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About The Cover

**Happy Holiday's
from the men
and women of
Hancock Field**



Vision Statement

Our Vision is a world class fighter wing comprised of diverse individuals powered to meet all challenges, and win. We accept nothing less.

Mission Statement

Provide combat ready personnel, aircraft, and equipment prepared for world wide deployment. To deter or attack and destroy enemy surface and airborne forces in support of joint operations; and to support civil authorities at the direction of the governor.



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Happy Holidays. I can't believe I'm saying that already. Another year has come and gone. For the members of the Hancock Field family, another very successful year. We've deployed folks around the state, and around the world. From Mattydale to Jerusalem, from Las Vegas to Columbia, and pretty much most of the continents on the planet, talented members of the 174th, 152nd, and 274th have traveled to participate in training, humanitarian, and combat operations. We've carried out our tasking in support of various commanders, and returned home safely to our families. An incredible feat in the eyes of our neighbors. Just doing our jobs in the eyes of this military family. I'm extremely proud of what we have accomplished, and how we continually step up to answer the call when needed.

This will be a rather unique UTA. Although we will start out by addressing November's ORE issues and executing a flying program on Saturday, Sunday will be dedicated to what General Hornburg, Air Combat Commander, refers to as Wingman Day. The program is an attempt to reverse a tragic upward trend of off-duty fatalities and suicides. The program will also address the stresses we all face in our jobs and daily lives. It will also address the responsibilities we all bear in watching out for each other. Part of the program will include our family members, as they are all welcome to come out to

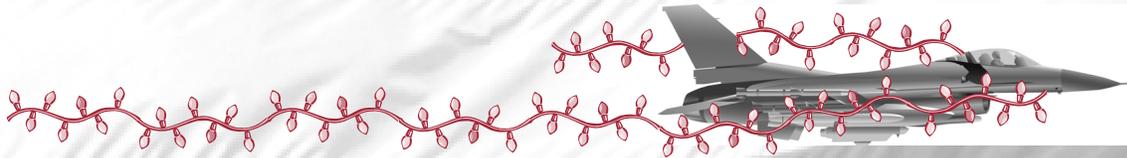
the base for our traditional holiday gatherings starting at noon. This will be an opportunity to take a little time away from our normal duties, re-focus on taking care of our people (our wingman), and enjoy some holiday cheer with those we hold dear. I'm sure it will be both a productive and enjoyable program.

As we look toward next year, we start out January with 2 UTAs and 50 ACC inspectors. It will be a busy, and very important month for us. The first drill weekend will concentrate on fixing those issues that surfaced during the November ORE. Our plan for the second UTA should be obvious. I'm very confident that we will perform well during the ORI, and that the rest of 2005 will be carried by the momentum from that event. On paper, the year actually looks fairly quiet, with mostly training deployments scheduled. And don't forget, if you show up for the July UTA, you'll be alone!

With that, I look forward to seeing you during this drill weekend. From Carol and I, and our daughters Lindsay, Meghan and Jordan, may you enjoy this holiday season and the upcoming year.



Colonel Anthony Basile
174 FW Commander



Get Involved

By CMSgt. Mark Atkinson, 174th FW, Command Chief



Guard Family

The Air National Guard has been referred to as a big "Family" over the years. This is one of the reasons why the ANG has been so effective completing any mission assigned. The close relationship that develops from working together for an extended amount of time forms strong bonds between us all. The previous year has been terrible for suicide rates Air Force wide. Last year there were over fifty suicides. There were more losses from suicide than combat in the Air Force. Although most of these were active duty, we need to stay focused on the wellness of our people to be able to intervene if needed. In recent history, Hancock Field has not experienced a loss from suicide. It may be more prone to occur on Active Duty, but it has, and could happen here.

Our most important asset is our people. We will all be participating in a Wingmen Day. The goal is to pause, focus, reflect and improve while we carry a clear message to everyone:

you all have purposes, meaning and are valued members of our Air Force Family. We will all take a break from our normal activities to focus on our well-being and understand the importance of taking care of each other.

I previously mentioned that the Guard is Family. I think over the years due to personnel size increase, turnover, operations tempo, that we are not quite as tight a family as we used to be. We need to understand that our tempo, size and turnover are here to stay. Understanding and accepting that, we need to focus on the basics of supporting each other as if we are family. There are many stresses at work and at home. We should treat each other with respect and compassion when dealing with stressful issues. When someone asks for help, support him or her by reacting appropriately. We all need help at some point in time. This is how the Guard became a "Family". Wingmen Day will provide the time to reflect on our wellness and focus on our Guard Family. Merry Xmas to you and your Family.





Chaplain's Corner

By Lt. Col. Timothy Bejian, I74FW, Chaplain



Greetings From Your Chaplain

This may sound odd, but I enjoy writing devotional messages and poems. The devotions I share, the poems I keep to myself. But I do like to use other people's poems in my devotional messages. As a matter of fact, my favorite poet happens to be Robert Frost. And with the change of the seasons, I think I want to take a look at one of his poems. One of my favorite poems is "Birches." I like this poem for two reasons. The first is quite simply that of all the trees in the world, the tree I love the most is the Mountain Birch. The Mountain Birch is a singular tree, unlike the swamp birch that grows in clumps. It can reach over one hundred feet in height and be so large at the base that two people couldn't touch each other if they tried to put their arms around it. The bark is the first thing that draws my attention. When walking through the woods, the conflicting white and black of the bark pulls my eyes away from everything else. To me, the only thing more beautiful than a Mountain Birch in the woods is a grove of them. Like an island of birches surrounded by a forest of grays and browns. I linger at such places.

There is a second reason I like this poem and this is where I want to quote. "When I see birches bend to left and right across the line of straighter darker trees, I like to think that some boy's been swinging them. But swinging doesn't bend them down to stay as ice-storms do. Often you must have seen them loaded with ice a sunny winter morning after a rain. --- They are dragged to the withered bracken by the load, and they seem not to

break; though once they are bowed so low for long, they never right themselves." Do you remember the huge ice-storm that hit NY, Canada and most of New England a few years ago? The forests were devastated. As I recall, the experts called that storm a 500-year event. You can drive through those areas today and still see the surviving trees with their shattered crowns, but not so with the birches. Yes, they were bent to the ground and yes, they have never stood up as straight as they did before, but they did not break. In our journey through this life, there have been and there will continue to be ice-storms that come upon us, so this is where we have to take our lesson from the birch. If we are rigid and unbending we will break from the weight of it. But if we bend and do not fight it, but trust that the Lord will do what we cannot, we can hope as David the Psalmist hoped: "O LORD, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me. 'Many are saying of my soul, there is no deliverance for him in God.' But Thou, O LORD, art a shield about me, my glory, and the one who lifts my head." David knew his limits and yet he knew that there was someone he could look to for help who was limitless. The lesson of the Birch is that ice storms may bend you down, but the Lord can lift you up when you place your trust in Him.

As we enter this holiday season, why don't you take some time to ponder the wonderful truth that God came into our world and our lives to lift us up. When we think about this, what storm can possibly harm us?

May you experience such lifting in your life.
Chaplain Tim



New Law Sink 'Check Floating' Practice

By Lt. Col. Joseph E. Lamendola, I74FW, Judge Advocate

The practice of *floating* a check until payday will become a thing of the past effective October 28th when the new federal Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act, also known as *Check 21*,

went into effect.

"Check floating" occurs when people write checks a few days before payday, figuring that by the time their checks hit the bank, there will be money in the accounts to cover them.

With Check 21, money will be withdrawn immediately from a person's account when he or she writes a check.

The new federal law is designed to help banks efficiently process more checks electronically. This means that debits to a person's checking account will occur in minutes, not days.

Paper checks as recordkeeping devices will also become a thing of the past. Instead, banks will replace canceled checks with substitute checks -- paper copies of electronic images of a person's original check. Consumers must have a substitute check to exercise all of their rights under Check 21 for the re-crediting of their account in the event of a transactional error.

The potential effect on consumers is simple.

Unwary consumers will be more likely to bounce checks because of the enhanced speed and efficiency of check processing.

Consumers probably will not be able to access funds from checks deposited in their accounts any sooner because the new law does not shorten check hold times for banks. This means people may not be able to withdraw money from their accounts the same day a deposit is made.

Here are a few tips to help people adjust their banking habits in response to Check 21:

- ✓ Check your balance. Ensure you have sufficient funds in the checking account to cover any purchases made by check.
- ✓ Request substitute checks. Although banks are not required by law to issue them, be persistent in requesting that substitute checks accompany bank statements.
- ✓ Ask for a re-credit in writing. If a loss is related to a substitute check received, notify the bank in writing within 40 days of the bank statement and request a re-credit to the account. Do not forget to include the substitute check.

For more information about Check 21, visiting the Consumers Union or the Federal Reserve web sites. Call Lt. Col. Lamendola at the Legal Office for further advice.



Program Offers Thanks to Spouses

Secretary of the Air Force, Directorate of Public Affairs

Undersecretary of the Air Force Peter B. Teets hosted a ceremony today at the Pentagon to launch the Spouse Pin program, a new recognition initiative, to thank the spouses of America's Airmen for the sacrifices they are making in support of the ongoing war on terrorism.

The program is expected to honor more than 400,000 spouses of active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Air Force civilians.

"We're excited about the opportunity to recognize the support a spouse provides to our total force Airmen and civilians at home and abroad. This pin lets the spouse know that we are aware of the sacrifices they've made and continue to make as their loved ones defend our nation's interest in the ongoing war on terrorism," said Brig Gen. Frederick Roggero, Director, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs.

The Spouse Pin program is the third phase of the Your Guardians of Freedom program that expands recognition from

parents and employers to Total Force spouses. The YGOF program began in October 2001 as an Air National Guard initiative to recognize employers of activated Guardsmen and evolved into the Parent Pin program in May 2003.



Through the web-based program, service members and AF civilians can log on to www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com and register their spouses for a personalized letter signed by the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff with an accompanying one-inch silver lapel pin. The lapel pin is embossed with a blue star above the Air Force logo that's reminiscent of the blue star flags displayed in windows during World War II to

symbolize the military service of a loved one.

The Air Force realizes the hardship and sacrifices being made by military and civilian families as the nation continues to wage war on terrorism. The spouse pin serves as a small token of appreciation for their sacrifices.



Family Readiness Program

By Terri Scanlin, I74 FW, Family Readiness Coordinator

As I write this article in the first week of November, we are just days away from our Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE). Even though this is a simulated deployment, a very important question comes to mind: Are your families prepared for your separation?

One of the purposes of the Family Readiness Program is to increase individual and family morale, squadron cohesion, and operational readiness by keeping military service members at their place of duty and functioning well during deployments. This program is here to assist service members and their families in successfully managing the challenges associated with the deployment.

It is also the military member's responsibility to ensure that their families are prepared for deployments. There are useful checklists in the "Family Readiness Toolkit" which can be found

on the Defense Link website. www.defenselink.mil/ra/family/toolkit/. These checklists will help you organize your affairs before your departure. If you visit the 174th Fighter Wing website and click on the Family Readiness page, you will find many useful links.

The 174th FW Family Readiness Program will be forming a Family Readiness Group (FRG) in the very near future. The FRG will ensure the flow of information relative to mobilization and deployment, and to provide support and assistance to command leaders, members and their families throughout the deployment cycle. The FRG will also hold regular meetings, plan activities, and obtain training. If you are interested in joining, please call 315-454-6577.

Reminder: Sign-up deadline for the Children's Christmas Party is December UTA.



ESGR Awards Program

By SGM Ken Hardy, Employer Support of the Guard/Reserve (ESGR), Senior Enlisted Advisor and Military Outreach Coordinator

One of the best ways to increase employer support for the Guard and Reserve is to recognize an employer for their support by nominating them for an ESGR award. To nominate an employer for an award, go to the following link on the ESGR web site <https://www.esgr.org/members2/onlineForms.asp?c=formMBIAP.asp> and complete the award nomination form right on line or complete form manually and mail in to ESGR as indicated on the form. ESGR awards include:

» **Patriot Award.** Awarded to any employer, co-worker, civic or government leader who has been supportive of the Guard and Reserve. The award consists of a DoD Certificate of Appreciation and a Patriot lapel pin.

» **Above and Beyond Award.** Recognizes employers who have gone 'above and beyond' the legal requirements for granting leave and providing support for military duty, i.e. paying differential **174th Fighter Wing**

pay, paid military leave, maintaining benefits while deployed, etc... The remarks made on the award nomination form help to determine if an employer is eligible for this award. This award is awarded by the State ESGR Committee.

» **Pro Patria Award.** Awarded annually to the most supportive employer in the State. This award is also awarded by the State ESGR Committee.

» **Secretary of Defense - Freedom Award.** Awarded annually by the Secretary of Defense to the most supportive employers in America. Nominations are received via the ESGR web site during a posted nomination period, normally January - February.

Leaders - please encourage your troops to recognize the supportive efforts of their employers by nominating their employer for an ESGR award today!

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

DEADLINE: 5 December 04

Application Package must be completed and submitted to the Retention Office NLT 5 Dec 2004 for the Spring Semester 2005. The program pays for Tuition, based on the cost of SUNY Tuition (\$4350/Year and \$2175/Semester) at SUNY/CUNY and Participating Private Colleges in New York State ONLY. You must apply for TAP and PELL by completing the Free Application for Student Aide (FAFSA) www.fafsa.ed.gov. Anyone interested in attending College should contact the Retention Office for assistance at MSgt Mary A. Oaksford, mary.oaksford@nysyra.ang.af.mil or TSgt Daryl Williams (315) 454-6161.

MEET THE NEED

Rescue Mission has been here in Central New York since 1887 reaching out to the hungry and hurting. This year they are experiencing a 30% increase in the number of homeless men coming to their emergency shelter and are asking the community to help in any way possible. The Rescue Mission is asking for interested members of Hancock Field Air National Guard Base to donate socks and gloves to help make Christmas special for the homeless and hurting people of Central New York. There will be a barrel in the dining hall over the December drill weekend and one in the 152nd's building since they are not here over the same weekend. If you have any questions please contact Lt. Bucci at 454-6651, Thank You!

BX NEW STORE HOURS

Monday-Wednesday	0900-1700	EXCEPTIONS
Thursday	0900-1800	DRILL WEEKEND:
Friday	0900-1700	Saturday 0900-2000
Saturday	0900-1600	Sunday 1000-1500

SECTION SPOTLIGHT

Name: Gary E. Dick, Jr.
Rank: SrA
AFSC & Title: 3S0X1/ Personnel Apprentice



SrA Dick has been a member of the 174th Fighter Wing for two years. He works in the Mission Support Group Orderly Room and is an active member of the 174th FW Base Honor Guard. Prior to his joining the 174th FW, he was a cadet with Detachment 535 Air Force ROTC at Syracuse University. He recently graduated from Columbia College with a Bachelors degree in History and General Studies. In addition, he has an Associate degree in Humanities from Onondaga Community College. He intends to begin his pursuit of a Masters degree in History/Military Science and Education in the near future. Some of his hobbies include camping, running, church functions, volunteering with various charities, collecting military antiques, researching and restoring Mopar muscle cars. He is currently building the General Lee Dodge Charger from the TV show "The Dukes of Hazzard".

CREATIVE HELP WANTED

We are looking for anybody who has a desire and interest to help with the layout of the EnGarde magazine. Graphic art skills are helpful, but not necessary. All that is needed is enthusiasm and creativity. If interested please contact Lt. Bucci at 454-6651 for further details, Thank You!



Retirements and Enlistments for July to September 2004

Enlistments

Amn. Preston Cox, Stu Flt
 Amn. Jeanice Williams, Stu Flt
 A1C. Thomas Blake, Stu Flt
 A1C. Josiah Callihan, Stu Flt
 A1C. Casey Carson, CF
 A1C. Timothy Cullipher, Stu Flt
 A1C. Kyle Dimeis, Stu Flt
 A1C. Stephen Hand, CE
 A1C. Jonathan Hullsiek, Stu Flt
 A1C. Eric Iozzo, Stu Flt
 A1C. Derek Kranze, LRS
 A1C. Michael Lynch, Stu Flt
 A1C. James MacDonald, Stu Flt
 A1C. Patrick Moonan, Stu Flt
 A1C. Kelcy Sanderson, Stu Flt
 A1C. Todd Trudeau, LRS
 A1C. Bryan Whipple, LRS
 A1C. Matthew Winnie, Stu Flt
 SrA. Joshua Addison, AMXS
 SrA. Parish Atkinson, MXS
 SrA. Ronald Bennett, AMXS



SrA. Stephen Bulkley, MXS
 SrA. Michael Falter, AMXS
 SrA. Justin Fluegel, AMXS
 SrA. Michael Lowe, MDG
 SrA. Christopher Mills, CE
 SrA. John Seely, FW
 SrA. Mark Tucker, LRS
 SSgt. Joshua Deweese, 274th
 SSgt. James Kruize, SFS

SSgt. Peter Kumanowski, CE
 SSgt. Nolan Mooney, CE
 SSgt. Tammy Pitt, AMXS
 SSgt. Steven Streeter, CF
 SSgt. Jamie Toeg, MDG
 SSgt. Todd Vanscoter, AMXS
 SSgt. Ronald Welch, AMXS
 SSgt. Craig White, MXS
 TSgt. Michael Finnegan, Det 1
 2nd Lt. Gerald Benton, OSF
 1st Lt. Benjamin Robbins, OSF
 1st Lt. Jennifer Walker, MDG
 Capt. Gilbert Harvey, MDG
 Capt. Sandy VanWormer, FW
 Maj. Wade Dewey, 138 FS

Retirements

SSgt. Michael Legault, MXS
 MSgt. Sidney Cooper, MXS
 MSgt. Timothy Fell, CE
 MSgt. James Fredette, LRS
 MSgt. Jonathan Odell, LRS
 SMSgt. Neill Dewald, CF

WELCOME ABOARD! Our hearty greeting to our new 2004-2005 Board of Directors. Yours truly elected for another year as President; Vice-President is Gary Berberich (former Secretary); Secretary is Patricia Normanly; Treasurer is Floyd Dufore; Chaplain Don Whiting. Incoming Directors: Vince Coon, Frank Duester and Sylvia King. Continuing on for one more year are three current Directors: Richard Brady, Melvin Denny and Jack O'Hara. Outgoing Directors: Ralph Brooks, Don Cook, Paul Jennings. To all of you, my most sincere "thank you" for your wonderful support and the great job you did for the Association. A President is only as good as its Board and you made me feel great. Floyd Dufore and Fran Scharoun, our Election committee did a great job, elections were organized and concise. Thanks guys. Pizza and wings with refreshments were enjoyed by all after the elections.

As previously mentioned in the July/Aug En Garde a motion had been made to dispense with the Historian and Publicity position. It was unanimously decided not to eliminate these positions. To keep them for future use. If any one is interested in doing one of these jobs, please contact the Board.

At this writing, 3 Nov 04, we have 100 reservations for the Thanksgiving Dinner. I should be able to give the final results in the January EnGarde edition. My appreciation in advance to all those who helped this come to a fun filled evening. A special thanks to the Base Honor Guard for presenting the colors and joining us for the dinner. I will report on the Toys at the later date also.

There is no Alumni meeting in December, so we'll see all of you at the January 20th meeting.

152AOG has a new Commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Brown as of 16 Oct 04. Congratulations Lt. Col. Brown from the members of the 174 FW Alumni Assn.

Sick Call

Richard "Dick" Brady, underwent quintuple (5) bypass heart surgery on 21 Oct 04 at the Buffalo VA Hospital. He is doing great and is at home at 101 Florida Ave So, Mattydale, NY 13212.

Taps:

174th Fighter Wing

Gordon Williams Lt. (Ret.), passed away on 1 Nov 04. Lt. Williams was a former member of the 138TFS. He is survived by his wife Cathy. Cards of condolence may be sent to 125 Pleasant Beach rd., Syracuse, N.Y. 13209.

Charles R, Metras, MSgt. (Ret.), died on 20 Oct 04 after a long battle with cancer. He was an Air Tech in Radar with the 174 TFW and also with 108th. He was also a Fire Control person. He is survived by his wife Louise and five children. Remembrances may be sent to 7179 Rosewood Circle, N. Syracuse, N.Y. 13212.

Trivia & News:

We are 642 members strong, my personal goal is 100 new members in the upcoming year. Hop on my bandwagon and let's make it happen!!! Query your retiree friends – if they haven't joined, get them to. Remember also – if you are a current member of the unit and have over twenty years service, you qualify for the Associate Member status. We have many members that are in this group. We'd love to have you join us and make this an outstanding organization. Contact me at 598-3999 or jmcnam1@twcny.rr.com and I will send an application to you. Or you can pick one up at the All Services Club.

October 1987 -174 FW Dining Hall was dedicated by then Col Mike Hall.

September 1987 – "The Boys From Syracuse" departed

for Lechfeld Air Base, Bavaria.

November 22, 1948- 108th ACWS came on board at Hancock Field

November 1987 – CMSgt. (Ret.) Don Whiting was awarded the AF Association CMSgt. Dick Red Award for ANG Aerospace Maintenance 1987.

40th Anniversary reception took place at Quality Inn on Carrier Circle.

Next meeting will be **January 20th, 2005.....** no meeting in December.



L to R: During the Aug 04 Alumni Picnic, John McNamara presents the hand made chest to Chuck DeMayo, winner of this years raffle. The chest was designed and made by John McNamara.

Hancock Field Wingman Day

Sunday, 5 December 2004

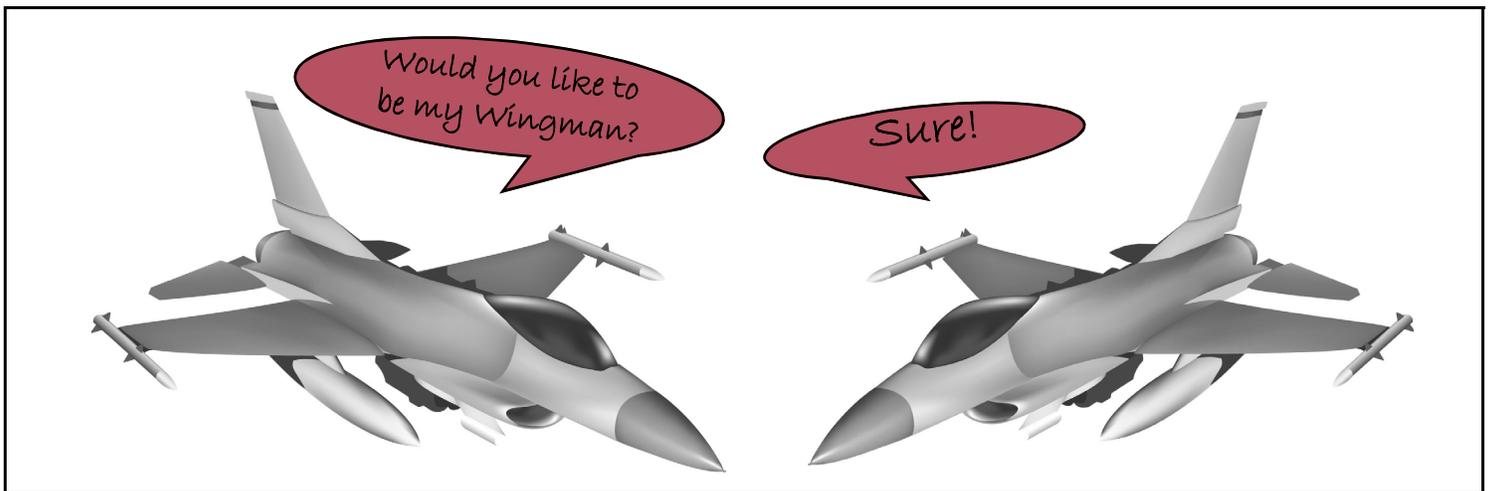
STRESSED AIRMEN-WHO'S YOUR WINGMAN?

Hancock Field's number one priority is you. Lowering stress, preventing accidental deaths and suicides, healthy living and creating a balance between military, civilian and family responsibilities will help each of us achieve a whole person concept of well being.

Our greatest resource for achieving these milestones is each other. We have to be good "wingmen" and take care of and support each

other. On Sunday 5 December, we will pause from normal day-to-day operations to focus on our physical, mental and spiritual health and enjoy quality time with our fellow airmen and our families.

The goal is to pause, focus, reflect and improve, all while learning to be better wingmen. Stay Tuned...



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