

DeRojas

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fear, day in and day out and still be able to function and more than that, be able to do their jobs.

"You're willing to basically face death and injury head on. You just suppress it and because of your training, your discipline, you go on."

The pressure of being in constant danger did begin to weigh on some of the soldiers, DeRojas admitted. During attacks, he said they were trained to hit the floor and lie flat. However, not everyone had that first instinct. Some soldiers would run and suffer serious injuries.

DeRojas said religion and faith played an important role in his time there.

"I don't believe there's an atheist in a war zone. You become very humble to God, your religion."

"When you're being shot at, mortared and ambushed, the only thing you do is pray to God your not the next one to get hit."

That kind of frontline medicine often required making tough decisions. If Iraqis were injured during combat, his team would provide them medical care. However, faced with scarce supplies, sometimes injured Iraqis could not be saved.

"Who are you going to save, an enemy who was just trying to kill you, or an American soldier?" he asked.

"It's obvious what you're go-

ing to do." Both times he was deployed this year, DeRojas said he chose to be stationed on the front lines, opting out of other safer assignments. And he would choose the same assignment again.

"The kind of satisfaction I got from taking care of the soldiers, there's no price on it," he said.

"I was able to save some lives doing what I did."

DeRojas took numerous photos as historical documentation of his time in Iraq.

As he showed a photo of a wounded soldier who didn't survive, he said sternly, "This is war."

He said when the F.S.T team opened the injured soldier's wallet, they found photos of his wife and three children. He said it's important to him that people here understand when the news reports injuries and deaths, that there is a story behind every one of them.

DeRojas will share his photos and experiences with the public at upcoming talks. They are planned for Crestwood High School November 11, Bishop O'Reilly November 12 and Saxton Pavilion in Edwardsville November 13 from 7-9 p.m.

DeRojas has been a surgeon with Surgical Specialists of Wyoming Valley in Plains since 1987. He lives in Jackson Township.



At top, Colonel Juan DeRojas operated on a soldier suffering from a gun shot wound to the abdomen. The soldier survived.

Above, DeRojas prepared to go on a mission. It wasn't uncommon for them to be hit with small arms fire and members of the team were armed to defend themselves.

DeRojas on television

Col. DeRojas will appear on Catholic Television's program, Sunday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 3 at 11 a.m., Tues., Nov. 4 at 4 p.m. and Wed., Nov. 5 at 9 p.m.

Lake speed

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to put the speed limit on the lake."

Before the protective association applies for a new regulation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Squitieri is gathering letters of support that he believes will make the application stronger.

To date, the proposal has gained the support of the Harveys Lake Women's Club and the Harveys Lake Crime Watch group.

According to Squitieri, Harveys Lake is one of the few lakes in the state with almost no regulations. From speaking to people, he has gathered that many residents like it that way.

The problem is that watercraft are getting faster all the time, said Squitieri.

"The speed limit is just to prevent real high speed watercraft from operating at peak times when there's families on the lake," he said. "We'd like to prevent an accident."

The proposed regulation would limit speeds to 45 mph during the day, on weekends and holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Dan Tredinnick, spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, said putting a numeric speed limit on a lake in the commonwealth is "fairly rare."

"It's pretty unusual for us to have speed limits in the conventional sense," he said.

"We'd like to prevent an accident."

Richard Squitieri
Harveys Lake Protective Association

One of the reasons for that is that Fish and Boat Commission officers don't have radar guns, he said.

Instead, more common ways to control speed are minimum motor size and height swell speed regulations.

There are a handful of numeric speed regulations in the state, one of which, Tredinnick said, is at Lake Wallenpaupack in Pike and Wyoming counties. There they have almost the identical regulation to the one the protective association is trying to create for Harveys Lake also with a 45 mph limit.

After the application for the special regulation is sent to Harrisburg, a process will begin that will involve watercraft traffic studies and public comment sessions, said Tredinnick.

"It's not going to happen overnight," he added.

Tredinnick said the penalty for breaking a lake speed limit is similar to those assigned for breaking auto limits, a \$50 fine plus court costs, for most. Depending on how fast above the limit, it could be more.

Free legal services for reservists

As National Guard and Reserve units are called up to serve the Armed Forces of the United States, the Military Affairs Committee of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association/Luzerne County Bar is available to provide legal services where needed.

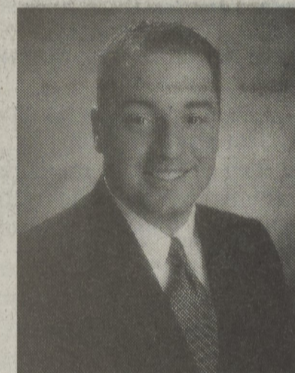
The pro bono service includes the preparation of wills for soldiers, sailors and airmen. The service is also available to assist these individuals and their families with problems related to their recall to active duty, and legal affairs which may require their attention during their physical absence from home.

For information call the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association at 822-6712.



Colonel DeRojas in his tent somewhere in Iraq. He just returned from his second tour there this year.

Dr. Jan A. Oleginski — Orthodontic Specialist welcomes Dr. Brian D. Miller



Dr. Brian D. Miller

Dr. Jan A. Oleginski is pleased to announce that Brian D. Miller, DMD has joined his orthodontic practice.

Dr. Miller is a native of the Back Mountain area and a graduate of Dallas High School. He attended Cedarville College in Ohio and graduated as salutatorian of his dental class at the University of Pittsburgh in 2000. Dr. Miller received his specialty training at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, New York where he earned a certificate to specialize in orthodontics.

Drs. Miller and Oleginski will be practicing together in a continuing effort towards outstanding orthodontic care. They provide the most up-to-date orthodontic treatment for children and adults who are increasingly realizing the importance of a beautiful smile. Recent advances with ceramic (clear) braces and Invisalign (wireless) make orthodontic treatment more appealing than ever before.

Parking is free at their offices located in Wilkes-Barre at the Citizens Bank Center (next to Boscov's) 825-7583 and Route 309, 110 N. Mountain Blvd., Mountaintop, 474-9565.

New patients are welcome and there is no referral necessary to receive a free orthodontic exam.

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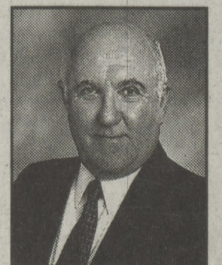
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