

D-Day Vets Weather Distance and Time

The last time retired Local 307, Cumberland, Maryland, electrician Floyd Wigfield saw Dawson Carter was in June 1944, when the two young U.S. soldiers were storming the Normandy beaches as members of the U.S. Army's 4th Division, 22nd Infantry Regiment, during the D-Day invasion. Nearly 60 years later, the two former platoon buddies reunited and learned that they have been living in the same county for 35 years.

Prior to January 1999, they had no knowledge of each other's existence in the farming community of Allegany County, Maryland. Carter, a native of Delaware, moved to North Carolina after the war and later received a job transfer to Cumberland. Wigfield lives nearby in Baltimore Pike. He had retired in 1981 after more than 30 years as a journeyman electrician and foreman with Local 307. A local newspaper article enabled the men to rekindle a friendship linked by a war in which they fought more than half a century ago.

The local *Cumberland Times-Dispatch* newspaper ran a story in January about Wigfield's attempts to replace two prized war decorations—his Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) and his D-Day campaign medal that had been lost. Carter read the story and realized that this was the same guy who was with him that day when a U.S. Navy landing craft transported their Army unit within yards of the beaches as murderous German fire rained down on them. As the unit marched towards Cherberge, France, on June 15, 1944, Wigfield, who was 25 at the time, was



Floyd Wigfield, during World War II.

wounded by shrapnel. Carter, then 22, was wounded five days later when the unit reached its destination. Both men were placed on separate hospital ships and eventually transported back to the States.

When they reunited this year, both Wigfield and Carter were retired, and living with the memories of their contribution to one of the most important military operations in history.

Carter recalled being injured by an artillery shell and staggering down a road to a medical staging area for treatment. Wigfield talked about the costliest part of the D-Day

invasion—the 172 soldiers from his unit and hundreds of other Allied troops who were killed or wounded trying to stave off a German onslaught. “So many people got killed that we didn’t know the other was still living,” Wigfield said.

According to Wigfield, he had been trying without success to locate other members of the unit who survived the D-Day landing. He recalls that his chance reunion with Carter had more to do with his search for the lost medals than anything else. ■

Omitted Kudos

When trying to emphasize the importance of teamwork, I sometimes try to summarize many thoughts into a few words. We all must remember, particularly those of us whose responsibility it is not to forget, that the whole is made up of the parts. In my column in the April edition of the *Journal*, I used the word “we” to cover the accomplishments of Local 1245 under our collective banner. I failed to mention that it was real brothers and sisters out there who actually did the work in which we all take so much pride. So, hats off to the leadership and members of Local 1245 for their heroic effort at Pacific Gas and Electric. Please don’t let a slip of the pen discourage you from continuing the good work that sets the IBEW apart from the rest.

Ed Hill

International Secretary-Treasurer

School-to-Work IBEW Style

The IBEW was awarded a \$360,000-plus grant by the U.S. Department of Labor to develop a blueprint guide of an exemplary School-to-Work (STW) program currently underway at Bell Atlantic in New England through System Council T-6.

“The signature piece of the IBEW/Bell Atlantic STW work-based learning initiative is a paid summer internship for high school students at various unionized Bell Atlantic work sites,” said IBEW Local 2320, Manchester, New Hampshire, STW Project Coordinator Linda Horan.

The 10-week internship gives students an introduction to technical and craft jobs within the telecommunication industry. Each intern learns about labor history and labor-management relations and becomes a union member. IBEW members who are front-line workers serve as on-site mentors.

“The IBEW and Bell Atlantic plan to test their model in approximately 10 different locations, involving a different local in each location,” said Horan. When the blueprint guide is completed, it will be distributed to interested IBEW locals. ■

Local 1522 Member Featured In PBS Special

Teresa Phoenix-Williams is a member of Local 1522, Allentown, Pennsylvania, who has a full-time job with Lucent Technologies in Allentown, is a single mother of four children and is pursuing an MBA in business management. She is also one of several people featured on the *Night Shift* episode of the acclaimed Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) series *Livelihood*.



Teresa Phoenix-Williams is one of several people featured by PBS's *Livelihood*.

The show, which airs on Friday, June 30 at 9 p.m., takes an intriguing look into the lives of ordinary working people in ten different cities who make up a fraction of the American work force on the night shifts.

It is hard to tell when Sister Phoenix-Williams' day begins and ends. During the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift at Lucent, the PBS cameras captured her at work as a utility operator inside the photo research section of the plant's cleanroom. She inspected integrated circuits for defects, managed the unit's photo lithographic developing station, analyzed optical components and trained new employees in the art of high-tech inspections. The PBS crew also filmed Phoenix-Williams logging information into a computer and sweating it out in Lucent's exercise facility during breaks.

As her night shift co-workers end their shift and head for home eight hours later, Phoenix-Williams rushes home to pick up her two youngest children and chauffeur them to school. She then grabs about two hours of sleep at home before picking up her children from school and spending time with them before heading off to bed for more sleep prior to joining the Lucent night shift crew. "I average about four hours of sleep a day," she said. "Sleep for me is a luxury." Three of her children, ages 12, 15 and 17, will also be featured on the episode. She has a 19-year-old daughter who is currently enrolled at Hampton University in Virginia.

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T R A N S I T I O N S

The IBEW is saddened to report the death of retired Seventh District International Representative Arthur Ray Johnson on April 12, 2000.

Brother Johnson was a dedicated and skillful trade unionist. He was appointed an International Representative and assigned to the Seventh District staff in 1957 and retired from there in 1973.

Initiated into Local 527, Galveston, Texas, in 1940, Brother Johnson moved his card to Local 976, Pryor, Oklahoma. On the local level, he has been a president, business manager-financial secretary, and member of the Executive

DECEASED



**Arthur R.
Johnson**

Board. Brother Johnson was very active in the labor movement. At one time, he was vice president, Texas Federation of Labor; vice president, State Association of Electrical Workers; president, Longview Texas Central Labor Council; and secretary-business manager, Longview and Marshall Texas Building Trades Council.

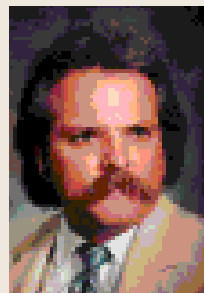
Brother Johnson was born in Celina, Texas, on August 22, 1908. In addition to his union affiliation, he was a Mason, a member of the Scottish-Rite Body, and a Shriner.

The IBEW extends condolences to his family and friends. ■

The IBEW is saddened to announce the death of Seventh District International Representative Jerry Martin Tracy on April 21, 2000. Brother Tracy was appointed as an International Representative on June 1, 1989, and served with dedication in that position until his death.

Prior to his assignment to the Seventh District staff, he served as business manager/financial secretary of Local 640, Phoenix, Arizona, from July 1984 through May 1989. He was initiated into Local 640

DECEASED



**Jerry M.
Tracy**

on July 16, 1962, and over the years also served on numerous local union committees, including the negotiating, community services, steering and organizing committees. He also served as president of the Arizona State Association of Electrical Workers.

Brother Tracy was born in Phoenix on February 1, 1943, and served the Brotherhood for 37-plus years as a third-generation member. Both his father and his grandfather were IBEW members.

The IBEW extends sincere sympathy to his family. ■

Local 47 Accuses Office Depot of Discrimination

Office Depot may pledge “superior service” to its customers, but IBEW Local 47, Diamond Bar, California, recently discovered that the promise doesn’t apply if the customer happens to be a union office.

Local 47 and the California Labor Federation (CLF) recently filed a lawsuit against the retail office supply store chain, accusing it of discriminatory, anti-union practices in its delivery services. It seems that an Office Depot corporate policy forbids its drivers from making deliveries to union offices out of fear that union staff may inform drivers of their legal

rights to and benefits of joining a union.

Last January Local 47 Business Manager Patrick Lavin attempted to order \$3,000 worth of office furniture through Office Depot’s toll-free order desk. A company supervisor called Brother Lavin and told him that a problem with the initial order would force a delay in the delivery. When another day passed and still no order, Brother Lavin called the company to inquire about the order and a customer-service manager promptly explained to him that comments logged in their computers indicated that Office Depot could not deliver to union offices.

In a letter to Office Depot CEO David Fuente, Brother Lavin blasted the company’s anti-union position and its policy of using a carrier instead to make deliveries to union offices. He said that all

members affiliated with unions would be asked not to patronize Office Depot and to purchase their office supplies elsewhere. Fuente stood behind the company policy in a reply to Local 47.

Douglas M. Chappell, Local 441, Santa Ana, California, business manager and president of the Orange County Central Labor Council, pledged in a letter to Fuente that “Office Depot will remain on our Boycott List as long as you maintain the policy of not delivering your products to Union offices.”

According to Glenn Rothner, the attorney representing Local 47 and the CLF, membership in a union qualifies as a creed and “Office Depot’s alleged policy clearly violates the prohibition against refusing to trade with anyone based upon creed.”

Member Featured in PBS Special

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Phoenix-Williams juggles her regular duties along with a human resource management class offered by Cedar Crest College in Allentown that meets at Lucent’s 24-hour education center from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. each Tuesday. The course is being offered free of charge through IBEW’s Enhanced Training Opportunity Program (ETOP) for employees who want to further their education. Once she completes the course next year, Phoenix-Williams plans to enter the MBA program at nearby Allentown College with her sights set on management. “From there, I want to move on to a management position within Lucent.”

She learned about the *Night Shift* episode from the president of Local 1560, also in Allentown, who just happens to be a classmate of hers. “The producers were looking for someone who works the night shift while juggling family and school com-

mitments. I realized they were talking about me so I volunteered.” The crew spent roughly 13 hours filming Phoenix-Williams as she made the rounds at work, interacted with her children at home and pored over class assignments. “We became friends during the time we spent together,” she said. As a result of her experience, Phoenix-Williams was asked to be one of several national spokespersons for PBS.

A 1981 graduate of Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, she was initially hired by Lucent in 1984, but was one of 900 employees who were laid off a year later. She spent the ensuing years dabbling in real estate and working at some form of business management. Phoenix-Williams returned to Lucent last year when the company contacted her and other former employees and asked if they were interested in being rehired.

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WORKS
BEST WHEN
WE SAY...**

