

Notes to Consider...

Investigative Report:

The Murky Service History of LTC Amy McGrath, USMC (Ret.)

By G.S. Morris — 10 September 2018



My first hint something was odd about the televised portrayal of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Amy McGrath's service record was the fact a Google image search couldn't reveal a single photograph of a Marine aircraft stenciled with the name of the Kentucky 6th Congressional District Challenger. Curious.

I'm an old Army guy with (previously) little-to-no knowledge of US Naval Aviation. Unlike yourself, I'd taken literally McGrath's words in her now nationally famous *Told Me* commercial. I had naively misunderstood the phrases:

"I flew eighty-nine combat missions bombing Al Qaeda and the Taliban"; "I was the first woman Marine to fly in an F-18 in combat"; and "I got to land on aircraft carriers," to mean Miss McGrath had caused a plane to take flight, directly engage the enemy, and land on a pitching aircraft carrier somewhere in the Middle East more than eighty times. Imagine my surprise when an investigation of McGrath's service record pointed to the fact her grand total of piloted combat missions was, zero?

Don't take my word for it. McGrath's biography she submitted to the Kentucky Aviation Museum Hall of Fame in 2016 constitutes Exhibit A: *Amy graduated in 1997 She completed flight school in July 1999 and reported to MCAS Miramar, San Diego, CA as an F/A-18D Hornet Weapons Systems Officer. First Lieutenant McGrath was assigned to Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121 "Green Knights." In 2001, she deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Bright Star. In 2002, Captain McGrath, call sign "Krusty," deployed to Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where she flew over 50 combat missions in Afghanistan. In that theater of war, she became the first woman to fly in an F/A-18 in combat for the Marine Corps. In 2003, she deployed with the Green Knights to Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). During OIF, she flew another 30+ combat missions and dropped over 50,000 pounds of ordnance on enemy targets in Iraq. She returned from OIF to qualify as an F/A-18 air combat tactics instructor. McGrath has accrued over 2000 flight hours (350 combat flight hours), has flown 85+ combat missions.*

There was no shame in having ridden into combat in the back seat of an F/A-18D Strike-Fighter Jet as a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) instead of having piloted the jet in combat as a Naval Aviator. However, couldn't voters consider it a premeditated misrepresentation if Shane Morris were seeking election this fall for local dog catcher, and was running ads claiming when in Iraq he had: "Flown UH-60 Blackhawks on some days; CH-47 Chinooks and C-23 Sherpas on others; and when he was feeling especially daring, he would take to the air in a mighty C-130 Hercules or hulking C-17 Globemaster"? Well, "technically" I did all those things, but such language would be enlisting the US Military in helping me mislead voters.

343 NYFD; 60 NYPD/PAPD; 8 EMS; 1 NYFP; 184 Pentagon; and 2,977 Total; and the four brave men lost when they and their brothers were abandoned at Benghazi. Never Forget!

The Center for Rural Development Participates in SOAR Summit 18

Eastern Kentucky was once defined by its involvement in coal mining, but the downturn of the coal industry has had significant impacts. Eastern Kentuckians are now rallying together to overcome those challenges and focus on innovative solutions that reimagine the future. This was evident as a multitude of organizations, businesses, and individuals from across the region recently gathered in Pikeville for the SOAR Summit 18. The 5th annual summit was a two-day event, hosted by Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), which focused on implementing a brighter future for Appalachia Kentucky.

U.S. Representative Harold "Hal" Rogers, Governor Matt Bevin and Tim Thomas, the new Federal Co-Chair of The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), provided messages of inspiration to the more than 1,100 "change-makers" in attendance. They applauded existing efforts that are improving the quality of life and diversifying the economy. The speakers also highlighted the work accomplished by the many organizations in the region, including The Center for Rural Development.

The Center was among those actively involved in the event and its vision to promote innovation, collaboration and economic and community development. Lonnie Lawson, President & CEO at The Center contributed to the broadband panel discussion, "Middle Mile and Last Mile". The session detailed the work that has been accomplished on KentuckyWired in the past year. Additionally, the conversation showcased the need for communities to focus locally on last-mile broadband solutions that can extend the reach of the KentuckyWired project.

"The Center for Rural Development is laser focused on helping bring high-speed, high-capacity internet service to all of eastern Kentucky. Thanks to the support of Congressman Rogers, Governor Bevin and ARC we are making that a reality," said Lawson.

The Center offers information about local, state, and federal funds that support the initiative to bring broadband access to rural areas. Furthermore, The Center also helps communities better understand the process of setting up a broadband board, beginning feasibility studies, strategic planning, data collection, market assessments, and engineering and network designs.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Wilma and David Phillips on your recent wedding aired live on WWAG radio Dial and Deal. We wish you a long and happy future! Your friends.

Jackson County Detention Center Update

Courtesy of The Jackson County Detention Center

This is just a short update from the Jackson County Detention Center. We are extremely pleased with the GED program and the cooperation with Adult Education. We are excited that last week we did have one to get their GED! This will be a great asset to have upon release and will assist in the young man's ability to get a job.

The MRT class has been doing extremely well and we are looking to expand the offer to more of the jail population. Again, we met and exceeded our own payroll. There is also a female work release crew that should be working some outside of the jail, not just inside the facility.

We have made some effective changes within the facility to help the employees and the inmates. We look forward to updating you all with more progress soon!

Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word

By Lynetta Hunter

Caleb and Joshua were a small percentage of believers in their group, and to be envied compared to the other ten men who thought logically instead of spiritually. Caleb was commended for having a good spirit, and received the good things God had for him.

I am Caleb. The giants are big and the cities are walled, but we are still able to go in and take the Promised Land. We can overcome because God says we will. Even though most of the other men are scared and want to leave the expedition, and give up on the promise from God, I find it well worth fighting for. There's more distance between me and Egypt than me and Canaan. I have been living in the wilderness for a while now, I have become comfortable and its surroundings have become part of my life, but when I get there, this will be only a memory as I adjust to my new place in life. I know we are disadvantaged, but God said we would be, the giants are not going to move for us or surrender to us. The closer we get, the bigger they will look. But God said we could take them, and even though I don't see a way how, I trust that He has it all worked out. I want to receive the good life God wants me to have, experience the blessings He has prepared for me, and see His hand at work in even a bigger way than I ever have. I have been in this dry, dusty, barren land for too long, and I'm tired. I'm going to take what he says is mine, receive His promises, and enjoy the rest of my life in His presence, goodness and mercy.

Jackson County Farm Bureau Hosts Vet Clinic

Jackson County Farm Bureau Federation and Veterinarian, Joey Minter teamed up to offer Rabies and Parvo shots to small pets belonging to Farm Bureau members on Friday, September 7th. Approximately 50 pets were vaccinated at a reduced cost to the member.

The clinic, which was held in the parking lot at the Farm Bureau office in McKee, had a steady stream of customers throughout the morning.

Farm Bureau plans to join with Dr. Minter to offer this program on an annual basis.



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: JUDY HELTON, DR JOEY MINTER, BRENDA AYERS, PHYLLIS PURVIS, TANDA ISAACS, DIANE ISAACS

Kentucky Fall Revival 2018

with Evangelist Dick Chambers

Estill & Jackson Counties September 23-30, 2018

September 23-26 Services at Crooked Creek Christian Church (Estill Co.)
1980 Crooked Creek Road, Irvine, KY.

September 27-30 Services at Cornerstone Christian Church (Jackson Co.)
Highway 290 across from the Jackson County Bank at stoplight, McKee, KY.

Assembly Times at both churches

Sunday 11:00 am and 6:00 pm. Monday-Saturday 7:00 pm

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