NIC mourns the loss of two servicemen

Two North Idaho College students gave their lives for their country July 7, 2011 in Baghdad, Iraq, supporting Operation New Dawn. Both were assigned to the 145th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Cavalry Heavy Brigade Combat Team based in Post Falls. Sincere sympathy to the families of these two brave men.

**Spc. Nathan R. Beyers**, 24, of Littleton, Colo., lived in the Coeur d’Alene area prior to his deployment. He was in the NIC Diesel Technology program and before deploying to Iraq. He left behind his wife Vanessa and his infant daughter, who was born on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2010. “Nathan was proud of his job and serving our country,” Vanessa wrote. “He died doing something he loved and was such a brave person. We just had our first child and Nathan had a chance to visit us when he was home on leave in January 2011. I told him I knew he was going to be a wonderful father. We are going to miss him.”

**Spc. Nicholas “Nick” W. Newby**, 20, of Coeur d’Alene was completing college courses at NIC through the Internet and planned to earn an associate’s degree before transferring to Boise State University. He was awarded numerous awards for his military service including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Ribbon, Idaho National Guard State Service Ribbon, and more. “He was a great musician who played many instruments including guitar, bass guitar, saxophone, and drums,” his family wrote. “Nick loved fishing, camping, road trips, learning to fly as a member of the Civil Air Patrol, and wrestling with his brother. He loved thrashing his truck and then fixing it; we recall digging him out of the snow and we all smiled through it. Nick loved his family, and everybody loved him.”

As part of the 2011 annual campaign, the North Idaho College Foundation is dedicated to assisting veteran students whose veteran’s education benefits have expired. These students most often served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars and are returning to college to either renew their skills or seek new careers to better fit the current job market. If you are interested in supporting scholarships for veterans, contact the NIC Foundation Office at (208) 769-5978 or email foundation@nic.edu.

**Friends We’ll Miss**

**Bonnie R. Elliott**, ’64, passed away Jan. 4, 2011. She grew up in Rathdrum, graduating from Lakeland High School and NIC. She worked for Boeing Aircraft Co. in Seattle before she and her family returned to Rathdrum and she later worked for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, the Post Falls School District, and as an in-home caregiver.

**Arnold Davidson** passed away April 13, 2011. He attended NIC, the University of Idaho, and the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA). He was an Army military policeman, retiring as a logistics specialist for the Civil Service aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise.

**Charles “Chuck” F. Seymour**, ’73, passed away on May 27, 2011. He graduated from Coeur d’Alene High School in 1941 before attending NIC and the University of Idaho. After retiring from the Internal
Revenue Service, he traveled across the country in his RV for 17 years with his wife Eileen, who was retired from the NIC Registrar’s Office. He enjoyed playing bridge, dancing, gardening, and reading.

**Jeanne Marie (Boughton) Bemis**, passed away May 31, 2011. She graduated from Coeur d’Alene High School in 1971 and earned a master’s degree in interior design and architecture from the University of Idaho. She was a member of the Coeur d’Alene Parks and Recreation Board and was recognized with one of the region’s only National Certificates for Interior Design. She was a communications instructor at NIC from 1998 to 2009.

**David Chris Weddle**, ’61, passed away June 18, 2011. He attended North Idaho Junior College for two years and then the University of Idaho, graduating with a mechanical engineering degree. He was a member of the Good Sam Club, the Lions Club, the Barc’s Club, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

**Helen Margaret (McGowan) Brophy**, ’91, passed away June 18, 2011. She attended NIC from 1988 to 1991, earning an associate’s degree as a paralegal secretary. She enjoyed her family, canning, and watching Gonzaga University basketball and the Seattle Mariners.

**Doris Irene May** passed away June 20, 2011. She graduated from Coeur d’Alene High School in 1952. She was a church organist for 27 years and gave private piano lessons to many students. She worked for NIC for 20 years before retiring in 1999.

**Georgine Christman Larsen** passed away June 20, 2011. She moved to Coeur d’Alene in 1960 and attended North Idaho Junior College, taking business classes. She worked at Sunset Terrace as the office manager until her retirement. While there, she earned a Nursing Home Administrator’s License.


**Cory Robert Stapleton** passed away at the age of 38 on July 4, 2011. He grew up in St. Maries, graduating with the class of 1991 and was an All-State football and baseball player and an All-League basketball player. He attended NIC before transferring to Lewis-Clark State College. He worked for St. Maries River Railroad part time in high school and then began his full-time career there in 1994. He enjoyed fishing and hunting.

**Ian Clifford Hodson**, ’04, passed away at the age of 28 on July 7, 2011. He graduated from NIC in 2004, earning an associate’s degree in computer sciences. He earned an associate’s degree in accounting from Spokane Community College in 2009. He enjoyed hiking, gardening, photography, and loved working on computers.

**Joseph Scales**, ’80, passed away July 25, 2011. He attended NIC in 1979 and 1980. He served 28 years in the military, earning the Bronze Star and was in 14 invasions while serving in the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

Thomas Melville Cromwell passed away Aug. 14, 2011. He served on the NIC Foundation Board of Directors from 1996 to 2003. He tutored jail detainees as well as GED and English as a Second Language to students through NIC for many years. He served as a test pilot and instructor teaching carrier flight operations during World War II, then served in the U.S. Navy Reserve as an assistant air intelligence officer. In 1951, he started working with Pacific Coast Borax Company, until his retirement in 1987. He published several scientific articles and was awarded numerous U.S. and Canadian patents. He enjoyed woodworking, fishing, hunting, golfing, water sports, and cross country skiing.

Terry P. Kiefer passed away Aug. 18, 2011. He graduated from Lakeland High School in 1972 and was a basketball and track and field athlete at both NIC and Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore., where he earned a bachelor’s degree in education. He taught for 33 years in the Banks Oregon School District, where he was committed to being a positive influence.

Gordon Palm, a native of Coeur d’Alene, passed away Aug. 19, 2011. He attended North Idaho Junior College for a brief period, but received a Yankee scholarship to Santa Clara then transferred to Lewis-Clark State College where he studied education. He played for the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues for four years, including the Spokane Indians. He taught and coached in the Coeur d’Alene School District for 31 years.

James Grant Elliott passed away at the age of 28 on Aug. 20, 2011. He attended NIC in 2002 and later the University of Idaho. He grew up in Priest River and enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, hunting, camping, snowmobiling, dirt biking, riding horseback, and rodeos.

Jody “Jo” Ann Staley passed away Sept. 1, 2011. She was a sign language teacher at the NIC Workforce Training Center from 2002 to 2003. She enjoyed camping, hiking, fishing, crocheting, reading, gardening, and volunteering with Special Olympics.

Gregory David Cottier passed away Sept. 5, 2011. He attended NIC, spent two years at Spokane Community College, and then finished his education at a carpentry trade school in Anchorage, Alaska. He lived in Alaska since 1975, and enjoyed fishing, hunting, and Bible study.

Charles Humphrey, ’42, passed away Sept. 13, 2011. He graduated from Coeur d’Alene High School in 1938 and North Idaho Junior College in 1942. He earned a civil engineering degree from the University of Idaho and later entered the U.S. Navy, where he received flight training. Assigned to anti-submarine patrol in the Atlantic Ocean, he was in the battle group that captured the U-505. He worked for the Idaho Highway Department in 1954 and became the state materials supervisor, until retiring in July 1982.

Kathleen Marie Fuller, a native of Coeur d’Alene, passed away Sept. 15, 2011. She graduated from Coeur d’Alene High School in 1972, attended nursing school at NIC, and earned a bachelor’s degree at Eastern Washington University. She worked at Sacred Heart Medical Center and the Spokane Mental
Health Center, where she was Employee of the Year in 1998. She enjoyed Native American art, music, traveling, sports, and her pets.

Terry A. “Ernie Trout” Ehrmantraut, ’98, passed away Sept. 16, 2011 at the age of 56. He received two associate’s degrees from NIC in 1998. He was a craftsman and self-taught inventor, from whom many people and industries benefited.

Annie Madeline Fisher passed away Sept. 20, 2011. She lived in the Northwest her entire life and enjoyed spending time outdoors, hunting, fishing, and picking huckleberries. She camped during the summer and sold berries to roadside customers. She earned an associate’s degree in graphic arts from NIC. She was an artist and loved to cook for her family, read, and play games.

Jonathan Mathew Franco passed away Sept. 24, 2011 at the age of 27. He attended NIC and became a police officer for the City of Rathdrum. He touched many lives in the Coeur d’Alene, Post Falls, and Rathdrum communities. He loved reading, sports, shooting, and helping others.

Russell H. Wickstrom passed away Sept. 30, 2011. He attended NIC and served eight years and three tours of duty during the Vietnam War for the U.S. Army. He was a lifetime VFW member and an avid fisherman.

Dennis Mitchell Ketron passed away Oct. 8, 2011. He grew up in Coeur d’Alene and moved to Portland, Ore., after graduating from NIC. He earned a teaching degree and minored in black history from Lewis-Clark State College. He loved to travel and visited more than 15 countries, logged nearly 40,000 miles as an avid Volks-walker, and walked almost all the U.S. state capitol.

Charles Raymond Eberle passed away Oct. 12, 2011. He attended North Idaho Junior College and later graduated from Gonzaga University in 1963 and Gonzaga School of Law in 1966.

Carrey Lynn Harte passed away Oct. 16, 2011. She attended Victor Valley College in California with a focus on early childhood development. She moved to Coeur d’Alene in 1996 and attended NIC, continuing her education in early childhood development and general studies. She enjoyed all four seasons and donated her time and services to various organizations.

Dean Albert Primmer, ’64, passed away Oct. 16, 2011. He completed North Idaho Junior College’s mechanics and auto body repair programs in 1964. He served in the U.S. Army before a lifelong career with Lakes Highway District, where he retired as a foreman. He enjoyed the outdoors, auto racing, woodworking projects, and loved to explore the wonders of the universe with his telescope.

Alice I. Ross, ’63, passed away Oct. 23, 2011. She graduated in 1963 from North Idaho Junior College and later earned a master’s degree in business education from the University of Idaho. She was a retired educator at Coeur d’Alene High School and NIC. She enjoyed landscaping, home building/remodeling/decorating, traveling, hiking, and camping.

Naoma Ruth Kalstad, ’77, passed away on Oct. 27, 2011. She graduated in 1977 from NIC and went to Northern Montana State, earning a degree in elementary education. She later attended the University of
Lorraine Mildred Witherspoon passed away Nov. 2, 2011. She retired from NIC in 1990 where she worked in the Student Union Building. She enjoyed playing pinochle and was a member of the Rambling Rovers and Lake City Senior Center.

Joshua Martin Pierce passed away at the age of 25 on Nov. 5, 2011. He attended NIC, pursuing a welding degree. He worked for Lone Wolf Construction and MoCo in the welding fabrication field. He enjoyed hunting and hiking.

Beverly Jean Crabtree passed away Nov. 26, 2011. She attended NIC and worked as an owner operator of the interior design business BJ Crabtree Design.

Mary Ellen Guimond passed away Nov. 29, 2011. She earned an associate’s degree from NIC and a bachelor’s degree in education from Whitworth University. She taught elementary school at St. Thomas Elementary, Sorenson, and Borah schools. She enjoyed gardening and quilting.

Jim Orr, ’57, passed away Dec. 5, 2011. He graduated in 1957 from North Idaho Junior College and later attended Eastern Washington University and Pepperdine, earning a master’s degree in economics. He was an accomplished sailor.

Clarence Albert Weil passed away Dec. 20, 2011. He attended NIC and worked in the grocery business for more than 30 years until his retirement. He was an active member and youth group leader of his church in Osburn.

Donald Francis Goodwin, Sr., passed away Jan. 1, 2012. He served in the military as a decoder during the Korean Conflict. He earned a doctorate in literature at the University of Iowa and began teaching at Eastern of Washington University in 1961. He retired in 1996 as professor emeritus and received Teacher of the Year in 1969. After retiring, he taught part time at NIC for eight years as an English instructor and mentored students at the Writing Center.

Jon Jeffrey Plum, ’90, passed away Jan. 2, 2012. He grew up in the Panhandle area and graduated from NIC in 1990, earning an associate’s degree in architecture/drafting. He worked for Miller Stauffer Architects before joining JUB Engineers, Inc. as the computer design team leader for 20 years. He enjoyed spending time with family, cooking, watching the Seattle Mariners, and lakeside barbeques.

George A. “Sam” Kain, ’53, passed away Jan. 7, 2012. He served twice in the U.S. Army prior to attending North Idaho Junior College, where he was the class president in 1953. He furthered his education at the University of Oregon and then graduated from Gonzaga University Law School. He served as Spokane’s prosecuting attorney. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially fishing, camping, and skiing.

David Lowell Mason, ’72, passed away Jan. 9, 2012. He grew up in Coeur d’Alene and attended local schools until joining the Marine Corp in 1961. He attended trade school at NIC, graduating in 1972, and...
then worked for Kootenai County and the Coeur d’Alene School District. He enjoyed watching sports, doing crossword puzzles, and having coffee with friends.

**Mark W. Middleton** passed away Jan. 9, 2012. He grew up in the Inland Northwest and attended North Idaho Junior College in 1965. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged in 1967 following an injury. He was active with the Young Adult Conservation Corp (YACC), owned and operated St. Joe Valley Machine Works, worked for the Worley Highway District, and the Pacific Crown lumber mill in Plummer. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, hunting, fishing, and playing music.


**Kenneth S. Kirking** passed away Jan. 16, 2012. He graduated from Coeur d’Alene High School in 1940 and served with the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater during World War II, attaining the rank of staff sergeant. He attended North Idaho Junior College in the 1940s. He was an active community member with the Coeur d’Alene Kiwanis Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 486, Coeur d’Alene Elks Lodge No. 1254, Dalton Gardens City Council, and served on the Coeur d’Alene School District 271 School Board. He enjoyed spending time with his family, woodworking, singing, vegetable gardening, and raising livestock.