



**Lemmond achieves Navy's top enlisted pay grade**

John Lemmond, son of Senator Charles D. and Barbara Lemmond of Dallas, was promoted recently to the rank of Master Chief Equipmentman in a ceremony held onboard the Naval Construction Battalion center, Gulfport, MS. There are fewer than 25 master Chiefs in this Seabee rating on active duty in the Navy. Lemmond, a 1981 graduate of West Side Area Vocational Technical School, enlisted in the Navy Seabees in July of that same year. He recently transferred to the 20th Seabee Readiness Group from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 where he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation enduring Freedom. Capt. Brian Kelm Commanding Officer of the 20th Seabee Readiness Group congratulates EQCM (SCW) John Lemmond on his promotion to the Navy's highest enlisted rank.

**Hero**

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decorated with balloons and flags, and two large cakes were prominently displayed.

One cake simply read "Happy 24th Birthday." Yanik had missed celebrating his birthday with his family on April 28. The other cake read, "Thank you Chris for protecting us. Rangers lead the way. 1st Battalion/75th Ranger Regiment. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!"

Yanik's mother, Marianne, greeted everyone at the door. Her nervous energy was apparent. "Forgive me," she said. "I couldn't sleep waiting for him to come home early Friday morning, and I've only slept for about two hours since he's been here. I've had a 24-hour headache and eight other children to love and care for. I'm so thankful that he's home and safe, and we're so proud of him."

Glenn Yanik was also a happy and relieved parent. "I have been looking forward to this day," he said. "It was nerve racking having Chris over there and in special operations. He couldn't communicate with us the whole time he was in Iraq. When one of the soldiers in his unit was injured, he was brought back to the United States. The soldier brought word back to the family support group that Chris and all of the others in his unit were okay. That call from his home base in Georgia brought all of us much comfort and relief."

*"When they said the Army Rangers were involved, we just knew Chris was there."*

Glenn Yanik  
Franklin Twp.

Many of us were glued to the television set during the conflict, but none more dedicated than the Yanik family. "We were all so tired," said Glenn Yanik. "Most of us stayed up most of the night to watch the daytime operations over there. We were trying to get even a glimpse of Chris. When they said the Army Rangers were involved, we just knew Chris was there."

The Yaniks and their nine children are a very close family. "Our youngest son, Robbie, age 10, seemed to react the most to Chris being over there," said Glenn Yanik. "We all kept watch to limit the time he sat in front of the television set. He openly worried about his brother. It began to affect his studies and his appetite. We all tried to reassure him that Chris was confident, well-trained and surrounded by his buddies and that everything would be all right. I told him that his brother would one day be in the history books."

Chris Yanik's other brothers, Frank and John, are sophomores at LCCC and Dallas High School respectively. "I'm so happy that my brother is home," said Frank.

"I was so proud and pleased that all of my fellow classmates at Dallas High School sent letters to the troops, and they were always asking me about Chris and if we had heard from him," John said.

Early into the evening, Chris Yanik thanked everyone for coming and for their prayers for his safe return. "This is awesome that so many people came out to be here tonight," he said as he stood before the crowd wearing a very special sweatshirt. On the back was the slogan, "We'll take it from here," and on the front were words from the Commander in Chief, "We will not waver, we will not tire, we will not falter, we will not fail."

Yanik is a 1997 graduate of Bishop O'Reilly High School, and a 1999 graduate of Lackawanna Junior College where he played football. He enlisted in the army in 1999 and is stationed at Hunter Army Base near Savannah, GA where he returned on Monday to serve out his remaining tour of duty. He will be eligible for release from the military in three or four months. At that time he plans to return to college life, possibly at Penn State, to major in physical therapy.

**Ambulance membership drive**

The Franklin Northmoreland Township Ambulance Association Membership drive is now in progress. The Association will accept the insurance company payment for all members as paid in full. Non-members, however, will be responsible for paying the difference between the amount paid by the insurance company and the total of bill.

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