

MVYAA-Softball Traditional House Team Names

In honor of our dedicated military, MVYAA house softball teams have taken names or nicknames of various military units or entities.

As of now, we have teams honoring each branch of the armed services as follows:

Army -- RANGERS: The 75th Ranger Regiment -- also known as the United States Army Rangers -- is a Special Operations Force of the United States Army Special Operations Command. On D-Day, Dog White sector of Omaha Beach, General Norman Cota (assistant CO of the 29th ID) while under heavy machine gun fire, calmly walked towards Maj. Max Schneider, CO of the 5th Ranger Battalion and asked "What outfit is this?" Someone yelled "5th Rangers!". To this, Cota replied "Well, goddamn it then, Rangers, lead the way!". It was at this time and place the Ranger motto ("Rangers lead the way!") was born -- a phrase oft-repeated by the Mount Vernon Rangers teams.

Navy -- BLUE ANGELS: At the end of World War II, Chester W. Nimitz, then Chief of Naval Operations, ordered the formation of a flight demonstration team to keep the public interested in naval aviation. The **Blue Angels** performed their first demonstration a year later in June 1946 at their home base, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. By the end of the 1940's, the Blue ANGels were flying jet aircraft, and in response to the demands of the Korean war, the team reported to the aircraft carrier USS Princeton as the nucleus of Fighter Squadron 191, in 1950. The Blue Angels' mission is to enhance navy and Marine Corps recruiting efforts and to represent the naval service. Last season more than 15 million spectators watched the Blue Angels perform.

Air Force -- THUNDERBIRDS: The Thunderbirds are the Air Force Demonstration Squadron of the U.S. Air Force, based at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, Nevada. The squadron tours the U.S. and much of the world, performing aerobatic formation and solo flying in specially-marked USAF jet aircraft. In addition to their air demonstration responsibilities, the Thunderbirds are part of the USAF combat force and a component of the 57th Wing. If required, the team's personnel and aircraft can be rapidly integrated into a fighter unit at Nellis AFB. Mount Vernon Thunderbirds can often be heard repeating the pre-flight "ready" cheer "Thunderbirds are GO!"

Marines -- DEVIL DOGS: According to Marine Corps tradition, the title was assigned to U.S. Marines by German soldiers who fought in the Belleau Wood in 1918 during World War I. The Marines fought with such ferocity that they were likened to "Dogs from Hell" or "Dogs of the Devil." Currently in the Marine Corps, the term Devil Dog is a common nickname for all Marines.

Continental Army -- MAJORS: The Majors is the name of the Mount Vernon High School teams and the Mount Vernon Softball Majors adopted the name to pay tribute both to our local high school but more importantly to the brave members of the Continental Army, commanded of course by our local Mount Vernon forefather George Washington. The American Continental Army was formed after the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War by the colonies that became the United States of America. General George Washington was Commander-in-Chief of the army throughout the war.