



The Education of Veterans

Duane Evans: Soldier, Student, Graduate

By Joey Ebenger

When Duane Evans got off the military transport in 2003, he found himself on the other side of the world, Iraq, where he shared a mission with thousands of other American military personnel: Make the country safe.

Headquarters obviously thought highly of his work there because he was sent back for a second tour. What he learned on his first tour he applied on his second tour.

Evans is one of those guys who is a natural learner; at the same time he was learning the joys and responsibilities of marriage and fatherhood.

After almost eight years in fatigues and combat boots, and a couple years in stifling heat, he returned to Cleveland, a decorated veteran whose



thirst for learning wasn't yet slaked.

In addition to his titles of father, husband, and veteran, he added another: Student at Cuyahoga Community College, where he found kindred spirits and a school dedicated to the education of men and women who have honorably



Duane Evans (L) and Michael Shoop:
From battle dress to business casual.

served our country.

Evans hit the ground running. He is a man drawn to service and for

his leadership as president of Tri-C's Veterans Today Club, he was honored with the Sam Houston Memorial Award, presented by Tri-C Metro Campus President Michael Shoop, Ph.D.

This year, his family and friends will cheer as he accepts his Associate's degree in Small Business Management.

Hit the Books

Editor John Tidyman's column page 3; Baldwin-Wallace College on page 5; Lakeland Community College on page 14; and more from Tri-C.

The Education of Veterans

Thank You, AT&T; Thank You, Bettie J. Baker

By Joey Ebenger

An unheralded program at the Louis Stokes VA Medical Facility is Cuyahoga Community College's Veterans Education Center, the only distance learning lab in the country.

Thanks to AT&T providing \$100,000 and a substantial gift from retired Tri-C Associate Professor Bettie J. Baker, five computer workstations, including two with high-resolution vi-

sual acuity monitors were installed at the hospital last year.

The Center provides a one-stop location where veterans can see their doctors, file benefits paperwork and begin their college educations.

Rick DeChant, who manages and develops the veterans program at Cuyahoga Community College, explained the need for the Center, "For a variety of reasons, some vets are

not ready to come back to a crowded campus environment," he said. "We will take a miniature version of the campus to them."

Baker retired ten years ago after making her mark in Tri-C classrooms for four decades. To her classes on African Studies and Political Science, she brought a remarkable perspective: She spent World War II in the service, stationed in North Africa,

Europe, and the Middle East.

DeChant said the Center was a prime example of innovation in education. "For innovation, what better partner than AT&T? For a deep understanding of the role Tri-C has in the community, what better partner than Bettie J. Baker?"

To date, almost 700 veterans have become college students at the Center.



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STAND AT EASE *By John H. Tidyman, Editor*

Cuyahoga Community College and Baldwin-Wallace College: Committed to Our Education

For veterans, perhaps the greatest VA benefit is education. In my opinion, there isn't a weapon more powerful than education, and history backs me up. Abraham Lincoln said, "I view education as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in."

America would not have enjoyed its rocket ride to superstardom without the G.I. Bill that allowed World War II vets to attend and exploit college educations.

In this edition, we detail schools and programs, all with one goal: To make you smarter and more valuable to employers. Along the way, there are serendipitous benefits: No matter the focus of your study, you'll learn plenty more. The more we learn, the more we want to know.

The colleges featured in this issue know what they're doing when the

subject is the education of veterans. G.I. Jobs magazine named them, "Vet Friendly."

At Cuyahoga Community College and Baldwin-Wallace College, the boards of trustees, administrators, and instructors understand the special needs of veteran education.

Schools featured realize you already know how to learn; what they can do is help you figure out what



you should learn.

Veteran programs at colleges: They can guide you through the necessary paperwork. Schools have veteran organizations that provide gathering spots to meet other vets, tell war stories, talk about problems or concerns with education, and kick back and chill.

One of the major problems many college students suffer is debt. Student loans, a good idea at the time,

can later trip up the most determined among us. Let's face it: Education comes with a price.

But for serving our country, G.I.s are saved from that dilemma. The G.I. Bill pays for tuition, up to \$17,500 per year. Even better, the veteran doesn't have to first pay the school and then wait for Uncle Sam to pay him back. The VA pays directly to the school. That's why I call the G.I. Bill "Every Bursar's Dream."

Equally valuable is the housing allowance of \$673. per month. That means you don't have to share space with roomies who don't share your commitment to education.

Housing is one of two, new features. The other is books and supplies, up to \$1,000 per year.

When you become serious about education, the VA is serious about you.

At Cuyahoga Community College and Baldwin-Wallace College, the trustees, administrators, and instructors understand the special needs of veteran education.

Greater Cleveland Veterans Resource Council

CLEVELAND, OHIO

The mission of the Greater Cleveland Veterans Business Resource Council (GCVBRC) is to help Veterans achieve self-employment status. The GCVBRC accomplishes its mission through education training, business planning, mentoring, referrals and other related services.

The GCVBRC is a non-profit organization of veterans who are committed to helping veterans throughout the Greater Cleveland area including, but not limited to, Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Medina, Summit and Lorain counties. The organization was chartered July 1, 1991 and there are only 25 Veterans Business Resource Councils (VBRCs) in the USA.



The American Red Cross Bldg.
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Veterans Business Center
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Dominion Donates \$50,000 To Aid Ohio Homeless Veterans

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Dominion East Ohio gave a total of \$50,000 to two organizations in northeast Ohio that assist homeless military veterans.

“Dominion is grateful for the service and sacrifice military veterans and their families have made in defending our country,” said Anne E. Bomar, senior vice president and general manager of Dominion East Ohio. “Some are facing hardships and going through difficult times. In recognition of Veterans Day, we are supporting programs that directly help homeless veterans and programs that benefit the wounded and their families.”

The organizations, each receiving \$25,000, are:

Valor Home, Akron, is a new, 30-bed transitional housing facility for veterans, which Family and Community Services, Inc., will operate. The Valor Home Project also will be recruiting and utilizing volunteers from Habitat for Humanity of Summit County to help with the construction.

Community Service Alliance

(CSA), Cleveland. Sacrament House is a new housing program site that will provide 12 to 14 additional rooms to meet the growing need for short-term housing, and will enable CSA to focus services at the site to meet the needs of veterans emerging from homelessness.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 107,000 veterans are home-

less on any given night. The agency also cites that over the course of a year, about twice that many experience homelessness. And according to the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans, the extreme shortage of affordable housing, livable income and access to health care, are compounded by a lack of family and social support networks.

“It is critical that we reach out to veterans in need,” Bomar said. “America’s veterans have served in

many war zones, and now they need our help. The grants are funding community-based organizations because they know best how and where the money should be used.”

Dominion is making the grant through the Dominion Foundation, the company’s philanthropic arm. Dominion Foundation grants are funded by shareholder dollars and

the customers do not bear the cost of the grants.

Dominion has a long-standing record of military support. In March, Dominion joined four other energy companies in the “Troops to Energy Jobs” pilot program designed to link thousands of future job openings in the energy industry with troops leaving military service. The company currently employs more than 1,200 veterans across 14 states.

Employees currently participate

in an award-winning troop support program that has delivered thousands of care packages to deployed soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dominion is the recipient of multiple military awards and recognitions having recently been named one of the “Top 20 Military Spouse-Friendly Employers” by Military Spouse magazine.

In 2010, Dominion, its charitable foundation and employees invested more than \$24 million and 150,000 volunteer hours in programs that help improve the quality of life for people in the states where Dominion operates power stations, natural gas and other energy facilities.

Dominion is one of the nation’s largest producers and transporters of energy, with a portfolio of approximately 28,200 megawatts of generation. Dominion operates the nation’s largest natural gas storage system and serves retail energy customers in 15 states. For more information about Dominion, visit the company’s website at www.dom.com.



Happiness is a Warm Gun; and Fun, Too!

By Kim Rodecker
Concealed Carry Courses

There is great satisfaction in teaching and training men and women to own and use concealed weapons. Here’s why: Most of my students arrive knowing little or nothing about handguns. They are leery of guns.

Many have told me they don’t want to carry a weapon. They wish the world were a safer place. But they know, only too well, that the world grows more dangerous, not less, and that criminals strike whenever and wherever they can.

By the time they finish the classes at Concealed Carry Weapon, they are confident and comfortable with handguns.

One student, a female marketing executive, said, “I’m sorry I find it



necessary to carry a weapon. Before this, I never fired a weapon, and I wouldn’t allow one in my house.

“But now I don’t leave home without it, and my weapon provides an authentic sense of security.”

The laws that prohibit the illegal

carry of guns are strong. Many times, it seems the law isn’t applied as it should be.

One important part of the training is on law. It’s vital that our students legally, properly, efficiently, lawfully, and safely own and oper-

ate handguns.

A common response I get from students concerns the fun of shooting, usually at one of our local ranges. I tell them if they enjoy any sport that calls for hand-eye coordination, they’ll enjoy shooting.

Baldwin-Wallace Supports Veterans Through Ongoing Initiatives

Baldwin-Wallace College continues to receive recognition for exceptional programs that serve the educational and transitional needs of veterans returning from active duty as well as those fully immersed in civilian life. Currently, 87 veterans are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs.

Lauded for its role in supporting veterans, B-W has been designated a Yellow Ribbon institution by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This honor enables qualifying Post-9/11 veterans to attend Baldwin-Wallace tuition free.

For the third consecutive year, B-W has been designated a Military Friendly School for its excellence in serving the needs of America’s military service members and veterans. This recognition ranks B-W in the top 20 percent of all colleg-

Baldwin-Wallace College

275 Eastland Road, Berea, OH 44017

Additional Campus:

B-W East 25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood, OH 44122

Number of Students/Faculty

FTE for Fall 2011: 3,699 students and 231 faculty members

Number of Veteran Students: 96

Type of Degree or Certification Offered: Certificates, baccalaureate, master’s (in business and education)

Director of Veteran Programs: Nancy Jirousek, njirouse@bw.edu 440-826-2298 (Berea) and 216-595-1415 (Beachwood)

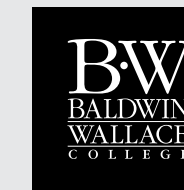
Veteran Organizations on Campus: Student Veterans Association (SVA)

Additional Information: Baldwin-Wallace College is designated as a Yellow Ribbon and military friendly institution. The campus also features a veteran support team, composed of faculty and administrators.

es, universities and trade schools nationwide.

Among its targeted services to students, B-W sponsors a student

veteran organization and a veteran’s community hour that promotes camaraderie. In addition, the College has recruited staff and faculty



with military backgrounds to mentor students and create a campus environment supportive to veteran needs. Working to further its military-friendly offerings, B-W has created a Veterans Advisory Council comprised of faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. The group is developing a strategic plan for veteran initiatives on campus.

“B-W is committed to providing a supportive environment and staff dedicated to meeting the needs of our veterans as they move from military life to the classroom,” said Nancy Jirousek, director of adult and continuing education/veteran services at Baldwin-Wallace College. “We value their contributions to this country and are devoted to working hard to help them achieve academic success while they are here.”

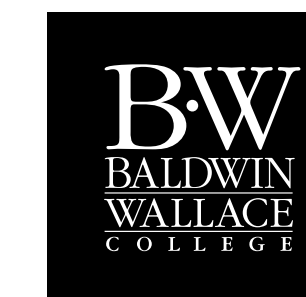


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Go to www.bw.edu/military or call 440-826-8012.



Seventy Years and Still Waiting to Come Home

By Tina Mathis

Paul Goodyear, USS Oklahoma survivor and president of USS Oklahoma Families, Inc., remembers December 7, 1941. Within minutes of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the USS Oklahoma had endured more than nine torpedo strikes and began to roll onto its side. Goodyear jumped 50 feet into the harbor; he watched helplessly as the massive battleship capsized, trapping more than 450 of his shipmates.

Miraculously, thirty-two men were rescued as yard workers cut through the hull of the upside down battleship; regrettably, hundreds more did not escape a watery grave. Families were given minimal details and little hope for the return of their loved ones who were listed as missing in action.

Approximately 429 men lost their lives on the USS Oklahoma.

The majority of the remains were recovered during salvage operations from March to November 1943. At the time only thirty-five men were positively identified.

By modern standards, the disposition of the remaining bones is unimaginable; bones were categorized by type and sorted into 52 caskets. At present, 52 caskets of unidentified, co-mingled remains are buried in 45 graves at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Among the missing is 19-year old Michigan resident, Lowell Valley. Valley, Fireman Second Class and Purple Heart recipient, worked



USS Oklahoma Being Righted After the Attack

in the port engine room. His younger brother, Bob, recalled coming home from a matinee that Sunday afternoon; his parents were visibly upset, listening to the radio. Two

months later, on little brother Bob's ninth birthday, Lowell Valley was declared dead, body not recovered.

For more than a decade, Bob Valley has been an active supporter of the families and survivors of the USS Oklahoma. Valley, along with Paul Goodyear, and Pearl Harbor historian Ray Emory have dedicated countless hours to the identification and proper tribute for the men lost on the Oklahoma.

While the trio has successfully lobbied for the disinterment and identification of several men, they have been informed that no further disinterments will be conducted until 65 percent of the necessary family DNA is available.

For 79-year old, Bob Valley and other families that have already submitted DNA, the hope of seeing their loved ones returned within their lifetime is dwindling.

The Navy was the last branch of the military to hire their own genealogists; they have signed a five-year contract with Forensic Genealogy Services of Texas to locate potential family DNA donors. Anyone with information regarding a missing serviceman from the USS Oklahoma is urged to contact the official Naval genealogist, Dee Dee King at (281)431-3525.

Grant Van Buskirk and Eddie Duchin: No Time to Play

Grant Van Buskirk no longer remembered everything about his time in World War II. At 90-years-old, wheelchair bound and suffering from dementia, certain memories remained crystal clear, while others were lost in time.

In February 2007, when asked questions, the good-natured Van Buskirk often repeated calmly and with a big smile, "Oh, I just don't think I can remember that."

His 88-year-old wife Dorothy and daughter Diane Hartt tried to prod memories from him about his Navy days aboard the ships the U.S.S. Lassen and the U.S.S. Bales in World War II from 1943 to 1946.

Diane Hartt is a community relations coordinator for Hospice of the Western Reserve. Her father received palliative care from hospice at the Crown Center Nursing Home in the Laurel Lake retirement community in Hudson, Ohio.

That day, Diane and Dorothy were in a Crown Center conference room leafing through old pictures and documents from Van Buskirk's war days. They show Grant a young, handsome picture of himself.

"Gosh, I wish I looked like that now," he jokes.

"Do you remember when you were on board ship?" Dorothy asks, projecting her voice loudly so Grant can hear her. "You had to sample all the men's food before they ate."

"It's hard to remember," Grant answers softly.

"These are pictures when you were on the ammunition ship. Remember?" Dorothy urges. "This one looks like something is blown up. Do you remember what that was all about? And then you were in the Philippines. Remember?...Here you are."

"I don't remember what those are," he answers.

Then Diane picks up a small, square, black and white glossy photo and laughs. The photo shows a group of handsome, deeply tanned young

Grant B. Van Buskirk
Born: Oct. 1, 1916 in Saginaw, Michigan
World War II Navy; Enlisted
Served: 1943-1946 Asian-Pacific

Campaign

- Lieutenant Junior Grade

Medals:

- Victory Ribbon
- American Area Campaign Ribbon
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign

Campaign

- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign with Two Battle

Stars

- Philippine Liberation Ribbon
- World War II Victory Medal



back the next day," Dorothy says. "They said, 'Well, it won't do you any good.' He went back the next day, and poked a hole in the thing. So he got in. Good thing he wasn't in the Army. But being on board a ship was no problem."

Two stories of Grant's time aboard the ammunition ships stand out the most, reflects Dorothy.

The first is that, ironically, despite Grant's love of water and boating, he became extremely seasick on the U.S.S. Lassen. His commanding officer was Eddy Duchin – the famous pianist and band leader. It's a story Grant used to tell Diane's children over and over, whenever they felt seasick aboard his 38-foot trawler he had in later years. Diane tries to get her dad to remember.

"Remember how seasick you used to get?" Diane asks. "What happened when you got sick? Do you remember that story?"

"I don't think I can remember that story," Grant answers.

Dorothy explains that Eddy Duchin assigned Grant to call orders to the helm to take his mind off of being seasick. But one time, he had his head in a bucket when Duchin tapped him on the shoulder and told him he was derelict in his duties.

"He's never been seasick since," says Dorothy.

Then Dorothy encourages him to tell his other famous story.

"Do you remember how you told about the fellow who either jumped or fell overboard? The captain turned on all the lights?"

"Ohhhh, yeahhh," Grant answers, drawing out each syllable.

"He has tears every time he tells it," Dorothy says.

"It was after dark and we were in our convoy of ships," Grant explains. "Some of us returned...returned..."

"Patients from the hospital ships?" asks Dorothy.

"The captain was so sympathetic to him, in the middle of the night, he turned all the search lights on the ship..." Grant explains clearly.

"He could have been court mar-

See Van Buskirk and Duchin, page 12



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— Greg Rusnak

Venison Paprikash: Cold Weather Comfort Food

By Kathryn Tidyman

Look in your favorite cookbooks or on the Internet and you'll find that the majority of paprikash recipes call for chicken. Paprikash can actually be made with any major ingredient: beef, veal, pork, even potatoes or mushrooms. After all, it simply means that the recipe includes a generous amount of the pepper *Capsicum annuum*, the most commonly used spice in Hungary.

Paprika peppers are grown in Hungary, Spain, South America, and California. Gourmands will tell you that California paprika is the mildest, and for best results, you should use the more flavorful, brilliantly red-orange variety from Hungary.

With a basic recipe like the one here for venison paprikash, you have some wiggle room. Adjust the spices to your taste. Use slightly more or less meat and just about any cut (but

I would not waste a backstrap or good sirloin on it). Use the best paprika you can find (West Side Market or Amazon.com).

Ingredients

- 2 lbs. of venison (top and/or bottom round), cut in 1 1/2 in. cubes
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 yellow onions, diced
- 3 tbs. oil (olive, canola, vegetable)
- 3 tbs. imported Hungarian sweet paprika
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 6 oz. can of tomato paste
- 1 1/2 c. water
- 1/4 tsp. of black pepper
- 1 6 oz. of sour cream
- 1 lb. of egg noodles or hand-made dumplings
- 2 tbs. butter or margarine



To prepare:

In a Dutch oven or large pot, cook the chopped onions in hot oil over medium heat until translucent. Remove onions from pot and set aside.

In a separate bowl, toss the venison cubes with the paprika, salt, and pepper. Add to remaining oil and brown on all sides without scorching.

Return onions to pot with the venison and add the tomato paste and water.

Let the mixture simmer for about 30 to 45 minutes. If there's too much liquid, remove the lid and let some evaporate. If there's not enough, add a little water.

Remove venison from heat and

let sit for about 15 minutes to cool slightly. Add 8 oz. of the sour cream to the sauce, mixing slowly.

Cook the dumplings or egg noodles. Drain, toss with butter or margarine, and cover until venison is ready.

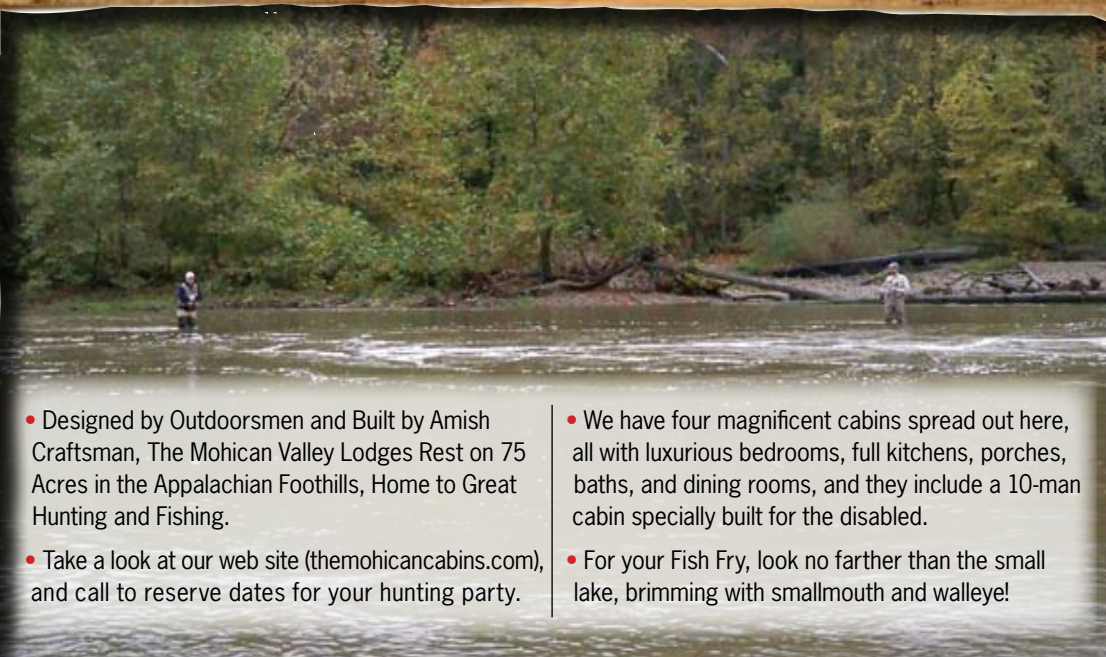
Serve paprikash and noodles/dumplings separately, along with extra bowls of sour cream and chopped fresh parsley.

Serve with a smooth, robust red wine (like a Syrah) or a hearty beer. Make sure you've got a hot, crunchy loaf of bread on the side to sop up the last of the gravy.

Serves 4 to 6. Tastes even better the next day.

Next edition, Kathy Tidyman turns up the heat with some great fish stories, reminds us of the values of cast iron skillets, and brags about her tanned deerskins.

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VETERAN STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM

AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

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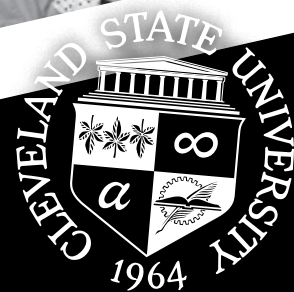
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Cigars, War, and Brief Moments with Friends

By Dennis M. Thrasher, Sr.

TOBACCONIST

The magazine *Cigar Aficionado* sponsors events that promote and celebrate the art and science of cigar making and all its associated pleasures. In 2008, I attended their Las Vegas Big Smoke, held at the Palazzo Hotel, part of the Venetian Hotel complex.

As I was waiting in line to confirm our prepaid reservations and pick up my ticket, I struck up a conversation with a young man and his lady friend who waited in line ahead of me. As it turns out they were both serving in the U.S. Navy, were about to get married and had come to Las Vegas to do just that. They both enjoyed a good cigar and had timed their visit to attend this event. As we entered the hall I asked if I could join them (my wife was enjoying the slot machines), and they responded with an enthusiastic, "Yes!"

We shared stories about our days in the service, mine in the Canadian RCAF and theirs in the Navy. I learned that he was a Navy Seal, a member of that prestigious and formidable group of combat warriors. He had served in the mountains of Afghanistan and regaled me with tales that made my hair stand on end. As soon as they returned from Las Vegas, they were both going to be redeployed to that miserable mountainous country.

Over the next few days, they joined us for dinner. We smoked

a lot of cigars together and by the last day, we respected and cared for them the way fellow veterans do and also the way an older couple can for a younger one.

As with such events, there were lots of giveaway items—cigars, of course, cigar cutters, various kinds of liquor, as well as tee shirts and hats. They were going to bring back as many freebies as they could to share with their comrades.

The Navy Seal's platoon shared a tradition: once or twice a month, they would have a cigar party in their base camp. They'd pour a little whiskey or bourbon and smoke a cigar, if they could put their hands on a big enough supply. It was their way of connecting with home. For a brief time they could laugh and enjoy life.

I took my hat and wrote on the inside band: "This is a good luck hat. Whoever smokes a cigar while wearing this hat will come home safe." I gave it to him. Other attendees saw what I had done and joined in. Before long they had a stack of hats, all with the same inscription, sufficient for the entire platoon.

As that tough Navy Seal accepted the hats, tears filled his eyes, and he managed to say that he was very grateful for the hats, but what meant even more was that we cared. So often, he said, they felt alone, abandoned by the American people. Forgotten. While we went on with

our daily lives, they stood in harm's way. On coming home, after a brief welcome, it was all forgotten.

On our last day together, he told me that he had spoken to some of his comrades. They had decided that the next time they returned from the mountains, they would send me the unit's battle flag to hang on my office wall. It was a thank you, not just for the goodies, but for the thoughts and prayers that we sent with them. After my wife and I came home, we shared our experience with others who joined in to send them boxes of cigars from time to time.

I began to wait for his return as soon as he was redeployed. Weeks turned into months. I sent him e-mails. Since he was in a war zone, I expected that I wouldn't hear much until he and his wife returned. After several months, another soldier intercepted my e-mail and wrote to say that both of them had been killed in action.

After a while I got to thinking that this was happening to many other young men and women. I realized that if each American connected with just one soldier, that the lives and deaths of these courageous men and women might give us pause for thought the next time someone called us to war in a faraway place, that the cost was real people and real lives. Lest we forget.

Takin' Care of Business

Are you a veteran? Do you have your own business? *DD 214 Chronicle* wants to carry your advertising message to the veteran (and all who love them) community in five northeast Ohio counties: Lake, Lorain, Summit, Medina, and Cuyahoga.

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Soulja Boy Raps about Army Troops

Soulja Boy, who entered this world as DeAndre Cortez Way, included our fighting forces in a rap last month. The so-called song was, "Let's Be Real," and the lyrics included this advice: "And fuc- all the Army troops. Fighting for what? Bitch, be your own man."

DeAndre Cortez Way apologized when real troops responded, referring to himself as an artist.



Continued from Van Buskirk and Duchin, page 7

tialed for it," says Dorothy. "Think how many lives were at stake."

"Well, that's one story that you remember - and I remember," says Grant.

Suddenly, Grant has a spark of assured clarity. It's time to ask him more specifics about his time in the Navy. His ship, he says, supplied ammunition to other ships.

"We had to provide the ammunition, so they'd have something to shoot with," he explains.

What did he like best?

"About the Navy?" he asks. "I liked it all pretty well." That's sort of a catch-all...

"The purpose was the enemy shipping," he continues. "Whether it's close by or 50 yards away, your job was to - the main purpose was to - destroy enemy ships...That's your purpose. It wasn't to kill people, but that's the by-product of it..."

But when pressed on if he actually shot in combat, Grant isn't clear.

"Did you ever pull the trigger?" Dorothy asks.

"Yeah. That doesn't register a big

bell," Grant answers.

The day he arrived home from war in 1946 is still clear in Dorothy's mind.

"It was a happy day," she recalls. "Diane was five months old."

It would be the first time Grant saw his daughter - who was born, appropriately enough, on the fourth of July.

Years later, Grant and Dorothy also had a son Tom, who is now a dentist in Florida. After the war, Grant spent 30 years with General Motors -- most of the time as manager of a plant in Saginaw, Michigan with more than 6,000 employees.

Reflecting on his time aboard the ship, Grant's memories are simple and fond.

"I had beautiful quarters," he says.

"What do you remember about your quarters? Do you remember the dark room where you took pictures, developed them?" Dorothy asks.

"I don't really remember them, now," Grant admits.

But the pictures he took and developed on the U.S.S. Lassen will forever tell their own story of World War II, even if Grant Van Buskirk no longer can.

Your Dream is About to Come True — a Cadillac

By John Tiidyman, Editor

American CARS



To be sure, the two men are different: One is tall, the other isn't; one is black and the other is white. The tall one grew up in Parma, Ohio. The other grew up on Cape Cod.

Yet they share so much, it wouldn't be incorrect to say they were brothers.

Bruce Johnson and George Ruby are part of the sales team at Central Cadillac. Both are retired Air Force veterans with service around the world and notably in Vietnam. Like all veterans, they are proud of their service. Lessons they learned in the military serve them today.

"We learn in the military to appreciate and respect all sorts of people. When we were stationed in other countries, we learned to understand other cultures," Johnson said. Between the two of them, they circumnavigated the globe.

But they didn't meet in the service. Ruby came to Central Cadillac in 1996 to purchase a car.

Johnson guided Ruby through the process and before Ruby was given the keys and title to his new car, Johnson asked, "Now that you're retired, what are you going to do?"

Long story short: "I hired him," Johnson said. It wasn't that Ruby had sales skills. He had never sold anything. As Johnson saw it, the lack of experience was a plus.

"At Central, we don't believe in browbeating a customer or putting on a hard sell. That's one of the reasons Central has been part of the Cleveland community for almost 70 years and is still family-owned."

For Ruby, it was an attractive offer. "One of the things you learn in the military is how to learn, so if Bruce thought I had the potential, I knew I had the drive."

Plus, there was the veteran bond. All veterans know the bond is invisible, but almost tangible. Johnson said, "Branch of service or the era means little; all veterans share a common commitment to the country and all have contributed. It provides a foundation between customer and us. The bond means trust, and that trust is the most important element in any sales transaction."

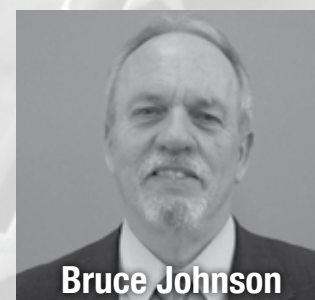
Frank Porter is the third-generation owner of Central. Here's a corollary: Central Cadillac has third-

generation customers. Ruby smiled broadly when he said, "I love telling customers about our history and longevity — it's a source of pride for us, but also proof of our dedication to creating and maintaining relationships."

There is any number of reasons to consider a Cadillac. For some successful veterans, it's the realization of a long-held dream. For others whose children are grown and on their own, it's a well-deserved reward. Veterans are a successful lot; among us are judges, manufacturing executives, physicians, and university professors. Real estate and law feature successful veterans, and entrepreneurs are well represented, too.

"It's also buying American," Johnson added, "and for men and women who have served America, it's a natural fit."

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Bruce Johnson



George Ruby

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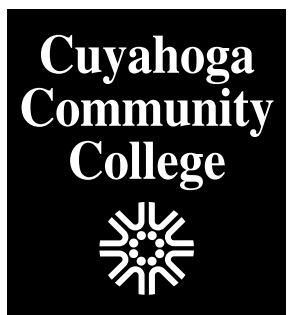


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One Reason Veterans Make Such Good College Students: The Army of One has Already Prepared Them to Study

Student veterans bring a wealth of learning experience to the college classroom. When they were in uniform, the classrooms and instructors looked, sounded, and acted different than the typical college instructor. But learning is learning, and the Army, like the other branches, takes it very, very seriously.

Veterans bring experience and an understanding of responsibility to civilian life.

Here are just a few of the specialties Army officers know:

- Government contract law specialist
- Marine diver
- Public transportation
- Medical research, development, test and evaluation
- Experimental test pilot (He's the officer we don't want to go with, but look forward to buying a drink once he's out of his flight suit.)

Enlisted men and women are hardly slouches. When they hit the ground in civilian life, they hit it running. Here are some of the specialties Army enlisted personnel learned:

- Aircraft powertrain repair
- Paralegal
- Animal care
- Radiology specialist
- Carpentry and masonry specialist
- Cryptologic linguist



Thank You, Cool Beans Cafe!

The Cool Beans Cafe shores up one corner of Medina Square. Very good coffee and some super sandwiches there. Here's something most coffee houses don't have — a teaching kitchen. Our delivery guy was dropping off the latest issue there. Had to jettison his tanks and on his way to the latrine, walked past a dozen little kids taking lessons in baking bread.

Here's the good part. The kitchen, its ovens and utensils are available without charge to groups baking cookies and sending them to troops. In Cool Beans Cafe's kitchen, nine trays of cookies can be made at one time.

Bring our own ingredients, of course. And clean up after ourselves.

Take a look at Cool Beans' website: www.coolbeansmedina.com. The phone there is (330) 723-7174 and the boss is Laura Parnell. Thanks, Laura.



Here's What's Coming Up in the March/April DD 214 Chronicle

Joining the Work Force: For veterans, experts have some great tools and advice. They know and understand the work force as well as the work place.

Money: How to Really Enjoy the Green Stuff, Whether Making, Saving, Investing or Best of All, Spending!

Cigars for Your Bucket List: Ten Sticks You Have to Enjoy Before the Lid Closes.

Notes from A Man at War: George Murphy was a 19-year old infantryman in WWII, European Theater. He kept a cryptic diary.

Batten Down the Hatches: United States Marine Corps' Marine Week to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, June 11-17, 2012. Semper Fi!

Plus the scintillating, fascinating, provocative, editorial package we create every issue for you, the veteran.

The Shimmering Ghost of Quality: MacSmith Golf Club Company

By Nick Joseph

AUTOMATIC PRESS

It was a white, cement block building on Mayfield Road. Only four or five parking places, and they were in back. The landed gentry was welcome, and so too was the hoi polloi.

For more than a half century, the business operated, even prospered, because it provided the best quality and had no competition.

Ah, it wasn't better quality that closed the business. It was the Era of Big Boxes, and a hunger for low prices. Quality didn't fit in this equation.

Vic and Bob Bando, the father and son team that ran this owner-operated business, were forced to close down, and that, my friends, was the end of MacSmith Golf, arguably (some say undeniably) the best shop ever for golf clubs.

"I got a call one day and the guy asked if I could reshaft a Ping 3 wood. Pings were always made with stiff shafts, and most of us can't hit them. But this guy loved the clubhead, which was laminated maple. He said a friend of his made clubs, but couldn't get the head off the Ping. He even tried a steady flame, but he almost burned it up. I said I wasn't bragging, but I thought I could reshaft his Ping with one eye closed



and the other looking at a Playboy centerfold."

As it happened, the guy was a golf writer. And so began a friendship that passed the decade mark more than a decade ago. The reshafted Ping, by the way, was a stalwart in the guy's bag for more than a dozen years.

Bob and Vic were simply the best. As-

stant golf professionals would show up every day. From area country clubs — Chagrin Valley, Coun-

try, Westwood, Lakewood, Kirtland, Aurora, and more — they brought in members' sticks that needed tweaking or repairing or refinishing.

Head golf professionals would stop in for a cup of coffee, some golf chatter, a donut if the dozen wasn't yet depleted. They talked golf personalities, new courses, the Northern Ohio PGA, and inquired after each others' children.

MacSmith Golf was like a shot and beer joint next to a steel mill. Nothing fancy. No pretense. But the conversation was the same quality as the workmanship. A player could learn a great deal by grabbing a cup of coffee, settling into a corner, and just listening for a few hours.

Where did it go? Gobbled up by big boxes.

For Sailors Unsure How to Wear Socks

Description of Wear of Uniform Components Socks Article 3501h.78 has two rules:

Correct Wear: Wear right side out. Ownership Markings: Initials only on the foot.

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