

STATE AND LOCAL



Photo by GREG BAILEY

Four of the six speakers at the Rudder medal presentation were (l to r): Mrs. James Earl Rudder; Lt. Col. William R. Brady,

president, Ranger Battalion Assoc.; James Eikner, secretary, Ranger Battalion Assoc.; Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver.

Rudder's medals, flags given to A&M for display

By RICKY TELG
Reporter

The Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross and Legion of Merit medals belonging to Gen. James Earl Rudder, former Texas A&M president, were presented to the University Sunday in Rudder Tower. Other medals and flags were also included.

Margaret Rudder, the general's wife, said, "I can't tell you how pleased I am that the University asked for the decorations, especially at a time that so many of his Ranger buddies could be here."

"I'm so happy these medals will be here at the University he loved so well."

The decorations earned by Rudder during his 35 years of military service are on permanent display in the foyer of the tower, next to Rudder's portrait.

During the ceremony Rudder was described as a multi-faceted individual by one of his former soldiers.

"The young Earl Rudder was a man of action — a 'can-do' man," said James Eikner, secretary of the Ranger Battalion Association and member of Rudder's 2nd Ranger Battalion during World War II.

Retired Lt. Col. William Brady, president of the Ranger Battalion Association, said: "Earl always gave his best. He had a profound effect on us."

Rudder was the commander of

the 2nd Ranger Battalion, which spearheaded the Normandy invasion on D-Day in 1944.

Eikner said Rudder was a tough disciplinarian, but that he was fair.

"I remember him saying, 'Fun and games are over. Those who make it, because some of you won't, are going to be the best darned soldiers in the military,'" Eikner said.

The Ranger Battalion, which trained in the states, was comprised of soldiers who were singled out for their physical and mental stamina and who had volunteered for special, dangerous missions.

"They even gave us I.Q. tests," Eikner said. "You've got to be smart to do the things we were doing."

After training, the Rangers went to Great Britain to participate in commando raids with the British on occupied soil to prepare for Operation Overlord — D-Day.

"The Rangers were given a key assignment: reduction of the enemy's weaponry at the most dangerous spot in the invasion at Pointe du Hoc," said Eikner.

Rudder personally led the three companies which made up the attack, despite objections by military intelligence.

"I don't think I would be here today if he hadn't led it himself," Eikner said.

In less than five minutes after hitting the beach, the Rangers were on top of the cliffs, Eikner said. Within 30 minutes, all the essential men of the invasion were up. The guns that the Rangers were sent to destroy were put out of commission by 9 a.m.

Eikner said Rudder was wounded twice during the three days before military relief arrived.

"He was wounded twice, but he would just go to the doctor and get it bandaged up," Eikner said. "You never could tell if it bothered him. Of such actions are heroes made."

Rudder went on to command the 109th Infantry Regiment during the Battle of the Bulge.

"We knew we would eventually have to share our commander with others," Eikner said. "It didn't surprise us when he went on to higher command and later to be president of this University."

Also at the presentation ceremonies, A&M President Frank Vandiver said that the medals were symbols of Rudder's courage and devotion.

"We all know the uncommon valor and the example they represent," Vandiver said. "The medals are simply a symbol of a spirit, an unconditional devotion, not only to the country, but also to the University."

Texas House committee

Abortion hearing on tap

Associated Press

AUSTIN — House committee members return to Austin today for what could be among the most emotional hearings of the session — a proposal to restrict abortions.

Also this week, work continues on a 1986-87 state budget, the Senate will look at setting up a "super Tuesday" presidential primary, the House will decide on a \$120 million fee hike bill and a House committee will hear about a proposed "sick tax."

The House State Affairs Committee agenda for Monday includes 11 abortion-related bills. Pro-life groups are working for passage of Rockdale Rep. L.B. Kubiak's bill that would restrict abortions in the final three months of pregnancy.

"We are bringing in several witnesses who will give sworn testimony that will blow the lid off the abortion industry," said Bill Price, president of the Greater Dallas Right to Life Committee.

"After this shocking testimony of kickbacks, abuse and other irregularities in the abortion industry, we believe that the need to regulate this business will be clearly established," said Price.

Pro-choice factions are lobbying against the Kubiak bill. A group of Houston residents sent coat hangers to lawmakers last week to remind them what might happen if the state makes it more difficult to get a legal abortion.

Taxpayers get \$42,000 bill for White's trip to Honduras

Associated Press

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — Gov. Mark White's Central American junket cost the Department of Defense about \$42,000.

From the National Guard's perspective, the publicity generated by the three-day trip to visit training camps in Honduras and Panama was worth the expense.

"We sure got enough coverage," Joseph Hanley, a spokesman for the National Guard Bureau in Washington, said Thursday after White returned home.

Hanley said stories about the training exercises and White's visit were aired on all three major television networks and printed in countless newspapers, including some of the nation's largest.

The proximity of the guard base camp in Honduras to the Nicaraguan border — 3 miles — was one reason the trip attracted so much attention.

From White's perspective, the trip could turn out to be a mixed blessing. It kept him in the news for days, but some reports included comments calling the trip a publicity stunt and a waste of the taxpayers' money.

Hanley said the only critical comments for the guard was about the use of Hispanic guardsmen in a Spanish-speaking region.

The major expense for the federal government was transportation for White, his staff, Texas guard officials and a dozen journalists who accompanied him.

Hanley and Col. Craig MacNab, an Army spokesman in Washington, were able to provide rough numbers on the cost of the big-ticket items.

The journey involved about 13 hours of flying time for a C-130 Hercules troop transport that took the governor from Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin to Toncontin Airport in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to Howard Air Force Base in Panama and then back to Bergstrom.

In addition, getting the White entourage to the remote guard base camps required about four hours each for a Caribou C-7 troop transport airplane, a UH-1 Huey helicopter, a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and a Ch-47 Chinook helicopter.

Hanley said it costs the government about \$1,700 an hour to fly a C-130, not including crew salaries.

The Caribou costs about \$509 an hour and the Huey costs about \$400 an hour, he said. According to MacNab, the Blackhawk costs about \$1,540 an hour to operate and the Chinook costs about \$2,508 an hour.

The annual Freshmen and Sophomore Mathematics Contest will be held Wednesday, April 17, 1985 from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Freshmen Contest will be in Room 216 Milner Hall and the Sophomore Contest in Room 216 Milner Hall. No Calculators - all test material will be provided. Prizes for winners of first place will be \$100, second place \$60, and third place \$40. Prerequisite for Freshmen Contest is knowledge of calculus through Math 151 or equivalent, for the Sophomore Contest knowledge of calculus through Math 253 or equivalent.



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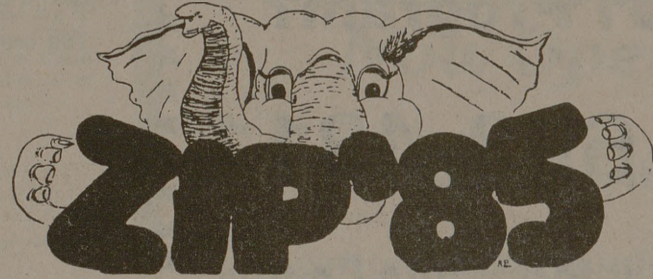
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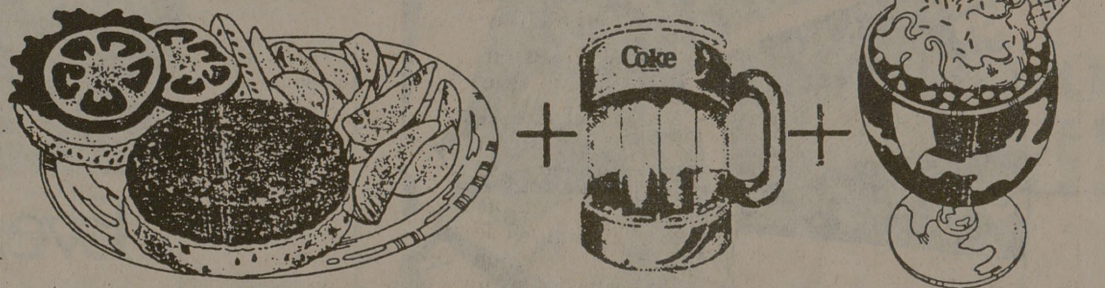
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