



# The President's Page

In Memoriam

**COLONEL JOHN CALLAN O'LAUGHLIN**

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*E. Walsh*



## THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN



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### OUR COVER

The F-84 "Thunderjets" shown on this month's front cover are of the type that many Air National Guard pilots will be flying by late Summer—they hope. USAF is turning back the 84s to Republic Aviation Corp. (which supplied the picture, by the way) for extensive modifications at its Farmingdale, L. I., plant, before the jets go to ANG squadrons. (See story page 32.)

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### Dear Guardsmen:

For people who like to get lots of mail, there's no job quite like an editor's. An editor gets all kinds—stories, pictures, publicity blurbs, speeches, reports, inquiries, gripes. He gets to know, pretty intimately, lots of nice people he never even has seen, and it's amazing what fun he can have with bull sessions via Uncle Sam's swift couriers who can't be stopped by rain, etc., etc.

Take, for instance, one of our many correspondents of long standing. We've never met the guy, although you've been seeing his stuff in our magazine. We've been yackety-yacking back and forth about this and that, and we think you might be interested in one of his observations:

"We were indulging in a prolonged discussion of all manner of trivia and I was holding forth one of my pet gripes, to wit, apathy. I maintained that the primary stumbling-block to sincere do-gooders today is the apathy of everybody in general. Everybody says, 'I can't stop the Roosians . . . I can't lower prices . . . I can't elect a good man . . . or impeach a bad.' Then, as I drove back to the hotel, I realized that I was just as apathetic as anybody I had damned. I realized that I was, in most instances, all talk and no do. That has disturbed me for several days . . . so disturbed me that my caloric intake has fallen from my usual five to a mere three squares per diem."

And then, there's the kind of pat on the back that gives you a lift, like the veteran Guardsman who wrote our boss, General Walsh:

"The Retirement Bill had quite a struggle with the Comptroller General, but we knew that all would come out right—how could it be otherwise with 100% backing by both Houses of Congress, the President, and most of all, the support of the National Guard Association. You have done a splendid job, and we are all greatly obligated to you . . . Words fail me, when I think of all you and others have done to make this Retirement Compensation a reality. It almost seems too good to be true. I know that it required a lot of time and effort—often, some real fight. So long as life lasts, we will be grateful to you."

Of course, there's another type of letter that gives us no end of pleasure, and that's the kind we got recently from Lt. Col. Albert C. Prendergast, CO of Texas' 135th Ftr. Gp. at Hensley Field, Dallas. In typical Texas fashion, Colonel Prendergast wrote that he was sending subscriptions for 415 copies of THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN so that every enlisted man in his outfit would have his own copy. Since 100% of his officers are members of the NGA, it means, he noted, "This will put a 'NATIONAL GUARDSMAN' into the hands of each and every man at this station." That takes in Hq., 133th Ftr. Gp.; Hq. Det., 236th Air Sv. Gp.; 1808th Engr. Avn. Co.; 181st Ftr. Sq.; 181st Utility Flt.; Det. A, 236th Air Sv. Gp., and the 181st Wea. Sta.

And when Adj. Gen. K. L. Berry comes along with a letter remarking that "These units are truly 100 percenters, and in addition, are very fine organizations in a military sense," do you expect us to give him any argument?

Maybe our suburban grass does need cutting; maybe some household chores are being neglected; but we'll stick around Saturday afternoons to keep up our correspondence with folks like those.

*The Staff*

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