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Some can't believe it

Families happyover terms of release che

At 3:15 a.m. today Johnny McKeel Sr. received the telephone call he had been waiting for for more than 400 days. The call was from a U.S. State Department official, telling

McKeel his son, Marine Sgt. Johnny McKeel Jr., one of the 52 Americans held hostage in Iran, would be coming home.

After the call, McKeel turned to the 15 reporters, neighbors and friends gathered in his Balch Springs home and said, "It's

From his plumbing supply shop today McKeel said he was thankful for the return and would go to Washington to meet his son when he arrived.

"We're going to be there (Washington) by the time they get home," he said

After 15 months of false hope, McKeel said he would reserve celebration until Johnny was home.

"We're just waiting for them to get on the plane (to leave Tehran)," he said. "Then we'll be happy. We're relieved up to a point — 99.9 percent." McKeel's sister, Nancy Ward of Houston, said "things have gone a little too far now for Iran to back down because if they do, Reagan will be all over them like

a chicken on a june bug."

She added, "I feel afraid to get excited. When he gets home — home means home at mama's house — then I'll be there."

McKeel received his telephone call about the time Marianne Stevens, sister of hostage William B. Royer, was in"I think I cried," she said. "I was very happy. There weren't too many days (she didn't think the crisis would be settled) but there were one or two that I was very fearful.

'You can't harbor that kind of resentment against a whole bunch of people (the Iranians) like that. I'm just glad it's over for his sake and all of our sakes because it's been a strain on the

David Engelmann, a Plano, Texas, newspaper reporter and brother of hostage Lt. Cmdr. Robert Engelmann, said his family would go to Washington to welcome his brother.

Engelmann's parents, Ardo and Miriam Engelmann, con-

tinued their policy of not speaking with reporters. On the door of their Hurst home, near a yellow ribbon, they had placed a handwritten cardboard sign asking for privacy. To all media personnel: For the past 15 months we have

attempted to avoid all publicity in relation to the current hostage situation by refusing any and all requests for interviews. We have no intention of abandoning that policy now or in the forseeable future.

'Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that you honor our desire for privacy by refraining from any further attempt to

The McKeels kept a Sunday vigil with reporters with the symbolic yellow ribbon remaining tied to the maple tree in front of their home. American flags were taped to almost every window in the house.

"You'll have to pardon me if I break down when I read this,"

from her son. Tears welled in her eyes as she read fi Christmas Eve 1980 letter in which he said, "There's no to worry about me. We are all praying the situation will

"All we can do is wait," Mrs. McKeel said.

McKeel's father complained the U.S. State Department not been keeping hostage families informed of the neg

"That's our biggest cross," he said. "Everybody think state department is keeping us informed of the progress."

Mrs. Darrel Stevens of Katy, Texas, the sister of how William Royer Jr., said, "When they let them go from then I'll believe it's happening. I've been warned not he excited about anything until I get a call from Washington view all this with guarded optimism. When they let the from Iran, then I'll believe it's happening."

A Dallas housewife, Greta Zentley, said: "My heartism beating with the news they will be released. They have living in fear every day not knowing what's going to hap them. I hope they come home with a good attitude.

Lorie Harris, also a Dallas housewife, said, "It's wonder don't understand why it took so long. Why couldn't the been done sooner?

West Point's oldest celebrates No. 99

SAN ANTONIO — The oldest living West Point graduate celebrated

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his 99th birthday Sunday with three nurses, two birthday cakes and a

Maj. Gen. Walter E. Prosser has lived in San Antonio since his retirement 35 years ago. He is bedridden, but was able to participate in the birthday celebration. 'He had a cake from Randolph Air

Force Base and one from his nurses, said Josh Groce, Prosser's former aide. "He realized it was his birth-day, and he smiled at all of us."

Groce, who is Prosser's attorney, served under the general at the Signal Corps training school at Camp Crowder, Mo., Prosser's last assign-

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World War I. Groce said Prosser was not overly

impressed to learn that he was West Point's oldest living graduate. "I told him about it two weeks ago," Groce said: "He didn't have much reaction, just took it in his stride. He's not an emotional person. Prosser was born in New Albany,

Ind., and graduated from West Point in 1905 with a field artillery commis-sion and was assigned to San Antonio, where he stayed until 1910. Prosser's outfit fought with the

92nd Division until the Second Army's general offensive in 1918. Prosser transferred into the ex-

panding Signal Corps in 1920. After graduating from the Army War Colege, he served on the Chief of Signal Officers staff and with several units throughout the United States.

With his promotion to brigadier general in 1937, Prosser began a

cluded two brigade commands, a division top spot and the command of the mobile force in Panama, where **restrictions** he wrote the jungle warfare training manual used in World War II.

Prosser later took command of Camp Crowder, where he organized a school for basic signal courses and one for training signal units.

At Camp Crowder, Groce said Prosser dealt with what were then state-of-the-art technical develop-

"It was a very technical thing," Groce said. "One of the things that was developed was radar. It was highly secret. We were even forbidden to speak the name.

Groce said Prosser was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for inspection tours of signal outfits

Dallas voter ment in a career that began before string of combat commands that in- defeat tax la

United Press International
DALLAS — City officials in
pret the defeat of a charter ame ment proposing severe proper restrictions as more of as chance than a vote of confid

"I think the citizens of Dall giving the management of Dal second chance," Councilman R do Medrano said Sunday of the cord voter turnout that defeate tax limiting measure 2-to-1.

The proposition was placed ballot through petitions spons by the Tax Equality Act (TEA)Par

Officials warned homeowne last year a new assessment su could increase taxes 12 to 200 cent, in order to make up for a cade of undervaluation.

The new system caused adm "Peter and Patic shift in the tax burden, it ion production homeowners being required by an additional \$13 million plus taxes on business personal proper dropping by \$14 million.

Medrano said the resignation tax director Max Noller and his assistant, Bill Vandivort, were let ful" in showing citizens the tar partment would be improved. City Manager George Schal

said the vote was not one of con dence in the city, but a vote again the severity of the TEA Party prosal. He said Dallas voters sens civic responsibility" led to t

feat of tax reforms that have approved by other cities. Local political analysts say the bear feat occurred because fear duced city services outweigh ters' anger over higher pr taxes. The TEA Party propo by margins of 60 percent or mo six northwest and northeast D neighborhoods hardest hit by

erty tax increases. TEA Party president Ed Sim said he thought voters supported tax-limiting proposition, but did favor the TEA Party's seve approach to tax reform.



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WEDNESDAY **EVENING SPECIAL**

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