

THE QUIET PROFESSIONAL

"A Tribute to CW4 Raymond A. Frank, U.S. Army"

(Based on an article by Ray Bell in the June 1995 USAWOA NEWSLINER)

I am sure many warrant officers have had the opportunity to see in person the fine artwork done by Mr. Don Stivers. Specifically, the picture he created at the request of USAWOA in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Army Warrant Officer Corps. This artwork is titled "The Quiet Professional." Many are curious as to the origin of this title.

When I first heard the title, I was curious also. In the fall of 1993, I returned from Germany and involved myself in the business of our Association's headquarters. At that time most of the business portion of the arrangement was mostly finished with Mr. Stivers, and the title was a "done deal." At that time I did not pursue the source of the title. However, I had some rather fanciful theories of my own.

My ideas for the source of the name covered a wide range. I wondered if the title might have some historical connotation with our Corps. Or, I thought it might be a type of "dry humor," as many truly professional warrant officers whom I know are anything but "quiet." I thought that perhaps the title might be a subtle suggestion to those of us who tend to get "vocal" at times; we could retain our professionalism while presenting a situation, problem, position, or solution, in a "quiet," manner. I did not know the other work of Mr. Stivers, and thought that maybe the titles of his works ran in "series" with all the same starting word or pattern or words, similar to the titles of books by Robert Ludlum.

I found the actual answer to be interesting and want to share with you what I learned about the title. The term "quiet professional," as related to warrant officers, was first used by a guest speaker at a recent Annual Meeting of the Members. Major General Jack Keane, Commander, 101st Division (Air Assault), addressed the membership at the meeting held in 1992 at Fort Campbell. General Keane used the words "quiet professional" as he talked about warrant officers, and specifically applied that title to a warrant officer with whom he was personally acquainted.

That warrant officer served in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and daily displayed "quiet professionalism." Through his performance and manner, this warrant officer established a reputation of excellence for himself and set a standard for other warrant officers and the Corps. This warrant officer was a Master Army Aviator who had excelled in many demanding positions throughout his career. He had served as IP, safety officer, maintenance officer, etc. etc. He was qualified on several Army aircraft, but his love was the utility helicopter; UH1 and UH60 in its various configurations. Indeed, this warrant officer was highly skilled, highly qualified, and highly professional.

After learning this, I recalled that I had met this warrant officer several years ago. Initially, I was not sure if it was at an Annual Meeting, or if it was in USAWOA activities of the European Region. My memory has since been refreshed that it was in the European Region in the early 1980's. However, I clearly remember that at the times of our meetings, being impressed by his personal bearing and professional manner, in both business and informal settings. I am told that the vast number of those with whom he worked, or shared social occasions, also developed similar admiration and friendship for him.

The warrant officer of whom General Keane spoke, served as a pilot in command of a MH-60 on October 3, 1993, in Mogadishu, Somalia. In performance of the mission and his duties, that warrant officer was shot down and killed, paying the ultimate price in service to the Nation. The name of this warrant officer was CW4 Raymond A. Frank, U.S. Army; "The Quiet Professional."