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Gold Star widow shares her story





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USAG JAPAN SOCIAL MEDIA (Click Icons)





From the Commander



U.S. Army Garrison Japan Commander's Monthly Radio Show



Listen Online: afnpacific.net/AFN-360

Friday, June 8, 2018

LIVE @ 8:00 a.m.







MMUNITY http://www.facebook.com/USAGJ

ArmyBday SM Campaign







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101 Days of Summer Safety Tips







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EXCHANGE

Biggest Loser Competition



esupu

THE BIGGEST LOSER COMPETITION !!!

The individual who loses the most weight

(keeping your health in mind) by pounds,

will win a gift card !

The contestants must enter between JUNE 1st and JUNE 5th at the Customer Service.

The contestants has 15 days to lose weight for their final weigh in.

Winner will be announced JUNE 22nd.



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FEVS Campaign

Let Your Voice be Heard! Army Engagement in 2018



67% of Army Civilians were provided the opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills by their supervisor. Were you given opportunities to demonstrate leadership skills?

> Take some time. Take the Survey.

Let Your Voice be Heard!

Open Window 1 May to 12 June*

For more information, please visit: https://www.opm.gov/fevs *USACE survey opens and closes one week later.

RISING SUN



June 4, 2018 + Volume 6, Issue 1

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Gold Star widow shares her story



by Lance D. Davis, Public Affairs Specialist

Avis Carter was home about to start a workout on her elliptical trainer. She had a family vacation to Hawaii coming up with a goal to be slim and fit for some fun with the love of her life and their two sons on the beach.

James and Avis Carter together for a couple's picture. The Carters met at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala. and married Jan. 5, 1985. (Photo courtesy of Avis Carter)

Her husband James Carter, a Soldier in the U.S. Army

deployed to Afghanistan, was scheduled to come home next month for rest and relaxation, just in time for the trip.

Avis normally read when using the elliptical. She had two books to choose from. One, discussed the power of a praying wife and the other talked about the power of a praying parent. She was at a dilemma about which book she wanted to read.

"Do I read and pray for my husband or do I read and pray for my children?" she began to ask herself.

Then, without any more thought, Avis grabbed the book about the praying parent and started her exercise routine.

After she finished her workout and showered, she took a moment for relaxation.

Suddenly, Avis heard someone at the door. She wasn't expecting any company. To satisfy her curiosity, she got up to answer the door. There were two men dressed in Army uniforms.

"We hate to inform you that your husband CW4 James Carter is deceased," said one of the Soldiers.

The Soldiers asked if they could come into her home, but Avis disregarded them. She was too shocked by the news. In a state of disbelief, she stepped down from her doorsteps and fell to the grass on her knees, bursting into tears and cries.



Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Carter in uniform. Carter died June 5, 2008 at Kandahar Army Airfield, Afghanistan after a helicopter had a malfunction during a test flight. (Photo courtesy of Avis Carter)

Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Carter, assigned to the 96th Aviation Support Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., died June 5, 2008, while serving during Operation Enduring Freedom at Kandahar Army Airfield, Afghanistan.

The Kiowa helicopter he was in went down during a test flight due to a mechanical malfunction. Pfc. Andre D. McNair, Jr., who was on board with him, was also killed.

James was buried in his hometown of Montgomery, Ala.

"He was very supportive, always looking out for our family," says Avis.

"He wouldn't eat at restaurants because he felt he would take food out of our mouths."





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Gold Star widow...continued

Avis and her two sons, Joshua and Caleb, received lots of support from the Army installation, friends, family, church and the community at large.

Seeing other Soldiers come home from deployments was hard when she would go teach at the elementary school on Fort Campbell, she says, as well as hearing other spouses complain about their husbands coming home later than scheduled.

"Instead of opening my mouth, criticizing them saying 'you should be happy your husband is coming home even if it's a month late, even if they have been extended for two months, because my husband didn't come home,' I'd just divert quickly because they had no clue."

Their family was provided counseling by the Army to help them deal with their life-changing circumstances.

Avis says they appreciated the counseling, but it just didn't work for them.

"You go (to counseling) and think you're going to move forward, but there is always a regression with it."

She says they decided as a family to stop receiving the counseling services.

"Nobody knows what you're going through. Everybody handles death differently.

"What's good for one may not be good for the other."

Avis handled the loss of her husband the only way she knew how: through her Christian experience, praying to God for strength.

"I didn't have time to give up," she says. "I had my family to support."

Avis says she kept herself busy with work, church, Bible Study, reading, and exercise.

As she continued to pray, she looked back at the moment before she received the tragic news about her husband: when she chose to read about the power of a praying parent over the power of a praying husband.



Avis Carter, center, and James Carter, right, pictured with their two sons for a family photo. Joshua, left, the oldest son, now an adult, is currently serving in the Army. Caleb, center, the youngest son, is a college student at Temple University - Tokyo Campus. (Photo courtesy of Avis Carter)

"When I think about that, I should've been reading and praying for my husband first, then my children."

She says, based on her religious beliefs, her priorities were out of order in that moment, and they should have been: "God, husband, children."

Avis met James in 1984 at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. They both were serving in the Army. Avis was ranked private first class and James a specialist.

It didn't take them long to realize they were meant for each other as evidenced by them getting married Jan. 5 1985.

She says their marriage was full of life, love and laughter. It also had its share of ups and downs, and she believes this helped them grow.

Since her husband's death, Avis has been writing a book called If not for him, then who?

In this project, she examines her own journey through her marriage with James, including the pleasant moments, struggles and her spiritual awakening.

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Gold Star widow...continued



Avis Carter, library information specialist, for Arnn Elementary School on Sagamihara Family Housing Area, Japan. (Photo courtesy of Avis Carter)

Avis says she struggled with understanding why God had taken her husband away so soon, cutting the time short for them to experience the growth and change that was taking in place in their marriage.

"I felt the Lord had changed me for my husband."

"It was no more my way or the highway. There was no more being insensitive. "It was an honor to be able to serve."

Avis says she came to realize the change God made in her was not just for her husband and family.

"Sometimes we think our preparation is for people, but it's not. It's for us to be used in service to Him."

Avis currently works as a library information specialist at Arnn Elementary School on Sagamihara Family Housing Area for Camp Zama, Japan.

She encourages students to achieve their fullest potential, providing them with opportunities to read, write and showcase their talents through performing arts.

Her eldest son, Joshua, enlisted in the Army, and youngest son, Caleb, is enrolled at Temple University – Tokyo Campus, studying international business.

She says she remembers so many good things about her husband James.

"He was smart. He was brilliant. He always put our family first. James never missed either of our boys' football games.

"He was just a great father, a great husband, and a great man."

Avis says her family now honors her late husband's memory by appreciating life and enjoying it to the fullest because the next second, hour or day is not promised.

"Life is precious. Enjoy your loved ones while you have them.

"Treat others better than you want to be treated. Be willing to give. Pray without ceasing."

Avis also believes people should not major on what's minor or complain too much, especially when it comes to the ones who are loved the most.

"Sometimes we think things are so bad, so awful. Imagine living without that someone you love."



U.S. ARMY GARRISON JAPAN SERVING THE U.S. ARMY IN JAPAN COMMUNITY June 4, 2018 + Volume 6, Issue 1



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MWR Calendar



ARMY GARRISON JAPAN U.S. RISING SU

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Weekly DFAC Menu

Hours of Operation and Prices: Breakfast: 7 - 9 a.m. / \$3.45 Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. / \$5.60 Dinner: 5 - 6:30 p.m. / \$4.85 Brunch: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. / \$6.25 Supper: 5 - 6 p.m. / \$7.65 Daily entrée includes: Salad bar, Desserts, Fruits and Beverages

Daily Breakfast Menu:

Eggs to Order / Grilled Bacon Grilled Turkey Sausage Sausage Patties **Creamed Beef** Biscuits French Toast / Pancakes Oatmeal / Grits **Steamed Rice** Hashed Brown Potatoes Muffins / Assorted Bread Assorted Cereals / Cottage Cheese **Breakfast Pastries**







Facility Lunch Jun 5, 21:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mulligatawny Soup / Cream of Broccoll Soup Lasagna / Spinach Lasagna Herbed Baked Chicken Spaghetti with Meat Sauce / Marinara Sauce Paprika Buttered Potatoes / Steamed Rice Seasoned Italian Blend / Seasoned Corn **Toasted Garlic Bread**





Section 1000 Arts





Price: \$4.85

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Weekly DFAC Menu Continued









ming facility Brunch Jun 9, 9 a.m. 19 1 p.m.

Omelet / Bolled Eggs / Pancakes / Grits / Biscuits Creamed Beef / Hashed Brown Potatoes Minestrone Soup / Cream of Potato Soup Hamburger Yakisoba / Japanese Ginger Pork Cajun Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes / Steamed Rice Buttered Corn Seasoned Green Beans



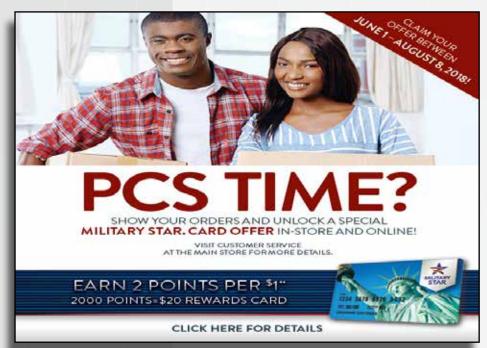






Voting: Your vote is your voice

Are you registered to vote? Have you received your Absentee Ballot for your states' primary election yet? It's a midterm election year, and you don't have to wait until November to have your voice heard. CLICK HERE to find out if your state is having an upcoming election.



USARJ/USAGJ Website Update

The U.S. Army Japan and U.S. Army Garrison Japan websites are still offline. Please be patient during this transition to a new website system. CLICK HERE to find resources and information in the meantime.

Weekly Newsletter Submission Guidelines

The Rising Sun is a weekly newsletter produced by U.S. Amy Garrison Japan Public Affairs and sent out every MONDAY (except on holidays or otherwise stated) to Camp Zama community members, providing news, information and highlights about the U.S. Army in Japan. CLICK HERE to send submissions for weekly newsletter. Please include relevant details. Submission deadline is THURSDAY by NOON.

