



THE AUDIE MURPHY NATIONAL FAN CLUB  
AUDIE MURPHY - HONORARY PRESIDENT



HONORARY MEMBERS

BILLIE MURPHY - MARIETTA, TX  
NADENE MURPHY - PRINCETON, TX  
JUNE MURPHY - FLOYDADA, TX  
EUGENE MURPHY - JACKSONVILLE, TX

CLUB OFFICIALS

STAN SMITH - EDITOR  
SUE GOSSETT - ASSISTANT EDITOR

Volume 3, No. 1 - January 26, 1997

Dear members,

Welcome to our third successful year of operation. As mentioned numerous times, we encourage and appreciate member participation in the articles, feedback, and suggestions. I trust that all of you enjoyed the October, 1996 issue as it was as fully packed as is this issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WISCONSIN LEGIONNAIRES SUPPORT STAMP DRIVE**

By club member Don Meyer, Oak Creek Wisconsin

It all began with a letter from Diane Thomason of Quinlan, Texas. Her letter stated "During the Hunt County Fair in Greenville, Texas we were able to gather 1,422 signatures on our Murphy stamp petition drive. Also, Feller Goff, who served with Audie, sent us 792 signatures. Many others are coming in from all over the United States."

Diane and husband James are members of the Otho Morgan Post # 17 of the American Legion in Greenville and are coordinating a petition drive to the U.S. Postal Service to have a 1st class commemorative stamp issued for Audie Murphy. The city of Greenville lays claim as the hometown of Audie, though Farmersville offers a friendly challenge to that proclamation.

Upon receipt of the letter, which had asked for our help here in Oak Creek, Wisconsin we were delighted and accepted the challenge. Back in 1994 we mailed several hundred signatures to the Postal Service in hope of placing Major Murphy on a stamp for the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. That effort ended unsuccessfully.

This time we placed a request for a stamp with our American Legion Post # 434 here in Oak Creek. They were very receptive and presented a resolution at our state Legion convention. It was accepted warmly and sent to our national headquarters in Indianapolis where it became resolution # 260. With the full support of the national headquarters of the American Legion our efforts for the stamp should be greatly enhanced.

Those of you who are stamp collectors will recall the MIA/POW stamp issued in 1995. It originated right here at our Oelschlager-Dallmann Post # 434 in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and was strongly supported by our local recipient of the Medal of Honor, Gary Wetzel, who received the award for his gallant action in Vietnam. (This action cost him his arm)

So far we have over 1,000 signatures with more coming in. Also, a local newspaper chain has printed a nice story and tribute to Audie Murphy in 15 different newspapers in the suburban areas surrounding the city of Milwaukee. Their paid subscribers' number nearly 50,000 plus they sell in many supermarkets and libraries throughout the metropolitan area of over one million people. With our urging we were able to get the story out in time for Veterans Day and it has been very well received throughout the community.

Also because of the publicity, we were contacted by two veterans of WWII who served in Audie's unit and both of these gentlemen witnessed the action that earned Murphy the Congressional Medal of Honor. One of the men was in Audie's squad and was himself badly wounded the very next day. Both men call him an extremely brave and gallant soldier who was well liked by his men. Their names and addressees will be sent to the Audie Murphy Research Foundation headed by Audie's son Terry Murphy.

As of this writing, the Greenville Legion Post has mailed over 6,000 signatures to the Postmaster General in Washington with more on the way. If anyone wishes to help please contact:

James and Diane Thomason  
C/o American Legion Post # 17  
Post Office Box 717  
Greenville, Texas 75401  
Phone: (903) 455-1717 or (903) 883-2211

\*\*\*\*\*

On May 30, 1996, House of Representatives, Ralph M. Hall of Texas introduced into the Congressional Record statements recognizing the 25th anniversary of the death of Audie Murphy, as the "most decorated soldier of World War II." Two of Audie's poems were included.

\*\*\*\*\*

**UP DATE:** On September 3-5, the Seventy-eighth National Convention of The American Legion, in Salt Lake City, Utah introduced Resolution No. 260 recommending that the United States of America issue a postage stamp honoring the late Audie L. Murphy.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ADDITIONAL MEMORABILIA SOURCES

*The following sources were kindly provided by various club members. Their listing here is by no means an endorsement as to your satisfaction etc. by the editorial staff. As always, in doing business "Buyer Beware". None the less, I do hope they are beneficial and productive.*

**Hollywood Movie Archives**  
Post Office Box 1566  
Apple Valley, California 92307  
Attention: Dorothy Denny  
800-596-2350  
**MOVIE STILLS + MAGAZINES**

**Anna Labbate**  
63 Oxholm Avenue  
Staten Island, New York 10301  
(Letter inquiries only)  
**MAGAZINES**

**Cinemond Nashville**  
138 2nd Avenue North, Suite 106  
Nashville, Tennessee 37201  
(615) 742-3048  
**PHOTOS**

**Ronnie DenBow**  
3942 Mississippi Avenue  
Cahokia, Illinois 62206  
(618) 337-5600  
**"SOME FILMS"**

**Films From The Northland**  
4195 Hodgson Road  
Shoreview, Minnesota 55126  
Attention: Carl Hoglund  
(612) 482-1488  
**POSTERS, LOBBY CARDS, FILMS**

**Jim Zicopula**  
166 Woodridge Lane  
Lino Lakes, Minnesota 55014  
(612) 297-4603 7AM - 3:30PM CT  
(612) 483-9809 4PM - 10PM CT  
**MOVIE POSTERS**

**The Collectors Source**  
Sharpeco Distributors  
Post Office Box 522  
Kodak, Tennessee 37764  
(615) 933-9387  
**MOVIES, PHOTOS, COLLECTIBLES**

**LeMay Company**  
Post Office Box 480879  
Los Angeles, California 90048  
(213) 935-4053  
**POSTERS**

**Buck Walton**  
Coffeyville Community College  
11th & Willow  
Coffeyville, Kansas 67337  
(316) 251-5728 (Home)  
**MAGAZINES**

**Kauffman's Nostalgia**  
112 Church Street  
Lakeland, Georgia 31635  
(912) 482-3915  
**MOVIE POSTERS, AUTOGRAPHED  
PHOTOS, OLD COMIC BOOKS**

Hollywood Collectibles  
Post Office Box 4035  
Sedona, Arizona 86339  
Attention: Phyllis Givens  
(520) 204-1965  
POSTERS, STILLS, MAGAZINES

Video To Go  
300 North Clippert #18  
Lansing, Michigan 48912  
Attention: Van Fox  
(517) 351-2255  
TO HELL & BACK  
THE UNFORGIVEN  
THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE

Collector's Choice Television Audio  
Post Office Box 88  
Albertson, New York 11507  
(516) 741-4333  
Attention: Phil Grice  
AUDIO TAPE ONLY of March 4, 1964  
Conrad Naegel's "TELL US MORE"  
(Career profile of Audie)

Critics' Choice Video  
Post Office Box 749  
Itasca, Illinois 60143-0749  
800-367-7765  
TO HELL & BACK  
THE UNFORGIVEN  
THE TEXICAN

\*\*\*\*\*

**A & E FOLLOW UP:** As all of you should know, on July 1st of last year, Audie was featured on their Biography Series. According to David Walmsley, Director of Home Videos for A & E, the Audie Murphy tape is one of their top 10 sellers, certainly exceeding their expectations. This story should have been aired years ago. Better late than never.

\*\*\*\*\*

***RECOLLECTIONS OF AUDIE BY JACK ELAM***

“Over the years I got to know Audie quite well. I’m proud to call him a personal friend. He was a very private person and I will say nothing to impose on that privacy.”

“Audie and I had a relationship that extended several months before either of us were actors. He was under contract to James Cagney’s Company for actor training and preparing. At that time I was controller for Hopalong Cassidy Productions. We were at the same studio (General Services) and both had a taste for the ponies. Since we used the same bookie about a block from the studio we ran into each other regularly and established a very friendly Racing Form relationship. Little did we know that years later we would be working together before the camera.”

“Audie Murphy was a ‘class act’! Congratulations to his fan club!” (Source) personal letter Signed and dated September 25, 1996

\*\*\*\*\*

**UP DATE - THE HAROLD SIMPSON CONFEDERATE RESEARCH CENTER:**

I have been advised by Dr. Patterson, Director that they are moving forward on the expansion of the Research Center. Hopefully by next fall, they will occupy the entire building they are presently in. It will require more time than that to remodel it, but they will have five times the space they currently have. He continues to say that, "We plan to have a large area for our Civil War and Audie Murphy archival material." Their architect is working on the plans and the center is busy raising the 1.5 million needed for completion. (Source: letter from Dr. Patterson dated September 16, 1996)

\*\*\*\*\*

Reference is made to our July, 1996 newsletter (Volume 2, No. 3, page 3) I regret to advise you that the massive biographical work by Colonel Harold Simpson "Audie Murphy - American Soldier" is now out of print and no longer available. It is doubtful that it will be reprinted. I hope that those members, who had the opportunity in July, purchased their copy of this valuable and informative book.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SPEECH GIVEN AUDIE MURPHY DAY June 20, 1996 GREENVILLE, TEXAS BY  
AUDIE'S FRIEND, CLYDE E. EASTER**

I wish to speak to you on this great occasion, June 20th. 1996; which has been proclaimed "Audie Murphy Day", as an American combat veteran of the Third Infantry Division of World War II. We are gathered here to honor a great American Hero: Audie Murphy. I will endeavor to speak those things that I believe Audie would say to you if he was with us today.

Audie Murphy came from my time, from my America. When Pearl Harbor was attacked and we were plunged into WWII, young men from Texas, from Virginia, from all over America went to war without a backward glance. Audie Murphy came from an America that I some time believe no longer exists: A small town America in which the lines were clearly drawn between right and wrong, good and evil. He believed in America, her ideals and needs and was willing to fight and to die to uphold them. Audie brought honor and glory to America. Audie was small in stature but he was a big man. Someone said of Audie: You don't have to be six foot five to be a big man; you don't have to be tall to be a big man. Audie Murphy proved that.

I agree with the statements made by the late President Richard Nixon: "As America's most decorated hero of WW-II, Audie Murphy not only won the admiration of millions for his own brave exploits, he also epitomized the gallantry in action of America's fighting men. The Nation stands in debt to Audie Murphy, whose extraordinary courage under enemy fire is one of the most noble pages in the history of our Armed Forces. His bravery justly earned the gratitude of the entire nation, and his selfless devotion to duty will always be a source of inspiration for Americans who are privileged to defend our freedom and liberty."

I had the privilege of being with Audie for several hours in Nashville, Tennessee just a few weeks before his death. I know he never lost the common touch. His humility and concern for others was very much a part of Audie and anyone who met him could sense it. Audie Murphy overcame many obstacles in his short life time. He, as I and many of you veterans here, was a survivor of war. We were the lucky ones but we paid a high price in suffering and hardships, the brutal experience of month after month in combat, mental anguish, hunger, cold, pain and continual fear. I believe these are some of the bravest and most valiant men and women alive today, but we like Audie will carry the scars and the memory of war all of our lives. But we have had the great privilege of living our lives in a nation of freedom, a nation that I love very much.

I am proud that I served with the Third Infantry Division in WW-II. The division that Audie helped to give the reputation of being the greatest fighting division in the United States Army and helped to make it the most decorated outfit in WW-II. Audie Murphy always went far beyond the call to duty. Audie remained a humble soldier, who prized his heritage, who loved his country and who was willing to put his life on the line for the freedom and independence of all men.

Ladies and gentlemen, I, like Audie Murphy, put great value on my freedom and my heritage. I believe that what we obtain too cheaply we esteem too lightly. It is the price we pay that gives every thing its value. We must remember the past in order to face the future and to live in the present. I believe to be born free is a privilege but to die free is an awesome responsibility. Yet we know freedom is never free, it is always purchased at great cost.

I just returned last week from a three week visit to the WW-II battle fields of Italy. There are not many of the scars of a war of fifty-two years ago visible today. As I visited the Anzio Beachhead area where the Third Division was bogged down in a see-saw battle for four costly months in human suffering and death, it suddenly came to me that this was the area where I had been wounded for the second time by enemy mortar fire at about the same hour of the day. As I stood there looking over the peaceful beautiful landscape, my mind swiftly went back to the scene of fifty-two years ago. What a scene that was, that awful day of war.

I suddenly realized what a high cost in lives and human suffering that was paid for our freedom we enjoy today. This scene could be multiplied many times over as to the high cost of freedom. As I took part in the Memorial Day Commemoration on May 27th, at the American Military Cemetery, I looked out over the rows of marble crosses, almost eight thousand of them in Nettuno, Italy. And just behind me the memorial building with over three thousand names of those missing engraved on the marble walls. I was reminded again of the high cost of today's freedom. These young heroes paid the ultimate price; they gave their lives, all that they could give. As Audie always said, "These were the real heroes."

I often shed tears when I look at our Nation's flag, because I know first hand that behind this great flag there is blood and great sacrifice, there is also behind it an idea that redefined once and forever the meaning of hope and freedom. This flag says all that needs to be said about things worth preserving, loving, defending and dying for. I believe one of the reasons America is a great Nation is because America is good, and I believe if America ever ceases to good, America will cease to be great. May freedom be seen not as a right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.

Young people, you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it. Remember our past history, build on its foundations, have goals in your lives, and work for these goals. You are living in a great time in history with many opportunities. There are many new frontiers that haven't been reached. I challenge each of you today, that we go forth from this place, more dedicated than ever before to cherish and protect our freedoms, to keep America strong, keep America good, to keep America the land of the free and the home of the brave. And with God's help, heal our Nation of its problems it is facing today.

Today I say to my friend and comrade, Audie Murphy, and those who died in defense of our country, that despite the many imperfections of mankind, the freedoms for which you sacrificed so much, your lives still shine brightly on the stars and stripes, and you continue to be honored and remembered by your country and its people and by those of other lands for whose freedoms you also fought. To my departed friend and comrade, Audie, you will always have a special place in the hearts and minds of us who struggled along side you in the fields of battle; we shall treasure your memory forever. I hope that memorials such as these here today, will help to preserve the name and fame of Audie L. Murphy for future generations of Americans.

I am humbled and honored by having had this opportunity to speak to you here today, and to honor a great American hero and to rename U.S. Highway 69 in Hunt County: "The Audie Murphy Memorial Highway. I am looking forward to the near future and the renaming all of U.S. Highway 69 from Port Arthur, Texas to Minnesota to "The Audie Murphy Memorial Highway". May God bless America and God bless each of you. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

----- CLASSIFIED -----

*Want to Purchase:* new or used copy of "Hero - The Life and Death of Audie Murphy". Also, any magazine articles or movies on Audie: HALI BARNETT - 1712 Baron Drive - Norman, Oklahoma 73071

----- PERSONAL -----

**WANTED: Audie Murphy pen pals in or near Oklahoma City! HALI BARNETT - 1712 Baron Drive - Norman, Oklahoma 7307**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **TERRY MURPHY PAYS A SURPRISE VISIT TO GREENVILLE LIBRARY!**

**On December 14, 1996 Terry Murphy made his first trip to Greenville and his first visit to Texas in 23 years. Officially it was announced that representatives from the Audie Murphy Research Foundation wanted to talk to individuals who knew Audie and that they should come to the Greenville Library. Terry, President of the Foundation was accompanied by Larryann Willis who is the secretary/treasurer of the Foundation. The Foundation was established for the purpose of collecting, preserving and making available to the public the accumulated end results.**

**The Foundation is attempting to locate and interview people who knew Audie, reproducing photographs, letters, home movies, news reel clips, radio shows and any other related documents and memorabilia. The Greenville Library is one of the facilities selected to store and maintain the Murphy collection. The task of the Foundation has been greatly hindered by the tragic fact that Universal Studios destroyed nearly all of the negatives they had, some 2,000 to 3,000; only about 50 of their pictures of Audie remain. When you also take into consideration the privately held materials which have been lost or destroyed in fires and natural disasters, the job of the Foundation is even more difficult.**

**As Terry walked through the Audie Murphy Room where numerous pictures are on display, he explained the stories behind each photo, some of which he hadn't seen in years. It was reported that Terry was obviously moved by the occasion. The turnout at the library was even greater than expected and there were so many people in the Greenville area that they couldn't stop and meet them all during this trip. Terry was stopped by one individual and asked to sign a petition requesting that the U. S. Postal Service honor his father with a stamp. Terry was pleased to observe the recent resurgence in interest about his father. Prior to coming to Greenville, Terry stopped in Dallas to talk with a few old friends of his dad.**

**In addition to the resources in the Greenville area, the Foundation is also working with the Texas Collection in Waco, The Hillsboro Library and the Cowboy Hall of Fame. There are sufficient materials in these facilities that the Foundation will "be there forever", remarked Larryann Willis. Individuals who have Murphy photos and memorabilia should not assume that the Foundation has everything. The only way to determine what is needed is for you to contact the foundation and advise them of your collection, no matter how small. The Audie Murphy Research Foundation can be contacted at the following address: 18008 Saratoga Way, Suite 516, Santa Clara, California 91351. Phone number is (805) 252-0780; Fax number is (805) 251-8432. (Source: Greenville Herald Banner, December 14, 1996.)**

*There's ghost mists on the mountains.*

*Fog drifts over the green.*

*Such a beautiful mountain,*

*Dreams crashed, to never be seen!*

*Some people never knew you.*

*But some people loved you so.*

*When life became a tangled web,*

*you had no where else to go.*

*Ghost mist hangs over the mountains.*

*Cries out over the land.*

*If you only knew how we loved you,*

*We would have taken your hand.*

*On wings of doom you did fly,*

*Over the unseeing clouds.*

*Now the angels cry,*

*Your restless soul is now free.*

-10-

*Your smiling face so sweet,*

*The mists hold you tenderly close.*

*Some day we will meet.*

*Your bravery will be rewarded,  
And your dreams set free.  
You will walk among warriors  
And everyone will see.  
Ghost mist lies on the mountains,  
It will set us all free.*

**By Melba Ratliff of Maxie,**