Saluting Service

Along with several other members of the APL News staff, I was a guardian on April 25. My defining moment of the day came at the last tour stop. A young Fort Meade soldier who had been assisting the group approached my veteran, Frank Armfield, and looked up at his cap, which said U.S. Army, Retired, 1945-1971, WWII-Korea-Vietnam, along with the emblem of a Purple Heart. Her eyes widened.

“Mr. Armfield,” she said. “You served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam?”

“Yes ma’am,” he answered.

“Then I salute you,” she said, stepping forward to deliver a firm salute. “Thank you for your service, sir.”

Armfield, an 87-year-old retired lieutenant colonel who earned his Purple Heart after being shot down in Korea, straightened his shoulders and returned her salute. “Thank you for yours,” he said. –M. Brown

Photos
Left: APL guardians (in yellow T-shirts) and their veterans visit the WWII Memorial.
Above: veterans and guardians watch the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington cemetery.
Front page: Stuart Harshbarger with veteran Luther Duckworth at the WWII Memorial (photo by Michael Mercier/The Huntsville Times).
For more photos from APL’s Honor Flight, visit http://bsdwww.jhuapl.edu/cpa/gallery.html.

Prosthetics Spinoff a Reel Success

by Paulette Campbell

When members of the Revolutionizing Prosthetics 2009 team gathered on Maryland’s Eastern Shore last spring to kick off the second phase of their ambitious effort, they took Jesse Sullivan — a double amputee — fishing.

The APL-led team is in the fourth year of a project funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to create a prosthetic arm that looks and is controlled like a natural limb. The 63-year-old Sullivan, who lost both arms in an electrical accident, is an important part of the effort.

“Before the accident, Jesse loved fishing and camping,” says APL’s Matt Kozlowski, of the National Security Technology Department, who worked closely with Sullivan on the first “RP” prototype. “On that fishing trip I said, ‘how about next year you actually fish instead of watch?’ I promised him that I would build him a reel so that he could fish for stripers during trophy season.”

One year later, Kozlowski and other members of the RP 2009 team from the Biomedicine Business Area delivered on that promise, creating a motorized fishing reel that Sullivan could operate in the same way he operates a prosthetic arm. And on May 1, Sullivan went troll fishing on the Chesapeake Bay and caught a 32-inch rockfish.

“It was truly a historic moment,” Kozlowski says, made even more amazing by the fact that the busy team took the prototype to DARPA, and perhaps run it through a limited clinical evaluation.

Above, Jesse Sullivan (left) gets ready to reel in a catch with the help of NSTD’s Matthew Kozlowski.