

MITCHELL, WILLIAM

October 15, 1948

Mr. William Mitchell
Commander, Florida Jurisdiction
of American League
Dunbar Village
West Palm Beach, Florida

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

On Saturday, October 30, we are celebrating our Homecoming, and, on this date, we are dedicating our Veteran Project in honor of one of our alumnus, the late Mr. James R. Polkinghorne, at ten thirty a. m.

We would be very pleased to have you give a ten minute speech on this occasion. The main speaker will be Honorable R. A. Gray, Secretary of State. The college will defray your expenses in connection with the trip.

Please advise us of your acceptance and the time we might expect you.

Sincerely yours,

WHG:aeb

Wm. H. Gray, Jr.

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

WESTERN UNION

1206

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	DEFERRED
CODE	NIGHT LETTER

JOSEPH L. EGAN, PRESIDENT

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

October 26, 1948

Col. Benjamin O Davis, Jr.
Commanding Officer
Lockburne Air Force Base
Columbus, Ohio

WE WILL BE HIGHLY HONORED TO HAVE YOU VISIT FLORIDA A AND M COLLEGE SATURDAY MORNING OCTOBER 30 AND SHARE IN OUR PROGRAM DEDICATING THE VETERANS VILLAGE IN MEMORY OF LT. JAMES POLKINGHORNE STOP WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU REVIEW OUR ROTC UNIT DURING HALF TIME OF FOOTBALL GAME STOP DEDICATORY SERVICE BEGINS AT TEN A M AND FOOTBALL GAME AT TWO P M. Please

wire if we may expect you and time of arrival
collect

/s/ WM. H GRAY, JR. PRESIDENT
FLORIDA A AND M COLLEGE

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

Polkinghorne Village

WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN, PRESIDENT

1206

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*telephoned
copy*

October 26, 1948

CHIEF OF STAFF
Operations and Training
Area Command Headquarters
Langley Air Force Base
Virginia
Attn: Col. Warburton

FLORIDA A AND M COLLEGE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS YOU TO PERMIT THE 332ND FIGHTER GROUP FLYERS TO PASS OVER OUR COLLEGE CAMPUS AT TEN THIRTY A M SATURDAY OCTOBER 30 TO SALUTE DURING PROGRAM DEDICATING VETERANS VILLAGE IN MEMORY OF LT. JAMES POLKINGHORNE FORMER STUDENT OF THIS COLLEGE WHO SERVED IN THE AIR FORCE AND WAS KILLED IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER

/s/ WM. H GRAY, JR., PRESIDENT
FLORIDA A AND M COLLEGE

DEDICATION OF VETERANS VILLAGE
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College
Tallahassee, Florida

SATURDAY

October 30, 1948

9:00 A. M. Alumni Breakfast

10:00 A. M. Dedication of Polkinghorne Village

Speakers:

Honorable R. A. Gray
Secretary of State

William Mitchell
American Legion Head
West Palm Beach, Florida

Presentation of Plaque to Family:

Roy Spencer

Response:

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Polkinghorne, Sr.

2:00 P. M. Football Game

7:00 P. M. Students' Dance

to

9:00 P. M.

9:00 P. M. Alumni Dance

to

11:30 P. M. Presentation of Keys to Gymnasium:

Coach A. S. Gaither

Response:

Harold Robinson
President
State High School Athletic Association

10/28/48

INFORMATION ON JAMES R POLKINGHORNE, JR.

Classification upon departure from Florida A and M College -- Junior

Class Average - "B"

Major Field of Study -- History

Name of parents - Dr. and Mrs. James R Polkinghorne (pharmacist)

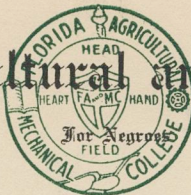
Number children attended Florida A and M College -- 3 (1 graduated)

Rank - Lieutenant in the Air Force -- Lost life in battle over
Italy in 1943

DATA ** VETERANS VILLAGE

No. freshmen housed	153
No. family units	128
Total number living in project	165
Total cost to State	\$84,861.20
Approximate cost to Federal Government	\$150,000.00

The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College



WILLIAM H. GRAY JR., PRESIDENT

Tallahassee, Florida

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

No. freshmen housed in project	153
No. family units	128
Total number living in project	165
Total Cost of Veterans' Project	\$84,861.20

^{to state}
Agreement Cont to Fed.
Gov.

150,000.00

INFORMATION ON JAMES R. POLKINGHORNE, JR.

Classification upon departure from Florida A. and M. College - Junior

Class Average - "B"

Major Field - History

Name of Parents - Dr. and Mrs. James R. Polkinghorne, Sr.
(Pharmacist)

Number of Children attended Florida A. and M. College - three
(one graduated)

~~Number of Children in family~~

*24. airplane
lost #1 life in battle in Italy
in 1943,*

October 30, 1948

DEDICATION VETERANS VILLAGE
FLORIDA A & M COLLEGE

Dr. Gray, Fellow Veterans and Friends of the College:

We have gathered here today to dedicate this Veterans Village, the purpose of which is to assist Veterans desiring to pursue their studies at this fine college.

This Veterans Village is dedicated in honor of a student of this college who made the supreme sacrifice for his country in the recent World War.

So, in this dedication we are honoring First Lieutenant James R. Polkinghorne, Jr. who lost his life in battle over Italy in 1948. All of us here share with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. James R. Polkinghorne of Pensacola, the solemn pride in the great contribution made by their son in giving his life for his country and reflecting honor upon the home, the city, state and college from which he came. Lt. Polkinghorne when he left this college to enter the army was a junior and he had enjoyed the high scholastic standing of having a class average of B, so he left a good record here as well as in the army.

This Veterans Village we dedicate today in his honor is one in which the State of Florida has invested and expended almost \$100,000.00, and into which the Federal government has expended approximately \$150,000.00. It is a substantial project in which there are 128 family units, 153 freshmen are housed and total number living in the village is 487. All of these are enjoying the results of

what the State and Nation are doing in honor of those who served in the military forces.

The G. I. Bill of Rights has given the Veterans of World War No. II the great privilege of federal assistance in continuing their studies in accredited schools, colleges and universities. Happily a large number of those veterans are seeking to take advantage of this fine opportunity. One of the immediate problems which arose was housing facilities. No college or university was in position to provide adequate housing needed in the short time at their disposal before the first session following conclusion of hostilities.

All over the nation there was a serious lack of facilities for those G. I.'s who wanted to continue their college training or to begin their college work. No state was more prompt in efforts to furnish these facilities than the State of Florida. Fortunately the state treasury had accumulated a little more than the normal balance during the war years and so was able to meet some of the emergency demands for housing at its several institutions of higher learning. Construction of buildings and dormitories take time, but the veterans have been patient, and now large numbers of them are enjoying the benefits of the G. I. Bill of Rights.

Veterans of World War I had no such privileges, but we can and do rejoice with Veterans of World War II that this fine recognition and opportunity has been accorded them. The beneficiaries of this

privilege in the years to come will, I know, look back upon this time and will realize how fortunate they were in this opportunity and how wise they were to take advantage of it. They have earned the gratitude of the nation. The nation has picked this as one of the manifestations of that gratitude.

As the veterans had the opportunity of rendering a great service to the nation while it was struggling for its future safety and very life in the gigantic conflict, so also will the veterans have great opportunities in the future to assist in keeping their nation strong and great, and in making their contribution to the future of American life.

The Veteran can do this more effectually by having continued his education. An uneducated citizen compares in usefulness to the educated citizen as a bar of crude iron to the hairspring of a watch made of finest steel. Our nation will need him in the years to come and will need him reinforced with all the accomplishments and training which can be had within the hallowed walls of a great college or university. The nation will need him with all the confidence and strength he will acquire in the atmosphere and influence of a fine educational institution. The veteran here has had his training for war. He can now finish his training for peace for his full part in the activities that will make up the life of the tomorrows.

He will be better trained to make his way in a world where the economic contest goes on and on. He cannot escape the problems of the tomorrows be they economic, or be they what they may. Life's

journey will be a daily facing up to the age old problems in new settings and new problems never before faced by mankind. In that battle the soldier will realize every day the value of training, and a very valuable part of that training he can get here. He is an ex-serviceman in the sense that he has rendered military service to his country in time of war; but he will always be a service man to himself, to his family, to his community, to his state and to his nation. He will be a service man to his fellow citizens individually. These opportunities will fill his future day by day.

Let me digress for a moment to make an appeal to the World War No. 2 Veterans here assembled and who may be listening in, let me appeal to you that you keep in mind you are not only an ex-serviceman from the standpoint of your military service but you should continue in your service through your veterans organizations for your community, state and nation.

When we veterans of World War No. I organized the American Legion there was much to do to get through legislation for the benefit of the ex-serviceman in the way of hospitalization, rehabilitation, adjusted compensation and measures which were primarily for the veteran. After World War No. I there was nothing in the way of Congressional action for the benefit of the veteran such as you have today. The American Legion fought these things through. Then we turned our attention to a service for others, a service that would be an unselfish effort and I trust the new veterans now filling the ranks of veterans organizations will be ready in the spirit of unselfish service to carry on. We

We veterans of World War No I have carried on for more than twenty-five years. We must of necessity soon pass off the stage of action and we will hand the torch to you veterans of World War No. II in the hope that you will grasp it, carry it high and carry on in the spirit of unselfish service.

These opportunities for individual service to individuals- to fellow men- will be opportunities indeed. May this opportunity here help you make the most of them. So we now dedicate this village to the memory of Lieutenant Polkinghorne in the spirit of unselfish service such as he rendered.

I think it was Cato- one of the philosophers of the long ago who said:

"one of the most gratifying recollections in my old age- that which gives me the greatest satisfaction- is the pleasing remembrance of the kindly offices I have been able to render to others."

Another more modern philosopher has phrased the thought in this language:

"I can live in this world but once.

If, therefore, there is any service I can render to my
fellow creatures

Let me not neglect it or defer it-

For I shall not pass this way again."