

General John Abizaid Commander- Central Command



John P. Abizaid retired from the United States Army in May, 2007, after thirty-four years of active service. After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, he rose from second lieutenant of infantry to four-star general in the Army. At the time of his retirement he was the longest-serving commander of United States Central Command, with responsibility for an area spanning 27 countries in the Middle East, Southwest Asia, and the Horn of Africa. During a distinguished career he commanded units at every level, serving in the combat zones of Grenada, Lebanon, Kurdistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. Units under his command have included the 1st Infantry Division, a brigade in the 82nd Airborne Division, and two Ranger companies. Abizaid worked on the Joint Staff three times, the last as Director. He studied at the University of Jordan in Amman, holds a master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University, and is widely considered to be an expert

in the field of Middle Eastern affairs. As such, Abizaid was one of the first to recognize the protracted nature of the ongoing conflict against religious-inspired extremists, which he once termed "The Long War." General Abizaid serves as the Distinguished Chair of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and works with the Preventative Defense Project at Stanford University and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He speaks on leadership and international security through the Washington Speakers' Bureau. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and serves as a Director of the George Olmsted Foundation. Through his consulting company, JPA Partners LLC, General Abizaid advises small businesses through Fortune 500 companies nationally and internationally, and serves as a Board Member for both USAA and RPM, Inc.

Lieutenant Alfred Naifeh WWII Hero

Alfred Naifeh was raised in Norman, Okla., and graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a law degree in 1940. Following graduation, he served as law clerk for Federal Judge Alfred P. Murrah in Oklahoma City. World War II began and Naifeh received commission as an ensign in the Supply Corps on July 5, 1941. While serving on the USS MEREDITH in the Solomon Islands, the ship was struck by a massive Japanese air raid and rapidly sunk. Naifeh, lieutenant, junior grade, worked for two days and nights to locate his wounded shipmates and place them aboard life rafts. On the

third day, he died of exhaustion after fighting off shark attacks and rescuing many shipmates. Naifeh was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and the Purple Heart for his heroics. In 1944, the USS NAIFEH was commissioned and began its career in convoy duty. The ship was decommissioned in June 1946 and sat idle for four and a half years in the Pacific Reserve Fleet. The USS NAIFEH was reinstated in January 1951 to assist in the Korean Conflict. It was engaged in extensive patrol, mine sweeping, ASW and shore bombardment activities.





Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt Shapou

Captain, U.S. Army Air Corps

known more simply as Teddy Shapou, was an American war hero of World War II. He was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts in 1919 to Lebanese-American parents but grew up in New Bern, NC with his three sisters. He first attended NC State in Raleigh, NC, then transferred to Georgetown College in Kentucky to be closer to his future wife. There he starred in football, baseball, and studied zoology and botany before dropping out to join the Army Air Force. He was first assigned to a pursuit group in Puerto Rico before joining the 14th Air Force in China as a fighter pilot. He served with the Flying Tigers in the Burma Theater. (the 74th Fighter Squadron). He was awarded at the same ceremony the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal "for combat flying in China." He is said to have shot down several Zeros and assisted with downing a Mitsubishi bomber.



Colonel James Jabara

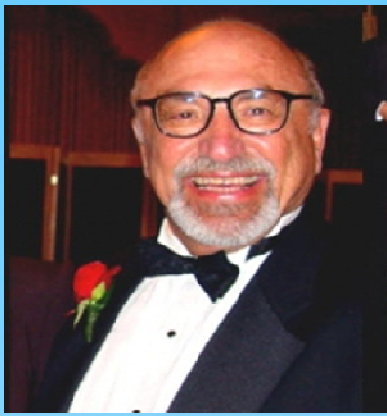
First American jet ace, USAF F-86 Sabre pilot Shot down 15 MiGs over Korea, awarded Distinguished Service Cross

With family roots in the village of Merjayoun, Lebanon, standing only 5 feet, 5 inches tall, and needing to wear glasses, James Jabara was an unlikely candidate to become a hotshot American fighter pilot. But he was, and he was one of the hottest, his country's first jet ace, and a triple ace in Korea. In the Air Force community, if not to the American public, he was a legend. One night in 1953, a young pilot was ordered to fly Jabara into his base. He zipped out in a T-33 and picked up his famous passenger, who promptly stowed his gear in the way of the ejection seat and lit up a cigar. But the young pilot didn't object.



Bill B Bazzi Staff Sergeant U.S. Marine Corps

SSgt Bazzi was born in Lebanon. Immigrated to the United States in 1976. Joined the United States Marines in 1984. Got out of Active duty in 1988. Received Bachelor's Degree in 1990 and a Master's Degree in 1993 from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. SSgt Bazzi Joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1999 and was activated 6 times since September 2001. In the private sector, SSGT is an Research Engineer for Ford Motor Company. **Awards & Decorations** MARINE CORPS GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL, SELECTED MARINE CORPS RESERVE MEDAL, GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE MEDAL, (2) NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL, MILITARY OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL, ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL, (2) CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION (INDIVIDUAL AWARD), Numerous LETTERS OF APPRECIATION



Charles Abdelnour Vietnam Veteran

Service: US Army

Status: Veteran - Vietnam Era

Former San Diego City Clerk Charles "Chuck" Abdelnour has become the newest elected member of the TJSL Board of Trustees. Abdelnour also is a 1974 graduate of the law school and was inducted into the law school's "Hall of Fame" in 1990. He was appointed San Diego City Clerk in 1977 and only recently retired in 2005 after a long and illustrious career. Abdelnour now will serve as a member of the governing board of advisors for Thomas Jefferson School of Law, a private, not-for-profit institution that is one of San Diego's three American Bar Association accredited law schools. Located in the historic community of Old Town San Diego, the law school currently has 800 students and more than 5,000 graduates, including such prominent alumni as Abdelnour, San Diego District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, and U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter. As City Clerk of the nation's seventh largest city, Abdelnour was recognized many times for his administrative skills and innovation



Ms. Rima Kassis Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force

Status: Active Duty

Billet: Instructor, Jet Aircraft Mechanic

I am first generation American. My mom, dad, sister and brother came to America in 1957. They came from Lebanon. My dad was Palestinian and my mom is Lebanese. As I grew up I always thought about the fact that if they hadn't come to America, I may not have been born. I had always had an interest in the military due to the discipline. Couple that with the fact that I wanted to pay back America giving my family the opportunity to come here, I joined the USAF in 1986.



David Fawal U.S. Navy JAG- Judge Advocate General

Rank: Commander

Status: Active Reserve

Commander David Fawal is a Palestinian Arab-American, whose parents were born in the West Bank town of Ramallah." David is an Alabama native, who graduated Cum Laude from Birmingham-Southern College in 1986. He graduated from Cumberland School of Law, Stamford University (J.D.) in 1990. While in law school, he was Associate Managing Editor of The American Journal of Trial Advocacy, and a member of the Trial Advocacy Board. He began his legal career as a law clerk for Heninger, Burge & Vargo and as an intern for the Honorable Joseph J. Jasper, Senior Criminal Judge, 10th Judicial Circuit (1988). In 1990, David entered the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U.S. Navy. David compiled an outstanding trial record as a prosecutor at the Naval Legal Service Office in San Francisco, California, beginning in 1991



General George Joulwan
Supreme Allied Com-
mander- Europe

General George A. Joulwan, United States Army, retired in 1997, has had a career of exemplary military service and outstanding foreign policy experience. His final military assignment was as Commander in Chief, United States European Command (CINCEUR) and as the 11th Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR). As CINCEUR, General Joulwan conducted over 20 successful operations in the Balkans, Africa and the Middle East. He established the first-ever strategic policy for U.S. military engagement in Africa, and orchestrated the State Partnership program linking American reserve forces from 23 states with the former non-NATO countries and newly independent democracies of Europe and the former Soviet Union. General Joulwan was SACEUR during the most revolutionary period in the NATO Alliance since its inception. For 18 months he was the overall military commander for the Agreement in Berlin. This first-ever NATO operation includes the 16 NATO nations and 20 non-NATO nations. He was directly involved in establishing the Partnership for Peace program that now has 27 nations represented in the Partnership Coordination Cell at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons



Yousef M. El-
Yousseph

Specialist, US Army

Status: **Deployed to Iraq**
 Specialty: **Helicopter Mechanic**

Yousef is the son of retired US Air Force Technical Sergeant Mahmoud El-Yousseph, a native of Columbus, Ohio. Born and raised in a Palestine refugee camp in Lebanon, Mahmoud immigrated to the US in 1977 and enlisted in the US Air Force in 1984. His son, US Army Specialist Yousef El-Yousseph enlisted in March of 2004 at the age of 24. The eldest of six children, Yousef is now stationed in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His hobbies include flying, mountain hiking, Playing billiards, and target shooting.



Brigadier General James
J. David

National Guard of Georgia - US Army (USAR)

Brigadier General James J. David was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army on 5 June 1965 after completing the Reserve Officer's Training Corp (ROTC) upon his graduation from La Salle University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After attending his Air Defense Artillery Officer's Basic Course at Ft. Bliss, Texas, he was assigned as a tactical director of the 3rd Missile Battalion, 68th Artillery, Snelling Army Air Defense Site, Minnesota. After an 18 month tour General David accepted command of a Nike Hercules Nuclear Warhead Detachment with the 37th USA Artillery Detachment, United States Army Europe (USAREUR) in Greece. He later became the Group Adjutant with the 558th USA Artillery Group, Elefsis, Greece. After serving his European assignment in Greece that included TDY tours in the Middle East, General David was assigned to the Republic of Vietnam serving as Company Commander with the 101st Airborne Division. He served in Vietnam from 9 January 1969 until 26 February 1970



Some of our Lebanese Heroes

Houston War Hero Abe Jamail is Home on Leave from Hospital (The Houston Press, 1944) For 15 minutes work on a battlefield in France .Houston's sgt. Abe Jamail killed seven Germans, captured 23 more, and Knocked out six machine guns, and seven machine pistols.

The Army rates ABE JAMAIL, WWII infantry sergeant, a hero and gave him its highest award the Distinguished Service Cross. He also won the FRENCH Croix de guerre, two silver stars, the Purple Heart and the combat infantry badge.

Janice Jamail the daughter of Abe Jamail .

For Janice Jamail memorial day means a day of Honor. And It brings the feeling of immense pride .

Janice Jamail said :

“ My father took pride in serving his country “

“The medals were not that big a deal to my dad .When they told him he was awarded a second Silver Star , he didn't go to pick it up , He told them he had enough “.



For the Jamail family serving in the armed forces is about being part of this great nation. Actually Jamail family contributed close to 23 boys to Armed forces .

Jamail Famy Contributes 23 Boys to Armed Forces

UNDOUBTEDLY the biggest one-family contribution to the armed forces in Houston—and probably in the nation—is that made by the Jamail family.

A grand total of 23 Jamail boys are now serving in the army, navy, marine corps or coast guard, at stations scattered all the way from Ellington Field to Australia and North Africa.

They include seven "brother" teams, four of three brothers each and three of two brothers each, and five "singles" from other branches of the family.

The Jamail family is a Houston institution. Not even the Jamails themselves can keep up with how many Jamails live here. The best available estimate is "more than 300."

"At 5 cents a head," one member of the family laughed, "a census enumerator could make a living just counting Jamails. I guess we won't know for sure until the next census how many of us there are now."

More than three years ago when the war clouds first began gathering, the Jamail boys started leaving their jobs and schools and going into the service.

To date, 17 of them have chosen the army, three the navy, two the marine corps and one the coast guard.

Jamail boys are responsible for 13 of the stars in the St. Thomas High School service flag. Five attended Sam Houston High School, two John Marshall Junior High.

Due to "conditions," the Jamail family's celebrated annual get-together has been suspended for the duration, but the family already is making plans for the biggest convention in its history after the war, and many are the tales that will be told then by these far-roving Jamails pictured here below:

Edmund, Eddie and Sam Jamail, sons of Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Jamail of 26 Artesian. Edmund is 23, seaman second class in the navy Seabees, now stationed in the South Pacific. He is a graduate of St. Thomas High School. Eddie is 24, a technical sergeant in the army, stationed in New Guinea, attended St. Thomas High School. Sam is 26, a private in the army, now stationed in California, attended Sam Houston High School. Albert N. and Joe N. Jamail, sons of Mr. and Mrs. N. K. Jamail of 1401 Richmond. Albert is 20, an air forces radio operator, stationed at Majors Field, Greenville, a graduate of St. Thomas High School. Joe is 24, an instrument specialist with the army air forces in Sicily, attended St. Thomas High School. A third brother, Harry, 18, not pictured here, a graduate of St. Thomas High School, was inducted in October. Owen, Edmund and Fred Jamail, sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Jamail of 610 Trinity. Owen is 32, a private in the army service forces, stationed in California. Edmund, 26, is a seaman first class with the navy Seabees in Alaska, attended Sam Houston High School. Fred, 33, is in the military police stationed at Fort Bliss, El Paso. Eddie T., Abraham and Anthony Jamail, sons of Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Jamail of 1320 Dart. Eddie is 21, a private in the army, now stationed in Louisiana, graduated from Sam Houston High School. Abraham is 26, a corporal in the army, stationed in California. He attended Sam Houston High School. Anthony, 32, is serving in the army in California, as a corporal. Paul and Henry Jamail, sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Jamail of 323 Hutcheson. Paul is 19, a graduate of St. Thomas High School, and is in the military police, stationed at Camp Hood, Texas. Henry is 24, also a graduate of St. Thomas High School, is a corporal in the army, now stationed in California. George is an ensign in the Navy Air Corps, now stationed at Hamilton Field, California. He attended St. Thomas High School and Texas A. M. College. Mike and George Jamail, sons of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Jamail of 705 Paschall. Mike is a private in the army, now stationed in Australia, attended Mar-Junior High School. George is a corporal in the tank corps, now in North Africa, also attended Mar-Junior High School. James Jamail, 18, is the son of Mr. Mrs. C. J. Jamail of 1811 1/2. He attended St. Thomas School and is now in the coast guard, stationed at Alameda, Cal. Thomas A. Jamail, 19, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Jamail of Bell, attended St. Thomas School, now stationed at Ellington Field. Freddie Jamail, 21, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Jamail of 24 Artesian. He is a private in the army, now stationed at Hamilton Field, California. Freddie Jamail, 21, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. N. D. Jamail of 322 1/2. He is a graduate of St. Thomas High School.



Pvt. Eddie T. Jamail



George Jamail



Pvt. Freddie Jamail



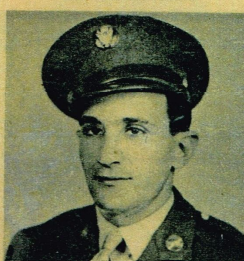
Sgt. Sam Jamail



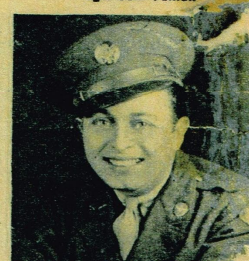
Pvt. Fred Jamail



Corp. Henry Jamail



Corp. Abe Jamail



Pvt. Joe N. Jamail



Pvt. Albert N. Jamail



Pvt. S. P. Jamail



Tech. Sgt. Eddie Jamail



Corp. Thomas A. Jamail



Seaman Edmund Jamail



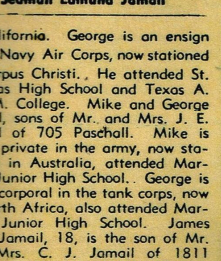
Pvt. Freddie Jamail



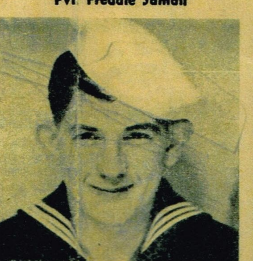
Pvt. Mike Jamail



Owen Jamail



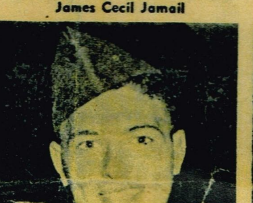
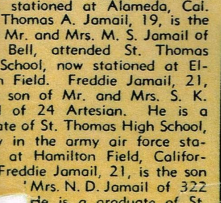
James Cecil Jamail



Seaman Edmund Jamail



Pvt. Paul Jamail



You talk about courage

How about our heroes

Memorial Day was first widely observed in May 1868. The celebration commemorated the sacrifices of the Civil War and the proclamation was made by General John A Logan. Following the proclamation, participants decorated graves of more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers.

On Memorial Day, we also remember our Lebanese and Arab American heroes that served this great nation.

We pause and think about the meaning of this day . We all dream about the freedom that this country has offered all the immigrants that chose United states as their new home.

Every fallen hero dreams of freedom, and almost every war since WWI up to the Arab spring was in the name of freedom. We chose this cover page as a symbol to all the fallen heroes because many of them came from different ethnic backgrounds .They stood proud to defend this great nation. Starting from WWI, Vietnam to the IRAQI WAR.

We salute every soldier that died for the freedom of this country.

The most precious to us

On this Memorial Day, we would like to honor the great soldiers that gave their lives for this great nation .And some of them immigrated from Lebanon and other Arab countries.

Since WWI many Lebanese immigrants were willing to give their best for this country, they chose to serve and protect this nation.

Lebanese immigrants have contributed a lot, and always willing to continue because they are grateful to what this country has offered them, and how it welcomed every one of them.

In this issue we will also recognize with you some of these great heroes that served, and give special acknowledgment to those who lost their lives.

No doubt many more Lebanese and Arab immigrants will continue to serve, and sacrifice their sons for the sovereignty of this great nation.

Proud to serve and be an American

أغلى ما عندنا

وفي ذكرى **Memorial Day** ، تراءى أمامي الآلاف والآلاف من الجنود الأميركيين الذين استشهدوا وهم من أصل لبناني وعربي من أجل حرية أميركا .

فمنذ الحرب العالمية الأولى ، كان اللبنانيون في طليعة الدفاع عن أميركا ، فهم الذين لم يولدوا في هذه البلاد ، بل اختاروها وطناً لهم ، كما اختاروا أن يدافعوا عن كل ذرة تراب في أميركا وعن حريتها وحرية الشعوب في العالم .

فاللبناني الذي وصل هذه البلاد ، ساهم في إقتصادها وتجاريتها ، ومطاعمها ، ومؤسساتها ، فنحن لا ننكر بأن أميركا قدمت الكثير للجالية اللبنانية والعربية فيكفي بأنها شرعت أبوابها لاستقبال الجاليات العربية .

ولكن يبقى السؤال:

من قدم الأكثر الجالية اللبنانية والعربية ، أم الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية ، فنحن قدمنا أغلى ما نملك ، قدمنا أرواحنا وسقطنا شهداء من أجل حرية أميركا ، قدمنا أغلى ما نملك منذ قرن حتى اليوم . قدمنا أولادنا قرابين على مذبح الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية إيماناً منا بالحرية وعرفاناً للجميل للوطن الذي أحببناه . والدليل هذا العدد بين يديك ، الذي يحمل الجزء القليل والقليل والضئيل من أبطالنا اللبنانيين الذين ناضلوا ومنهم من سقط من أجل أميركا ، والبعض مُعاق في مقاعده المتحركة .

أردنا فقط أن نسلط الأضواء على أبطالنا ، وعلى هبة الروح الذي وهبنا إياها الخالق ، والتي قدمناها بمحبة لأميركا .

Does freedom need legs?

Or heroes that are willing to give their lives and sometimes become handicapped ?

On this occasion, we would like to share with you a great heroic story that happened in World War II. One famous general was trying to put together a resistance group against the German invasion.

A handicapped man on a wheel chair approached the general to join the resistance group. The general was surprised and asked him; "how can you help?"

The wheeled chair man replied; " I want to join and serve on the frontier ,and I don't need my legs so I cannot run or retreat".

You talk about courage ...

How about America's and the world's first jet ace? He was the Korean War hero, U.S. Air Force Col. **James Jabara**. In World War II, Army officers like Maj. Gen. **Fred Safay** fought alongside Gen. Patton, and Brig. Gen. **Elias Stevens** served on Gen. Eisenhower's staff.

And in 1944, one of our Navy's ships, the destroyer escort USS Naifeh, was named in honor of an Arab American hero, Navy Lt. **Alfred Naifeh** of Oklahoma. Retired Brigadier General **James J. David** served as Company Commander of the famous 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970.

More recently, West Point graduate and retired four-star Gen. **George Joulwan** was the NATO Supreme Allied Commander of Europe, where he commanded both European and U.S. troops. Brig. Gen. **William J. Jabour** is the Director of the Air Force Program Executive Office for Fighter and Bomber programs in charge of the F-22 System Program Office (SPO). General **John Abizaid** is head of U.S. Central Command in Iraq.

الحرية

لماذا تمثل الشهداء على الغلاف؟؟
وما علاقته بأخبار الجالية وصوتها؟؟
ولكن في عيد الشهداء ، كان لنا وقفة تأمل وجدانية .

من منا لا يحلم بالحرية ، فأكثرية الجاليات الاثنية
اختارت أميركا لأنها بلاد الحرية .

وهل يوجد شهيد في العالم لم يسقط باسم الحرية ؟
فالحروب كلها تندلع باسم الحرية منذ التكوين ، حتى
الربيع العربي .

لذلك ، كان تمثل الحرية على الغلاف ، لأن الذي سقطوا
من أجل حرية أميركا ليسوا فقط أميركيين ، فهناك
جاليات أخرى حاربت ووقفت مع أميركا منذ الحرب
العالمية الأولى إلى الثانية ، إلى حرب فيتنام ، والعراق
وأفغانستان ، وصولاً إلى الضحايا الذين سقطوا في
البرجين وبينهم لبنانيون سقطوا من أعلى برج في العالم
كي لا تسقط الحرية .
فالله حرية .

فإلى كل شهيد سقط من أجل حرية أميركا له التحية
والتقدير ، وفي هذه الذكرى أعود بالذاكرة إلى الرئيس
ديغول رحمه الله ، عندما كان يقاوم الإحتلال الألماني
طلب من كل من يستطيع أن يحارب أن ينضم إلى
المقاومة لتحرير فرنسا . فجاءه أحد المقعدين وهو على
كرسيه قانلاً: أنا أريد الإنضمام إلى المقاومة

فنظر إليه ديغول قانلاً : أنت لا تستطيع الوقوف أو
المشي كيف ستحارب؟؟

فقال له المقعد : يا حضرة الجنرال أنا أريد الذهاب لأقاتل
على الجبهة لا لأهرب !! لذلك لست بحاجة إلى قدمي .
والآن .. هل الحرية بحاجة إلى قدمين؟؟ أم أنها بحاجة
إلى أبطال للحرية؟؟ فمنهم من استشهد ومنهم أحياء
يرزقون ، ومنهم من أصبحوا معاقين جسدياً .

فيا أيها القارئ تابع معي أبطالنا اللبنانيين والعرب الذين
ناضلوا من أجل حرية أميركا .



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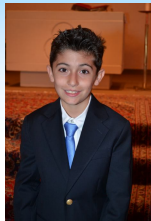
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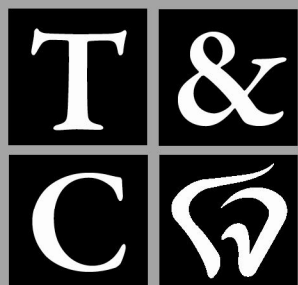
Eliot's

First communion

Eliot R. Jaoude has celebrated his first Holy Communion at St. John Vianni church located on Memorial in Houston. On this beautiful occasion his parents Saleem and Lina A. Jaoude celebrated a dinner for their close friends and relatives at Petit Café restaurant. Wish Eliot a great First Holy communion.



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سهار بعد سهار

The church of the Forty Holy Martyrs celebrating mother's day

A dinner event celebrating mother's day was hosted by Father Gabriel Karam on behalf of his church of Forty Holy Martyrs located in Sugarland.

The dinner event took place at Café By-blos, beautiful red roses filled the restaurant. Father Karam emphasized on the importance of mothers in the holy bible and our daily lives.

Also In this event, Khourieh Diana Karam was honored by the parish.



سہار بعد سہار

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ملحم زين

أقام صديق الفنانين ومنظم الحفلات أسامة بشاشي حفل ساهر للمطرب ملحم زين في مربع بيبيلوس، حيث قدم الحفل يوسف المغربي ثم تلاه أربع راقصات وعلى رأسهم الراقصة تانيا وكانت مفاجئة السهرة طفل في لباس "صعيدي مصري" لا يتجاوز عمره العشر سنوات يرقص بالعصا على طريقة أهل الصعيد.. ثم المطرب ملحم زين الذي أشعل حلبة الرقص حتى ساعات الفجر وهذه بعض اللقطات.



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وحياة الله أنا مش روم

فقلت لهما عاملة الإستقبال :

Sorry No Rooms

فاقترب روكز من أذن
فدعوس قائلاً : هل
سمعت ماذا قالت ، قل لها
نحن لسنا روم نحن
موارنة .

فقال لها فدعوس باللغة
العربية : يا أختي نحن
لسنا روم نحن موارنة .

ولكن عاملة الإستقبال لم تفهم
شيئاً وكرّرت ما قالتها :

Sorry No Rooms

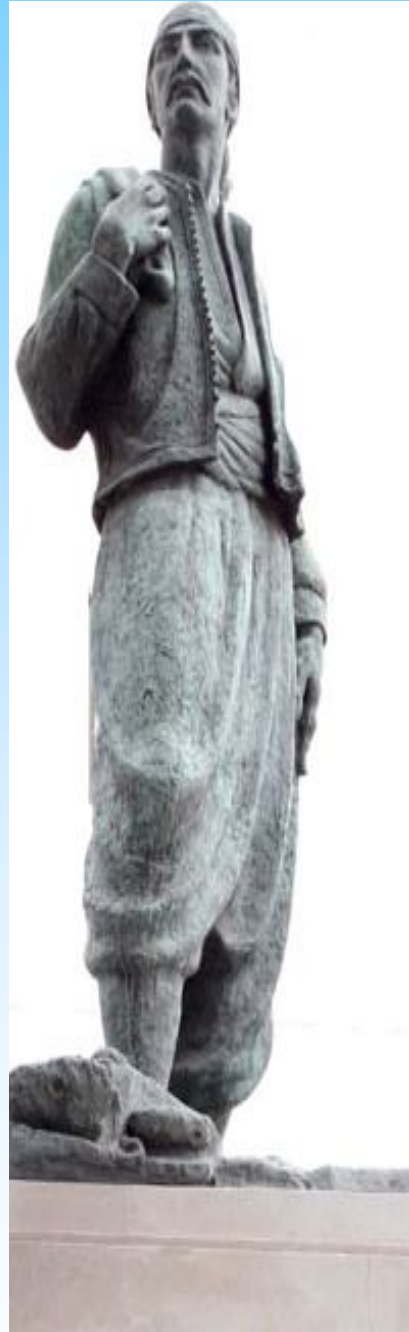
عندها أشارا فدعوس وروكز
إشارة الصليب بأصابعهما
الخمس دالة على أنهما
موارنة .

ولكن عاملة الإستقبال كانت

تصرّ وتقول : **Sorry**

No Rooms

عندها ركع الإثنين على
الأرض أمام عاملة الإستقبال
وبدءا بالصلاة بالسريانية
تأكيداً على طائفتهم
المارونية .



من الطرائف التي جرت إبان
الهجرة القديمة ، بأن صديقين
لبنانيين هما روكز وفدعوس من
قرية كفيفان ، تركا لبنان عام
1910 هرباً من سلطة الأتراك
وسفر برلك الذي كان معتمداً
آنذاك ، بعد أن عاشا القهر
والإضطهاد والجوع والطاعون ،
فقرّرا مغادرة لبنان ، لذا توجهوا
مشياً على الأقدام من كفيفان إلى
طرابلس ، واستقلا أول باخرة
وهما لا يعرفان أين يتجهان ولا
يعرفان لغة فأشفق قبطان الباخرة
وعلى وضعهما ، وطلب منهما
غسل أرض السفينة لقاء أجرة
رمزية . وبعد شهر لفظتهما
الباخرة على رصيف نيويورك
فنزلا ، وهما مندهشان أمام هذا
العالم الجديد ، ولكن التعب
والنعاس غلبهما ، فأخذا يبحثان
عن فندق فوجدا حارس ليلي ،
وبعد أن تفاهما بالإشارة أخذهما
الحارس إلى فندق، فدخلوا ووفقا
أمام عاملة الإستقبال التي تزن
150 كيلوغرام من اللحم والدهن
والشحم . فوضع فدعوس يده
تحت خده دالة على أنهما يريدان
غرفة للنوم .

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من مَنَّا يُطبِّق الرسائل السماوية ، فكل الطوائف تتغنى بها ، ونفتخر نحن أبناء الشرق أنّ جميع الأنبياء انطلقوا من أراضينا ، وجميع الرسائل السماوية هبطت على أنبياء الشرق .

ولكن من يطبّق الرسائل السماوية ، ندّعي بأننا مؤمنين وندّعي أن إنتماءنا طائفي ، وكل طائفة تدافع عن طائفها وابتعدنا عن الرسائل السماوية ، فلو طبّقت كل الأديان الرسائل السماوية ، هل كان هناك حرب وقتل ودمار؟؟ فكل الرسائل تدعو إلى السلام والمحبة والغفران والتسامح أين نحن منها؟

نحن بالإسم ننتمي إلى الطوائف ، أما بالمضمون فلا نطبّق منها شيئاً إلا الطائفية .

سامحنا يا ربّ .. فقد تبّعنا الطائفية العمياء وابتعدنا عن رسائلك السماوية !

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The Cedars in History

As remote as they are, the cedars are not untouched by history. The grove we see today descends from an immense primeval forest of cedars and other trees such as cypress, pine and oak that once covered most of Mount Lebanon including part of its East facing slopes. The Cedar is an historical entity mentioned often in the Bible and other ancient texts, often playing an important part in the culture, trade and religious observances of the ancient Middle East. Serious exploitation of these forests began in the third millennium B.C. with coastal towns, such as Byblos growing wealthy from the timber trade with Egypt. Over the centuries, Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians have made expeditions to Mount Lebanon for timber or extracted tributes of wood from the coastal cities of Canaan-Phoenicia. The Phoenicians themselves made use of the cedar, especially for their merchant fleets. King Solomon requested large supplies of cedar wood, along with architects and builders from King Hiram of Tyre to build his temple. Nebuchadnezzar boasted on a cuneiform inscription: "I bought for building, mighty cedars, which cut down with my pure hands on Mount Lebanon". Prized for its fragrance and durability, the length of the great logs made cedar wood especially desirable. Cedar was important for shipbuilding and was used for the roofs of temples to construct tombs and other major buildings. The Egyptians used cedar resin for mummification, and pitch

was extracted from these trees for waterproofing and caulking. In the second century AD., the Roman Emperor Hadrian attempted to protect the forest with boundary markers bearing inscriptions, most carved into living rock, others in the form of separate engraved stones. Today over 200 such inscriptions have been recorded, allowing scholars to make an approximate reconstruction of the ancient forest boundaries. Two of these inscriptions, carved in abbreviated Latin, can be seen at the Museum of the American University of Beirut.

In the centuries after Hadrian, Lebanon's trees were used extensively as fuel, especially for lime burning kilns within the Middle Ages, mountain villagers cleared forests for farmland, using the wood for fuel and construction. The Ottomans in the 19th century destroyed much of the forest cover, and during the World War II British troops used the wood to build a railroad between Tripoli and Haifa.

All the inscriptions of Hadrian are related to the karsts. They are engraved or resting on a Karstic support (therefore running erosion and erasing danger). Their distribution covers the whole Lebanese mountain at the north of Beirut. They left on rocks or big stones, either on cliff flanks or nearby footpaths. They stack up from starting 250 till 2000m of altitude. Nowhere else had the emperor such inscriptions engraved.

الأرز كالوطن لا يموت



ورد في ذكر التورات بأنه بدأ في استثمار أخشاب الأرز منذ الألف الثالث ق.م. عندما أخذت مدن الساحل الكنعاني تصدّره إلى مصر . وكان الفينيقيّون يصنعون منه سفنهم . كما أن الملك سليمان طلب من حيرام السوري تزويده بكميات لبناء قصره وهيكله ، كما يفاخر الملك الآشوري سنحاريب (681-718 ق.م.) بأنه توغل وقطع بيديه أجمل أرزات لبنان ، وكذلك فعل من بعده الملك البابلي نابو قدنصر (562-605 ق.م.) إلى أن عمّد الإمبراطور الروماني هادريانسوس (117-138 ق.م.) إلى حماية الأشجار واعتمدت محمية إمبراطورية ، ولا تزال صخور جبال لبنان تحمل ما يزيد عن مئتي كتابة من تلك الكتابات التي تذكر الحطابين بواجباتهم . وأشهر المحميات على الإطلاق هي المعروفة بإسم أرز الرّب . ومن تلك الأشجار 375 شجرة يصل عمرها إلى بضعة مئات من السنين ، ومن بينها أربعة أرزات يصل إرتفاعها إلى 35 م. وقطرها ما بين 12 و 14 م.

وتقوم في وسط الغابة كنيسة صغيرة بُنيت عام 1843 وقد تحوّلت إلى محبّة يقصدها الزوار من جميع أنحاء لبنان للاحتفال بالصلاة عشية السادس من آب ليلة عيد التجلي المعروف بعيد الرّب .

♦ الطريق إلى الأرز ، تصلها عبر شكا صعوداً إلى بشري ، وخصائص شجر الأرز أنها تنمو على إرتفاع يتراوح بين 1500 و 2000 م. فوق سطح البحر ، وقد اختيرت الأرزة رمز للعلم اللبناني لأنها دلالة بأن الأرز لا يموت تماماً كالوطن الذي يدعى لبنان .

اول الكلام

دُفِنَ واقفاً

ولد جورج كليمنصو ، وهو المعروف بالنمر الفرنسي في بلدته النورماندي وخاض الحرب العالمية عام 1914، حيث أصبح رئيساً للوزارة الفرنسية ووزير دفاعها ، وهو الذي اشتهر بقوله : سنحرّر فرنسا وندافع عن شرفها بأدوات المطبخ ، بالسكاكين ، بالطناجر إذا لزم الأمر ، واستطاع بطل فرنسا أن يصمد أمام الهجومات الشرسة عنها .

وأثناء زيارته إلى لبنان ، اطلق اسمه على أحد الشوارع والمعروف حالياً بشارع كليمنصو تخليداً لإسمه.

ناضل جورج كليمنصو في الحرب ، وتوفي بعد أن أخمدت مدافع الحرب العالمية ، حيث استطاع هذا النمر الفرنسي أن يسجل الإنتصار تلو الإنتصار لفرنسا .

وبعد موته في بلدته النورماندي ، فتحت وصيّته فوجد فيها : " رغبته بدفنه واقفاً " .

وهكذا لبّت الدولة الفرنسية رغبته ، وأقامت له نصباً تذكاريّاً في قلب العاصمة الفرنسية باريس ، حيث دُفِنَ واقفاً بناءً لوصيّته .

هذه قصة النمر الفرنسي جورج كليمنصو ... إنه الرجل الوحيد في العالم الذي دُفِنَ واقفاً .

فكم من الرّجال الأحياء هم أموات ؟! وكم من الرّجال الأموات هم أحياء .

وبدون تعليق.. !!

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