

# LOFTON LAGNIAPPE

## MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS



### Forklift Safety Tips By: Steve Ham, Lofton Safety Services

Lofton Staffing puts a lot of employees to work in warehouse and production fields. Sometimes, it's good to have a reminder on basic forklift safety tips.

#### Study the Manual

This should be pretty basic, but be sure to study the manual of the forklift before operating. You want to understand it inside and out. Hitting the wrong switch at the wrong moment could lead to disaster.

#### Angle Up

Once you have a load on the forklift, the blades should angle up so they are tilted higher in the front and lower in the back. This allows gravity to hold the items to the back of the blades and prevents the pallet from sliding off the front.

#### Carry the Load Low

If the load is too high, it may cause the load to wobble, which is very dangerous to the driver's safety and to the load. In fact, a load too high and too heavy could flip a forklift.

#### Go Slow

This is one operation where you do not want to move quickly. Moving slowly will allow you to have time to react without causing a catastrophe.

#### If You Can't See, Drive Backwards

If the load is too high and you cannot see where you are going, avoid the temptation to raise the load up above your line of site (see Carry the Load Low). Go in reverse with the load low. Obviously, at the same time keep an eye to the sides and front, so you don't hit anything with the pallet or blades.

#### Watch for Overhangs

A forklift has its own height, the height of its boxes, and the height of the lift, all of which could catch in a door frame or other overhanging item. If the protrusion is stronger and/or heavier than your load, you could be sent flipping over.

#### Catastrophic Failures

Use caution and drive the load in the proper position.

Overturns, collisions, and other serious failures can lead to serious injuries and even death.

#### Keep People Off

Never use a forklift to raise a person. The forks are not designed for this and could kill someone if you accidentally moved the forks or the forklift itself.

#### Keep an Eye Out for People

It is extremely important to make sure no one is under your load, or behind the forklift when in operation. Setting a load down with someone under the blades could cause serious injury or even death.

#### Set Your E-Brake

Set the emergency brake whenever stopping. Failure to set the e-brake could cause the forklift to move, rolling thousands of pounds into objects, products, or even people.

### Forklift Safe Drive

### Open Enrollment

By: Mary Dixon, Benefits Coordinator



Mark your calendars for Lofton's annual open enrollment dates tentatively set for **August 24<sup>th</sup> through August 28<sup>th</sup>**.

Employees **will not** be required to call into the call center this year. Lofton is very excited to roll out

Employee Navigator, the new employee benefits platform that puts benefit elections at the tips of your fingers! Stay tuned for more information on this tool to be announced via social media platform and email within the next couple of weeks.

Remember, open enrollment is the only time you can add, drop or change benefits, unless you have a qualifying event. Open enrollment changes will be effective October 1, 2020.

### AUGUST 2020

August is back-to-school month. It's going to be different with COVID regulations. To help get the kids adjusted to the new school routine, try these tips:

- Get kids adjusted to wearing a mask by practicing at home.
- Go over hand-washing routines and importance of frequent washing.
- Little hands touch everything! Go over importance of not touching their face.
- Practice using tissues if they need to touch their face, i.e. scratching, etc.
- Organize their closet with school uniforms or school-approved clothing for easy access.
- Go through undergarments, socks, hair ties, etc. Replace worn items with new ones.
- Be sure to include an extra mask in their book sack for just-in-case.
- Set an alarm each morning at a designated time to get the kids adjusted to waking up on time.
- Check inventory of old backpacks, pencil bags, etc. to help save on expenses.
- Set an after-school schedule that allows time for snack, relaxation, play and study.





## “God Bless America - Again ”

By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

and Guam where my dad was critically injured. Two members of the Tommy Coomes Band who have played at BGEA events for decades both had family members who had also served on Guam: Clyde Skidmore, 23, and his best friend, Bill Moreau. Both Marines were on the front lines in the invasion

couldn't walk. He had to lie there for a few hours and not move because there were snipers and enemy around. "In those fright-filled uncertain moments, he turned his attention to the only One he knew could save him. 'God, I don't know if I'm going to make it off this island alive or dead,' he prayed, 'but if You'll get me off this island and give me a good wife, I'll serve You the rest of my life...'" Unknown to Skidmore, when his best friend, Bill Moreau, got to a secure area, he told his commanding officer, "I'm going back for Skidmore." Despite the warning that he would be killed, he said, "I'm going back," and under enemy fire he found Skidmore and got him to medical help. When he returned to America, he married the girl who had prayed continually for him while he was in the Marines, and true to his word, pastored churches for more than 50 years and picked up hitchhikers carrying switchblades that he led to the Lord before dropping them off where they wanted to go. He returned to Guam twice before his death—on his 70th birthday as a gift from his family and church and once when Guam officials invited him back for the 50th anniversary of Guam's liberation.

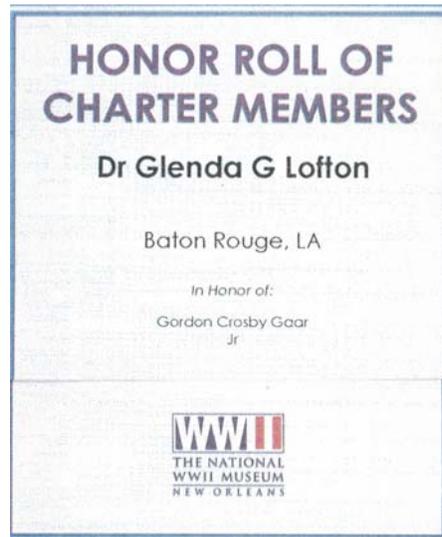
Back in 2016, I was invited and proud to become a charter member of The National WWII Museum in New Orleans in honor of my dad, Gordon Crosby Gaar, Jr., who as noted in my June article was a Navy veteran of the war and suffered a critical head injury on Guam. In this month's newsletter I received from the museum, Stephen Watson, President and C.E.O., reminded us that "as we continue to grapple with the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought upon our nation and world...it has been 75 years since the 'deadliest and most destructive war in history came to an end.'" On May 8, 1945—V-E Day—Nazi Germany signed an unconditional surrender, and three months later on August 14, 1945, Japan also accepted unconditional surrender—signed officially on September 2, 1945—V-J Day. Throughout the world "there was global jubilation, but only briefly. The men and women of the WWII generation quickly turned their energies back to rebuilding their lives—and our world." In his letter, President Watson also asked that as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of those victories, we once again unite in support of one another during this worldwide health crisis. He challenges us to let "the American spirit, which brought our nation together to preserve freedom during World War II, shine brightly and help us overcome new unprecedented challenges through incredible acts of courage, sacrifice, initiative, leadership, service, and generosity."



Clyde Skidmore  
United States Marine Corps

As I read President Watson's letter, I immediately remembered an article I had read in the April 2020 Decision magazine published by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association: "WWII Sacrifices Recalled at Island Festivals". In February of this year Franklin Graham, Billy Graham's son, conducted "Festivals of Hope" in Saipan

of Guam in July 1944. Both were under enemy fire and about an hour in, Skidmore was hit by an explosion. A piece of shrapnel, similar to what later hit my dad, went into his leg, severed a nerve, and drew his leg up so he



I was so touched, and then I read "the rest of the story." Skidmore died a victim of Parkinson's Disease, the same thing that ultimately killed my dad. Consistent with his faith and ministry, Skidmore's final words on his deathbed were, "Let the lost be found." The article also added validity to research that I have read in recent years: At one time, Guam had the highest incidence of Parkinson's Disease in the world which included the time that my dad, a victim of Parkinson's Disease, was also injured on Guam. Like Clyde Skidmore's family, "I sorrow not as those who have no hope," because I know my dad, too, is in heaven. May God continue to bless our troops and peace-keepers, and as we combat the COVID-19 pandemic, may God bless America—again!



## Officer Good News

One of our favorite things is to hear Good News about our officers. Our client in Baton Rouge called to inform us how much he appreciates Lofton's commitment to excellence. He personally complimented on-site Supervisor **Jamie Terrance**. "Everyone has been so stressed with COVID, Ms. Jamie is so nice and so helpful, she brightens everyone's day and brings a smile to our faces."

Outstanding, Jamie! Way to keep your site calm and provide a pleasant experience to everyone you come in contact with. Keep it up!

## Picking a Backpack



**Padding:** Make sure your child's pack has padding in the back to help protect the back from sharp items or sharp corners and on the straps to help on shoulders.

**Keep it Light:** Carry only what's absolutely necessary for the day, and leave the extras at home. Doctors say that no child should be carrying a backpack heavier than 10 to 15 % of his/her own weight.

**Wear it Well:** The backpack should be the right size for your child's age. Shoulder straps should fit snugly against the back. The bottom of the backpack shouldn't go lower than four inches below the waist.

**Watch For Trouble:** If your child complains of back or neck pain, stop and ask yourself, "Is it the backpack?" Talk to your doctor or occupational therapist for suggestions.