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SALUTE TO A FALLEN BROTHER

By Jon Williamson

ADJUTANT GENERAL OF INDIANA
Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger was appointed as the adjutant general of Indiana in 2004. A 39-year veteran and graduate of the University of Evansville, his primary focus is to lead the Indiana Army and Air National Guard.

By Tad Lichtenauer

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Content for consideration should be submitted by the fifteenth of the month.

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Salute to a Fallen Brother


By Jon Williamson (Maryland-College Park 1965)

IN A FEW DAYS WE WILL celebrate Independence Day. For many of us the 4th of July is a time of fun and celebration, of hot dogs and ice cream, parades and evening fireworks. Others will pause in quiet reflection and remembrance of times when we were not a free people, but rather held under a tyrant’s thumb; when we chose to fight for the freedoms and liberties that we continue to enjoy today, hundreds of years later.

On this occasion, flags are flown in front of millions of homes and are placed beside the graves of our soldiers, whether they are in American cemeteries or on countless battlefields throughout the world.

Men of our great fraternity have served in our armed forces from the 1880s through today, serving in harm’s way with bravery and distinction. They continue to remind us that freedom is not free and requires eternal vigilance.

On January 6th, 1941, Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave a speech to the Congress of the United States that outlined “Four Freedoms” that should be enjoyed by all: The “Freedom of speech and expression,” the “Freedom of every person to worship God in his own way,” the “Freedom from want” and the “Freedom from fear.” Many of our brothers have given their all to protect these freedoms.

Decorated Veteran
Thousands of brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha have fought on foreign soils and hundreds have made the ultimate sacrifice. This includes a score who died on September 11, 2001, one of whom was Robert Joseph Hymel (Louisiana-Lafayette 1969). It has been said of Brother Hymel that he was a good and faithful son, husband, father and grandfather. All true! He was also an American who was dedicated to his country through his service in the U.S. Air Force. He rose in rank to lieutenant colonel and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Purple Heart Medals, and the Defense of Freedom Medal.

During the Vietnam War, in December 1972, he was the co-pilot of a B-52 Bomber on a mission over Hanoi, North Vietnam, when his plane was struck by a surface-to-air missile. The crippled plane made it back to base, but crashed upon landing.

Pulled from the wreckage, Bob Hymel would spend one and a half years recovering from his extensive injuries. Rather than retire on disability, he spent an additional 20 years in uniform and served in the Persian Gulf War.

Service to Country
Upon his retirement he became an analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency and was assigned to the Pentagon. It was in this capacity that he was working when the terrorists flew the passenger plane into the Pentagon on September 11th.

During his funeral at Arlington National Cemetery, a lone B-52 flew overhead and gently dipped its wings in tribute to this fallen warrior. Lambda Chi Alpha acknowledges his courage and dedication to duty and life well lived.
Honoring Our Fallen Brothers

As Lambda Chi Alpha begins celebrating its 100th anniversary, it is important to look back and honor all the brothers who have given up the ultimate sacrifice protecting our freedom. One of the pillars of the associate member community is patriotism, these brothers have lived and died as true patriots. Lambda Chi Alpha has been represented in every major conflict since our founding in 1909.
Schedule of Events
Wide variety of events highlight next 18 months of celebration.

Many beginnings are made throughout life. Most of those beginnings find an end. Few true followings cross multiple generations and realize continued growth. Lambda Chi Alpha celebrates 100 years of True Brotherhood in 2009.

Throughout the Centennial Celebration year, Lambda Chi Alpha will feature articles each month to focus on the then and now of the past 100 years.

In addition, each article will include thoughts from a wide array of alumni and undergraduates who answer the question, “What does 100 years mean to me?”

Regional Centennial Conclaves
Lastly, active chapters will be uniting in the spring of 2009 to meet in a spirit of brotherhood at regional conclave celebrations.

Conclaves will provide an opportunity for undergraduate and alumni brothers to share in fellowship, training, and leadership development. The following colleges and universities will host a Conclave Centennial Celebration in the spring:
- Akron
- Arkansas State
- California-Polytechnic
- Denver
- Florida Southern
- High Point/UNC-Greensboro
- Oregon State
- Purdue
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Saint Josephs
- Simpson
- Texas-San Antonio
- Troy
- Vanderbilt

Lambda Chi Alpha will officially kick off the Centennial Celebration year at the Purple, Green and Gold Banquet on Saturday night, July 19th during the 52nd General Assembly.

Look for more relevant Centennial information in this section of the Cross & Crescent in the months to come.

By Dan Hartmann (Truman State 2007)

What Do 100 Years Mean to Me?

A few years ago, a friend in his mid-90s talked to me about his youth in the early 1900s. He said, “There were no airplanes, no automobiles, no televisions, no telephones, no indoor toilets, no electricity in the houses, and almost no store-bought food.” I asked what were the most important things at that time. He replied “Same things that are important today: love, integrity, family, friends and an education.”

One hundred years is a long time but placed in perspective, most equate the events and progress accomplished with such a period. During the past 100 years we have improved in that we now have modern material conveniences; however, while we have become more educated, there remains an undisputed need for many of the attributes that seem to be most important. In equating years with the progress made by humanity, I feel that the next 100 years can be successful and productive if we can improve human responses by integrating the attributes found in the True Brother Program into our society. Time moves rapidly but human compassion and service move at a snail’s pace.

Futuristically, 100 years seems like a period of time that we can improve our world by having our brothers and others establish appropriate responses to human and world needs. This can be a period in which we become even a more highly positive force for the important things in life. If we and others do not accomplish this, the next 100 years is going to be a hell of a long time.

— Former Grand High Alpha Dr. Murphy Osborne (High Point 1958)
HISTORY

Jimmy Doolittle, Pappy Boyington, and...Dinsmore Ely?

MIT chapter named in honor of World War I hero.

By Mike Raymond (Miami-OH 1967)

I imagine almost every Lambda Chi knows the story of Gen. James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle (California Berkeley 1918) aviation pioneer and famous hero of World War II. His exploits in organizing and executing the daring Tokyo Raid in 1942 were immortalized in the book and movie *Thirty Seconds over Tokyo*. Doolittle’s personal bravery and leadership skill were recognized with the Medal of Honor.

I bet to a lesser extent that many Lambda Chis also know the story of Col. Gregory “Pappy” Boyington (Washington 1948). This legendary aviator was the commander and top ace of the U.S. Marine Corps’ Black Sheep Squadron of World War II fame. His bravery as a pilot and courage as a Japanese prisoner of war was also acknowledged with a Medal of Honor.

But, what about Dinsmore Ely?

Ely’s Story

I doubt if many Lambda Chis know the story of this popular hero of World War I. It is a story worth telling. His story reminds us of the many stories that could be told of the courage, love of country, and honor of untold millions of men and women who served, and continue to serve, in our U.S. Armed Forces.

Hopefully, recounting his unique story will encourage us to remember that our freedom has a price that is often paid for by personal sacrifice, injury, and even death.

Reuben C. Youngquist (Washington State 1928), writing in a 1929 issue of the Purple, Green, and Gold Magazine, identified Dinsmore Ely (Massachusetts Inst of Tech 1914) as the most outstanding Lambda Chi to serve in World War I.

As an undergraduate, Ely served his chapter as High Gamma and High Alpha. Scheduled to graduate in 1918, he was among the first men to answer the call to arms as America slowly prepared to enter the European conflict. He entered the French Air Corps in 1917. He was killed in action on April 21, 1918. At the time of his death, he was a second lieutenant. During his time in France, he wrote many letters to his parents and friends. One of these letters would capture the imagination of the American public.

A Creed of an American Soldier

The night before he died, Ely ended his last letter to his parents with this message that soon became famous throughout the world:

> And I want to say in closing that if anything should happen to me, let’s have no mourning in spirit or in dress. Like a Liberty Bond, it is an investment, not a loss when a man dies for his country. It is an honor to a family, and is that a time for weeping? I would rather leave my family, rich in pleasant memories of my life than numbed in sorrow at my death.

Youngquist reported that 35 million copies of the letter were printed and Ely’s message was used to promote the sale of Liberty Bonds for the remainder of the war. His words were the subject of numerous editorials, news articles, and magazine stories across the country.

Dinsmore Ely, One Who Served


This prelude sheds some additional light on the military service of Ely. His father wrote that Dinsmore arrived in France on July 4, 1917. Two days later he volunteered and immediately entered service with the LaFayette Flying Corps. During his training he quickly gained a reputation as a fine flier and gunner.

He fought with a French escadrille (squadron) from January to April 1918 in the Toul Sector near Verdun. On returning to Paris, he was ordered to report to the headquarters of the American Army to receive his commission as an officer.

His father reported that his son requested to be attached as an American volunteer to his old French escadrille. According to Dr. Ely, his son wrote his last letter the next day shortly before he took to the air in his Spad fighter plane. Dinsmore Ely was shot down near Villacoublay.

Dinsmore Ely was buried with impressive ceremonies in the Des Gouard's Cemetery in Versailles, France. His funeral ceremony involved French Artillery troops, French Foreign Legion soldiers, American Marines, and many other French, American, and Allied civil and military representatives.

**Lambda Zeta Petitions the Grand High Zeta**

The Grand High Gamma records contain a unique petition from Lambda Zeta at Massachusetts Institute of Technology that reads as follows:

*The Grand High Zeta be informed that it is our opinion that the life and death of Dinsmore Ely have brought so much luster and honor on this Zeta and the entire body of Lambda Chi Alpha that we petition that precedent be waived, and that, as a perpetual memorial to our brother, this Zeta shall hereafter, in addition to its Greek letter designation, be forever known as the Dinsmore Ely Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha.*

This petition is clear evidence that his Lambda Chi brothers at MIT held his record of devotion to country, honor, and self-sacrifice close to their hearts.

The Grand High Zeta authorized the use of “Dinsmore Ely Zeta” for Lambda Zeta in 1919.

*This book can be downloaded at Google Book Search.*
Cancer Survivor Thrives

Exemplifying our Core Values, Mark Eberhart helps wounded soldiers recuperate.

Core Values form the foundation of Lambda Chi Alpha’s approach to brotherhood. As a part of the True Brother Initiative, our Seven Core values — Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Service and Stewardship, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage — once learned and internalized equip each Lambda Chi Alpha undergraduate brother and associate member with a clear moral compass always orienting him, no matter the environment or consequences, toward making ethical decisions.

true brother sidebar

For Lambda Chi Alpha, it is not enough simply to know how to do things the right way; more importantly, it is to do the right things, for brotherhood and leadership are ultimately about action, about doing.

Core Value in Action: Service & Stewardship

Mark Eberhart (Maryland-Baltimore County 1994) has phantom pains all day everyday..."it sucks, it feels like he has a left foot and it feels like he is getting a tattoo 24 hours a day." He has learned to live with it...and “it helped him chill out.” He says life doesn’t go the way you want or expect but losing his leg has made him mentally stronger and has matured him ways he never thought possible.

Eberhart grew up as an athlete. He was MVP of his high school state championship cross country team and a student athlete for the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. By the spring of 1994 he had pain in his left leg, which was diagnosed as cancer. In 1996, he had his first surgery, which was an initially successful insurgency against the cancer. Unfortunately, the cancer reappeared, which called for more surgeries in 2003 and the eventual amputation of Mark’s leg in 2005.

“l am better off now than I was right after 2003 surgery,” says Eberhart. “Just before the amputation, I had so much of my leg removed it looked like a shark had bitten a chunk out of my leg. It was like slowly dying.”

Through his trials, Eberhart has found a passion and inherent need to be involved and spend time working with cancer victims and amputees.

In 1998, Eberhart fielded a team in the local Relay for Life. He admits he was initially interested in the event because he thought it was a competitive 24 hour race but after realizing his mistake he formed a team anyway. The Lifeguards, as Eberhart’s team is known, has been actively partaking in the event ever since. Howard County Relay created the Team Spirit Award in 1998 specifically for The Lifeguards, who have become somewhat of a local legend, so that the group’s liveliness would not go unrecognized. The event has become a flagship event for the Maryland-Baltimore County chapter.

Eberhart is also active in with Team River Runner, a group that helps veterans of the Iraq and Afghan wars recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center find health, healing, and new challenges through whitewater boating on the Potomac River. While the focus of Team River Runner’s work is on soldiers recuperating at Walter Reed, the group also provides whitewater boating opportunities for family members as well as for other wounded veterans. He says he has learned how to outfit his kayak and has transferred that knowledge to other amputees. He says he takes joy in teaching veterans how to roll and work kayaks and taking them out on the water, including Class 4 rapids.

Throughout his battle with cancer and the many difficulties associated with losing his leg, Eberhart has found an inspiring and meaningful way to serve his country and exemplify Lambda Chi Alpha’s Core Value of Service & Stewardship.
Boston (Alpha)
After 32 years of service, Bill Raeder (Boston 1960) has retired as president of the National Braille Press. Raeder was featured in the May 2006 Cross & Crescent.

Thilo C. Agthe (1984) was named a partner at Wuersch & Gering LLP, a New York law firm concentrating on cross-border and domestic corporate securities and other business transactions, litigation and arbitration, taxation, intellectual property and immigration. Prior to being named partner, he was senior counsel since joining the firm in 2003. He heads Wuersch & Gering’s intellectual property law practice group.

Cal State-Fullerton (Phi-Epsilon)
A group of chapter alumni brothers gathered for dinner.

Central Missouri State (Lambda-Pi)
At the annual 2007 Greek Awards, the chapter won the Outstanding Chapter Programming Award, as well as the Outstanding Chapter Philanthropy and Community Service Award. In addition, Justin Schaefer (2009) won the Emerging Leader Award, Aaron Kempker (2008) was named the Greek Man of the Year, and chapter High Pi and former Grand High Zeta member Walt Moser (1966) received the Adviser of the Year Award.

The chapter also was named Intramural Champions for the third consecutive year.

Denver (Alpha-Pi)
Antoine Peretta (2009) was elected vice president of the All Undergraduate Student Association Senate at the University of Denver for the 2008–09 school year. A hotel restaurant and tourism management major, he is a current junior senator, chair of the senate’s academic affairs committee, and a member of the Pioneer Leadership Program and the University Honors Program.

Drury (Theta-Sigma)
James C. Holman (1968) died June 16, 2008. An attorney with Whiteford, Taylor & Preston law firm based in Baltimore, he represented corporate and banking clients and had been board chairman of Family and Children’s Services of Central Maryland.

East Carolina (Iota-Upsilon)

East Tennessee State (Iota-Omicron)
Kenny Chesney (1990) was named entertainer of the year for the fourth consecutive year at the 43rd Annual Academy of Country Music Awards held on May 18 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Eastern Kentucky (Phi-Beta)
Michael Goins (1991) was selected as an at-large delegate representing the Commonwealth of Kentucky at the 2008 Republican National Convention. Goins, who served as chapter vice president, formerly served as a spokesperson for Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher, and is currently director of public relations for Forcht Group based in Kentucky.

Nicholas Cory (2009) died May 15, 2008. As a member of the Eastern Kentucky University ROTC, he served in the National Guard Unit and had achieved the rank of staff sergeant.

Eureka (Theta-Chi)
Todd Cheek (1997) received the 2008 Young Alumni Award from Eureka College. He is a music teacher at Pontiac Township High School. Cheek and his wife established the Mackhayley Foundation in memory of their daughters, Mackenzie Rae and Hayley Grace, to benefit the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Children’s Hospital of Illinois and the obstetrics department at OSF Saint James — John W. Albrecht Medical Center, Pontiac. Since its inception two years ago, the foundation has raised more than $20,000.
Florida State (Zeta-Rho)
Michael A. Haggard (1992) was named a 2008 Super Lawyer and was noted as a top 100 finalist receiving the highest point totals in the nomination, research and blue ribbon review process. The rigorous selection process executes a system of balloting, peer recognition and internal research to select the most qualified candidates. Only 5 percent of the total lawyers in Florida are listed in Super Lawyers. He also was sworn in as president-elect of the Florida Justice Association.

Georgia (Nu)
A former chapter president, Raymond A. Elrod Sr. (1958) retired as mayor of Dalton, Georgia. He has spent the last 24 years, after a successful career as an entrepreneur, in public service.

John Rauch (1948) died June 10, 2008. Inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2004, he coached the Oakland Raiders in the second Super Bowl in 1967, and was later O.J. Simpson’s first coach in professional football with the Buffalo Bills. As an undergraduate, Rauch was spotted by the head coach of the Georgia Bulldogs playing flag football for Lambda Chi Alpha and was subsequently recruited onto the varsity team.

Georgia Tech (Beta-Kappa)
Chartered in 1942, the chapter has 85 undergraduate brothers and recently initiated its 1,800th member — Chip Burge (2011).

The chapter earned the fourth highest grades on campus among fraternities for the spring semester.

A retired business professor at Bluefield College in Virginia, Will Gordon (1951) had a scholarship established in his honor by one of his former students.

Gettysburg (Theta-Pi)
The chapter earned a cumulative 3.14 GPA for the 2007-2008 academic year, better than the all-Greek and all-student averages.

Hampden-Sydney (Kappa-Eta)
David P. Schneider (1965) died May 27, 2008. A general contractor for David P. Schneider Co., he was a former board member of the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society, and Gilda’s Club, and was a coach for the St. Matthew’s Little League Red’s Team and was well known as the “unofficial” Mayor of St. Matthew’s.

Illinois (Chi)
FOX has cast Jonathan Sadowski (Illinois 2001), who starred with Bruce Willis in “Live Free or Die Hard,” in the drama “Courtroom K.” He will play a public defender in “Courtroom K,” a drama from “House” executive producer and “Donnie Brasco” writer Paul Attanasio. Sadowski guest-starred on “House” earlier this season and has also appeared in “Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles” and “Chuck.” He was featured in the October 2007 Cross & Crescent.


Memphis (Zeta-Theta)
Joe Morgan (1950) died June 7, 2008. A charter member of the chapter and 1980 Order of Merit recipient, he was the chapter's first housing chairman and through the years was heavily involved in the acquisition and funding of several housing properties. Morgan served as a member of the Alumni Advisory Board, House Corporation treasurer, financial adviser, and as president and treasurer of the Mid-South Alumni Association. He assisted in the restructuring of the associate member program and had continually advised the chapter in various program areas. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean conflict.

Miami-OH (Zeta-Upsilon)
The colony earned a 3.18 cumulative GPA, placing third among all fraternities for the 2007-2008 academic year. This makes four straight semesters that the colony has ranked academically in the top four fraternities on campus.

Michigan State (Gamma-Omicron)

Millsaps (Theta-Eta)

Five brothers earned Phi Beta Kappa membership in 2008. They are Matthew Bonneau (2008), Bjorn Carlsson (2008), Joshua Downer (2008), Kyle Doherty (2008), Thomas Richardson (2008). Only 20 students gained entry into Phi Beta Kappa at Millsaps College this year. Because 10 of the new members are women, Lambda Chi Alpha claimed 50 percent of the men entering Phi Beta Kappa.

The chapter earned the 2007–2008 Chapter of Excellence Award.

Mississippi State (Epsilon-Chi)


Oregon State (Alpha-Lambda)


Penn State (Zeta)

The chapter earned a 3.42 GPA for the 2008 spring semester, the highest GPA among the 47 IFC fraternities and far above the IFC average of 3.04.

Pittsburgh (Gamma-Epsilon)

Josh Chapnick (2002) died June 18, 2008. He was a chef at the Seasons 52 restaurant and an assistant food and beverage manager at Morton’s Steakhouse in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Shippensburg (Phi-Tau)

Stephen E. “Frito” Forney (1984) died June 8, 2008. He was a professor at Kyungwoon University in Gumi, South Korea.

Southern California (Zeta-Delta)

On April 21, chapter brothers held Watermelon “BUST” (Brothers Uniting to Serve Together), a week of philanthropic and social events aimed at raising money and awareness for The Friendship Circle, which helps children with special needs. The events raised in excess of $50,000 and included more than 1,000 hours of volunteer work from the brothers. Members worked together to support the overall fundraising efforts.

The chapter completed new renovations to the chapter house, including the additions of the Hunter’s Study Lounge, new game rooms both in front and upstairs, and enhanced relations with alumni brothers and university officials, in addition to building strong connections with philanthropic causes.

The chapter has a new website (http://www.usclambdachi.com).

South Carolina (Epsilon-Psi)

On June 7, alumni and undergraduate brothers worked together to install exterior shutters for the entire house, apply pine straw, and perform extreme cleaning of the chapter house. In addition, the alumni provided funds for the purchase of additional dining room furniture, a milk dispensing machine, and a char-broiler for the food service operations. Mike Hartley (1981) donated the materials and labor to paint the upstairs hallway.

The alumni brothers included: Fred Askins, Sid Calvo, Steve Corso, Mike Gillespie, Fred Goebler, Cade Gibson, Mike Hartley, David Johnson, Rick Lebel, Ron Nestor, Price Reeves, and Jim Tothill. The undergraduate brothers included: Mike Corso, Chad Dial, Harrison Fink, Matt Fisher, Stuart Miller, Tim Pieper, Justin Shaw, Richard Velasquez, Zack White, and Austin Williams.

South Florida (Lambda-Mu)


Southeast Missouri State (Delta-Phi)

Neal E. Boyd (1998) is participating in NBC’s “America’s Got Talent.”
Tennessee-Chattanooga (Zeta-Phi)
Jeff Wilcox (2009) was elected student body president for the 2008–2009 school year.

Dr. Everette W. Ingram Jr. (1985) was selected as the Instructor of the Year for 2007 by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors. During each of the last three years, he has taught more students than any other instructor in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In 2007, Ingram also was honored by PADI as the winner of the Instructor of the Year for teaching the largest number of specialty courses for 2006.

Texas State-San Marcos (Lambda-Phi)
David Leija died February 24, 2008.

Washington (Alpha-Psi)
Paul C. Davis (1953) died.

William & Mary (Epsilon-Alpha)
Chartered in 1927, the chapter initiated its 1,400th brother.

The chapter held a senior dinner on April 23, at the Williamsburg Hospitality House. Four members of the chapter’s Alumni Advisory Board attended the dinner, along with Lambda Chi Alpha Director of Development Charlie DeMaio (Indiana State 1973). Fourteen graduating seniors were recognized for their outstanding contributions to Lambda Chi Alpha during their college careers. The dinner was chaired by chapter Vice President William Hammer (2009).

Two seniors were honored with Outstanding Senior Awards; Andrew James (2008) and John Ockerman. James has served the chapter as social chairman and finance chairman while Ockerman served as chapter vice president.

The chapter was awarded the Fraternity Cup Award, which is given annually to the fraternity with the best intramural sports program. Championship teams this year included softball, hockey, and outdoor soccer. Stars of the softball team include brothers Andy Speidell, Andrew James, and Hunter Kreger. Stars of the hockey team included brothers Kevin Fitzmartin and goalie John Ockerman, and stars of the outdoor soccer team included brothers James Zhang, John German, and Kem Alily.

Wisconsin-Whitewater (Lambda-Iota)
Matthew Nelson was called to active duty by the U.S. Army and will serve in Iraq beginning this summer. He will be doing paralegal work on an Air Force Base just a few miles north of Baghdad.

Worcester (Pi)
Sean Sears (2007) won the 2008 Bud Light/USA Rock Paper Scissors League Championship on June 22, in Las Vegas. He earned $50,000 and will now compete in the international championships in August at the Summer Olympics in Beijing, China.
Indiana’s New Head Football Coach

Previously an assistant coach, Bill Lynch was named Indiana University’s head football coach on June 15, 2007.

MAJ. GEN. R. MARTIN UMBARGER GREW UP on the south side of Indianapolis. Little did he know the impact that the minister of his church, who had been a minister in Evansville, Indiana, would have on his college selection.

While Umbarger (Evansville 1969) was busy being a varsity athlete in high school, his minister was sending updates to representatives at the University of Evansville.

“When I was a senior, he asked if I’d go make a visit,” Umbarger says. “I went down and made a visit and I just fell in love with it….I came back and they offered me a football scholarship. That’s really the reason why I went.”

Umbarger enjoyed Evansville, and liked that it was far enough, but not too far, from home.

During his freshman year, many other varsity athletes joined fraternities but Umbarger decided he wasn’t quite ready.

“I elected my freshman year not to pledge,” he says. “As each day went by as a freshman going to school, I began to see the Lambda Chi guys….I liked what I saw with the Lambda Chi guys….The clouds parted after my first year and I knew that if I wanted to be in a fraternity, I wanted to be a Lambda Chi.”

National Guard

After graduating from Evansville in 1969, Umbarger went back home where his father ran an agricultural business.

A World War I veteran, his father recommended that Umbarger visit the Indiana National Guard to see if he could enlist there instead of being drafted.

Even though there was a long waiting list, Umbarger’s college degree helped him to be placed in officer candidate school.

So Umbarger left for basic training as a private and then he went off to infantry officer candidate school, and became a platoon leader.

“At the time, I had no idea what that meant,” he says. “I was just a private serving my time, doing my part for my country.”

Originally signed for a six-year obligation, Umbarger has now been with the Indiana National Guard for 39 years — 35 of those as a citizen soldier or weekend warrior.

Working as a civilian at his father’s agricultural business, Umbarger had a few moments over his 39 years when he almost asked for a discharge and retired — only to have a mentor, someone he really respected, ask him to stay.

“I really felt like I was needed, felt like I was making a difference,” he says. “It was something that I enjoyed.”

For Umbarger, the National Guard is a military fraternity.

“Those men and women who wear the uniform…it’s just a special bond you have. When someone asks you to remain, and most of the time it was for another assignment, it was kind of a challenge,” he says. “I found it was a great compliment to my civilian job. You learn a lot of leadership traits.”

Since assuming his current role in 2004, Umbarger has had the responsibility for training, equipping, and the readiness of all the Army and Air Forces of the Indiana National Guard for wherever they are needed on the state or federal level.

He has been to Iraq four times and Afghanistan three times to visit the troops.

“I feel an obligation to go over and visit and see how they are doing,” he says. “To see how the training was that they had received. Do they have the proper equipment? So as we come home and we get ready to train those that are in the next rotation, we can tweak or alter training programs for them.”
Umbarger was appointed originally to his post by then Indiana Gov. Joseph E. Kernan. He was notified about the appointment during one of his visits to the Middle East.

“It was quite a shocker to me because I had always considered myself a traditional part-timer,” Umbarger says. “But my wife, my family, and I made a decision that maybe it was meant to be.”

After his first tenure in office, he was reappointed by current Indiana Gov. Mitchell E. Daniels Jr.

“So I’ve had an opportunity work with two very, very good men, very good governors,” he says.

**Family Business**

In addition to his National Guard duties, Umbarger and his family still maintain their family agricultural business.

Even though he has taken a leave of absence from the business, the previous years he worked there taught him some important lessons.

“My experiences working in agriculture and working in my own business helps with my military work — budgets, hiring people, promoting people, working with banks...It was also a good proving ground for me as I got higher up in the ranks of the national guard.”

Unlike the corporate world, initial leadership roles in the military can include being in charge of dozens of men.

“The military really puts you in leadership positions that it takes years in the civilian world where you would ever be a leader of that many people,” Umbarger says. “At an early age, it exposes you to an opportunity to lead people. The military is big on schooling, and giving you experience...and really the corporate world has copied many of the programs the military has instituted on how you develop leaders.”

**Job Details**

The adjunct general position is the appointed leader of the National Guard for each state and the commander and chief is the governor of each state.

“My responsibility is to assure that all the federal dollars that are sent into us to equip our soldiers and airmen is used properly,” Umbarger says. “The training is conducted. So when the nation needs them, and they call them off to war, then they are properly trained and equipped and they are able to do their job.”

Because of the huge demand for military personnel for the war on terrorism, Umbarger currently receives about 94 percent of his funding from federal money and 6 percent from state money.

The Indiana National Guard has 14,500 soldiers and airmen, which is the fourth largest army guard in the nation behind only Texas, California, and Pennsylvania.

**Lambda Chi Days**

Umbarger was recently selected as an Evansville distinguished alumnus and he had the opportunity to go back to Evansville and speak at the Founders Day banquet.

During his speech, he spoke about his undergraduate experiences at Evansville and he categorized them into three areas.

“The first was, I enjoyed the small college environment at the University of Evansville,” he says. “The second was playing football, athletics, and being able to do it at a school, which was very meaningful for me. But the last one, that really formed me into the guy I was, was my experience in the Fraternity. It just makes you look at life a little more broad, it polishes you.”

Umbarger stays in touch with several alumni brothers, including a core group of about 15 brothers in Indianapolis.

Those relationships are testament to how Lambda Chi Alpha is not for four years, it’s for life. In addition, Umbarger believes the Fraternity motto, Naught Without Labor, is a concept he believes in very strongly.

“In life, we’ve all learned that it’s not the good times...it’s not something that’s been handed to you on a platter that you remember,” he says. “It’s the tough times that you’ve worked so hard — the blood, sweat and tears — for something.”
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