

Notes to Consider...

Investigative Report:

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

By G.S. Morris — 17 September 2018



The United States Marine Corps first fielded the F/A-18 Hornet in 1984. Produced originally in the mid-1970s by McDonnell-Douglas, the twin engine fighter/attack jet is capable of flying at nearly twice the speed of sound; carries high explosive “smart” laser/GPS guided air-to-ground munitions; and air-to-air missiles as well as a 20mm cannon for dogfighting. The A and C models are single seat, typically carrier based aircraft. The B and D models are twin seat jets; B used primarily as a trainer and the D model primarily a long distance close air support platform for ground troops. US Marine Corps F/A-18D Hornets are typically flown from fixed land bases.

The above is easily obtained information from any online encyclopedia source. What requires more research, and not typically public knowledge from official military sources, may be of interest to readers following our investigation of Candidate Amy McGrath’s claimed combat history.

From McGrath’s biography provided to the Kentucky Aviation Museum Hall of Fame (what we may expect to be her most accurate biography; she submitted this biography to mostly retired military aviators, after all), she claimed to have “dropped over 50,000 pounds of ordnance on enemy targets in Iraq.” That statement was false, as the F/A-18D as flown by the US Marine Corps does not have means of dropping ordnance from the Weapons Systems Officer seat (back) which was where the timeline of McGrath’s military career placed her for *all* her flight time over a combat zone. “Identified” or “fixed” enemy targets in combat? Yes. “Dropped” ordnance? No.

In canvassing Kentucky 6th Congressional District potential voters, I’ve spoken with some who are under the impression McGrath’s descriptions of having “flown” in combat are “technically” correct, as at some points in flight the Weapons Systems Officer may control the plane from the back seat; the only problem with such a scenario is that a USMC F/A-18D has no flight controls (stick, throttle, etc.) in the back seat, either.

In summary, Amy McGrath’s claims to have “flown” or “dropped” ordnance in combat from a Marine F/A-18D were physically impossible. If I have misunderstood either the USMC F/A-18D or Lt. Colonel (Ret.) McGrath’s flight history/career timeline, I eagerly await her correction.

Next Week: These Questions Could All be Cleared up in Five Minutes

Rogers Votes to Protect Water Infrastructure and Lake Cumberland Access

WASHINGTON, DC -- U.S. Rep. Harold “Hal” Rogers applauded House passage of America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, a comprehensive bipartisan effort between both the U.S. House and Senate to improve the nation’s water infrastructure and flood protection programs. The legislation includes the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018, giving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the resources necessary to protect our communities and our waterways.

“This legislation is vital to improving quality drinking water across the country, while also protecting our homes and businesses from future flood damage,” said Rogers, Chairman Emeritus of the House Appropriations Committee. “It also includes my on-going effort to protect communities around Lake Cumberland from being taxed with unnecessary access fees for drinking water. I included language to prohibit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from charging those uncalculated fees in both this bill and the Energy and Water House Appropriations Bill. I have been blocking that tax for many years, and will continue to ensure our local, rural communities are not burdened with an added cost to access quality drinking water at the unknown and unfair expense of maintaining the Wolf Creek Dam.”

Judge Kavanaugh Welcomes the Opportunity to Address the Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) delivered the following remarks today on the Senate floor regarding the president’s nominee for the Supreme Court, Judge Brett Kavanaugh:

“Yesterday, Chairman Grassley announced the Judiciary Committee will continue its hearings for Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the Supreme Court on Monday morning. Dr. Christine Blasey Ford of California and Judge Kavanaugh have both been invited to testify under oath.

“Dr. Ford will have the opportunity to offer sworn testimony. She communicated with the ranking Democrat on the committee in writing nearly seven weeks ago, but through no fault of hers, Senate Democrats chose to play politics and keep it secret throughout the entirety of Judge Kavanaugh’s regular confirmation process.

“They sat on this information for nearly seven weeks until they leaked it to the press on the eve of the scheduled committee vote. But as my colleague the senior Senator from Texas said yesterday, the blatant malpractice demonstrated by our colleagues across the aisle will not stop the Senate from moving forward in a responsible manner.

“And as I said yesterday, I have full confidence in Chairman Grassley to lead the committee through the sensitive and highly irregular situation in which the Democrats’ tactics have left all of us -- Judge Kavanaugh, Dr. Ford, and this entire body. Dr. Ford will be heard. And of course, Judge Kavanaugh will have the opportunity to defend himself against this accusation. An accusation which he has unequivocally denied.

“And which stands at odds with every other piece of the overwhelming positive testimony we’ve received about Judge Kavanaugh’s character, from his close friends, colleagues, and law clerks, from the distant past to the present day, including the high school years during which this misconduct is alleged to have taken place. He welcomes this opportunity to address the committee about this claim.

“But, colleagues -- we should not have gotten to this point, in this manner, at this time. That this process has played out with so little order and so little sensitivity lies solely at the feet of Senate Democrats who saw a political advantage in leaking this to the press instead of vetting through proper channels. But this is where we are. So on Monday, Chairman Grassley and our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee will reconvene. They, and the American people, will hear testimony under oath.”

Inspirational Thoughts Into God’s Word

By Lynetta Hunter

(Matthew 9:14-17) The people of this time seemed to adapt well, considering how new the thoughts, ideas, and ways of religion had become. The parable was indigenous to their time and helped them to understand the answer to their question. When a change needs to take place, whether it’s national, social, or personal, old thinking has to be replaced with new thoughts, old pursuits have to be replaced with new quests, and old ways have to be replaced with new actions. Christianity is what Jesus offered them, and their man-made law was contrary to His law, and their heartless works contrary to His grace, (2 Co. 5:17 If any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away and behold all things are new).

The new piece of cloth Jesus spoke of in the parable, if sewn on the old garment, would have eventually made the tear worse. The new piece was stronger because it wasn’t shrunk by the friction and force of human hands like the old garment was. The new wine, once it starting working and fermenting, would burst out of the old wineskins because they were used and stretched to their limit. However, new wineskins were flexible and willing to be transformed as the new wine grew inside of them.

The old garment and old wineskins can represent anything that needs to be made obsolete in a person’s life; generational falsity, reprobated thoughts, and heartless actions, in order to be forever clothed with His righteousness (Is. 61:10), and continually filled with His Spirit (Acts 13:52).

Yards to Paradise Landscaping

Late Summer Landscape Pointers

By Max Phelps

The lazy hot days of summer drag by, but before you know it fall is in the air. In today’s column let’s take stock of the yard and home and possibly do some late summer landscaping. Or, at least some planning for later.

Summer is sometimes plagued with drought conditions, but at present there’s plenty of moisture in the soil in Kentucky and Tennessee, and probably most nearby areas. That means yard mowing continues full bore, and trees and shrubs can be planted from containers, or balled and burlapped. (Moving growing shrubs from one location on your property to another would best be postponed until fall or winter.)

It is a good time to plant fall gardens such as turnips, and it is also a good time to kill a bad lawn and put in new sod, or seed and straw for a new one.

Landscapers generally work all year, except when the ground is frozen; however, the average homeowner will be safer planting in late fall or early spring.

Fall is for bulb planting if you want tulips and daffodils next spring. But often late summer is the time to plan and get the bulb orders in. Some high-demand items are always sold out by the time actual planting is going on.

The earlier you start reserving rare trees, a special fruit tree, whether for fall planting from containers or bare-root planting of dormant stock next spring, if you want specific or custom plantings, waiting until it’s time to plant may mean you have to accept substitutes and compromises.

Plant evergreen plants now so you have greenery this winter. Hellebore (Lenten roses), coral bells, microbiata, creeping junipers, vinca minor, pachysandra and English ivy. Also, late August is fine for things like Arborvitae, hemlock, and spruce tree plantings. A couple years back I planted several large holly trees in August with no problems.

Fall is a great time for hardscape projects. Concrete, stone, wood. And painting, refurbishing, and sealing or preserving. Especially on those sunny days with lower humidity so things dry well.

Summer pruning of trees works well. But, we suggest 15 percent or so limb removal strategically; not topping trees. Removing damaged trees is good before winter. And, trees cut, and stumps ground out, don’t seem to regenerate and sprout back up when done in late summer. When done in spring, they often do sprout back up.

Fertilizing strawberries and lawns in late summer is fine, but for shrubs and trees, they need to go dormant so they will be ready for winter. Only the hardiest of trees can go from active growth to below freezing weather without some damage.

Wildlife: I know many folks love to feed and observe wildlife, and so they buy feed and put it out constantly. Might I suggest that leaving the weeds and flowering seeds such as coneflowers, tall grasses, chicory, thistles and such so the birds can collect seeds naturally from native plants makes more sense. (Then the grasses and old plants can be cut and composted—or burned if you prefer—in late winter.)

Also, with wildlife in mind, consider planting oak trees for the deer. Fruiting trees for deer, birds, small animals. About any landscape plant that bears berries or pretty seeds, from dogwoods and viburnums and crab apples to persimmons, pawpaws, apples, and even exotics such as jujubes or native medlars, will be much appreciated by wildlife. (And the average homeowner may be surprised how nice some fruits from their own yards can be—those from the supermarket aren’t always comparable, nor as tasty. (Speaking of wild fruit, if you have some pawpaws I would be interested in collecting a few, and selecting the best ones to grow some new plants from. Also, I would love to find some more red fleshed apple varieties I could get a limb from for grafting. Any really nice old timey apple that you don’t know what kind it is, for that matter.)

Regular readers have gotten many ideas to work with over the last seventeen seasons, but if yours still isn’t the yard you would like it to be, consider taking steps this late summer and fall so that next year you can be more proud of your place. And, always wise advice, a handyman or person new in landscaping may be fine for mulching and weed pulling, but find yourself a reputable professional who has been around and knows his or her stuff for those major projects. The bigger the project, the more important this point is. - o -

The author is a landscaper. Comments and questions welcome. Website: www.rockcastles.net

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