

# It's A Tough Job, But Lonzy Can Do It

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Carolina now, but they remain illegal in Sunset Beach. The hazards of causing a wildfire or personal injury are too great.

If he simply sees someone with fireworks Gore's to tell them to get the fireworks off the beach.

Beachgoers who disobey town rules may get an occasional warning, but in most cases he issues a ticket. Every violation carries a \$25 fine and comes with its own envelope for enclosing the money and

mailing it to the town.

"If I find someone shooting off fireworks, there are no warnings," he cautioned. "It's a \$25 fine."

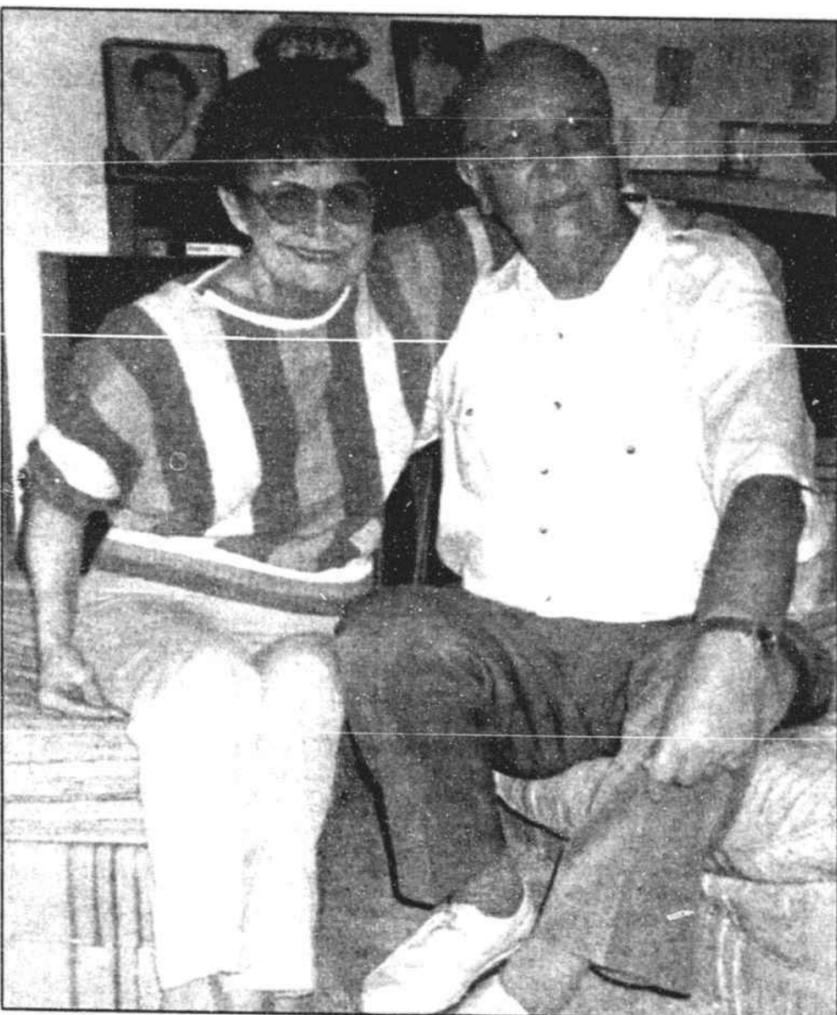
There is a catch. He can't issue citations to anyone age 16 or under. But if they, or anyone else, give Gore problems, there's back-up a radio call away, typically a town police officer.

Two hours into his first day on the job, Sunset Beach's code enforcer said response to his presence had been "pretty positive so far."

He'd had one conversation with a surfer sans leash, whom he expected to spread the word among fellow wave riders: Don't go in the water without your leash. Beyond that it was a well-behaved crowd.

"I don't think we have too many problems here, mainly just the dogs," said Gore. "A lot of people like to bring their dogs out on the beach."

"After a few weeks, I don't think we'll have much of a problem with them."



STAFF PHOTO BY MARJORIE MEGVERN

WALLY SLACK, pictured with wife Juanita, still works for the welfare of veterans 50 years after he fought in North Africa and Italy.

## Slack Saw 18 Months Of Combat On The Front Lines

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home, I was in North Africa with the 9th infantry division," he said.

There he fought as a greenhorn, but quickly adapted to the hard life of a soldier and moved on to Sicily in time to participate in what he called his "worst" battle, the invasion of Salerno.

"Invasions are always hard," he said. "You're dependent on naval fire and air cover, but planes can't stay up forever."

The front line duty was relentless, Slack recalled. "You were at the front 30 to 45 days, then got ten days' rest, then went right back. You'd have a dread of going back, because you knew this time what you faced."

His invasion memories included digging slit trenches the length of one's body. "I could really dig fast," he laughed. As combat continued, he became immersed in the dirty discomforts of war. "I have had a long beard and dirt imbedded in it," he said, "and I've been soaked through with rain."

Slack helped take Naples and, besides the Salerno invasion, also remembers the battle of San Piedro as among the bloodiest. "I was in the Cassino battle, too," he related. "General Mark Clark didn't believe in destroying religious shrines like this, but England finally sent in bombers and leveled it. My battalion had only about 80 men who made it through that battle."

A highlight of the soldier's life, whether on the front lines or not, was receiving mail from home. Slack delighted in letters from Juanita and his family, but she said

his letters had been cut up so badly by Army censors, she had a hard time putting them together sensibly.

After 18 months of combat, Slack said he was taken out of the front lines back to North Africa for recuperation. "But I volunteered to go back," he said. "I felt like I hadn't done enough. I felt a little guilty about those who died."

The war ended during his next tour and he was discharged at Fort Meade, Md. He moved to Chicago, where he attended Grear Vocational School on the GI Bill and mastered skills as machinist, welder and pipe fitter. He worked at these trades in Chicago for 32 years before retiring and moving to Brunswick County.

Alone of the three men, Slack is active in county and veterans' affairs. A member of the Brunswick County Utility Operations Board, he has also been a service officer for the Shallotte American Legion and for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He's active in Democrat politics, too, serving as delegate to county and state conventions.

In all of this, his heart is especially with fellow veterans. "Many times the veterans' office sends some veteran to our door," Juanita recalled, "and he'll give the man \$20."

In recent months, when the media are obsessed with World War II, Slack confessed he found it hard to read and watch. "I've had some depression and shed some tears," he said.

In general his assessment of war is this: "It's the most destructive thing man has ever done."



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