two grandsons, five great granddaughters and five great grandsons. Doutaz, and his wife, Elizabeth, were married more than 63 years when she died in 2009.

Since three generations of military Doutazes had been covered, I almost forgot the purpose of our visit -- to vet the military story of La Mar Doutaz. Surprises continued to come up void.

La Mar Doutaz presented a museum-level book that chronicled his World War II Navy career from start to finish. "My daughter did all this," he said.

Doutaz was 5 years old, and living in Kentucky, when his father was killed in a car wreck. Years later, Doutaz recalled seeing a family photo of his father in a Navy uniform. He suspects his father was in the Navy during the World War I era, but that remains unconfirmed.

At any rate, his mother gave approval for her oldest son to enter the Navy in 1943 at age 17. Twenty-one of his buddies dropped out of school and did likewise. Many years later, their school awarded honorary diplomas to each of them.

"I served all my Navy duty aboard a destroyer escort, the USS Doherty. I was a cook," Doutaz said. "We stayed at sea most of the time, escorting convoys and performing antisubmarine operations." Doutaz has quite an unusual cache of military memorabilia to show for his duty as a cook.

"Oh, when you are a ship's cook, other crew members look out after you; they want to stay on your good side," he said, justifying his souvenirs, many of which are handmade and one-of-a-kind.

Even though the Doherty did not earn any battle stars, she constantly patrolled in dangerous waters from 1943 until the war ended.

Doutaz particularly remembers May 15, 1945.

"One of our B-29 bombers was struck by enemy fire and forced to ditch in the Pacific," he said. "By the time we reached them, two of the crewmen had died, but we were able to rescue the other 11. The next day, we sunk the damaged aircraft with our 3-inch guns to keep it from coming into enemy hands."

Doutaz is proud to have served his country during World War II and proud of at least three other generations of his family who have chosen military service.

After World War II, Doutaz returned to Kentucky and married his high school sweetheart, who had become a schoolteacher. He took advantage of the GI Bill, with farming as his major. The marriage outlasted farming by 40 years. Doutaz retired in 1987 and in 2001 moved to High Point to live near his daughter.

Doutaz is a busy guy with many interests. Besides keeping his premises immaculate, he plays bingo at McDonald's on Tuesdays and canasta at the Senior Citizens' Center on Thursdays. He attends Thomasville Church of Christ.



Blast from the Past!!!

This week's photographs remembers Mt. Vernon High School. The top photo (1960) is of the library while the middle photo (1963) shows students changing classes and the bottom photo (1964) is of the lunch room. See anybody you know? If you have a photo for Blast From The Past!!! Contact David Owens at 606-256-9870 or scoopowens24@yahoo.com.



Room 4 Me collecting back to school supplies

Local organization, Room 4 Me, is collecting school supplies, backpacks, gift cards and monetary donations to support their Back to School event, which we be held at First Baptist Church on August 12th from 5 to 7 p.m. for kids entering grades K-5.

The event will be carnival themed and students will have the opportunity to play games, receive tickets, and cash them in for cool school supply prizes.

A tablet will also be given to a randomly selected student who attends this event and was present at the Longest Day of Play booth. A few other small

grand prizes will be given as well.

Any and all donations are welcome! Drop dona-

tions off at RCHS during office hours or contact Kelsey Mattingly to set up a drop off time.



4th Annual Rockcastle Run, Bike or Hike set for August 17th

The fourth annual Rockcastle Regional Hospital Run Bike or Hike will be held in Rockcastle County Aug. 17.

The event, which will begin and end at the Lake Linville Recreational Area (near I-75 exit 62), will feature a 2-mile walk, 5K run, and a duathlon.

The duathlon is a 3.1 mile run followed by a 16.8 mile bike ride and a 2.2 mile run.

The event attracts athletes from across Kentucky and some from other states. Organizers expect more than 200 to participate this year.

Pre-registration for runners and walkers ends Aug. 12 at 12 noon, but they may also sign up on race day. The duathlon is pre-registration only (Aug. 12 at 12 noon).

The Rockcastle County Chamber of Commerce and UK HealthCare is co-sponsoring this year's event. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge in Lexington.

For more info., go to rockcastleregional.org/runbikeorhike

Mt. Vernon School Reunion scheduled for September 14th

The annual Mt. Vernon School Reunion will be held September 14th at Rockcastle Middle School.

If you were a student or staff member at Mt. Vernon Elementary or High School, any time between 1914 and 1972, you are encouraged to attend this reunion. You do not have to be a graduate. Each year, some people travel great distances to get reacquainted with old friends and classmates. They would love to see you there.

If you are not on the mailing list, please contact Brenda Hayes 606-256-0982 e-mail: bahayes@windstream.net or Berniece McHargue 606-256-5740 e-Mail: bmchargue@hughes.net or Bennie Chaney 859-224-4248 e-mail: b.chaney08@insightbb.com to be added and to make your reservations.

Registration will be at 4:30 p.m. and dinner will be at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 for pre-registration or \$20 at the door. Look on Facebook @ Mt. Vernon High School Reunion.



Eliza Jane York, President of Kiwanis, is shown presenting Citations issued by State Representative David Meade. Representative Meade expressed his desire to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of Mrs. Rose Brown, Mrs. Teresa Vanzant, and Robert Lawson for their outstanding service to the people of Rockcastle County.