



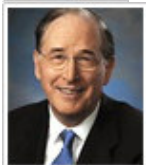
The Gene Vance Jr. Guardian®

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"..America's strength is built on the quiet individual decisions of hundreds of thousands of Americans -- that America is a society worth fighting for.. Gene Vance died for a just and noble cause.. He was prepared to put himself on the line for America, for Americans, and for the society in which he wanted you to live."

"The Gene Vance Jr. Foundation has a great deal to offer and promising ideas... helping to move us in the right direction."

John D. Rockefeller IV, United States Senator



From left: CDR Mark A. Kobelja, M.D., CDR Anand R. Kumar, M.D., Barry D. Martin, M.D., FACS, Julian Pribaz M.D., Michael M.J. Minc, CDR Robert T. Howard, M.D., LCDR Patrick L. Basile, M.D. at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland during the initial phase of the Foundation's 2010 War Injuries Initiative.

New Paradigm of Repair for War Injured

Advances in complex reconstructive surgical techniques beneficial to catastrophically injured war veterans were the focus of military surgeons on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009 during the initial phase of the Gene Vance Jr. Foundation's 2010 War Injuries Initiative held in collaboration with the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Renowned plastic surgeon Julian Pribaz M.D., Director of the Harvard Plastic Surgery Residency Training Program and Foundation volunteer addressed facial restoration, reconstruction and tissue transplantation highlighting 'A New Paradigm of Repair'—innovative surgical procedures and the remarkable results obtained by the recent transplanting of facial parts.

Dr. Pribaz directs the Harvard Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston where surgeons last year performed the nation's second face transplant. Harvard is currently ranked first among American research medical schools by *U.S. News and World Report* in which Brigham consistently appears on the honor roll of America's best hospitals. The military awarded Brigham \$3.4M to pay for face transplants for veterans who have survived catastrophic war injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan, but are left severely deformed.

The Foundation's collaborative efforts introduce top tier talent with refined expertise in highly complex and specialized medical procedures, such as tissue transplantation from cadavers, advancing military medicine's and the National Naval Medical Center's ability to help the uniquely injured. The United States of America's National Naval Medical Center, is one of the nation's largest and most renowned military medical centers and is considered the flagship of the United States Navy's system of medical centers. It is the primary casualty and trauma care facility for the United States Navy and Marine Corps. and conducts cutting-edge clinical research as well as providing health care for war heroes and American leaders, including the president of The United States and his family for the past 65 years.

By 2011, the NNMCC will be merged with Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) to create the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), a modernized joint-forces central medical facility created by expanding the current Bethesda Naval Hospital.



"In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on 9/11 that killed 2,819 people, nearly two million Americans have risked their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq wars doing everything our country has asked of them. Instead of going on his honeymoon, Gene Vance Jr. went to Afghanistan. He, like thousands of other brave Americans, performed a voluntary act of conscience demonstrating courage and commitment reflective of the ethic that built our great nation. It is to this group of Americans that we commit the very best we have to offer in deep gratitude of the sacrifices they make."

Michael M. J. Minc, Chairman and Founder

Accelerating development of New Technologies and Therapies

The Foundation's 2010 War Injuries Initiative leads a nationwide volunteer effort to support the United States Military in taking care of the war injured. Committed to the transfer of information capable of accelerating the development of new technologies and therapies, the initiative's focus includes catastrophic wounds, some of which have never been seen before.

To this end, several of the United States of America's nationally and internationally renowned surgical experts from centers of excellence such as Harvard Medical School, Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, Georgetown University Hospital, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and others are working together with the Foundation in its partnership with the military.

Showcasing the spirit of a grateful nation focused on civilian/military collaboration and open ended discovery, the Foundation, together with its partners such as the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery and a volunteer force of more than seventy specialists located throughout the country at preeminent institutions like Yale University School of Medicine, UCLA Hand Center, NYU Medical Center and others, provides gratis services to military medicine and offers support services free of charge to eligible soldiers and their families. The Foundation's goals include helping wounded warriors with unique, complex and devastating war injuries regain their ability to work and live productively within society.





“Sgt. Gene Vance was not an ordinary soldier. For one, he was a linguist and member of a Special Forces unit, a fact that on its surface distinguished him from 99 percent of the U.S. Army.”

Mike Krause served for five years in the 101st Airborne and is a graduate student in public policy at Vanderbilt University.

Remembering those we've lost

On Dec. 3rd, 2009, the Foundation received an email from Mike Krause, an Afghanistan and Iraq war veteran, formerly with the 101st Airborne, about a newspaper column he was planning to write for his local newspaper in Nashville that weekend, and because Gene Vance was the focus, he had wanted to share it.

The newspaper had asked Mr. Krause to write about Afghanistan, but as you will see from the article, it is a poignant reminder about what we remember most in the face of war.

Nashville TN, December 6, 2009

Guest editorial

By Mike Krause



As President Barack Obama finished delivering his policy address on Afghanistan last Tuesday, pundits promptly mobilized, diligently reciting whichever set of talking points had been dispatched from their partisan think-tanks.

As a keen observer of public policy, I thought that I would have been fully engaged in the debate, defending the points of the president's plan I agreed with and debating the points I disagreed with.

Instead, I found myself distracted, my thoughts resting not on America's future plans in Afghanistan, but my own past experience in that region. Most of all, I thought about Gene.

Sgt. Gene Vance was not an ordinary soldier. For one, he was a linguist and member of a Special Forces unit, a fact that on its surface distinguished him from 99 percent of the U.S. Army. Gene's unit was on their way to Afghanistan, mere months after 9/11, and my unit in the 101st Airborne was tasked to get them there. We worked long hours on the frozen Fort Campbell flight line, and eventually Gene and his comrades took off to travel to a land that most of us had been unable to locate on a map prior to September 2001.

It was, by all accounts, a passing acquaintance, a few casual words spoken, but nothing of any extraordinary substance, two soldiers trying to accomplish their mission in the frenzied and chaotic days after our nation was attacked. But that didn't seem to matter the day I found out that Gene had been killed. By that time, my unit was also deployed to the Middle East, and as I sat in the middle of the desert staring at a newspaper photograph of Gene, I couldn't help but feel an enormous sense of loss and regret. Gene Vance was the first soldier I ever served beside who had lost his life, the first face I ever had to associate with what war really meant, and it was his face I thought of yet again as I watched the president's speech.

The first drafts of this article were policy analysis pieces in which I used history and a regional security context to inform my points. But at the end of the day, I couldn't write that article about Afghanistan. I had to write about what Afghanistan really means to me, and that's mostly about Gene Vance.

I think the majority of Americans, whether they support the war or want it to end immediately, make their decisions based on what they truly believe is right, free from partisan malice and in concert with their personal views. Some will be happy with the president. Some will be unhappy. I just hope that in the middle of that rancor, some will pause, if only for a moment, to think about Gene and the other Americans who went to Afghanistan and never came home.

The published version of Mr. Krause's email article is available online at www.tennessean.com



THE GENE VANCE JR. FOUNDATION
FOR CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED WAR VETERANS
A 501 (C)(3) NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Now more than ever - an Era of Innovation

A new decade has begun and we are working towards making it better than the last. On Sept 11 2001, Americans experienced the worst terrorist attack ever on US soil followed by the 'war on terror', the second longest war in American history and a burden that continues to this day. Our economy was threatened by financial collapse as we sank into the deepest recession since the Great Depression taking a substantial portion of US retirement savings with it. We experienced the most severe worldwide influenza outbreak in forty years, were plagued by numerous scandals and heard a multitude of voices that believe the great American experiment is almost over.

We Americans are the most powerful, prosperous and resourceful nation on earth. Yet power alone cannot protect us from the enormous challenges we face at this moment in history. Greed and irresponsibility have weakened our economy and threaten our environment. We are at war with a global network of hatred and terror, receiving daily reminders of our fragile reality and that prosperity, freedom and greatness are never a given.

Prior generations of Americans defined our nation's vision and resolve by solving unprecedented challenges of great magnitude and in so doing achieved even greater advances. So it is today, that we the people – private citizens, government, military, academia, industry, small businesses and corporations, make the greatest effort to strengthen our nation and defeat the threats imposed by those who would seek to exploit our vulnerabilities or do us harm. We must tighten our embrace of a unifying and steadfast resolve to find solutions to the challenges we face through greater cooperation, coordination and innovation on all levels and in all sectors, exemplifying the ethics of trust, honor, humility, unity, honesty and respect on every occasion.

To all the distinguished leaders, professionals and experts who are partnering with us in working towards this end – thank you, we are grateful for the privilege and honor to be of service and appreciate your ongoing efforts in support of our mission. Safeguarding the society we are building and protecting the freedoms we hold dear is a shared responsibility and not the work of some. Ours is an ever evolving way of life. Therefore, let us do now all that we can to ensure that future generations also enjoy a truly remarkable legacy – a testimony to our desire for peace and prosperity.

Michael M. J. Minc, Chairman and Founder

<p>FORTHCOMING EVENT FEBRUARY 2010</p>		<p>FORTHCOMING EVENT MAY 2010</p>	
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