

Memorial Day

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to HMLA-167 Cazal would deploy to Combat Operations in Iraq five times to Al Asad Air Base, Al-Taqaddum, Ar-Rutbah at Camp Korean Village, Sahl Sinjar Airfield in Ninawa province, and to Afghanistan at Kandahar Airfield, Kandahar Province, and Camp Bastion near Lashkargah in Helmand Province.

He received orders in December 2009 to Marines Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773 "Red Dogs" Detachment Bravo in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Here his experience and qualifications would be paramount in training the reserve component of the Marine Corps.

In June of 2011, HML-773 Det B would comply with the

Base Relocation and Consolidation Plan and move sites to its new home of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. Cazal moved with the unit as Quality Assurance and was instrumental and establishing a positive relationship between the multiple branches of the military who were aboard JBMDL.

May of 2013, his next set of orders received were to Camp Pendleton, California to receive advanced training for the H-1 Upgrades Program and would become qualified to work and train qualifications on the new AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom helicopters that would replace the legacy AH-1W Supercobra and UH-1N Huey.

In September 2013, after competing upgrades training Cazal received orders to Marine

Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469 "Vengeance" Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California. While stationed with HMLA-469, he would become safe-flight qualified in Maintenance Control and be responsible for all daily maintenance of 44 H-1 Aircraft. During his time with Vengeance, he would also become the Airframes Division Chief and supervise the professional development and well-being of over 120 Marines. He deployed overseas with HMLA-469 to Okinawa, Japan; Camp Casey, Dongducheon, South Korea; Camp Walker, Daegu, South Korea in support of the Unit Deployment Program.

In June of 2020, Cazal received his final orders prior to retirement to aid in the train-

ing of the reserve component at Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773 "Red Dogs" Detachment Alpha aboard Naval Air Station Belle Chasse in New Orleans, Louisiana.

He retired from the United States Marine Corps on August 31, 2022, with 20 years, 2 Months, and 12 Days of active-duty service. His personal awards are; Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal(4), Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (6), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Service Medal(1 Star), Iraq Campaign Medal(4 Stars), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon(8), Certificate of Commendation, Expert Rifle Badge(8), Expert Pistol Badge(5).

Upon returning to Arthur after retirement, he has been focused on making up the missed time with his wife and kids from a long and complicated career in the Marine Corps. His children have inspired him to take a role in the community by starting a charter of a national youth organization. James is currently working with various groups within the community and surrounding towns as well as other Young Marines units to establish the Arthur unit. The proposed name will be Kaskaskia Valley Young Marines.

Electricity

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made Ameren's regulated rate the better price for electricity.

That changed when the Village found market prices more competitive earlier this year. Homefield in February submitted the lowest of three bids to supply Arthur's electric aggregation program. In addition to the Village's lower electric rate, participants in Arthur's program do not pay purchased electric adjustment (PEA) costs that Ameren customers pay. Average PEA costs over the past nine months have added about 3.4 tenths of a cent to the kilowatt hour cost.

Homefield on Friday, May 26, will send a letter to each eligible Arthur homeowner and small business of the program, the new rate, terms and conditions, and the right to opt out at no cost. Those who wish to partici-

pate will be enrolled automatically and need to do nothing. Those who prefer not to participate can opt out by calling Homefield's customer care center at 866-694-1262, a toll-free number. Homefield's telephone system allows callers to request a callback to avoid lengthy hold times.

Ameren will also send a letter to each eligible participant to remind them of the new supplier and their right to opt out.

Homefield's supply costs will be included on Ameren's bill, which means residents who participate in the Village's program will still write only one check to Ameren for all electricity charges. Calls for conditions like flickering lights and power outages will continue to be handled by Ameren. Further information is available from Homefield by calling its toll-free number, 866-694-1262.

Town Talk

from page 2

five girls and one boy. They were great customers and a wonderful family. I know my mom and dad always enjoyed seeing them. While we were sad to learn of Ruben's passing we

also know he lived a wonderful life surrounded by that loving family. Ruben was a member of the Arthur High School class of 1952 and up until a few years ago they were faithful attendees at the annual alumni banquet. At the visitation we all enjoyed reminiscing about those days. They remembered my mom and dad (Bud and Phyllis Stock) with the same fondness I always had for Ruben and Ada. And while it was sad to be there all of us enjoyed the memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ada and all the 'kids.'

WE LIVE IN A GREAT PLACE

Ok, I know I'm a real cheerleader for Arthur but it's so true. Ran uptown last Saturday to pick up flowers from the Arthur Flower Shop and downtown was buzzing. It was a beautiful day and garage sales were going on so that contributed to it. But we are very fortunate to have a thriving downtown and being a place that people want to not only come to once but time and time again. As a volunteer at the Welcome Center I see and hear that all the time. By the way, as a reminder you can see and hear that too if you contact Angie at the Welcome Center and offer to volunteer a few days a week. It's not only fun but interesting. We have a lot going on and it is great to share that with people from all over the world. Give her a call at 217-543-2242!

And that's -30- for the Class of 2023!



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