

## THE SMART MOVE.

# Designer of the 50-Star American Flag

Robert G. Heft, January 19, 1942 to December 12, 2009



Robert Heft with his famous flag

By Ohio Logistics' Steve Kloos

My wife and I moved to Napoleon, Ohio in 1974. I didn't know much about the NW Ohio area, as I had grown up on a dairy farm in Eastern Ohio. At the time of our move to Napoleon, Robert Heft was the mayor, and a member of the church that my wife and I decided to join. This is when I first met the designer of our 50-star flag.

Bob was a very vocal man. He had a deep voice and was very commanding. We learned that besides him being our Mayor (seven-term) of Napoleon, he also taught history and was a college professor. He also owned and operated the local drive-in theater, and was a self-taught artist who did mostly sketches of Napoleon Buildings and sites. We have acquired a few of his sketches over the years. Bob was also a member of our Napoleon Lion's Club. It was at club functions that I learned the most about him.

At a meeting, probably back in the 90's, Bob brought the actual flag he designed along with him. He kept the flag in a suitcase and even allowed us to touch it. There was nothing fancy about the suitcase, or the man carrying it. At that time, Bob shared that he had been offered \$250,000 for the flag, but said he decided he would just keep it. Most of the time, the flag was kept in a local bank safe deposit box.

From [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

*"He is credited with designing the current 50-star American flag, which was chosen by Congress as the official national flag of the United States*

*on July 4, 1960. Heft's design was part of a high school class project, beginning in 1958, to replace the 48-star flag in anticipation of statehood for the territories of Alaska and Hawaii. He initially received a B minus grade from his teacher for his efforts, but it was changed to an A after his flag design was selected by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and approved by Congress. His design of America's new symbol of freedom and democracy became a reality, following Hawaii's admittance to the Union as the 50th state on August 21, 1959. A student at Ohio University and Ohio State University, Heft was a seven-term mayor of Napoleon, Ohio, and spent 30 years working as a high school and college history teacher. His original flag has been flown over the White House, the US Capitol Building, all 50 state capitol buildings, and nearly 90 United States embassies around the world. In 1967 the flag suffered minor damage during an attack on the US Embassy in Saigon, South Vietnam, by pro-Communist Vietnamese forces."*

My favorite part of Bob's story was when he received the call from President Dwight D. Eisenhower. According to Bob's version, he answered the phone after his mom called him while he was outside and told him that the "White House" is on the phone and asked for him! He answered the phone and the person on the other end said, "This is President Eisenhower." Bob's story is that he was caught off guard, and said, "Is this really you, Dwight?" Bob said the President chuckled and said, "Yes, this is Dwight!"



President Eisenhower with the new flag

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### Interesting Ohio History

*Hosted by Jack Nicklaus, The Memorial Tournament has been held annually in Dublin, OH at the Muirfield Village Golf Club the first weekend in June since 1976. It is one of the most prestigious events on the PGA tour and attracts the world's top golfers each year. The Memorial Tournament is one of five tournaments on the PGA tour that is granted "invitational" status. Jack's mission for the tournament is to showcase the world's best golfers at a challenging course, and to benefit charitable organizations in central Ohio.*

**GYST April Winner:**

**Columbus, OH**

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**www.OhioLogistics.com**



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From [www.blog.scoutingmagazine.org](http://www.blog.scoutingmagazine.org)

*Bob Heft loved flags, and he loved politics. So, when his U.S. History teacher handed out a homework assignment in 1958, Heft had the perfect idea. He would design something nobody had seen: a 50-star version of the American flag. Heft, a high school junior and Boy Scout in Troop 113 of Lancaster, Ohio, had been reading the news and knew that Alaska was poised to become our nation's 49th state, with Hawaii soon behind. So, he cut out 50 stars from iron-on material and arranged them on some blue fabric. He sewed this new field of stars to his family's 48-star flag. "I had never sewn in my life," Heft told StoryCorps in 2009. "I watched my mom sew, but I had never sewn. And since making the flag of our country, I've never sewn again."*

*Heft's teacher reacted with confusion.*

*"The teacher said, 'What's this thing on my desk?' And so I got up and I approached the desk and my knees were knocking," Heft told StoryCorps. "He said, 'Why you got too many stars? You don't even know how many states we have.'*

*The final grade: B-minus. Not terrible, until you consider that Heft's friend picked up five leaves off the ground, taped them in a notebook and got an A.*

*Heft was upset, so the teacher offered what seemed like an impossible-to-achieve bit of consolation. "If you don't like the grade, get it accepted in Washington," Heft remembers the teacher saying. "Then come back and see me. I might consider changing the grade."*

*Two years, 21 letters, and 18 phone calls to the White House later, Heft received a call from President Dwight D. Eisenhower.*

*"Is this Robert G. Heft?" "Yes, sir, but you can just call me Bob." "I want to know the possibility of you coming to Washington, D.C., on July Fourth for the official adoption of the new flag."*

*On July 4, 1960, Heft stood next to Eisenhower as the 50-star flag was raised over the U.S. Capitol.*

*And what about Heft's teacher?*

*"He said, I guess if it's good enough for Washington, it's good enough for me. I hereby change the grade to an A."*

*In the decades after, Heft inspired people young and old with his follow-your-dreams story. He was a seven-term mayor of Napoleon, Ohio. He spoke extensively—as many as 200 engagements a year—and visited the White House 14 times under nine presidents.*

*Heft died in 2009, but his legacy survives every time we fly his 50-star creation.*

Bob, wherever you are, I know you are leading a conversation, and I can only guess what the topic is! It was great to know you, and to get to know your nephew whom you took with you on a lot of your visits!

I made the assumption on a few occasions, as I am sure several folks did, referring to Bob as a politician. Bob was always quick to say, "I don't classify myself as a politician, but I am a STATESMAN!"

God Bless you, Bob! We miss you!



*Kloos says, "This picture shows me pointing to one of Bob's Flags which he signed on the border, this particular one dated September 11, 2006. When he was signing it, I said I guess you can't get in trouble for writing on the flag! Nope, guess not! God Bless America!"*



*"The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts."*

*- Bertrand Russell -*

## Remembering D-Day, June 6th, 1944



D-Day's hard-fought battles not only led to the beginning of the end of the war, the men who fought in the invasion forever changed people's lives—and influenced the perception of the soldier—as savior—for at least one young boy.

French businessman Bernard Marie was 5 years old and living in Normandy on June 6, 1944. He remembers before the Allied invasion; he and his friends could not go out and play on the beaches because "Mother couldn't trust anybody. So, for me, everybody wearing a uniform was a bad guy."

On D-Day, as sirens wailed over their town starting at 2 a.m., Marie retreated to the basement with his grandfather to take shelter. "My grandfather put his hands on my ears because there was a lot of noise. It was nonstop. And we stayed there 15 hours. We were so afraid."

At 5 pm, Marie recalls, the shooting was done. Then he heard his mother outside yelling, so he and his grandfather ran upstairs to follow her. "I will never forget," Marie says, "She was hugging a soldier! I could not understand that. For me it was a bad guy. So, she called me to come and said, 'These soldiers are good, they've come to save us.'

To this day, Marie is grateful to that soldier—and to all the veterans who fought to liberate France from the Nazis. "The most important thing for any human being is freedom," he says. "We cannot forget the 6th of June."



## Congratulations! Roadside Inspections Passed

Tom Adams – Level 2. No Violations!  
Chad Lewandowski – Level 3. No Violations!

Congratulations, men! We appreciate your continued dedication to Ohio Logistics to make us who we are!



## Dan Zehender Retires with over 31 years of service



Dan Zehender is congratulated by Chuck Bills

Ohio Logistics is 33 years old this month, and Dan has been here for over 31 of those years!

Dan, we sincerely appreciate your dedication to the company and wish you all the best in your retirement. Congratulations!

## 15 Years With Ohio Logistics Miller, Orwick, and Wildman Honored For Their Achievement



Stephanie Miller, Tom Orwick, and Dan Wildman  
are congratulated by Chuck Bills, Todd Weadock and Ben Harris

### Test Your Logistics IQ:

1) A motor carrier operation that reflects long-distance moves; the opposite of local operations.



2) The systems that help to strategically balance the inventory policy and customer service levels throughout the supply chain. These systems usually calculate time-phased order quantities and safety stock using selected inventory strategies. Some inventory planning systems conduct what-if analysis and compare the current inventory policy with simulated inventory scenarios to improve the inventory ROI.



3) A single completed transmission, e.g., transmission of an invoice over an EDI network. Analogous to usage of the term in data processing in which a transaction can be an inquiry or a range of updates and trading transactions. The definition is important for EDI service operators who must interpret invoices and other documents.



### June Dates of Importance:

June 4 - National Donut Day  
June 6 - D-Day Anniversary  
June 14 - Flag Day  
June 20 - Father's Day  
First Day of Summer

Answers to "Test Your Logistics IQ"

3. Transsaction  
2. Inventory Planning Systems  
1. Over-the-Road

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## Meet Matt Matthews

This month we get to learn more about Matt Matthews, a 15-year Associate and General Manager in our Southern Tier Division. Matt quickly provided answers to our questions all the way from the beautiful state of New York.



OL: Tell us about your family.

Matt: My girlfriend, Diane, and I have been together for five fantastic years. Her son lives with us and is on a full scholarship to Elmira College. I have one daughter and three grandchildren, and Diane has two daughters and two grandchildren.



Please contact us at:

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*"It is not the load that breaks you down.  
It's the way you carry it."*

- Lou Holtz -

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### Happy Birthday To You!

#### OL Ohio

John Barton 6/28  
Kiala Bellamy 6/27  
Timothy Blair 6/19  
Lisa Blanton 6/26  
Robert Browning 6/5  
Raymond Corthell 6/2  
Anthony Domyk 6/2  
Floyd Grissom 6/26  
Sophia Holguin 6/29  
Michael Justen 6/11  
Steve Kloos 6/17  
Darrin Rehus 6/12  
James Robinson 6/10  
Mike Schirtzinger 6/22  
Greg Simon 6/3

#### OL Southern Tier Div.

Rogina Bonomo 6/9  
Jeremiah Burrows 6/29  
Zachary Cowan 6/1  
Jason Giardina 6/15  
Michael Gravatt 6/22  
Roger Haight 6/1  
Angela Hawken 6/22  
Willie Henry 6/6  
Dennis Johnson 6/28  
Charles Klein 6/27  
Ricky Lattimer 6/30  
Catherine Mace 6/5  
Ali Malik 6/15  
Misty Newcomb 6/3  
Scott Potts 6/30  
Ricky Sackrider 6/29  
Bonnie Smith 6/30  
Tammy Smith 6/26  
Jammy Spearen 6/2  
Kobi Wakeman 6/13  
Lawrence Woodard 6/3

#### OL Penn Centre Div. Casey Koch 6/28

#### OL Olive Branch Div. Janice Adams 6/26

### It's Your Anniversary!

#### OL Ohio

Julian Baker 2 Years  
Chuck Bills 33 Years  
Wayne Conley 4 Years  
Brittney Darby 7 Years  
Brayden Harris 5 Years  
Steve Kloos 4 Years  
Derek Laubenthal 3 Years  
Chad Lewandowski 8 Years  
Diana Myers 14 Years  
Norm Wheeler 9 Years  
Cynthia Wright 6 Years

#### OL Southern Tier Div.

Betty Campbell 1 Year  
Angie Clark 4 Years  
Zachary Cowan 1 Year  
Frank Cramer 8 Years  
Scott Cramer 8 Years  
Jason Ducot 2 Years  
Brian Fesetch 3 Years  
Teeya Mullaney 2 Years  
Chris Peaslee 16 Years  
Nathan Redder 3 Years  
Robert Watkins 1 Year  
Warren Wright 1 Year

#### OL Northern Georgia Div. James Gillenwater 1 Year

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