

Military, Law, and more ...

Thank you to the Memphis Safe Task Force and National Guard!

American-bred legend Dolly Parton supported America’s military for over 50 years! from sports-Ent. 1

In Cumberland County, North Carolina, home to Fort Bragg, every baby born at Womack Army Medical Center receives an Imagination Library book at birth, then a new one every month until age five. In June, two months before Parton's death, Womack received a regional Beacon Award for the program. "Early literacy begins the moment a child enters the world," said Army Col. Stephanie Mont, the hospital's commander, standing beside a cardboard likeness of Parton to accept the award.

The tribute followed quickly. On Sept. 8, 2004, Parton stood on the flight line at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Tennessee, where airmen of the 134th Air Refueling Wing had painted her likeness onto the nose of a KC 135 Stratotanker and named it "Miss Dolly." She signed the artwork and performed for the airmen and their families. Then, in April 2005, came the **Baghdad broadcast**. The **Grand Ole Opry** partnered that night with the War Department's "America Supports You" campaign, and Parton hosted, with then Defense Secretary Donald

Rumsfeld joining her onstage to thank the performers and country fans supporting U.S. troops. American Forces Television carried the broadcast to 177 stations worldwide, including a live feed reaching Baghdad before sunrise — photographs from that night capturing both ends of it: Parton under the Opry lights, and soldiers in Iraq watching from a screen half a world away. Offstage, Parton was growing an international literacy effort that would touch millions of lives — including the military families she devoted herself to. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which started as a program that mailed

free books to local children in her home county of East Tennessee, was inspired by her father, who never learned to read or write. In 2024, nearly three decades after its founding, the **Imagination Library's Washington state affiliate** partnered with the Government Employees Health Association on a \$15,000 grant expanding free books to military families. Half a century after a vinyl record shipped to country radio stations with her name on it, children of service members were still finding Dolly Parton waiting for them — this time in a mailbox instead of on a dial. In **Cumberland County, North**

Carolina, home to **Fort Bragg**, every baby born at Womack Army Medical Center receives an Imagination Library book at birth, then a new one every month until age five. In June, two months before Parton's death, Womack received a regional Beacon Award for the program. "Early literacy begins the moment a child enters the world," said Army Col. Stephanie Mont, the hospital's commander, standing beside a cardboard likeness of Parton to accept the award. A book arriving at a military child's front door. A television signal reaching Baghdad. A radio program. An Army post. A patriotic album. An airplane bearing her name. Different decades, different settings, the same idea repeated for more than 50 years: Parton had so much to give, and she gave it. And as flags at installations across the country are lowered in her memory, the military salutes the life of a woman who, in every era and in every way, stood steadfastly by those who serve.



The Second Amendment Foundation celebrates 52 years in advocacy for Second Amendment rights

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Aug. 26, 2026 — Today, Wednesday, Aug. 26, marks exactly 52 years of the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) leading the charge in defending, securing and restoring the constitutional rights of Americans.

Founded in 1974 by Alan M. Gottlieb, who now serves as the organization’s Executive Vice President, SAF remains the leader of legal action aimed at dismantling infringements of the Second Amendment. Just this past year, SAF scored a significant victory that removed major components of the National Firearms Act, created a path for California non-residents to apply for concealed carry permits, forced the federal government to recognize the right of SAF members to carry a firearm in post offices nationwide, protected the Second Amendment rights of adults under 21 in Pennsylvania, and many, many more. In addition, SAF is the only pro-Second Amendment organization with two “assault weapons” ban cases awaiting Supreme Court oral arguments.

“For the past 52 years, SAF’s goal has remained unchanged – to ensure Americans could freely exercise their Second Amendment rights without fear,” Gottlieb said. “Lawmakers across the United States, however, have done their best to determine what constitutional rights citizens can, and cannot, exercise. That is absolutely not how the Constitution works, and it’s the reason we fight these injustices and infringements in courtrooms on a daily basis. We have been part of more than 260 lawsuits since our founding, significantly influencing the landscape of firearm freedoms nationwide, and we will continue to do so for the next 50 years.”

For more than five decades, SAF has joined forces with individuals, companies and other liberty-based organizations in the fight to ensure our right to keep and bear arms remains for generations. Since its founding, SAF

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has been instrumental in landmark legal victories, including the monumental McDonald v. City of Chicago Supreme Court decision, which flung open courtroom doors around the nation by applying the demands of the Second Amendment to the states as well as to the federal government. No longer could state governments violate the rights of their citizens any more than the federal government could. The overwhelming majority of present-day Second Amendment litigation is against state and municipal actors and is made possible by the McDonald decision.

“SAF’s track record of landmark Second Amendment legal victories and precedent-setting rulings is second to none,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “We fight for the rights we all hold dear and work hard to ensure Americans have the freedom to exercise the full breadth of their right to keep and bear arms across the country. Unfortunately, there are those who believe the Second Amendment is a second-class right. Thanks to SAF’s aggressive litigation program, those state, regional and even local lawmakers continuously find themselves defending their ill-conceived laws in courtrooms across the country.

Memphis Safe Task Force (MSTF) August Wrap-Up Report: 853 arrests and 118 illegal firearms seized, 13 children recovered

MEMPHIS, Sept. 1, 2026 — The Memphis Safe Task Force in August executed 853 arrests and recovered 118 illegal firearms. Of those arrested, 14 were for homicide, 50 were for controlled substances, 74 were for firearms violations, 11 for sex offenses 50 were juveniles and 122 were known gang members. The task force recovered 13 missing children.

Significant arrests include: **Aaron Collins, 49**, arrested Aug. 25 for second-degree murder and tampering with evidence after MSTF, canvassing the area in connection with a fatal stabbing incident in the 200 block of North Main Street, located Collins near Beale Street and Fourth Street and arrested him without incident.

Four juveniles were arrested Aug. 25 for unlawful possession of a firearm and evading arrest after MSTF responded to a call regarding armed juveniles making threats to shoot. When MSTF stopped a Nissan Altima in the 4900 block of Willow Lane, four

juveniles fled the vehicle on foot. All four juveniles were apprehended. Five firearms were recovered.

Three men -- **Andre Evans, 47**, **Drevious Ward, 18**, and **Leandre Harris, 28** -- were arrested Aug. 13 without incident and charged with manufacture, delivery, and sale of controlled substances after MSTF executed a search warrant at a house in the 400 block of Laclede Avenue. Agents recovered 30.6 grams of marijuana, 78 packs of buprenorphine, 3,750 grams of promethazine, 522 pills of oxycodone, hydrochloride, 132 pills of alprazolam and 72 pills of amphetamine dextroamphetamine, \$31,000 in cash, and weapons, including two 9mm pistols, a .40-caliber pistol, a .380 pistol and ammunition.

Evans was also charged with unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Ward and Harris were also charged with unlawful possession of narcotics. **Darsantese Dean, 27**, was arrested Aug. 12 for a murder and

an attempted murder warrant issued on July 13 out of Mississippi. After MSTF received information that was in the Memphis area, they located him in the driveway of a house in the 3500 block of Serenade Lane. During the arrest, MSTF members searched the vehicle and collected two 7.62 magazines and a high-capacity drum magazine for evidence.

Tho Ho, 55, who was indicted July 30 in Shelby County on charges of rape of a child, continuous sexual abuse of a child, and aggravated battery, was arrested Aug. 12 in the 7300 block of North 68th Avenue in Glendale, Arizona. After MSTF members developed information Tuesday that Ho had fled to Arizona, they sent a collateral lead to the U.S. Marshals in the District of Arizona who located him and arrested him without incident. Both of his cellular devices were collected as evidence.

Joseph Harris, 37, wanted on a Shelby County homicide warrant, was arrested without inci-

dent Aug. 7 in the 6500 block of Lurewood Lane in Oklahoma City after MSTF investigators learned he was in that area and sent a lead to the U.S. Marshals Western Oklahoma Fugitive Task Force. Harris and Ashundra Lee were suspects who shot and killed a motorcyclist near the intersection of Wilson Street and Gill Avenue July 21. Lee was arrested Thursday in Oklahoma City.

Amarion Threlkeld, 18, wanted for criminal attempt second-degree murder, was taken into custody Aug. 7 at Poplar Avenue and North Danny Thomas Boulevard after MSTF spoke with Threlkeld and family members to coordinate a time and place for him to turn himself in. Additional charges include five counts of criminal attempt employment of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony and reckless endangerment with a deadly weapon.

Christopher Warf, 52, wanted for rape of a child, was arrested

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Reading is the main ingredient in the recipe of learning.

