



# "Sound Off"

Website = <http://armm.us>

Vol 17, No 1

The Association of Retired Military Musicians

March 2008



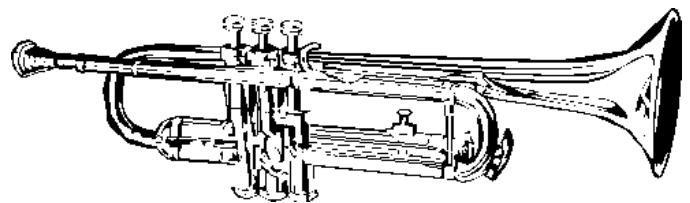
## **Happy Easter Eggs to All!**

Plans are at full speed ahead for the 2008 ARMM in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. The dates are 11 through 14 September 2008. I have contacted the 129th Tennessee Army National Guard Band for concert band and combo support and they are locked in. I am planning on contacting a local keyboard player to assist us with the jam session on Friday night unless a member steps up. I am still exploring the possibilities of a wine tasting event and a trip to a casino if enough people are interested. There are also about five golf courses in the immediate vicinity and Fort Campbell is about 15 minutes down the road.

We will be at the Holiday Inn this year. Randy Barlow, who was the manager at the Quality Inn, is now the manager at the Holiday, is looking forward to hosting us for the fourth time. The Holiday Inn has a full service restaurant and a buffet in the afternoon.

They also have a lounge and have entertainment on Friday and Saturday night. The room rates will be \$69.00 plus tax per night. We will have a minimum of 50 rooms reserved for us. Please start calling and making your reservations as soon as you get this newsletter. The phone number is 270-886-4413. Tell them the dates and that you are with the Association Of Retired Military Musicians. You can also go on line at [www.holiday-inn.com/hopkinsville](http://www.holiday-inn.com/hopkinsville) and make your reservations. If you have any problems ask to be put through to Randy Barlow or Beverly McIntosh. There should be no problems getting a room but the sooner you make your reservations the better off you will be. There are several floors at the hotel so there will not be a poolside setting although there is a swimming pool.

The cost for the reunion will be \$50.00 per person. Please make your checks out to me, Mike Noland, instead of ARMM. I will have a different bank account for the reunion and I do not want to get reunion money mixed with our treasury. Please start sending me your reunion money as soon as you get this newsletter. Also include a note stating what type of beverage you would like to have as well if you would be interested in a casino trip. I will also be open to suggestions as what other activities you would like.



**Mike Noland  
Entertainment Chairman  
2008 ARMM Reunion**

# Happy Easter!



## POINT OF CONTACT:

Randy Barlow or Beverly McIntosh

## LOCATION:

Holiday Inn Hopkinsville  
2910 Ft. Campbell Blvd.  
Hopkinsville, KY 42240  
(270) 886-4413  
(800) 465-4329

## DATES:

Thursday, 11 September 2008 through  
Sunday, 14 September 2008

## WEBSITE:

[Holiday Inn Hopkinsville](#)

You can email me at:

[waldhorn4@bellsouth.net](mailto:waldhorn4@bellsouth.net)

I'll send updated information on the agenda  
as it becomes available.

**Mike Noland**  
**Entertainment Chairperson**

## 2008 ARMM OFFICERS

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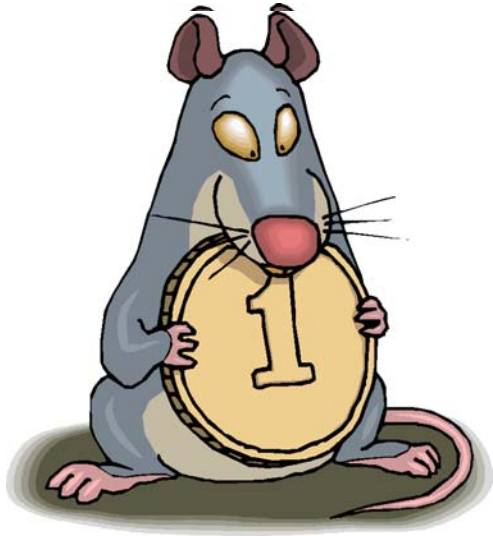
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Columbia, SC 29229  
(803) 736-6908

### CHAPLAIN

Bonnie Versoza  
7423 Trailing Rock Rd  
Prince George, VA 23875  
(804) 453-2717





a couple of weeks and Kay will spend her Spring Break in Texas helping to spoil him.

Have a great summer and see you in September.

**Dave Ratliff**  
**ARMM President**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### From the Head Rat

#### **HAPPY EASTER**

I hope your 2008 has been wonderful (so far) and Mother Nature has been kind. I have talked with Mike Noland on several occasions and this year's reunion is coming together quickly. It sounds like the new hotel will be very accommodating to our needs. If you haven't made your reservation and paid your hospitality fee, time is slipping away.

Location, Location, Location – we have all heard this phrase when it comes to a home or business. It is no different for ARMM – we need a location for the 2009 reunion. I have contacted Stan Cornett to see if he would be willing to host the reunion next year. He has not made a commitment due to some possible major changes at the School of Music in 2009.

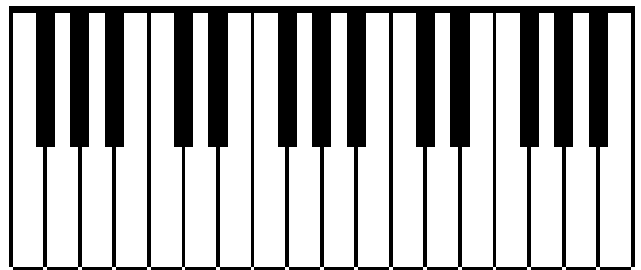
There is a possibility that the School might be moving to another location. As we get nearer to this year's reunion, I hope Stan can make a proposal. He did a magnificent job last year.

Kay and I have been blessed with another grandson. David Ashton Fischer was born on February 16, 2008 in Ft Worth, TX. Everyone is doing well – Steffi and David went home on February 17! I am headed to Texas in March for

At present the balance is \$6546.54.

Below is a proposed new polo shirt design for ARMM. I need to know how many members would like to get this new design and your sizes. Please call, write or email with your questions and orders.

**Mike Noland**  
**Treasurer**



# Pick Up The Pace

## ARMY BANDS UPDATE

CW5 JEANNE PACE  
ARMY BANDS PROPONENCY OFFICER  
FT JACKSON, SC

We are preparing for the Army Band Leader Training (ABLT) which will be held April 10-12 in Williamsburg, VA. There was a change in location a few weeks ago due to a lack of facilities to support the event on Little Creek. Needless to say MAJ Keene (Commandant of ASOM) and his staff have been working diligently on coordinating the change.

The other significant news relating to the Army School of Music is that notice has been given to the Navy that the Army plans to deconsolidate training. Additionally, the Army intends to relocate the ASOM to an Army installation.

As you can imagine, there is lot to be done for this to happen by 2011, as is currently the plan. In addition to dealing with issues associated with that, MAJ Keene and the staff at DOTD, under the supervision of Stan Cornett (yep, the one that was previously a 42C, Band Officer!), are revising all of the courses at the ASOM. One major change is that USAR and ARNG training will be fully integrated at all levels. This is a far cry from the "OJT with a band for 2 weeks" that the Soldiers used to get! The other significant change is integrated training of the 42C Band Officers and 420C Band Warrant Officers (all COMPOS).

We continue to hear great things about deployed bands. Currently 1st AD (Germany), 3rd ID (Fort Stewart) and 4th ID (Fort Hood) are deployed to Iraq and 82nd (Fort Bragg) is getting ready to hand off responsibilities in Afghanistan to the 101st (Fort Campbell) (see story below).

One important note – anyone who has the opportunity to help us recruit, please do so. We are faced with some extreme challenges and need to work recruiting more than ever. Between now and 2011, Army Bands will convert to the modular structure. That will mean that we need almost double the number of guitar and



electric bass players, and piano players are always short.

In addition to the new structure, we are challenged, for the next few years, by the change in timelines of the BRAC and Army restationing initiatives. The personnel that were to be re-distributed, as a result of these initiatives, to fill the new modular band structure are not moving. It wouldn't be so bad, but like we always say, "the only thing consistent in the Army is change". It couldn't be any more true – the dates continue to change. Just as we get a plan together to address the manning issues, they change again, and we go back to the drawing board. It is a bit mind boggling. I work with it on a daily basis and am challenged to sort it all !

The other thing you can count on is that bands continue to do absolutely amazing things regardless of the circumstances. Musicians continue to go above and beyond to accomplish the mission. They are creative and adapt to the situation. Sometimes individual pride and grit are what carries them to success. You can be very proud of the Soldier/Musicians of today's Army; they are being challenged to the greatest degree since the implementation of the all volunteer Army. The following excerpts help tell the story:

### 3rd Infantry Division Band-

On Dec. 12, 'The Surge' bandmembers ventured off their large home base at Camp Victory to come to the smaller outpost at Forward Operating Base Kalsu to better interact with Soldiers who regularly patrol the Arab Jabour and Hawr Rajab areas. The quintet, consisting of vocalist Sgt. Holli Davis, drummer Spc. Aaron Rademaker, lead guitarist Spc. Theodore Dipietro, rhythm guitarist and the noncommissioned officer in charge Sgt. Joshua Gardner, and bassist Sgt. Benjamin Smith, played for a little more than an hour to diners at Rocky's, the FOB Kalsu dining facility.

The variety of music the band plays is one of the reasons behind the its appeal. To best satisfy their audience, the band takes requests from audience members, said Smith, a native of Geneva, Ill. Any requested song unknown by the band is rehearsed between gigs and added to the bands repertoire.

Even more amazing for the band, which travels around Iraq performing roughly 15 shows a month at outposts manned by 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers, is that with the exception of Smith, none of the Soldiers holds the band member military occupation specialty, 42R. Instead, the Soldiers come from a variety of jobs and were chosen for the role after auditioning for the part.

"One of the most rewarding experiences about playing is seeing the audience unite in "hoots and hollers" as the band plays, Gardner said. For Soldiers at Kalsu, the experience did just that. As songs played, feet tapped, heads bobbed and when songs stopped hands began to clap. Goodro, whose family resides at Fort Stewart, said Soldiers can get a little something positive. "It is a little touch of home; familiarity. Lemos agreed, adding that Soldiers can get lost in the music and forget about where they are and the troubles they may experience.

### 82nd Airborne Division Band-

Once again the British Command of RC(S) invited the 5 Knot Winds to perform on Kandahar Airfield. In fact, the ensemble was personally requested by British Major General Jacko Page. The ensemble thought that the holiday caroling mission was the last but instead

it was very fitting to also bring in the New Year for a British hosted dinner.

Seventeen Generals, Ambassadors and other high ranking officers from different coalition countries were present. The Afghan General who was present had to be reminded not to dance while the band played. Afghans bring their entire entourage and family when invited to an event and yes, they certainly do dance.



Despite the venue and a repertoire consisting mostly of classical dinner music, MSG Helms contained himself and did not dance either. He did chuckle a few times when the group started growing tired and had to start repeating music and performing solos. Overall, the performance lasted three hours. The ensemble did a countdown to the New Year while eating midnight chow in the dining facility.

Happy New Year!

### 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) "Screaming Eagle" Band-

The "All American" Band once again served with great honor and distinction while supporting coalition forces throughout the Afghan Theater for the past 15 months using the Music Support Teams (MST's). The "All American" Band was able to project MST's throughout theater. They were able to support every type and size of musical mission imaginable while simultaneously performing other duties inherent to Soldiering in a combat zone.

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

The "Screaming Eagle" Band's advance party has been on the ground for a few weeks. With the assistance of the Warrior-Musicians of the "All American" Band the "Screaming Eagle" Band's advance party has paved the way for the band's main body to arrive in theater ready to start its mission. After arriving in theater the "Screaming Eagle" Band will embark on its next "Rendezvous with Destiny." This will consist of building upon the success of the "All American" Band by employing multiple MST's throughout the Afghan Theater and continuing to mentor the ANA Band.

## 296th Army Band (USARJ Band)-

Original Text from 27 July 2007 Sankei Shinbun, a Japanese newspaper. Translation by Camp Zama HNRO:

To encourage the victims of the Niigata Prefecture Chuetsu Offshore Earthquake, the U.S. Army Japan Band, stationed at Camp Zama, performed at Tajiri Elementary School in Kashiwazaki City. When 30 band members started the concert, the elderly and children clapped to the beat together. The audience was excited and the band played two encores. Miu Tanaka, 6, a first-grader of the school, said, "The music was good and very powerful. My piano was broken because of the earthquake, but I feel uplifted."

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CONGRATS to CSM Camarda, the first centrally selected CSM for the band program. He will be taking the reins of the NCO Academy at ASOM from SGM Joyner who is retiring. The change of responsibility will take place during ABLT.



Received from Lou Hurvitz in the middle of January:

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Mike,  
I'm sure you've heard of CW4 Harstad's passing. Here's the notice from the Coeur d'Alene Press.  
- Lou Hurvitz  
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Story:

Adolph Lund "Duff" Harstad, 91, of Coeur d'Alene, died on Jan. 3, 2008. He was born June 3, 1916, to George and Stella Lund Harstad in Willmar, Minn. He received a BA from Luther College in 1937, an MA from Montana State College in 1952, and a JD from Gonzaga University in 1983. Duff married Isabelle Eleanor Jeffers, whom he met while teaching English in Ennis, Mont., in August 1942.

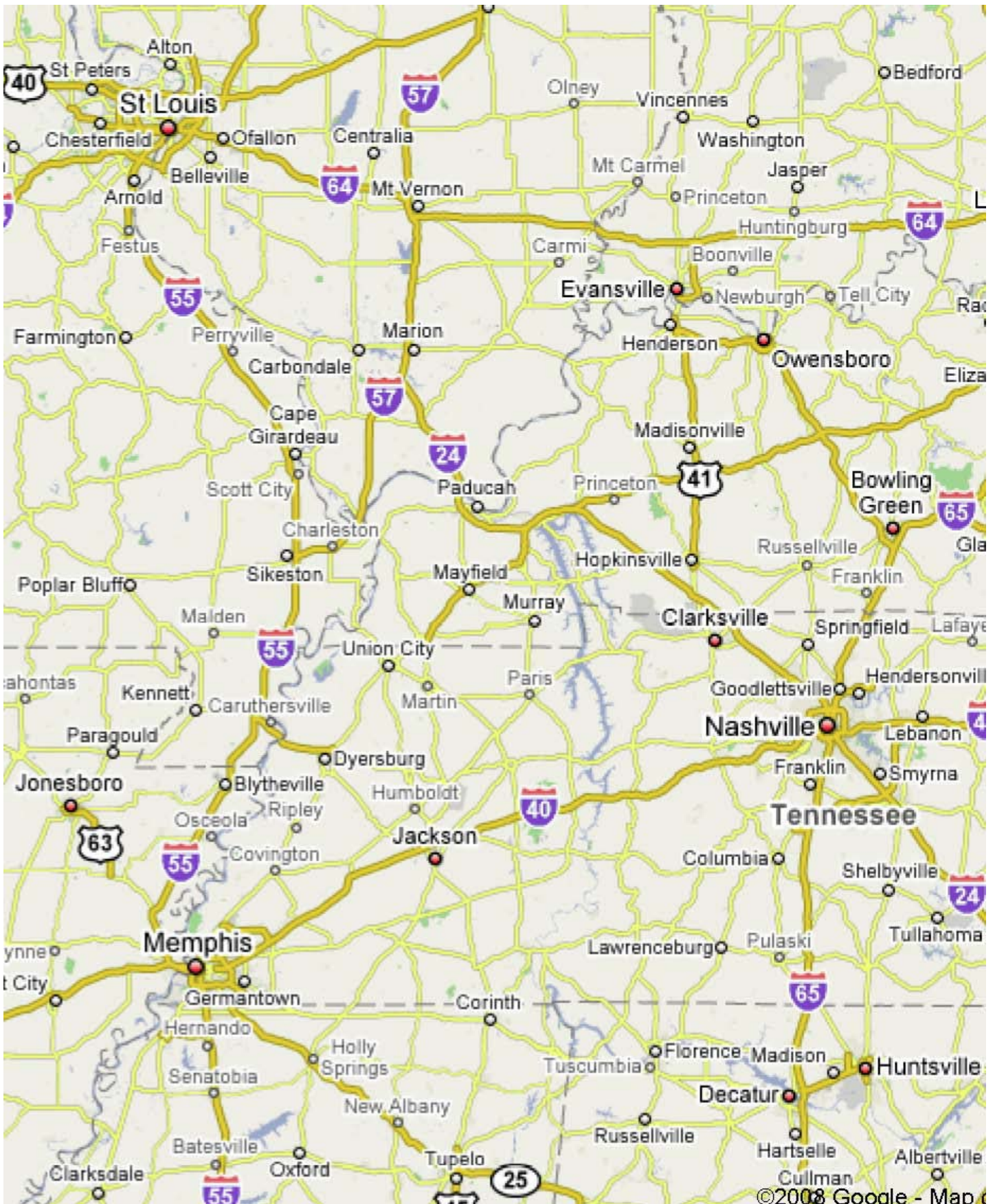
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Also in from Mike Noland:

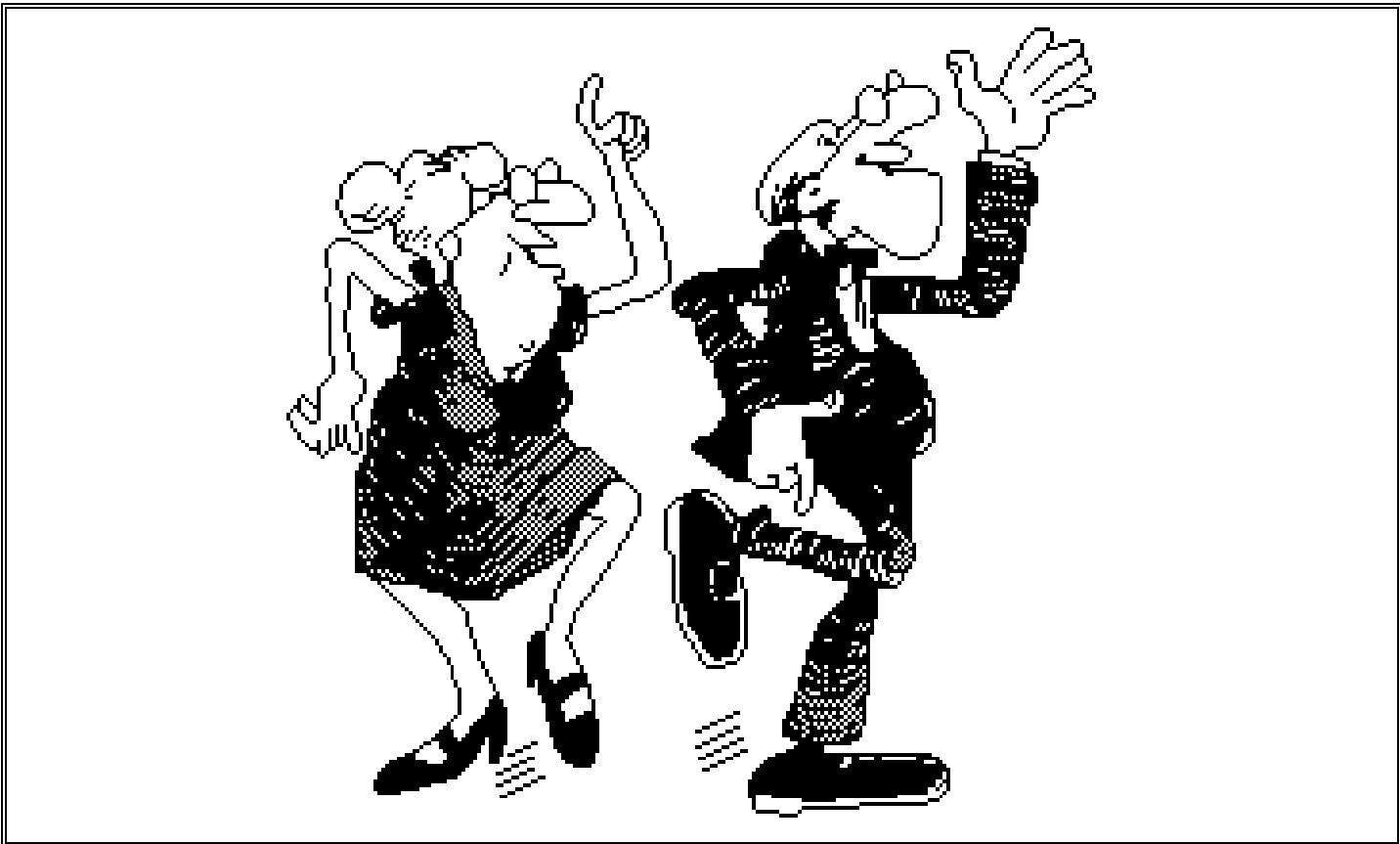
Douglas Curlee, 68, Lillian, Ala., formerly of Hopkinsville, died Monday, March 3, 2008, at his home of natural causes. Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Hughart and Beard Funeral Home, Hopkinsville. Burial will be in Green Hill Memorial Gardens.



**Mike Mideiros  
ARMM Secretary**

Just North of Clarksville, across the stateline to Hopkinsville, Kentucky.





ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED MILITARY MUSICIANS

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