

# YORE LORE

Baldwin County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 108, Foley, Alabama 36536

Volume 26 No 4

April 2018



Baldwin County Genealogical Society Presents

## KRISTINA CLEVER

**“Getting the Most Out of Autosomal DNA”**  
April 14th, 2018 ~ 10 a.m. Meeting Room, Foley Public Library

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Meeting Room, Foley Public Library

Genetic genealogist **Kristina Clever** will focus her presentation on using DNA to help people connect family lines, break down brick walls, or find their biological family. She will speak about getting the most from your DNA results, stretching those DNA testing dollars to get the most benefit in research.

In 1986, Kristina started researching her family tree after ten years of hearing her mother’s interesting stories of her ancestors. In 2006, with help of her father, paternal uncle and a cousin on her mother’s maternal side, she started exploring Y-DNA and mtDNA testing to see what it could reveal. With introduction of atDNA testing, Kristina set out to test as many family members as possible to increase opportunities of connecting cousins.

This was also encouraged by some family members seeking biological parents and led to helping additional genealogists seeking family to get the full benefit and tools available to analyze DNA results.

Kristina is currently working on becoming Certified Genealogist, and is owner of Clever Genetic Ancestry in Lillian, Alabama. Her research specialty is Adoption and DNA Specialist.

**All meetings are open to interested public**

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### REFRESHMENT HOSTS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

Please, pick a month the signup sheet at meeting. Simple refreshment to accompany the provided drink, coffee.  
April 14<sup>th</sup> Becky Younce, Peg Powers ~ May 12<sup>th</sup> ? ~ June 9<sup>th</sup> ? July 14<sup>th</sup> Jeanette Bornholt

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 12<sup>th</sup> – Ron Fritze “*Prince Madoc and the Welsh Indians: a persistent frontier myth*”

June 9<sup>th</sup> – Dylan Tucker “*Known Deaths and Burials at Mobile Point*”

July 14<sup>th</sup> - Jeanette Bornholt “*What? Prison of War Camps in Baldwin County?*”



Check us out on Facebook and ‘like’ our page!

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## Baldwin County Genealogical Society General Meeting, March 10, 2018

President Tina Graham called Baldwin County Genealogical Society March 10, 2018 meeting to order in the FPL Meeting room at 10:06 a.m. Tina welcomed 31 member and/or guests.

The guest speaker Lois Mare O’Konek, professional genealogist, presented a very interesting program entitled “Mittie’s Scrap Album”. The scrap book was filled with newspaper clippings. Lois Mare presented general information and list for newspaper archives research, no cost options, techniques and tools, among other helpful guides as a handout. Lois is a former educator and retired Naval Officer. She has been actively engaged in genealogical research for 19 years. She currently does volunteer work assisting Jeanette Bornholt, Genealogy Librarian at Foley Public Library. Lois Marie resides in Fairhope, Alabama.

Treasurer May Alanko reported a balance of \$1,154.56 as of March 10, 2018. Report will be filed in the FPL research room.

Minutes of the January 20, 2018 and February 10, 2018 were published in the March issue of “Yore Lore”. No corrections or revisions.

REPORTS: Sunshine Committee: No cards sent. Obituary Committee: Up-to-date. Will meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at Foley Public Library.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Margaret Kirk will be moving to Louisiana to be closer to family. Tina will host a lunch and will email details to members. Margaret will be given a “Life Time Member” award for all her work with chapter and especially the Obituary Committee.

Nominating Committee will be appointed in April. Committee will be contacting you for your assistance on the Board.

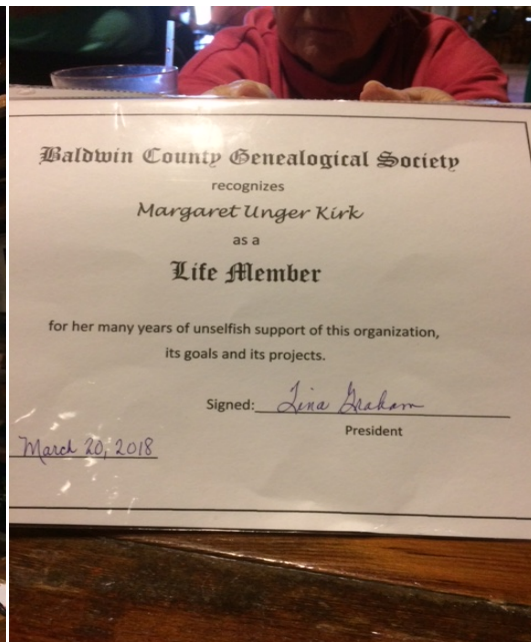
Charter members Dot Brown and Berdine Rittenhouse were given flowers.

Acquisitions: No new items. Door prizes were awarded. Meeting adjourned 11:55 a.m.

Peg Powers, Recording Secretary – March 12, 2018

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## MARGARET U. KIRK PRESENTED LIFE MEMBER OF BALDWIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



## SONORA COMMUNITY 1874-

Along originally called “Dixie Road” or Marlow Road, you will find a clean community with lovely modern homes, massive land crops in the summer and lush green pastures in the winter cattle grazing. Among the first settlers in community was the Wynn family whose son Andrew married Ethel Underwood. Her brothers, John and Marshall Underwood with their large families were the nearest neighbors. Homesteading brought in more early settlers: Pierce, Malec, Bishop, Phillips, and Sharretts,

In early 1900s a land agent for Southern Plantation Development Company built a large two story hotel here and was instrumental in attracting people from the north to settle. Soon a livery stable was built by a Mr. Wilson which was soon followed by establishing a post office in the home of G. T. Sharretts. Sonora became known as settlement located west of Summerdale and east of Marlow.

Predominately farmers and cattlemen, family names include Wynn, Underwood, Rudolph, Lehmann, Jensen, Gullledge, Sherman, Mikkelsen, Raber, Avera, Rhodes, Bauer, Moore, Mannich, all who soon established farms. A school was organized with Peter Sherman donating land and building the one room schoolhouse.

In 1912, the first community club, the Ladies Aid, was organized. The Sonora Community Center was and is known for community get-togethers, organization meetings, and an active Sonora Home Demonstration Club.

## SONORA OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

3:00 PM

*Please join us at the Sonora  
Community Hall for the dedication of our new  
historic marker.*

*Live music by The Sand Spur Band.*

*Refreshments provided.*

*With special thanks to the Baldwin  
County Commission and Baldwin County  
Historic Development Commission*

*16757 Co Rd 32, Summerdale, AL  
251-550-0796*

## MILITARY MEDALS AND THEIR MEANING

U.S. medals, like medals of other countries, include two main categories: Medals for valor, specific gallant acts that merit recognition, awarded throughout various wars and conflicts over time; Medals for service in a particular war or campaign to those who served in such conflicts. The following are from U. S. Medals for Valor and U. S. Service Medals of WWII. It is not a complete listing.

**MEDAL OF HONOR** - The nations' highest decoration for valor, nearly 4000 have been awarded since the medal was created in 1862.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS** - 2<sup>nd</sup> highest award for valor, for “Extraordinary Heroism in Connection with Military Operations Against an Opposing Armed Force.” Established 1918.

**NAVY CROSS** - 2<sup>nd</sup> highest award for valor, for “Navy or Marine Corps who distinguishes himself with extraordinary

heroism not justifying the award of the Medal of Honor. ...” Established in 1919.

**SILVER STAR**- 3<sup>rd</sup> highest award for valor, for “Gallantry in Action Against an Opposing Armed Force.” Established 1918. Awarded to all services.

**DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS** - “For Heroism or Extraordinary Achievement while Participating in Aerial Flight.” Established 1926. Widely awarded in WW2.

**AIR MEDAL** - “For Meritorious Achievement while Participating in Aerial Flight.” Established 1942. Over 440,000 awarded by 8<sup>th</sup> Air force in WW2.

**BRONZE Star** - “For Heroic or Meritorious Achievement of Service, not involving aerial flight, in connection with Operations Against an Opposing Armed Force.” Established 1944

**PURPLE HEART** - Awarded for wounds or death as a result of an act of any opposing armed force. Thus designated by FDR in 1942, although the decoration had existed previously.

**PRISONER OF WAR MEDAL** - Create in 1985. Awarded retrospectively the WW2 POWs.

**SOLDIER’S MEDAL (ARMY)** - For heroism that involves the voluntary risk of life under conditions other than those of conflict with an opposing armed force.

**GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (ARMY)** - Awarded for exemplary conduct, efficiency and fidelity while on active duty. A clasp with loops denotes subsequent awards.

**WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL** - For service in World War II.

**ARMY OCCUPATION MEDAL (ARMY AND AIR FORCE)** - For thirty consecutive days at a normal post of duty while assigned to any Army of Occupation. “Germany” and “Japan” clasps and the Berlin Airlift Device may be worn.

**AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL** - For service during national emergency, 8 September 1939 to 7 December 1941. “A” denotes actual or potential belligerent contact (Navy - Marine Corps - Coast Guard)

**AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL** - For service in the American Theater during World War II.

**ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL** - For service in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater during World War II.

**EUROPEAN-AFRICA-MIDDLE EASTERS CAMPAIGN MEDAL** - For service in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater during World War II.

**WOMEN’S ARMY CORPS SERVICE MEDAL** - Awarded to recognize service of women to the Army during WWII for Qualifying service between July 1942 and September 1945.

**LEGION OF MERIT** - Award of the Armed Forces given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services and achievements to U.S. military personnel with distinction of degree and foreign military personnel in four grades:

**Chief Commander** is awarded to a Chief of State or Head of Government;

**Commander** is awarded to one that is the equivalent of a U.S. military Chief of Staff or higher position but not to Chief of State;

**Officer** is awarded to General of Flag Officer below the equivalent of a U.S. military Chief of Staff;

**Colonel** or equivalent rank for service in assignments equivalent to those normally held by a General or Flag Officer in U.S. military service or Military Attaches

**Legionnaire** is awarded to recipients not included in any of the other ranks and positions

### **A FEW OF THE HIGHLY DECORATED UNITS OF WW2**

The 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, the famed Japanese-American “Go for Broke” unit earned more than 18,000 individual decorations including one Medal of Honor, 53 Distinguished Service Crosses, 588 Silver Stars, 5,200 Bronze Star Medals, 9,486 Purple Hearts, and eight Presidential Unit Citations (the nations’ top award for combat units.)

In June 2000 President Clinton awarded an additional 20 Medals of Honor to members of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team; a result of re-examination of the files of dozens of Japanese-American soldiers to see if any of them might have been denied awards because of possible prejudice.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, “the Red Arrow,” earned 11 Medals of Honor, 157 Distinguished Service Crosses, 845 Silver Stars, 49 Legion of Merit, 78 Soldiers Medals, 1,854 Bronze Stars, 11,500 Purple Hearts, and 98 Air Medals.

The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division spent 214 days in combat. In addition to 2 Medals of Honor awarded to Soldiers of the 101<sup>st</sup>, the division awarded 47 Distinguished Service Crosses, 516 Silver Stars and 6,977 Bronze Stars.

Troopers of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, the ”All Americans,” were awarded three Medals of Honor, 70 Distinguished Service Crosses, 894 Silver Star Medals, 2,478 Bronze Star Medals, and numerous foreign decorations.

Airmen of the Eighth Air Force were awarded 17 Medals of honor, 226 Distinguished Service Crosses, 864 Silver Stars, 45,977 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 442,300 Air Medals, and 2,984 Bronze Stars.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group (of the Fifth Air Force) had established an impressive record. Its personnel had earned a Medal of Honor, 37 Distinguished Crosses, 187 Silver Stars, 159 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 17 Bronze Stars, 24 Soldiers’ Medals, 640 Air Medals and 257 Purple Hearts.

In World War II, Navy Corpsmen earned seven Medals of Honor, 61 navy Crosses, 465 Silver Stars, and 982 Bronze Stars. Sources: <http://acepilots.com/medals/man.html>; Becky Younce; *List of military awards of World War II - Wikipedia*; [www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/medals-decorations)

## MILITARY RECORDS...WHERE TO FIND THEM

To research your military family member, it helps to begin a time line using home sources; if possible, interviewing the soldier about his or her service; available public records, local basic information using a Military Service Questionnaire as guide. The *NA Form 13075 Questionnaire about Military Service* can be downloaded from online; is a good form to use as you gather your information. (example copy in newsletter)

As in any research, Bibles, death related sources such as obituary, death certificate, VA paperwork, headstones, vital records, photographs, metals aid in filling out your request. After the death of a local man, his grown children decided to go through an old trunk of their father's stored for years in the attic. Imagine their surprise, pride... and sadness, of finding among items from the father's service in World War II was a purple heart, along with medals, photos and other service memorabilia. The Purple Heart was established by General George Washington at Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782. The children never knew. The father never spoke of it.

Often times, newspapers such as many of the Baldwin County newspapers, would print letters written by soldiers stateside and from those overseas. It was an insight from the war from hometown soldiers to his/her kith and kin. The newspapers would also featured photos and information about soldiers. Worthy of time to research. Always document your sources. Now, time to begin requesting records.

**Release of information is subject to restrictions imposed by the military services consistent with Department of Defense regulations, the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act of 1974.** The service member (either past or present) or the member's legal guardian has access to almost any information contained in that member's own record. The authorization signature of the service member or the member's legal guardian is needed in Section III of the SF180. Others requesting information from military personnel records and/or STRs must have the release authorization in Section III of the SF 180 signed by the member or legal guardian. *If the appropriate signature cannot be obtained*, only limited types of information can be provided. If the former member is deceased, the surviving next-of-kin may, under certain circumstances, be entitled to greater access to a deceased veteran's records than a member of the general public. The next-of-kin may be any of the following: unremarried surviving spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother. Requesters **MUST provide proof of death, such as a copy of a death certificate, newspaper article (obituary) or death notice, coroner's report of death, funeral director's signed statement of death, or verdict of coroner's jury.**

There is no charge for most services provided to service members or next-of-kin of deceased veterans. A nominal fee is charged for certain types of service. In most instances, service fees cannot be determined in advance. If your request involves a service fee, you will receive an invoice with your records. You are requested to send completed form to the appropriate address listed on page 2 of the SF 180 Form. Example: if you are requesting Army Discharged, deceased, or retire 11/1/1912 – 10/15/1992 you use address 14:

National Personnel Records Center  
(Military Personnel Records)

1 Archives Drive

St. Louis, MO 63138-1002

*eVetRecs: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>*

Personnel records of military members who were discharged, retired, or died in service 62 OR MORE YEARS AGO have been transferred to the legal custody of NARA and are referred to as "archival records" and are open to the public. Access to archival records are granted by offering copies of the records for a fee (44 U.S.C. 2116 (c)). If a fee applies to the photocopies of documents in the requested record, you will receive an invoice. Photocopies will be sent after payment is made.

An alternate record is available for the veteran who may have had his records/ Military Personnel Files lost due to the 1973 fire by a copy of **Final Pay Voucher**, a particular document belonging to the National Archives and is available to you for a fee.

**U.S. Military Discharge records** – DD214. The Alabama Department of Archives and History has military discharge records (DD214) from the Selective Service Office for the years 1939-May 1975. These records are restricted to the veteran or direct next-of-kin and can be obtained by contacting the research room at 334-242-4435. For Discharge records after May 1975 contact the National Personnel Records Center.

National Personnel Records Center

9700 Page Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63132

314-801-0800

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

**References:** *Beginning Your World War II Research* by Jennifer Holk, *Your Genealogy Today*, Jul/Aug 2015; Forms SF180, National Personnel Records Center; Questionnaire about Military Service; Alabama Dept of Archives & History.

### REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS

Requests from veterans or deceased veteran's next-of-kin may be submitted online by using eVetRecs at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>  
To ensure the best possible service, please thoroughly review the accompanying instructions before filling out this form. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE BELOW.

#### SECTION I - INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much information as possible.)

1. NAME USED DURING SERVICE (last, first, full middle)		2. SOCIAL SECURITY #		3. DATE OF BIRTH		4. PLACE OF BIRTH	
5. SERVICE, PAST AND PRESENT (For an effective records search, it is important that ALL service be shown below.)							
	BRANCH OF SERVICE	DATE ENTERED	DATE RELEASED	OFFICER	ENLISTED	SERVICE NUMBER (If unknown, write "unknown")	
a. ACTIVE	-			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
b. RESERVE	-			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
c. STATE NATIONAL GUARD	-			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

6. IS THIS PERSON DECEASED?  NO  YES - *MUST provide Date of Death if veteran is deceased:* \_\_\_\_\_

7. DID THIS PERSON RETIRE FROM MILITARY SERVICE?  NO  YES

#### SECTION II - INFORMATION AND/OR DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

##### 1. CHECK THE ITEM(S) YOU ARE REQUESTING:

- DD Form 214 or equivalent.** Year(s) in which form(s) issued to veteran: \_\_\_\_\_  
This form contains information normally needed to verify military service. A copy may be sent to the veteran, the deceased veteran's next-of-kin, or other persons or organizations, if authorized in Section III, below. An UNDELETED DD214 is ordinarily required to determine eligibility for benefits. If you request a DELETED copy, the following items will be blacked out: authority for separation, reason for separation, reenlistment eligibility code, separation (SPD/SPN) code, and, for separations after June 30, 1979, character of separation and dates of time lost.  
An UNDELETED copy will be sent UNLESS YOU SPECIFY A DELETED COPY by checking this box:  I want a DELETED copy.
- Medical Records** Includes Service Treatment Records, Health (outpatient) and Dental Records. IF HOSPITALIZED (inpatient) the FACILITY NAME and DATE (month and year) for EACH admission MUST be provided: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (Specify):** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **PURPOSE:** (Providing information about the purpose of the request is strictly voluntary; however, it may help to provide the best possible response and may result in a faster reply. Information provided will in no way be used to make a decision to deny the request.)

- Benefits (explain)  Employment  VA Loan Programs  Medical  Genealogy  Correction  Personal  Other (explain)

Explain here: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECTION III - RETURN ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE

##### 1. REQUESTER NAME:

2.  I am the MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN identified in Section I, above.
- I am the DECEASED VETERAN'S NEXT-OF-KIN (MUST submit Proof of Death. See item 2a on instruction sheet.)

(Relationship to deceased veteran)

- I am the VETERAN'S LEGAL GUARDIAN (MUST submit copy of Court Appointment) or AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (MUST submit copy of Authorization Letter or Power of Attorney)
- OTHER

(Specify type of Other)

3. SEND INFORMATION/DOCUMENTS TO:  
(Please print or type. See item 4 on accompanying instructions.)

Name

Street

Apt.

City

State

Zip Code

4. **AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE:** I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information in this Section III is true and correct and that I authorize the release of the requested information. (See items 2a or 3a on accompanying instruction sheet. Without the Authorization Signature of the veteran, next-of-kin of deceased veteran, veteran's legal guardian, authorized government agent, or other authorized representative, only limited information can be released unless the request is archival. No signature is required if the request is for archival records.)

Signature Required - Do not print

Date

\* This form is available at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html> on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) web site. \*

Daytime phone

Fax Number

Email address

### QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT MILITARY SERVICE

Please complete this form to the best of your ability.

Name(s) used during service (and nicknames, if any):			Branch of Service:		
Last	First	Middle	<input type="checkbox"/> Army	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Force	<input type="checkbox"/> Navy
			<input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard	

Veteran's Social Security Number:	Date of Birth:	City and State (Country) of Birth:
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Served as: <input type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Enlisted	Serial/Service number(s):	Home Address:			
		When entered service: _____ Street			
If enlisted:	<input type="checkbox"/> volunteered <input type="checkbox"/> drafted	City _____ County _____ State _____			
Was service six months active duty for training only? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		When released from active duty: _____ City _____ County _____ State _____			
Final Rank:					

Selective Service: \_\_\_\_\_  
Local Board Number \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Veteran's Selective Service Number \_\_\_\_\_

Names of close relatives when military service began (parents, siblings, spouse, children): \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Enlistment or Induction (where veteran took oath of service, such as examining station, reception center, or place of basic training.) Show name of military facility, city, state:	Month/Day/Year began active duty: _____
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Place of basic training and month/day/year began (if different from place and date shown on line above): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of military assignment (infantry, airborne, engineer, bombers, fighters, supply, maintenance, food service, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Last military organization and location (show full unit designations, such as army, division, regiment, battalion, company): \_\_\_\_\_

Separation Station (if this service member was released at a separation station after leaving the last "permanent" organization or "unit", include location of separation station):	Date Released from Active Duty (Month/Day/Year): _____
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Month/Day/Year of any reenlistment(s) (include full designation and location of unit to which assigned at that time):	Date of Death (if veteran is deceased): _____
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Did the veteran ever:

a. File a claim for VA benefits?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	If yes, show VA Claim Number: _____
b. Serve in the Reserves after release from active duty period shown above?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	If yes, show branch of service _____ show mo/yr from _____ to _____
c. Receive a state bonus for military service?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	If yes, show state _____ mo/yr paid _____
d. Serve in the National Guard?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	If yes, show state _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air National Guard show mo/day/yr from _____ to _____
e. Retire from any military service branch?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	If yes, show branch of service _____ show mo/yr retired _____
f. Spend time on the Temporary Disability Retired List (TDRL)?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	If yes, show branch of service _____ show mo/day/yr from _____ to _____
g. Serve active duty in any other military service branch in later years?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	If yes, show branch of service _____ show mo/day/yr from _____ to _____
h. Work for the Federal Government as a civilian?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know	If yes, show agency name _____ show city/state _____ show mo/day/yr from _____ to _____

Purpose: (Optional - An explanation of the purpose of this request is strictly voluntary.)	Relationship to veteran in question:
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SIGNATURE: _____	TODAY'S DATE: _____	DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER: ( _____ ) _____
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