



## An "Honor"able Family



*Photo (calves from left to right): Berrys Blitzen Daniel Daly-ET, Berrys Blitzen Troy McGill-ET, Berrys Blitzen Rowdy, Berrys Blitzen Smedley Butler-ET, Berrys Blitzen Mary Walker-ET*

*Also featured are some students from the Berry Farms Genetics Enterprise (from left to right): Ben Wilson (Berry Dairy Supervisor), Averi Simpson, Kayla Allen, Kay Casto, Shannon Soafer, Marissa Greer, Rebecca Stephens, and Addison Harbin (Assistant Dairy Supervisor)*

With Veterans' Day fast approaching, it seems fitting to take time to honor our troops and the sacrifices they have made for us and our country. Here at the Berry College Dairy, we have a unique way to pay tribute to our soldiers. Recently, there has been a family of calves, from crosses between Berry's TBone Panama and Barham Maximus Blitzen, who have been given names of soldiers who have received the Medal of Honor. This idea came to our Enterprise through Marine Sgt. Brandon Horsley, a friend of Ben Wilson, the Berry Dairy Supervisor. "In bootcamp we were taught a lot about the Medal of Honor winners," says Sgt. Horsley, "These men and women showed the utmost courage and deserve to be recognized and honored, so when Ben [Wilson] asked me for ideas, these soldiers immediately came to mind." Because of this, our Enterprise wishes to recognize some of these extraordinary men and women. Understand, to claim this award is no ordinary feat, for it is given to only those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, many times costing them their lives. These are men and women who have shown courage, bravery, and selflessness over and above their call of duty; these men and women are heroes and we wish to recognize them as such.

As the calves began to arrive, students were given the chance to name them, with the instructions to research Medal of Honor winners and to pick a name that struck them. The first calf born was Berrys Blitzen Daniel Daly – ET on August 22, 2011. This calf was named for Sgt. Maj. Joseph "Dan" Daly (1873-1937), a United States Marine who is one of 19 men to receive two Medals of Honor and one of two men to receive his Medals of Honor for two separate actions. He received his first award in 1901 for his actions during the China Relief for "extraordinary heroism" and "meritorious conduct." His second award was received in 1915 for his actions during the U.S. Invasion and Occupation of Haiti in which he showed "exceptional gallantry against heavy odds."

Three days later, on August 25, 2011, Berrys Blitzen Troy McGill-ET was born. Kay Casto, our Orthridge Farm Liaison, chose his name. "I chose the name Troy McGill because Troy, a U.S. Army soldier during World War II, was known for his courageousness and for not backing down to the enemy as his men laid wounded or even dead around him during a crossfire. The calf looked pretty tough but sweet and so when I stumbled across the name Troy I just knew it fit," said Casto. McGill (1914-1944) was a Sgt. in the United States Army and received his award posthumously for his intrepid actions during World War II.



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The next day two more calves were born, Berrys Blitzen Rowdy-ET and Berrys Blitzen Smedley Butler-ET. Rowdy was named after a United States Army Indian scout who was awarded for his actions during the Indian Wars in the Western United States. Although little is known about him, he was recognized for his "bravery in action with the Apache Indians" and was buried in the Santa Fe National Cemetery in 1893. The second calf was named after Major General Smedley Darlington Butler of the U.S. Marine Corp. By the end of his 34 year career as a Marine, Major General Butler was awarded sixteen medals, five for bravery. He is one of nineteen men to receive two Medals of Honor and one of two men to receive his Medals of Honor for two separate actions. He was awarded his first Medal of Honor in 1914 for his "distinguished conduct in battle" at Veracruz wherein "he exhibited courage and skill in leading his men." His second Medal was awarded to him in 1917 for his extraordinary heroism in action during the battles in Fort Riviere, Haiti.

The fifth and final calf of this family was born four days later on August 30, 2011 and was named Berrys Blitzen Mary Walker. She is the only heifer of this family, a fitting parallel to her namesakes who happens to be the only female recipient of the Medal of Honor. Mary Walker served during the American Civil War as a female surgeon wherein she was captured by Confederate forces after crossing enemy lines to treat wounded civilians. Because of her efforts she became the only woman to have received this highest decoration of bravery. She was noted for having "devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers, both in the field and hospitals, to the detriment of her own health, and also endured hardships as a prisoner of war four months in a Southern prison while acting as contract surgeon."

Now that you have met this unique family of Berry cattle and the outstanding men and women they have been named after, we at the Berry Farms Genetics Enterprise want to express our appreciation to all the service men and women fighting today; and, with the approach of Veterans' Day, we especially want to thank our veterans. We honor their sacrifices as well as the sacrifices of their families. We owe our safety to these brave men and women. Thank you for all you do!

## Happy Veterans' Day!



**Sergeant Brandon Horsley**

***A special thank you to Sgt. Brandon Horsley for his help and insight in developing the patriotic theme for this cow family as well as for his insight in creating this newsletter. We appreciate your service as well as your contributions to our Enterprise!***

Sgt. Horsley, 25, is originally from Carrollton, GA. He joined the Marine Corp in January 2005 and has been in the service now for six and a half years.

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