



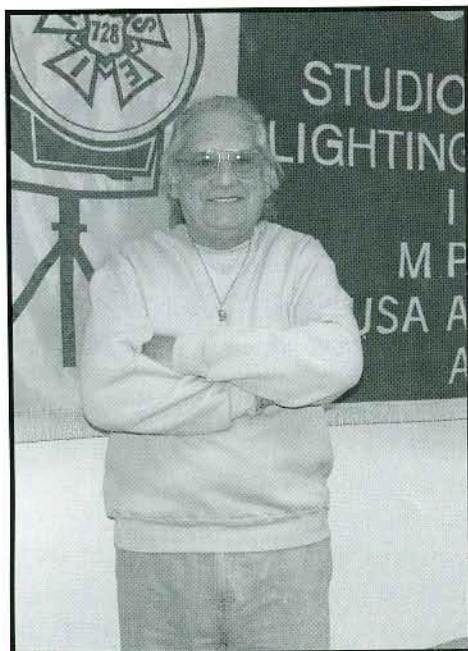
Bulletin



Volume 15, No. 2

We Light Up Your Life!

February 2005



Farewell, Frank

Former Local 728 President Frank Sontag resigns from the board after holding numerous leadership posts for over 30 years. We take a look at the long career of this sentimental and dedicated union man.

Page 4

Supporting Our Troops ... Our Children

An update on Marine Corporal Jason Williman's tour of duty in Iraq and why his anxious family can't wait to get their son home.

Page 7



ALSO INSIDE

Norman Glasser explains the hazards of Deal Memos and what every member needs to know before they sign anything. Page 2

Finally! The UFCW organizes the first Wal-Mart store in the world ... but wait! Wal-Mart didn't actually close the entire store, or did they? President Abaravich outlines the anti-union corporate shenanigans going on in Canada. Page 3

**Local 728
Officers and
Executive Board**

Patric J. Abaravich
President

Michael Gips
Vice President

Norman L. Glasser
Business Rep. - Secretary

R. Bruce Prochal
Call Steward/Treasurer

Executive Board Members

Branch Brunson
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Michael Everett
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Jerry Posner
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Shop Stewards

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Bernie Bayless Disney
Pascal M. Guillemard Fox
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John Jacobs Sony
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Thomas P. Pugh Warner Bros.

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Paul Caven
Mike Everett
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Mark Crosthwaite

**The Bulletin
Editor**

Patric J. Abaravich

*Adhering to some sound advice and following common sense
guidelines can eliminate problems in the future*

Deal Memos

**By Norman Glasser
Business Representative - Secretary**

First and foremost, DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING YOU DO NOT COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND AND HAVE NOT THOROUGHLY READ, especially the "fine print."

If you are signing a deal memo that includes any type of "box rental," or "over scale rates," make sure that what has been verbally agreed to is written clearly and legibly on the deal memo. Make sure that it is signed by those individuals who have the authority to approve what has been agreed upon. If the company changes your deal memo for any reason, you must be notified prior to any change.

In addition to securing your legal rights when signing a deal memo or filling out start paperwork, you are also validating your attendance at that work call. There have been many occasions when a member would not get paid because the paperwork was not filled out and turned into the proper accounting departments. If you are not given any paperwork to fill out, you must notify your immediate supervisor that you need the proper paperwork to complete. If you are denied any start papers, contact the union office immediately so that we can arrange for those documents to be supplied.

It is essential that you ALWAYS obtain a copy of anything that you sign. If a copy machine is not available, request that it be faxed to the union office and we will forward it to you directly as well as keep a copy for your file within the union office. The fax number is (818) 891-5288. If at anytime you do not understand or need clarification on any document, please contact me at the union and I will review the information with you.

Please remember, when you accept a work call from any employer, or the union office, you are making a commitment to report for work as directed. If for some reason you are unable to do so after accepting the call, you must promptly contact the individual that hired you. If they are unreachable, call the union office.

By following these common sense guidelines, you can eliminate many of the stressful situations that could arise by not protecting yourself.

As usual, I am always available to assist or answer any questions you may have.

COVER PHOTO

Featured on this month's cover is former Local 728 President and long-time union official Frank Sontag. Although he was just nominated to a new term on the Executive Board, Frank resigned citing health concerns. On Page 4, we take a look at this dedicated union brother. Also pictured on the cover is Marine Corporal Jason Williman. Read an update on Jason's tour of duty in Iraq on Page 7 in our feature "Supporting Our Troops ... Our Children."

Company's decision to close the first unionized store should solicit multi-national boycott

Can Wal-Mart Stop the Will of their "Associates"?

By Patric J. Abaravich, *President/Editor*

Let's talk about my good friends at Wal-Mart. Since 2003, the International Land and the AICP (Association of Independent Commercial Producers) – as it had done in the past – once again began cracking down on non-union houses trying to convince them to film their commercials with union labor. That same year, a commercial house based out of Dallas, that was producing Wal-Mart commercials, was organized. The International continued to track down all the non-union commercial houses, and I'm happy to report that it looks like all the commercial agencies that Wal-Mart uses to produce their commercials are all now under the IA label.

Although they continue to use deplorable means in the treatment of their employees, all their commercials are now being produced by union houses. But, while they have appeared to have given in to the pressures of an organized talent pool of commercial production professionals, Wal-Mart is not budging when it comes to their employees uniting.

In mid-February, Wal-Mart associates in Quebec, Canada successfully organized the very first Wal-Mart store in the world under UFCW banner. (For those of you who don't remember, this is the union we supported during the Southern California grocery strike.) In an unbelievable counter move, the global retail giant immediately shut down the entire store.

Both of these events are precedent-setting. The company claims a now-organized staff of employees was not the reason for the closure, but they'll soon have to prove how union-friendly they want to be. See, while they were planning the closure of that store – breaking Canadian labor laws and ousting 170 employees – another group of Canadian Wal-Mart employees signed a representation deal with the UFCW.

The company is already entangled in several legal disputes with the union involving organizing drives at roughly a half dozen other stores. There is now talk of a national boycott. Unfortunately, it appears as though the outraged workers and Canadian citizens who support organized labor are looking at a long, extensive battle against Wal-Mart if the company continues to close stores because their "associates" organize.

I believe this could be the start of big things to come in the long-overdue effort to pry the greedy Wal-Mart family fingers off their billions of dollars of profits made at the expense of their workers.

If a Canadian boycott were to happen, I would hope that Local 728 members would support the embargo in North America. If you'd like more information, I encourage you to visit www.walmartworkerscanada.com.

Once again, a friendly reminder: I'm asking members for any ideas or suggestions that they would like us to take to the convention. Please forward them to the office, or simply give us a call. All suggestions will be directed to me and reviewed by the committee.

Call Steward INFORMATION

Any Local 728 member representing the producer in filling calls or needing assistance, please contact this local during business hours. The local office operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you need to hire prior to 8 a.m., after 6 p.m., or over the weekend, please phone the Call Steward at 818-207-3094.

Members seeking weekend work should call the Steward at the Local on Friday to put your name on the weekend availability list.

Anyone who hires off roster or hires any member who is not current with their dues without first calling the Call Steward, shall have charges filed against them and shall be subject to the assessments levied by the Trial Board if found guilty.

Our present contract work week consists of any five (5) consecutive days out of seven (7) consecutive days.

Got Gear?

*The Local has Hats,
T-Shirts, Polo Shirts
and Blankets for
Sale with the 728
logo! NEW
ARRIVALS include
Jackets and Vests.
Visit the union hall
and check them out!
Show your union
pride by proudly
wearing Local 728
gear!*

Deceased

Brother Walter J. Brugger, 89 years old, passed away November 22, 2004.

First Notice

New applicants for membership are: Filip Bolton, Daniel Gonzalez, Brian D. Hartley, Trevor Houghton and Joshua T. Stern.

Second Notice

New applicants for membership are: David Besdesky, Steve T. Brock, Roger Chingirian, John Cropley, Patrick J. Gaynard, Brady M. Gurley, William McLachlan, John J. Moriarty, Tony Sweeney, Peter C. Villani, and Robert Waers, III.

New Members

The following member was sworn into Local 728 on January 31, 2005: Sean M. Haeseler.

Have a complaint, compliment, great story idea, or just need our help? Don't just sit there ... pick up the phone and give us a call.

Union Phone Numbers
(818) 891-0728
(800) 551-2158
Fax (818) 891-5288

Web Site:
www.iatse728.org

Former Local 728 President and long resigns from board and retires from

Farewell

It was a general membership meeting like no other – one that solidified that all things must come to an end. As newly elected officers were being sworn in, former Local 728 president, long-term board member and innovative leader Frank Sontag accepted yet another term on the board. Then, with great sadness and a heavy heart, he turned in his formal letter of resignation.

You could have heard a pin drop.

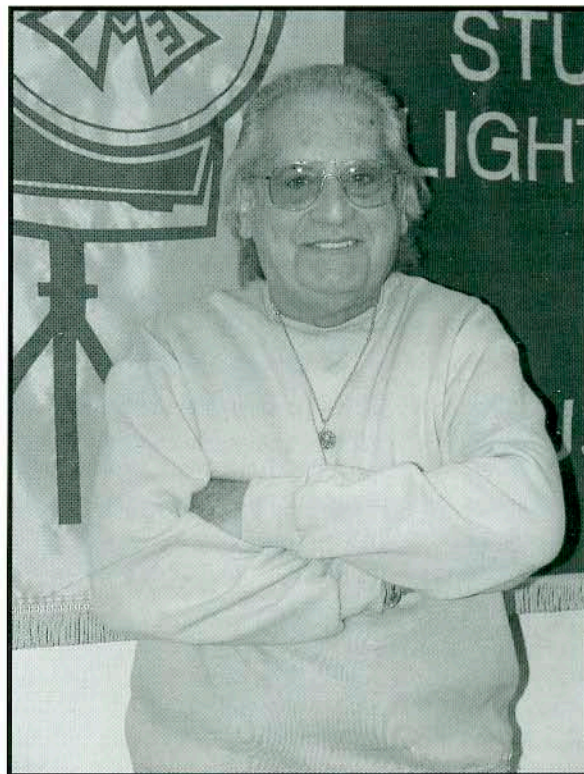
For three decades, the outspoken Cleveland native has been committed to making positive changes within the Local. The rigger turned gaffer, Frank has held numerous leadership positions over the years, underscoring his efforts to improve the Local.

It's because of Frank that Local 728 members are now officially referred to as 'technicians.' "I felt the change was needed, so I took it to the E-Board and we wrote the IA. It was sometime in the mid-90's. I'm really proud to have gotten that on the title," he recalled.

Frank was also instrumental in invoking change and designing a logo that was a better representation of Hollywood's electrical lighting professionals. He also orchestrated a reunion of Universal riggers and technicians who reveled at the chance to reminisce at Whiteman Airport.

And it's because of Frank's perseverance and involvement with the Motion Picture Home that residents now have a beautiful clock in the garden. His determination to brighten the lives of industry's elderly also brought about a \$250 monthly contribution to the home that is specifically earmarked for travel.

"I helped Harry Estin get the money. Each month, the local donates this amount to the home so the residents can get out



and go have some fun," he explained, adding that one of the biggest expenses is renting a shuttle bus. "We're now trying to find a small school bus. We'd like to get other locals involved to purchase it."

Born in 1932, this only child has the fondest of memories of growing up in Ohio with "great parents" who taught him to never walk away. And on a cool day at an amusement park on Lake Erie, Frank didn't think twice when he heard a woman screaming for help. When he came upon the scene, the Good Samaritan jumped into the cold water and saved the life of a drowning man. Working for the Cleveland Telephone Company at the time, Frank was given the Theodore N. Vail award (named after one of the founders of AT&T) for his heroism.

Following a two-year stretch in the Army in the early 50s during the Berlin crisis, then a short career with the

standing union official Frank Sontag Local citing health reasons

Frank

telephone company, Frank moved to California in 1965 seeking a more hospitable climate for his son's asthma. Because of Frank's electrical background, an uncle who was a generator man with Local 40 suggested he try studio lighting.

"Back then, it was up and down every day. Some days were feast, others were famine," he noted, comparing the past to the present. "Most of the gaffers we worked under were old timers. They're much younger now."

A year later, Frank became the Universal lot steward underscoring his belief in organized labor. "When I came out here, people really didn't care about the local. So I ran for office. It was an uphill battle then."

Looking back on his three-decade career, he says there are too many great memories to list. He once was the chuckle of the industry when he had the only all-female show in Hollywood. "There were six women, and me. It was on Wings and we had a great time. But I was the biggest laugh – not the envy. All the guys came by the set to watch us work."

He also proudly recalls being on the other side of the camera playing the character, Vinny, alongside James Garner on the hit show *The Rockford Files*.

"I set up all the lights and then ran around the camera and did the scene. We did it in one take," he recounted. Frank also preferred television work over feature productions so he could be close to his family. "The toughest location shoot I ever had was on the set of Airport 70 where it never got above 0 degrees in two-and-a-half weeks."

In addition to *The Rockford Files*, some of Frank's favorite shows included *Sarge* (with George Kennedy), *Wings*, *Knots Landing* and *Ironside*, where he first got his time in as a gaffer.

A man who enjoys fly fishing, Frank says the business can be "very unforgiving" and offers this sage advice. "Be professional. Do your job, and do it well all the time."

Yet, perhaps the hardest part about leaving an industry you've loved is saying goodbye to co-workers whose bond has deepened over the years. "That is what I will miss the most; the great, great friendships. I have been very fortunate to work with the greatest technicians who have become my friends and family.

Frank and his wife, Anita, celebrated their 30th anniversary on February 21st. Ironically, that's Anita's birthday and the five-year anniversary of Frank's heart surgery – the day he had a metal heart valve implanted.

Frank says he had to make the tough decision to retire, and because of his health – which he says is deteriorating – he had no other choice. The father of two children, two step-children and nine grandchildren can now look forward to more family time, working in the yard, and sketching. "Between all the medications and the lack of energy, I'm sort of falling back now. It's a downhill thing," he quietly noted.

And like a true union leader, his thoughts are with the welfare of the membership. "I wish only the best of luck and success to the membership of Local 728. If I can ever do anything, just give me a call. My phone line is always open."

Frank said that over the years much of his inspiration has come from a short saying on a card that was given to him by his favorite uncle before he left to fight in WWII. While his uncle Dominic carried the same inspirational message into war, Frank has carried it in his wallet for 63 years.

"The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of the final moment, but it is no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy. A man does what he must in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures, and that is the basis of all human mortality."

Delinquent List First Quarter 2005*

AASLAND, JOSEPH D.
ABBOTT, MARK
AGUILAR, RICHMOND L.
AHERN, CHRISTOPHER
ALDERSON, RANDY
ALLISON, THOMAS M.
ALONSO, GARY
AMINI, CYRUS
ANDERSON, RONALD
ARNOLD, KEVIN SCOTT
BAIN, DAMON
BARNETT, BILLY H.
BITHELL, WALTER
BLACK, CHARLES D.
BLUMBERG, MORRIS A.
BOSWORTH, MARTIN J.
BROWN, EVANS
CANTRELL, MATTHEW O.
CASLIN, FRANK C.
COHEN, MARC
CONWAY, CHRISTOPHER J.
CORTINA, HUGO P.
CRONN, ROBERT
CROPLEY, STUART E.
CROSS, WILLIAM
CYBULSKI, JOHN
DAHLQUIST, D. MICHAEL
DAHLQUIST, JAY
DALEY, PAUL
DALY, JUSTIN
DAVIS, MARISA J.
DE BLAU, JOHN W.
DE PERNA, ROBERT J.
DELGADO, DAVID
DORSEY, J. MATTHEW
DOUGHERTY, JOSEPH E.
DUNN, REGIS J.
DUVAL, JUSTIN
FERRAT, RICARDO F.
FORTUNE, JAY
FRANCHETT, TOM
GALBO, JAY
GHEGAN, DAVID S.
GLICK, ADAM SETH
GOWDY, LLOYD COLLINS
GRADZHYAN, HARRY H.
GRIFFITH, KHAN E.
GUZMAN, ANTHONY D.
HALL, DONNA LEE
HALL, THADDEUS GERALD
HART, RANDY A.
HATHAWAY, NATHAN G.
HILL, DARRIN
HINKLE, BRADLEY
HOLMES, TREV M.

Continued from Page 5

HOLT, KENNETH J.
HOLT, MARY T.
HOLT, THEODORE P.
HUSTON, RYAN
JORDAN, MICHAEL R.
KARASICK, MICHAEL I.
KIMURA, JAMES
KINNISON, TY J.
KORBEL, BLAIR
KUCHARSKI, STEVEN D.
LAYNE, JOHN L.
LEONETTI, JOSEPH D.
LEVIN, RONALD M.
LINDSAY, MARK A.
LOGAN, GUY
LUKASIK, DAVE
MANNING, WRIGHT K.
MARCHETTI, MARK
MARCOS, ROBERT J.
MARX, FREDRICK W.
MC COMAS, JAMES K.
MC CULLAGH, JAMES F.
MC GRATH, JEFFREY
MC GRATH, THOMAS
MC KAY, JR., ROBERT A.
MOE, KEVIN A.
MYGATT, JEFFREY C.
NAUFEL, ALEXANDRE E.
NYIRENDA, NGOLI V.
O'MELIA, MICHAEL K.
ORSA, JEFFREY E.
PALMER, MICHAEL
PAULL, STEPHEN M.
PENTEK, JEFFREY D.
PETERSON, DENNIS L.
PHILION, JON P.
REDDISH, PATRICK M.
REGAN, ROBERT A.
RISTIC, NIKOLA
ROBERTSON, CHRISTOPHER J.
ROBERTSON, CHRISTOPHER D.
ROFFREDO, JOSEPH F.
SCHAMP, KENNETH G.
SCHMEHR, KENNETH L.
SCHULTZ, PERRY PAUL
SELICEO, ERNEST A.
SIMMS, ANTHONY H.
SIMS, SHARON
STERN, THOMAS EVANS
TANDROW, GARY BRADY
THOMPSON, ELI
THORPE, JAMES R.
TILLMAN, JAMES W.
VALENTI, JORDAN

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*Do you know where you have worked for the last 18 months?
Important information for anyone filing for unemployment.*

Short and Sweet

**By R. Bruce Prochal
Call Steward/Treasurer**

Greetings everybody! After last month's lengthy vent, I have decided to keep my words to a minimum and discuss a couple of topics that may actually help some of our members.

There have been many words written in this bulletin about being on the books to collect unemployment. Have any of you attempted to open a new claim recently? Do you know who your employers were for the last 18 months (yes, that's 18 months)? You better! This is exactly the question you will be asked if you talk to a live person when opening a claim. If you file on-line, it only gets worse. EDD (Employment Development Department) wants addresses and phone numbers.

Several members have called asking where they have worked the last 18 months. I don't know! My first response is, "Don't you use the pocket pal to keep track of your hours?" I have gotten several responses, but the one that sticks in my mind is, "Oh! Is that what that is for?"

Many of our members use a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) to keep track of their hours, but keep no record of their employer or the show on which they are employed. I can only assume that many members who do use the pocket pal, also, do not record their employers. Help yourself, create and keep a record of your employer, the name of the show and hours worked. Check stubs are the best source for verifying your employers and are very useful at retirement time (keep your check stubs). Tax records can also be a good source of tracking past employers.

Time to change the subject. It is unfortunate, but from time to time a member becomes disabled. Please, call the local if you become disabled, regardless of the amount of time you may not be able to work. The local can advise you on your options about paying dues and many other things. A few members have needlessly gotten into financial situations that could have been avoided had they called the local.

Well, as the title reads "Short and Sweet," I am going to sign off. Until next time. RBP

Keep Your Skills Up-to-Date!

**Training Program Contact
Information**

Telephone:
818-502-9932

Web Site:
www.csatf.org

Supporting Our Troops ... Our Children

In November, we reported on Jason Williman, a Marine on active duty in Iraq. Jason is the son of member Earl Williman and his wife, Linda, and grandson of Gold Card member "Pee Wee" Williman.

Jason has been serving with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) in the war-torn area since July. When we heard that Jason had been involved in two separate but serious incidents since we first reported on him, we contacted Earl for an update.

"It was early in the morning and he was standing outside a hangar with a group of guys who were going for chow. Jason went back inside to get his jacket. About 20 seconds later there was a mortar attack on the base. He turned around and ran through the doors and found all five guys wounded," Earl recalled.

"No one was killed. Twenty or thirty seconds made all the difference between him getting wounded or killed and him coming out unharmed. He was pretty shook up."

Like too many military families around the country, Jason's family and friends somehow cope with the uncertainty. Earl said although they hear from Jason often, watching the news and playing the waiting game until he returns to the States has been horrendous.

"As a parent, it's an everyday thing. We hear the news reports. It's on your mind every second," he noted.

The MEU provides back up support for the Marines. And Jason, who has been promoted to Corporal since we last reported on him, plays a critical role: He is the point gunner on the unit. While many of their trips into Baghdad center around humanitarian efforts – delivering water, toiletries, even candy – those, too, can turn deadly.

Jason was serving as point gunner on a Humvee in a convoy of four vehicles heading to Fallujah. As they drove down the road, a pick-up truck passed them going in the opposite direction. The truck waited a short time, then did a U-turn and came up next to the military vehicles. That's when Jason saw the occupants of the pick-up had a machine gun.



Corporal Jason Williman

Delinquent 1st Qtr 2005*

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VALENTINE, MICHAEL L.
WALDRON, JARRED B.
WHITESIDE, MATTHEW T.
WILLIAMS, KEITH
WOOLLEY, JASON R.
AHRENS, ROBERT
ANGUS, JASON M.
BAYER, JOSH M.
BERARDI, PHILIP N.
BREEDLOVE, SHAUN
COX, THOMAS P.
FEINBERG, ADAM R.
GALL, MICHAEL A.
GALLART, MICHAEL
GOLDEN, JACK EDWARD
HOLMES, KRIS
JUNGE, RAYMOND
KAISER, DAVID
MC HUGH, DENNIS
MC MAHAN, JUSTIN G.
MITROVICH, RUSSEL
PATCHETT, ERIC SHAMUS
RAMOS, ROBERT J.
SEARCY, ROBERT
SMOCK, RICHARD CARL
SWEZEY, BRYAN L.
THOMPSON, FRANCIS R.
TODD, JOHN DOUGLAS
TYRELL, KEITH
WYCOFF, ERIC
ZAMOSCIANYK, CHRIS

Dropped

ANASTASION, P. SEAN
BATEMAN, JOSH C.
DE BORTOLIL, BRIAN A.
ESQUILIN, WILLIAM
FREEMAN, JAIK
HERNANDEZ, RICHARD H.
MC DERMOTT, PATRICK
SAUCIER, PHELT MICHAEL
SELF, WILLIAM
TAYLOR, JOHN H.
WORKMAN, DAVID L.

*List Current as of February 11, 2005

PLANAhead!

The 2nd Quarter
2005 Membership
Dues are due on or
before April 1st.

Continued on Page 8

**Get Active and
Get Involved!**

**Exciting things are
happening at your
union! Don't miss
the next regular**

**General
Membership**

Meeting

Saturday,

March 12, 2005

at 9:00 a.m.

at IATSE Local 44

12021 Riverside Drive

North Hollywood

No R.S.V.P. needed!

**Be sure to bring
your union card!**

Supporting Our Troops ... Our Children

Continued from Page 7

"Jason took all of them out. He killed four people, and he was so upset. He was in a situation where it was them or him. He was doing his job, but it really bothered him," Earl recounted.

While his family slowly mark the days until his late-February return, Earl says Jason and his unit are busy moving everything from their base in Escandaria to Kuwait, roughly 460 miles away. The unit will clean and sanitize all the equipment before it's put on a ship back to Camp Lejeune where it will stay in quarantine for an additional 30 days.

For Jason, he's facing a hernia operation when he returns stateside and will be re-assigned in the near future. He'll turn 23 in April, while March marks his third year with the military. "We don't know exactly where he'll go next, we just hope he doesn't get deployed back to Iraq," the anxious father said, adding, "But, they go where they are needed."

Editor's Note: Local 728 would be honored to profile any member's child or grandchild who is currently serving in the Armed Forces overseas. In addition to combat areas, many of our local military personnel have been sent to the Pacific Rim to assist with the tsunami relief effort. Please contact the Local if you would like us to highlight your child's bravery and patriotic service during this difficult time.

Next month in The Bulletin: New Local 728 officers have been sworn in and others who have held leadership positions for many years have taken on different roles. Meet the movers and shakers you elected to lead the Local for the next three years.

Studio Electrical Lighting Technicians



Local 728, I.A.T.S.E.

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